

VALLEY GIRLS

Patty Duke talks about "Valley of the Dolls" and beyond, page 21



THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

November 18, 2010 | Vol. 2, No. 1

Election setback

POLITICAL ANALYSIS

By Louis Weisberg
Staff writer

On Nov. 2, Republicans won the majority over all three branches of Wisconsin government, securing their control of the state's political agenda for at least the next two years – and quite possibly well beyond.

In conjunction with the 2010 national census, new legislative maps will be drawn next year throughout the nation to reflect population changes. With complete control over the process of redistricting in Wisconsin, GOP leaders will have leeway to configure political boundaries that maximize the impact of Republican voters and ensure them a strong political advantage for the coming decade.

Conservative, anti-gay

leadership dominates the state's GOP, and a number of pro-equality Democrats lost their seats in the mid-term election. This scenario does not auger well for progress toward equality in the state. Gov.-elect Scott Walker promised during his campaign to eliminate the state's domestic partner registry as well as to end domestic partner benefits for both straight and gay state workers.

But if Republicans do choose to pursue an aggressive anti-gay agenda, they run the risk of alienating the independents who switched in large numbers from voting Democratic in 2008 to Republican in 2010. The majority of these voters are neither anti-gay nor particularly interested in LGBT issues. Even with gerrymandering, Republicans cannot shore up a majority by squandering their efforts on behalf of the fringe right.

Nationally, exit polls on Nov. 2 showed that Republicans benefited from voter frustration over the lack of jobs, not from a sudden surge in converts to Christian fundamentalism.

"I did more media interviews about why LGBT rights were not an issue in this election than about LGBT rights themselves," said Katie Belanger, executive director of Fair Wisconsin.

At the same time that pro-equality legislators lost their races in swing districts

Setback page 6

FIRST ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



PROUD PICKS

BEST OF LGBT WISCONSIN PAGE 17

GRAPHIC BY
JIM LAUTENBACH

Cody's mom: 'I must finish what he started'

By Louis Weisberg
Staff writer

Among the questions surrounding the suicide of her son, there's one that torments Darla Barker the most: If she'd come home earlier on Sept. 13, would Cody still be alive today?

Cody, 17, was nine days into his senior year of high school when he hung himself

in the barn on his family's farm northwest of Appleton, adding his name to the list of gay youth who've taken their lives this fall – a list that continues to grow. It was Barker who discovered Cody's body.

"Cody was passionate," Barker said, her pale-blue irises swimming in tears. "He was involved. He could have been anything, done anything. He was like a bright light

that was extinguished. These September sons that died, the world will never know what it lost."

Cody is buried in a cemetery just down the road from the farm. Barker said she visits his gravesite daily and leaves behind a red rose, his favorite flower.

Another question that haunts Barker is: What happened to Cody that drove

him to commit such a desperate act that day?

When news of the suicide became public, the Shiocton School District superintendent quickly issued a blanket denial that any bullying had occurred at Cody's school.

"Right now everybody's looking for someone to be the poster child

Cody page 14

GREEN BAY TABLES AN ANTI-GAY MEASURE, PAGE 4

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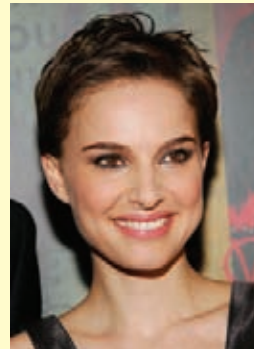
WiGWAG

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg



BACK AT YA

By a margin of 55 percent to 45 percent, voters in El Paso, Texas, passed an initiative saying, "The city of El Paso endorses traditional family values by making health benefits available only to city employees and their legal spouse and dependent children." As a result, the city attorney's office announced the city would have to eliminate health coverage for children such as foster kids who are not dependents under the federal tax code, along with the grandchildren of city employees, retirees and others who are currently receiving benefits. The initiative's backers say that's not what they intended.



REGRETS OVER LESBIAN SCENE

Actress Natalie Portman reportedly fears that a lesbian sex scene she shares with actress Mila Kunis in Darren Aronofsky's thriller feature film "Black Swan" will eclipse the film as a whole. The Toronto Sun also reported that Portman's father, Dr. Avner Hershlag, is so upset by the explicit lovemaking scene that it has caused a rift between the two. He is said to feel that the scene exploits her.

POPE VIEWS SMOOCH

About 100 gay and lesbian couples greeted the

Pope with a "collective kiss" in Barcelona on Nov. 7 to protest the Vatican's opposition to sexual freedom, divorce and condom use. "This is a peaceful act of protest to demonstrate that love is the same in the hearts of everyone," Catalan activist Jordi Petit told The Independent.

ATTACK OF THE SEX TOY

A Gurnee woman faces aggravated assault charges after allegedly assaulting a police officer with a "a rigid feminine pleasure device."

Police were notified after Carolee Bildsten, 56, ran out on her tab at Joe's Crab Shack. Officers found her lying drunk on the grass down the street and approached her, according to NBC Chicago. She led police to her home to retrieve the money, but pulled a sex toy instead of cash from her dresser drawer and tried to knock an officer over the head with it. Bildsten was arrested and booked.

GLAMOUR'S GAL

Constance McMillen, who challenged her Mississippi school district over a ban against same-sex dates at her prom, is Glamour magazine's 2010 Woman of the Year. Others to hold that title include Fergie, Julia Roberts, Donatella Versace and Queen Rania of Jordan. The panel that selected McMillen included past honorees Jennifer Lopez and Katie Couric. In a photo on the Glamour website, McMillen wears a tux and a tiara.

PORN PRODUCTION RESUMES

Action. California's porn industry, which turned off the cameras for a while this fall, has resumed operations. The temporary and voluntary suspension of filming was prompted by a porn actor's HIV-positive test result. Vivid Entertainment, a major maker of adult films, stopped production after the actor, known only

to the public as Patient Zeta, tested positive so more actors in the industry could be tested. Several other porn companies followed suit, but are now back in business.

FOLLOW THE MONEY

MSNBC temporarily suspended liberal commentator Keith Olbermann after learning that its "Countdown" host contributed \$2,400 to Kentucky Senate candidate Jack Conway and Arizona Reps. Raul Grivalva and Gabrielle Giffords. NBC News prohibits employees from working on or donating to political campaigns unless they have a special exception.

Meanwhile, flipping channels to focus on Fox News, conservative host Sean Hannity contributed \$2,400 to a John Gomez' congressional campaign in New York and \$5,000 to Many Individual Conservatives Helping Elect Leaders Everywhere, a PAC associated with Minnesota's Michele Bachmann.

But that's nickels and dimes compared to the \$1 million Fox poppa News Corp gave to the Republican Governor's Association for the mid-term election.

Olbermann later apologized for what's considered a breach of journalism ethics.

No apologies from Hannity or Fox – and we don't expect any.

ALL POINTS BULLETIN

Police in Jackson, Wyo., are searching for a lost locked box that contains about an ounce of methamphetamine. How will people recognize the box? Besides being black, white lettering on the box says "METH." A sergeant was using the locked box to train a police dog. At some point during the exercise, he left the box on the bumper of his car and then drove off.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18 • RIVERSIDE
REO SPEEDWAGON

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31 • RIVERSIDE
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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31 • TURNER
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Green Bay votes to table anti-gay measure

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Green Bay City Council voted to table a measure that would have authorized the city's legal department to join forces with an anti-gay group seeking to overturn the state's domestic partner registry law.

A council committee approved the measure, the first of its kind in the state, on Oct.

25. But when the measure was brought up for a vote before the full council on Nov. 3, aldermen voted 9 - 2 to postpone action on it indefinitely.

The two votes against postponement came from pro-equality aldermen who wanted to take stronger action against the measure, said Fair Wisconsin executive director Katie Belanger.

Belanger called the measure an "act of bullying and retribution." Her organization rallied equality supporters in Green Bay, who packed the council chamber with more than 100 citizens on the evening of the vote to show their opposition. "We are pleased that the city council saw fit to postpone this unfortunate and ill-advised resolution,"

Belanger said. "The outpouring of opposition to this measure was overwhelming and we were proud to stand with so many LGBT and allied residents of Green Bay to stop this attempt to strip basic protections from committed same-sex couples."

According to Fair Wisconsin, the measure could be brought forward again. The

organization said in a statement that it would continue to monitor the situation in Green Bay and "continue opposing further measures ... that bully and discriminate against LGBT people."

Shae Sortwell, the alderman who proposed the measure, joined the vote to table it, saying he's confident the domestic partner regis-

try will be overturned after Republicans take over state government in January. That would make the court case that the measure sought to join unnecessary.

Sortwell was elected to the council for the first time this year. He also backed an ordinance to exempt Green Bay from the state's public smoking ban.

Appleton retains its diversity coordinator

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Appleton City Council voted 12 - 4 to retain the city's diversity coordinator position.

Eliminating the position, which is currently held by Kathy Flores, was one of many proposals that aldermen debated during a seven-hour overnight meeting on

Nov. 10 to consider ways of closing the city's \$2.5-million budget gap.

Although the position was retained, the diversity coordinator will no longer report to the mayor's office, as it did in the past, but rather to the community development department. The shift in reporting will ensure that council members are kept

abreast of the coordinator's activities on behalf of Appleton and neighboring communities.

Advocates contend that the program, which began in 1997 under a different name, is more important now than ever. All of Appleton's population growth over the next 20 years is projected to come from the city's African-

American, Asian (particularly Hmong), Latino and Native-American communities.

The coordinator builds bridges among communities, including the LGBT community, and creates an atmosphere of cross-cultural appreciation. Flores said the shift in reporting might expand her role to include more work in such areas

as urban development and housing.

"I'm thrilled to be continuing this work in the city of Appleton," Flores said. "Hopefully, we'll continue to show how good it is that we continue this program."

Flores said the position has regional value because it helps major employers in Appleton and neighbor-

ing communities, such as Kimberly Clark in Neenah, recruit and retain a diverse and top-notch workforce.

"I'm grateful to the 12 alder-folk who understand the importance of having this program in the City of Appleton, and I look forward to working with all of them and hopefully bringing them all on board," Flores said.

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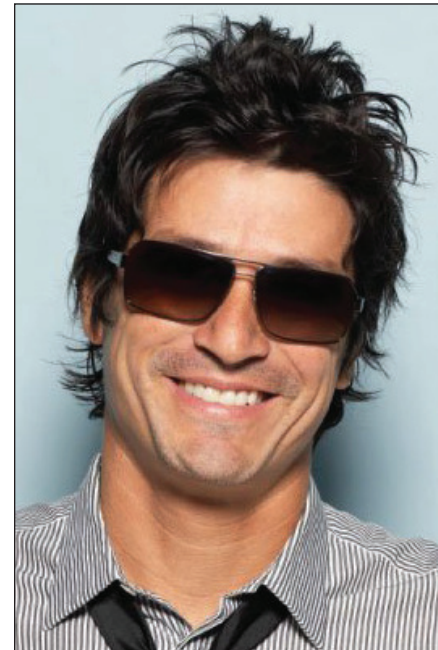
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BRIEFS

POLICE INVESTIGATE NEW HATE CRIMES AT UW-WHITEWATER

Police are investigating more hate crimes at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater – this time involving vandalism to the cars of three black students.

The university said someone slashed the tires of the cars and spray-painted “KKK” on the doors and hoods. The incidents happened between 11 p.m. on Nov. 8 and 10 a.m. on Nov. 9.

The reports of vandalism follow closely on the heels of a Nov. 7 incident in which a freshman walking on the north side of campus was approached by two white males, one of whom pushed her into a fence and held her there. He let her go after making a derogatory remark about her perceived sexual orientation.

In September, a woman was punched in the face near campus while wearing a T-shirt that said “Legalize gay.”

The State Journal reported earlier that police do not believe the two assaults are linked.

UW-Whitewater Chancellor Richard J. Telfer issued a statement following the second assault saying that bullying and hate crimes would not be tolerated on campus or in the local community.

“UW-Whitewater is a place that values all people,” he said. “This incident goes against everything that we stand for as a campus.”

In addition to conducting an exhaustive investigation, UW-Whitewater police will provide an increased presence on campus, Telfer said.

The university plans meetings to discuss how to stop such incidents.

WOOD COUNTY DA MASTURBATED AT RESORT

A report says a Wisconsin prosecutor was caught by hotel security viewing pornography in the business center of a resort and then was “most likely” masturbating when he returned hours later.

The Sheboygan County Sheriff’s Department report says Wood County District Attorney John Henkelmann

will not be charged because no one – except a surveillance camera – could see inside the publicly accessible room.

The report concluded that Henkelmann had a reasonable expectation of privacy when he entered the business lounge, which had only one computer station and no windows.

“Based on all the information I obtained and reviewed, there is insufficient evidence to support a criminal violation,” Lt. Jim Risseuw of the Sheboygan County Sheriff’s Department wrote in the report. “Although the business center is open for use by hotel guests, the room is set up for use by only one person at a time. ... John Henkelmann’s reaction and statement to the officer that he was not aware of the surveillance camera, and the fact that John had locked

the door after entering the room, indicates that it was his belief that he was in a private room that was not within view of anyone else.”

The incident occurred when Henkelmann was one of about 200 prosecutors attending a three-day conference at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake in November 2009. The event was hosted by the Department of Justice.

Amanda Cain, a former reservations assistant at the Osthoff, said she was fired for violating “guest confidentiality” after seeing the surveillance video and then reporting it to law authorities. She said she did not know Henkelmann’s name or position until the matter was made public a month ago.

The report says Henkelmann refused to answer questions about his behavior.



PHOTO: COURTESY

John McGivern**MILWAUKEE’S JOHN MCGIVERN WINS EMMY AWARD**

Out Milwaukee celebrity John McGivern won a Midwest Emmy Award for “Early Stories of John McGivern,” which was produced and broadcast by Milwaukee Public Television.

The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences presented the award to

McGivern in Chicago on Nov. 6.

Filmed on location throughout Milwaukee, “Early Stories” recalls McGivern’s childhood in a large, Irish-Catholic family on Bartlett Avenue. The program aired on MPTV in December 2009 and September 2010 and is now available from MPTV Friends.

- From WiG and AP reports

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Milwaukee lags in workplace equality

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Milwaukee's major employers lag behind those in the rest of the region when it comes to workplace equality, according to a report produced by the Cream City Foundation.

The report was based on The Human Rights Campaign Foundation's corporate equality index, an annual survey that examines the poli-

cies, benefits and practices of companies toward their LGBT workers.

In the most recent report, only two of the 16 Wisconsin companies that were rated achieved perfect scores of 100 percent – Quarles & Brady LLP and S.C. Johnson & Son Inc. Companies were measured on their non-discrimination policies, diversity training, domestic partner benefits, employee resource

groups and external engagement with the LGBT community.

Nine of the 16 Wisconsin employers were found lacking in all areas. The lowest-ranked companies earned ratings of only 15 percent, including Fiserv Inc., Kohl's Corp., Harley-Davidson Inc., Manpower Inc., Rockwell Automation Inc. and Oshkosh Corp.

Results of the report

were announced at a sold-out luncheon hosted by Cream City Foundation's QShare Business Network at Manpower Global Headquarters in Milwaukee on Oct. 28.

Wisconsin had an average index rating of 51 percent, far below that of neighboring states. Illinois had a rate of 81 percent, and Minnesota's rate was 80 percent.

Employers headquartered

in Milwaukee fared worst of all, earning a 47-percent rating compared with Madison's 78 percent.

To test the comfort level of LGBT people in Milwaukee at their jobs, Cream City Foundation followed up on HRC's report by conducting focus groups and an online survey. CCF found that while 85 percent of respondents said they were comfortable being

out on the job, 30 percent expressed fear that their sexual orientation could limit their careers.

The report concluded that unless companies in the area improve workplace equality, Milwaukee and the state of Wisconsin will continue losing the most talented and promising LGBT employees to neighboring states.

It would be risky for the GOP to lurch into an anti-gay agenda after the election

Setback from I

that went for Walker and GOP Senate candidate Ron Johnson, a number of highly vocal supporters of LGBT equality won, Belanger said.

Wisconsin is a moderate swing state, and its voters have shown a tendency in recent years to swing far and fast. President Obama beat Sen. John McCain by 14 points in Wisconsin in 2008, while two years later Walker

beat Democrat Tom Barrett by 5 points.

Exit polls in Wisconsin this year showed a 10-percent increase in self-identified "conservative" voters since the last election. But moderates still accounted for 42 percent of the total votes cast in the gubernatorial race. The increase in conservatives was more a reflection of who showed up at the polls this year – older voters – than an actual shift in overall ideology.

In fact, the term "conservative" did not even mean the same thing this year that it did during elections in which the so-called "culture wars" played a role. Adopting the mantle of a conservative today is more likely to indicate support for a small, limited government than opposition to choice or same-sex civil unions. That's why nearly one-third of gay and lesbian voters cast Republican ballots in this election cycle (see story page 9).

In recognition of this political landscape, even state Sen.-elect Leah Vukmir, the most extreme religious right candidate on the ticket in Wisconsin, was silent about LGBT issues during the campaign. And Walker's staff effectively muzzled his evangelical running mate Rebecca Kleefisch, refusing to allow her to debate or appear at unscripted press events.

When Kleefisch did speak out about her Christian views against gays and lesbians, it made headlines that brought national ridicule to Wisconsin – which is less than desirable for an administration that says it's focused on getting major businesses to relocate here.

For the GOP to lurch from a victory that was clearly a referendum on jobs into pouring energy into controversial and divisive social issues would be risky at best.

It would signal to voters that Republicans are not interested in or able to fix the problems they were elected to address.

It would also involve some backtracking. Incoming Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald, R-Juneau, said in 2006 that the constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage and civil unions "would not prohibit the state Legislature from putting together a package of 50 protections and calling it a domestic partnership," Belanger said.

The domestic partner registry provides 41 of those protections.

"It will be very interesting to see how the leadership will proceed," Belanger said. "The domestic partner registry is really just about allowing couples to take care of each other. And it's something that the people

of Wisconsin agree with. What Scott Walker and the Legislature would be doing is saying that gays and lesbians shouldn't be able to visit their partners in the hospital. That's not something our state government needs to be focused on when we are in tough economic times."

Belanger said Fair Wisconsin plans to focus its energy in the coming months on defending the domestic partner registry in the courts, where it faces a legal challenge from Wisconsin Family Action, the state's leading proponent of the evangelical Christian agenda.

Key to Fair Wisconsin's defense is building the case that the registry plays an important role in protecting same-sex couples in the state. Toward that end, Belanger is urging gay and lesbian couples to register under the program.

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**MICH. ASS'T
AG FIRED FOR
STALKING GAY
STUDENT**

A Michigan assistant attorney general has been fired for stalking and harassing the gay president of the Michigan Student Assembly.

Andrew Shirvell was removed from his position for lying to investigators during a disciplinary hearing and for posting attacks against the student online during work hours, according to a statement released on Nov. 8 by Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox.

Shirvell became a national lightning rod after appearing on CNN's "Anderson Cooper 360" to defend his attacks against Chris Armstrong, whom he referred to as a Nazi and Satan's representative.

"I'm a Christian citizen exercising my First Amendment rights," Shirvell told Cooper.

Cox said Shirvell's offenses went beyond free speech,

however. He said Shirvell had shown up at Armstrong's home three times, including once at 1:30 a.m., to harass him.

Cox said Shirvell's aggressive pattern of seeking out and harassing Armstrong amounted to stalking. Shirvell harassed several of Armstrong's friends while they were socializing in Ann Arbor and attempted to out him to his non-gay friends. Shirvell also made numerous calls to U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office while Armstrong worked as an intern there in an apparent attempt to get the speaker to fire him.

At one point, Armstrong sought a protective order against Shirvell.

"The cumulative effects of his use of state resources, harassing conduct that is not protected by the First Amendment, and his lies during (a) disciplinary conference all demonstrate adequate evidence of conduct unbecoming a state employ-

ee," Cox said.

Shirvell is one of about 250 lawyers who serve in the attorney general's office. A 2002 alumnus of the University of Michigan, he is only allowed to visit the Ann Arbor campus if he does not attempt to make physical or verbal contact with Armstrong or be in the same place at the same time.

**DEM. VOWS TO
KEEP SAME-SEX
MARRIAGE IN
IOWA**

The top Democrat in the Iowa Senate said Nov. 12 that he would make sure the legislature does not refer a proposed constitutional amendment to voters that would ban gay marriage.

Senate Majority Leader Michael Gronstal said he'd stand by his promise to block

BRIEFS

any senate debate on an amendment despite plans by Republicans to move such a measure through the House soon after the legislature convenes Jan. 10.

Gay marriage has been a hot issue in Iowa since the state Supreme Court ruled in 2009 that a ban on same-sex marriage violated the rights of due process and equal protection. After gay marriage opponents launched a well-financed campaign, voters on Nov. 2 removed three justices who joined in the unanimous ruling and were on the ballot for retention elections.

Last session, Gronstal refused to allow debate on the issue, and some argued that move angered voters who retaliated against the justices. Gronstal responded that the lesson of the election was that supporters of the justices needed

to counter out-of-state groups that poured an estimated \$1 million into the campaign.

"I do think there will be an effort in coming years to provide greater support," Gronstal said during a taping of the public television program "Iowa Press." "Some level of increased political activity on the side of retaining judges is going to happen."

**ILL. GOV. SAYS
CIVIL UNIONS
ARE GOOD FOR
ECONOMY**

Ill. Gov. Pat Quinn says it would be good for Illinois' economy if lawmakers, when they return to work in Springfield, passed legislation allowing gay couples to form civil unions.

In an Associated Press interview, the Chicago Democrat said he hopes lawmakers will tackle the civil unions bill proposed by openly gay state Rep. Greg Harris, D-Chicago.

Quinn called it a "good" bill and said Harris was close to having enough support to pass it.

Quinn won re-election as governor on Nov. 2 by fewer than 20,000 votes. His opponent, right-wing Republican Bill Brady, had vowed during the campaign to veto civil unions legislation if he was elected governor.

Quinn said allowing civil unions sends companies the message that Illinois has laws that respect the diversity of the state.

Harris, who was still counting votes to see if enough support was there, said Quinn's win will help. Lawmakers who may still be on the fence can look to the victory of Republican U.S. Senator-elect Mark Kirk, who also supports civil unions, Harris said.


"People sense there is really movement for this. This is not gay marriage," Harris said.

— From WiG and AP reports

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PROTESTERS ARRESTED

Police say 13 people were arrested on Nov. 15 after handcuffing themselves to the White House fence to protest the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy banning gays and lesbians from serving.

Park Police spokesman Sgt. David Schlosser said the demonstrators arrested included a number of military veterans. Among them was Milwaukeean Miriam ben Shalom.

The "don't ask" policy is being challenged in federal court. The policy was temporarily overturned by a federal judge. Last week the Supreme Court agreed with an appeal court that the ban should stay in place, however, pending an appeal by the U.S. Department of Justice.

President Barack Obama has pledged to push lawmakers to repeal the law in the lame-duck session before a new Congress is sworn in. But administration lawyers have in the meantime continued to defend "don't ask, don't tell" in court.

PHOTO: AP/PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS

Lt. Dan Choi, center, falls as he is arrested for handcuffing himself to the fence outside the White House in Washington on Nov. 15 during a protest over "don't ask, don't tell." The group demanded that President Obama keep his promise to repeal the policy.

ACLU files suit over military pay reduction

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

The American Civil Liberties Union on Nov. 10 filed a class action lawsuit challenging the Defense Department's policy of cutting in half the separation pay of servicemembers honorably discharged for being gay.

Gay servicemembers can be discharged under the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, enacted during the earliest period of the Clinton administration as a compromise intended to soften a hard-line ban against gay servicemembers. DADT prohibits LGB people from serving openly.

However, the ACLU's

national team and its New Mexico chapter maintain that the separation pay policy is not part of the DADT statute and could be revoked without congressional action.

"By denying servicemen and women full separation pay, the military is needlessly compounding the discrimination perpetuated by 'don't ask, don't tell,'" said ACLU attorney Joshua Block. "The Obama administration has repeatedly said the 'don't ask, don't tell' statute is wrong, but that it needs to work with Congress to repeal the law. But the separation pay issue is entirely within the administration's control."

Federal law provides for

separation pay to servicemembers involuntarily discharged after completing at least six years of service. In 1991, two years before the passage of DADT, the Defense Department adopted an internal policy that automatically cuts a former servicemember's separation pay in half if the servicemember is discharged because of "homosexuality."

Meanwhile, on the legislative front, the drive is under way to bring up the repeal of DADT during Congress' lame-duck session.

"The Senate should call up the defense bill reported out of committee and pass it before it goes home for the year," said

Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a D.C.-based organization formed to represent servicemembers discharged under DADT and to campaign for the ban's repeal.

The House voted earlier this year for repeal as part of a military appropriations bill, but a similar effort stalled in the Senate, where Arizona Republican John McCain led the opposition.

McCain continues to oppose dealing with DADT in the defense spending bill, but the Democratic majority in the Senate, the White House and Defense Secretary Robert Gates are

pushing for a repeal vote within the next two months.

On Nov. 3, the commander in chief called for action: "This should not be a partisan issue. You've got a sizable portion of the American public squarely behind the notion that folks who are willing to serve on our behalf should be treated fairly and equally."

Lame-duck lobbying for repeal began the day after the midterm election, with a focus on Michigan's Carl Levin, Maine's Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins, Indiana's Richard Lugar, Missouri's Kit Bond and Alaska's Lisa Murkowski.

At the grassroots level, SLDN dispatched activists to

generate public enthusiasm for repeal to several states, including Indiana and Ohio, while the Human Rights Campaign sent its special forces to Alaska.

A report from the Defense Department on how to implement a repeal of DADT is due Dec. 1.

Earlier this fall, a federal district court declared DADT unconstitutional and ordered a halt of any discharge proceedings. The Justice Department, however, is appealing the judge's ruling and an appeals court lifted the stay.

The Supreme Court upheld keeping the ban in place pending appeal.

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Nearly one-third of gays voted GOP

Republicans captured 31 percent of the LGBT vote in the midterm elections, according to national exit polls. The number jumped from 19 percent in 2008.

Despite the shift, Republicans have expressed no interest in adopting pro-equality positions.

"I have been very concerned over these last two years that the connection between the gay rights community and the Democratic Party is in danger of being broken, because I think expectations were set so high as a result of the 2008 election, and people are

extremely disappointed," Richard Socarides, who was President Bill Clinton's adviser on gay rights, told Huffington Post.

Socarides said LGBT voters are growing impatient with Obama for failing to put their issues on the front burner.

But another factor behind the change in voting behavior is what looks like growing acceptance of equality among mainstream Republicans nationally, although not in Wisconsin.

For example, conservative attorney Ted Olson has been a central figure, along with

David Boies, in the legal battle to overturn California's Prop. 8, which banned same-sex marriage. Olson represented former President George W. Bush in the Supreme Court case that handed him the keys to the White House.

Former Republican National Committee chair Ken Mehlman made headlines during the summer when he came out and was embraced as a gay man by Bush, GOP chairman Michael Steele and other Republican leaders.

The Log Cabin Republicans also have also played a role in changing LGBT perceptions

about their party, particularly through the high-profile lawsuit challenging the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

Still, most Republican leaders have strongly opposed lifting the policy, and U.S. Rep. Charles Djou, Hawaii, who was one of the few Republicans supporting the repeal of 'don't ask,' lost his seat on Nov. 2.

LCR director R. Clarke Cooper said Republicans performed better with LGBT voters in the mid-term election because the focus was on the economy rather than social issues, and Darlene Nipper, deputy executive

director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, agreed.

"There is enormous fear and frustration among people all across the nation, and a factor is a rocky, stalled economy and high unemployment rate," Nipper told Huffington Post's Amanda Terkel. "When the party in power doesn't seem to be making it better, some people make their anger known at the ballot box. Is that the case here? It's tough to know for sure without people actually saying why they voted the way they did."

- From staff and wire reports



PHOTO: COURTESY

Richard Socarides

Anti-gay group impacted election

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

The National Organization for Marriage waged a national campaign against legalizing same-sex relationships in the midterm election without placing a single anti-gay measure on a statewide ballot.

NOM waged its campaign with the endorsement of 29 anti-gay candidates in Nov. 2 races and with a successful push to oust three Iowa justices who ruled that denying same-sex couples marriage rights violated the state's constitution.

An analysis of NOM's political activities by the Human Rights Campaign found the organization invested an estimated \$5 million into federal and state campaigns in the 2009-10 election cycle.

More than half of NOM's

candidates lost at the polls, yet the organization has become what HRC president Joe Solmonese called a "political force."

"It's clear they will stop at nothing, including repeatedly ignoring state campaign finance laws, to elect anti-gay candidates and punish elected pro-equality officials," Solmonese said. "And nothing illustrates NOM's cynicism more than the defeat of the three supreme court justices in Iowa who were part of a unanimous decision that same-sex couples have a constitutional right to marry. An independent judiciary is now threatened, and no organization is more responsible for that than NOM."

Judicial elections, even at the state supreme court level, tend to be low-key

elections for the retention of incumbents. NOM spent about \$600,000 on television ads, phone calls, rallies and a 20-city bus tour in the campaign to defeat justices on Election Day.

NOM president Brian Brown, explaining the organization's goal in Iowa, said, "Many people ... are looking at the Iowa judicial retention election (and) actually saying this is the most important election because it will send a clear signal to the Supreme Court and other judges that they don't have the right to make up the law out of thin air. If the people of Iowa ... remove these judges, there will be reverberations throughout the country, all the way to the United States Supreme Court."

David Lane, director of the

American Family Association, another anti-gay group that spent about \$100,000 to defeat the Iowa justices, warned of future campaigns: "For those who impose what we perceive as an immoral

agenda, we're going to take them out," he said.

The tactic has LGBT civil rights advocates concerned about judicial intimidation.

But civil rights advocates also expressed concern last

week about NOM's fundraising abilities. The organization began just three years ago, operating on a \$500,000 annual budget. NOM's annual budget now is about \$10 million.



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{ Editorial }

What's wrong with Milwaukee?

A recent report from the Cream City Foundation showed Wisconsin in general and Milwaukee in particular lag significantly behind other cities in the region in workplace equality.

CCF compared the scores that regional corporations earned on the Human Rights Campaign's corporate equality index, which assesses the employment policies, benefits and practices of companies toward their LGBT employees. Wisconsin's average score of 51 percent fell below the 81 percent achieved by employers in Illinois and the 80 percent obtained by Minnesota employers.

Within Wisconsin, Milwaukee-headquartered corporations had an average rating of 47 percent, compared with Madison's 78 percent.

Looking deeper, CCF conducted focus groups and an online survey of LGBT professionals in Milwaukee. These investigations found that 30 percent of respondents feared their sexual orientation could hurt or damage their careers. Unfortunately, this fear can become a self-fulfilling prophecy. When people remain closeted at work, they often hold back, keeping a low profile that prevents them from getting the attention that's required for promotion. Add that to the internalized homophobia operating in the closet and you've got people who are not reaching their potential.

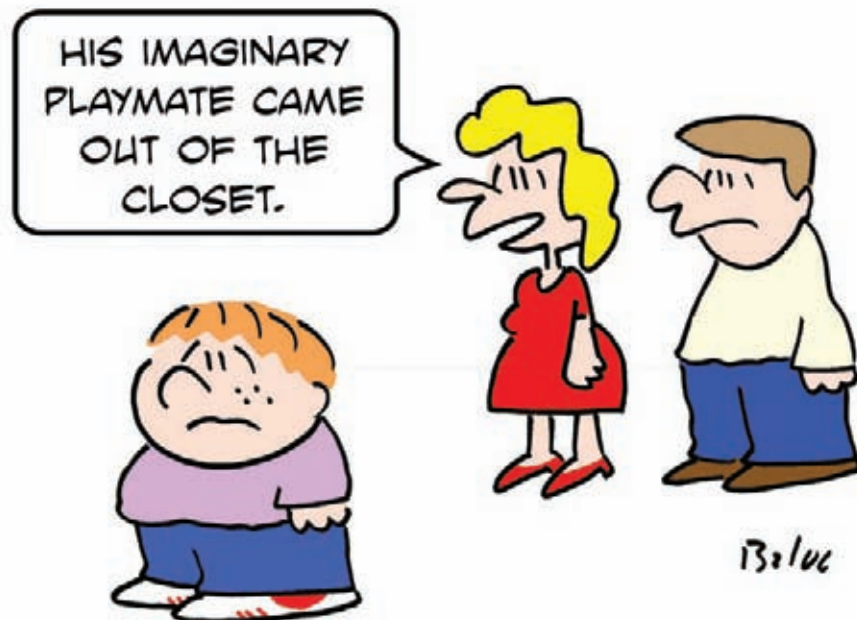
There are probably several factors underlying this inequity, but the relatively low level of involvement among LGBT Milwaukeeans in their community plays a key role. Except for PrideFest, community events in the city are poorly attended. LGBT organizations receive little support.

Political engagement is sparse and activism is rare. For example, rallies surrounding the recent spate of gay teen suicides drew huge crowds in other areas of the state but not in Milwaukee.

Milwaukee's LGBT community is not only segregated along lines of race and gender but is also highly factionalized. Instead of working together, LGBT groups in the city often function as islands of isolation.

In addition, internalizing the oppression they experience from society at large, members of marginalized communities often act out against each other in destructive ways. As CCF's report shows, this behavior has consequences.

Cream City Foundation makes several excellent suggestions for improving Milwaukee's corporate culture, but there will be no real progress until the community gets involved in its own future.



{ Letters }

DADT MUST END THIS CONGRESS

As a member of the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee, I agree with Defense Secretary Robert Gates' position that the discriminatory policy known as "don't ask, don't tell" must end during this Congress. I believe strongly that the U.S. Constitution, specifically the 14th Amendment, requires the government to apply our laws equally. That is why only negative conduct, not one's sexual orientation, should be grounds for dismissal from the armed services.

Additionally, in my opinion, our country's national security has been hurt by the U.S. Armed Forces having sent home more than 13,500 qualified, patriotic service members since 1994 who were willing and fit to serve this country. In each instance, there was no conduct becoming a member of the armed service.

Having paid many millions to train these individuals, and then having dismissed them in the absence of bad conduct, has also wasted many millions of precious taxpayer dollars.

Finally, as the U.S. continues to face dangerous enemies from all corners of the globe, and given the strains on our already overburdened war fighters, it makes no sense to turn away from service qualified, able and willing volunteers for our nation's military.

I am proud to stand with Secretary Gates in calling for an end to DADT. I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress to repeal this law in the final weeks of the 111th session.

U.S. Rep. Steve Rothman,
D-N.J.

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Louis Weisberg

NATIONAL NEWS EDITOR

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CREATIVE DIRECTOR

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ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Gregg Shapiro

CONTRIBUTORS

Harry Cherkinian Jr., Jody Hirsh, Rick Karlin, Kerrie Kennedy, Cory Liebmann, Jamakaya, Emily Mills, Mike Muckian, John Quinlan, Jay Rath, Dan Wilson, Dan Zaitz

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Robert Wright

TECHNICAL CONSULTANT

Kevin Rux

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

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Our mission

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

So they said



“We continue to have a sort of lackadaisical gay political movement that has a relationship with Democrat politicians that doesn't serve gay rights: 'We want to be close to you.' Beautiful! But if we're not getting anything for that, then it's actually counterproductive.”

- Rachel Maddow on LGBT activism in the age of Obama

“I think it's weird. It's not a romantic thing. It's an art form and in dancing it doesn't matter. We are just so used to seeing a man and woman dancing together.”

- Ellen DeGeneres speaking with Kelly Osbourne about the prospect of having a same-sex couple dance together on TV's "Dancing with the Stars." DeGeneres' wife Portia De Rossi has expressed an interest in becoming the first celebrity to do so on the program.

“I didn't want everyone to hate me. But sometimes you got to do what you got to do. The easiest way is not always the best way.”

- Constance McMillen talking to *Glamour* after being named the magazine's woman of the year.

“My son was not gay. He wanted to be married and have a family and travel all over the world. And it wouldn't matter if he was - I have a daughter who's gay. She was the most offended by (the rumors). (The claims imply that) everyone who's gay commits suicide.”

- Marie Osmond talking to *Oprah* about rumors following the suicide of her 18-year-old son Michael Bryan, who died after jumping out of a window in Las Vegas in February.

“LGBT bullycide is the most dangerous, the most important opponent I've ever faced, it's an adversary who's too big to ignore.”

- Gay pro wrestler The SpiderBaby in a video for the *It Gets Better* Project

“Our political and religious leaders tell LGBT youth that they have no future. ... Our government treats the LGBT community like second class citizens — why shouldn't they?”

- Cindy McCain, the wife of U.S. Sen. John McCain, in a video message for the NOH8 campaign. Cindy McCain, who like her daughter Meghan is solidly pro-gay, condemns “don't ask, don't tell,” which is being held up in Congress by her husband and other pandering to their right-wing base.

“We are introducing this payment to proactively offset the additional tax. We believe that by offering this, we will further our efforts to promote an inclusive environment.”

- A spokesman for Barclays Bank, Britain's third-largest bank, announcing plans to reimburse the bank's U.S. employees for federal taxes they're forced to pay on health benefits provided to their same-sex domestic partners. Google, Inc., also makes such payments.



The reality of Republican rule

As a result of the Nov. 2 election, Wisconsin will soon be taken over by Republicans. This change is not going to be good for multiple constituencies in the state, and certainly not for the LGBT community. The last time the Republicans ran the Legislature they brought us the constitutional amendment to ban marriage equality. Their agenda would have been even more damaging without Jim Doyle as governor. But now, with Republicans preparing to control every single lever of power in state government, we should anticipate a major push backward on equality and many other key issues important to the LGBT community.

Most of the people elected to state office on Nov. 2 were not simply Republicans but extreme conservatives. In what is hardly a coincidence, the state's top gay-hating

group, the Wisconsin Family Council, endorsed many of the victorious. These winners were not endorsed by that group because they plan to be kind to the LGBT community.

Despite the delusional hopes of some gay Republicans, Governor-elect Scott Walker has repeatedly said that he would take away the rights afforded to LGBT families through the state's domestic partnership registry. He also promised to end the domestic partner benefits now available for state employees. Some of these regressive and mean-spirited plans were further confirmed after the election. Although most of them campaigned on jobs and the economy, the soon-to-be Republican leaders have already listed going back on equality as one of their top priorities.

Yet another outcome of

These are extreme conservatives.



having a complete Republican takeover of Madison will be drastic cuts to programs that are critical to the community. Republicans up and down the ticket promised major tax breaks to the richest Wisconsinites and the business elite. At a time when the state already faces a multibillion-dollar deficit, these giveaways will intensify the defunding of important initiatives and programs. Does anyone honestly think the conservative Republicans now in charge will value things like supporting people living with HIV/AIDS and HIV-prevention programs?

If you are a member or an ally of the LGBT community in Wisconsin, you were likely

and justifiably outraged at the results of the Nov. 2 election. Even if the results did not move you, surely the extreme anti-equality agenda that we will soon see from Madison will. Whenever that level of outrage peaks it is critical that we channel it into effective and aggressive action. It will be more important than ever to get fully engaged in the issues. A first step is getting involved with LGBT advocacy groups, such as Equality Wisconsin and Fair Wisconsin.

We are about to witness the extreme reality of Republican rule in Wisconsin. We need to be fully engaged, resolute and prepared to take swift action.

Giving thanks for Ricky Martin

As Thanksgiving approaches, I've been having a hell of a time finding something to be thankful for. Then Ricky Martin stepped back into the limelight.

Little does the dreamy pop star know what a godsend he has been to this jaded old lesbian.

It's been a bad month. The depression I've felt for some time about the disastrous shape of the country sunk into outright despair after the mid-term elections. The results seemed like final confirmation of President Obama's complete failure to lead over the past two years. It heralded the triumph of the Big Lie(s) and the liars who promote them. It showed how easily led a frustrated public can be and how utterly impotent the left seems to be in gaining traction for any progressive ideas.

The biggest losers? The growing army of unemployed for whom no relief is in sight and our men and women in military service, doomed to lose their minds and lives in unending foreign occupations. The latest insane idea is to attack Iran, which apparently makes perfect sense to

Martin appeared modest and thoughtful, peaceful and content.

the inmates now running the asylum.

An end to “don't ask, don't tell”? Don't hold your breath. Gay marriage? Probably not for long.

At times like these, lefties like me are supposed to heed the cry of our doomed martyr Joe Hill: “Don't mourn — organize!” But I don't want to mourn or organize right now. I've put on my headphones (good Milwaukee-made Koss headphones) and lost myself in music. I am further distracting myself with the modern opiate of the people — 24/7 celebrity culture.

That's where I kept running into Ricky Martin. November has been a big month for Ricky. He's on a publicity campaign promoting

his autobiography and his upcoming world tour. The focus of the book and media interviews has been on his new status as an “out” gay man and father of two boys.

Some complain, “Geez Ricky, it's about time ... what took you so long?” But none of us can understand all the personal issues someone may be dealing with or, in Ricky's case, the career concerns he probably had as such a worldwide megastar. The important thing isn't how long it took him but that he's arrived at a point of acceptance.

In interviews, the energetic showman appeared modest and thoughtful, peaceful and content, especially when talking about his children. He responded patiently and wisely to the questions about his sexuality, saying that coming out is a process that was difficult for him, is different for everyone and should not be coerced. He showed class by being respectful of, and circumspect about, his past lovers, male and female. And he repeated the phrasing he used in his first disclosure earlier this year that being gay is “a blessing.”



A blessing. I love that expression. I have always felt blessed by my own lesbianism. Understanding your sexuality liberates you and makes you whole. It is spiritual, transformational, beneficial. What a great message to send out right now!

Ricky appeared at the Latin Grammys on Nov. 11. He had the honor of presenting a special award to Placido Domingo and sang a delightful duet with Natalia Jimenez. He looked fabulous, sounded awesome, danced deliciously and seemed bursting with pride and happiness to be back in his element. He must have been nervous about how he would be received, and it was with open arms and a tumultuous ovation.

I may be grasping at straws here, but in the midst of a bleak political landscape, Ricky Martin has provided an example of pride and progress. That's something to be grateful for.

**CINDY MCCAIN
SHIFTS STANCE
ON 'DON'T ASK'**

After appearing in an ad for the NOH8 campaign, Cindy McCain has apparently had a change of heart.

In the ad, she blasted the military's discriminatory "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which bans open gays and lesbians from serving. But two days later, she tweeted that she supports her husband, Sen. John McCain, who backs DADT.

John McCain also once said he wanted to overturn the ban on gays in the military. But he reversed his position after being challenged from the right in a political primary earlier this year. Now he's one of Congress' strongest backers of the policy. Less than a month ago, he vowed to filibuster any attempt to eliminate it.

In the Nov. 10 ad, Cindy McCain said, "Our political and religious leaders tell LGBT youth that they have no future." Later in the ad,

she said, "They can't serve our country openly."

Surrounding McCain in the ad were statements by a number of celebrities characterizing DADT as discriminatory and harmful to LGBT youth.

It was not McCain's first pro-equality appearance. In January, she was photographed with tape over her mouth as part of the NOH8 campaign.

On Nov. 12, McCain tweeted, "I fully support the NOH8 campaign and all it stands for and am proud to be a part of it. But I stand by my husband's stance on DADT."

The McCains' daughter Meghan McCain has also been vocal in opposing the Republican Party's opposition to LGBT equality.

The conflict between the McCains over DADT could be an indication that problems in their marriage are heading into the public arena. According to Washington insiders, the couple has been

married in name only for years.

Cindy McCain developed an addiction to prescription drugs in the early 1990s and was accused of obtaining them illegally through the American Voluntary Medical Team, a charity she founded. Through a plea bargain she made with federal authorities, no charges were filed.

**GAY BISHOP TO
RETIRE DUE TO
DEATH THREATS**

Gene Robinson, the first openly gay U.S. Episcopal bishop, has announced that he will retire in 2013 due to death threats and constant harassment.

In 2003, Robinson became the first openly gay priest of any Christian denomination to be elevated to bishop when he was elected to lead the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire. His election sent shock waves throughout Christendom, and the anti-gay backlash among Christians was so intense

that Robinson had to wear a bulletproof vest to his consecration.

"The fact is, the last seven years have taken their toll on me, my family and you," Robinson wrote in a message posted on the diocese website on Nov. 6. "Death threats, and the now-worldwide controversy surrounding your election of me as bishop have been a constant strain, not just on me, but on my beloved husband, Mark, who has faithfully stood with me every minute of the last seven years."

The controversy over Robinson so divided the Episcopal Church that in 2006 its General Convention called a moratorium on "any candidate to the episcopate whose manner of life presents a challenge to the wider church."

Then in July 2009, the church voted to end the moratorium. By then the issue had opened a rift within the broader Anglican Church, with some U.S. Episcopal

congregations breaking away to align themselves with anti-gay Anglican bishops in South America and Africa.

Robinson will be 65 when he retires.

The Episcopal Church is the U.S. branch of the Church of England's Anglican Communion.

**LESBIAN FAMILIES
HAVE ZERO RATE
OF CHILD ABUSE**

Researchers at the UCLA School of Law's Williams Institute reported that a 24-year study of American lesbian families found a zero rate of child abuse.

While 26 percent of adolescents in the U.S. report parent or caregiver physical abuse and 8.3 percent report sexual abuse, none of the 78 children of lesbian moms studied reported incidents of either.

Researchers also found the children of lesbians are on average more open and well-adjusted.

The study found that the

same percentage of children raised by lesbians grow up to be gay as in the larger population. Although they begin having sex significantly later than their peers, lesbians' kids are more open to same-sex experimentation as adolescents.

Although lesbian moms separate at a higher rate than heterosexual couples, they're better divorced parents too, researchers said. Lesbian moms share child custody at greater rates and their children don't show signs of trauma at the same level as the children of straight divorced parents.

The researchers concluded that lesbian parents represent a kind of paradigm of family values and create homes that are free of violence. What seems to make these homes safer for children, researchers said, is the absence of straight men, who are the main physical and sexual abusers of children.

-From staff and wire reports.



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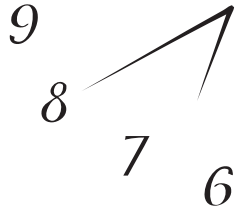

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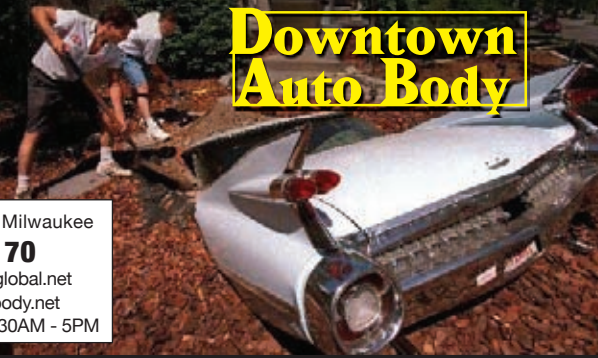
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'He was happy, normal Cody at lunch that day'

Cody from I

for this issue," Supt. Chris VanderHeyden told the Post Crescent. "As soon as it was announced that this young man was gay and that he killed himself, everyone immediately started connecting dots that weren't there."

But Barker contends the statement was made without any investigation, and she's convinced that something did indeed happen to him, especially on the afternoon he died.

He had come home from school that day for lunch, and he "was happy, normal Cody," Barker said her husband told her. Barker was at work.

Cody ate some leftover pasta, then put his dishes in the sink and told his father; "This shit is amazing," Barker said.

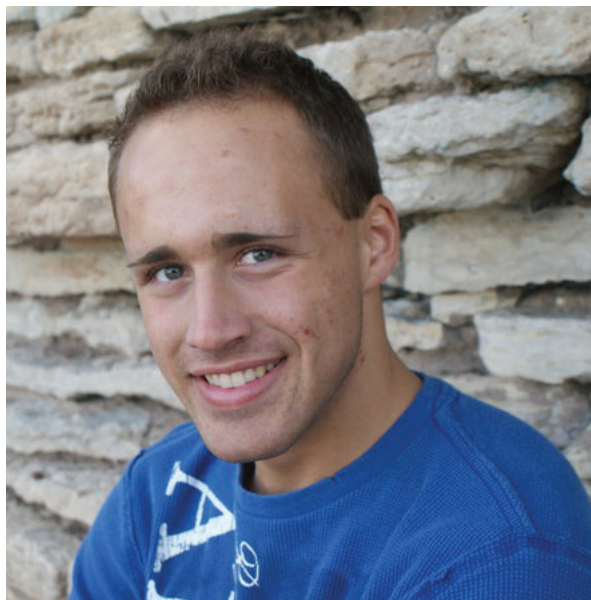
Besides being upbeat that day, Cody was in a good place in life generally. He had a supportive family, including both of his parents and his 21-year-old sister. Barker, who has a beloved openly gay brother, said her family accepted Cody's sexual orientation very easily.

'Everyone has a right to be happy and no one has a right to judge.'

"I'm so tired of hearing it's a choice," she said. "They were born that way. I just wish the world would accept people for who they are."

Cody also had a support network outside his home. He attended a weekly group for LGBT youth at Harmony Café in Appleton and was out at Shiocton High School, where he was trying to start a gay-straight alliance group. A school publication, The Chief Gazette, ran a positive item about Cody's plans for the GSA in its June issue.

"Cody Barker is going to a leadership workshop" over the summer, the publication noted. "He is very excited about going to this; the workshop will help him start his Gay/Straight Alliance group



Cody Barker

PHOTO: FACEBOOK

here at the school."

Cody had a wide range of interests. He was a fan of Lady Gaga and James Bond. He was also a World War II aficionado. "He could have taught the history class" on WWII, his mother said.

But despite the support, there were troubling signs

that Cody faced challenges at school. Barker witnessed one of them herself over the summer. She was sitting with some of Cody's friends at the fire pit outside their home, she said, when a car stopped in front of the house and a kid yelled "queer" out the window.

There were other disturbing signs. Cody told his mother that he never went to the bathroom between classes, presumably out of fear. "How pathetic is it that a kid has to worry about something like that?" Barker asked.

Barker said name-calling and whispering about Cody were common in the halls at school. After his death, Barker learned that kids were going around behind him at school and tearing down the posters he was putting up announcing the GSA.

Maria Peeples, 18, told the Post Crescent that Cody had complained to her about the pushback he received from the school and the community over the GSA.

"I honestly believe something happened to him that day," Barker said. "If there was someone who said something to him, I hope they're feeling the guilt over what happened. People have to realize what words can do to a person."

Cody's death derailed his father, who fell into a depression so deep that he was unable to work for nearly two months. But like Judy Shepard, Barker decided to turn her grief into activism. "I feel like I have to fight for

'Bullied' doc draws crowd

In the wake of the September suicide of Cody Barker, 17, of Shiocton, a showing of the documentary film "Bullied" drew a large crowd to Appleton Public Library on Nov. 9.

About 137 people, including several youth who knew Barker from a Tuesday night LGBT youth support group at Harmony Café, packed a meeting room at the library.

Produced by the Southern Poverty Law Center and narrated by "Glee" star Jane Lynch, "Bullied" tells the harrowing story of Jamie Nabozny. As a high school student in Ashland, Wis., Nabozny was tormented and brutalized by classmates because of his sexual orientation. School administrators refused to intervene despite his pleas and those of his mother.

After winning an unprecedented court case filed on his behalf by Lambda Legal, Nabozny received a \$900,000 settlement from the school district.

Following the showing of "Bullied," four LGBT youth took the stage to answer questions from the audience and provide insight into their lives as openly gay and lesbian students.

Mitch Adams, 16, remembered how kids routinely called him "fag" and "gay" in the locker rooms and hallways of his middle school. But he also talked about how much

better things have gotten for him in high school and how the experience of being bullied "made me much more open-minded and confident."

Maria Peeples, 18, a friend of Barker, said a few years ago she would have given anything not to be gay. But now she's grateful.

"You gain a lot of insight, empathy and strength," she said, adding, "and I like my girlfriend."

Among those in the audience were Barker's mother Darla Barker, who helped to introduce the film, and Appleton School District Superintendent Lee Allinger, who said some parents complained when he invited Nabozny to speak at Wilson Middle School.

"Schools are reflections of our communities," Allinger said. "My hope is that we're being supportive and responsive."

Allinger said he planned to initiate a weeklong anti-bullying program at the beginning of each school year to let students know that tormenting and harassing others are not acceptable behaviors.

In addition to offering a glimpse into their lives, student panelists also gave some advice to their supporters.

"The biggest thing we want to say to our allies is you have to be loud," Peeples said. "Because the hatred is loud."

- Louis Weisberg

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Cody," she said. "I have to finish what he started."

Barker has become involved with the GSA her son was trying to start at Shiocton High School. It's moving forward, she said, but Barker is dismayed that it was renamed "Paradigm 21," instead of the usual "gay-straight alliance."

"That kind of upset me," she said. "I thought, 'Why are you doing that?'"

Barker, a petite, quiet woman, also is speaking out publicly. Her voice trem-

bling with emotion and tears streaming down her face, Barker helped to introduce a screening of the documentary "Bullied" at the Appleton Public Library on Nov. 9.

"My son was an amazing person," Barker told the audience. "He had so much talent. He was a friend to everyone, and he was always fighting for others who were in the minority or oppressed. ... I feel like I have to be here to fight for him. Everyone has a right to be happy, and no one has a right to judge."

Note says bullying drove teen to suicide

A high-school freshman in Pennsylvania who killed himself by running into the path of a tractor-trailer in the early morning hours of Nov. 6 left behind a note that said he wanted to draw attention to the problem of bullying, his mother said.

Fourteen-year-old Brandon Bitner was the 14th gay youth to commit suicide in the U.S. since the summer, according to multiple sources.

Bitner had complained about teasing and name-calling when he was in middle school, but after he entered Midd-West High School in Middleburg this year, he began concealing his pain from school officials and his family, his mother said.

"He didn't want to burden other people with his problems," Tammy Simpson said in a telephone interview as the family prepared for his

'He was the most wonderful child anyone could ask for.'

funeral in the rural central Pennsylvania community. "I'm sure he felt that, if somebody said something, (the teasing) would get even worse."

Simpson described her only son as a soft-spoken youth who aspired to be a classical violinist and had many female friends. His note said he was tired of being called names like "faggot" and "sissy," according to The Patriot-News in Harrisburg.

Simpson said her son "never told us" what his sexual orientation was but that she didn't care.

"He was the most wonderful child anyone could ask for," she said.

In his note, Bitner cited an encounter with another student in the school cafeteria several days before his death as "the straw that broke the camel's back," Simpson said.

Wesley Knapp, the Midd-West School District superintendent, said the suicide prompted him to re-evaluate the safeguards that the school district has set up to prevent bullying.

"When you lose one of your students, it's painful," he said. "We all ask ourselves what could we have done perhaps to have prevented it."

But students at the high school told The Daily Item that bullying is rampant at the school and that school officials refuse to address it.

- Staff and wire reports



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BRIEFS

SAME-SEX RELATIONS BRING ATTACKS IN CAMEROON

Cameroonians are attacked by police, politicians, the media and even their own communities if they are suspected of having sexual relations with a person of the same sex, four human rights organizations said in a joint report released earlier this month.

The government should take urgent action to decriminalize such consensual conduct and to ensure the full human rights of all Cameroonians, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, said Alternatives-Cameroun, l'Association pour la défense des droits des homosexuels, Human Rights Watch, and the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission.

Their 62-page report "Criminalizing Identities: Rights Abuses in Cameroon Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity" details how the government uses an article of the penal code to deny basic rights to people perceived to be LGBT. The report describes arrests, beatings by the police, abuses in prison and a homophobic atmosphere that encourages shunning and abuse in the community. The consequence is that people are not punished for a specific outlawed practice but for a homosexual identity, the groups said.

"The poor and the young, who often have no way to get legal assistance, suffer the most from Cameroon's abusive atmosphere," said Steave Nemande, president of Alternatives-Cameroun. "Even after they get out

of jail, families and friends often reject them. They are denied education, jobs, even a place to live. Their lives are ruined."

**GAY MARRIAGE IS BOON FOR ARGENTINE TOURISM**

Thousands marched in Argentina's Gay Pride parade Nov. 6, celebrating the country's status as the first in Latin America to legalize same-sex marriage and vowing to campaign for new rights for transgender people.

More than 500 same-sex couples have been married since President Cristina Fernandez signed the law on July 21, said Esteban Paulo,

president of the Argentine Lesbians, Gay, Bi, and Transgender Federation.

The gay marriage law has been a boon for tourism, said Pablo De Luca, founder of the Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce in Buenos Aires. He estimates that 100,000 more gays and lesbians have visited Argentina as a result of the law.

"It's the same kind of increase that happened in South Africa, Canada and Madrid after they legalized gay marriage," De Luca said. "We want to travel to a country where we don't feel like we have to hide our sexuality."

Gay and lesbian couples still face discrimination — some civil servants have been unwilling to sign their marriage licenses, and the judicial system has been slow to approve adoptions by same-sex couples even though the law now grants them all the rights heterosexual married couples enjoy. Argentina's

dominant Roman Catholic Church remains opposed.

SPANISH GAYS CONFRONT POPE WITH KISS-IN

Pope Benedict XVI, in Barcelona earlier this month, directly attacked Spanish laws that allow gay marriage, fast-track divorce and easier access to abortions as he dedicated the city's iconic basilica, the Sagrada Familia.

It was the second time in as many days that Benedict criticized the policies of Spain's Socialist government and called for Europe as a whole to rediscover Christian teachings and apply them to everyday life.

As he headed to the basilica Nov. 7, about 200 gays and lesbians staged a kiss-in to protest his visit and church policies that consider homosexual acts "inherently disordered."

In contrast, some 250,000 people came out to cheer

the pope and watch as he formally inaugurated Barcelona's newest basilica, an architectural marvel still unfinished after more than 100 years of construction.

Benedict has focused much of his pontificate on trying to fight secular trends in the West such as the legal recognition of same-sex unions. He has visited Spain twice and has a third trip planned next year, an indication he sees this once staunchly Roman Catholic country as a battleground for the future of the faithful in Europe.

During his homily, he railed against same-sex marriage and divorce, saying families are built on the "indissoluble love of a man and a woman." He criticized policies allowing for abortions, saying "the life of children (must) be defended as sacred and inviolable from the moment of their conception."

— From WiG and AP reports

Employment Opportunity – HIV Prevention Research

The Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR) in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin announces openings for two positions in a new National Institutes of Health-funded research project that will develop, implement, and evaluate the effectiveness of community HIV prevention programs for African American men who have sex with men (MSM). The project's objective is to determine if friend-to-friend HIV prevention approaches that work through natural social networks of African American MSM in the community can reduce sexual risk behavior, sexually transmitted diseases, and HIV infection. Both Research Associate positions require extensive experience, knowledge, and understanding of Milwaukee's African American MSM community including settings, ways, and places where African American MSM at high risk for HIV can be reached. For both positions, relevant community experience and involvement with organizations that serve African American MSM are more essential than prior formal research experience. Positions will require frequent field work on evenings, nights, weekends, and during nontraditional hours.

Research Associates will perform activities related to the identification of community settings in Milwaukee for reaching African American MSM and for carrying out community outreach to recruit, interview, and conduct HIV prevention activities with social networks of Black gay or bisexual men. The Research Associates will also be responsible for outreach-based recruitment of friendship groups of African American MSM in community settings, for interviewing participants, and for seeking to engage friends of already recruited men to also enroll in the research. Strong interpersonal communication skills and comfort in community settings where the target population meet are important position requirements. Relevant community experience may substitute for some educational requirements.

Both positions offer competitive salaries and excellent fringe benefits. In addition to a resume or completed job application, we welcome applicants to provide an accompanying letter that describes any additional formal or informal community experience, volunteer work, or involvement with community organizations that serve the targeted population if those experiences are relevant to these positions.

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WIG'S BEST OF THE BEST



The readers have voted and the critics have spoken. The results are in. For the best of the best of LGBT Wisconsin, read on.

BEST FINE-DINING RESTAURANT

Readers made a lot of selections in this hard-fought category, but Milwaukee's Crazy Water, 839 S. Second St., emerged the winner. Not far behind were Bartolotta's Lake Park Bistro, 3133 E. Newberry Blvd., and Mason Street Grille, 435 E. Mason St. In Madison, L'Etoile, 1 S. Pinckney St., is our choice.

BEST LOCAL RESTAURANT

Milwaukee's Centro Café, 800 E. Center St., has placed high on "best of" lists everywhere this year, and WiG readers agree. Monty's Blue Plate Diner, 2089 Atwood Ave., is the favorite of Madisonites.

BEST ETHNIC RESTAURANT

Mexican appears to be WiG readers' favorite flavor, and Botanos, 816 S.

Fifth St., Milwaukee, is their favorite place to get it.

MOST ROMANTIC RESTAURANT

The lights are low, the décor is classic and The Capital Grille, 310 W. Wisconsin Ave., is where WiG readers book their reservations when they're in the mood for romance.

BEST PIZZA

In Milwaukee Zaffiro's, 1724 N. Farwell Ave., is top

slice. In Madison readers chose Ian's, 115 State St.

BEST HEALTH FOOD RESTAURANT

Beans & Barley, 1901 E. North Ave.

BEST OUTDOOR DINING

Milwaukee's Café Central, 2306 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., is the best for many reasons, including the neighborhood

(Bayview), the extensive beer selections and the gay-friendly ambience.

BEST COFFEE SHOP

With multiple locations but a distinctly independent flair, Alterra is the hands-down choice among Milwaukee readers. Single-location coffee shops that scored impressive tallies were Fuel Café, 818 E. Center St., Cranky Al's, 6903 W. North Ave.,

and Brewed Awakenings, 1208 E. Brady St. Madison's Espresso Royale, 650 State St., takes honors in the capitol city.

BEST BRUNCH

Readers' choice is The Wicked Hop, 345 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. But not far behind in second place, it's a tie between The Pfister, 424 E. Wisconsin Ave., and The Ambassador, 2308 W. Wisconsin Ave., also in Milwaukee.

BEST PLACE TO PEOPLE WATCH — Readers said Milwaukee's Bradford Beach is good for the gaze.

PHOTO: FARZAD DIBA





PHOTOS: COURTESY

BEST DRAG QUEEN & BEST DRAG KING —
Josie Lynn and Leo Long take the honors.

BEST BAKERY

Simma's Ovens Bakery, 817 N. 68th St., Milwaukee

BEST PLACE TO PEOPLE WATCH

Offering spectacular views of Lake Michigan, as well as the bodies that crowd its shores on hot summer days, Bradford Beach is a people watchers' paradise — at least for three months each year.

BEST LIQUOR & WINE STORE

A comprehensive selection and knowledgeable staff make Ray's Liquor, 8930 W. North Ave., Wauwatosa, and Star Liquor, 1209 Williamson St, Madison, the best places to go for stocking the bar and the wine cellar.

BEST SPORTING GOODS STORE

If you're headed to the

slopes this winter, head first to Laacke & Joy's, 1433 N. Water St., Milwaukee, or to the company's locations in Brookfield or Mequon.

BEST HOME INTERIORS STORE

Whether you're looking for just the right lamp or a complete redesign, Peabody's Interiors, 8655 N. Deerwood Dr., Brown Deer, offers quality at competitive pricing.

BEST LGBT POLITICIAN

U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., is an iconic leader and an inspirational role model to LGBT people everywhere. Baldwin received the most reader votes of any entry in any category in WiG's "best of" poll.

BEST POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

Fair Wisconsin battles

BEST OF LGBT WISCONSIN



hard for equality in our state, and WiG's readers obviously appreciate the effort.

BEST LGBT ALLY

Where were WiG's voters on Election Day? State Sen. Jim Sullivan, D-Wauwatosa, won our poll but unfortunately lost at the ballot box to anti-gay zealot Leah Vukmir. Tom Barrett took second place with readers but lost his race for governor as well.

BEST LGBT COMMUNITY GROUP

From its gay neighbors campaign to its Q-Share business group, Cream City Foundation promotes positive social change for LGBT people in Wisconsin.

BEST NON-LGBT PUBLICATION

Milwaukee Magazine

BEST TV STATION

WISN-12

BEST RADIO STATION

First place: WUWM
Second place: 88.9

BEST MOVIE THEATER

WiG's readers chose well in this category. Part of the Landmark Theatre chain and a Milwaukee architectural treasure, the Oriental Theatre, 2230 N. Farwell Ave., showcases the best indie flicks, including LGBT titles. The theater also is a venue for the Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival.

BEST MOVIE OF 2010

"The Kids are All Right," starring Annette Bening and Julianne Moore as a lesbian couple, was directed by out lesbian Lisa Cholodenko. Perhaps not coincidentally, it

played at the theater listed above.

BEST TV SERIES

Sexy, campy and playfully gruesome, is it any wonder that HBO's "True Blood" won this category? AMC's "Mad Men" and Fox's "Glee" were strong runners-up.

BEST BOOK

Readers chose "Shadow Tag," by Louise Erdrich. The novel chronicles the collapse of a family with thriller-like momentum.

BEST LGBT WEBSITE

Thanks to readers for voting wisconsinmagazine.com the winner in this category. Flattery will get you everywhere.

BEST ONLINE DATING SITE

WiG's readers say the fastest place to find Mr. Right Now is manhunt.com. Just bring your own condom and don't expect to see him again offline.

BEST LOCAL RADIO PERSONALITY

Readers picked Kidd



PHOTOS: COURTESY

BEST LOCAL RADIO PERSONALITY & BEST LGBT PERSONALITY — WMYX's Kidd O'Shay (with singer Pink) and Dear Ruthie.



PHOTO: COURTESY

BEST MOVIE THEATRE — Milwaukee's Oriental Theatre frequently features LGBT films.

O'Shay, part of the morning

Madison: Overture Center for the Arts

BEST PERFORMING ARTS GROUP

Milwaukee: Milwaukee Repertory Theater
Madison: Forward Theater Company
Outstate: American Players Theater

BEST GAYBORHOOD

Bayview in Milwaukee

BEST LGBT EVENT

PrideFest

BEST VETERINARIAN

Shorewood Animal Hospital, 2500 E. Capitol Dr.

BEST PERFORMING ARTS VENUE

Milwaukee: The Pabst



PHOTO: CENTRO CAFE

BEST LOCAL RESTAURANT — Centro Café is WiG readers' top pick.



PHOTO: COURTESY

BEST FEMALE PERFORMER — Readers are goo-goo for Gaga.



PHOTO: ALTERRA COFFEE
BEST COFFEE SHOP — Alterra has locations throughout Milwaukee.

BEST OF LGBT WISCONSIN



PHOTOS: COURTESY

BEST LGBT POLITICIAN & BEST COMMUNITY LEADER — U.S. Rep Tammy Baldwin and Joseph Pabst

BEST WEEKEND GETAWAY

As picturesque and charming as the New England coastline, Door County offers all the amenities of the best resort areas and is gay-welcoming to boot.

BEST FUNDRAISER

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin's Make a Promise Dinner

BEST CLOTHING STORE

Aala Reed Men's Clothier, 1320 E. Brady St., and Harley's for Men, 4009 N. Oakland Ave., were separated by only one vote in this category.

BEST STYLIST

Michael at Halo Hair Spa, 1221 E. Brady St., Milwaukee

BEST PLACE TO WORK OUT

Wisconsin Athletic Club

BEST SHOPPING DISTRICT

Brady Street just edged out Bayshore Town Center in Milwaukee. State Street is the top spot to drop a lot in Madison.

BEST INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORE

Milwaukee: Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer Ave.

Madison: A Room of One's Own, 307 W. Johnson St.

BEST FLORIST

The war of the roses ended in a tie between Milwaukee's Bella Fiori, 931 E. Ogden Ave., and Wauwatosa's Alfa Flower Shop, 7001 W. North Ave.

BEST GARDEN CENTER

Bayside Garden Center, 400 E. Brown Deer Road, Bayside

BEST REALTOR

There are plenty of gay realtors in Wisconsin, but none came close to Shorewest Realtors' Jim Schleif who was top pick when readers' votes were tallied.

BEST GAY ENTERTAINMENT BAR, MILWAUKEE

LaCage NiteClub, 801 S. Second St.

BEST GAY NEIGHBORHOOD BAR, MILWAUKEE

This Is It, 418 E. Wells St.

BEST GAY BAR TO MEET MEN, MILWAUKEE

Kruz, 354 E. National Ave.

STATE'S MOST ATTRACTIVE GAY BAR

Plan B, 924 Williamson St., Madison

BEST GAY BAR IN NON-METRO SOUTHERN WISCONSIN

Club Icon, 6305 120th Ave., Kenosha

BEST GAY BAR IN NORTHERN WISCONSIN

PJs, 1601 Oregon St., Oshkosh

BEST BAR TO MEET WOMEN

Walker's Pint, 818 S. Second St.

BEST BARTENDER

Colin from Club Charlies

BEST DRAG QUEEN

Josie Lynn

BEST DRAG KING

Leo Long

BEST LGBT PERSONALITY

Dear Ruthie

BEST COMMUNITY LEADER

Joseph Pabst

BEST NATIONAL LGBT PERSONALITY

Ellen DeGeneres

BEST MALE PERFORMER

Elton John

BEST FEMALE PERFORMER

Lady Gaga

BEST LGBT SOCIAL GROUP

Since 1978, GAMMA in Milwaukee has provided

LGBT people in southeastern Wisconsin fun things to do, from sports and card nights to trips and dinner events. A full slate of events is posted regularly on the group's website at www.milwaukeegamma.com.

BEST LGBT SPORTS LEAGUE

In only its first year, the Milwaukee Gay Volleyball League is popular among players and spectators alike. In Madison the Madison Gay Hockey Association is a hit.



PHOTO: DOORCOUNTY.COM/DOOR COUNTY VISITOR BUREAU

BEST WEEKEND GETAWAY — Readers love a Door County road trip.



PHOTO: COURTESY

BEST LGBT EVENT — Readers look forward to Pridefest each June.



NOT SO HOT

WORST POLITICIAN ON LGBT ISSUES

Wisconsin Gov.-elect Scott Walker, who's threatened to roll back all the legislative gains made by the state's LGBT community, handily won in this ignominious category.



MOST HOMOPHOBIC GROUP

Wisconsin Family Action has been behind every major piece of anti-LGBT legislation in the state in recent years.

A catalyst for social change on behalf of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) communities in Southeastern Wisconsin since 1982

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Still sparkling

an interview with Patty Duke

Interview

GREGG SHAPIRO

Academy Award-winning movie star and TV sitcom legend Patty (a.k.a. Anna) Duke has been a working actress for more than 50 years. In fact, my interview with her had to be rescheduled because she was on location for a movie. But it was worth the wait. Funny and down-to-earth, Duke is a natural storyteller.

Gregg Shapiro: Early in the film "Valley of the Dolls," the character Anne Wells (Barbara Parkins) says that "show busi-

ness is cruel."

Patty Duke: I couldn't make a blanket statement like that. Show business is what an intelligent and caring person makes of it. I'm not so sure that we don't have to have a certain amount of defense mechanisms going, but I have had awfully good experiences in these 56 years. I tell young people who come to my class at University of Idaho, "I don't want you to be cynical; I just want you to be careful."

GS: At the time "Valley of the Dolls" was being made, you also had a singing career...

PD: Okay! I have always been more than slightly embarrassed by my inability to sing. In my heart and

in my mind, I sing like a lark. Somehow that does not translate to the CDs.

GS: Did it bother you that your songs in "Valley of the Dolls" were dubbed?

PD: It bothered me and I'll tell you why. I didn't feel that the character needed to be a Judy Garland type of singer, except in dynamics. ... I understand why they did it, but I was disappointed.

GS: The role of Helen Lawson went originally to Judy Garland. Did you meet her before she was replaced by Susan Hayward?

PD: I do. Even though she was struggling terribly at the time, for me it was a trip to Oz. To spend time

with her, to giggle with her, to wish that she could be what was expected of her. She just couldn't be at that point. Even though I had not yet been diagnosed with my mental illness (bipolar disorder), somehow I instinctively got it; I understood that she was doing the best she could.

Also, and this is one of the few negatives I'll give you: The director (Mark Robison) was a very cold man, at least to us. He didn't say hi to her and welcome her. Judy was from an era when that was just commonplace and that played to her insecurity.

GS: For more than 40 years since its release "Valley of the Dolls" has gained a celebrated status as a camp/cult classic.

PD: I was mortified by the movie when I first saw it. I thought I overacted. Most of the performers in the show thought that we were telling a serious story. The group got duped! In the last 25 years, the gay community has taught me to enjoy it ... and cherish that it brings me so close to them.

GS: That's interesting because at the time that it was made, in the mid-1960s, the movie depicts the homophobia of the period - for example, Ted Casablanca is referred to as queer, a faggot.

PD: And I'm not so sure that there still isn't (a lot) of that in our country. I think we have made progress. ... But, oh my God, we have such a long way to go! ... I really have hope that our grandchildren will experience only a modicum of this kind of hate.

GS: The cast of "Valley of the Dolls" was made up of young actresses, including the late Sharon Tate. Do you have any memories of Sharon that you'd like to share?



Patty Duke appears at the Camp Midnight/Queer Film Society-sponsored screening of "Valley of the Dolls" at 1 p.m. on Nov. 20 at The Music Box Theater, 3733 N. Southport in Chicago. Go to queerfilmsociety.org.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Sharon Tate, Barbara Parkins and Patty Duke in "Valley of the Dolls."

PD: Sharon Tate's inner beauty superseded her outer beauty, if you can imagine. The loss of Sharon has been significantly painful for 42 years. We became buddies. Once in a while, she'd catch me staring at her in awe. ... Sharon had rented my house and was having her pregnancy there, loving every minute of it. She and Roman (Polanski) were talking about buying it. I had no idea, because the men took care of the dealings. I don't know what the hell happened, but the deal fell apart.

That's when they moved to Cielo Drive (where Tate was murdered). We shared a housekeeper. It was my housekeeper, poor Winnie, who found her. ... (Winnie) really suffered. I thought you might touch on this this morning and I was thinking about Manson and his people. If I could be at his parole hearings, I would make a scene. Because not only

should this man - and this is a personal suffering you're hearing - not only should he be in prison, but he should rot. The part of me that truly believes in forgiveness, which is what has allowed me to live this long, stops short when it comes to Manson and his people.

GS: In 1982, when most actors would have avoided such a project, you appeared in the lesbian-themed movie "By Design."

PD: If there's one thing I can say about me, it's I've been willing to try, at least once, all kinds of things. At the age of almost 64 I am recognizing that I was a little adventurous. I've always thought I was fairly boring. That is not to ignore the fact that I had some self-consciousness about it. Sara Botsford, that beautiful actress, her comfort level with everything really encouraged me and helped me to become comfortable myself.

An affection for abstraction

By Kat Murrell

Staff writer

Abstract art is a phenomenon of the 20th century that began with the vibrant explorations of the Russian Wassily Kandinsky and Franco-Spanish crackups of the human figure in cubism, courtesy of Monsieur Georges Braque and Señor Pablo Picasso. Life on the cutting edge of art in pre-World War I Europe meant chucking out centuries of convention with daring and bravado. But here in the heart of the Midwest? Not so much. It took a few decades.

This is evident in the “Wisconsin Moderns” show at Dean Jensen Gallery, 759 N. Water St., on view through Nov. 27. Proprietor Dean Jensen summarizes the state of things in his catalog essay, noting that in the 1940s, abstract art was basically absent from the Badger State. As he put it, “the state’s art schools might just as well have posted signs declaring ‘Modernism not spoken here.’” Abstract art just wasn’t done.

But new ideas are powerful forces. Progressive approaches to art making, richly expressive of the feelings, fears and aspirations of an unprecedented world, eventually broke through. Jensen revives the names and reputations of some of these early practitioners.

A big, cubist sort of painting with a powerful running figure by Carl Holty (1900-1976) was an early touchstone. On loan from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Department of



PHOTO: COURTESY GREEN GALLERY

New work by Scott Reeder springs from quirky origins to lyrical results.

Art History, it hovers over a descending stairwell, part of the show but distant, as though looking on to other works that followed in its path. Other Holty paintings, such as “Cove” (1944), plunge into the borderland between representation and abstraction. Authoritative black lines suggest a port and sails, an effect like a modernist stained glass window. Yet, the tracery of paint denies description of figures in favor of flat design.

Fred Berman (b. 1926) works the surface of canvases with weighty texture. They densely shimmer as though

the world exists only through a watery curtain. The dissolution of form goes beyond any impressionist. In pieces such as “Nocturnal” (1995), the whispers of figures - horses and riders, perhaps reindeer, maybe a sea anemone? - cultivate mysterious and curious auras before sinking back into the depths of dark pigment.

Lucia Stern (1895-1987) is represented with buoyant, geometric compositions that foreshadow 1960s pop colors. In her untitled piece of 1960, a mask-like face created out of delicately layered mesh, there’s a darker, totemic qual-

ity. Further introducing her work in different mediums, a 1950s sculpture of a bird seems to follow Constantin Brancusi’s 1923 “Bird in Space” (the Brancusi piece was notoriously taxed in 1927 when brought into the U.S. because customs officials refused it the duty-free designation of “art”). Jensen notes that Stern was an active voice in Milwaukee during her life, writing and speaking on behalf of all that was daring and progressive in the visual world.

THEN AND NOW

Fast forward to the 21st century. If you’re in search

of progressive art today, The Green Gallery is one of the foremost venues in the city. John Riepenhoff, a practicing artist in his own right, oversees two gallery spaces, titled as east and west in reference to their locations. The Green Gallery East, 1500 N. Farwell Ave., hosts “Scott Reeder: New Work” through Dec. 5, featuring pieces of deceptive complexity.

There’s something strangely familiar, but otherworldly, as pale lines streak across a dark gray background, enlivened by breathy trails of blue and magenta. The rhythmic play of lines in the surface,

varying in bright intensity, is like the after-effects of fireworks or a long-exposed image of the cosmos. Other works take on an opposite motif. Patterns are made through the massing of innumerable small dots, coagulating like seeds or bubbles of primordial ooze. They writhe like a biological microcosm enlarged to monumental scale.

This all sounds very grand, but these works aren’t burdened by weighty self-importance. They operate on a big scale, as large as 6-by-10 feet, but retain an easy, lyrical quality in their matte surfaces. And that “something strangely familiar” feeling? In their pre-art existence, these shapes were pasta and lentils, but scattered on a canvas, their negative spaces suggest far more than simple foods.

At first glance, these paintings by Reeder, a professor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, may seem aligned with the muscular efforts of abstract expressionism. But, the underlying impulses better recall the humor and surprise of Dadaist and surrealist statements. Rayograms by the American surrealist Man Ray, pictures made by laying objects on photo-sensitive paper and exposing them to light, are ancestrally related to this meeting of pasta and paint.

Regardless of these precedents and underpinnings, on their own they are luminous and subtle. Forms and colors pulse, fluctuating in space, blurring their humble origins, and transforming into something beyond themselves.

Artwatch

DEBRA BREHMER

The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater recently staged an exhibition called “Question: Identity – Fences: Wrong Answer.” The show ended Nov. 13, but is certainly worth noting here.

Despite the cumbersome title, the exhibition was a large-scale, ambitious collaboration with the college’s LGBTQ organization to survey primarily Wisconsin-made art about gay issues. Some of the artists included Madison’s Paul Baker Prindle, Whitewater’s Max White and Tabitha Dankert, Lawrence University professors Benjamin Rinehart and

J. Shimon & J. Lindemann, UW-Stevens Point’s dean Jeffrey Morin and Milwaukee’s Julia Taylor. For a small mid-western university, this was a courageous undertaking. Bravo.

On a larger scale, the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C., opened its exhibition, “Hide/Seek: Difference and Desire in American Portraiture” on

Oct. 30. The show runs through Feb. 13, 2011. Believe it or not, this is the FIRST major museum show – ever – to focus on images of same-sex love. And who would have thought that the seemingly conservative National Portrait Gallery would have been the trendsetter. Flights are inexpensive to D.C. This is a must-see.

Back on the home front,

we have accelerated into the holiday shopping season. The beloved Art Bar, 722 E. Burleigh, beckons with its annual Mini Show, which runs through Jan. 3. In its fifth year, hundreds of very small-scale works by 80 artists line the walls and are priced at under \$70. Michael Kasun’s bird paintings are always a seasonal favorite. Joshua Ard is selling small wood blocks

with engraved faces for \$15. Other knockouts include Elsie Berget’s nature paintings, Stuart Shank’s cut paper collages and Marie Myler’s cows.

Arts vs. Craft, the DIY fair, is from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sat., Nov. 27, at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 790 N. Van Buren St. Admission is \$3.

Theater

HARRY CHERKINIAN

Caroline O'Connor is "on stage" even when she's offstage. Performing courses through her veins like life-blood as she breaks into a phrase of a song or a character she plays. My 45-minute interview with her is really more of a preview of "Bombshells," the upcoming one-woman show written specifically for her that opens Nov. 22 at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater's Quadracci Powerhouse stage.

O'Connor talks passionately about her art as part of her life's journey. "I am a gypsy," she says matter of factly, although she is 100-percent Irish, born in England and raised in Australia. "Most people think gypsies don't exist anymore. I kind of go where the work is. I love my job."

Her current job, at 48, is playing six women of various ages and backgrounds: a mother who talks about a day in her life, an abandoned wife, a Catholic school girl, a

bride on her wedding day, a widow and an American singer. If that sounds challenging, all the better. O'Connor has lived her life welcoming challenges.

O'Connor's first love was ballet, which she studied at London's Royal Ballet School. But her training started long before that. By the age of five she was learning and performing Irish dance.

At 15, upon finishing ballet school, "I asked my mum, 'Am I pretty?'" O'Connor recalls. "She replied, 'You're unusual.'"

So, O'Connor reassessed her chances and opportunities to make a go of it in dancing. "I was always going to be the third swan from the left," she says. "I realized I'm much more of a character actress."

And so began a new direction for the creative gypsy. O'Connor found an entirely new kind of performance — and accolades. She won an Olivier Award nomination for her work in "Mack and Mabel" on London's West End. Broadway beckoned and she debuted on the Great White Way in 2003, stepping into the role of Velma Kelly in

"Chicago."

O'Connor's film credits include "Moulin Rouge," Baz Luhrmann's surreal take on the Verdi opera "La Traviata," as well as "De-Lovely," the feature based on the life of Cole Porter. She played Ethel Merman in that one.

Ironically, Merman played a key role in O'Connor's youth. Like the shy girl in the movie "Little Voice," O'Connor would wait until she was alone to put on her parents' records and sing along with Ethel Merman and Edith Piaf. She even tackled male tenor Mario Lanza's "Donkey Serenade." But not Judy Garland.

"She was too good," O'Connor says.

But as an adult, O'Connor's voice finally crossed paths with Garland's when she played her in "End of the Rainbow." She subsequently recorded "A Tribute to Garland."

O'Connor also played Piaf in Australia.

Seven years ago, O'Connor's mother found tapes that O'Connor had made at ages 11 and 12 while singing along to her parents' records. (She breaks

"Bombshells" runs Nov. 22 to Dec. 19 in The Rep's Quadracci Powerhouse Theater located in the Patty & Jay Baker Theater Complex. For more information, call 414-224-9490 or visit www.milwaukeeep.com.

into singing, and her imitation of Merman's quavering powerhouse vocals is dead-on and quite startling, given O'Connor's tiny, waif-like frame).

But today the show is all about O'Connor and her ability to play so many different characters.

"When I read ('Bombshell'), I said, 'This woman (playwright Joanna Murray-Smith), knows me,'" O'Connor says. "It's like saying, 'Yes! We believe in you as an actor.'"

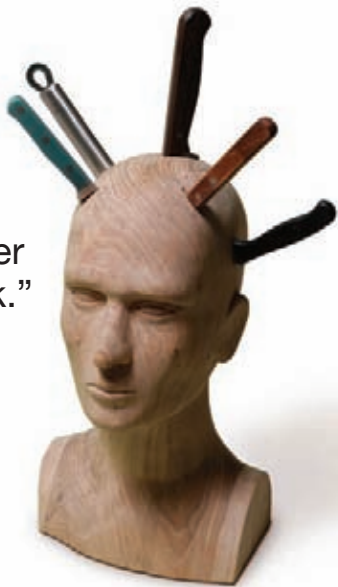
But for O'Connor, even though the show was tailor-made for her, it's ultimately about the audience.

"Everything I do is about (them)," she says emphatically. "It's about their peace, their enjoyment. It's a love affair."



Caroline O'Connor

"I'm a lot sharper than you think."



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Maarten Baas, *Your Best Kitchen Mate!* knife block, 2004. Photo courtesy Ivan Terestchenko for Contrast Gallery.

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Music

GREGG SHAPIRO

Chicago sounds good

HEY CHAMP

In addition to Dot Dot Dot (featuring out lead guitarist Rose) and Kid Sister, Hey Champ is among the acts at the forefront of the electronic dance music scene in Chicago. A trio of serious musicians, Hey Champ kicks things off on the full-length disc "Star" (Townie) with the aptly titled "Shake," which is sure to set booties in motion. Trademark track "Cold Dust Girl" illustrates why they caught Lupe Fiasco's attention and why they deserve yours as well.

MAHJONGG

Mahjongg practically dares listeners to dance to "Gooble," the opening cut on "The Long Shadow of the Paper Tiger" (K). It sounds like an homage to early Chicago electro pioneers Ministry. The track "Miami Knights" has a similar effect on the physical being, challenging you to both dance and sit still. Propulsive pro-

test song "Grooverider Free" approaches epic status while "Whoop" whips dancers into a funky frenzy.

TORTOISE

Post-rock godfathers Tortoise come out of their shell on "Beacons of Ancestorship" (Thrill Jockey). From the sprawling "High Class Slim Came Floating In" to rhythmic quickies such as "Northern Something" and "Penumbra," Tortoise reminds us of the power of pace. "Yinxianghechengqi" restores the rock, whereas "The Fall of Seven Diamonds Plus One" is as seductive as they come. Tortoise also proves to be dance-floor ready with the hypnotic bump and grind of "Monument Six One Thousand."

THE RIGHT NOW

On their debut album "Carry Me Home" (therightnow.com), The Right Now tosses its fedora into the retro-soul revival ring. First-rate belter Stefanie Berecz is a wonder to behold on

sizzling tunes, including "You Will Know," "I'll Get Down" and "Before I Know Your Name." Even when she drifts dangerously close to Mariah Carey territory, as she does on "I Could Really Hold On," she is never less than compelling.

LEE DEWYZE

Before he was crowned American Idol champ, Chicago-suburb native singer/songwriter Lee DeWyze had a pair of indie discs to his name. Released in early 2010, the suitably named "Slumberland" (WuLi), is a bit of a snooze. DeWyze's suburban growl creates enough friction to warm if not entirely melt hearts, but the acoustic blues settings ("Annabelle") are tiring. A few exceptions are "Princess," "Flower Child" and "Another Sleep." No doubt all eyes will be on DeWyze's forthcoming, post-AI major-label debut disc.

EDIE CAREY

A Chicago transplant (the

bi singer recently married a man!), Edie Carey continues to be one of the most awe-inspiring talents on the folk-pop circuit. "Love," the opening track on her "Bring The Sea" (ediecarey.com) CD, is startling in its nakedness. Yet her honest insights give the song a comforting bluish glow. And Accidental Poet is the right name for Carey's publishing company, especially when you hear the lyrics to songs such as "Red Shoes," "Come Inside" and "Lovely."

CANASTA

Out musician Ian Wilson plays a variety of keyboards on "The Fakeout, The Tease and The Breather" (canastamusic.com), the latest disc by Canasta. Led by Matt Priest, Canasta sounds like Chicago's answer to Death Cab For Cutie, with sophisticated song-craft and dazzling musicianship. Standout cuts on this altogether excellent disc include "Becoming You," "Mexico City" and "Plan Your Escape."



The Right Now performs on Nov. 19 in Milwaukee at Club Garibaldi, 2501 S. Superior, and on Nov. 20 in Madison at The Frequency, 121 W. Main.



Canasta performs on Dec. 16 in Madison at The Frequency, 121 W. Main.

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Music

GREGG SHAPIRO

Holiday Harmonies

ALLAN SHERMAN

One thing you can say for the Jewish people: They have maintained their sense of humor. The late Allan Sherman, a purveyor of great musical comedy, released a series of albums during the 1960s that still induce LOLs today. "My Son, the Folk Singer," "My Son, the Celebrity" and "My Son, the Nut" have all been reissued on Collectors' Choice Music. Sherman's gift for parody lyrics has rarely been equaled. Just try not to crack a smile when Sherman transforms "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" into "The Ballad of Harry Lewis," a tribute to a mensch of the cloth (read: rag trade); revises the Harry Belafonte hit "Matilda" into "My Zelda"; or sings his biggest hit, the letter-from-camp song "Hello Muddah, Hello Faddah, based on "Dance of the Hours" by Ponchielli from "La Gioconda." If this isn't Hanukkah party music, what is?

**INDIGO GIRLS**

Amy Ray and Emily Saliers of Indigo Girls wrap up a dozen songs on their first holiday disc "Holly Happy Days" (IG Recordings/Vanguard). Originals such as the bouncy banjo number "The Wonder Song" and the inclusive "Your Holiday Song" are welcome additions to the Christmas music songbook. Their distinctive interpretations of such standards as "I'll Be Home For Christmas" and "Angels We Have Heard On High," as well as out singer/songwriter Chely Wright's "It Really Is A Wonderful Night" and Beth



Nielsen Chapman's "There's Still My Joy," are glorious. The inclusion of Woody Guthrie's "Happy Joyous Hanukah" is a delight.

MARIAH CAREY

What a difference 16 years makes. Further embracing her urban identity on "Merry Christmas II You" (Island), Mariah Carey's sequel to her 1994 holiday disc, the 40-year-old diva continues to embrace her sex-kitten image while trimming the tree. A mixture of carol medleys and originals, including an "extra festive" rerecording of her Xmas hit "All I Want For



Christmas Is You" and two co-written by out songwriter Marc ("Hairspray") Shaiman – "Christmas Time Is In the Air Again" and "One Child" – the whole affair seems less festive than it does forced, a prettily wrapped package that lacks warmth and feels as frosty as spray-on snow.

ANNIE LENNOX

One listen to the beautiful and abundant "A Christmas Cornucopia" (Decca) and you will wonder why Annie Lennox (who was born on Dec. 25) hasn't recorded an album like this before. The dozen songs range from well-



known selections, including "The First Noel" and "Silent Night," to less-familiar fare, such as "See Amid the Winter's Snow" and "Angels From the Realms of Glory." Lennox closes the disc with the original composition "Universal Child," a powerful number with a message that extends beyond the holiday season.

THE SUPERIONS

The B-52s never put out a holiday record and that's a shame. But fear not, out B-52s front man Fred Schneider has teamed up with Noah Brodie and Dan Marshall to form

The Superions and release "Destination...Christmas!" (Fanatic). Even without Kate Pierson or Cindy Wilson, "Destination...Christmas!" sounds like it could be a lost B-52s record – in spirit, at least. The 11 new songs, with titles such as "Christmas Conga (Jungle Bells)," "Crummy Christmas Tree" and "Christmas Tears," have the kind of kooky lyrics we've come to expect from Schneider. There are also plenty of opportunities for dancing on "Santa's Disco," "Santa Je T'aime" and the Cerrone-like "Teddy and Betty Yeti."

THE WAILING WALL

As mystical as modern Jewish music gets (listen to the sitar on "Bones Become Rainbows"), "The Low Hanging Fruit" (JDub) by The Wailing Wall (a.k.a. Jesse Rifkin) makes it safe for vegan hipsters and their contemporaries everywhere.

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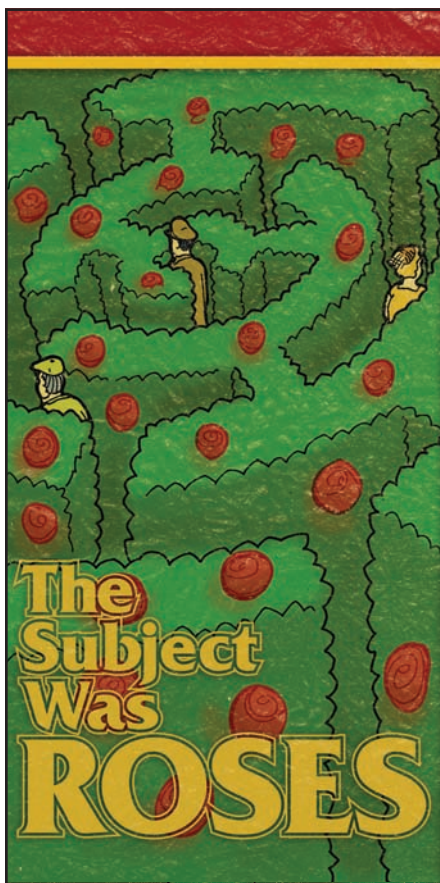
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Film

GREGG SHAPIRO

'DUE DATE'

(Warner Brothers)

An uglier and meaner 21st-century version of "Planes, Trains and Automobiles," Todd Phillips' latest road movie "Due Date" works the series-of-unfortunate-events premise to the bone, exhausting every idea as well as the patience of the audience.

When short-fused architect Peter (Robert Downey Jr.) crosses paths in Atlanta with Hollywood-bound actor Ethan (Zach Galifianakis), a swishy grizzly bear in a china shop, his life will never be the same. Peter is anxious to get home to L.A. and his pregnant wife Sarah (Michelle Monaghan) for the birth of his first child. Ethan, who wears ill-fitting, acid-washed jeans and white Capezios, has a personality disorder somewhere on the autism scale. He managed to get himself and Peter thrown off an airplane and added to the no-fly list. Naturally, Peter's wallet is in his suitcase, leaving him without an ID and currency.

Traveling with his masturbating French bulldog Sunny and his late



PHOTO: COURTESY

Unfortunate antics: Zach Galifianakis and Robert Downey Jr. in "Due Date."

father's ashes in a French Market coffee can, Ethan offers Peter a ride in his rented Subaru. So begins the nightmare.

Luckily, Peter's friend Darryl (Jamie Foxx) is nearby in Dallas and comes to the rescue, despite having serious challenges of his own. But the celebration is short-lived when Peter, egged on by Ethan, becomes suspicious of Darryl's relationship with Sarah. On the road again, the traveling companions alternate between camaraderie and enmity, with the conflict reaching its peak, aptly enough, at the Grand Canyon, via a string of revelations.

Propelled by more than a few

sight gags and a bong-load of drug humor, "Due Date" plays like a stop-gap measure, as if director/co-writer Phillips worried about losing the attention of his following while they waited for him to finish making "The Hangover 2." Galifianakis, who showed such restraint playing a psych ward patient in "It's Kind of a Funny Story," is at his Jack Black-est here, giving his frat boy fans what they want from him.

'MORNING GLORY'

(Paramount)

This relatively harmless rom-com is set in the world of morning television. Early-riser Becky

(Rachel McAdams) is laid off from her job as producer of "Good Morning, New Jersey," in spite of expecting a big promotion. After an exhaustive job search, she lands a dreaded gig at network IBS (named for Irritable Bowel Syndrome, perhaps) where Jerry (Jeff Goldblum) hires her to resuscitate his fourth- (and last-) placed morning show, "Daybreak."

Becky has her work cut out for her dealing with the show's hosts, foot-fetishist Paul (Ty Burrell of "Modern Family") and seen-it-all defeatist Colleen (Diane Keaton). But after cleaning house (good-bye, Paul), Becky recruits the network's lauded newsman Mike (unapologetic scenery muncher Harrison Ford) for the co-hosting gig via a loophole in his contract. Lots of head-butting ensues, along with kooky comedic bits. Thankfully, we (and Becky) have tasty snack Adam (the smoking Patrick Wilson) to look at for distraction, as the seeds of a potential relationship are sown.

But Becky's work ethic, driven by her attachment to/dependence on her Blackberry, interferes in a big way. Never fear, however. There's a happy ending and a clever twist just around the corner, parting the clouds just in time for the sun to rise.

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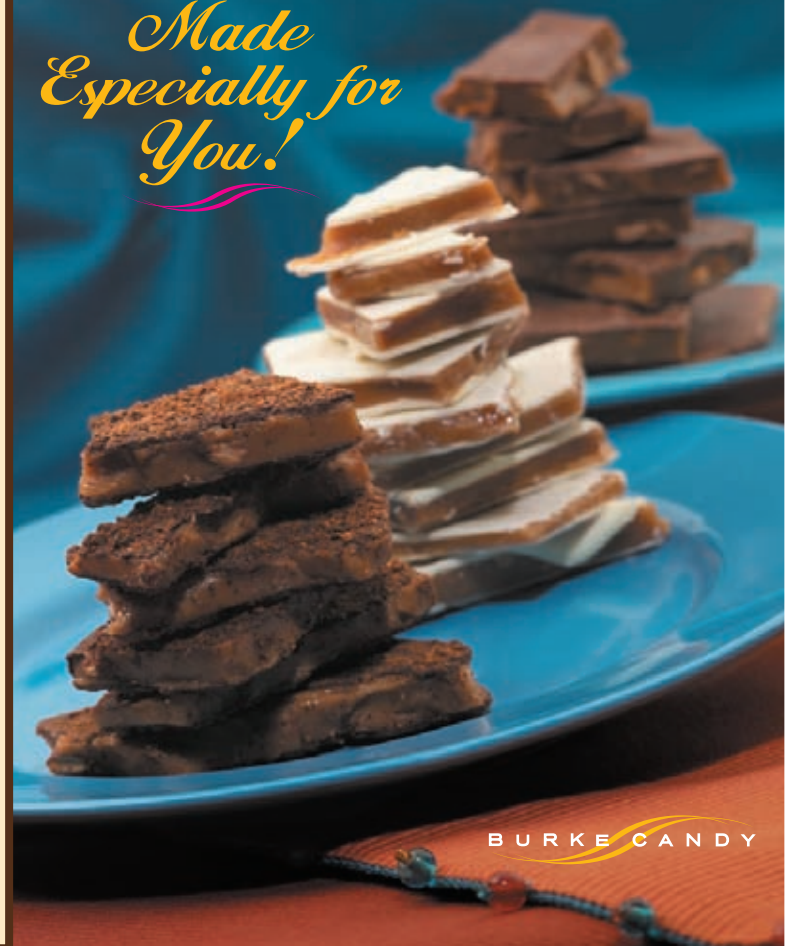
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'Historian' goes under the covers of pre-Stonewall life

Books

LOUIS WEISBERG

"Do I contradict myself?" poet Walt Whitman asked in "Song of Myself."

"Very well, then I contradict myself," he answered. "I am large, I contain multitudes."

Those words proved prophetic for Sam Steward, who was inspired by Whitman from an early age, both as a literary figure and a gay role model. Steward, the subject of Justin Spring's absorbing biography "Secret Historian" (Farrar, Straus and Giroux), a 2010 National Book Award finalist, contained many selves — and some of them contradicted others with dangerous force.

Spring hints at the breadth of Steward's personae in the book's subtitle: "The life and times of Samuel Steward, professor, tattoo artist and sexual renegade." But not even that lengthy descriptor does service to the range of

life experiences covered by this detailed and compelling chronicle of one of the most fascinating and, until now, forgotten lives of the 20th century.

Steward, who lived from 1909 to 1993, lost his mother and was abandoned by his father at a young age. Reared by two single aunts who owned a boarding house in small-town Ohio, Steward turned to literature and sex for solace — for, as Spring explained during a recent visit to Milwaukee, "Sam realized his sexuality early and often."

Although both interests defined his life, the latter would eventually overwhelm the former.

Steward began adulthood as a brilliant academic and promising novelist, with aspirations of living a literary life in Paris. He developed close friendships with some of the most prominent writers of his day, including Thornton Wilder and Gertrude Stein.

Steward lived with at least one foot out of the closet at a time when homosexual-



Justin Spring reads at 4 p.m. Nov. 30 at The Pyle Center (Room 313) on the UWM campus, 702 Langdon St., in Madison.

ity was not only a career-killer but also a prosecutable offense. But he was hardly a gay rights champion. In fact, his self-loathing, as well as his disdain for other gay men, led Steward down a psychic rabbit hole into a wonderland of masochism so violent that it's a miracle he survived it.

"He didn't know if he was going to get killed or have the orgasm of his life," Spring said of Steward's rough-trade experiences, which grew more brutal as the hunger for novelty drove him to ever-greater extremes. Among his stable of regular S/M partners was Chicago leather icon Chuck Renslow, who as a young man treated the smitten Steward rather shabbily.

Fortunately, Steward kept a meticulous and witty record of his encounters in the "Stud File," as he called it, which provides a deeply personal history of pre-Stonewall gay male subculture in all of its determination, creativity and peril. A diary written with the insight and craft of an accomplished novelist, the Stud File became an essential part of the sex research of Steward's close friend Alfred Kinsey. It also was an outlet for Steward to validate his sexuality and revel in his conquests, particularly those of heterosexual males — instances of "conquering the bullies" in Steward's mind, Spring said.

"The Stud File is kind of a trophy case, a way of gloating," Spring said. "Sam got more tail in his lifetime than any other man he knew and that made him quite pleased."

For Steward, sex was largely a way of venting anger over the abandonment of his father and the fate of being homosexual in a deeply

ALSO ON THE SHELF

An Obscene Diary: The Visual World of Sam Steward (Elysium Press/Antinous Press, 2010). This high-end, limited-edition collector's item contains some of Sam Steward's best drawings as well as entries from his "Stud File," the sexual diary that helped to inform Alfred Kinsey's research.

homophobic world. "It was not happy, fulfilling, emotionally connecting sex, but it was exuberant," Spring said.

Steward's obsession with sex ultimately derailed his literary aspirations by exhausting his time as well as his creative energy. Spring, who believes Steward had the makings of an important novelist, has mixed feelings about this outcome. On the one hand, he laments the loss of Steward's talent. But, "if he had been the literary success that he wanted to be, I wouldn't have had a book to write," Spring said.

In middle age, Steward left the literary world behind for good after developing a desire to learn tattooing, which combined his skill in drawing with his obsession for the sailors and thugs who wore tattoos in the 1950s. He learned the craft from Milwaukee master tattoo

artist Amund Dietzel and left his position as a DePaul University professor to establish a tattoo parlor on Chicago's South State Street, one of the city's most crime-ridden areas in those days.

Steward gained a national reputation as a tattoo artist and ultimately wound up in Oakland, Calif., where he was the official tattooist for the Hell's Angels. As with all of his experiences, this one too had paradoxical dimensions: Inserting his tattoo needle into hardened criminals who'd committed heinous offenses was an act of intimacy that both horrified and titillated Steward.

But Steward didn't toss out his typewriter completely. In yet another example of joining together his divergent sub-personalities, Steward turned to penning pornography under the name Phil Andros.

Spring, who spent nine years writing "Secret Historian," said the book's success has vindicated Steward's life by bringing mainstream acceptance to his life's story and the attention of the literati to his work as a writer. The book is already in its second printing.

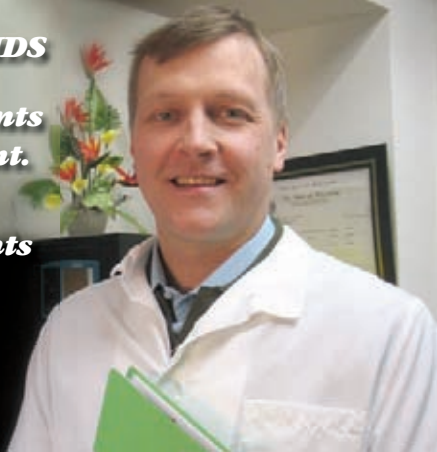
"Sam made his life entirely transparent on my behalf, although he didn't know, of course, who it was for," Spring said. "But the narcissist in him hoped that someone would come along and discover his story."

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Dining

RICK KARLIN

Thanksgiving gobble guide

Has the Thanksgiving holiday crept up on you, leaving you no time to shop for, much less prepare, a holiday meal? Whether you just prefer not to undertake cooking such an elaborate meal or wouldn't know how to roast a turkey if it walked up to you with a recipe in its beak, you can give thanks for the fact that many area restaurants offer sumptuous holiday meals for your enjoyment. Reservations are recommended for all listings.

TRADITIONAL THANKSGIVING DINNER

The Pfister Hotel, 424 E. Wisconsin Ave., presents a buffet brunch with all the trimmings at The Rouge from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Adults \$39.95, children \$19.95. Call 877-704-5340. The hotel's Mason Street Grill will feature a three-course turkey dinner for \$35 and also serve its regular menu from 1 to 7 p.m., 414-298-3131.

Andrew's in the Delafield Hotel, 415 Genesee St., Delafield, serves a four-course turkey breast dinner from 5 to 9 p.m. for \$38. Call (262) 646-1620.

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood, 2550 N. Mayfair Rd., Wauwatosa, has a traditional three-course Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings for \$22.95. Call 414-475-0700.

Meyer's Restaurant, 4260 S. 76th St., Greenfield, serves an all-you-can-eat family-style turkey dinner from from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Adults \$13.95, children \$7.95. Call 414-321-4400.

Port Washington's **Port Hotel**, 101 E. Main St., presents turkey and the trimmings on the holiday buffet from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Adults \$20.95, children \$7.50. Call 262-284-9473.

Kirsch's Country Inn, W4190 West End Road, Lake Geneva, has a four-course menu with choice of entrée from noon to 6 p.m. for

\$39.95. Call 262-245-5756.

Weissergerber's Gasthaus, 2720 N. Grandview Blvd., Waukesha, presents turkey and the trimmings family style from noon to 6 p.m. Adults \$22.95, children \$12.95. Turkey dinner is also available for take-out for \$14.95 per person. Call 262-544-4460.

Crown Plaza hotel's **Innovation**, 10499 Innovation Drive, Wauwatosa, offers a choice of turkey, prime rib or roasted salmon, served with market salad bar and dessert for \$22.95 from noon to 5 p.m. Call 414-259-0793.

THANKSGIVING WITH ETHNIC INSPIRED FARE

Polonez, 4016 Packard Ave., St. Francis, serves up a buffet featuring turkey with Polish-style stuffing and traditional Polish dishes. Seatings at 1 and 3:30 p.m. Adults \$17.95, children \$8.95. Call 414-482-0080.



PHOTO: JINA LEE

Karl Ratzsch's, 320 E. Mason St., celebrates Thanksgiving with sauerbraten, weiner schnitzel and dumplings. A traditional dinner entrée is also available. Prices range from \$25 to \$30 for adults. Kids' prices are about \$10 less. Call 414-276-2720.

Bavarian Inn, 700 W. Lexington Blvd., Glendale, has a full buffet of turkey, trimmings and traditional German dishes from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Adults \$21.95, children \$9.95. Call 414-964-0300.

Mader's, 1041 N. Old World 3rd St., offers a traditional brunch buffet from 11

a.m. to 4 p.m. Adults \$24.95, children \$11.95. From 4 to 6 p.m., they present a dinner buffet with a schnitzel station. Adults \$27.95, children \$11.95. Call 414-271-3377.

Old Town Serbian Gourmet Restaurant, 522 W. Lincoln Ave., serves a family style meal for groups of six or more. Dinner includes a whole turkey, carved table side, and traditional Serbian side dishes for \$24.95 a person. Reservations must be made by Nov. 16. Call 414-672-0206.

Il Mito Enoteca, 6913 W. North Ave., allows you to celebrate at home without the need to cook. Pick up a pre-seasoned 10-12-pound turkey, stuffing, gravy, creamy spinach and pumpkin pie for \$89.95. The package serves 8-10 people. If you just want the bird, that'll be \$49.95. Call 414-443-1414.

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“SCORE”
(Cult Epics)

Pretty and practical Elvira (Claire Wilbur) lives in the peaceful city of Leisure, near the Erogenous Zone, in Radley Metzger’s surprisingly open-minded 1974 softcore porno classic “Score.” Elvira (who would sit in a café wearing nothing but a trench coat) is married to fashion photographer Jack (Gerald Grant), who’d “just as soon climb aboard a man as a woman.” The two have what is described as a “busy social life.”

Elvira has her eye on Catholic good-girl Betsy (Lynn Lowry), the innocent young wife of Eddie (pretty Calvin Culver, a.k.a. gay pornstar Casey Donovan). Elvira sets her seduction plan, “Operation Music Box,” in motion after Jack leaves “to earn some daily bread.” Involving a Polaroid camera and a groovy soundtrack, Elvira’s plot is interrupted by the arrival of tele-

phone repairman Mike (Carl Parker), who she proceeds to screw in front of the befuddled Betsy.

Later that evening, dinner at Elvira and Jack’s with Eddie and Betsy gets off to a good start when the couples get high and then raid Elvira and Jack’s trunk of costumes for dress-up time and some dancing. Of course there’s more in store. Elvira proceeds to have her way with Betsy, while Jack and Eddie get better acquainted watching gay porn.

The sex scenes are treated with respect and play with a high level of eroticism. The scenes between Eddie and Jack are unexpectedly graphic. Of course, given the time period, the next morning, Eddie claims to have a bad case of the “morning-afters,” while Betsy is far more at ease with the discovery of this other side of herself.

The combination of bad acting and bad writing equals good camp, plain and simple, and “Score” scores in that respect. DVD special features include a revealing new interview with Lowry, audio commentary by Metzger and film historian Michael Bowen, and

much more.

“ORLANDO”

(Sony Pictures Classics)

Based on the novel by Virginia Woolf, Sally Potter’s film adaptation of “Orlando” stars Oscar winner Tilda Swinton in the title role. Gender-bending Lord Orlando wasn’t seeking privilege, but company. After being chosen as the favorite of Queen Elizabeth I (deftly portrayed by Quentin Crisp), Orlando inherits a palace on the condition that he doesn’t “wither, fade or grow old.” Some people will do anything to hold onto a piece of property, and true to his word, Orlando remains ageless.

Beginning in 1600 and spanning some 400 years, we watch as Orlando learns about the treachery of both men and women, endures the insults of a poet, discovers brotherly love and the manly virtues, becomes a casualty of love and one day awakes as a woman.

Essentially the “same person, no difference at all, just a different sex,” Orlando returns to England in 1750 after a 10-year ambassadorship in the Middle East



Tilda Swinton and Billy Zane in “Orlando.”

and learns that as a woman, she is at risk of losing her property. A chance encounter with an American named Shelmerdine (Billy Zane) provides Orlando with not only sexual discovery but a possible escape from her circumstances. But when the winds change, Shelmerdine leaves a pregnant Orlando behind.

In the present day, hardly aged a bit with her young daughter in tow, Orlando

meets with a London publisher regarding her story. Many people will relate to “Orlando”’s message that life begins once the past is let go. Whether Orlando’s own experiences and journey strike a chord is another story.

Swinton, at her most exotic, is the compelling force here, giving the story its pale flesh and blood. DVD special features include an interview

The Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival screens “Orlando” at 7 p.m. on Thurs., Dec. 2, at UWM Union Theatre. Admission is only \$5. Go to art.uwm.edu/lgbtfilm.

with writer/director Potter, as well as select scene commentary and more.

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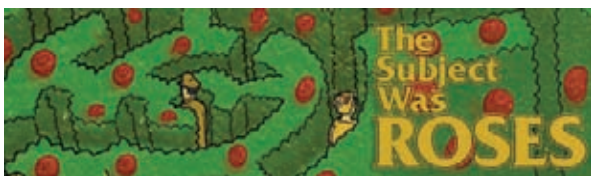
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NOV. 18, THURSDAY

Theatre Gigante reinvents "King Lear" with a fresh look at aging parents, duty and selfishness in **"The Lears,"** tonight through Nov. 21 at Kenilworth Square East, Studio 508, 1925 E. Kenilworth Place. Call 414-229-4308.

"Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," presented by Strollers Theatre, runs through Nov. 20 at the Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin in Madison.

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre presents **"The Subject Was Roses"** by Frank D. Gilroy tonight through Dec. 12 at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

NOV. 19, FRIDAY

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second St., presents the first public reading of **"Verbal Acumen,"** a new play by Ray Proctor at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 19 - 20, with a discussion to follow. Call 414-383-3727.

"Liberace!," written and directed by Brent Hazelton, has its world premiere at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells, through Jan. 16 in the Stackner Cabaret. Call 414-224-9490.

The Skylight Opera Theatre of Milwaukee presents Gilbert & Sullivan's classic operetta **"H. M. S. Pinafore"** through Dec. 19 in the Cabot Theatre at the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Milwaukee Theatre, 500 W. Kilbourn, presents **Cirque Dreams Holidayze**, a holiday show featuring acrobats, dancing and winter fun tonight and tomorrow night. Call 414-566-1375.

Edo de Waart conducts the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra performing Bartók's **"The Miraculous Mandarin,"** plus Samuel Barber's Violin Concerto tonight and tomorrow night at 8 p.m. in Uihlein Hall at the Marcus Center For the Performing Arts. Call 414-273-2787.



NOV. 20, SATURDAY

The Miltown Kings' sci-fi show, **"Double Feature, Miltown Show,"** begins at 9 p.m. at the Miramar Theater, 2844 N. Oakland Ave. Save a buck on admission by wearing a sci-fi themed costume.

Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, 19805 W. Capitol Dr. in Brookfield, presents **Raul Malo** at 8 p.m. Call 262-781-9520.

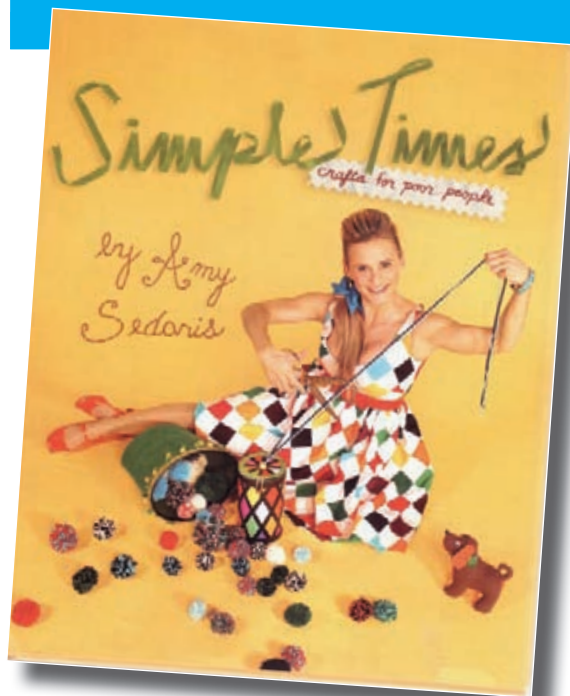
NOV. 21, SUNDAY

The irrepressible **Amy Sedaris**, sis of David, is at Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth St., at 7:30 p.m.

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



**Amy Sedaris
on Nov. 24**

NOV. 22, MONDAY

Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells, presents the American premiere of **"Bombshells"** by Joanna Murray-Smith in the Quadracci Powerhouse through Dec. 19. Call 414-224-9490.

NOV. 23, TUESDAY

Robert Tanzilo, author of **"The Milwaukee Police Bomb of 1917,"** is at Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer, at 7 p.m. Call 414-332-1181.

Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood in Madison, presents **Joshua Radin** with special guests Good Old War and Kelly James at 7:30 p.m. Call 608-241-2345.

NOV. 24, WEDNESDAY

Evan Smith's comedy **"The Savannah Disputation"** runs through Jan. 9 at the Boulevard Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic. Call 414-744-5747 or visit www.boulevardtheatre.com.

NOV. 26, FRIDAY

Edo de Waart conducts the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra & Chorus in Vaughan Williams' monumental Symphony No. 1, with poetry by Walt Whitman, with Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto at 8 p.m. tonight and tomorrow night in Uihlein Hall at the Marcus Center For the Performing Arts. Call 414-273-2787.

Inspired by the 2002 movie, **DRUMline Live** brings the time-honored tradition of black marching bands to the stage at the Milwaukee Theatre, 500 W. Kilbourn, at 7:30 p.m. Call 414-566-1375.

NOV. 27, SATURDAY

Jerry Grillo Band performs at 10 p.m. at Transfer Pizzeria, 101 W. Mitchell. Call 414-763-0438.



NOV. 28, SUNDAY

Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer Ave., welcomes **Kelly Peloza**, author of **"Vegan Cookie Connoisseur"** at 2 p.m. Call 414-332-1181.

NOV. 29, MONDAY

Frankly Music presents **Schumann and Chopin** at 7 p.m. tonight and tomorrow night in the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music Bader Recital Hall, 1584 N. Prospect. Call 414-940-8770.

DEC. 1, WEDNESDAY

John McGivern returns with **"Home For The Holidays,"** through Jan. 2 in the Stiemke Theatre at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.

Marcus Center For the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State, presents **The Magnificent Mazowsze** at 8 p.m. Call 414-273-2787.

DEC. 2, THURSDAY

Gay playwright Craig Lucas's **"The Dying Gaul"** is presented by StageQ through Dec. 18 at the Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin in Madison.

Carte Blanche Studios Theatre, 1024 S. Fifth St., presents **"The Hostage"** by Brendan Behan through Dec. 19. Call 262-716-4689.

Batusis, featuring Sylvain Sylvain of the New York Dolls and Cheetah Chrome of Rocket From The Tombs and Dead Boys, perform at 8 p.m. at Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell. Call 414-276-7288.

Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer, welcomes **Ann Wertz Garvin**, author of **"On Maggie's Watch,"** at 7 p.m. Call 414-332-1181.

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?
To get considered for a listing on Out & About, e-mail
managingeditor@wisconsin-gazette.com.



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COURTESY OF THE WISCONSIN HUMANE SOCIETY

Delgado is a sweet canine available for adoption at the Wisconsin Humane Society. He is a 10-month-old Doberman Pinscher with a handsome tan and black coat. Delgado is a fun-loving dog who enjoys playing with tennis balls and going for walks with the shelter volunteers. Meet Delgado today at the Wisconsin Humane Society, located at 45th and Wisconsin Avenue in Milwaukee.

Tango's Tip: The Wisconsin Humane Society currently has many adoptable senior companion animals looking for homes. Think a sweet senior animal might be the perfect companion for you? Check out all of the animals available for adoption at www.wihumane.org.



Delgado

COMMUNITY GROUPS

MILWAUKEE ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

Cream City Chorus, 252 E. Highland Blvd., 53202, 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.
 Diverse and Resilient, 2439 N. Holton St., 53212, 414-390-0444, www.diverseandresilient.org.
 Firebirds, P.O. Box 159, 53201.
 FORGE, P.O. Box 1272, 53201, 414-559-2123, www.forge-forward.org.
 GAMMA Milwaukee, P.O. Box 1900, 53201, 414-530-1886, www.milwaukeegamma.com.
 Gemini Gender Group, P.O. Box 44211, 53214, 414-297-9328, ggwi.tripod.com.
 Lesbian Alliance, 252 E. Highland Ave., 53202, 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, 252 E. Highland Blvd., 53202, 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, 252 E. Highland Ave., 53202, 414-299-9198, pflagmilwaukee@hotmail.com.
 PrideFest, 414-272-3378, www.pridefest.com.
 Queer Program, P.O. Box 090441, 53209, 414-265-8500, queerprgm@aol.com.
 SAGE Milwaukee, 1845 N. Farwell, Suite 220, 53202, 414-224-0517, www.sagemilwaukee.org.
 Sapphic Adventures 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, 414-217-1571, on Facebook.
 Wauwatosa Rainbow Association, tosarainbow@yahoo.com.
 Wisconsin Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf, P.O. Box 353, Hartland, 53029, www.wiscrad.org.
 Wisconsin Rainbow Families, 252 E. Highland Blvd., 53202, 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@tcmilw.org.
 STD Specialties, Inc., 3251 N. Holton St., 53212, 414-264-8800, www.stdspecialties.org.

POLITICS

Center Advocates, 252 E. Highland Blvd., 53202, 414-271-2656, www.centeradvocates.org.
 Equality Wisconsin, 2717 E. Hampshire Ave., 53211, 414-431-1306, www.equalitywi.org.
 Human Rights League, 252 E. Highland Blvd., 53202, 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.centralumcmilw.org.
 Congregation Shir Hadash, 414-297-9159, www.cshmilw.org.
 Cross Lutheran Church, 1821 N. 16th St., 53205, 414-344-1746, www.crosslutheranmilwaukee.org.
 Divine Word Lutheran Church, 5505 Lloyd St., 53208, 414-476-3189, divinewordlutheran.org.
 First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, 1342 N. Astor St., 53202, 414-273-5257, www.uumilwaukee.org.
 Lake Park Lutheran Church, 2647 N. Stowell Ave., 53211, 414-962-9190, lakeparklutheran.com.
 Metropolitan Community Church, 1239 W. Mineral St., 53204, 414-383-1100, www.milmcc.org.
 Milwaukee Friends Meeting (Quakers), 3224 N. Gordon Pl., 53212, 414-263-2111, www.milwaukeequakers.org.
 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.
 Unitarian Church North, 13800 N. Port Washington Road, 53097, 262-375-3890,

www.ucnorth.org

SPORTS

Front Runners/Front Walkers, 414-443-0379, ullrwolf.com/frontrunnersmke, thbolt@milwpc.com.
 Metro Milwaukee Tennis Club, 3957 81st St., 53222, 414-616-3716, moenell@sbcglobal.net.
 Milwaukee Gay Soccer League, 1012 E. Clark St., 53212, 414-405-5878, www.milwaukeegayssoccer.org.
 Milwaukee Gay Volleyball League, www.milwaukeegayvolleyball.com.
 Saturday Softball Beer League, 2333 N. 56th St., 53210, www.ssbilmilwaukee.com.

YOUTH/EDUCATION

Alliance School, 850 W. Walnut St., 53205, 414-267-5400, www.allianceschool.org.
 Alliance for LGBTQ Youth, 1212 S. 70th St., 53214, 414-453-1400, www.cssw.org.
 Gay Youth Milwaukee, P.O. Box 090441, 53209, 414-265-8500, <http://gayyouthmilwaukee.tripod.com>.
 Marquette Gay/Straight Alliance, 1442 W. Wisconsin Ave., 53233.
 Marquette U G/L Alumni, P.O. Box 92722, 53202.
 Project Q, 315 W. Court St., 53212, 414-223-3220.
 UWM LGBT Resource Center, UWM Union WG 89, P.O. Box 413, 53201, 414-229-4116, www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/LGBT.

FOX 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.dcancd.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, wiwarriors.com, wiwarriors@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.

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

1 p.m., Art Experience, SAGE Milwaukee.*
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, 414-383-7593.

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.*

SUNDAY

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., second Monday, Outwords men's book club, 2710 N. Murray Ave., 53211, 414-963-9089, www.outwordsbooks.com.
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.*
7 p.m., second Tuesday, lesbian reading group at Outwords Books, 2710 N. Murray Ave., 53211, 414-963-9089, www.outwordsbooks.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 Groups for address and contact information.

THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

THURSDAY

Nov. 18

7 p.m., lesbian movie night with WanderWomen Lesbian Social Group, debydoo2@yahoo.com.

FRIDAY

Nov. 19

5 - 8 p.m., TGIF party with Rainbow Arts and Cultural Connection, Ginger Tapas Bar, 235 S. Second St., 53204, www.mkelgbt.org.
5 p.m. - midnight, MAM After Dark presents Under the Table, Milwaukee Art Museum, 700 N. Art Museum Drive, 53202, www.mam.org/afterdark.
5:30 p.m., Woodland Pattern Book Center 30th Anniversary Celebration, Harley-Davidson Museum, 400 W. Canal St., 53201, 414-263-5001, www.woodlandpattern.org.
6 p.m., Fish Fry with SAGE, MONAs Out N About, 1407 S. First St., 53204, Required R.S.V.P. to 414-224-0517.
7 p.m., screening of "Transamerica" at Transgender Day of Remembrance and Movie Night, LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin, 1456 Junction Avenue, Racine, 53403, 262-664-4100, info@lgbtsewisc.org.

SATURDAY

Nov. 20

6 p.m., Christmas Over the Rainbow, a fundraiser for LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin, Uncorkt, 240 Main St., Racine, 53403, 262-664-4100, infor@lgbtsewisc.org.
8 p.m., John F. Kennedy Commemorative: A night of bardic elegy and protest, The Coffee House, 631 N. 19 St., 53233, 414-546-3251, www.the-coffee-house.com.
9 p.m., Double Feature SciFi Show with the Miltown Kings, Miramar Theater, 2844 N. Oakland Ave., 53211, www.miltownkings.com.

SUNDAY

Nov. 21

1 p.m., visit the Eisner Museum with SAGE Milwaukee, meet at the museum, 208 N. Water St., 53202, 414-224-0517.
6 p.m., Transgender Day of Remembrance vigil and potluck dinner with FORGE, Milwaukee Community Church, 1239 W. Mineral St., 53204, www.forge-forward.org.

SAVE THE DATES

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center has two upcoming events. Pride Night with the Milwaukee Admirals, Dec. 3, is a fundraiser for the center and its tenants. It features with a 5 p.m. party at the center, 252 E. Highland Ave., and a hockey game with a post-game Village People concert at the Bradley Center, 1001 N. Fourth St. Call 414-271-2656. On Dec. 11, the center holds its annual Home for the Holidays celebration at the Deco Caffe in the Ambassador Hotel, 2308 W. Wisconsin Ave. R.S.V.P.s are due to Patrick Price by Dec. 2. Contact 414-292-3065 or pprice@mkelgbt.org.

WEDNESDAY

Nov. 24

6:30 p.m., Simply Talk listening group with FORGE, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 252 E. Highland Ave., 53202, www.forge-forward.org, askforge@forge-forward.org.

THURSDAY

Nov. 25

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

FRIDAY

Nov. 26

7 p.m. "Discussing Our Favorite Vacation Areas" with WanderWomyn Lesbian Social Group, debydoo2@yahoo.com.
7:30 - 10 p.m., Game On: game night at the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin, 1456 Junction

Avenue, Racine, 53403, 262-664-4100, info@lgbtsewisc.org.
10 p.m. Brew City Bombshells Broke A** Burlesque Show, Stonefly Brewery, 735 E. Center St., 53212, brewcitybombshells@gmail.com.

SATURDAY

Nov. 27

4:30 p.m., Ninth Annual Rainbow Community Thanksgiving Potluck, Plymouth UCC, 2717 E. Hampshire Ave., 53211.

MONDAY

November 29

6:30 p.m., Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Annual Membership Meeting, 252 E. Highland Avenue, 53203, www.mkelgbt.org.



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