

CAPITAL HOSTESS

Cass Marie Domino is in demand at Madison events. She sees her role as a way of giving back.
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THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

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Anti-gay state rep seeks top county job

By Louis Weisberg
Staff writer

The only Republican among the five candidates vying for Gov. Scott Walker's former job as Milwaukee County executive, state Rep. Jeff Stone has a consistently conservative and anti-gay voting record in the Legislature. During the last session of the Assembly, Stone voted against a school bullying law to help protect LGBT students from harassment and opposed a measure to allow victims of employment discrimination to seek punitive damages.

At the other end of the equality spectrum, former state Sen. Jim Sullivan has the strongest pro-LGBT record of the candidates. Sullivan believes same-sex couples

have a "fundamental right" to the same legal benefits and responsibilities as heterosexual couples. He has earned the support of equality activists throughout his political career.

Sullivan and Stone will square off against each other and against philanthropist Chris Abele, independent Ileshuh Griffin and former acting Milwaukee County Executive Lee Holloway in a Feb. 15 non-partisan primary. While Holloway supported a measure to study the extension of health benefits to the same-sex partners of county workers, neither Abele nor Griffin has any public record on equality issues. Only Sullivan and Stone have substantial records.

The top two primary vote getters will advance to the April 5 general election. At stake is the remaining year and a half of Walker's tenure in a position that oversees the county's infrastructure, including management of the transit and park systems as well as the Milwaukee County Mental Health Complex. It's a powerful position, but one that many good-government advocates believe should be eliminated due to the way it politicizes nuts-and-bolts policy decisions.

Walker, during his eight years in the post, frequently drew criticism for politicizing the office. For example, he vetoed the measure to study the costs of extend-

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NO HONEYMOON

Gay marriage foes launch attacks from coast to coast

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

Gay activists in the Granite State aren't letting down their steely guard, though pundits and press reported that a National Organization for Marriage campaign to repeal a marriage equality law had already self-destructed before the 2011 legislative session heated up.

Activists with the New Hampshire Freedom to

Marry Coalition remain at the ready because in political New Hampshire, a state that's buzzing about the 2012 GOP presidential primary, anything can happen.

The year opened with activists concerned that NOM, a growing and influential anti-gay group, had the clout and cash to advance a repeal bill, but possibly not the votes needed to overcome a certain veto from the governor.

Then, in mid-January, the Republican leadership unveiled its agenda, which did not include repeal but instead focused on economic and budget matters in 2011.

NOM attacked, sending out a mailer to voters questioning House Republican Leader D.J. Bettencourt's commitment to traditional family values.

The attack apparently backfired. Bettencourt

announced that he wanted the repeal bill locked up in a judiciary committee until 2012. In a letter to House Speaker William O'Brien, Bettencourt referred to NOM's tactics as "an assault on our agenda."

NOM, however, remains committed to moving a repeal bill this year, and the measure's sponsor, Republican David Bates, has said a vote would be better

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LGBT news with a twist

WIGWAG

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg



COMING-OUT FALLOUT

Country singing star Chely Wright, who came out in May 2010, has received death threats and experienced a 50-percent loss in record sales. But she's still happy about her decision to let the world know she's a lesbian.

Wright made the revelations when asked in an interview with AutoStraddle.com if rumors were true that her career had benefited from her announcement. "They're wrong," she replied.

Wright said her "record sales went directly in half."

"In coming out, I had a feeling that it would diminish my wage earnings, and that feeling was correct," the singer said. "And, I am fine with that."

GET BACK IN THE CLOSET, CALVIN

Village Voice columnist Michael Musto has a request for fashion designer Calvin Klein: Go back in the closet.

Musto's unusual directive came after Klein, 68, threw a glam-

orous 21st birthday bash for his newest companion, model Nick Gruber. The Jan. 21 event at New York's trendy Indochine included 4,500 balloons, 100 models and a cake decorated with 21 sparklers.

"Remember when you suddenly had a wife because, as AIDS made it uncool to be gay, you took the wussy way out and closeted yourself so you could sell more T-shirts and perfume?" Musto wrote. "Now you've hooked up with that almost-21-year-old ex-porn star, Nick Gruber, and you're fawning over him as if this were real love and not a massive late-life crisis being acted out for the horrified masses. It's not going to work!"

Gruber has performed in online porn under the name Aaron Skyline. Klein has not responded publicly to Musto's column.

BAD HAIR DAY

A Portland, Ore., man is serving a four-year prison sentence after pleading guilty to third-degree

assault. The Oregonian newspaper reported that Brandon Sanchez got drunk at a party and began harassing another man because he was wearing his gelled hair in a Mohawk. Sanchez teased Mark Bryant, calling his hairstyle gay, and then pushed Bryant over a wall. The victim was in a coma for 22 days and continues to live with brain trauma.

REPEAL FALLOUT

What killed thousands of blackbirds and fish in Arkansas?

Self-proclaimed Christian prophet Cindy Jacobs claims to have solved the mystery: Nature was speaking out against the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell," the military policy banning out gays and lesbians from service, she said.

On New Year's Eve, about 5,000 red-winged blackbirds fell out of the sky in Arkansas and hundreds in Louisiana. A few days earlier, roughly 85,000 fish near Ozark died mysteriously. Scientists have attributed the fish die-off to disease and the bird deaths to blunt trauma.

But Jacobs, who preaches at the Texas-based Generals International ministry, linked the deaths to "don't ask" through former President Bill Clinton. As she pointed out, Clinton is both the former governor of Arkansas and the president who proposed the ban on openly gay troops. "Well, often what happens is that nature itself will begin to talk to us," Jacobs said.

MORE GAYS IN HIGH PLACES

The man filling in for Apple CEO Steve Jobs during his indefinite medical leave is gay, according to Valleywag.

The online publication reports that it has confirmed through "two well-placed sources" that Apple COO Tim Cook is gay. Other media outlets have described the Alabama native as a "lifelong bachelor" and "intensely private."

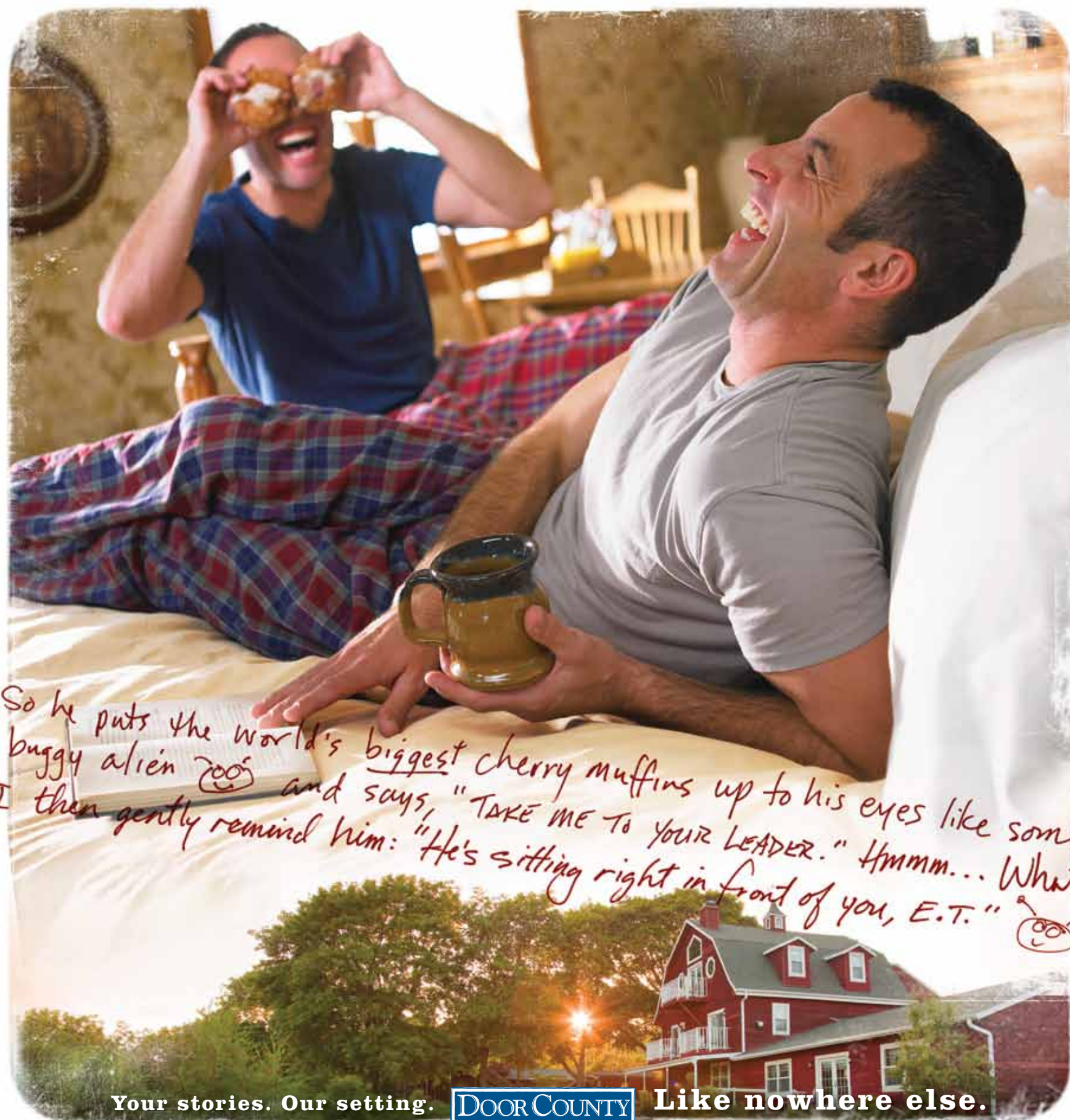
HELLO 'ANGELS' FANS

Producers of the two "Charlie's Angels" films that were inspired by the 1970s TV series are work-

ing to put a new "Angels" series on TV as early as 2012. The setting would be Miami, not Los Angeles. And actor Robert Wagner would provide the voice of Charlie, according to Entertainment Weekly. Wagner and Natalie Wood, his late wife, were silent producing partners in the original series. No word on casting the angels.

NEW YORK CENSORSHIP CAMPAIGN

A city councilman from Schenectady, N.Y., sought to have a series of billboards taken down because he found their endorsement of gay Pride offensive. The billboards feature African-American men in a variety of situations, from attending church to playing basketball, and the slogan, "I am gay." Councilman Joseph Allen complained that the billboards put "the stamp of approval on a gay lifestyle" and sought to have them removed. The First Amendment, however, got in his way.



So he puts the world's biggest cherry muffins up to his eyes like some buggy alien ☺ and says, "TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADER." Hmmm... What I then gently remind him: "He's sitting right in front of you, E.T." ☺

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Right-wing Wis. GOP chief named RNC head

By **Louis Weisberg**
Staff writer

Kenosha native Reince Priebus, who was voted chair of the Republican National Committee on Jan. 14, is a hardcore conservative who opposes same-sex marriage and believes outlawing reproductive choice is "paramount" to his party's mission. Brandishing his fundamentalist Christian beliefs for GOP delegates shortly before they voted for a new leader, Priebus announced that if he won, it would be through God's blessing. He went on to take the job of his former friend, ally and supporter Michael Steele after several rounds of balloting.

In a Jan. 3 debate at the National Press Club, Priebus reiterated his opposition to marriage equality, which he also showed during his stint as chairman of the Wisconsin Republican Party.

"I don't believe that judges can rewrite the Constitution and redraft what marriage is," Priebus said, as reported by the Washington Blade. "I



PHOTO: PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/AP

The newly elected Republican National Committee chairman Reince Priebus casts his vote at the Republican National Committee's winter meeting Jan. 14. Priebus was elected after seven rounds of voting, beating four other candidates, including outgoing chairman and former Priebus friend and ally Michael Steele.

think ... there's a sanctity of marriage ... I believe my kids and believe children should grow up with one father and a mother if possible." "I don't believe anybody

should be denied dignity in this discussion, everyone should be loved," he continued. "But at the end of the day, I believe that marriage, through the sanctity of marriage, should be between one man and one woman."

Despite Priebus' right-wing statements and record, Log Cabin Republicans expressed hope they could work together.

"As chairman Priebus stated, 'We must come together over common interests. We must unite,'" said R. Clarke Cooper, Log Cabin Republicans executive director. "I look forward to continuing our successful partnership with the Republican National Committee, and urge chairman Priebus to continue the committee's strong record of coalition-building which was an important part of GOP success in 2010. Inclusion wins and our party is strongest when we embrace a big tent philosophy centered on the core principles that unite us as Republicans. It is onward and upward to win back the White House."

The diminutive, soft-spo-

ken Priebus signals a shift in both style and substance from his confrontational, shoot-from-the-lip predecessor. Steele, who is a self-styled hipster, reflected the GOP's panicked reaction to the 2008 election of Barack Obama. Steele represented an attempt to attract younger voters and people of color into the Republican fold at a time when the nation's changing demographics seemed to have made that strategy a political necessity.

Priebus, on the other hand, is a reaction to the ascendancy of the Tea Party. Although at age 38 he's younger than the average tea partier, he's a strong adherent of the movement.

Priebus, whose nickname is "Prince," wrested the GOP chairmanship away from Steele by trumpeting his achievements as chair of the Republican Party of Wisconsin. Under his leadership, Republicans won the state Assembly, Senate and governor's mansion in 2010. They also topped Democratic U.S. Sen. Russ Feingold.

But while Priebus boasts about his party's turnaround in 2010 compared with 2008, when Obama won Wisconsin by 14 points, Democrats point out that he also headed the state's GOP during the 2008 election. If young people and minorities return to the polls on Election Day 2012 in the numbers they did during the last presidential race, the outcome of last year's election will be reversed, according to Democrats.

Steele said he was blindsided by Priebus' bid to oust him after the two had worked side by side while Priebus served as general counsel of the RNC.

"I know exactly how Caesar felt," Steele told the FrumForum website following his loss.

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REGIONAL BRIEFS

SPORTS COALITION PRESENTS SPORTING OPTIONS

A group of Milwaukee gay and lesbian athletic clubs host "Buns, Babes and Balls" from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Feb. 4 at Woody's, 1579 S. Second St. Sponsored by the Milwaukee Gay Sports Network, the event offers an opportunity to learn about LGBT team sports in the Milwaukee area, according to organizers.

Founding members of the network include softball, soccer, volleyball, darts and bowling organizations. For more information, go to <http://www.milwaukeeegay-sports.com>.

SPEAKER DOCUMENTS 'EX-GAY' INDUSTRY

Equality activist and author Wayne Besen presents findings from his study of programs claiming to "cure" gays at 11 a.m. Jan.



PHOTO: WILLIAM WAYBOURN
Wayne Besen

27, at UW-Milwaukee's student union building, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. Besen's appearance is part of an 11-state tour.

"The message of this tour is that you can't 'pray away the gay' and LGBT people are fine just the way they are," said Besen, founder of Truth Wins Out. "Organizations that claim they can change one's sexual orientation are committing consumer fraud

and harming a great number of people."

In 2009, Besen was noted in Instinct Magazine's "Leading Men" issue. In 2006, he was recognized in the Advocate Magazine's "People of the Year" issue. He has appeared as a guest on "The Rachel Maddow Show," "NBC Nightly News," "The O'Reilly Factor," "Hannity and Colmes" and "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart."

The event venue is free and open to the public.

M & I'S PARENT COMPANY SCORES 100 ON EQUALITY

Harris, the financial service organization whose parent company recently announced the purchase of Wisconsin's M & I bank, has been recognized as one of the "Best Places to Work for LGBT Equality." The company scored a perfect 100-percent on the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's 2011 Corporate Equality Index.

Harris is among 337 businesses awarded for their outstanding diversity efforts in the workplace. The company offers several

employee affinity groups, including Lion's Pride, which provides a supportive forum for LGBT employees while offering cultural and educational opportunities and events.

M & I has a diversity program and has reached out to LGBT consumers through advertising in the Wisconsin Gazette.

"Promoting fairness and equality in the workplace not only helps foster an environment where our employees can flourish, but also helps us better understand and serve our diverse customer base - and ultimately helps us achieve our vision to be the bank that defines great customer experience," said Deirdre Drake, senior vice president of human resources.

Harris' parent company, Canadian Bank BMO Financial Group, is purchasing Marshall & Ilsley (M & I) Bank for \$4.1 billion in stock in an effort to expand its North American business. There's no word yet on whether BMO will change the name of the M & I branches.

ILL. GOV. TO SIGN CIVIL UNIONS LAW JAN. 31

Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn will make same-sex civil unions official during a public signing ceremony in Chicago's Loop on Jan. 31, said openly gay state Rep. Greg Harris.

The law goes into effect this summer.

Harris, D-Chicago, was lead sponsor of the bill legalizing civil unions, which passed the state's legislature late last year. The new law affords gay and lesbian couples official recognition from the state and many of the rights that accompany marriage, such as the power to decide medical treatment for an ailing partner.

Illinois law will continue to limit marriage to one man and woman, and the federal government won't recognize the civil unions at all.

PAWLENTY WANTS TO REINSTATE 'DON'T ASK'

As he positions himself for a potential presidential run in 2012, former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty has come

out in favor of resurrecting the military's discriminatory "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

Pawlenty, appearing on an American Family Association radio program to promote a book he's written, told host Bryan Fischer that he has "been a public supporter of maintaining 'don't ask, don't tell' and I would support reinstating it as well."

The Southern Poverty Law Association has labeled AFA as a hate group, and Fischer has made some of the most homophobic statements of anyone on the Christian right. Pawlenty's appearance on Fischer's program signals that he intends to run very far to the right if he decides, as expected, to make a presidential bid.

In May 2010, Pawlenty vetoed a law that would have given same-sex partners the same end-of-life rights as married couples. In December 2009, he turned against an anti-discrimination bill that he formerly backed, saying it would lead to third-graders being taught by "cross-dressing" teachers.

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Scholarship awards promote activism

By Scott Foval
Contributing writer

Anthony Reuter didn't plan on being an activist, let alone winning a scholarship for being one.

Emma Remler grew up in an accepting environment, but felt that she needed to do something more to be a positive force in the world.

Both Reuter and Remler are past recipients of the Gay Student Alliance for Safe Schools Student Leadership Scholarship. They have used their scholarships and individual experiences to help others in different ways.

There is no "typical" recipient of the GSA for Safe Schools Leadership Scholarship, says Brian Juchems, director of programming at GSA for Safe Schools. Any student who is a leader, an activist or just interested in having a positive impact on society is a possible recipient.

'The scholarship was a necessary way for me to help pay for school, since tuition is out of reach.'

The only common requirement is to submit a formal application and two letters of recommendation by Feb. 21 through the organization's website at www.gsaforsafeschools.com or by mail.

Reuter, who grew up in Viroqua, says he came out in

the middle of a controversy: His high school's administration had moved to cancel a Diversity Day event because a GLBTQ speaker was to be included in the program. Reuter went before his local school board and came out publicly, using his personal story to illustrate why the school should allow the speaker to participate.

"GSA for Safe Schools was present in my high school activism with the Diversity Day organizing and Brian J. was a great motivator in my continued activism and involvement with them," Reuter said via e-mail. "I went to their Leadership Training Institute twice, once as a participant, the second time as a peer mentor."

Reuter says the scholarship was a big part of his college experience.

"The scholarship was a necessary way for me to help

HOW TO APPLY
To apply for a GSAFE Student Leadership Scholarship, go to www.gsaforsafeschools.com, or call 608-661-4141 to receive an application in the mail.

pay for school, since tuition – even at public universities – is out of reach for many young people," Reuter said. He attended the University of Minnesota Twin-Cities, where he concentrated on youth studies, social justice and GLBT studies.

"A large reason my degree ended up the way it did was because of GSA for Safe Schools and all the education I received from them on how to make this world a better, more just place," Reuter said. He's currently complet-

ing a year in the AmeriCorps VISTA program, at the New York City Coalition Against Hunger Sylvia Rivera Food Pantry, which is based in an LGBTQIA church in Manhattan.

Emma Remler said that growing up in the liberal environs of Madison, her parents were always affirming of her sexual orientation. But she said she wanted to help others feel as free to be themselves as she was, and she said GSAFE was instrumental in her move towards activism.

"I was 14, and they were hosting a conference, and I heard from all my friends that they were great places to meet people and have fun," Remler said. "Activism was the furthest thing from my mind. I was attracted by the social aspect, but then I was drawn in by people really doing important things in the world. I don't think I

would be nearly as much of an activist had I not been involved in GSAFE."

Remler graduated from an alternative high school in Madison, after moving from a traditional high school where she had struggled as a student. After transferring, she thrived and used her GSAFE Student Leadership Scholarship to go to UW-M, where she obtained an undergraduate degree in gender and women's studies and creative writing, with a GLBT emphasis. She's currently doing post-graduate work in the UW-M Educational Studies Department, with a focus on transgender students, their attitudes toward school and how schools can develop policies to work with them effectively.

Remler also volunteers as a mentor with ProudTheater in Madison, where she was formerly a student cast member.

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HUD sets protections

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

The federal Housing and Urban Development Department proposed new regulations Jan. 20 to guard against bias based on sexual orientation and gender identity in its core housing programs.

"This is a fundamental issue of fairness," HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan said in a statement announcing the proposals. "We have a responsibility to make certain that public programs are open to all Americans. With this proposed rule, we will make clear that a person's eligibility for federal housing programs is, and should be, based on their need and not on their sexual orientation or gender identity."

The announcement opened a period of public comment on the HUD proposals, which include:

- Prohibiting lenders from using sexual orientation or gender identity as a basis to determine a borrower's eligibility for Federal Housing Administration-insured mortgage financing.
- Clarifying that eligible families, regardless of marital status, sexual orientation or gender identity, have the opportunity to participate in HUD programs. HUD already applies a broad definition to "family" but the rule change would state that families cannot be excluded because one or more members is LGBT, or in a same-sex relationship.
- Prohibiting owners and operators of HUD-assisted housing or HUD-insured financed housing from asking about an applicant's sexual orientation or gender identity.

Donovan said the proposals would provide protections for a population not specifically covered in the Fair Housing Act, which prohibits discrimination in rental, sales and lending on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability and familial status.

As it works on the rule changes, HUD also is conducting a national study of housing discrimination experienced by LGBT people.

"The policies proposed ... will help some of the most vulnerable people in our community," said Joe Solmonese of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest LGBT civil rights group. "And the nationwide survey will finally shed light on the discrimination LGBT people face everyday in trying to make homes for themselves and their families."

Report reveals high costs of 'don't ask'

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

A government analysis found that the Pentagon spent more than \$200 million from 2004 to 2009 to replace 3,660 servicemembers ousted under "don't ask, don't tell."

The U.S. General Accounting Office report released Jan. 20 came less than a month after President Barack Obama signed legislation to repeal the 1994 law barring the military from inquiring about sexual orientation and prohibiting gay and lesbian servicemembers from coming out. The implementation of the legislation is expected to take months, or perhaps a year.

The GAO, which six years ago studied the discharge of gay servicemembers with critical skills, more recently

determined that over five years, with the military waging two wars, the DOD spent about \$185 million to recruit and train replacements for personnel ousted under DADT. The Pentagon spent an additional \$7.7 million in administrative costs.

That amounts to about \$52,800 per servicemember discharged under the anti-gay policy, the GOA determined.

The GAO prepared the analysis at the request of congressional Democrats trying to move repeal legislation in the House and Senate last session.


The "GAO report underscores that the DADT law not only deprives the military of the qualified Americans it needs, but has also been a huge waste of taxpayer dollars on replacing patriots lost under this discrimina-

tory law," said Aubrey Sarvis of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a watchdog group based in D.C. "These numbers remind us why it's time to move forward on certification, so we can begin implementing repeal of 'don't ask, don't tell' and make a smooth transition to open service."

With the new GOP control of the House, however, a transition may not be smooth.

The same week the GAO issued its report, House Republicans introduced legislation to require the chiefs of all four military branches – Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines – to sign off on Pentagon repeal plans, in addition to the president, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen.

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Giffords intern handling fame after speech

By Terry Tang
AP writer

He sat next to President Barack Obama in a nationally televised memorial. People are lining up to shake his hand, seeking an autograph or photograph. A mariachi band recognized him and rushed over with a spontaneous serenade.

Intern Daniel Hernandez's brave and clear-headed actions in helping to save the life of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords after she was shot in the head on Jan. 8 made him an unlikely hero. His appearance at the Tucson memorial service for the shooting victims – he spoke humbly about his role and was embraced by the president – has moved his newfound celebrity into the stratosphere.

His poise and unscripted remarks in front of the president, other political dignitaries, victims' families and others in the 13,000-plus crowd in a basketball arena have left people amazed – and heartened – that it was coming from a 20-year-old University of Arizona student.

In his speech, Hernandez insisted he is not a hero. In the shooting's aftermath, he raced to Giffords' side, holding her, applying pressure to her wounds until first responders arrived. Obama politely disagreed, assuring him that he was, in fact, a hero.

Since the shooting, Hernandez has given more than 200 interviews. Trying to walk into the medical center where Giffords is hospitalized or anywhere else, he is surrounded by throngs of

well-wishers.

Before the memorial, the biggest group Hernandez had ever addressed was about 30 people.

"And even that I think is a bit of a stretch," Hernandez told The Associated Press.

Hernandez said the whole event still seems unreal.

Hernandez had been an intern with Giffords' office for all of five days when the shooting occurred at a district meet-and-greet outside a supermarket. He also volunteered as a teenager for her 2008 congressional campaign.

Born in Tucson to parents of Mexican heritage, Hernandez grew up the oldest of three children. His parents taught him and his two sisters from a young age to give back.

"My mom is like that. She has a big heart," younger sister Alma Hernandez said. "My dad always thinks about the community. He always wants to do better. He always told us we have to always go back to our community where we came from to help out."

Their father is retired and their mother has a side business baking cakes.

Hernandez's talent for public speaking was developed in high school, where he participated in academic decathlons, Junior Honor Society and student council.

Besides interning for Giffords, Hernandez was appointed as a commissioner at large to the City of Tucson Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Issues. He plans to help the



PHOTO: AP/J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE

ON THE GUEST LIST

The guest list for the first lady's box at the State of the Union Address Tuesday evening included Daniel Hernandez Jr. (pictured here with President Obama at the Jan. 12 memorial for the Tucson, Ariz., shooting victims), the openly gay congressional intern who rushed to the aid of U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords after the tragedy on Jan. 8.

First Lady Michelle Obama's guest list introduced Hernandez as "a student advocate and political activist from Tucson, Ariz. He currently serves as a congressional intern for Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and a director with the Arizona Students' Association. Born in 1990, Daniel attended public schools in the Sunnyside Unified School District and is earning a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science as a junior at the University of Arizona."

organization with education outreach on issues such as bullying.

C. Michael Woodward, co-chair of the commission, said Hernandez had a resume

bigger than some candidates twice his age.

"It was pretty clear he was a mover and a shaker long before any of this happened," Woodward said. "The real

heroes are the ones who dedicate themselves to public service but that's what he's planning to do anyway. He just got his hero badge early." The amazing improve-

ments in Giffords' medical condition have helped him get through what's been a traumatic, surreal period, he said.

"It's really hard to describe how much better I feel and just knowing she's been a fighter," Hernandez said. "I can't say I'm surprised that something miraculous happened but still, it sends chills down your spine."

Many observed after his speech that he would be a natural for public office, but Hernandez downplays the idea.

"My main focus is making sure I can get back to school, make sure no matter what I do I finish up for my degree," Hernandez said.

He is also trying to juggle the public's curiosity about him while maintaining the focus on the shooting victims, those he describes "as the real heroes," including first responders.

"I keep saying I don't want the attention," Hernandez said, adding that he feels guilty when he is asked for interviews. "... If that makes sense to anyone but me. It's just really hard to balance right now."

Hernandez isn't the only one who's been overwhelmed by all the sudden attention. His family has also been stunned by how much his life has changed.

"I still see him and I think he's so normal," said Alma Hernandez. "I find it awkward that people see him as a celebrity type. Little kids look up to him. I'm not saying there's anything wrong with it. It's just weird."



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{ Editorial }

The right kind of hero

Daniel Hernandez Jr. is not a famous performer, elected official, scientist or business mogul. In fact, before this Good Samaritan helped to save U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords' life, he was not a celebrity of any sort. He was a college student doing an internship with Giffords' office.

Hernandez denies he's a hero, whatever that means. But he does not deny he's gay, which makes him a hero to us.

While media depictions of LGBT people continue to improve and gay characters and performers flourish in the entertainment industry (as evidenced by out actors Chris Colfer and Jane Lynch winning Golden Globe awards earlier this month), our visibility is often muted in everyday life. Too many of us remain in the closet.

From devout Christian country singer Chely Wright to George W. Bush's former campaign manger Ken Mehlman, from Latin heartthrob Ricky Martin to actor-turned-talk show host Sarah Gilbert, there has been a virtual Pride parade emerging from closets throughout the world over the past year. But these people exist in a rarified world with which few people connect. They are not the lesbian woman or gay man next door.

Hernandez, on the other hand, is a typical American – a welcome reminder that gay men are not all buff, wealthy, wisecracking elites of the sort who dominate in the media. A 20-year-old trying to get an education and leg-up in a career during harsh economic times, Hernandez is living the American reality, not some rainbow-colored American dream.

Hernandez is also a Hispanic man in a nation that will cease having a white majority population in 2042, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. He defies the ludicrous stereotype that most gay people are white.

But the most significant way in which Hernandez connects with everyday America is by demonstrating the qualities we all admire – courage, compassion, resourcefulness, humility. At a time when LGBT people are being continually demonized, harassed and ridiculed from the pulpits to the schoolyards to the political mailings of America, the heroic actions of this young gay man are a story that needed to be told.

Americans, gay and straight, need more heroes like Hernandez.



{ Letters }

RIDICULOUS CLAIM

Huh? I'm confused. I had to read your last editorial twice. You wrote, "Most of the measures proposed by Republicans are laughably obscure, including bills that allow off-duty police officers to carry guns in schools, eliminate Election Day voter registration (a thinly veiled strategy for suppressing black voter turnout)." I'm curious how that works exactly? Do blacks not have the same opportunity, the same public transportation, the same cars, the same short walks to voting stations, etc., as whites, Hispanics and others? Do blacks need extra time to register? Is there something I'm missing here?

You in the liberal media will say/write anything to demonize conservatives. Your last editorial makes you look desperate for something to complain about. Look, I think many politicians on both sides are crooks. But you are going to have to give me more than your last editorial. That was just ridiculous. If I were black I would be extremely offended.

Jamie Taylor
Milwaukee

DON'T FORGET
WORLD YOUTH

In 2010 we saw long-over-

due attention to the challenges facing young LGBT people. Tragically, this attention was prompted by the alarming number of youth suicides and well-publicized cases of anti-gay violence that captured media attention. These cases unfortunately represent the tip of the iceberg, particularly for youth of color and those mired in poverty.

The rights to housing, education, security, bodily integrity and to share in and create culture are all guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Yet LGBT youth everywhere face violations of these rights.

While so many U.S. politicians and celebrities are communicating to LGBT youth that it gets better, we must not forget the plight of LGBT youth people outside of the United States, who face challenges that are simultaneously all too familiar and vastly different.

While organizations that serve LGBT youth in the United States are often underfunded and under attack by the religious right, at least they exist. In the global south, dedicated youth programs are rare. In fact, LGBT centers are often hesitant to serve the needs of young people for fear of being accused of pedophilia and recruiting youth into

homosexuality.

Facing this discrimination, which is compounded by sodomy laws in 76 countries around the world and the failure of most countries to provide protections for transgenders, young LGBT people are among the world's most marginalized groups.

Over the past few years IGLHRC has documented human rights violations against young people in Cameroon, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, South Africa, Nigeria and beyond.

Just last month, United Nation Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said, "Stigma and discrimination will end only when we agree to speak out. That requires all of us to do our part. To speak out – at home, at work, in our schools and communities. To stand in solidarity."

To stand in solidarity with LGBT youth, we must address the ways they are affected by homophobia and transphobia; we must acknowledge that they face discrimination and abuse; and more than anything, we must listen to them. Some young people can't afford to wait until it gets better. They need help now.

Cary Alan Johnson
executive director,
International Gay and Lesbian
Human Rights Commission

So they said

"People try to make it about black and white. (King) talked about equality for every man, every woman. We have a thing going on now – people discriminating against homosexuality in this country. I love the (homosexual) people. God bless the gay people. They are great people. We have discrimination against Hispanics in this country right now. We need to answer to that."
—Basketball great Charles Barkley in a pre-game tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

"I got 'faggot,' I got 'Johnny Queer,' of course, all of that. ... I'm stronger than all of those people that aren't going anywhere. ... I never cried over anyone calling me anything. I never felt like I needed to defend myself. ... I immediately went to that place where I'm better than you. So, whatever you say, you're trash, you're dirt."

—Figure skater Johnny Weir talking to Howard Stern.

"Because of the bad road conditions the Almighty has made, any gay activities that people were planning on doing will have to be postponed by a day or two."

—Pat Robertson explaining to his "700 Club" audience that God sent the blizzard that hammered the East Coast in mid-January "to punish Americans who were planning to drive to do something gay."

"I can't believe it. I'm not sure how much my shaky hands can tweet, but thank you so much! Couldn't do what I do without you guys!"

—Out actor Chris Colfer tweeting to his fans after winning a Golden Globe for his portrayal of a gay teen on "Glee." Out actor Jane Lynch also won a Globe for her role in the series, which picked up an award for its producers as well.

"I have a wonderful career, a wonderful life. I have my health, I have a partner of 17 years, and I have a son. And you know what, I don't have everything, because I don't have the respect of people like the church, and people like politicians who tell me that I am not worthy or that I am 'less than' because I am gay."

—Sir Elton John speaking between songs during a Beverly Hills performance at a private fundraiser for the ongoing legal challenge to California's gay marriage ban.

"As a young boy, my room was plastered with photos of bodybuilders. Naked, oiled male bodies. That got my mother so concerned, she asked our family doctor one day to take a look at that. 'Other boys put images of women on their walls, and mine does this!' She actually believed I was gay."

—Arnold Schwarzenegger speaking to the Austrian magazine Krone.

"Also not nominated was 'I Love You Phillip Morris' Jim Carrey and Ewan McGregor. Two heterosexual characters pretending to be gay. So the complete opposite of some famous Scientologists, then."

—Rick Gervais, hosting the Golden Globe Awards.

Jeff Stone is no moderate

State Rep. Jeff Stone, R-Greendale, who is running for Milwaukee County Executive in the Feb. 15 primary, is often referred to as a "moderate." But his voting record clearly suggests otherwise.

Often when a Republican is referred to as a "moderate," it means that he or she is fairly conservative fiscally but more progressive on hot-button social issues, such as equality and reproductive freedom. This is not the case when it comes to Jeff Stone. He has repeatedly used his votes in the Legislature to attack marriage equality, including votes for the constitutional amendment that enshrined discrimination in our state's constitution. He also voted against the domestic partnership registry established in 2009.

Stone has a 100-percent voting record from Wisconsin Right to Life. He repeatedly has earned zeros

Opinion
CORY LIEBMAN

from Planned Parenthood and NARAL. Stone has also received "A" grades from the NRA, which isn't a surprise since he has repeatedly voted for concealed-carry legislation. He actually fought legislative efforts to prevent weapons from being allowed in places like Summerfest, Miller Park and businesses that cater to children, such as Chuck E. Cheese. Stone is certainly not moderate on these issues.

Stone has a record of doing anything and everything to cater to big business interests, often in spite of the greater interest or even the consent of the public at large. An example is his involvement in an attempt to take the management of General Mitchell Field away from Milwaukee County and

Stone has a record of doing anything and everything to cater to big business interests, despite the interests of the public.

put it in the hands of an entirely new regional entity. He worked secretly behind the scenes with special interests to write legislation on the subject. The legislation would have allowed taking away the Milwaukee County asset without requiring even a vote from either the Milwaukee County Board or

from Milwaukee County voters via referendum.

When Stone formally announced that he was running for Milwaukee County executive, he essentially said that he was running to continue the failed policies of former County Executive Scott Walker. Walker stood in the way of things like offering benefits to the domestic partners of county employees and repeatedly tried to cut funding to important programs like at the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin. Walker also left the county with lower bond ratings. His neglect of county services contributed to preventable tragedies involving infrastructure and the mental health complex.

Walker's tenure was hardly one of moderation, and Stone is promising more of the same.

What do you think?
Write a Letter to the Editor!

Confounding lesbian stereotypes

A recent New York Times headline, citing new Census statistics, declared: "Parenting by Gays More Common in the South."

The article said that child rearing among same-sex couples is more common in the South than other regions. In addition, black and Latino same-sex couples are twice as likely as whites to be raising children.

"We're starting to see that the gay community is very diverse," said a gay marketing guru. "We're not all rich white guys."

Well, duh. I probably know thousands of LGBT people and few of them are as rich, white or buff as the decades-old media stereotype led us to believe. In Milwaukee, I suspect most of us lean to the pudgy side, and however much we'd like to think of ourselves as professionals, the majority of us – of all races – are working class or poor.

Although I do prefer sensible shoes, flannel shirts and boyish haircuts, I can't play softball worth a damn and I have never attended the fabled lesbian rite of pas-

Opinion
JAMAKAYA

sage known as the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival. Tents? Mosquitoes? Intestinal parasites? No, thank you.

I do have a big collection of women's music, with lesbian classics by Meg Christian and Cris Williamson, along with better-known artists like Emmylou Harris, Joan Armatrading, Alicia Keys and Anita Baker. But I like Bruce Springsteen too, and every summer at least once I feel compelled to share my Doors collection at full blast until some annoyed neighbor tells me to turn it down.

Lesbians are supposed to be handy with tools and tech savvy, right? Well, I guess I flunked that course at Lesbian U. Whether the job calls for hanging a picture, unlogging a sink, jumping an engine or even pulling a weed, I need a consultant. One friend has never forgiven me for yanking out two raspberry bushes before she ran out of the house to tell me, "Those are NOT weeds!" Who knew?

I can't play softball worth a damn, and I've never attended the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival.

Lesbians are assumed to be active, outdoorsy gals – nature lovers. Not me. I don't go any place where insect repellent is required in summer or long johns are required in winter. A few years back, there was a group called Wisconsin Outdoor Women that sponsored hikes, ski trips and the like. Not to be outdone, I immediately formed Wisconsin Indoor Women, dedicated to exploring the adventures of controlled environments. We watched videos, played card and board games and ordered tons of food for delivery. None of us ever got sunburned or stung by an

insect. None of us ever broke a sweat. We're all a little pale and chubby, but we remember those days fondly.

I also bucked expectations by disliking the lesbian soap, "The L-Word." I could never relate to the obnoxious characters, though that didn't stop me from tuning in to gaze at Pam Grier and Cybill Shepherd. Lately, I've been watching Mexican telenovelas, which are hopelessly heterosexual but have the redeeming value of featuring some of the most beautiful actresses in the world (the ones without the really scary plastic surgery).

Many lesbians, like their gay brothers, are excellent cooks. I am so incompetent at cooking, it is the one thing that can actually reduce me to tears. I'm generally a great person to have around in a crisis. Suicide? Car accident? Health emergency? No one is more stoic. Let me forget an ingredient or burn the white sauce and I'm ready for Bellevue.

I don't cook anymore. I support delis and restaurants instead. A lesbian's got to know her limitations.

Stone says he had 'no agenda either way on those issues'

STONE from page 1
ing health benefits to the same-sex partners of county workers, saying that the costs would prove too high. Since the proposal would not have enacted the benefits but simply ascertained their costs, political observers charged that Walker used the measure to shore up credibility with the anti-gay right in preparation for his gubernatorial run.

Stone said that if he's elected county executive, he will continue to pursue Walker's goals of reducing taxes and government spending as a way to expand economic development. "I'm concerned that if we don't really control property taxes, we're going to see a weakening of the economy," Stone said.

But Stone's critics charge that Walker's method of reducing revenue left the county teetering on the brink of bankruptcy and his ways of reducing costs drastically hurt the county's ability to provide essential services.

"If (Stone) says that he's going to continue the policies of Walker ... he would continue the policies of decay and neglect," Sullivan said, adding that his approach to county government would be very different.

"I would end the downward spiral of our park system," Sullivan said. "We need to stop the cycle of declining bus routes with increasing fares. And we need to have a mental health system that we can count on and a courthouse that we can be proud of."

Walker's record with Milwaukee County voters lends credence to Sullivan's claim that residents were unhappy with the current governor's policies. Although Walker tallied 52 percent of the vote in his gubernatorial race against Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, he received only 38 percent of the vote in Milwaukee County.

"Walker's policies were not beloved here," Sullivan said. "For those of us who do care how the county functions, this (election) is an opportunity to lead the way forward."

Sullivan and Stone differ nowhere more sharply than their records in the Legislature on social issues. Stone's record includes:

- He was one of only 26 members of the Assembly who voted against school safety legislation designed to help protect students from bullying.
- He voted twice in favor of the amendment that banned recognition of same-sex marriage and civil unions in Wisconsin.
- He opposed a bill to require school systems to teach comprehensive sex education rather than to provide abstinence-only education.
- He voted against authorizing the courts to order the payment of compensatory and punitive damages in employment discrimination cases.
- He was a secondary sponsor of a bill to allow pharmacists to refuse to fill birth-control prescriptions and to let doctors deny a

woman a referral for an abortion if her life was endangered by her pregnancy.

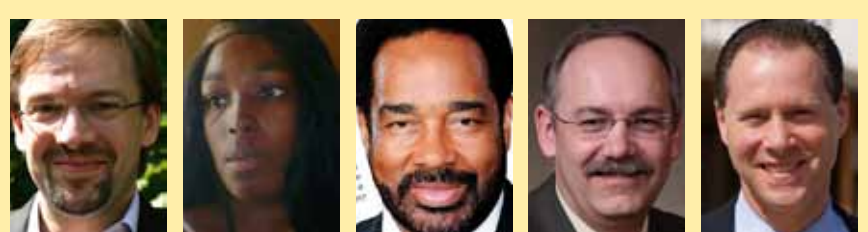
Despite such votes, Stone described himself as a "moderate conservative" and said he had no "agenda on those particular issues either way." He opposed the bullying bill because he said he believes there are already enough regulations in place to prevent the harassment of students. "I felt that it just seemed redundant," he said.

"A lot of those issues are going to be determined at the state or national level," Stone said. "I'm really much more focused on economic development, jobs and taxes."

Stone said voters, not lawmakers, should decide whether same-sex couples are allowed to form legal unions. When it comes to reproductive choice, Stone said government should always be on the side of protecting life, or embryos.

With a stark contrast between Stone's record and Sullivan's demonstrated commitment to equality, Sullivan said he hopes to receive the backing of Milwaukee's LGBT voters. When faced with the daunting task of collecting 2,000 signatures in a week and a half in order to get his name on the ballot, Sullivan reached out to the gay community by attending a Milwaukee Gay Guerilla Bar event at Rascal's, 2311 N. Murray Ave.

About 40 attendees signed his nominating petition there - a good haul, Sullivan said, and hopefully a sign of more support to come.



Abele Griffin Holloway Stone Sullivan

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Chris Abele is president and CEO of Argosy Foundation, funded by the fortune his father made as co-founder of Boston Scientific. His philanthropic record demonstrates progressive political leanings, but Argosy's 2009 annual report lists no LGBT-specific donations.

Ieshuh Griffin is famous for her legal effort to get the slogan "Not the whiteman's bitch" on the ballot in November 2010,

when she made an independent bid against Elizabeth Coggis for the 10th District Assembly seat.

Lee Holloway has represented the county's 5th District on the board since 1992. He supported a measure to study the extension of employment benefits to the same-sex partners of county workers. His candidacy is undermined by widespread charges that he's a slumlord.

Jeff Stone is a Republican state representative from Greenfield who's represented the 82nd Assembly District for 23 years. His voting record has been consistently socially conservative and anti-gay.

Jim Sullivan represented the 5th District in the Wisconsin Senate until he was defeated in November 2010 by right-wing Tea Party candidate Leah Vukmir. A moderate Democrat with a strong political resume, Sullivan has a solid pro-equality voting record.

Bias complaints surge

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

Employment-based discrimination complaints reached a record high in fiscal 2010, according to new statistics released by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The EEOC report for the fiscal year ending Sept. 20, 2010, indicated 99,922 job discrimination complaints compared with 93,277 complaints in 2009.

The EEOC filed 250 lawsuits, resolved 285 lawsuits and resolved 104,999 private sector charges in fiscal 2010. The EEOC also secured more

than \$404 million in monetary benefits from employers, the highest level of relief obtained by the commission through the administrative process.

The EEOC statistics do not specifically identify bias complaints based on sexual orientation or gender identity, neither of which are protected categories in federal law. The pending Employment Non-Discrimination Act would ban workplace bias based on sexual orientation and gender identity and establish the mechanism for the EEOC to investigate complaints under those specific categories.

In the meantime, com-

plaints from a gay, bisexual or transgender employee or job applicant might be pursued as sex discrimination. The percentage of sex discrimination cases rose 29.1 percent from 2009, reaching 29,029 complaints in 2010.

The EEOC statistics showed increased charges alleging discrimination under the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Equal Pay Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act.

Allegations of discrimination based on religion increased to 3,790, disability to 25,165 and age to 23,264. In the first year of enforcement, allegations under the GINA reached 201 charges. Charges alleging race discrimination increased 35.9 percent to 35,890 in 2010.

"The surge in charge filings may be due to multiple factors, including economic conditions, increased diversity and demographic shifts in the labor force, employees' greater awareness of the law, improvements in the EEOC's intake practices and customer service, and greater accessibility to the public," a government report stated.

A campaign to repeal marriage equality is under way in Iowa

STATES from page 1
in 2011 than 2012.

"This is a clear effort by a small but well-funded extremist group to bully the GOP house majority leader. As any responsible leader would, Bettencourt is focused on creating jobs and economic recovery, the main reason why voters put Republicans in charge in New Hampshire," NHFTM director Mo Baxley said.

She added, "Lawmakers should be aware of the reams of evidence showing how out of the mainstream NOM and Cornerstone Action really are."

"Maggie Gallagher and NOM will fight tooth and nail to keep our community as second-class citizens," said Joe Solmonese of the Human Rights Campaign, emphasizing HRC's commitment to the NOM Exposed project this year.

"We're also working with New Hampshire Freedom to Marry to fend off attacks from NOM and their cohorts who want to put an end to marriage equality there," he said.

A campaign to repeal marriage equality also is under way in Iowa, another significant state in the 2012 presidential election cycle. An Iowa House subcommittee heard testimony Jan. 24 on a constitutional amendment that would repeal same-sex marriage as well as ban recognition of civil unions and domestic partnerships.

The measure is co-sponsored by 56 of the 60 Republicans in the House, but Senate President Mike Gronstal, a Democrat, vowed the bill will go nowhere in the Senate.

Moving west, a bill to ban recognition of same-sex marriages already this year has earned the two votes needed to clear the Wyoming House of Representatives. Wyoming law defines marriage as the union of a man and a woman, but conservative lawmakers said the statute did not go far enough and specifically ban recognition of out-of-state same-sex marriages.

The House bill goes to the Wyoming Senate, where lawmakers also are considering separate legislation to amend the state constitution to ban same-sex marriage.

In New Mexico, another measure to amend the state constitution to define marriage as the union of a man and a woman is pending. A similar resolution was introduced and defeated last session, but the 2010 midterm election resulted in a "more conservative makeup of both our state legislature and governor's office," said Equality New Mexico president Todd McElroy.

Activists in North Carolina, Indiana and Pennsylvania may also have to fend off proposed amendments to ban marriage for gays and lesbians.

POSITIVELY CHARGED

Meanwhile, campaigns to advance marriage equality have taken off in Maryland, Rhode Island and especially in New York, where state Sen. Thomas Duane, a Democrat from Manhattan, has said he'll again introduce a marriage equality bill in Albany. He wants a vote by June.

Newly elected Gov. Andrew

Cuomo called for passage of such a bill in his state-of-the-state message earlier in January.

"Fairness demands that marriage equality become a reality now," Cuomo said, speaking Jan. 20 in Poughkeepsie. "New York has been surpassed by many other countries which have legalized marriage for same-sex couples, including Canada, the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, South Africa, Norway, Sweden and Portugal; as well as by many states, including Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa, Vermont and New Hampshire."

He continued, "Marriage equality is a question of principle and the state should not discriminate against same-sex couples who wish to get married."

Meanwhile, in the Aloha State, where a 2010 push to enact civil unions legislation failed with a governor's veto of the bill, a new campaign is underway. On Jan. 25, the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee heard testimony on a civil unions bill - SB232.

Gay rights advocates are optimistic that with a newly elected progressive governor, Neil Abercrombie, civil unions will become law in Hawaii in 2011.

Delaware lawmakers also will launch a drive for civil unions this year, while civil unions legislation passed at the end of 2010 will take effect in Illinois this summer.

To follow LGBT-related activity in the states, connect with the Equality Federation, a coalition of statewide LGBT groups, at www.equalityfederation.org.

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Stephanie Graham, PhD, Psychologist



Leading therapists specializing in LGBT dynamics, Dr. Lacocque and Dr. Graham will address:

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Shannon Anderson, Financial Advisor



As a financial advisor for over ten years and a board member of the Out Professional and Executive Network (O.P.E.N.), Shannon is well versed in the unique financial issues facing LGBT couples. Shannon measures success not only on your financial well-being but how confident you are with your future together. Shannon will address:

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NATION'S FIRST GAY MUSEUM OPENS

The nation's first gay museum opening in San Francisco's Castro district showcases a variety of items, ranging from Harvey Milk's pink-framed sunglasses to manuscripts and sex toys.

The 1,600-square-foot museum, which opened earlier this month, chronicles the evolution of what organizers call the liberation of the gay, bisexual and transgender community.

Milk's sunglasses displayed in the GLBT History Museum are a tribute to the late San Francisco supervisor, who was the first elected openly gay politician in California.

GLBT Historical Society executive director Paul Boneberg told the San Francisco Chronicle the society has a five-year lease for a formerly empty storefront.

The society is relying on donations and volunteers to keep the museum open.

NC REP WANTS HIV TREATMENT CURBED

A North Carolina state

representative who recently wrote an e-mail that contained gay slurs says he believes the government shouldn't spend money to treat HIV for people "living in perverted lifestyles."

North Carolina Rep. Larry Brown, R, said in early January that adults who get HIV through sexual behavior or drugs shouldn't be treated at government expense. He made the comments while speaking with a newspaper about his goals for this year's legislative session.

"I'm not opposed to helping a child born with HIV or something, but I don't condone spending taxpayers' money to help people living in perverted lifestyles," Brown said.

It is not the first time Brown has disparaged gays. He wrote an e-mail in September 2010 that drew national attention and criticism from gay rights groups.

In a comment about an award that Democratic Speaker Joe Hackney was to receive from a gay rights organization, Brown wrote, "I hope all the queers are thrilled to see him. I am sure

NATIONAL BRIEFS

there will be a couple legislative fruitloops there in the audience."

NEW VISITATION RULES IN EFFECT

New federal regulations intended to protect visitation rights went into effect Jan. 18.

The rules require hospitals participating in the federal Medicaid and Medicare programs to permit patients to designate visitors and prohibit discrimination visitation based on a number of factors, including sexual orientation and gender identity.

Health and Human Services drafted the new rules last year, at the direction of the president, who issued a presidential memorandum on the issue in April 2010.

"LGBT people experience discrimination in many aspects of their lives, but it is perhaps at its worst during times of crisis," said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest LGBT

group. "We thank President (Barack) Obama and HHS Secretary (Kathy) Sebelius for recognizing the hardships LGBT people face and taking this important step toward ensuring that no one will be turned away from a partner's hospital bedside again."

BOSTON ARCHDIOCESE AMENDS ADMISSIONS POLICY

The Roman Catholic Boston Archdiocese, which came under fire last year when a priest said a lesbian couple's child could not attend a parish school, has issued a new admissions policy that does not "discriminate against or exclude any categories of students."

The policy distributed earlier in January to pastors, parishes and school administrators by e-mail also says parents of all students must understand that schools will adhere to Catholic teachings. The Boston Globe report-

ed that the policy was developed by a panel of clergy and lay administrators established by Cardinal Sean O'Malley.

The archdiocese was criticized in May 2010 when St. Paul School in Hingham, Mass., rescinded the admissions offer to an 8-year-old boy whose parents are both women.

ANTI-GAY MARRIAGE GROUP RUNS TV AD

As the prospects for legalizing gay marriage have brightened in Rhode Island, with a supportive new governor and House leadership, opponents in January released a TV ad urging against legislative action to pass it.

The anti-gay National Organization for Marriage Rhode Island said it was paying more than \$100,000 per week for the ad, which seeks to drum up opposition to gay marriage by urging people to call the offices of Gov. Lincoln Chafee, House Speaker Gordon Fox and Senate President Teresa Paiva Weed to tell them they have "no mandate to redefine marriage."

Swanson says the district plans to hire an investigator to look into the mother's complaints.

SUPERINTENDENT DENIES SCHOOLS IGNORED TEEN'S TROUBLES

The schools superintendent in a Central California town where a gay teenager committed suicide is questioning claims from the boy's mother that administrators ignored her son's harassment by classmates.

The Bakersfield Californian reported earlier in January that superintendent Richard Swanson of the Tehachapi Unified School District also said he finds some of Seth Walsh's mother's accounts of the alleged bullying "difficult to believe."

Swanson made the comments in a letter to the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California. The group has been working with Wendy Walsh to demand that the district develop a comprehensive plan to address anti-gay bias.

Swanson says the district plans to hire an investigator to look into the mother's complaints.

From AP and WiG reports



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WISCONSIN GAZETTE ENTERTAINMENT

Hostess with the most-est Cass Marie calls attention to Madison causes



By Michael Muckian
Contributing writer

Even as a young boy, Christopher Downing knew something was terribly wrong with his life. By age three, the Cottage Grove, Wis., adopted child was playing with dolls and seriously wondering whether he should have been born a girl.

Fast forward to 2009, when through surgery Christopher anatomically became Cass Marie Downing. Better known by her stage name Cass Marie Domino, the transgender woman is a popular emcee for Camp Bingo, an AIDS Network fundraiser, as well as other events serving Madison's LGBT community.

Cass says her work as the fundraiser's best-known hostess is her way of giving back to a community that has long supported her. In her case, it was support dearly earned by a life hard fought and nearly fatal in any number of ways.

"I am very open about who I am," says Cass, who turned 39 in December. "I have to be who I am in hopes that I can help others along the way to not only accept their lives, but to embrace them."

Before transitioning, Cass "came out as a gay boy in the 1990s," she says. But already there was little doubt in her schoolmates' minds that her sexuality was different. Taunting, abuse and physical assault were common occurrences.

"Every school day was awful," Cass says. "I don't think there were any other people who had hands put on them as much as me, and nobody ever did anything about it."

By the time Christopher enrolled in Monona Grove High School on Madison's east side, abuse had reached a fever pitch. It became so bad, in fact, that the school's principal told Christopher to "drop out and get a job." He did just that in 1989, and to this day Cass continues to pursue her GED certificate.

A wild, indiscreet lifestyle followed. Christopher picked up drug and alcohol problems and, 16 years ago, became infected with HIV. Cass takes daily medication and lives at Rodney Scheel House, a small independent-living apartment complex for individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS on Madison's east side.

The complex was named for and financed by the late Rodney Scheel, owner of the Hotel Washington, a nationally known gathering place for Madison's gay community that mysteriously burned to the ground on Feb. 18, 1996. Scheel, who purchased the historic building in 1975, died from complications of AIDS in 1990. Rodney Scheel House was the entrepreneur/activist's final philanthropic project prior to his death.

Christopher evolved into Cass and took her first steps toward becoming a biological woman in 2006. She found a transgender surgeon in Trinidad, Colo., and made an appointment for gender-reassignment surgery.

"I thought I would get a lot of compassion and understanding, but I didn't do my homework," Cass says. "It did not turn out well."

Cass returned to Madison in a wheelchair, near death with a serious e-coli infection and a colostomy bag, which she had to wear for almost four years. It wasn't until 2009 and at the recommendation of a friend that she found Dr. Toby Meltzer, a surgeon in

Scottsdale, Ariz., who completed the gender reassignment successfully.

"I became a full-time woman and was treated like a queen during the process," Cass says.

Since that time, Cass has continued her hostess duties and her full-time job as a patient transport assistant at Madison's Meriter Hospital, a position she's held for nearly five years. It's another way the woman chooses to give back for a life that has brought more than its share of challenges, along with a great deal of joy.

"I am very lucky and hope that my story can help others cope with their challenges," Cass says. "No matter what anyone tells you, you are just as worthy as anyone else to have good things happen to you. You have no choice in the matter, so be all you can be."

Cass still struggles with past demons but has a new lease on life. She has a boyfriend who both accepts her for who she is and understands who she was, Cass says.

"We're far from perfect, but we're working on it," she says. "For right now, I'm right where I need to be."

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Self portraits get beneath the skin

By Debra Brehmer

Contributing writer

Even in the 1600s, when Rembrandt repeatedly returned to the self-portrait, there was a knowingness to his approach. He dressed in costumes and assumed personas, all in the guise of varying selves. He somehow knew the impossibility of rendering anything that felt like a singular "self" long before theorists started talking about contingency.

Centuries later, the photographer Cindy Sherman enhanced this act of dress-up to address how our self-perceptions are encrusted with layers of rubbish from the cultural marketing and packaging of desire. Sherman embedded herself in cinematic, contrived scenarios. They looked made up yet resonated with a kind of truth: Society, advertising and popular culture shape who we think we are.

Elaine Erickson Gallery in the Third Ward's Marshall Building, 207 E. Buffalo St., has assembled about 30 artists' self-portraits to open a discussion about the eternal question - "Can a painting present a glimmer of our elusive psychological human condition?" The show remains on view through Feb. 19.

It is a random group of work, crisscrossing time and styles, held loosely together by the fact that Elaine Erickson represents or has shown all of the artists. This lack of context generates a sense of freshness and vibrancy as wildly divergent

self-portraits bounce off each other. Like strangers on a bus, Schomer Lichtner sits near Waldek Dynerman. Katie Musloff is upwind from fellow MIAD grad Steve Lubahn. The beauties and the beasts form sympathetic unions under the banner of self-examination.

A 1955 self-portrait by Joseph Frieberst rests on an easel on a table, slightly outside the fray of work on the walls. Frieberst commands a stern dispensation toward the craft of painting as it emerged in the pages of history. Of German-Jewish ancestry, he was 47 years old at the time of the portrait and quite possibly near the top of his career, which started after he had worked as a pharmacist. His self-portrait carries more German expressionist influence than the abstract expressionism that would have been in the air in 1955.

The scrappy face of this painting, with its dark eye sockets, feels both private and public. Most of the other artists in this show painted self-portraits with full awareness of an audience. But Frieberst's portrait doesn't quite carry that hey-look-at-me quality. There's an earnest grit to it. He seems to use the self-portrait as a place for greater risk-taking and baths the face in a goeey yellow light that feels carelessly evocative.

Like Rembrandt, Katie Musloff uses the self-portrait as a calling card for her portrait painting practice. Delicate gray and white watercolor studies reveal a



PHOTO: COURTESY: **"Masked" by Stacey Steinberg is on display at Elaine Erickson Gallery.**

confidence with rendering and a commitment to painting from life. We know she's staring into a mirror as she negotiates her own facial topography. It gives these

studies a sense of immediacy that cannot be obtained when painting from photographs. The hesitant touch of the watercolor media suits her youthfulness. It also suggests the fluidity of a passing glance or a moment held against the cyclone of time.

Waldek Dynerman, who teaches at the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design, takes the serial approach to suggest multiple selves in various states of concealment. A counter-force to Musloff's sweetness, this series of lithographs of faces worked into mixed media carries the sense of discord seen in Dynerman's broader art practice. Obfuscation versus exposure may be the underlying choreographic principle of our lives.

Milwaukee's foremost cow and ballerina painter, Schomer Lichtner seems to smirk down on all these hardworking artists with a sumi ink profile, a la Picasso. A few nicely dashed lines designate his 1970s mustachioed persona. Next to him are four abstract panels by Allison B. Cooke meant to suggest internal moods stimulated by far away places.

So many faces and so many styles. In the end, this show is a family gathering of the artists whom Elaine Erickson champions, a nice glimpse of the breadth of this long-established gallerist's interests.

Read more at www.wisconsin-gazette.com.

Artwatch

KAT MURRELL

Despite the deep freeze of January, the art scene is running pretty hot in Milwaukee, with a number of exhibitions opening and closing.

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

holds an opening night reception and costume gala on Jan. 28 for "Urban Fairy Tales: Interpretive Views of the Classics," which continues through March 5. Featuring Perry Heideman, Pear Photography and the fashion design of Liz Shipe, gala attendees are encouraged to come in fairy tale costumes - with a twist.

You already may have

your calendar marked for the opening of the Frank Lloyd Wright exhibition at the Milwaukee Art Museum, 700 N. Art Museum Dr., on Feb. 12; but you'll have to hurry to catch the compact exhibition of "Art in Clay: Masterworks of North Carolina Earthenware," on view through Feb. 6 in the Decorative Arts Gallery. This array of more than 150

objects reveals influences that worked their way into the Carolina culture from European, Asian and Islamic traditions. Co-sponsored by the Chipstone Foundation and Old Salem Museums and Gardens in North Carolina, this exhibition is a hidden gem.

Chase the winter blues away at Tory Folliard Gallery, 233 N. Milwaukee St., showing

"Color Vibrations" through Feb. 5. Lively hues abound on canvas and sculptural installations in the work of five artists. The next show on the Folliard calendar opens Feb. 12, with nature-inspired paintings by Wisconsin favorite Tom Uttech in "Boreal Conversations."

Opening Feb. 4 is "Slow Start, Long Beginnings" at Walker's Point Center for

the Arts, 839 S. Fifth St. The show features Cassandra Smith and Jessica Steeber, formerly of Amoury Gallery fame. More recently the two are the creative force behind the new publication Fine Line Magazine. Also showing is artist Karin Haas, whose past work includes delicately beautiful etchings, lithographs and other prints of flora and fauna.

Speaking of love in Madison

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Just in time to help lovers of all persuasions celebrate St. Valentine's Day, Madison's Forward Theater Co. presents "The Love that Changed My Life," a monologue festival featuring short works by playwrights from Wisconsin and across the nation. The individual readings take place in Promenade Hall at Overture Center for the Arts Feb. 11-12.

The call for material attracted local works, as well as monologues from Australia, Canada and Israel, according to Jennifer Uphoff Gray, Forward's artistic director. The final roster includes work from writers in Minneapolis, Los Angeles, Seattle, Santa Fe and Amherst, Mass. Well-known dramatists on the playlist include Christopher Durang ("Why Torture is Wrong, and the People Who Love Them"), Beth Henley ("Crimes of the Heart") and Constance Congdon ("Tales of the Lost

Formicans"). Forward established guidelines that limited scripts to 10 minutes, one actor and no elaborate sets, costumes or props. "Submissions had to be inspired by the title 'The Love that Changed My Life,' and we got lots of variations on that theme," Gray says.

The performance list features 15 monologues from 12 writers, whose subjects run the gamut of love. Themes include love between parents and children to love of snack food, yoga, music and animals. There are works about men who love men, men who love women, women who are struggling to love their own bodies, men and women analyzing a break-up, facing the end of a relationship and contemplating the beginning of a new one.

The monologue festival also includes "An Evening with Jon Jones," a gay-themed monologue written by the late David Schanker. A straight Madison playwright and the former clerk for the

Wisconsin Supreme Court, Schanker worked with Forward Theater last year on a staged reading of his award-winning play "Kiritisis." He was 55 when he died July 5, 2010, from complications following a heart transplant. The monologue festival is dedicated to Schanker's memory.

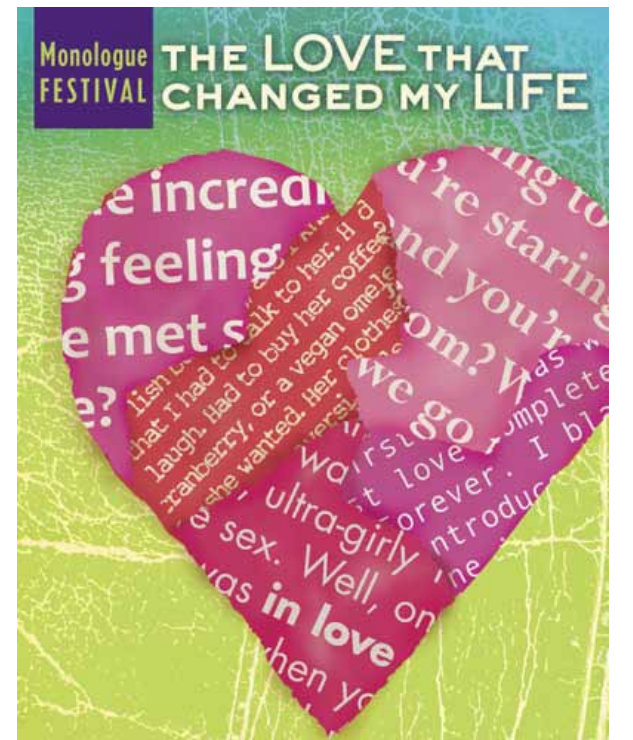
"David wrote a really lovely monologue about gay men who have been in a relationship for a long time," Gray says. "One is a painter and one's a performer, and for the first time, the painter is painting a portrait of his partner and they are reflecting on their relationship. It's quite extraordinary."

Madison playwright Kimberley Yarnall, who helped develop the monologue festival, has two works in the lineup - "The Nuts that Changed My Life" and "I am the Tree." The former, based on her family experiences, chronicles the expression of love between generations characterized by the sharing of nuts and legumes,

ON STAGE
Forward Theater Co's monologue festival is Feb. 11-12 in Promenade Hall at Madison's Overture Center for the Arts. Go to www.forwardtheater.com.

specifically peanuts, cashews and warm, spicy mixed nuts. "The second play is about a woman who falls in love with yoga, and through that physical and spiritual experience learns a bit about loving her husband, her friends, and herself," Yarnall says. "It's inspired both by my yoga practice and two friends of mine who generate an incredible positive love for the world through their physicality."

The depth and variety of the works explores the concept of love from multiple angles in multiple settings, while allowing new playwrights to mix their work with veterans and gain much needed exposure. In addition to opening the door wider on



a familiar concept, Forward Theater's monologue festival broadens the company's reach and gives new talent a public voice, Yarnall says.

"The Love That Changed My Life" theme really allowed writers to dig deep and explore all types of love and

all types of outcomes," Yarnall says. "For me, the heart of equality is respecting love at its very core - the feeling, the passion, the physical, emotional and mental states. I hope people leave these performances loving love of all kinds."



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Look out, old Mackie is back in town

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Mack the Knife and his colorful entourage of petty thieves and streetwalkers return to the stage Feb. 4 in Madison Opera's new production of "The Threepenny Opera." By author Bertolt Brecht and composer Kurt Weill, the gritty classic on social injustice in Victorian London runs for seven performances.

Madison Opera's more intimate mid-season offering this year, "Threepenny" distinguishes itself by employing two of American Players Theatre's most prominent actors in key roles. James DeVita plays crime boss Macheath (a.k.a. Mack the Knife) and Tracy Michelle Arnold plays prostitute Jenny Diver. This is DeVita's first singing role.

Other "Threepenny" cast members include baritone David Barron as Mr. Peachum and soprano Alicia Bernecke as Polly Peachum. Both performers are making their Madison Opera debut in the

production, which is directed by Broadway's Dorothy Danner, sister-in-law to actor Blythe Danner.

"The Threepenny Opera" is a social satire that is basically a comedy, despite all its political and philosophical underpinnings," Danner says. "It's a tough, ironic, stylized piece that parallels the underbelly of society with respectable society, and so (it) must be peopled by murderers, thieves and prostitutes."

"The Threepenny Opera," adapted from John Gay's 19th-century play "The Beggar's Opera," is appealing on multiple levels. Its dark humor, social consciousness and multiple forms of musical styles make the 1928 work highly accessible to non-opera buffs.

"Weill's music is bawdy, it has a music hall quality, and in his vocal writings the ruffians are meant to sound harsh and aggressive, so it certainly takes on an edge reflective of the story," says John DeMain, Madison Opera's

ON STAGE

Madison Opera's production of "The Threepenny Opera" runs Feb. 4-13 at The Playhouse at Madison's Overture Center for the Arts. Go to www.madisonopera.org.

artistic director and maestro for the Madison Symphony Orchestra. "But when you're talking about sophisticated composers like Weill, there is an element of craft that raises the music beyond the obvious."

Weill's music hall rhythms and crossover tendencies follow a structure that elevates the work compositionally, DeMain says, much like Bizet's use of habanera and seguidilla dance rhythms in "Carmen" add an element of realism without sacrificing the opera's artistic brilliance.

Frequent use of the harmonic adds a folk quality, while the reliance on brass without

the tempering influences of strings creates a stark character to the music, compositionally designed to reflect the scenario's dark, seamy characteristics, DeMain explains.

"The counterpoint in Weill's writing – the fugues and compositional techniques inside these numbers – make it feel as if you're listening to a much more sophisticated piece of music than it may at first seem," he adds.

DeMain worked at length with DeVita, as did Madison vocal coach Andy Abrams, to help the actor develop the proper tone and quality for Macheath, a role that at times has been played by Raul Julia, Alan Cumming and Sting. DeVita's lack of formal musical training did not deter him from embracing the criminal role, which he said appealed to him both for its social commentary and its artistic challenge.

"I am always intrigued by the challenge of humanizing villains, never to justify their



actions but to make them plausible to the audience and, therefore, more frightening," DeVita says. "By humanizing villainous characters, we see the potential of evil in all human beings. And that, for me, is far more frightening."

The libretto by Brecht, whose socialist leanings turned an operatic work into social commentary, is an indictment against a bourgeois class that chose to ignore the poverty and

despair of the lower classes, DeVita says. Macheath's sentiment in the song "How to Survive" best sums up Brecht's social commentary: "First feed the face, then talk right and wrong. For even honest folk may act like sinners, unless they've had their customary dinners."

It's a characteristic we all share, company members say, and an awareness that "The Threepenny Opera" would like to awaken in its audiences.

"Brecht was a proponent of 'epic theater,' which attempts to make an audience reason rather than feel, to teach the audience to identify social injustices rather than just be entertained," Danner says. "A man loses his house, then steals a mortgage that is bound to fail. Who is the more dangerous criminal?"

Read more at www.wisconsin Gazette.com.

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LGBT FICTION

"The Cruel Ever After" (Minotaur, 2011) is award-winning lesbian mystery writer Ellen Hart's latest Jane Lawless Mystery featuring sleuthing Minneapolis restaurateur Jane Lawless.

The late lesbian writer Patricia Highsmith, author of "The Talented Mr. Ripley" and others, is feted in **"The Highsmith Reader"** (Norton, 2010), featuring an introduction by Joan Schenkar and including the novels "Strangers On A Train" (which became a Hitchcock film), "The Price of Salt," as well as seven early stories and six later ones.

Bodybuilder, TV writer ("Knots Landing") and author of four previous works of fiction, David Marlow has written his first gay novel **"Muscle Bound"** (iUniverse, 2010), the story of

"roamosexual" Chase Hyde (get it?).

Kathe Koja, the straight author of the acclaimed gay YA novel "Talk," returns with **"Under The Poppy"** (Small Beer Press, 2010). Set in 1870s Brussels in the titular brothel, Decca is in love with Rupert, but Rupert is in love with her brother Istvan.

Intriguingly described as "a tale of midlife and adolescence," lesbian poet and writer Janet Mason's new novel is **"Hitching To Nirvana"** (Cycladic Press, 2010).

New Jersey native turned Southern transplant Cyn Chadwick has a new fictional work, **"Angels and Manners"** (Bywater Books, 2010). It explores the unexpected relationship between working-class mother Carrie and the upscale divorcee Jen.

FICTION DEBUTS

Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame inductee and LGBT marriage rights activist Jeff Graubart is the author of the epic 732-page tome **"The Quest For Brian"**

(thequestforbrian.com, 2010), "the story of one man's personal struggle for gay liberation in the turbulent '70s."

Out writer and musician Matthew Gallaway's first novel **"The Metropolis Case"** (Crown, 2010), moves through time and shifts across geography, from Paris in the 1860s to the New York City of today, to tell the stories of Martin, Anna, Maria and Lucien.

One of the nine unusual stories in Lonely Christopher's debut short story collection **"The Mechanics of Homosexual Intercourse"** (Little House On the Bowery, 2011) features young gay man Dumb and his dead lover Right.

Canadian author Kevin Winters proves that lesbians aren't the only ones who have a way with a murder mystery in **"The One"** (CreateSpace, 2010)

LGBT NON-FICTION

In his humorous memoir **"It's All Relative: Two**



PHOTO: COURTESY

Gay author Wade Rouse reads from his new book "It's All Relative: Two Families, Three Dogs, 34 Holidays, and 50 Boxes of Wine" at 7 p.m., Feb. 8, at Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer in Milwaukee.

Families, Three Dogs, 34 Holidays, and 50 Boxes of Wine" (Crown, 2011), gay writer Wade Rouse goes directly for your funny bone.

Out lesbian Tabatha Coffey, Bravo's "Shear Genius" fan favorite and star of her own Bravo series "Tabatha's Salon Takeover," delivers "the honest truth about life, love and the business of beauty" in her memoir **"It's Not Really About The Hair"** (!t Books, 2011).

Award-winning gay writer Ken Harvey has penned the memoir **"A Passionate Engagement"** (Aequitas, 2010), which combines his personal story with that of the legalization of same-sex marriage in Massachusetts.

Reissued in anticipation of Simon LeVay's forthcoming Oxford title "Gay, Straight and The Reason Why," John Money's technical **"Gay, Straight and In-Between"** (Oxford University Press, 1988/2010) is subtitled "The Sexology of Erotic Orientation."

"Tomorrow May

Be Too Late: A Love Story" (tomorrowmaybetoolate.com, 2010) by Thomas Marino is a coming-out memoir about being a "banker by day, stripper by night" during the late 1980s on the East Coast.

Robert Parker Mills, the attorney for Rock Hudson's estate, sets out to set the record straight, so to speak, regarding the suit filed by Hudson's "alleged partner" Marc Christian. The title of the book is **"Between Rock and a Hard Place: In Defense of Rock Hudson - From the Ashes of Trial to the Light of Truth"** (Author House).

Songwriter-turned-memoirist Jonathan Clift makes his prose-writing debut with the book **"An Unconventional Life"** (jonathanclift.com).

PICTURE BOOKS

The companion to the "first major museum exhibition in American history" focusing on LGBT "art and culture from the late 19th century to the present,

"Hide/Seek: Difference and Desire in American Portraiture" (Smithsonian Books, 2010), by Jonathan D. Katz and David C. Ward, features the work of Andy Warhol, Marsden Hartley, Jasper Johns, Catherine Opie, David Wojnarwicz, Keith Haring, George Platt-Lynes, Paul Cadmus, Tee Corinne, Robert Mapplethorpe and many others.

Fans of the poetry slam (born in Chicago at the Green Mill) and spoken word will want to check out **"Lip Smack: A History of Spoken Word Poetry in DC"** (Beltway Editions, 2010) by Kim Roberts. The book features multiple images, spanning nearly 20 years, and includes out performance poet Regie Cabico and Karen Taggart, among others.

There are photos and illustrations aplenty to accompany the 150 items in **"Stuff That Makes A Gay Heart Weep: A Definitive Guide to the Loud & Proud Dislikes of Millions"** (Adams Media, 2010) by Freeman Hall.

'Red Light Winter' explores obsession

By Harry Cherkinian

Contributing writer

Youngblood Theatre Company's production of "Red Light Winter" was interrupted a year ago after Andrew Edwin Voss, one of the company's actors and co-founders, was stabbed and critically injured. Fortunately Voss recovered, and Youngblood has remounted the production for those who missed the few original performances of this intelligent, compelling and decidedly adult work.

Playwright Adam Rapp's bleak, desolate vision of romantic obsession is centered on two former college buddies - the neurotic, insecure and romantically challenged Matt (David Rothrock) and the arrogant, cocky Davis (Voss). On a trip to Amsterdam, Davis decides to end Matt's "love drought," which he himself caused by stealing Matt's fiancé. Davis visits the city's Red Light District and brings back the French prostitute Christina (Tess Cimpinski). Matt falls for Christina, and Christina falls for Davis. And Davis? He is the emotional poison that slowly, irrevocably works its way into the core of this threesome, with disastrous results for all, including Davis himself.

Director Benjamin James Wilson, a Youngblood co-founder and resident playwright, juggles the toxic relationships with an evenness and dexterity that keeps the

ON STAGE

"Red Light Winter" runs through Feb. 5 at The Alchemist Theatre, 2569 S. Kinnickinnic. Call 414-426-4169 or visit www.youngblood-theatre.com.

audience riveted. The sex and violence is graphic, but not the least gratuitous. This is how these people live and try to survive.

The excellent three-member cast is the light in this ever-darkening tale. Voss is a powerhouse of an actor and he literally bursts onto the stage, his every movement unpredictable, volatile and disturbing, yet fascinating to watch. As Christina, Tess Cimpinski is believable as the faux French prostitute whose true past comes to light. She brings a temporary veneer of calm to the combustible surroundings.

But the success of this production belongs primarily to Rothrock's tour de force performance as the needy, emotionally haunted Matt. His Matt is so fully realized in its vulnerability and innocence that it's painful to watch at times. Somewhere in our lives we've all known a Matt, and Rothrock's characterization rings true to our own memories, good or otherwise.

"Red Light Winter" challenges the audience to explore the tinderbox of romantic rivalry, possession and obsession. There is no light in this darkness but the words and images linger long after we leave the theater.

Director Benjamin James Wilson, a Youngblood co-founder and resident playwright, juggles the toxic relationships with an evenness and dexterity that keeps the

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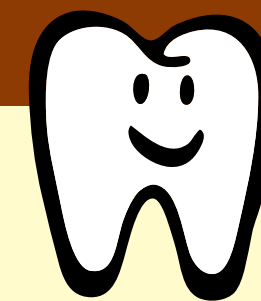
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'39 Steps' takes suspense to hilarious heights

By Jody Hirsh
Contributing writer

The funny thing about "The 39 Steps," now playing on the Quadracci Powerhouse stage at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater is ... it's funny! The murder, mayhem, espionage, chase scenes and miraculous escapes of the iconic Alfred Hitchcock thriller on which the play is based are all there. But in Patrick Barlow's brilliant 2005 stage adaptation, they're presented with humor.

The script largely follows the movie, which starred Robert Donat and Madeleine Carroll: An ordinary man is thrust into an extraordinary adventure of intrigue. He must clear his name of the murder of the beautiful spy killed in his London home.

In the Rep's production, the story is transformed into a masterpiece of physical comedy. Reese Madigan, as the dashing but clueless Richard Hannay, is the only actor who plays just

A wild collection of wonderfully inventive low-tech schtick.

one role. Helen Anker plays three separate women who either endanger or help the hapless Hannay. Rep company member Gerard Neugent and newcomer John Pribyl play more than 100 parts between them. These are a mixture of thugs and spies, wives and husbands, police and politicians — even a river and some eerie trees on the heath. All of this is played for laughs, and the outcome is indeed hilarious.

Watch for comic references to other Hitchcock films, including "Psycho,"

ON STAGE

"The 39 Steps" runs through Feb. 13 on the Quadracci Powerhouse Stage of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater. Call 414-224-9490 or go to www.milwaukeerep.com.

"North by Northwest" and "Rear Window" (although there was a missed opportunity to reproduce the "lightbulb in the milk" scene from "Suspicion"). And, as usual in a Hitchcock production, there is even a surprise appearance by Hitchcock himself.

The lighting design by Thomas C. Hase and sound design by Barry G. Funderburg brilliantly accent the action, and the stylish costume design by Martha Hally is perfect.

Putting together such a wild collection of wonderfully inventive low-tech schtick is daunting indeed, but director J.R. Sullivan handles it



Gerard Neugent and Reese Madigan in "The 39 Steps."

PHOTO: MICHAEL BROSILOVO

masterfully. Certainly camp humor and cross-dressing are not unfamiliar to readers of the Gazette — but the astonishing variety of

costumes, wigs, kilts, house dresses, evening gowns, bagpipes, caps, and weapons accent the brilliant performances by Neugent and

Pribyl, bringing camp humor to new heights.

Don't miss this performance — you will laugh your head off.

'Crumbs' provides a buffet of themes

By Harry Cherkinian
Contributing writer

Milwaukee theater continues to expand its horizons

with an exciting collaboration between Renaissance Theaterworks, the city's only women-founded, women-

run theater company, and Uprooted Theatre, the only all African-American theater company.

As part of its diversity series, the two companies recently staged "Crumbs from the Table of Joy," an early work by Pulitzer Prize winner Lynn Nottage, an African-American playwright whose last work was seen at The Rep with the 2006 production of "Intimate Apparel."

"Crumbs" is mostly a memory play told from the perspective of 17-year-old Ernestine Crump (the excellent Tiffany Yvonne Cox in a breakthrough role). Along with her younger sister Ermina, Ernestine travels to Brooklyn from Florida with their recently widowed father Godfrey. His goal is to be closer to the radio evangelist Father Divine, who is unseen but ever present.

Lost in grief, Godfrey's attempts to strictly control his life and those of his daughters unravel quickly when his wife's sister Lilly appears. A drinker, smoker and partier, Lilly embraces a Communist ideology at odds with her brother-in-

law's values. He leaves the family, only to return three days later with a new wife — a white German immigrant. At that point, the play's storyline scatters in different directions.

Fortunately, director Dennis F. Johnson (Uprooted's co-founder and artistic director) has assembled a strong cast that deftly maneuvers the labyrinth of playwright Nottage's many themes — politics, discrimination, religion. As the hedonistic Lilly, Marti Gobel displays every inch of her multi-faceted talent, from her boastful strut early on to her ever-fragile grasp on the bottle toward the end. Gobel proves once again that she is a major talent, and each movement is a joy to watch.

As Ermina, Ashleigh LaThrop displays a deft balance between teenage rebellion and childish vulnerability. In the challenging role of Godfrey, Morocco Omari is a man on the verge of a breakdown, practicing religious restraint and work-

place politics while his world continues to veer outside his control. Cassandra Bissell is fine as Gerte, the new wife who runs up against discrimination in her new homeland.

Johnson does the most he can with the simple, stationary set of a basement apartment, keeping the action moving despite sometimes-preachy monologues.

When Nottage wrote "Crumbs," she was a young writer just beginning to define her voice and ideas. It was the start of what has become a highly accomplished career. This innovative collaboration allows audiences to see where it all began.

ON STAGE

"Crumbs from the Table of Joy" runs through Feb. 6 in the Studio Theatre at the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800 or go to www.r-t-w.com.



PHOTO: JEAN BERNSTEIN

Marti Gobel and Tiffany Yvonne Cox in "Crumbs from the Table of Joy."



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JAN. 27, THURSDAY

"Bullied: A Student, a School, and a Case That Made History," a documentary film chronicling the ordeal Jamie Nabozny suffered at the hands of anti-gay bullies at his Ashland, Wis., high school, screens at 6:45 p.m. at the Madison Sequoia Branch Library on the corner of Midvale and Tokay. Call 608-661-4141.

The Hansberry-Sands Theater Company presents "The Meeting," a play by Jeff Stetson, at 7 p.m. in the UWM Union Ballroom, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. Call 414-229-5538.

Bethenny Frankel, author of "The Skinnygirl Dish" and star of "The Real Housewives Of New York City" is at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells, at 7 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

WIGOUT ON THE TOWN EDITED AND COMPILED BY GREGG SHAPIRO



Riverdance

FEB. 4, FRIDAY

Out singer/songwriter Maia Sharp performs at 8 p.m. at Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, 19805 W. Capitol Dr. in Brookfield. Call 262-781-9520.

Milwaukee Theatre, 500 W. Kilbourn, presents "Riverdance," the popular Irish dancing phenomenon, tonight and tomorrow night. Call 414-566-1375.

Door County's Peninsula Music Festival presents the return of the Ehnes Trio, featuring violinist James Ehnes, cellist Robert DeMaine and pianist Andrew Armstrong, at 7 p.m. in the Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church on Highway 42 in Ellison Bay. More info at www.musicfestival.com.



Maia Sharp

JAN. 28, FRIDAY

Mercury Players Theatre presents "The Last Supper" through Feb. 12 at the Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin in Madison.

"Jacques Brel Is Alive And Well And Living In Paris" runs through Feb. 20 in the Cabot Theatre at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Ben Folds, a straight singer who's part Rufus Wainwright and part Elton John, performs at 8:30 p.m. at The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin. Call 414-286-3663.

At 9:30 p.m., Tapes 'N Tapes play the High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison. Call 608-268-1122.



Ben Folds

JAN. 30, SUNDAY

"The Norman Conquests," presented by Strollers Theatre, runs through Feb. 12 at Madison's Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin. Sunset Playhouse, 800 Elm Grove Road in Elm Grove, presents "Guys On Ice" in the Furlan Auditorium, through Feb. 6. Call 262-782-4430.

Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 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.

Milwaukee's Festival City Symphony presents Outlooks on Love at 3 p.m. at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells. Call 414-286-3663.

Cass Marie Domino presides over Camp Bingo, a fundraiser supporting Madison's AIDS Network. Doors open at 1 p.m. and the first ball is called at 2:30 p.m. at The Edgewater, 666 Wisconsin Ave. Visit www.madcampbingo.com.

FEB. 1, TUESDAY

Fight Tuesday-night cabin fever at COA Club Tuesdays at COA Restaurant, 5750 N. Port Washington, Glendale. Call 414-967-1451.

JAN. 29, SATURDAY

High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, presents Fire Ball Masquerade III: Hot Air, with DJ Chen-Cheng, Shane O'Neill, members of Dead Man's Carnival, Sable Sin Cyr, Foxy Veronica's Peach Pies Caburlesque, Ashar Dance Company, Cycrophia Aerial Dance and Miss Tamale at 10 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

"Big Boys" by Rich Orloff runs through Feb. 13 at Sunset Playhouse, 800 Elm Grove Road in Elm Grove. Call 262-782-4430.

Renaissance Theaterworks continues its 2011-12 main stage season with "Crumbs From The Table Of Joy," by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Lynn Nottage, through Feb. 6 in the Studio Theatre at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

The Midwest premiere of "Nobody Lonesome For Me" by Lanie Robertson runs through March 13 in the Stackner Cabaret at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.

The beloved Stephen Schwartz musical "Wicked" runs through Feb. 20 at Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave. in Appleton. Call 920-730-3760.

"Speaking In Tongues" by Andrew Bovell runs through March 13 in the Stiemke Studio at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.



"Nobody Lonesome For Me" on Jan. 29.

FEB. 6, SUNDAY

Fine Arts Quartet performs a concert for its 65th anniversary season at 3 p.m. in the Helen Bader Concert Hall of the Helene Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts, 2419 E. Kenwood Blvd. Call 414-229-4308.

Woolf's, 114 King St. in Madison, has 12 big flat screens to catch every play when the Green Bay Packers take on the Pittsburgh Steelers in Super Bowl XLV. Kickoff is about 5:25 p.m. Visit woolfsmadison.com or call 608-204-6222.

FEB. 8, TUESDAY

Gay writer Wade Rouse, author of "It's All Relative: Two Families, Three Dogs, 34 Holidays, And 50 Boxes Of Wine ... A Memoir," is at Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer, at 7 p.m. Call 414-332-1181.

FEB. 9, WEDNESDAY

Boulevard Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic, presents Gina Gionfriddo's cracked comic valentine "Becky Shaw" through March 13. Call 414-744-5747 or visit boulevardtheatre.com.

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

OUT & ABOUT



STATEWIDE BAR AND ENTERTAINMENT VENUE LISTINGS

KENOSHA/RACINE

Club ICON, 6305 120th St. (off I-94), Kenosha, 262-857-3240
Fierte, 5722 Third Ave., Kenosha, 262-764-9713
JoDee's, 2139 Racine St., Racine, 262-634-9804

MILWAUKEE

Art Bar, 722 Burlingame, 414-372-7880
Ballgame, 196 S. Second St., 414-273-7474
Boom & The Room, 625 S. Second St., 414-277-5040
Boot Camp, 209 E. National Ave., 414-643-6900
Fluid, 819 S. Second St., 414-643-5843
Harbor Room, 117 E. Greenfield, 414-672-7988
Hybrid, 707 E. Brady St., 414-810-1809
JACK, 200 E. Washington St., 414-389-3596
Kruz, 354 E. National Ave., 414-272-KRUZ
LaCage, 801 S. Second St., 414-383-8330
Mona's, 1407 S. First St., 414-643-0377
Nut Hut, 1500 W. Scott, 414-647-2673
Pump, (Sundays at Decibel), 1905 E. North Ave., 414-272-3337
TempT, 324 E. Mason St., 414-221-0228
This Is It, 418 E. Wells St., 414-278-9192
Triangle, 135 E. National Ave., 414-383-9412
Tropical Niteclub, 626 S. Fifth St., 414-460-6277
Walker's Pint, 818 S. Second St., 414-643-7468
D.I.X., 739 S. 1st St., 414-231-9085
Woody's, 1579 S. Second St., 414-672-0806

MADISON

Cardinal Bar, 418 W. Wilson St., 608-257-2473
Club 5, 5 Applegate Court, 608-277-9700
Plan B, 924 Williamson St., 608-257-5262
Shamrock, 117 W. Main St., 608-255-5029
WOOF'S, 114 King St., 608-204-6222

BELOIT/JANESVILLE

Impulse, 132 W. Grand Ave., Beloit, 608-361-0000

LACROSSE

My Place, 3201 South Ave., 608-788-9073
Players, 300 Fourth St., 608-784-4200
Chances R, 417 Jay St., 608-782-5105

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Captain Dix Rainbow Valley Resort, 4124 River Road, 866-553-1818

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Rascals Bar & Grill, 702 E. Wisconsin, Appleton, 920-954-9262
Ravens, 215 E. College Ave., Appleton, 920-364-9599
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SASS, 840 S. Broadway, Green Bay, 920-437-7277
The Shelter, 730 N. Quincy St., Green Bay, 920-432-2662

XS Niteclub, 1106 Main St., Green Bay, 920-430-1301

Debs Spare Time, 1303 Harrison St., Oshkosh, 920-235-6577
PJ's, 1601 Oregon St., Oshkosh

NORTHERN

Scooters, 411 Galloway Street, Eau Claire, 715-835-9959
JT's Bar and Grill, 1506 N. Third St., Superior, 715-394-2580

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

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

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



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

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ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

Cream City Chorus, 252 E. Highland Blvd., 53202, 414-276-8787, www.creamcitychorus.org, info@creamcitychorus.org.

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

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second St., 53204, 414-383-3727, www.milwaukeegayartscenter.org.

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

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

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

Women's Voices Milwaukee, 630-890-5984, womensvoicesmke.viviti.com, womensvoicesmilwaukee@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Firebirds, P.O. Box 159, 53201.

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

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

Gemini Gender Group, P.O. Box 44211, 53214, 414-297-9328, gggwi.tripod.com.

Lesbian Alliance, 252 E. Highland Ave., 53202, 414-272-9442, www.lesbianalliance.org.

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

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 252 E. Highland Blvd., 53202, 414-271-2656, www.mkelgbt.org.

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

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

PFLAG-Milwaukee, 252 E. Highland Ave., 53202, 414-299-9198, pflagmilwaukee@hotmail.com.

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

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

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

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

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

WanderWomyn Outdoors Group, debydo2@yahoo.com.

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

Wauwatosa Rainbow Association, tosarainbow@yahoo.com.

Wisconsin Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf, P.O. Box 353, Hartland, 53029, www.wiscrad.org.

Wisconsin Rainbow Families, 252 E. Highland Blvd., 53202, www.wirainbowfamilies.com, info@wirainbowfamilies.com.

HEALTH

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, P.O. Box 510498, 53202, 414-273-1991, www.arcw.org, info@arcw.org.

Brady East STD (BESTD) Clinic, 1240 E. Brady St., 53202, 414-272-2144, www.bestd.org, bestd@execpc.com.

Galano Club, 315 Court St., Suite 201, 53213, 414-276-6936, www.galanoclub.org, mail@galanoclub.org.

Health Institute of Milwaukee, 1817 N. Martin Luther King Drive, Suite 3, 53212, 414-263-9999.

Milwaukee Women's Center, 611 N. Broadway, Suite 230, 53202, www.mwcinc.org.

Pathfinders, 1614 E. Kane Pl., 53202, 414-271-1560, www.pathfinders.org, info@tcmlw.org.

STD Specialties, Inc., 3251 N. Holton St., 53212, 414-264-8800, www.stdspecialties.org.

POLITICS

Center Advocates, 252 E. Highland Blvd., 53202, 414-271-2656, www.centeradvocates.org.

Equality Wisconsin, 2717 E. Hampshire Ave., 53211, 414-431-1306, www.equalitywi.org.

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

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

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

Congregation Shir Hadash, 414-297-9159, www.cshmilw.org.

Cross Lutheran Church, 1821 N. 16th St., 53205, 414-344-1746, www.crosslutheranmilwaukee.org.

Divine Word Lutheran Church, 5505 Lloyd St., 53208, 414-476-3189, www.divinewordlutheran.org.

First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, 1342 N. Astor St., 53202, 414-273-5257, www.uumilwaukee.org.

Lake Park Lutheran Church, 2647 N. Stowell Ave., 53211, 414-962-9190, lakeparklutheran.com.

Metropolitan Community Church, 1239 W. Mineral St., 53204, 414-383-1100, www.milccc.org.

Milwaukee Friends Meeting (Quakers), 3224 N. Gordon Pl., 53212, 414-263-2111, www.milwaukeeequakers.org.

Plymouth Church, 2717 E. Hampshire Ave., 53211, 414-964-1513, www.plymouth-church.org.

St. James Episcopal Church, 833 W. Wisconsin Ave., 53233, 414-964-1513, www.stjamesmilwaukee.org.

Unitarian Church North, 13800 N. Port Washington Road, 53097, 262-375-3890, www.ucnorth.org.

SPORTS

Front Runners/Front Walkers, 414-443-0379, ullwolf.com/frontrunnersmke, thbolt@milwpc.com.

Metro Milwaukee Tennis Club, 3957 81st St., 53222, 414-616-3716, moenell@sbcglobal.net.

Milwaukee Gay Soccer League, 1012 E. Clark St., 53212, 414-405-5878, www.milwaukeeegaysoccer.org.

Milwaukee Gay Volleyball League, www.milwaukeeegayvolleyball.com.

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

YOUTH/EDUCATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FOX VALLEY COMMUNITY

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

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

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

GREEN BAY COMMUNITY

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

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

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

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

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

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

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

MADISON ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

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

COMMUNITY

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

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

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

POLITICS

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

SPORTS

Madison Gay Hockey Association, www.madisongayhockey.org.

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

YOUTH/EDUCATION

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

RACINE/KENOSHA COMMUNITY

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

PFLAG-Racine/Kenosha, P.O. Box 580058, Pleasant Prairie, 53158, 262-694-2729, pflagkenosha@aol.com.

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

Bradford Community Church-Unitarian Universalist, 5810 8th Ave., 53140, 262-656-0544, www.bradforduu.org.

SPORTS

Wisconsin Warriors, P.O. Box 334, Somers, 53171, 414-759-8823, www.wiwarriors.com, wiarriors@yahoo.com.

YOUTH/EDUCATION

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

OTHER

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

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

Online for you at
www.wisconsin-gazette.com

ONGOING

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

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

THURSDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY

1 p.m., Art Experience, SAGE Milwaukee.*

4-7 p.m., fourth Friday, Happy Hour with Planned Parenthood

Advocates of Wisconsin, rotating location in Milwaukee/Madison, www.ppawi.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY

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

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

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

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

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

SUNDAY

10:30 a.m., 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, Outwards men's book club, 2710 N. Murray Ave., 53211, 414-963-9089, www.outwardsbooks.com.

7 p



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