

ARTFUL PROTEST

New photographic exhibit documents Madison protests against Gov. Walker's budget.

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THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

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Kloppenburg best choice for court

ENDORSEMENT

Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice David Prosser began his campaign for retention by boasting that he would serve on the bench as a "compliment" (sic) to the agenda of Gov. Scott Walker and the state's GOP majority. So much for the quaint ideals of blind justice and accurate spelling.

In the short time since Prosser made his announcement, one that instantly relieved him of any shred of credibility he might have held, Walker's agenda has tanked in the polls. Now it's only fitting that Prosser should go down with the ship he so recklessly boarded.

The Facebook page titled "Prosser Equals Walker" tells voters nearly all they need to know about Prosser. Fortunately, there's an alternative candidate with impeccable

credentials on the April 5 ballot — Joanne Kloppenburg.

Prosser has a history of putting politics and personal ambition ahead of the law. In 1979, while serving as Outagamie County District Attorney, he declined to prosecute a Green Bay priest accused of abusing young boys. When the mother of two victims implored Prosser to file charges, he dismissed her. "It would be too hard on the boys," he said.

The Rev. John Patrick Feeney went on to abuse other children for many years before finally going to prison in 2004. Prosser went on to become a member of the Assembly before Gov. Tommy Thompson elevated him to the state's highest court in 1998, where he has been a reliable member of the court's conservative bloc ever since.

Prosser's behavior on the bench has been reprehensible. He has accused rape victims of lying to gain easier access to abortion services. Behind closed doors, he called Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson a "bitch" and threatened to "destroy" her.

Such antics have won Prosser fervent admirers from the conservative fringe. Right-wing groups such as Wisconsin Club for Growth have bought air-time for him. Christian right groups tout his "pro-family" record, although Prosser, like

KLOPPENBURG page 4



PHOTO: DAN WILSON

Protesters, including Lana Harrington (left) and Robert Litzau, line Lake Drive in Shorewood on March 16.

TOTAL RECALL

Efforts target all eligible senators

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Wisconsin progressives have moved from Capitol Square in Madison to call centers, makeshift offices and the streets of their hometowns, where they're organizing one of the most ambitious recall drives in the nation's history.

Democrats are targeting all eight GOP senators who can be recalled under state law, hoping to pick up at

least three seats and regain control of the Senate.

In a separate effort by Republicans, eight Democratic senators have also been targeted for recall. The targeted Democrats all have pro-equality voting records, while the targeted Republicans oppose equality along with policies

supporting women's health, environmental protections and justice for workers and consumers.

The targeted GOP senators have all earned high ratings from groups promoting the corporate-right agenda, including Americans for Prosperity.

Funded largely by Charles

and David Koch, billionaire brothers who poured over \$1 million into Gov. Scott Walker's campaign last fall, Americans for Prosperity opened an office in Madison shortly after his election. Critics of the governor say the brothers have positioned their energy company Koch Industries for lucrative no-bid contracts from the state.

Although the recall efforts target both sides

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POLITICAL ANALYSIS

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ANGRY? DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON APRIL 5

LGBT news with a twist



By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

GRIZZLY VERSUS CAT

Ticket sales for Kathy Griffin's new Broadway show, "Kathy Griffin Wants a Tony," skyrocketed after some unexpected free publicity from Sarah Palin. The former veep candidate called Griffin a "bully" and a "50-year-old has-been" after a Fox News interviewer asked her about Griffin's upcoming role as a Palin-esque character in "Glee." "I would just ask for respect for my children," Palin told Fox. "As she stated on CNN, her new year's resolution is to destroy my 16-year-old daughter. That takes it a little bit too far. Kathy, pick on me. Come up to Alaska and pick on me, but leave my kids alone."

MOORE PALIN

Julianne Moore will play Sarah Palin in an upcoming HBO drama based on "Game Change," the bestselling book about John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign. The film will center on McCain's selection of Palin as his running mate and their defeat by Barack Obama in the 2008

election. Moore supported Obama during his campaign. Jay Roach is set to direct the project. Best known for the "Meet the Parents" movies, Roach also directed the HBO movie "Recount," about the post-election court battle between Al Gore and George W. Bush in 2000.

BRIBE & GROOM

The FBI charges that an anti-gay, closeted New York state senator used his secret, live-in boyfriend to launder the bribes he received. Sen. Carl Kruger, D-Brooklyn, turned himself in to the FBI on March 10, reported the New York Post under the headline "Bribe & Groom." Kruger faces corruption charges for allegedly trading political favors for more than \$1 million in bribes over a five-year period.

JUDGE NOT

Jonathan D. Lovitz was excused from jury duty after telling the judge he couldn't be impartial

because he's gay. Lovitz, an actor and model, is part of the cast of a new Logo show called "The Set Up Squad." "I can't possibly be an impartial judge of a citizen when I am considered a second-class one in the eyes of this justice system," Lovitz says he told the judge. He says he didn't make the statement to get excused from jury duty but rather to express his feelings about his status in society.

CHIN UP

Hey, bears: Police officers in Durango, Colo., can now sport hair on their chinny, chin, chin — but only goatees, not full beards. The police department instituted the new policy in mid-December. Since then, even the police chief has gotten fuzzier.

THE WRONG TRACK, BABY

Malaysian radio stations worry some lyrics in Lady Gaga's gay anthem "Born This Way" are on the wrong track, baby. Broadcasters in this Muslim-

majority nation have refused to play lines in the hit song that encourage public acceptance of gays, claiming they are being cautious because the government forbids offensive content. Malaysians who tune in to popular stations hear edited versions of "Born This Way" that use indecipherable garble to replace the lyrics: "No matter gay, straight or bi, lesbian, transgendered life, I'm on the right track, baby."

GOD MADE HIM DO IT

A Pennsylvania man told police he was following Old Testament law when he stoned to death an elderly man he claims made sexual advances toward him. John Joe Thomas, 28, faces a first-degree murder charge in the death of Murray Seidman. The two spent many days together at Seidman's apartment. Police said Thomas told them he beat Seidman in the head 10 times with a sock full of rocks after receiving instructions in his prayers that he must end the elderly man's life due to his sexual orientation. Thomas was

the sole executor of Seidman's will and knew how much money was in his bank accounts.

KANSTITUTIONAL?

In 2003, the Supreme Court ruled that laws criminalizing same-sex sex were unconstitutional. But Kansas lawmakers apparently don't care — the state's measure will remain on the books, even if it is not enforced. "It's a tempest in a teapot," Kansas Republican Rep. Lance Kinzer said of the decision.

XXX AT SEC

A freedom of information request led to the release of documents showing that 24 employees with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission were disciplined or received counseling for watching Internet porn on government computers. The documents said the websites contained sexually explicit photographs or video of straight, fetish or gay porn. Some of the employees spent hours on the sites, according to an AP report. Probably not at minimum wage.



VISIT GAY CHICAGO

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Abele is the right leader for Milwaukee County

This is a critical moment for Milwaukee County. Faced with Scott Walker's shameful legacy of staggering debt and a crumbling infrastructure, the next county executive must be a committed and passionate leader with the ability to analyze and resolve problems independent of political considerations.

We believe that Chris Abele is just that sort of leader.

Unlike Walker, who was only interested in Milwaukee County government as a political steppingstone, Abele cares passionately about the area and its citizens. He's a wealthy man who could have

made his home anywhere in the world but chose to live in Milwaukee, a city he fell in love with nearly two decades ago.

Abele has put his money where his heart is. Through his family's Argosy Foundation, he has given generously to organizations that contribute to the quality of life in Milwaukee County. He's provided vision and guidance along with the cash.

Abele has learned firsthand about the challenges confronting the county as co-chair of a group of business and civic leaders established by the Greater Milwaukee Committee to study the

ENDORSEMENT

county's finances. An avowed pragmatist, he understands the need for cooperation to tackle those challenges – cooperation between city and county governments, between the public and private sectors and between political parties. Abele also has productive relationships with the key players who can bring about solutions to the county's problems.

Republican state Rep. Jeff Stone, Abele's opponent, has vowed to continue Walker's

agenda if elected on April 5. He made the vow when he believed that Walker's stock was high, and he quickly backpedaled on it after Walker's approval ratings plummeted. Both the vow and the politically expedient retraction tell Milwaukee County residents exactly what they could expect under Stone, which is to descend four years deeper into the hole Walker dug.

Moreover, Stone's extreme-right voting record in the Assembly is far out

of sync with the majority of Milwaukee County's values. Stone opposes a woman's right to choose, same-sex civil unions and marriage, environmental and consumer protections, and every other item on the progressive social agenda. He was one of only 26 Assembly members to vote against school safety legislation to protect LGBT students from bullying and harassment.

Abele, on the other hand, has a solid history of supporting progressive causes, including LGBT equality.

Stone has backed every item on Walker's gubernatorial agenda, including

the union-busting bill that brought record numbers of protesters to Madison, the gutting of public education and transportation programs, and the changes in state law designed to give lucrative no-bid contracts to Walker's billionaire out-of-state supporters.

The race for Milwaukee County executive is an opportunity for residents to repudiate the policies of Walker by voting against Stone, and a chance to gain fresh, rational new leadership by voting for Abele.

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Prosser called Chief Justice Abrahamson a 'bitch,' threatened to 'destroy' her

KLOPPENBURG page 9 Wisconsin Family Action's hypocritical president Julianne Appling, has no family of his own by their definition – that is, no opposite-sex spouse or children.

Fortunately for LGBT and progressive voters, there is a supremely qualified candidate on the April 5 ballot. Joanne Kloppenburg has the experience, integrity and political independence to help restore our confidence in a court that has been strained in recent years by unseemly partisan bickering.

At the same time that Prosser was protecting pedophile priests, Kloppenburg was in the Peace Corps, serving side by side with her husband in Botswana. Educated at Princeton and Yale, she attended law school at UW-Madison after returning to the United States.

Kloppenburg joined the Wisconsin Department of Justice in 1989 as a prosecutor in environmental law. She has served under attorneys general from both parties and has supporters on both sides of the political aisle.

Kloppenburg understands that the courts exist to solve the problems of real people, not to promote political agendas or protect the interests of the privileged and politically connected. She recognizes that the law, not the party in power or the prevailing political mood, is the ultimate authority in the courtroom.

WiG urges readers to support Kloppenburg in this critical race, which could have enormous impact on the future of our state.

FAIR WISCONSIN ENDORSES ABELE, SUPERVISORS

Fair Wisconsin PAC has endorsed Chris Abele for Milwaukee County executive, Eyon Biddle for District 10 supervisor of the Milwaukee County board and Jason Haas for District 14 supervisor.

"Having local elected officials who stand up for the LGBT community is critical," said FW executive director Katie Belanger. "We need leaders who are not going to continue to hold Milwaukee County back. This is a county that needs to be on the cutting edge of LGBT inclusivity to be able to retain and attract strong businesses. That is something these candidates understand."

For a list of Fair Wisconsin's endorsements, go to fairwisconsin.com/endorsements.

— L.W.



PHOTO: DAN WILSON

Opening act

Mayor Tom Barrett cuts the ribbon marking the official opening of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's new home at 252 E. Highland Ave. The ribbon cutting was part of an evening of celebratory fundraising events held at the center on March 12. For more information about the center's new home and programs, go to www.mkelgbt.org.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT WHERE & WHEN TO VOTE ON APRIL 5
VISIT WWW.WISCONSINGAZETTE.COM/VOTE

Walker has done more to galvanize Democrats than anyone since George Bush

RECALL from page 1

of the political aisle, political observers agree the energy and enthusiasm is disproportionately on the left as a result of the massive mobilization against Walker's budget bill. That bill stripped public unions of nearly all their rights and decimated funding for public health, education and transportation while reducing the tax liability of corporations and the state's wealthiest individuals. It also set the stage for Koch Industries and other GOP allies to receive favored treatment from the state.

National pundits say Walker has done more to galvanize Democrats than any Republican since George W. Bush. Unlike the homegrown campaigns against Republicans, the effort against Democrats is organized by the American Patriot Recall Coalition, according to the Wisconsin Government Accountability Office. APR is a right-wing group based in Utah. Its promotional materials often imply members are grassroots organizations, but they are not.

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THE BREAKDOWN

At least one of the Democratic recall targets – Sen. Jim Holperin of Conover – is considered highly vulnerable for recall, although he's already survived one recall attempt. Obama won his district in 2008 by 7 percentage points.

Green Bay Democrat Dave Hansen and Kenosha Democrat Bob Wirch also are said by Republicans to be somewhat vulnerable, although Obama won both their districts in 2008 by double digits.

At the same time, at least three Republicans are considered highly vulnerable, and another three are somewhat vulnerable, said out state Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Madison, who has emerged as a leader in the fight against Walker's budget bill.

"The situation now is the opposite of what we had last November, where it pretty much didn't matter who your candidate was if they had a 'D' after their name," Pocan said. "This time, if you've got an 'R' after your name, it's not going to be good at the polls."

Pocan said it's critical for

LGBT people to continue standing in solidarity with the unions as the political action moves from the streets to the ballot boxes. "Labor was there with us when we had our constitutional amendment fight. This is another right that's being attacked and we have to stick together when someone attacks rights," he said.

Wisconsin law makes recalls difficult. Organizers have 60 days to collect signatures numbering at least 25 percent of all the people who voted in the last gubernatorial election in their respective districts. That means recall groups must collect 12,000-21,000 signatures in each of the targeted senate districts in order to qualify for the ballot.

Only lawmakers who have served for at least a year can be subjected to a recall election, which is why Walker's detractors must wait for the opportunity to remove him from office.

Despite the challenge, progressive leaders said their efforts are exceeding expectations. State Democratic officials reported on March 14

that 45 percent of the total signatures needed in all eight Republican districts had been gathered. Only one-quarter of the time required to obtain signatures had passed at that point in time.

"It's going fantastically," said Tammy Bockhorst of Grassroots Shorewood. "We're just amazed at all of the people who have offered their support."

Grassroots Shorewood is going after one of the most vulnerable Republicans, state Sen. Alberta Darling of River Hills, a largely suburban district north of Milwaukee that includes some of the state's most affluent citizens as well as working-class areas such as Menomonee Falls.

Darling, who won her last election by 1,000 votes, has enraged many voters by voting in lockstep with fringe Christian groups and the corporate agenda. But Bockhorst said it was Darling's support for Walker's union-busting bill and the GOP's vilification of teachers that has been the last straw for many in her district.

"People are telling us that

they are very upset with the fact that she's not giving any reasons as to why she's siding with Walker," Bockhorst said. "They're especially upset that she's cancelled all her town hall meetings and has become totally unavailable."

Anti-Darling protesters, many of them wearing hot-pink T-shirts – "the color just seems to go with the name 'Darling,'" Bockhorst said – lined Lake Drive north of Edgewood Avenue on March 16 to draw attention to the recall effort. Darling, however, missed the proceedings. She was in Washington, D.C., attending a \$1,000-\$5,000 a plate fundraiser for Wisconsin Republicans sponsored by the BGR Group, one of the corporate right's most powerful lobbying organizations.

Another Republican vulnerable to recall gave his political opponents an unintended gift several weeks ago. When pro-union protesters surrounded the Fond du Lac home of right-wing state Sen. Randy Hopper, his wife emerged to tell them he no longer lived there, because he'd moved in

with his much-younger mistress in Madison. She told reporters both she and her maid are supporting his recall.

His wife's revelation prompted a complaint to be filed against Hopper for living outside his district. The complaint is currently under investigation by the Wisconsin Justice Department.

Hopper was elected to the Senate in 2008 by a margin of only 200 votes. A recent Washington Post poll showed him losing 54-43 in a hypothetical recall match.

Dan Kapanke of La Crosse is another vulnerable Republican. He won his last race with under 3,000 votes out of 87,000 cast. The Post poll showed him losing a recall by a whopping 57-41.

Republicans Robert Cowles of Green Bay, Sheila Harsdorf of River Falls and Luther Olsen of Ripon are considered somewhat vulnerable.

Fair Wisconsin has joined with gay civic leaders and elected officials in backing the recall efforts targeting Republicans. Elections could begin as early as June.

FOR THE RECORD: VOTING HISTORY OF THE GOP SENATORS TARGETED FOR RECALL

WiG looked at ratings the eight GOP senators targeted for recall have received from various special interest groups. The ratings indicate the percentage of time the senators voted with positions taken by the various groups during a given legislative session, which is shown in parentheses.

ROBERT COWLES, GREEN BAY, DISTRICT 2

Voted to ban same-sex marriage and civil unions in Wisconsin.

- Planned Parenthood: 25 (2007-08), 0 (2006), 0 (2005)
- Americans for Prosperity: 90 (2007-08), 71 (2005-2006)
- Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce: 100 (2010), 90 (2009)
- ACLU: 0 (2006)
- Fair Wisconsin: 0 (2004)
- League of Conservation Voters: 67 (2009-2010), 50 (2005)
- Sierra Club: 29 (2005-06)
- Wisconsin AFL-CIO: 27 (2007-08)

ALBERTA DARLING, RIVER HILLS, DISTRICT 8

Voted to ban same-sex marriage

and civil unions in Wisconsin.

- Planned Parenthood: 50 (2007-08), 17 (2006), 0 (2005)
- Americans for Prosperity: 100 (2005-06)
- Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce: 75 (2010), 90 (2009)
- ACLU: 0 (2006)
- Fair Wisconsin: 0 (2004)
- League of Conservation Voters: 50 (2009-2010), 39 (2005-06)
- Sierra Club: 14 (2005-06)
- Wisconsin AFL-CIO: 27 (2007-08)

SHEILA HARSDFORF, RIVER FALLS, DISTRICT 10

Voted to ban same-sex marriage and civil unions in Wisconsin.

- Planned Parenthood: 50 (2007-08), 0 (2006), 0 (2005)
- Americans for Prosperity: 79 (2005-06)
- Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce: 100 (2010), 90 (2009)
- ACLU: 0 (2006)
- Fair Wisconsin: 0 (2004)
- League of Conservation Voters: 58 (2009-2010), 50 (2005-06)
- Sierra Club: 43 (2005-06)
- Wisconsin AFL-CIO: 36 (2007-08)

LUTHER OLSEN, RIPON, DISTRICT 14

Voted to ban same-sex marriage and civil unions in Wisconsin.

- Planned Parenthood: 25 (2007-08), 33 (2006), 20 (2005)
- Americans for Prosperity: 76 (2005-06)
- Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce: 100 (2010), 100 (2009)
- ACLU: 0 (2006)
- Fair Wisconsin: 0 (2004)
- League of Conservation Voters: 67 (2009-2010), 29 (2005-06)
- Sierra Club: 29 (2005-06)
- Wisconsin AFL-CIO: 45 (2007-08)

RANDY HOPPER, FOND DU LAC, DISTRICT 18

First elected to public office in 2008. Hopper has a limited legislative record.

- Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce: 100 (2010), 100 (2009)
- League of Conservation Voters: 50 (2009-10)

GLENN GROTHMAN, WEST BEND, DISTRICT 20

One of the four most virulently anti-

equality members of the Legislature, Grothman was one of only three senators who voted against legislation to discourage anti-gay bullying in Wisconsin schools. He voted to ban same-sex marriage and civil unions in the state.

- Planned Parenthood: 0 (2007-08), 0 (2006), 0 (2005)
- Americans for Prosperity: 93 (2005-06)
- Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce: 80 (2010), 100 (2009)
- ACLU: 20 (2006)
- Fair Wisconsin: 0 (2004)
- League of Conservation Voters: 36 (2009-2010), 24 (2005-06)
- Sierra Club: 14 (2005-06)
- Wisconsin AFL-CIO: 9 (2007-08)

MARY LAZICH, NEW BERLIN, DISTRICT 28

Another one of the four most virulently anti-equality members of the Legislature, Lazich was one of only three senators who voted against legislation to discourage anti-gay bullying in Wisconsin schools. She voted to ban same-sex marriage and civil unions in the state.

- Planned Parenthood: 0 (2007-

- 0 (2006), 0 (2005)
- Americans for Prosperity: 93 (2005-06)
- Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce: 100 (2010), 90 (2009)
- ACLU: 20 (2006)
- Fair Wisconsin: 0 (2004)
- League of Conservation Voters: 33 (2009-2010), 28 (2005-06)
- Sierra Club: 14 (2005-06)
- Wisconsin AFL-CIO: 20 (2007-08)

DAN KAPANKE, LA CROSSE, DISTRICT 32

Voted to ban same-sex marriage and civil unions in Wisconsin.

- Planned Parenthood: 0 (2007-08), 0 (2006), 0 (2005)
- Americans for Prosperity: 76 (2005-06)
- Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce: 80 (2010), 81 (2009)
- ACLU: 0 (2006)
- League of Conservation Voters: 67 (2009-2010), 50 (2005-06)
- Sierra Club: 43 (2005-06)
- Wisconsin AFL-CIO: 50 (2007-08)

Source: Project Vote Smart

Out man seeks Madison council seat

By Louis Weisberg
Staff writer

An out gay man says he's running for Madison Common Council to restore progressive leadership in his district, but his opponent contends she's being targeted in a grudge match.

Sam Stevenson, 25, has been endorsed by Fair Wisconsin, the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, state Rep. Mark Pocan and other leaders in his race to unseat 2nd District Ald. Bridget Maniaci, 27. Stevenson says he decided to enter the race after Maniaci threw her support behind a controversial \$93-million project to redevelop the Edgewater Hotel on Lake Mendota.

The project was pushed through city council over the objection of the Landmarks Commission and will bring more congestion to the Mansion Hill Historic District while putting upward pressure on rent, Stevenson says.

But Maniaci says she and other alders improved the plans submitted by developers.

"We got them to completely change how they were going to be doing their parking — it's now all underground," Maniaci says.

"We got them to move the building out of the right of way and they reduced the building's height by three floors."

Stevenson says the surrounding area has the most parking permits of any neighborhood in the city, and the size of the project will make the parking situation worse. He says the Edgewater redevelopment deal is part of common council's growing pattern of caving in to demands from politically connected developers who are eroding the city's quality of life.

Stevenson says former Ald. Brenda Konkel was the kind of progressive leader he hopes to become for the 2nd District. Maniaci defeated Konkel in 2009 by 62 votes.

"We were really proud to have (Konkel) on common council because her leadership was built on compassion and principle," Stevenson says. "She was a big advocate for tenants' rights. ... Over the past two years we really haven't been getting that kind of representation."

"These are just baseless political accusations," Maniaci counters. "I am within the tradition of a progressive alder."

Maniaci says she's promoted policies to make the neighborhood more bicycle-friendly and safer for tenants. She accuses Konkel's supporters of trying to get even with her.

"Brenda Konkel was an eight-year incumbent, and a number of people were not happy that she didn't win," Maniaci says. "I've had a target on my back. It's been hard to do my job when I've had her constantly over my shoulder blogging about me."

Although the race between Stevenson and Maniaci is con-

tentious, equality issues are not part of the debate. Maniaci is an ally who belonged to her high school's gay/straight alliance.

But LGBT leaders say it's important to promote candidates like Stevenson who can change perceptions about gay people and provide them with representation and leadership. And Stevenson says he'd like to help make Madison a destination for LGBT tourists.

"Madison is uniquely positioned to take advantage of that," he says.



PHOTO: COURTESY
Sam Stevenson campaigns for Madison Common Council.



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White House hosts bullying conference

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

These days, a grownup Barack Obama knows how to dismiss his bullies from Alaska to Arizona.

But as a kid he suffered when targeted by schoolyard taunts about having big ears and a funny name, the president told a group assembled March 10 at the White House for a landmark conference on bullying.

Intimidation and torment must not be tolerated, Obama told the audience brought together to discuss how best to combat bullying among children.

Bullied children are at higher risk of falling behind in school or dropping out, abusing drugs or alcohol, suffering mental problems and attempting suicide.

The president, in welcoming educators, lawmakers, policy-setters, parents,

students and activists, said he hoped the conference would "dispel the myth that bullying is just a harmless rite of passage or an inevitable part of growing up. ... Bullying can have destructive consequences for our young people."

Last fall, a series of unrelated suicides by young gays set off alarms from neighborhood schools to the White House. In most of the more than dozen cases, the young men and boys had complained of being harassed by peers.

The start of the school year "was harrowing for all of us who work on youth and schools issues, painfully reminding us that bullying has far-reaching consequences for young people and for school effectiveness," said Eliza Byard of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network.

Byard attended the White House conference along with other GLSEN representatives.

"Federal leadership is critical to ensure that all young people have an opportunity to get an education," she said.

Representatives from other LGBT groups also attended the forum, including Jarrett Barrios of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, who called the event a "turning point."

Attendees heard from researchers and met in small groups to discuss anti-bullying efforts in schools, youth groups, neighborhoods and homes.

The conference coincided with the launch of a new initiative, stopbullying.gov, a resource for parents and educators, as well as the introduction of several safe schools bills in Congress.

SAFE SCHOOLS BILLS INTRODUCED

U.S. Rep. Jared Polis and U.S. Sen. Al Franken recently reintroduced legislation to protect public school students from bullying, harassment and discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

At a press conference March 10 in Washington, D.C., the Democratic congressman from Colorado and the Democratic senator from Minnesota stood with Wendy Walsh, whose son Seth committed suicide after being bullied at school.

"Education is the right of every student regardless of their real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity," said the openly gay Polis. "It becomes more apparent with each case that this is a problem that is not going away. ... The alarming increase in teen suicides has shown us just how far we are from making our children's schools safe spaces."

Franken said, "The high suicide rate for LGBT youth - as witnessed across the country over the past year - shows that we are falling drastically short in our efforts to protect our kids. I'm committed to passing this legislation to ensure that all of our children know that they're safe in their schools and have someone to turn to."

The Student Non-Discrimination Act would prohibit discrimination in public schools based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. It also would forbid schools from discriminating against LGBT students or ignoring harassing behavior.

Another measure, the Safe Schools Improvement Act introduced by U.S. Sens. Robert Casey, D-Penn., and Mark Kirk, R-Ill., would require school districts that receive federal funding to adopt anti-bullying policies.

A third bill, the Tyler Clementi Higher Education Anti-Harassment Act introduced by U.S. Rep. Rush Holt, D-N.J., and U.S. Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., would require colleges and universities receiving federal student aid to adopt anti-bullying policies.

- L.N.

Lessons of redemption

Opinion
MAGGI CAGE

But he also shared the insights of a man who is grateful for the opening of his eyes.

It is rare to witness the journey of someone who moves from acts of hatred to redemption, from homophobia and racism to acceptance. But I had this experience at the hate crimes summit held at Marquette University on March 10, sponsored by the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Attendees included law enforcement, government officials and members of the judicial system. Keynote speakers included Dennis Shepard, father of murdered Wyoming college student Matthew Shepard, and Sheriff David O'Malley, who was the lead investigator of that hate-motivated crime.

O'Malley began his talk by revealing his feelings about the gay community prior to his involvement in investigating Matthew Shepard's murder. He confessed his easy use of the words "fag" and "queer," along with his disdain for LGBT people.

But through his involvement in the investigation, O'Malley came to understand how his own prejudice and resulting actions fueled the hatred in the community that led to Shepard's death. He shared his revelations with emotion, offering a window into the grief and

regret with which he still struggles. But he also shared the insights of a man who is grateful for the opening of his eyes.

O'Malley had advice for the law enforcement members of the audience. He made an urgent entreaty to them to review their language and any prejudicial perspectives that prevent them from serving all citizens equally.

Dennis Shepard was our lunchtime speaker. A small, neat man dressed in Wrangler jeans and cowboy boots, he stood before a photo of his son throughout his entire talk, never letting anyone in the room forget the young and handsome face. Like O'Malley, Dennis Shepard had sins to confess. He too had been accustomed to using derogatory words for gay people. His journey to redemption was made through the foundation he and his wife started, and the many speaking engagements they have made over the years since the murder. In his

statement to the court, he said "was not my gay son. He was my son, who happened to be gay."

Our last traveler to redemption was a young man from northeastern Wisconsin who participated in the planning and failed attempt of a hate crime against a Hmong family along with several other young people. Their plan to murder a family unknown to the group was foiled by the serendipitous drive-by of a local police car. It wasn't until much later that the FBI got involved and it was determined that a hate crime occurred.

All of the young people were charged and sent to federal prison for varying terms. The young man who spoke at the Hate Crimes Summit described how the events of his crime had led him to turn his life around. In fact, during the summit he apologized to the mother and father whom he targeted in the failed attack.

This young man now has a steady job and a new baby with his girlfriend. He has served his time and he has benefited from self-reflection, confessing and asking for forgiveness.

Redemption is defined in many ways. I think the stories from the Hate Crimes Summit are about salvation and liberation.

Maggi Cage is executive director of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.

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Democrats seek to repeal DOMA

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

When the senate clerk called the roll on H.R. 3396, he tallied a lopsided vote: 85 yeas, 14 nays, one non-vote.

The Defense of Marriage Act, which had already sailed through the U.S. House, passed the Senate at 2:42 p.m. on Sept. 10, 1996. About two weeks later, Bill Clinton signed DOMA into law, banning the federal government's recognition of same-sex marriages and authorizing states to do the same.

Earlier this month, six of the 14 senators who had voted in the minority in 1996 urged their colleagues to revisit the issue and vote to repeal DOMA.

"DOMA was wrong and unconstitutional when I voted against it 15 years ago, in 1996, and it's equally wrong and unconstitutional today," said U.S. Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., a co-sponsor of the repeal bill called the Respect for Marriage Act.

U.S. Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer from

Pelosi asked Republicans to tell Congress how much it will cost taxpayers to defend the anti-gay law.

California, Daniel Akaka and Dan Inouye from Hawaii, and Ron Wyden of Oregon also voted against DOMA and are sponsoring the repeal bill — as is Patrick Leahy of Vermont, who voted for DOMA.

Feinstein, who wrote the Respect for Marriage Act, said, "My own belief is that when two people love each other and enter the contract of marriage, the federal government should honor that."

Boxer said, "The Defense of Marriage Act has nothing to do with defending marriage

— all it does is discriminate against millions of Americans by denying them equal treatment under the law. It is long past time that we repealed this unjust law and started treating all our families with the dignity and respect they deserve."

In the House, lead sponsors include Jerry Nadler, Nancy Pelosi and John Conyers, as well as openly gay Reps. Barney Frank, Tammy Baldwin, Jared Polis and David Cicilline.

"DOMA harms real Americans," said Baldwin, D-Madison. "It harms children and their loving parents. It harms elderly life-long partners. And it harms widows and widowers."

Earlier this year, the Obama administration announced it would not defend in court the section of DOMA that withholds federal recognition of same-sex marriages. However, the administration said it would continue to enforce DOMA until it was repealed by Congress or voided by the courts.

The GOP majority in the

BENEFITS BILL INTRODUCED

U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer and U.S. Rep. Anthony Weiner recently introduced legislation intended to equalize COBRA benefits for same-sex couples and their families.

COBRA, or the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, guarantees continued health coverage to qualified beneficiaries of an employer health plan. COBRA was intended to help families cover gaps in health insurance — from the date one job ends to when benefits at a new job kick in.

But Boxer, a Democrat from California, and Weiner, a Democrat from New York, say a fix is needed.

The act doesn't protect same-sex couples and their children. COBRA mandates that employees, their spouses and their dependent children can continue their health coverage, but federal law does not recognize gay marriages or partnerships.

"All of our families deserve equal access to health insurance," Boxer said. "This bill would help ensure that domestic partners and their families will be able to keep their health coverage if their partner loses their job."

— L.N.

House has stepped forward to defend DOMA in federal court. The House Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group voted, along party lines, to direct the House general counsel to initiate defense of the statute using outside lawyers.

The announcement from House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, brought questions from House Democrats about the associated costs, because Republicans have said this

congressional session will be about trimming the budget. "It is important that the House receive an estimate of the cost to taxpayers for engaging private lawyers to intervene in the pending DOMA cases," Pelosi said. She added, "The American people want Congress to be working on the creation of jobs and ensuring the continued progress of our economic recovery rather than involving itself

unnecessarily in such costly and divisive litigation" (see full statement on p. 12). In 1996, when Boxer, Feinstein and Kerry voted against DOMA, they went against the majority in the Senate but also the majority in public opinion polls.

New polling on DOMA shows the public has flipped — 51 percent oppose DOMA and 54 percent oppose a House defense of DOMA in court.

Baldwin pushes ERA

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

Wisconsin Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin on March 8 introduced legislation to speed ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

The openly lesbian representative from Madison selected International Women's Day to introduce her measure, stating: "The ERA is intended to ensure equality for women and men in all areas of society. It is an immediate and decisive remedy to end sex discrimination in federal and state laws and provides a clear benchmark for judicial interpretation."

The ERA states: "Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex. Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article. Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years



PHOTO: COURTESY

Wis. Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin

after the date of ratification." Congress passed the proposed constitutional amendment in 1972, but 38 states needed to ratify the amendment within seven years. The deadline was extended to 10 years, but the proposed amendment fell three states short of ratification.

Recently, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia stated that the U.S. Constitution does not prohibit discrimination based on sex. Baldwin cited the Justice's opinion in her push for full ratification, which could be aided

with passage of her bill. The measure would remove the deadline so that three more states could act on the ERA. Endorsees of Baldwin's legislation include the National Organization for Women, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Progressive Democrats of America and a number of other organizations. The ERA has not been ratified by Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Utah and Virginia.

NATIONAL BRIEFS



PHOTO: WWW.NAVY.MIL

Ray Mabus and Harvard University president Drew Faust sign an agreement bringing ROTC back to campus.

ROTC RETURNING TO HARVARD

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus and Harvard University president Drew Faust recently signed an agreement to bring the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps program back to Harvard for the first time in 40 years.

The program, established in 1926, was suspended from Harvard's campus during the Vietnam era.

More recently, opposition to ROTC and military recruitment on the campus

was over the government's ban on openly gay service-members.

The ban is being lifted with the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell."

W.VA. LEGISLATURE PASSES FUNERAL-PICKETING BILL

West Virginia lawmakers have passed legislation that would establish criminal penalties for protesting at funerals, despite a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision upholding such pickets.

The state senate passed the measure after accepting changes made in the house of delegates.

If acting West Virginia Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin signs the measure, demonstrating at a funeral or memorial service would be a misdemeanor.

The measure responds to numerous anti-gay protests by the Kansas-based Westboro Baptist Church. Led by the Rev. Fred Phelps, the church has picketed military funerals and last year celebrated the death of 29 coal miners in the Upper Big Branch mine disaster.

In an 8-1 ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the group's protests were protected by the First Amendment.

STANDING-ROOM ONLY AT RI HEARING

Tempers flared and voices rose March 7 as Rhode Island state lawmakers held hearings on legislation to make the state the sixth to legalize

gay marriage.

Chairs in the senate committee room filled up hours early, and opponents and supporters lined hallways outside with capitol police officers standing by. At several points during the hearing, opponents of gay marriage standing outside had to be quieted after loudly chanting "one man, one woman."

Rhode Island lawmakers have debated bills to allow gay marriage for years. Supporters like their chances this year, thanks to the election of Gov. Lincoln Chafee, an independent who supports the bill.

MARYLAND GAY MARRIAGE BILL DIES WITH NO FINAL VOTE

The speaker of Maryland's House vowed that Democrats would try again next year to pass legislation legalizing gay marriage, but the intense lobbying by faith groups against the measure in recent weeks shows that it

won't be easy, even in a state known for its liberal politics.

A loose coalition of Democratic legislators failed to cobble together enough votes to overcome opposition from Republicans and religious groups, such as the Catholic Church and many black congregations, to make Maryland the sixth U.S. state to legalize gay marriage.

Lawmakers had planned to vote on the bill in the house, but it was withdrawn.

Opposition from some religious groups grew after the senate narrowly passed its version of the measure Feb. 24. Then some Democratic lawmakers withdrew their support, while freshman legislators had trouble determining what constituents wanted.

Delegate Anne Kaiser, one of the chamber's openly gay members, said supporters were always a few votes short of the 71 needed.

COUPLE CHALLENGES DALLAS PAPER

Dallas partners Mark Reed-Walkup and Dante Walkup recently filed a non-

discrimination claim against the Dallas Morning News for the newspaper's refusal to run their wedding announcement.

The couple, married last December in a ceremony at the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C., paid for a wedding announcement in the Dallas Morning News.

However, newspaper publisher Jim Moroney refused to run the announcement, citing Texas law barring same-sex couples from marrying in the state.

The couple has since filed a complaint with Dallas' Fair Housing Office alleging the newspaper violated the city's non-discrimination provision, "Unlawful Discriminatory Practices Relating to Sexual Orientation."

The couple cited the opinion of attorney James Donovan in the Brooklyn Law Review: "If a newspaper is a public accommodation, then its refusal to grant access to the society pages to gay men and lesbians (to announce) their unions likely would violate the nondiscrimination ordinance."

— From AP and WiG reports



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 Curtis Harris received a \$3 million settlement from the city of Milwaukee. The settlement was approved by the City Common Council on October 13, 2009. This settlement was the result of a six year legal battle by the lawyers at Hupy and Abraham, S.C., and it was the largest such settlement in state history.

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{ Editorial }

The new pariahs

Republicans used to trick Americans into supporting economic policies that have their worst interests at heart by raising the terrorism threat level or inflaming homo hatred. But that's so Bush era.

Today's economic elites have found a new scapegoat in their war for every last dollar that America produces: school teachers.

According to Gov. Scott Walker and his fellow Republican corporate shills, public school teachers are lazy, incompetent and shockingly well paid. They work part-time for nine months, then take off the summer to enjoy fabulous vacations on your hard-earned tax dollars.

Of course, this is all an utter fabrication, as anyone who knows a school teacher can attest.

It's true that many public school teachers today, unlike a generation ago, earn livable wages and enjoy good benefits. Such benefits were standard for most Americans back when the middle class was strong, before greed-driven corporate policies widened the gap between the nation's haves and have-nots into a shocking chasm.

But it's tragic that Walker et al are able to fuel middle class resentment of teachers' modest benefits. Instead of resenting those benefits, people should ask why they're not getting them too, as their parents did.

LGBT people could sit back and enjoy it as Republicans turn their demonizing rhetoric and unrestricted corporate advertising dollars on another group for a change. We probably have the least to lose in this race, since we're the least likely to have kids.

So why should we care if the GOP destroys public education in order to create a moronic America that's even more susceptible to the fact-challenged pundits of Fox News?

For one thing, we don't like the people behind this latest scapegoating campaign. They're the same interests that have provoked voters to blame us for their bad marriages and unwanted sexual urges. Now these same interests are blaming public workers for the budget deficits caused by their recklessness.

And we care because an ignorant America is an intolerant America where the already shrunken middle class will all but disappear. It's an America without a future, and patriots care about that future, even if they are childless.

Fight back by voting Democratic on April 5 and supporting the recall efforts against Republican state senators.



Mr. Williams tried not to panic.
There was still a chance that Bobby was undressing them.

{ Letters }

MR. SPEAKER

(The following letter was sent by House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi to Speaker of the House John Boehner.)

Dear Mr. Speaker:
The House Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group voted this week by a 3-2 margin to direct the House General Counsel to initiate a legal defense of the Defense of Marriage Act. As you know, the Democratic members of the BLAG voted against directing the House Counsel to initiate the costly defense of a statute which many believe to be unconstitutional under the Equal Protection clause.

While respecting the role of the BLAG to make such decisions, I disagree in this circumstance because of the number of cases, at least 10. There are numerous parties

who will continue to litigate these ongoing cases regardless of the involvement of the House. No institutional purpose is served by having the House of Representatives intervene in this litigation, which will consume 18 months or longer. As we noted, the constitutionality of this statute will be determined by the courts, regardless of whether the House chooses to intervene. The American people want Congress to be working on the creation of jobs and ensuring the continued progress of our economic recovery rather than involving itself unnecessarily in such costly and divisive litigation.

The resolution passed by the BLAG also directs the House General Counsel to hire private lawyers rather than utilize his own office to represent the House. The General Counsel indicated that he lacked the personnel and the budget to absorb those substantial litigation duties. It is important that the House receive an estimate of the cost to taxpayers

Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
of Congress

OUR MISSION

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

So they said

“It's just a gift to have her say that. It's a gift from Wasilla to me.”
— Comedian Kathy Griffin announcing that ticket sales for her new Broadway show spiked after Sarah Palin called her a “bully” and “has-been” in a Fox News interview.

“Any straights here? There must be seven or eight.”
— Kathy Griffin addressing the opening night audience of her new Broadway show, titled “Kathy Griffin Wants a Tony.”

“Anderson Cooper is coming up next. Let's see what SHE'S up to.”
— Larry King making a joke about Cooper's sexual orientation during a Comedy Central roast of Donald Trump.

“God did say, Christ did say that earthquakes would increase in the last days, and that's what we're seeing.”
— Anti-gay crusader Malcolm McGregor III, who's running for city council in El Paso, Texas, and blaming the victims for the earthquake and tsunami that ravaged Japan.

“I knew the minute I met him, I would love him forever.”
— Jodie Foster declaring her undying love for homophobic, misogynistic, racist, anti-Semitic actor/director Mel Gibson. Foster directed Gibson in the forthcoming film “The Beaver.”

“This issue of exclusion is not Irish, let's be clear about it. Exclusion is not an Irish thing. ... I think that's the message that needs to be driven home.”
— Irish Foreign Minister Eamon Gilmore criticizing New York St. Patrick's parade organizers for excluding gay groups from marching.

“How dare they play that song and cut out its shining heart.”
— Malaysian gay rights activist Pang Khee Teik criticizing a broadcaster in his country for using indecipherable garble to replace lyrics containing LGBT references in Lady Gaga's “Born This Way.”

“Did you see ‘Glee’ this week? Sickening! And, besides shoving the gay thing down our throats, they made a mockery of Christians – again! I wonder what their agenda is? Hey, producers of ‘Glee’ – what's your agenda? One-way tolerance?”
— Former “Saturday Night Live” star and right-wing evangelical Christian Victoria Jackson responding to the kiss between actors Chris Colfer and Darren Criss on “Glee.”

“The Prime Minister of Britain, who leads the Conservative Party there, made a video, and we haven't seen one from anyone on the right in the U.S. to even say, ‘You're 14 and gay. Don't kill yourself.’”
— Dan Savage complaining to Time magazine about the lack of right-wing support for his “It Gets Better” campaign to prevent young LGBT people from committing suicide.

Wrong temperment for court

In the last few months we have witnessed the dangers one-party rule can bring when it rests in the hands of extremists. In the current political environment it is more important than ever to have checks and balances among the three branches of government, because members of our current state Legislature have proven they are rubber stamps for Scott Walker's agenda. This makes the Supreme Court election on April 5 vital to Wisconsin.

Incumbent Justice David Prosser is a partisan who very early in his campaign pledged he would be a complement to Walker and the Republican majority. One would expect a justice on the Supreme Court to avoid making such partisan appeals and rather commit to basing decisions on the law and the facts of each case.

Perhaps we should have anticipated Prosser's hyper-partisanship, because for many years he was a Republican legislator and a leader of the Wisconsin GOP.

Very soon we can expect a flood of ads from Prosser's special interest supporters. If they follow past form, they will tout a “tough on crime” message. Since Prosser was



His political ally Gov. Tommy Thompson appointed him to the Supreme Court.

The Greater Wisconsin Committee is currently running an ad highlighting that Prosser and Walker voted together 95 percent of the time when they both served in the Assembly. Prosser's partisan and extreme record is detailed at prosserequals-walker.com.

That record includes anti-equality extremism. In the 1980s, when moderate Republicans joined with Democrats in making Wisconsin the first state to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation, Prosser voted against the landmark legislation.

Very soon we can expect a flood of ads from Prosser's special interest supporters. If they follow past form, they will tout a “tough on crime” message. Since Prosser was

Prosser and Walker voted together 95 percent of the time in the Assembly.

never a judge prior to being appointed to the state's highest court, his special interest allies might try to tout his time as a district attorney.

However, that tactic could easily backfire. For example, as a DA in 1979, Prosser told a mother that he did not want to prosecute the priest who abused her sons. The priest went on to continue a pattern of abuse and was eventually sent to prison. This failure to prosecute will be very hard for Prosser to avoid while trying to boast about his supposed “tough on crime” credentials.

There have also been questions about Prosser's

over-the-top behavior on the state's highest court. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel recently highlighted this issue in a stunning report. During a disagreement with Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson, Prosser reportedly called her a “bitch” and threatened to “destroy” her, according to the Republican-leaning newspaper. This kind of conduct is unacceptable in any context, but from someone seeking a 10-year term on Wisconsin's highest court, it goes far beyond the pale.

The people of Wisconsin have an opportunity to rid the court of the toxic dynamic that currently plagues it. During that process we could also start to see a merciful end to the radical one-party rule that has so badly divided our state and compromised our entire government. But none of this will even be possible if we don't get out and vote with one voice on April 5.

Find more news at
www.wisconsin Gazette.com.

Snap out of it and fight back

It sure does seem like a lot of bad things have been happening lately, doesn't it?

Budget battles, union busting, earthquakes, tsunamis, assassinations, oil spills, air strikes, hate crimes, name-calling – not to mention nuclear crisis! Everyone, young or old, gay or straight, seems to agree that the world is going to hell in the proverbial hand basket.

The 24/7 multi-media onslaught fuels a crisis mentality that can make the hardest among us feel burned out and helpless. Who doesn't get a bit dazed watching Anderson Cooper reporting from yet another hot spot, seeing casualty figures from the latest disaster or mass murder, or hearing loud-mouthed pundits screech about those darn “so-and-sos” destroying the country?

The media are only the messengers and the world, our country and state really are in crisis. There are many things to be upset about, but



passive reception of all the bad news (in the car, on the couch) contributes to our frustration and disempowerment.

We all need to take a clue from that great political mind Cher and “snap out of it!”

Every crisis presents opportunities. An active response, at whatever level is realistic for you, is the best way to fight fatigue, reduce isolation and work toward solutions rather than wallow in problems.

Dozens of organizations in Wisconsin would welcome your involvement. Check the websites or call the offices of Wisconsin AFL-CIO, Planned Parenthood, public radio and TV stations (which are facing extinction), LGBT groups, ACLU, environmental organizations, American Red Cross, Peace Action Wisconsin, Urban League, etc.

When volunteering, always ask how you can be of assistance but also explain your own skills so you can be matched to suitable tasks that will sustain your interest. Volunteers often drift away when they are not fully engaged, so find the niche for you.

In addition to addressing an issue you care about, becoming politically active has many other advantages. Lending your skills to organizations or building your knowledge through volunteer work can advance your career goals. You can gain experience and references that may help in future job searches.

Another plus is meeting fantastic, committed people who share your values. I have met so many wonderful people over the years while walking picket lines, working phone banks, mailing newsletters and reporting on events. You may even find a girlfriend or boyfriend – God knows I have, more than a few times!

Political activism, with its stimulating discussions, exciting demonstrations and campaigns, and intense friendships, is a natural high and the best antidote I know to sitting at home moping about the state of the world.

And limit your viewing of new media (TV, Internet, Twitter, etc.). Spend the saved time with “old” media, like books, which are not only less stressful but provide deeper context and discussion. We'd be much better communicators and advocates if we read and studied more.

Given that the right wing has deep pockets, strong institutions, aggressive tactics and massive media reach, the battle to protect and extend the progressive tradition on all fronts is apt to be a long one. We need to snap out of our lethargy, pace ourselves and generate the kind of energy needed for the long haul.

What do you think?
Write a letter to the editor!

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The ABC's of sex

Religion

ANDREW WARNER



Progressive people of faith need a way to articulate the blessedness of sex.

How do we talk about sex? Progressive religious communities often speak very broadly about God's love — "Everyone is truly welcome," we say. But we get awkward and uncomfortable when it comes to the topic of what those people do together.

Conservative Christians don't have such problems. They promote a clear message about sex, particularly when talking about it in light of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. They embrace the acronym "ABC." "A" stands for abstinence, "B" for be faithful in marriage and "C" for condoms.

When I hear conservatives talk about the ABC's of sex, I can't help but notice the clear sense of judgment. It is as if they are handing out grades, and clearly they think it's better to get an "A" than a "C."

It makes me wonder: "What I have to do to get an 'F'?"

The conservative Christian approach to sex reaches far back into the history of Christianity to the Apostle Paul. He wrote to the church in Corinth, advising that it was best to be abstinent — as he was. But as a concession he said that people could marry.

According to Paul, husbands and wives were to "do their duty," which is about as joyless and clinical a descrip-

tion of sex as I've ever heard. He summed up his advice by saying, "Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I am. But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion."

Paul did not say whether marriage would contain the flame of sex or smother it. The Christian tradition took away from Paul the idea of abstinence as the highest virtue.

Thankfully, Paul was not the only Biblical voice on sex. In fact, there was a lot

of sex going on in the Bible. The first law of the Bible, found in the first chapter of Genesis, advised "be fruitful and multiply." Thus, the very first law that God gave was to have sex.

Within Judaism, this first law was taken as a sign that marital sex was a blessing. The rabbis said God was pleased when a married couple had sex. And it was a double blessing to have sex on the Sabbath. (I wish Paul had studied to be a rabbi.)

Progressive people of faith need a way to articulate the blessedness of sex. We need our own ABC's of sex. It would begin with "A," for adult. Sex is meant for adults who can make informed, willing choices. Those choices might include using condoms or birth control, depending on the situation.

"B" is for beautiful. If it's not a beautiful experience, then I don't think there was much of a blessing to it. Lastly, "C" stands for creative. God's command to be fruitful and multiply is read too narrowly if we only think of making babies. We are meant to be creative — as fruitful and productive as God, who poured generosity, love and devotion into the act of creation. Sex can be a manifestation in us of that creative power, that loving grace.

A progressive faith should celebrate the blessedness of sex. We should perhaps teach conservatives some new ABC's.

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

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

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

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

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

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

LGBT groups condemn anti-Muslim hearings

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

A coalition of LGBT leaders added their voices to the chorus challenging U.S. Rep. Pete King's hearings on "Muslim radicalization."

The first hearing took place March 10 on Capitol Hill, with King, R-New York, claiming a congressional conversation on terror and Islam in America would advance the fight against al-Qaida.

Democratic Rep. Keith Ellison, the first Muslim elected to Congress, told the committee, "This ... approach to this particular subject, I believe, is contrary to the best of American values and threatens our security, or could potentially."

Other Democrats had urged King to broaden the focus of the hearings to extremism in America and to include white supremacy.

King, in a statement at the start of the hearings, said white supremacists are not a terror threat.

"There is no equivalency of threat between al Qaeda and neo-Nazis, environmental extremists or other isolated madmen," King said. "Only al-Qaeda and its Islamist affiliates in this country are part of an international threat to our nation. Indeed by the Justice Department's own record not one terror related case in the last two years involved neo-Nazis, environmental extremists, militias or anti-war groups."

Later, King said, he plans to hold a hearing on Muslim extremism in U.S. prisons.



PHOTO: COURTESY U.S. Rep. Pete King

Democrats urged King to broaden the focus of the hearing to extremism in America and to include white supremacy.

"Despite what passes for conventional wisdom in certain circles, there is nothing radical or un-American in holding these hearings," King said. Protesters assembled to picket the March 10 hearing, and numerous organizations issued statements accusing

King of scapegoating Muslims. In the LGBT community, representatives from the National Center for Lesbian Rights, Equality California, National Center for Transgender Equality, Transgender Law Center, Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, and Lambda Legal issued statements condemning the House hearings.

"As members of the LGBT community, which continues to fight for our equality and justice, we stand in solidarity with the growing chorus of voices condemning these shameful hearings and calling for an end to the politics of irrationality and fear," said NCLR director Kate Kendall.

Added Lambda Legal executive director Kevin Cathcart: "We've all been down this road before, most notably during World War II and the Cold War, with tragic consequences for tens of thousands of American citizens. Singling any group out as a whole because of a suspected lack of loyalty on the part of a few of its members is wrong."

The hearings reminded Catchart of the 1950s inquests led by Joe McCarthy, who targeted gay people as dangerous and un-American.

"Singling any group out as a whole because of a suspected lack of loyalty on the part of a few of its members is wrong; doing it when the internment of Japanese-Americans and the spectacle of the McCarthy witch trials are still within living memory is simply repugnant," he said.

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St. Lucia decries attack on gay tourists

From AP reports

A robbery and assault on three gay American tourists at their vacation cottage has St. Lucia officials scrambling to assure visitors that the southern Caribbean island is safe and welcoming for gays.

Tourism Minister Allen Chastanet issued an apology March 14 to three men from Atlanta after masked bandits broke into their mountain rental home in Soufriere. One victim said the gunmen made slurs against gays, white people and Americans during the March 2 assault.

The tiny, tourism-dependent Caribbean country is typically peaceful and a safe place for all kinds of travelers, Chastanet said.

Police announced that they have arrested two suspects in the assault and are looking for three more.

This former British territo-

ry is not known as a risky place for gays, particularly compared with other, socially conservative Caribbean islands where many gays are not open about their sexual orientation.

Nonetheless, a victim who detailed his account of the robbery on Facebook said he believes the attack was "partly a gay bashing."

Michael Baker said he and his companion, Nick Smith, were showering when they heard their friend Todd Wiggins scream in another part of the home. When Baker stepped out of the bathroom, he saw masked men beating Wiggins.

Baker said the armed bandits ultimately beat all three and tied them up.

"They began to tell us that they hated white people. They hated (gays)," Baker wrote. "They told us they had been watching us, and

they hated us, and wanted us off the island. They said they would kill us if we did not leave."

After the attackers left, the men freed themselves, hiked down the mountain and were helped by some tourists, Baker said.

Police said the robbers took about \$1,800 in cash and some personal items. They said one of the men was treated for minor injuries at a hospital, and they all left St. Lucia soon after.

But in an e-mail to The Associated Press, Baker said two laptops were stolen, a watch and several thousand dollars. He also said he and Wiggins were treated at a hospital for their wounds.

"I have suffered a concussion, and both Todd and I had several stitches at the St. Lucia hospital," he said. "We have not been notified by any

St. Lucian authorities about arrests made. Additionally, our items, to the best of our knowledge, have not been returned."

Wiggins said he is frustrated with how the assault has been portrayed.

"I feel that the gay media rushed to declare this a hate crime and the St. Lucian police and government officials rushed to dismiss the possibility that any part of the incident was a hate crime," he said in an e-mail.

Ultimately, Baker said he and his friends will struggle with memories of the assault.



PHOTO: COURTESY
Soufriere, on the island of St. Lucia, was the scene of an attack on three gay men.

"I don't know the full motivation that drove these five men, but I do know that I can feel pity for them," he said.

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

ENGLISH CATHOLICS CLAIM 900 ANGLICAN CONVERTS

The Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales says that about 900 members of the Church of England have taken the first step toward becoming Catholics.

Catholic Communications Network said March 15 that the converts participated last weekend in a Rite of Election, the first step toward confirmation.

They will be joining the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham, established by Pope Benedict XVI to receive Anglicans.

The converts — many of them opposed to the ordination of female priests and

the promotion of gay clergy — will be allowed to keep some Anglican liturgy and traditions.

SOUTH AFRICANS DECRY RAPES OF LESBIANS

Rights activists are speaking out against rapes targeting lesbians in South Africa.

About 25 demonstrators rallied outside parliament March 14 while their leaders met with government representatives.

Luleki Sizwe, which means "guide a nation," a small group of lesbian activists in the townships of Cape Town, also circulated an online petition calling on Justice Minister Jeff Radebe "to address 'corrective rape,' the increasingly

common hate crime in which men rape lesbian women to 'turn' them straight or 'cure' them of their sexual orientation." In three months, the organization gathered more than 170,000 signatures around the world. The online campaign also led thousands to send e-mails to Radebe.

Luleki Sizwe founder Ndumie Funda said, "We have shown that we can mobilize tens of thousands of people in South Africa and around the world, and the ministry now knows that they can no longer ignore our long fight against corrective rape. The question now is what they will actually do about it. The ball is in their court."

— from AP and WiG reports

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Out singer/ songwriter Susan Werner goes country in 'Kicking the Beehive'

CREATING A BUZZ



Interview

GREGG SHAPIRO

You never know what delights you're going to uncover on a new CD by out singer/songwriter Susan Werner. Recent discs found her reinterpreting classic pop tunes, turning gospel music on its ear and breathing new life into the American songbook. On "Kicking The Beehive" (Sleeve Dog), Werner slips into a pair of comfy cowboy boots and fixes the brim on her 10-gallon hat for the hottest hoedown in town.

WiG spoke with Werner shortly before the release of "Kicking The Beehive."

Gregg Shapiro: On "Kicking The Beehive," you turn to country music.

Susan Werner: I just wanted to get out of town. Get out of the city limits. Maybe the direction on this project is South. There was an

important trip I took where I went from Memphis down to Clarksdale, Miss., down to New Orleans. I think it's important for every American to do it. And any fan of music has got to do it. You got to do your own thing down Highway 61. And once you see it, you just get it. And you come to treasure your own American heritage more than you would otherwise.

Do you think because of that trip these songs had no choice but to come out sounding like this?

These are the materials, yeah. There was something about getting behind the wheel, bringing a guitar and a notebook and a pen, that's it. Just get back to the land in your own ways. This album is a pickup truck and a shovel in the back. It was get down to basic elements.

Has living in Chicago, which is kind of the birthplace of insurgent country, had any

influence on you?

I can't say that. But I can say that it took me back to tractors and AM radios, which is what I grew up with. Just getting out to the dirt, getting some dirt under your nails. No fancy language in this. ... This is not the wit and the cleverness and the funny jokes.

"Kicking The Beehive" was produced by Rodney Crowell, who also produced Chely Wright's "Lifted Off The Ground" disc. So he's on his way to becoming the lesbian country diva performer of choice.

There should be a statue of Rodney in Nashville. Or in Houston, if they knew. He's so ... I'm trying to find the words for him. He's deeply kind and deeply cool at the same time. How anyone can manage that, I don't know. But he does. He's so smart and so tuned in. And all the guys would just play. They would go through the wall

for him. If he asked you to do something you would do it.

One of the songs I keep playing over and over is "The Last Words of Bonnie Parker." Did you traverse some of Bonnie and Clyde's path in your travels?

No, I just started writing a song, the first verse, "I just want to be with you, I just want to be with you." I'm like, who's talking? Who's talking? This is not me. It is me, but it's not me. Who is this? It's one of those moments as a writer where you feel like you're being taken on a journey, and it's going somewhere that you, you know you're not going to steer it, just follow it.

Your humor surfaces in "Irrelevance" and "Botanical Greenery Blues." You can't leave humor out, right?

No, why would you? Look, I hate records that are serious from start to finish. I don't trust people

who don't laugh. Humorless people? I'm sorry, you take yourself so seriously, shut up. Oh God, artists, oh please stop treasuring yourself.

Now that you're a country singer, how do you feel about Gwyneth Paltrow playing a country singer?

I haven't seen the movie. Look, she can sing on pitch and she looks good in a mini skirt. These are the two qualifications you need more than anything. A mini skirt and auto tuning, and you're on your way.

Do you foresee yourself spending more time in Nashville?

Yeah, Nashville is great. This is going to surprise some people who think that Nashville is a backwater. But Nashville has a couple things to offer any fan of music. Nashville honors a storyteller, let me say that. It honors the telling of story with music. It honors virtuosic talent, of certain kinds. And, as back waters go, it's

a fairly sophisticated backwater. You have the symphony, you've got restaurants, it's a good quality of life in Nashville. It's a big small town. I think Nashville is underrated. Especially when you encounter the pool of musical talent that's there. It's fantastic, endless.

And there's a growing queer community in Nashville.

That's where the fresh energy is now. When you think about Utah, Georgia, it's these states. I always like playing blue towns in red states. Those are my favorite audiences. They're the most intense audiences. I love Fort Worth. I love Cow Town. Because it's so conservative. But the liberals there are like, "Please, come and tell us we're not crazy (laughs)." There's the Bay Area and there's Boston, those are both great markets for me, it's wonderful, but you just feel like there's almost nothing I could do that would just send a jolt down the center aisle.

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Art, politics entwine in photo exhibit

By Debra Brehmer

Contributing writer

Art and politics are not strange bedfellows. They've been holding hands since our ancestors carved the first stone into a tiny goddess called the Venus of Willendorf, giving initial form to a hierarchy of power between earth and the cosmos. Art and power structures entwine as part of larger cultural forces.

Gov. Scott Walker seeks to eliminate the Wisconsin Arts Board and cut the \$3.7 million in state arts funding to zero. This reflects Walker's zero understanding of the role of the arts in making Wisconsin a place where people want to live.

But maybe Walker does understand the subversive power of art to express points of view, translate sentiments, provide discourse and expand modes of thinking — all of which make it a powerful force against his ideology. Perhaps that's why he needs to abolish the infrastructure of the arts. The expository nature of art stands in opposition to the heavy-handed, overly simplified, forced and singular point of view promoted by tea party Republicans. Art requires multifaceted and layered thinking. Art is less a bulldozer than a gentle rain, more democratic in its reach.

With or without state support, art allows us to connect with and reflect on history. The 4-inch Venus of Willendorf, left behind 30,000 years ago, holds the germ of human spiritual thinking, as it would progress. Mathew Brady's Civil War

photographs provide tangible connection to the dust of battlefields. The Depression comes to us via Works Progress Administration photographers such as Walker Evans, Bernice Abbott and Dorothea Lange. The early industrial age and its abuses linger in our minds through Lewis Hine's pictures.

Local photographer Kevin Miyazaki went to Madison recently to document the protests in the way he knows best, through portraits. While Walker would like the enormous public opposition to his governance to fade, Miyazaki felt he could contribute to not letting that happen.

He titled his project "This is What Democracy Looks Like," and in its current state it is an online slide show with music and brief text that can be accessed at <http://vimeo.com/21141080>. Miyazaki is making prints of the images to include in a group show called "Clampdown: Labor, Management and the Recession" at the Zaller Gallery in Cleveland beginning April 30. A second set of prints will be on view at the Marshall Building, 207 E. Buffalo Street, in Milwaukee's Third Ward on gallery night and day, April 15-16.

Miyazaki orchestrated two different shoots outside the Capitol building. He erected a portable studio on the sidewalk, with a black velvet backdrop and a large umbrella with flash. Photo assistant Michelle Nolan and his sister, Cheryln Lund, helped line up the sitters and gather their information. They photographed about 150 people

and distilled those portraits into the online project.

Because of the studio setting, the images are pristine, slick and commercial looking. People of all ages and groupings stand and directly address the camera, all of them wearing or holding the regalia of their opinions — signs, hats, buttons, uniforms and T-shirts with slogans.

Teachers, firefighters, kids, ironworkers, police officers, prison guards and concerned individuals are presented with prideful expressions in the language of advertising and propaganda photographs — bright, art-directed, perfectly lit. Without the insignias and protest signs, these could be faces in a hospital's annual report.

The professional studio finesse paradoxically frames the homemade vernacular beauty of the protest and gives these pictures their power. Miyazaki applies the shiny visual language of the spin experts to extol the "other side" or the common cause. And it's touching and beautiful in its stark truth.

The black backdrop takes the images out of place and time, allowing us to focus not so much on the specific documentary details of the protests, the budget or the robot-like governor but more selectively on something that is broadly felt and more elusive to contain: the enactment of freedom of expression. The photographs do show us what democracy looks like within our freedom to assemble. It's all the more poignant against the backdrop of Libya.

Clarity and simplicity as formal tools contain a stubborn undertow of truth. The great photographer August Sander made stark indexical pictures of people from all walks of life, in order to better see them. The small town Southern studio photogra-

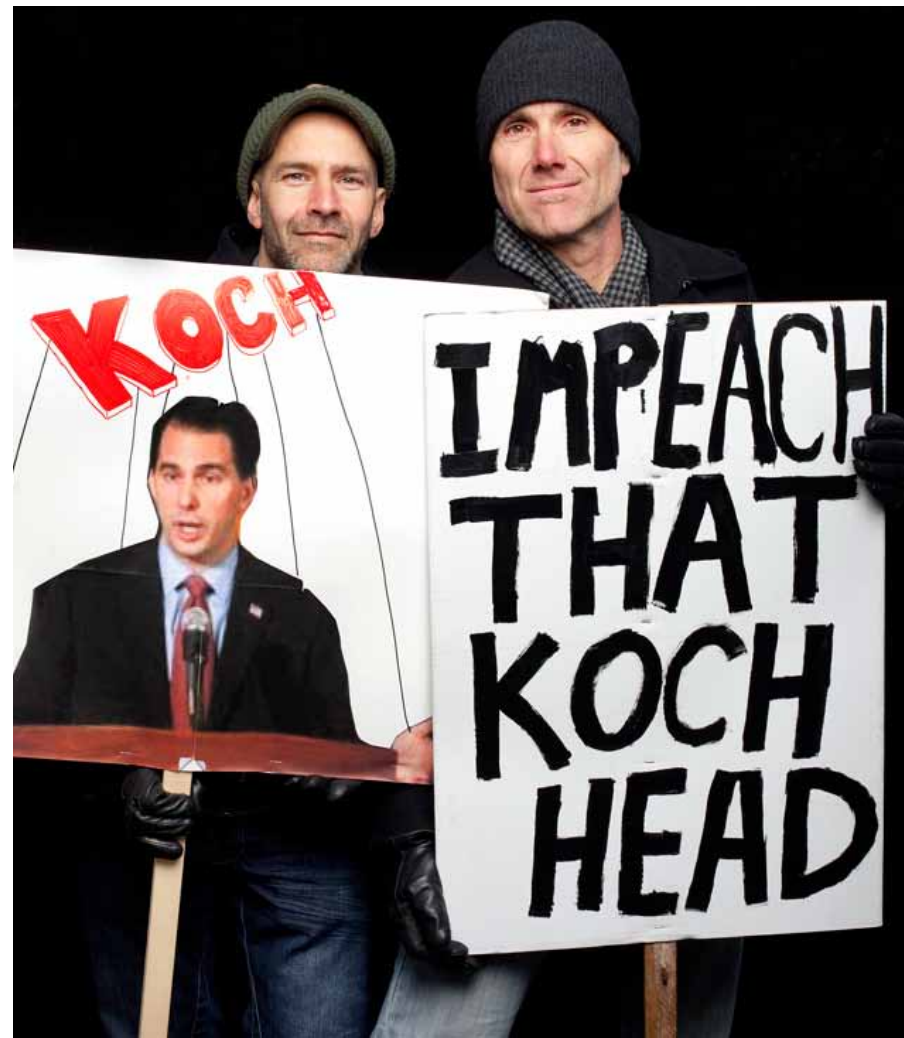


PHOTO: COURTESY

Pictures of the recent protests in Madison by Milwaukee photographer Kevin Miyazaki are at the Marshall Building, 207 E. Buffalo St., April 15-16.

pher Richard Samuel Roberts in the 1920s and 1930s used the standardized language of the work-a-day studio portrait to record African-American life in a segregated city. His work remains an assertion of who these people were rather than how the

majority saw them. Miyazaki steps into the historic stream of the studio photographer as a blunt record keeper of the people, and he helps perpetuate what is too easy to forget but is most important to remember.

ists, suitable for the garden, will be open throughout the event. "Art in Bloom" continues through Sun., April 3, and a complete list of associated activities can be found on the museum's website.

April 3 is also the last day to see the current show in MAM's Koss Gallery, where "Framing a Decade: Acquisitions of Prints and Drawings, 2001-

2011" looks at highlights in the area of works on paper brought into the museum collection during the past 10 years.

Next month begins with a particularly busy weekend, as April 1 is the opening reception of "Carlos Cortéz and Allied Artists" at Walker's Point Center for the Arts, 839 S. 5th St. This exhibition takes the work of artist, poet

and activist Carlos Cortéz Koyokuikat! (1923-2005) as a central focus and will include prints from the Just Seeds and World Ward 3—illustrated collectives. The themes addressed include social justice, human rights and the struggles faced by the working class. These are poignant and timely topics, and this exhibition should have much to say.

Theisen rolls out Skylight season

By Harry Cherkinian

Contributing writer

The Skylight Opera Theatre's 2011 - 12 season features two world premieres, one well-known musical never before presented in the Skylight's 52 years (is that even possible?), two tributes to great singers of the past, a contemporary musical about a pointillist painter and "Things That Go Ding!" featuring the "Not Quite Ready for the Skylight Pit" Orchestra.

These are all first timers on the Skylight's stages, and they're all a part of Bill's world — the world of veteran director and actor Bill Theisen, who at 50 is rolling out his first season since returning as the theater's artistic director.

Theisen has been a great favorite in the theater community, professionally and personally. He's been in great demand both as an actor and director, most recently directing the Florentine Opera's very successful production of Rossini's "The Italian Girl in Algiers."

Last fall, Theisen played classic comic Oliver Hardy in the Rep's production of "Laurel and Hardy." Upcoming projects include "Elixir of Love" at the

University of Iowa and "HMS Pinafore" at Opera Carolina.

But for the time being, he's focused on the Skylight, though his return there has been fraught with obstacles, especially the elimination of his position as a way to cut costs. Eric Dillner, who was managing director at the Skylight for about a year, failed to anticipate the outpouring of anger from the community that greeted his 2009 budget decision (perhaps this is becoming a refrain for our times).

Artists publicly protested Dillner's move, with many refusing to perform at the Skylight. The story received attention from local, national and even international media outlets. By the end of summer 2009, Dillner had resigned and Theisen was back in a half-time position, just in time to celebrate the theater's 50th anniversary season.

"People care so much about the company and what it does," Theisen says. "It was a little bit about me, more about the Skylight. It was a pretty humbling and overwhelming experience."

Having not one but two world premieres in the upcoming season is quite a coup. "The Rivals,"

the first of the world premieres, has a direct tie to Milwaukee. Composer Kirke Mechem so loved the production of his "Tartuffe" staged by Skylight during the 2006-07 season (with Theisen at the helm) that "he said that he had a new piece he was working on and would love to have it premiere at the Skylight," Theisen says.

"The Rivals," which is loosely based on the 18th-century comedy of manners by Richard Brinsley Sheridan, kicks off the season. "It's hard to find a contemporary comic opera," Theisen says, "but this is a great fit."

The second world premiere is "Daddy Long Legs." Theisen put it on the schedule after seeing a tryout of the play in Louisville, Ky., where he was doing "Hairspray." He knew instantly it was a perfect fit for the Skylight.

Based on a novel by Jean Webster, "Daddy Long Legs" tells the story of a wealthy patron who chooses a boy from an orphanage each year to sponsor. One year he sees the potential in an 18-year-old girl, and he becomes her mentor. The story is set to music and told in a series of letters between the two. The

book is by John Caird, internationally known for his work as a director.

Skylight is presenting "Daddy Long Legs" in conjunction with a number of other theater companies and producers. It will feature the original actors, director and production team, but Skylight will hire local musicians.

The first time Skylight did this type of production was during the 2003-04 season, again under Theisen's tenure, when he presented "The Little Prince," which first commissioned and performed at the Houston Grand Opera before coming to Milwaukee.

"We're so rare in what we do," Theisen says. "The upcoming season is a fascinating mix of shows. And I'm thrilled and inspired to do it and have people grow with us and try something new."

ON STAGE

For more information about the Skylight Opera Theatre and its upcoming season, call 414-291-7800 or visit www.skylightopera.com.



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Artwatch
KAT MURRELL

The green buds of spring are soon to pop forth, and likewise Milwaukee's art scene is popping with new shows and events.

Surrealist suburbanite painter Steve Wellman

is featured in "Layers & Sediment" at the Kunzelmann-Esser Lofts Gallery, 710 W. Historic Mitchell St. A preview on Thurs., March 31, 6 - 8 p.m. surveys, this Montana-based artist from a mid-career perspective. The exhibition and associated scholarship form the master's thesis of UW-M art history graduate student Susan Barnett.

March 31 is also the kickoff date for "Art in Bloom: A Tribute to Art and Flowers" at the Milwaukee Art Museum, 700 N. Art Museum Dr. This annual event brings flowers and foliage into the museum, where colorful creations are installed in the galleries to reflect selected art pieces. A marketplace featuring sculptures by Midwest-area art-

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'Mother Courage' is an epic take on war's toll

Theater

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

Throughout history, war has always been good for business.

But what happens when the cost of doing business becomes too dear? That question drives the narrative in Off the Wall Theatre's upcoming production of Bertolt Brecht's "Mother Courage and Her Children," which opens March 24.

"Mother Courage," considered by some to be the 20th century's greatest play and one of history's greatest anti-war plays, is a primary example of what Brecht and his contemporaries called "epic theater," a school that emerged in Germany after World War I. Epic theater favors rational thought over dramatic illusion, contains loosely connected scenes between which the actors directly address the audience, and promotes an emotional

ON STAGE

Off the Wall Theatre's "Mother Courage and Her Children" runs March 24 - April 3 at 127 E. Wells St., Milwaukee. Call 414-327-3552 or go to www.offthewalltheatre.com.

distancing between actor and character and audience to stimulate intellectual, rather than emotional responses.

The concepts appealed to OTW artistic director Dale Gutzman on a variety of levels, leading him to create his own translation of the work. He also tapped Milwaukee actor/musician Jack Forbes Wilson to write and perform new music for the production, building on Brecht's original ideas with a striking and sometimes more contemporary approach.

"I would not be so boastful to suggest that we take Brecht's 'epic theater' further in our production," Gutzman

says. "But I will say that we use some theatrical images and devices to put the story on an epic scale to which the audience will better respond."

Brecht wrote his play in furious response to the Nazi's 1939 invasion of Poland, but set the action during The Thirty Years War (1618 - 1648) to promote the universality of his anti-war themes. Gutzman's production embodies the concept of all wars and the enterprise that develops around war. But that enterprise comes with a heavy toll: Despite being a savvy businesswoman dealing goods from her cart around battlefields, Mother Courage (played by Marilyn White) makes great sacrifices, including losing her children.

"I didn't want to set the play in a certain period, because the audience might see it merely as historical commentary. Our audiences hopefully will see themselves and their world in this production," Gutzman says.



Marilyn White in the titular role in Off the Wall Theatre's production of Bertolt Brecht's classic "Mother Courage."

That approach also led to the involvement of Wilson, most recently seen in the title role of the Milwaukee Rep's production of "Liberace!" Brecht's original music, while hauntingly appropriate, has never become as popular as that of "The Threepenny Opera," Gutzman explains. Thus, the score has become as malleable over time as the production design, costumes and casting - it's frequently altered to suit the particular time period or production.

"The music serves an important function in the show," Gutzman says. "It takes the action outside of the story to comment on it, rather like Sondheim does with 'Company.'" Using a tremendously gifted local composer links the music to the audience in another direct way.

Gutzman's lyrics, based on Brecht's original work, help to create a German "music hall" feel for much of the music, Wilson says. But it wasn't always an easy musical environment in which to work.

"(Gutzman) was very true to Brecht's rhymes and rhythms with his translation, and those words impart a distinctive feel to the music,"

Wilson says. "At first glance, Brecht's rhyme schemes feel quirky, if not downright awkward. They threw some interesting curves into the songs, which would not be there if I were writing the lyrics myself. But I really like the way they turned out."

Given OTW's small space, Wilson has limited his "orchestra" to a piano and versatile wind player. The duo will share the space with the play's most visible element - the wagon in which Mother Courage and her children live and from which she conducts her business. Created by carpenter Randy White, husband of Marilyn White, the wagon is one of theater's best-known props, suitably dominating OTW's small space.

"Because our stage is so small, the wagon becomes a central piece to each and every scene, even transforming itself into a tent or a canteen," Gutzman says. "The wagon is Courage's home and her life. It is her blood."

OTW's artistic team hopes the narrative, music and visuals will drive home the play's anti-war message to the point of involving the audience in the production.

"The audience will be sing-

ing along on at least one song, of which Dale and I think Brecht would have approved," Wilson says. "But not to worry - no one in the audience will be required to push the cart around the stage."

Brecht's play also has an interesting gay angle that is seldom discussed but is evident in some productions in which the character of the Swedish commander is portrayed as gay, according to Gutzman.

"He loves his soldier boys as 'hunks of meat' and promises one of them a gold bracelet," Gutzman says. "He runs his hands over his gladiators' bare chests and brazenly flirts with them."

The purpose of the dramatic foreplay is to show how people can be objectified and violated as if they were animals by having their muscles felt and talked about in ways that could be considered homoerotic, Gutzman explains.

"It's a man's world where men love men and violence, which makes the position of Mother Courage as a woman all the more difficult," Gutzman says. "It was rather brave of Brecht to use a gay character in this light."

PHOTO: COURTESY

Sassoon doc cuts to the core of his sharp style

Interview

GREGG SHAPIRO

Aptly titled, "Vidal Sassoon: The Movie" (Phase 4) is a cinematic celebration of the legendary 83-year-old, self-described "crimper" who forever changed the world of hair with his architecturally inspired cuts. Directed by Craig Teper, "Vidal Sassoon: The Movie" tells the hair maven's captivating life story, from his roots in Britain to his ascendance as the undisputed international king of hairstyling and hair care. WiG spoke with Sassoon, still sharp as a pair of shears and a snappy dresser to boot, shortly before the opening of the film.

Gregg Shapiro: **Did you need to have your arm twisted to do this documentary?**

Vidal Sassoon: No, no. My friend Michael Gordon, who made the movie, I've known him for 15 years or so. He built Bumble and Bumble, which is a great product, and then sold the whole thing to Estee Lauder. He wanted something to do, I guess. He said, "I would like to give you an 80th birthday party" - this was four years ago. I said, "I don't need anything." He said, "We'll make a movie." I said, "Do you realize how much that will cost?" He said, "I want to do it, I really want to." So four years ago, we started and now we have a movie directed by Craig Teper. He did a superb job.

A lot of people are interviewed in the movie, from former business associates to Mary Quant to your ex-wife Beverly and your current wife Ronnie.

I've been doing Mary Quant's hair since 1957. First time I cut her hair, I cut her ear. Never done that before. There was blood all over the place. And her husband was with her, and he said, "I say, do you charge extra for that?" On occasion they bring up the fact that I've been mar-

ried four times (laughs).

Did it bother you that people were going to be talking about you?

They had a reason to talk. I neglected marriages because hair was my focus. (We did) shows all over the world - in Japan, Seoul, Korea, in Shanghai, Beijing and all over Eastern Europe. Taking an international show team around the world. That's exactly what my life was.

Were you happy when you saw the film and heard what people had to say about you?

I love it! I loved the guy who said, "I couldn't work with him, he's crazy!" (Laughs.) I loved that, because to have sycophants around is no good. People who tell the truth is kind of nice.

There's a great scene in the movie where they talk about how most of the male hairdressers during the 1960s were straight and a problem arose because they were having affairs with the female clients. As someone in the business, were you aware of the presence of gay men in the industry or were they off to the side?

No, not to the side. Gay people, if they were excellent, they got the positions. For instance, apart from myself, we had four international artistic directors that (went) around the world to make sure the standards (were) kept up, which is so

important. Tim, who was fabulous, was the artistic director for 15 years. He was gay. It didn't matter. They were chosen for their talent. What their private lives were had nothing to do with me.

Over the years, you've cut your share of celebrities' hair. Is there one celebrity whose hair you never got to cut that you wished you had?

Yeah, The Donald (Trump).

What would you do with The Donald?

I'd get rid of his Ann Sheridan coif (laughs). I met him in the '60s. He's a character. A great, great character.

What do you think about hair-themed reality shows, such as "Shear Genius" and "Tabitha's Salon Takeover"?

Well, if they do some good, in the sense of standards, then they make sense. But if it's just pure nonsense, they don't make sense. I did their last show (as guest judge) and had to choose the winner. It was hysterical. One girl was shaking, literally shaking.

Because you were there or because she was nervous in general?

No, because she wanted to hold my hand (laughs).

Did she get to do that?

Of course! Then I went over and gave her a cuddle and said, (whispers) "I'm just another crimper."

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PHOTO: COURTESY

Contemporary hairdos by Vidal Sassoon.



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Music

GREGG SHAPIRO

THE READY SET

Thanks to Owl City (aka Adam Young), one-person musical units operating under a pseudonym are on the rise. In fact, you can hear the influence of Young on "I'm Alive, I'm Dreaming" (Sire/Decaydance) by The Ready Set (née Jordan Witzigreuter). The Ready Set's songs suffer from the same lack of variety and innovation as Owl City's, providing further proof that the home computer and recording studio could turn out to be the downfall of popular culture and creativity. There's something so insular about these basement-tape creations (see Lights' disc "The Listening") that it almost becomes a kind of exclusive club for electro nerds. It's not a complete washout, however, with songs such as "Stays Four The Same," "There Are Days" and "Spinnin'" offering a slight promise for the future.

VILLAGERS

One of the things that

The Ready Set performs on April 5 at The Rave in Milwaukee and on April 8 at The New Loft in Madison.



sets "Becoming A Jackal" (Domino) by Villagers (aka Conor J. O'Brien) apart from the disc by The Ready Set is that O'Brien had already logged time in a band (the short-lived The Immediate), so he had a foundation to pursue other musical avenues. What you get is a more varied and mature set of songs that rely less on technological trickery. That is clear throughout "Becoming A Jackal," but is exemplified on the title track, "Ship of Promises," as well as on

"Home," "The Pact (I'll Be Your Fever)" and "Pieces."

SEA OF BEES

The league of assumed name musicians is not an exclusively male association. Sea of Bees, for example, is actually a queer woman named Julie Baenziger. Like St. Vincent and My Brightest Diamond, both aliases of female musicians, Sea of Bees has a distinctive sound that could potentially earn her a following through her album "Songs For The Ravens"

(Crossbill). The deceptively bare "Skinnybone," the understated heat of "Fyre," the sweetened rock of "Marmalade," the dream pop of "Willis" and the sinister "Won't Be Long" all shine. The disc also includes access to the "Bee Eee Pee" MP3s.

GLASSER

Definitely one of the more gratifying debuts of 2010, the well-rounded "Ring" (True Panther Sounds) by Glasser, the musical alias of Cameron Mesirow, never ceases to amaze. Beginning with the stomping rhythms and primal shouts of "Apply" to the hip-shaking handclaps of "Home," Glasser provides every reason to go with the flow. The atmospheric "Plane Temp" sounds like the ideal soundtrack for stargazing, while the more grounded "Tremel" laps at the shore of your senses. Listening to the exotic "Treasure of We" feels like discovering a new country, and the CD's closer "Clamour" subtly lives up to its name.

LIGHTSPEED CHAMPION

Formerly of noise-poppers Test Icicles, Devonte Hynes

morphed into Lightspeed Champion, releasing a disc under that moniker in 2007. "Life Is Sweet! Nice To Meet You" (Domino) is Lightspeed Champion's vastly better sophomore effort. Touching on a variety of musical styles over more than a dozen tracks, the disc, separated into four "sides" (complete with two musical "intermissions"), allows LC to dabble in his more theatrical side. "Dead Head Blues" soars like a potential production number, whereas "Marlene" gets down and downright funky. The plucky "Faculty of Fears" makes good use of strings and the piano dominates "The Big Game of Highsmith." There are retro elements at play on "I Don't Want To Wake Up Alone" and the flirty "Mamie Van Doren." LC bares his pure pop soul out for all to see on the shimmering "Middle Of The Dark."

AQUALUNG

Aqualung's 2005 domestic debut "Strange & Beautiful," which contained the popular title cut and "Brighter Than Sunshine," introduced us to Matt Hale. "Magnetic North" (Verve Forecast)

doesn't veer too far off the map. Notable tracks include "Reel Me In," "36 Hours," "Sundowning," "Fingertip" and "Hummingbird."

SPARKLEHORSE

Sparklehorse, the acclaimed musical project of the late Mark Linkous, released a handful of acclaimed discs beginning in the mid-1990s. Dedicated to both Linkous and the late Vic Chesnutt (who performs on the disc), the final, posthumously released Sparklehorse album "Dark Night of the Soul" (Capitol) is a collaboration with Danger Mouse (and other musicians) and David Lynch. As the title suggests, this is not a lighthearted listen, but it nevertheless deserves to be heard. "Revenge" (The Flaming Lips), "Little Girl" (Julian Casablancas), "Daddy's Gone" (Linkous), "Star Eyes (I Can't Catch It)" (Lynch) and "The Man Who Played God" (Suzanne Vega) are particularly beguiling.

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Advertisement for the opera 'Cosi fan tutte' by W.A. Mozart, featuring two women in pink tutus holding signs for 'Elmo' and 'Randall'. Includes dates March 18 - April 3 and ticket information.

Advertisement for 'gala' featuring a hand making a peace sign. Text includes 'join us!', 'the 2011 make a promise', 'Saturday, April 9', 'Frontier Airlines Center', and 'Presented by MillerCoors'.

'3' is a triptych of dance movement

By Harry Cherkinian, Contributing writer

It's a typical afternoon at the Milwaukee Ballet rehearsal spaces. Dancers lounge around waiting to practice, observing other dancers in motion from the viewing balcony on the second floor. They whisper their approval when one of those rehearsing below executes a difficult move.

But wait a second. The music is country, blue grass - fiddles and banjos. It sounds like something out of "Urban Cowboy." With ballet dancers?

The music is in fact the Red Clay Ramblers. No Puccini, Rossini or even Cherubini here. This is modern day music for what the Milwaukee Ballet is billing as "Three New Perspectives in Dance," three contemporary works by three choreographers.

"Ramblin' Suite," featuring the music of the Ramblers with choreography by Diane Coburn Bruning, opens the performance. The middle section features choreography by Milwaukee Ballet's own Petr Zahradnicek, set to the quiet, choral sounds of composer Henryk Gorecki's "Broad Waters." The performance finishes with the energetic bounce of a piece by Darrell Grand Moultrie featuring the acoustic Latino folk sounds of Rodrigo y Gabriela.

Milwaukee Ballet's Zahradnicek, a dancer himself, describes his work as "about a community of people living by the river as seen through the eyes of three women." He uses 12 dancers in the 19-minute piece. Three women represent the past, present and the future, each with a unique perspective on the river and its central role in the community. The music of Gorecki is central to the dance piece as well.

Zahradnicek, a 35-year-old native of the Czech Republic, first came to the United States with his wife, a former dancer and choreographer, to work with the Colorado Ballet. He joined the Milwaukee Ballet in 2003.

ON STAGE

"Three New Perspectives of Dance" runs March 31 - April 3 at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 N. Water St. Call 414-902-2103 or visit www.milwaukeeballet.org.

Did his two sons, ages 3 and 6, influence his desire to create a dance of quiet peacefulness? Zahradnicek breaks into a gentle smile. "I'm really trying to make the movement fit into peacefulness," he says.

Daryll Grand Moultrie caps off the evening of dance with a piece that's driven by tempo, energy and diversity. "I love the diversity of theater, Broadway, concert dance and commercial dance," says the 33-year-old choreographer - a single, out gay man. Born and raised in Harlem, Moultrie still makes his home there. He studied four years at Julliard and appeared on Broadway in the original cast of the musicals "Billy Elliott," "Hairspray" and "Aida."

Moultrie will have 14 dancers performing to three songs from the CD by Rodrigo y Gabriela: "Hanuman," "Savitri" and the title track,

"11:11." He says the music inspired the moves.

"I return to it over and over again until it becomes a part of my DNA," he says, during a break from rehearsal. "It's always the music for me. And this work is all about strength through pure movement. It's a great moment for the dancers to show their versatility and the piece is tailor-made for that."

This work is also a world premiere for Moultrie and his second for the Milwaukee Ballet. He choreographed "Vital Sensations" for the 2006-07 season.

As yet untitled, Moultrie's piece will run about 20 minutes and features women in colorful modern dress. He says he's just as interested in having the dancers learn from the work as he is in entertaining the audience.

"When I go home on the plane, I want to know that I've inspired the dancers to tap into their weaknesses and strengthened their strengths and challenged them in some way," he says.

And what does he want for the audience?

"I want the audience to have that sense of freedom, that jolt of energy," he says. "I love, love, love pieces that just move!"



PHOTO: MARK FROHNA A scene from choreographer Petr Zahradnicek's "Concourse" (2010).



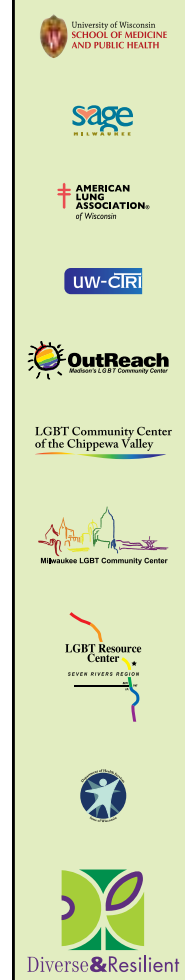
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Florentine continues raising bar with 'Italian Girl'

By Harry Cherkinian
Contributing writer

The moment they announced the 2011 Grammy Award for Best Opera Recording nearly a month ago, Daniel Belcher realized he'd be up there all by himself on stage. Alone. To accept a Grammy Award. He looked around the celebrity-studded auditorium. No one else was moving toward the podium.

His wife, Metropolitan Opera director Kathleen Belcher, asked if he'd prepared anything to say "just in case." He hadn't. And now the spotlight was on the 40-year-old baritone from Liberty, Mo.

"I don't even remember what I said," Belcher said. "It was completely surreal."

The award was for the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin's recording of composer Kaija Saariaho's "Amour de loin." The recording took four years from start to finish. Belcher calls it "a labor of love."

Fresh off his Grammy win, Belcher took the stage as Taddeo in the Florentine Opera's production of "The Italian Girl in Algiers," which played March 18-20 at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. Belcher was already a familiar face in Milwaukee, having performed with FO in "The Barber of Seville." He also worked with "Algiers" director Bill Theisen in a production of "HMS Pinafore" at Lyric Opera of Kansas City.

Nearly 200 years old, "The Italian Girl in Algiers" remains a challenge for performers due to Rossini's

'Any Rossini opera is like running a marathon. You really have to train your voice and get your flexibility back.'

combination of the "opera seria" (dramatic) and "opera buffa" (comic) styles. Set in a palace in Algiers, the physically demanding work involves star-crossed lovers, mixed identities and court intrigues.

"Any Rossini opera is like running a marathon," Belcher said. "You have to really train your voice and get your flexibility back, vocally and physically." "Algiers" was also challenging when it was written due to the chords of proto-feminism it strikes. Isabella, "the Italian girl," is not one to sit demurely and pine for her lost love. Instead, she goes out to find and rescue him. In the process, she promises freedom for the Algerian slaves.

"This is a woman who's very ahead of her time," said Daniela Mack, who sang the role in the March 18 and March 20 performances. "This is a woman in love with Lindoro and (she) goes to save him. Her feminism



PHOTO: RICHARD BRODZELLER
Soprano Erica Schuller (Elvira), bass Kevin Glavin (Mustafa), baritone Daniel Belcher (Taddeo), tenor Ryan McPherson (Lindoro). Bottom: soprano Daniela Mack (Isabella).

is very strong, while there are also moments of vulnerability."

Mack was at the top of her form in her opening night performance. She sang with an ease and confidence that showcased both her strong soprano voice and natural acting abilities. She moved about the stage with a determination and verve that played well off Glavin's delightfully imbecilic Mustafa.

Mack recently sang the role at the Opera National

de Bordeaux. Born in Buenos Aires, she came to the United States at age eight. She said she finds a commonality with Isabella and with the music of Rossini.

"I'm a bit more demure but I do have Latin blood in me," Mack said. "So I know the fiery side to her (Isabella) as well. She does know how to get what she needs and wants."

Mack agreed with Belcher that Rossini demands much of the performer. "It is a very

physical show," she said. "The way the vocal lines are written, the composer demands that the voice do things that are hard to do."

The entire production was a musical triumph and comic delight, thanks in no small part to director Theisen's natural theatrical instincts. Score yet another win for the Florentine and for Milwaukee's performing arts scene.

Despite playing "third wheel" to the main couple, Belcher also proved to be a natural comic in addition to displaying commanding vocals as the "uncle" (read: frustrated lover) of Isabella. As Isabella's pining true love Lindoro, Robert McPherson (in his Florentine debut) deftly balanced vulnerability and

strength in his dual role as captured "slave" and lover, his fluid tenor soaring brightly and seemingly without effort.

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GREGG SHAPIRO

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE

"The Twilight Saga: Eclipse" finds graduating high school senior Bella (a slightly less sullen Kristen Stewart) still obsessed with brooding vampire Edward (Robert Pattinson). She accepts her true love's marriage proposal in exchange for his promise to "change" (read "kill") her so that they can be together for eternity. Wait, let's get this straight. Mormon author Stephenie Meyer thinks it's all right for white trash teenagers to marry vampires, but LGBT folks should be deprived of the same expression of love and commitment. Maybe she should have called her saga "Twit-light."

This third installment of the ongoing saga about the vampires, wolves and humans of Forks, Wash., eclipses its predecessors. It's got plenty of skin, courtesy of stud (wolf) cub Taylor Lautner (who continues to do most of his acting

with his abs) as Jacob, and his pec pack of wolves.

"Eclipse" has a fair amount of special effects, although the wolves' pelts are wearing thin. And there's an increase in the Native American folklore aspect of the story. The scary factor is also ratcheted up, not only with the lingering presence of the ruthless Jane (Dakota Fanning) and her creepy crew, but also the bent-on-revenge Victoria (Bryce Dallas Howard), her boy toy Riley (Xavier Samuel) and his army of merciless newborn vamps.

Nevertheless, "Eclipse" gets points for cranking up the humor. That's right, you will most likely find yourself laughing out loud on several occasions, and that appears to be the way that screenwriter Melissa Rosenberg intended it. For not taking itself too seriously and doing it in a respectable couple of hours, "The Twilight Saga: Eclipse" is actually recommended viewing.

Special features on the two DVD special edition include a six(!)-part "making of" doc, audio commentary, deleted and extended scenes, music videos and a whole lot more.

AVATAR EXTENDED COLLECTOR'S EDITION

If you felt that 30 minutes of editing would have made "Avatar" James Cameron's best movie, you'll be overwhelmed with the Extended Collector's Edition DVD. The three-disc set features an all-new, three-hour extended cut of the film with an alternate opening. In addition to three hours of previously unseen material, the set includes more than 45 minutes of deleted scenes, the feature length doc "Capturing Avatar" and so much more.

As for "Avatar" itself, it was more than just a special-effects feat for the senses. The film allowed Cameron to get political, commenting on the destruction of the planet, corporate greed and military aggression.

Set in the not too distant future, paraplegic Marine Jake (Sam Worthington, of the distracting accent) is recruited to take the place of his recently deceased brilliant scientist brother on a mission on the planet Pandora. A multinational corporation has a vested interest in the mission,

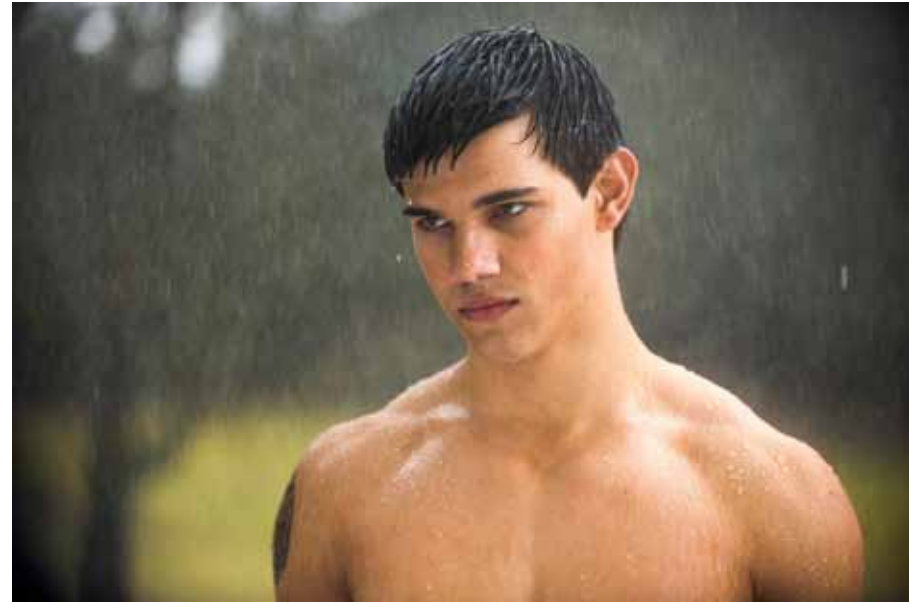


PHOTO: COURTESY

Taylor Lautner inhabits the Twilight zone in "Eclipse."

since Pandora is rich in the valuable mineral known as "unobtainium" and earthlings need it for fuel. Under the guidance of the aptly named scientist Grace (Sigourney Weaver), Jake walks again in a surrogate body modeled after those inhabited by the Na'vi, the native people of Pandora.

Through a series of interactions with Neytiri (Zoe Saldana), the daughter of the

Na'vi's tribal leaders/power couple, Jake earns their trust and is accepted as one of them. However, Jake is also being given orders by the square-jawed, GI Joe-minded Col. Quaritch (Stephen Lang), who would like nothing more than to wipe out the Na'vi, get the unobtainium and return to whatever Red State he calls home.

Pulled in different direc-

tions, Jake eventually realizes that the relationship he worked so hard to establish with Neytiri and her people is at risk, and he naturally switches sides. Purposely preachy and mesmerizing, the original version of "Avatar" remains first-rate entertainment with a message, if overly long (in its theatrical version) at more than two-and-a-half hours.

Words to live by: spring reading

Books

GREGG SHAPIRO

POETIC LICENSE

What better way to observe National Poetry Month in April than to get lost in the pages of "The Best Of It: New and Selected Poems" (Grove Press, 2010, \$24) by out poet Kay Ryan, who was the U.S. Poet Laureate from 2008 to 2010?

If you prefer to have your poetry read to you, there's "Words For You: The Greatest Poems. The Finest Voices. Glorious Music." (Mighty Village/Universal), a 22-track CD featuring the work of queer poets such as Langston Hughes, Oscar Wilde and Walt Whitman, alongside Shakespeare, Dickinson, Poe and Longfellow, read by Helena Bonham Carter, Terence Stamp, Meryl Streep, Garrison Keillor and others.

KIDS' LIT

Writer, activist and single, gay father of two adopted children, Brian J. Tessier has written a pair of books for young readers — "The Wildest Dream" and "The Poet and the Painter: A Living Love Story" (both from Xlibris, 2010) both illustrated by Donna Estabrook.

Somewhat older readers will find all sorts of useful information in the revised and updated second edition of "GLBTQ: The Survival Guide for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Teens" (Free Spirit, 2011, \$15.99) by Kelly Huegel.

NOVEL APPROACHES

In her riveting debut novel, "The Fates Will Find Their Way" (Harper Collins, 2011, \$22.99), Hannah Pittard tips her hat to Jeffery Eugenides' "The Virgin Suicides" and Alice Sebold's "The Lovely Bones" and adds an unexpected queer twist.

"River Marked" (Ace Books, 2011, \$26.95), the latest installment in fantasy novelist Patricia Briggs' Mercy Thompson series, features the character Warren, a gay werewolf.

Maize and her gay best friend Robbie are the main characters in "The Intimates" (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2011, \$24), the first novel by Ralph Sassone, which is



PHOTO: COURTESY

Lambda Literary Award-winning writer **Nina Revoyr's** new novel, the small town Wisconsin-set "Wingshooters," (Akashic, 2011, \$15.95) takes place during the turbulent Vietnam/post-civil rights era and examines the effects of change on a community. Revoyr reads from the novel on March 30 at 7:30 p.m. at Women & Children First, 5233 N. Clark in Chicago; on March 31 at 7 p.m. at Books & Company, 1039 Summit in Oconomowoc; and on April 1 at 7 p.m. at Next Chapter Bookstore, 10976 N. Port Washington in Mequon.

an exploration of friendship.

Lesbian novelist and AWP Award-winner Goldie Goldbloom makes her debut with "The Paperbark Shoe" (Picador, 2011, \$15), set in 1940s Australia.

Due out in May, Chris Adrian's latest novel, "The Great Night" (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2011, \$26) retells Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," transporting it to Buena Vista Park in 2008 San Francisco.

Another queer fiction debut, "Hidden" (Kensington Books, 2011, \$15) by Tomas Mournian delves into the realm of an underground safe house harboring teen escapees from residential treatment centers.

"A Single Year" by Chicago

transplant Dawn Mueller (Create Space, 2011, \$15.99) promises "explicit sex, raw emotions" and "hysterical lesbians."

SO QUEER

Written "in the tradition" of Howard Zinn's beloved "A People's History of the United States," "Queer America: A People's GLBT History of the United States" (The New Press, 2011, \$17.95) by Vicki L. Eaklor features topics such as the Stonewall Riots, same-sex marriage, LGBT rights, AIDS and much more.

"Queer (In)Justice: The Criminalization of LGBT People in the United States" (Beacon, 2011, \$27.95) by Joey L. Mogul, Andrea J. Ritchie and Kay

Whitlock, draws on years of research to examine the "ways in which queer lives are criminalized, policed and punished."

Leo Bersani and Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick are among the writers represented in "After Sex?: On Writing Since Queer Theory" (Duke University Press, 2011, \$23.95), edited by Janet Halley and Andrew Parker.

Simon LeVay, of the "Gay Brain" fame, returns with "Gay, Straight, and the Reason Why: The Science of Sexual Orientation" (Oxford University Press, 2011, \$27.95).

MEMOIR BANK

"The Jack Bank: A Memoir of a South African Childhood" (St. Martin's Press, 2011, \$24.99) by Glen Retief explores what it was like for a gay, privileged white boy to grow up in a pitiless society in the late 1980s.

Gay historian Martin Duberman's new book is the dual biography "A Saving Remnant: The Radical Lives of Barbara Deming and David McReynolds" (The New Press, 2011, \$27.95).

Now in paperback, unconventional memoir "The Bucolic Plague: How Two Manhattanites Became Gentlemen Farmers" (HarperCollins, 2010, \$14.99) by Josh Kilmer-Purcell is the literary companion to the Planet Green TV series "The Fabulous Beekman Boys."

Politicians Tammy Baldwin and Barney Frank, musician Stephin Merritt, writer/cartoonist Alison Bechdel, poets Mark Doty and Joan Larkin, actor George Takei and comedian Kate Clinton are among the LGBTQ people interviewed by Philip Gambone in his book "Travels In A Gay Nation: Portraits of LGBTQ Americans" (University of Wisconsin Press, 2010, \$26.95).

Tony E. Adams, assistant professor in the Department of Media and Theatre at Northeastern Illinois University, is the author of "Narrating The Closet" (Left Coast Press, 2011, \$34.95), subtitled "An Autoethnography of Same-Sex Attraction."

Singer/songwriter Rodney Crowell, who produced recent discs by out musicians Chely Wright and Susan Werner (making him an honorary member of the LGBT community), follows the lead of ex-wife Rosanne Cash with his memoir "Chinaberry Sidewalks" (Knopf, 2011, \$24.95).

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MARCH 24, THURSDAY

StageQ presents **"Make Me A Song"** 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.

John Patrick Shanley's Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning play **"Doubt: A Parable"** runs through March 27 at La Crosse Community Theatre, 118 Fifth Ave. N in downtown La Crosse. Call 608-784-9292.

The Secret Sisters



MARCH 25, FRIDAY

Theatrical Tendencies presents Terrence McNally's **"Corpus Christi"** 8 p.m. tonight and Saturday night at Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second St. Call 414-383-3727.

Skylight Opera Theatre of Milwaukee director Dimitri Toscas puts a contemporary spin on 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.

"The Bomb-Itty Of Errors," a hip hop ad-rap-tation of Shakespeare's "The Comedy Of Errors" through May 8 in the Stackner Cabaret at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.

Renaissance Theaterworks closes its 2010-11 mainstage season with **"In Acting Shakespeare"** through April 17 at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

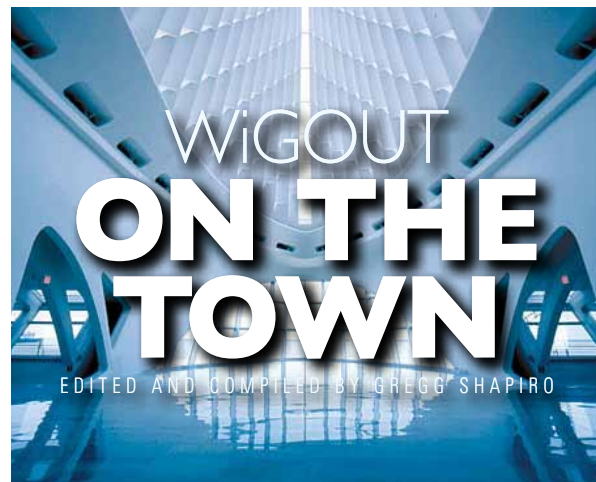
MARCH 26, SATURDAY

Out singer/songwriter and Wisconsin native **Patty Larkin** is at the Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood in Madison, at 8 p.m. Call 608-241-2345.

Jean's Jazz Series presents **The Stellanovas and Jenó Somlai Latin Sextet** at 7 p.m. at The Racine Theatre Guild, 2519 Northwestern (Highway 38) in Racine. Call 262-633-4218.

UWM Recital Hall, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd., presents the **String Academy of Wisconsin Spring Concert** at 10 a.m. and noon. Call 414-229-4308.

Patty Larkin



EDITED AND COMPILED BY GREGG SHAPIRO

MARCH 27, SUNDAY

The **Milwaukee Chamber Orchestra** performs a concert including Antonín Dvorák's "Wind Serenade," Op. 44, and Igor Stravinsky's "Dumbarton Oaks" Concerto in E-flat 4 p.m. at Calvary Presbyterian Church, 935 W. Wisconsin. Visit milwaukeechamberorchestra.org.

Irreverent comedian and straight ally **Sarah Silverman** performs at 8 p.m. The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin. Call 414-286-3663.



Sarah Silverman

MARCH 29, TUESDAY

Disney's **"Beauty and the Beast,"** the award-winning Broadway musical, runs through April 3 at Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College in Appleton. Call 920-730-3760.

MARCH 31, THURSDAY

Join Cream City Foundation for **Art & Philanthropy – Caribbean Style!**, an evening of Latin/Caribbean food, drink and dance with the work of local LGBT artists on display, free salsa dance lessons and more to benefit the organization's Art and Culture Fund, beginning at 6 p.m. For location information and details, call 414-225-0244 or visit creamcityfoundation.org.

Gay poet and dance writer **Jack Anderson** presents a poetry reading and dance event in UWM Mitchell Hall, Room 254, 3203 N. Downer, at 7 p.m. **"The Seafarer"** is presented by Strollers Theatre through April 30 at Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin in Madison.

APRIL 1, FRIDAY

"Dead Certain," presented by Mercury Players Theatre, runs through April 16 at Madison's Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin.

Carte Blanche Studios Theatre, 1024 S. Fifth, presents **"The Threepenny Opera"** by Bertolt Brecht through April 17. Call 262-716-4689.

The **Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra** presents a concert featuring soloist Stefan Kartman on cello at 7:30 p.m. at Helen Bader Concert Hall, 2419 E. Kenwood Blvd. Call 414-229-4308.

Sarah Ruhl's **"Eurydice"** runs through April 16 at the Hemsley Theatre, 821 University in Madison. Call 608-265-ARTS (2787).

Six-man professional a capella group **Chapter 6** harmonizes its way onto the South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center's stage (901 15th Ave. in South Milwaukee) at 7:30 p.m. Call 414-766-5005 or visit www.southmilwaukeekeepac.org.

Five-time Grammy-nominated entertainer **Michael Feinstein** sends up Sinatra "his way" – backed with a complete big band – 8 p.m. at Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State St. in downtown Madison. Call 608-258-4141.



Michael Feinstein

APRIL 2, SATURDAY

Queer band **Dark Dark Dark** performs at Der Rathskeller/Union of W Memorial Union, 800 Langdon in Madison with **Pillars & Tongues**. Call 608-265-3000.

Blue Lite, 1029 N. Eighth in Sheboygan, presents live music with **Ronnie Nyles** at 9 p.m. Call 920-457-1636.



Dark Dark Dark

APRIL 3, SUNDAY

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

APRIL 7, THURSDAY

The duo known as **Over The Rhine** performs at 8 p.m. at Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth. Call 414-286-3663.

Got news? Tell us! managingeditor@wisconsinngazette.com

OUT & ABOUT



STATEWIDE BAR AND ENTERTAINMENT VENUE LISTINGS

KENOSHA / RACINE

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

MILWAUKEE

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

Tropical Niteclub, 626 S. Fifth St., 414-460-6277.
Walker's Pint, 818 S. Second St., 414-643-7468.
D.I.X., 739 S. First 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.

GREEN BAY / 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 BEN

Ben is a very special dog looking for an equally special guardian. A specialist examined the 1.5-year-old Labrador Retriever/Corgi mix because one of his front legs shows signs of lameness. The specialist said he's not in any pain, but Ben could require surgery in the near future and further diagnostic tests are recommended. We want to find an adopter willing to make that commitment to this silly, happy boy. He's worth it! Learn more about Ben and watch his video at www.wihumane.org.

TIP OF THE WEEK

For young dogs, exercising twice daily isn't just a fun thing to do, it's an absolute necessity. Remember, a walk around the block is not exercise for most dogs. Keep him running with a lengthy game of fetch or challenge him to a few rounds of "hide and seek." Fido will love the extra attention and you'll enjoy the perks of a happy, healthy pup!



Ben, a 1.5-year-old Labrador Retriever/Corgi mix

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COMMUNITY GROUPS

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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/psao/programs/film/lgbtffilm

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

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

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

COMMUNITY

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

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

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

Castaways, P.O. Box 1697, 53202, castawaysmke@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.mkelgbt.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WanderWomyn Outdoors Group, debydoo2@yahoo.com

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

Wauwatosa Rainbow Association, tosarainbow@yahoo.com

Wisconsin Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf, 252 E. Highland Ave., 53202, www.wisrad.org

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

HEALTH

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

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

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

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

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

Milwaukee Gay Volleyball League, www.milwaukeegayvolleyball.com

Saturday Softball Beer League, 2333 N. 56th St., 53210, www.ssbmlmilwaukee.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, 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.lgbtoutreach.org, info@lgbtoutreach.org

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

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

POLITICS

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

SPORTS

Madison Gay Hockey Association, www.madisongayhockey.org

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

Madison Minotours Rugby Club, www.madisonminotours.com, madisonminotours@gmail.com

YOUTH/EDUCATION

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

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

Valued Families, GLBT parent/child support group, Appleton, www.valuedfamilies.blogspot.com

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

PFLAG Door County, Hope United Church of Christ, 141 S. 12th Ave., Sturgeon Bay, 54235, 920-743-8146, www.pflagdoorcounty.org

PFLAG of the Greater Oshkosh Area, First Congregational Church, 137 Algoma Blvd., 54901, www.oshkosh-pflag.org, pflagoshkosh@gmail.com

PFLAG LaCrosse, LGBT Resource Center of the Seven Rivers Region, 303 Pearl St., 54602, 608-784-0452, www.7riverslgbt.org

PFLAG of Manitowoc County, St. James Episcopal Church, 434 N. 8th St., 54220, 920-323-9142, pflagmanitowocco@yahoo.com

PFLAG Stevens Point, 715-572-6922, www.pflagpoint.com

PFLAG Washburn, Washburn Public Library, 307 Washington Ave., 54891, 715-209-1100, http://community.pflag.org/pflagwashburn, nancyhanson1958@yahoo.com

Online for you at www.wisconsinngazette.com.

WHAT'S GOING ON THIS WEEK?
Peruse daily events, meetings and happenings and add yours
www.wisconsinngazette.com/calendar



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., third Thursdays, 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., Spectrum GLBT and Allied social group for adults, Harmony Cafe, Appleton.*

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

WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

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

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