

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

John McGivern is home again for the holidays at the Milwaukee Rep. Page 17



THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

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Critics say AIDS exhibit was censored

By Scott Foval
Contributing writer

Madison's art community, HIV/AIDS activists and at least one national group are accusing The Overture Center for the Arts of censorship for removing a photo from an exhibit featuring the work of HIV-positive amateur photographers.

The photo, titled "Stripped," was one of more than 40 that were originally displayed in the "Living with HIV/AIDS: Perspective Through The Lens" exhibit in the center's Playhouse Gallery. UWHealth, Becker Law Office, the Wisconsin HIV/AIDS Program and The Overture Center sponsored the exhibit to commemorate World AIDS Day 2010.

"Stripped" shows a nude male holding a handful of medicine bottles over his genitals and blocking them from view. Overture Center

officials removed "Stripped" from the exhibit just before the Nov. 12 opening in a move they said was necessary to protect children from negative psychological associations between body parts and medicine bottles, according to spokesman Rob Chappell.

The photo was one of three in the exhibit by a photographer identified by the name "Oren" in local news reports.

"Staff agonized over the decision, but it came down to the placement of the photo right next to a children's area, where 1,500 little kids pass by every Saturday," Chappell said. "That said, there could have been better coordination and communication between all parties involved in the planning and placement (of the photo) in the exhibit."

Chappell described the photo, which is still in the online edition of the exhibition, as "a very powerful image."

Since the story of the removal was originally reported in the Madison press Dec. 5, it was picked up by CNN and gained global exposure. Change.org posted an online petition protesting the action, resulting in more than 150 e-mails being sent to the Overture Center.

The exhibit's organizer Heidi Nass, of UW Health HIV/AIDS Comprehensive Care Program, did not return WiG's call by deadline.



A GAZE BACK: THE YEAR IN REVIEW TOP LOCAL STORIES OF 2010 PAGE 6



Fate of Prop 8 rests with appeals court

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

A federal appeals court is mulling two questions that will determine the future of marriage equality in California – and possibly the nation.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals held a three-hour hearing Dec. 6 on the constitutionality of the 2008 voter-approved constitutional amendment defining mar-

riage as the union between a man and a woman.

The court, with a national audience watching on television and the Web, also heard oral arguments over whether the proponents of the ballot measure known as Proposition 8 have standing in federal court. The named defendants in the case, outgoing California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Attorney General Jerry

Brown, now the governor-elect, refused to commit state resources to defending Prop 8 in court, so ballot measure supporters intervened.

At the district court level, in August, federal Judge Vaughn Walker ruled that Prop 8 violates the equal protection and due process guarantees of the U.S. Constitution, agreeing with the arguments presented by American Foundation for

Equal Rights attorneys David Boies and Ted Olson, who represent the two same-sex couples in the dispute.

The losing side in the Walker decision, the proponents of Prop 8, decided to take the case to the appeals court, which put a hearing on the fast track.

The appeals court opened the hearing in the San Francisco courtroom PROP 8 page 16

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LOOK FOR THE TOP NATIONAL STORIES OF 2010 IN WIG'S DEC. 30 ISSUE

LGBT news with a twist



By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

WHITE HOUSE XMAS

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center executive director Maggie Cage got a surprise in the mail: an invitation to a White House holiday party on Dec. 15. As WiG was headed to press, Cage and board co-chair Sheldon Walker were enjoying an up-close view of the celebrated White House Christmas tree.

MILITARY MISFITS

Mother Jones reports that the Army has dismissed more military personnel for being gay than for being physically unfit for duty.

According to the magazine's analysis of Army discharge statistics, 592 enlisted personnel were ejected in fiscal year 2007 to 2008. That's more than twice the number of soldiers dismissed for excessive body fat or fitness-test failures combined.

"In '08-09 it was so bad that I had a warrant officer who demanded we get him XXXL flight uniforms," an active Army officer told Mother Jones. "He couldn't wear the new (camouflage) pattern ones because they didn't make them for a guy who was

313 pounds." The officer added, "Some people really are too big to fail, I guess."

MERCURIAL SEXUALITY

Exposure to mercury pollution could be causing some male birds to pair with other males, according to University of Florida researchers.

American white ibises from south Florida that consumed methylmercury, the most toxic and easily absorbed form of mercury found in the environment, were found more likely to engage in same-sex pairings. That phenomenon is unknown in wild populations of this species with no exposure to the pollutant.

The mercury in Florida was probably released by the burning of medical and municipal waste. The metal is converted into methylmercury by bacteria that are usually found in wetlands, which also tend to be home to many different bird species.

LUXURY WRAPPING

Two French aristocrats have rolled out the first luxury condom

in the United States.

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NO SAME-SEX 'DANCING'

Don't look for any same-sex couples on the dance floor of next season's "Dancing With the Stars." Portia de Rossi, the wife of Ellen DeGeneres, reportedly has turned down the offer to become half of the first same-sex couple to dance on the show, and now producers are scrapping the entire concept.

"If Portia had agreed then this would have been a done deal," an ABC insider told PopEaters' Rob Shuter. "She was the only star that could have pulled this off without completely offending the program's conservative viewers."

DEPP'S CAP'N JACK

Johnny Depp tells Vanity Fair in the January issue that Disney wasn't too excited about how he developed Captain Jack Sparrow, his character in the "Pirates of the Caribbean" series. Depp was nominated for an Academy Award for his portrayal of the swash-buckling hero, but he told rocker and magazine writer Patti Smith that one Disney executive said she was confused by the character - is he gay? The actor replied, "All my characters are gay."

K.C.'S SHADY BANDMATE

An ex-member of K.C. and the Sunshine Band recently was sentenced to seven years in an Ohio prison for sex charges involving teenage boys. Bassist Richard Finch, 56, said he didn't really remember the activities because he was under the influence of alcohol, but that he took "100 percent responsibility" for his actions, which include paying a 15-year-old boy \$100 for sexual acts.

SOMER'S GOOD SIDE

Actress Suzanne Somers talked

about her good side - and helping to protect your good side - during a panel discussion on the search for a new-age fountain of youth in Las Vegas. Somers, who starred in TV's "Three's Company" and had a cameo in John Waters' "Serial Mom," was a featured speaker at the 18th annual conference presented by the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine.

HIS, AND HIS

The embroidered blue jumpsuit that Johnny "The Man in Black" Cash wore for his rehearsal at San Quentin prison sold at auction recently for \$50,000. A Belgium bidder purchased the item from Julien's Auctions in Beverly Hills. Meanwhile, one of Michael Jackson's white gloves from his "Bad" tour recently sold for \$300,000 in the Beverly Hills celebrity memorabilia auction. Also sold off the block - an X-ray of Albert Einstein's brain sold for \$38,750 and a pair of Marilyn Monroe's empty prescription bottles went for \$18,750.

Read more at www.wisconsin gazette.com

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 15 • PABST KATHLEEN MADIGAN	FRIDAY, JANUARY 28 • RIVERSIDE BEN FOLDS	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4 • TURNER MASON JENNINGS	THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17 • TURNER STREETLIGHT MANIFESTO	SATURDAY, MARCH 5 • TURNER JIM JEFFERIES	
SATURDAY, JANUARY 15 • TURNER GRACE POTTER & THE NOCTURNALS	FRIDAY, JANUARY 28 • TURNER MARTIN SEXTON	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5 • RIVERSIDE THE DECEMBERISTS	2 SHOWS! FRI. FEB. 19 & SAT. FEB. 19 • PABST CINEMATIC TITANIC FT. THE STARS OF MST3K	SUNDAY, MARCH 6 • TURNER CADILLAC SKY	
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Madison's calendar boys

The Madison Minotaurs' rugby calendar debuted Dec. 11 with a launch party at Woof's, 14 King St., Madison. Featuring the team's 13 rugby studs in sexy poses, the calendar sells for \$10 and proceeds help support the Madison Minotaurs Rugby Club. The Minotaurs began four years ago to provide an opportunity for an under-represented population of men to play the sport. The all-inclusive club is the only one in Wisconsin that competes as a member of the International Gay Rugby Association. The Minotaurs are completing a banner year after competing for the first time in the Bingham Cup, the international gay rugby tournament. - L.W.

Community center shifts to self-selecting board

By Scott Foval
Contributing writer

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center has enacted major changes in its bylaws, including a shift from a board elected by members to one that's board-appointed.

The Nov. 29 vote approving the bylaws was the third time in the past 18 months that members have been asked by center's leadership to adopt the new rules.

Critics say the changes effectively silence members and isolate the center's governance from community input. But center executive director Maggie Cage counters that the changes reflect the agency's growth, which requires a professional board.

"As the service mission grew and changed and professional staff were added, the needs of the organization changed, and this change in structure is part of the development process for the center," said Cage, who's headed the agency for four years.

When the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center

hired its first employee in 1998, it had an annual operating budget of under \$30,000. Today the center, which recently moved to a 22,000-square-foot facility in the restored Blatz Boiler House building, 252 E. Highland Ave., employs 14 professional staff and has an operating budget of close to \$1 million.

According to the 2009 annual report, the center delivered social services and programming to more than 8,000 people. The report shows an operating budget of \$818,878 and revenues of \$1,061,648.

The change to a self-perpetuating board was approved by almost three-quarters of the 50 members attending the Nov. 29 meeting. Members present also approved changes in rules governing the role of members.

The revised bylaws are published on the center's website at www.mklgbtcc.org.

Joe Pabst, who voted against the change to a self-



PHOTO: COURTESY

The new Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.

perpetuating board, said he and some other members felt that non-profit professionals at the center were taking power away from them and removing their voices from board decisions.

"A lot of members who are less vocal, or who are afraid to speak up for fear of retribution or for other

reasons, feel their voices have been ignored," Pabst said. He said he was concerned about "a general attitude taken by the center in that direction."

"I want to be clear that I am not anti-community-center, but I am anti-anything that takes away the voice of the people," Pabst said. "The center has some won-

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center changed a number of its bylaws.

operational decisions. "We really have tried to provide some meaningful education to our constituents," Cage said. "We have brought in outside experts to inform and educate members as to the pitfalls of membership-driven boards versus self-perpetuating boards. My assignment is to move the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center forward, and in this case having a self-perpetuating board is the best practice."

derful components, like its anti-violence project, which is critically important."

Cage said while she understands and respects the difference of opinion over the changes, the center needed a board whose members would meet a fundraising goal and have expertise in business and management oversight. She said stricter IRS regulations and heightened scrutiny that come with a \$1 million budget and larger grants require board members to be legally responsible for the center's finances and

Pabst said the center failed to notify him and other members about the Nov. 29 meeting via mail, as required by the center's bylaws.

Cage, however, insisted that notifications were mailed to all dues-paying members in good standing.

"We want our members to be active in the center and want them to come in and participate in our day-to-day activities as volunteers," Cage said. She said members and non-members alike could contact her with questions about the changes to the center's bylaws.

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REWIND

Top local stories of 2010

By Louis Weisberg
Staff writer

1. CONSERVATIVES WIN CONTROL OF LEGISLATURE

Wisconsin turned from blue to deep red on Nov. 2, when voters elected a Republican governor and U.S. senator while handing over control of the Assembly and Senate to the GOP. Democrats here lost more ground than in any other state.

Although Republicans did not campaign on religious right issues, most of the newly elected officials are strongly opposed to LGBT

equality and reproductive freedom. Lt. governor-elect Rebecca Kleefisch brought national ridicule to the state when she compared same-sex marriage to unions between humans and inanimate objects during an interview on right-wing talk radio.

Despite focusing on economic issues during the campaign, the state's Republican leadership vowed after the election to pursue an evangelical Christian agenda that includes overturning the state's domestic partner registry, eliminating health benefits for the same-sex partners of state workers, banning embryonic stem-



Cody Barker

PHOTO: COURTESY

cell research and restricting choice. With Republicans gaining complete control

was organizing a GSAFE chapter at his high school, brought unprecedented attention to the plight of LGBT youth in Wisconsin and added to an outpouring of grief on campuses throughout the state. Forums, town meetings and candlelight vigils drew hundreds of participants along with heightened scrutiny of conditions for LGBT students in Wisconsin public schools and universities.

3. DOMESTIC PARTNER REGISTRY CHALLENGED

Wisconsin Family Action, the state's leading anti-gay organization, filed suit in Dane County Circuit Court on Aug. 20 seeking to declare the state's domestic partner registry unconstitutional.

The suit contends that the registry violates the voter-enacted ban on same-sex marriage or anything "substantially similar" to marriage. Proponents of the registry counter that it is not equivalent to marriage, since it

confers only 43 of the 200 rights that come with marriage under state law.

The case is expected to eventually make its way to the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

4. MARQUETTE WITHDRAWS OFFER TO LESBIAN

Marquette University, the largest private institution of higher learning in the state, made national headlines in the spring for retracting an offer to out lesbian scholar Jodi O'Brien to become dean of the university's college of arts and sciences. The action, thought to have been taken in response to threats from major donors to the Catholic university, brought charges of anti-gay discrimination and interference with academic freedom.

More than 400 students attended an emotional meeting with university president Robert A. Wild on May 11 and called for his immediate resignation. Several major academic associations called

on Wild to reverse the decision and threatened to censure the university. O'Brien reached an undisclosed settlement agreement with Marquette.

5. MAJOR GRANTS AWARDED TO HIV/AIDS, LGBT GROUPS

Addressing a resurgent HIV/AIDS epidemic among young gay and bisexual African American males in Milwaukee, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention awarded a \$1.7 million grant to Diverse and Resilient to organize a targeted prevention campaign. The CDC estimates that up to 40 percent of black men who have sex with men in the city are HIV-infected.

In addition, a measure approved by the Wisconsin Legislature could bring more than \$1 million annually in new federal HIV/AIDS money to Wisconsin. AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin lobbied for the dollars, which will supplement the state's funding for the care and treatment of Medicaid patients.

Major grants also were awarded to LGBT organizations in the state during 2010. The U.S. Department of Justice awarded Diverse and Resilient \$155,000 to increase awareness of intimate partner violence among LGBT people in Wisconsin. The Johnson Family Foundation awarded the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center two grants totaling \$150,000 to develop a mental health clinic and to support technical assistance and development at the center.

6. MILWAUKEE GRAPPLES WITH ANTI-LGBT VIOLENCE

The slaying of Chanel Larkin on the streets of Milwaukee spotlighted the perils faced by transgender women, particularly those of color. Twenty-seven-year-old Andrew Olacirequi pleaded guilty to Larkin's murder and faces up to 25 years in prison. FORGE, a Milwaukee-based group that advocates for transgender rights, hosted community meetings in

the wake of the killing as well as an Oct. 23 rally.

Other violent incidents plagued LGBT Milwaukee during 2010. A woman was shot to death by her partner, a gay man was found slain in his apartment and a lesbian was struck by a vehicle and killed in front of a gay bar. In response to the outbreak of violence, FORGE submitted a petition to MPD Chief Ed Flynn asking him to appoint an LGBT liaison to the police department. In November, Flynn named police veteran Mary Hoerig to fill the position.

7. HATE ERUPTS ON CAMPUSES

A series of hate-motivated attacks and incidents of vandalism plagued University of Wisconsin campuses during the fall, including two anti-gay incidents at the UW-Whitewater campus. One of those incidents, in which a woman wearing a "legalize gay" T-shirt was physically assaulted, drew national attention and sparked a demonstration attended by about 400 people in October.

In December, more than 200 UW-Platteville students marched on campus in response to two dozen racially motivated hate crimes on campus this semester.

At UW-Eau Claire, a professor set off a furor throughout the university system in October for sending an e-mail to a student calling LGBT people the "walking wounded." The university's chancellor said administrative action would be taken against



PHOTO: LUCKY TOMASZEK

About 500 people turned out in Madison in July to protest an appearance by the anti-gay National Organization for Marriage. The year 2010 saw a number of pro-LGBT rallies statewide.

the professor.

8. 500 PROTEST NOM AT MADISON RALLY

About 500 counter-demonstrators squared off against the National Organization for Marriage when the group brought its anti-gay traveling show to Madison in July. NOM's Madison stop was part of a 23-city trek to whip up disapproval for legal recognition of same-sex union.

But counter demonstrators overwhelmed NOM at every stop. The Madison protest was one of the largest.

9. STUDY REVEALS DEPTH OF LGBT YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

A study compiled by Milwaukee's Cream City Foundation discovered that nearly a quarter of home-

less youth living on the city's streets are LGBT. Q-Blok, a program that brings together the resources of several Milwaukee social service agencies, is helping to coordinate a response to the problem, which appears to be growing as youth come out of the closet at higher rates than in the past.

10. OUT CANDIDATE WINS

WAUKESHA RACE

Political newcomer Vance Skinner turned conventional wisdom on its head, unseating an incumbent on the Waukesha Common Council in April. A family man with a partner and two daughters, Skinner is active in his local church as well as civic life. But his sexual orientation made his victory in one of Wisconsin's most conservative counties noteworthy.

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2. SUICIDES SPARK ACTIVISM

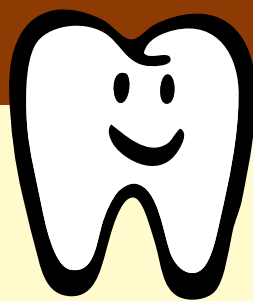
In September, amid a spate of high-profile teen suicides nationwide related to anti-gay bullying, 17-year-old Cody Barker of Shiocton took his own life.

The death of Barker, who

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Extended Holiday Hours

Milwaukee's gay nightlife on the move

By Sarah Leonard

Contributing writer

Like San Francisco's The Castro, New York City's Chelsea and Chicago's Boystown, Walker's Point serves as a sort of nucleus to Milwaukee's LGBT nightlife. For years, gay and lesbian bars and clubs have flourished in the area, also known as the Fifth Ward.

But a growing number of LGBT Milwaukeeans, particularly younger gays and lesbians, don't like having their social life confined to the South Side neighborhood. They feel it's isolating.

In 2007, the Milwaukee Guerrilla Gay Bar was formed as an "alternative scene for folks who crave something different than what the gay Walker's Point circuit offers," says the group's website.

The first Friday of every month, MGGB organizes a "takeover" of one of Milwaukee's straight bars by rallying hundreds of members and allies via Facebook and Twitter announcements. The location of the "take-

over" is announced the day of the event, and "guerrillas" show up unexpectedly at the designated bar that night.

Three years after the first guerrilla attack, 2010 could be considered the year of the LGBT takeover of East Side and downtown nightlife. Two gay bars have opened in those neighborhoods, and several otherwise straight venues have begun promoting gay nights.

Before Walker's Point became the focal point of the city's gay nightlife, the East Side served that role, says Joe Brehm, owner of This Is It! at 418 E. Wells St. Milwaukee's oldest gay bar, This Is It! has operated continuously for more than 40 years.

"I think the East Side was always more accepting of diversity than other (Milwaukee) neighborhoods," Brehm says.

Hybrid Lounge helped revive the East Side's gay tradition in March, opening at 707 E. Brady St. and becoming the only gay bar on the popular Brady Street cor-

ridor.

In June, Tempt opened downtown at 324 E. Mason St. Tempt promotes itself as filling the void of LGBT bars and nightclubs downtown, using the slogan "Let us 'Tempt' you with what Milwaukee has been missing!"

Also opening this year on the East Side — and just steps away from Hybrid Lounge — was "Beyond Pleasuredome" at Trocadero's Redlight nightclub, 1758 N. Water St. "Beyond Pleasuredome" picks up where the upstairs nightclub's original gay night, called "Babylon," ended in 2008 with the close of Redlight to the public. Trocadero general manager Chad Ellingboe says the nightclub revived Thursday gay nights in response to patron demand.

"Beyond Pleasuredome" advertises itself as a dance party for anyone, "gay, straight or undecided."

"We just want to offer good drinks and good music to anyone," while "trying to



PHOTO: FACEBOOK

December's Milwaukee Guerrilla Gay Bar takeover at Red Rock Saloon.

be as gay-friendly as possible," Ellingboe says.

According to him, East Side patrons appreciate the opportunity to drink and mingle closer to their homes, and the gay night also draws University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee students.

Notte Nite Lounge, 1033 N. Old World Third St., also started a Thursday gay

dance night called "Crave" in October. That same month, Coa, located at Bayshore Towne Center in Glendale, initiated a Tuesday gay night.

"We're the first of our kind in this area," says Enrique Torres, Coa's general manager. "We want to make the gay community comfortable in a different location."

Brehm says he's happy with the expansion of LGBT nightlife beyond Walker's Point and does not regard the new activity as a threat to his business.

"Milwaukee for its size has more gay bars than other cities of its size," he says, adding that no matter what the neighborhood, "Milwaukee is very welcoming."

Ill. Legislature approves civil unions

By Christopher Willis and Carla K. Johnson

AP writers

The Illinois Legislature has voted to legalize civil unions, although some are wondering whether the measure that the governor is expected to sign will make it easier or harder to someday win approval of same-sex marriage.

After Democratic Gov. Pat Quinn signs the measure, gay and lesbian couples will be able to get official recognition from the state and gain many of the rights that accompany marriage — the power to decide medical treatment for an ailing partner, for instance. Illinois law will continue to limit marriage to one man and woman, and the federal government won't recognize the civil unions at all.

Five states already allow civil unions or their equivalent. Five other states and Washington, D.C., let gay couples marry outright.

'Legalized marriage is going to happen. It's just a matter of time.'

Some supporters of civil unions in Illinois hope they'll be a step toward full marriage.

"The ultimate goal is not to be separate but equal," said Jacob Meister, president of The Civil Rights Agenda, a gay rights organization. Meister said civil unions are a necessary compromise because they will provide important protections for gay couples.

But even advocates acknowledge it's possible that by accepting civil unions now, they may be delaying

movement toward being able to marry. The compromise could weaken any arguments that gay people are being treated unfairly by not being allowed to marry.

The sponsors of the civil unions bill said they don't plan to push for legalizing same-sex marriages, which have limited support in the Legislature.

"As soon as the governor signs it, it's the law of the state of Illinois and that's what we're going to live with and going to make work," said Sen. David Koehler, D-Peoria.

Modesto Valle, executive director of Chicago's Center on Halsted, said he welcomes civil unions but worries the legislation may stall ultimate approval of same-sex marriage. He said it will take "tremendous work" to turn civil unions into "a platform to move toward marriage equality" in Illinois.

Courtney Reid, 48, of

Chicago said she and her partner of 12 years have decided they won't pursue a civil union, preferring to wait until same-sex marriage is recognized by federal law and gay couples get all the tax benefits and other rights available to heterosexual couples.

"It's a stand on principle for us," Reid said.

Supporters presented the civil unions legislation as a matter of basic fairness for all Illinois residents. With civil unions, state law will treat gay and lesbian couples as if they were married. They will, for instance, inherit property when a partner dies.

"It's time for us to look history in the eye and not flinch," said state Sen. Jeffrey Schoenberg, D-Evanston.

Opponents argued it moves Illinois closer to legalizing same-sex marriages. They said civil unions are basically marriage by another name and that they could

give the courts a reason to step in and order Illinois to allow full marriage to everyone.

Some senators also criticized the time being spent on civil unions at a time when the state faces a massive budget crisis.

The Illinois Family Institute said legislators failed to examine the legislation clearly.

"Proponents engaged in embarrassing and maudlin displays of sentimentality intended to emotionally manipulate rather than intellectually persuade their colleagues," said executive director David E. Smith.

Cardinal Francis George and other Catholic leaders fought civil unions vigorously. Conservative groups also lobbied to block the measure. They argued it could hurt religious institutions.

The law does not require churches to recognize civil unions or perform any kind of ceremony, opponents

acknowledge, but critics fear it would lead to other requirements, such as including same-sex couples in adoption programs run by religious groups or granting benefits to employees' partners.

Some religious leaders welcomed the legislation. In Chicago, Rabbi Larry Edwards said he's looking forward to planning celebrations for couples in his Jewish congregation who may decide to form civil unions under Illinois law.

"To those who say it's a slippery slope and eventually will lead to marriage, I say, 'I hope so,'" said Edwards, who leads the city's LGBT Congregation Or Chadash synagogue.

The Rev. Vernice Thorn of Broadway United Methodist Church in Chicago said she considers the vote a hopeful sign. "Same-sex legalized marriage is going to happen. It's just a matter of when."

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{ Editorial }

Time for soul-searching over Wisconsin's election losses

The recent concession of Minnesota gubernatorial challenger Tom Emmer was gratifying. After all, Target Corp.'s donation to a group supporting the anti-gay Emmer led to a national boycott.

Although pro-equality Democrat Mark Dayton's margin of victory over Emmer was so razor thin that it took more than a month to decide the race, it's a significant win nonetheless.

Pro-equality Wisconsinites might feel envy as well as satisfaction in this development and others in our neighboring states. In recent weeks, the Illinois Legislature approved a civil unions bill that the state's newly re-elected Democratic governor has promised to sign into law. The Democratic majority leader of the Iowa Senate vowed to block an anti-gay marriage amendment from going to the state's voters.

Once Wisconsin was at the vanguard of progressive politics in the region. But that position shifted into reverse on Nov. 2, when ours became the only state in the nation to flip all three branches of state government from blue to red. This is in addition to already having a conservative state supreme court.

What happened? In the weeks following the debacle, we've heard several explanations, including the flow of right-wing corporate dollars into the state, the faltering economy and the improbability of bucking a conservative national trend.

Certainly these were significant factors, but are they enough to explain the disparity between the election outcomes here and in neighboring states?

One major question is how far removed are Democratic leaders in Madison from their constituents? Why were they so taken off guard by the results? Why did they fail to make a strong case for their policies during their time in leadership, forcing them to play defense during the election?

By spring all the numbers should be in. We'll know who voted and who didn't — and how well get-out-the-vote efforts worked. Specific reasons for the failure will come to light, along with remedies for change.

We hope progressive leaders will examine and correct the mistakes they made. The stunning political losses we experienced demand nothing less.



"I DON'T GRANT WISHES, I JUST TURN KIDS GAY."

{ Letters }

LEADERS CONDEMN HRC'S PLANS FOR SPACE THAT HOUSED HARVEY MILK'S CAMERA SHOP

The Log Cabin Republicans of San Francisco released the following statement. It's a response to the Human Rights Campaign's plan to convert the space that was formerly Harvey Milk's camera shop on Castro Street into a gift shop selling HRC branded items.

HRC has proven time and again that its main goal is not to advance rights for LGBT Americans but to raise funds amongst the LGBT community for Democratic candidates. Harvey Milk supported both Republican and Democratic candidates throughout his life, and continually sought to reach consensus on both sides of the aisle for the benefit of

us all. He tried to get everyone involved in fighting for their rights, whether by volunteering, lobbying, protesting, running for office, talking to friends, coworkers and family, and yes, even fundraising. If HRC, as the largest LGBT rights organization by funding, took a page from Harvey's book rather than relying on empty promises from elected officials that rarely materialize, then we would be much closer to full equality than we currently are.

Dan Brown, president, Log Cabin Republicans of San Francisco

Dustin Lance Black, screenwriter of "Milk," released the following statement denouncing HRC's plan for the former site of Harvey Milk's camera shop on Castro Street.

Harvey Milk spent the last years of his life fighting not

only for rights for gays and lesbians across the nation, but also against the idea that the only way to achieve those rights is to lobby the government and financially support so-called "straight allies." Harvey believed the best way to secure our rights was through grassroots action, coalition building and the election of LGBT people to office at all levels of government. He encouraged people to come out of the closet and be vocal about who they were and why they deserved full equality, not partial equality or crumbs. For the HRC leadership, which still advocates a piecemeal, wait-and-see approach to try and co-opt and profit from Harvey's legacy is an outrage.

Dustin Lance Black, Oscar-winning screenwriter of "Milk"

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

"Of course we're glad she's on the right side of this issue. She has a powerful platform that could definitely help change a few hearts and minds. Which is exactly why it's dangerous when she uses that platform to use hurtful language."

— GLAAD responding to a pro-gay rant from Laura Schlessinger in which she said it's "absurd" not to allow gays to serve openly in the military.

"I hear adulterers and womanizers and folks cheating on their wives and down-low brothers saying they're going to vote against this bill. It turns my stomach. We know what you do at night, and you know too."

— Illinois state Sen. Rickey Hendon, D-Chicago, accusing opponents of the state's civil unions law of hypocrisy.

"My dream is to be in Playboy. There has only been one other openly lesbian centerfold, and I would love to be the second."

— Fernanda Rocha, who is set to be cast as the first openly gay member of Bravo's "Real Housewives of Orange County."

"...The next TSA official that gives you an 'enhanced pat down' could be a practicing homosexual secretly getting pleasure from your submission."

— Eugene Delgaudio, president of Public Advocate of the United States and a Loudon County, Va., elected official.

"You say you 'don't agree with the family's politics at all,' but I say, if you understood that common-sense conservative values supports the right of individuals like you, like all of us, to live our lives with less government interference and more independence, you would embrace us faster than kd Lang at an Indigo Girls concert."

— A message from Bristol Palin to Margaret Cho on Facebook

"I personally think that if you deny something or if you hide something, you're inadvertently admitting it's wrong. I don't feel like I'm wrong. I don't feel like millions of people are wrong because they love who they love or they were born how they were born."

— Actress Amber Heard officially coming out as a lesbian at GLAAD's 25th anniversary bash.

"I'm not a lesbian. I'm not even kind of a lesbian. And the reason why it irritates me is because it means that somebody must think I'm lying. That's No. 1. No 2: Why would you want to hide it? That is not the way I run my life."

— Oprah Winfrey once again insisting she's not gay, this time to Barbara Walters.

"...My feeling about John has always been that we know and we don't care. ...Look, I'm sorry that he's uncomfortable with it, and that's all I can say. It only draws more attention to it when you make that kind of legal fuss. Just leave it be."

— Carrie Fisher telling The Advocate that actor John Travolta is gay.

Chairman of the intolerant

Wisconsin Republican Party chairman Reince Priebus recently threw his hat in the ring to replace Republican National Committee chair Michael Steele. It's an interesting development, because Priebus was Steele's right-hand man.

In his letter to RNC members announcing his candidacy, Priebus describes himself as both a fiscal and social conservative. He vows to promote the party's formal platform if elected.

It's important to note that the platform includes a section on "ensuring equal treatment of all." Unfortunately, the section omits any commitment to fighting discrimination based on sexual orientation. The Republican platform that Priebus promises to promote also contains a section on "preserving traditional marriage." It goes on to tout the fact that it was a Republican Congress that enacted the so-called

Opinion
CORY LIEBMANN

Defense of Marriage Act.

It should be no surprise that Priebus promises to fight equality, because in Wisconsin he helped orchestrate one of the most extremist slates of candidates in recent memory. In his pitch to RNC members, Priebus points to how he "recruited good conservative candidates" in Wisconsin this year. It seems that part of being a "good conservative candidate" means fighting any form of equality for LGBT families.

We now have a governor-elect (Scott Walker) who has pledged to take away the few basic rights that LGBT families currently enjoy through the state's domestic partner registry. He also plans on revoking benefits for the domestic partners of state employees.

We have an incoming lieu-

The Wisconsin and the national GOP have both embraced anti-LGBT positions.

tenant governor (Rebecca Kleefisch) who made national news comparing same-sex relationships to relationships between humans and animals or inanimate objects. And then there's senator-elect Leah Vukmir, whose ideology is so extreme that she couldn't even bring herself to vote for legislation to protect students from bullying in our schools.

Chippewa County Clerk Kathy Bernier, who won a close race for the 68th Assembly District seat, told Wisconsin Eye that the very first thing she wants to do

after taking office is repeal the state's domestic partner registry. This is more important to her than jobs or the economy.

Open hostility toward LGBT families seems to be a common thread among the "good conservative candidates" that Priebus talks about having recruited in Wisconsin this year.

In many ways it seems that the Republican Party of Wisconsin and the Republican National Committee have been on the same extreme right-wing trajectory for some time. The leadership of both bodies lacks even a single voice for moderation.

It doesn't matter whether Priebus stays in Wisconsin or moves to the Washington, D.C., office that he covets. He will still be more accurately described as the Chairman of the Increasingly Intolerant, because that is what the Republican Party on both levels has essentially become.

Stakes of holly, glasses of punch

It's time for holiday cheers and jeers for the best and worst of 2010, along with some holiday wishes.

A warm glass of punch for Lady Gaga for her bold theatricality and the sense of belonging she gives to all of her "little monsters." Alas, a curdled cup of eggnog to Gaga as well for the creep show "Alejandro," which she publicly dedicated to the "gay community." Great hook, Gaga, but fascist imagery, sex and violence in a cryptic setting? Not exactly the images most of us want to be associated with.

A big glass of punch and all the warm fuzzies we can muster for Stephen Sondheim, who turned 80 this year. The year featured dozens of tributes and publication of the master's book "Finishing the Hat." Sondheim may have felt conflicted about his homosexuality for years, but who wouldn't be happy to claim this musical genius as our own? Add Bernadette Peters and Elaine Stritch back on Broadway in "A Little Night Music" and, wow. Curtain up,

Opinion
JAMAKAYA

light the lights, indeed!

A stake of holly through the heart of John McCain, who's leading the Senate's opposition to the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell." McCain's growing bitterness since his election defeat in 2008 and his failure to heed the wise counsel of his wife and daughter regarding equal rights earn him the Unrepentant Ebenezer Scrooge Award for 2010.

More stakes through the heart and condemnation to the hellfire they so firmly believe in to members of the Westboro Baptist Church, who picket funerals and harass the bereaved with cruel anti-gay messages. Their latest victim: the widely admired Elizabeth Edwards. No rhyme or reason to these folks, just meanness and (in their own lexicon) the work of the devil.

Glasses of punch and best wishes to newlyweds Jane

Lynch ("Glee") and Dr. Lara Embry and Kelly McGillis ("Top Gun") and her longtime love Melanie Leis. Raise a toast, too, to Ricky Martin, newly out of the closet and loving it!

A cocktail, with a touch of bitters please, for the politically incorrect Fran Lebowitz, who pointed out that for generations many gay men and lesbians were quite happy to be queer precisely because we did not have to get married or serve in the military. Thanks for the reminder, Fran!

A special poisonous mistletoe punch for the latest fulminating fundamentalist minister, Eddie Long, who condemns homosexuality but who allegedly molested young male congregants on church-related trips. Boy, has this become a predictable story.

As for me, all I want for Christmas besides world peace, social justice and the restoration of matriarchal rule is:

• A 21 percent discount on all consumer items, given the fact that women, almost 50

years after the Equal Pay Act, still make 79 cents for every dollar men make.

• A major Hollywood feature film in which the primary activity of lesbian characters is not sleeping with and/or killing men.

• A midnight movie sing-a-long showing of "White Christmas" with prizes for costumes and the best full drag version of "Sisters."

• A Gay Parade of Homes Tour featuring holiday lighting displays.

• A new Wanda Sykes special on HBO.

• A billion dollar bequest to WGBH to maintain Masterpiece Theater, so we can still have a bit of intelligent drama on TV.

And how about a president with intellect and leadership skills? "Free" zones that prohibit handheld tech devices? A jargon-free sequel to post-modern theory? I can dream, can't I?

I hope that you get everything you desire this holiday season!

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Lame-duck deadline looms for 'don't ask'

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

Senate Democrats twice this month failed to move forward with a defense spending bill that would provide for the repeal of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy banning gays and lesbians from serving openly in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Activists say that several options remain for the repeal of the measure before a new more conservative Congress is sworn into office in January.

Activists stepped up their call on President Barack Obama to issue an order ending discharges. The president has said repeatedly that DADT is discriminatory and a threat to national security.

Additionally, U.S. Sens. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., and Susan Collins, R-Maine, have authored stand-alone legislation to repeal DADT.

In a statement released Dec. 9, Obama gave no indication that he planned to issue a stop-loss order halting discharges of gay service members, but he did "urge the Senate to revisit" repeal "during the lame-duck session."

Procedure interfered with efforts to press forward with repeal in the National Defense Authorization Act on Dec. 8 and again Dec. 9, when the Senate voted 57-40 to proceed with the bill, three votes shy of the 60 required.

Collins was the only Republican to vote to proceed with the legislation. Forty-two other Republicans in the chamber vowed to block any action on legislation without passage of a measure extending Bush-era tax cuts.

"With America at war

in two countries, a small minority of U.S. senators has declared war on our troops," said Rick Jacobs of the Courage Campaign, a grassroots group that has collected more than 700,000 signatures from citizens demanding DADT's repeal.

Surveys show that about 80 percent of U.S. adults support gays serving openly in the Armed Forces.

Top Pentagon officials, on the civilian and service side, also support DADT's repeal.

And, in the spring, the House voted for a defense spending bill that would provide for eliminating the anti-gay policy.

The Senate's refusal to move forward with the NDAA follows committee hearings on a Pentagon assessment that found a majority of troops have little or no concern about serving



President Barack Obama meets with top military officials. PHOTO: COURTESY WHITE HOUSE.GOV

with gays and lesbians.

During the hearings, John McCain, the Senate's chief advocate of DADT and a Vietnam veteran, challenged Admiral Mike Mullen, chair-

man of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

McCain said now is the time to deal with taxes and the economy, not DADT. "I would not recommend

repeal of this law if I did not believe in my soul that it was the right thing to do for our military, for our nation and for our collective honor," Mullen said.

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COURT: PARTNER CAN'T SEEK CUSTODY

The same-sex partner of an adoptive mother can't seek child custody but may request visitation, the New Mexico Court of Appeals has ruled in a precedent-setting case.

State laws provide no legal right for a Santa Fe-area woman to bring a lawsuit asking for custody of a child who was adopted by her partner during their 15-year relationship, the court concluded in a 2-1 ruling issued earlier this month.

Shannon Minter, legal director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, said the ruling was a "step backward" on child custody because New Mexico previously had been a leader in "protecting children's relationships with functional parents, with people who are true parents in every sense of the word but don't have a biological or adoptive relationship with the child."

The court's majority said

BRIEFS

the state's child custody law applies to biological or adoptive parents. Other people, such as the unmarried partner of an adoptive parent, can't seek child custody unless the parent is unfit.

MISSOURI GAY TROOPER'S PARTNER SUES

The gay partner of a Missouri trooper killed in a Christmas Day accident sued for the survivor's benefit denied him because the men's 15-year relationship was not legally recognized by the state.

Cpl. Dennis Engelhard, a 49-year-old Missouri State Highway patrolman, was investigating an accident when he was hit and killed by a vehicle last year.

Under Missouri law, spouses of highway patrol officers and Missouri Department of Transportation workers

killed while on duty are entitled to an annuity of 50 percent of the employee's salary. But Engelhard's partner was denied the benefit - despite being named as beneficiary on other assets - because the men weren't married, and even if they had been it wouldn't be recognized in Missouri.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed the suit.

TWO CHARGED IN NY ATTACK ARE VICTIMS

Members of a New York City street gang who attacked a gay man and a recruit because they believed the two had a sexual encounter also turned on two of their own during the rampage, according to newly released court documents that say a pair of teens initially charged in the case were actually victims.

Bryan Almonte and Brian Cepeda, both 17, had been arrested along with nine others after the Oct. 3 attacks.

Charges were later dropped against them and two others, whittling the number of defendants to seven.

Investigators say a group of men calling themselves the Latin King Goonies discovered one of their recruits was gay and had a sexual encounter with a 30-year-old man. The recruit, a 17-year-old, was beaten and sodomized at an abandoned apartment the crew used as a hangout, authorities said.

Later that day, gang members told the 30-year-old man, who was known throughout the neighborhood as "The Queen," that they were having a party, authorities said. When he arrived, he was tied to a chair, burned, beaten, tortured and sodomized with a miniature baseball bat, police said.

Almonte and Cepeda had been accused of taking part in the assault. But Almonte's attorney said the teen went to the apartment thinking it was just a party. When the assaults began, he tried to

intercede and was attacked, attorney John O'Connell said.

ANTI-BULLYING BILLS BEFORE TEXAS LEGISLATORS

Texas legislators will consider proposals to better define bullying in schools as students face being targeted on campus and online.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported earlier this month that at least seven bills related to bullying have been filed for the legislative session that starts in January. Lawmakers have until March 11 to file bills.

Current Texas law says schools must prohibit bullying in their student code of conduct. Critics say more needs to be done.

Two bills would require districts to report annually how many bullying incidents they faced, including how many were based on race, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation.

ATLANTA AGREES TO \$1 MILLION SETTLEMENT TO GAY BAR

The city of Atlanta has agreed to pay \$1 million to an Atlanta gay bar to settle a lawsuit over a botched police raid in 2009.

The Atlanta City Council voted 14-0 on Dec. 6 to pay the money to the Atlanta Eagle Bar. A private attorney filed the federal lawsuit on behalf of 19 people who say they were illegally searched and detained during the Sept. 10, 2009, raid.

The city also agreed to oversee reforms within the Atlanta Police Department. The settlement must now go back to a federal judge for final approval.

Geoff Calhoun, who was one of the patrons suing the city, and his attorney Dan Grossman declined comment after the vote because of a court-mandated gag order.

- from AP and WIG reports

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UN, US officials call for gay rights

As the world marked Human Rights Day on Dec. 10, U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon called for an end to laws around the world that criminalize homosexuality, stressing the need to pay more urgent attention to gay and gender identity rights.

"Today, many nations have modern constitutions that guarantee essential rights and liberties. And yet, homosexuality is considered a crime in more than 70 countries," Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said. "That is not right."

Ban said the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the U.N. General Assembly on Dec. 10, 1948, "is not called the 'partial' declaration of human rights. It is not the 'sometimes' declara-

tion of human rights. It is the universal declaration, guaranteeing all human beings their basic human rights - without exception."

The U.N. chief said that during recent trips to Africa he urged leaders to do away with laws criminalizing homosexuality, and that in Malawi he was able to help secure the release of a young gay couple sentenced to 14 years in prison.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu also spoke by teleconference to the high-level gathering organized at U.N. headquarters by advocates for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, comparing their struggle to the fight for an end to apartheid in his native South Africa.

U.S. Ambassador Susan

Rice echoed Ban's remarks, and said that the United Nations must send a strong message that people should not be tortured and killed because they are gay.

Rice said she was "incensed" by a recent vote in a General Assembly committee that left out any mention of sexual orientation from a resolution condemning the extrajudicial killing of vulnerable people worldwide. Previous resolutions had included the mention.

The American ambassador said that the United States will sponsor a U.N. amendment to restore the reference to killings based on sexual orientation. "We're going to stand firm on this basic principle," she said.

Desmond Tutu compared the struggle of LGBT people to the fight to end apartheid in his native South Africa.

Rights groups welcomed Rice's announcement and called on all U.N. member states to support the amendment.

"Words do have a meaning at the U.N.," said Boris Dittrich of Human Rights

Watch. "Reintroducing the reference to sexual orientation in the resolution could help put an end to the hateful killing of people based on their sexual orientation or gender identity."

Rice also said that she, like President Obama, "was extremely disappointed" when Senate Republicans failed to repeal the U.S. military's 17-year-old ban on openly gay military troops.

The Senate's 57-40 test vote fell three votes short of the 60 needed to advance. Included in a broader defense policy bill, the measure to eliminate the so-called "don't ask, don't tell policy" passed the House last spring.

"That law violates fundamental American principles of fairness, integrity, and

equality," said Rice. "We only weaken our national security and diminish our military readiness by depriving ourselves of the service of patriots determined to defend the country they love."

"Today as we celebrate the birthday of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we must recall that its drafters insisted that it be truly universal," said Rice. "We must all do our part, here at the United Nations and in our own countries, to ensure that no gay man need fear persecution, that no lesbian need fear discrimination, and that no transgender person need fear assault."

- from WIG and AP reports

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**BRAZIL GAY
COUPLES
ENTITLED
TO PENSION
BENEFITS**

The Brazilian government says gay couples in a stable relationship are entitled to the same social security pension benefits enjoyed by heterosexual couples.

The Social Security Ministry says in a recent statement that the gay spouse of a retiree who dies will now be able to receive the pension payments once received by his or her companion. The policy covers formally registered workers who pay monthly social security fees.

Same-sex marriages are not recognized in Brazil, but 10 years ago a court in

the state of Rio Grande do Sul granted same-sex couples inheritance rights and allowed them to add their partners to health insurance and retirement plans.

Since then, gay couples have been fighting for pension rights.

**CZECHS DEFEND
TESTING OF GAY
REFUGEES**

The Czech government on Dec. 8 rejected EU criticism of its use of a test on gay asylum seekers.

The Vienna-based European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights said the Czech Republic is the

only known EU country to use so-called "phalometric testing." The method tests whether men seeking asylum on the grounds of homosexuality are sexually aroused by heterosexual pornographic material.

The Czech Interior Ministry said in a statement that the testing is conducted only after written consent had been obtained and when it was not possible to use a different method of verification.

Ministry spokesman Pavel Novak said the testing has been carried out in fewer than 10 cases, always by a medical specialist, and was used on unreliable appli-

cants from countries such as Iran, where homosexuality is grounds for harsh punishment.

Novak said all those who have passed the test have been granted asylum. He gave no further details.

The EU agency said in a report last month that the reliability of such tests is questionable because "it is dubious whether it reaches sufficiently clear conclusions."

**WORLD CUP
ASKED TO
APOLOGIZE**

A leading international gay rights group has demanded

an apology from the head of the organization that sponsors the World Cup.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter said Dec. 13 that gay fans "should refrain from any sexual activities" during the 2022 tournament in Qatar, where homosexual behavior is illegal. Blatter contends that he was joking.

Juris Lavrikovs, communications director for the European branch of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association, said the situation in Qatar and other Middle Eastern countries "is not a joke" and that Blatter's comments were "very unfortunate and have left people deeply offended."

"This is a matter of life and death to people," Lavrikovs

said. "Qatar and more than 70 other countries in the world still criminalize individuals for homosexual relationships, and some countries even punish them by death. ... It's disappointing to see that an organization that is promoting the game, which in its statutes condemns discrimination of any kind, is coming out with comments like this."

The incident erupted when Blatter was asked by reporters if he could foresee any cultural problems with the tournament being held in Qatar.

"I'd say they (gay fans) should refrain from any sexual activities," he said, smiling.

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Judges hinted at a narrow Prop 8 decision

PROP 8 from page 1

addressing the question of standing. The judges appeared dubious that the Prop 8 supporters were qualified to defend the measure. However, the judges also expressed concern that the state decided not to defend the 2008 vote.

On the constitutional issues, the judges, hinting they may render a narrow decision, addressed a number of questions and concerns:

- Should the court's focus be limited to California?
- Should the court deal with the case more broadly and decide whether marriage

is a fundamental right?

• How should the federal court handle a voter-approved state ballot measure?

In 1996, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Colorado voter initiative that banned the state and local governments from enacting measures protecting gays from discrimination. The High Court ruled that the voting majority could not strip a minority of its rights for no reason except disapproval.

Cooper, arguing for the marriage ban, said a majority of California voters agreed that the institution of marriage should be reserved – or

preserved – for a man and a woman.

Judge Michael Daly Hawkins asked Cooper if Californians could "reinstate school segregation" with a ballot box vote?

No, Cooper said, that would be unconstitutional.

Olson, arguing against Prop 8, said California voters engraved discrimination into their constitution and stripped gays and lesbians of a right the U.S. Supreme Court has determined to be one of the most fundamental – marriage.

He said Cooper talks about society's rights, but the issue before the court is indi-

vidual rights.

"What this case comes down to is that California has built a fence around its gay and lesbian citizens and around marriage," Olson told the court. "The same-sex couples outside that fence are denied access and that is a violation of due process and equal protection rights."

"The U.S. Supreme Court has said 14 times in addressing marriage, the right to marry is an aspect of the right to privacy, association and liberty," he continued. "Mr. Cooper talks about society's rights. This is not society's right. It is not California's right. It is the right of individuals."

A decision from the appeals court is not expected before the end of the year. The parties involved agree that the fight most likely will go to the Supreme Court.

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WISCONSIN GAZETTE ENTERTAINMENT

**John McGivern's stories resonate with audiences of all stripes**

By Louis Weisberg
Staff writer

John McGivern was completing a run of the play "Midwest Side Story," "Shear Madness" in Chicago when a member of the company took him aside and commanded, "You're going on stage this summer and tell the stories you've been telling us backstage."

That was the eureka moment in McGivern's career. For years he'd regaled friends and colleagues with his stories about growing up in a colorful Irish-Catholic family on Milwaukee's East Side. But as a professional entertainer, he'd always played a character in other people's works. The idea of building an entire performance around his own life was "daunting," he says.

Still, McGivern was intrigued by the concept. His first one-man show, "Midwest Side Story," debuted at Chicago's Bailiwick Theatre in 1993 and went on to play during the New York Gay Games in 1994. After that, McGivern took the act on the road under various names, packing auditoriums throughout the country and scoring appearances on HBO and Comedy Central.

Last month, McGivern received the highest honor of his career – a Chicago/Midwest Emmy Award for "outstanding achievement for individual excellence on camera" for "The Early Stories of John McGivern," produced by WMVS. Now Milwaukee Public Television

is considering the creation of a monthly series around McGivern, who is also a frequent guest on WKLH-FM's morning show with Dave and Carole.

While McGivern continues to perform other material, including "American Fiesta" and "The Wonder Bread Years," his life remains his signature act. Milwaukee audiences can catch his latest installment at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater's Stiemke Studio, where McGivern's updated "Home for the Holidays" plays through Jan. 2.

McGivern's material is constantly evolving to reflect what's going on in his life. "Home," for instance, opens with his mother's recent cataract surgery. She learned

that she had the malady from an exam at Shopco.

"I asked her, 'Shouldn't you go to Wal-Mart for a second opinion?'" McGivern quips.

But the show contains familiar material that's beloved by Milwaukee audiences as well – McGivern's childhood stint as "the Liberator of altar boys," his mother's Bradford Exchange Santa collection, his father's crooked Christmas trees. The performance is like the perfect holiday card, packed with nostalgia, humor and inspiring sentiment.

What keeps McGivern's act evergreen is his uncanny skill as an entertainer and the universality of his material. Although he's a middle-aged, gay, Irish-Catholic man from a working-class Milwaukee

family, audiences discover that his stories are, beneath the surface, hilariously familiar – so deeply specific that they penetrate the realm of common experience.

"When I began storytelling, I had no idea that the stories weren't specifically mine," McGivern says. But he learned otherwise, he continues, when a 72-year-old Jewish woman from Brooklyn approached him after a performance and said, "You spoke my life in your stories. Thank you for coming to my home."

McGivern has been criticized by some in the gay community for the tameness of his material, but he says those critics are missing the point. He doesn't "step into the room with my gay foot

forward," he says, because he's using humor as a bridge to connect the various dots of humanity.

The strength of that bridge is evident in his box office numbers. Even McGivern's appearances in small Wisconsin communities such as Whitewater, Cedarburg and Hartford routinely sell out auditoriums seating up to 1,200 people. The majority of those audience members are straight and "somewhere between 40 and death," McGivern says slyly.

When he returned to Milwaukee to live after more than two decades away, McGivern didn't know what to expect, he says. He's been overwhelmed by the way Wisconsin has embraced him as a native son.

An even greater surprise was finding his first true love in his hometown, after living in such gay hot spots as Atlanta, Los Angeles and Chicago without romantic success. He and Steve Brandt, a builder, met eight years ago and have been together ever since. They have a business renovating and renting out furnished apartments to business travelers.

In his Emmy acceptance speech, McGivern thanked his family for providing him with material. As his mother's fond of saying, "Without me, you wouldn't have a career," he says.

But he also thanked his partner for teaching him "how to be patient and quiet," he says. With Brandt, McGivern says he's finally found a balance in life that had eluded him until now.

That's not a laugh line, but McGivern is beaming as he delivers it.

ON STAGE

John McGivern's "Home for the Holidays" is at Milwaukee Repertory Theater's Stiemke Studio through Jan. 2. Call 414-224-9490.

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Smithsonian exhibit draws fire from the right

By Kat Murrell

Contributing writer

One hundred years ago, abstract art raised a few eyebrows. About 75 years ago in Nazi Germany, some of the most groundbreaking art was labeled as degenerate and subject to suppression and destruction. More recently, the 1980s saw culture wars played out over issues of censorship, funding and conservative social values.

We're still dealing with these issues.

"Hide/Seek: Difference in Desire in American Portraiture" is a major exhibition currently installed at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C., part of the Smithsonian Museum (a full review of the exhibition by Debra Brehmer is forthcoming in the next issue of the Gazette). Many of the artists are marquee names in American art: Thomas Eakins, Marsden Hartley, Jasper Johns, Robert Rauschenberg. The real theme of the exhibition is sexuality of subjects and artists and it is a landmark exhibition for gay identity in art. American art, and its history, is starting to come out of the closet.

But not fully. A controversy has erupted over a film by David Wojnarowicz (pronounced voy-nah-ROE-vich) called "A Fire in My Belly." This film, from 1986-1987, is a meditation on life and death, the flesh and its fragility. The piece is a reaction to the illness and death of Wojnarowicz's partner, artist Peter Hujar, from AIDS in 1987. Wojnarowicz succumbed to the illness in 1992.

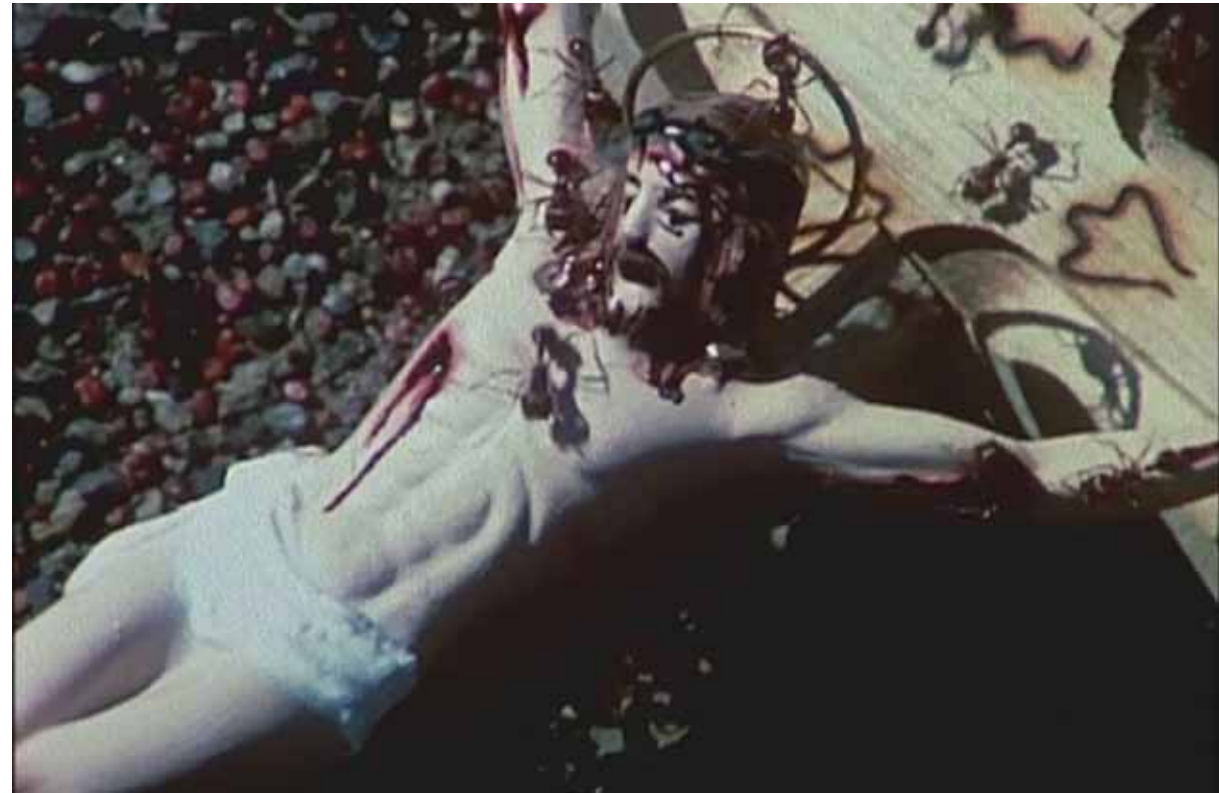


PHOTO: COURTESY

A still from David Wojnarowicz's video "A Fire in my Belly."

And the controversy?

It centers on a mere 11 seconds of the film showing ants crawling over a crucifix. As described by writer Blake Gopnik in the Washington Post, "It seems such an inconsequential part of the total video that neither I nor anyone I've spoken to who saw the work remembered it at all."

This 11 seconds of footage was enough to rile the Catholic League, which decried it as "hate speech."

Gallery director Martin Sullivan and the National Portrait Gallery caved to pressure. Adding insult to

injury, the video was yanked from the exhibition Nov. 30, the eve of World AIDS Day.

Bill Donohue, the president of the Catholic League complained, "The Smithsonian would never have their little ants crawling over an image of Muhammad."

What Donohue and others fail to note is the greater meaning of the work as a representation of suffering, death and loss. There is a complex history of using religious iconography to explore the experiences of life in all its messy detail, and this video is hardly a derisive

setting. On Dec. 17, from 5 p.m. to midnight, the party will focus on the 1980s in conjunction with the exhibition "European Design since 1985." Admission is free for members and \$12 at the door for non-members. Dress in retro-'80s – leg warmers or maybe some vintage workout gear – and expect live music, a photo

booth and other activities. Tucked into the near-South Side, the newly re-located Walker's Point Center for the Arts, 839 S. Fifth St., is showing a juried survey of Mid-western photography. Sponsored by Milwaukee's ever-growing Coalition of the Photographic Arts, this annual event presents a range of professional

commentary on religion.

From these few seconds of imagery, the flames of outrage were fanned to include attacks on the perceived funding of the exhibition.

U.S. Rep. Eric Cantor, R-Va., decried the exhibition as "an outrageous use of taxpayer money," and Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio, made veiled threats about the fate of arts funding with the Republican shift in Congress imminent in January.

Donohue implied that this was an issue of class conflict when he commented, "Why should the working class pay

for the leisure of the elite?

When in fact one of the things the working class likes to do for leisure is go to professional wrestling. And if I suggested that we should have federal funds for professional wrestling to lower the cost of a ticket, people would think I'm insane. I don't go to museums any more than most Americans do."

Because of the Smithsonian's status as a federal institution, these detractors made gross assumptions about the source of the exhibition's funding. In fact, the cost of about \$750,000 was

covered by private donors. The caving of the National Portrait Gallery to conservative pressures brings back shades of the culture wars of the late 1980s, particularly the cancellation of the 1988 Robert Mapplethorpe exhibition at the Corcoran Gallery, ironically also in Washington, D.C. Conservative members of Congress opposed the exhibition of his work and prompted Sen. Jesse Helms on a crusade meant to eviscerate the National Endowment for the Arts and federal arts funding.

The National Portrait Gallery has issued a tepid statement explaining that the decision to remove Wojnarowicz's piece was because it was a "distraction." But this has only galvanized the larger art community nationwide. Institutions such as the New Museum in New York are speaking out and showing "A Fire in my Belly," raising the profile of gay art as well as issues of censorship and hypocrisy in the criticism leveled at this work.

In the Midwest, we may seem far removed from these heated issues. However, it's only six months now since the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center received its settlement from the illegal 2005 Milwaukee vice squad shutdown of "Naked Boys Singing." Freedom of speech and expression ultimately prevailed, but the insidious threat of censorship sadly still looms over the arts.

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Artwatch
KAT MURRELL

The Milwaukee Art Museum has successfully created a monthly After Dark series that presents tours of the current exhibitions in a funky, festive

Liberace lives again at The Rep

Theater

HARRY CHERKINIAN

He was known by many names throughout his 67 years: Walter to his family, Lee to his friends. And to his legion of fans, he was The King of Bling, The Glitter Man and, of course, Mr. Showmanship.

But throughout his career, everybody knew him by at least one name: Liberace. They knew him as a gifted pianist with a penchant for entertainment at its most eccentric heights.

What many did not know about him, however, was his homosexuality. Liberace lived deep within the closet, within a darkness that, despite the bright lights of showbiz, would ultimately engulf his life.

The Milwaukee Repertory Theater has brought Liberace back to life in a most entertaining way, befitting his spirit. Written by The Rep's artistic associate Brent Hazelton, the one-man show "Liberace!" tells the glitzy maestro's story in song and monologue. A tour de force performance by Jack Forbes Wilson captures the heart and soul of the unlikely star from Milwaukee.

We learn a lot about Liberace over the course of more than

two riveting hours (including intermission). This theatrical journey is especially appealing for Milwaukee audiences, given the local ties that Liberace maintained until just months before his death from complications of AIDS in 1987.

Born and raised in West Allis, Wladziu Valentino Liberace was playing piano by the age of 4, studying difficult classical pieces to please his stern musician father. During the Great Depression, the young Liberace kept the family afloat by playing cabarets and strip clubs. A performance in La Crosse, during which Liberace was asked to play an encore of "Three Little Fishes," changed the course of his career, opening his eyes to the possibility of forging a new path as an entertainer.

By the 1950s, Liberace was the highest paid entertainer in the world. He remained atop that

throne for decades and became a pioneer in turning Las Vegas into the entertainment capital of the world.

Hazelton wrote "Liberace!" with Wilson in mind, and the fit is as perfect as the tailored sequin tuxedos that became a Liberace trademark. Wilson plays piano in much the same intense and at times choppy style as Liberace. He also personifies the performer in every nuance – the broad and constant smile, the gentle voice, the slouching posture at the keyboard, the leg up on the piano seat. Like Liberace, who was more comfortable in the shadows off stage, Wilson makes the stage his living room and he inhabits it wholly.

In addition to revealing Liberace's fascinating backstory, "Liberace!" pays glorious tribute to the uncanny performer and gifted musician. And of course, the costumes are way over-the-top fun.

Mr. Showmanship wouldn't have it any other way.

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PHOTO: MICHAEL BROSILOW

Jack Forbes Wilson as Liberace

ON STAGE

"Liberace!" runs through Jan. 16, 2011, at The Rep's Stackner Cabaret located in the Patty & Jay Baker Theater Complex. Call 414-224-9490 or visit www.milwaukeeerep.com.

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'Bah! Humbug!' never sounded so funny

You know you're in for a bumpy ride of the best kind when the Ghost of Christmas Present tells Ebenezer Scrooge: "I'm taking you to a place you've never been before. And I don't mean a good hairdresser." (And yes, old Scrooge could use one, but that's another story).

This "Christmas Carol" is actually "Scrooge in Rouge," told in English music hall style - bawdy and boisterous, with bits of song, dance and comedy. In Tandem Theatre's entertaining production presents a hilarious, gender-bending send-up that would have made Dickens laugh like, well, the Dickens.

"Scrooge in Rouge" is the creation of three actors from New Orleans - Ricky Graham, Jeffrey Roberson and Yvette Hargis (aka Varla Jean Merman). Jefferson Turner composed the original music. With a terrific ensemble cast, this "Scrooge" is the perfect antidote to traditional holiday fare.

Director Jane Flieller cap-



PHOTO: CARISSA DIXON

"Scrooge in Rouge" at Tenth Street Theatre.

tures the fast-moving, vaudevilian atmosphere of the English Music Hall tradition, keeping the pace loose and free amid rapid-fire comic timing. Flieller is the fifth element to the quartet of actors who play multiple roles in

quick-change fashion (think along the lines of Charles Busch's "The Mystery of Irma Vep"). Chris Flieller embodies the Cockney-accented MCCharlie, making all the double entendres and clichéd

jokes funny with his natural style of delivery. As the actress Vesta, Marcella Kearns turns in a fine performance as old Ebenezer, all wide-eyed at the odd goings on and full of funny asides.

The bright shining star

ON STAGE

"Scrooge in Rouge" runs through Dec. 31 at the Tenth Street Theatre, 628 N. Tenth St. Call 414-271-1371 or visit www.intandemtheatre.org.

in this "Scrooge in Rouge" belongs to Matt Daniels, who plays the actress Lottie, who plays a variety of characters. Daniels excels once again on stage and dressing up as a woman only continues to show the depth and breadth of his skills (he was seen earlier this year playing against cross-dressing type in the title roles in "Jeeves Intervenes" and "Around the World in 80 Days" at Milwaukee Chamber Theatre). Daniels' Lottie is literally pitch-perfect in tone and movement, his tall, masculine frame acts as a hilarious counterpart to his frazzled wig of blond curls,

large ill-fitting frock and big black boots. Daniels grabs at every chance to fill the role and succeeds at every, well, big step in those big boots.

As the foppish, elegantly dressed Ghost of Christmas Present, played by Lottie, showing off his draping lace cuffs to a bewildered Scrooge, he quips, "Straight from Paris? Hardly."

Sounds typical but Daniels gets the laugh each and every time.

And that's what makes "Scrooge in Rouge" worth the trip. "Bah! Humbug!" never sounded so funny.

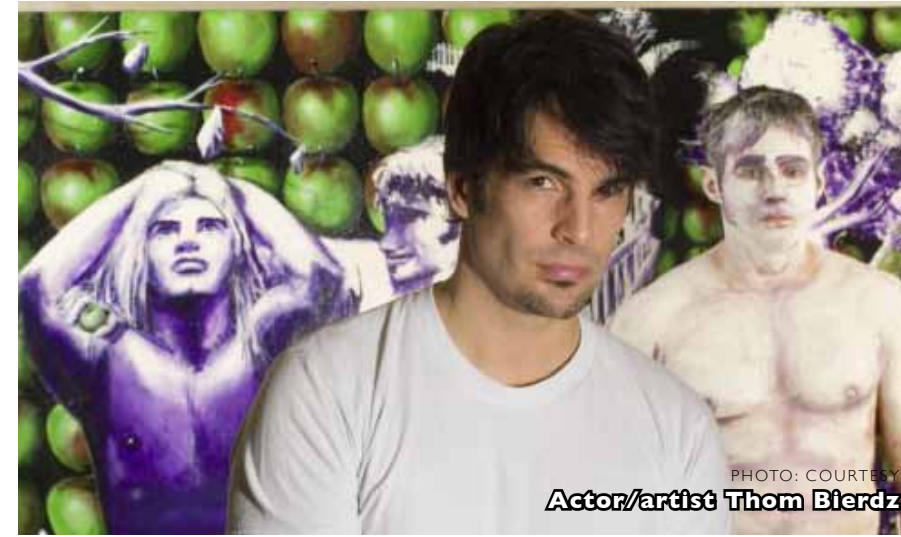


PHOTO: COURTESY Actor/artist Thom Bierdz

Painting Hope

By Michael Muckian
Contributing writer

When the actor Thom Bierdz returned to the CBS daytime drama "The Young and the Restless" to reintroduce his character of Phillip Chancellor III, he made history of a sort as the first openly gay actor to play an openly gay soap opera character. It was the only way he would return to the show, the Kenosha native said, because he had changed and needed his character to be true to who he is.

As the storyline now goes, Chancellor, who was last seen driving his red Corvette off a cliff in 1989, had in reality faked his own death so he could live his life openly as a gay man elsewhere. Chancellor reappeared in August, his newly gay identity adding greater relevance to the show, or so producers hope.

When the artist Thom Bierdz recently asked the American Art Awards online website representing 25 galleries in 25 states to create a new category devoted to gay teen suicide, he hoped to slow the growing trend of gay youth taking their own lives. His efforts may have been prompted after reading about gay teen suicide in his home state of Wisconsin, but as with his soap opera character, Bierdz also was drawing on personal - and in this case tragic - experience.

Growing up in Kenosha's blue-collar neighborhoods, Bierdz realized early he was gay, but knew not to come

out for fear of harassment. He came out to his family at age 18, but not broadly to the Hollywood glitterati until 2000. Los Angeles may be a gay-friendly community, he says, but the entertainment industry isn't, especially for hunky gay soap stars who need to maintain a heterosexual persona that's attractive to their show's primarily female viewers.

But even his caution couldn't keep him from experiencing personal tragedy. Two months after Phillip Chancellor was killed off in 1989, Bierdz's younger brother Troy, diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic, killed their mother with a baseball bat. He is currently serving a life sentence at the Columbia Correctional Institution in Portage. In 2002, Bierdz's older brother Craig, whose acting career had failed before it ever started, put a gun in his mouth in his small Hollywood apartment and pulled the trigger.

"I've had as many highs in my life as I have had lows," says Bierdz, 48. "But life seems good when you can see it beyond the earthly realm."

Some of the highest highs have come through art. Bierdz paints three days a week - everything from abstracts to apples - and his work has attracted critical attention and purchases by stars such as Scarlett Johansson. He also paints as performance art, creating canvases at live events while raising funds for charities of his choice.

Bierdz was named by Out

Magazine as 2005's artist of the year and has won other accolades. He prefers art to acting, and understands the therapeutic value it can have for people, especially gays.

"I don't think people can fake what they paint," Bierdz says. "It's important that they express themselves and have a safe way to do so."

By sponsoring the teen gay suicide category on the AAA website (www.americanartawards.com), Bierdz hopes that young gays contemplating suicide will instead put their fears and anguish on canvas. And that they realize they are not alone.

"These days there is still bullying and name calling, but even in the public service announcements aimed at preventing it, no one is coming out and saying 'Gay is good,'" Bierdz says. "I want people to know that gay is good."

The AAA contest, which is designed not to sell art but to expose artists and works to an interested public, will be open for submissions at least through year-end, Bierdz says. Artists can submit digital images of their work, which will be put on display on the website.

"Art is pure creation and I can do whatever I want," says Bierdz, who also is the author of 12 screenplays and "Forgiving Troy," a 2007 self-published memoir about the 20-year struggle Bierdz has had coming to terms with his mother's murder. "As an actor, there is nothing you can do that is pure. I prefer painting because I am not very good at following directions."

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Biography looks behind Grant Wood's work

By Will Fellows
Special to WiG

You may not know Grant Wood, but you're undoubtedly familiar with the artist's most famous work, "American Gothic," a somber painting that depicts a dowdy woman and a man holding a pitchfork, standing in front of a small white house. The work has been widely reproduced and has inspired many parodies.

But just as there's a lot more to "American Gothic" than meets the eye, the real Grant Wood is more complicated than his reputation as a homespun "artist in overalls" would suggest.

"Grant Wood: A Life," a new biography by art historian R. Tripp Evans, looks at the closeted gay man beneath that cultivated image. I spoke with him recently about the celebrated artist and his work.

Will Fellows: What led you to devote years to researching and writing about Grant Wood?

Tripp Evans: My book is

an attempt to reintroduce Wood and his remarkable work to a culture that has largely forgotten who he is. I find his story endlessly fascinating. Here's this ambitious, small-town guy who ached for success, and when he finally achieves it, it's not in Paris or New York but in exactly the place he'd been trying for years to escape.

Wood loved Iowa in the same way he loved his family; it was genuine and ran deep, but it was also very complicated. Wood was a deeply closeted man with a byzantine family setup: A tyrannical father who died when Wood was 10. A mother and sister with whom he lived for much of his adult life. A wife — a woman many years his senior, who bore quite a resemblance to his mother — who suddenly enters the picture as his mother lay dying.

WF: Grant Wood was born in 1891 and died in 1942. What kinds of life-compromising forces did gay men of his era face?

TE: Within weeks of

the spectacular debut of "American Gothic" at the Art Institute of Chicago in 1930, Wood was approached by his first homosexual blackmailer. Like many gay men, he lived in terror of losing his livelihood through the exposure of his sexuality. He spent the last 18 months of his life fighting off a threatened exposé by Time magazine, coupled with a gay witch-hunt led by his colleagues at the University of Iowa.

Censorship, including self-censorship, constrained Wood's life and work in painful ways. When his lithograph of a nude farmhand, "Sultry Night" (1937), was banned by the U.S. postal service as pornographic, Wood's reaction was to destroy his full-scale oil of the same work.

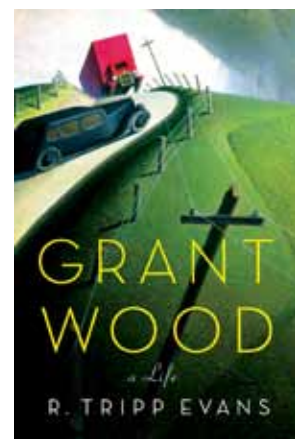
Like many gay men of his time, Wood eventually yielded to the pressure to marry, with disastrous results. And he was unable to develop a healthy, satisfying relationship with any of the men he fell in love with. All of these

issues, and the self-loathing and depression that attended them, constrained his life.

WF: How were Grant Wood's artistic development and achievement shaped by the culture in which he lived?

TE: Wood's generation grew up with deeply negative stereotypes about male artists. Wood often explained that "it wasn't considered manly to be a painter." The sexual suspicion that surrounded art-making and the dim view that his father took of artists meant that Wood always harbored a sense of shame about his calling. So, when critics praised Wood for switching from the "feminine" style of Impressionism to the hard-edged realism of his work in the 1930s, Wood never looked back. He felt he'd finally solved the problem of being a painter and a "real" man at the same time.

Beyond stylistic change, the genius of Wood's work in the 1930s includes the subtle and not-so-subtle private messages hidden within



his paintings. Some critics have called me to task for recognizing muscular, male bodies in Wood's landscapes. Yet the abstraction of eroticized bodies is one of the staples of art criticism, at least where straight artists are concerned. No one doubts that DeKooning or Picasso objectified the female body. Wood, who managed to avoid painting female nudes altogether and who created numerous celebrations of the male nude, found in these

landscapes a way to satisfy conservative Iowans and himself in one stroke.

WF: Your book certainly demolishes the simple-minded "artist in overalls" cliché that has defined Grant Wood for decades.

TE: On his deathbed, Wood told friends and family that if he made it through his illness he planned to move to Palm Springs and reinvent himself and his art, erasing the person he had been up to that point. We can't go back in time and give Wood his idyll in California, but we can restore his wholeness and humanity in the way that we talk about his life. He was a brilliant, important painter — and he desired men. Whatever Wood's generation may have been taught, these two things are not mutually exclusive.

Will Fellows is author of "Gay Bar: The Fabulous, True Story of a Daring Woman and Her Boys in the 1950s," "Farm Boys" and "A Passion to Preserve."

Forever Foozie: a WiG interview

By Gregg Shapiro
Staff writer

The city of Chicago has spawned its share of drag entertainers and female impersonators — from Chili Pepper to Wanda Lust, from Charlene Unger to Memory Lane, from Honey West to Paula Sinclair. But there's no one quite like the character known as Miss Lucy Foozie. Donning her pile of platinum locks and vivid frocks, Miss Foozie is regularly seen, pineapple in tow, on the Halsted strip in Boystown and at various LGBT events across the region. On New Year's Eve, she will be at Fierté, 5722 Third Ave., Kenosha, to ring in 2011.

Gregg Shapiro: How did you develop the Miss Foozie persona?

Miss Foozie: On my birthday on April 6, 1997, I was having a birthday party and I invited quite a few people. ... We made up fliers to invite people to the birthday party, which said, "Bring your friends. If you like 'em, I like 'em."

The party was at Circuit

and there were between 20 and 30 people there. I walked in and one of the guys helping me with the party dragged me in back and showed me a table with a wig and a dress. The plan was to dress me up that night, but I said I didn't do that. But then I thought, "It's my birthday, what the heck!"

About an hour went by and I was getting made up and then I heard all this noise. One of the guys burst in the door and he said, "The place is packed! There must be 400 people here. You need to come out. Hurry up, foozie." He meant to say, "foozie," but it came out "foozie."

I thought, "I love it! I'll call myself, Miss Foozie." Then I went on the stage and welcomed the guests. It was a good time. And the

club owner came up and asked me if I would like to start doing a show there every Sunday called "Miss Foozie and Her Floozies." That's how it started.



GS: Is Miss Foozie a married or single lady?

MF: Single and looking for somebody that has a job and is happy. Miss Foozie makes good money, but Miss Foozie is not going to be a sugar mama.

GS: If Miss Foozie was a

ride at Six Flags Great America, what ride would she be?

MF: (Big laugh) You are funny! I used to work at Marriott's Great America. I was there 17 years. If they still have it, I would be (the roller coaster) Willard's Whizzer. I loved how you went around and around and those corners were real tight. I loved it (laughs).

GS: When you go out, not in Miss Foozie drag, have you ever overheard people talking about Miss Foozie, unaware that it's you?

MF: Yes! The best thing is when I go out (not as Miss Foozie), I like the privacy. A lot of people just want to be with Miss Foozie. I want to meet someone who wants to go out with me as me, as a person and as a friend. I don't want them to be all gaga about who I am.

... I've been places and I'll hear someone say, "I saw Miss Foozie the other night" and I'll walk up to them and ask them if they like Miss Foozie. And they'll look at me and

then I open my mouth (does the Miss Foozie signature smile, jaws agape).

GS: In addition to your smile, Miss Foozie also has a distinctive look.

MF: I have a lot of signature things about Miss Foozie. The outfits are designed just for me, with an "F" on it for "Foozie." The hair is two pieces which go up in the air and was created for me by a Foozie fan. Everything about Miss Foozie has been suggested to me by my fans. From the letter "F" to the hair to the glittery lips. I listen to what the fans want. Miss Foozie is very caring, very loving, very personable. She's emotional. She gets into your feelings. She wants to have a good time. Wherever I'm working, you're entering my home. I'm representing whatever's happening and I respect what I'm doing.

I love people! I'm into giving people hugs. I do it because I want to, not because I have to. ... You'll never hear Miss Foozie

swear. You'll never hear Miss Foozie put people down.

GS: If there was going to be a Miss Foozie biopic made, who would you want to play you?

MF: Phyllis Diller! Or Robin Williams!

GS: Miss Foozie, you are performing at Fierté in Kenosha on New Year's Eve. When is the last time that you had a New Year's all to yourself?

MF: Two years ago my best friend and I spent the night watching movies. We had the best time!

GS: Does Miss Foozie itemize when she does her taxes?

MF: Always! Glitter and nylons!

GS: Finally, if Miss Foozie was a desert, what would she be?

MF: Cheesecake. With Pineapples and lots of whipped cream (laughs)!

FOOZIE LIVE
Miss Foozie performs on New Year's Eve at Fierté, 5722 Third Ave., Kenosha. Call 262-764-9713.

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Film

GREGG SHAPIRO

'BLACK SWAN'

As if ballerinas didn't already get enough of a bad rap, "Black Swan" director Darren Aronofsky does for the ballet what he did for professional wrestling and junkies in "The Wrestler" and "Requiem For A Dream," respectively. He exposes the flat and muscled underbelly of that exclusive world.

Obsessive/compulsive dancer Nina (Natalie Portman) lives at home with her single mother and former dancer Erica (Barbara Hershey). Nina awakes from "the craziest dream" in which she danced the part of the white swan in "Swan Lake." The most dedicated dancer in the company and a regular joint cracker, Nina is determined to give an audition that will impress choreographer Thomas (Vincent Cassel) and land her the coveted role of the Swan Queen in his stripped down, visceral and real production of the ballet. But is she capable of



PHOTO: COURTESY

Natalie Portman in "Black Swan."

embodying both the white and black swans?

It's a role that has led aging dancer Beth (Winona Ryder) to have a dressing-room-trashing meltdown and become an alcoholic. The pursuit of perfection provides Nina with cracked and bleeding toenails, fingernails and cuticles. It also causes her to scratch at her skin, especially her shoulder blades, until they are raw and bloody. And she begins to lose her mind.

According to Thomas, Nina never loses herself in

a part. But in spite of that, as well as her refusal of his sexual advances, he casts her as the Swan Queen. And so begins unstable Nina's psychotic episodes, including those in which she sprouts feathers and begins transforming into a bird, become all consuming.

However, Nina didn't anticipate the bad influence of Lily (Mila Kunis), a San Francisco transplant and free spirit new to the dance company. The sexually inexperi-

enced Nina is confused by the signals she gets from the overtly sexual Lily at a gala, first following a particularly brutal dance rehearsal and then during a girls' night out involving alcohol and ecstasy. But Lily's sexual advances toward Nina in a cab and later in Nina's bed leave little doubt in Nina's unraveling mind about the nature of their relationship.

Of course, when Lily later denies it all, the already wobbling Nina becomes even more unhinged. Grim reality and frightening fantasy intertwine in a kind of intricate choreography. Nina is convinced that Lily wants her role in "Swan Lake," especially after Thomas makes Lily Nina's alternate. Soon Nina's psychotic episodes, including those in which she sprouts feathers and begins transforming into a bird, become all consuming.

But somehow Nina makes it to opening night. Whether she will survive it and soar or meet a tragic end seems to be less and less within her power. As Nina, Portman gives the rawest performance of her career, keeping the

audience on its toes until the final curtain.

'THE FIGHTER'

Mark Wahlberg goes head-to-head with Christian Bale in David O. Russell's "The Fighter," based on the true story of boxing brothers Micky Ward (Wahlberg) and Dicky Ecklund (Bale). In 1993, on the premise of HBO making a documentary about his comeback, strung-out and stick-thin Dicky agrees to let a film crew follow him around Lowell, Mass., where, when he's not holed up in a crack house, he's supposed to be training Micky for his next bout.

Driven by both his selfish desire to reclaim his (brief) identity as a boxing champ (Dicky knocked out Sugar Ray Leonard in the ring in 1978) and the relentless demands of his repulsive, selfish and obsessed white trash mother Alice (Melissa Leo), who fancies herself a boxing promoter, Dicky begins to crack under the pressure. Meanwhile, emotionally neglected Micky, who only wants to make his mother, brother, father and seven sis-

ters happy, can't catch a break. Finally Micky finds the courage to talk to bartender Charlene (Amy Adams) about his plight. Disgusted by what she sees as Micky's mistreatment, she does everything she can to show him his worth and keep him from his controlling family. When Micky is seriously injured during a violent altercation with the police resulting in Dicky's arrest and subsequent imprisonment, he finally sees that Charlene is right and begins to rebuild his professional career.

But Micky's family has other plans. Eventually Micky must make a choice if he is ever going to amount to anything and have the successful boxing career he's capable of obtaining. Bale snorts scenery like it's cocaine, but that only makes you want to pay closer attention to the understated work of Wahlberg, Adams and Leo. As boxing movies go, the fight scenes aren't too gory, so those with weaker constitutions might be able to take it.

Any way you look at it, "The Fighter" is a knockout.

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

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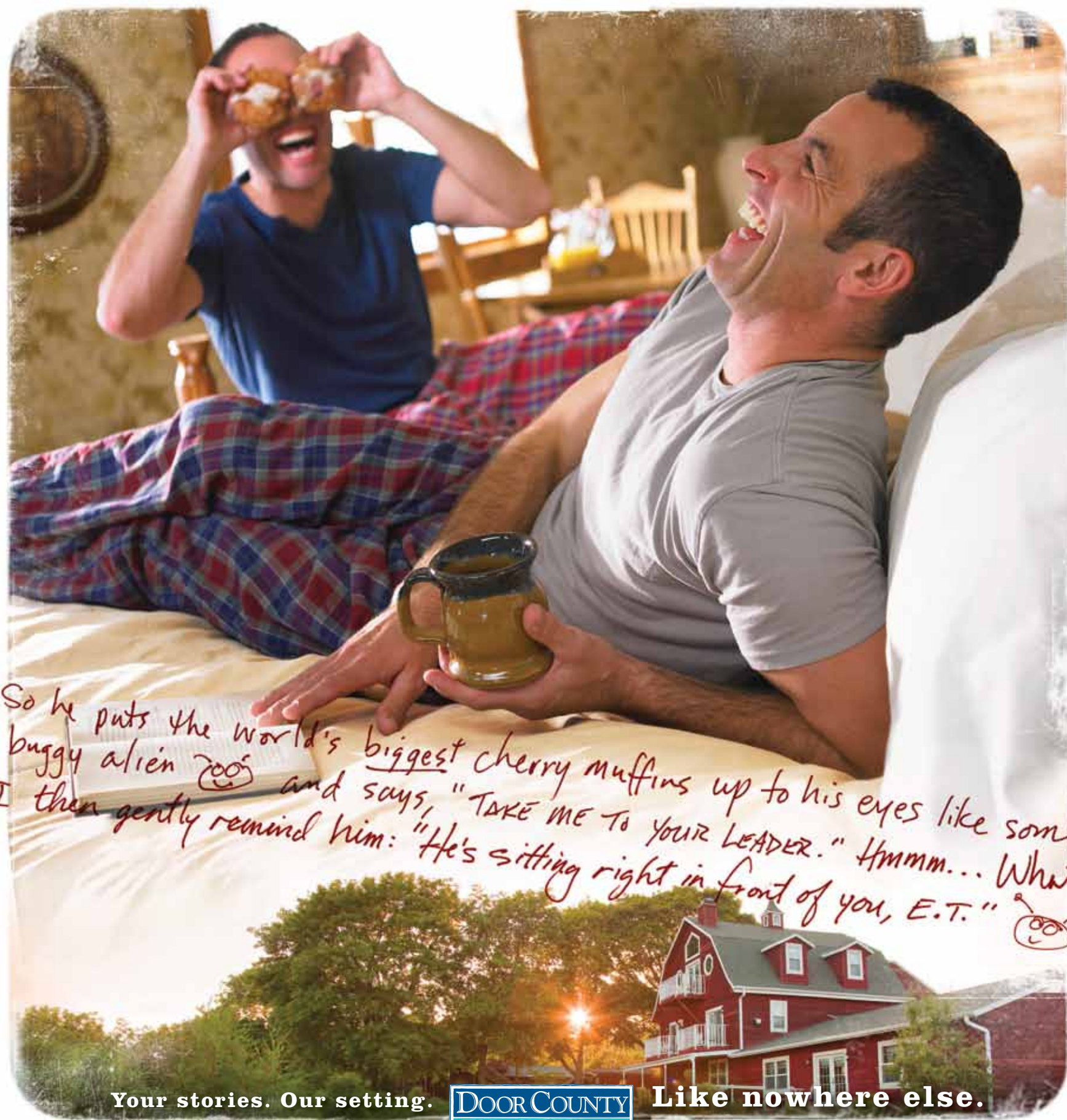
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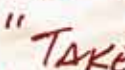

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Auld lang signs: unique New Year's Eve events

By Rick Karlin
Contributing writer

SHAKE IT UP BABY ...

with a Beatles-themed New Year's Eve event at Brookfield Suites on Moorland Road. The hotel offers all-inclusive packages that include suite accommodations, party favors, champagne and a dinner buffet. The party starts at 5 p.m. and lasts until 2 a.m. Call 262-782-2900 for more information on package prices.

THE POWER OF THREE

Bistro Bar 333 is serving a prix fixe three-course dinner and dessert buffet. The meal will include a mojito and champagne station. The cost is \$50 and reservations are recommended. Call 414-270-6130.

50 AND LOVING IT

Skylight Opera Performance is celebrating its 50th anniversary and two of its regular performers will lead a discussion about the

history of the opera with two of its longtime performers. Visit the Broadway Theatre Center's website for more information.

LAUGH YOURSELF INTO THE NEW YEAR

ComedySportz offers an evening filled with jokes, food and all you can drink champagne. Tickets are \$35. Make reservations at 414-272-8888.

HELP BRING PASTY BACK

Join Jim Gaffigan for a night of laughter at The Pabst Theatre. Tickets are \$55 and \$85.

SWING IN THE NEW YEAR

Mason Street Grill offers a five-course tasting menu, available from 5 to 11 p.m., with swinging live music and dancing in the bar. For reservations call 414-298-3131.

SPLASH DOWN YOUR COUNTDOWN

The downtown Hilton

offers a chance to ring in the New Year at its Paradise Landing indoor water park. The 20,000-square-foot area includes a three-story Jamaican Village with four fantastic water slides, a lagoon and a hydro-therapy spa that accommodates up to 31 people. The package includes early check-in and late check-out, room accommodations and breakfast on New Year's Day. Also included is full use of the water park for up to five people. Among the special events scheduled are a lifeguard race and a New Year's Eve beach ball drop.

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

At Eagles Club/The Rave, 2401 W. Wisconsin, the eighth annual "Stellar Spark" bash will feature six rooms of bands, headlined by Girl Talk and Green Velvet. Side stages will showcase local artists playing a variety of electronic music. Don't miss this event! Doors open at 8 p.m. the party continues until 4 a.m. General admission is \$37, VIP balcony seats are \$44.

DRIBBLE YOUR WAY INTO THE NEW YEAR

The world famous Harlem Globetrotters bring their 2010 World Tour to Milwaukee on New Year's Eve. Shows are at 1 and 6 p.m. at the Bradley Center.

SPY VS. SPY

Safe House hosts a "Round the World Party" celebrating midnight as it reaches the globe's various time zones. International hits plus food and drinks to match each area will be served. Go to safe-house.com.

SKATING WITH THE STARS

On New Year's Eve Red Arrow Park opens at 11 p.m. with ice skating, followed by a countdown that's topped off with fireworks at midnight. Slice of Ice will be open past midnight. Check it out at turnerhallballroom.org

FLASH BACK

Have a very 1960s New Year's Eve at the American Serb Memorial Hall, 5101

W. Oklahoma. Join The Ricochettes for a rockin' jam. Enjoy pre-party hors d'oeuvre, an all-you-can-eat Polish dinner and a night of live music. Cost is \$30.

SIDE SHOW

Dead Man's Carnival, Milwaukee's own troupe of burlesque dancers, sideshow and vaudeville acts, ring in the New Year at the Miramar Theatre, 2844 N. Oakland at 10 p.m. Tickets are \$15, call 414-967-0302 for reservations.

PLAY THAT FUNKY MUSIC ...

at "The Get Down" party at Turner Hall Ballroom, with one of Milwaukee's biggest dance parties. Soul and funk music on original 45 rpm's all night! Ten bucks gets you a complimentary buffet and \$3 PBR tall boys. Call 414-286.3663 or check it out turnerhallballroom.org

WATCH YOUR REP

John McGivern performs "Home For The Holidays" in the Stiemke Theatre, while "Liberace!" written and

directed by Brent Hazelton is at the Stackner Cabaret, both at Milwaukee Repertory Theater.

HOW APT

The Pub Theater presents "Bye Bye Liver: The Milwaukee Drinking Play," featuring a cast of some of Milwaukee's finest comedy and sketch artists at Mi-Key's Skylight Room, 811 N. Jefferson. Call 414-312-4388.

DIVALISCIOUS

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

After all that celebrating, make certain that you get to enjoy 2011. If you don't have a designated driver, take advantage of Miller Lite's free rides program. Go to miller-litefreerides.com or text "RIDE" to 30364.

And to cure that hangover, head over to Bradford Beach at noon Jan. 1 for the "Polar Bear Plunge."

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'GLEE: THE COMPLETE FIRST SEASON'

(20th Century Fox Home Entertainment)

Often tasteless and offensive in the tradition of classic Fox sitcoms (remember "Married...With Children"?), "Glee" has nevertheless become one of the third-rate network's greatest assets. LGBT folks especially can't get enough of the series, with gay bars across the country regularly hosting "Glee" events on the nights that the program airs.

The irony that the anti-gay Fox should be the home to one (make that two, if you include "American Idol") of the gayest shows on television is not lost on this writer. That said, by the fourth episode of the insanely popular series, the gay issue is addressed with more sensitivity than one might expect when glee club member Kurt (out actor Chris Colfer) comes out to his father and to friend Mercedes (Amber Riley).

The musical numbers are, of course, what makes the show, and they are consistently strong and innovative, while out actress Jane Lynch is the embodiment of evil as coach Sue Sylvester. The seven DVD set features 22 episodes and more than two hours of special features.

'THE MARY TYLER MOORE SHOW: SEASON SIX'

(20th Century Fox Home Entertainment)

In its second to last sea-

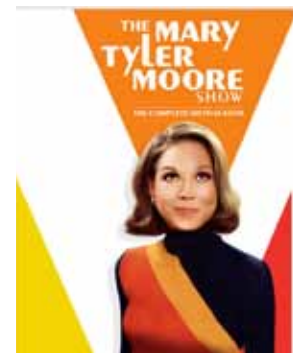


son, airing in 1975-76, "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" found Minnesota-based Mary Richards (Moore), the solid rock of the WJM newsroom, moving into a new apartment. She also got a visit from her Aunt Flo (no wisecracks) played by Eileen Heckart. She sparred with flirty Sue Ann (a considerably younger Betty White) and fended off various advances by unworthy males. Mary probably got her biggest laugh in season six with the now legendary "Chuckles Bites The Dust" episode. You know, "a little song, a little dance, a little seltzer down your pants." The six-disc set includes 24 episodes.

'MODERN FAMILY: THE COMPLETE FIRST SEASON'

(ABC Studios/20th Century Fox Home Entertainment)

The runaway hit of the

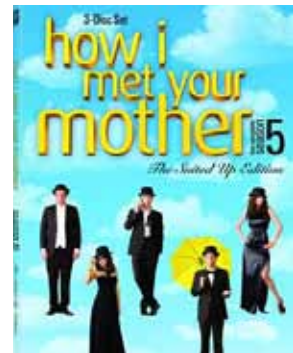
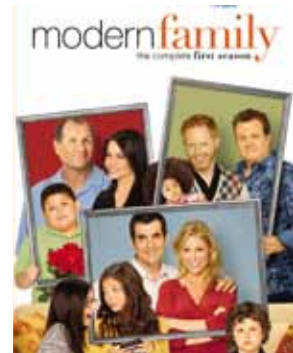


2009-10 network TV season, "Modern Family" features three different, but related, families. One of the families is made up of gay male couple Mitchell (out actor Jesse Tyler Ferguson) and Cameron (Eric Overstreet) and their adopted daughter Lily (Jaden and Ella Hiller). The four DVD set features 24 episodes and a host of special features, including deleted, extended and alternate scenes as well as a gag reel.

'UGLY BETTY: THE COMPLETE FOURTH AND FINAL SEASON'

(ABC Studios)

TV viewers bid farewell to ABC's delightful sitcom "Ugly Betty," in which we watched the unlikely rise of Betty Suarez (America Ferrara) "from poncho to honcho." Navigating her way



through the cut-throat world of fashion magazines, Betty weathered many storms of the romantic, professional, familial and comedic nature. The final season was also the one in which her teen-aged gay nephew Justin (Mark Indelicato) came out

and had a boyfriend named Austin (Ryan McGinnis). The four DVD set also includes a wardrobe full of bonus material.

'THIRTYSOMETHING: THE COMPLETE THIRD SEASON'

(Shout Factory)

Amid the 24 episodes (on six discs) from the acclaimed TV series "thirtysomething," which ran on ABC from 1987-91, is the infamous (and tame by today's standards) "Strangers," which featured characters Russell (out actor David Marshall Grant) and Peter (Peter Frechette) in bed together. Co-created by Marshall Herskovitz and Edward Zwick (later of the gay-friendly "My So-Called Life"), the series was also notable for its outstanding ensemble cast, including Melanie Mayron, Timothy Busfield (later in "The West Wing"), Patricia Wettig (later in "Brothers & Sisters"), (Wettig's husband) Ken Olin, Polly Draper and Peter Horton. The DVD set also includes cast and crew commentary.

'HOW I MET YOUR MOTHER: THE COMPLETE SEASON FIVE - THE SUITED UP EDITION'

(20th Century Fox Home Entertainment)

Out actor Neil Patrick Harris leads the ensemble cast (including Josh Radnor, Jason Segel, Alyson Hannigan and Coby Smulders) of this highly rated CBS sitcom through its fifth season. Singlehandedly making the business suit hot, Harris' portrayal of womanizer Barney has earned him well-deserved Emmy nominations for the past few years. DVD bonus features in the three-disc collection include a behind-the-scenes look at the 100th episode, a gag reel and commentary.

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DEC. 16, THURSDAY

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

"Mother Superior's Ho-Ho-Holy Night" by Vicki Quade runs through Dec. 19 at Marcus Center For the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.

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

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

"The Spitfire Grill" is presented by Madison Theatre Guild through Dec. 18 at Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin, Madison.

"Miracle on 34th Street" runs through Dec. 19 at the Racine Theatre Guild, 2519 Northwestern (Highway 38), Racine. Call 262-633-4218.



"Bombshells"

WIGOUT ON THE TOWN

EDITED AND COMPILED BY GREGG SHAPIRO

"The Nylons Christmas Show" Dec. 18.



DEC. 18, SATURDAY

The Nylons Christmas Show featuring Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus of Madison begins at 8 p.m. in the Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood in Madison. Call 608-241-2345.

Cirque Dreams "Illumination" ignites an entertainment spectacle onstage at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave. in Appleton, tonight and tomorrow night. Call 920-730-3760.

Café Lulu, 2261/2265 S. Howell, welcomes the **Jerry Grillo Band** at 10 p.m. Call 414-294-5858.

DEC. 17, FRIDAY

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

"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.

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.

Milwaukee Rep's **"A Christmas Carol"** runs through Dec. 26 at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells. Call 414-286-3663.

In Tandem Theatre presents **"Scrooge In Rouge"** by Ricky Graham and Jefferson Turner, through Dec. 31 at Tenth Street Theatre, 628 N. Tenth. Call 414-271-1371.

UWM Mitchell Hall, Room 254, 3203 N. Downer, presents **"Your Mother Dances: In a Black Mood"** at 7:30 p.m. tonight through Sunday.



Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus Dec. 18-19.

DEC. 19, SUNDAY

Cancelled last Sunday due to a winter storm, **Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus** performs its "Winter Glow" holiday concert at 3 p.m. at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, 5700 Pheasant Hill Rd. in Monona. Visit www.perfectharmonychorus.org.

Old West pageant entertainers include Armadeius K York (Mister USofA M.I.), Lyle Loves It (Mister WI USofA M.I.), Bryanna Banx (Miss WI USofA), Eddie Valentine (Mr. WI USofA), Tempest Heat (Miss WI USofA at Large), Christina Chase (Miss. WI USofA Classic), Trina Lynn (Ms. OTW '10) and special guest Shannel "Queen of the Dessert" of RuPaul's Drag Race at 10 p.m. at Montage in the LaCage Entertainment Complex, 801 S. Second. Call 414-383-8330.

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

DEC. 22, WEDNESDAY

Milwaukee Theatre, 500 W. Kilbourn, presents **The Christmas Music of Mannheim Steamroller**, marking the 25th anniversary of the popular group led by Chip Davis, tonight and tomorrow night. Call 414-566-1375.

DEC. 26, SUNDAY

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



"The Christmas Music of Mannheim Steamroller" at the Milwaukee Theatre Dec. 22-23.

OUT & ABOUT



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@wisconsinngazette.com.

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MEET PETER

Peter is a 4-month-old kitten who is active, playful and curious. He isn't shy about greeting new visitors at his door. Peter is also very confident, which is evident in his upbeat personality and willingness to jump up onto your lap.

The adoption fee for all cats at the Wisconsin Humane Society covers spay/neuter surgery, microchip identification, a health exam, initial vaccinations and heartworm tests.

The animals also come with a month of free health insurance! Call 414-ANIMALS or visit the web site at www.wihumane.org for more information.

Peter, a happy 4-month-old kitten.

TIP OF THE WEEK Your cat may think that festive tinsel, string and ribbon are delightful toys, but keep these things out of kitty's reach. They can cause serious internal damage if swallowed.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Got news? Tell us managingeditor@wisconsinngazette.com.

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.bvlgays.com.

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

BWM/MT, 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, gggwi.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, queerprgrm@aol.com.

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

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

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

WanderWomyn Outdoors Group, debyddo2@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@tcmlw.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.milccc.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, ullwolf.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.milwaukeeegaysoccer.org.

Milwaukee Gay Volleyball League, www.milwaukeeegayvolleyball.com.

Saturday Softball Beer League, 2333 N. 56th St., 53210, www.ssbmilwaukee.com.

YOUTH/EDUCATION

Alliance School, 850 W. Walnut St., 53205, 414-267-5400, www.allianceschool.org.

Alliance for LGBTQ Youth, 1212 S. 70th St., 53214, 414-453-1400, www.cssw.org.

Gay Youth Milwaukee, P.O. Box 090441, 53209, 414-265-8500, http://gayyouthmilwaukee.tripod.com.

Marquette Gay/Straight Alliance, 1442 W. Wisconsin Ave., 53233.

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

Project Q, 315 W. Court St., 53212, 414-223-3220.

UWM LGBT Resource Center, UWM Union WG 89, P.O. Box 413, 53201, 414-229-4116, www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/LGBT.

FOX VALLEY COMMUNITY

Harmony Café, 233 E. College Ave., Appleton, 54911, 920-734-2233, www.harmonycafe.org, skenevan_gw@gwicc.org.

PFLAG-Appleton/Fox Cities, 740 Kensington Road, Neenah, 54956, 920-722-7145.

Rainbow Over Wisconsin, 702 E. Wisconsin Ave., Appleton, WI 54911, www.rainbowoverwisconsin.org.

GREEN BAY COMMUNITY

Argonauts of Wisconsin, P.O. Box 22096, Green Bay, 54305, www.argonautsll.org, info@argonautsll.org.

Bear Club 4 Men, P.O. Box 13463, Green Bay, 54307, www.bc4m.com.

Harmony Café, 1660 W. Mason St., Green Bay, 54303, 920-569-1593, www.harmonycafe.org.

Positive Voice, P.O. Box 1381, Green Bay, 54305, 920-435-4404, pvinc.org, info@pvinc.org.

Pride Alive, 920-471-3260, www.newpride.org, info@newpride.org.

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

Angels of Hope MCC, P.O. Box 672, Green Bay, 54305, 920-983-7452, www.aohmcc.org, aohchurch@netnet.net.

MADISON ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

Dairyland Cowboys and Cowgirls, Club 5, 5 Applegate Court, Madison, 53713, 608-277-9700, www.dcandc.org

COMMUNITY

OutReach, 600 Williamson St., Suite P1, Madison, 53703, 608-255-8582, www.lgbtoutreach.org, info@lgbtoutreach.org.

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

Gay / Bi Fathers Support Group, c/o Outreach, 600 Williamson St., Madison, 53703, toooldforthis@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.madisonbtvolleyball.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.

Online for you at www.wisconsinngazette.com

Got news? Tell us managingeditor@wisconsinngazette.com.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

ONGOING

SAGE Office drop-in hours, 1-5 p.m. Monday and Thursday, Milwaukee.*

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

THURSDAY

2:30 p.m., first and third Thursdays, LGBT senior adults discussion, Madison Senior Center, 330 W. Mifflin St., Madison, ferington@charter.net.

6 p.m., third Thursdays, same-sex partners group, OutReach, Madison.*

6 p.m., Qgrads, UW Memorial Union Rathskeller, 800 Langdon St., Madison.

7 p.m., third Thursdays, Lesbian Alliance movie night, LGBT Community Center, Milwaukee.*

7 p.m., Q2-LGBTQ Youth Group, LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, Eau Claire.*

7:30 p.m., Four Lakes Bears, Michelangelo's Coffee Shop, 114 State St., Madison, 608-251-5299.

FRIDAY

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, BWM/MT (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, Outwards men's book club, 2710 N. Murray Ave., 53211, 414-963-9089, www.outwardsbooks.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 Outwards Books, 2710 N. Murray Ave., 53211, 414-963-9089, www.outwardsbooks.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

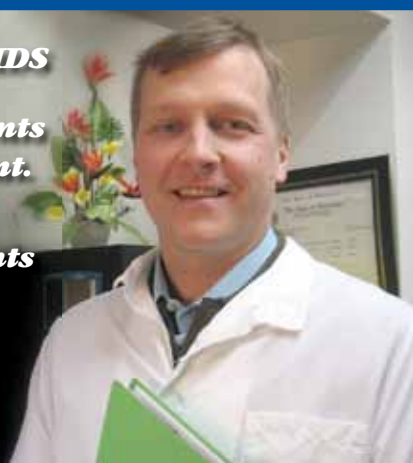
6:30 p.m., third Wednesday, Wauwatosa Rainbow Association monthly meeting, tosarainbow@yahoo.com.

7 p.m., first Wednesday, Bear Club 4 Men monthly meeting, Napalese Lounge, 1351 Cedar St., Green Bay, Info: bearclub4men@gmail.com.

ARCW MEDICAL CENTER

“Never in the history of AIDS has there been so much promise for helping patients succeed with HIV treatment.”

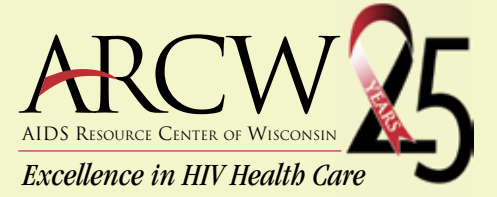
Our goal is to fulfill this promise for all our patients so they can live long and healthy lives.”



John Fangman, MD
Medical Director

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