

PUBLIC ART

Debra Brehmer examines the social spillover effect of Jaume Plensa's new sculpture in Shorewood. Page 18.

PHOTO: JOHN O'HARA



THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

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POLITICAL ANALYSIS

SCOTT WALKER'S BIG GAY DILEMMA

By Louis Weisberg
Staff writer

Despite his anti-gay stance on the campaign trail, GOP gubernatorial candidate Scott Walker has a history of hiring and promoting gay staffers. Open and closeted gays have held key positions on his political campaigns, in his Assembly office (when he represented Wauwatosa in the Legislature) and within his administration as Milwaukee County executive.

The most prominent openly gay officials currently serving under Walker are county housing administrator Tim Russell and county parks director Sue Black. Russell, who has been active with Log Cabin Republicans,

previously served as Walker's deputy chief of staff and also worked for ex-Gov. Tommy Thompson's Milwaukee office.

Another former longtime Thompson and Walker operative asked WiG not to identify him as gay. But he is likely one of the "number of openly gay, top-level (Walker) staffers" cited by Milwaukee Journal Sentinel writer Daniel Bice in a May 9 column. WiG does not out people unless they are actively campaigning against LGBT rights.

Milwaukee attorney Jim McFarland, a member of Log Cabin Republicans, described Walker as "100-percent supportive on a personal level." McFarland and other gay Walker supporters believe his personal openness signals that, if elected, he would not pursue the conservative social positions he's adopted on the stump.

In addition to promising to rescind the state's domestic partner registry and eliminate employment benefits for the partners of gay and lesbian state workers, Walker has aligned himself politically with opponents of stem cell research, contraception and even the state's public smoking ban.

"I and most of the Log Cabin Republicans don't consider him anti-gay," McFarland said. "He may have taken positions that are bad Walker page 6



PHOTO: AP PHOTO/REENA ROSE SIBAYAN

People participate in a candlelight vigil for Rutgers University freshman Tyler Clementi at Brower Commons on the Rutgers campus in New Brunswick, N.J., Oct. 3. Clementi jumped to his death from the George Washington Bridge after two classmates surreptitiously recorded him having sex with a man in his dorm room and broadcast it over the Internet.

Campus crisis

School year begins with rash of teen suicides

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

"Suicide isn't painless." That message — in bold rainbow script on Day Glo orange poster board — stood out over the crowd of Rutgers University students grieving the death of Tyler Clementi, an outed gay college freshman who jumped off the George Washington Bridge on Sept. 22.

Miles away, on other cam-

pus, in other communities, weeks into the 2010-11 school year, the U.S. education system faces what some are calling an epidemic — a rash of suicides among stu-

dents bullied and ridiculed for real or perceived homosexuality. It's a campus crisis for which there is no quick vaccination or easy inoculation, nor is there a simple explanation.

"Suicide is a complicated problem and it is too easy to casually blame it on a single factor in a young person's life, but it is clear that mistreatment by others has a Suicide page 8

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ANTI-GAY OFFICIAL ATTACKS LA CROSSE TEEN, page 4

LGBT news with a twist

WiGwAG

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

BLOWING UP THE NUMBERS

The largest study of Americans' sexual behavior since 1994 found that although only about 7 percent of adult women and 8 percent of men identify as gay, lesbian or bisexual, the proportion of individuals who have had same-gender sex at some point in their lives is higher.

For example, researchers at Indiana University's Center for Sexual Health Promotion found that 15 percent of the men aged 50-59 said they had received oral sex from another man at some point.

Researchers also found that condom usage among black and Hispanic men was significantly higher than for whites, suggesting that HIV-AIDS awareness programs are making headway in those communities, which have relatively high rates of the disease.

A CRACKED TALE

When sheriff's deputies allegedly discovered bags of marijuana and cocaine between a man's buttocks in Florida, they say he gave a quick explanation.

Manatee County deputies say Raymond Stanley Roberts told them, "The white stuff is not mine, but the weed is."

Deputies stopped the 25-year-old in Bradenton, Fla., for speeding. Officers say they smelled marijuana and searched him. That's when they allegedly found a bag of marijuana between Roberts' buttocks. Officers then discovered another bag in there that contained 27 pieces of rock cocaine, according to a police report.

No word on who owned the crack or how it got in Roberts' crack.

KEEPING THE 'DE'

She's now the actress formerly known as Portia de Rossi. A Los Angeles judge in late September granted a request from de Rossi to take the name of wife Ellen DeGeneres. The 37-year-old actress is now Portia Lee James DeGeneres.

BAD INTERNET PROTOCOL

U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss'



press department confirmed that the "all faggots must die" statement posted on a website in mid-September was typed from a computer in the Georgia Republican's office, where 42 people work. The comment was traced back to an Internet protocol associated with the Senator's office. The Senate sergeant at arms is investigating the incident, which Chambliss himself has declined to discuss.

FLUNKING FAITH

A new study by the Pew Forum on Religious and Public Life finds that people might preach and pontificate plenty about biblical teachings and religious rules, but they flunk Religion 101. The Pew study asked people 32 questions about the basic tenets and foundations of religions and found atheists and agnostics tend to know a lot more on the subject than Protestants and Catholics.

SET COME ALIVE

The Chicago set of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" will come alive with the entire cast of "The Sound of Music," including, according

to reports, Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer. The cast from the 1965 movie musical will appear on the show Oct. 29, along with members of the von Trapp family. The discussion topics? Probably not raindrops on roses or whiskers on kittens.

SURVEY SAYS

A British survey on fashion terminology found that 34 percent of the men polled think "pashmina" is a country and 22 percent think it is a curry. Some other stats: 32 percent of men think "culotte" is a disease, 53 percent think "tunic" is a flower, 38 percent think "chiffon" is a cleaning product and 33 percent said "hosiery" is a garden product. For the record, the lesbian editor at WiG looked up both "culotte" and "pashmina." And the gay editor? He only had to look up "pashmina."

TV GAYS

The number of gay and bisexual characters on scripted broadcast network TV has risen slightly this season to 23 out of a total of nearly 600 roles, according to the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against

Defamation.

The 15th annual "Where We Are on TV" report found that 3.9 percent of actors appearing regularly on prime-time network drama and comedy series in the 2010-11 season will portray gay, lesbian or bisexual characters. That's up from 3 percent in the 2009-10 season.

OVER THE RAINBOW

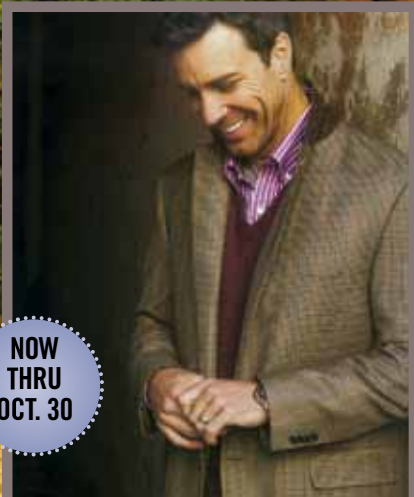
Just Cookies, a bakery located inside Indianapolis' City Market, turned down an order for rainbow cupcakes placed by an LGBT student group at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. The students planned to use the sweets to celebrate National Coming Out Day, and the bakery's co-owner said that violated his values.

"I explained we're a family-run business, we have two young, impressionable daughters and we thought maybe it was best not to do that," bakery co-owner David Stockton told a local Fox television station.

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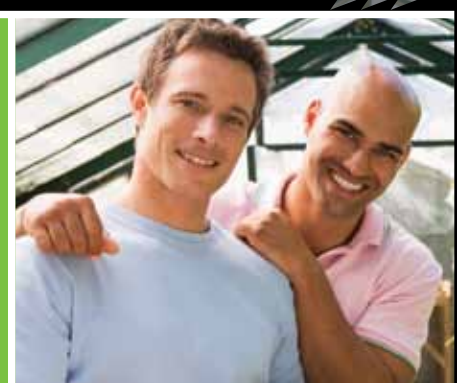
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Michael Schwab Studio

Official cited for alleged assault on teen with Pride flag

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

A La Crosse official was ticketed for disorderly conduct after allegedly shoving a 14-year-old girl and assailing her with anti-gay slurs during the city's Oktoberfest Maple Leaf Parade Sept. 25.

Mark Schneider attended the parade in his official capacity as Riverfest Commodore, an honorary

title bestowed annually on a prominent local citizen. At the start of the parade, Schneider became incensed over an American Pride flag carried by the daughter of Rosanne St. Sauver, executive director of the LGBT Resource Center for the Seven Rivers Region.

"The commodore came over and physically grabbed the flag pole in Emily's hands

and attempted to take it from her," according to a press release from the center. "Our director went over and attempted to intervene and repeatedly asked the commodore to stop, as there were children present. He did not stop and said, 'Look at what you are teaching them.' During the incident he pushed Emily and remained belligerent throughout the

confrontation."

A police officer was summoned and broke up the altercation. As Schneider was walking away he yelled, "You are a piece of shit. Go to a country where they will hang you," according to the center's press release.

Schneider was later ticketed over the incident.

"I am extremely infuriated that Mark Schneider only

received a disorderly conduct citation for violating a city ordinance," St. Sauver said in written statement. "I believe there are sufficient statements and supporting accounts of the incident to support further investigation into a possible hate crime charge. Not to mention that he did this to a 14-year-old child."

St. Sauver called for

Schneider's removal as Riverfest Commodore.

Schneider and his wife Peg Schneider are volunteers at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Schneider is past president of the Aquinas Booster Club and serves on several parish boards.

Follow WiG news at
www.wisconsin-gazette.com.

Domestic partners seek standing in lawsuit

The American Civil Liberties Union filed a motion in Dane County circuit court Oct. 1 to allow five same-sex

couples to participate for the defense in a lawsuit challenging Wisconsin's domestic partnership registry.

The suit, filed by a Christian right group, contends the registry grants same-sex couples the same

status as marriage, which is barred by an amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution.

"Same-sex couples who have registered as domestic partners have the most at stake in this lawsuit and deserve to be heard," said John Knight, staff attorney with the ACLU Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Project. "Only those directly affected by the law know what it's like to worry about not being able to visit a partner in the hospital or to be left with nothing when a partner dies without a will."

The Wisconsin Supreme Court refused a request by board members of Wisconsin Family Action to strike down the domestic partner law as

Nearly 1,500 couples have filed as domestic partners since the registry went into effect in 2009.

unconstitutional. The case, *Appling v. Doyle*, was re-filed in the circuit court, where both sides will be able to have a trial and present evi-

dence to support their cases.

Lambda Legal also filed court papers to intervene in the case on behalf of Fair Wisconsin and five member couples, saying that domestic partnerships and marriages are not "substantially similar."

Nearly 1,500 couples have filed as domestic partners since the registry went into effect in 2009. It's estimated that there are 15,000 same-sex couples living in the state.

— Louis Weisberg

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BRIEFS

**RON JOHNSON
MAY SUPPORT
'DON'T ASK'
REPEAL**

Republican U.S. Senate candidate Ron Johnson said he'd support repealing the military's ban on openly gay troops if the military supports it.

Johnson is challenging pro-equality U.S. Sen. Russ Feingold's bid for a fourth term. He made the remark concerning "don't ask, don't tell" while taking questions from reporters at the Milwaukee Press Club Sept. 24.

Feingold backs the effort to repeal the military's discriminatory policy. Johnson said he supports non-discrimination, but would like to see a military report on how the repeal of DADT would impact operations, including morale.

Johnson said if the Pentagon's conclusion is to get rid of the policy and "it was convincing," then he would vote to repeal it.

**FAIR WISCONSIN
PAC ISSUES
ENDORSEMENTS
FOR NOV. 2**

Fair Wisconsin has issued the following endorsements for the general election Nov. 2:

Lt. Governor

- Tom Nelson
- State Senate**
- Chris Larson, Senate District 7
- State Assembly**

- Elizabeth Coggs, Assembly District 10
- Jon Richards, Assembly District 19
- Brett Hulse, Assembly District 77

**QSHARE ISSUES
\$5,000 IN GRANTS**

Cream City Foundation's QShare will distribute \$5,000 in grants to be divided evenly between Alliance School and the LGBT Center of Southeastern Wisconsin.

The LGBT Center in Southeastern Wisconsin was established in 2009.

Alliance School is a charter high school in Milwaukee that's modeled after the Harvey Milk School in San Francisco. It provides a safe space for youth to learn and grow.

QShare is Milwaukee's LGBT professional network. The group will present an LGBT Business Luncheon, Equality=Business Growth, on Oct. 28. For more information about the event, go to biz.creamcityfoundation.org.

**RALLY PLANNED
TO REMEMBER
CHANEL LARKIN**

A few days before the sentencing of Andrew Olaciregui, the man convicted of killing Chanel Larkin, the LGBT community and allies will come together at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, 821 W. State St., to march for justice.

Organizers ask participants to wear a Chanel

T-shirt if possible and to carry a sign with a positive message.

For more information or to request a T-shirt, contact FORGE at 414-559-2123 or tgwarrior@forge-forward.org.

**'GIRLS' FEST
COMES TO
RIVERWEST**

After two decades of the Riot Grrrl movement, Milwaukee will host Girls to the Front Fest, Oct. 22-24 in the Riverwest neighborhood. The event is open to "all people and all gender identities" and will include music, workshops, films, readings and more. Event organizers are seeking sponsors and volunteers. Go to girlstothe-frontmke.blogspot.com.

**FEMALE STUDENT
ATTACKED OVER
PRO-GAY T-SHIRT**

A female student wearing a T-shirt that said "Legalize Gay" was assaulted Sept. 26 by two men a few blocks from the UW - Whitewater campus. Police say that the two men, who were unknown to the victim, made homophobic remarks before punching her in the face.

The attack was not initially reported to the police. A university staff member read about the assault on Facebook and urged the student to file a report.

No arrests have been made in the case, but police are looking for the suspects.



PHOTO: LEONARD SOBCZAK

PRIDE OF MILWAUKEE

Dade County Commissioner Katy Sorenson, a native of Milwaukee, receives the 2010 Humanitarian Award at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Miami Recognition Dinner Oct. 2 at the Fontainebleau Miami Beach. Sorenson led efforts to enact a gay-inclusive human rights ordinance for residents of Miami-Dade in 1998. She went on to successfully fight efforts to repeal it in 2002. In 2008, Sorenson helped pass a domestic partner ordinance. She first became involved in the gay rights struggle through her work with the women's movement while a student at UWM.

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'Walker's always had an open door to us'

POLITICAL ANALYSIS

Walker from I

on marriage and domestic partnership, but he doesn't make it a priority. His priority is on the economic issues, and that's primarily why I support him."

Madison Realtor Darren Kittleson said he and other Log Cabin Republicans were always welcome in Walker's office when he served in the Assembly.

"He was always open to letting us sit down and discuss our point of view," Kittleson said. "A place at the table is important, regardless. He's always had an open door at least to listen to us. And that's why I'm not concerned about some of this stuff (he's said). I believe his positions can correct what is going on in the economy."

Jamie Taylor, an openly gay conservative Libertarian, said Walker's positions on LGBT issues simply don't matter to him. "I believe in the times we are in, there are more

important things," he said, citing government spending.

Walker's gay supporters also complain that Democrats reach out to the LGBT community at election time, only to forget them after inauguration day.

"We haven't moved forward in some of the ways that we should have under Democratic control," Kittleson said. "How did Iowa approve same-sex marriage before Wisconsin? If there was an opportunity, it should have been in the last four years. Neither side has done anything stellar."

Although gay Republicans are troubled by their party's anti-gay rhetoric, they said they feel more discriminated against by the LGBT community. "Gays seem more anti-Republican than Republicans seem to be anti-gay," McFarland said.

'BIG GAY PROBLEM'

Despite their optimism about Walker, his gay supporters acknowledge that

elected officials who are close to LGBT people on a personal level often take political actions against them. The highest-profile example is the relationship between former President George W. Bush and Ken Mehlman, who served as campaign manager for Bush's 2004 re-election campaign and as chairman of the Republican National Committee from 2005 to 2007.

When Mehlman came out in an interview with the *The Atlantic* magazine in August, he insisted that Bush "is no homophobe" but admitted the former president exploited anti-gay initiatives for political gain. Mehlman claimed to have lobbied unsuccessfully behind the scenes to discourage the tactic, and he expressed regret that he hadn't worked harder within his party to expand its outreach to the gay community.

Mehlman's coming-out was warmly embraced by Bush and other GOP officials but it stirred anger among

evangelical right leaders who were instrumental to Bush's political success. The conservative *Washington Times* reported that the uproar over Mehlman threatened to derail a backroom deal Republican leaders had made to silence evangelicals on social issues during the mid-term election so the GOP could focus on the economy.

Peter LaBarbera, founder and president of Americans for Truth about Homosexuality, was furious with the party's response to Mehlman. Writing about the Republican's "big and growing 'gay' problem," LaBarbera lambasted RNC Chairman Michael Steele for embracing Mehlman's sexual orientation. Steele had responded to Mehlman's coming out by saying that the "announcement, often a very difficult decision which is only compounded when done on the public stage, reaffirms for me why we are friends and why I respect him personally and professionally."

"Why couldn't Mr. Steele just have kept quiet about this tragic revelation by which another sexually con-

fused man seeks to rationalize his misbehavior (sin) by declaring homosexuality part of his inherent being?" LaBarbera wrote. "Nope, instead, like a three-year-old boy approaching a puddle, Steele just had to step in it."

Wisconsin's Christian right organizations declined to comment on Walker's relationships with gays. Wisconsin Family Action president Julaine Appling, WCVY's Vic Eliason and Matt Sande of Pro-Life Wisconsin refused to return WiG's phone calls and e-mails on the subject. All three have backed Walker's gubernatorial bid.

In one way, these religious right leaders are in the same position as Walker's Log Cabin backers: They are both supporting the Walker they know, and that's a somewhat different Walker from the one the other knows.

Democratic leaders said Walker's incongruence is troubling — another example of their claim that he "will do or say whatever it takes to get elected." A Democratic spokesman compared it to Walker's recent running

of concurrent conflicting commercials, one of which attacked Democrat Tom Barrett as an environmental radical, while the other branded him as a dangerous polluter.

Openly gay state Sen. Tim Carpenter, D-Milwaukee, said Walker's openness toward gays is encouraging but not enough. He described Walker as being at "step one" when it comes to LGBT tolerance.

"Scott's willing to have gay staff work in his office and use their talents, but the next courageous step would be for him to let people in his party and his supporters know that discrimination isn't right," Carpenter said. "I don't think he's ready to come out publicly and say something like that. I don't think he's willing to suffer the consequences from his coalition and base. If push came to shove, Scott Walker would vote us off the island."

But "time is on our side," Carpenter added. "It's just taking Republicans a lot longer than Democrats to really understand and promote public policy that is for civil rights and equality."

MINN. CATHOLIC BISHOPS LAUNCH ANTI-GAY CAMPAIGN

Minnesota's Roman Catholic bishops are launching a new effort against same-sex marriage, with a DVD being mailed directly to

parishioners' homes.

"The bishops of Minnesota are alarmed by the continuing attacks on the institution of marriage, and we are taking action," wrote Winona Bishop John Quinn in the September issue of the diocese's newspaper *The*

Courier.

He said the DVD would explain the church's teaching on marriage and "describe the possible effects of allowing same-sex marriage in Minnesota."

Chris Leifeld, executive director of the Minnesota

REGIONAL BRIEFS

Catholic Conference, the public policy arm of the church, said the DVDs would be distributed throughout the state's six dioceses.

Cindy Killion, a professor at Winona State University who founded the LGBT Resource Center of the Seven Rivers Region in La Crosse, Wis., called the campaign insulting to gays and lesbians.

"I don't understand why it's so important to continue this culture war and paint us as the bogeymen," Killion said. "This is a secular issue, an equal-rights issue. I don't see why religion thinks it owns marriage."

INDIANA LGBT GROUP SUES OVER LICENSE PLATES

An Indiana group that provides programs for LGBT teenagers who are struggling with their identities is suing the state over its refusal to issue it a specialty license plate.

The Indiana Youth Group says the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles uses arbitrary and unconstitutional standards in deciding whether to approve plates for non-profit groups. The American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana filed a lawsuit on the group's behalf in U.S. District Court in late September, accusing the BMV of lacking clear standards to evaluate plates and violating the First Amendment by using unilateral discretion in ruling on applications.

BMV spokesman Dennis Rosebrough told *The Indianapolis Star* that the criteria for specialty plates are "explicit."

He says the group was denied because it didn't show evidence that its services have a statewide impact and because it planned to use proceeds to pay salaries, which is not allowed.

"We really try to use our very best judgment," Rosebrough said. "We have

no ulterior motives one way or another. It's an open process that we think works well."

Indiana offers 78 specialty plates and will have 11 new plates in 2011. Current plates promote causes including breast cancer awareness, juvenile diabetes research and Special Olympics.

The plates raise money and public awareness of the sponsoring groups, which can charge a fee of up to \$25 per plate. The BMV charges an additional \$15 that goes to the state. Mary Byrne, executive director of the youth group, said the group provided 950 signatures last year from people expressing a desire to purchase the plates. She said the BMV did not specify what criteria her group failed to meet when it denied the applications for a specialty plate. "It's not transparent," she said.

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Asher Brown's parents said their son was bullied to death

Suicide from 1

tremendously negative effect on a young person's sense of self worth and colors how he or she sees the world around them," said Judy Shepard of the Matthew Shepard Foundation.

BULLIED TO DEATH

Back-to-school month began with the death of a gay teen in Indiana – one death too many, said LGBT activists. But by the end of the month, there had been at least six gay-related suicides.

Fifteen-year-old Billy Lucas of Greensburg, Ind., was called "fag" over and over and over again by other kids. He hung himself in early September. On a memorial page, where friends posted sympathies and remembrances, one student wrote, "Everyone made fun of him."

Seventeen-year-old Cody Barker of Shiocton, Wis., took his life Sept. 13. A young activist for safer schools, he confided to others that he

didn't feel safe or welcome in his own high school.

Thirteen-year-old Asher Brown, a straight-A student, fatally shot himself Sept. 23 at his home in Cypress, Texas, a suburb of Houston. On Oct. 2, hundreds of people attended a memorial, where classmates said the eighth-grader endured relentless bullying at school and city council member Jolanda Jones pleaded, "It has to stop. These schools are not protecting these children."

Asher Brown's parents have said their son was bullied to death.

After months of harassment, 13-year-old Seth Wash hanged himself from a tree in the backyard of his Tehachapi, Calif., home. He died Sept. 28, after nine days on life-support. Family members said they would call for tolerance at their child's memorial service.

Nineteen-year-old Raymond Chase, a sophomore at Johnson and Whales University in Providence, R.I., profiled himself on his

Facebook page: "I like to laugh, I like to have fun, and I'm gay." He was found hanging in his dorm room Sept. 29.

In the most widely publicized death, Clementi, 18, jumped from the George Washington Bridge Sept. 22 after college students Dharun Ravi and Molly Wei secretly recorded Clementi and another male student kissing in a dorm room and then shared the digital video via the Internet.

Ravi sent a message through Google announcing, "Roommate asked for the room till midnight. I went into molly's room and turned on my webcam. I saw him making out with a dude. Yay." Two days later, Ravi tweeted, "Anyone with iChat, I dare you to video chat me between the hours of 9:30 and 12. Yes it's happening again."

Both Ravi and Wei were arrested for invasion of privacy and, if convicted, face five years in prison. They also may be charged with

committing a bias-motivated crime, which could bring another five years in prison.

"There are no words sufficient to express our range of feelings today," read a statement from Garden State Equality, New Jersey's largest statewide LGBT civil rights group. "We are outraged at the perpetrators. We are heartbroken over the tragic loss of a young man who, by all accounts, was brilliant, talented and kind. And we are sickened that anyone in our society, such as the students allegedly responsible for making the surreptitious video, might consider destroying others' lives as a sport."

"Our nation has failed to address the pervasive problem of bullying and harassment in schools for far too long," said Eliza Byard, executive director of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network.

LONGTIME TRENDS

Since its inception in 1990,

GLSEN has documented the risks and threats LGBT students face on campus. GLSEN's most recent report on campus climate found that nine out of 10 LGBT students experienced harassment in the past year – a rate three times higher than students in general.

Another new study, from the LGBT group Campus Pride, showed that 23 percent of LGBT staff and students experience harassment on campus, 33 percent considered leaving a school due to intolerance, 43 percent remained closeted to avoid intimidation, 43 percent feared for their safety.

"This isn't a new problem," Human Rights Campaign president Joe Solmonese said. "It's been happening for decades. Too often, administrators fail to act, even after parents complain about the bullying at school."

Government research has indicated that LGBT adolescents are twice as likely to be depressed and think about or attempt suicide as their

heterosexual peers.

Solmonese said, "Our schools and our nation cannot sit back and wait for the next tragedy."

OFFICIAL ACTION

In the days after Clementi's death, numerous LGBT groups at national, state and local levels demanded more attention to the issue of bullying in classrooms:

- HRC promoted Welcoming Schools, a program equipping elementary school teachers with tools to combat name-calling, stereotyping and bullying.

- The Southern Poverty Law Center made available – at no charge – the documentary "Bullied: A Student, a School and a Case that Made History" and a teaching kit to every school in the country.

- PFLAG and GLSEN launched Claim Your Rights, a program designed to empower victims of school bullying to file a complaint directly with the U.S. Department of Education through the Office

Suicide next page

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Suicide from previous page

of Civil Rights. The campaign also provides information about how to file the complaint at <http://community.pflag.org/claimyourrights>.

• The Matthew Shepard Foundation urged “parents, educators and peers ... to be vigilant to the warning signs of suicide and other self-destructive behaviors in the young people in their lives and help them find resources to be healthy and productive.”

Judy Shepard, whose gay son Matthew was murdered in 1998, said, “Quite simply, we are ... asking everyone in a position of authority in their schools and communities to step forward and provide safe spaces and support services for LGBT youth.”

LGBT activists also urged

the Obama administration to act and called on Congress to pass the Safe Schools Improvement Act, which would implement a comprehensive federal anti-bullying policy and require states to include data on bullying and harassment incidents in assessment reports.

GAYER TIMES

Meanwhile, there were direct appeals to LGBT youth with a simple message – life gets better.

“Many of us know firsthand what it’s like to grow up with discrimination or prejudice for LGBT people,” said Anthony D. Romero, the openly gay executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union. “We know what it feels like to be sad or alone, to feel isolated in your own families and communities, and from our own lives we can tell you it definitely gets better.”

Romero taped a video for gay columnist Dan Savage’s “It Gets Better” campaign on YouTube.com.

Celebrities – gay and straight – also spoke out in online videos and on television.

Actor Neal Patrick Harris, in a video posted on MTV.com, said, “Let me assure you, if you’re getting bullied and feeling like you’re on the outskirts, it gets better. Because when you get older, you find that people are actually drawn to individuals with different points of view who are proud of who they are and who make interesting and different and unique choices.”

Talk show host Ellen DeGeneres, on her TV program, said, “I want anyone out there who feels different and alone to know that I know how you feel. There is help out there. You can find support in your community.”

Singer Lance Bass, in another taped message, admitted to bullying gay kids. “I had the secret this whole time. And so if people can look at me and see that I was one of those bullies that, like, always made fun of gay



PHOTO: AP PHOTO/THE RECORD OF BERGEN COUNTY, RYAN PIPHER

Tyler Clementi

people and I had this huge secret, there is always more to the story than you see.”

A celebrity among LGBT activists, Jamie Nabozny, also delivered a message of hope.

Nabozny, with the support of Lambda Legal and his parents, won a high-profile lawsuit against the Ashland, Wis.,

school district, where he was subject to relentless verbal and physical harassment by other boys in his middle school. Students urinated on Nabozny, pretended to rape him during a class and, when they found Nabozny alone one day, they kicked him until they ruptured his spleen.

Nabozny and his parents complained of the abuse to teachers and administrators, who replied that boys will be boys and said gay students should expect to be teased and tortured.

Nabozny attempted suicide three times, dropped out of school and ran away. But he also took a stand, and, in 1996, he won a \$1-million landmark federal ruling that school officials can be held accountable for not stopping the harassment and abuse of LGBT students.

Now 34, Nabozny is working with SPLC to spread the message that students should never be afraid for their safety at school. Educators, he said, must “live up to their responsibility to stop the bullying that is shattering lives.”

The Associated Press and WIG editor Lucky Tomaszek contributed to this report.

Editor’s note: Links to suicide prevention resources are at www.wisconsin Gazette.com/suicide-prevention-help.

Fox Valley safe schools activist takes his own life

By Lucky Tomaszek and Lisa Neff

Seventeen-year-old Cody Barker campaigned to make high school safer for students, because he didn’t always feel safe or welcome at his high school in Shiocton, a small town in the Fox Valley.

On Sept. 13, Barker committed suicide.

Barker was involved in GLBT Partnership, a support group for teens at Harmony Cafe, 223 E. College Ave., Appleton, a community center sponsored by Good Will Industries.

Barker also was working to start a gay-straight alliance at Shiocton High School, where he was active in the choir.

Maria Peeples, Barker’s peer mentor through GSA for Safe Schools, says the teen was a passionate activist for students, especially those, “targeted or ostracized for their sexual orientation or their gender identity and expression. ... He really cared about making schools a safe place for students. That wasn’t always his own experience with school.”

Teens are subject to social

pressure and risks, such as alcohol and drug abuse, unprotected or unsafe sex and depression. Those risks escalate – five to 20 times – for LGBT youth, says Jesse Heffernan of Appleton, who is involved in the Harmony Cafe GLBT Partnership.

When LGBT teens participate in programs such as the partnership or a GSA, the risk factors can fall to more average levels. But, cautions, Heffernan, finding a support group isn’t always enough.

Barker’s death, Peeples

says, is “a reminder that there’s still so much work we still need to do.”

Five other young gays committed suicide last month, the rash of deaths prompting a series of warnings across the country from school administrators, educators and activists, who, in the past decade, have stepped up efforts to combat anti-LGBT harassment in U.S. schools.

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, in its 2009 National School Climate Survey, reports nine

out of 10 LGB students say they are bullied, and almost all transgender students report being verbally harassed and threatened.

There’s a connection between harassment and suicide, says Kathy Flores, Appleton’s diversity coordinator. “Even the perception of being gay increases (a teen’s) risk for being bullied and therefore the risk of suicide,” she says.

The Harmony Cafe, which serves the youth of four counties – Brown, Calumet,

Outagamie and Winnebago — that are home to more than 262,000 people, is working with local schools and youth-based organizations to combat bullying.

Harmony Cafe provides sensitivity training in the schools, as well as for organizations such as Harbor House, Boys and Girls Clubs of the Fox Valley, Reach Counseling, Christine Ann Center and Youth Go.

A goal is to expand the number of GSAs in the four-county area. Of the 39 public

and private schools in those four counties, 16 have GSAs, says Tim Michael at GSA for Safe Schools in Madison.

Also, Harmony Cafe has partnered with those agencies to form the Free 2 B U campaign. Groups and community members who are willing to be safe spaces for LGBT youth will publicly display stickers for easy identification by teens, Heffernan said.

Go to www.wisconsin Gazette.com for breaking news.

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{ Editorial }

Just politics?

The brilliant production of "Cabaret" now playing at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater shines a light on some striking parallels between the rise of fascism in pre-WWII Germany and our current socio-political climate.

In 1930, Germany was a nation on edge in many ways that feel uncannily familiar. As Germans struggled with an historic economic downturn and a loss of world standing – largely the consequences of military aggression – the nation's society moved further to the edges.

Dejected Germans sought solace in sex, alcohol and mind-numbing entertainment, as embodied by the denizens of the fictional Kit Kat Club in "Cabaret." They were close cousins of today's despondent U.S. population, whose mind-numbing agents include Internet pornography, food, prescription drugs, reality television and religious evangelism.

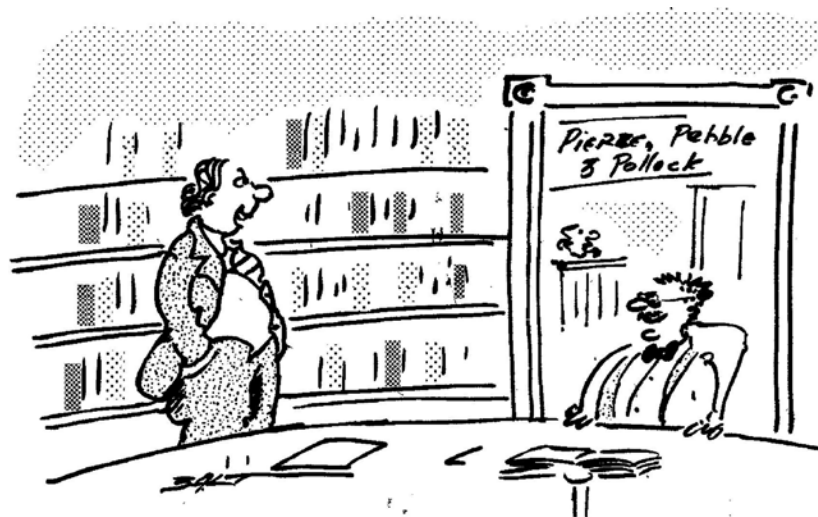
While many self-anesthetized, other Germans funneled their anger and frustration into the political arena, where Hitler's nascent Nazi movement offered them the elixir of nationalism. Hitler ingeniously propagandized his countrymen to believe that Aryans were the master race, being held back from their potential glory by intellectuals and outsiders, particularly Jews.

The similarities between the early Nazi movement and today's Tea Party loyalists are unavoidable. With their extremist rhetoric, insistence on ideological purity, threats of violence and vilification of outsiders, the Tea Party often seems to have borrowed its messaging directly from Hitler's playbook. The rallying cry of the Tea Party – "take back our country" – is precisely the sort of chant one would have heard at a Nazi gathering.

The Tea Party wants to "take back our country" from many of the same enemies identified by the Nazis: the so-called "intellectual elites," non-whites (especially the current occupant of the White House and Latin American immigrants), LGBT people and everyone else who rejects their rigid ideology.

One might expect these glaring similarities to set off alarms. Our current electorate, however, has chosen to ignore them. Too many Americans today are like Sally Bowles, the character in "Cabaret" who shrugs off the Nazis, saying, "It's just politics."

They'd better heed another quote, one from poet George Santayana: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."



*"As bigots, let us frown upon same sex marriage.
As solicitors, let us enjoy the handsome fees
same sex divorce will generate!"*

{ Letters }

FOCUSING HIV PREVENTION EFFORTS ON GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN

Today (Sept. 27) is National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. For me, every day is an "awareness day" about HIV/AIDS. I feel it is important for me to talk about it, because I am increasingly concerned that many in the LGBT community don't. I am worried about the kids out there and the generation that hasn't seen the devastating impact of this epidemic the way my generation has.

Just a few days ago, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published new heartbreaking data showing that one in five gay and bisexual men in 21 major U.S. cities are living with HIV. I am one of those men. I have been living with HIV since 2001.

I have the privilege of serving as the deputy director of the White House Office of Public Engagement and as President Barack Obama's

liaison to the LGBT community. I want to share a personal perspective on the importance of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States, issued by the Obama administration in July. While I work closely with the Office of National AIDS Policy, I was not directly involved in writing the plan. But I clearly have a personal stake in the mission.

The strategy provides a vision for America that puts saving the lives of gay and bisexual men front and center in our national plan for ending HIV/AIDS, through preventing new HIV infections, increasing access to care, and reducing HIV-related health disparities. Not only is the strategy the first comprehensive plan for responding to the domestic AIDS crisis, it is perhaps the first time that our national policy dialogue could be so forthright about the disproportionate impact of HIV among gay and bisexual men.

Gay and bisexual men make up roughly 2 percent of the U.S. population, but

we account for 53 percent of new HIV infections. We are the only group where HIV infection rates are rising. We all have a responsibility to reverse this trend.

I encourage all of you to read the Strategy and Federal Implementation Plan. It calls for new efforts to reduce infections and calls for us to take new steps to end stigma and discrimination. In the president's budget proposal for next year, which began Oct. 1, he proposes a new initiative at CDC to take a more holistic approach to preventing HIV in the LGBT community by promoting sexual health and preventing sexually transmitted infections.

There is a lot to be done, but I have seen firsthand that this administration is committed to working in partnership with the LGBT community and others. I feel like we all have a responsibility to do this for the kids out there and also in the memory of those who have fought this fight before us.

Brian Bond

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.

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What they said



“If we aren’t Christ-centered, who are we to say we should be leading?”
— Rebecca Kleefisch, the Republican nominee for Wisconsin lieutenant governor, in a July 14 speech to the 9/12 Project Tea Partiers in Dane County.

“I want to say to the gentleman to my left, gay people who want to marry have no desire to redefine marriage in any way. When women got the vote they did not redefine voting. When African-Americans got the right to sit at a lunch counter alongside white people, they did not redefine eating out. They were simply invited to the table.”

— Out actress Cynthia Nixon, of “Sex and the City Fame,” debating the National Organization for Marriage’s Brian Brown Oct. 4.

“(Marriage) is not a civil right — you’re not black.”
— Ann Coulter addressing Homocon, a summit held by the conservative gay group GOProud. Held in New York City over the last weekend in September, the event drew 150 attendees.

“I’m proud that many, many Republicans and many other people have always accepted Ken as a great friend and accepted his choices.”

— Laura Bush on the coming-out of Ken Mehlman, who managed her husband’s 2004 presidential campaign. Laura Bush also has come out in favor of same-sex marriage.

“Equality is the prime rib of America.”
— Lady Gaga, addressing a rally she staged in Portland, Maine, to support the repeal of “don’t ask, don’t tell.”

“I have never been in a tanning bed or used a tanning product.”
— House Minority Leader John Boehner responding to a question from the Wall Street Journal about his bizarrely colored, bright orange skin.

“Some of those signs should be going up at the other folks’ events, and folks should be hollering at the other folks’ event. Because the choice in November could not be clearer.”
— President Barack Obama responding to hecklers pushing for more funding for AIDS programs and quicker action to allow gays to serve openly in the military.

“Please hear this. Please hear this: I’ve been accused. I’m under attack. I want you to know, as I said earlier, I am not a perfect man. But this thing I’m going to fight.”
— Atlanta megachurch pastor Eddie Long speaking to his congregation Sept. 26 about accusations brought forward by four young men that he bribed and coerced them into having sex with him. Long is one of the nation’s most vehemently anti-gay religious crusaders.

“The last thing in the world Bristol wants is to look up from her cha-cha-cha and see his big goofy grin looking at her. This is her time to shine and she doesn’t want him trying to steal her spotlight.”
— A friend of Bristol Palin confirming that the daughter of the former Republican vice presidential nominee has banned her ex-fiancee Levi Johnston from the set of “Dancing with the Stars.”



Vukmir opposed anti-bullying law

Over the last few weeks, we have seen a series of tragic student suicides around the country. Many of them involved the bullying and harassment of young people because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation.

Although this issue recently has gained national attention, the staggering rate of suicide among LGBT youth is not a surprise to anyone who’s been paying attention. Studies consistently show that LGBT youth are four times as likely to attempt suicide. The rate jumps to 8.4 times if they have been rejected by their families.

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network estimates that nearly nine out of 10 LGBT students experienced harassment at school in the previous year. That’s why GLSEN and others have made it a top priority to create a supportive infrastructure for LGBT students, including anti-bullying legislation that protects all students from persecution.

Julaine Appling claimed the anti-bullying provision was dangerous.

Earlier this year, bullying language was added to a school security bill in the Wisconsin Legislature (Senate Bill 154). Why would anyone oppose legislation that sought to protect all students from bullying? One person that we might ask is the head of the rabidly anti-gay group Wisconsin Family Council, Julaine Appling. She actively lobbied against the bullying language in the bill.

And one legislator she succeeded in influencing was state Rep. Leah Vukmir, R-Wauwatosa, who’s cam-

paigned to unseat state Sen. Jim Sullivan.

In a Jan. 12 e-mail, Appling told Vukmir that she was just “checking in” about some testimony that her organization presented regarding the bullying provision. She went on to claim that the bullying provision was “dangerous.”

Appling also gave her “guarantee” to Vukmir that the provision is “promoted by the pro-gay group GLSEN and others.” Appling then gave Vukmir some “alternative language” for the legislation. Vukmir responded that she was “open to your suggestions.”

Months later, Vukmir voted against the legislation both in committee and on the Assembly floor. The floor vote came only one day before the National Day of Silence, which is a student-led event to bring attention to anti-LGBT name-calling, bullying and harassment in schools.

Vukmir’s opponent in the Fifth Senate District



voted for the anti-bullying and school security legislation. In fact Sullivan’s fair-minded approach to public policy has rightfully earned him the endorsements of the Wisconsin Gazette, Fair Wisconsin and the Human Rights League PAC. Sullivan’s positive solutions-based approach to legislation is far superior to Vukmir’s extreme brand of reactionary politics.

Together we can work to curb this terrible trend of bullying LGBT students. Hopefully in the process we can also convince the victims of such abuse that the world is a much better place with them in it. But we need honest partners in the state Legislature who make decisions based on sound policy and the common good rather than on their own brand of extreme ideology.

Celebrate National Coming Out Day

I’d like to see National Coming Out Day become a much bigger celebration.

Coming Out Day (Oct. 11) was launched in 1988 to mark the first anniversary of the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, an event that brought a half million gays and supporters to the capital and featured the first showing of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt.

It was the height of the AIDS crisis and a time when the Moral Majority was crusading against the supposed “evils” of homosexuality and the first legal protections won by the LGBT civil rights movement.

Organizers saw Coming Out Day as part of a proactive strategy in which individuals could strike a blow for the larger movement by taking the very personal step of coming out to family members, friends or colleagues.

Polling data then and now consistently shows that individuals who know someone who is gay are more likely to support fair treatment for LGBT people.

Since the first Coming



Come out to someone you love or even someone you hate. It will change your life and help the world.

Out Day, progress has been achieved on a number of fronts. With dozens of celebrities out of the closet and Pride celebrations observed across America, it’s easy to think that the hardest part of the struggle is over.

Then you hear a raft of heartbreaking stories about children and teenagers killing themselves after being hounded for being gay and

you wonder if anything has really changed.

I’d like to see National Coming Out Day reinvigorated and celebrated as our second national holiday. I think coming-out stories are needed as much as they ever were, to give hope to LGBT kids struggling with self-doubt and peer pressure.

I’m a sucker for a good coming-out story, and I’ve got a few of my own to share.

When I was 21, I came out to my mother. She started crying and I tried to comfort her by assuring her it was not her “fault.” But that’s not why she was crying. My revelation had triggered her own memories of a relationship she had had with a man years before (my father died when I was young). She had never talked about this relationship with anyone and the gentleman had since died. Whoa. Coming out to mom opened up communication channels and emotional depths I had never reached with her before.

I had a hilarious coming-out experience with a boss in my early 20s, when I was

assistant manager at a convenience store in Milwaukee. The franchise was sold to a couple who hired their 19-year-old son to manage it. Not only was he incompetent, but he frequently made racist and homophobic remarks about customers.

One day, I allowed a customer to use the store’s restroom. My boss was furious and approached me at the counter, yelling, “Why are you letting some goddamn fag piss in my bathroom?” That was it. I yelled back: “Well, this goddamn dyke has been pissing in your bathroom for the past six months!”

The look on his face was priceless. He fired me a few weeks later for undermining his authority, which I’ve always thought is the most admirable thing to be fired for. I got unemployment for a while and went on to finish college and hold much better jobs.

The moral of the story is: Come out to someone you love, or even to someone you hate. It will change your life and help to change the world.

Opinion

MILO MILLER

It's educators' jobs to protect kids from bullying

I've been thinking a lot this week about the tragedies of the six young men who have committed suicide in the past few weeks after being bullied and harassed for being gay or for being perceived as gay. And also for the young trans man who was denied the role of homecoming king because he is a "woman" on official school records. And also the students last spring who were not allowed to go to their school formals with their partners of choice because they are gay. It saddens, angers and frustrates me that this is still going on in 2010.

While I believe that lots of the blame should be placed on the student tormentors, a significant portion also lies with the institutions where these young people spend the majority of their days – the schools.

Educators: It is your job to see that every student has safe access to an educa-

tion. That's right, your job. You signed up for it when you accepted the contract with the school. As teachers, administrators, academic support staff, bus drivers and adults attached to a school/district, you assume *in loco parentis*, "in the place of a parent," as part of your duties both in and out of the classroom. As such, it's your job to protect kids from being bullied and harassed and to see that they are provided with the best possible environment to learn, grow and become productive members of society.

If you can't do that, get a new job. If you believe that some students deserve harassment because they're too effeminate or too butch, or too black or Latino or Asian, or too sexual or whatever – get a new job.

If you feel like you can do your job, then listen when students say they're being harassed. Do something. Punish the harasser. Take it to your supervisor. Why? Because it's your job.

If you can't do that, then get a new job.

If possible, work with the victims' parents and relatives, but if not, then work with other adults in the kids' lives who will help. These kids are valuable and need to know it.

If you are getting resistance from the institution, fight back. Publicly if you can, but privately too. Call school board members and seek advice. Gather allies among your fellow educators and approach the problem as a group.

Students: If you're being bullied and harassed for being queer, or for any reason, please tell an adult. A parent if possible, but if not, then an adult friend you can trust. If there's no one individual in your community, try contacting the Trevor Helpline

for Gay and Lesbian Youth at 1-866-4-U-TREVOR or 1-866-488-7386. The helpline is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

You can also access the organization online at www.thetrevorproject.org. If you go to the website, you can search for local resources.

If your school is doing nothing, contact the American Civil Liberties Union. The ACLU has a project dedicated to LGBTQ students at www.aclu.org/lgbt-rights/youth-schools.

Please, please don't give up hope. The queer community is large and diverse and there are many, many of us who will take the time to see that you will survive, grow, and thrive.

Milo Miller is a queer activist, artist, writer and zine-maker. Miller co-founded QZAP/The Queer Zine Archive Project, and lives in Riverwest with his partner-in-crime and their pet rock Nigel.



Milo Miller

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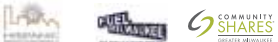
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Elections key to advancing LGBT equality

Opinion

KATIE BELANGER

Fair Wisconsin, represented by Lambda Legal, recently announced our intervention in the latest challenge to domestic partnerships. We are committed to defending these critical protections for as long as it takes and we are confident the courts will ultimately decide in our favor.

Domestic partnerships are not marriage.

But let me be clear: The filing of Wisconsin Family Action's lawsuit just weeks before the mid-term elections is not a coincidence. It's a calculated attempt to distract us from our work to protect our pro-fairness

majorities and to elect a pro-fairness governor. If there's one thing we've learned over the years, it's that a mobilized LGBT and allied community directly impacts our ability to achieve equality.

The day conservative legislators and Wisconsin Family Action got their discriminatory amendment was the same day we overwhelmingly re-elected the nation's first governor to oppose an anti-gay constitutional amendment and flipped the state Senate to pro-fairness leadership under Sen. Russ Decker. Key seats also were won in the Assembly, leading to a pro-fairness takeover in 2008 under Speaker Mike Sheridan.

Pro-fairness voters created a new landscape, put-

ting our vision for a fair and decent Wisconsin on a path toward becoming a reality.

The passage of domestic partnerships was the first positive development for the LGBT community in nearly 30 years. Coming just three years after the passage of our discriminatory amendment, this landmark victory for fairness was a direct result of that new landscape.

As we approach the mid-term elections on Nov. 2, LGBT and allied voters are faced with a critical decision: Vote for pro-fairness candidates up and down the ballot, or see our hard-won victories stripped away so that we're once again forced to play defense against harmful, anti-equality measures.

That's why Fair Wisconsin

PAC is actively engaged across the state to elect pro-fairness candidates at all levels of government.

Toward that end, we were very excited to recently join forces with the Human Rights League PAC. Since 1997, HRL-PAC has been dedicated to electing pro-fairness candidates throughout Wisconsin. By unifying, we have created one statewide LGBT political action committee that combines the skills, relationships and diverse experiences of both organizations, allowing us to maximize our ability to positively impact state elections.

Voting has never been more critical for the LGBT community. Our ability to advance equality in the years ahead and build support for

the repeal of the amendment banning same-sex marriage depends on the outcome of these elections.

Fair Wisconsin PAC is proud to endorse, in the governor's race, Mayor Tom Barrett, who is committed to working with Fair Wisconsin and the LGBT community to continue taking important steps toward full LGBT equality. Throughout his years as Milwaukee mayor, Barrett has demonstrated a consistent desire to protect the civil rights of his LGBT constituents, including protecting and maintaining the city's domestic partner registry, continuing to provide domestic partner benefits for city employees and vocally opposing our marriage and civil unions ban.

Scott Walker, however, is committed to repealing domestic partnerships and stripping even the most basic protections, including hospital visitation rights for caring, committed couples.

The number of pro-fairness state legislative candidates – both incumbents and challengers – we have endorsed this year is astounding. We have an impressive slate of candidates who are committed to equality, eradicating discrimination and preventing the government from standing in the way of loving couples who want to take care of each other.

Make your voice heard on Nov. 2. For a full list of Fair Wisconsin PAC endorsed candidates, please visit www.fairwisconsin.com.

ELECTION NOTES

CANDIDATES FOR MAINE GOV. TAKE MARRIAGE STANDS

Five candidates for governor are divided on gay marriage in Maine, where, a year ago, voters rejected a same-sex marriage law adopted by the legislature.

Two of the candidates – Democrat Libby Mitchell and independent Eliot Cutler – say they support efforts to recognize same-sex mar-

riages.

Republican Paul LePage said, "I support and trust the voters' decision to keep the current law defining marriage as the sacred union of one man and one woman."

Independent Shawn Moody said he wouldn't sign a gay marriage law unless it had a provision sending it to voters. Fellow Independent Kevin Scott said he would work with all sides "to propose a law that ensures we

are protecting all Maine people equally."

LCR MAKES ENDORSEMENTS

The Log Cabin Republicans recently announced a second round of Congressional endorsements in the Nov. 2 general election.

"We have a number of Republican candidates across the country that are supportive of our ideals – a free market economy, a strong defense, smart tax policies, sound fiscal discipline and, without question value equal treatment for all Americans,"

LCR executive director R. Clarke Cooper said.

Endorsements went to: Judy Biggert in Illinois, Nan Hayworth and Richard Hanna in New York, Anh Joseph Cao in Louisiana, John Dennis

and Mattie Fein in California, Leonard Lance in New Jersey, Dave Reichert in Washington and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen in Florida.

Previously, LCR endorsed Liz Carter in Georgia, Charles

Djou in Hawaii and Mary Bono Mack in California. Mack's opponent is openly gay Palm Springs Mayor Steve Pougnet.

– WiG and AP

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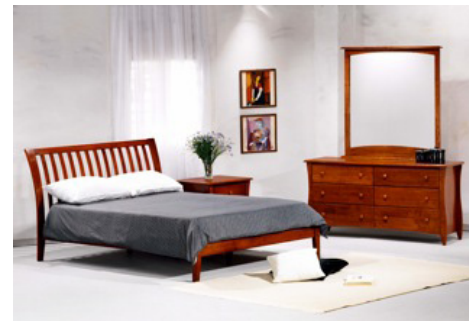
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Judge orders reinstatement of lesbian major

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Maj. Margaret Witt recently won reinstatement to the U.S. Air Force and another victory in the campaign to overturn "don't ask, don't tell."

Witt, a decorated flight nurse, had been discharged under DADT, the 17-year-old law banning gays and lesbians from serving openly in the Armed Forces.

On Sept. 24, following a six-day trial, U.S. District Court Judge Robert Leighton ordered the Air Force to reinstate Witt and found that her sexual orientation does not negatively impact unit morale or cohesion.

"We heard the hammer of justice strike for Maj. Margaret Witt," said Kathleen Taylor, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington, which has represented the major

since 2006.

Witt and the ACLU got a break in their fight in 2008, when the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that to justify the discharge, the military had to prove that Witt's discharge was necessary to maintain readiness. "Military readiness," "unit cohesion" and "troop morale" have been the buzzwords of those who maintain that gays in the military constitute a threat.

The appeals court order became known as the "Witt Standard," which the government, at trial in September, failed to meet, according to Leighton.

The judge called Witt a "central figure in a long-term, highly charged civil rights movement."

AP quoted an emotional Leighton telling a teary-eyed Witt, "Today you have won a victory in that struggle, the

depth and duration of which will be determined by other judicial officers and hopefully soon the political branches of government."

Witt, featured in an Air Force recruitment poster in the 1990s, served in Oman during Operation Enduring Freedom. President George W. Bush awarded her commendations for "outstanding medical care" and "outstanding aerial accomplishments."

"I have loved being in the military – my fellow airmen have been my family. I am proud of my career and want to continue doing my job," Witt said in a release from the ACLU. "Wounded people never asked me about my sexual orientation. They were just glad to see me."

In another legal challenge to DADT, a federal judge continues to consider a motion to stay further implementation of DADT.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Maj. Margaret Witt who is challenging her discharge under the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

U.S. District Court Judge Virginia Phillips has ruled that DADT is unconstitutional in a case brought by Log Cabin Republicans, a national gay

GOP group.

Now Phillips is considering a request from LCR's attorney to issue an injunction barring the military from

discharging servicemembers under DADT.

The Justice Department, which has handled the defense of DADT in court, argued against an injunction, maintaining that Phillips would be overstepping her authority by halting the policy.

"A court should not compel the executive to implement an immediate cessation of the 17-year-old policy without regard for any effect such an abrupt change might have on the military's operations, particularly at a time when the military is engaged in combat operations and other demanding military activities around the globe," the Justice Department brief stated.

At best, Justice argued, the judge could bar the application of DADT to Log Cabin Republicans' 19,000 members.



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NOM seeks to skirt campaign finance regs

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

A federal court in Rhode Island has dismissed a suit from the anti-gay National Organization for Marriage, which was to skirt campaign finance laws that require disclosure of expenditures and compliance with spending limits.

Judge Mary M. Lisi dismissed NOM's complaint because it violated federal litigation rules. She found that "the factual allegations in the complaint are buried in ... conclusory and argumentative passages" and that it

"places an unjustified burden on the court and the (state) to respond to it because they are forced to ferret out the relevant material from a mass of verbiage." The court gave NOM a week to file an amended complaint.

NOM wants to invest in the Rhode Island gubernatorial race, as well as pump money into the Rhode Island General Assembly campaigns of candidates who oppose gay marriage rights. However, the organization maintains that it should not be treated as a political action committee.

NOM recently lost a similar case in Minnesota and remains under investigation for alleged campaign finance violations in Maine, where the organization led a successful campaign against marriage for same-sex couples.

In the Minnesota case, U.S. District Court Judge Donovan Frank wrote, "The voting public has an interest in knowing who is speaking about a candidate ... and knowing the sources of election-related spending. Invalidating the election laws at issue here would likely result in corporations (and

organizations) making independent expenditures without any reporting or disclosure on the eve of the upcoming general election on November 2, 2010."

With the filing of the new suit in Rhode Island, two LGBT civil rights groups – the Human Rights Campaign and the Courage Campaign – partnered to document NOM's financiers and beneficiaries.

"NOM feels like they have something to hide," said Human Rights Campaign vice president Fred Sainz. "In yet another state, NOM is

trying to eviscerate the fair and open process that governs election spending in this country."

HRC and CC partnered to create NOMexposed.org, an interactive website focusing on the organization's origins, activities and associations with the Catholic and Mormon churches.

"We will be watching the campaign trail and documenting NOM's political buys and bedfellows," said HRC president Joe Solmonese. "We will connect the dots for voters."

NOM's Minnesota campaign activity – not detailed

to the state in campaign finance documents – has included TV and radio ads targeting pro-equality candidates and a mailer targeting a gay Republican.

"What we are seeing in Minnesota and increasingly across the country is a covert plan by NOM to evade and eviscerate public disclosure laws," Sainz said. "Enough is enough."

HRC estimates NOM's resources at \$10 million.

Look for breaking news at www.wisconsin Gazette.com.

10 states file brief opposing gay marriage

Ten states have filed a brief opposing the overturning of California's Proposition 8 and defending constitutional amendments banning gays and lesbians from marrying.

The amicus brief sent to the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals said that the U.S. Constitution does not

require marriage to include same-sex couples. The 39-page brief also said that states, not federal courts, have final say in whether to allow gays to marry.

A federal judge ruled in August that Proposition 8, a voter-passed ban on marriage by same-sex couples, was

unconstitutional. U.S. District Court Judge Vaughn Walker ruled there was no legitimate state interest in preventing same-sex marriages and that "moral disapproval" alone wasn't sufficient reason to justify banning it. The ruling is on appeal.

The states that joined in

the brief are Alabama, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia and Wyoming. "If public affirmation of anyone and everyone's personal love and commitment is the single purpose of marriage, a limitless number of rights claims could be set up that

evacuate the term marriage of any meaning," the brief said.

The appeals court is expected to hold a hearing on the California case in December.

'Claims could be set up that evacuate ... marriage of any meaning.'

— AP

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BRIEFS

MEGACHURCH
PASTOR'S FLOCK
STANDING BY HIM

Many followers of embattled Baptist megachurch leader Bishop Eddie Long remained unwavering in their support as their pastor vowed to fight like David versus Goliath against claims he lured four young men into sex.

Casting himself as the Bible's ultimate underdog, Long went before congregants who packed his 10,000-seat church Sept. 26 and promised to battle claims in lawsuits filed last week that he abused his "spiritual authority."

Three members of the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta and a fourth from a North Carolina branch filed lawsuits last week alleging Long used his standing and gifts, including cash, cars and travel, to

coerce them into sexual relations when they were 17 or 18 years old.

Long's addresses to the congregation were met with thunderous applause and an outpouring of support during services that were equal parts rock concert and pep rally.

Long became one of the country's most powerful independent church leaders over the last 20 years, turning a congregation of 150 into a 25,000-member powerhouse with a \$50-million cathedral and a roster of parishioners that includes athletes, entertainers and politicians.

Long is a father of four who has been an outspoken opponent of gay marriage and whose church has counseled gay members to become straight.

KEY WEST TASK
FORCE SEEKS TO

KEEP GAYS SAFE

A new task force in Key West, Fla., is seeking to keep gays safe from hate crimes.

The Key West Anti-Hate Crimes Task Force hopes to bring more diversity training to schools following an incident in August in which a man and his boyfriend were beaten amid gay slurs.

The Key West Citizen, the local newspaper, reports the Gay and Lesbian Community Center also is developing an information sheet to distribute to bars, restaurants, taxi drivers and other businesses that will contain tips on what to do if attacked and how to avoid dangerous situations.

NEBRASKA
TEACHER NAMED
2010 GLSEN
EDUCATOR OF THE
YEAR

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network

has named Nebraska teacher Ferial Pearson as its 2010 Educator of the Year.

Pearson is an English teacher at Omaha South High School in Omaha, Neb., where she has served as the school's gay-straight alliance advisor since her first year teaching nine years ago, despite opposition from within the school community that has included several threats of lawsuits.

Pearson served on the GLSEN Omaha Chapter board for three years and advises her school unity club, as well as helps coordinate dances for area GSAs, including the Dance with Whom You Want Valentine's Day dance. She helped start Omaha's Pride Prom, which has grown from 75 students five years ago to more than 300 this year.

Pearson is "a school leader who has dedicated her teaching career to creating environments where all students are valued and respected... A caring educator who has helped grow the Omaha South High School GSA from one student to one of the country's larg-



PHOTO: BISHOP EDDIE LONG

Bishop Eddie Long

est with 150 students, Ferial embodies all the characteristics we look for in a visionary school and community safer

for all students from her first moments in a classroom," GLSEN stated.

— from AP and WiG reports



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COME OUT, COME OUT

Federal employees get a holiday Oct. 11, but don't be confused: National Coming Out Day is not a federal holiday, it just falls on Columbus Day this year. Organizations from state to state will host workshops, speak-outs, rallies and other events to commemorate National Coming Out Day, which falls on the anniversary of the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay rights. For more information, go to www.hrc.org/ncod.

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WISCONSIN GAZETTE ENTERTAINMENT

Invisible boy, visible survivor

By Michael Muckian
Contributing writer

Callen Harty remembers the first time he was sexually abused. He was nine years old and an older male relative groped his genitals through his trousers. Like any smart 9-year-old, he reported the incident to his mother.

"My mother didn't know how to deal with it, so she told me I shouldn't have let him do that to me," said Harty, now 53 and the artistic director for Madison's Broom Street Theater. "I felt ashamed, and I never told anyone about those incidents again."

Those incidents of sexual abuse didn't stop until Harty was almost 18. The male relative moved out of the area and Harty went off to college. Time passed and there was no closure to the issue until this year, when the playwright and director wrote "Invisible Boy" an intensely personal drama about his sexual abuse experiences. The play has served as a catharsis for him and, he hopes, for his actors and audiences who see it.

"I remember sitting in a hotel room in Oshkosh earlier this year finishing the play," said Harty, who also is human resources manager for Sound Billing, an Internet billing company in Middleton. "When I typed the last period in the last sentence, I completely broke down."

"Invisible Boy" chronicles Harty's experiences growing up as a young gay boy in the southwestern Wisconsin community of Shullsburg. The boy in the title is Harty himself, invisible in his suffering to those around him.

Sexual abuse figures prominently not in Harty's sexual orientation, but in nearly every other aspect of his life.

"Sexual abuse often leads to promiscuous lifestyles that

include prostitution, drug and alcohol abuse. It happened to me for awhile," said Harty, who has been with his partner Brian Wild for nearly 20 years.

Harty has been active in gay causes and groups since his college days in Eau Claire, Platteville and Madison. He was co-founder of Proud Theater, a Madison LGBT youth theater group for which partner Wild still serves as artistic director. He has acted in more than 60 plays, has written 20 plays and has won awards from the Wisconsin Historical Society and the American Association of State and Local History for his "Talking Spirits" monologues for historic cemetery tours. He has also won awards for his freelance photography.

But Harty says nothing he's done has been as personal as "Invisible Boy." The play incorporates the author's poetry from various periods of his life as well as some written especially for the play. His protagonist Jason appears simultaneously as two characters, with a young actor portraying the abuse victim as a child. The abuse is intimated rather than shown, because the play isn't about abuse, but survival, he said.

"In the end, you have to forgive your perpetrator," said Harty, who has just begun talking to family members about his abuse. "It's difficult, but necessary. Otherwise, you eat yourself alive inside."

A few years ago Harty, who came out in 1979, suffered a heart attack that caused him to reassess his priorities. "I call the heart attack my gift because of what it showed me I had to do," he said. The result was this play.

The play has already had the cathartic effect Harty was seeking. Five actors in the 15-member cast have confessed to having been



PHOTO BY CALLEN HARTY.

The perpetrator (Greg Johnson) whispers something into the ear of Jason (Nick Kaprelian) in "Invisible Boy," at Madison's Broom Street Theatre through Oct. 31. For tickets, call 608-244-8338.

sexually abused as children, and one admitted to being physically abused. The play has given those individuals the strength to confront the issue publicly for the first time, Harty said.

Sadly, the number of those who already have come forth doesn't surprise the playwright.

"I did a lot of research before writing this," he said. "What I found was that one in four girls and one in six boys have been sexually abused. That's an average of one in five, which means that in a room of 100 people, 20 have been abused."

Harty also discovered that male sexual abuse is not nearly as well documented nor talked about as female sexual abuse. In the past few years that's started to change, as more victims have come forward to accuse Catholic priests of abuse. That's a fate that Harty says he escaped, but he's very disappointed by the fact that a law designed to protect abuse victims died earlier this year in the Wisconsin Legislature.

Introduced in September 2009, the Child Victims Act was designed to lift the statute of limitations on the ability of abuse victims to legally

pursue redress against their abusers, particularly members of the clergy. Current law states that child abuse allegations must be filed before the victim turns 35 years of age, a limitation that Harty himself would not have been able to overcome.

The bill, which would have opened the door for any victim of child abuse, regardless of the age of the claim, was supported by various state police associations, but heavily opposed by conservatives and the Catholic Church, the source of many perpetrators.

"I think it's ridiculous that they didn't pass the bill, and

I'm sure it will be back," said Harty, a former Catholic altar boy.

Although his abuse was not perpetrated by priests, Harty decries the church's attitude as lax when it comes to dealing with pedophile priests, seeing it as a primary contributor to the problem.

"Priest celibacy requirements may be one of the factors, but the larger issue is that it has been protected in the church," he said. "Opponents argued that the Child Victims Act would break the Catholic Church. That would not be a bad thing."

Plensa and the spillover effect of public art

By Debra Brehmer

Contributing writer

Jaume Plensa is obviously a Catalan, both emotionally and geographically. Born in 1955 in Spain, he was in town recently for the dedication of his sculpture, "Spillover II," in Atwater Park. Dressed stylishly in a black shirt and jacket, wearing a trimmed, graying beard, he endured the rain with bravado, standing in front of the unveiled sculpture sans umbrella, smiling as cameras flashed. His words were brief, no doubt because of the downpour. In part he said, "Thank you for giving one of my children this beautiful home." He felt privileged to place another of his works above a body of water, where the site and the mood of the piece settled into dialog.

The story of how Shorewood brought this sculpture to the small park at the end of Capitol Drive is not unusual. An anonymous donor offered \$350,000 to purchase a significant work of art for Shorewood. The donor offered to pay for consulting services from Russell Bowman, a former Milwaukee Art Museum director, who now has a business in Chicago.

The newly formed Public Art Committee, (composed of several architects, several artists, a sculpture historian and others) decided to take advantage of Bowman's expertise. A booklet of possible art works, all by internationally known artists, was prepared. From those 30 or so, which included works by Kiki Smith, Jim Dine and Debra Butterfield, the Plensa was chosen because it felt right for the location. Its modest scale of eight feet as well as its open framework (you can see through the steel skin of letters that form the body) seemed appropriate for a park with limited space.

Even with a careful selection process, significant funding and the best of intents, there is no guarantee that the work of art will translate from a plan or a photograph to the place of instal-

lation. This is tricky business. Unfortunately, one cannot move an 800-pound sculpture to different areas to experience how it might look in various positions. The site is chosen, a pedestal is usually constructed and the work of art arrives.

Think of how lost the Alexander Calder mobile was for so many years when it hung from the Mitchell airport ceiling. In its current locale at the Milwaukee Art Museum, in the other Spaniard Santiago Calatrava's addition, it looks spectacular. Location is everything.

Plensa's career climaxed when his proposal was selected for Millennium Park in Chicago, against the odds. He was the least-known artist of the finalists who included Maya Lin (Viet Nam memorial, Washington, D.C.) and Robert Veturi, who had proposed a 150-foot tall fountain.

The invitational competition, calling for a work involving water, was initiated, orchestrated and primarily paid for by Lester Crown, a Forbes 400 industrialist. The cost was \$17 million. Once Plensa's plan was approved, there was immediate opposition from a number of sources, most notably the president of The Art Institute of Chicago, James Wood. The complaints stated that the size of the 50-foot glass block towers, with their Led generated images of local faces, were too tall and overwhelmed the small park.

Once the project was completed in 2004, however, it took some surprising turns. Rather than dominating the park, it actually defined the park and helped add a focal point to the mishmash of other works. Almost magically, the fountain drew an economic, religious, racially and age-diverse cross section of humanity to romp within its 232-foot black granite channel of shallow water, inspiring a sense of abandon in the middle of the city. It brought out the best of our shared condition. The sculpture columns also effectively



PHOTO: JOHN O'HARA®
Jaume Plensa's "Spillover II" in Atwater Park.

echoed the city's surrounding architectural monoliths, tying the park into its broader framework.

One can see the influences of northern Spain on Plensa's aesthetic. Like his fellow countrymen, Salvador Dali, Pablo Picasso, Antoni Gaudi and Joan Miro, there is a playful humanism and a commitment to biomorphic, inventive form infused with an unabashed romanticism.

For Plensa, growing up in Malaga and Barcelona made the idea of the public square anchored by a fountain anthemic to his notion of community. We dispensed with the notion of the plaza in America as our car culture and expansive spaces did not

need old-world notions of city centers for gathering and lounging. We were a country on the move, all about industry and gain.

Even in its modest form, Shorewood's Plensa sculpture acts like a beacon in the park to give the space a center and a pause. It has already altered the pedestrian patterns of the park. Walkers, joggers and bicyclists passing by in a linear stream often stop to take in the form. What was previously a glancing view of the lake from the car window is now a place where we meet and talk. Benches along the pedestal or near it would have added to this sense of place and, hopefully, additional paths or

landscaping might carve out more of a communal area.

Like the Crown Fountain, "Spillover II" seems to transcend its own idea. On paper, a seated figure composed of interlocking letters of the alphabet sounds corny. Public art in the 21st century can and should be more than ornamental. Ideally it should provide an interactive experience with viewer and site.

Despite its conventional presentation, "Spillover II" is surprisingly interactive. Being a human form, we immediately have a connection to it. One cannot take it in from a distance, as you can the di Suvero at the end of Wisconsin Avenue. You must draw near and circumnavi-

The story of how Shorewood brought this sculpture to the small park...is not unusual.

gate. Each side offers a different backdrop and experience. The form changes with the backdrop – sunrise, dusk or vivid blue sky. The letters turn from silver to white to black in varying lights. At night, the piece is lit from within and the letters dissolve into a sparkling surface. Fall brings a hoard of gnats into its center light beam, their frantic, dense energy suggesting some kind of generator.

The first snow will offer yet a different experience.

The sculpture turns its back to the noise of the street and directs us to the repose of the lake. As with all of Plensa's work, there are dualities in the piece that invigorate it. Formally, the gentle curves of the body remain soft and organic, despite the fact they're composed of angular steel letters. The figure's sense of materiality and weight contrasts with the fact that it is actually light and airy. The solitary pensive form speaks of aloneness, but the intricate knit of letters suggests connection, socialization and community.

Because public art projects are always controversial, "Spillover II" will not rest benignly over the bluff but will attract dispute, discussion and analysis. The key to its lasting impact, however, will be whether it continues to stimulate interaction and is somehow "claimed" by the community. If people continue to mingle near it after the newness has worn off, we will know that "Spillover II" was a meaningful addition.

Life as he knows it

An interview with Greg Berlanti

Film

GREGG SHAPIRO

Out director Greg Berlanti's new movie "Life As We Know It" (WB) starts off as a traditional, goofy romantic comedy, but then takes a sharp turn. Mismatched couple Messer (Josh Duhamel) and Holly (Katherine Heigl) are set up on a disastrous blind date by best friends Alison (Christina Hendricks) and Peter (Hayes MacArthur). Nevertheless, Messer and Holly are thrown together over the years, at Alison and Peter's wedding and the birthday party of their daughter Sophie. Messer and Holly are even Sophie's godparents and guardians, which doesn't mean anything until Alison and Peter are killed in a car accident. Messer and Holly must take on new roles as Sophie's caretakers in spite of their dislike for each other.

Gregg Shapiro: What about the screenplay for "Life As We Know It" made you want to direct the movie?

Greg Berlanti: First of all, I got to page 20, 25 and the parents died. I thought, "Wow!" So many romantic comedies don't go to these places. It wasn't afraid to blend tones and that was really appealing to me.

GS: It's been 10 years since "Broken Hearts Club," your feature film directorial debut. Since then, you've been very busy with various television projects. No one would ever accuse you of slacking off, but did you miss working in the cinematic realm?

GB: Definitely. In addition to taking over the duties for "Dawson's (Creek)," I created my first show, "Everwood," and that really filled me up. The thing I enjoy the most about this business is creating an emotional experience for the audience. I was able to do that every week. It was about three years ago that I started to get rundown by the pace of television and said, "OK, I want to make my way back into features where I know it's crazy in a whole different way, but you have

more time to do something great. More time to cast it, more time to shoot it, more time to edit it.' That's what was appealing to me.

GS: There is a famous quote attributed to W.C. Fields about never working with children or animals.

GB: Yes! He was a smart man. There's a lost part of that quote that goes, "especially triplets."

GS: Right, because the Claggett triplets play baby Sophie.

GB: It was crazy, but it was a lot of fun. It was a logistical nightmare in terms of planning their eating and sleeping schedule... having to drop shots and figure out a way to pick them back up. Obviously, they alter the mood of everyone on the set. It was a lot like having a drunk lead actor wandering around, because you never know what mood they're going to be in. They're happy all of a sudden and everybody else is happy and then they're screaming.

GS: GLBT audiences will like the inclusion of gay neighbors Ted (Rob Huebel) and Gary (Bill Brochtrup).

GB: They were not in the original script, none of the neighbors were in the original script. I wanted to add a group who acted as a Greek chorus. You know who they are in a second. I got a lot of improv artists to play them. I didn't just want six straight white people. We've got to change this up somehow and make it more normal for someone like me. The way families and neighborhoods are changing. We included this couple and...they just happen to be gay.

GS: Also, gay viewers will appreciate...

GB: Josh's physique. He's very unassuming about his looks and very dedicated to acting. There were shots of him running with his shirt off and he said, "That's gratuitous. I don't want to do that. I only want to do stuff that feels like what Messer would be doing in the moment." I said, "Fine."

So the day came when we were doing shots of the baby walking around the house in her diaper and one of my

friends said, "Why don't you see if Josh will imitate the baby and be in his sneakers and underwear, walking around with the bottle (of beer)." I went over to him and said, "You're never going to want to do this, because you didn't want to run without your shirt on, but will you walk like the baby?" He was so game. He goes, "That's really funny. I'm going to do it."

GS: There's a wonderful scene where Messer is singing Sophie a lullaby and it turns out

to be Radiohead's "Creep." Do you love Radiohead?

GB: I do like Radiohead very much. Everybody loves Radiohead. It's not necessarily a song that you would sing to a baby, but they liked it and they approved the usage.

GS: Is there another feature film project in your near future?

GB: Absolutely! If the last 10 years were about running TV shows, I would very much like the next 10 years to be about making movies.

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PHOTO: COURTESY

A scene with actor Josh Duhamel from gay director Greg Berlanti's "Life as We Know It."


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A couple of odd couples present a contrast in male-bonding for Milwaukee audiences

By Jody Hirsh

Contributing writer

Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb, affluent Chicago teenagers, were geniuses and lovers. Known as the "Thrill Killers," they shocked the world in 1924 when, plotting to commit the perfect crime, they lured 14-year-old Bobby Franks to his death. They were 19 and 18 years old, respectively, at the time.

For Leopold and Loeb, the killing was a sadistic and oddly intellectual experiment. Were they the supermen, the superior men that they studied about in the works of the philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche?

Their crime was flawed. They made mistakes. They were apprehended and brought to trial in what was called the "Trial of the Century." The story inspired other artistic creations, including the 1948 Hitchcock film "Rope" and The 1956 Meyer Levin novel "Compulsion."

The subject matter may sound odd for a musical, but "Thrill Me," the award-winning musical with book, lyrics and music by Stephen Dolginoff, was given a compelling staging by Theatrical Tendencies, a new Milwaukee Theater company committed to producing LGBT-oriented theater.

The two-man show actually downplays the violence. Yes, Leopold & Loeb commit crimes including arson and murder, but we don't actually witness the crimes. Rather, we see the frightening cold

bloodedness with which the murderers plan and discuss their crimes.

The real Leopold and Loeb killed Franks, disfigured his body with hydrochloric acid, and calmly ate at a hot dog stand before hiding the body. Their calm only begins to unravel as it becomes more likely that they will be discovered. Yes, "Thrill Me" is about an actual crime, but the play focuses on the dysfunctional and co-dependent relationship between the two men. The relationship is familiar, although admittedly co-dependency doesn't often include murder.

Leopold is represented as clearly in love with Loeb, and will do anything to guarantee a continuing sexual relationship with him. Conversely, Loeb will agree to sex in exchange for Leopold's participation in his criminal plans. In the Dolginoff musical, "Thrill" takes on two meanings: For Leopold, it is the thrill of sex, while for Loeb it is the thrill of the perfect crime.

"And God knows why I think you're so appealing," sings Leopold early on in the story. Both are trapped. The relationship is an odd master/slave one, but at the final curtain, it is unclear who played the master and who the slave.

The Theatrical Tendencies production, which played at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, closed Oct. 2. Director and set designer Mark E. Schuster used the center's small, claustrophobic stage to perfect effect in this

tale of lust, obsession and murder. ("Thrill Me" will be staged again in Milwaukee by In Tandem Theatre Company at the Tenth Street Theatre from April 29 to May 15, 2011.)

Theatrical Tendencies' production was enhanced by Kevin Czarnota's lighting and Sharon Sohner's costumes. Despite a sameness to the unimaginative music and lyrics, the songs were easy to listen to, and the lyrics drove the story forward effectively.

Marty McNaimee as the sadistic Loeb and Matthew Walt as the lovesick Leopold brought credibility and weight to their roles. Their strong, secure voices gave power to their interactions, and their characterizations were at once sexy, obsessive and ominous.

The Milwaukee Repertory Theater's latest production in the Stackner Cabaret, "Laurel and Hardy," is also a story of male love, but the context couldn't be more different. Directed by Rep company member Laura Gordon, this light-hearted show is an homage to one of the greatest comedy teams of all times.

The corpulent Oliver Hardy and the straw thin Stan Laurel were geniuses of physical comedy and sight gags. Performing together from 1919 until their last performances in the 1950s, they made the transition from vaudeville and music hall to silent film to talkies, to the modern stage and TV. Perennial innocents, their comedy was always based



PHOTO: MICHAEL BROSILOW

Gerard Neugent as Stan Laurel and William Theisen as Oliver Hardy in "Laurel and Hardy," currently playing at The Rep's Stackner Cabaret.

on the dynamic between the incompetent Hardy and the slightly more incompetent Laurel.

According to Gordon, describing her husband's infatuation with the team, "When I asked him if he could explain why he's such a fan, he said it had to do with the fact that it was Stan and Ollie against the world, and that those two guys loved each other."

No, this isn't a gay story. But their story represents that rarest of male bonding – the kind that lasts for life. Unlike their characterizations in their films, it was Laurel who took charge of their careers, writing and directing. When Hardy died in 1957, Laurel never performed again and died in 1965.

"Laurel and Hardy" at the Stackner captures the

essence of that remarkable relationship. Entirely told in Music Hall style, with quotes from their actual films, the two characters tell the stories of their lives. The actors play all the peripheral characters as well as the leads: Laurel plays Hardy's mother, Hardy plays Laurel's girlfriend/stage partner Mae, they both take turns at playing Hollywood producer Hal Roach.

Bill Theisen, the artistic director of the Skylight Opera Theatre, competently recreates the corpulent Oliver Hardy, but it's Rep resident acting company member Gerard Neugent who channels Stan Laurel.

The show, with its sparse set (two huge trunks and an occasional ladder or other props) by Lisa Schlenker, perfect costumes by Rachel

Laritz, choreography by UWM's Ed Burgess, and music direction and performance by Paul Helm, is a joy.

The physical routines, many directly mirroring the actual film routines, are entertaining to be sure, but it is practically impossible to recreate the brilliance of Laurel & Hardy's mastery of slapstick and physical humor.

Perhaps the humor of this production isn't quite physical enough, but all in all, "Laurel and Hardy" at the Rep is well worth seeing – whether it's for a walk down memory lane or a new adventure for those who have yet to discover them.

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Cho tunes

By Gregg Shapiro

Margaret Cho is not the first comedian to make the leap from stand-up comedy to singing out. But "Cho Dependent" (Clownery) is in a category all its own.

Cho can sing. She delivers a solid set of songs with some of the hottest musicians out there, including Tegan and Sara, Brendan Benson, Fiona Apple, Andrew Bird, Ani DiFranco and others.

And Cho maintains her sense of humor from start to finish. I spoke with her shortly before she danced her way on to our TVs in "Dancing with the Stars."

Gregg Shapiro: Did your experience on the *True Colors* tour play a part in your decision to record an album?

Margaret Cho: It was a huge thing. I had a great time, and I did some music on that tour. Cyndi Lauper really encouraged me to work on my singing voice. (It) really helped shape my musical direction.

GS: You've written a few books, screenplays and your comedy material. How does writing song lyrics compare?

MC: It's kind of similar. There is more restriction on what you can do (in song-writing). You have to contain yourself within a rhythm. It's a lot more structured than other writing I've done, because there is an economy of words. But the need to poeticize experiences is the same.

GS: In the collaboration pro-

cess, which usually came first — the lyrics or the music?

MC: Generally, the lyrics would come first. The only time that wasn't the case was with Ben Lee. He wrote the music first and then I wrote lyrics for the music.

GS: The recurring theme of drugs is featured in the songs "Intervention," "Calling In Stoned" and "Hey Big Dog."

MC: The culture of addiction is very fascinating. I've had my own issues with drugs and alcohol ... in a lot of ways I'm still there. There are also other elements of dependency on the album. It's called "Cho Dependent," because there are other songs about dependency on people and dependency on ideas of who people are. There are different kinds of addiction and all of that is really fascinating. I have struggled with (it) and continue to, so I think I will always want to write about it.

GS: Was it fun to put a little twang and two-step in your style on "Hey Big Dog" and the murder ballad "I'm Sorry"?

MC: Absolutely. I am a big country fan. Especially alt-country like Patty Griffin, who wrote "Hey Big Dog" with me. ... There is a lot of country in my voice as well, so it makes sense to do it. I love that kind of music.

GS: The hidden track is very funny.

MC: I wrote "Lesbian Escalation" with Rachel Yamagata, who is a wonderful singer/songwriter from Chicago. We conducted the



Margaret Cho performs Oct. 14 at the Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State in Madison. Call 608-258-4141.

whole thing online. We didn't meet until we came together to record it. All of that was built through trading MP3s back and forth. She's just amazing. I love the song; I think it has a huge sound.

GS: You're about to make your debut on "Dancing With The Stars." Are you looking forward to that?

MC: Yes, I really am. I have been really hard at work for the last several weeks (rehearsing). I can't wait to start.

GS: Which of your songs would you like to dance to on "Dancing With The Stars"?

MC: I'd like to do "Your Dick," because that is actually

a perfect Viennese waltz.

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With 'Rio,' composer Don Davis transitions from film to opera

Opera

HARRY CHERKINIAN

When film and television composer/conductor Don Davis found out his friend, fellow composer William Kraft wrote an opera, he was surprised, to say the least.

"Why would you want to do that?" Kraft recalls asking the respected, distinguished artist. "It's so much work!"

Kraft's response? "It's what composers do."

Davis, 53, is in his studio in his native Los Angeles, piano literally at his fingertips. (He'll play a few snippets of melodies over the course of the phone interview). In his 40s, Davis became well-known for scoring "The Matrix" movie trilogy, in addition to such Hollywood hits as "Behind Enemy Lines" and "Jurassic Park 3." But, after

ONSTAGE

The Florentine Opera performs "Rio De Sangre" Oct. 22-24 at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 N. Water St. Call the Florentine Opera at 414-291-5700, ext. 224, or visit www.florentineopera.org.

all the years in film and television, the idea of writing an opera appealed to him.

But opera? All that work? "Maybe it was an epiphany," he says, "something I had to do."

That led to the creation of his first original full-length opera, "Rio de Sangre," which has its world premiere in Milwaukee as the season opener for the Florentine Opera. Excerpts from the

work were performed in 2005 by the Los Angeles Master Chorale as well as at New York City Opera in 2007.

With a story and libretto by Kate Gale, "Rio" is set in a fictional South American country in the midst of political upheaval. As one successful coup brings about the downfall of the current dictator, a new leader arises only to discover that idealism has its own pitfalls.

The Latin American theme came about as a result of Davis' desire to create an opera in Spanish ("Rio" is sung in Spanish with super-titles in English projected above the stage). "I was looking toward a (Juan) Peron-like concept," he says, adding, "I wanted to make a comment on Latin American politics."

While this is a fictionalized story, Davis mentioned that there are "rough references" to any number of dictators,

'The politics of the opera are interesting because they reflect what's happening in the world today.'

including Allende, Pinochet, Noriega and Castro, among others.

The storyline is meant to be ambiguous as opposed to following a specific political perspective. "I didn't want to get preachy," Davis says. "This is a statement on the human condition, rather than left wing or right wing. In the end, oppression is oppression, as opposed to liberal or conservative."

"The politics (in 'Rio') are interesting because (they) reflect what's happening in the world today," says Florentine Opera general director William Florescu. "The uniqueness of this project is that it's new material, whereas most new operas are based on preexisting material."

Doing a brand new work can have its challenges, particularly in a recession and with a built-in audience more accustomed to seeing "Rigoletto" than "Rio." "I feel like the god Janus," jokes Florescu, sitting in the Florentine's offices in downtown Milwaukee. "We have to look forward and backward."

Florescu, 55, has been at the Florentine for five years and sees his role as bringing new works to current audiences and building new audiences at the same time. Will "Rio" achieve that?


"I feel my job is to keep this art as a living art and not as a museum piece," he says. "We're bringing that to the next generation of what this art form is."

For Davis, the "art form" called opera has come full circle and continues to evolve. He is currently working on his second opera, based on a short story by science fiction/fantasy writer George R.R. Martin. "The Second Kind of Loneliness" will be a "one-man drama" involving electronics in the score.


"Creating an opera is the ultimate art form," Davis emphasizes. "It combines drama, dance, music, visuals, and architecture. It's the ultimate collaboration."



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"I am not just an object"

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Out soprano featured in Madison's 'Figaro'

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

"Mozart was a genius of melody," says out (and uncannily named) opera star Melody Moore. "What sets him apart from many other composers is that he wrote what is known in the German language as *ein Ohrwurm* (an earworm) – a tune that continues to repeat convulsively in the listener's ear, one that sticks with you long after the opera is over."

The pleasure of singing Mozart's earworms has Moore eager to take the stage next month as Countess Almaviva in Madison Opera's production of Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro." The lavish production, which plays Overture Hall on Nov. 5 and Nov. 7, launches the company's 50th season.

At a time when arts groups nationwide are financially suffering, opera's popularity continues to increase, according to Allan Naplan, Madison Opera's general director.

"Madison Opera has

enjoyed some great success, especially since the opening of the Overture Center," says Naplan, an operatic baritone who has managed the company since June 2005. "Opera in general is enjoying heightened interest as an art form, and that enthusiasm has had a trickle-down effect for us."

Opera's combination of music, drama and stagecraft may make it the ultimate art form, but it also is one of the most expensive. Yet, despite the persistent economic downturn, ticket prices of up to \$114 per seat have done little to dampen local enthusiasm or reduce audience sizes. Depending on the work being performed, Madison Opera often sells out, a luxury that many performance troupes can only dream of. Naplan expects just such an enthusiastic response for "Figaro."

"Le Nozze de Figaro" was the second play in the "Figaro" trilogy written by Pierre Beaumarchais, an 18th century French playwright/inventor/watchmaker/

At a time when arts groups are suffering, opera's popularity continues to increase.

revolutionary. (Beaumarchais supplied arms to colonists during the American Revolution.) It is technically the sequel to "Il Barbiere di Siviglia" ("The Barber of Seville"), but Gioachino Rossini's well-known operatic version of the play did not appear until some 30 years later. (Composer Giovanni Paisiello was actually the first to set Beaumarchais' "Barber" play to music, but Rossini's work is considered

the definitive version.)

The comedic narrative in "The Marriage of Figaro" continues the story of Figaro (sung by New York City Opera baritone Jason Hardy), a barber and jack-of-all-trades who is now valet to Count Almaviva (Metropolitan Opera baritone Jeff Mattsey). In "Il Barbiere," Almaviva pursued Rosina, who married him to become Countess Almaviva (Moore). In the sequel, Figaro plans to marry Susanna (soprano Anya Matanovic), the countess' maid, despite the philandering count's infatuation with her. This sets the stage for the typical operatic shenanigans that ensue.

"The musical challenges to playing the countess are very few, if any, since Mozart was an absolute genius with line, pacing and writing for the voice," Moore says. "Given the count's predilection for infidelity, the dramatic challenges are to remain calm in the character of the countess. I believe that Rosina has grown to know her husband,

but she still loves him, and we don't often get to choose how deeply love has burrowed into our hearts."

"I love singing the countess because the music is outstanding and is so very healthy for the voice," Moore adds. "It's like a warm bath to sing this role."

Moore, who has been open about her sexuality since being outed at age 19, is proud of the support gay audiences give to opera – and all the performing arts. It's a support sometimes born of different motivations than that of straight audiences, she says.

"Gay audiences champion the arts because the arts may have led most of us to our first taste of expression beyond the strictures of our family lives," she says. "We may have found heroes in the movies or on the stage that echoed our deep feelings or that gave us permission, by their very presence, to honor the inclination to celebrate ourselves instead of clothe ourselves in shame."

ON STAGE

Madison Opera's production of Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro" plays at 8 p.m. Nov. 5, and again at 2:30 p.m. Nov. 7, in Overture Hall at Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State St., Madison. Call 608-258-4141 or go to overturecenter.com/tickets. Opera Up Close will offer "The Figaro Preview" at 1 p.m. Oct. 24, at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art Lecture Hall in Overture Center. For information go to madisonopera.org.

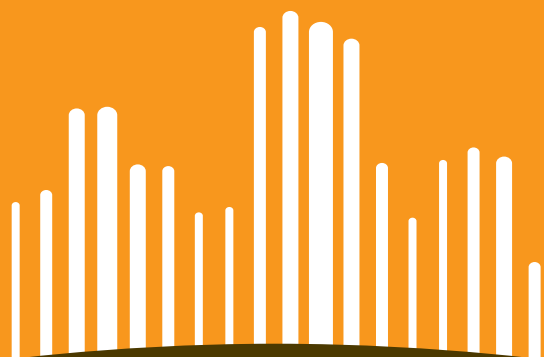
"I think that 'Figaro' is fun and witty and quick and turns the tables of power," Moore adds. "All those things together surely resonate and appeal to gay audiences, as many of us have learned to laugh through tears, outwit the enemy of intolerance and turn the tables of societal bigotry."

"The object of art is to give life shape."



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Strong ensemble acting makes for a compelling 'Four Places'

Theater

HARRY CHERKINIAN

Many adult children today struggle to balance their lives and families with the needs of ailing, elderly parents and relatives who can no longer care for themselves.

In "Four Places," mother Peggy (Flora Coker) is dealing with troubled daughter Ellen (Mary MacDonald Kerr) and even more troubled son Warren (Mark Ulrich) at the same time that she's trying to care for her invalid husband. As a result, she may be endangering her husband's life.

Amid the play's serious allegations of physical and emotional abuse, director David Ceasarini (also Next Act's producing artistic director) manages to keep the story's inherent jousts and jests in balance. "Four Places" does what any good play



PHOTO: COURTESY

Flora Coker, Mark Ulrich and MacDonald Kerr in "Four Places." The play runs through Oct. 10 at the Tenth Street Theatre, 628 N. 10th St. Call 414-278-0765 or visit www.nextact.org.

does, slowly peels back the layers of a complex emotional situation.

Strong ensemble acting is needed to pull off the familial feuding and fence-mending. This cast works well together, maintaining an underlying tension amid the superficial niceties.

Coker and Ulrich turn in wonderfully nuanced, natural performances. Kerr keeps the emotional lid on Ellen's underlying sorrows simmering while doing the dutiful

daughter routine. Laura Gray, as the ever-upbeat waitress Barb – who takes in more than just lunch orders at the local restaurant – provides a deft balance of friendliness and shrewd observations. Nothing gets past this waitress with a past.

"Four Places" depicts a family trying to do what each member thinks is best for the other, despite sometimes unpleasant results.

After all, what's family for anyway?

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Madison to 'awaken' to sex and rock 'n' roll

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Perhaps German social critic Frank Wedekind would be gratified to know that his banned 1891 play "Frühlings Erwachen" became the inspiration for one of Broadway's most influential contemporary productions.

"Spring Awakening," the rock-musical adaptation of Wedekind's controversial story of youthful sexuality, won eight 2006 Tony awards and four Drama Desk awards. The production's national tour comes to the Wisconsin Union Theater on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus later this month, an arrival that's much anticipated by the show's many aficionados.

"Spring Awakening" tells the tale of a group of school friends – male and female – coming to terms with their budding sexuality amid the social repression of 19th century Germany. Women fall for men and men fall for women and for other men in the surprisingly frank narrative. A gay kiss, simulated masturbation, an abortion, a suicide and exposed body parts are among elements of the play that shocked German society and have propelled the show into a runaway 21st century hit. As the New York Times put it, "Broadway may never be the same again."

"The Wisconsin Union Theater has always embraced 'hot button' issues, and this show sure does embrace them all," says Ralph Russo, the theater's cultural arts director. "As a university presenter, our mission allows us to push these buttons."

"Spring Awakening"



PHOTO: COURTESY

A scene from the national tour of "Spring Awakening."

retains its period setting, opening with school boys in itchy wool suits being sternly lectured by their Latin instructor. When the boys pull microphones from their itchy suits and launch into composer Duncan Sheik's Grammy Award-winning rock-and-roll anthems, it's clear that this isn't Kaiser

Wilhelm's Germany anymore.

The gay subtext exists between the characters of the humorous, cocksure Hanschen (Devon Stone) and the shy, quiet Ernst (Daniel Plimpton), who come together in the aftermath of a friend's death. Hanschen seduces Ernst and they share a passionate kiss during a

reprise of "The Word of Your Body." Ernst falls in love with Hanschen, an opportunist who boasts to his delicate schoolmate that he is a "pussycat," because he knows how to "just skim off the cream."

"The dynamic between Hanschen and Ernst is beautifully presented on stage,"

says George Salazar, who portrays their classmate Otto in the touring production. "We have two teenage boys, one who is confident and unafraid of what others may think of him, the other naïve, unsure and just wanting to fit in. Hanschen sees Ernst's eagerness and the fact that he is somewhat lost and takes advantage of it."

Salazar believes the relationship between Hanschen and Ernst reveals more about power than sexual orientation. "Unlike shows that deal specifically with LGBT issues and meet them head on, 'Spring Awakening' never refers to it as anything other than a moment when one teenager, secure and confident, takes advantage of and relishes the attention from another who is trying to find himself," Salazar says.

The Wisconsin Union Theater engagement includes two evening shows and special midnight performance Oct. 23. The late performance was negotiated to allow UW students to attend the show at slightly lower ticket prices.

ONSTAGE

"Spring Awakening (The National Tour)" runs for three performances, including a special midnight performance, Oct. 23-24 at the Wisconsin Union Theater in the Memorial Union on the University of Wisconsin campus, 800 Langdon St., Madison. Call 608-265-2787 or go to uniontheater.wisc.edu/Season10_11/springawakening.html.

"Spring Awakening" is a powerfully poignant piece of theater," Salazar says. "Its primary message that regardless of time, location, gender, or race, every teenager experiences confusion, angst and a desire to belong and be understood. The production speaks directly to each individual in the audience, assuring them that everything will be OK."

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Read all about it: LGBT fall and holiday book guide

By **Gregg Shapiro**
Staff writer

LGBT FICTION

• Described as a “fiery call to arms,” “Krakow Melt” (Arsenal Pulp, 2010) by Daniel Allen is the story of two pyromaniacs fighting homophobia in 2005 Poland.

• On the other end of the temperature spectrum, “Wicked” author Gregory Maguire’s Christmas-set “The Next Queen of Heaven” (Harper, 2010) features the ancient religious order the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mysteries teaming up with a gay singing group.

• The novel “Ten Ways to Your Cat’s Happiness” (iUniverse, 2010) is the fifth book by gay writer Stanley E. Ely.

DEBUT NOVELS

• Twenty-something part-time hustler Simon is the narrator of the Manhattan-set debut novel “Yield” by Lee Houck (Kensington, 2010).

• “Hate: A Romance” (Faber and Faber, 2008/2010) by Tristan Garcia, another debut novel, is credited with taking the French lit scene by storm and is the recipient of the Prix de Flore.

• Cleveland, Ohio, and Washington, D.C., figure prominently in “I Came Out For This?” (Bywater Books, 2010) by Lisa Gitlin.

• Out musician, and now novelist, Lois Walden makes her fiction debut with “One More Stop” (Bliss/Arcadia, 2010), in which main character Loli discovers love and herself while trying to teach drama to teens at a theater

company in the Midwest.

LGBT FICTION ANTHOLOGIES

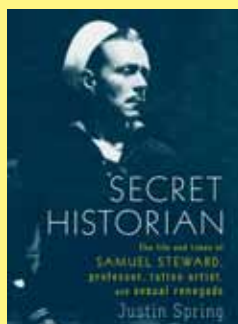
• The late gay novelist E. Lynn Harris is honored in the anthology “Visible Lives: Three Stories in Tribute to E. Lynn Harris” (Dafina/Kensington). Terrance Dean (author of “Hiding in Hip Hop”), James Earl Hardy (author of “B-Boy Blues” and others) and Stanley Bennett Clay (author of “In Search of Pretty Young Black Men” and more) contributed the stories “The Intern,” “Is It Still Jood To Ya?” and “House of John,” respectively.

• Gay writer Dan Loughry is one of the many writers featured in the collection “Voice From The Planet: An Anthology of Living Fiction” (Harvard Square Editions, 2010), edited by Charles Degelman. Sales of the book benefits Doctors Without Borders.

LGBT NON-FICTION

• David Carter’s 2004 book “Stonewall: The Riots That Sparked The Gay Revolution” (St. Martin’s Griffin, 2010) has been reissued in paperback. This book was the inspiration for Kate Davis and David Heilbroner’s excellent documentary “Stonewall Uprising.”

• The title “Secret Historian: The life and times of Samuel Steward, professor, tattoo artist and sexual renegade” (FSG, 2010) by Justin Spring almost says it all. But don’t deprive yourself of reading this fascinating and informative biography of one



JUSTIN SPRING READS OCT. 14

Justin Spring reads excerpts from “Secret Historian: The life and times of Samuel Steward, professor, tattoo artist, and sexual renegade,” at 6 p.m., Oct. 14, at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center. Call 414-383-3727.

of the most compelling personalities in gay history.

• The late Derek Jarman was a multi-faceted artist, well-known for his groundbreaking film work. As an author, he wrote several books. Two of them – “Kicking The Pricks” (University of Minnesota Press, 1987/1997/2010) and “Dancing Ledge” (University of Minnesota Press, 1984/2010) have been reissued in new editions.

• Out lesbian Susan Parker’s memoir “Walking In the Deep End” (Silver Threads, 2010) details her life growing up in an evangelical Christian family and her experience of ultimately coming out of the closet.

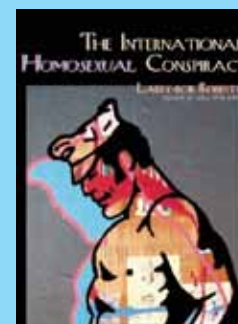


DANBERT NOBACON PERFORMS IN MADISON OCT. 15

Danbert Nobacon performs Oct. 15 at The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison. Call 608-819-8777.

BOOKS AND MUSIC

• Music is everywhere this season, beginning with two incredible coffee-table books that would make great gifts. “People You’d Like To Know: Legendary Musicians Photographed by Herb Wise” (Vision On/Omnibus Press, 2010) features a wide array of black-and-white photos, most of which were taken during the 1970s. The book contains a trio of photos of Holly Woodlawn, Candy Darling and Divine, described as “gender-bender friends of Lou Reed.” Later in the book, there are photos of the young Arquette siblings, including Alexis, as well as picture of the late Kate McGarrigle, mother of Rufus



LARRY-BOB ROBERTS READS OCT. 18

Larry-bob Roberts reads from his new book “The International Homosexual Conspiracy” at 7 p.m. on Oct. 18, at The Tool Shed. Call 414-906-5304.

Wainwright.

• “The Record: Contemporary Art and Vinyl” (Duke University Press, 2010), edited by Trevor Schoonmaker, is the companion book to the “first museum exhibition to explore the culture of vinyl records within the history of contemporary art.” With essays by Luc Sante and Merge Records co-founder McCaughan, among others, and artwork by Laurie Anderson, David Byrne, Ed Ruscha and gay artist Jasper Johns, to name a few, “The Record” is a long-player indeed.

• Musicians-turned-authors are gaining popularity. Longtime friend of the LGBT community Rosanne Cash, author of the

acclaimed short story collection “Bodies of Water,” has returned with her latest book “Composed” (Viking), a powerful and moving memoir that will have readers alternately smiling and wiping tears from their eyes.

• Patti LuPone, the grand dame of contemporary musical theater, has penned “Patti LuPone: A Memoir” (Crown/Archetype) with Digby Diehl.

• Danbert Nobacon of anarchist punk band Chumbawamba has written “3 Dead Princes: An Anarchist Fairy Tale” (Exterminating Angel Press, 2010), with illustrations by filmmaker Alex Cox (“Repo Man,” “Sid and Nancy”).

• Piano player for the Winsome Griffles and Holy Titclamps zine mastermind Larry-Bob Roberts collects his thoughts in the thought-provoking, offbeat and often amusing essay collection “The International Homosexual Conspiracy” (Manic D Press, 2010).

• Bisexual singer/songwriter Ani DiFranco is one of 24 musician interview subjects in “Innervisions: Music Without Borders” (Abstract Logix Books, 2010) by Anil Prasad.

POETRY

• Lesbian poet Celeste Newbrough’s latest book is titled “The Archetype Strikes Back” (One Craft, 2010).

• “Angry June Moon Says Hello: Poems to come out to” (KClifford Burke.com, 2010) is a poetry collection by gay poet Kevin Clifford Burke.

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www.wisconsin-gazette.com/best

Music

GREGG SHAPIRO

ELTON JOHN AND LEON RUSSELL

One of the most talked about collaborations of the year, Elton John, 63, and Leon Russell, 68, bring their mutual admiration society to bear on "The Union" (Decca/Rocket). Contemporary rock's original piano men (sorry, Billy) touch on a variety of musical styles over the course of 14 tracks, a majority of which were composed by Elton and longtime collaborator Bernie Taupin. It's a pleasant, if surprisingly low-key, affair. The guys really heat up the piano keys on songs such as "Hey Ahab," "Monkey Suit," "A Dream Come True" and the balladry of "The Best Part of the Day" and "When Love Is Dying."

CAROLE KING AND JAMES TAYLOR

"Live at the Troubadour" (Hear Music) reunites 1970s singer/songwriter icons Carole King, 68, and James Taylor, 62, for a concert of their classic tunes. They sound great, and the energy of the grateful audience must have been a source of inspiration for the pair. The chill-inducing rendition of "Up On The Roof" is one of the high points of the disc. And just try not to get choked up when they sing "You've Got A Friend." On the shallow end, check out the DVD to see how the once-hot Taylor didn't age so well while King has never looked better.

LEONARD COHEN

"Songs From the Road" (Columbia/Legacy) is another concert CD/DVD from another living music legend, Leonard Cohen, 76. A compilation of live recordings from Cohen's 2008-09 World Tour, songs such as "Bird On The Wire," "Chelsea Hotel" and somewhat more recent selections including "That Don't Make It Junk" as well as his signature song "Hallelujah," are performed in his renowned spoken/sung style to the delight of the riveted audiences.

RICHARD THOMPSON

Also going the live route, Richard Thompson, 61, deliv-

ers "Dream Attic" (Shout Factory), recorded in February. Instead of playing his familiar songs, Thompson unveiled 13 new songs for his fans in Seattle, Portland and Eugene, Ore., and Arcata and San Francisco, Calif. Luckily for Thompson and those in attendance, the new material, including "Demons In Her Dancing Shoes," "Big Sun Falling In The River" and "If Love Whispers Your Name," is solid and well-received.

BURTON CUMMINGS

Best known as the lead singer of Canadian hit-makers the Guess Who, Burton Cummings, 63, rises to the occasion on "Above The Ground" (New Door/Ume). Still wearing his trademark mustache, Cummings rocks harder than you might expect on tracks such as "Crazy If You Mess With The Gods," "Junior Won't Behave" and "We Just Came From The U.S.A." He isn't afraid to dabble in country ("TPOS"), R&B ("Ponderlust") or just mellow out ("A Touch of Morning"). The bonus DVD takes us behind the scenes during the making of the disc.

PETER, PAUL AND MARY

This tribute to the late Mary (Travers), who passed away at 72 in 2009, "The Prague Sessions" (WB/Rhino) sets the trio's politically conscious songs to arrangements by Czech National Symphony Orchestra. "Some Walls" and "Don't Laugh at Me," keep PP&M's message fresh. Additionally, classics such as "Leaving On A Jet Plane," "Day Is Done" and "Puff, The Magic Dragon" benefit from the orchestration.

RINGO STARR

John Lennon and Paul McCartney are getting the reissue treatment this season. So where are the Ringo Starr reissues? Until they show up, Starr's fans can occupy themselves with "Y Not" (Hip-O/Ume), on which he teams up with Joe Walsh, Dave Stewart, Gary Wright, Van Dyke Parks, Richard Marx, Joss Stone, Ben Harper, Edgar Winter, Billy Squier and others. McCartney even makes a guest appearance on a couple of tracks, including "Peace Dream," in which Starr gives a shout out to Lennon.

Laurie Anderson

In addition to containing "Only An Expert," one of the best (and most unexpected) dance tracks of the year, the CD "Homeland" (Nonesuch) by performance artist turned pop star Laurie Anderson, 63, features Anderson's distinctive perspective on society and history. It's powerful stuff, as you might imagine, and it's never short of riveting. The DVD includes "Homeland: The Story of the Lark" and "Laurie's Violin."

JOHNNY CASH

The late Johnny Cash would have turned 78 this year. As the title of his last studio recording with Rick Rubin suggests, "American VI: Ain't No Grave" (American),

the mood of the disc is funereal and final. Mournful and resigned, Cash put his spirit into the original "I Corinthians 15:55," and renditions of songs by Sheryl Crow ("Redemption Day"), old friend Kris Kristofferson ("For The Good Times"), Tom Paxton ("Can't Help But Wonder Where I'm Bound"), among others.

LIZA MINNELLI

Liza Minnelli, 64, is the Energizer bunny of show biz. As long as they keep replacing her failing parts (i.e. hips, knees), she's going to keep on going. That can be either good or bad, depending on what she is doing.

Like Barbra Streisand, another aging diva, Minnelli has turned her attention

to jazz vocals. On her new CD "Confessions" (Decca), Minnelli raids the American songbook and bravely works her way through selections by Peggy Lee ("He's A Tramp"), Irving Berlin ("I Got Lost In His Arms") and Cy Coleman ("You Fascinate Me So"), among others. Unlike Streisand, Minnelli only had a few good notes to begin with, so her reading of "At Last" is problematic (she better watch her ass if Etta James finds out). But she makes the most of the clever title track and sounds as if she's enjoying herself on "On Such A Night As This" and "All The Way."

Online for you at www.wisconsin Gazette.com

**ONSTAGE**

Liza Minnelli performs Oct. 22 at Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave. in Appleton. Call 920-730-3760.

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Film

GREGG SHAPIRO



"Let Me In"

'LET ME IN'

The arty and visceral vampire movie "Let Me In," an American remake of the Swedish film "Let The

Right One In" directed by Matt Reeves ("Cloverfield"), couldn't have swooped down at a better time. With the high number of suicides of bullied kids in the news,



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everyone could use a vampire gal-pal to save the day.

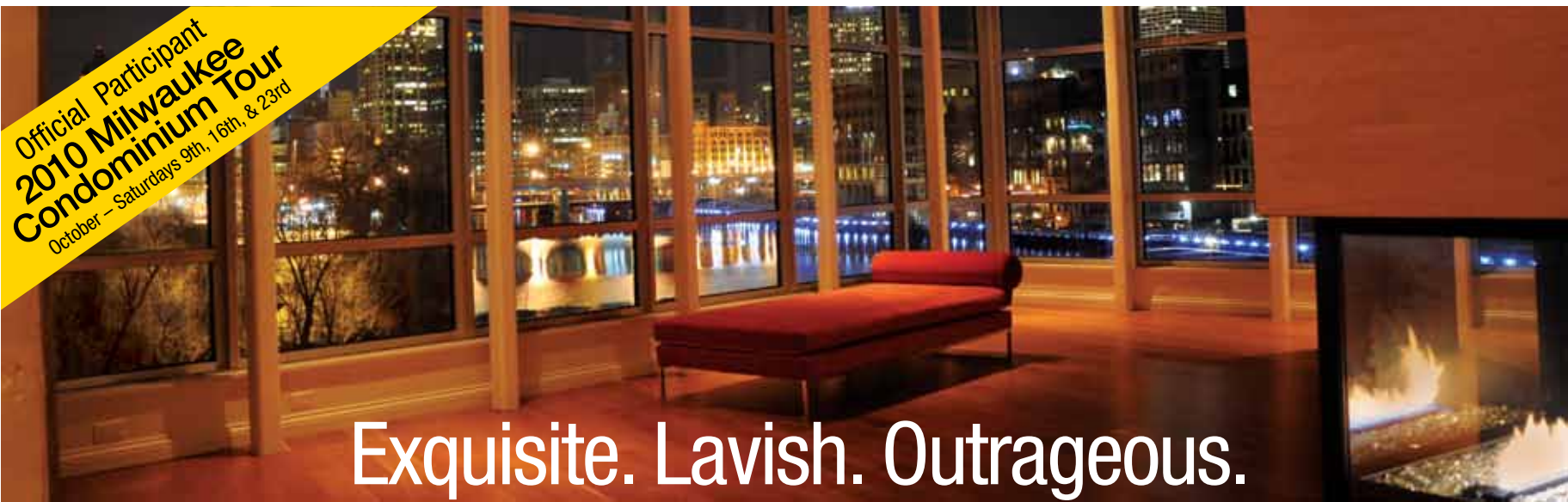
Set in the early 1980s, 12-year-old loner Owen (Kodi Smit-McPhee) is struggling. His parents are separated and he lives with his devoutly religious and protective mother (Cara Buono). At school, Owen is the target of a trio of relentless bullies, led by Kenny (Dylan Minnette), who is himself regularly bullied by his older brother.

Things change for Owen when a new neighbor moves into his apartment complex. Abby (Chloe Moretz, who kicked ass as hit-girl in "Kick-Ass"), who has been 12 "for a long time," and her guardian take up residency in the unit next door. Despite being warned not to befriend him, Abby sees a kindred spirit in Owen. An unlikely friendship begins.

The film is built on a pair of terrifying premises. First, Owen is forced to exist in a state of constant guardedness due to the violent bullying. Kenny hates Owen. He and his goons make Owen's life a living hell. Second, Abby's thirst for blood keeps her guardian busy finding, killing and draining victims for her. Her guardian begins to get sloppy, leading Abby to have hunt for her own prey. Following a failed carjacking and kill, the guardian douses himself in acid, but survives long enough to be brought to a hospital where he is questioned.

Meanwhile, Owen and Abby's friendship continues to deepen, and he confides in her about his problems at school. In an attempt to seal their bond, Owen slices his finger with a knife for a blood oath, which exposes Abby's dark side. Once revealed it turns out not to have much effect on either of them, instead serving to strengthen their identities as outsiders. But soon Abby must move on. Owen must fend for himself, leading to a terrifying, gory and graphically violent confrontation with the bullies. Unlike "Twilight," "Let Me In" is a vampire movie with an authentically sensitive side. It's a first-rate horror story.

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OCT. 7, THURSDAY

"Four Places," by Chicago playwright Joel Drake Johnson, runs through Oct. 10 at the Tenth Street Theatre, 628 N.10th. Call 414-278-0765.

Carte Blanche Studios Theatre, 1024 S. Fifth St., presents "Taming of the Shrew" by William Shakespeare, through Oct. 10. Call 262-716-4689.

Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie," presented by Madison Theatre Guild, runs through Oct. 16 at the Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin in Madison.

OCT. 8, FRIDAY

Argonauts Club Night Halloween Costume Party begins at 9 p.m. at Napalese Lounge, 1351 Cedar in Green Bay. Call 920-432-9646.

"Invisible Boy," a new play about surviving childhood sexual abuse, opens tonight and runs through Oct. 31 at Broom Street Theater, 1119 Williamson in Madison. Call 608-244-8338.

Renaissance Theaterworks presents "Reasons To Be Pretty" by Neil LaBute, through Oct. 24 in the Studio Theatre at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

"The Velvet Sky," presented by Mercury Players Theatre, runs through Oct. 23 at the Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin in Madison.

OCT. 9, SATURDAY

Pitman Theatre on the campus of Alverno College, 3400 S. 43rd, presents An Evening with Joan Baez, at 8 p.m. Call 414-382-6044.

The American premiere of "Laurel and Hardy" runs through Nov. 14 in the Stackner Cabaret at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.

"Hairspray" runs through Oct. 31 at The Fireside Theatre, 1131 Janesville (Business HWY 26 South) in Fort Atkinson. Call 800-477-9505.



Joan Baez

OCT. 10, SUNDAY

Florentine Opera Camerata celebrates the world premiere of "Rio de Sangre" at 7 p.m. at The Room, 623 S. Second St. Enjoy selections from the opera sung live by the Florentine Opera Studio Artists.

Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells, presents the Midwest premiere of "My Name Is Asher Lev," adapted from Chaim Potok's novel by and directed by Aaron Posner, through Nov. 14 in the Stiemke Studio. Call 414-224-9490.

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

WIGOUT
ON THE TOWN
EDITED AND COMPILED BY GREGG SHAPIRO

OCT. 12, TUESDAY

Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells, presents Kander and Ebb's "Cabaret" in the Quadracci Powerhouse through Oct. 24. Call 414-224-9490.

Elizabeth & the Catapult and Jukebox The Ghost play the Cactus Club, 2496 S. Wentworth, at 8 p.m. Call 414-897-0663.

OCT. 14, THURSDAY

Carte Blanche Studios Theatre, 1024 S. Fifth, presents "An Adult Evening with Shel Silverstein by Shel Silverstein" through Oct. 24. Call 262-716-4689.

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre presents "Main-Travelled Roads" by Paul Libman & Dave Hudson, from the stories of Hamlin Garland, through Oct. 31 at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

OCT. 15, FRIDAY

"Don't Cry for Me, Margaret Mitchell," by V. Cate and Duke Ernsberger, runs through Oct. 31 at The Racine Theatre Guild, 2519 Northwestern (Highway 38) in Racine. Call 262-633-4218.

OCT. 16, SATURDAY

Ponderosa Music & Art present Ludovico Einaudi performing a solo piano concert for the first time in Milwaukee in Vogel Hall at the Marcus Center For the Performing Arts. Call 414-273-2787.



'My Name is Asher Lev,' Oct. 10

OCT. 18, MONDAY

Jewish Museum Milwaukee, 1360 N. Prospect, presents "Paragraph 175," a documentary narrated by Rupert Evert chronicling the lives of several men arrested by the Nazis for homosexuality under the sodomy provision of the German penal code. The free screening is followed by a talkback with actors from the Milwaukee Repertory Theater's production of "Cabaret," at 7 p.m. Call 414-390-5730.



OCT. 19, TUESDAY

The Seventh Annual Fox Cities Choral Music Festival begins at 7 p.m. at Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave. in Appleton. Call 920-730-3760.

OCT. 20, WEDNESDAY

Out indie rock legend Bob Mould performs at Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell, at 8 p.m. Call 414-276-7288.



Bob Mould

OCT. 21, THURSDAY

Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave. in Appleton, presents Barter Theatre's production of "The Diary of Anne Frank" at 7:30 p.m. Call 920-730-3760.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

MILWAUKEE ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

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

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

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/lgbtfilm.

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, 630-890-5984, womensvoicesmke.viviti.com, womensvoicesmilwaukee@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY

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

Cream City Foundation, 759 N. Milwaukee, Suite 212, 53202, 414-225-0244, www.creamcityfoundation.org.

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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.milwaukeegamma.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.

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St., 53212, 414-271-2656, www.mkelgbt.org.

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

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

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, queerprgrm@aol.com.

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

Sapphic Adventures MKE, 414-628-1049, www.facebook.com/sapphicadventures.mke, sapphicadventuresmke@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.washingtonheightsrainbow.org.

Wauwatosa Rainbow Association, 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.

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 Specialties, 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, 315 Court St., #9, 53212, 414-445-5292, www.hrl-pac.org, hrlpac@yahoo.com.

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

Central United Methodist Church, 639 N. 25th St., 53233, 414-344-1600, www.centrallumcmilw.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.

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.stjamesmilwaukee.org.

SPORTS

Front Runners/Front Walkers, 414-443-0379, ullrwlfr.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.milwaukeegayoccer.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 VALLEY COMMUNITY

Harmony Café, 233 E. College Ave., Appleton, 54911, 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.lgbtoutreach.org, info@lgbtoutreach.org.

PFLAG-Madison, 4221 Venetian Ln., Madison 53718, 608-848-2333, pflagmadison@yahoo.com.

Gay / Bi Fathers Support Group, c/o Outreach, 600 Williamson St., Madison, 53703, tooldforthis@tds.net.

POLITICS

Fair Wisconsin, 122 State St., Suite 500, Madison, 53703, 608-441-0143, www.fairwisconsin.org, info@fairwisconsin.com.

SPORTS

Madison Gay Hockey Association, www.madisongayhockey.org.

Madison Gay Volleyball, 608-347-8907, www.madisonlbtvolleyball.com.

YOUTH/EDUCATION

GSA for Safe Schools, 301 S. Bedford St., Madison, 53703, 608-661-4141, www.gsaforsafeschools.org.

RACINE/KENOSHA COMMUNITY

LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin, 1456 Junction Ave., Racine, 53403, 262-664-4100, info@lgbtsewisc.org.

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, wwarriors@yahoo.com.

YOUTH/EDUCATION

Rainbow Alliance, UW-Parkside, Student Center, L108D, 262-595-2685, <http://www.uwp.edu/clubs/clubtemp.cfm?clubID=38>.

OTHER

LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, 1305 Woodland Ave., Eau Claire, 54701, 715-552-LGBT, www.thecentercv.org.

LGBT Community Resource Center Seven Rivers, P.O. Box 3313, 303 Pearl St., LaCrosse, 54602, 608-784-0452, www.7riverslgbt.org, r.st.sauver@7riverslgbt.org, lgbtcommunitycenter@yahoo.com.

Online for you at www.wisconsinngazette.com

COMMUNITY EVENTS

ONGOING

SAGE Office drop-in hours, 1-5 p.m. Monday and Thursday, Milwaukee.*
LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin drop-in hours, 4-8 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 2-6 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Racine.*

THURSDAY

2:30 p.m., first and third Thursdays, LGBT senior adults discussion, Madison Senior Center, 330 W. Mifflin St., Madison, ferington@charter.net.
6 p.m., third Thursdays, same-sex partners group, OutReach, Madison.*
6 p.m., Qgrads, UW Memorial Union Rathskeller, 800 Langdon St., Madison.
7 p.m., third Thursdays, Lesbian Alliance movie night, LGBT Community Center, Milwaukee.*
7 p.m., Q2-LGBTQ Youth Group, LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, Eau Claire.*
7:30 p.m., Four Lakes Bears, Michelangelo's Coffee Shop, 114 State St., Madison, 608-251-5299.

FRIDAY

4-7 p.m., fourth Friday, Happy Hour with Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin, rotating location in Milwaukee/Madison, www.ppawi.org.
5:30 p.m., second and fourth Fridays, Pozitive Lite HIV/AIDS group, OutReach, Madison.*
6 p.m., second Fridays, Lesbian Alliance game night and potluck, LGBT Community Center, Milwaukee.*
6:30 p.m., Open Mic night, Harmony Cafe, Green Bay.*
7 p.m., AA, The Galano Club, Milwaukee.*
7 p.m., Gay Narcotics Anonymous, The Galano Club, Milwaukee.*
7 p.m., Drop-in night, LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, Eau Claire.*
8:30 p.m., second and fourth Fridays, Shoreline Milwaukee line dancing and lessons, Hot Water, 818 S. Water St., Milwaukee, 414-383-75936.
9:30 p.m., first Friday, Milwaukee Guerilla Gay Bar takeover, location varies, www.mkegg.com.

SATURDAY

9 a.m., Frontrunners/Walkers Milwaukee Run Walk, starting at the Water Tower at the East end of North Avenue, Milwaukee, 262-285-7645.
9 a.m., Frontrunners/Frontwalkers Madison, Wingra Park off Monroe St., Madison, 608-469-4882.
3 p.m., second and fourth Saturdays, Women4Women, OutReach, Madison.*
6 p.m., Rotating Activity Night each week, LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, Eau Claire.*
7-8:30 p.m., third Saturdays, BWMT (Black and White Men Together), general meeting.*
7:30 p.m., AA Spiritual Light, The Galano Club, Milwaukee.*
10:30 a.m., Al-Anon, The Galano Club, Milwaukee.*
10:30 a.m., AA Step/Topic meeting, The Galano Club, Milwaukee.*
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, Milwaukee.*
5 p.m., OutThere LGBT youth group meeting, OutReach, Madison.*
5 p.m., third Sundays, PFLAG Milwaukee, Martin Luther Church, 9235 W. Bluemound Road, Wauwatosa.
7 p.m., second Sundays, Gay and Straight in Christ, Good Shepherd Catholic Church, N88 W17658 Christman Road, Menomonee Falls, 262-502-0437.

MONDAY

7 p.m., Spectrum - Social and networking LGBT group, Harmony Cafe, Appleton.*
7:30 p.m., AA Came to Believe, The Galano Club, Milwaukee.*

TUESDAY

12:30 p.m., third Tuesday, Retired Old/Older Lesbians (ROLLers), Madison. Info: 608-219-7751.
5:30 p.m., AA Over and Under 40; 7 p.m. AA The Blue Group, The Galano Club, Milwaukee.*
6 p.m., third Tuesday, Fair Wisconsin Action Network of the Chippewa

Valley, LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, Eau Claire.*
6:30 p.m., NORML weekly meeting, Berlin Public Library, 121 W. Park Ave., Berlin, www.northerwinorml.com.
7 p.m., last Tuesday, Canasta night, SAGE Milwaukee.*
7 p.m., Spectrum GLBT and Allied social group for adults, Harmony Cafe, Appleton.*
7 p.m., Women's Voice Milwaukee rehearsal, 630-890-5984.

WEDNESDAY

6 p.m., first Wednesday, LGBT cancer networking group, Gilda's Club, 7907 UW Health Court, Middleton, 608-828-8880, www.gildasclubmadison.org
6:30 p.m., third Wednesday, Wauwatosa Rainbow Association monthly meeting, tosarainbow@yahoo.com.
7 p.m., AA 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, The Galano Club, Milwaukee.*
7 p.m., first Wednesday, Bear Club 4 Men monthly meeting, Napalese Lounge, 1351 Cedar St., Green Bay, Info: bearclub4men@gmail.com.

*** SEE COMMUNITY LISTINGS, NEXT PAGE, FOR ADDRESS AND CONTACT INFORMATION.**

THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

THURSDAY

Oct. 7

8-9 p.m., candle light vigil for Chanel Larkin, North Avenue and West 23rd Street, 414-559-2123, tgwarrior@forge-forward.org.

FRIDAY

Oct. 8

1-4 p.m., Art Experience with SAGE Milwaukee, event recurs Oct. 15, 1845 N. Farwell Ave, Suite 220, 414-224-0517.

7 p.m., "Prayers for Bobby" movie night, LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin, 1456 Junction Ave., Racine, 53403, 262-664-4100, info@lgbtsewisc.org.

SATURDAY

Oct. 9

9 p.m., Tricks or Treats/a Castaway's M.C. Beer/Soda Bust, Bluelite Bar, 1029 N. Eighth St., Sheboygan.

SUNDAY

Oct. 10

Noon, Wisconsin Warriors guest bartend at The Jack, event recurs Sun. Oct. 17, 4823 W. National Ave., West Milwaukee, [\[riors@yahoo.com\]\(mailto:riors@yahoo.com\).](mailto:wiwar-</p>
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5 p.m., annual meeting/grand re-opening of the LGBT Community Center, 1305 Woodland Ave., Eau Claire, 715-552-LGBT, lgbtcommunitycenter@yahoo.com.

7 p.m., Florentine Camerata, Rio de Sangre meet-the-artist social, The Room, 623 S. Second St., RSVP requested to Scott Stewart, 414-225-1958 or [sstewart@florentineopera.org](mailto:ssstewart@florentineopera.org).

MONDAY

Oct. 11

7 p.m., screening of "Out In Silence" presented by PFLAG Plain, UWSP Dreyfus Center Theater, 1015 Reserve St., Stevens Point, 715-572-6922, pflagpoint@gmail.com.

TUESDAY

Oct. 12

7 p.m., forum on sexually transmitted infections, LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, 1305 Woodland Ave., Eau Claire, 715-552-LGBT, lgbtcommunitycenter@yahoo.com.

THURSDAY

Oct. 14

6 p.m., a reading by Justin Spring, author

of Secret Historian: The Life and Times of Samuel Steward, Professor, Tattoo Artist and Sexual Renegade, Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second St., 414-383-3727, milwaukeegayartscenter.org.

6:30 p.m., Out to Dinner and Drinks with Sapphic Adventures Mke, Triskele's and Sugar Maple, 1801 S. Third St., RSVP by Oct. 10 to 414-628-1049, sapphicadventuresmke@gmail.com.

FRIDAY

Oct. 15

5 p.m., Rainbow Arts and Cultural Connection's TGIF party at Cafe Deco, Ambassador Hotel Milwaukee, 2308 W. Wisconsin Ave., wly513@gmail.com.

5 p.m. MAM After Dark: RunUp to the Runway, Milwaukee Art Museum, 700 N. Art Museum Drive, www.mam.org/afterdark.

6 p.m., Fish Fry with SAGE, MONAs Out N About, 1407 S. First St., required RSVP to 414-224-0517.

6 p.m., Brew City Bruisers fifth anniversary party, Turner Hall Ballroom, 1034 N. Fourth St., www.brewcitybruisers.com.

9 p.m., opening reception for "the P. is for penis" exhibit, the Tool Shed, 2427 N. Murray Ave., 414-906-5304, www.toolshedtoys.com.

SATURDAY

Oct. 16

9 a.m., road trip to Chicago with WanderWomyn, debydoo2@yahoo.com.

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Silent Rally for Equality, Cameron Park, Fifth and King streets, La Crosse, 608-784-0452, www.7riverslgbt.org.

1-4 p.m., Christmas card and ornament making with SAGE Milwaukee, 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Suite 220, 414-224-0517.

SUNDAY

Oct. 17

3 p.m., BOOze cupcake tasting with Iron Cupcake Milwaukee, fundraiser for Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, Rumble, 400 W. Canal St., ironcupcakemilwaukee.com.

MONDAY

Oct. 18

7 p.m., a reading by Larry-bob Roberts, author of "The International Homosexual Conspiracy," the Tool Shed, 2427 N. Murray Ave., 414-906-5304, www.toolshedtoys.com.

STATEWIDE BAR AND ENTERTAINMENT VENUE LISTINGS

KENOSHA/RACINE

Club ICON, 6305 120th St. (off I-94), Kenosha, 262-857-3240

Fierte, 5722 Third Ave., Kenosha, 262-764-9713

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

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

D.I.X., 739 S. 1st St., 414-231-9085

Woody's, 1579 S. Second St., 414-672-0806

MADISON

Cardinal Bar, 418 W. Wilson St., 608-257-2473

Club 5, 5 Applegate Court, 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

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. Eighth 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 St., 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 St., Green Bay, 920-430-1301

Debs Spare Time, 1303 Harrison St., Oshkosh, 920-235-6577

PJS, 1601 Oregon St., Oshkosh

NORTHERN

Scooters, 411 Galloway Street, Eau Claire, 715-835-9959

JT's Bar and Grill, 1506 N. Third St., Superior, 715--394-2580

The Flame, 1612 Tower Ave., Superior, 715-395-0101

The Main 1217 Tower Ave., Superior, 715-392-1756

OZ, 320 Washington St., Wausau, 715-842-3225



Don't see your favorite LGBT hangout?
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Tango's Tip: The Young Advocates Club is for teens who want to make a difference in the lives of animals, with the purpose of educating the community about issues affecting animals, developing ways to help animals in need, and creating a community that treats animals with respect and kindness. Learn more at www.wihumane.org.



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OPENING NIGHT



Thursday, October 21, 7:30pm
Topp Twins: Untouchable Girls
Oriental Theatre



Friday, October 22, 7pm
Undertow (*Contracorriente*)
UWM Union Theatre



Saturday, October 23, 7pm
The Secret Diaries of Miss Anne Lister
UWM Union Theatre



Sunday October 24, 7pm
Children of God
UWM Union Theatre

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