

Harry Cherkinian looks back at an exceptional year on Milwaukee stages. Page 15.



THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

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# Larkin's killer gets 18 years

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

A judge sentenced Andrew Olacirequi to 11 years in prison and seven years of extended supervision for the May 7 slaying of Dana (Chanel) Larkin, an African-American transgender woman who resided in Milwaukee.

Under terms of a plea bargain, Olacirequi pleaded guilty to second-degree reckless homicide while armed, which carries a maximum penalty of 15 years behind bars and 10 of supervision. In pronouncing sentence on Dec. 20, Judge Kevin Martens said he considered the danger Olacirequi represents and the impact his crime had on Larkin's family and the community.

Citing his client's ongoing struggles with anxiety

and depression, Olacirequi's attorney asked for a sentence of six years behind bars. Olacirequi suffers from a form of alopecia that causes universal hair loss, which has contributed to ongoing struggles with self-esteem, according to defense attorney Michael Hart.

Hart said "ignorant people" have wrongly characterized Olacirequi as a "skinhead" and hate-crime perpetrator.

In a faltering voice punctuated with sobs, Olacirequi begged the forgiveness of Larkin's family, his own family and the transgender community.

"I'm very aware of the mistakes I made," he said, reading from a prepared statement. "From the bottom of my heart, I never intended anyone to be hurt. I'll never forget that night and would do anything to take it back. ... I can't imagine the grief I've cause Dana and the transgender community. ... I've always wanted to make my family proud and with this I've failed miserably. I know all the apologies in the world can't bring Dana back."

Olacirequi's mother and sister wept as Olacirequi spoke. His father sat stonily between them.

Judge Martens rejected the plea for leniency, noting that Olacirequi acted "grossly out of proportion" when he fired three shots at Larkin after

LARKIN page 4



PHOTO: COURTESY WHITE HOUSE

# V-DAY!

## Obama signs DADT repeal

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Sixty-six years ago, Army soldier Andy Lee rescued a fallen friend from a ravine in the snow-covered forests of Western Europe during what became known as the Battle of the Bulge.

President Barack Obama chose to pay tribute to Lee on Dec. 22, when he signed what activists, lawmakers and military officers described as monumental legislation repealing "don't ask, don't

tell," the 17-year-old policy banning gays and lesbians from serving openly in the Armed Forces.

Obama told Lee's story because 40 years after the battle, the rescued private, Lloyd Corwin, became reacquainted with Lee and learned that the soldier who carried him to safer ground was gay.

Corwin knew that "valor and sacrifice are no more limited by sexual orientation than they are by race or

by gender or by religion or by creed," Obama said at the morning ceremony at the Interior Department.

Speaking directly to gay and lesbian servicemembers, the president said, "For a long time your service has demanded a particular kind of sacrifice. You've been asked to carry the added burden of secrecy and isolation. And all the while, you've put your lives on the line for the freedoms and privileges of citizenship that are not

fully granted to you."

At one poignant moment, Obama observed that because gays were forced to serve in silence "there will never be a full accounting" of their heroism. "Their service has been obscured in history. It's been lost to prejudices that have waned in our own lifetimes."

Now, the lifting of the ban will "strengthen our national security and uphold the ideals that our fighting men and

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# LGBT news with a twist



By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

### THE OUTING MILL

The gay blogosphere was abuzz in late December with rumors that anti-gay U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., was about to be outed. Mike Rogers, who's made it his life mission to out anti-gay leaders, announced he had pictures of one of Graham's boy toys leaving the lifelong bachelor's home after spending the night there. Rogers claims to have a 100-percent track record as an outer.

### THE LAVENDER HOUSE?

Former President Jimmy Carter told the website Big Think that he thinks the nation is ready for an openly gay president. Carter said since the nation is accustomed to the idea of President Barack Obama or a President Hillary Rodham Clinton, he wouldn't be surprised to see similar feelings about a gay president. Of course, there probably already has been a gay president or two. The never-married James Buchanan

(1857-1861) lived with Alabama Sen. William Rufus King for 15 years. Andrew Jackson and others in Washington openly referred to King as "Miss Nancy" and "Aunt Fancy."

### REPUBLICAN LEADERS DEFEND HATE GROUPS

A number of high-profile Republicans signed an online petition denouncing the Southern Poverty Law Center for designating several anti-gay religious organizations as hate groups.

SPLC recently added the Family Research Council, the American Family Association and the National Organization for Marriage to the same list of hate groups as the Ku Klux Klan and the Aryan Nations. SPLC said the Christian groups were added because they spread malicious lies about gay people that provoke hatred and violence toward them. Majority Leader-elect Eric

Cantor, House Speaker-elect John Boehner, presidential hopefuls Tim Pawlenty, Rick Santorum and Mike Huckabee, U.S. Reps. Jim Jordan of Ohio and Louie Gohmert of Texas and South Carolina Sen. Jim DeMint signed the petition defending the designated hate groups.

### NO DRAG FOR DICAPRIO

Leonardo DiCaprio will not dress in drag in his upcoming biopic about J. Edgar Hoover, reports Michael Musto of the Village Voice. Hoover, a staunch conservative who served as the first head of the FBI, is widely believed to have been a closeted gay man who enjoyed dressing in feminine attire in private. Dustin Lance Black, who won an Oscar for "Milk," is scripting the film, which will be directed by Clint Eastwood. Arnie Hammer, who starred in "The Social Network," has reportedly been cast to play Hoover's reputed lover Clyde Tolson.

### FOLEY'S FAMILY FOCUS

Mark Foley, who resigned his U.S. House seat in 2006 after being outed for sending salacious come-ons to teenage congressional pages, announced in mid-December that he won't be running for mayor of West Palm Beach, Fla. The Republican, who has been running a consignment shop and hosting a talk radio show since quitting Congress, said despite his "God-given" talent for politics, he had to think of his family, including partner Layne Nisenbaum.

### HARVARD'S PEE PROBLEM

Harvard University police were investigating the soaking of about three dozen gay-themed books in urine as a hate crime until receiving an explanation from a dean. The wetting was not intentional. Seems someone left a bottle of urine on a shelf and a library worker accidentally spilled the contents on 36 books.

### WHITE'S 2010

The Associated Press named Betty White its entertainer of 2010. Acknowledging the honor in a call from the AP, the actress said, "It's ridiculous. They haven't caught on to me, and I hope they never do." White, a 60-year veteran of Hollywood, did catch on in a big way in 2010, with a high profile hosting of "Saturday Night Live" that resulted from a Facebook campaign and an appearance in a Snickers ad that made the You Tube nation snicker.

### HEY LADY...

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., asked a staffer to make sure a staunch advocate of repealing "don't ask, don't tell" knew the policy was a goner. Reid instructed the staffer to Tweet celebrity singer Lady Gaga, who led a Twitter campaign for repeal. The Tweet from Reid's office read, "We did it! DADT is a thing of the past."

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## 'Larkin struggled in unfair ways, but this case was not motivated by hate.'

**LARKIN** from page 1 picking her up for sex and discovering she was transgender.

The third shot proved fatal for Larkin, 26, an active member of Milwaukee's transgender community and a former member of Diverse and Resilient's group SHEBA (Sisters Helping Each other Battle AIDS).

A coroner determined the fatal shot was fired at close range, but Olacirequi denied it. Hart argued that the coroner's report made it seem as though his client had executed Larkin, when in fact he had fired the gun randomly at a distance of as many as 25 yards away.

Martens said the distance was almost inconsequential in his sentencing. Instead, he said he was swayed primarily by the pattern of poor judgment exercised by Olacirequi in taking a loaded gun with



PHOTO: COURTESY

**Andrew Olacirequi**

him to look for a prostitute, as well as his 2006 conviction for threatening a driver with a concealed weapon during a traffic altercation.

Martens said Olacirequi posed a risk to the community at large due to his history of anger management problems.

Referencing the large number of letters submitted to the court by Milwaukee's transgender community and a particu-

larly moving letter from Larkin's grandmother, Carla Clemmon, with whom Larkin lived, Martens also referred to the "strong community reaction" to the killing as a factor in his sentencing.

Community activists had asked prosecutors to look into designating the killing as a hate crime. Milwaukee prosecutors have never sought hate-crime charges in a crime involving an LGBT person.

"Larkin struggled in ways that were probably unfair," Martens said. But, he added, the case was "fact-specific" rather than a hate crime that was motivated by Larkin's gender identity.

In addition to his time behind bars, Olacirequi was ordered to pay \$470 in burial costs. He will never again be allowed to own a firearm.

Read more at [www.wisconsin gazette.com](http://www.wisconsin gazette.com).

## Moving forward



It is with great relief and continued sorrow we share the results of the sentencing hearing of Andrew R. Olacirequi, convicted of second-degree reckless homicide in the May 7 killing of Chanel Larkin, a 26-year-old African-American transgender woman.

We extend our comfort and sympathy to Larkin's family and her loved ones. We also offer compassion for Olacirequi and for his family, whose lives have also been deeply affected by this set of horrific events.

We are grateful that both mainstream press and LGBTQ press continue to cover this case and care about transgender rights and issues.

FORGE is proud of our community, which repeatedly stepped forward and made its presence known, who created an opportunity for the judge to see and deeply understand — through victim impact state-

ments, through awareness of rallies and vigils, through media coverage of events and concerns — that transgender individuals' lives matter and that Larkin's life was significant to her family, to her friends, to our local African-American LGBT community, to our local and national transgender community.

Today, FORGE recognizes the power of narrative and the influence of language. The stories of our community's experiences and reactions, daily fears and pervasive angst helped determine the outcome of the sentence. Those very same narratives (assisted with a shift toward positive media coverage) altered the language used by the prosecutor, defense attorney, judge and the defendant. Every one of them used

the word "transgender" and all acknowledged that not only was Larkin's family impacted by her death, but the transgender community was as well.

We also recognize the deep and potent power of how one person's victimization and struggle (that of Olacirequi and countless others) can result in a pattern that repeats and re-victimizes (Larkin and others). We are reminded that the answers to ending violence against transgender individuals is to work toward ending violence against all individuals. We comprehend the magnitude of this charge, but believe that the end to violence can only be achieved through non-violent, non-aggressive measures — by countering hate, harm and hurt with persistence, patience and peacefulness.

FORGE is a Milwaukee-based group that advocates for transgender rights

## Former skinhead shares his life after hate

By Will Fellows

Special to WIG

"I hurt many innocent people," former racist skinhead Arno Michaels states plainly, painfully. "Not only with my hands, but by infecting others with hate and setting them off. My 'hate metal' band Centurion sold over 20,000 CDs of brutal music designed to incite atrocity. It's still popular with hate groups today."

During the past year, with the destructive effects of bullying receiving national attention, Mequon native Arno Michaels has promoted peace and compassion. The Life After Hate enterprise he started in 2009 engages in community anti-violence programs and is developing an anti-bullying curriculum. The online magazine "Life After Hate" and Arno's just-published memoir, "My Life After Hate," are dedicated to highlighting what Arno sees as the innate human need to both give and receive compassion.

The earnest, repentant 40-year-old recently answered questions about his journey from hate-monger to humanitarian.

**Will Fellows:** What are the origins of your attraction to hate?

**Arno Michaels:** I don't know if "attraction" is the right word for my relationship with hate. But I certainly did have an attraction to violence, and hate was a justification for violence. That hate was justified by a claim of love for the white race. We would often describe and justify our hatred by citing love: If someone was attacking your spouse or child or other loved one, you would hate them, right? Hate was seen as a natural response to being under siege, and according to our dogma the white race was under siege: Jews had been conspiring to eliminate the white race for thousands of years. Multiculturalism was a Jewish plot to defile the white gene pool. All nonwhites were active enemies.

**WF:** When did your attraction to violence begin?

**AM:** As far back as I can remember, I found violence thrilling. As a very young child I tormented my young-

**'I had an attraction to violence, and hate was a justification for violence.'**

er brother, then other kids at school, moving on to anyone I could pick a fight with as a drunken punk-rock teenager, which led to my skinhead period.

**WF:** How did your connection with white-power skinheads come about?

**AM:** At first I was attracted to the skinhead counterculture simply because I wanted to lash out and piss people off. Embracing the swastika and the racial views of National Socialism accomplished that in spectacular fashion. Once I started

down that path, the hate and violence I radiated into the world began to come back to me and seemingly affirm all of the paranoid bullshit I had bought into.

**WF:** So, what started as generic bullying and hooliganism grew into race-based hatred?

**AM:** I went from a drunken brawler to a militant who declared war on the U.S. government in the name of the white race. When a close friend of mine went to prison for a self-defense shooting that involved unethical police conduct, the case affirmed for me the white racist tenet that the police are agents of the Jews and will stop at nothing to take us down. When another close friend was murdered in a street fight with Latino gangbangers, it was further proof that nonwhites were dangerous savages.

**WF:** What was the status of gays in your hate hierarchy?

**AM:** Homosexuality was seen as a sick perversion of the natural order, an unnatural and unhealthy lifestyle choice, a symptom of the sick society that Jews were scheming to bring about. White men and women who were recruited into homo-



PHOTO: DAN WILSON

**"The slightest femininity displayed by a man was grounds for assault," remembers Arno Michaels.**

sexuality wouldn't produce more white offspring, further reducing the already sputtering white birth rate. Like everything else we didn't like, homosexuality was seen as part of the Jewish plot to take out the white race.

Along with a desire to clean up society, seeking out gay people to attack had something to do with making a statement about our own masculinity. Gay people were generally easy targets. Anytime we encountered them we would hurt them if we thought we could get away with it, sometimes even in broad daylight in crowded areas. I believe the first time I was arrested as a skinhead was for attempted gay-bashing. A friend and I were caught in the alley behind a gay bar, armed with axe handles.

In one incident, I broke a gay guy's eye socket with my elbow when he tried to respond to the taunts of my buddies. I will be haunted by that man's broken face till the day I die. Today, my outspoken opposition to discrimination

against LGBT people is driven as much by that memory as by a zeal for human rights in a broader sense.

**WF:** How did anti-gay hatred compare to race/ethnicity-based hatred?

**AM:** Both types of hatred are rooted in a fear of difference. Skinheads, like other fundamentalists, seek uniformity. Just as we pointed out and belittled African lips, Asian eyes and other racial/ethnic differences, we were always vigilant for differences in sexuality. The slightest bit of femininity displayed by a male was grounds for assault.

As whites, we didn't worry about having to prove how not-black we were. But it was always important to keep your distance from homosexuality. Any good white man worth a damn had to either have a steady girlfriend, wife or a steady

wake of female conquests to prove how not-gay he was. For those guys who weren't a hit with the ladies, being called a faggot was always a concern. They would try to establish their heterosexual-

ity by bashing gay men, verbally and physically.

**WF:** Did you ever get to know any gay people?

**AM:** I did have an uncle who was gay, who was ostracized by my family. I saw him as a tormented and mean person, which I blamed on his homosexuality instead of on how he was treated because of who he was. Back then, I cited my uncle as my personal connection with the sickness of homosexuality.

He died alone in a mental hospital, and my aunt later took her own life in response to the guilt she felt for betraying him. Today, I cite my uncle's sad story as my personal connection with the sickness of intolerance.

**WF:** What was the beginning of the end of your hate career?

**AM:** In 1994 another comrade was murdered in a street fight. The thought hit me that death or prison could take me from my daughter. After seven years of involvement I started to distance myself from the movement. Without constant reinforcement, the hate began to fade. The more

I allowed myself contact with people of forbidden cultures, the better it felt to let go. As I discovered how much more fun life was, I actually felt like a hedonist! Being partial to extremes, I wallowed in the polar shift from hate to love. I was embraced by an incredibly diverse group of loving and forgiving friends.

**WF:** How do you sustain your Life After Hate vision in the face of relentless bigotry?

**AM:** No one will ever be perfect. Mistakes will always be made. But as we learn the reward of choosing compassion over aggression, and more of us understand that we are all of a single human family, those mistakes will cause less harm and more growth. Only change is constant, so there can be no goal of constant peace, only the honor of its constant pursuit.

Arno Michaels' book, "My Life After Hate," is available through [www.lifeafterhate.org](http://www.lifeafterhate.org) or at People's Books in Milwaukee. Will Fellows is a Milwaukee author whose most recent book is "Gay Bar."

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PHOTO: COURTESY

In his first State of the Union address, President Barack Obama tackled a campaign promise and pledged to work with Congress to repeal the ban against gays in the military.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Ted Olson and David Boies, the attorneys who represented opposing parties in the election feud between George W. Bush and Al Gore in 2000, filed the challenge against Prop 8 on behalf of two same-sex couples.



# REWIND

## Top national stories of 2010

Compiled by Lisa Neff

Staff writer

A look back at the top LGBT-related stories at the national level...

### 1. 'DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL' REPEALED

With just two weeks left in 2010, the U.S. Senate voted to repeal "don't ask, don't tell," helping President Barack Obama realize a pledge in his first State of the Union address.

In January, Obama said, "We find unity in our incredible diversity, drawing on the promise enshrined in our Constitution: the notion that we are all created equal, that no matter who you are or what you look like, if you abide by the law you should be protected by it."

The House of Representatives, taking action on a defense authorization bill in the spring, voted to repeal DADT.

Senate Democrats tried to

move repeal legislation in the fall, but the effort stalled.

So opponents changed tactics. Stand-alone measures to repeal were introduced in the House and the Senate. Passage came first in the House on Dec. 15 and then in the Senate on Dec. 18.

Obama signed the legislation during a White House ceremony Dec. 22, ending 17 years of DADT and closing a chapter on a long-standing prohibition against gays in the military.

"The process contained in this legislation allows for a smooth and responsible repeal of 'don't ask, don't tell' in a way that maintains good order and discipline in our military ranks," the president said.

DADT's opponents also secured two major victories in courtrooms in 2010. In one case, a federal court ordered the reinstatement of an Air Force nurse ousted under the policy. In another, a federal court ruled DADT unconstitutional and ordered

the Pentagon to halt discharges.

### 2. U.S. COURTS RULE FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY

The year began with a federal trial over whether the California constitutional amendment known as Proposition 8, passed by a majority of voters in 2008, violates the U.S. Constitution.

The ruling came months later, in August from a U.S. district court and sparked a series of celebrations around the country.

Prop 8 defined marriage in California as the union of a man and a woman. But District Court Judge Vaughn Walker said the majority vote for the measure was irrelevant because "fundamental rights may not be submitted to a vote."

Ted Olson and David Boies, the attorneys who represented opposing parties in the election feud between

George W. Bush and Al Gore in 2000, filed the constitutional challenge against Prop 8 on behalf of two same-sex couples — Kris Perry and Sandy Stier and Paul Katami and Jeff Zarrillo — and in partnership with the American Foundation for Equal Rights.

The two attorneys closed the year with a repeat of their arguments against Prop 8 during a Dec. 6 hearing on an appeal of Walker's ruling.

On the other side of the country, another federal court issued a major ruling on marriage equality, striking down elements of the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act as unconstitutional.

U.S. District Court Judge Joseph Tauro on July 9, ruling in two cases from Massachusetts, doomed a section of DOMA, the provision that withholds federal benefits for legally married gay couples, as motivated by "irrational prejudice."

The U.S. Justice Department appealed the

history-making decision.

### 3. SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS WITH SUICIDES

Students began the 2010-11 term with the required battery of inoculations to protect their health, but there was no medical intervention or prevention for what seemed an epidemic — a spate of unconnected, gay-related suicides among boys from middle school to college.

In September alone, news reports carried stories about six gay-related suicides.

In the most widely publicized death, Rutgers University student Tyler Clementi, 18, jumped from the George Washington Bridge Sept. 22 after students secretly recorded Clementi and another male student kissing.

A national campaign to reach LGBT youths followed, with celebrities, politicians, activists and every-

day citizens posting "It Gets Better" videos on the Web. "All Americans have to work harder to overcome bigotry and hatred," Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said in her video message.

### 4. MIDTERM ELECTION BRINGS CHANGE

On Nov. 2, Rhode Island voters elected openly gay Providence Mayor David Cicilline, D, to Congress, keeping the seat held by Patrick J. Kennedy in the Democratic fold.

Also on Election Day, voters re-elected lesbian U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., and gay Reps. Barney Frank, D-Mass., and Jared Polis, D-Colo.

Democrat Steve Pougnet, openly gay mayor of Palm Springs, Calif., lost his bid to unseat Republican Mary Bono Mack in Congress, however.

Pougnet's loss was not the only disappointment of the

midterms for the LGBT community. Voters delivered the Republican Party the majority in the U.S. House and awarded gains to the GOP in the U.S. Senate, leaving civil rights activists pessimistic about advances in 2011 or 2012.

At the state level, Iowa voters ousted three supreme court judges who ruled in favor of marriage equality the year before.

"These are the tactics one might expect from Al Capone," Courage Campaign chair Rick Jacobs said.

### 5. LESBIAN STUDENT TAKES ON DISTRICT

Before she became Glamour's Woman of the Year, visited the White House and accepted a scholarship award from Ellen DeGeneres, Constance McMillen asked her girlfriend to her prom.

And when she learned that administrators in her Mississippi school district planned to bar her attendance at the dance, she and the American Civil Liberties Union waged a high-profile legal battle.

The lesbian teenager's prom fight — if not her prom night — was more than a yearbook highlight.

The dispute began early in 2010, when McMillen learned that Itawamba County School District had banned same-sex dates at the prom, as well as adopted a policy requiring students to wear gender-appropriate attire.

She and the ACLU challenged the prohibitions. In July, the district agreed to implement a policy banning discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The district also agreed to pay McMillen \$35,000.

### 6. CIVIL UNION BILLS ADVANCE, FAIL

Hawaii's governor said no to civil unions July 6, vetoing legislation that would have provided marriage-like benefits to same-sex couples, because she said voters should directly decide the issue.

Gov. Linda Lingle decided to veto the measure and 32 other bills because they were "detrimental to public policy

and would hinder efforts to expand the economy and create jobs."

On the mainland, civil unions legislation advanced in Illinois, where Gov. Pat Quinn is expected to sign a bill into law early in 2011. Civil unions would begin in the Land of Lincoln in July 2011.

Openly gay Illinois Rep. Greg Harris, D-Chicago, said after the House and Senate votes, "What happened... was transformative for people across Illinois and throughout America."

### 7. FLORIDA ENDS ADOPTION BAN

A Florida appeals court in September upheld a ruling that there is no rational basis for Florida's decades-old law banning gays and lesbians from adopting children.

The Florida Supreme Court would have been the next venue for the suit, but Florida Gov. Charlie Crist, Attorney General Bill McCollum and the state child welfare department all announced no interest in an appeal.

Until 2010, Florida was the only state to explicitly ban gays and lesbians from adopting children.

The state owed the law to an early emergence of contemporary Christian right power, led by Jerry Falwell and Anita Bryant and the Save Our Children crusade in 1977.

### 8. NOM RISES ON RIGHT

The National Organization for Marriage waged a national campaign against legalizing same-sex relationships in

2010 without placing a single anti-gay measure on a statewide ballot.

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

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

Just three years ago, NOM's annual operating budget was \$500,000. In 2010, the organization's budget grew to about \$10 million, suggesting NOM has become a political force.

### 9. HHS ISSUES HOSPITAL RULES

The U.S. Health and Human Services Department in November announced rules prohibiting hospitals from interfering with their patients' choice of who can visit them at bedside.

The rules followed a request from President Barack Obama and a promise by HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius to stop medical staff and hospital administrators from denying gays and lesbians visits with their ailing partners.

In April, Obama issued a presidential memorandum instructing HHS to develop rules that would prohibit hospitals from denying visitation privileges on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.

In mid-November, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services issued rules that hospitals must adhere to or risk loss of federal funding.

### 10. TARGET, BEST BUY FACE BOYCOTTS

LGBT activists focused on a bull's eye when they launched a boycott in mid-2010 over a corporate con-

tribution that made its way to an anti-gay candidate for governor in Minnesota.

Target Corp., a company that had for years earned high ratings for LGBT-friendly workplace policies as well as ads, came under fire for contributing \$150,000 to an organization that supported the gubernatorial campaign of Minnesota legislator Tom Emmer.

The U.S. Supreme Court cleared the way for such cor-

porate spending in politics when it threw out portions of a 63-year-old law prohibiting companies and unions from donating to campaigns for or against candidates.

Best Buy also contributed to the organization and became the target of a boycott that continued into the holiday gift-buying season.

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MOM CALLS ON SCHOOLS TO HALT ABUSE

The mother of a 13-year-old boy who committed suicide after being bullied for being gay has spoken out publicly for the first time, calling on schools to stop anti-gay bullying.

In a YouTube video released by the American Civil Liberties Union, Wendy Walsh read her son Seth's suicide note and said his school didn't care about the teasing and physical threats he faced.

Her eyes red with tears, she says schools must stop bullying.

In a letter to the Tehachapi (California) Unified School District, the ACLU demanded the district address harassment they say students still suffer because of their perceived sexual orientation.

GAY MARRIAGE SUPPORTERS PLAN NY VOTE

New York's most influen-

BRIEFS

tial advocates for gay rights say the chances are better than ever to legalize same-sex marriage, even in a Republican-controlled Senate.

The Empire State Pride Agenda said its count after the November elections showed a net gain of at least two votes for same-sex marriage. The group also said Senate Republican leader Dean Skelos has promised to bring the issue to the floor again.

The organization insists, too, that several new legislators in the biggest freshman class in decades will likely vote for the measure, while those who opposed it in 2009 will see a wiser political course in 2011.

SHERIFF: NO LAWS VIOLATED IN GAY WORKER'S FIRING

The Forrest County, Miss., Sheriff's Department has

denied allegations of wrongdoing made by a former employee who says he was fired because he is gay.

In documents filed in U.S. District Court, the law enforcement agency said no federal or state law exists concerning firings over sexual orientation.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed suit in October on behalf of Andre D. Cooley, a former corrections officer for juvenile detainees.

The suit alleged Cooley was fired in June after his supervisors found out he was in a relationship with a man.

MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR ASSAULT, ROBBERY

A New York City man who pleaded guilty to robbery as a hate crime in a violent attack on a gay man has been sentenced to eight years in prison.

Daniel Aleman also faces

five years of post-release supervision in the October 2009 assault.

Prosecutors said 27-year-old Aleman shouted anti-gay slurs when he and another suspect beat Jack Price and stole property from him, including a wallet and cash.

Price suffered a broken jaw, several broken ribs, two collapsed lungs and a lacerated spleen. He was hospitalized for about three weeks.

PRIDE BANNERS CAUSE FLAP

The future of rainbow gay Pride flags that have flown for years along the main stretch of San Francisco's Castro District has come under threat as they bump against another city icon: lampposts with early 20th-century origins.

A neighborhood association near the heart of the city's gay and lesbian community contends the flags were illegally hung on the metal lampposts. City law only

allows temporary banners on the posts, which were designated city landmarks in 1991, out of concerns the fasteners used to attach them could rust and mar their beauty.

The Mission Dolores Neighborhood Association said the banners simply don't belong on the posts permanently.

But others argue the banners in the Castro define the neighborhood and are slowly being lost as they become tattered and can't be replaced. Only about a quarter of the 40 original banners on Market Street remain.

HRC PLAN FOR MILK'S STORE DRAWS PROTEST

The Human Rights Campaign wants to open an information center and a gift shop in the building that once housed Harvey Milk's camera store.

However, Milk's friends and admirers oppose the move by what some describe as an ineffective mainstream, "inside the Beltway" group.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Harvey Milk outside his Castro District camera store in San Francisco.

"It's spitting in the face of Harvey's memory," said AIDS Memorial Quilt founder Cleve Jones, who received his political education at Milk's side in the 1970s.

In the 32 years since Milk was assassinated at City Hall along with Mayor George Moscone, the building has housed a clothing store, a beauty supply shop and most recently a housewares emporium.

— from AP and WiG reports

Kudos for 'Girls Who Like Boys Who Like Boys'

The long-awaited reality series "Girls Who Like Boys Who Like Boys," highlighting the unconventional relationship between heterosexual women and gay men, debuted on the Sundance Channel Dec. 7. The show is produced by Randy Barbato and Fenton Bailey, the gay producers of "RuPaul's Drag Race."

And the show is going to be a great reality series. Why?

Because "Girls Who Like Boys Who Like Boys" reveals how the honest and raw interpersonal dynamics that emerge among unconventional and supportive relationships between heterosexual women and gay men contradicts the dominant views of gender and sexual identity coupling.

And the show not only gives a human face to this reality of straight women with gay men as their "best friends forever," but the

Opinion REV. IRENE MONROE



show also highlights our universal yearning for a person with whom we have a feeling of deep and natural affinity, love, intimacy, spirituality and compatibility — irrespective of gender and sexual preferences.

Straight women with gay men as BFFs are not an anomaly. And the entertainment industry has successfully captured that reality in TV sitcoms such as "Will & Grace" and feature films such as "The Object of My Affection."

But back in the day, "women who like men who like men" were called "fag hags," a slang that originated in U.S. gay male culture that some heterosexual women still find insulting.

Straight women who have

rejected the "fag hag" label argue that at the etymological root of this moniker are misogynistic stereotypes. And they feel that the term is not only derogatory, but that it demeans and distorts their rich relationships with their BFFs.

But there are many other women who lovingly embraced the term. Comedian Margaret Cho regularly talks about being a fag hag in her stand-up rou-

tines, and she has written the now famous and oft-quoted piece "On Being a Fag Hag."

While it is clear that the unconventional coupling of gay men and straight women disrupts heterosexist patriarchy, it also debunks the stereotypical assumptions hoisted upon this distinct demographic group.

Gay men whose BFFs are straight women are perceived to be effeminate or wanna-be females or looking for a gay-friendly mom, while others are perceived to embody internalized homophobia or relationship phobia.

The commonly held assumption about straight women whose BFFs are gay men is that they are the world's female rejects — annoying, clingy and incapable of intimacy. They are perceived to register so low, if at all, on the sexual attractiveness, social self-worth and body esteem scales that they

seek safe refuge in the gay world.

But the stereotypes are far from the truth. Research psychologist Jesse Bering wrote in "Scientific American Mind" that straight women with a lot of gay male friends actually fare better in life. The study found "the more gay male friends that a woman had, the more sexually attractive she found herself," meaning these women either surround themselves with hot guys who happen to be gay, and/or gay men laud their BFFs with so many compliments it helps these women perceive themselves to be attractive.

"We are from all walks of life, all classes, all ages, all races; straight, lesbian, and somewhere in between. We are as diverse as we are numerous. The common bond that we share is our alliance with gay men, a connection that is both nurturing and powerful, sweet

and sour, retail and wholesale," Cho wrote.

The friendships that "women who like men who like men" have are a special bond like no other. Gay men have an innate capacity to connect on deeply emotional and spiritual levels with women that is too often not experienced with heterosexual men. And with these friendships devoid of any sexual tension and competition for the same male suitors, it's easy for both gay men and straight women to open up to each other.

"Girls Who Like Boys Who Like Boys" will give viewers an opportunity to see why so many women — across sexual preferences — enjoy having our gay men friends, because it's like having a girlfriend in a boyfriend.

The Rev. Irene Monroe is a freelance journalist in Cambridge, Mass.

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{ Editorial }

# Military victory

After an autumn in which a number of gay youth took their lives and scores of LGBT allies lost their political offices, Congress' vote to repeal "don't ask, don't tell" came as a particularly welcome holiday gift. It's a gift that will keep on giving.

The military ban was rooted in straight men's homophobic revulsion toward gay sexuality and their contempt for strong women who don't need them. The ban gave social credence to the most destructive myths about gays and lesbians – that we are mentally and physically unfit, immoral and out-of-control sexual predators.

Throughout the ages, serving one's nation in battle has been a sacred honor that brings with it stature and respect. Denying gays and lesbians the right to distinguish themselves in this way relegated us to permanent second-class citizenship.

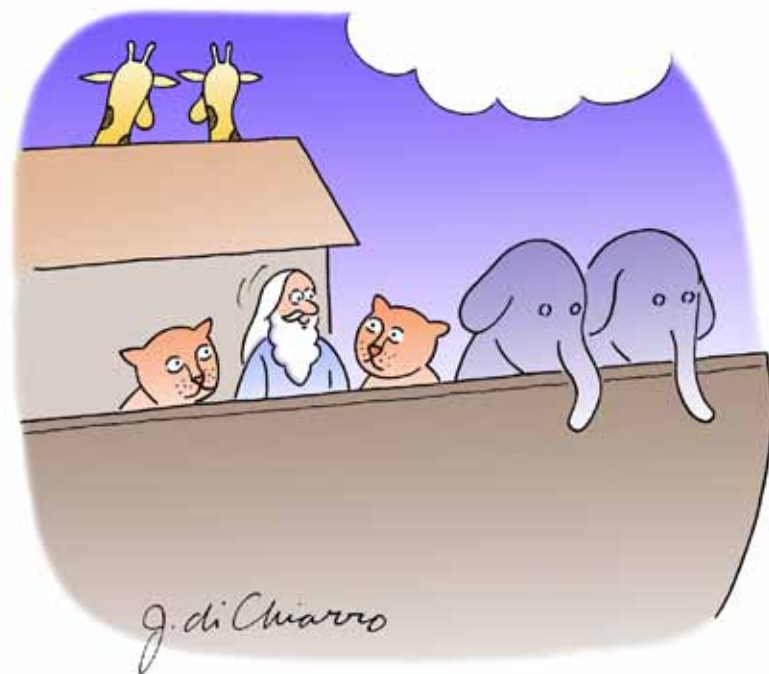
That's precisely why right-wing Christian bigots who are otherwise staunchly pro-military fought so hard to maintain "don't ask," despite the documented negative effects it had on our Armed Forces.

In recent years the Pentagon actively recruited criminals and gang members, along with people who were unable to meet minimum standards of physical and mental competence, in an effort to sustain the personnel requirements of two wars. But at the same time, the Pentagon routinely ferreted out and discharged lesbian and gay servicemembers with outstanding records of service and expertise in areas that are badly needed by the military.

Religious bigots fought to preserve this self-defeating status quo because it reinforced their message that gays and lesbians are defective and inferior to everyone else. They didn't – and still don't – want America to see gay and lesbian heroes risking their lives to defend this country, because they know that would bolster our bid for social equality, just as it has in other countries.

Aaron Belkin, director of the California-based Palm Center, said that Congress' vote to repeal the military ban "ushers in a new era in which the largest employer in the United States treats gays and lesbians like human beings."

That's a development that's long overdue. It gives the entire nation something to celebrate as we enter the second decade of the 21st century.



"Omigod, you're on the wrong ark. This isn't the 'Gay Cruise Line.'"

{ Letters }

### MILITARY BATTLE NOT OVER

One battle is won, but another will continue on the home front and in the service for years to come. As we applaud the vote of Congress, only part of the battle is won. The damage of "don't ask, don't tell" will not go away with the whisk of a pen. Trust now has to be built between the military and LGBT soldiers and sailors. At home, the Veterans Administration still has the problem that LGBT vets feel they may be singled out if they apply for benefits.

Oppression has a strange effect on the human mind. It lingers for years as we've seen in other rights movements and even in conquests across the world. The VA has taken great strides to relieve this stigma, by setting up diversity teams within their facilities, educating doctors and staff and in some instances marking doors in

their facilities LGBT-friendly. Although DADT is repealed, our work as an organization has just begun. Assisting LGBT veterans by educating them about the VA system and removing the stigma of the ban will continue to be a challenge. Within the military, we must confront such issues as the fair handling of cases of military trauma due to sexual harassment in men and women and intimate partner violence in women veterans. With the suicides of female service personnel exceeding those of their male counterparts from multiple deployments, we, as family and friends, have to be more observant of the signs and need to learn more. The VA has programs in place for families of returning vets to help them recognize what these vets are going through and how to cope. Families need to contact their local VA and inquire about these programs. The mission of Vets Do Ask Do Tell, Inc., is to make known and educate LGBT veterans to any and all VA programs targeted to the LGBT community when information becomes available to us; to educate LGBT veterans to policy changes within the VA and the military concerning DADT; to provide a forum where LGBT veterans can openly discuss issues that are related to their service, benefits, and social aspects; to promote and support change within the VA system; to give awareness to the specific needs of LGBT veterans; to develop groups of veterans in support of Vets Do Ask Do Tell, Inc., and to develop and support programs in direct response to the needs of LGBT veterans.

Ellen Kozel  
national president  
Vets Do Ask Do Tell, Inc.  
Milwaukee

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

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# So they said

"Look, at the end of the day, people have to respect people's differences. I am different than some people would like me to be."  
– Actor Kevin Spacey cryptically avoiding an interviewer's question about his sexual orientation.

"This is not a constitutional right as was the issue of racial segregation."  
– U.S. Sen. Jon Kyl speaking out against gays serving openly in the military following the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell."

"We are pledging today to endorse and help fund conservative primary challengers to any U.S. senator who votes during the lame-duck session to overturn 'don't ask, don't tell.' FRC Action PAC will work to remove any U.S. senator who would place liberal special interests ahead of the priorities of the American people."  
– A press statement released by the Family Research Council following the vote in the U.S. Senate to repeal the military's anti-gay ban.

"The other side is winning the war on words and the rhetoric. Generationally this is an uphill battle for us, and we realize that."  
– Tom McClusky, senior vice president of Family Research Council Action, acknowledging to The New York Times that equality is winning in the public opinion race.

"I know it's really gonna upset a lot of gay men. I'm sure hundreds of 'em are gonna be jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge – but I ain't available. I ain't gay. Sorry."  
– U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham addressing rumors that he's gay to a New York Times reporter. Mike Rogers, who's made a specialty of outing anti-gay political leaders, claimed recently to have evidence that Graham is gay.

"What do you think happens in gyms all over America? What do you think happens in the House of Representatives? Of course people shower with homosexuals. What a silly issue. What do you think goes wrong with showering with homosexuals? Do you think the spray makes it catching? I mean people shower with homosexuals in college dormitories, in gyms where people play sports, in gyms elsewhere. It is a complete non-issue."  
– U.S. Rep. Barney Frank responding to a right-wing Christian reporter's questions about ending "don't ask, don't tell."

"If a homosexual signs up now, he's stuck with the whole magilla. Go to your superior officer now and say, 'Hey, I'm a flaming homosexual, I hate the Army, let me out of here,' the superior officer will say, 'Tough darts, those days are gone. You're stuck with us now, Nancy-boy.' So, who's sorry now?"  
– American Family Association's Bryan Fischer saying, in a blog post, that gays lost the "special right" of having an "exit strategy" if they decide they want to get out of the military after signing up.

"I think there is an inevitability for a national consensus on gay marriage."  
– Vice President Joe Biden speaking on "Good Morning America."

# County executive race is critical



After eight years of politically motivated mismanagement, Scott Walker is no longer the Milwaukee County executive. He left Milwaukee County in dire straits, with recently devalued bond ratings, constant structural deficits, crumbling infrastructure, a failing transit system and social services that were severely neglected.

Walker's time as Milwaukee County executive was not only a problem for the public in general, but it was also problematic for the LGBT community. Walker repeatedly targeted the LGBT community to court his right-wing base. He stood in the way of offering benefits for the domestic partners of county workers, and he repeatedly cut funds for important work, such as that of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.

One thing Scott Walker's failed tenure surely should have taught us is that the office of the Milwaukee

County executive is important. Both the LGBT and the broader community should pay close attention to who seeks to replace Walker. We literally can't afford to make the same mistakes again.

The major conservative candidate seeking to replace Walker is state Rep. Jeff Stone, R-Greenfield. In making his formal announcement, he gave us a very good idea of where he plans to take Milwaukee County. His goal is to continue with Walker's failed policies, and it's clear that he plans to court the same extreme right-wing base that supported the governor-elect.

That doesn't seem like a sound strategy, given the dire straits in which the Walker playbook has left the county. In fact, Walker's popularity continually dropped with

each election. In his run for governor, he didn't even manage to get 40 percent of the vote in Milwaukee County.

Some describe Stone as a more moderate Republican than Walker, but he voted twice to put the constitutional amendment against marriage equality on the 2006 ballot.

He also voted against the budget that created the state's domestic partnership registry in 2009. Stone even went so far as to vote against bullying legislation meant to protect students in our schools, joining forces with extreme members of his party like Leah Vukmir and groups like Wisconsin Family Action.

Although it seems that Republicans already have decided on their candidate for Milwaukee County executive, the more progressive field is much more fluid.

Not many established progressive candidates have yet announced.

Possibilities include state Sen. Jim Sullivan, Milwaukee County Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic and local philanthropist Chris Abele.

Dimitrijevic was a lead sponsor of the legislation that would have allowed domestic partners of Milwaukee County employees to receive benefits. Sullivan served as a consistent ally to the most important legislative interests of the LGBT community.

Abele served as CEO of the Argosy Foundation and on other local boards, and he seems to have some bipartisan support among business leaders. He's supported progressive candidates who are community allies.

While a local spring election may not garner the attention it deserves, the LGBT community would be well advised to closely monitor and fully participate in the race for Milwaukee County executive. As Walker proved, the stakes for us could be high.



# Keeping our eyes on the prize

In a November column, I mourned the results of the midterm elections and expressed despair about the prospects for progressive change. I wrote: "An end to 'don't ask, don't tell'? Don't hold your breath."

Oh, me of little faith! Cynicism does not foster change. Faith and persistence – especially persistence – in pursuit of a just cause are required to mobilize support, exert pressure and achieve victory. In the words of the old civil rights hymn, "Keep Your Eyes on the Prize."

Since the 1970s when I started reporting for gay papers, dozens of LGBT servicemembers have waged long, costly battles for the right to serve in the military. Air Force Lt. Leonard Matlovich, Army Staff Sgt. Perry Watkins, Army Reserve Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer, Midshipman Joe Steffan, Army Cpt. Dusty Pruitt and Milwaukee's own Miriam Ben-Shalom are among the most prominent individuals to challenge the Pentagon's bans.

In some cases, these ser-

vicemembers were challenging outright dismissals after they came out or after it was learned they were gay; in other cases they were appealing decisions denying them the right to re-enlist. Miriam Ben-Shalom enlisted in the Army Reserves in 1974, in short time becoming a sergeant and drill instructor. She was never accused of any misconduct. On the contrary, she was acknowledged to be a model soldier and drill instructor and was even nominated by her battalion as "Soldier of the Year."

Nevertheless, she was honorably discharged in 1976 as someone who "evidenced homosexual tendencies, desire or interest, but is without homosexual acts." That circumlocution was used by the Army because while Ben-Shalom had spoken openly about her sexual orientation to fellow soldiers there was no evidence that

she had actually engaged in "homosexual acts."

In December 1976, Ben-Shalom filed a federal lawsuit seeking reinstatement on the basis that her discharge violated her constitutional rights to free speech, privacy and equal protection of the laws. The case dragged on for years with partial victories, reversals and appeals. The courts ordered Ben-Shalom reinstated to complete her original enlistment term, but when she sought a new term of service she was denied re-enlistment due to a broadly worded regulation declaring homosexuality a "non-reviewable and administrative disqualification."

Ben-Shalom promptly filed suit again. The complicated legal saga ended in 1990 when the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear Ben-Shalom's appeal. Keep in mind, all of this was prior to the Clinton-era "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

The financial expense and emotional toll those years of constant struggle entailed for Ben-Shalom are incalculable. She often felt a lack of sup-

port from her own community. Some lesbian feminists disdained her commitment to the military, and the wider circle of gay people were apathetic about her case.

Yet through the long battle, Ben-Shalom was a courageous and articulate leader, doing her best to spread understanding and tolerance. In the 20 years since her court case ended, Ben-Shalom has continued her involvement with gay organizations and veterans groups, speaking throughout the country, encouraging younger gay servicemembers, serving as a role model and keeping her "eyes on the prize."

Just weeks before the dramatic turn of events in Congress repealing DADT, when prospects seemed bleak, Ben-Shalom was reportedly among 13 people arrested protesting the policy at the White House.

The dignity and determination displayed by Ben-Shalom during her 35-year quest for justice is a model for our community in the coming years.

# MAKE THIS THE YEAR YOU QUIT SMOKING

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- OutReach, Madison's LGBT Community Center**  
(600 Williamson St.) **Date & Time: TBA**  
call **Harry Straetz** (608) 255-8582 for more info
- LGBT Resource Center for the 7 Rivers Region, La Crosse**  
(303 Pearl St.) Starts **January 8th** 10:30am – 12:30pm  
call **Rosanne St. Sauver** (608) 784-0452 for more info



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## REGIONAL BRIEFS

### IOWA GOP LAWMAKERS VOW TO OUST 4 JUSTICES

Several Republican state lawmakers say they will try to impeach four Iowa Supreme Court justices who joined in a unanimous 2009 ruling that legalized gay marriage in the state.

Voters in November removed three other justices from the seven-member court after a campaign that focused on the gay marriage ruling. Those justices were up for retention elections in which voters can oust judges near the end of their terms.

Incoming House member Kim Pearson said the remaining justices should be impeached because she feels they overstepped their authority by overturning a state law that defined mar-

riage as being between a man and a woman.

To succeed, an impeachment measure would require a simple majority of the Republican-led state House and a two-thirds majority of the Democratic-led state Senate.

### REPORT: NO LINK BETWEEN BULLYING, SUICIDES

Administrators of Minnesota's largest school district say they've found no evidence that bullying pushed six students to commit suicide in the past 15 months, contradicting an often-made claim.

Anoka-Hennepin School District officials told Minnesota Public Radio News that their findings were based on conversations

with teachers, parents and others who knew the students.

"Based on all of the information we've been able to gather, none of the suicides were connected to bullying or harassment," said school superintendent Dennis Carlson in a voicemail sent to staff.

At least one grieving mother disagreed with the district's conclusion.

Tammy Aaberg's son, Justin, who was gay, killed himself this past summer. She said she knows Justin was bullied.

— from AP reports

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## By signing the bill, the president fulfilled a campaign pledge to rescind the ban

### REPEAL

from page 1 women risk their lives to defend," Obama promised.

By signing the bill, the president also fulfilled a 2008 campaign pledge and completed a mission identified in his first State of the Union address.

The president shared the signing stage with Vice President Joe Biden, Adm. Mike Mullen, chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, Sens. Joe Lieberman and Susan Collins, Reps. Patrick Murphy, Susan Davis and Steny Hoyer and military veterans Eric Alva and Zoe Dunning.

"It is both morally and militarily simply the right thing to do," Biden said of lifting the ban.

Retired Army Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer, who waged a high-profile battle to serve as an out lesbian, delivered the Pledge of Allegiance. Rabbi Arnold E. Resnicoff, a Vietnam veteran and leader on interfaith issues, delivered an invocation.

Also, U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., attended the ceremony, along with dozens of other elected officials, White House staff, Defense Department personnel, military veterans and civil rights activists.

"A stain has been removed from our nation," said Joe Solmonese of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest LGBT civil rights group.

When DADT was passed 17 years ago, it was the result of a compromise negotiated between Bill Clinton, who

had campaigned on a pledge to lift the military ban, and a GOP-controlled Congress that was opposed to allowing gays to serve openly in the Armed Forces, the nation's largest employer.

Since 1993, the military has discharged 14,000 servicemembers under DADT.

### LAME-DUCK DEALING

In January 2010, Obama pledged to work with Congress to overturn DADT. The House first voted for repeal in the spring, but efforts to repeal the policy in a massive defense-spending bill stalled in the Senate, where Republican John McCain of Arizona led the opposition to the drive just before the Nov. 2 elections.

Post-election, with 2010 coming to a close, opponents of DADT tried a new tactic and introduced stand-alone repeal bills. The House passed a repeal bill introduced by Democrats Patrick Murphy of Pennsylvania and Steny Hoyer of Maryland on Dec. 15. The vote was 250-175 and largely along party lines.

With momentum building, the Senate took up a measure introduced by Independent Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut and Republican Susan Collins of Maine on Dec. 18. The Senate voted 65-31 to pass the bill, with eight Republicans joining 55 Democrats and two independents in favor of repeal.

U.S. Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., said, "Just like we did after President Truman desegregated the military, we'll someday look back and wonder what took

Washington so long to fix it." McCain, a Vietnam veteran like Kerry, said servicemembers will do what they're told, but lifting the gay ban would come at "a great cost."

### CHANGE AHEAD

Ahead lies an integration process for the active duty service branches, as well as military reserve units and veterans affairs.

Gay servicemembers should not come out yet, advised activists and attorneys with the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

"Until there is certification and until the 60-day congressional period is over, no one should be investigated or discharged under this discriminatory law," cautioned SLDN executive director Aubrey Sarvis.

Meanwhile, gay veterans may need assistance in accessing benefits programs. "Assisting LGBT veterans by educating them to the VA system and removing the stigma of 'don't ask, don't tell' will continue to be a challenge," said Ellen Kozel of the Wisconsin-based Vets Do Ask Do Tell.

Obama said he was confident the defense secretary and the service chiefs would navigate a smooth transition.

"We are not a nation that says, 'Don't ask, don't tell,'" the president said. "We are a nation that says, 'Out of many we are one.' We are a nation that welcomes the services of every patriot. We are a nation that believes that all men and women are created equal. Those are the ideals that generations have fought for. Those are the ideals that we uphold today."

### DADT, AND BEFORE

The prohibition against gays in the U.S. military did not begin with the implementation of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy. The first known ouster for homosexual conduct in the U.S. Armed Forces was in 1776, when Gen. George Washington approved the dishonorable discharge of Lt. Frederick Gotthold Enslin for sodomy and perjury.

And then in ...

- **1942:** Before World War II, gays were discharged under the Articles of War. Starting in 1942, gays, even those who were celibate, could be given a "blue discharge" and deemed ineligible for any benefits.
- **1947:** Those found guilty of same-sex behavior received an "undesirable discharge."
- **1957:** The Crittenden Report examining U.S. Navy policies found "no sound basis for the belief that homosexuals posed a security risk." The Navy, however, did not release the report until ordered to by a court 20 years later.
- **1975:** U.S. Air Force Sgt. Leonard Matlovich, a wounded veteran who received the Bronze Star and Purple heart, challenged the military ban. A court ruled that the Air Force failed to justify discriminating against him.
- **1992:** Bill Clinton campaigned on a promise to lift the ban against gay servicemembers. Some influential LGBT activists celebrated the pledge while others, coming from an anti-military perspective, challenged making the issue a priority.
- **1993:** The GOP-controlled Congress resisted the president's push to repeal the ban and instead a compromise was negotiated. "Don't ask, don't tell" would allow gays to serve so long as they did not serve openly. Military officials, meanwhile, would not inquire about sexual orientation.
- **2007:** Democratic candidates for president pledged to repeal DADT if elected.
- **2010:** President Barack Obama promised to work with Congress and the Department of Defense to repeal DADT. By late December, he had signed legislation to eliminate the ban.

— Lisa Neff

## re•threads

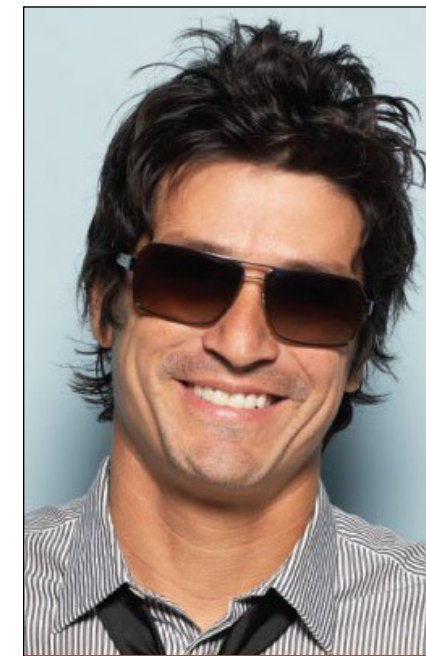
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# Gay advocates win victory at UN

Gay rights advocates scored a hard-fought victory at the U.N. Dec. 22, when member states restored a reference to sexual orientation, dropped in November from a resolution opposing the unjustified killing of minority groups.

The removal of the reference, at the urging of African and Arab countries, alarmed human rights advocates who said gay people are among minority groups that need special protection from extra-judicial and other unjustified slayings. U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice at the time said she was incensed by the change and announced she would sponsor the measure to restore the language.

The battle underscores the divide between U.N. members with their diverse

religious and cultural sensibilities on gay rights issues and sparked something of a culture war at the international body.

Belgium, Finland and other Western nations spoke in favor of including sexual orientation. A coalition of African countries said it was "greatly alarmed" that the direct reference to sexual orientation was included and called it an attempt "to create new rights, new standards or new groups."

Boris Dittrich, director of the gay rights program at Human Rights Watch, said he was "relieved" by the vote, and credited Rice with introducing the new amendment.

"The resolution does justice to gays, lesbians and transgender people in countries where they are targeted for assaults and killings,"



PHOTO: COURTESY

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Dittrich said. "Hate crimes on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity must be countered just like

hate crimes on the basis of race or religion."

Mark Bromley, of the Washington-based Council

for Global Equality, called the vote "an important victory."

Rights groups worked ahead of the vote to lobby countries that had abstained earlier in hopes of getting them to approve a U.S.-sponsored amendment to restore the words "sexual orientation." Colombia and South Africa were among the countries they persuaded to approve the amendment.

"The council applauds the principled leadership of the United States and other like-minded countries in restoring the language and staking out a clear claim for gay men and lesbians at the United Nations," said Bromley, whose council aims to advance gay rights in American foreign policy.

General Assembly resolutions are not legally binding, but rather reflect the views

of the majority of the world's nations.

The assembly on Dec. 22 voted 93 in favor of the United States' proposal to restore the previous language, with 55 countries against and 27 abstaining. The assembly then approved the amended resolution 122 in favor, with 0 votes against and 59 abstentions.

President Obama said the vote "marks an important moment in the struggle for civil and human rights."

"The time has come for all nations to redouble our efforts to end discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people," he said.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the United States reintroduced the language to send an unequivocal message that "no one should be killed for who they are."

"Sadly, many people around the world continue to be targeted and killed because of their sexual orientation," she said. "These heinous crimes must be condemned and investigated wherever they occur."

The call came after the UN General Assembly endorsed a resolution on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, the third since 2007.

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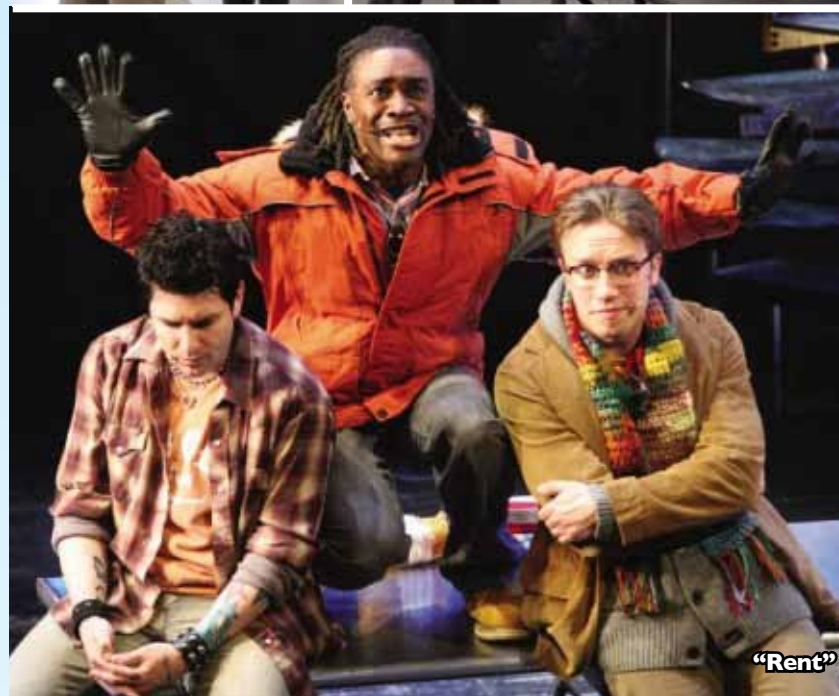
## A YEAR OF TALENT, ON STAGE AND OFF



"The Subject Was Roses"



"Purgatorio"



"Rent"

By Harry Cherkinian  
Contributing writer

With the dawn of 2011, it's time to reflect on last year's rich theatrical offerings in Milwaukee. The good news? The city has an uncanny abundance of great talent, both in front of the spotlight and behind it. With so much to choose from, here are a few standouts that made the past year memorable for this reviewer.

**Can one person really do all that?** The Milwaukee Rep had two one-person shows running simultaneously at the end of 2010, and both contained amazing feats of performance. In "Bombshells," actress Caroline O'Connor played a wide range of characters, ranging from a Catholic schoolgirl to a singer trying to make a comeback. The transformations were fascinating to watch.

Local audiences know the talented pianist and performer Jack Forbes Wilson for his way with the keyboard. But his complete integration into the character of Liberace was stunning, right down to the smallest gesture and the way West Allis' most famous native tickled the ivories. Written by The Rep's artistic associate Brent Hazelton, "Liberace!" deserves a much bigger audience once it finishes its Milwaukee run on Jan. 19. So hit the road, Jack. And spread the musical gospel of the King of Showmanship.

**It's all in the ensemble acting:** Small intimate casts produced big results, as seen in Milwaukee Chamber Theatre's production of the classic "The Subject Was Roses." The sensitive direction of C. Michael Wright produced three fine performances of beautiful synergy. It was a delight to see James Tasse back on stage as the gruff but loving father. And Tami Workentin gave a nuanced,

shaded performance to what could easily have been a stereotype of the prototypical American housewife/mother. Nicholas Harazin was right in step in every way as the son returned home from war — only to find another battlefield awaiting him.

The combination of Brian Mani and Carrie Coon in Renaissance Theaterworks' production of "Blackbird" filled the stage with explosive energy and squeamish seduction in unraveling this play about an underage sexual assault victim confronting her assailant/lover 15 years later. As difficult as it was to watch at times given the subject matter, this duo of superb actors kept the audience riveted with their realistic portrayals and perverse cat-and-mouse gaming.

Two proved again to be the perfect number in Next Act Theatre's excellent production of "Purgatorio," which challenged the audience to consider whether forgiveness is truly possible, even in the afterlife. Veteran actors and directors David Ceccarini and Angela Iannone were each other's relentless tormentors. Mary McDonald Kerr's fine eye for directing kept us watching and guessing until the endless end.

**Laughter takes all:** Given the gloomy economy in 2010, laughter was ever welcome, especially this holiday season. In Tandem Theatre's mashed-up parody of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" in Scrooge in Rouge" was a wacky, hilarious send up of Scrooge and company in the English Music Hall style. The comedic talents of Gary Briggie and John Muriello in the Skylight Opera Theatre's "An Evening with Gilbert and Sullivan" as well as "H.M.S. Pinafore" also provided riotous entertain-

ment. The two play so well with — and off — each other as high-minded British fops that we can only hope for a command performance in 2011.

**Please don't stop the music:** Skylight Opera Theatre's unique production of "Rent" gave the modern day "La Bohème"-inspired tale a fresh, intimate approach on the Cabot Theatre stage.

On the Quadracci Powerhouse stage, The Rep's newly crowned artistic director Mark Clements started his first official season with a brilliant take on "Cabaret." The production was perfect right down to the makeup, the gender-bending costuming and the visceral sense of a society dissolving into hatred and moral decay. Veteran performer Lee Ernst was wonderful as the decadent M.C.

**For moms, dads, aunts, uncles and others with kids in tow:** First Stage Children's Company continued to produce first-rate children's theater with the world premiere of a newly condensed Theater for Young Audiences version of "The Wiz." This 90-minute version focused on African-American cultural references with upbeat tunes and a first rate cast of actors, including the FSCT Academy students.

**The last word:** Some other offerings worth mentioning:

Theatre Gigante's updated versions of Shakespeare's "King Lear" and "Three Other Sisters"

Boulevard Ensemble Studio Theatre's "The Savannah Disputation"

Acacia Theatre's "The Trip to Bountiful"

Marquette University's "The Beaux Stratagem"

Looking ahead, there's plenty of exciting offerings in the New Year. So, 2011, here we come. Get ready, get set and enjoy.



## Smithsonian exhibit moves from hide to seek

By Debra Brehmer

Contributing writer

As might be expected, controversy has befallen the "Hide/Seek: Difference and Desire in American Portraiture" exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C., through Feb. 13. The show represents the first time a major art museum in the United States has staged a thematic exhibition about gay identity, relationships and the LGBT influences on modern art movements. The fact that the conservative National Portrait Gallery (part of the Smithsonian organization) stepped up to the plate is shocking in and of itself.

Ironically, the controversy does not center on sexual identity issues but the old saw horse of religion. A four-minute excerpt from David Wojnarowicz's video "A Fire in the Belly" contains a brief glimpse of ants crawling over a crucifix. Wojnarowicz died of AIDS in 1992 at age 37. Like the "Hide and Seek" theme, the Catholic League/Republican call for removal of the video most likely contains layers of prejudice against the entire exhibition.

Smithsonian administrators withdrew the video without discussing the decision with the exhibition's two curators, David C. Ward of the NPG and Jonathan D. Katz of the State University of New York at Buffalo (one straight, one gay).

This misguided institutional choice caused the art world to rally against the show. Most recently, artist A.A. Bronson asked that his mural-sized photograph of his deceased partner Felix (the final image in the exhibition) be removed in pro-

test and the Andy Warhol Foundation threatened to withhold future Smithsonian funding. In this sense, the conservative sect has ingeniously turned the art world against the show, setting it on a path of self-destruction.

The exhibition and its accompanying catalog are a massive curatorial feat. The 105 works stitch together the role of LGBT perspectives into a larger cultural framework and reveal, perhaps for the first time, how integrated and essential gay artists were to the developments of modern art.

The show is quietly staged. You traverse the permanent collection of presidential portraits to find the entrance where the title wall presents Thomas Eakins' 1898 "Salutat," a 50 x 40 inch painting of a young boxer addressing the crowd after a match. The real subject here is not boxing but the admiration of the athlete's near naked body, which glows with a heavenly light. His "salute" beckons us into the galleries and sets the tone for the nuanced, layered readings of all the work.

The exhibition unfolds chronologically. The 19th and early 20th-century room is held together by the commanding gaze of Walt Whitman (who lived with a man, Peter Doyle). The photograph, taken by Eakins in 1897, shows daylight creeping into a dark room with the elderly, busy-bearded poet anchored in his chair, staring directly at us with a look of fitfully weary resolve. Whitman tried to "remove the veil" and amplify the "hidden voices," as did so many others in these rooms, but our lingering feeling is not

triumph but exhaustion.

By the mid 1900s the larger forces of the post World War I avant-garde allowed sexual identity to show itself more directly. The female artist Romaine Brooks' stunning self-portrait in gray tones presents a creature of the night in male attire peering from under the brim of her top hat, stubbornly separate from mainstream culture but courageously confrontational. Nearby we have Marcel Duchamp in drag, photographed by Man Ray as *Rrose Sélavy*, his alter ego. We begin to see the fluidity of sexual identity as a freeing force in history. It plays into the larger transgressive art world role of standing outside the mainstream in order to see it more clearly.

How much to disclose, how much to keep hidden, when and where to assert one's identity are questions that occupy all of the works in the show as well as life itself, gay or straight. Even at times of heightened tolerance, the game of hide and seek continues. Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas look directly out of Cecil Beaton's 1935 photograph with a stubborn sense of "coming forward," but the picture plane feels like a prison wall with the societal boundary of "them and us" rigidly binary.

At the heart of the show, a coded, private exchange between Robert Rauschenberg and Jasper Johns, who were lovers, seems hesitant and tender. These giants of the 1960s New York art world use the push and pull of collage, with its messy amalgamation of signs, found objects, erasures and indecipherability, as the perfect disjointed response



PHOTO: COURTESY

Keith Haring's "Unfinished Painting" of 1989.

to the previous heroic, heterosexual world of abstract expressionism. Johns and Rauschenberg reground art to the everyday but also reinstate a beneath-the-surface emotional intimacy and vulnerability that is easy to overlook in the standard story of their work.

The 1970s and '80s bring newfound expressive freedoms. Queer, feminist and multi-cultural studies pried open an insular art world. Peter Hujar's photograph of writer Susan Sontag relaxing but deep in thought (1975) calls across the room to

Robert Mapplethorpe's portrait of the leather-clad Brian Ridley and Lyle Heeter (1979), a humorous re-framing of the family portrait. Sontag and Mapplethorpe spoke of universal conditions like beauty and mortality, making their work especially dangerous.

We know we are in Washington, D.C., when we get to the Torres piece, which sports a warning sign: "Eating candy from this exhibition may present a choking hazard." This little bit of legal paranoia amplifies how truly daring an act it was to stage this show at the National Portrait Gallery.

mound represents the healthy weight of Ross. The public can take pieces, which then diminishes the pile. A cycle of wasting and re-birth ensues, not unlike ants crawling on a crucifix — a ceaseless erosion of even the things we love.

Such as a stairway winding like a nautilus. Kosek's thoughtful, elegant works are on view now through Gallery Night and Day, Jan. 22. Hours for the MGAC gallery vary. Visitors can check the online events calendar or call 414-383-3727.

Artwatch  
KAT MURRELL

in "Bridging the Gap" are intelligent studies in tension, balance and transformation, beautifully set in the airy and gracious gallery space.

A Chicago native and current Racine resident, Kosek has a long history as an artist and art educator. The paintings in his "HP Series" show

assertive compositional handling; the placement of pivotal lines sing in contrast with round forms and shards of overlapping color. Viewed up close, other strong points come through. Kosek's acrylic paint is opaque, yet applied deftly to allow underpainting and brush strokes to remain

visible. Layers build and collaged elements enliven the surface, like a bit of the world caught in the art. Below the painted surface, occasional HP logos from packaging peep through. The detritus of life is something to build another world on.

The push and pull between

reality and abstract interpretation is apparent in a series of smaller works. It starts with a photograph, and, like a puzzle, details are extracted and developed into something new yet not unfamiliar. The exhibition is rounded out by paintings that take on unexpected viewing angles,

such as a stairway winding like a nautilus.

Kosek's thoughtful, elegant works are on view now through Gallery Night and Day, Jan. 22. Hours for the MGAC gallery vary. Visitors can check the online events calendar or call 414-383-3727.

## 'Mamma Mia!' Here they go again

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

As part of the ensemble for the North American touring company of "Mamma Mia!" for the past 18 months, Mario Matthews is well acquainted with the music of ABBA. The play revolves entirely around the Swedish pop group's playlist, and Matthews knows all the words to all the songs that appear in the seemingly never-ending touring show.

Matthews is one of a cadre of seven gay company members who have formed a kinship in the current touring production, which begins a six-day run Jan. 4 at Milwaukee's Marcus Center for the Performing Arts and then reappears Jan. 28-30 at Madison's Overture Center for the Arts. Two other ensemble members, the music director, the company manager, the stage manager and the head of props are gay.

"We don't really isolate ourselves from the others because "Mamma Mia!" is

all about the family," says Matthews, adding that the group integrates comfortably with the straight performers. "Of course, there are a lot of gays working in the arts. That's why we have musical theater."

The show's plot revolves around Sophie, engaged to Sky and living on the Greek island of Calicos in a small inn run by Sophie's mother, a former musician and child of the 1960s (and all that that implies.) Sophie wants to invite her true father to her wedding, but she discovers from reading her mother's diary that it could have been any one of three men. She contrives to bring them all to the wedding, while her mother brings her two friends and former band mates. This all adds up to a lot of sexual intrigue, platform boots and enough glam-rock paraphernalia to populate one of David Bowie's nightmares.

The show's narrative is

driven by the music of ABBA, the wildly successful pop quartet whose name is an acronym of the first letters of the first names of band members Anni-Frid Lyngstad, Björn Ulvaeus, Benny Andersson and Agnetha Fältskog. At one time during its career from 1972 to 1983, ABBA was Sweden's most successful corporation.

Ulvaeus and Andersson were involved in the original development of "Mamma Mia!," which has grossed more than \$2 billion and has been seen by more than 42 million people worldwide.

To what does the musical owe its wild and enduring success?

Matthews says the answer should be obvious.

"Mamma Mia! is just one of those feel-good musicals," says Matthews, who has performed in numerous other Broadway shows and projects. "The story has a good heart and is something to which its audiences can eas-

ily relate."

An Oklahoma native, Matthews is a graduate of Oklahoma City University's musical theater program, which also counts Kristin Chenoweth among its alumni. Growing up gay in Oklahoma was not especially challenging, says Matthews, who spent his high school years at Oklahoma City University's Performing Arts Academy and participated in the city's vibrant arts scene and large gay community.

"Being surrounded by all those gay men made it easier for me," says Matthews, who came out as a matter of personal choice when he was 24. "When I asked myself who I wanted to spend my life with, my heart told me it would be a man."

Right now, Matthews' heart belongs to "Mamma Mia!," which offers him professional success, long hours and grueling days. When not on stage, the ensemble singers move scenery and haul props.



PHOTO: JOAN MARCUS

From the touring production of "Mamma Mia!"

They also provide vocal support from backstage to make sure the ABBA numbers in the show have that "radio quality" that the band's fans have come to recognize and expect.

The company also reaches out from the proscenium to help support worthy causes. Over the past six years, the North American touring company of "Mamma Mia!"

has donated \$2.4 million to Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, a charity dedicated to providing comfort and support for HIV/AIDS sufferers.

"We takes this very seriously," Matthews says. "It's a great cause of which I am very proud to be a part."

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## Film

GREGG SHAPIRO

## 'RABBIT HOLE'

Eight months since the death of their 4-year-old son Danny, who was hit by a car while chasing the family dog Taz, Becca (Nicole Kidman) and Howie (Aaron Eckhart) are still trying to find a way to deal with their loss. Becca gardens and declines party invitations from neighbors, including Peg (Patricia Kalember). Her mourning is disrupted by the bad behavior of troubled kid sister Izzy (Tammy Blanchard), an unemployed Applebee's waitress who gets into bar fights and needs to be bailed out of jail. Izzy, who also happens to be pregnant by musician Augie (Giancarlo Esposito), has taken up residence at the home of their mother Nat (Dianne Wiest).

Howie is making a more concerted effort to come to terms with his grief. In spite of late-night viewings of a video of Danny on his iPhone, he plays racquetball with Rick (Jon Tenney) and



PHOTO: COURTESY  
Nicole Kidman in "Rabbit Hole."

attends a support group for grieving parents. Becca, too blunt and impatient with the more religious grief-stricken parents, opts not to attend. It's at the group meetings that Howie meets Gaby (Sandra Oh), a "professional wallower."

On the surface, Howie appears to be handling the situation better. But when Becca, who regularly rebuffs Howie's romantic advances,

takes down Danny's refrigerator art, empties Danny's closet and offers the clothes to expectant Izzy and suggests selling the house, Howie begins to lose it. And when Becca accidentally erases the Danny video from his iPhone, Howie has an emotional meltdown.

Both Becca and Howie are keeping secrets from each other. Their secrets are the only things that provide

them with solace. Howie and Gaby grow closer, smoking pot in her car before the support group meetings and then skipping them altogether. Meanwhile, Becca inadvertently locates Jason (Miles Teller), the scarred high school student who was driving the car that hit Danny. They begin to meet in a park and get to know each other. Jason, who is illustrating a comic book of his own

creation, "Rabbit Hole," even shares his work with Becca. But, of course, the secrets come to the surface in corrosive ways, threatening the already frayed fabric of Becca and Howie's marriage.

Out director John Cameron Mitchell, who already proved his mettle with his first two brilliant films, "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" (in which he also starred) and "Shortbus," has moved in a new and utterly compelling direction here. He gets breathtaking performances from his cast, especially Eckhart, Kidman, Teller and Wiest.

Oh, and in spite of David Lindsay-Abaire's screenplay (based on his play) occasionally feeling stagey, Mitchell opens up the film in a way that one would open a window in a stuffy room. His work is subtle, yet generous and guided, making the journey down the rabbit hole less distressing than it might have been.

## 'THE KING'S SPEECH'

Deprived of a well-deserved Oscar for his performance in the gay-themed

"A Single Man," Colin Firth will probably be rewarded for his portrayal of stammering King George VI (AKA Albert, Duke of York, or Bertie). Husband to the future "Queen Mum," played with grace and humor by Helena Bonham Carter, and father to future queen Elizabeth, the high-strung but affectionate Albert was perfectly happy to remain in the background. But following the death of his father George V (Michael Gambon) and the abdication of brother King Edward VIII (Guy Pearce), Albert, ill-prepared for public speaking, ascends to the throne as King George VI and must find a way to overcome his disability.

Elizabeth enlists Australian actor and speech therapist Lionel Logue (Geoffrey Rush in a role he was born to play) and the transformation begins. With the threat of war with Germany increasingly becoming a reality, George must prove himself to be an inspirational leader to his people. One of the best films of 2010, "The King's Speech" hits the right emotional notes and merits the accolades received.

# Autobiography explores Sondheim's early years

By Harry Cherkinian

Contributing writer

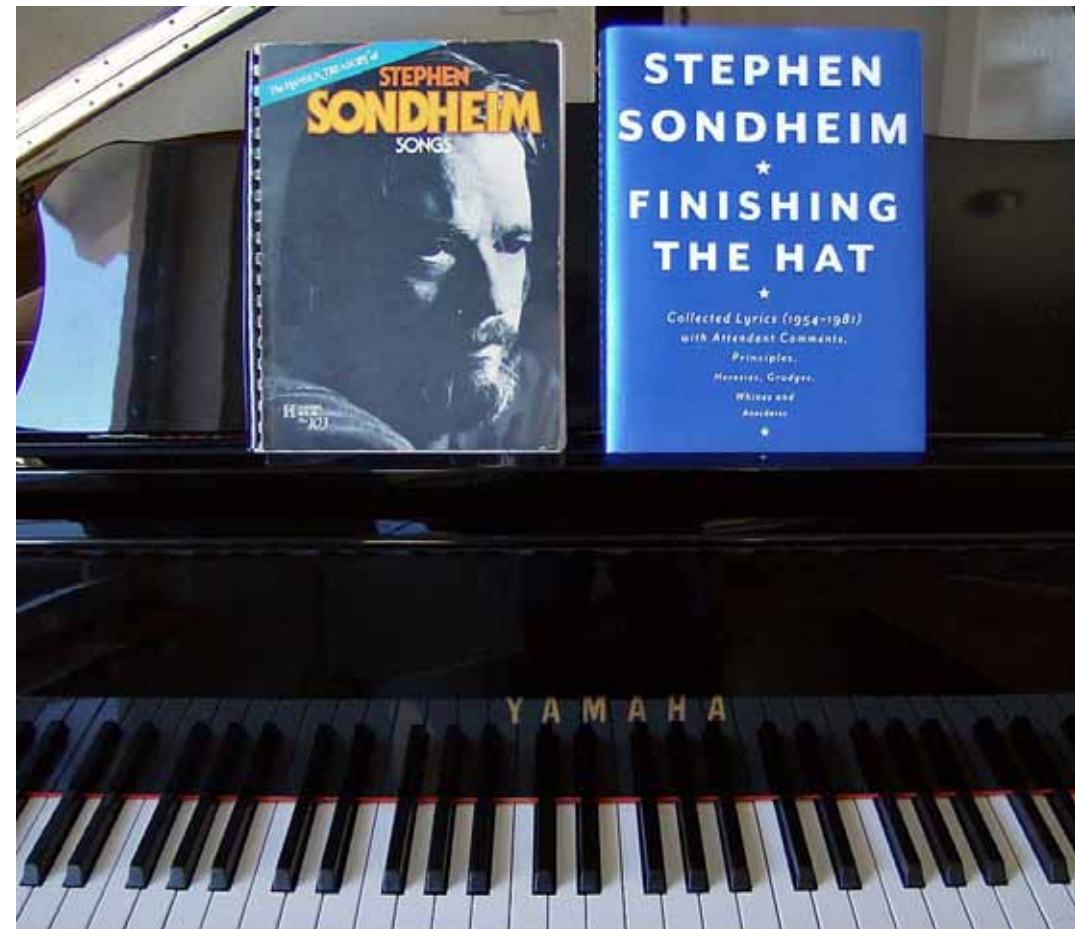
Hearing Stephen Sondheim interviewed just feet away from me was completely unplanned. During my annual trek to Ravinia to see "Sunday in the Park with George," a voice came over the loudspeaker and announced that Sondheim would be interviewed on the main stage in 10 minutes, along with James Lapine, who directed a number of Sondheim shows.

I made a mad dash to a front row center seat in time to hear Sondheim and Lapine, seated on living room-sized chairs, politely answer questions. The session was broadcast live on Chicago area radio.

For a theater junkie who has assiduously followed Sondheim's career, the experience was as educational as it was magical.

How fitting then that Sondheim has titled the first volume of his new autobiography "Finishing the Hat" from a song in "Sunday in the Park with George." The subtitle – "Collected Lyrics (1954-1981) with Attendant Comments, Principles, Heresies, Grudges, Whines and Anecdotes" – provides an accurate summation of what you'll find in this illustrated, coffee table-size volume.

"Finishing the Hat" explores Sondheim's process for making music. Given his collaborations with such creative luminaries as Leonard Bernstein, Jerome Robbins, Harold Prince, Arthur Laurents and



Larry Gelbart, among others, the book offers great insight into modern day American musical theater.

For Sondheim-philes, the book is a must-have. It includes production information, cast lists and other details, and it offers a glimpse into the trials and trepidations of one of the most enigmatic composers living today.

It wasn't until the premiere of "Gypsy" (1959) that Sondheim felt he finally had achieved success with his lyrics, despite the success of "West Side Story" two years earlier. "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum"

was the first time both his own music and lyrics would be featured in a Broadway show, but instead of exhilaration, "I felt a rapidly burgeoning panic," he writes.

Sondheim doesn't hide his sensitivity to criticism. Of "Company," his experimental 1970 work about relationships, he admits, "I had no idea 'Company' would be so unsettling to public and critics alike, but then I've been similarly naïve about almost every musical I've been connected with."

"Finishing the Hat" is an excellent primer on how musicals get put

together, despite seemingly insurmountable odds. A case in point is the history of "Anyone Can Whistle." During a pre-Broadway tryout, one of the main supporting players suffered a heart attack and a dancer fell into the orchestra pit and landed on a string player, who suffered a concussion and died a few days later. And the show's star, Angela Lansbury, was not working out and was almost replaced.

"Finishing the Hat" makes Sondheim and his work accessible in a way not seen or read before. And since this

first volume takes us only through 1981's "Merrily We Roll Along," there is so much more Sondheim to explore – and savor.

## ON THE SHELF

"Finishing the Hat: Collected Lyrics (1954-1981) With Attendant Comments, Principles, Heresies, Grudges, Whines and Anecdotes" by Stephen Sondheim (Alfred A. Knopf, 445 pps., \$39.95)

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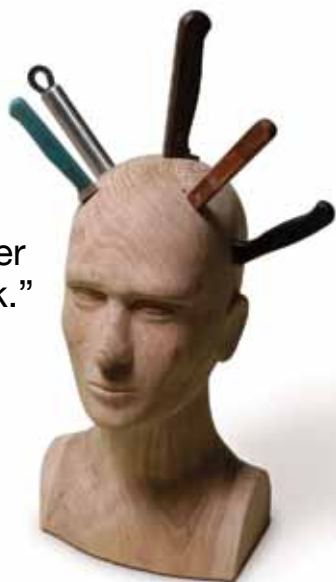
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Maarten Baas, Your Best Kitchen Mate! knife block, 2004. Photo courtesy Ivan Terestchenko for Contrast Gallery.

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# Bright 'Future': an interview with DJ Dan

**Interview**  
GREGG SHAPIRO

Looking for a way to keep fit and stay warm this winter? Why not pop DJ Dan's "Future Retro" disc into your music player and dance your ass off in the comfort of your own home?

The disc by this electro groundbreaker and out DJ contains his take on the legendary 1987 Company B freestyle track "Fascinated," and features a guest vocalist turn by Blake Lewis (on "Operator") plus plenty more to keep your booty moving and temperature rising.

I spoke to DJ Dan following the release of "Future Retro."

GS: Before your music career, you were pursuing a career in fashion design. Have you had occasion to combine music and fashion?

DJD: I've done a couple of parties for Diesel, and they sponsor me as well. The only kind of design work that I have really done is some fun stuff for Burning Man. Also, we sell a few pieces for my label, In Stereo. But that's just more graphic oriented. I've always kind of thought that fashion and music were one.

GS: What do you think of "Project Runway"?

DJD: I think it's amazing. Every time I see it I wish that it had been around when I was in school. I could only imagine everyone that I was in school with would have wanted to be on there,

including me.

GS: Your new disc "Future Retro" is separated into "Retro" and "Future" segments.

DJD: Basically this is my first original artist album. I've done many compilations, but this is the first artist album that I've done. I wanted to go back and choose some classic tracks that really inspired me and maybe some that people haven't heard in a while – or maybe don't even know – and just reinterpret them in how I would want to hear them.

Also (I hoped) maybe some of the earlier producers might get a little recognition and maybe some of the people who are listening to me or other DJs currently might find out a little more about these early producers.

For the second half of it, I basically revamped a few of my tracks that I had done before, did new versions for the album, and then did about four more originals just for the record.

GS: One of the retro selections is Phuture's "Your Only Friend," which I would describe as a drug song. Why did you want to include that track?

DJD: I just remember there was this club called the Vogue that we used to go to, and I remember people partying really hard and that was the song that they would run out to the dance floor for when they were really fucked up.

It was just really ironic, here is this song singing about the downfalls of doing drugs and everybody who sort of does drugs loves it and celebrates. It was crazy!



PHOTO: COURTESY DJ Dan

GS: Perhaps the most recognizable cover for many people is Company B's "Fascinated."

DJD: That was one of the first records that I got when I taught myself how to beat match. I would mix that with Information Society or Dead Or Alive, and I just remember that it was a really fun record to mix.

GS: I don't usually associate LP, who provides the vocals on "Come On & Get It," with dance music. How did you get her to do the track?

DJD: It was pretty funny.

When I met her I was like, "Who is this crazy little bitch?" And then we became friends and then she wanted to do something on the song and I was like, "You want to sing on it too?" She sang it and I thought she did a great job. It was one of the last ones added.

GS: What is the biggest difference between spinning at a gay event and a straight event?

DJD: At the gay events, when they are on the dance floor, they come to really just dance and I've always

noticed that the dancing is on the floor for dancing and the socializing you can take off the floor. That's the cool thing. Because sometimes it's frustrating when you're playing and you think, "That's the floor, that's where you're supposed to dance," and then everyone is talking.

GS: As someone who spends a great deal of time listening to and producing dance music, is there any music in your personal collection that your friends and fans might be surprised to find there?

DJD: That's a good question! You might find "Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head" (by BJ Thomas). That's one, it used to be one of my favorite songs of all time and I still listen to it every once in a while just because it reminds me of growing up and my mom used to love playing that song. It's a silly one but it's one of my favorites.

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# Soundtracks that have a shelf life of their own

## Music

GREGG SHAPIRO

### 'FOR COLORED GIRLS...'

Tyler Perry's toxic film adaptation of Ntozake Shange's "For Colored Girls..." has rightfully come and gone from movie screens. On the other hand, "Music From and Inspired by The Original Motion Picture For Colored Girls" (Atlantic) is vastly better than the film and definitely deserves a longer lifespan. Knockout tracks by Lalah Hathaway ("Sun"), Sharon Jones & The Dap-Kings ("Longer & Stronger"), Estelle ("All Day Long"), Janelle Monáe ("Without A Fight")



and, especially, "Four Women" (Nina Simone, Simone, Laura Izibor and Ledisi), make this one a keeper.

### 'BURLESQUE'

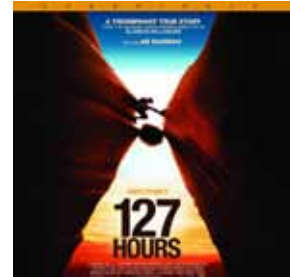
A much better singer than actress, Christina Aguilera dominates "Burlesque: Original Motion Picture Soundtrack" (RCA), where she slaps a new coat of paint on a pair of Etta James tunes – "Something's Got A Hold On Me" and "Tough Lover." The problem with putting these songs at the beginning of the disc just shines a light on how inferior newer compositions such as "Express," "Show Me Your Burlesque" and the revision of "The Beautiful People" are, although Xtina makes the most of them. As the ballads go,



"Bound To You" is more successful than the overwrought Diane Warren-penned, "You Haven't Seen The Last of Me," sung by Cher.

### 'BLACK SWAN' AND '127 HOURS'

The critically acclaimed movies "Black Swan" (starring Natalie Portman and directed by Darren Aronofsky) and "127 Hours" (starring



James Franco and directed by Danny Boyle) have essential soundtracks. "Black Swan: Original Motion Picture Soundtrack" (Sony Classical) and "Music From The Motion Picture 127 Hours" (Interscope) feature scores by composers Clint Mansell and A.R. Rahman, who previously worked with Aronofsky and Boyle, respectively.

### 'IT'S KIND OF A FUNNY STORY'

"Music from the Motion Picture It's Kind of A Funny Story" (Rhino/Focus) is a hipster's delight compilation, beginning and ending with a pair of Broken Social Scene songs ("Not At My Best" and "Major Label Debut"). It grows more interesting with



tracks such as "Smash It Up" (Parts 1 & 2) by The Damned, "Happy Today" by The WoVz, "Where You Go" by Elden Calder, "The Ills" by Mayer Hawthorn and an exquisite piano rendition of The Pixies' "Where Is My Mind," performed by Maxence Cyrin.

### 'THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE'

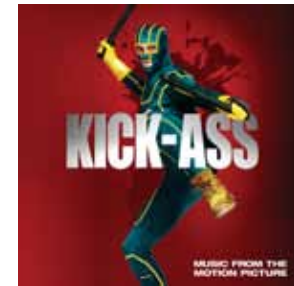
Love or hate the "Twilight" movie series, the soundtracks stand on their own. Muse, cited by series author Stephanie Meyers as an inspiration, appears once again on "The Twilight Saga: Eclipse – Original Motion Picture Soundtrack" (Summit/Chop Shop/Atlantic) with the song "Neutron Star Collision (Love Is Forever)." Fitting tracks by Florence & The Machine ("Heavy In Your Arms"), Sia (the Kate Bush-like "My Love"), Cee Lo Green ("What Part of Forever?"), a duet by Beck and Bat For Lashes ("Let's Get Lost"), and suitably enough, Vampire Weekend ("Jonathan Low"), also make this a soundtrack into which you can really sink your teeth.



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### 'SCOTT PILGRIM VS. THE WORLD,' 'KICK-ASS' AND 'IRON MAN 2'

The "Original Motion Picture Soundtrack – Scott Pilgrim Vs. The World" (Universal/ABKCO) sounds pretty much like what you'd expect from a movie based on a comic book in which the



titular character is also a musician in his 20s. For instance, songs performed by Pilgrim's band Sex Bob-Omb were composed by none other than Beck (Hansen). The soundtrack also includes contributions by Frank Black, Metric, Broken Social Scene and Beck himself, as well as T. Rex and The Rolling Stones, among many others. Also consider "Kick-Ass: Music from the Motion Picture" (DGC/Interscope) and "Iron Man 2" (Columbia), with music by AC/DC.



### 'GLEE'

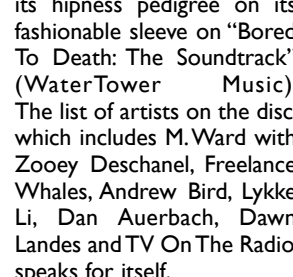
Thanks to "Glee," TV soundtracks are gaining in popularity. "Glee: The Music, Volume 3-Showstoppers" (Columbia) lives up to its name. This is especially true on group numbers such as "Hello, Goodbye," "Gives You Hell," "Beautiful" and "Bad Romance," as well as on star turns, including "One Less Bell To Answer/A House Is Not A Home," performed by Kristin Chenoweth and Matthew Morrison; "Physical," sung by Olivia Newton-John and out Emmy Award-winner Jane Lynch; "Dream On," by out actor Neil Patrick Harris and Matthew Morrison; and "I Dreamed A Dream," as sung by Idina Menzel and Lea Michele.

### 'THE VAMPIRE DIARIES' AND 'BORED TO DEATH'

Like the "Twilight" soundtrack, "The Vampire Diaries: Original Television Soundtrack" (Virgin) uses cool music, including Placebo's cover of Kate Bush's "Running Up That Hill," "Hammock" by Howls, the "Vampire Diaries" remix of "Bloodstream" by Stateless, Digital Daggers' cover of Tears For Fears' "Head Over Heels" and "All You Wanted" by Sounds Under Radio. The Jason Schwartzman HBO series "Bored To Death" wears its hipness pedigree on its fashionable sleeve on "Bored To Death: The Soundtrack" (WaterTower Music). The list of artists on the disc, which includes M. Ward with Zoey Deschanel, Freelance Whales, Andrew Bird, Lykke Li, Dan Auerbach, Dawn Landes and TV On The Radio, speaks for itself.



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Soundtracks to movies based on TV shows are a bit more hit or miss. Most would agree the movie "Sex and the City 2: Original Motion Picture Soundtrack" (WaterTower Music) is worth owning simply for the songs by the Sex and The City Men's Choir (including "Sunrise, Sunset") and Liza Minnelli's rendition of "Single Ladies (Put A Ring On It)."



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"Liberace"

**DEC. 30, THURSDAY**

Sage Milwaukee's **Rootin' Tootin' High Falutin' Talent Parade and Spaghetti Feed** begins at 5 p.m. at Plymouth Church, 2717 E. Hampshire Ave. Tickets available at Outwards Bookstore, 2710 N. Murray Ave.

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

**"Liberace!"** is written and directed by Brent Hazelton and has its world premiere at Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, 108 E. Wells, through Jan. 16. 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](http://www.boulevardtheatre.com).

In Tandem Theatre presents **"Scrooge In Rouge"** by Ricky Graham and Jefferson Turner through Dec. 31 at Tenth Street Theatre, 628 N. 10th. Call 414-271-1371.

Club 5 Bar, 5 Applegate Court in Madison, presents **Foxy Veronica's Peach Pies Caburlesque Show** at 10:30 p.m. Call 608-277-9700.

**DEC. 31, FRIDAY**

Skylight Opera Theatre performs the new musical revue **"Gershwin and Friends"** through Jan. 9 at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Celebrate the famed love story and classic tunes of Johnny Cash and June Carter in **"June's Got the Cash"** at 8 p.m. at The Racine Theatre Guild, 2519 Northwestern (Highway 38) in Racine. Call 262-633-4218.

**JAN. 2, SUNDAY**

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

Celebrate the famed love story and classic tunes of Johnny Cash and June Carter in **"June's Got the Cash"** at 2 p.m. at The Racine Theatre Guild, 2519 Northwestern (Highway 38) in Racine. Call 262-633-4218.



**WIGOUT ON THE TOWN**

EDITED AND COMPILED BY GREGG SHAPIRO

**JAN. 4, TUESDAY**

Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvæus' Abba musical **"Mamma Mia!"** runs through Jan. 9 at Marcus Center for the Performing Arts at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.



**JAN. 8, SATURDAY**

Women's roller derby team **Brewcity Bruisers** plays a home game at 7 p.m. at U.S. Cellular Arena, 400 W. Kilbourn.

The Racine Theatre Guild, 2519 Northwestern (Highway 38) in Racine, presents Milwaukee comedian Dylan Bolin in **"Peace, Love and a 30-Year Mortgage"** at 8 p.m. Call 262-633-4218.

Margaret Leng Tan performs Ge Gan-ru's **"Wrong, Wrong, Wrong!"**, a melodrama for voice self-accompanied by a 17-piece toy orchestra, with the Present Music Ensemble at 7:30 p.m. at Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth. Call 414-286-3663.

Positive Voice sponsors the **Paper Valley Roller Girls night out** at Skater's Edge, 5714 Integrity Way in Appleton, at 6 p.m. Visit [www.focol.org/positive](http://www.focol.org/positive).



Brewcity Bruisers

**JAN. 9, SUNDAY**

**Jolly Holly Folly**, a benefit for the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin featuring sampling of cuisine from Milwaukee restaurants and a private Milwaukee Rep performance of "The 39 Steps," starts at 5 p.m. at the Rotunda of the Milwaukee Center, 108 E. Wells. Visit [www.arcw.org/jolly](http://www.arcw.org/jolly) or call 414-225-1570.

Club 5 Bar, 5 Applegate Court in Madison, presents a **female impersonator show**, at 10 p.m. Call 608-277-9700. The gravity-defying performers of **"Cirque Le Masque"** grace the stage of the South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center, 901 15th in South Milwaukee, at 6 p.m. Call 414-766-5049.

Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State, presents **The Bad Plus** for one night only in Vogel Hall at 7 p.m. Call 414-273-2787.



"Cirque Le Masque"

**JAN. 10, MONDAY**

Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer, presents **Karen Abbott, author of "American Rose: A Nation Laid Bare - The Life and Times of Gypsy Rose Lee"** at 7 p.m. Call 414-332-1181.

**JAN. 11, TUESDAY**

Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, 108 E. Wells, presents the Milwaukee premiere of Alfred Hitchcock's **"The 39 Steps"** through Feb. 13 in the Quadracci Powerhouse. Call 414-224-9490.

**JAN. 13, THURSDAY**

**"The Norman Conquests,"** presented by Strollers Theatre, runs through Feb. 12 at the Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin in Madison.

Sunset Playhouse, 800 Elm Grove Road in Elm Grove, presents **"Guys On Ice"** in the Furlan Auditorium, through Feb. 6. Call 262-782-4430.

Carolyn Gage appears in **"The Lesbian Tent Revival"** at 7 p.m. at 1456 Junction Ave. in Racine. Call 262-664-4100.

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Don't see your favorite LGBT hangout? To get considered for a listing on Out & About, e-mail [managingeditor@wisconsin-gazette.com](mailto:managingeditor@wisconsin-gazette.com).

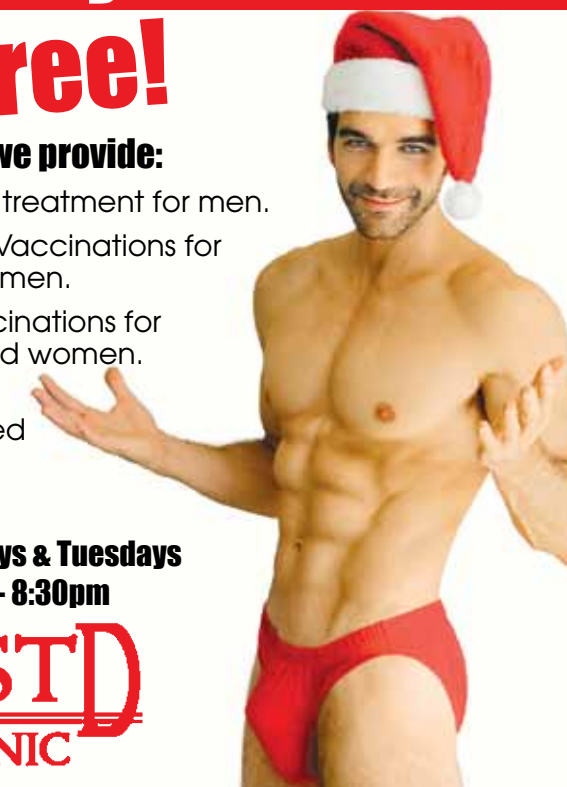
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Rosie, a 4-year-old labrador retriever/American pitbull mix.

## COMMUNITY GROUPS

Got news? Tell us  
managingeditor@wisconsin gazette.com.

## MILWAUKEE

## ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

Cream City Chorus, 252 E. Highland Blvd., 53202, 414-276-8787, [www.creamcitychorus.org](http://www.creamcitychorus.org), [info@creamcitychorus.org](mailto:info@creamcitychorus.org).

Cream City Squares, 414-445-8080, [www.iagsdc.org/creamcity](http://www.iagsdc.org/creamcity).

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second St., 53204, 414-383-3727, [www.milwaukeegayartscenter.org](http://www.milwaukeegayartscenter.org).

Milwaukee/LGBT Film/Video Festival, [www.uwm.edu/psa/programs/film/lgbtfilm](http://www.uwm.edu/psa/programs/film/lgbtfilm).

Queer Zine Archive Project, 2935 N. Fratney St., 53202, [www.qzap.org](http://www.qzap.org).

Shoreline Country Dancers, 2809 E. Oklahoma Ave., 53207, [www.shoreline-milw.org](http://www.shoreline-milw.org), [info@shoreline-milw.org](mailto:info@shoreline-milw.org).

Women's Voices Milwaukee, 630-890-5984, [womensvoicesmke.viviti.com](mailto:womensvoicesmke.viviti.com), [womensvoicesmilwaukee@gmail.com](mailto:womensvoicesmilwaukee@gmail.com).

## COMMUNITY

Bay View Gays, 414-482-3796, [www.bvgays.com](http://www.bvgays.com).

Brew City Bears, P.O. Box 1035, 53201, 414-331-3744, [www.bcb4men.info](http://www.bcb4men.info).

BWNMT, 414-463-5359, [www.nabwmt.org/milwaukee](http://www.nabwmt.org/milwaukee).

Castaways, P.O. Box 1697, 53202, [castawaysmc@yahoo.com](mailto:castawaysmc@yahoo.com).

CONNEXUS, 2439 N. Holton St., 53212, 414-390-0444, [www.diverseandresilient.org/connexus](http://www.diverseandresilient.org/connexus).

Cream City Foundation, 759 N. Milwaukee, Suite 212, 53202, 414-225-0244, [www.creamcityfoundation.org](http://www.creamcityfoundation.org).

Diverse and Resilient, 2439 N. Holton St., 53212, 414-390-0444, [www.diverseandresilient.org](http://www.diverseandresilient.org).

Firebirds, P.O. Box 159, 53201.

FORGE, P.O. Box 1272, 53201, 414-559-2123, [www.forge-forward.org](http://www.forge-forward.org).

GAMMA Milwaukee, P.O. Box 1900, 53201, 414-530-1886, [www.milwaukeegamma.com](http://www.milwaukeegamma.com).

Gemini Gender Group, P.O. Box 44211, 53214, 414-297-9328, [gggwi.tripod.com](mailto:gggwi.tripod.com).

Lesbian Alliance, 252 E. Highland Ave., 53202, 414-272-9442, [www.lesbianalliance.org](http://www.lesbianalliance.org).

Lesbian Fund of the Women's Fund of Milwaukee, 414-290-7350, [www.womensfund.com/who\\_we\\_are/lesbian\\_fund](http://www.womensfund.com/who_we_are/lesbian_fund).

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 252 E. Highland Blvd., 53202, 414-271-2656, [www.mkelgbt.org](http://www.mkelgbt.org).

Milwaukee LGBT History Project, 414-224-0517, [www.mkelgbthist.org](http://www.mkelgbthist.org).

Milwaukee Pride Parade, P.O. Box 070177, 53207, [www.prideparademke.org](http://www.prideparademke.org).

PFLAG-Milwaukee, 252 E. Highland Ave., 53202, 414-299-9198, [pflagmilwaukee@hotmail.com](mailto:pflagmilwaukee@hotmail.com).

PrideFest, 414-272-3378, [www.pridefest.com](http://www.pridefest.com).

Queer Program, P.O. Box 090441, 53209, 414-265-8500, [queerprgm@aol.com](mailto:queerprgm@aol.com).

SAGE Milwaukee, 1845 N. Farwell, Suite 220, 53202, 414-224-0517, [www.sagemilwaukee.org](http://www.sagemilwaukee.org).

Sapphic Adventures MKE, 414-628-1049, [www.facebook.com/sapphicadventures.mke](http://www.facebook.com/sapphicadventures.mke), [sapphicadventuresmke@gmail.com](mailto:sapphicadventuresmke@gmail.com).

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

WanderWomyn Outdoors Group, [debydo02@yahoo.com](mailto:debydo02@yahoo.com).

Washington Heights Rainbow Association, 414-217-1571, on Facebook.

Wauwatosa Rainbow Association, [tosarainbow@yahoo.com](mailto:tosarainbow@yahoo.com).

Wisconsin Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf, P.O. Box 353, Hartland, 53029, [www.wiscrad.org](http://www.wiscrad.org).

Wisconsin Rainbow Families, 252 E. Highland Blvd., 53202, [www.wirainbowfamilies.com](http://www.wirainbowfamilies.com), [info@wirainbowfamilies.com](mailto:info@wirainbowfamilies.com).

## HEALTH

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, P.O. Box 510498, 53202, 414-273-1991, [www.arcwv.org](http://www.arcwv.org), [info@arcwv.org](mailto:info@arcwv.org).

Brady East STD (BESTD) Clinic, 1240 E. Brady St, 53202, 414-272-2144, [www.bestd.org](http://www.bestd.org), [bestd@execpc.com](mailto:bestd@execpc.com).

Galano Club, 315 Court St., Suite 201, 53213, 414-276-6936, [www.galanoclub.org](http://www.galanoclub.org), [mail@galanoclub.org](mailto: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](http://www.mwcinc.org).

Pathfinders, 1614 E. Kane Pl., 53202, 414-271-1560, [www.pathfinders.org](http://www.pathfinders.org), [info@tccmilw.org](mailto:info@tccmilw.org).

STD Specialties, Inc., 3251 N. Holton St., 53212, 414-264-8800, [www.stdspecialties.org](http://www.stdspecialties.org).

## POLITICS

Center Advocates, 252 E. Highland Blvd., 53202, 414-271-2656, [www.centeradvocates.org](http://www.centeradvocates.org).

Equality Wisconsin, 2717 E. Hampshire Ave., 53211, 414-431-1306, [www.equalitywi.org](http://www.equalitywi.org).

Human Rights League, 252 E. Highland Blvd., 53202, 414-445-5292, [www.hrl-pac.org](http://www.hrl-pac.org), [hrlpac@yahoo.com](mailto:hrlpac@yahoo.com).

## RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

Central United Methodist Church, 639 N. 25th St., 53233, 414-344-1600, [www.centralumcmilw.org](http://www.centralumcmilw.org).

Congregation Shir Hadash, 414-297-9159, [www.cshmilw.org](http://www.cshmilw.org).

Cross Lutheran Church, 1821 N. 16th St., 53205, 414-344-1746, [www.crosslutheranmilwaukee.org](http://www.crosslutheranmilwaukee.org).

Divine Word Lutheran Church, 5505 Lloyd St., 53208, 414-476-3189, [www.divinewordlutheran.org](http://www.divinewordlutheran.org).

First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, 1342 N. Astor St., 53204, 414-273-5257, [www.uumilwaukee.org](http://www.uumilwaukee.org).

Lake Park Lutheran Church, 2647 N. Stowell Ave., 53211, 414-962-9190, [lakeparklutheran.com](http://lakeparklutheran.com).

Metropolitan Community Church, 1239 W. Mineral St., 53204, 414-383-1100, [www.milmmc.org](http://www.milmmc.org).

Milwaukee Friends Meeting (Quakers), 3224 N. Gordon Pl., 53212, 414-263-2111, [www.milwaukeequakers.org](http://www.milwaukeequakers.org).

Plymouth Church, 2717 E. Hampshire Ave., 53211, 414-964-1513, [www.plymouth-church.org](http://www.plymouth-church.org).

St. James Episcopal Church, 833 W. Wisconsin Ave., 53233, 414-964-1513, [www.stjamesmilwaukee.org](http://www.stjamesmilwaukee.org).

Unitarian Church North, 13800 N. Port Washington Road, 53097, 262-375-3890, [www.ucnorth.org](http://www.ucnorth.org).

## SPORTS

Front Runners/Front Walkers, 414-443-0379, [uilrwoolf.com/frontrunnersmke](mailto:uilrwoolf.com/frontrunnersmke), [thbolt@milwpc.com](mailto:thbolt@milwpc.com).

Metro Milwaukee Tennis Club, 3957 81st St., 53222, 414-616-3716, [moenell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:moenell@sbcglobal.net).

Milwaukee Gay Soccer League, 1012 E. Clark St., 53212, 414-405-5878, [www.milwaukeegayoccer.org](http://www.milwaukeegayoccer.org).

Milwaukee Gay Volleyball League, [www.milwaukeegayvolleyball.com](http://www.milwaukeegayvolleyball.com).

Saturday Softball Beer League, 2333 N. 56th St., 53210, [www.ssbmilwaukee.com](http://www.ssbmilwaukee.com).

## YOUTH/EDUCATION

Alliance School, 850 W. Walnut St., 53205, 414-267-5400, [www.allianceschool.org](http://www.allianceschool.org).

Alliance for LGBTQ Youth, 1212 S. 70th St., 53214, 414-453-1400, [www.cssw.org](http://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](http://uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/LGBT).

## FOX VALLEY

## COMMUNITY

Harmony Café, 233 E. College Ave., Appleton, 54911, 920-734-2233, [www.harmonycafe.org](http://www.harmonycafe.org), [skenevan\\_gw@wicc.org](mailto:skenevan_gw@wicc.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](http://www.rainbowoverwisconsin.org).

## GREEN BAY

## COMMUNITY

Argonauts of Wisconsin, P.O. Box 22096, Green Bay, 54305, [www.argonautsll.org](http://www.argonautsll.org), [info@argonautsll.org](mailto:info@argonautsll.org).

Bear Club 4 Men, P.O. Box 13463, Green Bay, 54307, [www.bc4m.com](http://www.bc4m.com).

Harmony Café, 1660 W. Mason St., Green Bay, 54303, 920-569-1593, [www.harmonycafe.org](http://www.harmonycafe.org).

Positive Voice, P.O. Box 1381, Green Bay, 54305, 920-435-4404, [pvinc.org](http://pvinc.org), [info@pvinc.org](mailto:info@pvinc.org).

Pride Alive, 920-471-3260, [www.newpride.org](http://www.newpride.org), [info@newpride.org](mailto:info@newpride.org).

## RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

Angels of Hope MCC, P.O. Box 672, Green Bay, 54305, 920-983-7452, [www.aohmcc.org](http://www.aohmcc.org), [aohchurch@netnet.net](mailto:aohchurch@netnet.net).

## MADISON

## ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

Dairyland Cowboys and Cowgirls, Club 5, 5 Applegate Court, Madison, 53713, 608-277-9700, [www.dcancc.org](http://www.dcancc.org).

## COMMUNITY

OutReach, 600 Williamson St., Suite P1, Madison, 53703, 608-255-8582, [www.lgbtouthreach.org](http://www.lgbtouthreach.org), [info@lgbtouthreach.org](mailto:info@lgbtouthreach.org).

PFLAG-Madison, 4221 Venetian Ln., Madison, 53718, 608-848-2333, [pflagmadison@yahoo.com](mailto:pflagmadison@yahoo.com).

Gay / Bi Fathers Support Group, c/o Outreach, 600 Williamson St., Madison, 53703, [tooldforthis@tds.net](mailto:tooldforthis@tds.net).

## POLITICS

Fair Wisconsin, 122 State St., Suite 500, Madison, 53703, 608-441-0143, [www.fairwisconsin.org](http://www.fairwisconsin.org), [info@fairwisconsin.com](mailto:info@fairwisconsin.com).

## SPORTS

Madison Gay Hockey Association, [www.madisongayhockey.org](http://www.madisongayhockey.org).

Madison Gay Volleyball, 608-347-8907, [www.madisonlbtvolleyball.com](http://www.madisonlbtvolleyball.com).

## YOUTH/EDUCATION

GSA for Safe Schools, 301 S. Bedford St., Madison, 53703, 608-661-4141, [www.gsaforsafeschools.org](http://www.gsaforsafeschools.org).

## RACINE/KENOSHA

## COMMUNITY

LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin, 1456 Junction Ave., Racine, 53403, 262-664-4100, [info@lgbtsewisc.org](mailto:info@lgbtsewisc.org).

PFLAG-Racine/Kenosha, P.O. Box 580058, Pleasant Prairie, 53158, 262-694-2729, [pflagkenosha@aol.com](mailto:pflagkenosha@aol.com).

## RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

Bradford Community Church-Unitarian Universalist, 5810 8th Ave., 53140, 262-656-0544, [www.bradforduu.org](http://www.bradforduu.org).

## SPORTS

Wisconsin Warriors, P.O. Box 334, Somers, 53171, 414-759-8823, [www.wiwarriors.com](http://www.wiwarriors.com), [wwarriors@yahoo.com](mailto:wwarriors@yahoo.com).

## YOUTH/EDUCATION

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

## OTHER

LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, 1305 Woodland Ave., Eau Claire, 54701, 715-552-LGBT, [www.thecentercv.org](http://www.thecentercv.org).

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

Online for you at  
[www.wisconsin gazette.com](http://www.wisconsin gazette.com)Got news? Tell us  
managingeditor@wisconsin gazette.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, [ferrington@charter.net](mailto:ferrington@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](http://www.ppawi.org).

5:30 p.m., second and fourth Fridays, Pozitive Lite HIV/AIDS group, OutReach, Madison.\*

6 p.m., second Fridays, Lesbian Alliance game night and potluck, LGBT Community Center, Milwaukee.\*

6:30 p.m., Open Mic night, Harmony Cafe, Green Bay.\*

7 p.m., AA, The Galano Club, Milwaukee.\*

7 p.m., Gay Narcotics Anonymous, The Galano Club, Milwaukee.\*

7 p.m., Drop-in night, LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, Eau Claire.\*

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

## SATURDAY

9 a.m., Frontrunners/Walkers Milwaukee Run Walk, starting at the Water Tower at the East end of North Avenue, Milwaukee, 262-285-7645.

9 a.m., Frontrunners/Frontwalkers Madison, Wingra Park off Monroe St., Madison, 608-469-4882.

3 p.m., second and fourth Saturdays, Women4Women, OutReach, Madison.\*

6 p.m., Rotating Activity Night each week, LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, Eau Claire.\*

7-8:30 p.m., third Saturdays, BWMT (Black and White Men Together), general meeting.\*

## SUNDAY

10:30 a.m., AI-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, TheGalano Club, Milwaukee.\*

5 p.m., OutThere LGBT youth group meeting, OutReach, Madison.\*

5 p.m., third Sundays, PFLAG Milwaukee, Martin Luther Church, 9235 W. Bluemound Road, Wauwatosa.

7 p.m., second Sundays, Gay and Straight in Christ, Good Shepherd Catholic Church, N88 W17658 Christman Road, Menomonee Falls, 262-502-0437.

## MONDAY

7 p.m., second Monday, Outwords men's book club, 2710 N. Murray Ave., 53211, 414-963-9089, [www.outwordsbooks.com](http://www.outwordsbooks.com).

7 p.m., Spectrum-Social and networking LGBT group, Harmony Cafe, Appleton.\*

7:30 p.m., AA Came to Believe, The Galano Club, Milwaukee.\*

## TUESDAY

12:30 p.m., third Tuesday, Retired Old/Older Lesbians (ROLLers), Madison. Info: 608-219-7751.

5:30 p.m., AA Over and Under 40; 7 p.m. AA The Blue Group, The Galano

Club, Milwaukee.\*



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