

'LARAMIE' COMES TO CAMPUS

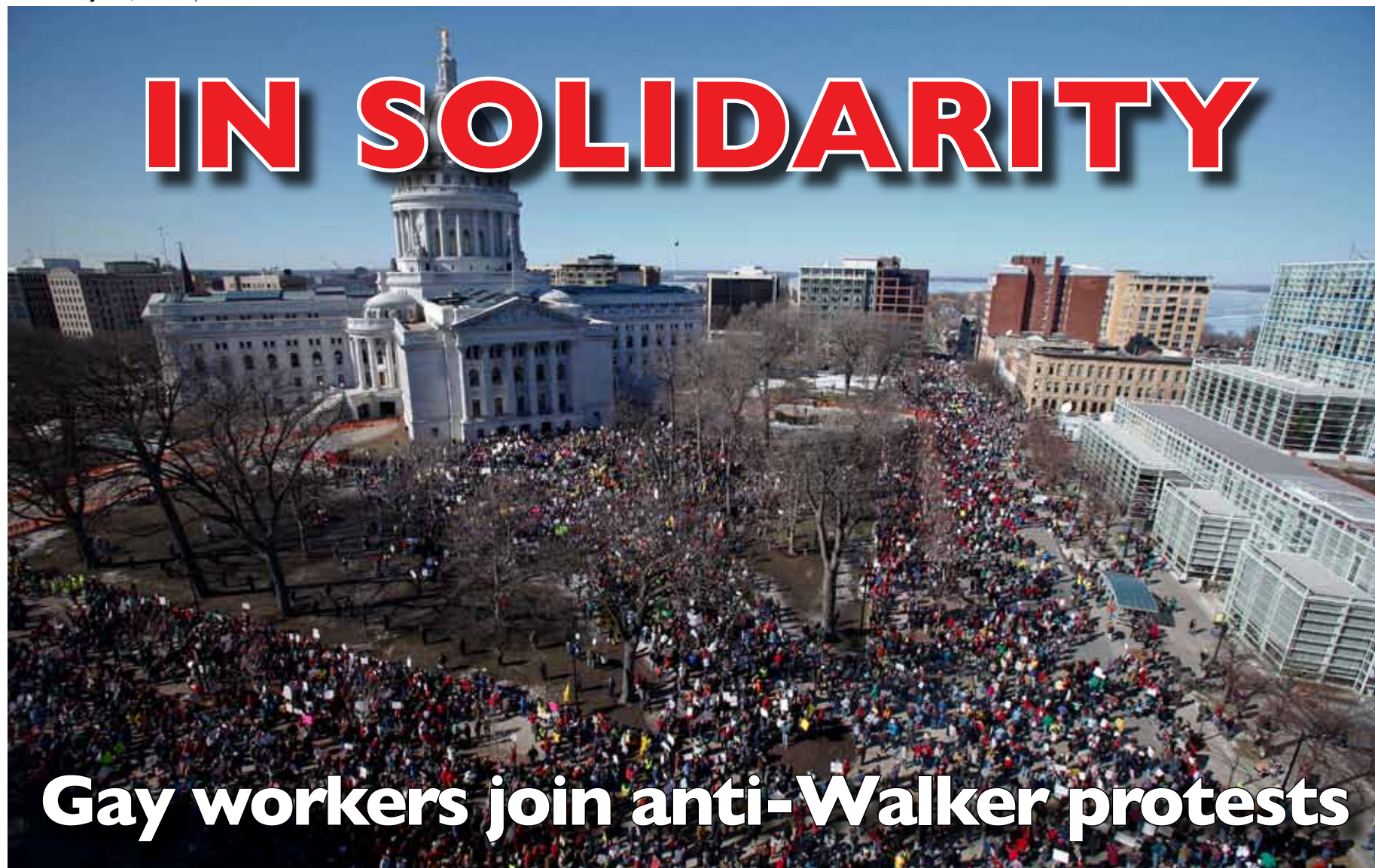
LGBT allies hope a play can help soothe troubled relations at Marquette University. Page 4



THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

February 24, 2011 | Vol. 2, No. 8

IN SOLIDARITY



Gay workers join anti-Walker protests

PHOTO: AP/ANDY MANIS

Protesters gather outside the state Capitol in Madison Feb. 19. Republican Gov. Scott Walker set off the protests earlier in the week by pushing ahead with a measure that would require government workers to contribute more to their healthcare and pension costs and largely eliminate their collective bargaining rights.

By Lisa Neff & Scott Foval

WiG writers

The chant went up from the thousands gathered at the Capitol in Madison: "We are one. We are one."

The same chant went up from those standing in solidarity with the Wisconsin workers at rallies around the United States this week.

And the message – "We

are one. We are one" – was repeated in dispatches from an array of organizations, including a number of LGBT civil rights groups challenging Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's push to terminate collective bargaining rights for public employees in the state.

"Our call to support the public employees who teach our children, care for our

sick and plow our streets has received an overwhelming response," said Katie Belanger, executive director of Fair Wisconsin, a statewide LGBT advocacy group.

Fair Wisconsin and Equality Wisconsin, along with the national Pride at Work and GetEqual LGBT groups, encouraged LGBT Wisconsinites to join the ongoing demonstrations in

Madison and their hometowns to protest the governor's "Budget Repair Bill."

The organizations also urged LGBT people to protest the legislation, which could be voted upon at any time, at solidarity demonstrations held this week from Alaska to West Virginia.

"Around the country, LGBT workers and our allies are standing in solidarity with

the workers in Wisconsin," said Peggy Shorey, executive director of Pride at Work. "The right to collective bargaining is vital for all workers, and particularly so for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender workers and our families."

THE BILL

The protests began after the Feb. 11 introduction of

PROTESTS page 8

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OBAMA ADMINISTRATION DROPS DOMA DEFENSE, PAGE 3

LGBT news with a twist



By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

HEY, MARY

An apparition of the Virgin Mary more than 150 years ago near Green Bay has been declared official by the Roman Catholic Church, making Champion, Wis., the only such sanctioned site in the United States. The tiny town is located just a few miles from Dyckesville, which makes Mary's visit there extra special to us.

BYE-BYE

The website WorldNetDaily reports that GOProud, the gay conservative group, will not be invited back to the Conservative Political Action Conference next year – nor will any other group that engages in "homosexual advocacy." An incident in which GOProud's director Chris Barron referred to one of the event's organizers as a "nasty bigot" might have been the last straw, according to a conference official.

LABEOUF'S BRAWL

No charges will be filed in connection with a bar brawl in Sherman Oaks, Calif., involving

actor Shia LaBeouf. Reports stated that the actor was on the patio when another customer referred to him as a "fucking faggot." LaBeouf responded with a vow to kick ass, then lunged at the talker, according to reports. Police responded and handcuffed both men, but neither wanted to pursue charges.

PICK ME...

Dozen of reality TV hopefuls turned out for auditions for a gay-centric show tentatively titled "Under the Boardwalk" and set in a beach house in Atlantic City, N.J. The Associated Press reported that many who auditioned mimicked the personalities on "Jersey Shore." However, series creator Katie Siegel said the goal isn't to imitate MTV's popular show but instead to produce compelling television.

SUN, SURF & SEIZED

Authorities in the U.S. Virgin Islands recently arrested

Californian Steven Barry Krumholz on charges of dealing drugs to passengers aboard the Allure of the Seas Caribbean cruise, billed as "the world's largest gay cruise." U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents went aboard the Allure at St. Thomas to take Krumholz into custody. Agents, according to a report from Customs, also seized 142 ecstasy pills, nearly 3 grams of methamphetamine, a small quantity of ketamine and \$51,000 in cash.

HAGGARD OUT?

Disgraced former televangelist Ted Haggard has acknowledged for the first time that he's bisexual. "I think that probably, if I were 21 in this society, I would identify myself as a bisexual," the pastor told GQ magazine for a profile that appeared in the February issue.

Haggard also admitted that he used to watch gay porn and compulsively masturbate. In the interview, he seems to trace his behavior to having been sexually molested at age 7.

LET BABS ENTERTAIN YOU

Barbra Streisand confirmed to the Los Angeles Times that she's starring in a new film adaptation of the musical "Gypsy," which is based on the childhood of legendary burlesque star Gypsy Rose Lee. Streisand will play Gypsy's overbearing stage mother Rose, a role originated by Ethel Merman and played on stage by numerous stars.

NOT VERY CLASSY

U.S. Rep. Christopher Lee, R-N.Y., resigned his office after Gawker.com reported that the conservative, married congressman had been trolling Craigslist picking up women.

Lee, who opposed overturning the military's anti-gay "don't ask, don't tell" policy and votes anti-choice, answered a "women for men" ad last month, sending the poster a bare-chested shot of himself flexing in front of a mirror. In his flirtatious messages to the poster, Lee described himself as 39, divorced, a lobbyist and a

"fit, fun classy guy." His real age is 46, and he and his wife have a young son.

NO BAALS

A former mayor of Fort Wayne, Ind., is making a comeback in popularity among local residents, but it's not necessarily for the right reasons.

The city opened up a vote to name a new building after a prestigious person who has had an impact on the history of Fort Wayne. However, when Mayor Harry Baals (pronounced "Balls") became a runaway hit in the online vote, city officials deemed his name too easy to target for jokes and removed him from the running.

"We realize that while Harry Baals was a respected mayor, not everyone outside of Fort Wayne will know that," Deputy Mayor Beth Malloy said in a statement to the Associated Press. "We wanted to pick something that would reflect our pride in our community beyond the boundaries of Fort Wayne."

Justice Dept. drops DOMA defense

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

The Obama administration will drop its legal defense of the federal Defense of Marriage Act, which has been deemed unconstitutional in two lawsuits.

The announcement came mid-day Feb. 23, as WiG went to press.

"This is a monumental decision for the thousands of same-sex couples and their families who want nothing more than the same rights and dignity afforded to other married couples," said Joe Solmonese of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest LGBT group. "As the president has stated previously, DOMA unfairly discriminates against Americans and we applaud him for fulfilling his oath to defend critical constitutional principles."

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder Jr., in statements to the press and to Congress, said the Justice Department would no longer defend DOMA in *Peederson v. OPM* and *Windsor v. United States*.

Both cases challenge Section 3 of DOMA, which for federal purposes defines marriage as the union of a man and a woman.

Holder stated, "In the two years since this administration took office, the Department of Justice has defended Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act on several occasions in federal court. Each of those cases evaluating Section 3 was considered in jurisdictions in which binding circuit court precedents hold that laws singling out people based on sexual orientation, as DOMA does, are constitutional if there is a rational basis for their enactment. While the president opposes DOMA and believes it should be repealed, the department has defended it in court because we were able to advance reasonable arguments under that rational basis standard."

That course of action will no longer be pursued in at least two major DOMA cases in states where same-sex couples can marry.

Holder said that the administration sees DOMA, as applied to legally married same-sex couples, as unconstitutional. "Given that conclusion, the president has instructed the department not to defend the statute in such cases. I fully concur with the President's determination," he said.

"Consequently, the department will not defend the constitutionality of Section 3 of DOMA as applied to same-sex married couples in the two cases filed in the Second Circuit."

However, the department will remain parties to the cases.

The attorney general's office informed Congress of its decision Feb. 23 so that "members who wish to defend the statute may pursue that option."

President Bill Clinton signed DOMA into law in 1996.

Holder observed, "Much of the legal landscape has changed in the 15 years since Congress passed DOMA.

The Supreme Court has ruled that laws criminalizing homosexual conduct are unconstitutional. Congress has repealed the military's 'don't ask, don't tell' policy. Several lower courts have ruled DOMA itself to be unconstitutional."

Although the Justice Department has dropped its defense of a section of DOMA, the legislation will remain in effect unless

repealed by Congress or struck down by a final order of a court.

Section 3, defining marriage as between a man and a woman, requires the federal government to deny legally married gay couples more than 1,000 benefits, including Social Security survivors' benefits, family and medical leave, equal compensation as federal employees and immigration rights.

Additionally, the attorney general's announcement does not apply to another key section of DOMA, which permits states to ignore legal same-sex marriages from other states.

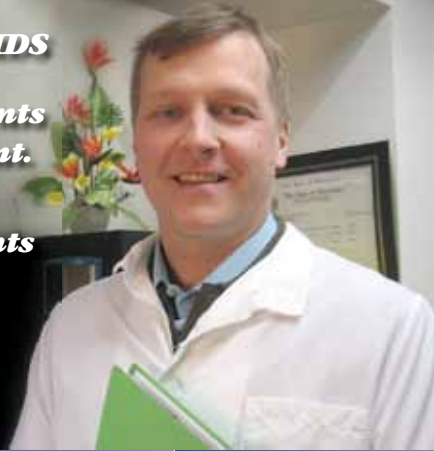
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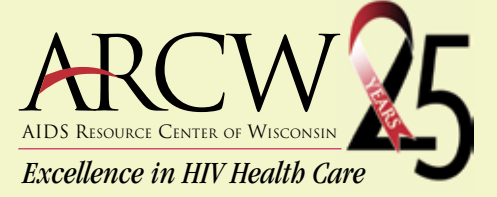
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Play seeks to heal LGBT wounds at Marquette

By Jody Hirsh

Contributing writer

The Helfaer Theatre at Marquette University is empty of audience but full of activity. The technical crew is setting light and sound levels while 15 young actors warm up onstage – shouting, chanting, stretching. From her director's table at the back of the auditorium, director and Marquette theater professor Debra Krajec watches with a seasoned eye.

The play they are rehearsing is "The Laramie Project," written by Moisés Kaufman and members of the Tectonic Theater Project. It chronicles the local impact of the October 1998 slaying of Matthew Shepard, an openly gay 21-year-old University of Wyoming student who was beaten unconscious and left tied to a fencepost outside of Laramie.

The murder shocked the world and brought unprecedented attention to anti-LGBT violence.

"The Laramie Project" is based on more than 200 interviews and a year of interaction with the townspeople.

Performances of the play have drawn protests throughout the country from the Rev. Fred Phelps and his Westboro Baptist Church clan. A scheduled Feb. 12 protest of a production at Neenah High School drew more than 100 counter-protesters, but the Phelps congregation was a no-show.

Critically acclaimed for its revelations about the nature of a town in which such an act of violence could occur, "The Laramie Project" comes at a critical juncture for Marquette University.

Last spring, the university's administration abruptly broke a contract to hire lesbian scholar Jodi O'Brien as dean of the college of arts and sciences, bringing to the forefront the conservative nature of the Roman Catholic University and the challenges it presents for LGBT students, faculty and staff. The resulting outrage led to an investigation that documented a homophobic climate at the university, as reported by WIG on Feb. 10.

A Marquette spokesperson said that producing "The Laramie Project" is one of the actions the administration has taken to improve campus conditions for LGBT students. But the play was chosen for this theater season in 2009, long before the O'Brien hiring incident.

Krajec said the production exemplifies the positive forces for change that were already present at the university. The administration, she said, never opposed the play, which presents a powerful condemnation of homophobia.

Krajec, who has taught at Marquette for 27 years, said conditions for LGBT students have improved dramatically at the university. Fifteen years ago, not one student

was publicly out.

"Because I was the theater director, I would be the one that the students would come to," Krajec said. "They would shut the door and cry. They would come out to me."

Today there are many students at Marquette who are open about their sexual orientation. Among them is Lex Gernon, who plays both straight and gay characters in "The Laramie Project."

"I've never been harassed," he told WIG, "but I must admit, it's painful to hear students using the expression 'he's so gay' as an insult."

The cast and crew of the production, who are mostly between the ages of 18 and 22, share a sense of mission in performing the play, which requires 15 actors to take on more than 60 roles. That mission is to bring a message of inclusion to the Marquette campus.

There are eerie parallels between the play and the current climate at Marquette. In the play, several characters, particularly teachers, say they are unable to be out in Laramie, reflecting what faculty members at Marquette

told researcher Ronni Sanlo during her investigation there in October 2010. A year after the murder in Laramie, the University of Wyoming staged a production of "Angels in America" in an attempt to open dialogue about gay issues in that community. Marquette's produc-



OUT AT MARQUETTE

"The Laramie Project" plays in the Helfaer Theatre on the Marquette University campus Feb. 24 to March 6. Call Kevin Wleklinski at 414-288-7505 or go to www.theatretickets.marquette.edu/.

At 7 p.m. on March 1, Judy Shepard, Matthew Shepard's mother, speaks on "The Meaning of Matthew" at 7 p.m. in the Weasler Auditorium on the Marquette campus.

At 7:30 p.m. on March 6 there is a staged reading of "The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later," an epilogue based on interviews conducted a decade after the original play.

tion of "The Laramie Project" has the same goal.

The young actors in the Marquette production emphasize their commitment to the play's message. Alexandra Bonesho noted that she most identifies with Romaine, one of the lesbian characters in the play.

"I'm straight," she explained, "but I identify more with Romaine and her activist spirit than with any of the other characters I play."

Brittany Green, who is African-American, connects the play's message to the history of black oppression in America. "There is

homophobia in my own family," she confided, "which is something that I don't understand. Shouldn't we, of all people, understand what it means to be part of an oppressed minority?"

Matt Wickey said he is excited to appear in the production because, "I want to show that we're not like that at Marquette," he said, alluding to the O'Brien controversy. That's the same sentiment that many residents of Laramie expressed to members of the Tectonic Theatre Project, which conducted the interviews on which "The Laramie Project" is based.

"We're not like that," they told their interviewers.

As the actors prepare, campus security is gearing up for a scheduled demonstration of the play by Phelps and his Westboro Baptist Church. Look for updates at www.wisconsin-gazette.com.



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Walker makes embarrassing remarks in 'punked' phone call

Gov. Scott Walker acknowledged engaging in union-busting and considering dirty political tricks in a phone call he believed was with right-wing billionaire David Koch, a major financial backer of the Tea Party movement.

Walker was actually speaking with Buffalo Beast reporter Ian Murphy, who recorded the entire conversation and posted it on the Internet. Walker was punked.

David Koch and his brother Charles Koch donated \$43,000 to Walker's 2010 gubernatorial campaign through their political action committee. They also helped fund a multi-million dollar attack ad campaign against his opponent Tom Barrett.

The Cap Times reported the Koch brothers have "quietly" opened a lobbying office in Madison just off Capitol Square.

In addition to being tricked into the phone call, Walker was recorded paying allegiance to Koch and making a number of politically embarrassing remarks.

Walker acknowledged that he and his staff considered planting "troublemakers" in the protest crowds that have demonstrated in Madison for days over his budget plan. He talked about plans to threaten public workers with layoffs, sow discord between public and private sector unions, and spread his union-busting efforts to other states.

Walker also bragged about a plan to end the automatic deposit of paychecks into the accounts of Democratic senators who went missing to stall action on his budget bill. He repeatedly assured the Koch-pretender that he would never negotiate with Democrats nor compromise.

"This is our moment," the governor said.

The call ends with "Koch" promising, "Once you crush these bastards, I'll fly you out to Cali and really show you a good time."

"All right," Walker says, "that would be outstanding."

On the Web: www.buffalobeast.com.

— Louis Weisberg

REGIONAL BRIEFS

PHELPS IS A NO-SHOW IN NEENAH

The Rev. Fred Phelps and his Westboro Baptist Church clan were no-shows at a protest they announced they would hold in Neenah on Feb. 12. The protest was to target a Neenah High School production of "The Laramie Project," a play about the 1998 slaying of gay college student Matthew Shepard in Wyoming.

The Post-Crescent of Appleton reported that 100 counter-protesters did show up, carrying signs of love, sharing hugs and spontaneously singing the chorus of "We Are the Champions" by Queen when it became clear that Phelps' crew was nowhere on the horizon.

WISCONSIN PRESBYTERIES VOTE FOR GAY ORDINATION

A majority of central Wisconsin Presbyterian leaders voted that gays should be allowed to serve as pastors,

deacons and elders.

The Winnebago Presbytery, which includes 40 churches and about 8,000 members in north central and northeast Wisconsin, gathered Feb. 12 in Weston to debate and vote on ordaining homosexuals, among other issues, according to the Wausau Daily Herald.

The Presbytery became the 28th among more than 170 nationwide to vote in favor of opening up the ordination process to gays and lesbians. Twenty-five Presbyteries have voted against gay ordination.

A majority of more than 170 U.S. Presbyteries must vote in favor for the change to take effect.

Tom Willadsen, pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Oshkosh, supported the change, telling the Herald he was "bored and weary" after debating the issue for more than a decade. He told the newspaper that the Presbyterian Book of Order lists so many sins, including "stubbornness," that few

people would be able to serve if it was followed to the letter.

CHICAGO ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

Six activists were arrested at the marriage bureau office in Chicago's Daley Plaza on Feb. 14 when they refused to leave without a marriage license for a same-sex couple. The activists, from the LGBT rights groups Join The Impact Chicago and Video Action League, were responding to a call by Marriage Equality USA and GetEQUAL for coordinated actions across the country to raise awareness about the need for federal marriage equality.

With the recent signing of a bill creating civil unions in Illinois, the activists said they wanted to make a strong statement to local, state and federal governments that the measure "simply is not enough."

Civil unions in Illinois begin on June 1.

— From WIG and wire reports

Marriage equality activists mark Valentine's Day

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

"Donald Trump can marry, and marry, and marry," said San Francisco gay rights advocate Briana Scott. "But Mary can't marry Mary. And that's wrong."

On Feb. 14, Scott and her partner Jen Bearle joined in a San Francisco marriage equality demonstration, part of a nationwide push to promote reform of civil marriage laws, which in many states and at the national level define marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

In some locations for Valentine's Day, marriage equality advocates held forums, rallies, kiss-ins and flash mobs. In San Antonio, Texas, for example, same-sex couples joined in a kiss-in at HemisFair Park, where a photographer took portraits of smooching couples.

In places as large as Houston and as small as Holmes Beach, Fla., organizations hosted large commitment ceremonies that included same-sex couples.

In still other locations, same-sex couples went to the clerk's office to apply for marriage licenses, knowing they likely would be denied an opportunity to file applications but wanting to emphasize that discriminatory practice.

"We missed that brief window of opportunity to get married in San Francisco," Bearle said. "So we've been engaged for a while. But we're not giving up on getting hitched. People like Donald Trump, who trade in marriages like cars, might not like it, but we'll win equality eventually." Trump, a business-celebrity who may run for the Republican presidential nomination, was the target of Bearle's anger because he recently stated that he opposes legalizing same-sex marriage.

Same-sex couples sought — and were denied — marriage licenses in Chicago, San Francisco, Modesto and Sacramento, Calif., Albuquerque, N.M., Columbus, Ohio, Austin, Texas, Norfolk, Va., and

Orlando, Fla. In Chicago and San Francisco, demonstrations resulted in arrests.

In Orlando, for the third consecutive year, partners Rachel Gardiner and Nicki Drumb went to the Orange County courthouse to apply for a marriage license, only to be turned away.

"It is an affront to our basic dignity as fellow human beings when same-sex couples are turned away, but it gives us the opportunity to tell our stories and show that we live in every community and want to honor and protect our families like everyone else," said Molly McKay of the sponsoring Marriage Equality USA.

Marriage Equality USA partnered with GetEqual, another grassroots LGBT civil rights group, on the Valentine's campaign.

GetEqual's Robin McGehee focused on the federal discrimination against same-sex couples. Under the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, the federal government defines marriage as the union of a man and a woman and



PHOTO: AP/NICK UT

Michael McKeon, left, and Nolin Haltom ask for marriage licenses at the East Los Angeles County clerk's office on Feb. 14. Same-gender couples protested Proposition 8 by trying to get marriage licenses on Valentine's Day. Couples in many other locations also sought — and were denied — licenses in the nationwide demonstration for marriage equality.

provides for states to refuse to recognize a same-sex marriage legalized in another state.

"Whether we are married, domestic partners, in a civil union or legal strangers under our particular state's

law, all same-sex couples are denied the 1,138 federal rights of marriage," McGehee said.

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Forum explores successful relationship strategies

By Scott Foval

Contributing writer

A Valentine's weekend forum explored the role of trust in relationships – specifically the trust between domestic partners and their professional advisors.

LGBT couples concerned about finances, relationship issues, legal affairs and estate planning attended the LGBT Relationship Forum, Feb. 12 at the Madison Club, 5 E. Wilson St., Madison.

The forum was repeated on Feb. 19 at the Milwaukee Athletic Club, 758 N. Broadway in Milwaukee.

Presenters included Balisle & Roberson attor-

ney Christopher Krimmer, Ameriprise financial planner Shannon Anderson and psychologists David Lacoque and Stephanie Graham.

"When a couple does stay together for a long time, we should celebrate that and embrace it, and one of the ways to do that is to be offering insights and information about the dynamics of LGBT relationships," Krimmer said.

The forum explored such topics as: the stress factors of having two people of the same gender in a relationship; the financial factors of same-sex relationships; and what same-sex couples can do to

protect themselves legally.

"We focus on both the similarities between (same-sex) relationships and straight relationships, as well as the differences," said Lacoque. "We also speak with forum participants about Internet addiction in particular, as there are a lot of people replacing human interaction with an unhealthy reliance on technology, spending too much time on Facebook, IM or texting instead."

Lacoque said he wanted to provide forum attendees with the tools to recognize when they might need professional help to deal with stress factors specific to

same-sex couples. A trusted line of communication between couples and professionals can be necessary for long-term commitments.

Anderson also stressed the importance of trust in a relationship, including the relationship between a financial planner and a couple.

She focused on how to select a financial planner and how people should prioritize to put their financial houses in order.

"Make sure you really feel comfortable with that person, because they likely will be making recommendations and suggestions and you have to feel comfortable and have

trust," she said.

Be sure, she advised, to ask a planner plenty of questions before committing to a professional relationship, including the details of compensation.

In her presentations, Anderson reviews the basic steps to financial stability – eliminate debt, build a reserve or "emergency fund" and establish long-term goals. Budgeting and understanding personal expenses is very important when starting out, she said.

Krimmer encouraged people to complete a number of legal documents for security: powers of attorney

for healthcare and financial assignment, a will, a living will for medical situations, an advanced directive for financial decisions, a partnership agreement similar to a prenuptial and a co-parenting agreement for people with children.

Many problems can be avoided simply by taking the time to work on these items with a legal advisor, rather than waiting to do them, Kimmer stressed. He advised that LGBT people should engage an attorney to customize their wills, because the State of Wisconsin doesn't have a template specifically for them.

'Wisconsin has played such an important role in the labor movement.'

PROTESTS from page 1 Walker's Budget Repair Bill. The governor, a Republican elected last November in a conservative sweep of the state, proposed the legislation to "meet the immediate needs of our state and give government the tools to deal with this and future budget crises, according to a news release.

Walker's office maintains the state faces an immediate deficit of \$137 million and that action is needed to "lay the foundation for a long-term sustainable budget without raising taxes, raising segregated funds or using accounting gimmicks."

The bill contains multiple steps for saving money, including repealing the authority of public employees to collectively bargain with the state, setting a series of caps and other restrictions on wage increases and increasing worker contributions to pensions and health insurance.

Walker's overview of the bill states that Wisconsin public employees enjoy benefits in excess of employee benefits in neighboring states and that he is seeking to strike "a fair balance."

Protesters and state Democrats said the proposal is about union busting, not fairness.

"If passed, the balance in our society will again tilt to the powerful over the powerless," said state Sen. Chris Larson, D-Milwaukee. "The ability to organize and get fair treatment are qualities

that built our country. This is what the last generation fought for in the Sixties and the Seventies, to make sure we all had a better life."

Larson, one of 14 Democratic senators who last week left the state to prevent a vote on the budget bill, said Walker is "seeking to scapegoat unions as the cause of the fiscal crisis in an effort to divide the middle class against itself. This, while he is opening tax loopholes for the richest in the country."

As he and other Democrats vowed to stand firm, and Walker vowed not to compromise, protest organizers vowed to escalate their opposition to the proposal.

AT THE CAPITOL

Drummers have served as the rhythm section for the Capitol protesters, whose numbers have varied – 30,000, 40,000, 70,000 and more – as momentum has built and news has spread.

Laurie Marks and her partner, who both work for the state university system, and their two children joined the protests.

"We are so nervous about what this governor's intention is in terms of healthcare for our kids, because this state doesn't have second-parent adoption," said Marks, of Waukesha.

She also expressed concern that Walker might move to repeal the state's domestic partnership act.

Lisa Hager, a member of

the University of Wisconsin faculty and advisor to a gay-straight alliance, trekked from Waukesha to Madison to demonstrate.

"We have record enrollments, but we haven't had raises since 2005," she said.

Hager, heralding her union's efforts to combat anti-LGBT discrimination in employment as well as homophobia on campus, added, "People are scared of what this governor and Republican legislature are capable of doing."

"Wisconsin has played such an important role in the labor movement," said protester Billy Eames of Racine. "To assault worker rights here? This is like a Valley Forge of labor."

Wisconsin, in 1959, was the first state to enact a comprehensive collective bargaining law and is the birthplace of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees national (AFSCME) union.

Eames and partner Jeff Reigel attended two days of protests.

"Our activism goes way back to the early 1970s," Reigel said. "I think the gay community is exceptionally good at getting people out to these events because we've had such a long history of demonstrating for our rights."

Reigel and Eames are not government employees. They and other LGBT Wisconsinites said they were motivated to go to Madison for two reasons – labor has

long been an ally in the push for LGBT equality and shutting down collective bargaining can turn off negotiations on partnership benefits.

Equality Wisconsin, encouraging LGBT residents to petition Walker, summarized: "The right to organize and collectively bargain for better wages and benefits helped to make this country great by securing a strong middle class.

"There's an LGBT equality issue at stake as well: public sector unions were how domestic partner benefits were won at the city of Milwaukee, Milwaukee Area Technical College and Milwaukee Public Schools, in some cases taking the lead for their gay and lesbian members when elected officials were too timid to act."

For the past two weeks, Equality Wisconsin and Fair Wisconsin have posted regular updates from the Capitol protests, as have LGBT activists associated with national groups, including Pride at Work and GetEqual.

"GetEqual has reached out to Fair Wisconsin to offer our help in organizing LGBT folks on the ground in whatever way they see as helpful," Managing Director Heather Cronk said. "We have organizers in Wisconsin who have been attending the protests for the past few days in solidarity with union folks there, and we're ready and willing to help in any additional ways that could lend a hand to working people in

Wisconsin."

Some media outlets – Fox News specifically – characterized the demonstrations as verging on violence. But those on the scene stressed the peaceful nature of the events.

"Right-wing media and the Tea Party have been trying all week to incite violence at the Capitol," said openly gay Wisconsin Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Madison. He added, "I'm proud of everyone involved in this rally for their level of decorum, and I'm grateful to law enforcement for ensuring the citizens access to their own government."

Protesters received encouragement from other political leaders, as well as long-distance backers who ordered them pizzas, cyber-supporters who posted pledges on social networking sites and worshippers who joined in community prayers.

Reigel cheered a communiqué from former and current Green Bay Packers, who called the budget bill "an unprecedented political attack."

IN SOLIDARITY

Facebook, which has driven demonstrators to Madison, also is driving a national solidarity campaign, helping activists around the country coordinate "We Are One" rallies in dozens of locations.

"At the end of the day, the fight in Wisconsin is not about money or budgets but about fairness and the basic right to a voice at work – and that is something that matters for all of us," said Shorey,

Why we must stand in solidarity with the unions

Opinion
HALLI STEWART



As a gay individual, I know all too well what it is like to fight for my rights, but fighting to avoid losing already secured rights is a new fight for me. It is a fight that I have become extremely passionate about since the unveiling of Scott Walker's Budget Repair Bill.

As an openly gay teacher, I know the importance of collective bargaining and union rights. On a number of occasions I have required the protection of my union – the Racine Education Association – because I have faced discrimination and harassment, they also are fighting to ensure that LGBT employees are treated in an equitable manner with regard to benefits.

employment.

I can say with great confidence that if my union did not protect me, I would have been wrongfully terminated without just cause because of my sexual orientation. I need unions.

In addition to unions protecting people from discrimination and harassment, they also are fighting to ensure that LGBT employees are treated in an equitable manner with regard to benefits.

My union is willing to fight and negotiate for domestic partnership benefits. Without its efforts, my employer would not even consider offering such benefits.

In fact, the majority of Wisconsin employers that offer domestic partnership benefits are doing so because a union collectively bargained for their members. They need unions.

We all know that this is a crucial time in America for gay rights. Politicians are constantly faced with decisions to acknowledge domestic partnerships, civil unions and gay marriage. In doing so, they are ultimately deciding if our relationships, families and rights are important. Unions are recognizing the importance of LGBT relationships by fighting for us to be treated the same as our straight counterparts. Unions are some of our strongest

allies. We need unions.

Scott Walker is attempting to erase 50 years of Wisconsin history and workers' rights. It is clear that he will not stop with this bill. He is aiming to eliminate democracy as we know it.

As LGBT people in

Wisconsin, our rights are limited. If we do not stand up now and stop Walker, the few we do have will be taken. Future rights will be nearly impossible to secure.

I urge WiG readers to contact your senators and Gov. Walker to express your

disgust for this heinous bill! Allowing one group to be oppressed will open the floodgates for all to be oppressed. Solidarity!

Halli Stewart is a literacy teacher for the Racine Unified School District.

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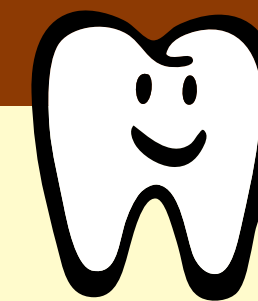
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{ Editorial }

Unhealthy budget

While headlines focus on the union-busting aspect of Gov. Scott Walker's budget, other items in the bill are also disturbing.

At the same time the governor and his GOP colleagues want to join a federal lawsuit to overturn a national law providing near-universal healthcare coverage, they also want to drop a significant number of people from the state's Medicaid rolls.

If Walker's budget passes, as it almost certainly will, it will raise eligibility requirements for BadgerCare, SeniorCare and FamilyCare – the state programs that cover healthcare for Wisconsinites who rely on Medicaid. The result is that 50,000 people would lose their healthcare coverage in July 2012.

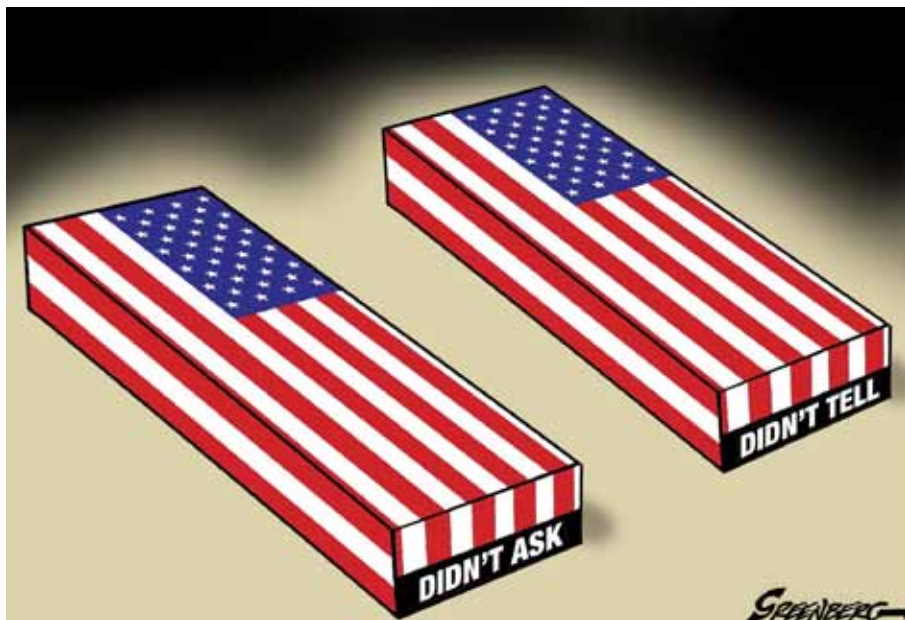
There's another big problem with Walker's healthcare proposal. It gives broad but unspecified powers to the Department of Health Services to make any changes they believe will reduce costs to the state's Medicaid system.

Walker and his fellow tea partiers have railed ad nauseam about the federal government's alleged autocratic takeover of healthcare. But apparently they want to give the state unlimited control over the healthcare decisions of the one in five Wisconsinites who rely on Medicaid. And they want to do this without debate, with one fell swoop of Walker's pen.

In contrast, Congress debated national healthcare reform for an entire year. The Wisconsinites whose healthcare will be affected are not part of the wealthy Tea Party constituency that brought Walker to power. They believe it's fine to balance the state budget by sacrificing the health – and perhaps the lives – of poor and working-class people. They prefer this strategy and union-busting to scaling back tax cuts to the wealthy, which they contend will create jobs that will benefit all Wisconsinites.

Even if this were true, we must not forget what kind of state Walker and the Tea Party are creating. The loss of collective bargaining rights will have a ripple effect that will eventually depress wages throughout the state's economy. It will also destroy the only big-money counterbalance to the corporate dollars that flow into elections from the corporate right.

Destroying Wisconsin's successful healthcare system, one that puts us near the top nationally for insuring kids, will lower the quality of life for the poor and working class, making Wisconsin a less fair and less attractive place to live.



{ Letters }

THE POSITIVE SIDE OF MARQUETTE

I am an openly gay adjunct professor at Marquette University Law School. I feel compelled to share with your readers that my experience at Marquette has been drastically different from the conclusion in your article that "LGBT faculty members ... face a hostile atmosphere at Marquette."

I have had nothing but support from the law school administration in both classes that I teach at the school, including a course entitled "Sexual Orientation and the Law." I cannot speak for the faculty of the greater university nor would I equate my presence as an adjunct professor in the law school to the experience of a full-time faculty member in the larger university. Nevertheless, I do hope that we do not make broad generalizations about the entire Marquette campus and realize that there are schools and departments within the university that are supportive of LGBT faculty and students.

I have been teaching at Marquette Law School since 2003 and have never experienced anything but support, kindness and genuine inter-

est in my classes. When I proposed the idea that the law school offer an objective course on sexual orientation and the law, the faculty, including some very conservative members, endorsed the idea.

I do not believe I am speaking out of turn when I say that the dean of the law school, Joseph Kearney, takes a conservative stance on the application of the law and social issues. Yet, he is also an educator and appreciates the value of creating a law school that truly benefits from an open dialogue of ideas within the context of the Jesuit traditions and beliefs.

We must not forget that Marquette is not a public university and religion does play a role in the discourse. My belief is that the Jesuit tradition of social justice and LGBT equality can and will co-exist at Marquette comfortably some day.

In my first semester of teaching "Sexual Orientation and the Law," Rick Esenberg was teaching "Religion and the Law." As your readers may be aware, Esenberg is quite conservative and a vocal opponent to same-sex marriage. Quite coincidentally, we were both speaking of same-sex

marriage at the same time in our syllabi.

I suggested that we switch classes for 30 minutes and discuss the topic from our own point of reference. He wholeheartedly accepted the offer and spoke to my students about the arguments against same-sex marriage while I spoke to his students about the arguments in favor of same-sex marriage.

I don't know if we changed anyone's opinion on the matter but, more importantly, it demonstrated how faculty with differing opinions of LGBT issues can work collaboratively for the benefit of the students. As a student, I would abhor the idea of attending a university that simply regurgitated my own beliefs and didn't allow for a free forum of ideas.

My exercise with Esenberg, the support of the sexual orientation and law course from the law school administration and my very presence as an out adjunct professor is a testament to Marquette Law School's commitment to academic freedom and the free exchange of ideas.

*Christopher Krimmer
adjunct professor of law
Marquette University*

OUR MISSION

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

So they said

"The left is trying to co-opt gays and I don't think we should let them. They should be on our side. ... We like the same music, we like the same cocktails, and we like a lot of the same men."

– Far-right diva Ann Coulter saying something sort of nice about gay men at Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Washington.

"We always tease her that she's a big lesbian. Doesn't know it."

– Joy Behar teasing Barbara Walters on "The View" after Walters complimented Jennifer Aniston's physique, saying, "The body's gorgeous."

"He was scary. He ordered us to cut the cameras then brought a security guard. We ran off and he rang one of our guys saying, 'Where are they staying? What are the registration plates? I want them arrested. They won't get far.'"

– British radio personality Scott Mills describing the reaction of a Ugandan official after Mills told the official that he's gay. Mills was in the country filming a television special for the BBC titled "The Worst Place to be Gay?" He and his crew fled the country.

"New York is a place with lots of gays, and I think it is great. But I'm not in favor of gay marriage."

– Donald Trump, who is angling for a possible run for the presidency, speaking to Fox News' Greta Van Susteren. Trump classified himself as a "very conservative Republican."

"First of all, we know that gays and lesbians have been serving in the military for decades with honorable service. We know that (repeal of a ban on gays serving openly) is an idea whose time has come."

– Former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld speaking on ABC Radio a day after he appeared at the Conservative Political Action Conference to accept a Defender of the Constitution award.

"I walked into committee and what I heard from the opposition to the bill was appalling. ... I heard that homosexuals and same-sex couples were androids. I heard that they were pedophiles. I just heard hate and venom coming out of that hearing for eight hours. ... I'm not going to be part of the vilification of gays on the senate floor."

– Maryland state Sen. James Brochin explaining that he changed his vote from opposition to a same-sex marriage law to support after hearing the hateful testimony of the bill's opponents.

"Gay Catholics don't need to confess, they need to come out of the closet and challenge anti-gay dogma. The false idea that being gay is something to be ashamed of has destroyed too many lives. This iPhone App is facilitating and furthering the harm."

– Truth Wins Out executive director Wayne Besen condemning a new iPhone app that guides Roman Catholics through confession.

Labor is an equality ally

Wisconsin has received worldwide attention over the massive protests against Gov. Scott Walker's so-called "Budget Repair Bill." Although its name suggests the bill is budget-related, the non-partisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau found many elements are nothing more than sweeping policy changes that are not related to the budget at all.

The item receiving the most attention is Walker's attempt to essentially eliminate 50 years of collective bargaining rights for public employees. The LGBT community has had a steady friend in Wisconsin's labor movement and it should take a stand for labor in its hour of need.

Labor unions in Wisconsin were among the first to join Fair Wisconsin and others in fighting the 2006 constitutional amendment ban-



ning marriage equality and civil unions. AFSCME, one of the largest public employee unions, was the first of many to pass a resolution opposing the discriminatory amendment. Other unions also showed their support for equality in many ways that were critical to that fight.

In 2009, labor unions were again quick to rally to the side of equality in supporting our landmark domestic partnership registry. It is no wonder that Fair Wisconsin executive director Katie Belanger recently declared solidarity with Wisconsin's unions to a national television audience on MSNBC.

Many unions have been on

the forefront of fighting for their LGBT union brothers and sisters and making sure they are treated fairly. This includes the continuing fight for domestic partner benefits for LGBT workers. Those benefits were won for City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee Public School workers only after Equality Wisconsin organized union members to demand them in collective bargaining.

Equality Wisconsin notified its 5,000 supporters that if Walker's bill passes, unions will no longer be able to bargain for domestic partnerships. In fact, the unions' ability to meaningfully bargain on anything will essentially be eliminated.

Many of the same people who charged that national healthcare reform was being "rammed down our throats" after a year of debate now suddenly support fast-track-

ing Walker's bill to eliminate 50 years of labor law. The Republicans' original plan was to pass the measure in only five days. Republican legislators held a public hearing but ended up cutting off people and not allowing others to speak.

The process was slowed when all 14 Democratic state senators left the Capitol and the state in order to prevent a needed quorum. This has provided the public with more time to examine this extremist legislation.

And the longer it's examined, the more damaging it appears.

If Walker's bill becomes law, it will destroy the strength of Wisconsin labor unions, among the LGBT community's strongest allies for equality.

Share your thoughts.
Write a letter to the editor.

Which side are you on?

The attack on public workers' collective bargaining rights in Wisconsin and the defunding of Planned Parenthood by Congress should be opposed by all LGBT people of conscience.

Over the past 10 years, Republicans (with help from some Democrats) created big deficits through their unfunded, open-ended attacks on Iraq and Afghanistan and through huge tax cuts for the wealthy. The budget crisis today was provoked by conservatives who are now using it as a pretext to wipe out their political and ideological opponents.

As far back as 1983, the Village Voice published "The New Right's Campaign to De-Fund the Left," which outlined a decades-long strategy by corporate-funded conservative think tanks, right-wing organizations, evangelical groups and the GOP to destroy all centers of progressive influence. The local front groups and judicial and legislative campaigns. It has been muscled along by the power of right-wing media, which uses wedge issues – including LGBT



arts, sciences and community groups. Most of these entities originated in the Progressive era a century ago, which was itself a response to the income inequality and terrible living and working conditions of the late 19th century.

Grover Norquist, a leading architect of right-wing policy, told The Nation in 2001: "My goal is to cut government in half in 25 years to get it down to the size where we can drown it in the bathtub." In 2004, he declared: "Rather than negotiate with the teachers' unions and the various leftist interest groups, we intend to break them."

This campaign has been advanced through massive infusions of capital into right-wing think tanks, state and federal funding for the

rights – and divide-and-conquer tactics to turn constituencies against each other and to purvey false and alarmist information. These tactics and distortions have chipped away at the credibility of organized labor and Planned Parenthood.

The valuable work done by Planned Parenthood personnel over the decades, against constant hostility, is one of the most heroic chapters in American history. Criticized for a fraction of its work – providing safe, legal abortions for women who need them – Planned Parenthood has actually become the primary healthcare provider for millions of women. Health and sexuality education, instruction in all forms of birth control, gynecological exams, pre-natal counseling and classes, and testing for pregnancy, cervical cancer and sexually-transmitted diseases are all provided in a supportive, non-judgmental environment. Services are based on ability to pay, with no one turned away. The gap in services and long-term social and financial costs that will result from de-funding

Planned Parenthood is incalculable.

Like all unions, public employee unions provide a means for workers to bargain collectively over wages, benefits and working conditions. Yes, our taxes pay their wages; we also benefit substantially from the labor of nurses, teachers, street wardens, firefighters, street cleaners and custodians. Why be eager to go back to the time when public services were provided inconsistently by private vendors nabbing contracts through patronage and corrupt deals? Civil service reform and public sector unions provided us with order, oversight and honor. Public sector unions were also the first unions to incorporate through their contracts job protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity and benefits for domestic partners.

The LGBT community has had no greater allies through decades of struggle to recognize our rights than Planned Parenthood and organized labor. It is time to stand up for our friends.

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Hawaii governor to sign civil unions bill into law



PHOTO: COURTESY

Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie.

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie was set to sign into law Feb. 23 the bill establishing civil unions for same-sex couples.

The ceremony was scheduled to take place as WiG went to press, with the governor planning a live broadcast on the state website.

Abercrombie had 10 days to sign the legislation that passed the Hawaii Senate Feb. 16 with an 18-5 vote. The house passed the bill earlier this year.

The legislative vote for civil unions was the second in 10 months. Last year, law-

'I have always believed that civil unions ... reinforce our core values of equality and aloha.'

makers passed a similar measure extending marriage-like benefits — but not marriage — to same-sex couples, but it was vetoed at the 11th hour

by then Gov. Linda Lingle, a Republican.

Abercrombie, a Democrat and former congressman, said Feb. 16, "I have always believed that civil unions respect our diversity, protect people's privacy and reinforce our core values of equality and aloha."

"I appreciate all the time and effort invested by those who shared their thoughts and concerns regarding civil unions in Hawaii. This has been an emotional process for everyone involved, but that process is now ended. Everyone has been heard; all points of view respected."

"For me, this bill represents equal rights for all the people of Hawaii."

Marriage equality activists celebrated in Honolulu.

"We honor and thank the legislature today for their commitment to equality for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community in Hawaii," said Alan Spector, co-chair of Equality Hawaii, the state's largest LGBT civil rights group. "For the second time in less than a year, legislators have dedicated themselves to providing dignity and respect to all families in the Aloha state."

relationships its users can pick from came after talks with gay rights organizations, including GLAAD, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

The social network has "sent a clear message in support of gay and lesbian couples to users across the globe," said GLAAD president, Jarrett Barrios. "By acknowledging the relationships of countless loving and committed same-sex couples in the U.S. and abroad, Facebook has set a new standard of inclusion for social media."

He added that the new status options, available to Facebook users in the United States, Canada, Britain, France and Australia, will serve as an important reminder that legal marriage is not an option for gay couples in most states.

Only Iowa, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Washington, D.C. allow same-sex marriages. Hawaii will soon become the seventh state to permit civil unions or similar legal recognition for gay couples.

Of course, there's also a

Facebook option to say "It's complicated" — and that's exactly how some users felt about the new changes. Because, for people both gay and straight, more options mean more decisions to make: What exactly is my relationship, and what should I call it?

"You go into a store and there are 27 kinds of soda, and sometimes it would be easier if there were just Coke and Pepsi," explains Erik Rueter, who works in marketing at an educational nonprofit institution in

Federal budget increases anti-bias, HIV funding

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

The president's proposed fiscal 2012 budget would provide for a five percent increase at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The budget, discussed during a conference call with White House officials and LGBT reporters Feb. 15, also would provide for an \$80 million increase in the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP).

Melody Barnes, director of the White House Policy Council, reviewed provisions that specifically impact LGBT Americans, and Jeffrey S. Crowley, director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy, discussed the provisions in the spending plan that impact people living with HIV/AIDS.

The president's proposed \$3.7 trillion budget, presented to Congress Feb. 14, would include increased funding for the Justice Department's community relations service to tackle hate crimes, Barnes said.

Additionally, the budget would increase funding by \$18 million for the EEOC to enforce anti-discrimination regulations.

Another \$132 million is

'There is much good news for the HIV community in this budget.'

in the budget for Education Department grants to support school campaigns against bullying.

Barnes also said the president remains committed to providing gay federal employees with the same benefits as heterosexual employees, including health, survivor, life insurance and relocation benefits.

"The presidential budget maintains funding for HIV/AIDS programs at Housing and Urban Development and Justice. It increases discretionary domestic HIV/AIDS funding at Health and Human Services and Veterans Affairs."

"There is much good news for the HIV community in this budget," Crowley said. "The president is putting forward a responsible budget to enable the nation to win the future. He is also putting forward a

budget that clearly demonstrates his determination to help the nation achieve the goals of the national HIV/AIDS strategy."

The budget, Crowley said, proposes increases in HIV/AIDS funding for the U.S. Centers for Disease Prevention and Control, including \$20.4 million for programs specifically aimed at reaching gay and bisexual men.

"The president stayed true to his commitment," said Daniel C. Montoya, executive director of the National Minority AIDS Council in Washington, D.C. "Particularly promising is the increase of \$80 million put forward for the nation's AIDS Drug Assistance Programs, which have faced a catastrophic funding crisis, resulting in wait lists and enrollment caps in several states across the country."

Both Barnes and Crowley alluded to the president's overall budget and a coming fight over spending priorities in the House and Senate.

"This document is built around the simple idea that we have to live within our means so we can invest in the future," Crowley said.

The message that accompanied the president's bud-



PHOTO: WHITE HOUSE/PETE SOUZA

President Barack Obama meets with senior staff at the White House earlier this year.

get to Congress read, in part, "The fiscal realities we face require hard choices. A decade of deficits, compounded by the effects of the recession and the steps we had to take to break it, as well as the chronic failure to confront difficult decisions, has put us on an unsustainable course. That's why my budget lays out a path for how we can pay down these debts and free the American economy from their burden."

Obama's budget proposed a five-year overall freeze on discretionary spending out-

side of security to save more than \$400 billion, a freeze on federal salaries, personnel layoffs, a five-year \$78 billion reduction in funding at the Department of Defense and the eventual elimination of the Bush era tax cuts for families earning more than \$250,000.

Investments, the president said, would be in infrastructure projects, energy and technological innovations and higher education.

Gay users applaud new Facebook enhancements

By Jocelyn Noveck

AP writer

Jay Lassiter is no longer "in a relationship."

Let's clarify that: Lassiter, a media adviser for political campaigns who lives in Cherry Hill, N.J., is still with his partner of nearly eight years, Greg Lehmkuho. But since Feb. 18, when Facebook expanded its romantic-status options, Lassiter's profile there echoes his relationship's legal status: "in a domestic partnership."

It may not be a life-altering change. After all, you can call yourself anything you want on a social network. And Facebook is merely that.

But, Lassiter notes: "I'm no different from all those other Facebook users whose identity is tied up with their Facebook pages, for better or for worse."

And so, he says: "It's high time. It's an affirming gesture. It's sort of one tiny step for gays, but a giant leap for gay rights."

Facebook's addition of civil unions and domestic partnerships to the list of

relationships its users can pick from came after talks with gay rights organizations, including GLAAD, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

The social network has "sent a clear message in support of gay and lesbian couples to users across the globe," said GLAAD president, Jarrett Barrios. "By acknowledging the relationships of countless loving and committed same-sex couples in the U.S. and abroad, Facebook has set a new standard of inclusion for social media."

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"You go into a store and there are 27 kinds of soda, and sometimes it would be easier if there were just Coke and Pepsi," explains Erik Rueter, who works in marketing at an educational nonprofit institution in

Pittsburgh.

To Rueter, the essence of his relationship is crystal clear: He and his partner, Robb, will be together forever. "We complete each other's sentences," he says. "We'll be sitting there in the nursing home, gumming up each other's food, chasing each other in our wheelchairs."

Two years ago, Rueter, 34, proposed to his partner on bended knee, despite the fact that in Pennsylvania they cannot marry. They've been engaged ever since, and that's

been his Facebook status — until earlier this month, when he changed it to domestic partnership.

But Rueter is conflicted about the change.

"Part of me wants to go back to 'engaged' — because I still am," he says. "Part of me wants to say 'married,' as in, 'I don't care what the law says.' And part of me says, 'It's just Facebook!'"

And then another part of Rueter tells him just how powerful and influential Facebook is, with well over 500 million users across the globe. "Just having the option to say, 'This is what my relationship is' is a really good thing," he says.

In the United States, there is a passionate debate over gay marriage. Lassiter, the campaign adviser from New Jersey, changed his status from "in a relationship" to "married" last year in an act of political defiance, he says, when the state legislature rejected a bid to recognize gay marriage.

But it just didn't feel right, and he changed it back to "in

a relationship" months later. Besides the fact that "married" wasn't accurate, "I'm not really the marrying type," he says. "Me and my partner have an equilibrium as things are."

But "in a relationship" made it sound like a high-school relationship, rather than one that's lasted a number of years.

So the new status feels better, says Lassiter. And he's been encouraged by the positive feedback he's gotten on just the first day from Facebook friends — including people from as far back as high school — giving him a thumbs-up.

Lassiter also thinks the change is most important for gay people — especially younger ones — living in areas of the country where their sexual orientation is less accepted than in the liberal Northeast.

"For those people, it legitimizes being in a gay relationship," he says.

And so, maybe a social network can be something of an agent of social change.

After all, Lassiter says, "As Facebook goes, so goes the world."

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ACLU SUPPORTS UNIVERSITY IN COUNSELING DISPUTE

The American Civil Liberties Union on Feb. 11 filed a friend-of-the-court brief supporting Eastern Michigan University's right to remove from its counseling program a graduate student who refused to counsel LGBT clients during her clinical training.

EMU's counseling program requires its graduate students to adhere to the American Counseling Association's Code of Ethics, which prohibits counselors from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation or imposing their personal beliefs on clients.

"LGBT students in crisis should be able to turn to a school counselor for help without fearing rejection or judgment," said James Esseks, director of the ACLU Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Project. "Guidance counselors have a duty to treat all students fairly and professionally regardless of who the students are or what issues they are grappling with."

NATIONAL BRIEFS

Ward previously asked a district court to require the university to allow her to participate in the university's counseling program while refusing to work with gay clients.

The court denied her request.

The ACLU asked the federal appeals court to affirm the lower court's decision.

BOY DONATES TO LGBT EQUALITY CAUSE

A 7-year-old boy recently donated \$70 – half of his grandmother's gift to him – to the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest LGBT civil rights group.

The boy, identified as Malcolm in a HRC release, received from his grandmother \$20 for each year of his life to give to the charity of his choice. The child decided to split the money between HRC and another organization in Los Angeles.

The boy's letter to HRC read, "My name is Malcolm. I'm 7 years old. I'm sending you

this money because I don't think it's fair that gay people are not treated equally."

UA BOARD REJECTS ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

University of Alaska president Pat Gamble recommended adding sexual orientation as a protected status under the system's non-discrimination policies.

Some UA students and employees have lobbied for years to amend the policy to include LGBT people.

The proposed amendment, however, was rejected by regents at their meeting in Anchorage in February.

The change would have added "sexual orientation" to a list of other protected categories in the existing non-discrimination policies.

SCHOOL DISTRICT, STUDENT TEACHER SETTLE COMPLAINT

An Oregon school district has agreed to pay \$75,000

to settle a discrimination complaint by a student teacher temporarily reassigned last fall for talking to a fourth-grader about gay marriage.

The district and Seth Stambaugh said earlier this month that they reached a settlement after mediation.

The Oregonian reported that the school district also agreed to "provide leadership training concerning issues related to sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression."

Stambaugh's lawyer said he will finish his nine-month internship at Sexton Mountain Elementary School in June and plans to graduate this summer from Lewis & Clark College.

MARRIED MOMS OK ON BIRTH CERTIFICATES

Two women can now be named as mothers on birth certificates without a court order in Maryland.

In a letter to birth registrars Feb. 10, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene stated that beginning no later than March 1, a woman can be named as a

parent of a child born to her same-sex spouse. Previously, a same-sex female spouse had to obtain a court order to be named as a parent.

If a woman who delivers a child indicates that she is married, then registrars will enter that spouse's information into the vital records system, regardless of gender.

The change is a response to Maryland Attorney General Doug Gansler's opinion last year that state agencies should recognize out-of-state gay marriages until the legislature or courts decide otherwise. Maryland law defines marriage as between a man and woman.

LAMBDA ARGUES FOR ARIZONA PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS

Arizona has no valid reason for placing lesbian and gay employees on a lower pay scale than heterosexuals, a Lambda Legal attorney recently told a three-judge panel of the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The oral arguments were part of a case to block a law stripping domestic partner benefits from gay and lesbian

state employees.

"This is an issue of equal pay for equal work," said Tara Borelli, the Lambda Legal staff attorney who argued the case. "Arizona's gay employees clock in at the same jobs ... and deserve the same compensation."

Lambda Legal represents 10 state employees – including workers with Arizona's Highway Patrol Division, Game and Fish Department and state universities – who rely on health benefits from their employers to safeguard their families' health.

Arizona lawmakers included a provision eliminating family health coverage for gay state employees as part of a last-minute budget deal signed by Gov. Janice Brewer in 2009, while retaining family health coverage for heterosexual workers.

Last July, U.S. District Judge John Sedwick recognized the unequal and severe hardship the law creates for gay workers and granted a preliminary injunction blocking the law from taking effect.

Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard appealed the injunction.

– from WiG and AP reports

United Kingdom to revamp gay partnership laws

British media reported earlier this month that the government is preparing to erase some of the last remaining distinctions between gay partnership and traditional marriage – allowing gay couples to tie the knot in churches in ceremonies that may be officially known as marriages.

Britain's Home Office declined comment on the reports, but indicated that an announcement would be made soon.

Marriage and civil part-

'This is a very important step forward for many lesbian and gay people of faith.'

nership are already virtually identical under British law, but because same-sex

unions are carried out by government registrars, the ceremony must take place in a public building and religious references are banned.

Unsurpassed reports in the BBC and British newspapers said the government's equalities minister Lynne Featherstone was preparing to propose a move that would allow gay couples to get hitched in religious ceremonies and at religious venues. Many reports raised the possibility that such ceremonies would be officially known as marriages.

"This is a very important step forward for many lesbian and gay people of faith and an important issue of religious freedom," said Ben Summerskill of Stonewall, the United Kingdom's largest LGBT civil rights group. "It will, we believe, serve as a significant step forward towards extending the legal form of marriage to gay people."

The effects of such a change would likely be mostly symbolic.

Britain's civil partnership law, introduced in 2005,

already gives gay couples the same legal protection, adoption and inheritance rights as heterosexual married partners. And religious organizations would not be forced to allow gays to marry. The Church of England, for example, has already said it would not allow its buildings to be used for same sex weddings, no matter what they are called. The Catholic Church and British Muslim groups remain strongly opposed to same sex unions of any kind.

But some faiths – Quakers, Unitarians, and more liberal Jewish groups – might be open to hosting gay partnership ceremonies.

If the law is changed, Britain would join a number of countries that call same-sex ceremonies "marriages." The Netherlands, Canada, Belgium, Portugal and Spain do so already, while Germany, France, Austria and Switzerland have laws similar to Britain's.

– from AP and WiG reports

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INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

BOTSWANA POLITICIAN DEFENDS ANTI-GAY COMMENTS

A prominent Botswana politician is defending anti-gay comments he made, despite criticism from rights groups in the southern African country.

Deputy Speaker Pono Motloadi disparaged gays late last month during a meeting organized by AIDS groups on the subject of preventing the spread of HIV in prisons. In an interview this week with The Associated Press, he called homosexuality "a culture away from our culture."

Gay rights activist Lorraine Setuke calls Motloadi's comments "barbaric."

Motloadi's views are not uncommon on this conservative continent. Botswana is among dozens of African countries with anti-gay laws, though prosecutions here are rare.

POLISH PARTY CONDEMNS MEMBER FOR ANTI-GAY REMARK

Poland's governing party has reprimanded a lawmaker in its ranks for an anti-gay remark and moved to punish him.

Tomasz Tomczykiewicz, Civic Platform's parliamentary leader, condemned the recent remarks by Robert Wegrzyn, calling them "stupid" and "irresponsible." He filed a formal complaint demanding that Wegrzyn be punished and fined.

ISRAEL: GERMAN PARTNER OF ATTACK VICTIM CAN STAY

Israel has put a stay on plans to expel the German partner of an Israeli killed in a 2009 shooting at a community center in Tel Aviv.

Thomas Schmidt, 27, began the bureaucratic process of

registering himself as the partner of an Israeli citizen in 2008. But less than a year later, a masked gunman opened fire at a meeting of gay and lesbian youth and killed two Israelis, including Schmidt's partner, Nir Katz, 26.

It was the worst assault against Israel's gay community. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pledged to bring the killer to justice, while other Israeli leaders vowed efforts to promote

tolerance toward gays and lesbians in Israel.

Police continue to search for the assailant.

Schmidt, who has lived in Israel since 2004, wishes to remain in the country, said Nirit Moskovich of the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, which represents Schmidt. He has grown close to the family of his slain Israeli partner and does not maintain contact with his family in Germany, Moskovich said.

Sabine Hadad, a spokeswoman for Israel's Interior Ministry, said Schmidt's case was brought last year before a special humanitarian committee, which ruled that Schmidt could extend his stay in Israel for nine months only.

But in mid-February, under pressure from the family and LGBT activists, Schmidt received an extension on his temporary visa.

– from AP reports

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CAR TROUBLE

Lisa Mercedes and Minnie Cooper idle at the 2011 Chicago Auto Show

By Greg Shapiro and Rick Karlin

Special to WIG

"What's our assignment today, Minnie?"
 "Who do you think we are, 'Charlie's Angels'? Our editor wants a report about the 2011 Chicago Auto Show. We're looking for cars with LGBT appeal."
 "I don't know nothin' about drivin' no cars."
 "Lisa, would you look at that? The Toyota exhibit is right near the entrance."
 "There's an example of product placement. How much do you think they paid for that?"
 "More than we'll ever see. Speaking of more, there's the new Prius wagon."

"Toyota has hot models."

"Are you talking about the cars, Lisa?"

"No, I'm talking about the models. I'd like to touch his screen to explore and discover."



"Would you look at the rear on that one?"

"That's the new Fiat 500, Minnie."

"I wasn't talking about the car."



"Is that Ursula the Sea Witch's ride?"

"No, that's a tricked-out Scion."



"Talk about turning over a new Leaf."

"Girl, I wish my husband had zero emissions."

"The Nissan Leaf is better than a husband. You just have to plug it in."



"Lisa, do you think the Kia Soul is kind of gay?"

"Maybe if you're a hamster."



"That CT 200h Lexus Hybrid is sure sexy."

"I went to cosmetology school with Alexis Hybrid."



"Did you know I lost my virginity in the back seat of a Camaro?"

"You did? I lost mine in the front seat. Stick shift!"



"Minnie, I think I found the gayest car at the 2011 Chicago Auto Show. The Hyundai Curb concept."



"Why do you say that, Lisa?"

"Look at those doors! You could get in and out of that vehicle in a hoop skirt and tiara and never have to worry about a thing."

"Lisa, I learned an important lesson today. Gear heads are cute."

"That's funny, I was just going to say that if you ever feel bad about the way you look, just go to the auto show."

"Or the state fair."

Wisconsin
Gazette.com

WIGOUT!

WISCONSIN GAZETTE ENTERTAINMENT

Interview

GREGG SHAPIRO

"Delancey Street" (Mpress), the ninth album by prolific out singer/songwriter and queen of the keyboard Rachael Sage, might be her most fully realized and rewarding effort. Its songs illustrate why Sage's following continues to grow in leaps and bounds.

On "Hope's Outpost," "Everything Was Red" and "Back To Earth," she succeeds in making the personal universal. Meanwhile, Sage offers sage advice on such songs as "Big Star," "Brave Mistake" or "Wasn't It You."

Check out Sage on Logo, where her video for the song "Big Star" is in heavy rotation. During the week of Feb. 14, it was shining brightly at No. 3 on The Click List.

Gregg Shapiro: Like Ani DiFranco and her Righteous Babe label, you've released records on your MPress Records label from the beginning. You've also put out the "New Arrivals" artists compilations for a few years. How does it feel to be a music mogul?

Rachael Sage: (Laughs) Well, obviously it made me laugh for you to use the word mogul. But, I don't really think of it that way. I sort of feel like I just get these crazy ideas in my head, and then I become kind of possessed by them and they don't let me go. So I have my obsessive-compulsive disorder to thank. I would like to take this moment to thank her (laughs). Her name is Natasha, and every Shabbat I say a little prayer for her, and I hope that she never gets cured.

I just think that I am really lucky that I am able to pursue something that I love doing so much ... which is to perform and to bring other artists together and keep building this community. I'm pretty damn lucky.

GS: Usually the cover tunes you include on your discs are by queer or indie musicians. One of the covers you did for "Delancey Street," which is



'STREET' SINGER

an interview with queen of the keyboard Rachael Sage

available as a bonus download on iTunes, is a reinterpretation of "Fame." Why did you choose that song?

RS: Last year, I had a much older song called "Too Many Women" picked to be in the remake of "Fame." That came out last year, and it didn't do quite as well as we had hoped. But it was such an exciting thing for me to have a song picked for a big, mainstream release like that.

I was a huge fan of the

original film "Fame" and also the TV show. Coco and Leroy felt like my slightly more than imaginary friends (laughs). In a way I felt like I was kind of raised with the dream of going to a school like that and being part of that world. When I got (the) opportunity, I decided to not only perform that older song, "Too Many Women," from my album "Public Record," but to also do the cover to thank the folks at Lakeshore

(Records) for picking me.

I performed it when I went to L.A., and I played Hotel Café, which is near where Lakeshore's headquarters are. Then my band was like, "You have to keep doing this! Everybody went crazy. Everyone was singing along and yelling out the word 'fame' in the chorus." It was kind of campy, but ... I think it is a beautiful song, and I think slowing it down and playing it in the way that I did

helped me recognize that, which is always fun.

GS: "How I Got By" makes reference to Esther Williams and "Everything Was Red" contains a reference to Judy Garland. Are you sure you're not a gay man trapped in a lesbian's body?

RS: Wait, wait, did you just say what I think you said? Because, if so, the answer is "yes" (laughs). And you are not the first person to make this observation. My

tour manager is constantly reminding me that is the case, and I am often lamenting that I haven't been invited yet to perform on a gay men's cruise ship, and I am wondering what I have to do.

GS: You use the word "I chain," which means "to life" in Hebrew, in the song "Wasn't It You" and recently the Black Eyed Peas included the phrase "mazel tov" in their song "I Gotta Feeling."

RS: Did they really?

GS: Yes! Do you think that this could be the beginning of a trend in which Hebrew phrases make appearances in pop songs?

RS: I think it absolutely could be. But I have mixed feelings about this. Cirque du Soleil has their new show "Banana Sheel." My show at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival last summer was called "Sequins & Shpiel." They have this trademark after "Banana Sheel," which debuted well after my show, but they're huge and I'm tiny. So does that mean I'm not allowed to use mine anymore? This could become like a whole crazy lawsuit if I try to revive my show "Sequins & Shpiel." We'll see.

GS: Queer musicians, such as Gregory Douglass and Allison Cornell, perform with you on your disc. Is it important for you to include out musicians?

RS: It's important for me to include out musicians and queer people in my life. I think that's just a natural extension of that. Most musicians will tell you that half the people in their band are there because they met them first as people and they liked hanging out with them, or they're people with whom they are touring and they become buddies. Then they discover that they play three instruments. If you can't get along with and hang with and enjoy the company of the people with whom you are being creative, you're in trouble. It's a long process. The people that you mentioned in particular and others, they're just people that I love and whose work I admire. I don't know why I would want to make any other choices in the studio than I do in my life.

PHOTO OP

By Debra Brehmer

Contributing writer

“The Truth is Not in the Mirror: Photography and a Constructed Identity”

is a survey of contemporary portrait photography, running through May 22 at the Haggerty Museum of Art on Marquette's campus.

Filling every cranny of the museum's main exhibition space, this ambitious project capitalizes on museum director Wally Mason's expertise in photography.

Plan to spend some time. You will need to journey at a snail's pace — looking, reading and looking again. The underlying theme of the show is that the portrait has lost its workaday goal of mere representation. The contemporary portrait carries the self-knowledge of artificiality and the limits of its means.

While she is not represented in the exhibition, the artist Cindy Sherman surely opened the door to these 23 photographers. Sherman was the first photographer to cross the great divide between picture taking and art making in the 1970s. She did it on the back of the portrait by creating cinematic tableaux of herself in fictive settings. Sherman's work spoke of gender, media, identity and perception.

Rather than using Sherman, however, the Haggerty anchors notions of a constructed self with a different forefather — David Hockney. More of a formalist, Hockney's

photographic collages of the 1980s use many individual pictures like playing cards to assemble a whole composition. Hockney suggests that the truth of perception is more accurately rendered as fractured parts, full of gaps, seams, stops and starts and random focal points.

When viewing the exhibition, it helps to think of the various works occupying a continuum. Reality, mimesis, veracity, documentation (whatever you want to call it), sits at one end. Total fabrication lies at the other. The tension between the two becomes the subject of much of the work.

Alec Soth, the young Minneapolis photographer who is now represented by Gagosian, anchors the far end of the scale. Soth remains a documentarian, crossing the country snaring elegant portraits of American life. He has a room of his own in this show, and it feels like a safe house. We land in Soth-land grounded in a straight-shooter's love of looking. Old-school stuff.

Outside of Soth's realm, things get topsy-turvy. The Netherlandish photographer Rineke Dijkstra seems to be making very direct portraits of adolescent girls, but she removes them from a context and poses them stark and frontal in a park. Their towering, flat engagement with the camera heightens self-consciousness. Bled of narrative, these images generate momentum as encounters between viewed and

viewer, making us aware of our passive-aggressive gaze.

Australian photographer Graham Miller seems to be taking documentary road-trip photographs, stolen glimpses of isolated humanity. But no, we learn that the scenes are staged. He is interpreting the American landscape through the filter of Raymond Carver stories, suggesting the layered way that knowledge and personal experience color our perceptions.

Much of the work in the show explores this paradox of how the staged image can offer “more truth” than the supposed straight image. Tina Barney has long used her privileged upbringing as source material. She photographs wealthy people in domestic settings and art directs the shoots. The large-scale of her work frames status the way neo-classical history paintings did. But her subject matter stays rooted to the family snapshot. Formally, Barney romps in all the trappings that define wealth, questioning how it shapes or deforms us, physically and psychologically.

Kelli Connell, by twinning herself as characters in mise-en-scene, makes visible our multiple and fluctuating sense of identity. Philip-Lorca diCorcia photographs random street scenes, but we learn that focused moments of his seemingly mundane images are staged.

Claire Beckett reverses all this role playing by taking very straightforward portraits of real soldiers who are actually wearing costumes to play roles in elaborate military training exercises. For example, a female Marine poses with her arm blown off. Rest assured, it's all pretend, part of a facsimile battle exercise in preparation for deployment to Iraq. Here the pretend holds more veracity than the actual, because the images carry the full weight of the necessary departure from sanity or known reality required by war.

Because ideas about perception and truth are so complex and deeply embedded in the photographic experience, whether in 1839 or 2011, this exhibition floats almost too many ideas to adequately sort. The images

are compelling, but the concepts need unpacking.

Oddly, amid so many large-format, juicy, colorful, seamless prints (Thomas Ruff and Mickalene Thomas!), for me it was the black-and-white pictures that posited the most thoughtful mediations on truth, art, perception and the portrait. Perhaps we are so accustomed to glossy images being commercial inventions that the cheeky irony of these exercises, while interesting, often feels erroneous.

I'm not engaged by Jesse Burke's portfolio of re-tooled fashion or beer ads that addresses marketed notions of gender. I already detect the conceit in the actual ads. And likewise, I don't know if Nikki S. Lee's trope of dressing

Mirrors at Versailles and get up close with such masterpieces as van Gogh's “Starry Night” and Rembrandt's “Nightwatch.”

The ability to focus in with extraordinary detail is arguably the best feature. In a way it surpasses the detail seen in person, as museums are often crowded with fellow viewers and attentive security guards who would never let your eyes get this close to the art.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE ARTIST/LEHMANN MAUPIN GALLERY, NEW YORK
“Le déjeuner sur l'herbe, Les trois femmes noires” (2010) by Mickalene Thomas.

traits of real soldiers who are actually wearing costumes to play roles in elaborate military training exercises. For example, a female Marine poses with her arm blown off. Rest assured, it's all pretend, part of a facsimile battle exercise in preparation for deployment to Iraq. Here the pretend holds more veracity than the actual, because the images carry the full weight of the necessary departure from sanity or known reality required by war.

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There are drawbacks, however. The navigation can be clunky, and the virtual movement through galleries feels absolutely ghostly as you float through empty spaces. Moreover, the museums in the project typically have only a few galleries available.

This website is no substitute for the experience of travel and face-to-face encounters, but is a fascinating diversion for an afternoon of art viewing.

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PHOTO: MARK FROHNA

Betsy Skowbo, Drew Brhel and C. Michael Wright.

‘Mauritius’ cast spins riveting suspense

Theater

HARRY CHERKINIAN

When it comes to collecting stamps, mistakes and errors augment the value — a paradox that's at the center of Theresa Rebeck's intriguing thriller “Mauritius.” Her background in writing television crime dramas is evident in both the atmosphere and dialogue of the play, which receives riveting treatment at Milwaukee Chamber Theatre.

“Mauritius” refers to a small island nation off the southeast coast in Africa. In 1847, the island became the fifth location worldwide and the first British colony to issue postage stamps. But the engraver mistakenly put “Post Office” instead of “Post Paid” on the 1- and 2-cent stamps featuring the head of a young Queen Victoria.

Out of this simple mistake, Rebeck has fashioned a complex drama about “two tiny little slips of paper, so small that they barely exist,” but are worth millions of dollars in today's stamp-collecting marketplace.

After their mother dies, Jackie and her much older half-sister Mary discover their grandfather's stamp collection. Behind Mary's back,

Jackie decides to quickly cash in on the stamps and gets mixed up with a group of foul-mouthed, male con artists. When they discover the Mauritius stamps in her possession, the chase is on to see who will out-con the other to get the prize.

The desperate younger sister Jackie will stop at nothing, although the stamps actually belong to the self-righteous Mary. Sterling, the thuggish brute of a collector, will also do whatever's needed to win. Throw in the scheming charmer who pulls them all together and a distrustful stamp expert, and this motley crew of characters could populate a David Mamet play (sheer number of expletives included).

Director and Milwaukee native Andrew Volker makes the very most of Rebeck's story with an intensity of pacing and energetic bursts of dialogue and action that keep the audience rapt for two hours and 10 minutes (there's a 15-minute intermission to breathe and prepare for the second act's denouement). Scenic designer J. Branson creates a spot-on drab, forlorn atmosphere for the stamp store and its dubious characters, moving the sets fluidly between a home and coffee shop setting.

And in this play, “damage” carries a great deal of value for some, a great loss for others. It all depends on what you value.

engaging crime caper. Betsy Skowbo as older sister Mary and C. Michael Wright as the world weary shopkeeper provide stable contrasts to the extreme mood swings, literally and figuratively, of younger sister Jackie (an excellent performance by UWM student Sara Zientek) and the madman Sterling, played to sinister perfection by local stage veteran Drew Brhel. Jonathan Wainwright navigates the difficult middle ground as middle man Dennis, a judicious balance between faux confident con man and nervous henchman.

“There is damage there,” says Dennis while eyeing Jackie in her desperate attempt to sell the stamps. “Damage.”

And in this play, “damage” carries a great deal of value for some, a great loss for others. It all depends on what you value.

ON STAGE

“Mauritius” runs through March 13 in the Studio Theatre at the Broadway Theater Centre, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800 or go to www.milwaukeechambertheatre.com.

But it's the ensemble cast that makes “Mauritius” an

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Artwatch

KAT MURRELL

If you're looking for some art experiences outside of the usual places, here are some interesting venues to explore:

Art Bar, 722 E. Burleigh St., is the place to be Thursday, Feb. 24, for an illustrated talk called “Let the good times roll! A short history of

alcohol in art,” presented by Graeme Reid, assistant director of the Museum of Wisconsin Art. Witty, irreverent and deeply insightful, Reid explores images of imbibing in modern art. The event is presented by Portrait Society Gallery (director Debra Brehmer is a WiG contributor) and Fine Line Magazine. Reid speaks at 6:30 p.m.

The new publication Fine Line Magazine hosts a launch party for “Issue Two: Act Accordingly” on Feb. 25, with a reception from 7 to 11 p.m. above The Irish Pub, 124 N. Water St. Fine Line, a quarterly journal edited by artists and curators at Cassandra Smith and Jessica Steeber, features an international slate of changing artists. Largely pictorial, the magazine combines images of drawings, paintings, and photographs, interspersed with choice text. The focus of the magazine is not criti-

Stellar performances propel 'Barney's Version'

Film

GREGG SHAPIRO

Barney Panofsky (Paul Giamatti, who won a Golden Globe for his performance) isn't the most likeable guy. Married and divorced three times, he is the very definition of unlucky in love.

Barney's first marriage to pregnant Clara (Rachelle Lefevre) in Rome in the early 1970s ends abruptly after the discovery that he isn't the father of her stillborn baby and she commits suicide.

Back in Montreal, where his widowed, retired cop father Izzy (Dustin Hoffman) lives, Barney marries again,



PHOTO: COURTESY

Paul Giamatti and Dustin Hoffman shine in "Barney's Version."

this time to a well-bred and highly educated woman who is simply identified as the second Mrs. P. (Minnie Driver). But this marriage is doomed from the start for

several reasons, not the least of which is that Barney falls helplessly in love with Miriam (Rosamund Pike) at the wedding reception. He even follows her to the train station on his wedding night in lieu of performing his husbandly duties.

Barney's pursuit of Miriam doesn't end then and naturally puts quite a strain on his marriage. But Barney's closest friend in the world, a junkie named Bernard (Scott Speedman) inadvertently supplies Barney with the escape hatch that he needs. Tragically, Bernard also mysteriously disappears, leaving a cloud of suspicion hanging over Barney's head. As if Barney didn't have enough

trouble, a detective named O'Hearne (Mark Addy) is determined to prove that Barney is responsible for Bernard's disappearance.

Once free of his second wife, Barney embarks on the greatest romantic relationship of his life with third wife Miriam. Of course, he wouldn't be Barney Panofsky, head of Truly Unnecessary Productions, if he didn't find a way to screw it up.

Richard J. Lewis's film adaptation of the Mordecai Richler novel is a marvelous and refreshing dramatic comedy with exceptional performances, in particular by Giamatti and Pike.

Read more WiG at www.wisconsin Gazette.com.

Sexually charged "Kaboom" fails to detonate

Queer filmmaker Gregg Araki ("The Living End") reached a career high with his 2004 film adaptation of Scott Heim's novel "Mysterious Skin." That movie was significant, not only because Araki looked to the well-stocked shelves of contemporary gay lit for inspiration, but also for the maturity with which he handled the subject material.

But his latest film "Kaboom" is a return to his earlier interest in sex-obsessed youth, made popular in titles such as "Nowhere," "The Doom Generation" and "Splendor."

In "Kaboom," sexually "undeclared" film-studies-major Smith (Thomas Dekker) begins having recurring nightmares after mov-

ing into his freshman college dorm. In the dreams, he's walking naked down a hallway.

His sexual frustration could stem from rooming with Thor (Chris Zylka), an oversexed straight blond surfer dude. Or it could be due to the cryptic messages from pothead R.A. The Messiah (James Duval) or the anonymous ones being slipped under Smith's door.

Or maybe it's Smith's self-involved and distant mother (Kelly Lynch), whose short cellphone calls are enough to give anyone nightmares.

Smith's lesbian partner in crime Stella (Haley Bennett, who practically steals the show), is an art major and the comic relief. But she has

her own issues, the main one being Lorelei (Roxane Mesquida), her spell-casting witch of a girlfriend. With Stella otherwise occupied, Smith embarks on a relationship with Fez-wearing London (Juno Temple), who likes having sex with gay guys.

But then Smith's hallucinations begin. There's a red-haired girl named Madeleine (Nicole LaLiberte) in a few of them. There are also men in animal masks in others. Between the dreams and hallucinations and sexual confusion, Smith seems headed for a downfall. Then his absentee cult-leader father, who Smith assumed was dead, surfaces and an apocalypse looms large, as Smith discovers his true identity.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Chris Zylka is the stuff of dreams in "Kaboom."

Araki appears to have fun with this very original material, making fun of cults and

college life (a sort of cult in itself). But it's all disposable and far from memorable.

Note: "Kaboom" is available as a Video On Demand selection.

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Music

GREGG SHAPIRO

SARAH MCLACHLAN

Divorce and ending a once loving relationship are ugly and painful processes. As if we needed to be reminded of that, "Laws of Illusion" (Arista), the most difficult album of Sarah McLachlan's career, drives the point home over the course of a dozen tracks. A long way from "Fumbling Towards Ecstasy," "Laws of Illusion" opens with "Awakenings," on which McLachlan sings about how "cracks began to show as soon as things got hard," and it's more or less downhill from there. The disc's saving grace is McLachlan. Her vocal style elevates the subject above the potential dirge-like affair that could have been.

KT TUNSTALL

In many ways, KT Tunstall is the opposite of McLachlan, and not just because of the difference in vocal qualities. Tunstall takes her tough-

cookie persona to new and astounding heights on her third album "Tiger Suit" (Virgin/Relentless), easily surpassing the achievements of her first two studio recordings.

The disc gets off to a roaring start with "Uummannaq Song," which has an enticing beat and a message of empowerment. The appealing rhythms don't let up on "Glamour Puss," "Fade Like A Shadow" or "Come On, Get In." But Tunstall has more up her striped sleeve, as you can hear on the gorgeous closer "The Entertainer" and the easy-to-like "Difficulty."

SARA BAREILLES

Three years have passed since Sara Bareilles' major-label debut "Little Voice" was released, but that disc's hit single "Love Song" can still regularly be heard on the radio. That's saying something.

If you're looking for that song's equivalent on "Kaleidoscope Heart" (Epic), you might not find it. Instead of attempting to mimic her earlier hit, Bareilles chose to grow as a singer/songwriter. With tracks such as "Uncharted," "Gonna Get

Over You," "King of Anything" and "Breathe Again," Bareilles continues to develop her talent.

TRACY BONHAM AND PAULA COLE

In the 1990s, before there was a KT Tunstall or Sara Bareilles, there was Tracy Bonham and Paula Cole. Bonham and Cole made significant contributions to the music of that decade and continue to make music that is worthy of attention. Bonham's "Mast of Manhatta" (Engine Room), still finds her with violin in tow (check out "Big Red Heart" and "Josephine"), while Cole turns up the drama on "Ithaca" (Decca) on songs such as "Elegy," "The Hard Way" and "Somethin' I've Got To Say."

TIFT MERRITT

Tift Merritt brings a touch of twang to the party on "See You On The Moon" (Fantasy). That's not to say she's a regular Miranda Lambert or Carrie Underwood. On the contrary, Merritt doesn't get bogged down in the country swamp. On marvelous tunes such as "Mixtape,"

"The Things That Everybody Does" and "Papercut," she defies categorization. With "See You On The Moon," Merritt demonstrates the sky's the limit.

JANE MONHEIT

Chanteuse Jane Monheit has been working her way through the standards in the American songbook for 10 or so years. On "Home" (Emarcy) she touches on both familiar and lesser-known tunes and even shares the spotlight with guests John Pizzarelli (on "Tonight You Belong To Me") and Peter Eldridge ("It's Only Smoke"). The album's centerpiece is Monheit's heartfelt reading of "I'll Be Around."

KRISTINE W

Few dance music enthusiasts would dispute Kristine W's place in the pantheon of disco divas. But it's easy to understand how she might want to display her amazing talents in other ways.

On the double disc "Straight Up With A Twist" (Fly Again), the divine Miss W slows things down a bit and goes for a lounge feel. The concept is especially



PHOTO: COURTESY

Sarah McLachlan performs on March 11 at The Riverside in Milwaukee.

intriguing when we get to hear her originals, including "Stronger," "Feel What You Want" and "Wonder Of It All," in this setting.

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After 35 years, Rocky Horror still holds up

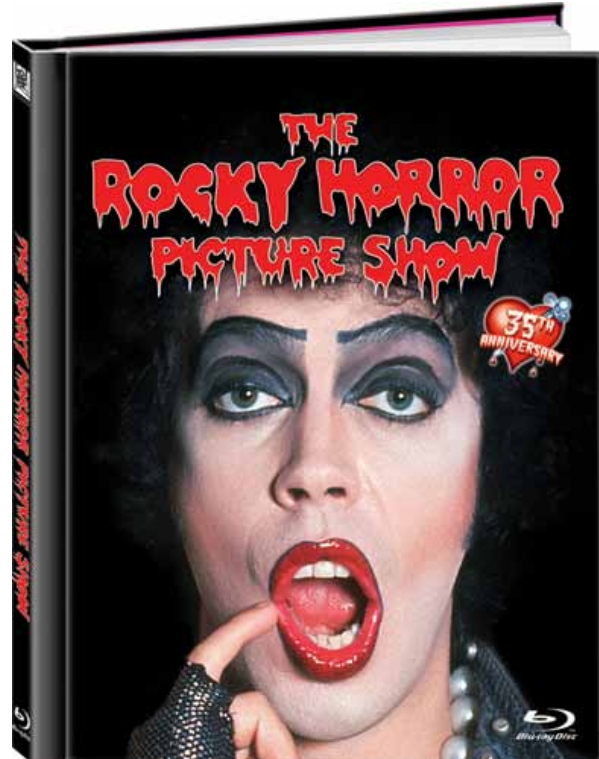
DVDiva

GREGG SHAPIRO

'THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW'

For its loyal fan base, the "Rocky Horror Picture Show" experience involves dressing up as characters from the movie and performing on stage as a shadowcast — not to mention talking back to the screen and filling pockets and purses with rice, playing cards, toast, rolls of toilet paper, squirt guns and other accoutrements to be flung at the screen at appropriate moments.

The 35th anniversary Blu-ray edition of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" (20th Century Fox) provides a more intimate viewing experience — and it's one that holds up well. The queer, proto-punk, camp, sci-fi, cannibal, midnight movie cult classic musical is entertaining to watch, with or without the



audience participation component.

The story of the innocent couple who undergoes a life-changing experience one stormy night in a castle

is both timeless and titillating. Richard O'Brien created a musical that features multiple deflowerings, alien incest, "Frankenstein" and "King Kong" homages, a

scantly clad, bleached blond, buffed monster named Rocky — and more than a touch of John Waters' sensibilities. And, of course, there are the unforgettable tunes, such as "The Time Warp," "Sweet Transvestite" and "Touch-A, Touch-A, Touch Me."

The film proved a significant career launching pad for Susan Sarandon (as virgin Janet), Barry Bostwick (as Janet's sexy nerd fiancé Brad), rocker Meat Loaf (as bad boy Eddie) and most importantly Tim Curry (as maniacal, cross-dressing, alien mad scientist Dr. Frank-N-Furter).

The Blu-ray includes extras in abundance, such as the United States and United Kingdom versions of the movie, restored film, deleted musical scenes and outtakes, "The Search for the 35th Anniversary Shadowcast" featurette and much more.

God bless Lili St. Cyr, indeed!

'FRUIT FLY'

Gay filmmaker H.P. Mendoza, who wrote and

starred in 2006's innovative and refreshing "Colma: The Musical," makes his directorial debut with another musical, "Fruit Fly" (TLA Releasing/ Ersatz). Bethesda (L.A. Renigen, who was so memorable as Maribel in "Colma") is a straight Filipina performance artist who moves into a San Francisco commune while she tries to find a theater to mount her show.

The house residents, including teen runaway Jacob (Aaron Zaragoza) and lesbian couple Karen (E.S. Park) and Sharon (Theresa



Navarro), are as colorful as those who lived at Armistead Maupin's 28 Barbary Lane. Unfortunately, they're not nearly as interesting. And it's hard to find anything likeable about these shallow, self-involved characters.

Bethesda becomes fast friends with gay housemate Windham (Mike Curtis), who is the least problematic character. But their friendship strains beneath the weight of Bethesda's oversized ego. Thank goodness there are whimsical musical numbers, featuring songs about fag hags, sexual proclivities and the quest for identity, to distract the viewer.

To say that "Fruit Fly" is a disappointment is an understatement. "Colma" is a movie that I still talk about and recommend to people on a regular basis. Regrettably, I'm not sure that I will be able to do the same for "Fruit Fly."

DVD special features include the behind the scenes featurette "Crew Fly," a "Fruit Fly Premiere" featurette and more.

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FEB. 24, THURSDAY

Moisés Kaufman and the Tectonic Theater Project's **"The Laramie Project"** plays tonight thru Saturday night (as well as March 2 thru 5) at 7:30 p.m. at Marquette University's Evan P. and Marion Helfaer Theatre, 525 N. 13th. Sunday matinees are offered Feb. 27 and March 6 at 2:30 p.m. Call 414-288-7504.

The revival of the rock musical **"Hair"** runs through Feb. 27 at Marcus Center For the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.

"Dinner with Friends" is presented by Madison Theatre Guild through March 5 at Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin.

The BoDeans**FEB. 25, FRIDAY**

High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, hosts a **Tret Fure CD release party** at 6:30 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

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

"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.

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.

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre presents **"Mauritius"** by Theresa Rebeck through March 13 at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Wisconsin's very own **BoDeans** play the Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood in Madison, at 8 p.m. Call 608-241-2345.

Danceworks Performance Company presents **"Vaudeville,"** tonight and tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. at Danceworks Studio Theatre, 1661 N. Water. Call 414-277-8480.

Internationally acclaimed soprano **Katarina Vovkova** performs a recital of famous opera arias tonight and tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. at Marcus Center For the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.

FEB. 26, SATURDAY

Art at the Threshold presents **"Jonna's Body, Please Hold,"** an award-winning, one-woman show about life before, during and after cancer at 1:30 p.m. at the Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood in Madison. Call 608-241-2345.

**FEB. 27, SUNDAY**

Spectators are welcome as the **Milwaukee Gay Volleyball Association** holds its spring tournament from 4 to 8:30 p.m. at Beulah Brinton Community Center, 2555 S. Bay in Bayview.

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

MARCH 1, TUESDAY**"Ma Rainey's Black Bottom"**

Marcus Center For the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State, presents **"My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish & I'm In Therapy,"** running through March 13. Call 414-273-2787.

"Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" by August Wilson runs through March 27 in the Quadracci Powerhouse at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.

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

MARCH 3, THURSDAY

UWM Dept. of Creative Writing presents poet **Matthew Zapruder**, author of "Come on All You Ghosts," at 7 p.m. in the Edith S. Hefter Conference Center, 3271 N. Lake Dr.

MARCH 4, FRIDAY

Ken Ludwig's adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's **"Treasure Island,"** runs through March 13 at The Racine Theatre Guild, 2519 Northwestern (Highway 38) in Racine. Call 262-633-4218.

Contemporary country legend **Rodney Crowell**, producer of recent discs by out artists Susan Werner and Chely Wright, performs at 8 p.m. at Turner Hall, 103 N. Fourth. Call 414-286-3663.

MARCH 5, SATURDAY

Milwaukee Public Library's Centennial Hall Loos Room, 733 N. Eighth, hosts a **Jane Austen and Vermeer lecture and tea** at 2 p.m.

MARCH 6, SUNDAY

A staged reading performance of **"The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later"** is performed at 7:30 p.m. at the Evan P. and Marion Helfaer Theatre on the campus of Marquette University, 525 N. 13th. Call 414-288-7504.

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

Held in the MSOE's Kern Center, 1245 N. Broadway, the **Rockabilly Chili Contest** is the ninth annual fundraiser for the non-profit, listener-supported WMSE (91.7 FM) radio. It features 45 restaurants, taverns, catering companies and cafes offering 56 varieties of chili (39 meat, 17 vegetarian/vegan), competing for people's choice awards in four categories. Visit brownpapertickets.com/event/141498 for tickets.

MARCH 7, MONDAY

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre presents a free reading of **"Among The Squirrels"** by Wisconsin-based playwright Eric Appleton at 7:30 p.m. at the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Orpheum Theatre, 216 State in Madison, presents **Girl Talk** at 8 p.m. Call 608-255-6005.

Sugar & Gold**MARCH 8, TUESDAY**

Gay dance duo **Sugar & Gold** is at High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, at 8 p.m. Call 608-268-1122. Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer, has **Ron Tanner**, author of "Kiss Me, Stranger" at 7 p.m. Call 414-332-1181.

Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave. in Appleton, presents **Acoustic Africa** at 8 p.m. Call 920-730-3760.

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

OUT & ABOUT**Wisconsin Gazette****STATEWIDE BAR AND ENTERTAINMENT VENUE LISTINGS****KENOSHA/RACINE**

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

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

JoDee's, 2139 Racine St., Racine, 262-634-9804.

MILWAUKEE

Art Bar, 722 Burleigh, 414-372-7880.

Ballgame, 196 S. Second St., 414-273-7474.

Boom & The Room, 625 S. Second St., 414-277-5040.

Boot Camp, 209 E. National Ave., 414-643-6900.

Fluid, 819 S. Second St., 414-643-5843.

Harbor Room, 117 E. Greenfield, 414-672-7988.

Hybrid, 707 E. Brady St., 414-810-1809.

JACK, 200 E. Washington St., 414-389-3596.

Kruz, 354 E. National Ave., 414-272-KRUZ.

LaCage, 801 S. Second St., 414-383-8330.

Mona's, 1407 S. First St., 414-643-0377.

Nut Hut, 1500 W. Scott, 414-647-2673.

Pump, (Sundays at Decibel), 1905 E. North Ave., 414-272-3337.

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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4124 River Road, 866-553-1818.

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FOX VALLEY

Rascals Bar & Grill, 702 E. Wisconsin, Appleton,

920-954-9262.

Ravens, 215 E. College Ave., Appleton, 920-364-9599.

Napalese, 1351 Cedar St., Green Bay, 920-432-9646.

SASS, 840 S. Broadway, Green Bay, 920-437-7277.

The Shelter, 730 N. Quincy St., Green Bay,

920-432-2662.

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

Debs Spare Time, 1303 Harrison St., Oshkosh,

920-235-6577.

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 contribute a listing, e-mail
managingeditor@wisconsin-gazette.com.

WIG'S TAIL-WAGGER
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Hope is a wonderful one-year-old American pitbull terrier mix. She is a favorite among the volunteers and staff because her enthusiasm for play is contagious. She loves to play catch, and she is a very focused, attentive dog who will likely excel in training classes. Her unusual coat is a myriad of colors – mahogany, honey, chocolate – with a bib of white. Like all the dogs and cats at WHS, Hope has been sterilized, micro-chipped and vaccinated.

TIP OF THE WEEK

With a \$50 donation, receive a pet photo shoot at Gloss Photography, one 8 x 10 photo and admission for two to the ProjectStella fundraiser from 6 to 9 p.m. on March 12 at Villa Filomena. Call 414-332-0195 to schedule a photo shoot through Feb. 28. All proceeds benefit WHS.

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MILWAUKEE ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

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

Cream City Squares, 414-445-8080, www.iagscd.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/psoc/programs/film/lgbtffilm.

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

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

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

COMMUNITY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Firebirds, P.O. Box 159, 53201.

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

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

Gemini Gender Group, P.O. Box 44211, 53214, 414-297-9328, 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.mkelgthist.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WanderWomyn Outdoors Group, debydoo2@yahoo.com.

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

Wauwatosa Rainbow Association, tosairainbow@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.arcwv.org, info@arcwv.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.mwccinc.org.

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

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

POLITICS

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

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

Human Rights League, 252 E. Highland Blvd., 53202, 414-445-5292, www.hrl-pac.org, hrlpac@yahoo.com.

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPORTS

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

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

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

Milwaukee Gay Volleyball League, www.milwaukeeegayvolleyball.com.

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

YOUTH/EDUCATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FOX VALLEY COMMUNITY

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

PFLAG-Appleton/Fox Cities, 740 Kensington Road, Neenah, 54956, 920-722-7145. Rainbow Over Wisconsin, 702 E. Wisconsin Ave., Appleton, WI 54911, www.rainbowoverwisconsin.org.

GREEN BAY COMMUNITY

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

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

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

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

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

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

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

MADISON ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

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

COMMUNITY

OutReach, 600 William St., Suite P1, Madison, 53703, 608-255-8582, www.lgbt Outreach.org, info@lgbt Outreach.org.

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

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

POLITICS

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

SPORTS

Madison Gay Hockey Association, www.madisongayhockey.org.

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

YOUTH/EDUCATION

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

RACINE/KENOSHA COMMUNITY

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

PFLAG-Racine/Kenosha, at the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin, 1456 Junction Ave., Racine, 53403, 262-664-4100, pflag@lgbtsewisc.org.

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

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

SPORTS

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

YOUTH/EDUCATION

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

OTHER

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

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

Online for you at www.wisconsinngazette.com.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

ONGOING

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

LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin drop-in hours, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tue., Wed. and Thurs.; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fri.; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sat., Racine.*

THURSDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY

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

4-7 p.m., fourth Friday, Happy Hour with Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin, rotating location in Milwaukee/Madison, www.ppawi.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY

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

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

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

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

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

SUNDAY

10:30 a.m., Al-Anon, The Galano Club, Milwaukee.*

10:30 a.m., AA Step/Topic meeting, The Galano Club, Milwaukee.*

1 p.m., Cream City Squares dances, Lake Park Lutheran Church, 2647 N. Stowell, Milwaukee.

7 p.m., AA The Big Book meeting, 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.m., Spectrum-Social and networking LGBT group, Harmony Cafe, Appleton.*

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

TUESDAY

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

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

Club, Milwaukee.*

6 p.m., third Tuesday, Fair Wisconsin Action Network of the Chippewa Valley, LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, Eau Claire.*

7 p.m., second Tuesday, lesbian reading group at Outwards Books, 2710 N. Murray Ave., 53211, 414-963-9089, www.outwardsbooks.com.

7 p.m., last Tuesday, Canasta night, SAGE Milwaukee.*

7 p.m., Spectrum GLBT and Allied social group for adults, Harmony Cafe, Appleton.*

7 p.m., Women's Voice Milwaukee rehearsal, 630-890-5984.

WEDNESDAY

6 p.m., first Wednesday, LGBT cancer networking group, Gilda's Club, 7907 UW Health Court, Middleton, 608-828-8880, www.gildasclubmadison.org

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

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

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

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