

In WiGOUT!

John Waters dishes the dirt about his new book "Role Models" on page 31.



THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

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POCKET-SIZED PRIDEFEST GUIDE INSIDE

Deported

U.S. Immigration separates partners

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

On the morning of Jan. 22, 2009, Helaman Iquique left his home in West Milwaukee, headed for his job at a plumbing supply company. He said goodbye to his partner of 10 years and their dogs, Bibi and Boogie.

It was a routine beginning to an ordinary snow-covered Milwaukee winter day. But it was to have an extraordinary ending: Iquique never returned home. Neither his partner nor his large extended family in the Milwaukee area has seen him since.

Without any warning and despite the fact that he had an appeal pending before an immigration court in Miami, Iquique, 40, was detained by Immigration and Naturalization Service

Donations for Helaman Iquique's immigration battle can be sent to Wade Twamley, 1602 S. 55th St., West Milwaukee, WI 53214. For information, call 414-329-0753.

officials and forcibly sent to Guatemala, where he hasn't lived since childhood. He was put on a plane just an hour before a judge ordered a stay in his deportation.

That action drastically changed Iquique's legal prospects. As a deportee, he cannot even apply for a visa to visit the United States for 10 years, much less continue to pursue his case.

Iquique's partner Wade Twamley says if the two could get married — or if federal immigration law at least recognized their relationship — they would be together now planting their garden. Instead, Twamley, a Vietnam veteran, has drained his retirement account to pay for lawyers to help him navigate what he considers a labyrinth of randomly applied immigration laws.

NO RESULTS

Iquique's mother brought him to the United States in the 1980s to escape a genocidal campaign against Guatemala's Mayan population. It took Gumerinda Iquique Fajardo three and half years to bring all 10 of her children and five other relatives here to safety.

But while most of his siblings were granted legal status under amnesty law, Iquique and his mother were not, for reasons they never understood. Still, his mother lived here for the rest of her life, and Iquique went to school here. He was given a Social Security number and granted work permits for 22 years.

Then, two years ago, his Social Security number and work visa were suddenly revoked. "That's when I got involved and hired an attorney, because I assumed something was going to happen," Twamley says.

Over the course of his legal battle with INS, Twamley has retained six attorneys, one of whom fully refunded his money after admitting to doing nothing. "I'm so tired of lawyers, taking and taking and taking and never promising results," he says.

Despite what he acknowledges is the growing futility of his situation, Twamley vows he'll never give up until he and Iquique are reunited.

"He's my soul mate," he says. "I originally met him at a barbecue, and we just sat and talked for a long time. I said, 'Would you like to go out to dinner?' We dated for a year. Then, almost exactly to the date, I said, 'We seem to have a lot in common and we enjoy each other's company. So let's either take this to the next level, or it's going nowhere.'"

Iquique moved in a week later.

Immigration page 10

AIDS Quilt panels coming to MAM

By Lucky Tomaszek

Staff Writer

From June 8 to June 20, Milwaukee area residents and visitors will be able to see a portion of the AIDS Memorial Quilt for the first time in more than four years. The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin and the Milwaukee Art Museum have joined forces to co-sponsor the NAMES Project AIDS Quilt exhibition, with the support of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation Johnson and Pabst LGBT Humanity Fund.

The AIDS Quilt will be displayed concurrently with "American Quilts: Selections from the Winterthur Collection." The museum decided to exhibit nine panels from the AIDS Quilt as a complement to that collection of Colonial quilts.

"After we knew that we were having this more traditional quilt exhibition, we really wanted to also make a more contemporary show," said Mel Buchanan, assistant curator at MAM.

Despite the



differences in time and society, the AIDS Quilt fit because it embodies the spirit of traditional quilt-making, which includes documenting personal histories and memorializing major life events. Like Colonial quilts, which were often created by families and community members working together over time, the AIDS Quilt is an ongoing community project that "serves as a repository of history and of memory," Buchanan said.

The AIDS Quilt "continues the tradition of using quilts as com-

AIDS Quilt page 15

Joe Pabst supported bringing the exhibit to MAM.

PHOTO: DAN ZAITZ



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LGBT news with a twist



WIGWAG

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

MORE PAGEANTRY

Last year, the right-wing blogosphere was buzzing with accusations that Carrie Prejean lost the title of Miss USA because she spoke out against same-sex marriage. This year, the same echo chamber claims that Miss Oklahoma, who expressed support for Arizona's new anti-immigrant law, lost out to winner Rima Fakih because the politically correct judges wanted to choose a Muslim. Conservative radio host Debbie Schlussel called the contest rigged and made the bizarre claim that Fakih is a "Lebanese Muslim Hezbollah supporter with relatives who are top terrorists."

ABSTINENCE LESSON

Christian "pro-family"

Congressman Mark Souder (R-Ind.) has resigned from office after admitting to an extra-marital affair. "I sinned against God, my wife and my family by having a mutual relationship with a part-time member of my staff," he said. The staffer in question, a much younger woman, produced and appeared in a video that Souder made promoting sexual abstinence.

EXPERT WITNESS

At the direction of Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum, the state paid anti-gay psychologist George Rekers \$120,000 to appear as an expert witness defending the state's ban on gay adoption. Ultimately, the judge in the 2008 adoption case disregarded Reker's testimony, saying it was "not consistent with the science." Of course, it now seems

Rekers had more expertise than anyone knew. Last month, it was revealed that he'd hired a male escort on rentboy.com to give him daily nude sexual massages during a two-week European vacation.

ROMP IN THE BAY

AP recently introduced readers worldwide to Nicklo and BlacktipDoubledip, the two oldest known dolphins in Sarasota Bay, Fla. AP also recently introduced readers worldwide to a not widely known fact: a majority of male dolphins travel in same-gender pairs, though their relationships are not exclusively male. "You see homosexual activity, heterosexual activity, sexual

relations between relatives, everything," says Mote Marine Laboratory scientist Randy Wells.

IN DEEP WATER

St. Louis physics professor Jonathan Katz recently got yanked from a panel appointed to advise the Obama administration on its response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Katz was one of five scientists appointed to the advisory panel. He was removed after Department of Energy officials learned of some of his non-scientific writings, including Web site posts defending homophobia and questioning the value of racial diversity efforts. A DOE spokesperson said the controversy over Katz' beliefs had become a distraction.

WORD FOR WORD

In a Web site post titled "In Defense of Homophobia," Katz said the human body was "not designed to share hypodermic needles, it was not designed to be promiscuous, and it was not designed to engage in homosexual acts. ... It may be possible to get away with it for a while, and a few misguided souls may get a thrill out of doing so, but sooner or later (probably sooner) the consequences will be catastrophic."

BROADWAY CLOSING

So many Broadway enthusiasts living far from the bright lights of the big city learned about the shows and the stars and the music from reading Michael Kuchwara's reviews for the Associated Press. Kuchwara died May 22 of complica-

tions from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, a lung disease. He was 63. The wire service that Kuchwara worked for reported that, when he died, he was surrounded by family and was listening to music from his favorite show "Gypsy" on his iPod.

GADZOOKS

Spandex, a comic book featuring an all-gay team of superheroes, has been nominated for an Eagle Award, a top industry prize. The British-themed comic has just two issues, the second of which tells the story of a jewel heist at Buckingham Palace that sends the Spandex team off on a chase to find the perpetrators. They end up in Japan, fighting Gayzilla and the Pink Ninjas. Will they return the jewels? Will the queen be beholden? Will Spandex win an Eagle? Tune in...

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THE RIVERSIDE

Lawmakers cast historic votes for repeal

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

"Don't ask, don't tell" was born of a compromise.

And, in late May, with Memorial Day near, another compromise developed, one that might overturn the Clinton-era ban against openly lesbian and gay servicemembers this year.

On May 28, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the National Defense Authorization Act with an amendment providing for the repeal of DADT.

The day before, the House had approved the amendment by a vote of 234-194.

Meanwhile, that same day, the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee voted 16-12 to amend its defense spending bill to include a provision to repeal the policy.

But taps hasn't yet sounded for DADT.

The full Senate still must

consider the defense bill, and U.S. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., has vowed a filibuster. The former presidential candidate was once believed to be a proponent of DADT's repeal, but McCain is now in a serious primary fight in his 2010 re-election campaign.

McCain, a Vietnam veteran, now maintains repeal would be harmful for military morale and effectiveness.

THE COMPROMISE

The key votes on the House floor and on the Senate panel were the result of a compromise brokered earlier in the week during meetings with Democratic lawmakers, Pentagon officials, White House staff and representatives from major LGBT groups.

The compromise provided for congressional lawmakers to move forward with repealing DADT, but delay

implementation until after Dec. 1, when the Defense Department is set to complete a study on repeal.

"Don't ask, don't tell" was enacted in 1993 as part of the National Defense Authorization Act. It was the result of a compromise between the Clinton administration, which had set out to lift a blanket ban against gays in the military, and the GOP-dominated Congress, which wanted to maintain the ban.

Over the past 17 years, an estimated 14,000 servicemembers have been discharged under the policy, and many others voluntarily terminated their careers in the Armed Forces, the nation's largest employer. Estimates put the number of active-duty LGB servicemembers at 66,000.

PROMISE AND POLICY REVIEW

In two sentences in his State of the Union Address in January, President Barack Obama pledged: "This year, I will work with Congress and our military to finally repeal the law that denies gay Americans the right to serve the country they love because of who they are. It's the right thing to do."

The president's promise quickly won the support of top officials in the Pentagon, including Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Defense Secretary Robert Gates.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Former Vt. Gov. Howard Dean, working with the Courage Campaign, delivered Congress a letter signed by more than 100,000 Americans calling for the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell."

But the prospect of repealing DADT this year dimmed in early May, when a memo from Gates to lawmakers urged Congress to hold off on votes until the Defense Department completed its review of the policy and how to implement a repeal. That review is to be completed Dec. 1. Inaction on Capitol Hill probably would have pushed a vote into 2011 –

after the swearing in of a new Congress.

Then, on May 23, lawmakers announced the compromise, which Aubrey Sarvis, a veteran and the director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network called a "dramatic breakthrough on dismantling 'don't ask, don't tell.'"

BREAKTHROUGH

WEEK

The historic week began with a May 24 letter from U.S. Sens. Joe Lieberman and Carl Levin and U.S. Rep. Patrick Murphy to Obama stating, "It is our firm belief that it is time to repeal this discriminatory policy that not only dishonors those who are willing to give their lives in service to their country but also prevents capable men and women with vital skills from serving in the Armed Forces at a time when our nation is fighting two wars."

The Democratic lawmakers proposed the amendment to put a process in place to repeal DADT but allow the Defense Department to complete its study and "certify that repeal can be achieved consistent with the military's standards of readiness, effectiveness, unit cohesion and recruiting and retention."

Later that day, the lawmakers had their go-ahead response from the White House. Peter R. Orszag, director of the office of management and budget, wrote, "The administration understands that Congress has chosen to move forward with legislation now and seeks the Administration's views on the proposed amendment. Accordingly, the administration is of the view that the proposed amendment meets the concerns raised by the secretary of defense and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. ... The administration ... therefore supports the proposed amendment."

After learning of the compromise deal, LGBT groups – SLDN, Servicemembers United and the Human Rights Campaign – called on members to contact their lawmakers to urge their support for the amendment.

State organizations also dispatched alerts.

"This is an all-hands-on-deck moment," announced an action alert from the California-based Courage Campaign, which also helped former Gov. Howard Dean collect more than 100,000 signatures on a petition for DADT next page

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Poll: Overwhelming support for repeal

About 78 percent of Americans support the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell," the policy banning gays and lesbians from serving openly in the military, according to a CNN/Opinion Research poll conducted May 21-23.

The survey was released just days before the announcement from White House and congressional Democrats of an agreement on repealing DADT in the National Defense Authorization Act.

DADT from page 4

repeal.

Feeling confident about a vote in the House, activists focused on the Senate committee, specifically members Scott Brown of Massachusetts, Evan Bayh of Indiana, Robert Byrd of West Virginia, Jim Webb of Virginia, Ben Nelson of Nebraska and Bill Nelson of Florida.

The Senate committee vote came first on May 27.

"Just after the vote, I gave Sen. Joseph Lieberman and his legislative team all big hugs, and then we had a drink, saluting the LGBT servicemembers who were honored by that SASC vote," Sarvis said.

Hours later, the House, which had devoted much of the day and much of the night to debating amendments to the defense bill, voted 234-194 to repeal DADT. The full

'I gave Sen. Joseph Lieberman and his legislative team all big hugs.'

vote to pass the \$700 billion spending bill came May 28.

"I know that our military draws its strength on the integrity of our unified force, and current law challenges this integrity by creating two realities within the ranks," said U.S. Rep. Susan Davis, D-Calif., who voted for repeal.

Murphy, D-Pa., the chief sponsor of the amendment in the House and an Iraq War veteran, told colleagues that in Iraq servicemembers "did

not care whether a fellow soldier was straight or gay if they could fire their assault rifle or run a convoy down ambush alley and do their job so everyone would come home safely."

Going into Memorial Day weekend with the votes to celebrate, Joe Solmonese of the Human Rights Campaign said, "This is the beginning of the end of a shameful ban on open service by lesbian and gay troops." DADT is 17 years old, but the gays-in-the-military issue is an old one. George Washington discharged a soldier for homosexual acts in 1778.

SUMMER SKIRMISH

Action in the full Senate may come as early as this month but more likely early this fall, coinciding with a stepping up of mid-term election campaigns.

While LGBT activists launched an all-out war on the policy last week, urging constituents in key districts to press representatives to vote for repeal, anti-gay forces also went to battle.

"Allowing open homosexuals to serve in the military will decimate military morale and unit cohesion, introduce sexual tensions into same-gender accommodations and damage rather than enhance military readiness," claimed Tim Wildmon of the American Family Association. Wildmon accused Obama

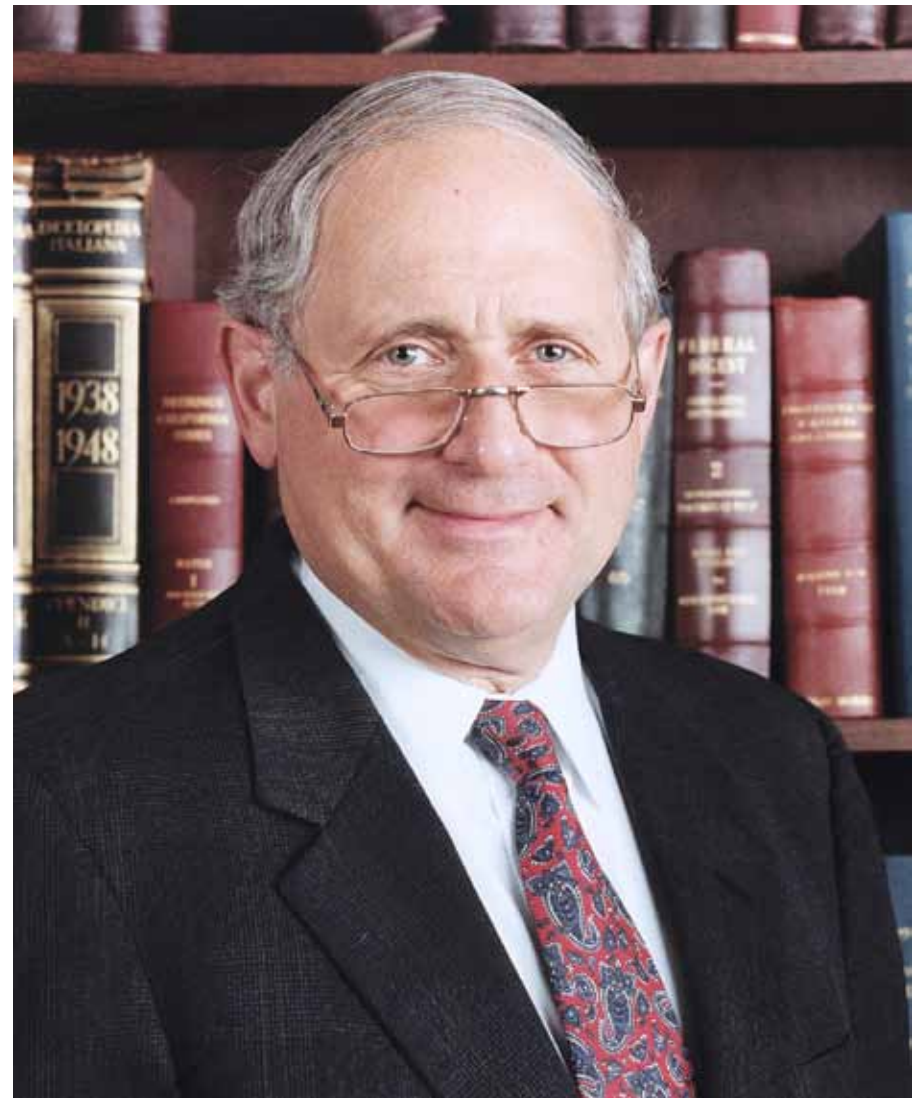


PHOTO: COURTESY

U.S. Sen. Carl Levin chairs the Senate Armed Services Committee.

and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of "using arm-twisting and backdoor deals ... to force open their laboratory for trendy experiments in the social engineering of our military."

Both sides have vowed

summer assaults.

"Final victory is no sure thing," said Solmonese. "And we must continue to be vigilant."

"We still need to urge every U.S. senator to get DADT repeal done in

2010," Sarvis said.

In the meantime, Sarvis warned, "All gay and lesbian active-duty service members – including those in the reserves and the National Guard – can still be fired under DADT."

FOR THE RECORD

U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Madison, called for repealing "don't ask, don't tell" during floor debate in the House May 27.

That night the House voted for an amendment that provides for repealing the military ban.

In her speech, Baldwin told fellow House members:

"Today we have the opportunity to right a wrong. I rise in strong support of repealing the military's 'don't ask, don't tell' policy. Seventeen years after Congress passed 'don't ask, don't tell,' we

know that it is a misguided, unjust and discriminatory policy.

Not only does 'don't ask, don't tell' damage the lives and livelihoods of military professionals, it deprives our nation and our armed services of their honorable service and their needed skills.

Under this law, almost 14,000 service members have been discharged, including almost a thousand mission-critical troops and at least 60 Arabic speakers and 10 Farsi linguists.

It's indefensible! When the House votes

to repeal 'don't ask, don't tell,' we will have taken one more step on the path to full civil rights and equality for LGBT Americans. But we will also change the course of history for all the courageous Americans who serve our country and for their families.

In the land of free and the home of the brave, it is long past time for Congress to end this un-American policy."

Wig Web link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qUbecBkzxh0>



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Students, faculty increase pressure on Marquette

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Marquette students and faculty have stepped up their effort to get university officials to apologize to lesbian scholar Jodi O'Brien and reinstate their offer to make her dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

After O'Brien signed a contract for the position, Milwaukee Archbishop Jerome Listecki and other church leaders complained that her academic writings on lesbian sexuality, gay partnership and the nature of the family were inconsistent with the school's Roman Catholic mission. University president Fr. Robert A. Wild subsequently rescinded the offer, setting off a wave of protests by students and an outcry from faculty members.

In a full-page ad that appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on May 24, dozens of faculty members at Marquette and Seattle University, a Jesuit school where O'Brien has taught for 15 years, condemned Marquette's decision and

called on administrators to apologize and re-extend the job offer. Faculty members from many departments of both universities signed the letter.

Students have staged several protests and are pursuing both legal and academic actions against the university. Graduate philosophy student Trevor Smith, a spokesperson for the May 6th Movement, said the group is looking into whether Marquette violated federal and state non-discrimination statutes, which would make the university ineligible for government grants. The May 6th Movement is an informal coalition of undergraduate and graduate students named for the day Marquette announced it was rescinding the offer to O'Brien.

"Marquette takes millions in federal funding and takes state money," Smith said. "Marquette desperately depends on federal and state funding but wants to opt out of full disclosure, academic freedom and anti-gay discrimination."



PHOTO: DAN ZAITZ

At a May 11 meeting, students called on Marquette University president Fr. Robert A. Wild (left) to resign.

Smith said his group is consulting with Lambda Legal, the Association of University Professors, the ACLU and other organizations on how to handle the matter.

The May 6th Movement has asked 20 academic professional societies to censure Marquette, which would marginalize the institution. "Depending on the organi-

zation, this can range from an unofficial blacklisting so (Marquette) couldn't host association events, or it could mean certain speakers would not appear on campus and jobs available at Marquette wouldn't be posted by the association," Smith said. He said censuring could also prevent Marquette scholars from being published in academic journals and prevent the university from hosting academic events.

Action by the Wisconsin Arts Board could be a harbinger of things to come for Marquette. The board recently voted unanimously to defer action on a grant for the university's Haggerty Museum of Art due to "serious questions suggesting discriminatory hiring practices at Marquette" (see "letters" in this issue).

After several requests for meetings with Wild were turned down, members of the May 6th Movement finally met with him May 19 and asked him to apologize for discriminating against O'Brien and to re-extend her

job offer. "We handed him an apology and asked him to sign it, but he refused," Smith said. "He said, 'I have not discriminated and I cannot sign this letter.'"

Smith said he and fellow students who attended the meeting felt talked down to "in a heavy paternalistic way."

The American Association of University Professors (AAUP) is considering a formal investigation into the handling of O'Brien's job offer, said Nancy Snow, professor of philosophy at Marquette. AAUP has censured the university in the past for stripping a professor of tenure when he left the Jesuit order.

"It was only since I've been at Marquette that we've had that censure lifted," said Snow, who helped plan the ad that appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. "Faculty had to work with AAUP to convince them that was no longer the situation."

Marquette also has been criticized by the Higher Learning Commission/North Central Accreditation Association for its lack of diversity.

Snow said the current situation amounts to "much worse than egg on your face. It's an intrusion on academic freedom here, and that's at the heart of academia."

"I have received e-mails from parents and alumni who don't know if they want to send their kids here because of this," Snow said. "One woman told me her daughter is looking at Marquette. Well, what's she supposed to tell her daughter now?"

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- Tom fought with FAIR Wisconsin to defeat the 2006 marriage amendment.
- Tom will ensure that LGBT employees hold leadership roles in his Administration.

Tom Barrett has always fought for the equal rights of all Wisconsinites. As governor, Tom will be a friend to the LGBT community, ensuring all Wisconsinites have a fair chance at the new opportunity and prosperity he will bring to Wisconsin.

Stamped with Pride

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

In support of the LGBT community and PrideFest, the U.S. Postal Service has created the first-ever pictorial cancellation mark to commemorate the state's largest LGBT event.

Postal workers will staff a kiosk at PrideFest, where they will stamp the cancellation mark on mail submitted by festivalgoers. The kiosk will not sell postage, but people can take pre-stamped letters and postcards to be cancelled and posted June 11, from 3 to 6 p.m., and June 12-13, from noon to 4 p.m.

In addition to the pictorial cancellation, PrideFest stamps will be on sale at the merchandise booth.

Designed by PrideFest board member Paul Masterson, the stamp fea-

tures the PrideFest logo over a rainbow flag background.

PrideFest board president Scott Gunkel called the cancellation "an incredible honor."

The creation of the pictorial cancellation grew out of a dispute in June 2009 over an LGBT Pride exhibit that was set to be displayed at the Milwaukee Post Office Building.

LGBT Community Center director Maggi Cage said she coordinated the creation and installation of the exhibit in response to a request from the chair of the post office's diversity committee to honor Pride month. The exhibit included biographies of famous LGBT people, pictures and historical descriptions of the rainbow flag and pink triangle, and photos of famous gay and lesbian peo-

ple, including Oscar Wilde, Rock Hudson and Billie Jean King. The centerpiece of the display was the U.S. Postal Services' AIDS Ribbon stamp.

"But three hours after we put it up, another postal employee took it down, unbeknownst to us," Cage said. "No one ever called us and told us about it."

News of the post office's snub was heard as far away as Los Angeles, where the publicist for Sir Ian McKellan called Cage to ask if he could help. The Shepherd Express named postmaster Charles Miller "Jerk of the Week."

Cage subsequently met with Miller and learned that "he was never contacted about either putting the display up or taking it down, which according to postal regulations would have been

necessary," Cage said. "He did not want in any way to offend the LGBT community. He came to the table with a relevant solution."

The solution proposed by Miller was creating the pictorial cancellation mark for PrideFest 2010. Cage took the proposal to the PrideFest board.

"It was a very generous offer, and, of course, we said yes," Gunkel said. "With the help and work of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center and perseverance of Dr. Maggi Cage, PrideFest is allowed to shine even brighter this year. We are very grateful."

"I think the LGBT community should feel very proud of itself," Cage said. "We stood up as a community for what we believed was right. It validates the importance



Top: The PrideFest postal stamp. Bottom: The pictorial cancellation created by the post office.

of the LGBT community in Milwaukee."

For news updates go to www.wisconsin-gazette.com.

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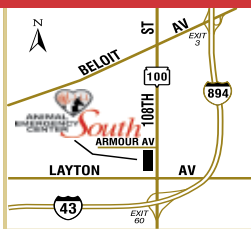
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BALDWIN AND PARTNER SPLIT

U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin and Wisconsin Public Service Commissioner Lauren Azar have ended their nearly 15-year partnership. The couple announced they will terminate their registered domestic partnership. According to a Baldwin spokesperson, neither Baldwin nor Azar will make any further statements on their breakup.

FAIR WISCONSIN TO HONOR LEADERS

Fair Wisconsin (FW) is honoring individuals and organizations for their leadership in the LGBT community.

On June 11, the opening day of Milwaukee PrideFest, FW will present awards at Henry Maier Festival Park to U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin (statewide leader), WiG CEO Leonard Sobczak (community advocate) and attorney Lester Pines (community advocate).

Also to be recognized are

the organizations Diverse and Resilient and Madison's Out Professional and Executive Network.

FW also is recognizing Paul Wesselmann of the Ripples Network and four chairs of Fair Wisconsin Action Network with community leader awards.

Sponsorship and tickets for the PrideFest award ceremony include admission to the festival, and are available at fairwisconsin.com or by calling 608-441-0143.

-L.W.

Miss. teen to lead NYC Pride Parade

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Constance McMillen has big plans for her summer vacation.

The Mississippi teenager who took the Itawamba County School District to federal court in a battle to attend her prom will lead the New York City LGBT Pride parade June 27. Parade organizers made the announcement that McMillen would be grand marshal in late May, as McMillen's 2009-10 school year was coming to a close.

McMillen, 18, gained national attention as she, with the support of the American Civil Liberties Union, fought for her right to attend the prom with her girlfriend at Itawamba Agricultural High School.

The school district had barred same-sex dates from the dance, as well as barred McMillen from

wearing a tuxedo.

A federal judge ruled that the district violated McMillen's First Amendment rights, but the ruling came too late for the official dance, which the district canceled.

Two non-official dances took place for Itawamba students. McMillen knew only of one dance, which she claims was organized as a diversion to keep her from the other party. McMillen and about 10 other students attended a dance at the Fulton County Country Club while most of the other students at Itawamba High attended the other dance.

Represented by the ACLU, she has since filed an official complaint alleging that the district staged a "sham prom."

In mid-May, McMillen transferred to another high school, one in Jackson,



Constance McMillen

Miss., with plans to graduate June 2, after WiG's press date for this issue.

McMillen said she faced hostility on the Itawamba campus.

"There was a lot of stuff going on at Itawamba. It was just really hard to do my homework, so I transferred to Jackson to get my diploma," she told the press. "There's a large gay community there. All the teachers are very nice and very helpful."

In the fall, McMillen has plans to go to college, assisted by a \$30,000 scholarship award from Ellen DeGeneres.

QUOTES OF PRIDE

"To be nobody but yourself in a world which is doing its best, night and day, to make you everybody else means to fight the hardest battle which any human being can fight; and never stop fighting."

- e.e. cummings

Find Your Big Life.



Diverse and Resilient is committed to the development and celebration of healthy lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people who thrive and find satisfying lives in Wisconsin. While our work is often behind the scenes, our programs stretch from Eau Claire to Milwaukee and La Crosse to Appleton.

We believe that LGBT people are good. LGBT youth and adults are beautiful, creative, flexible, and smart. They are deeply connected to one another, to their families, and to their communities. They are born leaders and cooperative. Without LGBT people, Wisconsin communities would be at a loss in education, science, public service, health care, religion, business, industry, and the arts.

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'Many are facing either separation or exile because of discriminatory laws'

Immigration from I

Twamley questions why the government would deport Iquique, who worked hard, paid his taxes and bills on time, and never got into any trouble with the law. "In all the years I've known him, he's had one speeding ticket," Twamley says. "He's the sweetest guy in the world."

Besides breaking up his primary relationship, Iquique's deportation separated him from his close-knit family.

"He was always the support in our family," says Iquique's niece Dulce Fajardo. "He was always the one helping everyone out. There's no reason for him to be shipped off like that."

"We're devastated," says his niece Ingrid Fajardo. "We miss him so much. It just isn't fair."

ON THE RUN

Twamley and Iquique's family are worried about his safety in Guatemala. After arriving in Guatemala City, he moved in with a brother. In April, a local gang extorted money from him, threatening to kill one of his brother's children if he didn't pay them more than \$3,000.

"Because he's from the U.S., they think he has money," Twamley says.

The threat was taken very seriously. In Guatemala, kidnappings and random killings are common. "They killed the lady two houses down, and they killed two of the brother-in-law's kids,"



Helaman Iquique at his home in Milwaukee.

Twamley says. "One of the kids was killed for a pair of Nike shoes."

Iquique and his brother's family fled to a suburb. Now Iquique commutes two hours to the city, where he works for Telus, a company that services cell phones in Canada.

His nieces worry that Iquique will become a target in Guatemala because he's "obviously gay."

"He's not ashamed of himself," says Dulce Fajardo. "Here people have rights, but it's a different, dangerous environment for him there. He was always full of life — so happy and outgoing. He can't be himself there, and it's completely unfair."

His partner and his family stay in touch with Iquique by phone as much as possible. Although he's strugg-

ling to adjust to his life in Guatemala, he longs for his partner, his family, his home and his dogs.

"He's lived here his whole life," Dulce Fajardo says. "To him, he's American. His lifestyle is totally different from what it is there, and he's suffering horribly now. He says this is a nightmare I would have in my dreams. We hear his pain and we feel it."

'NO PROTECTION'

Twamley's situation is not unique. "Unfortunately there are a lot of lesbian and gay couples who are separated because of the inability under current law for the American partner to sponsor the immigrant partner for residency," says Steve Ralls, spokesperson for Immigration Equality, a nonprofit legal aid and

advocacy organization in Washington, D.C., that works on behalf of LGBT immigrants and their families.

According to an analysis of the 2000 census, about 36,000 bi-national lesbian and gay couples are living in the U.S. "Many are either facing separation or living in exile or have already been separated because of the discriminatory nature of U.S. immigration policy," Ralls says. "Nearly half of them are also raising minor children who have only known the U.S. as their home, and they're faced with the possibility of having to leave the country in order to keep their families intact."

Twamley and Iquique's case has drawn the support of high-profile political leaders. U.S. Rep. Gwen Moore, D-Milwaukee, lobbied the INS on their behalf and U.S. Sens. Russ Feingold and Herb Kohl both sent letters of support urging officials to reconsider the case.

Feingold is a co-sponsor of the Uniting American Families Act, which seeks to allow American citizens and legal permanent residents to sponsor their same-sex partners for legal residency in the United States.

"Right now, our family immigration rules force many committed long-term couples to make a terrible choice between living in different countries and leaving this country they love to stay together," Feingold said in a statement delivered on the Senate floor. "Worse still,

these couples have no protection against deportation proceedings, no matter how long they have been together and whether or not they have obtained a valid marriage license or other legal recognition in a jurisdiction that recognizes same-sex marriage or civil unions."

LINGERING HOPE

For a while, Twamley clung to the hope that he and Iquique could move together to Canada as a last resort. But he recently learned that he's not eligible to obtain residency status in Canada, in part because he's spent all of his savings on lawyers.

Twamley says staying close to Iquique's family has helped him get through the past year and a half.

"I am part of his family, so his brothers and these guys come and visit me and keep me entertained," Twamley says. "Otherwise I'm just fighting with attorneys. I'm getting an education."

Refusing to give up the hope that Iquique will someday return home, Twamley continues to pay his partner's bills to keep his credit clean. He plans to go to Guatemala to visit Iquique as soon as he can.

He's also raising money to help pay for his continuing legal battle. A May 9 fundraiser at Hot Water Warehouse brought together 62 supporters, who contributed just over \$1,000. Iquique's family made food for the occasion, and



"I worked with agencies to ensure that Mr. (Iquique) was afforded a fair review of his case," says U.S. Rep. Gwen Moore. "And a judge agreed — just an hour too late."

Twamley auctioned off items from his household, including two of Iquique's favorite plants — a mother in law's tongue and a seven-foot cane plant.

The item Twamley expected to raise the most cash was an American flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol on the first anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001.

It didn't draw a single bid.



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Gutierrez backs gay measure in immigration reform

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez on May 24 endorsed the inclusion of a provision protecting same-sex couples and their families in any comprehensive immigration reform package.

Gutierrez, a Democrat from Chicago, is considered the House leader on immigration reform efforts and is the sponsor of the only comprehensive immigration bill pending. So, his endorsement is significant to LGBT equality advocates.

On May 24, Gutierrez held a press conference

in Chicago with U.S. Reps. Mike Quigley, D-Chicago, and Jared Polis, D-Colo. All three pledged unwavering support for including the provisions of the Uniting American Families Act in any major immigration bill.

The Uniting American Families Act, sponsored for the past eight years by U.S. Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., would allow Americans in same-sex relationships to sponsor their "permanent partners" for immigration purposes.

Existing immigration law allows for a U.S. citizen to

sponsor his or her spouse for immigration, a coveted "green card." However, the provision does not apply to same-sex spouses or partners.

"We need to recognize that one of the main problems facing the U.S. when it comes to immigration is that our legal immigration system is so dysfunctional and restrictive that we have created incentives for people to go around our system rather than going through it," Gutierrez said in a statement.

"Nowhere is this more true than for committed same-sex

couples who have to make a painful choice between their family and the immigration laws of the U.S. that do not recognize these family units for the purposes of immigration. By disallowing legal immigration and family unity for these couples and families, our immigration laws are separating families and preventing the reunification of families separated by borders because of immigration bureaucracy and restrictions."

U.S. law essentially can force same-sex couples into divorces, extended separa-

tions or major relocations away from good friends and close relatives. U.S. policy affords no recognition of these relationships and guarantees no rights.

"LGBT people and people living with HIV are disproportionately affected by our country's discriminatory immigration system," said Francisco Duenas of Lambda Legal, a national LGBT civil liberties group. "Many inhabit a double closet, afraid of disclosing their sexual orientation and/or gender identity and afraid of disclosing that they are undocumented."

Duenas said reform must include "at a minimum, an end to unequal treatment of same-sex bi-national couples."

A number of other countries already allow their citizens to sponsor permanent partners or same-sex spouses for immigration. Those countries include Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Israel, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Opinion

MARIA CADENAS

Yes, race matters: on creating a strong LGBT social change movement



Maria Cadenas

I said the "R" word. Too often race is the elephant in the room – especially with immigration, the Obama administration and the shifting demographic makeup of the United States being current topics of discussion.

Race matters because throughout the history of our country race has been used as an arbitrary way to deny access, power and pro-

tections to large groups of people in a systematic way.

As much as this sounds like a sociology lesson, we in the LGBT movement need to understand that we face the same institutional and policy bias – from gay and lesbian immigration bans that were not removed until the '90s, to the current lack of access to marriage and the lack of job security for transgender individuals.

As a Latina and a lesbian, the intersection of race and sexual orientation is something I live with every day. The LGBT struggle for our rights is the same as the struggle for equal pay for women, and the same as the struggle for people of color for civil rights. We are all seeking equity in treatment, access and respect.

If we're honest, the LGBT movement has not done a good job of being inclusive.

A recent study showed that only 11 percent of LGBT funding went to people of color. That is 11 percent of the already ridiculously low 0.2 percent available for all LGBT work. A quick scan of paid executive directors in Milwaukee area LGBT organizations reveals that all are white – except for me.

As Latino, African American and other communities of color grow to become the majority in our country, so will the LGBT community be primarily a community of color – and yet we are not investing in or supporting them. Instead, anti-gay groups are reaching out to communities of color.

Reaching out to our Latino and African American neighbors is not only the right thing to do. It is the smart thing to do to ensure long-term success and a strong LGBT movement. A decade

of research on the Racial Equity Theory gives us a lens and effective tools to help both frame our movement and prevent repeating the mistakes made by those before us.

We must recognize that these social movements have more similarities than differences. In fact, many of us already live with these two identities.

Working to support each other is not difficult, but it requires explicit intent.

Take the issue of immigration. National groups like Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund and local groups like Voces de la Frontera actively support immigration reform that would allow same-sex partners to petition for each other in seeking legal entry to the United States. So why were there only a handful of visible LGBT community members, all from Equality Wisconsin, at the recent immigration rally?

As a social movement, we must build bridges and strong relationships across identity to ensure we all move forward without leaving others behind. We must invest strategically to ensure that as we gain our rights, we hold each other's hand and open the door to others facing similar struggles. This is the only way we can create the movement that will bring about the change we seek.

For news updates go to www.wisconsin-gazette.com.

QUOTES OF PRIDE

"Never be bullied into silence. Never allow yourself to be made a victim. Accept no one's definition of your life; define yourself."

– Harvey Fierstein

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{ Editorial }

Perpetuating pride

LGBT people in Wisconsin have a lot to be proud of.

Our state was the first in the nation to ban anti-gay employment discrimination (1982) and the first to elect an out gay or lesbian non-incumbent (Tammy Baldwin) to Congress.

Wisconsin is one of only 14 states where legislatures have enacted some form of recognition for same-sex couples. And Milwaukee hosts a Pride festival every June that's widely considered one of the nation's best.

But despite all this, our LGBT community has a long way to go.

Community events are often sparsely attended and our organizations tend to be poorly supported. The "isms" that pervade American society as a whole – racism, sexism, ageism, etc. – also divide our community. Many gay and lesbian Wisconsinites still live in the closet out of fear, both real and perceived, of losing their jobs, their friends and their social standing.

The state's LGBT community faces a number of urgent challenges. More of us continue to live unhealthy lifestyles than our straight counterparts, with higher rates of smoking as well as alcohol and drug abuse. HIV infections among young gay and bisexual men, particularly African-American men, are on the rise. Also, hate-motivated violence toward us, as evidenced by the recent slaying of Milwaukee transgender woman Dana Larkin, persists.

The November mid-term elections pose a serious threat to the political gains LGBT people have made in the state. The Republican Party here, as elsewhere, has taken a sharp turn to the social right, pushed by the Tea Party movement. As the party that's now out of power, Republicans stand a strong chance of capitalizing on voter disaffection over the economy to seize control of the Legislature and the Governor's mansion. If this occurs, some of the positive developments we've seen in recent years, including the establishment of the state's domestic partnership registry, will be imperiled.

As we join with people throughout the world in celebrating LGBT Pride this month, let's recommit to our community by becoming more involved, more inclusive and more politically engaged. We must remember that the freedoms we enjoy today were not just handed to us, but won through decades of activism and perseverance.

That's something to be proud of, and something we must continue.



“You’ll have to excuse Billy - he has deeply held religious views.”

{ Letters }

DEFER ACTION

The following letter was sent to Wally Mason, director of the Haggerty Museum of Art at Marquette University:

At its May 14, 2010 meeting, the Wisconsin Arts Board voted unanimously to defer action on the Haggerty Museum's application for a fiscal year 2011 Creation and Presentation grant until our meeting Sept. 11.

The Wisconsin Arts Board members expressed unanimous concern that serious questions suggesting discriminatory hiring practices at Marquette University had been recently raised in the press and remained unresolved. Board members asked for more time to investigate and ensure that any grant approved was consistent with our mission as the state agency which “nurtures creativity, cultivates expres-

sion, promotes the arts, supports the arts in education, stimulates community and economic development and serves as a resource for people of every culture and heritage.” Our clearly stated values include “freedom of expression” and “respect and appreciation for all cultures and people.”

We welcome any materials you believe may be instructive as the Wisconsin Arts Board studies the situation and weighs their decision. I will inform you of that decision immediately following the September meeting.

Barbara Lawton, Lieutenant Governor

DEAR PRESIDENT

The following letter was sent by Marquette students to university president Fr. Robert A. Wild:

You taught us to listen

to reason, to be open to discourse and to show concern for all on whom our actions will have impact. You taught us to respect the dignity and the inherent, unsalable value of every single human person. You taught us to love learning and to value the free and open expression of ideas. You taught us to be responsible and loving men and women for others. You taught us to follow our hearts and our consciences. You taught us to be the difference. You taught us well, and we will live these lessons, even when you fail to do so. We are who you taught us to be. We are Marquette.

Concerned Students

WiG welcomes letters to the editor. E-mail managingeditor@wisconsin-gazette.com.

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SOCIAL NETWORKING

Emily Adams

ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Gregg Shapiro

CONTRIBUTORS

Harry Cherkinian Jr., Jody Hirsh, Rick Karlin, Kerrie Kennedy, Angel Sevilla, Jennifer Vanasco, Paul Varnell, Todd Wellman, Dan Zaitz

TECHNICAL CONSULTANT

Kevin Rux

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.

Monogamy

In light of recent personal events, I've decided to focus this column on the dynamics of monogamous relationships. Being a relationship-oriented person, I've many times found myself in positions where I've been faced with the choice – to cheat or not to cheat.

If you've ever been in this position, you'll understand that as much as you can love your partner, temptation is a sexy bitch who's sometimes hard to resist.

I'm not saying monogamy is wrong. I'm just saying that people are not predisposed to be monogamous.

I watched a special on the Discovery Channel called "The Science of Sex Appeal." It revealed the subconscious aspects of attraction.

The most interesting part was when it addressed the nature behind cheating. Simply put, it stems from the fact that men by nature have the need to make babies. Men find themselves attracted to fertile, reproductively healthy women. They have sex to relieve the need to impregnate them.

But just because a man has impregnated one woman doesn't mean that he's freed from the instinctive need to create life. That urge is constant and, biologically speaking, that's why a man might find it hard to say no when in a tempting situation, even if he truly loves his already pregnant partner.

Women seek out men who are biologically compatible with them in terms of baby making. They'll choose to have sex with the alpha male who will give her a strong and healthy baby. But as far as a woman choosing a partner is concerned, she'll choose a softer, gentler man who can help nurture her and her baby. She'll be tempted to cheat on the alpha male with the beta male.

It's simply just not in our nature to be com-

Opinion
ANGEL SEVILLA

pletely monogamous. That said, we are humans and love complicates everything. So of course we're going to be hurt when we get cheated on.

What I'm presenting here is some scientific logic to help calm you down when your partner says that he/she feels bad or doesn't know what he/she was thinking. It's just that you partner got a little more in touch with that animal side than what is socially acceptable these days.

In the case of marriage, I'd like to propose a change in the way things are done. Marriage is a commitment and a testament to true love but above all it is a contract. Ask any lawyer. I recently switched my cell phone service from T-Mobile to US Cellular, and when I signed the contract it was made very clear to me that it was a two-year agreement. So, after two years, if I decide that I'm not happy with my service, I can leave the relationship scot-free. Why are marriage contracts not this sensible?

With divorce rates sky high it would be an ideal option for millions of Americans who don't want to deal with divorce. I propose that marriage contracts last 10 years and that after they expire the couples can opt to go back and renew them or they can part ways and leave their marriages without the bitterness that divorce brings.

Whatever your personal situation might be, a little logic and simplification can go a long way for your relationships, past and present. And to the innocent I refused to mention in the first paragraph, he just gave in to his animal side. You can blame nature.

For news updates go to www.wisconsinazette.com.

There is much to be gained from a lifetime of continuing education. The world has many riches and sources of pleasure to absorb. Those broad survey courses we all took in college provided only a smattering of what is available on any topic. They were designed to whet the appetite for learning more.

Self-education beyond college can involve reading books. But it also includes travel to new places, learning about different peoples and their cultures and the effort to have new experiences (e.g., in music, in art, in personal growth).

I can offer my own experience as an example. In recent years I have had to learn something about art and art history – after I was assigned the task of writing art reviews. It took me a

while to get up to speed, but I spent a lot of time focusing on art, which benefitted my reviews and evaluations.

Based on my experience, gays have an advantage in pursuing the humanities and social sciences. There is almost always a gay aspect to them that can serve as an opening to the whole topic in its broader aspects.

Most subjects have a gay angle. I mentioned art because of the number of modern artists who are gay and who have painted on gay themes.

Music? There are a number of gay composers, especially in modern times. There are many gay performers, (many of whom remain to be de-closeted) and an increasing number of compositions on gay themes (e.g., Benjamin Britten's opera "Billy Budd").

Self-education

Film? There are gay characters, a few gay actors and even a gay producer or director or two.

Drama? There are gay playwrights and gay characters in many modern plays and maybe in earlier plays as well. English and American literature? There are any number of gay writers and gay characters? Psychology? There is the history of the treatment of homosexuals and the failed attempt to develop a theory about homosexuality (e.g., Freud).

History? The whole field is loaded with the treatment of gays and, in the last 60 years, the revolution by gays and lesbians and the resistance against the legal and medical abuses visited upon us in the past.

Anthropology? How various cultures view homosexu-

Opinion
PAUL VARNELL

ality and what, if anything, they do about it. Sociology? The growth of the gay movement and the worldwide gay community. Economics? Why gays live in some places rather than others, how gays fare in salary and benefits compared with heterosexuals (does being technically single help or hurt career advancement?).

You get the idea. It is hard to believe that there is any gay person who is not interested in at least one or more of those topics and would not want to learn about it or them.

For news updates go to www.wisconsinazette.com.

Questioning authority

Opinion
JAMAKAYA

As the controversy over Marquette University's rejection of Jodi O'Brien as new dean of Arts and Sciences wore on in the past month, I found myself channeling Captain Renault in "Casablanca."

I'm shocked, shocked to find discrimination going on in the Catholic Church!

Don't get me wrong. I hope O'Brien gets a big settlement for enduring such shabby treatment. Ultimately, her reputation will be enhanced by the classy way she's handled herself and by the national publicity given to her work. I feel bad for the students who are so disheartened by the actions of Marquette's administration, and I certainly admire their protests.

But what world are they living in? Have they studied history? Do they know what the Catholic Church stands for?

Do they know about the millions of women worldwide condemned to compulsive childbearing, poverty and ill health by the Vatican's campaign against artificial birth control?

Or about the millions who have died and who will continue to die of AIDS

of the "faithful" to rid society of that minority's existence. Protecting the physical and moral purity of the nation or community is the rationale. Depriving people of their civil rights and pathologizing their differences are key elements in the operational plan.

The Catholic Church in America has spent millions to lobby against women's rights, sex education, no-fault divorce, same-sex marriage.

And we're surprised by Milwaukee's archbishop cracking the whip and Marquette dumping a lesbian scholar?

I know there are good Catholics doing a wide range of valuable work in our communities. But one does not need an archaic, misogynist, morally compromised hierarchy to love God or to honor the teachings of Jesus Christ.

I write as only a lapsed Catholic can write. My own estrangement came early.

While attending Catholic grade school as a child, I once naively asked the forbidden question in catechism class: "Why?" When the answer, which I'm sure had something to do with blind faith, did not seem adequate, I asked again, "Why?" And again, "But why?" The priest finally bel-

lowed back, "BELIEVE AND OBEY!"

"Well, that's dumb," I remember my stubborn little 10-year-old self thinking.

The reigning ethos of the 1960s was to question authority, and the history books I was reading talked about this really cool time called "The Enlightenment," when science overcame superstition and average folks challenged the divine right of kings. We kicked the Brits out of America so we could run our own lives, didn't we? Why in the world would anyone just "believe and obey"?

It didn't make any sense then, and it makes even less sense now.

With the world in the shape it's in – environmental catastrophes, unending wars, corporate corruption, government incompetence, religious zealotry – we all need to engage at whatever level we can to question authority and work for change.

The only upside of Marquette's boorish rejection of Jodi O'Brien is that it's spurring a new generation to question authority. I hope their inquiries run deep, and I hope they last a lifetime.

For news updates go to www.wisconsinazette.com.

Opinion

TERI HUYCK

Marching forward together

The LGBT community and reproductive health advocates have so much to be proud of this year, and yet, we face many challenges ahead.

Gov. Jim Doyle signed four laws enhancing reproductive health care in our state, making 2009-10 the most successful legislative session for reproductive health advocates in the history of Wisconsin.

The entire LGBT community shares in these successes. The Healthy Youth Act ensures LGBT students will not face discrimination in sex-ed curricula. Expedited Partner Therapy allows physicians to treat a patient's partner for an STD he or she has contracted. The Contraceptive Equity and Prescription Protection laws help ensure fairness in the provision of health care. Insurance plans now will have to include prescription birth control in prescription drug plans and all pharmacies must have pharmacists

on staff who will fill birth control prescriptions. We have a long way to go to ensure equity in insurance coverage for our communities, but these are important first steps that Democratic lawmakers and Doyle took in the right direction.

We share your success, too. Domestic partnership protections are a milestone for all Wisconsinites who want to ensure that caring, committed couples are able to take care of each other.

We share your values. Planned Parenthood supports the right to reproductive and sexual self-determination for all people. We support policies that guarantee the essential right to privacy for all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation.

We also share many challenges. Both Republican candidates for governor promise to reverse the historic gains we've made.

When he was in the state Legislature, Scott Walker led the charge to allow pharmacists to refuse to dispense birth control and spon-

sored bills to take away all state funding for Planned Parenthood and other family planning providers. He was also a vocal proponent of writing discrimination into the Wisconsin Constitution, issuing a press release in support of the ban on marriage equality and civil unions, stating, "Many years ago, I concluded that we must change the Wisconsin State Constitution to say that marriage is to be between one man and one woman."

During his five years in Congress, Mark Neumann voted repeatedly against family planning access both internationally and domestically. He voted over a dozen times to limit access to abortion for women serving in the military, federal employees and women in prison – even if they used private funds to pay for abortion care. When he was in Congress, Neumann voted for the Defense of Marriage Act. He also told The New York Times, "If I were elected God for a day, homosexuality wouldn't be permitted."

Clearly, strengthening the relationship between reproductive health advocates and LGBT advocates becomes all the more urgent as November approaches.

In Tom Barrett, Wisconsinites would have a pro-fairness governor who is solidly pro-reproductive health. Barrett has a strong, 10-year Congressional record supporting women's and reproductive health policies. Under his leadership, the Milwaukee Health Department was recently awarded the Wisconsin Public Health Association's Excellence in Public Health Award for reducing teen pregnancy and STD rates, among other factors.

Barrett also has a proven track record of supporting the LGBT community. During his years in Congress, he opposed the "don't ask, don't tell" policy that hinders the ability of gays and lesbians to defend our country. Barrett was also a vocal opponent of the 2006 constitutional amendment banning marriage equality and civil unions.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Teri Huyck is president of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin.

As mayor of Milwaukee, he proactively supports the city of Milwaukee's domestic partner registry and he has ensured that the LGBT community is represented in city government.

Our movements are interdependent. We rise and fall

together. We both work on matters that involve the most intimate choices central to a person's dignity and autonomy.

This November, everything we stand for is on the line. Together, we must preserve our gains and march forward.

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What they said!



"There were concerns in the late '90s of gay men walking across the gangplank in feather boas and high heels. That just did not happen."

Retired Lt. Cmdr. Craig Jones of the British Royal Navy, explaining that integrating gays into his nation's military was not a problem.

"C'mon, man, I'm dealing with Congress here. It takes a little bit of time."

President Barack Obama, responding to a heckler about not moving faster to lift the military's "don't ask, don't tell" military policy.

"I questioned whether my faith had betrayed me, or I if had a betrayed my faith."

Christian music artist Jennifer Knapp, from a book in which she reveals having been in a same-sex relationship for the past eight years.

"Gay culture is at the very essence of who I am and I will fight for women and for the gay community until I die."

Lady Gaga

"Sending two people to jail for 14 years simply for loving each other is a gross violation of their human rights, and I hope this decision will be appealed and overturned by the high court."

U.S. Sen. Russ Feingold, in a letter sent to President Mutharika of Malawi protesting the sentencing of two gay men in that country for holding an engagement party.



6,000 blocks, each as big as a bedroom

AIDS Quilt from I

munication ... and as the medium by which you can express (such emotions as grief)," said MAM director Dan Keegan.

Joe Pabst, who founded the Johnson and Pabst LGBT Humanity Fund to recognize his seven-year relationship with Robert Johnson, who died of AIDS complications, said the AIDS Quilt "is the largest ongoing community folk art project in the world in history."

Each panel of the quilt is created by bereaved friends and/or family members and measures roughly the size of a human grave, said Janece Shaffer of the NAMES Project Foundation. Eight panels are then sewn together to make a block, which is 12-foot square.

There are a total of 6,000 blocks - each one as big as a typical bedroom. In total, there are 47,000 panels that honor 92,000 names. Though the quilt has grown so immense that it's nearly impossible to exhibit it in entirety, Shaffer said it represents only 17.5 percent of the lives that have been lost to AIDS.

Buchanan said the museum decided to display pieces that had strong ties to the arts community. The chosen blocks were designed and created by some of the

The NAMES Project AIDS Quilt Exhibition is at MAM June 8-20, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Tuesdays through Sundays and until 8 p.m. Thursdays. Admission is free.

world's foremost fashion designers. They were among the first to join the fight against AIDS, and creating the panels was a natural extension of their fight.

"It was one community's response because so many of their own were lost to the pandemic," Shaffer said. "It was fitting to have that community respond through the medium that most suited them - textiles."

The NAMES Project and ARCW wanted to connect the exhibit back to the local community. Included in the exhibit is the "Milwaukee Remembers" panel, created in 1987 by the Milwaukee AIDS Project, which later became ARCW. It depicts more than 50 white doves taking flight over a field of deep blue.

According to a 1989 article in MAP's newsletter, the panel took an entire summer to finish, utilizing both paid and volunteer staff. The article details a time when Milwaukee was facing the peak of the AIDS crisis, and the MAP panel commemorates the lives that were being lost.

This AIDS Quilt exhibition

The AIDS Quilt panels on display at MAM were created by some of the great fashion designers of our time, including:

- Donna Karan
- Dolce & Gabbana
- Versace
- Ralph Lauren
- Isaac Mizrahi
- Tommy Hilfiger
- BCBG
- Valentino
- Anna Sui
- Oscar De La Renta
- Joe Boxer
- United Colors of Benetton
- Helmut Lang

underscores the excellent relationship between MAM and ARCW, said ARCW vice president and chief development officer Dan Mueller. MAM has been a regular donor to ARCW's Make a Promise dinner and has hosted celebrations for the organization.

"When Joe (Pabst) approached us with the prospect of doing another project with MAM, we were very excited," Mueller said. "The museum curator has really taken the lead on making the connections and doing the leg-work. (MAM has) been amazing."

"The goal of the exhibit is to celebrate how far we've come in the fight against AIDS," and to serve as a



PHOTO: COURTESY NAMES PROJECT

A detail from one of the 6,000 12-foot-square blocks of the AIDS Quilt.

reminder that there is still so much to be done in this fight, Mueller said. "It is going to take courage, passion and the help of a lot of people to achieve what needs to be done next."

The AIDS Quilt will be on display in the Schroeder Galleria. To increase its accessibility to the community, the exhibit is free and open to the public.

But MAM has made it possible for ARCW to do some additional fundraising in conjunction with the exhibit. When MAM patrons pay full-price admission to the museum, they can present a special postcard that will be distributed at PrideFest to trigger a \$2 donation to ARCW from MAM.

The postcard is valid for the duration of the Winterthur exhibition, not just for the two weeks that the AIDS Quilt is on display.

Editor's note: See Deb Brehmer's review of "American Quilts: Selections from the Winterthur Collection" in this week's Art Gaze.

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Opinion

REP. MARK POCAN

Equality advances in Wisconsin

Despite a rough national economy that has created difficulties for so many people and families in Wisconsin, one aspect of this past legislative year was cause for optimism.

When the Democrats took over the Assembly last year, one of my goals for being in leadership was mitigating the black eye Wisconsin deservedly got in passing a hateful, anti-gay marriage constitutional amendment in 2006. We did this by making sure all committed couples had basic protections for their relationships.

We were able to get that measure into the budget and begin the fall session focused on creating jobs and healing the economy, knowing that

goal had already been met.

This continues to be great news for our LGBT community, because according to Fair Wisconsin's most recent research, 1,437 couples have registered as domestic partners in Wisconsin since our registry law took effect in August 2009.

We became the first state in the Midwest to legislatively enact any legal protections for same-sex couples, returning to the path of our state's proud history that began with our groundbreaking sexual orientation non-discrimination on law in 1982. No other state that has a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage and civil unions has been able to enact a domestic partner

classification.

In total, there are now 43 protections that registered domestic partners are afforded.

We can now take time off of work covered by the state Family Medical Leave Act to be by the hospital bed of our partners. Visitation rights are also covered in hospitals, hospices, group or nursing homes and residential care facilities.

There are a number of inheritance and survivor protections that same-sex married couples also have, such as inheriting the estate of a domestic partner who dies without a will, receiving death benefits or victim compensation and the ability to sue for a partner's wrong-

ful death.

And there are other protections, such as being able to transfer real estate and car titles among partners without a transfer fee.

There are still many battles for equality yet to be waged, and it is important to support the people and groups that are fighting for fairness and equality and a return to our state's proud history of anti-discrimination. Your hard work and support has made these advances possible against the odds. There is good cause for optimism, and good reason to keep up the high goals and the hard work. And they will fuel future advances as well.

But for now – celebrate and enjoy Pridefest!



State Rep. Mark Pocan.

PHOTO: COURTESY

QUOTES OF PRIDE

“Always be a first-rate version of yourself, instead of a second-rate version of somebody else.” – Judy Garland



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PRIDEFEST 2010

Congresswoman Gwen Moore was recognized on May 11, 2010 by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force for her work with Equality Wisconsin and on behalf of LGBT Wisconsinites.

She is a passionate advocate of LGBT equality and human rights. Over the years she has been a supporter of virtually every pro-LGBT equality bill, including the Uniting American Families Act that would allow an American partner to sponsor their international partner for immigration purposes, and the Employment Nondiscrimination Act (ENDA).

**SUPREMACISTS
GET PERMIT FOR
RALLY**

The National Park Service has approved a permit for a white supremacist group to hold a rally at Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania this month.

The Aryan Nations group plans a rally June 19 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. near the old Cyclorama Center.

Park spokeswoman Katie Lawhon said the park is obligated to make the land available to the public to exercise their free speech rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

The group has said it plans speeches and discussions of current issues, such as immigration and homosexuality.

Some other Adams County groups have announced plans for a "celebration of diversity" the same day. In 2006, a "Community Unity Day" was held to counter a rally by the World Knights of the Ku Klux Klan at the battlefield.

**SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
TRANSGENDER
WOMAN SUES
MACY'S**

A transgender woman has filed a lawsuit against a Macy's store in Torrance, Calif., alleging that managers and co-workers treated her unfairly and humiliated her.

Jazz Araquel sued Macy's for gender discrimination, harassment, retaliation and wrongful termination in Superior Court.

Her attorney Eric Castelblanco says Macy's fired Araquel for alleged insubordination and using foul language in 2009.

Araquel says her co-workers harassed her and physically threw her out of the women's rest room.

A call for comment to Macy's was not returned.

**KANSAS
ATTORNEY
GENERAL READIES
BRIEF IN FUNERAL
PROTEST CASE**

Kansas Attorney General Steve Six is asking attorneys general from across the country to join him in a brief he will file in a U.S. Supreme Court case involving funeral protests.

Six intends to file a friend of the court brief in an appeal by the family of Marine Lance Cpl. Matthew Snyder. The family sued the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka after members picketed Snyder's 2006 funeral. The church, led by the Rev. Fred Phelps, contends U.S. military deaths are God's punishment for tolerating homosexuality.

The Supreme Court has agreed to consider whether the protesters' actions, no matter how provocative and upsetting, are protected by the U.S. Constitution's free speech amendment.

Six says that other states need to stand up for the families' right to mourn their loved ones in dignity. So far, eight states have joined

**CARDINAL:
CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS
WELCOME ALL**

Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Boston welcome all children, even as they work to make sure

the church's teachings aren't compromised, Cardinal Sean O'Malley said.

O'Malley's comments were his first public remarks about a decision by St. Paul Elementary School in Hingham, Mass., to rescind a boy's acceptance because his parents are gay.

The archdiocese's head of education later called one of the boy's parents, apologized and offered to help the 8-year-old enroll in another Catholic school. The archdiocese said it is creating a policy to clarify its schools don't bar children with same-sex parents.

"It is true that we welcome people from all walks of life," O'Malley wrote. "But we recognize that, regardless of the circumstances involved, we maintain our responsibility to teach the truths of our faith, including those concerning sexual morality and marriage."

O'Malley defended the Rev. James Rafferty, the parish priest at St. Paul's, who he

said had come under "undue criticism" for the decision. One of the boy's parents said Rafferty said her relationship was "in discord" with church teachings, which sees marriage as only between a man and a woman.

**MARYLAND
UPDATES
BENEFITS FOR
SAME-SEX
COUPLES**

Maryland updated its benefits policy for state employees in late May to include same-sex spouses who possess a valid marriage certificate from another jurisdiction.

The Maryland Department of Management and Budget updated the policy in its role as administrator of the state employee benefits program.

The change was made after a legal opinion issued by Attorney General Doug Gansler in February that concluded Maryland must recognize out-of-state gay marriages until the Legislature or

courts decide otherwise.

David Rocah, staff attorney for the ACLU of Maryland, described the change as "a very small step in the right direction."

"I think the basic idea here, to put it in a nutshell, is that the state is treating these married couples as married couples at least in this limited instance, and it hopefully will be a harbinger of things to come," Rocah said.

**ANTI-GAY
MARRIAGE ADS
AIR IN MINNESOTA**

A national group is sinking \$200,000 into TV ads opposing gay marriage in Minnesota.

The Washington-based National Organization for Marriage says Minnesota is the latest battleground state in the fight over same-sex marriage. The statewide ad urges a vote on the issue through a constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

The group announced the

ad campaign in late May, a week after three gay couples filed a lawsuit seeking to overturn Minnesota's ban on gay marriage.

**2 STUDENTS CITED
IN ANTI-GAY
GRAFFITI CASE**

Two Southern Oregon University students have been cited on charges they scrawled anti-gay graffiti in a dormitory on the Ashland campus.

The Ashland Daily Tidings reports that Ashland police cited 20-year-old Kevin Novotny and 19-year-old Blake Adkins on charges of criminal mischief. Adkins also faces a charge of intimidation.

Jonathan Eldridge, the university's vice president for student affairs, says the students will also face a university disciplinary hearing.

The graffiti showed up last month in two halls.

—AP and
WiG reports

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**Best of luck on a successful and
safe 2010 Pride Fest weekend**

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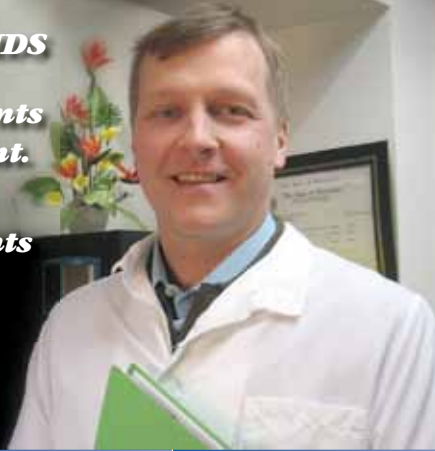
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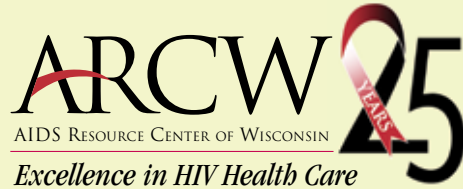


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Malawi president pardons couple

From WiG and AP reports

In late May, Malawian President Bingu wa Mutharika in late May issued an unconditional pardon for Tiwonge Chimbalanga and Steven Monjeza.

A May 31 statement from the White House May 31 read, "The White House is pleased to learn of President Bingu wa Mutharika's pardon of Tiwonge Chimbalanga and Steven Monjeza. These individuals were not criminals and their struggle is not unique. We must all recommit ourselves to ending the persecution and criminalization of sexual orientation and gender identity. We hope that President Mutharika's pardon marks the beginning of a new dialogue, which reflects the country's history of tolerance and a new day for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights in Malawi and around the globe."

A judge in Blantyre, Malawi, had sentenced the couple to the maximum 14 years in prison with hard labor under Malawi's anti-gay legislation, and crowds jeered the two men as they were driven from the court house to jail.

The harsh sentence for unnatural acts and gross indecency had been expected after the same judge convicted Chimbalanga and Monjeza earlier under laws dating from the Colonial Era. The case has drawn international condemnation and sparked a debate on human rights in this conservative southern African country.

Chimbalanga and Monjeza were arrested Dec. 27, 2009, the day after they celebrated their engagement with a party at the hotel where Chimbalanga worked – an apparent first in Malawi.

"Maximum sentences are intended for use for worst cases," Magistrate Nyakwawa Usiwa Usiwa said as he delivered his sentence. "We are sitting here to represent the

A judge had sentenced the couple to 14 years of prison and hard labor.

Malawi society which I do not believe is ready at this point in time to see its sons getting married to other sons or conducting engagement ceremonies."

Chimbalanga, then, remained composed as armed police officers handcuffed him to Monjeza.

"I am not worried," he told reporters as they were taken to a police vehicle.

Monjeza broke down upon hearing the ruling and was still sobbing as he was helped into the van.

Hundreds of onlookers inside and outside the court house showed little sympathy. There were shouts of "You got what you deserve!" and "Fourteen years is not enough, they should get 50!"

Michelle Kagari, deputy Africa director of Amnesty International called the sentence "an outrage."

The watchdog group had adopted Chimbalanga and Monjeza as prisoners of con-

science. Kagari said immediately after the sentencing that Amnesty would "continue to campaign on this matter and to work tirelessly to see that they are released unconditionally as soon as possible."

Mark Heywood, director of the South Africa-based AIDS Law Project, called the sentence "outrageous."

In a joint statement issued in London, British lawmakers Henry Bellingham, Stephen O'Brien and Lynne Featherstone urged the Malawi government to review its laws to ensure human rights were protected.

They said their country "believes that human rights apply to everyone regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity," and would, with its international partners, "continue to press the Government of Malawi on this issue."

In Geneva, the UN's top human rights official, High Commissioner Navi Pillay, called the sentencing "blatantly discriminatory."

"I am shocked and dismayed by the sentence and reports of the treatment of Steven Monjeza and Tiwonge Chimbalanga while in detention," Pillay said. "The law which enabled the conviction dates back to the Colonial Era and has lain dormant for

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Steven (L) and his "bride" Tiwonge during their chinkhose in Blantyre on Saturday

GAYS ENGAGE

FAST FACTS

1. Homosexuality, referred to under "offences against morality" in the Penal Code sections 153 and 156, is illegal in Malawi and carries a maximum sentence of five or 14 years imprisonment, respectively, with

CAROLINE SOMANJE Sitsiwa Mwanza

Gay lovebirds Tiwonge Chimbalanga and Steven

for homosexuals in the country.

The ceremony was held at Mankhoma Lodge in the city and witnessed by hundreds of patrons. Clad in traditional

showed to take a glimpse at Tiwonge and Steven during the rare occasion.

Some people started in wonder as others threw a flood of questions at the couple. Initially, the



Some KA Ibezis link quakes to Kayelekera, T/A Kolongo in trouble — National 2



Kwatsine asks government to urgently act on health service delivery, People's Parliament P4



PHOTO: COURTESY

Headline news in Africa: The Malawi government prosecution – and pardon – of Tiwonge Chimbalanga and Steven Monjeza.

a number of years – rightly so."

In Washington, Philip Crowley, an assistant secretary of state, expressed disappointment with the conviction. "We view the criminalization of sexual orientation and gender identity as a step backward in the protection of human rights in Malawi," Crowley said.

Madonna, who has adopted two Malawian children

and funds six orphanages in the country, said in a statement, "As a matter of principle, I believe in equal rights for all people, no matter what their gender, race, color, religion, or sexual orientation. Today, Malawi took a giant step backward."

Malawi's government had been defiant in the face of international criticism over the couple's prosecution until the president issued

the pardon and ordered the men's immediate release.

Cary Alan Johnson of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, said, "This pardon should be seen as a significant challenge to laws and proceedings that are inherently unfair. However, it should not require a presidential intervention for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Malawians to obtain justice."

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ZIMBABWE POLICE RAID GAY GROUP OFFICES, ARREST 2

A defense attorney says police in Zimbabwe have arrested two members of a gay organization in Harare.

Attorney David Hofisi says he has not been allowed to visit them in jail since their arrest May 20, but they were expected to be brought to court in late May.

Ellen Chadehama, 34, and Ingatius Mhambi, 38, are employees of the Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe organization. They were arrested on allegations under Zimbabwe's censorship laws.

Police raided the offices of their gay and HIV/AIDS awareness group searching for indecent materials, and removed documents and computer files.

Homosexuality is illegal in most African countries. President Robert Mugabe has described same-sex partners as "lower than dogs and pigs" but arrests of gays are rare in Zimbabwe.

PORTUGAL'S PRESIDENT RATIFIES GAY MARRIAGE LAW

Portugal's conservative president said he is reluctantly ratifying a law allowing gay marriage, making the predominantly Catholic country the sixth in Europe to let same-sex couples wed.

President Anibal Cavaco Silva said he would not veto the bill because majority liberal lawmakers would only overturn his decision. The country must focus instead on battling a crippling economic crisis that has increased unemployment and deepened poverty, he said.

"Given that fact, I feel I should not contribute to a pointless extension of this debate, which would only serve to deepen the divisions between the Portuguese and divert the attention of politicians away from the grave problems affecting us," Cavaco Silva said.

He said he was setting aside his "personal convictions," though he did not elaborate and did not take reporters' questions.

The country's parliament passed the Socialist government-backed bill in January, with the support of all of Portugal's left-of-center parties, who together have a majority. Right-of-center parties opposed the measure and demanded a national referendum.

Elsewhere in Europe, gay marriage is permitted in Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and Norway. As well, five U.S. states and Washington, D.C., have legalized same-sex marriage, as have Canada and South Africa.

Cavaco Silva's announcement came three days after Pope Benedict XVI left Portugal. During his four-day visit, which attracted hundreds of thousands of people, the pontiff said same-sex marriage and abortion were some of the most "insidious and dangerous" threats facing the world.

Socialist Party spokesman Vitalino Canas welcomed the president's decision.

"This is a memorable moment," he said. "This is a great step forward for us politically and as a society."

Antonio Serzedelo, the president of lobbying group Opus Gay, congratulated the head of state for placing "ethical responsibility above personal opinions."

Portugal is nearly 90 percent Catholic. However, only around 2 million of its 10.6 million people describe themselves as practicing Catholics and Portugal has drifted away from the church's teachings.

The current Socialist government has defied the church before. It passed a law

in 2007 allowing abortions. The following year, it introduced a law allowing divorce even if one of the spouses objected. It has argued that the legislation is part of Portugal's "modernization."

The new law removes the previous legal stipulation that marriage is between two people of different sexes.

Portugal's Constitutional Court validated the bill's legality last month.

Like neighboring Spain, which introduced same-sex marriages four years ago, previous efforts in Portugal to introduce gay marriage ran into strong resistance from religious groups and conservative lawmakers.

Gay rights advocates have

said they will continue to fight for gay couples' parental rights, including adoption, which are not included in the law.

Portugal lifted a prohibition on homosexuality in the early 1980s. In 2001, it passed a law allowing "civil unions" between same-sex couples, which granted couples certain legal, tax and property rights. However, it did not allow couples to take a partner's name, nor inherit his or her possessions or state pension.

-AP

For news updates go to www.wisconsin Gazette.com.

QUOTES OF PRIDE

"Bisexuality immediately doubles your chances for a date on Saturday night."

-Woody Allen

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PHOTO: COURTESY

A gay Pride celebration in Holland.

Pride celebrations planned worldwide

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

One heart. One world. One pride. This is the theme for many LGBT Pride celebrations in 2010.

The earliest U.S. Pride celebration this year was West Virginia Pride Parade and Festival in Charleston, W.Va., which took place over Memorial Day weekend.

The latest Pride happening on the 2010 world calendar takes place Oct. 10-12 in Rio de Janeiro.

Between those dates, people in hundreds of communities will celebrate LGBT Pride. The same weekend Milwaukee's LGBT community

will turn out for PrideFest, celebrations take place in Birmingham, Ala., Albuquerque, N.M., Lansing, Mich., Spokane, Wash., West Hollywood, Calif., Boston, Indianapolis and Philadelphia.

A week later, Pride celebrations take place in Augusta, Maine, Grand Rapids, Mich., Nashville, Tenn., Louisville, Ky., and St. Paul, Minn.

But the majority of U.S. celebrations occur in late June, close to the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots.

What has become known as "The March" will begin at 52nd and Fifth Avenue in New York City on June 27 with Mississippi teen Constance McMillen as the grand marshal. "The March," the culmination of New York's Pride celebra-

tion, began in 1970, a year after Stonewall.

On the Pacific Coast the same day, San Francisco's Pride celebration will begin at Market Street and Beale. Grandstand seats are so coveted, that late-comers' seats can be re-sold for \$40 each.

Chicago's parade also takes place June 27, stepping off from Belmont and Halsted in the Lakeview neighborhood. This year's grand marshal is Chely Wright, the country musician who came out last month in a media blitz.

U.S. Pride activities will continue throughout the summer, with a number of cities in the South holding events in mid-September, when the temperatures drop from the

80s.

Moscow Pride was May 29, and the first Pride celebration planned in Tijuana, Mexico, is June 19. Toronto will celebrate Pride June 25 and Warsaw will host EuroPride on July 9.

The arrival of Pride season traditionally brings along a flurry of proclamations from politicians — from the White House to the mayors' offices.

One of the first mayoral proclamations issued this year — a decree from Spartanburg, S.C., Mayor Junie L. White — generated hometown controversy in advance of the June 19 LGBT Pride Day.

White's proclamation states that the city "supports efforts to ensure

that everyone has the right to live in conditions of dignity, respect and peace; ...continues to advocate for the elimination of all forms of discrimination and is committed to equal treatment of all people."

Spartanburg City Councilmember Linda Dogan complained that White didn't seek the board's input before issuing the proclamation and that the decree should be rescinded.

White responded that the reference "on behalf of my fellow city council members" was removed from the document.

For news updates go to www.wisconsin-gazette.com.

MILKING IT

Activists make the most of first Harvey Milk Day

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

‘G et Milk’ read the T-shirt slogan that curved over a black-on-red image of Harvey Milk. “I made it myself,” 17-year-old Logan Pierce boasted. “In art class.”

In a business class, the high school student picked up a few tips on how to sell the T-shirts at the first annual Harvey Milk Festival, held May 22 in the Rosemary District of downtown Sarasota, Fla.

“Harvey, he was a cool dude,” the young, gay entrepreneur said.

Nearby, mom Maggie Pierce looked on. “Logan said he wanted to come out here and be involved,” said mom. “I think it’s good, wholesome.”

Wholesome could describe the Harvey Milk Festival and many other commemorative events held nationwide May 22, on what would have been Milk’s 80th birthday.

Milk never turned 49.

His prophesy of a bullet entering his brain came true Nov. 27, 1978. Milk, who had served just 10 months as a San Francisco supervisor, and San Francisco Mayor George Moscone were gunned down at city hall by Supervisor Dan White.

LIFE AND LEGEND

In life, Milk was an activist and an agitator, and he was among the first openly gay candidates elected to office in the United States and the first openly gay candidate elected in California. But not until later in life – he was 22 years older than Logan Pierce when he became active in civic politics and gay rights.

Milk was born on Long Island, N.Y., May 22, 1930, and went through school hiding his homosexuality. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War and, upon his discharge in 1955, went to work as a school teacher,

then as an insurance actuary and later a Wall Street researcher.

Milk is said to have found himself and his purpose in San Francisco in the early 1970s. There the counterculture fed the gay liberation movement and flower-power melted Milk’s conservatism. He and a boyfriend arrived on the West Coast with the traveling company of the musical “Hair” in 1969 and, after some drifting years, Milk permanently settled in San Francisco in the early 1970s.

By 1973, he and boyfriend Scott Smith were the proprietors of a camera shop on Castro Street and Milk was taking an interest in local, state and federal politics. He ran that year for supervisor and lost. He ran again for supervisor in 1975 and lost. He ran for the California Assembly in 1976 and lost.

And then came 1977, the year of Anita Bryant’s anti-gay Save Our Children crusade in Florida and of the anti-gay Briggs Initiative in

California. Milk was at the front of a five-mile protest march against the Christian fundamentalist crusade, and he also was ahead in the race to represent the Castro on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

In November that year, Milk defeated 16 other candidates for the seat and, after his swearing-in, entered city hall with his current boyfriend.

“You can stand around and throw bricks at Silly Hall or you can take it over. Well, here we are,” Milk said, according to biographer Randy Shilts.

Ten months after he was sworn in, Milk was shot twice in the head and killed, along with Moscone. Dianne Feinstein, today a U.S. senator, became acting mayor. She announced, from the steps of city hall, “Today San Francisco has experienced a double tragedy of immense proportions. As president of the board of supervisors, it is my duty to inform you

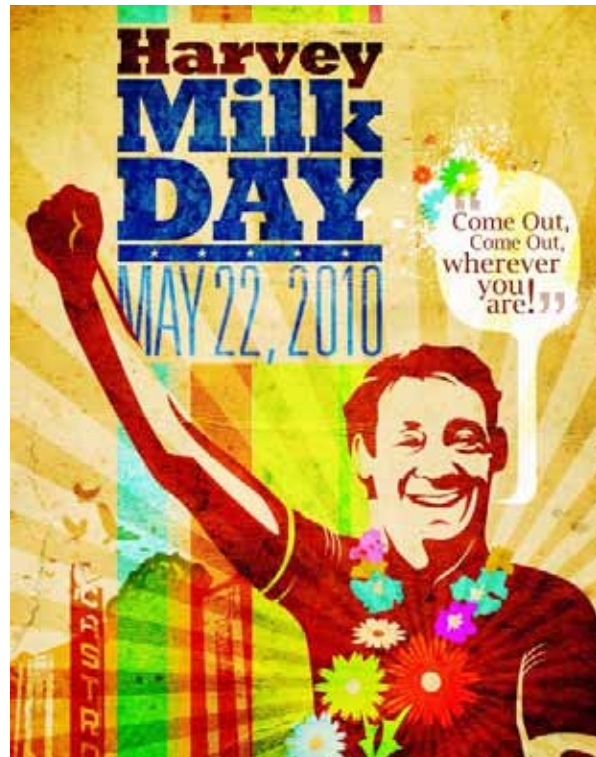


PHOTO: COURTESY

A poster advertising the first Harvey Milk Day, held May 22.



PHOTO: AP PHOTO

San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk (left) and Mayor George Moscone in 1977.

that both Mayor Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk have been shot and killed ... and the suspect is Supervisor Dan White.”

In death, Milk became an icon.

“He gave his life so that others could live openly and freely,” said California Assemblymember Tom Ammiano, D-San Francisco. “He hoped for a time when all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, could be equal.”

HONORING MILK

For several years, activists and lawmakers campaigned in California to establish Harvey Milk Day. Last year, Milk got his day when Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed the legislation into law. Also in 2009:

- “Milk,” the biopic starring Sean Penn, earned Oscars.
- Schwarzenegger inducted Milk into the California Hall of Fame.
- Barack Obama awarded Milk a posthumous Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Harvey Milk Day, provided for in legislation promoted by Equality California and authored by California Sen. Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, is a State Day of Recognition and was proposed as a day for California public schools to focus on “remembering the life of Harvey Milk, recognizing his accomplishments and familiarizing pupils with

‘He gave his life so others could live openly and freely.’

the contributions he made to this state.”

“This special day provides us with the unique opportunity to educate Californians about a true American hero who believed that all men and women are created equal and who lived and died by those convictions,” Leno said.

But Harvey Milk Day fell on a Saturday this year, and much more activity took place outside the classrooms.

In California, more than 1,000 volunteers knocked on doors to build support for the freedom to marry. Dustin Lance Black, who wrote the “Milk” screenplay, was among those who canvassed.

“Everything I know about Harvey Milk tells me that he would want us to be on our feet fighting for our equality,” Black said.

In Sacramento, Calif., there was a “Milk and Cookies” panel discussion on Milk and the movement, as well as a rally at the state Capitol. A community picnic took place in Fresno. In Los Angeles, Sharon and Kelly Osbourne

hosted a private Harvey Milk Day reception and, in West Hollywood, volunteers turned out for a day of community service. Meanwhile, in Palm Springs, celebrants joined in a happy hour at a Hamburger Mary’s.

On the other side of the country, at the White House, Milk Day demonstrators joined in color-coded protest, wearing red for HIV/AIDS awareness, orange for the freedom to marry, green for lifting the military ban, gray for immigration rights, white to represent people of faith and black to represent the lack of diversity in the LGBT movement.

Elsewhere on the holiday, LGBT groups hosted screenings of “Milk,” organized concerts and festivals and sponsored picnics and protests. A number of events were coordinated through Equality Across America (EAA), which said activities took place in 20 states.

The Sarasota festival, one of the EAA events, was a nine-hour celebration of music, visual and performance art, food and drink, commerce and politics. Many in the crowd were young – in their teens and 20s – and had learned about Milk from the 2008 movie.

“He was like the first gay icon who wasn’t a celebrity,” said Jill McKay.

Pierce said, “He really shook things up. That’s what it takes to change the world.”

Beyond acceptance

By Lucky Tomaszek
Staff writer

One late night in 1994, Kay Heggstad's 16-year-old son came to her and her husband and made an announcement: "I'm gay."

"I was extremely surprised," Heggstad said. "Neither my husband nor I had any idea. (My son) was in plays and drama club, dressed nicely, got good grades and he went to prom. He even brought girls to the house sometimes."

"We didn't give him any grief — we hugged him and told him we loved him," Heggstad said.

But the next day her son went on a three-day trip with a school group and reality settled in. "We had three days to think about it, process it, worry and wonder, 'What does this mean?'"

While her husband reacted by going through a "this-is-a-phase phase," Heggstad reached out to a chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbian and Gays (PFLAG) in Madison.

"That first meeting was pretty rough for me," Heggstad said. "But after that it got easier. It was just so good to see that other people had gone through this."

She's attended every meeting since then.

Heggstad's experience with PFLAG is shared by many of the parents who reach out to the group. Sharon Whitney, also a member of the Madison chapter, said she attended her first PFLAG meeting less than a month after her son came out. Whitney was initially apprehensive about reaching out for support. She said she "wasn't sure I could share what I considered private family info with 'strangers.'"

But her experience was better than she had feared. "There were tears shed at the meeting when people

Wisconsin's
PFLAG
members
shift into
activism

told their stories. ...I briefly told our story and no one gasped!"

Eventually both Heggstad and Whitney transitioned from quiet acceptance to LGBT activism. "Once the parent is out of the closet and everyone knows that their grandson is gay or their nephew is gay, you can start working on other issues," Heggstad said. "You can say, 'OK, what needs to be done here?'"

Since the mid-90s, both women have been knocking on doors, making phone calls, writing letters and teaching tolerance. During the 2006 campaign against Wisconsin's constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, Heggstad said she canvassed door-to-door four days in the final week before the vote.

PFLAG's non-profit status prohibits the group from endorsing a specific candidate, but they "can certainly talk about specific issues," Heggstad said.

As an organization, PFLAG is working diligently on the Safe Schools initiative, two-parent adoptions, the passage of the Employment Non-discrimination Act, the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell" and many more LGBT issues, according to Heggstad. The 12 chapters in Wisconsin follow the lead of PFLAG national, with members participating however they can.

While monthly PFLAG meetings offer support to parents and families who are struggling to accept a loved one's homosexuality, for many Wisconsin chapters the focus has shifted almost entirely to advocacy. This is the case with the Steven's Point chapter. Laura Goetz started the chapter after moving there from Dubuque, Iowa, where she had been active in a chapter for years.

"That group was very politically active," she said. "I wasn't really involved with that part. I mostly liked being with other like-minded people."

But her role with the Steven's Point chapter is defined by advocacy.

"I think that straight allies have it easier than LGBT people when it comes to advocating," Goetz said. "I think we are heard more clearly, because people are so homophobic."

Goetz has rarely been called on to support people who are struggling to accept a loved one's sexual orientation, because most people who contact the Steven's Point chapter have already moved beyond acceptance. They're looking for ways to expand their activism.

"We don't need to have a meeting just so that everyone can agree with each other," Goetz said.

One of the chapter's greatest successes has been bringing PFLAG together with high school and college gay/straight alliance groups. The chapter has held three inter-generational meetings and is planning another.

"We really want to get some intergenerational support going," Goetz said. "It's not just high school students taking on the fight. It's not just college students, or parents. It's all of us, taking it on together."

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www.wisconsin Gazette.com.



PHOTO: LUCKY TOMASZEK

PFLAG moms show their pride at PrideFest 2009.



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The Making of PrideFest

By **Lucky Tomaszek**

Staff writer

Most of the LGBT community spends a couple of weeks getting ready for PrideFest. We save a little extra money for our tickets and beer, arrange a babysitter or dog-walker and maybe pick out the perfect T-shirt for spending the day in the sun.

But for the PrideFest production team and board, planning the festival is a year-round activity. Starting the day after PrideFest closes and continuing for a full 365 days, the group works hard to bring Milwaukee the largest PrideFest in the country.

Here's a look at the rigorous schedule the folks at PrideFest keep throughout the year, starting the day after the last event ends.

JUNE – AFTER PRIDEFEST

- Take a deep breath after another successful festival.
- Balance all of the cash and credit cards. Update the website with the dates for next year's event.
- Post the official PrideFest photos in a gallery on the

website.

- Volunteers spend a week cleaning up Henry Maier Festival Park.

- Return sponsors' banners and other left-behind items.
- Sort the bills so PrideFest can pay what it owes. This is a process that can take a couple of months.
- Follow up with entertainers.

JULY

- Start the search for next year's headliners.
- Attend Capitol Pride in Madison to support the festival and promote Milwaukee PrideFest.

- Write a report on the demographics of PrideFest: It's the "who, what, where, when and how" of PrideFest.
- Prepare for the annual audit: Track all the money that came in and all the money that went out.

AUGUST

- Attend concerts, festivals and sporting events to promote next year's PrideFest.
- Take a chartered bus of LGBT community members to the annual Gay Day at the Bristol Renaissance Festival.

SEPTEMBER

- Annual audit: PrideFest is voluntarily audited each year to ensure compliance with non-profit regulations.

OCTOBER

- PrideFest retreat: The production team and board of directors hole up for an extended business day to comb through all of the data on the previous festival. They discuss promotions, entertainment, festival attendees and more.
- Small stage and local performer confirmations begin.

NOVEMBER

- In the thick of negotiations for next year's headlining performers!
- Continue recruiting new sponsors.
- Start using all of the carefully collected information and feedback to shape next year's festival.

DECEMBER

- First headliner is confirmed, but the announcement will wait until the new year.
- The board of directors

and production team take a month off from their monthly meetings for the holiday. Everyone needs a break.

JANUARY

- The pace picks up.
- Website redesign begins.
- The search for PrideFest volunteers is on.
- PrideFest intern is hired.
- Small stage performer announcements begin.

FEBRUARY

- Increase PrideFest's presence on Facebook and Twitter.
- Start sending e-mail blasts to update the public on PrideFest acts and events.
- Website reconstruction complete – just need to fill in the blanks as more announcements are made.
- Vendors and community groups mail in applications and deposits for booths.
- First mainstage performer announcement made.

MARCH

- Track international hits on the PrideFest website.
- Finalize ticket prices and VIP package details.
- PrideFest tickets go on sale.

APRIL

- Volunteer applications are available on the website.
- Begin the layout of the Pride Guide.
- Miss and Mr. PrideFest pageant registration opens.
- Finalize all entertainment contracts by the middle of the month.
- Order walkie-talkies, golf carts, traffic control signage.
- Begin work on travel arrangements for performers coming from out of state.



PHOTO: TEN THOUSAND BULLETS

PrideFest gives away 5,200 bottles of water.

3 days of PrideFest =

- 150 performances
- 16 food booths
- 47 community groups represented
- 56 merchandise vendors
- 38,000 beers
- 5,200 free bottles of water given away
- 80 hotel rooms booked for out-of-state entertainers
- 100-plus limousine rides to transport acts around Milwaukee
- 400-plus volunteers
- 8,520 volunteer hours donated by the PrideFest board throughout the year
- 1,458 volunteer hours donated by the community over Pride weekend
- 0 paid staff members



PHOTO: TEN THOUSAND BULLETS

More than 100 limousine rides are required to transport PrideFest acts.

JUNE – BEFORE PRIDEFEST

- Write press releases.
 - More volunteer recruiting and training.
 - The production team and board have frequent television and radio interviews as PrideFest grows closer. Every piece of PrideFest must be handled by someone: rainbow flags, merchandise, Pride Guides, tickets, garbage cans, fireworks, Day-Glo safety vests, free bottles of water and more.
- Get news updates at www.wisconsin Gazette.com.

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Believing out loud: *Franksville United Methodist Church*

By Bruce H. Joffe
Special to WiG

While the United Methodist Church vacillates on its position about homosexuality and the status of gay people in the church, Franksville United Methodist Church has boldly gone where few have gone before – first quietly accepting, then loudly proclaiming its embrace of LGBT people. In December 2008, church members officially adopted a statement declaring FUMC a “reconciling” church, making it the seventh in Wisconsin to join the Reconciling Ministries Network.

The church had already been considered a “healing” congregation, a place where people who’ve been hurt by past experiences inside and

out of the church could go and find God. But the statement of inclusion went further, professing that FUMC is “committed to the reconciliation of all persons as sacred, beloved children of God. Our welcome knows no boundaries.”

The statement continued: “We support the full inclusion and participation of all persons in the life and ministry of the church, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, marital or socioeconomic status, age, family formation, or physical and/or mental ability. At the same time, we recognize and respect the differences of opinion among us. We welcome all in our journey together in faith toward greater understanding and mutual respect. We proclaim this statement of welcome to

all who have known the pain of exclusion and discrimination within the church.”

Adopting the inclusion statement was a big step for this church, founded in 1874. Members of the congregation say the Rev. Kaye Glennon, FUMC’s pastor since July 2002, played a key role in taking the action.

“I didn’t want to be a pastor that let her church stand on the sidelines ... at least not if I could help it,” Glennon says. “I believed then, and now, that God was telling me it was time.”

To convince the FUMC membership to adopt the statement and join the Reconciling Ministries Network, Glennon arranged educational opportunities and listening sessions. Adult forums with outside speakers were conducted. Glennon taught her Homosexuality and the Bible course a second time. People were encouraged to talk and express questions in large and small groups. Question-and-answer forms were distributed on what it meant to be a reconciling church. A task group was appointed to write an inclusivity statement.

In the end, 85 percent of the people present at FUMC’s Annual Church Conference voted in favor of the action.

Three families left the church or stopped attending specifically because of the decision. One person



“My faith is so deeply rooted in the unconditional love of God that I don’t understand the conditions people want to put on God’s love,” says the Rev. Kaye Glennon (above), pastor of Franksville United Methodist Church. “The church should be a leader in promoting people’s equality and freedom ... and yet the church often has been the oppressor.”

didn’t object to gay people in church and at communion, but was opposed to “queers” teaching Sunday school. A few people said they didn’t want to explain to their kids what some of the words now being used in church meant. Others simply believed that it was wrong or against Bible teachings.

But becoming a reconciling church attracted new members and energized others. “We brought two gay/

Franksville United Methodist Church is at 10402 Northwestern Ave., Franksville (www.franksvilleumc.org). The Reconciling Ministries Network is a growing movement of United Methodist individuals, congregations, campus ministries and other groups working for the full participation of all people, sexual orientations and gender identities.

lesbian couples into membership a few months after the decision,” Glennon says. “Another woman ‘came out.’ I appreciate that people who join the congregation now do so with the knowledge and acceptance that we are reconciling. We draw people who are open-minded, welcoming, and more progressive theologically.”

For Roxanne Danek, whose son is gay, the change was especially welcome. She was appalled when she learned that the governing Book of Discipline for the United Methodist Church says that “homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching.”

“Imagine!” Danek exclaimed. “I had no idea that was in there. Of course, I wasn’t the only member of FUMC unaware of the wording and the significance of it. My Church – the one with the big ‘C’ – says that my son is incompatible with Christian teaching. How dare they!”

For Danek, neither the personal beliefs of FUMC’s pastor nor the comforting fabric of her flock could reconcile the differences between big and little “C” Methodists

who weren’t quite as united as their denomination or its slogan – “Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors” – had claimed.

Obviously and in ways much more subtle, this new movement of the spirit at FUMC has pit Glennon against more fundamentalist United Methodist members and churches. And it hasn’t necessarily been easy for members of the church either. Though most people there are comfortable with the church’s identity, some say they’ve heard people refer to it as a “gay” church. Others may worry about ruffling too many feathers.

“I’ve had fellow clergy colleagues disagree with what I’m doing. While the leadership within this church has been overwhelmingly supportive, my hierarchy cautioned me to be careful and to pray a lot when this process was going on,” Glennon says.

“I don’t really know if or how this will affect my career opportunities,” she adds. “But it’s not in my character to back off of something that I believe is of God. Eventually, I believe the world will change.”

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Gay rights in the U.S.: a historical timeline

1924

The country's earliest known gay rights organization – the Society for Human Rights – is founded in Chicago.

Alfred Kinsey's "Sexual Behavior in the Human Male" shows that homosexuality is far more widespread than previously believed.



1951

Harry Hay co-founds The Mattachine Society, the first national gay rights organization.

1956

The Daughters of Bilitis, a national lesbian organization, is founded.

1962

Illinois becomes the first

state to decriminalize homosexual acts between consenting adults in private.



1969

Patrons of the Stonewall Inn in New York's Greenwich Village fight back during a police raid on June 27. The ensuing three days of rioting spark the inception of a national gay rights movement.

1973

The American Psychiatric Association declassifies homosexuality as a mental disorder.

1982

Wisconsin becomes the first state to outlaw anti-gay discrimination.

1993

President Bill Clinton adopts the "don't ask, don't tell" policy as a compromise to his original promise to remove the ban on gays and lesbians serving in the military.



1996

In *Romer v. Evans*, the Supreme Court strikes down Colorado's Amendment 2, which prohibited anti-discrimination laws based on sexual orientation.

2000

Vermont legally recognizes civil unions between gay and



lesbian couples.

2003

The U.S. Supreme Court rules in *Lawrence v. Texas* that sodomy laws are unconstitutional.

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court rules that barring gays and lesbians from marriage violates the state constitution.

2004

On May 17, same-sex marriage becomes legal in Massachusetts.

2005

Connecticut legalizes civil unions.

2006

Civil unions become legal in New Jersey.

2008

A New York State appeals court unanimously decides

that valid same-sex marriages performed in other states must be recognized by employers in New York.

Oregon passes a law allowing same-sex couples to register as domestic partners and obtain some of the spousal rights of married couples.

The California Supreme Court rules that same-sex couples have a constitutional right to marry. By Nov. 3, more than 18,000 same-sex couples have married. But on Nov. 4, California voters approve Proposition 8, a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage.



2009

The California Supreme Court upholds Proposition 8 but declines to revoke the marriage licenses issued before the ban.

The Supreme Court of Connecticut rules that same-sex couples have the right to marry. Beginning Nov. 12, same-sex marriages are officially performed in the state.

The Iowa Supreme Court unanimously rejects the state law banning same-sex marriage. Twenty-one days later, the Iowa Department

of Public Health issues the state's first marriage license to a same-sex couple.

The Vermont Legislature overrides Gov. Jim Douglas' veto of a bill allowing gays and lesbians to marry, legalizing same-sex marriage in that state and making Vermont the first state to legalize gay marriage through the legislature.

The governor of Maine legalizes same-sex marriage, but voters overturn the law at the poll and make Maine the 31st state to adopt a marriage ban.

New Hampshire governor John Lynch signs legislation allowing same-sex marriage.

President Obama signs a referendum allowing the same-sex partners of fed-



eral employees to receive benefits.

2010

Congress approves a law signed in December 2009 that legalizes same-sex marriage in the District of Columbia.

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Should we ask if Supreme Court nominee is gay?

By Martha Irvine

AP writer

She plays softball. Huge hint, right?

She's 50, single and has a short haircut. Yup, definitely a lesbian.

Or is she? And if so (though that appears to be a big "if"), so what? Should it matter?

These are questions that have circulated about Elena Kagan for a while. But since President Barack Obama introduced her as his next nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court, the speculation has never been greater — or the handling of it more awkward.

It's a sign that, in a nation where gayness is as mainstream as ever, sexual orientation is still a delicate topic for anyone in America, across the spectrum of beliefs and politics.

"Even the leadership of the Democratic party is still uncomfortable handling the issue," says Kenneth Sherrill, a political scientist at New York's Hunter College who specializes in the politics of gay and lesbian rights.

"They don't know how to handle the question with a 'So what if she is?'"

And should we even be asking, anyway?

Polls, after all, show that Americans are increasingly accepting of lesbians and gay men. Popular TV shows like "Modern Family" often have gay characters and plotlines. And these days, it's common for people to say they have a family member or friend who's gay.

Yet this also is a country where, for gay public officials, coming out is often still a big deal. And while many Americans are generally more accepting of gay men and lesbians, only 39 percent of adults support the legalization of same-sex marriage, according to a recent poll by the Pew Research Center.

Those are tough issues to ignore when you're talking about the highest court in the land, which may well end up tackling the issue of same-sex marriage at the federal level.

"In a perfect world, we would not be talking about this. However, it is understandable that, at this time, it would be a risk for a Supreme Court nominee to be perceived as a homosexual," says Mark Osler, a professor at Baylor Law School in Waco, Texas, who has argued cases before the Supreme Court.

"It would appear, at least from the Obama administration's reaction, that they don't think the country's ready for that conversation," he says. "And they may well be right."

The irony in all of this is that Kagan may very well be straight.

A White House official told The Associated Press that Kagan said she was not a lesbian after media reports on the issue first surfaced while Obama was contemplating his choices for the court. The official would provide the statement only on condition of anonymity.

Eliot Spitzer, who attended Princeton with Kagan and who resigned as New York governor over a prostitution scandal, told Politico: "I did not go out with her, but other guys did."

The recent days' eruption of conversation isn't the first. On April 15, four weeks before Obama nominated Kagan, the White House rebuked CBS News for publishing an online column by a Republican blogger who wrote that Kagan could become the "first openly gay justice."

White House spokesman Ben LaBolt publicly criticized the item, saying it made "false charges," a term that upset those who thought the word "charges" made it sound like there would be something wrong if Kagan were a lesbian. LaBolt later said he was referring to the blogger's suggestions that Obama had an ulterior political motive: to please gay rights activists important to his campaign operation.

Then came the announcement that Kagan was the president's choice. "Elena



PHOTO: DOC SEARIS

Supreme Court nominee Elena Kagan has denied rumors she's a lesbian.

Kagan's personal life" quickly became among the top searches on Google, an indication that the public was curious about more than just her stance on the issues.

Some say that posing the sexual orientation question is just another way to undercut powerful women who are routinely held to a different standard for everything from the way they dress to the way they wear their hair, or even their emotions.

"No man (who's nominated for the Supreme Court) would be asked this question," insists Birute Regine, author of the book "Iron Butterflies: Women Transforming Themselves and The World."

Back in 1990, when now retired Justice David Souter

ever, regularly circulate about former Attorney General Janet Reno and about Donna Shalala, the former head of the U.S. Health and Human Services.

Shalala responded to claims that she was a lesbian that came not from conservatives, but from a gay organization whose aim was to "out" public officials. "Have I lived an alternative lifestyle? The answer is no," she said in an interview with The Capital Times newspaper in Madison, Wis., in 1993, when she was a nominee for her federal post.

Though no male Supreme Court nominee has faced these questions — nor have the three women who have served on the High Court, who have all been married — the fact is that male public figures, whether politicians, celebrities or sports figures, regularly deal with speculation about their sexual orientation, too.

Rumors that New York Mets catcher Mike Piazza was gay were so persistent, for instance, that he had a press conference in 2002 to make it clear that he was straight. At the time, he said that players would accept an openly gay teammate. "In this day and age, it's irrelevant," he said. "I don't think it would be a problem at all."

It would seem that it's about as "irrelevant" today, though few believe a similar news conference from Kagan is likely.

Even without one, though,

this isn't a question members of the mainstream media usually ask. And some think that's the way it should've stayed.

"The press needs to be grown-ups themselves and decide that there is no reason to write about this aspect of a person's private life," says James Gomes, director of the politically oriented Mosakowski Institute of Public Enterprise at Clark University in Worcester, Mass. The media, he says, "should be more dignified."

Regardless, many bloggers from a wide spectrum of viewpoints continue to call for Kagan to declare her sexual orientation.

"It's time we got over the myth that what a public servant does in his private life is of no consequence," wrote Bryan Fischer, who blogs for the conservative American Family Association and doesn't think a lesbian should hold such a powerful post.

Some gay bloggers, meanwhile, have implied that Kagan should make a public statement out of respect for herself and the gay community.

"In a free society in the 21st century, it is not illegitimate to ask," wrote Andrew Sullivan, a gay blogger for The Atlantic. "And it is cowardly not to tell."

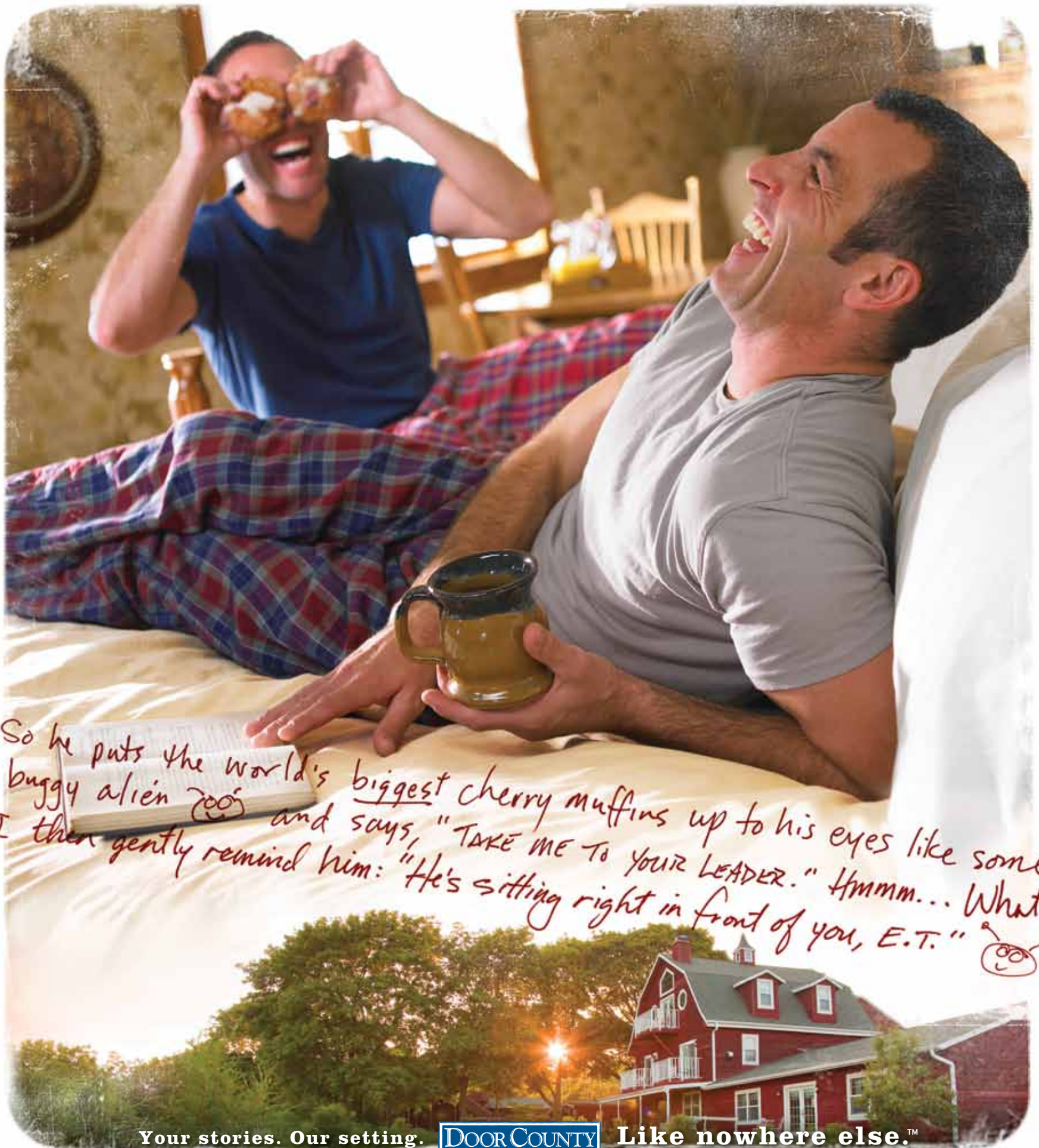
—AP reporters Charles Babington and Julie Pace in Washington contributed to this report.

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'Role model' citizen *An interview with John Waters*

For more than 40 years, John Waters has been one of the most original voices in contemporary pop culture. His films, including "Pink Flamingos," "Desperate Living," "Polyester," "Hairspray" and "Pecker," brought the underground and independent creative spirit to mainstream audiences. Waters also is the author of several books, including his latest, "Role Models" (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2010). In "Role Models," Waters pays homage to the people, some famous, some not, who helped to make him who he is today.

Gregg Shapiro: In "Little Richard, Happy At Last," you write about doing a difficult celebrity interview. Since you've done your share of interviewing, how does that affect the way you approach interviews when you are the subject?

John Waters: I read the press — I get a hundred and some magazines a month, although that's dwindling, I'm afraid. I read about six or seven newspapers every morning. I participate in the press, so ... I try to make it good for the journalists. ... But I don't hate the press and I think that's why I don't have a horrible time doing it.

GS: I know that "Role Models" is a literary self-portrait, but after reading the section on gay and straight boyfriends and accidentally killing someone, I wondered if you were surprised by what you found yourself to be revealing.

JW: I think you have to reveal something in a memoir. I don't name my boyfriends' names, they're not famous people. I know one or two of them might not like being in the book. ... When I see celebrities revealing every personal thing to a journalist, I think they don't have friends. And they don't! That's why they have to tell a journalist. The same principle applies to telemarketing. The reason some people

Interview

By Gregg Shapiro

go for it is (because their phones never ever ring ... and they're lonely. I do have friends that I confide in. But at the same time, when I'm talking about something as serious as the Leslie Van Houten chapter — there are no jokes in that chapter — basically that is something I never revealed for a long, long time. It just seems that when you're reflecting on somebody else's horror, it was the closest I had to that horrible experience.

GS: You wrote about the joke you and Gus Van Sant make about the press calling you "openly gay."

JW: They always say that, "openly gay." Once I was on the cover of *The Advocate*, "Openly gay director, John Waters." But they never asked me! So my joke now with my staff when someone says "openly gay" is, "How dare they presume I'm gay!" I'm just kidding, of course. I've always said I was gay. But "openly gay," Gus and I always say, "What does that mean?" I guess it means that we've said we're gay and it's no big deal. But to me, "openly gay" somehow sounds like you're running into parties screaming, "Got any Judy Garland records?" Like the worst cliché of what it could be. I love Judy Garland; I don't think that's a bad cliché. I'm a fan of Judy Garland's, even more so now. It's a term that's taken the place of flamboyant, which used to mean gay when they couldn't say it in a mean way.

GS: In addition to writing books, you're a voracious reader, citing other people's books in several chapters. The publishing industry is in flux. How is that affecting you?

JW: I never stop to think that my readers might not know who somebody

is. ...I don't talk down. I recently did my spoken-word act "This Filthy World" at Michael Moore's Comedy Festival and Jeff Garlin said to me, "I love that you crack a Jean Rhys joke. Not many people know who Jean Rhys is." Well, look it up! I assume my audience is intelligent. It's easy to look things up now. You don't have to go to the library anymore. You hit one word and it comes up on your computer.

GS: What would you do if Oprah invited you on her show to talk about your book?

JW: I'd go in a minute. I know Oprah, because she used to be in Baltimore. Every time I see Oprah she does a Baltimore accent for me. I think my message is hopeful. I have "The Secret" to being a happy neurotic. I don't know if Oprah admits that you can be a happy neurotic, but I have my "Secret," too (laughs).

GS: How do you respond to people who tell you that you are their role model?

JW: They do a lot now, these days, and I'm very flattered. I joke that I'm a "filth elder." I played the Coachella Festival recently and I really felt like a "filth elder." It was packed with 20-year-old kids. That is the ultimate compliment that I can have. I've been doing this for almost 50 years, I started in '64. These kids weren't even alive when I made my earlier movies!

GS: Speaking of things coming around again, you wrote about burlesque queen Lady Zorro. What do you think of the current burlesque revival?

JW: It's good and I love it, but they don't have butch lesbian ones that are strippers. That come out nude and snarl, "What the fuck you lookin' at?" I think they should. Just come out and say, "Yeah, what do you think you're lookin' at, you pig?" I'm still friends with Zorro's daughter and she liked the book. And *Playboy* is printing that chapter, which I find



COURTESY PHOTO

John Waters' new book "Role Models" is a literary self-portrait.

so hilarious in a way, Zorro is finally in *Playboy*!

GS: Having written a few books, have you ever felt strongly enough about another author's book to adapt it for film?

JW: No, not that I'd want to adapt. But I write to authors when I read their

books all the time and tell them how much I like it. I still write fan letters... I just read Justin Spring's "Secret Historian" (about Samuel Steward), and let me say that that's my new favorite book. And this guy really knew how to top from the bottom.

GS: Have you started work

on your next film project?

JW: No. ...Right now in America I don't know anyone who can get an independent \$5 million film made. Independent film is the worst it's ever been since I started, and it's probably the best for Hollywood big budget movies since I started.

Stitching tradition

By Debra Brehmer

Contributing writer

At first glance, the quilt show at the Milwaukee Art Museum seems rather ho-hum. The quilts are not dazzling in design and innovation like the African-American version that emerged much later from Gees Bend. They are instead detailed and appliquéd and embossed, with an emphasis on dutiful perfection.

But this show is actually more interesting than one would think. A little peek under each pretty coverlet reveals itchy concerns of gender roles, oppression, and the materialization of a carefully stitched colonial elite.

Before we unsnarl any of that, let's consider the implications and motivations of MAM giving its major exhibition space for the entire summer season (May 22-Sept. 6) to early American quilts. Were they trying to do the most crowd-pleasing, benign, mainstream show imaginable to lure Summerfest overflow? Were they hoping to ride the coat tails of the smashing Gees Bend Quilt show of 2004? Or was this a gentle-handed but courageous act of post-feminist reordering of art history's emphasis on genius, white male production and invention?

Is it a statement that pre-Civil War era women's work should be on equal turf and interest with Andy Warhol's exhibition of late

work, or, more recently, the post-WWII photography survey that occupied these same walls?

I would like to think that MAM was in the latter camp of spunky revisionism. Unfortunately, there is no evidence in the show to support that conclusion.

This exhibit was organized by Winterthur, the famous decorative arts museum in Delaware. The show is packaged like an American Girl made-for-TV movie (one wonders if the docents will be forced to wear some kind of bonnet).

In the first room, we are introduced to Mary Remington, born in 1792, who, through a series of excerpted letters, brings a personal and authentic voice to warm the cold hand of piece-meal history. This is an effective way to frame the show. Mary Remington's brief missives pull us through the rooms and offer a voice and sense of human presence, a continuum from then to now.

Unfortunately, Mary is a goody two-shoes. She spends her young life waiting for her ship captain suitor to come back to Rhode Island and marry her. Her "Whitework Quilt" of 1815 is a mind-blowing testament to this waiting and all the hopes and dreams of what will soon become her life (once the ship captain climbs under the quilt). It is a thing of great beauty and devotion and, like all the quilts in the

show, reveals how the pre-Civil War culture of 1760 to 1850 defined female goodness. Each tiny, perfect stitch speaks of order, rules, devotion, confinement and the virtues of hard work and humility.

Quilts are truly time made visible: Each stitch is the tick of the clock, marking days, weeks, years of even-handed life. The seamstress metaphorically pieces things together, optimistically turning scraps into new wholes, beautiful objects that have the power to warm and symbolically protect or embrace us. All of this was rendered in opposition to the uncontrolled breath of "real life," with its typhus, failed crops, infant mortality, loss and more loss, emotional despair.

The quilts are surviving artifacts, complete with stains, which document the constricted state of women. But they also hold small (almost hidden) evidence of a subversive female insistence to be known, named, remembered and noticed.

What is truly most remarkable about this show is that most of the quilts are signed. Tiny cross-stitched or embroidered cursive names, some with dedications, anchor each one to a maker. Those makers were a century away from women's suffrage (1920), and it is heartening to see their gestures of individuation and pride in the claiming of authorship.

One could traverse this



Rebecca Scattergood Savery, pieced quilt, 1827.

exhibition and think of the quilts as diary pages. The show emphasizes each personal story well: How one quilt was made of an old silk wedding dress, how another was intended for a marriage that had to be cancelled because of political disputes among the Quakers. Another contains an inscription: "From Muzzie to her darling grand child..." One quilt traveled from Ireland

when the family immigrated. Rebecca Scattergood Savery pieced 6,708 patches together in 1827, and she recorded that accomplishment on the quilt along with her name.

But it's a shame that the exhibition doesn't nudge us toward more questions about the cultural meaning and implications of the quilts. Perhaps when the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt panels arrive down the hall on

June 8, the juxtaposition will generate some insights. Like its Early American sisters, the AIDS quilt is all about naming, valuing and recognizing individuals who were part of a larger whole, individuals who still have something to tell us down the road in history. So far, 91,000 names have been stitched into it.

What would Mary Wellington have thought about this?

Artwatch

DEBRA BREHMER

It's that season for road trips, even short ones. The Museum of Wisconsin Art in West Bend, 300 S. Sixth Ave., has a new show opening on Sunday, June 6, with a reception from 1:30 to 4 p.m. "To See Ourselves As Others See Us: Contemporary Wisconsin Portraits" will run through Aug. 29. It features project-oriented takes on the portrait with a variety

of artists, including: Madison photographer Tom Jones; Milwaukee's favorite photo-realist David Lenz; the ever-odd sculptor Demitra Copoulos; a photo series of portraits of older women done as Roman busts by the team of Lindsay Lochman and Barbara Ciurej; Milwaukee painter Mark Mulhern; self-portrait czar Fred Bell, as well as Sarah Detweiler, Melissa Cooke, Gary S. Kampe and Milwaukee's premiere portrait goddess Katie Musolf. 262-334-1151, wisconsinart.org.

In Brookfield, The Sharon

Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, 19805 W. Capitol Drive, is hosting a COPA exhibit featuring landscape photography. COPA, the Coalition of Photographic Arts, is Milwaukee's giant organization of photo enthusiasts that organizes huge group shows and gives both aspiring and established photographers a sense of belonging and support. The show opens Friday, June 4, and runs through July 30. (262-781-9470, Wilson-center.com)

We've been hearing great things about the bug show at the Racine Art Museum.

Director Bruce Pepich recently hired Lena Vigna, formerly of the Kohler Arts Center, as curator, which is a very good thing indeed.

The current show features three artists who work with either real insects or depictions of them: Catherine Chambers explores the "American Cockroach," Jennifer Angus (Madison) creates stunning wallpaper patterns from real bugs, and JoAnna Poehlmann (Milwaukee) has long done ever-so-delicate drawings of eggs, feathers and, yes, insects. Friday, June 4, is "First Friday"

at RAM, when admission is free and the museum is open until 9 p.m. Two of the artists will be there to discuss their work. RAM is located at 441 Main Street, Racine, 262-638-8300, ramart.org.

Each year, the Museum of Wisconsin Art presents lifetime achievement awards to artists and administrators who've had a large impact. The awards took place May 23 at the museum, and perhaps most significant to Wisconsin Gazette readers is the award that went to Miriam Frink (1892-1977) and her partner Charlotte

Patridge (1882-1975). These two women were the founders and directors of the Layton School of Art, Milwaukee's first art school, established in 1920. The school eventually morphed into the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design, but Frink and Patridge ran it for a good 30 years. It's amazing that they are not household names in the art community, but that sneaky hand of history tends to diminish accomplishments by women, especially lesbians. Bravo Museum of Wisconsin Art for granting recognition.

An evening of melody and delight

Theater

Harry Cherkinian

Gilbert & Sullivan together again? Well, only in the afterlife – literally. And what a charming and comical place this “afterlife” turns out to be, thanks to the delightful production of “An Evening with Gilbert & Sullivan” which opened last weekend at the Skylight Opera Theater, completing its 50th anniversary season.

Is the duo’s “afterlife” actually heaven? Or you know, that other place with the fire down below? For the audience, it’s a humorous two hours (including a 20-minute intermission) of clever tongue-in-cheek remarks sandwiched between some of the pair’s most famous songs, taken from a number of the 14 operas they wrote over their 25-year creative collaboration.

Much to Sir Arthur Sullivan’s surprise – and dis-

ON STAGE

“An Evening with Gilbert & Sullivan” runs through June 20 in the Studio Theatre at the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800 or go to www.skylightopera.com.

may – he ends up in a well decorated Victorian parlor complete with butler (and talented pianist), along with his fellow composer and “sparing” partner W.S. Gilbert. Together, in human form, they created such works as “Pirates of Penzance,” “The Mikado,” “H.M.S. Pinafore” and “Yeoman of the Guard,” all of which are featured in this musical revue.

The evening follows an arc of the pair’s relationship through song and dance, while the butler serves to provide expository information that ranges from factual (Sullivan was a womanizer) to fictional and funny (Oscar

Wilde is down the hall and he’s done up his room in all lavender). The two bicker, reminisce and eventually come to appreciate the other’s talents for what they created.

What makes this evening so enjoyable are the three actors who fill the stage so memorably. As Gilbert, John R. Muriello is a perfect foil to Gary Briggles’ Sir Arthur Sullivan, his dry sense of humor taunting the oh-so-proper Sullivan, as mischievous as he is gleeful in exasperating his partner as he dons a dress in “I’m Called Little Buttercup.”

Like Muriello, Briggles is a veteran of Skylight productions, including a number of G&S shows. His talent once again shines through as Sullivan. Every movement expressive of the fussy, demanding composer hits the right note with a power that belies his perseverance. Muriello is his perfect counterpart vocally as well as theatrically, strutting in military costume as he sings



PHOTO: COURTESY

“An Evening with Gilbert & Sullivan.”

and marches to “Onward Christian Soldiers” (which Sullivan wrote).

Jeff Schaetzke doubles quite nicely as the English butler and music director (onstage pianist), who’s there to gently remind the other two of the good times amidst

the clash of their titanic egos.

Much credit goes to director Dale Gutzman, who returns to direct the show that he conceived and wrote. Gutzman has created a delightful piece that honors the genius of the duo’s work while mining the humor of

their historical pairing.

How appropriate that the Skylight finishes its 50th anniversary season with the two composers who were the foundation of the very first show.

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Film

GREGG SHAPIRO

"SEX AND THE CITY 2" (NEW LINE)

The most anticipated sequel of the summer (sorry "Iron Man" and "Shrek"), "Sex and the City 2" is also the gayest straight movie of the season. But at more than 2 hours and 20 minutes, it's much too long.

"SATC2" attempts to trump its predecessor on a variety of levels, beginning with the gay wedding, followed by the exotic locale, the nice mix of comedy and drama and the hard-won resolution. Of course, it doesn't have to try very hard to be better than the first. And yet, it still comes up shorter than some of the skirts worn by the film's leading characters.

The film gets rolling with a brief flashback sequence commemorating writer Carrie Bradshaw Preston's (Sarah Jessica Parker) nearly 25 years in NYC and how she met gal pals Charlotte

(Kristin Davis), Miranda (out actress Cynthia Nixon) and Samantha (Kim Cattrall). Then on to the present day, with the fab four all aflutter about the upcoming same-sex nuptials of Carrie's best gay friend Stanford (Willie Garson) and Charlotte's best gay friend Anthony (out actor Mario Cantone). With a gay men's chorus providing ambient music and Liza Minnelli officiating and providing the entertainment (her "Single Ladies" is almost a show-stopper), the gay gauntlet is thrown down.

Trials and tribulations abound in these women's lives. Carrie's marriage to "Big" (Chris Noth) is on the verge of a rocky phase. Charlotte's young daughters are more than she bargained for and busty, bra-less nanny Erin (Alice Eve) is perceived as a threat to her marriage to Harry (Evan Handler).

After being mistreated and disrespected by her new boss at the law firm, legal eagle Miranda quits her job. Meanwhile, slutty Samantha is still sexually overactive. And the Middle Eastern producers of the latest movie

**"Sex and the City 2."**

PHOTO: COURTESY

with her discovery (and ex) Smith (Jason Lewis) offer Samantha and her friends an all-expense-paid trip to Abu Dhabi.

For this portion of the movie, "SATC2" turns into a travelogue cum love letter to the United Arab Emirates. But leave it to these gold-plated girls to shake (or should that be sheikh) things up a bit with more tasteless behavior than you'd

think a movie could contain. The humor is as dry as the Moroccan desert (where much of it was filmed) and blander than anything you'd ever find in a spice market. Rest assured, however, that a slightly fractured fairy tale ending awaits those willing to sit (or squirm) through it.

As of this writing, advance ticket sales are through the roof, doubtlessly owing much to gay men and their close,

straight female friends, who somehow find redeeming value in these tired, cardboard characters.

"PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME" (DISNEY)

Jake Gyllenhaal doesn't spend nearly enough time shirtless as the titular character Dastan to justify you spending any time on this

big-screen adaptation of, ugh, a video game.

An orphan born in the slums of Nasaf, Dastan (Gyllenhaal) is adopted by a Persian king and raised alongside his sons Tus (Richard Coyle) and Garsiv (Toby Kebbell). Following the unnecessary raid on holy city Alamut and the capture of its princess Tamina (Gemma Arterton) and a sacred dagger, the king dies under mysterious circumstances and Dastan is blamed. He and Tamina make a narrow escape, along with the dagger.

Come to find out, when the dagger's handle is packed with the magical Sands of Time, it can turn back clocks like nobody's business. Which is why the king's evil brother Nazim (Ben Kingsley), uncle to Tus, Garsiv and Dastan, is so eager to get his hateful hands on it. And with the assistance of the ninja-like Hassansins, his dastardly plot has a good chance of succeeding.

Thank goodness, Alfred Molina turns up as cut-throat but comical Sheikh Amar, for a bit of the old comic relief.

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I'll admit it. I love diners and dives. People think that restaurant reviewers spend all their time in fancy places eating exotic food. But food doesn't have to be exotic or fancy to be good, it just has to be properly prepared and well presented. After all, what is meatloaf but a rough textured pate? Pasta au gratin? Just mac and cheese with a college degree.

Comet's made-from-scratch comfort food is truly soul food, all-inclusive soul food. Too many chefs and restaurant owners toss a veggie burger or a grilled Portobello on the menu and consider themselves vegetarian-friendly. But Comet, where at least one quarter of the menu features items that can be made vegan or vegetarian, proves that vegan and vegetarian food can just as soul-stirring and satisfying.

That doesn't mean that carnivores get the short end

of the pork chop. Burgers, meatloaf, deli sandwiches and lots and lots of bacon fill up the other 75 percent of the menu. For something unique, try the "Compact Turkey Dinner," a combination of roast turkey, stuffing and mashed potatoes presented as a trio of large fritters, topped with gravy and a side of the veggie of the day. What no cranberry sauce?

On our most recent visit, we stopped in for breakfast on a chilly Saturday morning. Even at 10 a.m. we faced a 30-minute wait. We had to crowd in with all the other people in line and watch one mouth-watering platter after another pass by. It was either that or stand out in the cold.

Normally I wouldn't wait that long for a table. I use my Bette Midler rule: I adore Bette and would stand in line for an hour to meet her. Everything else is judged by that standard. Well, I'd wait almost that long for a meal at Comet. Maybe even longer, if Bette was my waitress.

Back to Comet's breakfast (definitely not brunch),

Dining

RICK KARLIN

my semi-vegetarian husband devoured his breakfast burrito, a wonderful mélange of scrambled eggs, cheese and salsa wrapped in a giant tortilla. Ranchero sauce on the side and fries substituted for hash browns made this filling dish a steal at \$8.

I clogged every artery I could with the Comet Benedict. A fluffy (if slightly charred at the edges – just like Mom used to burn them) biscuit is topped with a fried egg and a slice of cheese is slapped on top to weld the dish together. The entire dish is then doused in sausage gravy, not bad for \$7.50! A side of fries mopped up the excess gravy nicely.

After such a sinful meal, I couldn't even think of dessert. I do want to get back and try one of the yummy looking homemade sweets. The choice then will be pie, Ho-Ho cake or carrot cake.

Maybe Bette will help me decide.

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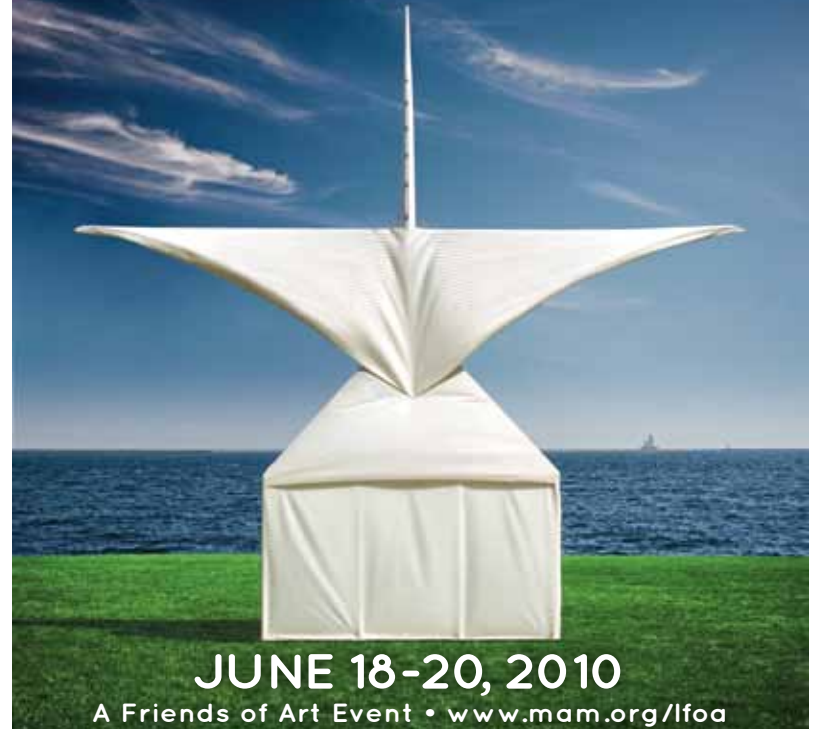
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Pump beats



Jeffrey Star performs at 7:45 p.m. June 13 in the PUMP! Dance Pavilion at PrideFest.

SUGAR & GOLD

Sugar & Gold's pump-and-hump "¡Aya!" remix EP teased listeners, giving them a taste of what this "freaky five-some" from San Francisco was capable of doing (i.e. "Slice Me Nice"). Like a left-coast version of

(Antenna Farm) disc. "Feels Like Fire" burns up the dance floor, while "Sneek Freq" funks it up. "It's All Over You" bubbles over like a champagne orgasm and "Stay Soft" will have you working hard, dancing vertically or horizontally. "Bodyaches" is a pain worth enduring, as "Call Me (Softly)" keeps it on a minimal, although no less fierce, level.

THORNTON

ssion, Sugar & Gold demonstrates a shameless fondness for the disco/dance pop of the '80s, but delivers it with a sweet and shiny contemporary twist on their second full-length "Get Wet!"

With the release of "Like An Animal: B-Sides, Demos & Unreleased Tracks" by Waves on Waves, the band's front-man (Kevin Thornton) is officially one of the hardest working gay men in show biz. If you listened to songs

such as "Your Operator" and "Modern Man," from WoW's eponymous 2008 disc, and wondered what it might be like to be able to cut loose to them on the dance floor, "Like An Animal" has the answer. The K-Town remixes of both songs increase their dance-worthiness. "Today Is The Day," a 2006 track, and the instrumental "My Only Friend," from 2007, have the potential to inspire dancing.

JEFFREE STAR

Glam-drogynous Jeffrey Star lives up to the title of his sophomore release "Beauty Killer" (Popsicle) right from the start with the wham-bam slam of "Get Away With Murder." The blood continues to spill forth on "Louis Vuitton Body Bag," with help from Matt Skiba. The title track, co-written by Sarah Hudson (cousin of Kate and Oliver), who also provides vocal assistance, gallops along at a killer pace, while "Love Rhymes With Fuck You" wants to be a soundtrack for the all-night experience. "Bitch, Please!" is a sexually explicit name-checker's delight, where "Fame & Riches, Rehab Bitches" is a razor-sharp slap in the face featuring Breathe Carolina. The final track, "Queen of the Club Scene," will have them lining up to claim the title.

FARRAD

The debut disc by dance artist and dancer Farrad, "The Time Is Now" (Beulah's Baby Entertainment), kicks off with "Misunderstood," a heavenly

house track that clarifies the artist's position: he's here to get you to dance. Farrad succeeds on "Pick Your Face Up Off The Floor," "Praise 2 The DJ" and "Twisted" (which is sure to twist the limbs of some listeners). The versatile performer also knows his way around a soulful ballad as is evident on "Destiny."

GUY B.

For a while, you couldn't tune in to Logo without seeing gay Israeli singer Guy B. The music videos for "Within Me" and "Coexist," from his disc "Co-" (guyb. biz), were in regular rotation. "Coexist" is message music that you can dance to, whereas "Within Me" sounds more personal but no less dance-floor friendly. Other knockout dance cuts include "Wandering Eyes," "Invisible Wisdom" and the aptly named "Fun."

For news updates go to www.wisconsin Gazette.com.

www.wisconsin Gazette.com

Monday, June 14, 7 PM

Stephen McCauley

author of

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and

The Object of my Affection

and his wonderful new novel of love, sex, work, and compulsive exercise,

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Music

By Gregg Shapiro

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'Street' singer: an interview with Rachael Sage

Interview

Gregg Shapiro

"Delancey Street" (Mpress), the ninth album by prolific out singer/songwriter and queen of the keyboard Rachael Sage, sounds like it could be her most fully realized and richly rewarding effort. Making the personal universal on "Hope's Outpost," "Everything Was Red" and "Back To Earth" or offering Sage advice on "Big Star," "Brave Mistake" or "Wasn't It You," these songs illustrate why her following continues to grow in leaps and bounds.

Gregg Shapiro: Like Ani DiFranco and her Righteous Babe record label, you have been putting out records on your MPress Records label from the very beginning. Additionally, you have been putting out the "New Arrivals" various artists compilation for a few years. How does it feel to be a music mogul?

Rachael Sage: ...It made me laugh for you to use the word "mogul." But, I don't really think of it that way. I just get these crazy ideas in my head. I become kind of possessed by them and they don't let me go. So, I have my obsessive-compulsive disorder to thank. I would like to take this moment to thank her. Her name is Natasha and every Shabbat I say a little prayer for her and I hope that she never gets cured. I am really lucky that I am able to pursue something that I love ... all of the grunt work and stuff that ... keeps me up most nights and occasionally gives me pneumonia. The purpose of all that is to do the thing that I love most ... perform, bring other artists together and keep building this community. I'm pretty damn lucky.

GS: I want to begin by asking you about your SXSW (South by Southwest music festival in Austin, Texas,) experience in March.

RS: It was fantastic! It was the best we've ever had, by

far. It all came together in terms of ... all the outreach we were doing. Then people showed up in droves to our event, so it was really exciting. All the artists played so beautifully and our snacks were really good, so it was a perfect day.

GS: Over the years, you have included cover tunes by queer or indie musicians on a few your discs. One of the covers that you did for "Delancey Street" is a reinterpretation of "Fame."

RS: That was a pretty literal reaction to the opportunity that I had earlier. Last year, I had a song called "Too Many Women" picked for the remake of "Fame." It didn't do quite as well as we had hoped, but it was such an exciting thing to have a song picked for a big, mainstream release.

I was a huge fan of the original film and also the TV show. Coco and Leroy felt like my slightly more than imaginary



PHOTO: COURTESY

ON STAGE

Sage performs on the Miller Lite Main Stage at Milwaukee PrideFest June 12.

"It's important for me to include out musicians in my life," Sage says.

friends (laughs). When I got that opportunity, I decided to not only perform "Too Many Women," but also to cover ("Fame"), to thank the folks at Lakeshore (Records). I performed it when I went to L.A. Everybody went crazy; everyone was singing along and yelling out the word "fame" in the chorus.

GS: The other cover on the disc is the Hall & Oates hit "Rich Girl."

RS: I think Hall & Oates are back in everybody's minds. They reissued ... their entire catalog. And they have been on television a lot and all of that. I'm quite friendly with their percussionist Everett Bradley, who is one of my oldest and dearest friends, and he played on my album. He offered me an invitation to see Hall & Oates at Mohegan Sun on New Year's. So, I went and ... it was incredible - to be at a casino on New Year's seeing Hall

& Oates, one of my favorite bands from childhood. I went into the studio the very next day and just played that song.

GS: In the song "How I Got By," you use the word "ameliorate."

RS: (Laughs) That's very funny because Kevin Killen, who mixed the album and mixed that song, he gave me a lot of shit about that (laughs). He's like, "Rachael, I'm very impressed you use the word 'ameliorate.' The only other person I could think of who would use that word would be Paula Cole." I'm sure that it will make my mother happy.

GS: "How I Got By" makes reference to Esther Williams and "Everything Was Red" contains a reference to Judy Garland. Are you a gay man trapped in a lesbian's body?

RS: The answer is yes! And you are not the first person to make this observation. I am often lamenting that I haven't been invited yet

to perform on a gay men's cruise ship. But, absolutely, a firm yes!

GS: Queer musicians, such as Gregory Douglass and Allison Cornell, perform with you on your disc. Is it important for you to include out musicians as part of your band and part of the musicians with which you work?

RS: It's important for me to include out musicians and queer people in my life. I think that's just a natural extension of that. Most musicians will tell you that half the people in their band are there because ... they liked hanging out with them. Then they discover they play three instruments. If you can't ... enjoy the company of the people you are being creative (with), you're in trouble. The people that you mentioned, they're people I love and whose work I admire. I don't know why I would want to make any other choices in the studio than I do in my life.

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DVDiva

Gregg Shapiro

“FISH OUT OF WATER”

Ky Dickens never intended to make a film about religion and homosexuality. But after coming out during her senior year of college at socially conservative Vanderbilt, located in the “strap of the bible belt,” being rejected by sorority sisters and finding no community to speak of, that’s precisely what she did.

Dickens’ documentary “Fish out of Water” (First Run Features/Yellow Wing) follows her as she talks to preachers in Nashville about the gross misinterpretation of the Bible on the subject of homosexuality. She learns a few things about theology, biblical language and the ministry of Jesus. Following the renewal of hope that was the 2008 presidential election and the disappointment of the passage of state anti-gay marriage amendments, Dickens interviewed more than 170 members of the LGBT community and almost a dozen people of the cloth, in New York, Kansas, Georgia, Iowa, Colorado and Missouri.

Along with the interviews, the film incorporates footage of same-sex weddings and LGBT rights protests. This footage is enhanced by Daniel Saunders’ animation and Kyle Harter’s illustrations. One of the pleasures of this film is learning things along with the filmmaker, which demonstrates the belief that “no fish was created to live out of water.”

DVD special features include bonus interviews,

director’s comments and resource and study guides.

“HANNAH FREE”

When I interviewed actress Sharon Gless in 2000, she was in the play “Cahoots,” written by lesbian playwright Claudia Allen. Gless already had a following in the LGBT community from her role as tough-cookie cop Christine Cagney on “Cagney & Lacey.” That following would grow considerably when she was cast as Debbie, colorful mother of gay Michael and sister of gay Vic, in “Queer As Folk.” So when word began to circulate that Gless would be starring in “Hannah Free” (Wolfe), the first film adaptation of an Allen play, it made complete sense, given the history.

In “Hannah Free,” (Wolfe Video/Ripe Fruit), formerly footloose Hannah (Gless) is in her twilight years, nursing-homebound and none too happy about it. When she’s not chasing the nursing staff from her room, she’s reminiscing about chasing a red ball through a cornfield with childhood gal pal Rachel (Elita Ernsteen). The elderly Rachel (Maureen Gallagher), with whom Hannah had a lifelong romance, is on life support in the same nursing home as Hannah.

But Rachel’s homophobic daughter Marge (a painfully miscast Taylor Miller), sporting oversized Christian hair and New Testament fashions, has forbidden Hannah from ever seeing Rachel. Hannah carries on imaginary conversations with the mid-period Rachel (a stiff Ann Hagemann) to get her mind off fears of Rachel dying alone. They tease and provoke each other. They recall

intimate details about their lengthy love affair, which included Rachel’s marriage, motherhood and the itinerant Hannah’s life experiences and travels. Their love endured, despite Rachel’s return to her Bible after having sex in the barn with Hannah.

Enter Greta (Jacqui Johnson), the great-granddaughter of Rachel and granddaughter of Marge. Greta is a college-aged, out lesbian who leads Hannah to believe that she wants to interview her for a class assignment. She offers to wheel Hannah down to Rachel’s room late one night so that she can see her. Greta is there to ensure that Hannah and Rachel get the closure they deserve.

Gless is quite good here. The fatal and damning flaw is Allen’s awkward, stilted and simply boring screenplay. The endless exposition repeatedly brings the film to a screeching halt. It’s a case of too much telling and not enough showing. Perhaps she was afraid that she would alienate the show’s diehard lesbian fans if she deviated from the original play too much. What she ends up with is characters, especially the mid-period Rachel, who speak in unintentionally funny ways that result in numerous laughs. On the “Claire of the Moon” scale, consider yourself mooned.

“Hannah Free” DVD bonus features include interviews with Gless (in which she talks about “Cagney & Lacey’s” lesbian following, among other things), playwright Claudia Allen, director Wendy Jo Carlton, as well as cast and crew members. You also will find bloopers, a look behind the scenes, the theatrical trailer and more.

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On stage

Gregg Shapiro

June 3, Thursday

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

"Summerdances: Uncovered," featuring the premieres of "Prologue and Boi Redux," "What You're Thinking," "Covered," "Sink, Gasp, Float" and "The Ultimate Sun Package," runs tonight through June 5 at 7:30 p.m. at UWM Mainstage Theatre, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd. Call 414-229-4308.

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

June 4, Friday

She & Him, Eagles of Death Metal and others play the Verge Music Festival at Henry W. Maier Festival Park (Summerfest grounds), 200 N. Harbor Drive, from 5 p.m. to midnight.

The Pub Theater presents "Bye Bye Liver: The Milwaukee Drinking Play," featuring a cast of some of

Milwaukee's finest comedy and sketch artists, Fridays and Saturdays at 9 p.m. at Mi-Key's Skylight Room, 811 N. Jefferson. Call 414-312-4388.

Skylight Opera Theatre presents the musical "Rent" through June 20 in the Cabot Theatre at the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, welcomes Kris Allen at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

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

Restaurant Magnus, 120 E. Wilson in Madison, has Jeremiah Nelson Trio at 9:30 p.m. Call 608-258-8787.

June 5, Saturday

Weezer, The Raveonettes, Rogue Wave and others play the Verge Music Festival at Henry W. Maier Festival Park (Summerfest grounds), 200 N. Harbor Drive, from 5 p.m. to midnight.

Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell, presents CPO5, Dekorah Lee Project and Glenview Lane at 8:30 p.m. Call 414-276-7288.

Restaurant Magnus, 120 E. Wilson in Madison, welcomes Caravan Gypsy Swing at 9:30

p.m. Call 608-258-8787.

June 6, Sunday

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

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

June 7, Monday

The Pabst, 144 E. Wells, presents Edward Sharpe & The Magnetic Zero's with Dawes at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell welcomes Trashcan Sinatras and The Candles at 8 p.m. Call 414-276-7288.

June 8, Tuesday

The one and only Debbie Reynolds is at The Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal, tonight and tomorrow night at 8 p.m. Call 414-847-7922.

June 9, Wednesday

The Rescues perform at 8 p.m. in Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell. Call 414-276-7288.

June 10, Thursday

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

*Harbor Room, 117 E. Greenfield, has The Historical Mystery Band with Jerry Grillo at 8 p.m. Call 414-672-7988.

Alterra Cafe at the Lake, 1701 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive, hosts Florentine at the Lake, featuring Florentine Opera Chorus members at 7 p.m.

Landon Pigg and Madi Diaz are at High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, at 9 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

June 11, Friday

*PrideFest Milwaukee at Henry W. Maier Festival Park (Summerfest grounds), 200 N. Harbor Drive, presents Kathy Griffin, SONiA & disappear fear, Amy & Freddy, Otep, Cyon Flare and many more on a variety of stages. Go to pridefest.wisconsin-gazette.com for the complete schedule, accessible by smart phone.

Skylight Opera Theatre presents "An Evening With Gilbert & Sullivan" through June 20 in the Studio Theatre at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, welcomes the legendary George Clinton at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

The Rave, 2401 W. Wisconsin, hosts The Bamboozle Road Show w/ All Time Low, Boys Like Girls, LMFAO, Third Eye Blind, Forever The Sickest Kids, Good Charlotte, HelloGoodbye, Cady Groves, Great Big Planes, Mercy Mercedes, Stereo Skyline, The Ready Set and Vita Chambers beginning at 1 p.m. Call 414-342-RAVE.

Greg Koch Trio performs at 8 p.m. at Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell. Call 414-276-7288.

Restaurant Magnus, 120 E. Wilson in Madison, welcomes Brandon McHose at 9:30 p.m. Call 608-258-8787.

June 12, Saturday

*PrideFest Milwaukee at Henry W. Maier Festival Park (Summerfest grounds), 200 N. Harbor Drive, presents Patti LaBelle, Bruce Vilanch, Rachael Sage, Tret Fure, Blame Sally, Roslyn Kind, Christopher Dallman, Ellis, The Heatbirds, Melissa Ferrick, The Shondes and many more on a variety of stages. Go to pridefest.wisconsin-gazette.com for the complete schedule, accessible by smart phone.

Dance diva Cascada is at



"American Idol" gay heartthrob Adam Lambert performs at 7:30 p.m. June 15 at The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin. Call 414-286-3663.

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

The Pabst, 144 E. Wells, presents The New Pornographers featuring A.C. Newman, Blaine Thurier, Dan Bejar, John Collins, Kathryn Calder, Kurt Dahle, Neko Case and Todd Fancey with The Dodos & The Duchess & The Duke at 8:30 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, welcomes Junip at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

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

The Handsome Family plays High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, at 9:30 p.m. Call 608-268-1122. The Annex, 1206 Regent in Madison, presents Powerman 5000 at 9 p.m.

Andreas Kapsalis Trio performs at 9:30 p.m. at Restaurant Magnus, 120 E. Wilson in Madison. Call 608-258-8787.

June 13, Sunday

*PrideFest Milwaukee at Henry W. Maier Festival Park (Summerfest grounds), 200 N. Harbor Drive, presents Joan Rivers, Scott Free, Todd Alsop, Jeffree Star, Amanda Lepore, Stewed Tomatoes, Sean Wiggins, Katie Todd, Robert Verdi, The Joans, Brett Every, The Che Arthur Three, Mike Rickard, Nicole Reynolds, and many more on a variety of stages. Go to pridefest.wisconsin-gazette.com for the complete

schedule, accessible by smart phone.

*Out singer/songwriter Ellis is at High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, at 7 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

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

The Rave, 2401 W. Wisconsin, welcomes potty-mouthed hip-hop diva and ex-jailbird Lil Kim at 8 p.m. Call 414-342-RAVE.

June 15, Tuesday

*American Idol's gay heartthrob Adam Lambert performs at 7:30 p.m. at The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin. 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.


June 16, Wednesday

The Rave, 2401 W. Wisconsin, presents Cute Is What We Aim For with The Friday Night Boys, The Bigger Lights, Down With Webster at 7 p.m. Call 414-342-RAVE.

June 17, Thursday

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

Comedian and actor Denis Leary takes the stage at The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.




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THE AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT JUNE 8-20, 2010

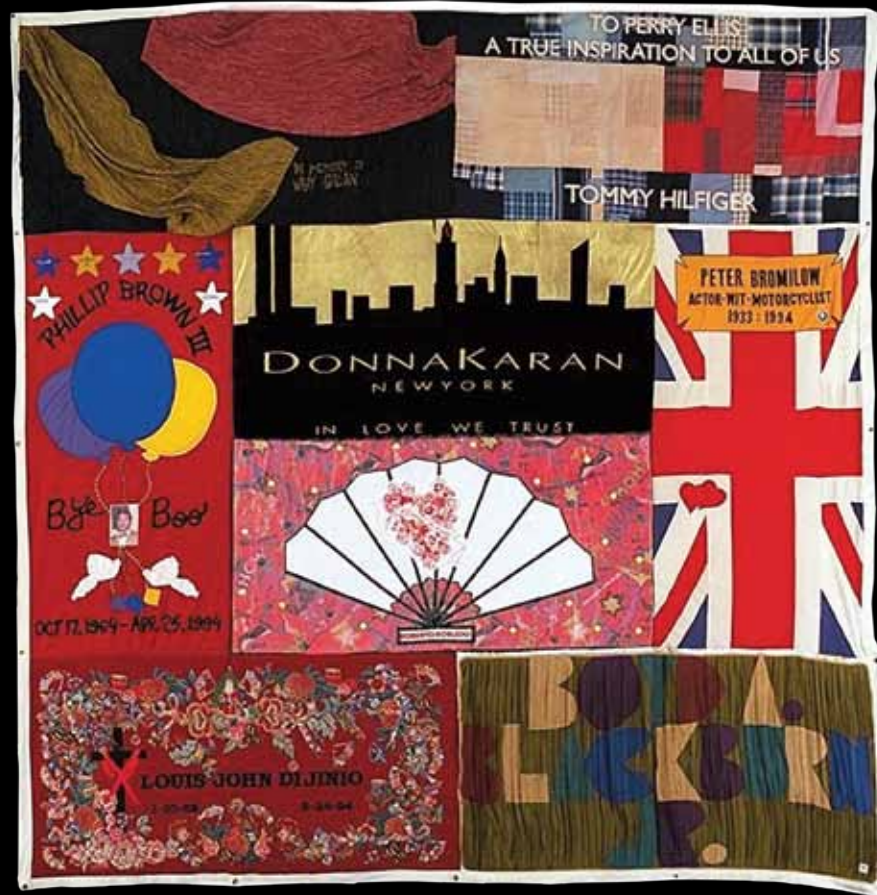


Photo courtesy of The NAMES Project Foundation | AIDS Memorial Quilt

HONOR THE LIVES OF THOSE LOST TO AIDS. Nine specially selected quilts on view at the Milwaukee Art Museum show the contributions of fashion designers Dolce & Gabbana, Versace, Ralph Lauren and Isaac Mizrahi, among others, to the largest community folk art project in the world. Also on view, the original quilt the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin designed in 1987.

This special exhibition is open to the public; Museum admission is not required.

The Milwaukee Art Museum's presentation of the AIDS Memorial Quilt is supported by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation Johnson and Pabst LGBT Humanity Fund and the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.



COMMUNITY LISTINGS

MILWAUKEE

Arts/Entertainment

Cream City Chorus, 315 W. Court St., 53212, 414-276-8787, www.creamcity-chorus.org, info@creamcity-chorus.org.

Cream City Squares, 414-445-8080, www.iagsdc.org/creamcity.

Men's Voices Milwaukee, 2717 E. Hampshire St., 53211, 414-964-1513

www.mensvoicesmilwaukee.com.

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second St., 53204,

414-383-3727, www.milwaukeegayartscenter.org.

Milwaukee/LGBT Film/Video Festival, www4.uwm.edu/psoa/programs/film/lgbt-film.

Queer Zine Archive Project, 2935 N. Fratney St., 53202, www.qzap.org.

Shoreline Country Dancers, 2809 E. Oklahoma Ave., 53207, www.shoreline-milw.org, info@shoreline-milw.org.

Women's Voices Milwaukee, 315 W. Court St., 53212, 414-534-5645, www.womensvoicesmke.viviti.com, www.womensvoicesmilwaukee@gmail.com.

Community

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

Brew City Bears, P.O. Box 1035, 53201, 414-331-3744, www.bcb4men.info.

BWMT, 414-463-5359, www.nabwmt.org/milwaukee.

Castaways, P.O. Box 1697, 53202, castawaysmc@yahoo.com.

CONNEXUS, 2439 N. Holton St., 53212, 414-390-0444, www.diverseandresilient.org/connexus.

Diverse and Resilient, 2439 N. Holton St., 53212, 414-390-0444, www.diverseandresilient.org.

Firebirds, P.O. Box 159, 53201.

FORGE, P.O. Box 1272, 53201, 414-559-2123, www.forge-forward.org.

GAMMA Milwaukee, P.O. Box 1900, 53201, 414-530-1886, www.milwaukeeegam.com.

Gemini Gender Group, P.O. Box 44211, 53214, 414-297-9328, ggwi.tripod.com.
Lesbian Alliance, 315 W.

Court St., 53212, 414-272-9442, www.lesbianalliance.org.

Lesbian Fund of the Women's Fund of Milwaukee, 414-290-7350, www.womensfund.com/who_we_are/lesbian_fund.

LOC/Women of Color, P.O. Box 93594, 53203, 414-263-1631.

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St., 53212, 414-271-265, www.mkelgbt.org.

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

Milwaukee Pride Parade, P.O. Box 070177, 53207, www.prideparademke.org.

Out to Brunch, jennieragland@wi.rr.com.

PFLAG-Milwaukee, 315 W. Court St., 53212, 414-299-9198, pflagmilwaukee@hotmail.com.

PrideFest, 414-272-3378, www.pridefest.com.

Queer Program, P.O. Box 090441, 53209, 414-265-8500, queerprgm@aol.com.

SAGE Milwaukee, 1845 N. Farwell, Suite 220, 53202, 414-224-0517, www.sagemilwaukee.org.

Sapphic Adventures Milwaukee, www.meetup.com/sapphic-MKE, calamity-jane321@gmail.com.

SHEBA/Sisters Helping Each other Battle AIDS, 2349 N. Holton St., 53212, 414-390-0444.

WanderWomyn Outdoors Group, debydoo2@yahoo.com.

Washington Heights Rainbow Association, 414-258-8834 www.washington-heightsrainbow.org.

Wauwatosa Rainbow Association, 414-218-9277, tosarainbow@yahoo.com.

Wisconsin Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf, P.O. Box 353, Hartland, 53029, www.wiscrad.org.

Wisconsin Rainbow Families, 315 W. Court St., 53212, www.wirainbowfamilies.com, info@wirainbowfamilies.com.

Health

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, P.O. Box 510498, 53202, 414-273-1991, www.arcw.org, info@arcw.org.

Brady East STD (BESTD) Clinic, 1240 E. Brady St., 53202, 414-272-2144, www.bestd.org, bestd@execpc.com.

bestd.org, bestd@execpc.com.

Galano Club, 315 Court St., Suite 201, 53213, 414-276-6936, www.galanoclub.org, mail@galanoclub.org.

Health Institute of Milwaukee, 1817 N. Martin Luther King Drive, Suite 3, 53212, 414-263-9999.

Milwaukee Women's Center, 611 N. Broadway, Suite 230, 53202, www.mwcinc.org.

Pathfinders, 1614 E. Kane Pl., 53202, 414-271-1560, www.pathfinders.org, info@tccmilw.org.

STD Specialites, Inc., 3251 N. Holton St., 53212, 414-264-8800, www.stdspecialties.org.

Politics

Center Advocates, 315 W. Court St., 53212, 414-271-2656, www.centeradvocates.org.

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

Human Rights League, P.O. Box 510407, 53203, 414-319-9863, www.hrl-pac.org, hrl-pac@yahoo.com.

Vets Do Ask Do Tell, 315 W. Court St., 53212, www.vetsdoaskdotell.org.

Religion/Spirituality

Central United Methodist Church, 639 N. 25th St., 53233, 414-344-1600, www.centralumcmilw.org.

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

Cross Lutheran Church, 1821 N. 16th St., 53205, 414-344-1746, www.crosslutheranmilwaukee.org.

Divine Word Lutheran Church, 5505 Lloyd St., 53208, 414-476-3189, divinewordlutheran.org.

First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, 1342 N. Astor St., 53202, 414-273-5257, www.uumilwaukee.org.

Lake Park Lutheran Church, 2647 N. Stowell Ave., 53211, 414-962-9190, lakeparklutheran.com.

Metropolitan Community Church, 1239 W. Mineral St., 53204, 414-383-1100, www.milmcc.org.

Milwaukee Friends Meeting (Quakers), 3224 N. Gordon Pl., 53212, 414-263-2111, www.milwaukeequakers.org.

ers.org.

Plymouth Church, 2717 E. Hampshire Ave., 53211, 414-964-1513, www.plymouth-church.org.

St. James Episcopal Church, 833 W. Wisconsin Ave., 53233, 414-964-1513, www.stjames-milwaukee.org.

Sports

Front Runners/Front Walkers, 414-443-0379, ullrwolf.com/frontrunnersmke, thbolt@milwpc.com.

Metro Milwaukee Tennis Club, 3957 81st St., 53222, 414-616-3716, moenell@sbcglobal.net.

Milwaukee Gay Soccer League, 1012 E. Clark St., 53212, 414-405-5878, www.milwaukeegayssoccer.org.

Milwaukee Gay Volleyball League, www.milwaukeegayvolleyball.com.

Saturday Softball Beer League, 2333 N. 56th St., 53210, www.ssbilmilwaukee.com.

Youth/Education

Alliance School, 850 W. Walnut St., 53205, 414-267-5400, www.allianceschool.org.

Alliance for LGBTQ Youth, 1212 S. 70th St., 53214, 414-453-1400, www.cssw.org.

Gay Youth Milwaukee, P.O. Box 090441, 53209, 414-265-8500, <http://gayyouthmilwaukee.tripod.com>.

Marquette Gay/Straight Alliance, 1442 W. Wisconsin Ave., 53233.

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

Project Q, 315 W. Court St., 53212, 414-223-3220.

UWM LGBT Resource Center, UWM Union WG 89, P.O. Box 413, 53201, 414-229-4116, www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/LGBT.

FOX RIVER

Community

Harmony Café, 233 E. College Ave., Appleton, 54915, 920-734-2233, www.harmonycafe.org, skenevan_gw@gwicc.org.

PFLAG-Appleton/Fox

Cities, 740 Kensington Road, Neenah, 54956, 920-722-7145. Rainbow Over Wisconsin, 702 E. Wisconsin Ave., Appleton, WI 54911, www.rainbowoverwisconsin.org.

GREEN BAY

Community

Argonauts of Wisconsin, P.O. Box 22096, Green Bay, 54305, www.argonautsll.org, info@argonautsll.org.

Bear Club 4 Men, P.O. Box 13463, Green Bay, 54307, www.bc4m.com.

Harmony Café, 1660 W. Mason St., Green Bay, 54303, 920-569-1593, www.harmonycafe.org.

Positive Voice, P.O. Box 1381, Green Bay, 54305, 920-435-4404, pvinc.org, info@pvinc.org.

Pride Alive, 920-471-3260, www.newpride.org, info@newpride.org.

Religion/spirituality

Angels of Hope MCC, P.O. Box 672, Green Bay, 54305, 920-983-7452, www.aohmcc.org, aohchurch@netnet.net.

MADISON

Arts/entertainment

Dairyland Cowboys and Cowgirls, Club 5, 5 Applegate Court, Madison, 53713, 608-277-9700, www.dcandc.org

Community

OutReach, 600 Williamson St., Suite P1, Madison, 53703, 608-255-8582, www.lgbt Outreach.org, info@lgbt Outreach.org.

PFLAG-Madison, 4221 Venetian Ln., Madison 53718, 608-848-2333, pflagmadison@yahoo.com.

Politics

Fair Wisconsin, 112 State St., Suite 309, Madison, 53703, 608-441-0143, www.fairwisconsin.org, info@fairwisconsin.com.

Sports

Madison Gay Hockey Association, www.madison-gayhockey.org.

Madison Gay Volleyball, 608-347-8907, www.madisonlbtvolleyball.com.

Youth/education

GSA for Safe Schools, 301 S. Bedford St., Madison, 53703, 608-661-1360, www.gsaforsafeschools.org.

RACINE/ KENOSHA

Community

PFLAG-Racine/Kenosha, P.O. Box 580058, Pleasant Prairie, 53158, 262-694-2729, pflagkenosha@aol.com.

Religion/Spirituality

Bradford Community Church - Unitarian Universalist, 5810 8th Ave., 53140, 262-656-0544, www.bradforduu.org.

Sports

Wisconsin Warriors, P.O. Box 334, Somers, 53171, 414-759-8823, www.wiwarriors.com, wiiwarriors@yahoo.com.

Youth/Education

Rainbow Alliance, UW-Parkside, Student Center, L108D, 262-595-2685, <http://www.uwp.edu/clubs/clubtemp.cfm?clubID=38>.



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Calendar

WHAT'S GOING ON?

ONGOING

ONGOING

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

THURSDAY

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

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

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

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.

7 p.m., Q2-LGBTQ Youth Group, LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, 510 S. Farwell St., Eau Claire, 54702, 715-552-LGBT, www.thecentercv.org.

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

FRIDAY

4-7 p.m., fourth Friday, Happy Hour with Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin, rotating location in Milwaukee/Madison. Info: www.ppawi.org.

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.

6:30 p.m., Open Mic night, Harmony Cafe, 1660 W. Mason

St., Green Bay, 54303. Info: 920-268-3911 or dtappy_gw@gwicc.org.

7 p.m., AA, The Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936, galanoclub.org.

7 p.m., Gay Narcotics Anonymous, 315 W. Court St., Second floor, Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936.

7 p.m., Drop-in night, LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, 510 S. Farwell St., Eau Claire, 54702, Info: 715-552-LGBT, www.thecentercv.org.

8:30 p.m., second and fourth Fridays, Shoreline Milwaukee line dancing and lessons, Hot Water, 818 S. Water St., Milwaukee. Info: 414-383-75936.

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 St., Madison. Info: 608-469-4882.

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

6 p.m., Rotating Activity Night each week, LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, 510 S. Farwell St., Eau Claire, 54702, 715-552-LGBT, www.thecentercv.org.

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

SUNDAY

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

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

5 p.m., OutThere LGBT youth group meeting, OutReach, Gateway Mall, 600 Williamson

St., Madison. Info: 608-255-8582. 5 p.m., third Sundays, PFLAG Milwaukee, Martin Luther Church, 9235 W. Bluemound Road, Wauwatosa.

MONDAY

7 p.m., Spectrum -Social and networking LGBT group, Harmony Cafe, 233 E. College Ave. Info: ericksoc@gmail.com, 917-669-7529.

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

TUESDAY

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

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

6 p.m., third Tuesday, Fair Wisconsin Action Network

of the Chippewa Valley, LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, 510 S. Farwell St., Eau Claire, 54701. Info: 715-552-LGBT.

7 p.m., Spectrum GLBT and Allied social group for adults, Harmony Cafe, 1660 W. Mason St., Appleton.

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.

7 p.m., first Wednesday, Bear Club 4 Men monthly meeting, Napalese Lounge, 1351 Cedar St., Green Bay, Info: bearclub-4men@gmail.com.

Send listings to ltomaszek@wisconsin-gazette.com.

THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

THURSDAY

June 3

5:30-7 p.m., Equality Wisconsin Annual membership meeting, Plymouth Church, 2717 E. Hampshire Ave., 414-431-1306, ldahlk@equalitywi.org.

FRIDAY

June 4

8 p.m., A Tribute to the American Musical: The golden age of Broadway, Men's Voices Milwaukee, Plymouth Church, 2717 E. Hampshire Ave., info@mensvoicesmilwaukee.com.

SATURDAY

June 5

6-11:30 p.m., BEAR-B-Q, BEAR Club 4 Men, Rascal's Bar, 702 E. Wisconsin Ave., Appleton, 54911.

SUNDAY

June 6

2 p.m., A Tribute to the American Musical: The golden age of Broadway, Men's Voices Milwaukee, Plymouth Church, 2717 E. Hampshire Ave., info@mensvoicesmilwaukee.com.

6 p.m., Sapphic Adventures MKE meet-up, Anodyne Coffee Shop, 2920 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., www.meetup.com/Sapphic-MKE.

MONDAY

June 7

5:45-8:00 p.m., The Truth About Shelters, lecture by Anne Reed of the Wisconsin Humane Society, Community Bark, 326 W. Brown Deer Road, www.communitybark.net.

SAVE THE DATE

The 2010 Lakefront Festival of Arts is Friday, June 18, though Sunday, June 20, on the museum grounds along Lake Michigan. Admission is \$12 or \$20 for a three-day pass. For more information: lfoa.mam.org.

TUESDAY

June 8

10 a.m., The AIDS Memorial Quilt exhibit opens at the Milwaukee Art Museum, runs through June 20, 700 N. Art Museum Drive, www.arcw.org or www.mam.org.

6:45 p.m., LGBT Smoking Cessation Group, OutReach, 600 Williamson St., Suite P-1, Madison, 608-255-8582 (short telephone screening required), harrys@lgbt Outreach.com.

7 p.m., Brew City Bears coffee and chat, Starbucks, 130 Miller Park Way, 53214, 414-514-4063.

WEDNESDAY

June 9

7-8:30 p.m., board of directors meeting, LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin, 1456 Junction Ave., Racine, 53403, info@lgbtsewisc.org.

THURSDAY

June 10

8:30-11 a.m., Building Leaders with Cultural Competency, OPEN Madison, Sheraton Hotel, 706 John Nolen Drive, www.openmadison.org.

7 p.m., Florentine at the Lake, Alterra at the Lake, 1701 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive, info@florentineopera.org.

FRIDAY

June 11

3 p.m., Opening night of PrideFest, Henry Maier Festival Park, 200 N. Harbor Drive www.pridefest.com.

SATURDAY

June 12

Noon-3 p.m., Pride Potluck Picnic, Single Me Out social group, Petrifying Springs Park,

Hwy 31 and A, Kenosha, 53144, info@lgbtsewisc.org.

9 p.m., Brew City Bears bar night, Harbor Room, 117 E. Greenfield, 53204, 44-514-4063.

SUNDAY

June 13

11 a.m., Locust Street Festival, Locust Street in the Riverwest Neighborhood, www.locust-street.com.

7 p.m. Brew City Bears dining out, Tres Hermanos, 1332 W. Lincoln Ave., 53215, 414-514-4063.

Send listings to ltomaszek@wisconsin-gazette.com.

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APARTMENTS

Apartments available in popular Brady street area building. Rent includes heat, water, cooking gas. Studios are \$525 /month and two-bedroom are \$775. On site W/D and storage locker. Call Sharon at 414-241-4606.

Best Downtown Location

Shoreland Manor, 1029 E. Knapp St., downtown High-Rise, 1 block from lake front bike trail, center of East Town night life, 1 bdrms starting at \$630/mo, includes internet & cable, options to customize your space, call Greg at 414-759-1154 for your personal showing, www.eastmore.com.

Help Wanted

Bob had a job. Bob lost his job. Want Bob's Job? Call Larry at 503-995-4057.

U.S. Census Workers

Earn good pay working for the US Census Bureau! For Milwaukee County residents, office jobs pay at least \$11.25 an hour and field positions

pay at least \$15 an hour. Weekly pay & paid training. Temporary, part-time & full-time, work with flexible hours. Help your community have a successful census. Call the toll-free jobs line at: 1-866-861-2010 to schedule the required 30 minute basic skills test at a time and location convenient to you. More information, including a practice test, is available at www.2010censusjobs.gov.

Professional, experienced Executive Assistant seeking employment as a Personal or Executive Assistant. Private or Professional. Full-time preferred, but amenable to part-time. Open to other job opportunities. For a copy of resume, please inquire via e-mail. Age: 34 Experience: 7 years (both Small Business and Corporate).

Services

MASSAGE THERAPY

Massage therapy service provided at your home. Relaxation, deep tissue

and sports massage. Claude Gagnon, Wisconsin Certified Massage Therapist #839-46 18 years of experience 414-460-7762.

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE

Karen Zammit, CMT#831-046, Nationally Certified Massage Therapist and Reiki Master, Thai Massage, Neuromuscular Therapy, 20 years experience. Near east side location. By appointment only. Call 414-962-6340.

DOG WALKER

Dog walker and pet/house sitter with more than 25 years of experience. Contact me at olivia.merrillbaum.com or olivia@merrillbaum.com.

Swimming Pool and Spa

Swimming Pool & Spa Service Racine & Kenosha Area 262-857-7470.

Computers

PC Medic Milwaukee Mobile PC repair We also do Virus Removal, Upgrades and Custom Computer Builds. Call

WiG'S TAIL-WAGGER

COURTESY OF THE WISCONSIN HUMANE SOCIETY

Poquito Tito is a 1-year-old smooth coated chihuahua available for adoption at the Wisconsin Humane Society. He has a shiny tan coat and a sweet personality. Could this cuddly canine be the companion for you? Meet Poquito Tito today at WHS, located at 45th and Wisconsin Avenue in Milwaukee.

Tango's Tip: Sign up now for Feasting for Fido! This fun evening will include restaurant tastings of creative cuisine, inspiring wines, locally crafted beer, festive music, an auction and raffle prizes. All proceeds help homeless and injured animals get a second chance at happiness. Register at www.wihumane.org.



Poquito Tito

Kevin @ 414-788-2383.

SEEKING

HOUSE BOI WANTED

SGWM with a limited disability looking for a house "boi" for lack of a better term. I need a guy to clean, do some minor cooking & run errands when necessary. I occasionally need a lift, so a car would be helpful. You wouldn't

have to live in full time. Seeking SGWM, age 24-34, for this position. It is not a difficult job. If you live in rent would be minimal. Reimbursed for gas \$. Please send stats and what your plan is for the next 5 years with contact info. Must have references & a phone of your own. Perfect for college or grad student. All the comforts of home. Send to: hummelcreche@netzero.net.

BWMT

Black and White Men Together invites men of all races, ethnic backgrounds, and ages together for socializing! Join us at 7 pm, on the third Saturday of each month at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. Dinner outings, and other group activities. For more information: www.nabwmt.org/milwaukee.

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OUT & ABOUT

Got a listing to ad? Tell us
managingeditor@wisconsin-gazette.com.

STATEWIDE BAR AND ENTERTAINMENT VENUE LISTINGS

KENOSHA/RACINE

Club ICON, 6305 120th St. (off I-94), Kenosha, 262-857-3240
JoDee's, 2139 Racine St., Racine, 262-634-9804

MILWAUKEE

Art Bar, 722 Burleigh, 414-372-7880
Ballgame, 196 S. Second St., 414-273-7474
Boom & The Room, 625 S. Second 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. Second 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. Second St., 414-383-8330
Mona's, 1407 S. First 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. Fifth St., 414-460-6277
Walker's Pint, 818 S. Second St, 414-643-7468
Woody's, 1579 S Second 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 Fourth 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

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'I now pronounce you ... homeowners'

Navigating the legal maze of buying a home together

By Kerrie Kennedy
Contributing writer

Paul Masterson, director of Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, has been a homeowner for more than 14 years. While he's spent more than half of those years in relationships, he says he's never considered owning a home with a partner. "There's a risk involved," Masterson says. "If you trust your partner it's one thing, but you also have to trust his family. You have to ask yourself how it would play out legally if your partner passed away."

That fear – that a partner's passing could result in the loss of one's home – is at the very core of the marriage argument, Masterson says. "It is one thing to have a document that states your partner will inherit your properties, but it doesn't safeguard against lawsuits," he says.

That lack of protection and uncertainty might help explain why homeownership rates among same-sex couples have typically lagged behind those of heterosexual couples. "There are

some real financial impacts to owning a home as a couple if you're not married," says Brian Moulton, chief legislative council for the Human Rights Council.

However, with same-sex marriage now legal in five states (Connecticut, Massachusetts, Iowa, New Hampshire and Vermont) and Washington, D.C., experts say that gap is beginning to close, as newly married same-sex couples decide to take the real estate plunge as well. "I think (legalized gay marriage) will potentially increase the rate of homeownership among LGBT couples," Moulton says. "On a broader level, marriage has a stabilizing, formalizing impact on a relationship that encourages people to build permanency in their lives, which includes a home."

In Milwaukee, some real estate agents say they've

'State laws determine title and inheritance rights.'

noticed an increase in LGBT couples buying homes since the state adopted a domestic partnership registry last year. "I've been seeing a steady increase in same-sex couple buyers over the past year or so," says Bay View Homes Realtor® Karen Block.

While LGBT couples share many of the same home-buying concerns as straight couples, they also have unique needs. Here are some things to consider before taking the plunge:

1. GAY KNOWLEDGEABLE

Most real estate agents are gay-friendly, simply because they have to be, says ReMax real estate agent Scott Campbell. "Times have changed," he says. "Real estate agents now have to follow certain rules and guidelines."

But which agents can tell same-sex couples what school districts are most welcoming to LGBT families or out-of-towners where the gay bars and gay neighborhoods are? "I think sometimes you just feel more comfortable working with someone who is gay and understands what your needs are," Campbell says.

2. LOCATION

For LGBT couples buying real estate today, it's not so much about buying in the right neighborhood as about buying in the right state.

"State laws determine title and inheritance rights," Moulton says. "And no state is required to recognize another state's marriage laws."

A few states – such as New York and Maryland – do recognize same-sex marriages, even though they don't grant marriage licenses to same-sex partners. More often, if a legally married same-sex couple buys property in a non-recognition state, they're bound by the rules of that state.

Some states recognize civil unions or domestic partnerships, but the rights and protections that they offer vary widely. It pays to do your research.

Wisconsin's domestic partnership law provides registered LGBT couples the right to inherit a partner's



PHOTO: JASON SMITH

Buying a home together presents unique legal challenges for same-sex couples.

estate in the absence of a will, the right to transfer real estate titles without paying a fee and the presumption of joint tenancy in real estate.

3. DIVIDE AND CONQUER

Unmarried couples planning to buy will need to

sort out the details of who pays what and who owns what. Partners who have disproportionate incomes may want to contribute unequal portions (80/20 or 60/40), divide the ratio of homeownership accordingly and then draft a legal contract that spells out the agreement.

According to Wells Fargo Home Services Lending mortgage broker Mark Olley, this kind of unequal arrangement only dictates what happens once the property is sold and has nothing to do with purchasing the home. "You're both equally Homeowners page 48

The federal government considers same-sex partners to be legal strangers

Homeowners from 47

responsible for the mortgage regardless of what you make," Olley says.

What's more, same-sex couples are equally responsible for sourcing half of the

down payment or will otherwise be subject to federal gift tax rules. This applies even to couples who are lawfully married under state law, because the federal government does not recognize same-sex marriage and considers the partners to be legal strangers.

4. PROTECT WHAT IS YOURS

Survivorship rights aren't just a real estate issue for same-sex couples, they're an equal rights issue.

Rights of survivorship are granted to legally married couples who own real estate together and allow them take

title to their home as "tenants in the entirety," meaning each person is 100 percent owner of the house. Not only does that protect them in the event of death (the house is automatically owned by the survivor), it also protects them from creditors.

One option for same-sex couples who are not legally married is to hold the title in joint tenancy with rights of survivorship, so that if one partner dies, the other

becomes owner of the property and takes on the mortgage. According to Olley, most lenders also offer a life insurance policy, so that if one of the partners dies, the other would inherit the property without a mortgage.

Registered domestic partners in Wisconsin have the right to inherit from the estate of a domestic partner who dies without a will, but experts say it's wise to seek

out the advice of an attorney anyway.

"Even under domestic partnership laws, to what extent you have to safeguard through additional legal means is very unclear," Masterson says. "This is why domestic partnership isn't adequate and why the community is striving to achieve full equality through gay marriage."

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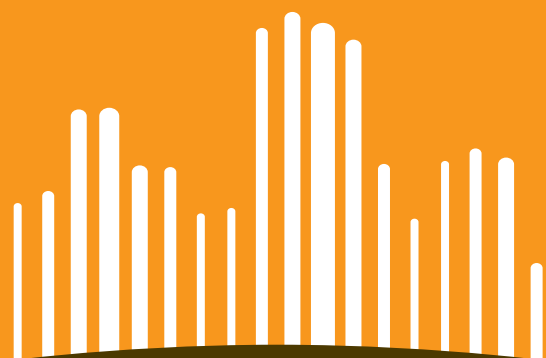
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QUOTES OF PRIDE

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QUOTES OF PRIDE

“Sending two people to jail for 14 years simply for loving each other is a gross violation of their human rights, and I hope this decision will be appealed and overturned by the high court.”

– U.S. Sen. Russ Feingold, in a letter sent to President Mutharika of Malawi protesting the sentencing of two gay men in that country for holding an engagement party. The two men were pardoned.

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chandeliers and brancheliers. "The adventurous spirit some home owners want to reflect doesn't have to stop with elements of wall-covering, flooring and furnishing. You can enjoy natural illuminations in new circumstances every time you 'light' the Branchelien."

Wish has captured the essence of nature in popular lines of lighting that includes not only full-size brancheliers, but also twig sconces and combination twig and

branch lamps. Faux grasses and berries with silk accents create a holiday atmosphere on ordinary days and certainly provide a jumping-off place for lively dinner conversation.

David Albert of BBC Lighting in Milwaukee said he hasn't seen anything like them in the area or at national lighting shows yet, though they could certainly be special ordered. "They're so eclectic... I could see them in a contemporary home or a log cabin or anything in

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—Courtesy Home Improvements



PHOTO: COURTESY

Lighting sources made of natural materials add drama to any room.

QUOTES OF PRIDE

"If Michelangelo had been straight, the Sistine Chapel would have been wallpapered." — Robin Tyler

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