

NEW MOON

Gay Wisconsin filmmaker John Paul Collum talks about the latest installment in his gay horror canon. *Page 17*



THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

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Unlike Stone, Abele backs LGBT rights

POLITICAL ANALYSIS

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

In many ways, the race for Milwaukee County executive will be seen as a referendum on Scott Walker, who held the position before he was elected governor last November.

Republican state Rep. Jeff Stone vowed to continue the governor's policies before Walker's popularity fell in recent weeks. Stone's opponent Chris Abele, on the other hand, is a Democrat who's determined to bring change to the county board.

Abele and Stone were the top two vote getters in the non-partisan Feb. 15 primary, with Stone receiving 44 percent of the vote and Abele taking 25 percent in a five-way race. Stone was the only Republican on the ticket.

The two square off at the

polls on April 5 for a run-off election.

As previously reported in WiG ("Anti-gay state rep seeks top county job," Jan. 27), Stone has a solid anti-equality voting record in the Assembly. He was one of only 26 members to vote against school safety legislation to protect LGBT students from bullying and harassment.

Abele, on the other hand, fully supports LGBT civil rights, including marriage equality. Unlike Stone, who voted twice for the 2006 constitutional amendment that banned same-sex marriage and civil unions in Wisconsin, Abele supported efforts to kill the amendment.

"Chris Abele has been an ally of the LGBT community and was a strong opponent of the 2006 constitutional amendment," says Katie Belanger, executive director of Fair Wisconsin. "Fair Wisconsin was very grateful for his generous contribution."

The contrast between Abele and Stone extends well beyond their stances on equality. Stone is a veteran politician who's held legislative positions in local and state government since 1994. As a representative from conservative Greenfield, he's voted more or less in lock-step with the state's right-wing GOP leadership.

Abele, on the other hand, **ABELE** page 9



PHOTO: AP/ANDY MANIS

Filmmaker Michael Moore, center, makes his way through a crowd at the Capitol in Madison on March 5, the 18th day of protests over Gov. Scott Walker's effort to end collective bargaining rights for public unions. LGBT leaders and citizens have supported labor's fight.

Out for workers' rights

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Several hundred LGBT Wisconsinites and their allies marched with Fair Wisconsin Feb. 26 to show solidarity with union workers protesting Gov. Scott Walker's effort to strip them of collective bargaining rights.

"Why would Fair Wisconsin wade into a labor fight? Because our government should never be in the business of taking away people's rights," Fair Wisconsin executive director Katie Belanger told the cheering crowd gathered for a pre-march rally at Madison's Library Mall.

Out U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Madison, also addressed the rally. "I have never been so proud to be a Wisconsinite and to represent you in the U.S. Congress as I am now," she said. Baldwin compared the historic protests in Madison over the past several weeks to the state's leadership role in gaining voting rights for women.

Baldwin and Belanger warmed up shivering listeners with chants of "Show us what democracy looks like, this is what democracy looks like," before leading them down State Street toward the Capitol waving pro-labor signs.

"Stripping away (gay) people's rights, union busting, what's next – gas chambers?" asked Patty Thompson of Madison, who marched with Fair Wisconsin. "If we let this happen, who knows where it would stop?"

A state worker, Thompson said she's already taken off 14 full days without pay to help alleviate the strain on the state budget. She said it's wrong for Walker to take away collective bargaining rights after state workers already agreed to all the concessions he demanded from them.

Support for the protest-

ers, including LGBT support, seems to have increased as the battle has raged on. Despite 14-degree temperatures and light snow, the Feb. 26 demonstration attracted the largest crowd since the protests began more than three weeks ago, with various sources estimating between 70,000 and 100,000 participants. Not since the anti-war protests of the Vietnam era has Madison seen such large and sustained demonstrations.

Supported by progressives in all 50 states who have organized local demonstrations, Wisconsin pro- **PROTESTS** page 8

This issue

inside and online at wisconsin Gazette.com

News

- WiGWAG.....2
- Regional Gaze.....4
- National Gaze.....10
- Editorial.....12
- Faith Gaze.....14

Features

- WiGOUT.....17
- Art Gaze.....18
- Theater.....20
- On the Town.....28
- Community Events.....30

LGBT news with a twist



By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

OBSCENE NEAR NEW ORLEANS

A one-time pastor who campaigned against a gay festival in New Orleans alleging indecency and obscenity is now facing an obscenity charge. Grant Storms was arrested in late February after two women told police they saw him masturbating in a van parked near a playground in Jefferson Parrish. Storms told local TV news stations that he was in his van and his hands were in his pants, but he was not masturbating. Storms had once raged against a gay-themed party in New Orleans called Southern Decadence.

DON'T SAVE THE LAST DANCE

Christine O'Donnell, the former Senate candidate from Delaware who lived up the 2010 midterm elections, will not be living up the next run of "Dancing with the Stars." The new season, which begins in May, will feature Sugar Ray Leonard, Ralph Macchio, Hines Ward and Kirstie Alley. O'Donnell says she was

invited, but it seems the right-leaning Tea Party favorite has two left feet. She also posted on her website that she's at work on a book.

TWO MOMS X TWO

Marisel Licata and her partner Theresa Valone are the proud new parents of quadruplets. The upstate New York couple greeted their daughters - Olivia and Chloe - and their sons - Cody and Dustin - into the world on Feb. 6 via Cesarean section. Licata said the couple decided they wanted to have a sibling for their son Casey. After failing to become pregnant for 10 months, Licata tried ovarian stimulation.

CLANG BYE BYE

Grammy winner Buju Banton was convicted of federal drug charges related to his attempt to purchase \$135,000 worth of cocaine from an undercover DEA agent in 2009. The anti-gay Jamaican reggae star faces 15 years to life in prison. Banton has



been the target of fierce criticism for lyrics that advocate violence against gays in songs such as 1988's "Boom Bye Bye," in which he raps that gays "have to die" and he will "shoot them in the head" or "burn them."

IT'S ADAM AND TYRANNOSAURUS

A progressive blogger and another man who tried to go to a special event at Kentucky's Creation Museum said they were denied admission because they told security that they were a same-sex couple. The men bought tickets online for the "Date Night at the Creation Museum" event on Feb. 11 at the privately funded museum. It offers visitors a literal interpretation of the Bible, depicting how fundamentalists claim the world was created in six days about 6,000 - 10,000 years ago.

LOW PREMIUM

A federal judge on Feb. 22 threw out a lawsuit claiming that President Barack Obama's requirement that all Americans have

health insurance violates the religious freedom of those who rely on God to protect them. A district court judge dismissed a suit filed by the American Center for Law and Justice, a Christian legal group founded by televangelist Pat Robertson. The suit was filed on behalf of five Americans who can afford health insurance but have chosen not to buy it because that would indicate they need "a back-up plan and (are) not really sure whether God will, in fact, provide."

TOO MUCH COMMUNAL WINE?

A priest from Akron, Ohio, who was arrested after wrecking his car, went on a 20-minute drunken rant in his holding cell during which he offered to perform oral sex on officers in exchange for his release. The rant by the Rev. Ignatius Kury, who oversees the Holy Ghost Ukrainian Byzantine Catholic Church, was recorded on a video camera.

"I'll pay you whatever you want," he said. "What do you want, what do you want? Do you

want me to give you a blowjob? Do you want me to be like your sexual slave?"

FAUX TWEETS

Think you've been hearing "tweet, tweet tweet" from Patti Lupone? Well, you haven't. The two-time Tony Award winner tells Broadway.com that she doesn't have a Twitter account. So, who's been tweeting harshly about other stars - Glenn Close, Barbra Streisand and Bernadette Peters - in her name? Lupone doesn't know, but the Broadway songbird says she'd like to "wring his or her neck."

DIRTY OLD MAN

Los Angeles County health officials recently reported finding the bacteria that can cause Legionnaire's Disease at the Playboy Mansion, where 200 people gathered for a conference in February became ill. The bacteria was found in the water at Hugh Hefner's estate, but authorities said they had not confirmed that was the source of the illness.



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HIV/AIDS agencies brace for budget cuts

By Scott Foval

Contributing writer

Healthcare, social services and mental health treatment providers across Wisconsin are bracing for potentially radical cuts in funding as political leaders in Madison and Washington, D.C., scramble to close budget gaps exacerbated by the Great Recession.

Wisconsin agencies servicing HIV/AIDS patients, caring for LGBT at-risk youth and homeless individuals and delivering mental health and addiction recovery services are poised to be some of the hardest hit.

Republican majorities in the U.S. Congress and the Wisconsin Assembly already proposed and partially passed budget bills that would dramatically reduce the number of Medicare and Medicaid patients, potentially shrink

federal healthcare programs and, at the state level, drop hundreds of BadgerCare patients.

HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention programs would suffer an estimated \$638,700 cut under Gov. Scott Walker's budget, passed by the Legislature's Joint Finance Committee in early February. It is the same bill that has resulted in massive protests statewide for stripping public unions of most of their collective bargaining rights.

At the same time they're slashing state healthcare funding, Walker and other GOP governors are fighting implementation of the 2010 federal healthcare law, which is designed to provide near-universal healthcare coverage.

Politicians who have supported strong public health funding policy say they have

not given up on protecting core services, despite the Republican push to slash public funds and repeal the national healthcare law. At a rally in Madison, U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Madison, said the fight is not over.

"We all know that we have to create budgets that are in balance," she said. "Democrats understand that. But we have to do it in a smart way that promotes the health, education, and welfare of the people of the United States, and in Wisconsin."

Leaders in HIV/AIDS services delivery and activism communities are uncharacteristically split on the cuts' possible impact. They all admit there might be room for compromise with Walker, and they're cautiously optimistic that proposed cuts can be maintained at the pro-

posed 10 percent in across-the-board reductions.

"There is room for trimming in some administrative costs, and we are hopeful that we will be able to work with the Walker administration to hold the line on cuts and maintain core services," said Michael Gifford, chief operations officer at AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.

Other HIV/AIDS advocates, including Heidi Nass from the UW Health Infectious Diseases Clinic, based at UW Hospitals and Clinics in Madison, said she and other activists in the provider community don't understand why President Barack Obama and Democrats have not fought harder for the ground gained in the past few years regarding HIV/AIDS funding, considering how scarce resources

are currently.

"The thing that is curious to me is the shortsightedness of not investing more in prevention, considering that it is less expensive to prevent disease rather than treat it after the fact," she said. "We were already behind on this thing before, if you look at the incidence rates and prevention efforts. And with the proposed cuts, I have little hope we can get ahead of it."

Nass said UW Health is evaluating how to service its caseload of about 800 patients with core medical services and limited case management, while continuing to push for more funding support from state and national leaders.

Karen Dotson, executive director of AIDS Network in Madison, said she is hopeful her 400 clients will see

little reduction in core services. But she admits the true impact is not yet known beyond the overall 10 percent cut in funding.

"There are some concerns about how much the Medicare and Medicaid cuts will have on our budgets," she said.

Like Gifford, Dotson expressed a hopeful tone as to how Walker's administration will view serving the needs of the poor. Dotson noted that 33 percent of her agency's budget comes from private donations and grants, not from public funds.

Wisconsin's State Department of Human Services has yet to weigh in on exactly which cuts will be implemented if the governor's budget becomes law.

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Historic assault on women's health is underway

Opinion
TERI HUYCK



What a difference a year makes.

Last year I was at our state Capitol watching former Gov. Jim Doyle sign the Healthy Youth Act, a long-overdue law ensuring that Wisconsin youth get accurate and age-appropriate information in Wisconsin sex education classrooms.

Fast forward to today, when we are facing serious attacks on access to healthcare at the state and federal level.

At the state level, I join with the chorus of tens of thousands of Wisconsinites outraged at the overreach of conservative politicians working to advance an extreme agenda in a Trojan horse barreling through a purported state of fiscal emergency.

Gov. Scott Walker, who has been a staunch opponent of reproductive healthcare his entire political career, now wants his unelected political appointees to be able to make drastic changes to Wisconsin's successful BadgerCare Family Planning program through the so-called Budget Repair Bill, which is a power grab unlike anything we have seen before.

And in his budget proposal, Walker completely eliminates the state's only dedicated family-planning funding stream, while pushing to allow insurance plans to exclude prescription birth control in drug plans.

The budget also gives the state Department of Health and Human Services the power to make men ineligible for reproductive healthcare under Medicaid, which currently covers HIV and other STD testing and treatment, cancer screenings and contraceptive counseling.

While all eyes are on the deep cuts for Wisconsin workers, children and families in Walker's budget proposal, an all-out war on women is also being waged in Congress. Five of Wisconsin's eight U.S. representatives voted to prohibit Planned Parenthood health centers from receiving any federal

We appreciate our Reps. Gwen Moore, Ron Kind and Tammy Baldwin for recognizing that, at \$317 million, less than 0.1 percent of the federal budget, Title X is a small price to pay for more than 4 million lifesaving cancer screenings and over 6 million STD tests, including a million HIV tests, for women who otherwise would have nowhere to turn.

None of these funds pays for abortions.

It's no understatement to say that the state and federal attacks mean we're in the midst of the most aggressive political assault on women's health in history. And while this plays out, women's lives hang in the balance.

Take, for instance, this story: In the wake of the U.S. House vote to eliminate Title X and defund Planned Parenthood, Judy X called me and told me something remarkable: "Honestly, if it wasn't for Planned Parenthood and Title X funding, I wouldn't be here today." In the early 1990s, Judy was

a divorced single mother in her mid-30s going to school and working hard to make ends meet as she raised her daughter in Waukesha. Every year, she came to Planned Parenthood for her annual exam.

One year, out of the blue, a routine pap test came back very abnormal. Planned Parenthood's nurse referred Judy to an ob/gyn who diagnosed her with a rare form of cervical cancer. The doctor

told Judy that if she had skipped her regular check-up that year, the cancer would have been very advanced by the time she showed symptoms.

Judy credits Planned Parenthood with saving her life. In attacking Planned Parenthood, politicians who want to overturn Roe v. Wade are undermining the organization that does more than any other to prevent unintended pregnancy. In

eliminating funding for reproductive healthcare, politicians are taking away the preventive healthcare currently available to 73,000 un- and under-insured Wisconsinites seeking care at Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin.

This reckless political assault needs to end.

Teri Huyck is president of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin.

Kloppenburg would oust right-wing judge

POLITICAL ANALYSIS

By Louis Weisberg
Staff writer

If assistant Attorney General Joanne Kloppenburg prevails in her race for the Wisconsin Supreme Court, she will replace right-wing Justice David Prosser, who's up for retention on April 5.

Unlike Prosser, Kloppenburg believes there's no room for politics in interpreting the law. She objects to an early campaign press release from Prosser in which he announced his intention to "complement" the agenda of Gov. Scott Walker and his new GOP majority.

"You cannot bring political partisanship to the courts, because people will lose all confidence that they've had a fair shake," Kloppenburg says. "People will get a fairer day in court the more justices can put aside their political beliefs and focus on the law and the facts. The court is a check on overreaching of the other

branches of government. It's not there to support them."

Kloppenburg says the hyper-partisanship of Prosser and other justices has led to the backbiting and divisiveness that have undermined the court's reputation and authority in recent years.

"I'm not going to be partisan. I'm going to be fair, and I will uphold the constitution and people's equality," Kloppenburg says. "And I won't be afraid of being subject to recall by special interests who don't like the way the law is written, as happened in Iowa."

Kloppenburg's resume demonstrates a lifelong commitment to fairness. She and her husband joined the Peace Corps shortly after they were married and served in Botswana from 1976 to 1979. After returning to the United States, she worked in an impoverished area of New York establishing WIC pro-



Joanne Kloppenburg

grams, providing health and nutrition services for low-income women and children. Active in community life in Madison, Kloppenburg volunteers for nonprofit groups and as an ESL tutor. She also served on a task force for battered women and is

a member of her neighborhood association board. Kloppenburg graduated with honors from UW-Madison law school in 1988. She did her undergraduate work at Princeton and also has a master's degree in public affairs from Yale

University.

Kloppenburg clerked for Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Shirley Abrahamson, who became her first mentor. "I learned from her that there are very real people behind every case, and a judge owes them a clear, careful, comprehensive evaluation of the law and the facts," she says.

Kloppenburg joined the Wisconsin Department of Justice in 1989 as a prosecutor in environmental law. She has served since under attorney generals from both parties, including current Republican J.B. Van Hollen. She's litigated throughout the state, including before the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Kloppenburg says she has supporters from both sides of the political aisle. The state's most extreme right groups are backing Prosser in the race, warning that if he's defeated, then conservatives will lose their 4-3 edge on the Supreme Court.

Prosser, who is anti-choice, is unmarried and childless. In

2008, he sided with a lawyer who brought a frivolous suit against the gay rights group Action Wisconsin.

The case involved Louisiana preacher Grant Storms, an anti-gay crusader. Action Wisconsin said he advocated the murder of gays during a speech in Milwaukee. Storms sued, charging the group with defaming him, but the suit was dismissed. A circuit court ordered him to pay the group \$87,000 in court costs. The Supreme Court upheld that decision 4-3, with Prosser joining the dissent.

Storms was arrested last month in Metairie, La., and charged with obscenity after two women said they saw him masturbating in his van while watching children on a playground.

At a press conference, Storms apologized for his anti-gay actions in the past. He admitted an addiction to pornography.

For more information, go to Joanne Kloppenburg, about to www.kloppenburgerforjustice.com.

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Polls indicate Governor Walker is losing the debate on workers' rights

PROTESTS from page 1
testers show no sign of giving up. On March 5, documentary filmmaker Michael Moore went to Madison to urge them on, saying, "Madison is only the beginning."

Moore implored thousands of listeners to keep up the struggle, comparing their fight to the revolt in Egypt. He also thanked the 14 state Democratic senators who fled the state to block a vote on Walker's bill, saying history will remember them fondly.

Moore said the wealthy have overreached, first taking the working class' money and then taking their souls by shutting them up at the bargaining table.

The governor's controversial budget bill, which besides banning state workers from collective bargaining also drastically cuts funding for health and education while offering tax cuts to the wealthy, has dominated news reports, public dialogue and the blogosphere.

At a Feb. 24 performance by Lucinda Williams at Milwaukee's Turner Ballroom,



PHOTO: JOHN KIVIKOSKI

Fair Wisconsin executive director Katie Belanger (left) and U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin lead a contingent of several hundred LGBT people and their allies at a Feb. 26 demonstration in Madison.

the singer/songwriter told the audience how proud she is of the people of Wisconsin. "The entire crowd spontaneously began cheering and chanting, 'Kill the bill!'" WiG reader Tami Green wrote on Facebook. "Suddenly it was their auditorium and their show — and she just stood

back and smiled. It was an extraordinary thing to witness." Public opinion polls indicate the governor is losing the public debate. Walker, who was elected in November 2010 with 52 percent of the vote, has seen his approval rating slide into the

low- to mid-40s. A tavern in Madison reportedly asked him to leave a few weeks ago after customers started booing him.

Of course, there have been strong emotions on the other side of the issue as well. Media reports have documented how the unre-

lenting debate has divided neighbors, co-workers and even families.

The LGBT community, however, appears to be firmly in the anti-Walker camp. Although there have been no surveys, activity on Facebook and other social networking sites show overwhelming support for workers' rights among open gays and lesbians. Fair Wisconsin and Equality Wisconsin have publicly backed the protests, as have the national organizations Pride at Work and GetEqual.

Like Baldwin, gay state Rep. Mark Pocan and gay state Sen. Tim Carpenter have been out front in criticizing Walker. Pocan has delivered some of the most withering and frequently quoted attacks on the governor.

"Clearly Gov. Walker will go down in history as far more extreme than any prior Wisconsin Governor," Pocan said in one of many recent press releases on the subject. "Walker's quest for national attention comes at the sake of his constituents, the people of Wisconsin. ... Walker

lied to the voters last fall, and now we all have to pay the price."

In supporting the protesters, the LGBT community ironically finds itself in the same column as the Roman Catholic Church.

"These are not just political conflicts or economic choices; they are moral choices with enormous human dimensions," Bishop Stephen E. Blair, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, said in a public letter. "The debates over worker representation and collective bargaining are not simply matters of ideology or power, but involve principles of justice, participation and how workers can have a voice in the workplace and economy."

Even right-wing Milwaukee Archbishop Jerome L. Listecki has weighed in on the unions' side, although tepidly.

"Hard times do not nullify the moral obligation each of us has to respect the legitimate rights of workers," Listecki said.

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ATTORNEY DAVID E. GRUBER

Abele seeks to form a collaborative relationship between city and county

ABELE from page 1
is mounting his first run for public office. A successful businessman, he also manages the Argosy Foundation, a philanthropic fund started by his family.

The editorial board of the pro-business Milwaukee Journal Sentinel was so impressed with Abele that it endorsed him in the primary over both Stone and former state Sen. Jim Sullivan, saying he has the vision and drive to lead the county forward.

"Abele could be a game-changer," MJS enthused.

Central to Abele's vision of change for county government is forging a collaborative relationship between the county board and Milwaukee City Hall to more effectively attract businesses and jobs to the area and to deliver services to constituents more efficiently. He says he learned the power of collaboration through his work in the nonprofit world, where agencies must stretch their dollars by pooling resources and expertise.

"I'm interested in helping organizations do more for less," he says.

The nonprofit world has also conditioned Abele to be outcome-oriented rather than politically driven, he says. As a way of leveraging dollars to support their missions, philanthropic funders typi-

'Abele could be a game-changer.'

cally look for programs that offer measurable outcomes.

"The way we look at most things is, what has the most potential for impact," Abele says. Abele says he wants to lead county government in this direction, avoiding what he calls "speculation-based policy" and decision-making based on political one-upmanship.

"The goal of any government entity should be the sustainable, efficient delivery of services," Abele says. "I'm interested in how we get there. I'm not attached to the current system if it's not working."

Abele says his background as a funder also has led to productive working relationships with the key players in Milwaukee's civic life, from Mayor Tom Barrett to the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee, which named him the organization's most valuable person for his work on a 10-year plan to address problems facing Milwaukee's youth.

Abele's biography includes working with business, community and elected officials on such projects as reinvigorating Mitchell Park Domes and Bradford Beach. He also started Milwaukee Film to replace the Milwaukee International Film Festival, turning it into one of the fastest growing such events in the nation.

Unlike Stone, who backs Walker's union-busting bill, Abele supports the right of public and private workers to organize and engage in collective bargaining. He says he disagrees with the way Walker has positioned the issue as budget-driven when the unions made all the concessions he asked for to help balance the budget. Abele also questions Walker's motives for not taking collective bargaining rights away from the police and fire unions, which supported him for governor.

Although he's a political newbie, Abele seems to have a good chance of winning the race against Stone. Only 38 percent of Milwaukee County voters cast their ballots for Walker last November, and 54 percent of voters in the February primary for county executive supported Democrats.

Abele says he hopes LGBT voters will be among those who turn out for him on April 5.

Chris Abele at a glance

Basics: Abele is 44 years old and married to Miriam Abele. They have a baby daughter.

Occupation: Businessman, civic leader, CEO of the Argosy Foundation.

College: Lawrence University.

A phrase that describes you politically: "A Democrat with progressive social values who understands how a balance sheet works."

Where do you stand on equality?: "I support gay marriage."

Are you an ideologue or a pragmatist?: "Pragmatist."

What's your No. 1 goal?: "Jobs."

Do you support collective bargaining?: "Yes"

To learn more about Chris Abele, go to Chrisabele.com



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U.S. court rules for military funeral protesters

By Mark Sherman
AP writer

The Supreme Court ruled March 2 that the free speech provisions of the U.S. Constitution protect fundamental church members who mount anti-gay protests outside military funerals, despite the pain they cause grieving families.

The court voted 8-1 in favor of the Westboro Baptist Church. The decision upheld an appeals court ruling that threw out a \$5-million judgment to the father of a dead Marine who sued church members after they picketed his son's funeral.

Chief Justice John Roberts wrote the opinion for the court. Justice Samuel Alito dissented.

Roberts said the Constitution's First Amendment shields the funeral protesters, not-

ing that they obeyed police directions and were 1,000 feet (300 meters) from the church.

"Speech is powerful. It can stir people to action, move them to tears of both joy and sorrow, and — as it did here — inflict great pain. On the facts before us, we cannot react to that pain by punishing the speaker," Roberts said. "As a nation we have chosen a different course — to protect even hurtful speech on public issues to ensure that we do not stifle public debate."

Alito strongly disagreed. "Our profound national commitment to free and open debate is not a license for the vicious verbal assault that occurred in this case," he said.

Matthew Snyder died in Iraq in 2006 and his body was returned to the United

States for burial. Members of the Westboro Baptist Church, who have picketed military funerals for several years, decided to protest outside the church where his funeral was to be held.

The Rev. Fred Phelps and his family members who make up most of the Westboro Baptist Church have picketed many military funerals in their quest to draw attention to their incendiary view that U.S. deaths in Afghanistan and Iraq are God's punishment for the nation's tolerance of homosexuality.

They showed up with their usual signs, including "Thank God for dead soldiers," "You're Going to Hell," "God Hates the USA/Thank God for 9/11."

The church members drew counter-demonstrators, as well as media coverage and a heavy police pres-

ence to maintain order. The result was a spectacle that led to altering the route of the funeral procession.

Several weeks later, Albert Snyder was surfing the Internet for tributes to his son from other soldiers and strangers when he came upon a poem on the church's website that attacked Matthew's parents for the way they brought up their son.

Soon after, Snyder filed a lawsuit accusing the Phelpses of intentionally inflicting emotional distress. He won \$11 million at trial, later reduced by a judge to \$5 million.

A federal appeals court threw out the verdict and said the Constitution shielded the church members from liability.

Forty-eight states, 42 U.S. senators and veterans groups

sided with Snyder, asking the court to shield funerals from the Phelps family's "psychological terrorism."

While distancing themselves from the church's message, media organizations, including The Associated Press, urged the court to side with the Phelps family because of concerns that a victory for Snyder could erode speech rights.

Roberts described the court's holding as narrow, and in a separate opinion, Justice Stephen Breyer suggested in other circumstances, governments would not be "powerless to provide private individuals with necessary protection."

But in this case, Breyer said, it would be wrong to "punish Westboro for seeking to communicate its views on matters of public concern."

Margie Phelps, a daughter of the minister and a lawyer who argued the case at the Supreme Court, said she expected the outcome. "The only surprise is that Justice Alito did not feel compelled to follow his oath," Phelps said. "We read the law. We follow the law. The only way for a different ruling is to shred the First Amendment."

She also offered her church's view of the decision. "I think it's pretty self-explanatory, but here's the core point: The wrath of God is pouring onto this land. Rather than trying to shut us up, use your platforms to tell this nation to mourn for your sins."

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GOP expected to defend anti-gay marriage law

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

Married same-sex couples preparing their federal income tax forms can hold off on the head-of-household discussion for at least another year.

Though the Obama administration has said it will not defend the section of the Defense of Marriage Act that defines, for federal purposes, marriage as the union of a man and a woman, the law will be enforced until a court or Congress voids the measure.

That means the Internal Revenue Service, the Social Security Administration and other federal agencies and departments will not recognize legally married same-sex couples as married couples.

DOMA was enacted in 1996, signed in the early morning by Bill Clinton. There are two basic provisions in DOMA: the federal definition of marriage as the union of a man and a woman and the federal provision allowing one state to ignore a same-sex marriage legalized in another state. Historically, states have recognized opposite-sex marriages performed in other states.

Since 2008, the Justice Department has defended DOMA in federal court jurisdictions where its attorneys could argue that binding legal precedents hold that laws singling out people based on sexual orientation are unconstitutional if there is a "rational basis" for enactment.

In two cases now filed in the 2nd Circuit, the Justice Department cannot make that argument. The precedent in the jurisdiction is different. To defend DOMA, Justice Department lawyers would have to argue that laws that discriminate against gays and lesbians, as a class, should not be subjected to heightened scrutiny by the courts.

Holder said he and Obama could not make that case. "The president has concluded that given a number of factors, including documented history of discrimination, classifications based on sexual orientation should be subject to a more heightened standard of scrutiny," Holder stated.

"The president has also concluded that Section 3 of DOMA, as applied to legally married same-sex couples,

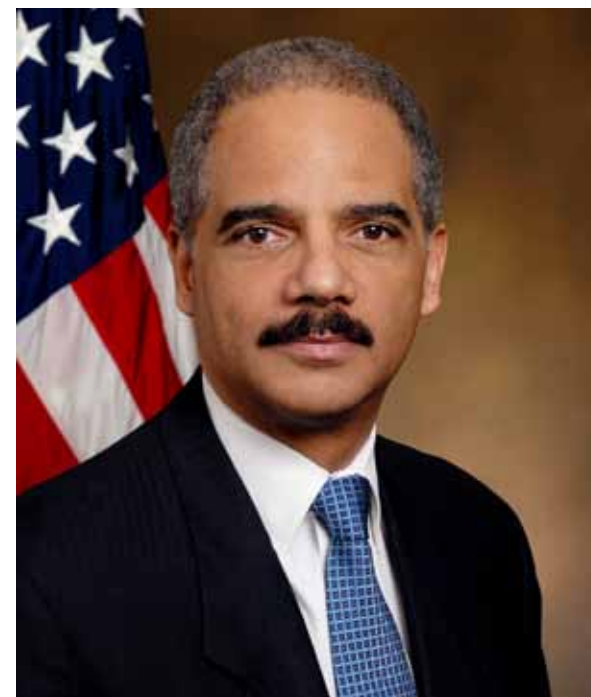


PHOTO: COURTESY

Attorney General Eric Holder says the government can no longer make a case against DOMA.

Since 2008, the Justice Department has defended DOMA in federal court jurisdictions where its attorneys could argue that binding legal precedents hold that laws singling out people based on sexual orientation are unconstitutional if there is a "rational basis" for enactment.

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fails to meet that standard and is therefore 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."

The announcement was celebrated widely among liberal groups, with every major group working for marriage equality issuing statements in late February.

"The president did the right thing and just propelled gay rights into the 21st century, where it belongs," said American Civil Liberties Union executive director Anthony Romero. "Our government finally recognizes what we knew 14 years ago — that the so-called 'Defense of Marriage Act' is a gross violation of the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection before the law. DOMA betrays core American values of fairness, justice and dignity for all, and has no place in America."

Representatives from a number of conservative groups criticized the administration's decision.

"The American Legion supports by resolution the

'Thousands of same-sex couples with valid marriage licenses are being discriminated against because of DOMA.'

proposition that 'marriage is inscribed in human nature and centered on the voluntary union of a man and a woman in a lifelong covenant,' and we 'oppose all efforts to undermine, alter or otherwise corrupt the institution of marriage.'" American Legion national commander Jimmie L. Foster wrote Congress, asserting that he represented the organization's 2.4 million members.

Foster and others also complained that the administration's decision violated the constitutional decree that the president "shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed."

However, there are numerous precedents for the Justice Department refusing to defend a statute:

- The administrations of Presidents Dwight D.

Eisenhower, Harry Truman and John F. Kennedy refused to defend segregation in court.

- Gerald Ford's administration refused to defend a campaign finance law passed in the wake of the Watergate scandal.

- Ronald Reagan's administration refused to defend the independent counsel law.

- President George H.W. Bush's administration did not defend affirmative action legislation.

- The administration of Bill Clinton refused to defend a law requiring the dismissal of military personnel living with HIV.

- George W. Bush's administration refused to defend a federal law withholding federal transit money from transportation systems that allowed pro-marijuana ads.

More recently, at the state level, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jerry Brown refused to defend Prop 8 in California.

Holder, in a letter to House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, left defense of DOMA to Congress, if members wanted that role.

Boehner, in a recent interview on the Christian Broadcasting Network, said, "If the president won't defend DOMA, then you'll see the House of Representatives defend our actions in passing a bill that frankly passed overwhelmingly."

However, to defend DOMA, legal experts agreed

that Congress must argue, among other points, that gays and lesbians have not faced a history of discrimination.

While GOP leaders are discussing DOMA's defense, Democrats in both the House and Senate are exploring legislation to repeal DOMA.

Such a measure likely would not move this session, and there is general agreement that a final decision on DOMA most likely would come from the U.S. Supreme Court.

In the meantime, with enforcement continuing, same-sex couples will continue to pay a price, said marriage equality advocates.

There are more than 1,100 benefits, rights and responsibilities at the federal level associated with marriage, but under DOMA, an 81-year-old widow who legally married her partner of 44 years in 2007 must, for example, pay \$360,000 in federal estate taxes to the IRS that would not be collected if her spouse had been a man.

"Today, in the United States, there are five states plus the District of Columbia that issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples," said U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Madison. "That means there are thousands of same-sex couples across the U.S. with valid marriage licenses who are being discriminated against at the national level because of the Defense of Marriage Act."

FOR THE RECORD...

Responding to the Obama administration's announcement that it would no longer defend the section in the Defense of Marriage Act prohibiting federal recognition of legal same-sex marriage...

- U.S. Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass, said, "DOMA was unconstitutional in 1996, and it's unconstitutional today. And the Obama administration made the right call to no longer defend it in the courts. The Defense of Marriage Act has never been about defending marriage. It's been nothing more than an unconstitutional effort to deny same-sex couples basic rights and protections."
- Equality Matters president Richard Socarides, said, "This changes everything. The administration's decision ... is the kind of change Americans voted for. Obama is now starting to show leadership on the most important civil rights struggle of our time."
- Lambda Legal executive director Kevin Cathcart said, "The president and the attorney general recognized ... what we have been saying in court since the day we opened our doors: Discriminating against people on the basis of sexual orientation is presumed to be unconstitutional and unconstitutional laws should not be defended."
- U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., said, "This represents a real shift in Department of Justice policy and is one step toward the repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act."

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{ Editorial } Resign!

Milwaukeeans knew Scott Walker would say or do anything to raise his political profile and promote the corporate-right agenda. His tenure as Milwaukee County executive was marred with such antics, which helps explain why he received only 38 percent of the county's vote last November.

Thanks to a recorded conversation Walker had with a journalist pretending to be right-wing billionaire activist David Koch, now the whole world knows about Walker's ruthless ambition, his unethical tactics and his sycophantic allegiance to the interests of the rich.

State Sen. Tim Carpenter was dead-on when he said the revelations Walker made during the conversation "would make Richard Nixon blush." Walker bragged about his underhanded schemes to trick Democrats into thinking he would negotiate with them over his union-busting budget bill. He acknowledged that his administration had considered illegally positioning "troublemakers" among the tens of thousands of protesters who have swarmed the Capitol in recent weeks.

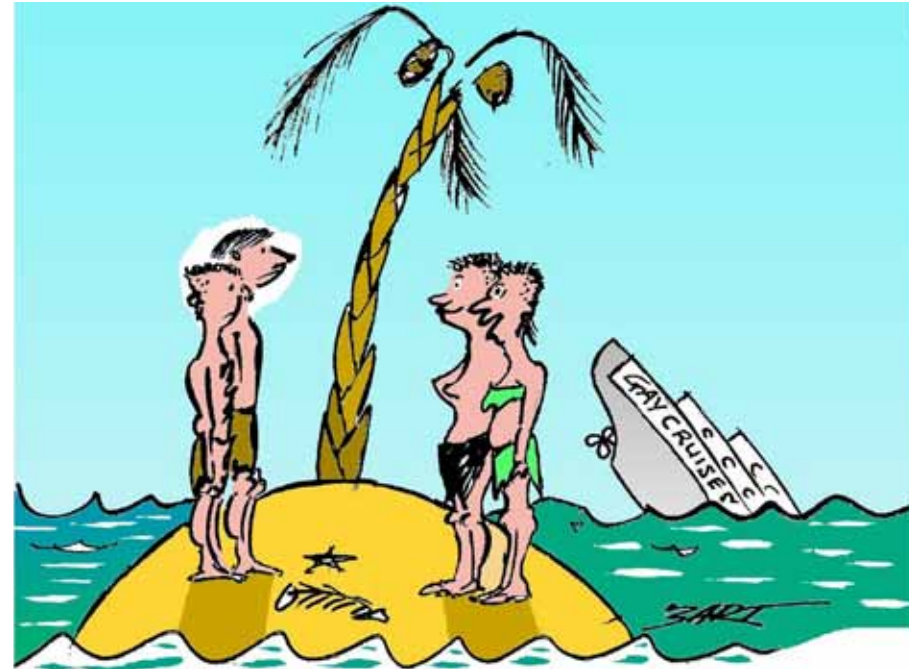
Walker has talked publicly about his petty tactics to get even with the Democratic senators who fled to Illinois to prevent him from ramming his budget bill through the Legislature. He's threatened to revoke their Capitol parking permits and end direct deposit of their paychecks. His GOP cronies have ordered state police to the senators' homes to intimidate their families.

This sort of embarrassing behavior is nothing new for Walker. In 1988, he admitted violating Marquette University campaign rules during his run for student government president. The student newspaper called him "unfit" for office.

Walker ended up dropping out of the university, a strange decision for an ambitious man. Rumors that he was expelled for cheating have plagued him since, and he has never responded to them convincingly.

Walker's reason for stripping organized labor of its power is clearly political, not budgetary. His budget bill could cost the state \$43 million in federal transportation funds, due to labor law. That loss comes on top of the nearly \$850 million he's already turned down in rail and broadband funding.

Walker is untrustworthy and beholden to special interests. His thuggish brand of leadership is out of step with Wisconsin. He should resign and spare the state a costly recall election. After all, we can't afford it.



"The first thing you guys should do is find a turkey baster."

{ Letters }

STILL WAITING

Every minute of state-sanctioned discrimination is a minute too long. The California Supreme Court's decision to put its own summer vacation plans before the lives of thousands of California families is an outrage, and it must not be allowed to stand.

Thousands of loving couples have waited decades for the chance to exercise their constitutionally protected right to the recognition and security that only comes with marriage. Now, while these same families see a light at the end of their long struggle for equality, the courts are dithering, and hundreds of these same families are facing new struggles like terminal illness and the prospect of never — no matter what the eventual outcome of this case — being able to exercise the freedoms they have sought for so long.

With Proposition 8 already ruled unconstitutional in federal court, it is imperative

that the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals immediately lift the stay on enforcement of this decision so that families like Riverside's Darence Kernek and Ed Phillips — together for 40 years but now waging a battle against Alzheimer's Disease — are able to marry before it's too late. I challenge the California Supreme Court — or any court for that matter — to tell Darence or Ed that they have not yet earned that right.

Rick Jacobs
Courage Campaign

HATE CAMPAIGN

It's a modern day crusade — a waste of taxpayer money and motivated entirely by prejudice and hate.

In the wake of President Obama's brave stand against discrimination, my Republican colleagues did exactly as I'd hoped they wouldn't. They mobilized in support of the so-called Defense of Marriage Act and are preparing to appoint their own lawyer to make sure this discrimina-

tory law remains in force. Are you as outraged as I am? The Republicans purposely saved their announcement for the last minute on a Friday so it would be next to impossible to organize a response to this crusade against equal rights for the LGBT community. But there are two things you can do right now: Tweet your outrage (<http://www.fearlesscampaign.com/>) and share it on Facebook (<http://www.fearlesscampaign.com/Facebook-DOMA>).

As both a gay man and a member of Congress, I am saddened and disgusted by Speaker Boehner's actions. Not only did he launch a crusade against equality — he purposely tried to slip it through late on Friday, in the hope that no one would notice.

Don't let this crusade pass unnoticed. Help me spread the word so we can launch a counter-movement.

U.S. Rep. Jared Polis
D-Col.

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So they said

"That's a lot of bottles of Formula 409."
— State Rep. Brett Hulsey, D-Madison, questioning the Walker administration's claim that protesters had done \$7 million in damage to the Capitol. The administration later backed off the claim.

"If you squint a little bit, it is true I do sometimes look like a dude, and I am definitely gay."
— MSNBC's Rachel Maddow responding to her homophobic critics.

"I got a dead baby, I want you to bring him back to life again. Whatever you need!"
— Televangelist Pat Robertson calling forth the audience to touch his healing hands at a mass faith healing in Virginia Beach, Va.

"As of this moment, I would say no and no."
— Prospective Republican presidential contender Donald Trump telling the Des Moines Register that he approves of neither same-sex marriage nor civil unions for same-sex couples.

"She's a 50-year-old adult bully, really is what she is — kind of a has-been comedian."
— Sarah Palin answering a question about Kathy Griffin's new "Glee" character, which is modeled after Palin.

"Granting homosexuals the right to marry is like granting plantation owners the right to own slaves."
— Former GOP senate candidate Alan Keyes writing in his World Net Daily column.

"I'm sorry if democracy is a little inconvenient and you had to stay up two nights in a row. Is this inconvenient? Hell, yeah! It's inconvenient. But we're going to be heard!"

— Openly gay state Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Madison, leading the charge on the Wisconsin Assembly floor against Republicans attempting to ram through a controversial budget bill. Ultimately, the GOP succeeded.

"Illinois is open for tourism all the time."
— Ill. Gov. Pat Quinn telling the Huffington Post that his state welcomes the senators from Wisconsin and the lawmakers from Indiana hiding out there to stall union-busting budget bills. Shortly after his election, Gov. Scott Walker reached out to companies in Illinois and invited them to relocate to the Badger State, promising them lower taxes.

"With this decision the president has thrown down the gauntlet, challenging Congress. It is incumbent upon the Republican leadership to respond by intervening to defend DOMA, or they will become complicit in the president's neglect of duty."

— Tony Perkins, the gay-obsessed head of the Family Research Council, responding to the news that the Obama administration will no longer defend the Defense of Marriage Act in court.

"I'm comfortable with who I am — and happy to say who I am in public."
— Steven Davies, the first British cricket athlete to come out as gay.

Stone offers more of the same

In only a few weeks, Milwaukee County voters will choose a new executive to take the job once held by Scott Walker.

It has become increasingly clear that the differences between Chris Abele and his opponent, GOP state Rep. Jeff Stone, are dramatic. Abele is not a career politician. He has spent his time building broad consensus and strengthening our community in many different ways.

Stone is the very definition of a career politician. He has a history of following the lead of the extreme elements of his party. He's embraced the failed hyper-partisan model set by Walker.

Although Stone has been referred to as a "moderate" Republican, there is very little evidence to justify that description. He has been repeatedly hostile to the interests of the LGBT community. He repeatedly

Opinion
CORY LIEBMAN

voted to put the marriage amendment on the ballot in 2006 and, more recently, he voted against legislation that sought to protect students from bullying.

In contrast, Abele has helped lead human rights organizations that support LGBT rights. He was very supportive of Fair Wisconsin and its efforts to fight the discriminatory marriage amendment in 2006.

During his time in the Legislature, Stone has compiled an extreme record on other issues, such as women's reproductive health. He's repeatedly received 100 percent ratings from some of Wisconsin's most extreme right-wing organizations on women's health issues. Abele has served as a board member for Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin for years.

On the other hand, Walker and Stone refuse to take yes for an answer, and that is what is needlessly prolonging the self-induced crisis. Walker also recently pre-

Stone's allegiance to the leaders of his political party is perhaps best demonstrated in his unquestioning support of Walker's Budget Repair Bill. Stone literally was standing over Walker's shoulder when the governor announced the extreme policy measures in that piece of legislation. The bill is a direct attack on Wisconsin's labor unions, many of which have been extremely supportive of equality in Wisconsin.

Abele has called out Stone for backing an agenda that refuses all compromise and shuns good faith negotiation. Abele correctly has pointed out the fact that labor has already agreed to the fiscal concessions and only seeks to maintain collective bargaining rights.

That is the only approach that will help move Milwaukee County forward.

sent his two-year budget, which includes unprecedented cuts to education, health-care for the most needy and state aid to local governments, including Milwaukee County. Abele stood up against the proposed \$1 billion cuts to schools and to the state's shared revenue program. Stone has said very little to defend Milwaukee County, its municipalities or its schools from these drastic cuts.

Stone has the same kind of backing that we normally see in a partisan race, but Abele has put together a broad coalition of support that includes Democrats, Republicans and Independents, as well as important leaders in business and labor. While we may not always agree on the difficult decisions ahead, it is clear that only Abele wants everyone to have a meaningful spot at the table.

That is the only approach that will help move Milwaukee County forward.

Time marches forward

40 YEARS AGO

In 1971, gay people first marched in a public event in Milwaukee. It wasn't a Pride parade, though. It was an anti-war march sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans Against the War. About 30 members of an organization called the Gay Liberation Front participated, hoisting a "Gay Liberation" banner all along the route of the march.

The Gay Liberation Front was one of two gay groups founded the year before. The other group called itself the Gay Liberation Organization. Because GLF was anti-war and more leftist-oriented and the two groups were often confused, members of GLO, who wanted to focus only on gay issues, renamed their group the Gay People's Union. They published GPU News (until 1981) and founded the clinic that continues to function today as the BESTD Clinic.

30 YEARS AGO

In October 1981, a state bill (AB70) prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, employment and public accommodations was adopted by the Wisconsin Assembly. In February 1982 it was approved by the Senate and signed by Republican Gov. Lee Dreyfus. It is officially ensconced in Chapter 112 of the Laws of 1981. The lobbying effort required careful strategizing and alliances. The support of many churches was considered critical. Wisconsin was the first state to pass a gay civil rights law.

The Cream City Business Association, an alliance of gay and gay-supportive businesses, was founded in 1981. CCBA, in turn, created the

Opinion
JAMAKAYA

guts it took to do that 40 years ago. When the license was denied, they filed a lawsuit, but it was dismissed.

20 YEARS AGO

The year 1991 was a long nightmare for Milwaukee's queer community. In late July, Jeffrey Dahmer's years-long murder spree was finally uncovered. Also exposed was the entrenched racism and homophobia that allowed the crimes to be undetected for so long. WISN-TV followed up with an exploitive, homophobic series called "Flirting with Danger."

In November, hundreds of alleged "Christians," whipped into hysteria by local TV preacher Vic Eliason, stormed a school board meeting to oppose support services for gay and lesbian teens in the schools. The board adopted the modest reforms but not before a media circus that included shockingly ignorant testimony and open intimidation of gay proponents by the self-avowed Christians.

cream city foundation, which has provided financial grants that have helped to build and sustain dozens of LGBT organizations and projects over the years.

10 YEARS AGO

On August 2, 2001, the Milwaukee Common Council approved a labor contract that incorporated benefits for the domestic partners of gay and straight city employees.

In November, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force held its annual "Creating Change" conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Milwaukee. More than 2,000 activists from around the country attended. Girlfriends magazine declared Milwaukee the "best place in the country for lesbians to live," resulting in many titters and guffaws. I sent some "Nanner-nanner-nanner" messages to lesbian friends in Madison, the city displaced from the top spot, and cracked in a story for In Step: "Milwaukee IS a great place for lesbians to live. It's just the lesbians in Milwaukee, many still huddling nervously in the closet, who don't get it!"

Discovering the unexpected blessing of being gay

Religion

ANDREW WARNER



Anniversaries sneak up and suddenly you realize how much has changed. One day, fraternity brothers play basketball – shirts versus skins. Quick, strong bodies. The next day, 20 years later, the bodies are slower and larger – dark shirts versus white.

In college, I watched the basketball games wistfully. I carried a secret, a longing for my best friend to be my boyfriend. It filled me with shame. Raised a good Catholic, I

prayed to Mary. "Holy Mary, make me straight."

Fraternities at Colgate University were required to undergo diversity training, a sanction from the college after a series of hazing and

hate-crimes came to light. One evening I went with my fraternity brothers to a lecture on homophobia. We learned one in 10 people were gay. Afterwards one brother said, "I don't care who it is, but if one of you is gay, I'll hate him."

I knew in my heart that I was one in 10. And so I prayed again and again but Holy Mary was quiet, silent in the face of my guilt and fear and loneliness. For a long time I didn't know what Mary's silence meant. I kept praying until I ran out of words. I was silent too.

In my emptiness, I began to hear God speak to me from

scripture: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; you are wonderfully, fearfully made, my work of art."

God made me gay – consecrated me to love men. It was part of God's intention for my life. Perhaps Mary was silent so I could learn to listen to what God was saying all along.

The assurance of God's love gave me the courage to come out. It happened one weekend when my fraternity held an anti-gay Pride, full of derision, which they called the "Prove You're Not Gay Weekend." So much for sen-

sitivity training. My coming out ended the festivities.

Twenty years since I came out, but somehow yesterday. Guilt and shame gave way, as did fear and unrequited love. And in their place I built a life I only once imagined: a lover, a family, a community.

I left the fraternity and the Catholic Church. I found new brothers and sisters in the LGBT community and with our straight allies. In the United Church of Christ I learned that who I was could be a blessing.

I pastored a congregation that has publicly welcomed gays and lesbians for 20 years. And I discovered a partner

to share my life. Our life grew to include our adopted children. The assurance I heard so many years ago became a grace I live each day. God's blessed my gay life.

Now when I pray, I mostly listen. And sometimes I catch Mary speaking to John. It's the day they saw Jesus suffer, when he told his mother that the disciple he loved would be her son. The day he told John that Mary would be his new mother.

When I listen, I can hear her say, "It gets better someday." Mary is right.

Andrew Warner is pastor of Plymouth UCC in Milwaukee.

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Prop 8 opponents demand marriages resume

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

The California attorney general recently called on a federal appeals court to lift a stay and allow same-sex couples in the state to marry.

The stay was imposed following the August 2010 ruling from U.S. District Court Judge Vaughn Walker, who declared Proposition 8 a violation of the due process and equal protection clauses of the 14th Amendment. Voters approved Prop 8, a state constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman, in 2008.

For a period before that vote, same-sex couples legally married in California. Walker, in his decision, said same-sex marriages should resume.

But Prop 8 proponents, challenging the judge's decision, won a stay of the federal court order from the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

In late February and early March, a flurry of briefs were filed urging the appeals court

'Loved ones have been lost, moments have been missed and justice has been denied.'

to lift the stay because a final decision in the Prop 8 case now may be more than a year away. Before the federal appeals court will rule on the constitutional questions, the California Supreme Court must take up the question of whether Prop 8 proponents have standing to defend a measure that state officials have refused to fight for in court.

In a brief filed with the appeals court March 1, California Attorney General Kamala D. Harris argued, "If

the stay ever was justified, it is no longer."

Citing the Obama administration's decision not to defend aspects of the federal Defense of Marriage Act, Harris said, "Classifications based on sexual orientation cannot survive constitutional scrutiny."

She further argued that the defendants have not demonstrated they will be injured if the stay is lifted.

"Indeed, because the stay continues in effect a law that has been adjudged to violate the plaintiff's due process and equal protection rights and therefore perpetuates unconstitutional discrimination, it is plaintiffs who continue to suffer substantial injury," Harris wrote.

She concluded, "For 846 days, Proposition 8 has denied equality under law to gay and lesbian couples. Each and every one of those days, same-sex couples have been denied their right to convene loved ones and friends to cel-

brate marriages sanctioned and protected by California law. Each one of those days, loved ones have been lost, moments have been missed, and justice has been denied."

At least nine other parties – American Foundation for Equal Rights, Human Rights Campaign, Courage Campaign, Equality California, National Center for Lesbian

Rights, American Civil Liberties Union, Lambda Legal and the city and county of San Francisco – filed briefs urging the court to lift the stay.

IN THE COURTHOUSE

The American Foundation for Equal Rights filed its federal case challenging California's Proposition 8, a voter-approved constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman in May 2009.

AFER's attorneys are Theodore Olson and David Boies, who were up against one another in the Bush v. Gore dispute over Florida ballots.

The clients are two same-sex couples, Kris Perry and Sandy Steir, and Paul Katami and Jeff Zarrillo.

The named defendants, then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and then-Attorney General Jerry Brown, who is now governor, decided not to defend Prop 8 in court. Both said the amendment was unconstitutional and declined to use state resources for a court fight.

The acting defendants are the proponents of Prop 8.

U.S. District Court Judge Vaughn R. Walker heard Perry v. Schwarzenegger in 2010, with the trial taking place in January and closing arguments in June. In August, Walker ruled that Prop 8 is unconstitutional under the due process and equal protection clauses of the 14th amendment and ordered that same-sex couples again be allowed to marry in California.

The ruling was quickly appealed to the 9th Circuit Court, which heard oral arguments in December 2010.

In January, the appeals court said that before it ruled on the constitutional questions, the California Supreme Court should consider whether Prop 8 proponents have standing as defendants. The state court will consider the issue, but has said it could take a year.

—WIG

White House names new, gay social secretary

From AP and WiG reports

The Obama White House broke decades of tradition Feb. 25, naming Jeremy Bernard – the first male, and the first openly gay person – to ever serve as social secretary.

Bernard, a senior adviser to the U.S. ambassador to France, will soon trade Paris for Washington and take on the high-profile assignment, the White House. That means he'll be responsible for planning numerous social functions and events and pulling them off without a hitch, including opulent state dinners, the annual Easter Egg Roll and dozens upon dozens of receptions.

President Barack Obama said Bernard shares his and First Lady Michelle Obama's vision of the White House as a place that "celebrates our history and culture in dynamic and inclusive ways."

Bernard said he is deeply humbled to be joining the White House staff.

"I have long admired the arts and education programs that have become hallmarks of the Obama White House

and I am eager to continue these efforts in the years ahead," he said through the White House.

Bernard will become the first male social secretary in White House history, but he will not be the first man based in the East Wing of the White House, where the first lady's mostly female staff is located.

Both deputy social secretaries are male, as are Michelle Obama's deputy policy director and her trip director.

And there's some precedent for having a male social secretary. Vice President Joe Biden's is a man, Carlos Elizondo.

Letitia Baldrige, who was social secretary for the Kennedys, said women for years have been breaking the glass ceiling and filling positions long held by men and that there's no reason why this key White House position shouldn't be filled by a man.

"Husbands and wives have been co-hosting since the beginning of time," she said. "I think it's terribly smart to give men a chance."

He has been active in

several LGBT organizations, including the National Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, Access Now for Gay & Lesbian Equality and several advisory committees in Los Angeles, according to the White House.

Chad Griffin, president of the American Foundation for Equal Rights, which is fighting California's voter-approved gay marriage ban, said Bernard's appointment "underscores the president's commitment to diversity and

should be celebrated by all Americans."

"Anyone who knows Jeremy Bernard knows he will be a great addition to the White House," said Barry Karas, a friend of the appointee and a member of the Human Rights Campaign's board of directors from Los Angeles. "Jeremy is a true joy to be around and work with. His appreciation of the arts and culture will make for grand events and his understanding of the important

history of the White House and the presidency will serve the American people well."

Another friend and HRC board member, Dana Perlman, said, "Jeremy's warm personality and attention to detail will make families – both the First Family and the American family – feel at home."

Bernard is expected to start at the White House soon, after he completes the trans-Atlantic move from Paris.

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English cricketer Davies comes out

From AP reports

England wicketkeeper Steve Davies has become the country's first professional cricket player to publicly announce he is gay.

"It is something I have lived for a long time with and I am really comfortable about things with now," Davies said. "I have got nothing to hide and I am ready to tell people."

The 24-year-old Surrey player made the announcement Feb. 27 in video interviews on the websites of The Sun and Daily Telegraph newspapers, saying he told England coach Andy Flower last year before going on the Ashes tour to Australia, where he played in the limited-overs matches.

"It was a tough thing for me to do, to tell him face to face, but I had to do it,"

Davies said. "He supported me 100 percent, him and (captain) Andrew Strauss. It was the right thing to do as I felt I couldn't live like this any more."

"I didn't enjoy going on tour too much because of the secret."

Meeting up with the squad in November for the first time since the announcement was nerve-racking, Davies said.

"Everyone was great - they just said it wasn't an issue," Davies said. "Matt (Prior) came and gave me a hug. He couldn't believe I had kept it to myself for this long. He said I should have told him. That was special."

Prior is also a wicketkeeper and beat Davies to a spot in the squad for the World Cup, which is currently taking place in India, Sri Lanka and

Bangladesh.

"His private life is his own concern and has absolutely no bearing on his ability to excel at the very highest level in international sport," Flower said on the England and Wales Cricket Board website. "I have no doubt that he will continue to work hard to regain a place in the England squad."

Davies said he told his family and close friends he is gay at the age of 19. He was inspired to go public after Wales rugby center Gareth Thomas made the same announcement in December 2009.

Davies said that before Thomas "came out there was no one to look up to."

"It just showed me it can be done," Davies said. "He was brave enough to stand up and say who he was."



England wicketkeeper Steve Davies.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Gay soccer fans want separate Euro 2012 seating

From AP reports

A group of gay Polish soccer fans has called on the organizers of the 2012 European Championships to set aside separate seating for gays and lesbians to protect them from harassment and violence.

But other gay rights activists

criticized the recent proposal, saying it would single out gay fans and put them at greater risk.

Teczowa Trybuna 2012, or Rainbow Stand 2012, calls itself the first gay fan club for Poland's national team. It says on its website that its members fear aggression from

other fans and want to feel safe during the championship in Poland and neighboring Ukraine.

"During trips to matches of our beloved clubs ... we unfortunately are often faced with unpleasantness, harassment and violence from the 'real fans,'" it said. "We dream

of being able to relax in the stands - we can't imagine not being at the Euro 2012 matches, which will be held in our country!"

Polish soccer matches are often the scene of violent attacks and fights involving hooligans.

Homophobia also remains deeply embedded in Poland because of the legacy of communism - which treated homosexuality as a taboo - and the teachings of the

church in the predominantly Roman Catholic country.

One match venue, the city of Gdansk, rejected the group's call for separate seating, saying it would stigmatize gays. And some gay rights groups are distancing themselves from the appeal.

Gregory Czarnecki of the Campaign Against Homophobia, a leading gay rights group in Warsaw, said he believes that very few gays and lesbians would willingly

choose separate seating.

"I understand their initiative, and what they are trying to do," Czarnecki told The Associated Press.


"But the message might be counterproductive in Poland," he said. "I don't think many people would be brave enough to not only come out, but also to sit in this section."

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'MOON' MAN: Wisconsin filmmaker Jason Paul Collum has a gay way with gore

Interview
GREGG SHAPIRO

Gay filmmaker and Wisconsin native Jason Paul Collum isn't afraid of scaring audiences. In his gay horror film "October Moon" and its sequel "October Moon 2: November Son" (both avail-

able at tempevideo.com and through major online retailers), he explores the horrors of obsession and revenge, as well as the terror known as religious fanaticism. And he does it all with bravado, in B-movie style.

Gregg Shapiro: **Is there the possibility of a third film in the series?**
JPC: There is an outline for

"October Moon 3," and the actors who "survived" the first two films have all agreed to jump on board for at least one more round of mayhem. The last four months have actually taken off for me professionally. ... So when "October Moon 3" happens will depend on when a bit of free time comes available. Might have to wait until December 2012.

Which of the characters is most like you?

I'm a combination of several characters. I guess I'm most like Corin. The relationship between the boyfriends, Corin and Jake, was really based off of my own relationship at the time. I was a lot more in love with the other person than he was with me. I think many of your readers know how much that bites. There were elements of me in Elliot as well. That fear of coming out. The confusion of being something you don't want to be.

Corin is Elliott's "October moon." Did you have one?

Well, in the sense of not being able to attain someone you think is so insanely beautiful and perfect but completely unattainable, yes. There have been two in my life. And that's where I drew that allegory of an October moon from. But today, and I'm not just saying this so I don't have to sleep on the couch tonight, I'm partnered for more than six years with a very handsome gentleman named Michael Isaacson. We seem to balance each other and complement each other's quirks very nicely.

Another distinctive aspect of the films is the Wisconsin setting.

I was born and raised in Wisconsin. I've been drawn to the beauty of the state. And in Racine we have this gorgeous lakefront. Having lived in Los Angeles for many years and then Chicago and then coming home to Racine really gave me a perspective of our social situation, which I'm not sure anyone who's never left the area is able to appreciate or understand. I can walk down the street



in Los Angeles holding my partner's hand and nobody blinks. I can do the same in Chicago, but only in certain areas. It's much less of a freedom in Racine without fear of mockery or insults, but I'm not so afraid of assault.

On the surface Racine plays itself as a very liberal town, but behind closed doors ... if you sit and listen to conversations around you at the bar, it's a much more sordid side. While I do think southeastern Wisconsin (don't get me started on the northern half of the state) is much more progressive in the last 10 years than it was when I was growing up here, I think there's still a long, long way to go.

In both films you look at religious conservatism, which is interesting in light of politics in the state.

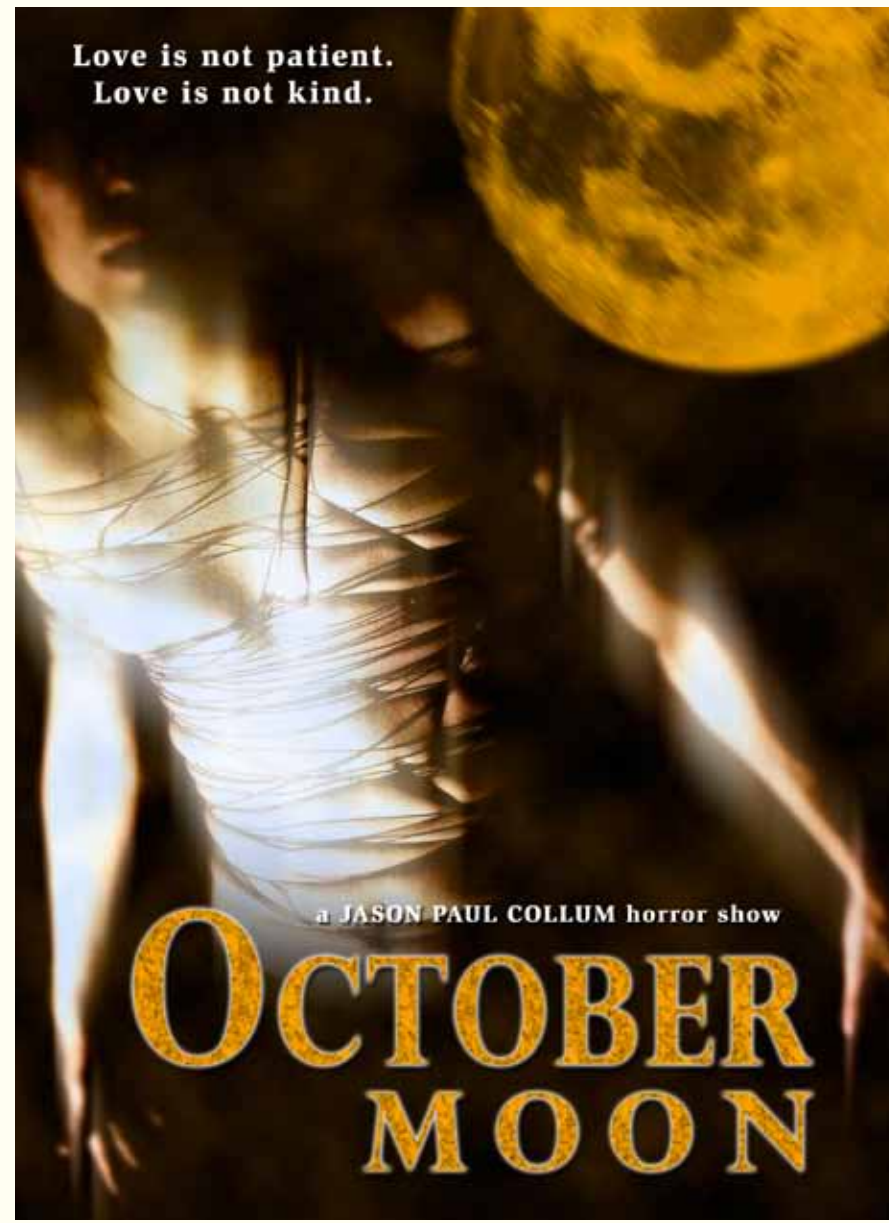
Again, we've come a long way since I was a kid. I have an incredibly accepting family and a wonderful group of friends and employers here. And thanks to many courageous people who stopped to "think" about what it means to be in love with someone and the desire to start a family and be an accepted part of everyday society, I can now call Mike a domestic partner. But I have other gay friends who can't adopt a child as a couple. I still can't get on Mike's insurance. If either of us were to die, the other might have to be in fear of losing the house to some distant relative we haven't spoken to in years.

All the Scott Walker chaos, and even going back to the last several presidential elections has made me realize just how divided we are as a state. People seem to be hard-core Republican or hard-core Democrat. Whatever happened to voting for the guy (or girl) who's best for the job?

My partner went to college with Walker and said he was untrustworthy. One of my best friends worked for Walker for three years and said he was untrustworthy. Yet when we try to have these conversations with people it's always "Nope. He's a Republican so I have to vote for him and believe everything he says."

Gay horror is a film genre that continues to grow in popularity.

It's a fairly untapped market. It also has the possibility to dig deep into our issues as a culture. The best horror films, the ones that have lasted over the decades, had something to say without putting it in your face. "Invasion Of The Body Snatchers" was about McCarthyism. (The original) "The Last House On The Left" was about Vietnam, civil unrest and political assassinations and scandals. "The Exorcist" was about the conflict of loyalty to ones religious beliefs and loss of faith. "October Moon" in particular was written for straight people to watch and say, "Are we really that over the top?" Same to be said for gay audiences.



White is more than a blank canvas in new show

By Kat Murrell

Contributing writer

White is a loaded color. It is absence and emptiness, but also purity and simplicity. White is often extrapolated into the boredom of vanilla, something ordinary and plain. However, the current show at Katie Gingrass Gallery, 241 N. Broadway, Milwaukee, simply titled "White," is anything but dull. It offers works full of delight and surprise.

The premise of the show rests on the color white as a unifying hue. Color is a basic building block of art. It is one of the formal elements that most all art uses, in combination line, space, form, etc. In the way that music is

ON DISPLAY

"White" is at Katie Gingrass Gallery, 241 N. Broadway, through March 31. Call 414-289-0855.

comprised of the same notes arranged in multitudinous ways, so art relies on these formal elements in ever-inventive relationships. By minimizing color, our attention is cleverly refocused on other aspects in intriguing ways.

Material and texture become more prominent in many works, such as David Schaefer's "Silver Birches."

This large painting is absolutely laden with paint in a heavy impasto that suggests the vertical forms and contours of birch trees. The color isn't really white, but rather a mix of shades that settle on an overall effect of pale, luminous jade. The translucent feeling that comes from the shimmering undercoat of silver recalls the reflective nature of birch trees in crepuscular light, or under strange skies before a storm. The surface is built from hundreds of gestures. Small waves of paint seem to have crested and dried just as they were starting to spill down the surface. So much motion,

yet so very still.

"White" is a tough show for people who really, really want to touch the art. Schaefer's paintings are as much about tactile qualities as they are about visuals, and this can also be said of the encaustic paintings of Sarah Budensiek. Encaustic is an ancient form of painting that consists of pigment suspended in hot wax and applied to a support. Known to the Egyptians and Romans, it was used notably in the mid-20th century by American artist Jasper Johns. Budensiek works down into the surface of her pieces, carving and scraping to expose color below, leaving patterns like organic sprays of curved grasses or cosmic forms of space.

The emphasis on tactile sensation and physical material reaches another level in Kristin Haas' three-dimensional works. From across the gallery, a white, lace-like form appears draped on a pedestal. Come closer and this lace reveals itself as "Echo," a winding interlace of caulk, sinewy and layered into a gathered pile. Industrial chic indeed.

Haas also explores the beauty of entwined lines of caulk in wall pieces that are organized into floral and framed shapes. But the most lively are the spilling exuberances such as "Duet" and her chandeliers. Painted in a soft antique white, the chandeliers hang down from the ceiling on chains. Draped on them are thin strips of



PHOTO: KATIE GINGRASS GALLERY

Kristin Haas' work (above and left) is shown to dramatic effect in "White."

white, subtly moving in the air. These skeins of dried latex paint are like post-industrial cobwebs, the patina of time and age, but also the action of painting frozen in midair.

The aforementioned works are elegantly and overtly dramatic in their surfaces and materials. But many others in the show offer aesthetic delights through the subtlety of their compositions, as seen in the pigment prints of Brian Mancini. These are diminutive photographs, printed with pigments instead of dyes. They create a rather lighter quality, something more like a drawing. The thinnest of

lines and breathiest of gray tones create different types of landscapes. Some bring to mind the vastness of the sea through a wave-life wash, where the pale water darkens to meet a strange shadow of a horizon. In others, the urban sky is evoked by judiciously selected power lines. These exquisite and thoughtful images pare the world down into delicate bits and pieces. The low horizons used throughout the series create an expansive air in small pictorial spaces.

Works by nine artists comprise the full scope of this exhibition, which includes other media, such as ceramics, sculpture and furniture.



Artwatch

DEBRA BREHMER

Here's the deal. You can stay in town and visit a few art exhibits that will be nice addendums to lunch. **Tom Uttech's** quintessential wilderness paintings at Tory

Folliard, 233 N. Milwaukee St., through April 9, will possibly wow you, prior to a past-trami sandwich. Uttech is the state's muse of all things wild and endangered. He's the old master of the untamed: sunset hues and distraught animals, the animus in the wind of our souls.

You could then tool down to Elaine Erickson gallery and

check out **Ken Kwint's** new show — large ab-ex paintings, layers of drips and drabs in pleasantly active fields of mid-range hue.

For the more daring, you could cross the bridge to Bay View and check out the tiny Sky High Gallery's new show. DIY goddess Faith Levine curates this space at 2501 Howell Ave., which

is currently presenting the work of Stacy Rocich, who does sort of Disney-meets-Cucina doll characters, dancing close to the Jungian within.

But this is all leading up to an exodus. What art lovers should really do right now is head out of town to Chicago, where the Museum of Contemporary Art is stag-

ing a mega retrospective of local boy **Jim Nutt**.

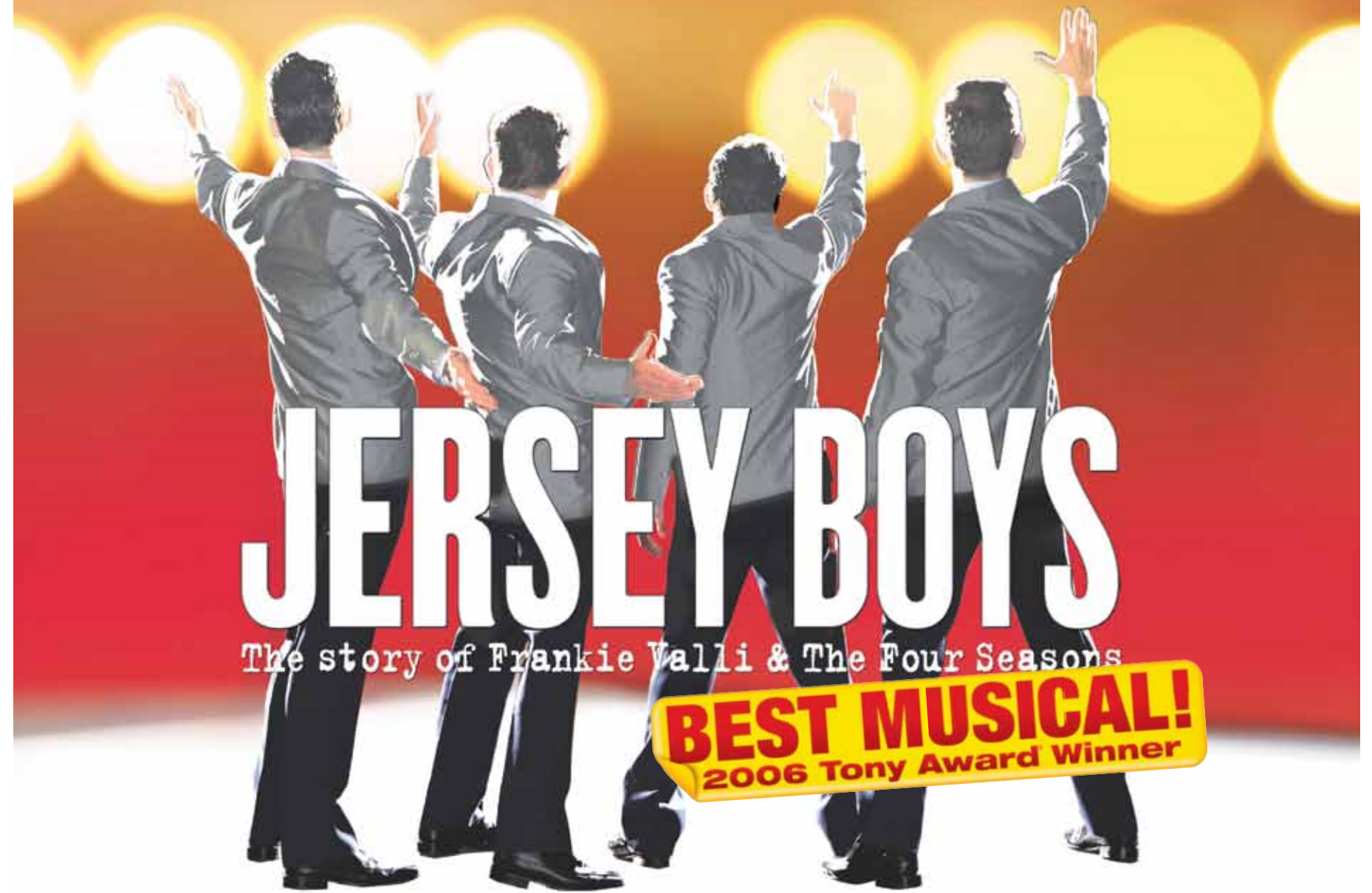
We hear this is the hit show of the season. Jim Nutt is part of the Chicago Imagist movement born of the 1960s mélange of pop-meets-outsider-meets-underground comics. Much of the work in this show is later in the artist's career, when he began making portraits of female

types in his smeary, misplaced organ style.

Sleek as gemstones are these paintings. Nutt is craftsman, colorist and draftsman extraordinaire — all thrown together with a whiff of the anarchist. The show runs until May 29.

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Troupe tackles controversy with 'Corpus Christi'

Theater

JOHN QUINLAN

Since opening in New York in 1998, Terrence McNally's play "Corpus Christi" has sparked controversy throughout the world for its depiction of Jesus as a gay man living in 20th-century Texas.

The play has been condemned, picketed and banned.

And McNally, who is openly gay, has received death threats.

Theatrical Tendencies opens a production of the play at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center on March 11. WiG asked director Mark E. Schuster to share his insights about the play as well as the experience of directing it.

John Quinlan: **What is there about the play that excites you?**

Mark E. Schuster: Just the idea of a "second coming"

ON STAGE

"Corpus Christi" plays the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second St., March 11-26. Call 414-383-3727 or go to www.theatrical-tendencies.com.

of a Christ figure in modern times with the possibility that he might be homosexual is what interests me most. I know that everyone would not feel the same way. I like that this show will force the audience to consider that idea. Would I be as willing to accept these messages of love and acceptance and respect from a gay man? As Joshua says in the show, "The Word is the Word, not the man who speaks it."

What do you like about McNally as a playwright?

The way he is able to create characters that audiences can truly care about and put



them in realistic situations where we are able to share in their joy and pain, their triumphs and struggles is something I find very appealing about his work.

Has this production presented any special challenges?

We have had a really great time with the show. There is a lot of humor in it, and it's been lots of fun trying to figure out how far to take some of it. We're doing our best to understand the relationship between Joshua and Judas in the play. There is very little written into the dialog, so we're trying to flesh out and discover the complexities of why Judas would betray Joshua in a contemporary re-telling of the story. Staging it has certainly been a challenge, as we try to fit 13 men on an 8 x 20 stage with no wing space.

Do you anticipate any controversy in Milwaukee?

We have not heard of any controversy concerning our upcoming production. I'd like to think that is due to society's ever-evolving views of and acceptance of my LGBT brothers and sisters, but as we see in news reports from around the country that doesn't seem to always be the case. The rash of gay

teen suicides weighed heavily on us as we began our process with this show. Joshua is bullied in the play in high school. In the final moments of the show, James the Less repeatedly says, "Look what they did to him." I thought the same thing when I heard about those young people taking their own lives — "Look what they (their peers and tormentors) did to them."

Why is theater that pushes the limits important, even if it offends some people?

I don't think "Corpus Christi" is an offensive show. Irreverent, definitely. It simply takes an old and familiar tale and sets it in a new time and place with some startling results. The three wise men have become room service bellhops, Joshua is tempted in the desert by James Dean and an HIV-positive hustler is cured of his disease. It certainly pushes some limits and will not appeal to everyone. I long to be challenged when I go to the theatre, and I like to make my audiences have to work a little before they get to go home as well. I believe it is important to grow from every theatrical experience in some way.

Do you believe that this play is any way disrespectful of Christianity?

I believe this show is completely respectful and true to the teachings of Christ. It just presents those teachings in a new and very casual way. It uses humor (and some four letter words) to remind us that this story still rings true in a modern setting. I think the show's critics haven't taken the time to understand what it is trying to do. They assume that because Joshua and the disciples are gay that the very worst aspects of what they believe the "gay lifestyle" entails will be presented on stage. I think they would have a very different opinion if they would actually see the show.

Have you ever been involved with a production that was controversial?

David and I worked on "The Laramie Project" a few years ago, and that was picketed by the Westboro Baptist Church. They actually believe that God hates fags. They would rather see us dead than happy and successful. It was a very sad, eerie and sobering experience.

'Stonewall Uprising' sets stage for revolt

Film

GREGG SHAPIRO

There is no shortage of good LGBT documentaries, and "Stonewall Uprising," based on David Carter's book "Stonewall: The Riots that Sparked the Gay Revolution," takes its proud and rightful place among its predecessors. Co-directors Kate Davis and David Heilbroner provide a suitable amount of background through photographs and "dramatic recreation" for what was to become the gay "Rosa Parks moment."

The doc sets the stage for gay life in the 1960s, described as the "dark ages for gay and lesbian people across America." Included are footage of CBS's 1967 news special "The Homosexuals," a speech by the virulently anti-gay psychologist Charles

Socarides, fear-mongering educational films, a horrific anti-gay assembly at a Dade County, Fla., school, newspaper coverage of gay bar raids and a psychiatric hospital in Atascadero, Calif., which was considered the "Dachau for queers."

The oppressive atmosphere of the 1960s proved to be fertile ground for what would eventually occur at Greenwich Village's Stonewall Inn, described as both "a toilet" and "a refuge from the streets."

The film also covers the increase in gay and lesbian visibility during this period, including the rise of the homophile movement through the Mattachine Society and Daughters of Bilitis. Interviewees include Virginia Apuzzo, former New York City mayor Ed Koch, historian Eric Marcus, writer Lucian Truscott IV and several Stonewall Inn bar patrons who were present at the

riots in late June 1969.

What sets this documentary apart is the in-depth focus on the events that created the perfect storm for the uprising that birthed gay liberation. The film's coda, coverage of the first Gay Pride Parade in June of 1970, is particularly moving.



ON SCREEN

"Stonewall Uprising" is screened on March 19 at 7 p.m. at Unitarian Church North, 13800 N. Port Washington in Mequon. Call 262-375-3890.



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Theater

JAY RATH

Look out, Scott Walker! "Make Me a Song," a satirical musical that takes on the Republican Party, receives its Midwestern premiere on March 11 in Madison. The play is by William Finn, the lyricist-composer who created the hit "Falsettos."

"It's very timely, because one of its through-lines makes fun of Republicans," says Tara Ayres, artistic director of StageQ. The Madison theater company's mission is to present gay and lesbian-focused productions and works by gay and lesbian playwrights.

"It's not primarily a political show, but it does have political content," Ayres explains.

"Make Me a Song" features 25 songs from Finn, a Tony Award-winning composer, including a suite from "Falsettos." Also

ON STAGE

"Make Me a Song" plays March 11 - 26 at the Bartell Community Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin St., in Madison. Call 608-661-9696, ext. 3, or visit stageq.com for information.

featured are the songs "Passover," "Billy's Law of Genetics," "Republicans" and "Hitchhiking Across America."

"It's interesting, because if there's any kind of common theme to the show, I'd say it's about being urban and intellectual and hip and Jewish and homosexual," Ayres says.

Besides comedy, one of the show's serious topics is AIDS.

"There are a number of love songs, and then there are songs about people dealing with death, or people even facing their own impending death," she says. "This is not a sad show, but it certainly

has some introspective songs about coming to terms with one's own mortality."

The Washington Post has named Finn, who serves on the faculty of New York University, "the composer laureate of loss." He is the creator of three revues, including "Elegies: A Song Cycle." Finn is also the creator of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," which is becoming a staple in the community theater repertoire.

During its off-Broadway 2007 run, The New York Times said that "the beauty of 'Make Me a Song' is that the audience gradually falls into Mr. Finn's mind-set and goes along for the ride with his changing moods." The newspaper also lauded the revue's "long stretches of brilliance."

"Most of it is a storyteller's show," Ayres says. "Finn is a kind of narrative songwriter, so, in the majority of the songs in the show, the cast members are telling a story to the



PHOTO: ALEX SZELE

"Make Me a Song" features Nicole Riege, Bruce Wheeler, Lisa Spierer, Bobby Goderich and Ken Kusiak.

audience."

The cast includes Bobby Goderich, Ken Kusiak, Nicole Riege, Lisa Spierer and Bruce Wheeler.

"Make Me a Song" will be performed at the Bartell Community Theatre, just off the northeastern corner of Capitol Square in Madison,

the site of ongoing demonstrations against Gov. Scott Walker.

"I'm actually assuming we'll pick up some audience members from those folks who are protesting," Ayres says.

"One of the reasons I like doing theater that has political content is that it provides

moral support and respite for people to go out back there. I think they would enjoy it."

Will protesters' signs be safe in the lobby during the show?

"Absolutely," promises Ayres, laughing. "I think we can arrange that."

In 'Ma Rainey,' the blues come with dues

Theater

HARRY CHERKINIAN

ON STAGE

"Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" runs through March 27 in the Milwaukee Repertory Theater's Quadracci Powerhouse Theater. Call 414-224-9490 or visit www.milwaukeekeerep.com.

"White folks don't understand the blues," says Ma Rainey to her sidemen during a break in the recording studio, which is run by white men. "They hear it come out, but they don't know how it got there. They don't understand that's life's way of talking."

In the superb, flawless production of "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" at The Rep's Powerhouse Theater, Ma Rainey (a real life blues singer) and her band know the blues all too well. They've experienced racial oppression, violence and humiliation. Yet, they find a way to go on.

For them, "life's way of talking" is to create, sing and perform the music that had its roots in the songs and spirituals of plantation slaves. In a way, the characters of "Ma Rainey" remain enslaved, subjugated to the machinations of the white man's recording industry -

underpaying, overpromising and, in the end, maintaining the unequal balance of the status between the races.

Ma Rainey is based on Gertrude "Ma" Rainey, known as the "Mother of the Blues." She influenced artists as diverse as her immediate rival Bessie Smith ("Empress of the Blues") to contemporary folk music master Bob Dylan ("Highway 61 Revisited"). On stage, Ma is difficult, demanding, ill-tempered - "a diva" long before the term was ever dreamed up.

As Rainey and her band attempt to record some new tracks, including the "Black Bottom" dance, their stories unfold. Their tales of physical and sexual violence, racial

humiliation and subjugation are told with an offhandedness that underscores the fact these horrors are their everyday reality, all they've ever known.

Done as a co-production with the Actors Theatre of Louisville, director Ron O.J. Parsons brings a lyrical beauty to the harsh language and all-too-realistic atmosphere created by playwright August Wilson. "Ma Rainey" is one of the 10 plays in Wilson's "Pittsburgh Cycle," which details the African-American experience.

Although it's been 29 years since its inception, the play continues to resonate today, especially in this joint production, with its excellent ensemble cast. The actors so fully inhabit each character that it's easy to forget they're acting.

Rainey's four musicians represent various perspectives of the African-American experience. There's the literate, self-educated pianist Toledo (Alfred H. Wilson), Cutler (Ernest Perry, Jr.), who understands what it takes to make the session successful, and his good friend Slow Drag (A.C. Smith), who's in it for the money. Idealistic upstart horn player, Levee (Anthony Fleming III) learns the hard way that trying to succeed in a world outside of his control can bring about disastrous consequences.

Greta Oglesby captures every nuance and detail of the high and mighty Ma, from the underlying meaning behind her petulant demand for a soda to her tough yet seductive gaze at her sexy younger "friend" Dussie Mae (Erynn Mackenzie). From the rough growl of her vocals to the soft purr in her voice as she strokes Dussie Mae's smooth legs, Oglesby makes Ma Rainey a riveting character throughout two hours and 35 minutes (with a 20-minute intermission).

As Ma explains midway through the recording session, "You don't sing to feel better. You sing 'cause there's a way of understanding life." In "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom," that understanding comes at a very high price.



Greta Oglesby as Ma Rainey

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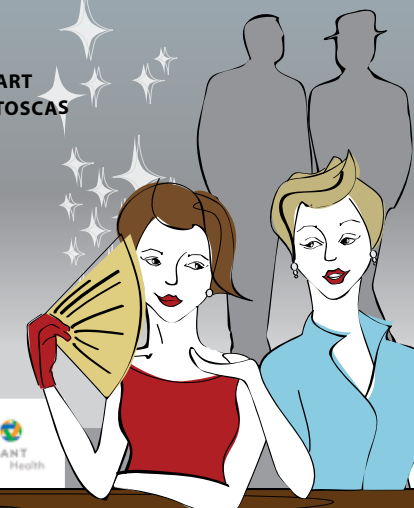
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PHOTO: ZANE WILLIAMS

Colleen Madden and Olivia Dawson in "Going to St. Ives."

Sparks fly in 'St. Ives'

Theater
MICHAEL MUCKIAN

When strong women come together, hearts ignite, sparks fly and sometimes a combined clarity of vision emerges to reveal truths that aren't always pretty. This thesis, brought to life by two compelling characters, drives Forward Theater Co.'s powerful production of Lee Blessing's "Going to St. Ives" at Promenade Hall in Madison's Overture Center for the Arts.

Director Laura Gordon, coaxes what may be career-defining performances out of actors Colleen Madden, a member of American Players Theatre's acting company, and Olivia Dawson. The narrative by Blessing, who has won both Tony Awards and Pulitzer Prizes for his work, balances the play's emotional and intellectual facets with ruthless precision. All components combine beautifully in this production to signal that the two-year-old company may have come of age.

Madden plays Dr. Cora Gage, an English optometrist firmly ensconced in her comfortable home in St. Ives, England. Dawson plays Mary N'Kame, the mother of an African dictator who fancies himself an avenging god overseeing a barren "empire." Mary N'Kame initially visits Dr. Gage for optometric

surgery, but in reality she's seeking help in killing her son, who is responsible for the murders of hundreds, crimes for which she feels responsible because she brought him into the world.

But Dr. Gage also has a secret — a sense of guilt for inadvertently causing the death of her son two years earlier. The two women stand on opposite sides of the same mortality equation, and the actors' masterful exploration of the theme breathes life into both performances.

Madden plays Gage with a flawless accent and quality of urgency that drives the production. Dawson's N'Kame is alternately regal and humane, a contemplative soul fully aware of the weight of her decision and its likely consequences. "A mother is a weak part for a true god," N'Kame says in acknowledging her son's prospective demise at her hands.

Gordon sculpts her players' characterizations as separate but connected by maternal instincts that Madden's Gage would rather not acknowledge but that Dawson's N'Kame appears to have known even before their meeting. Despite her problem with vision, it is N'Kame who sees the situation clearly.

For this production, Forward Theater uses Promenade Hall on Overture's second floor, a temporary performance space fitted with bleacher-type structures and comfort-

able seats."

The sets and properties by Charles J. Trieloff II are evocative of their characters, including a cool blue and white rug in Gage's St. Ives house that mirrors the design on the doctor's teacups. By contrast, the courtyard of N'Kame's small African home is done in earth tones brimming with warmth and welcome.

The same warmth comes through in the African background music assembled by composer Joe Cerqua. The contrasting music for St. Ives may best be described as "Industrial Bagpipe" and is every bit as jarring as its name suggests.

But the sets and sound are truly secondary to the remarkable performances of Madden and Dawson. Too often local professional theater is marred by superior performance and production joined with unworthy material. With "Going to St. Ives," Forward has found a near-perfect blend of components, each of which helps the other rise to remarkable levels. For even the most casual theater buffs, this is a show not to be missed.

ON STAGE

Forward Theater's production of "Going to St. Ives" runs through March 19 in Promenade Hall at Madison's Overture Center. Call 608-258-4141.

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'STRICTLY BALLROOM'

"Strictly Ballroom" (Miramax, 1992) deserves credit for sparking renewed

interest in ballroom dancing, leading eventually to the popular ABC series "Dancing With the Stars." The directorial debut of Australian filmmaker Baz Luhrmann, the heightened and exaggerated "Strictly Ballroom" remains his best work. Far less overblown than the misguided "Australia" and the overrated "Moulin Rouge," "Strictly

Ballroom" is gaudily colorful, wickedly funny and strictly sentimental and entertaining. Competitive and promising ballroom dancer Scott (the stunning Paul Mercurio, making his film debut) is the son of former competing dancers Shirley (Pat Thompson) and Doug (Barry Otto). Working toward the Pan-Pacific Championship since he was 6

years old, Scott almost blows it by working in his own flashy, crowd-pleasing steps during an early competition. He upsets dance partner Liz (Gia Carides), disappoints his parents and coach Les (Peter Whitford) and infuriates crooked toupee-wearing Australian Dance Federation president Barry (Bill Hunter). Just when all hope is lost to find Scott a new dance partner, he connects with Fran (Tara Morice), a student at the dance studio where his mother and father work. Once she convinces Scott to give her a chance, we watch her ugly duckling-to-swan transformation. But Shirley and Les won't stand for Scott dancing with Fran and have other plans for both of them. Not letting fear or anything else get in their way, Scott and Fran practice their routines, even enlisting the help of Fran's flamenco-dancing father Rico (Antonio Vargas) and her grandmother (Armonia Benedicto). Everything comes to a flashy conclusion at the Pan Pacific Championships, where long-kept secrets are revealed and love triumphs over fear.

Mercurio and Morice, sort of like a poor-man's Guy Pearce and Toni Collette, are outstanding and provide the film with the necessary kick, so to speak. Preceding "Muriel's Wedding" and "The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert," "Strictly Ballroom" kick-started a new wave of Australian cinema in the 1990s. It remains one of the genre's best examples.

The DVD bonus features a deleted scene, the informative featurette "Strictly Ballroom: From Stage to Screen," audio commentary and more.

'JEROME ROBBINS' NY EXPORT: OPUS JAZZ'

Even if dance isn't your thing, it's hard not to be captivated by "Jerome Robbins' NY Export: Opus Jazz" (Factory 25). Known as Robbins' "ballet in sneakers," "NY Export: Opus Jazz" was originally performed in the late 1950s and the dancers appeared on "The Ed Sullivan Show."

Henry Joost and Jody Lee Lipes' film adaptation returns Robbins' choreography to

the setting of its inspiration. Filmed on location in New York and featuring a breathtaking ensemble of dancers from the New York City Ballet, the film begins with a convergence of dancers, arriving at an abandoned outdoor public pool by train, taxi, tram, bicycle and on foot. The spectacular group dance number is akin to a flash mob crossed with a Gap ad.

A dance number on an abandoned pier begins with three men and one woman who are later joined by more male dancers.

The next dazzling group dance takes place in a school gymnasium and is followed by a couple dancing on abandoned railroad tracks overgrown with weeds. The final group number, in which the dancers are all dressed in jeans and white T-shirts, is set in an empty auditorium and takes place on a stage, making excellent use of light and shadows.

This is a choreographed love letter to New York. DVD extras include a director's cut by Matt Wolf and Anna Farrell, the 1958 doc "Jerome Robbins' Ballets: USA" and more.

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Patty Larkin: Music from the heart



By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Outside of zydeco and polka circles, there are probably few musicians who have fond memories of spending time on stage with an accordion. Singer/songwriter Patty Larkin is one of the exceptions.

Her most memorable experience occurred a few years ago, when she took an accordion on stage and, along with folkie Tom Rush, played "Hey Bo Diddley" with none other than Bo Diddley himself.

"That was fun — there are a lot of sharps in that song," says Larkin, who will take Milwaukee's Shank Hall stage on March 23 and appear at Madison's Barrymore Theatre on March 26.

Still, Larkin's instrument of choice, the one that's characterized her career for more than 25 years, is the guitar — both electric and acoustic.

Guitar wasn't the first instrument for Larkin, now 59. She started in music with piano lessons at St. Anthony of Padua, a Catholic grade school on Milwaukee's West Side. The lessons did not go well, she says.

"The school had a very authoritarian structure, and I needed something kinder and gentler at the time," she explains.

A second round of lessons went better, but it wasn't until a guitar showed up in the Larkins' Irish-Catholic household that she joined her older and younger sisters in seriously pursuing music.

"There were no girls sports in those days, which left me a lot of time to practice the guitar and to start writing songs

after school," Larkin says.

Larkin earned a music degree from the University of Oregon in Eugene, playing at coffee houses there and in San Francisco. She was never closeted, she says, because her friends and acquaintances knew and accepted her for who she was.

Upon graduation, Larkin moved to Boston to assist her older sister, who was pregnant with her first child. It was the mid-1970s, and the city's music scene appealed to Larkin, so she stayed.

She studied jazz guitar at the Berklee College of Music, which has since awarded her an honorary doctorate, a degree that puts her in the same league as Duke Ellington, Natalie Cole and Sting.

Larkin created a rock 'n' roll band. "I think we were The Patty Larkin Group," she says, shrugging off a request for more information. "Please — it was forgettable," she says.

The rock 'n' roll lifestyle took a toll on Larkin, making it hard to maintain her relationship with Bette Warner, her life and business partner of 25 years. Larkin switched to acoustic music and a kinder, gentler sound. The change helped the relationship, she says, and the pair has since adopted two daughters — Ruby, 6, and Xiaodan, 9. The family lives on Cape Cod, Mass.

"I am determined to be more out as a performer and I always thank my partner from the stage," Larkin says. "It's not that I need to be honest for their sakes, but for mine."

In addition to improving her personal situation, the move to acoustic folk gave her

more opportunity to write, drawing on the influences of her peers, her upbringing and even the city where she spent her formative years.

"I sang in choirs in grade school, which allowed me to do a lot of 'ear training,'" she says. "That's a beautiful way to learn how to sing with people."

Her family's musical and artistic nature — her late mother Mary Jeanne Larkin was a painter — fed her artistic muse, as did poetry ranging from Dylan (Thomas) to Dylan (Bob). As a guitar-driven songwriter, she tends to find the melody first then look for the words that match. Her influences include Celtic dance music and old-time country, but she also looks to contemporary artists such as Moby, Beck and Bjork as a source of inspiration.

"I come out of the '70s with singer/songwriters like Richard Thompson, Joni Mitchell and Bruce Cockburn," she says.

Cockburn, in fact, was one of the artists to accompany Larkin on "25," last year's CD set of 25 acoustic songs she recorded to celebrate the 25th anniversary of "Step into the Light," the first album she recorded in 1985.

But, back to those accordions. In addition to playing them, Larkin collects and refurbishes them.

"I consider myself an accordion rescue person," she says. "Some are so beautiful, and some just show up at my door. I have so many that I've started to give them away."

One could say the same about her heart, which she puts in every song she writes.

ON STAGE

Patty Larkin appears at 8 p.m. March 23, at Milwaukee's Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell Ave. Call 414-276-7288 or go to www.shankhall.com.

She appears again at 7 p.m. on March 26 at Madison's Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood Ave. Call 608-241-8864 or go to www.barrymorelive.com.



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MARCH 10, THURSDAY

High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, presents a solo performance by singer/songwriter **Dan Bern**, at 6:30 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

"**Nobody Lonesome For Me**" by Lanie Robertson continues 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 "**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.



Sarah McLachlan

MARCH 11, FRIDAY

Theatrical Tendencies presents Terrence McNally's "**Corpus Christi**" through March 26 at Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second. Call 414-383-3727.

StageQ presents "**Make Me A Song**," conceived by Rob Ruggiero with music by William Finn, through March 26 at Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin in Madison.

"**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.

Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood in Madison, presents "**Bullying: The Musical**," a new work tackling the pressing social issue with a creative approach featuring an all-youth cast. Call 608-241-2345.

The divine **Sarah McLachlan** performs at 8 p.m. at The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin. Call 414-286-3663.

March's "**Friday Night Live**" at Zen Den Lounge in the InterContinental Milwaukee Hotel (139 E. Kilbourn) starts at 8 p.m. and features DJ Multidimensional Fortitude, live video mixes by DJ Kelly and Nitro Pop CD release by DJ Cody Domino. Call 414-978-2161.

MARCH 12, SATURDAY

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 252 E. Highland, hosts its annual fundraising gala celebrating the center's move to its new location in downtown Milwaukee with a "**Welcome to Your New Home**." It's a two-part affair. "Family Fare" is from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and "Sumptuous Soirée," for the adults, is from 6 to 10 p.m. Visit www.mkelgbt.org or call Patrick Price at 414-292-3065.



EDITED AND COMPILED BY GREGG SHAPIRO

MARCH 13, SUNDAY

At 3 p.m., UWM presents an **Institute for Chamber Music Concert** with faculty cellist Stefan Kartman and guest artist Jeannie Yu on the piano, at Cedarburg Cultural Center, W62 N546 Washington Ave. in Cedarburg. Call 262-375-3676.

Marcus Center For the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State, presents classical Chinese dance company **Shen Yun Performing Arts**. Call 414-273-2787.

Milwaukee's Festival City Symphony presents **American Tales** at 3 p.m. at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells. Call 414-286-3663.



Shen Yun Performing Arts

MARCH 16, WEDNESDAY

Larry Widen, author of "Milwaukee Movie Theaters" and **Manya Kaczkowski**, author of "Milwaukee's Historic Bowling Alleys" are at Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer, at 7 p.m. Call 414-332-1181.

Marcus Center For the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State, presents **Dublin's Traditional Irish Cabaret** featuring Noel V. Ginnity, at 11 a.m. in Vogel Hall. Call 414-273-2787.

UWM Recital Hall, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd., presents **opera scenes**, including works from Mozart, Donizetti and Bizet, at 7:30 p.m. through March 18. Call 414-229-4308.



MARCH 17, THURSDAY

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre presents the fifth annual **Young Playwrights Festival** through March 20, featuring three one-act plays by the area high school students, at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, all Irish lads and lassies get one free drink during the **Shenanigans Party** from 5 to 9 p.m. at This Is It, 418 E. Wells. Call 414-278-9192.

MARCH 18, FRIDAY

Skylight Opera Theatre of Milwaukee director Dimitri Toscas puts a fresh and contemporary spin Mozart's comic opera "**Così fan tutte**," setting it in 1959 Chicago, through April 3 in the Cabot Theatre at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Florentine Opera Company presents "**The Italian Girl in Algiers**" by Gioacchino Rossini (sung in Italian with English translations projected above the stage), tonight and tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. in Uihlein Hall at Marcus Center For the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.

"**The Bomb-Itty Of Errors**," an ad-rap-tation of Shakespeare's "The Comedy Of Errors" by Jordan Allen-Dutton, Jason Catalano, Gregory J. Qaiyum and Erik Weiner has its Milwaukee premiere through May 8 in the Stackner Cabaret at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.

"Dueling Divas II"



MARCH 19, SATURDAY

Miltown Kings' "**Immaculate Erection Show**" begins at 9 p.m. at the Miramar Theater, 2844 N. Oakland.

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

Fresco Opera Theatre presents "**Dueling Divas II**," opera stars belting it out, blow by blow, for the title of diva champion, at 8 p.m. in the Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood in Madison. Call 608-241-2345.

MARCH 20, SUNDAY

Florentine Opera Company presents "**The Italian Girl in Algiers**" by Gioacchino Rossini (sung in Italian with English translations projected above the stage) at 2:30 p.m. in Uihlein Hall at Marcus Center For the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.

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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.

WISCONSIN DELLS

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

SHEBOYGAN

Blue Lite, 1029 N. Eighth St., 920-457-1636.

FOX VALLEY

Rascals Bar & Grill, 702 E. Wisconsin, Appleton, 920-954-9262.

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

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

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

The Shelter, 730 N. Quincy St., Green Bay, 920-432-2662.

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

Debs Spare Time, 1303 Harrison St., Oshkosh, 920-235-6577.

PJ's, 1601 Oregon St., Oshkosh.

NORTHERN

Scoters, 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@wisconsinngazette.com.

WiG'S TAIL-WAGGER
COURTESY OF THE WISCONSIN HUMANE SOCIETY

MEET DOBBY

Dobby is a two and a half-year-old Chihuahua mix who is seeking a companion who will make him their No. 1 little man. He is an affectionate, polite boy who does best with adults and teenagers. He is not interested in toys, but he loves to be praised and rewarded. Dobby has been neutered, vaccinated and microchipped, and is set to go home. See him at 45th & Wisconsin or check him out online — our website is updated every 30 minutes!

TIP OF THE WEEK:

Puppies, especially from three to five months and again at 12 months, tend to chew due to mouth pain from teething. To help relieve discomfort, freeze a toy stuffed with peanut butter. Let your dog chew on it for 30 minutes at a time to numb the mouth.



Dobby, a two and a half-year-old Chihuahua mix

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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/psoa/programs/film/lgbtfilm.

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

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

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

COMMUNITY

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

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

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

Castaways, P.O. Box 1697, 53202, castawayismc@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 Social Support, P.O. Box 1272, 53201, 414-559-2123, www.forge-forward.org, info@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.mkelglt.org.

Milwaukee LGBT History Project, 414-224-0517, www.mkelglt.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, debyddoo2@yahoo.com.

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

Wauwatosa Rainbow Association, tosarainbow@yahoo.com.

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

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

HEALTH

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPORTS

Front Runners/Front Walkers, 262-285-7645, 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.milwaukeegaysoccer.org.

Milwaukee Gay Volleyball League, www.milwaukeegayvolleyball.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.

MADISON

ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

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

COMMUNITY

OutReach, 600 Williamson St., Suite P1, Madison, 53703, 608-255-8582, www.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 Williamson St., Madison, 53703, tooldforthis@tds.net.

POLITICS

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

SPORTS

Madison Gay Hockey Association, www.madisongayhockey.org.

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

YOUTH/EDUCATION

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

FOX VALLEY

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

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

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.

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.

SPORTS

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

YOUTH/EDUCATION

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

OTHER

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

LGBT Community Resource Center Seven Rivers, P.O. Box 3313, 303 Pearl St., LaCrosse, 54602, 608-784-0452, www.7riverslgbt.org, r.st.saver@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., AI-Anon, The Galano Club, Milwaukee.*

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

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

7 p.m., AA The Big Book meeting, TheGalano Club, Milwaukee.*

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

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

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

MONDAY

7 p.m., second Monday, Outwards men's book club, 2710 N. Murray Ave., 53211, 414-963-9089, www.outwardsbooks.com.

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

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

WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

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



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