

## PRECIOUS PRIDE

Actress and comedian Mo’Nique will open Milwaukee PrideFest on June 10. **Page 7**



THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN’S LGBT COMMUNITY

May 5, 2011 | Vol. 2, No. 13

## Right-wing areas have more suicides

From AP

Suicide attempts by gay teens – and even straight kids – are more common in politically conservative areas where schools don’t have programs supporting gay rights, a study involving nearly 32,000 high school students found.

Those factors raised the odds of suicide attempts, even when known risk factors such as depression and being bullied were considered, said study author Mark Hatzenbuehler, a Columbia University psychologist and researcher.

His study found a higher rate of suicide attempts even among kids who weren’t bullied or depressed when they lived in counties less supportive of gays and with relatively few Democrats. A high proportion of Democrats was a measure used as a proxy for a more liberal environment.

The research focused only on the state of Oregon and

created a social index to assess which outside factors might contribute to suicidal tendencies.

The State of Wisconsin does not provide statistics that would allow for a suicide analysis here that’s comparable to the one conducted in Oregon, said Diverse & Resilient executive director Gary Hollander.

Teen health experts told the Associated Press that Hatzenbuehler’s suicide analysis is a powerful, novel way to evaluate a tragic social problem.

“Is it surprising? No. Is it important? Yes,” said Dr. Robert Blum of Johns Hopkins’ Bloomberg School of Public Health.

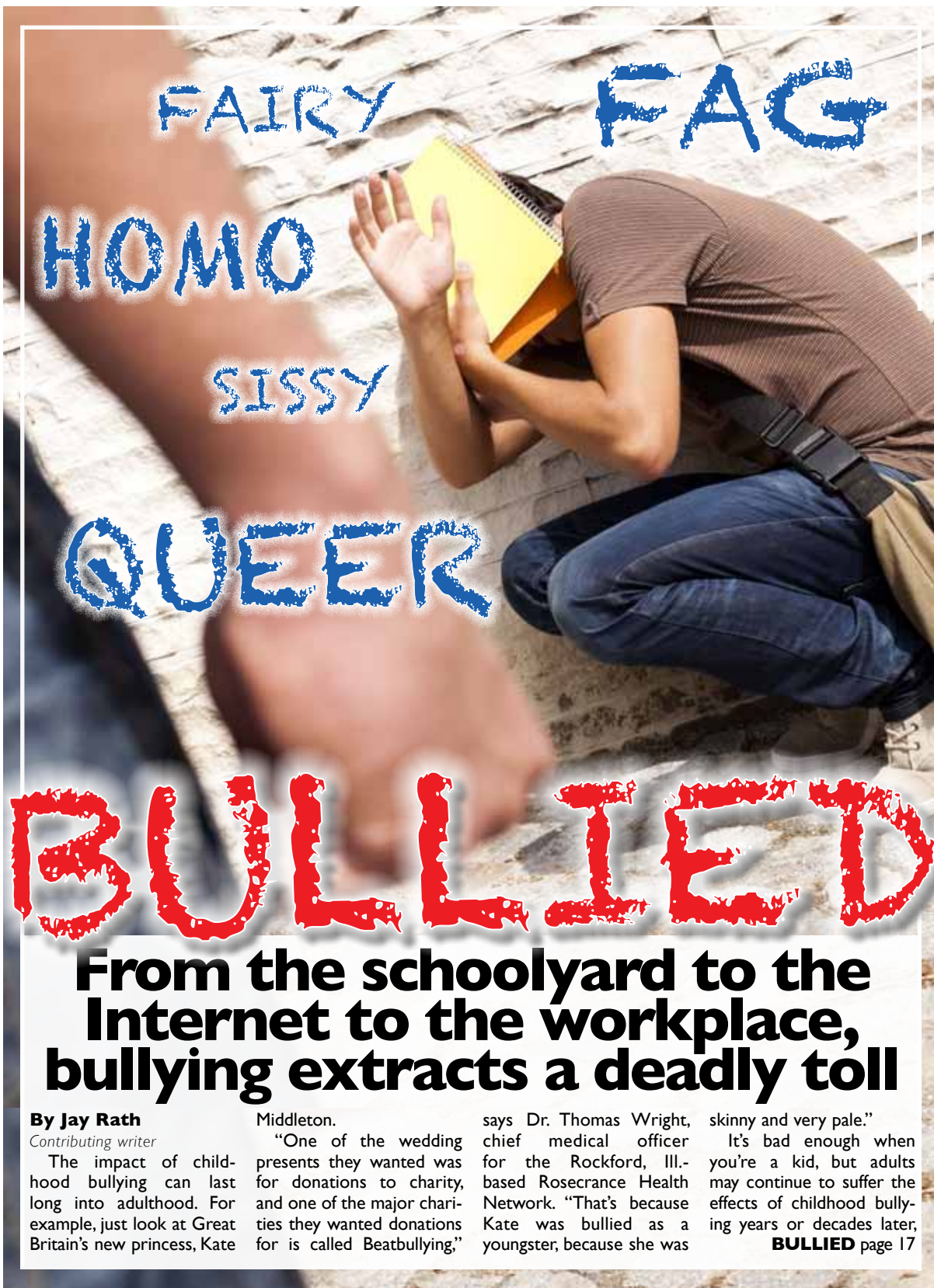
The study “takes our relatively superficial knowledge and provides a bit more depth. Clearly, we need lots more understanding, but this is very much a step in the right direction,” he said.

Blum serves on an Institute of Medicine committee that recently released a report urging more research on gay health issues. Blum said the new study is the kind of research the institute believes has been lacking. The independent group advises the government on health matters.

The new study was published online in the journal *Pediatrics*.

Previous research has found disproportionately high suicide rates among gay teens. One highly publicized case involved a Rutgers University freshman who

**SUICIDES** page 16



**By Jay Rath**

*Contributing writer*

The impact of childhood bullying can last long into adulthood. For example, just look at Great Britain’s new princess, Kate

Middleton.

“One of the wedding presents they wanted was for donations to charity, and one of the major charities they wanted donations for is called Beatbullying,”

says Dr. Thomas Wright, chief medical officer for the Rockford, Ill.-based Rosecrance Health Network. “That’s because Kate was bullied as a youngster, because she was

skinny and very pale.”

It’s bad enough when you’re a kid, but adults may continue to suffer the effects of childhood bullying years or decades later,

**BULLIED** page 17

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# LGBT news with a twist



By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

### CHAT LINE

In his last quarterly newsletter, state Sen. Randy Hopper, R-Fond du Lac, listed his office number as 1-888-736-8729. That number directed callers to 1-800-475-TALK, a sex chat line where the conversation with "students, housewives and working girls" was presumably not about lower taxes and smaller government. Hopper, who's been targeted for recall, recently made headlines when reporters learned he'd moved out on his wife and in with his much-younger mistress in Madison.

### HER SUCCESS

What's Kathie Lee Gifford's secret to "success"? The "Today" host (left) said the show has a lot of drag queens in the viewing audience. And, insists Gifford, "If drag queens love you, you'll have the longest career in the world. They know phony and they know real!"



### HIS FAILURE

Former New Jersey Gov. Jim McGreevey won't be entering the Episcopal priesthood anytime soon. The 53-year-old McGreevey resigned in 2004 amid scandal after he had an extramarital affair with a male staffer. He earned a master of divinity degree last spring from the General Theology Seminary in New York City. But, according to AP, the church has deferred McGreevey's bid to join the clergy.

### HIS STORY

Former U.S. Sen. Larry Craig's 2007 arrest in a bathroom provided sensational media copy, but is there enough substance to merit theatrical awards? The Idaho Republican was arrested in an undercover sting operation aimed at men cruising a Minneapolis airport bathroom. Craig insisted he wasn't trying to pick up an undercover officer in an adjacent stall, but rather tapping his foot. Now the Contemporary Theater in Boise, Idaho, is preparing to

stage a play based on the incident called "Off the Record."

### BUTCH CAMP

Authorities in Malaysia sent more than 66 boys to a four-day camp where they were to receive counseling in masculine behavior. Teachers had identified the boys as effeminate and candidates for the "self-development course." Razali Daud, Malaysia's education director, told the AP that the camp would guide the boys "back to the right path in life before they reach a point of no return."

### SHORT RIDE

Washington's taxi commission is investigating a complaint filed by a gay couple who say they were thrown out of a cab for kissing. Ari Fredge, 45, and his partner Christopher Holloway, 51, said a cabbie picked them up at 17th and P streets NW in Dupont Circle, the city's gayest neighborhood. They shared a quick peck after giving the driver directions. "My cab is not a bed. You cannot have sex in my cab!" the driver snapped before pull-

ing over to the side of the street and ordering them to leave.

### NO TRUMP

Rosie O'Donnell (right) announced April 27 that she would not live in a Trump property while staying in Chicago to tape her upcoming talk show for the OVN network. O'Donnell had previously told Howard Stern that she planned to say in a Trump high-rise on the Chicago River, a statement that drew criticism from LGBT activists because of Trump's opposition to marriage equality. The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation praised O'Donnell's change of heart.



### DOWN IN DALLAS

A Log Cabin Republican was assaulted and called a "faggot" April 30 in a bar at Dallas' Hilton Anatole hotel, where the gay GOP group was holding its national convention, according to the Dallas Voice.

Sr. Cpl. Kevin Janse, a spokes-

man for the Dallas Police Department, said both the victim and the suspect were intoxicated when the incident occurred at about 1 a.m. after the victim and a friend whistled at the suspect, who was offended and shoved him. The victim suffered minor injuries and the suspect originally was cited for class-C misdemeanor assault but was not taken into custody. The victim decided not to press charges, meaning the case will be dropped.

### HARD RUBBER

An erection-enhancing condom, dubbed "Viagra for condoms," could be available for sale on the shelves of European pharmacies and supermarkets by the end of the year. The condoms contain a gel that helps men maintain firmer erections for a longer time. The product will be marketed by the parent company of Durex, the world's top selling condom brand.

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# 'Two Mommies' author appears at Marquette

**By Louis Weisberg**  
Staff writer

On Oct. 12, 1998, lesbian author Lesléa Newman arrived at the University of Wyoming to find a campus reeling in the aftermath of a horrific tragedy. Earlier that day, 21-year-old student Matthew Shepard had died

as the result of an anti-gay beating. Ironically, Newman had gone to Laramie to present a keynote speech for Gay AwarenessWeek, and Shepard had planned to attend. Since that day, Newman has begun all of her presentations with a tribute and a moment

of silence for Shepard. And so she began her April 26 presentation at Marquette University, another campus that's struggling in the aftermath of a homophobic incident – although, fortunately, one that caused no loss of life.

Newman's speech was part of the annual Starshak lecture series at Marquette, organized by the university's Gender Sexuality Alliance (formerly the Gay/Straight Alliance).

Newman has penned more than 60 titles, but it's the landmark children's book "Heather Has Two Mommies" (Alyson Publications, 1989) for which she's best known. A charmingly innocent tale about a little girl being raised by a lesbian couple, the book has earned Newman the title of "America's most dangerous living writer" from right-wing extremists. It's a title she wears proudly.

"Thank you for inviting the most dangerous writer in America to speak at your campus – and a Catholic university, no less," Newman told her Marquette audience.

Newman's presentation includes both a reading of "Heather" and a historical account, illustrated by news-

paper clippings, of fundamentalist Christians' efforts to banish the book from public libraries.

Although it's not part of Newman's account, a 2009 effort to remove "Heather" from library shelves in West Bend is part of the saga. Fundamentalists failed in that challenge, but not before the ACLU became involved and the controversy made national headlines.

Newman showed listeners that her books "are about families, they are not about sex." They contain no images or descriptions of sex or nudity. There are no scenes involving physical intimacy. Lascivious readings into the material exist only in the minds of her adult critics, she said.

Yet libraries that carry such books have been hit with protests and bomb threats. The books are regularly damaged and stolen.

Newman said the impetus for writing "Heather" came from the young daughter of a friend. The girl approached Newman on a street corner in her adopted hometown of Northampton, Mass., and asked the author to write a



PHOTO: COURTESY

Author Lesléa Newman

book about her family, which is headed by two women. That request got Newman thinking, she said, about how marginalized she felt as a child growing up in a Jewish family while images and stories about Christian families dominated the media.

Newman said the girl's request reminded her in a poignant way that children

need social validation, and so she wrote "Heather."

"Every child deserves to be proud of his or her parents," Newman said.

Newman's appearance in Milwaukee coincided with the publication of her latest children's book, "Donovan's Big Day." It's about a boy whose two daddies are getting married.

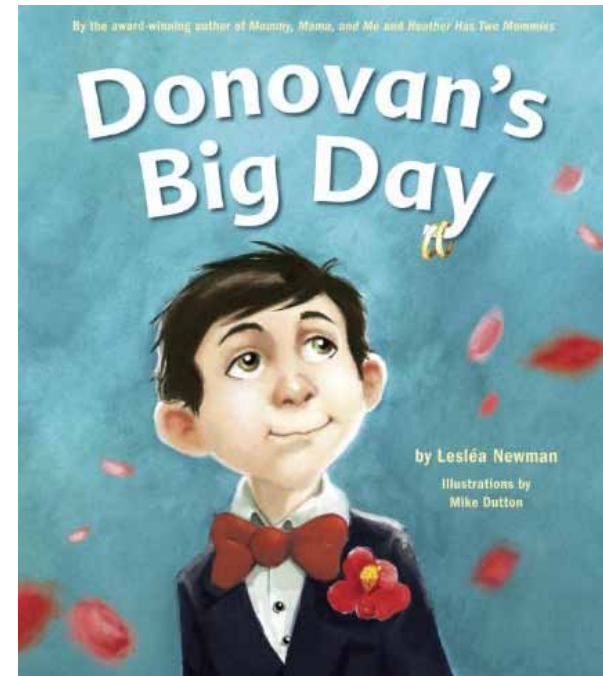


PHOTO: COURTESY

The cover of Newman's latest book.

# Church trial against lesbian pastor postponed

**By Louis Weisberg**  
Staff writer

The church trial of a lesbian United Methodist minister in Wisconsin was delayed

after four prosecutors and the presiding bishop resigned from the case.

The original trial of the Rev. Amy DeLong had been

set for April 11. The trial has been rescheduled for June 21 to 23 in Kaukauna.

DeLong, who is part of the denomination's exten-

sion ministry in Osceola, is charged with disobeying church law by officiating at the union of two women. She also is charged with being in a committed relationship with her partner of 15 years, which violates a church law banning openly gay clergy.

When the trial occurs, it will be the first of its kind in the state. Penalties range from a reprimand to dismissal from the clergy.

At least four clergy in a row had accepted the job of prosecuting DeLong, only to resign after learning more about the case.

DeLong said, "I have heard of annual conferences having trouble finding someone to prosecute these cases, but I have never heard of so many."

The Rev. Tom Lambrecht,

senior pastor of Faith Community United Methodist Church in Greenville, has agreed to represent the church. He's nationally renowned for his anti-gay activism. In 2005, he publicly defended a Virginia pastor who was suspended from the ministry after denying church membership to a gay person.

DeLong does not deny breaking denominational law. She said that after many years of hiding her true identity, "it became too much to go on lying about who I am."

"I go back to what Dr. King says, that an unjust law is no law at all," DeLong said. "It was not my job to help the church be discriminatory. Those laws are not what guided me. My call to be just to all people and true to



PHOTO: COURTESY

The Rev. Amy DeLong

myself is what guided me." Her supporters created www.loveontrial.org to cover the trial and rally support. The site's organizers are seeking volunteers as well as financial contributions to cover DeLong's defense.

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# Fair Wisconsin honors Zamarripa for advocacy

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

When state Rep. JoCasta Zamarripa began her first term in January, Madison was embroiled in the most contentious political environment since the Vietnam War. Within weeks of her swearing in, tens of thousands of demonstrators swarmed the Capitol to protest Gov. Scott Walker's plan to strip public unions of their collective bargaining rights.

Although the protests have abated, the Legislature's new Tea Party majority has kept Zamarripa and her party working overtime trying to contain the damage. The freshman Democrat from Milwaukee's near South Side currently is focused on stopping what she calls "an Arizona-style copycat immigration law that would lead to racial profiling." The measure is "being shopped around" by Rep. Don Pridemore, R-Hartford, she says.

"I'm doing everything I can to see that it never

sees the light of day and never becomes the law in Wisconsin," Zamarripa promises.

Immigration is an issue of great interest to Zamarripa's constituents in the 8th Assembly District, which has the largest Latino population of any in the state. Her predecessor Pedro Colon was the first Latino elected to the Assembly. He left last September after being appointed to the Milwaukee County Circuit Court.

Two months later, Zamarripa defeated Angel Sanchez in the race to succeed Colon.

In addition to its large Latino population, the 8th District encompasses Walker's Point, which has a large and growing gay population. Zamarripa has a strong record of advocacy on behalf of the LGBT community, both as an outreach coordinator for Planned Parenthood and as an organizer for Fair Wisconsin's unsuccessful campaign to defeat the 2006 voter referendum that

banned same-sex marriage and civil unions in the state.

On May 4, Fair Wisconsin Education Fund honored Zamarripa for her advocacy efforts during the organization's fourth annual leadership awards presentation at Milwaukee's Coast Restaurant, 931 E. Wisconsin Ave.

"Throughout her career, Rep. Zamarripa has been a consistent and strong public advocate for LGBT equality, notably during the 2006 marriage amendment campaign," FW said in a statement. "She's been successful at building non-traditional allies and in outreach to communities of color. Last fall she was elected to the Wisconsin Assembly, adding another much-needed pro-fairness voice to our state Legislature."

Zamarripa says she was inspired to become an LGBT advocate by her cousin Moises, who came out during his early teen years. He died young of a drug overdose, and "was never celebrated



PHOTO: COURTESY

**State Rep. JoCasta Zamarripa, D-Milwaukee, greets a pro-union protester outside the Capitol during a demonstration in Madison earlier this year.**

for the advocate he was," she says.

"Moises made no bones about it," Zamarripa says. "He was very proud. He was harassed by his peers and wasn't accepted by the entire family. He was one of the inspirations in my life. He was the catalyst for my advocacy in the community."

Zamarripa says Milwaukee's LGBT community would gain strength by embracing its diversity. "Certainly there are LGBT people of color, and it's time to recognize that diversity in our LGBT community," she says.

Zamarripa worked recent-

ly with Equality Wisconsin on a project that hosted house parties in Latino homes to talk about the commonalities Latino families share with LGBT families.

"I think we made great strides," she says. "Equality Wisconsin is continuing this work, and I think making sure that diversity is recognized is something we all should do."

### FAIR WISCONSIN HONOREES

Fair Wisconsin's 2011 leadership awards in Milwaukee on May 4 honored: AFSCME Wisconsin (Tammy Baldwin Statewide Impact Award); Rep. JoCasta Zamarripa (advocate); Milwaukee LGBT Community Center (organization); and Helen Boyd (activist).

FW presents awards in Madison on June 6 at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art. Madison honorees include: David Fowles (advocate); First Congregational UCC (organization); and Will Van Roosenbeek (activist).

For more information, go to [fairwisconsineducationfund.com/leadership](http://fairwisconsineducationfund.com/leadership).



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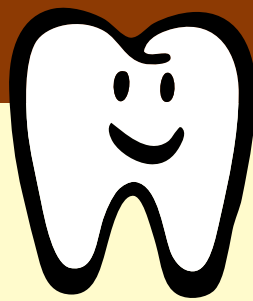


PHOTO: COURTESY Mo'Nique



## Mo'Nique to open PrideFest

Academy Award-winning actress and comedian Mo'Nique will open PrideFest Milwaukee with a performance on the Miller Lite Mainstage on June 10.

Mo'Nique joins rappers Salt-N-Pepa (June 11) and country music stars LeAnn Rimes and Chely Wright (June 12) in headlining the annual event at Milwaukee's Summerfest grounds.

A veteran stand-up comic, Mo'Nique rose to fame in the television series "The Parkers" before transitioning to film. She earned an Oscar in 2009 for the movie "Precious," by openly gay director Lee Daniels. She hosts a late-night talk show on BET. Mo'Nique is a longtime advocate for the black LGBT community and a high-profile HIV/AIDS activist. In a 2010 interview with The Advocate, she discussed the hypocrisy of the black church toward its gay and lesbian members, saying "God don't make no mistakes."

The Human Rights Campaign will present Mo'Nique with its Equality Award at an upcoming dinner in Atlanta.

For more information, to purchase tickets or to volunteer for PrideFest, go to [www.pridefest.com](http://www.pridefest.com).

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## Under pressure, law firm drops DOMA defense

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

With pressure mounting from clients and civil rights activists, a prestigious law firm recently dropped plans to defend the Defense of Marriage Act.

The Atlanta-based firm of King and Spalding made a quick turnaround, taking the case at the request of Congressional Republicans and then, in a matter of days, dropping the case.

The firm's decision prompted high-profile attorney Paul Clement, George W. Bush's solicitor general, to resign.

Earlier this year, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said the Obama administration would not defend the DOMA provision federally defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman. That provisions bars same-sex couples legally married in five states and the District of Columbia from receiving the more than 1,000 federal rights associated with marriage. Holder said the administration decided it could not defend an unconstitutional law.

Holder, in his statement, left defense of the 1996 measure to Congress, if it wanted

that task.

Soon after, GOP leaders in the House began looking for a defense attorney.

Clement took the job in mid-April, prompting LGBT civil rights advocates to question the hiring of a high-priced attorney by party leaders who claim to be focused on reducing the deficit and boosting the economy.

"How much taxpayer money will this cost?" asked Joe Solmonese of the Human Rights Campaign. The contract provided for a fee of \$520 per hour, with a cap at \$500,000.

Activists began a campaign against King and Spalding. HRC

said it wanted to "educate clients and potential recruits about King and Spalding's decision to voluntarily take up" DOMA's defense.

"The bottom line is that K&S was under no obligation to take this case," Solmonese said. But, he added, "Discrimination, no matter how profitable, is never good for business."

HRC placed ads in mainstream and trade publications shaming the firm. The organization also sent letters to law schools and organized protests.

At the onset of the campaign, Solmonese said, "We don't hold out much hope

that K&S will drop this engagement."

Five days later, he heralded the firm's decision to drop the case. "We are pleased to see the firm stand on the right side of history," he said.

Firm chairman Robert Hays Jr. said the decision to take the case was not vetted properly.

Clement, meanwhile, said he planned to continue handling the DOMA defense, just at another law firm — Bancroft PLLC. In a terse letter, he wrote that "defending unpopular positions is what lawyers do."

Meanwhile, Log Cabin Republicans criticized the



PHOTO: COURTESY

Former solicitor general Paul Clement

pressure applied against King & Spalding. LCR headlined a press release "Fight the law, not the lawyer."

## Experts: Judge's sexual orientation is non-issue

By Lisa Neff

AP writer

The sponsors of California's same-sex marriage ban insist they are not trying to disqualify the federal judge who struck down Prop 8 because he's gay.

Instead, they argue the judge's decade-long relationship with another man poses a potential conflict, because they might want to get hitched themselves.

That carefully parsed line of reasoning is unlikely to prevail, according to experts in judicial ethics.

They pointed out that while courts have not yet had to wrestle with sexual orientation as grounds for judicial recusal, judges typically have rejected efforts to remove jurors based on personal characteristics such as

race, gender, religion or even the contents of their investment portfolios.

"I don't think this judge had any more duty to disclose his sexual orientation than a Christian or Jewish or Muslim judge has a duty to discuss their religion or a heterosexual judge has his duty to discuss their sexual orientation," retired Illinois state Judge Raymond McKoski said.

At the center of the dispute is Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker, who issued the ruling last August declaring Proposition 8 to be an unconstitutional violation of gay Californians' civil rights.

"We are not suggesting that a gay or lesbian judge could not sit on this case," attorneys for the backers of Proposition 8 wrote in

their motion filed to overturn the landmark ruling. "Simply stated, under governing California law, Chief Judge Walker currently cannot marry his partner, but his decision in this case ... would give him a right to do so."

They claim Walker should have disclosed the relationship while presiding over the case.

DePaul University College of Law professor Jeffrey Shaman, co-author of a widely used textbook on judicial conduct, said the fact that Walker was rumored to be gay from the moment he randomly drew the Proposition 8 case "somewhat undercuts the argument that he should have disclosed he was in a long-term relationship."

Lawyers for backers of the ban seem to be grasping at straws in making their argu-

ment against the now-retired Walker, Shaman said.

"But it's their prerogative to do this as lawyers," Shaman said. "It might indicate they are worried about the judge's opinion, which was such a strong opinion, and they are trying to make an end run around it."

The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, a political action committee and recruitment organization for gay politicians, said there are now 102 openly LGBT judges in the United States.

Only one, U.S. District Judge Deborah Batts in New York, serves at the federal level. President Barack Obama has nominated two gay men for federal judgeships, but they have not been confirmed.

Rumors that Walker is gay

and has a long-term partner who accompanies him to social functions circulated during the 13-day trial that preceded his decision. The judge declined to comment at the time.

Members of the Proposition 8 team openly complained about Walker's handling of the case and accused him of favoring the same-sex couples who had sued in his court for the right to marry. But they refrained from raising the specter of the judge's sexual orientation, saying media reports and gossip were an unsound basis for legal strategy.

"The bottom line is this case, from our perspective, is and always will be about the law and not about the judge who decides it," Jim Campbell, a lawyer with the

Christian legal defense group Alliance Defense Fund, told AP in August.

That might have remained their position if Walker, who retired in late February after two decades on the federal bench, had not decided to end the speculation himself.

Earlier this month, Walker had a farewell meeting with a select group of courthouse reporters. When the topic came up, Walker said he never thought about recusing himself because he was gay and noted that no one had asked him to.

The judge also said he'd been in a relationship with a man he identified only as a physician for a decade.

"If you thought a judge's sexuality, ethnicity, national origin (or) gender would prevent the judge from handling a case, that's a very slippery slope," Walker said. "I don't think it's relevant."

The lawyers who filed the motion to wipe out the judge's ruling declined to elaborate outside their written arguments about why they concluded that Walker's comment about his partner caused them to change course.

In their filing, they stated in a lengthy footnote that the burden for "maintaining impartiality and the appearance of impartiality" lies with judges, and that it was not the place of the lawyers to investigate Walker's private affairs.

## Pastor arrested for aiding mom in kidnapping

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

A pastor with ties to an anti-gay group was arrested in April for allegedly helping a woman flee the United States with her daughter to avoid turning custody of the child over to her ex-girlfriend.

The pastor, Timothy David Miller, is charged with aiding in the removal of a child from the United States and

retaining a child with intent to obstruct parental rights. He was released into the custody of a friend April 25 on a \$25,000 bond.

Miller was sought by the FBI for allegedly helping Lisa Miller (no relation) and her 9-year-old daughter travel to Central America. A federal arrest warrant exists for Lisa Miller. Her daughter, Isabella Miller Jenkins,

is listed as missing by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Lisa Miller and Janet Jenkins were joined in a civil union in 2000 in Vermont and had a child, but the couple broke up in 2003.

Miller later came out as both ex-gay and born-again. She moved to Virginia, where, with the help of the anti-gay Liberty Counsel, she sought

to eliminate Jenkin's custody rights. In Virginia, Miller won custody but Jenkins received visitation rights.

Meanwhile, in a Vermont court, Jenkin's was awarded custody. Courts in both states have since ruled in Jenkin's favor.

In September 2009, Miller and her daughter disappeared.

The FBI maintains that

Timothy Miller arranged for the mother and daughter to fly from Toronto to Mexico City, then to El Salvador and on to Managua, where the pastor has connections with Christian Aid Ministries.

The two traveled under false identities, according to the FBI.

An FBI affidavit also alleged that the mother and daughter were hidden in a

beach house provided by a businessman associated with Liberty University, the late Rev. Jerry Falwell's institution.

Liberty University dean and Liberty Counsel chair Matthew Staver said his organization severed ties with Lisa Miller when she fled the country and denied a connection with Timothy Miller.

girlfriend's mother in Austin, Texas.

Jose Alfonso Aviles, 45, faces charges of capital murder. Police say Aviles shot to death Norma Hurtado, 24, and her mother, 57-year-old Maria Hurtado, after knocking on their door.

The Austin American-Statesman reported that police and court documents said Aviles' daughter was in the home at the time and found the two after the shooting, which police say came after a months-long feud between the families.

— AP and WIG reports

### NATIONAL BRIEFS

#### TEXAS MAY STRIP TRANSGENDER MARRIAGE RIGHTS

Two years after Texas became one of the last states to allow transgender people to use proof of their surgery to get a marriage license, Republican lawmakers are trying to roll back the clock.

Proposed legislation would prohibit county and district clerks from using a court order recognizing a surgery as documentation to get married, effectively requiring the state to recognize a 1999 state appeals court decision

that said in cases of marriage, gender is assigned at birth and sticks with a person throughout their life, even if they have surgery.

Most states allow transgender people to get married using a court order that also allows them to change their driver's license, experts said.

#### CALIFORNIA'S REPORTED LAST GAY BOOKSTORE TO CLOSE

A bookstore in the heart of San Francisco's gay and lesbian community closed in late April.

A Different Light bookstore opened in the Castro district in 1985 and soon became a social hub that celebrated LGBT writers and readers.

The Northern California Booksellers Association's executive director said online book sales have prompted the demise of many gay bookstores. The association says the store was likely the state's last gay bookstore selling new titles.

#### VIRGINIA SOCIAL SERVICES REJECTS GAY ADOPTION

Virginia's social services board has rejected proposed regulations that would have prohibited adoption agencies from discriminating against prospective parents because they're gay.

The board voted earlier this month to strip that protection from proposed regulations. The vote came despite objections from

some board members that they didn't have enough time to examine the issue after the state department of social services removed the provision in mid-April.

Virginia now allows adoption only by married couples and singles, regardless of sexual orientation.

#### POLICE: FATHER KILLS DAUGHTER'S GIRLFRIEND, AND HER MOTHER

A man allegedly upset over his teenage daughter's lesbian relationship fatally shot her girlfriend and the

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# Braves coach suspended for anti-gay slurs

By Charles Odum  
AP writer

Atlanta Braves pitching coach Roger McDowell was suspended for two weeks without pay May 1 by Major League Baseball for inappropriate comments and gestures he made toward fans before a game in San Francisco.

The suspension is retroactive to April 29, when McDowell was placed on administrative leave by the Braves. He also was fined an undisclosed amount for the April 23 incident.

McDowell will be required to complete sensitivity training and will have to apologize directly to the fans involved, Justin Quinn and his family.

Commissioner Bud Selig said in a statement that insensitivity to others "simply cannot and will not be

tolerated."  
"I understand that Mr. McDowell is very contrite about his conduct and hopefully this incident will be used to increase public awareness of the importance of sensitivity to others," Selig said. "I commend Justin Quinn and his family for bringing this issue to our attention so that it will not happen again in the future."

Quinn said he was in the stands with his wife and 9-year-old twin daughters before the April 23 game with San Francisco when he noticed McDowell ask three men, "Are you guys a homo couple or a threesome?"  
Quinn said McDowell made crude sexual gestures with his hips and a bat. Quinn said he shouted, "Hey there are kids out here."

According to Quinn,

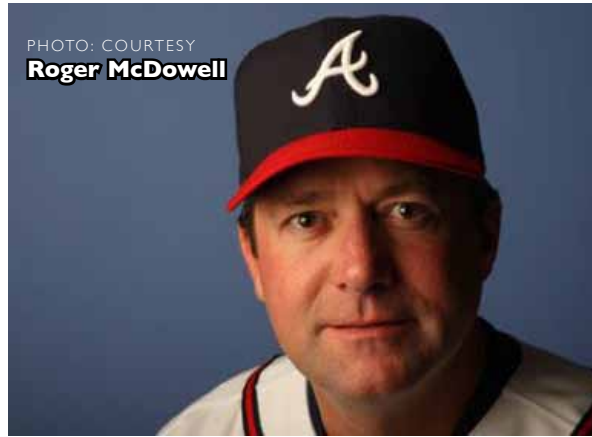


PHOTO: COURTESY  
Roger McDowell

McDowell said kids don't belong at a baseball park, picked up a bat, walked up to Quinn and asked him, "How much are your teeth worth?"  
McDowell issued an apology and, according to the release from the commissioner's office, asked last week to apologize directly

to Quinn and his family. The apology was being delayed until the investigation was completed.

"I understand the decision made today by the commissioner," McDowell said in a statement. "I am embarrassed by my actions and I plan to give a personal apology to

Mr. Quinn and his family. I would also like to offer a public and heartfelt apology to the fans of San Francisco, to the Atlanta Braves organization, my family and to Major League Baseball."

Braves president John Schuerholz said the team supports Selig's decision.

"We were clearly disappointed in Roger's remarks and actions and the Atlanta Braves organization does not tolerate that kind of behavior," Schuerholz said.

"The Atlanta Braves organization and Roger McDowell deeply regret that this incident occurred and again apologize to all involved, including Mr. Quinn and his family, and the San Francisco Giants and their fans."

The release from the commissioner's office said Quinn and his family will be invit-

ed to a Giants home game as guests of Major League Baseball. Also, baseball will "reach out" to education programs that promote tolerance and sensitivity.

In a statement released by his attorney, Gloria Allred, Quinn applauded the discipline imposed on McDowell. "I am pleased to see Major League Baseball imposing discipline on Coach McDowell for his actions," Quinn said. "I love baseball dearly and my family and I are now looking forward to getting back to the ballpark for another game."

Allred said the discipline "demonstrates that Major League Baseball believes that homophobic slurs, sexually lewd conduct and threatening behavior by coaches or any other person employed at a game in the major league will not be tolerated."

# Anti-gay statements challenged on courts, fields

By Lisa Neff  
Staff writer

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation is battling 1000 these days.

The nonprofit dedicated to combating homophobic statements won apologies recently from an NBA basketball star and a MLB pitching coach, who both unleashed anti-gay slurs in game-day tantrums.

In one incident, Los Angeles Laker Kobe Bryant cursed at a referee, calling him "faggot," his words clear enough for the stadium and television audiences. Bryant was fined \$100,000 for the offense.

GLAAD members demanded and received an apology. And, during a play-off game against the New Orleans Hornets April 27, Bryant and four teammates

appeared in a PSA promoting respect on and off the court.

By then GLAAD's attention had turned to baseball and San Francisco, where Atlanta Braves pitching coach Roger McDowell shouted anti-gay epithets at fans before a game with the Giants. The coach also threatened fans with a baseball bat.

Again GLAAD demanded and received an apology. "I apologize to everyone for my actions," stated McDowell, who was fined and suspended by Major League Baseball.

"More and more sports teams refuse to allow this sort of behavior," said GLAAD president Jarrett Barrios.

The same can be said of other teams in other sports in other countries.

In Brazil, Team Sada Cruzeiro recently was fined \$30,000 after an estimated 3,000 fans shouted anti-gay slurs at Michael Santos, a middle-blocker on Volei Futuro, the opposing team in a semi-final match. The fans, according to various blog reports, repeatedly shouted "bicha" or "faggot."

After the April 2 incident, the middle-blocker came out, stating, "I'm gay. Everyone knows who I am. My team fully respects my sexuality. I have been playing for 10



Brazil's Michael Santos and his Volei Futuro teammates

PHOTO: COURTESY

years and everyone has treated me well and fair. I do not feel the need to let everyone know about my sexuality."

His teammates responded with support, wearing pink warm-up shirts before another semi-final game.

Fans also showed their support, pounding pink thundersticks as Volei Futuro played to victory.

## GLSEN IN THE GAME

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network recently initiated a program intended to change the game in K-12 schools. The nonprofit, which works with students, teachers, administrators and parents nationwide on school reforms and programs, has launched Changing the Game: The GLSEN Sports Project to encourage safer, more inclusive athletic programs.

Advisors include Billie Jean King, Martina Navratilova, Jessica Mendoza, Lauren Lappin, Scott Fujita, Wade Davis, Candice Wiggins, Hudson Taylor, Billy Bean, Lin Dun, Ben Cohen and John Amaechi.

The project will "help to make sports and physical education a great experience for every student," said director Pat Griffin.

- LN.

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## { Editorial }

## Fight Big Money

If there was any question about whether Democrats or Republicans have the advantage in efforts to recall state senators, it's been answered.

Democrats have submitted six petitions for recall elections, all of them involving senators who are considered at least somewhat vulnerable. Republicans, meanwhile, have submitted petitions against only three of eight eligible Democratic senators.

Barring any legal challenges, all eight elections would be held on July 12.

The Republican senators are being targeted for supporting a bill stripping public employees of their collective bargaining rights. The Democrats are being targeted for opposing the bill. Clearly the enthusiasm is on the side of the bill's opponents — i.e., union supporters.

The lopsided support for Democrats shows not only in the number of petitions filed but also in the amount of cash that's been raised. As of April 28, Democrats had raised \$735,932 to recall Republicans, while the GOP had attracted a meager \$47,101 in donations. Nearly all of the Democratic money has come from small donors contributing through ActBlue.com.

But Democrats' temporary cash advantage will reverse once the election heats up. The big-money interests that were behind busting the unions will pony up as much as it takes to defend GOP senators, just as they did for embattled Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice David Prosser. It's all part of their all-out assault on the middle- and working-class, which already has resulted in an unparalleled redistribution of wealth to the top .01 percent of citizens.

In Prosser's case, a massive blitz of outside-funded television commercials on the final day of his campaign sealed the fate of unions in Wisconsin. It's now a foregone conclusion that Prosser and his right-wing cronies who control our highest court will approve Gov. Scott Walker's union-busting measure. Prosser promised as much during the campaign.

Big Money won that race for the nation's super-rich elite and it will cost the average citizen of Wisconsin dearly.

We hope that Prosser's victory has taught a lesson. How much injustice are Wisconsinites willing to accept? Middle-class citizens must wake up and put forth all the time, money and energy they can muster to counter Big Money. This is an historic — and perhaps a final — opportunity to salvage our future.



## { Letters }

## GAY MARRIAGE IS GOOD FOR BUSINESS

(An open letter from 24 New York business leaders urging members of the state's legislature to legalize same-sex marriage.)

New York has rich resources that position our state for continued success in the 21st century — a leading financial center, strong industry clusters, and renowned educational, research and cultural institutions. But major employers know that the single greatest asset New York has to offer is its ability to attract the best talent from around the world. This is crucial, because the size, quality and diversity of the talent pool are the first criteria

for business in determining where to locate jobs.

To remain competitive, New York must continue to contend with other world cities to attract top talent. Increasingly, in an age where talent determines the economic winners, great states and cities must demonstrate a commitment to creating an open, healthy and equitable environment in which to live and work.

This is why it is so important that New York State grant full rights to all of its citizens by passing marriage equality. As other states, cities and countries across the world extend marriage rights regardless of sexual orientation, it will become increasingly difficult to recruit the

best talent if New York cannot offer the same benefits and protections.

Many employers have adopted non-discrimination policies and extended domestic partner benefits long before most cities and states passed them into law. As New Yorkers and business leaders, we believe that attracting talent is key to our state's economic future. We strongly urge New York State to enact marriage equality legislation to help maintain our competitive advantage in attracting the best and brightest people the world has to offer and to reaffirm our commitment to both freedom and fairness.

Signed by 24 New York business leaders

## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

Send a letter to the editor to [managingeditor@wisconsinngazette.com](mailto:managingeditor@wisconsinngazette.com).

## 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.

## ON THE RECORD



"Faggot Jew."  
— Donald Trump's assessment of renowned composer Leonard Bernstein, overheard by a gay former employee who reported it to PoliticusUSA. Trump is the frontrunner for the Republican presidential nomination.

"This is where I get into trouble. ... I still don't remember to call her 'him.'"  
— Cher, talking to Vanity Fair about her son Chaz.

"I've never been attracted to a man in my life. But yes I am gay, I'm so happy. I'm a gay, heterosexual male."  
— Rapper Lil B, who says the title of his next album is "I'm Gay."

"We want to dance at our son's wedding. I would love if these senators were in my shoes. What if their child came out as gay and said they wanted to get married?"  
— Iris Blumenthal, 68, of Syosset, N.Y., telling a reporter why she supports making a push to legalize gay marriage in her state.

"What these television programs are doing is glamorizing homosexual behavior, glamorizing homosexual conduct. This is conduct that carries enormous psychological and physical risks to those who engage in it. It's just not a lifestyle, it's not behavior that ought to be glamorized or presented in a way that makes it idealistic."

— Bryan Fischer of the American Family Association warning Fox News audiences that watching "Glee" might turn them gay.

"Congratulations William and Kate on your Wedding Day. We wish you a happy life together. You can get married, gay people can't. We are banned by law. We ask you to support marriage equality. Equal = Love."

— A message on a giant card for Prince William and Kate Middleton displayed by activists outside the gates of Buckingham Palace days before the royal nuptials.

"I'm doing this for me, for my boy Tripp and for the country."

— Levi Johnston, father of Bristol Palin's son, explaining why he's writing a tell-all memoir about his relationship with the Palin family.

"Pls retweet! Donald Trump (mr. chapter 11) is Only a Mean Sprited BAD ACTOR who couldn't find his ass with both hands & a map!"

— Cher tweeting her feelings about prospective Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump.

"I can't blame men for wanting him, and wouldn't be surprised if Dad even mildly flirted back. ... Dad somewhat enjoyed being called gay. He said it made women want to prove the assertion wrong."

— Actor Cary Grant's only child Jennifer Grant writing in her memoir "Good Stuff: A Reminiscence of My Father, Cary Grant."

## Records show reason for recall

Only four months into the year, we already have witnessed our entire state government take a radical turn to the right. It started with an unprecedented attack on working families, but it is quickly extending beyond. No wonder an unprecedented number of recall efforts have been launched.

The enthusiasm to recall eligible Republican state senators has been demonstrated in many ways. In most cases the efforts have led to 40 to 50 percent more signatures being submitted for recall than were required by law. Six of the eight eligible Republicans could face recall elections this summer.

These Republicans are extremists who have all demonstrated hostility toward the LGBT community. Most of them repeatedly supported the discriminatory constitutional amendment in 2006 that banned marriage equality. They also voted against the historic domestic partnership registry that finally



passed in the 2009 budget. Many of them voted against bullying legislation that was meant to better protect our children from harassment and violence.

The Republican senators' dismissive attitude toward the LGBT community is not a recent phenomenon. During the budget process in 2007, Senate Democrats included domestic partner benefits for state workers and their families. Even though this would have been a huge benefit for LGBT families, Sen. Alberta Darling protested by saying it was "not a family friendly budget." It is not precisely clear what kind of "family" she was referring to at the time, but given her record in recent years she probably was not thinking about gay and lesbian families.

It also has become clear that many of the Republican

**They're extremists who have all demonstrated hostility toward LGBT people.**

senators targeted for recall have a cozy relationship with the most homophobic forces in the state. For example, in 2009, Sen. Dan Kapanke shared a stage with Wisconsin's leading anti-gay crusader, Julaine Appling of Wisconsin Family Action. That appearance, coupled with his votes against the LGBT community, tell us everything that we need to know about his position on equality.

Not all of the senate Republicans have always been so hostile to gay and lesbian families. In 1993, then-state

Rep. Tammy Baldwin succeeded in getting a couple of her Republican colleagues to support President Bill Clinton's efforts to end discrimination against gays and lesbians in the military. One of those colleagues, nearly 18 years ago, was a much more moderate Darling. Unfortunately, each ensuing year has seen her moderation wane. By 2004, according to votesmart.org, she earned a score of 0 from Fair Wisconsin. It is truly sad that she went from taking such a reasonable stand in 1993 to obstructing equality on a regular basis.

The bottom line is that there are many reasons to join the movement to recall senate Republicans this summer. Whether it is their attack on working Wisconsinites, on the LGBT community or a combination of both, one thing has become crystal clear: Their records of extremism are out of synch with the majority of fair-minded people in our state.

## Walking as straight as she can

When actress Geri Jewell was 12, she found what looked like cute little balloons in her parents' bedside drawer. She blew up a few, rubbed them in her hair and made them stick to the wall. Then her dad walked in.

A bit disconcerted, Jack Jewell explained to his daughter that, well ... they were toe warmers that men wore under their socks. He then opened two more condoms, put them on his big toes, finished dressing and left for work.

Geri tells this story in her new book, "I'm Walking as Straight as I Can," to illustrate her ignorance about sex and her family's inability to clarify matters. It's one of many hilarious anecdotes in the book, which is subtitled "Transcending Disability in Hollywood and Beyond."

Geri started as a stand-up comic and was the first actor with a disability to be featured regularly in a TV series, "The Facts of Life," 30 years ago. More recently, she played Jewel in the HBO



series "Deadwood." In the book, she comes out as a lesbian, so the title is a wry comment on disability and sexual orientation.

Geri was born prematurely under traumatic circumstances when her pregnant mother was hit by a car. She spent her first three months in an incubator. When she was not crawling by age 1, her mother sought medical advice. The diagnosis was cerebral palsy, which is characterized by involuntary movements and perceptual difficulties. Along with motor problems, Geri had substantial hearing loss.

Geri writes about the close relationships she shared with other kids with disabilities in her "special needs" schools, but also about how segregation undermined her confidence and hindered her social skills. She describes how naive and

immature she was when she entered the cutthroat world of Hollywood. She tells heart-wrenching stories of how some people abused her trust or treated her disrespectfully.

Geri is disappointed that her identity as a "disability icon" typecast her in roles as disabled characters, but she's also proud of being a role model and being able to speak out on behalf of people with disabilities.

On one memorable occasion at a White House event in 1985, Geri was supposed to perform a few minutes of comedy. Instead, she delivered a passionate statement against fear and prejudice that was a plea for accepting people with disabilities. Unconsciously, it was also about sexual orientation, because at the time she was grappling with her own awareness of being lesbian.

She writes movingly about her long coming-out process. Uprightness from her Catholic upbringing, insecurity due to her disability

and fear about her career all delayed the inevitable. She was married to a man for 12 years, experienced long bouts of depression and overcame an addiction to sleep meds.

Despite all this drama, her book is often laugh-out-loud funny, studded with what Geri calls her "Lucy" moments, worthy of the madcap Lucille Ball. There's the chaos she accidentally wreaked at her high school stage debut and the earthquake that struck on her wedding night ("It wasn't our lovemaking that made the earth move..."). Among the celebrity anecdotes, Carol Burnett, Sid Caesar, Patty Duke, Dick Clark and Liza Minnelli come off as class acts.

The innate sense of the absurd that many LGBTs and people with disabilities experience due to their "difference" seems to be the well-spring of Geri's humor and resilience. She ought to be working more consistently. She is a very funny woman.

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## Military needs progressives among its clergy

### Religion

ANDREW WARNER

After years of advocacy, progressive leaders have prevailed in repealing the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

President Barack Obama fulfilled a campaign pledge in signing legislation to allow gays and lesbians to serve openly in the Armed Forces. It was a signature achievement for LGBT rights that symbolized our full equality as citizens.

Now, if we could just get married.

Military chaplains opposed the change in the DADT policy. A group of retired chaplains voiced concerns that allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly would diminish the religious liberty of Christians in the military,

essentially arguing that gays can't have freedom of speech because Christians want the freedom to be bigots.

Regardless of the constitutional merits of the retired chaplains' case, the resistance of chaplains to openly gay and lesbian soldiers exposes how deeply entrenched evangelical Christians are in the ranks of military chaplains. Almost 90 percent of people seeking to become military chaplains identify as evangelicals, and many of them come from the late Jerry Falwell's Liberty University or Pat Robertson's Regent University.

The increasing prevalence of conservative evangelicals in the military chaplaincy impacts more than LGBT people. Al Jazeera reported the head chaplain in Afghanistan preached that military personnel are meant to proselytize, saying, "The special forces guys — they hunt men basically. We do the

same thing as Christians, we hunt people for Jesus. We do, we hunt them down."

The Rev. Dr. David Greenhaw, president of Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, sees the increasing evangelical takeover of military chaplaincy as a problem. Progressive churches do not specifically train people for military chaplaincy and send few people to serve.

"In the liberal church we often critique the military because we do not approve of war," Greenhaw says. "But we've naively ignored the spiritual needs of military personnel."

With liberal denominations sending fewer and fewer chaplains, the military fills its ranks with conservative pastors. "My God!" Greenhaw exclaims, "liberal schools have created a vacuum that conservatives are filling and dominating it."

Under Greenhaw's leader-

ship, Eden will initiate a new program to specifically train military chaplains — a rarity for progressive Christian seminaries.

The program will train prospective chaplains in pastoral care of military personnel, ground them in the Christian tradition's "Just War" ethic and equip them for specific challenges, such as the issue of suicide prevention.

That last element of Eden's training will be particularly important. Greenhaw notes that many young people who commit suicide are LGBT and that suicides in the active-duty military are also far too common.

"What if the two are connected?" Greenhaw asks. The military needs chaplains who have the theological openness and sensitivity to counsel mili-

tary personnel dealing with questions of sexual identity.

The change in the DADT policy could even mean that we start seeing out LGBT chaplains. Eden Theological Seminary will be there to train them and other broad-minded pastors.

We can all rejoice in Eden training military chaplains to serve but not proselytize, to help but not hunt down people.

## Open & Affirming Congregations

To contribute a listing, please e-mail [managingeditor@wisconsin-gazette.com](mailto:managingeditor@wisconsin-gazette.com).

### MILWAUKEE

**Central United Methodist Church**, 639

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

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

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

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

**First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee**, 1342 N. Astor St., 53202, 414-273-5257, [www.uumilwaukee.org](http://www.uumilwaukee.org)

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

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

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

**Mt. Zion Lutheran Church**, 12012 W. North Ave., Wauwatosa 53226, 414-258-0456, [www.mtzionlutheran.org](http://www.mtzionlutheran.org)

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

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

**Tippecanoe Church PCUSA-Living Waters Contemplative Life Center**, 125 W. Saveland Ave., Bay View, 53207, 414-481-4680, [www.tippechurch.org](http://www.tippechurch.org)

**Underwood Memorial Baptist Church**, 1916 Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa 53213, [www.underwoodchurch.org](http://www.underwoodchurch.org)

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## McDonald's assault prompts cyber protests

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Tens of thousands of cyber activists have petitioned Baltimore County authorities and McDonald's executives for justice in the beating of a transgender woman in a restaurant dining room.

The attack took place April 18 in a Rosedale, Md., McDonald's and was cap-

tured on video by a restaurant employee with a mobile phone. On the video, two women can be seen repeatedly attacking another. The assault began outside a bathroom door, continued in the dining room and ended near the restaurant exit.

There, after being punched, kicked and dragged, Chrissy Lee Polis, 22, suffered a sei-

zure. She can be seen in the video lying on the floor, convulsing, as restaurant employees stand by, some of them mocking her.

One employee can be seen in the video attempting to persuade Polis' assailants to leave. And a customer, later identified as Vicky Thoms, can be seen trying to stop the attack.

Thoms attended a rally at

the McDonald's on April 25, where she was embraced as a hero by many of the more than 200 anti-violence advocates who attended.

She told the press and rallied that she had feared the teenage assailants would kill Polis, so she tried to stop the beating.

Authorities have arrested two people in connection with the assault — 18-year-old Teonna Monae Brown, who faces charges of first- and second-degree assault, and a 14-year-old who may be prosecuted as a juvenile.

Prosecutors are still reviewing the case to determine whether hate-crime charges will be pursued. A police report said the 14-year-old confessed that she and Brown fought with Polis over her using the women's rest room.

Prosecutors also have not

decided whether to pursue any charges against employees or the owner of the franchise restaurant.

Thoms said employees didn't help Polis and delayed calls to the police. She also said one employee implied Polis deserved the beating because she had "a smart mouth."

Franchise owner Mitchell McPherson said the employee who took the video "is no longer employed with my organization" and others may be disciplined.

The video of the assault, posted to YouTube and on other websites, was viewed by tens of thousands.

Widespread viewing fueled online petitions to Baltimore County police and McDonald's corporate office. One petition circulated by Change.org gathered more than 30,000 signatures in

three days and observed, "Not surprisingly, McDonald's lacks standard policies for protecting transgender individuals, despite a decent record of workplace discrimination protections for gays and lesbians. And while the company has pledged to 'take appropriate action' against all employees involved in this heinous event, just one has been punished."

LGBT civil rights groups also pressed for corporate action.

"Ensure that your corporate leadership, your franchise owners and your 1.7 million employees feel a sense of shared responsibility for the safety of each and every one of your millions and millions of customers," National Gay and Lesbian Task Force executive director Rea Carey wrote to McDonald's CEO.

### DID YOU KNOW?

In 2010, the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center served an estimated 10,219 individuals — a 28 percent increase over 2009.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Chrissy Lee Polis

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#### \$3,000,000 Police Brutality Settlement

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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## SPECIAL REPORT: BULLYING &amp; ITS EFFECTS

# Bullied best friends take lives during sleepover

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Best friends Haylee Ann Marie Fentress and Paige Lee Moravetz took some secrets when they took their lives.

The eighth-graders at Marshall Middle School hung themselves on April 16 in a home in rural Lynd, Minn., in the southwestern part of the state. The Lyon County Sheriff's Department said Paige was on a sleepover at Haylee's house.

The double suicide prompted a rumor of a planned pact, which Marshall Public Schools superintendent Clint W. Willert said was unfounded. "There is no evidence of any kind of a suicide pact," he told an ABC affiliate.

The suicides also brought out assertions that the 14-year-old girls had been bullied by other teenagers. Haylee, in a Facebook post, said kids were cruel. She told family members that other students made fun of her weight and red hair and she

was struggling to fit in after moving to Minnesota from Indiana about a year ago.

Appearing on NBC's "Today" on April 14, relatives of the two girls suggested they might have been more than friends. Haylee hyphenated her last name on Facebook to include Paige's last name, and Haylee was expelled from school for defending Paige in a fight.

"I'm so nervous and I just want to get it over with ... I love you, Paige," Haylee posted on her friend's Facebook page shortly before their deaths.

Haylee's mother and older sister, in a joint statement, said, "We need to stop pretending this isn't happening or that it is just a cry for attention because obviously it is not. This needs to be talked about, and we need to try to prevent this by teaching kids in school, community and at home. They need to know that they are not alone. It shouldn't take more tragedies to realize this."



PHOTOS: COURTESY  
Haylee Ann Marie Fentress (left) and Paige Lee Moravetz

Both girls suffered depression, but their mothers have said they saw no indication the girls planned to take their lives.

"There was nothing," Paige's mom, Tricia Behnke, said on a broadcast of NBC's "Today."

A service for Haylee took place April 23 in Highland, Ind. "Haylee was a compassionate, loving, big-hearted person who will live on



through her family," her family wrote in her obituary.

Paige was buried April 20 in Wilno, Minn.

"Her enjoyments in life included playing hockey, snowmobiling, fishing (especially ice fishing), helping out and spending time on the farm, camping and tubing on Lake Shaokotan, camping and knee boarding on Lake Herman, playing music, going to concerts, playing with her dog Daisy, spending time with cousins and her brother Jake, spending time with friends and traveling," Paige's family wrote in her obituary.

Responding to the deaths, the school district provided counseling for students and hosted a forum April 19 for parents to learn how to help a children cope with their grief.

"Marshall Public Schools remain concerned about the

safety and well-being of our students and staff at this difficult time," Willert said.

The district also issued a warning to parents and teachers that publicity surrounding suicide can lead to additional suicides or attempts. The district, in a statement released April 20, cited a World Health Organization conclusion that "some forms of non-fictional newspaper and television coverage of suicide are associated with a statistically significant excess of suicide; the impact appears to be strongest among young people. Repeated and continual coverage of suicide tends to induce and promote suicidal preoccupations, particularly among adolescents and young adults."

## 20 percent of LGBT teens tried suicide

SUICIDES from page 1

jumped off a bridge last year after classmates recorded and broadcast the 18-year-old having sex with a man.

The study relied on teens' self-reporting suicide attempts within the previous year. Roughly 20 percent of gay, lesbian and bisexual teens said they had made an attempt, versus 4 percent of straight kids.

The study's social index rated counties on five measures: prevalence of same-sex couples; registered Democratic voters; liberal views; schools with gay-straight alliances; schools with policies against bullying gay students; and schools with antidiscrimination policies that included sexual orientation.

Gay, lesbian and bisexual teens living in counties with the highest social index scores were 20 percent more likely to have attempted suicide than gays in counties with the lowest index scores. Overall, about 25 percent of gay teens in low-scoring counties had attempted suicide, versus 20 percent of gay teens in

high-scoring counties.

Among straight teens, suicide attempts were 9 percent more common in low-scoring counties. There were 1,584 total suicide attempts — 304 of those among gays, lesbians and bisexuals.

Hatzenbuehler said the results show that "environments that are good for gay youth are also healthy for heterosexual youth."

The study is based on 2006-08 surveys of 11th-graders that state health officials conducted in Oregon classrooms; Oregon voter registration statistics; U.S. Census data on same-sex couples; and public school policies on gays and bullying.

The researchers assessed proportions of Democrats versus Republicans; there were relatively few Independents. Information on non-voters wasn't examined.

Zachary Toomay, a high school senior from Arroyo Grande, California, said the study "seems not only plausible, but it's true."

The star swimmer, 18, lives in a conservative, most-

ly Republican county. He's active in his school's gay-straight alliance, and said he'd never been depressed until last year when classmates "ostracized" him for being vocal about gay rights.

Toomay said signs of community intolerance, including bumper stickers opposing same-sex marriage, also made him feel down, and he sought guidance from a school counselor after contemplating suicide.

Funding for the study came from the National Institutes for Health and a center for gay research at the Fenway Institute, an independent Harvard-affiliated health care and research center.

Michael Resnick, a professor of adolescent mental health at the University of Minnesota's medical school, said the study "certainly affirms what we've come to understand about children and youth in general."

"They are both subtly and profoundly affected by what goes around them," he said, including the social climate and perceived support.

### DID YOU KNOW?

During 2010, 825 youths made 7,500 visits to the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's Project Q.

## SPECIAL REPORT: BULLYING &amp; ITS EFFECTS

# Grand jury indicts roommate in Rutgers suicide

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

A New Jersey grand jury on April 25 returned an indictment against a Rutgers University student who used his webcam to stream video of his roommate kissing another man. The broadcast of the romantic relationship allegedly drove freshman Tyler Clementi to commit suicide.

Days after roommate Dharun Ravi broadcast the encounter between Clementi, 18, and a man identified in court papers only as "M.B.," Clementi jumped from the George Washington Bridge. It was the start of the 2010-11 school year, when more than a dozen boys and young men committed suicide after being bullied and harassed.

Ravi and another student were arrested for invasion of privacy for turning a web camera on Clementi's bed and then boasting via Twitter about cybercasting another possible same-sex encounter.

One of Ravi's Twitter messages said, "Roommate asked for the room till midnight. I went into molly's room and turned on my webcam. I saw him making out with a dude. Yay."

A couple of days later, he tweeted, "Anyone with iChat, I dare you to video chat me between the hours of 9:30 and 12. Yes it's happening again."

About a month earlier, Ravi had tweeted, "Found out my roommate is gay."

Clementi also used social media tools. After learning

about the webcam, he posted on Facebook, "Jumping off the gw bridge sorry."

The grand jury, in its 15-count indictment, alleges that the 19-year-old Ravi committed hate crimes that could result in 10-year prison sentences if convicted.

"The grand jury charged that the invasion of privacy and attempt to invade the privacy of T.C. and M.B. were intended to intimidate them because of their sexual orientation," read a statement from the Middlesex County, N.J., prosecutor's office.

The indictment also accuses Ravi of a cover-up, of tampering with evidence.

The prosecutor maintains that Ravi deleted a Twitter post alerting other students

to watch a second encounter involving Clementi and "M.B." and then created a replacement post intended to mislead investigators.

Further, according to the prosecutor, Ravi encouraged witnesses not to testify.

Clementi's parents, in a joint statement, said, "The grand jury indictment spells out cold and calculated acts against our son Tyler by his former college roommate. If these facts are true, as they appear to be, then it is important for our criminal justice system to establish clear accountability under the law."

New Jersey Attorney General Paula T. Dow said the indictment was "an important step in this heartbreaking case."

Since Clementi's suicide, a

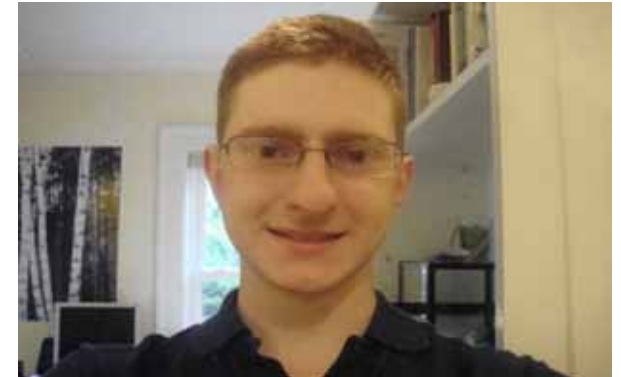


PHOTO: COURTESY  
Tyler Clementi

number of developments have taken place in New Jersey and at the national level to protect students from anti-gay bullying and harassment. New Jersey lawmakers enacted a broad anti-bullying law, a mea-

sure considered the strongest in the nation. The White House convened a conference on bullying, and the U.S. Education Department has initiated several programs and policies to counter bullying.

## Bullying victims tend to be more socially withdrawn, quieter, more passive

BULLIED from page 1

leading to clinical depression, anxiety and substance abuse.

"A lot of people think that bullying is just part of growing up, that it's sort of something kids will work out," Wright says. "Sometimes that happens. Oftentimes it doesn't, and it ends up being a chronic trauma issue. It has pretty serious consequences down the line."

For members of the LGBT community, adolescent bullying can lead to self-loathing. "It makes what already is a difficult sexual developmental process in adolescence that much more difficult," Wright says.

According to Mental Health America, a nonprofit advocacy organization, U.S. teens hear slurs such as "homo," "faggot" and "sissy" about 26 times a day or once every 14 minutes. One study found that 31 percent of gay youth had been threatened or injured at school in the last year alone. As a result, LGBT students are more likely to skip school due to fear, threats and property vandalism.

In the wake of several high-profile cases of suicide by young people who were the targets of bullying, parents, educators and behavioral health professionals have turned their attention to the



PHOTO: COURTESY  
Dr. Thomas Wright

effects, interventions, treatment and support for those who are affected.

Wright and other health professionals addressed the growing crisis at "Peeling Back the Layers of Bullying," a day-long workshop held April 29 at Lussier Family Heritage Center in Madison. The workshop featured sessions led by clinical staff from Madison's Connections Counseling and Rosecrance, both of which treat individuals with substance abuse and mental health disorders.

Topics included "Bullying: A Crisis in Mental Health," "Cyber Attack: Bullying and Social Media," "Growing Pains: Healthy Ways of Coping with Stress and Anxiety as an Emerging Adult" and "Creating

**"Awareness doesn't happen once we put our heads in the sand."**

Connections: Mentoring and Peer Support." About 30 healthcare professionals from Madison, Milwaukee and Rockford attended.

According to Mental Health America, 22 percent of gay students skipped school in the past month because they felt unsafe; 28 percent drop out — more than three times the national average.

But bullying doesn't end with adulthood. Wright, a child and adolescent psychiatrist who lives in the Madison area, identifies three general forms of bullying that can occur throughout life.

Direct bullying is obvious. Indirect bullying is subtler. "It's where the bully sabotages those around you — to you," he says. "They talk badly to coworkers about you, but they won't do it to your face. They might plant rumors about you. They might imply that you're not a

good worker. They sabotage your ability to succeed. A lot of times, victims don't even know where the source is."

Finally, there's bullying of exclusion. "People are left out of social groups or social situations that they really ought to be included in, but they're left out to lower that person's self-esteem," Wright says. "That certainly is a kind (of bullying) that happens with adults in the workplace."

For both adults and children, bullying is an equal-opportunity problem, Wright says. There are no special identifiers for potential victims.

"It happens across the board," he says. Still, there are some characteristics that

many victims share. "They tend to be a little more socially withdrawn, more sensitive, maybe quieter or passive."

Bullying was not studied much before 2005, when the rise of cyber bullying attracted attention. Current studies are just beginning to examine long-term effects, but depression and anxiety already have been identified, sometimes leading to suicide and self-injury, or "cutting." Bullying can also be a contributing factor in alcohol and drug addiction, as victims attempt to self-medicate.

"Whatever psychological processes are still going on in your own head about self-esteem, your own self-worth,

it can really be helpful to look at that as an adult, about what happened to you as a child," he says. "It is important to look at it throughout the cycle. Part of the problem is that we want to ignore it: 'That's something I went through. That's just something kids do, I don't want to go through that again.' Awareness doesn't happen once we put our heads in the sand."

There's at least one other tragic reason to look at the effects of bullying.

"Interesting enough, there are about 10 to 20 percent of victims who turn into bullies themselves," Wright says. "That contributes to the cycle of it."

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# Thailand embraces lesbian chic

From AP reports

When she initially pitched the idea for Thailand's first lesbian movie, it was quickly shot down. Producers called the premise distasteful and said movie viewers would find the story line disgusting. After scrounging together funds for five years, director Saratsawadee Wongsomphet released "Yes or No" on an independent label to considerable acclaim.

The film's recent success in outwardly tolerant but traditional-minded Thailand is part of a growing acceptance of lesbians under the influence of the Internet and fashion trends. These emboldened lesbians are not using Western-style activism. They are quietly pushing boundaries to find space for their lifestyle, harnessing pop culture and introducing a Thai variation of lesbian chic. "It would have been risky

to make this movie five years ago," Saratsawadee said about her directorial debut. "Now people are daring to express themselves."

Women in this Southeast Asian country are expected to be gentle, polite, even demure, and gay women in Thailand traditionally have been more discreet than gay men, but that is visibly changing.

Thai newsstands now carry "Tom Act," the country's first lesbian lifestyles magazine. A popular new clothing store in Bangkok touts itself as the first for "Tomboys," the Thai term for the more conspicuous members of the lesbian community.

Pop charts include hit singles from Thailand's first openly gay female singer, a waifish, androgynous 22-year-old known as Zee.

Thailand's freewheeling, anything-goes reputation has served its tourism industry well,

but Thai society is far more conservative than its tourist sex shows and transgender beauty pageants suggest. Movies are censored for morality, women are often too modest to wear bathing suits on the beach, abortion is illegal and the government regularly censors websites deemed immoral. When it comes to homosexuality, Thailand is ambivalent but tolerant: Bangkok is known as gay-friendly, but politicians and high-profile public figures stick to an unstated "don't ask, don't tell" policy of keeping their homosexuality hidden.

Concerns about offending Thai society prompted Saratsawadee to delicately depict the sole love scene between her leading women, a pair of college roommates, with a brief, fully clothed kiss. "I was afraid nobody would want to see it," said

the 38-year-old, who is gay and has worked in the film industry for years, always wanting to do a film showing that lesbians are not "weirdoes" but regular people. "I was afraid it would be censored, or would never be shown. I was afraid people would say it sends a bad message," she said.

Saratsawadee never anticipated a nationwide release for her film, which hit screens in December to considerable media hype and modest but profitable box office returns. Then came the 40,000-member Facebook fan club, the viewers who thanked her for telling their life story. Last month, she was honored with a "Best Director" nomination at the Thai equivalent of the Oscars.

"The bubble is bursting," says Anjana Suvarnananda, 53, who co-founded Thailand's first and most outspoken lesbian activist group in the 1980s. "These young people are just doing their own thing and living their lives oblivious to discrimination — so that means they are not facing very much. It's a very different picture from when I grew up."

Another emblem of changing times is the glossy, 200-page Tom Act, a lesbian fashion magazine that creates "a space for us to express ourselves," says editor-in-chief Khemanut Ronarut. She credits international fashion trends that make it cool to look androgynous with easing acceptance of gay women in Thailand.

"Normally, we choose to be quiet. But by doing this magazine, I'm taking a risk," she said. The first issue in December 2007 sold about 1,000 copies. It now prints 50,000 copies per issue. "What makes a difference is people like me, trying to open people's minds. Acceptance will exist when people try to introduce new ideas."

The petite, spiky-



PHOTO: COURTESY Zee, Thailand's first openly gay female singer



haired designer Supamas Sirimoungkalavanit got the idea of making tailored clothes for "Tomboys" after getting fed up with shopping in the men's department.

She launched her Tom Chic brand online in 2008 and opened a Bangkok boutique in January. Her best-selling item is the breast-binding "Tom Tank," designed to flatten female curves. She sells about 10,000 a month with the help of two dozen distributors nationwide.

"When we first opened, some men would walk past and make snide comments," said Supamas, 30, who was featured recently on a popular TV talk show about successful small businesses. "Now there are copycat brands online."

The Internet has nurtured virtual communities in online forums that build confidence and camaraderie and now

spill over into the real world, said the activist Anjana, who co-founded the lesbian group Anjaree in 1986 with three other women who kept their identities hidden.

"These young people are not making a political statement," she said. "They are not rocking the boat, not directly challenging heterosexual norms, but they are making gentle changes that might one day lead to more."

On a recent evening at Zeta, one of Bangkok's few lesbian bars, a patron marveled at the surge of lesbian icons in mainstream pop culture.

"A decade ago, you would never have seen a movie about lesbians in Thailand. I would never have imagined a Tomboy singer," said 24-year-old Sarunkorn Choksiripureenont, a drummer in an all-lesbian band. "It's becoming fashionable now. You see lesbians everywhere."

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Volunteers did 4,956 hours of service to the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center in 2010, resulting in a value added of \$35,931 based on minimum wage.

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# No death penalty in Uganda anti-gay bill

By Jason Straziuso  
AP writer

The Ugandan parliamentarian behind an anti-gay bill that attracted worldwide condemnation said the most controversial part of the legislation – the death penalty provision – is likely to be dropped from the bill.

David Bahati said if the parliament committee the bill currently sits before recommends that the death penalty provision be removed, "I would concede."

"The death penalty is something we have moved away from," Bahati said.

After Bahati's anti-gay bill was proposed some 18 months ago, it attracted international condemnation, including from President Barack Obama. Since the initial uproar, the bill has languished in committee.

But Stephen Tashobya, the chairman of the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee, said the legislation might come up for a vote before parliament's ses-

sion ends May 12.

"We shall try and see how far we can go with the bill. It may be possible. We are doing all we can. We have limited time," he said. "Many people have expressed concern about that provision providing for the death sentence, and I'm sure when we start hearings on that bill we will hear many more concerns."

Homosexuality is highly unpopular in Uganda, and pastors in this Christian country speak out loudly against the practice. Bahati said he thinks the bill would become law if voted on by legislators.

"I can guarantee you I have not seen any member of parliament who is opposed to it," he said.

Frank Mugisha, the director of Sexual Minorities Uganda, a gay rights group, said anti-gay sentiment in Uganda has increased since the bill's introduction. More gays are being harassed, he said, because of media attention and because

church leaders have been preaching for the bill's passage to congregations.

Bahati's original bill carried harsh provisions. The original bill would mandate a death sentence for active homosexuals living with HIV or in cases of same-sex rape. "Serial offenders" also could face capital punishment, but the legislation did not define the term. Anyone convicted of a homosexual act would face life imprisonment.

Anyone who "aids, abets, counsels or procures another to engage in acts of homosexuality" would face seven years in prison. Landlords who rent rooms or homes to homosexuals also could get seven years.

"If the bill passes we cannot even be allowed to do our work," Mugisha said.

Last year a tabloid newspaper in Uganda published the names and photos of men it alleged were gay. One cover included the words "Hang Them." Shortly afterward, in January, a promi-

nent gay rights activist whose picture was published was bludgeoned to death, though authorities contend David Kato's sexual orientation had nothing to do with the killing.

Mugisha said the murder was not thoroughly investigated. "I think it had to do with all the hate that has been spread. All avenues lead to a homophobia-based crime," he said.

Bahati called Kato's death regrettable.

"My reaction is that I extend condolences to the family, parents of Kato. It's regrettable that they could find themselves in this situation, and also regrettable that he could be allowed to be used to recruit our children. But the death of Kato had

nothing to do with the bill in parliament," he said.

Bahati, 36, is serving his first term. He said that the bill has helped raise public awareness about what he calls "the dangers to our children."

Many Ugandan leaders who support the bill say that gay Ugandans recruit school children to become homosexual.

Mugisha says no one has ever been arrested for doing such a thing, despite Uganda being what he called a highly homophobic country.

Bahati submitted his bill in late 2009, several months after American evangelicals attended a conference in Kampala. Those U.S. religious leaders consider same-gender relationships sinful and believe gays and lesbians

can become heterosexual through prayer and counseling, fueling speculation that the Americans helped craft the bill.

Bahati said that was false and he labeled it a communication strategy and "conspiracy" by pro-gay groups in the U.S. to make his bill easier to attack.

"I didn't meet any American evangelicals. I've said before we have friends in America but they have nothing to do with the bill. This actually has been an insult to suggest that Ugandans cannot think for themselves, that we have to wait for America to think for us," he said.

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WISCONSIN GAZETTE ENTERTAINMENT

## CIRCUS MUSEUM GOES HOLLYWOOD FOR 'WATER FOR ELEPHANTS'

By Michael Muckian  
Contributing writer

When Steve Freese, executive director of the Circus World Museum in Baraboo, heard that 20th Century Fox had purchased the movie rights to "Water for Elephants," Sara Gruen's popular novel about a Depression-era circus, he lost no time in sending a proposal to the film's producers.

If they wanted authenticity, Freese was ready to provide guidance from the greatest circus museum on Earth.

Freese's pitch proved persuasive. Director Francis Lawrence followed up with a visit to the museum in the spring of 2009. A year later David Crank, the film's art director, and set decorator Jim Erickson were in Baraboo picking out circus wagons to be used in the film.

Circus World Museum wound up providing a variety of historical items to make the production more authentic, including memorabilia, photos and even vintage films that the museum could no longer play because of their age. The studio was able to restore seven of the eight films, returning the originals and providing the museum with digital copies that it can now show to visitors.

In addition to providing the circus wagons used in the movie, the museum's staff trained the crew on how to use them. "There's an art to unloading a circus wagon from a train, and it can be dangerous if it isn't done right," Freese explained. "We had to teach the actors playing the roustabouts how to do this."

Freese said he and his staff participated in roughly half of the movie as it was

being filmed in Piru, Calif. Despite the prominent role that Circus World Museum artifacts play in the film, none of the movie was shot on location in Wisconsin.

"Since the Wisconsin film tax incentives had been vetoed by former Gov. Jim Doyle (in 2009), the film was shot in California, Tennessee and elsewhere," Freese said.

The museum's primary role was consulting with set director Jack Fisk, offering direction on how the set should look in order

to replicate a 1930s circus. "Historians will walk away from this film saying that this was extremely well made from a historical perspective," Freese promised.

The consulting gig proved to be a bonanza for the museum, earning it \$346,000 for scenic contributions. Both Freese and Circus World Museum wagon master Harold Burdick also got on-camera gigs, with Freese appearing in a scene with lead actor Robert Pattison. In addition, he shared time

on the set with leading actress Reese Witherspoon. Both of the celebrities impressed Freese with their courage.

"Robert Pattison is an extremely brave man," he said, especially in a scene in which the "Twilight" star was supposed to thrust his arm into the lion's cage. "Even though it was a prosthetic arm that was inserted into the lion's cage, he had to have his face close to the bars," Freese said. "He came in and did it like a professional."

Witherspoon did many of her own stunts with Silver Star, her character's horse. But Witherspoon's greatest challenge may have come in working with Rosie, the

film's namesake elephant.

"There's a scene in which Rosie rears up on her hind legs with Reese standing next to her," he said. "Rosie lets go with the longest fart you ever heard and it was all Reese could do not to laugh."

Perhaps the greatest surprise Freese encountered during the filming was the need for a special handler every time an animal appeared on the set. This even included a scene inside a boxcar full of flies.

"Someone had to be there to make sure the flies weren't swatted or mistreated," Freese said. "It's my understanding that at the end of the scene this person gathered up the flies and

took them with him."

The film, which opened April 22 to mixed reviews, concerns runaway veterinary school dropout Jacob (Pattinson), who hops a train in the night, only to discover that he's boarded a circus train. He is hired to care for Rosie, the rundown circus' elephant and the focal point of wrath from brutal animal trainer August (Academy Award-winner Christoph Waltz).

The young veterinarian falls for August's wife Marlena (Academy Award-winner Witherspoon), the circus bareback rider. The usual love triangle fodder then ensues, against the backdrop of the Great Depression.

Despite the criticism the film has taken, Freese said "Water for Elephants" is an accurate depiction of what was happening to circuses during the 1930s. "We lost a lot of the greatest circus names during that period," he said.

Freese hopes that the film's success will help boost interest in circuses and attendance at the museum, the historic winter home of the original Ringling Brothers Circus. During the past four years attendance has increased, reaching 62,213 last year compared with 46,000 in 2006. In addition to a variety of exhibits, the museum offers 10 daily circus performances.

Freese said Gov. Scott Walker's budget reforms will have an impact on the State Historical Society, but no cuts have been specified for Circus World Museum.

"Things are looking good so far on our horizon," he said.



PHOTOS: COURTESY

Robert Pattison and Rosie the elephant in a scene from "Water for Elephants." Inset: The exterior of Baraboo's Circus World Museum.

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RUTH GROTENRATH &amp; SCHOMER LICHTNER:

# Inextricably linked yet independent

By Kat Murrell

Ruth Grotenrath and Schomer Lichtner are two artists who are inextricably linked. Closely associated with art in Milwaukee from the '30s through the last decades of the 20th century, they lived in the city as well as on a farmstead by Holy Hill. Although married to each other, they were decidedly independent as artists.

This is an opportune time for a crash course in their work. Current exhibitions at the Racine Art Museum and the Museum of Wisconsin Art (West Bend) as well as a show at Elaine Erickson Gallery in Milwaukee's Third Ward all feature the pair's work. The Haggerty Museum of Art gets into the Grotenrath-Lichtner celebration with a show opening in late June.

A recent distribution of hundreds of pieces to a number of Wisconsin arts organizations has helped spread their vision. A nod for the most in-depth current exploration of their life must go to Susan J. Montgomery and her newly authored monographs on the couple. Admirably, the books are published as separate volumes, each independent from the other, rather than a combined study that would have only added to the sense of Lichtner and Grotenrath as artistic Siamese twins.

Lichtner was born in Peoria, Ill., in 1905; Grotenrath in Milwaukee in 1912. They met in a drawing class in the early 1930s, "with Schomer declaring that it was love at first sight," according to the Museum of Wisconsin Art. Their exhibition includes early images that connect with the earthy regionalist impulse of the 1930s, which rejected European avant-garde abstraction in favor of pictures lauding the values of rural Americana, such as Grant Wood's "American Gothic." Lichtner's "Blackbird in the Corn" (1939) has robust baroque ripples similar to those of Oklahoma



PHOTO: ELAINE ERICKSON GALLERY

**Above, Ruth Grotenrath's "Still Life with Fan." Right, ballet dancers are a favorite motif of Schomer Lichtner. Both artists are featured in multiple local exhibitions.**

regionalist painter Thomas Hart Benton. But Lichtner does Benton one better with saturated colors, a veritable glow in the brilliant and billowing cornstalk in the moonlight.

It was the decade of the Great Depression, and both artists were involved with the WPA (Works Progress Administration), which employed artists in beautification programs. The MWA shows Grotenrath's studies for a post office project in Huron, but most interestingly and poignantly the exhibit shows her social awareness. Her painting "Modern Madonna" (1935) confronts the growing political horror in Europe, showing a blindfolded woman, seated with two young children whom she holds protectively while symbols of Fascism loom ominously.

Lichtner and Grotenrath

became considerably lighter and brighter in the postwar period, and infused a good dose of artistic ingredients from such sources as Matisse and Japanese art. Lichtner's hallmark motifs, such as cows and ballet dancers, spring to life in various forms.

Grotenrath is a littler harder to pin down in terms of subject, but her penchant for pattern and color is consistent and engaging. Shapes and spaces overlap with confidence and verve. In the patchwork of colors that plays over the painting surface, shades of Cezanne may be seen. To make an even stronger comparison, one could look to the Intimiste paintings of Edouard Vuillard and Pierre Bonnard in late 19th century France. Grotenrath follows in a similar suit, with comfortable interior spaces and still lifes that take on a rich beauty in



their dense decoration.

All three venues showing their work provide a chronological overview of the artists' careers, though with variations. The Racine Art Museum presents a cavernous room with the feel of a large museum exhibition, while the Museum of Wisconsin Art shows a more compact collection, augmented by drawings and unique three-dimensional work.

Elaine Erickson Gallery offers the most intimate setting, as the art seems to live and breathe in a space that shares the warm characteristics of a living room.

The similarity in the organization of all three shows is understandable. But one wonders about the continual joining of the two artists, relentlessly showing them in tandem rather than standing both on their own. Other artistic mar-

riages — such as Lee Krasner and Jackson Pollock, or Robert Motherwell and Helen Frankenthaler — are rarely if ever underscored with exhibitions that revolve around their personal relationship rather than fruits of their labor. Though in life Grotenrath and Lichtner were a great romance, it may be nice after this rediscovery to pull the two apart, to see each without the shadow of the other.

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# This 'Beaver' chews the wrong story line

## Film

GREGG SHAPIRO

Out actress/director Jodie Foster has made it clear that beleaguered movie star Mel Gibson is her friend. Still, despite his history of anti-gay and misogynistic rants.

As if to prove their friendship, Foster selected Gibson to play the helplessly depressed Walter in her latest feature "The Beaver." Walter is husband to roller coaster designer (get it?) Meredith (Foster) and father of Porter (Anton Yelchin) and Henry (Riley Thomas Stewart). Walter's body is still there, sometimes floating fully clothed in the pool, but more often than not it's curled up asleep in the fetal position.

Walter's depression has a profound effect on everything around him. Henry's teachers describe him as "solitary" at school. Porter distances himself from Walter, mak-

ing note of any similarities between him and his father and moving swiftly in the opposite direction. Meredith asks Walter to move out of the house. And Jerry Co., the once-thriving business Walter inherited from his father, is failing.

But a beaver hand puppet in a Dumpster turns out to be the cure. Drunk in a motel room, the beaver "speaks" to Walter in a British accent (Gibson channeling Michael Caine?). After preventing Walter from committing suicide, the beaver sets Walter on a new path to recovery.

Allowing the puppet to speak for him as part of his therapy, Walter returns home and gets back in the good graces of Meredith and Henry. Porter, on the other hand, continues to avoid him.

At the office, Walter is suddenly present and productive — to the surprise of everyone, including VP Megan (Cherry Jones). When Walter's idea for a Mr. Beaver wood toy kit becomes a hit, he's invited to



PHOTO: COURTESY  
Mel Gibson in  
"The Beaver."

appear on "The Today Show," "The Daily Show" and NPR's "Fresh Air." He seems to have turned a corner.

On the home front, Porter has his own issues. An extremely bright high school student who has

been accepted to Brown University, Porter makes a small fortune writing term papers for classmates. When popular cheerleader and valedictorian Norah (Jennifer Lawrence) hires him to write her valedictory address, a

previously closed door opens in Porter's life and he finds himself falling in love with her.

But the relationship is star-crossed from the start. Just as it begins to unravel, it mirrors the ongoing dissolution of his parents' marriage. It turns out that Walter simply can't function without the beaver puppet, and Meredith's patience is seriously tried. Will the beaver split up the family, or will Walter cut the strings and regain control of his life?

The problem with "The Beaver" is that Walter's story is not the most compelling one in the script. The relationship between Porter and Norah is the most rewarding one by far. Yelchin gives his most solid performance to date, and it wouldn't be surprising if he gets a best supporting actor nod. The same can be said for Lawrence, proving that her "Winter's Bone" nomination wasn't a fluke.

As for Gibson, he deserves an Oscar nomination simply for appearing onscreen with lesbians (Foster and Jones) and Jews (Yelchin, Jon Stewart and Terry Gross) and not losing his composure.

### 'EVERYTHING MUST GO'

In "Everything Must Go," first-time writer/director Dan Rush takes the premise of a short story by the late Raymond Carver and expands on it, providing Will Ferrell with his latest attempt to widen his horizon and appeal to the growing indie film audience (see "Stranger Than Fiction").

Nick (Ferrell), an Arizona-based regional salesman with a serious drinking problem, has been let go from his job on the same day that his wife Catherine, a recovering alcoholic, has thrown him out of the house. In fact, she's scattered all his possessions on the front lawn. Given these lemons, Nick at first makes hard lemonade, drowning his sorrowful situation in beer.

But an unlikely trio inspires him to take action. The first is

Kenny (Christopher Jordan Wallace), a bored and lonely kid whose mother works as a caregiver for one of Nick's neighbors. He arrives on his bicycle and strikes up a friendship with Nick that will change both of their lives. Next is new neighbor Samantha (Rebecca Hall), a pregnant photographer and teacher who moves into her new home ahead of her hus-

band to begin the settling-in process. And third is police detective Frank (Michael Peña), who also is Nick's AA sponsor.

Each in his or her own way, this trinity aids Nick in ways that none of them ever anticipated.

Although it goes on a little too long (remember, Carver was a master of brevity, communicating a broad range of

emotions and ideas in just a few pages), "Everything Must Go" is an admirable little movie. Ferrell and Wallace play well off each other and their burgeoning relationship is believable. Hall, so memorable in "Vicky Cristina Barcelona," "Please Give" and "The Town," continues to be one of the most watchable actresses to come along in some time.

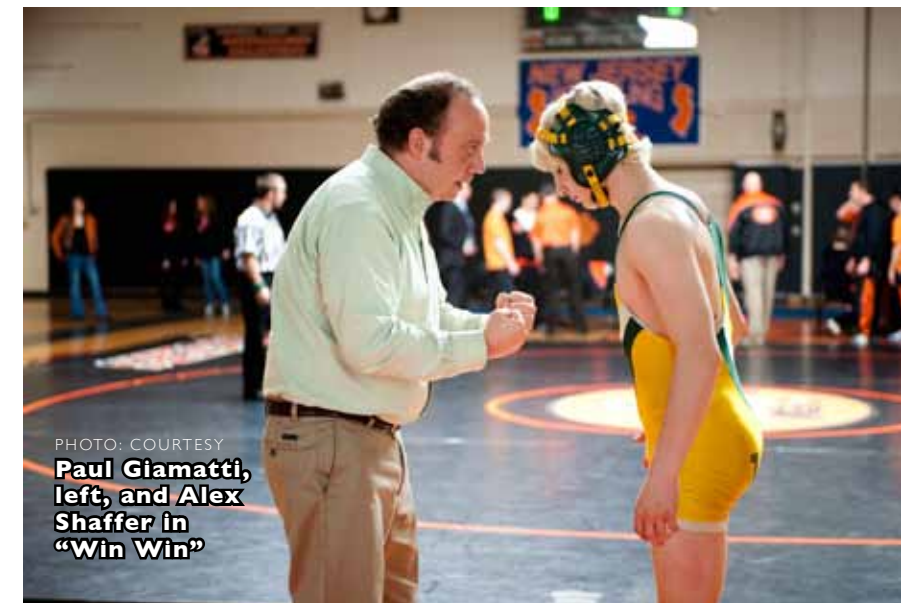


PHOTO: COURTESY  
Paul Giamatti,  
left, and Alex  
Shaffer in  
"Win Win"

### 'WIN WIN'

"Win Win" is the right name for this new film from actor and writer/director Thomas McCarthy ("The Station Agent"), because it is a winning proposition for the audience.

Downtrodden New Jersey lawyer Mike (Paul Giamatti) finds his legal career on the skids. But it's not all bad. He's happily married to Jackie (Amy Ryan) and he has two young daughters. Mike and his office mate Vig (Jeffrey Tambor) coach a losing high-school wrestling team.

When an opportunity to increase his income presents itself, Mike goes for it without considering the ramifications. But not everything goes as planned. Mike ends up offering a client's 16-year-old grandson, Kyle (Alex Shaffer), a place to stay while his mother goes to rehab.

When Kyle attends wrestling practice with Mike, he discovers that Kyle was a championship wrestler at his former school in Ohio. With Kyle enrolled at the school, Mike makes room for him on the team and Kyle quickly reverses the team's fortunes.

Just as everything appears to be going better, Kyle's mother surfaces and throws a considerable wrench into the works. Mike's plans begin to unravel, and he is faced with a bigger crisis than he had ever imagined.

At turns brilliantly funny and heartbreaking, "Win Win" is an early contender for one of the best films of 2011.

### 'POM WONDERFUL PRESENTS THE GREATEST MOVIE EVER SOLD'

Depending on where you see this funny and informative Morgan Spurlock doc, you could potentially find yourself bombarded by ads for Scion, Acura, HD Net, Stella Artois, Saab and Allstate, not to mention a half dozen or so movie previews. Isn't irony ironic?

Based on the premise that everywhere you look these days it appears that someone is trying to sell you something, Spurlock (of "Supersize Me" fame) set out to find sponsorship for a doc about sponsorship and branding. And he succeeded (see the

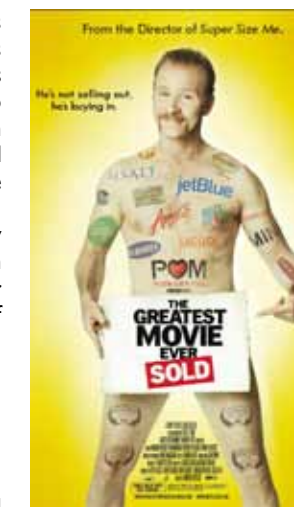


PHOTO: COURTESY

Morgan Spurlock takes on corporate branding in "Pom Wonderful Presents The Greatest Movie Ever Sold."

title). Brand integration (or product placement) is a billion-dollar industry.

All in all, Spurlock's style of doc filmmaking is used to great effect here. And although most people are probably aware of the branding overload, it's presented in such an enjoyable way that it's not unpleasant.

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PHOTOS: BOULEVARD THEATRE / TROY FREUND PHOTOGRAPHY

Scenes from "Two to Go," a pair of one act plays currently playing at Boulevard Theatre in Milwaukee's Bay View area.

## 'Two to Go' pairs contrasting 1930s classics

### Theater

JODY HIRSH

The quirkiness of Bay View's Boulevard Theatre is immediately clear from the (long) recorded message on its answering machine.

The caller is reprimanded in advance for coming late, since no latecomers can possibly be seated, because the house manager also performs in the play.

That house manager is Mark Bucher, who also is the theater's producer, director, stage manager, publicist and the voice on the answering machine.

Under Bucher's inventive direction, "Two 2 Go," the theater's current production, provides a study in 1930s contrasts along with a critique of contemporary Wisconsin politics. Bucher

creates a theatrical framework – a remedial literature class for adults at the fictional "Walker Community College" – to connect two one-act plays, "A Village Wooing" by George Bernard Shaw and "Pullman Car Hiawatha" by Thornton Wilder.

Beset with budget cuts, an overfilled classroom and closed libraries, a beleaguered instructor (Jaime Jastrab) attempts to introduce the class to the beauty of classic theater. His blasé, cellphone-addicted students are miraculously transformed into living characters in the two plays.

Shaw's "A Village Wooing," first produced in 1933, is a short Shavian gem – a finely constructed play that Shaw referred to as "A Comedietta for Two Voices." It is typical Shaw, in many ways foreshadowing his more famous "Pygmalion,"

which is better known as the basis for the musical "My Fair Lady."

A working-class shop girl, energetically played by Liv Mueller, sets her sights for an aristocratic writer, played with aloofness by Michael Keiley. "Village" presents Shaw's favorite themes – a lampoon of class differences and the battle of the sexes.

"My father used to say that men and women are always driving one another mad," the girl says.

"That sounds literary. Was your father a man of letters?" the man responds.

"Yes, I should think he was. A postman," she replies.

The ambiguous sexuality that follows is also typical of Shaw, who distrusted women and, when he finally married at age 40, bragged that his marriage was never consummated.

The two characters of "Village" (like the characters

of "My Fair Lady") could be Shaw himself and any woman who'd dare to pursue him. The aristocrat eventually considers marrying the shop girl, not as a result of sexual attraction, but only because she convinces him that it is logical.

Wilder's 1931 play "Pullman Car Hiawatha" couldn't be more different than Shaw's, yet it too embodies the era. Although only one act long, it contains a staggering 17 speaking roles and 16 non-speaking roles. The action occurs in a Pullman car journeying between New York and Chicago, and in addition to playing travelers, actors represent towns along the way, a field, the planets, hours, supernatural beings and a stage manager who sets the scene.

The show is cleverly staged, with six actors playing all 33 parts. A foreshad-

owing of Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning "Our Town," this work is essentially about the beauty and simplicity of life. (Wilder, who was openly gay among his friends and associates, never discussed or wrote about gay life.)

Wilder's work is a stark contrast to Shaw's cynical, class-conscious play. It's essentially about the universality of the human experience. Regardless of gender or class or educational level, all of Wilder's characters are equal in their capacity to live life to the fullest, even amid tragedy.

Nevertheless, it perfectly captures the essence of this classic short American play.

Harriet, engagingly played by Rebecca Segal, reminds us of the wonder of the world. Michael Weber, Brooke Wagner and Bucher give freshness to the multiple characters they create onstage. In a flash of inspired craziness, lighting and sound engineer Donald Madden rushes between the light/

sound board and the stage, sometimes delivering his lines from the sound board.

The journey to Chicago ends, as do all journeys in life. The stage directions call for "the complete cast to appear at the edges of the stage" as the stage manager claps his hands. Of course the cumulative effect of the mass of characters appearing all at once is impossible with this pared-down production.

Nevertheless, it perfectly captures the essence of this classic short American play.

### ON STAGE

"Two 2 Go" runs through May 29 at Boulevard Theatre, 2250 S. Kinnickinnic Ave. in Milwaukee. Call 414-744-5757 or go to [www.boulevardtheatre.com](http://www.boulevardtheatre.com).

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## Florentine Opera goes for Baroque

### Opera

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

### ON STAGE

The Florentine Opera presents "Venus & Adonis" and "Dido & Aeneas" at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts' Vogel Hall in Milwaukee May 13-15, May 18-19 and May 21-22. Call 414-291-5700, ext. 224, or go to [www.florentineopera.org](http://www.florentineopera.org).

Fans of opera obscura and early music are in for a treat this month with the Florentine Opera Co.'s premiere of John Blow's "Venus & Adonis" and Henry Purcell's "Dido & Aeneas." The Baroque twin-spin matches the talents of Blow, who composed what is considered the earliest surviving British opera, with those of his student Purcell and the first English operatic masterpiece. The pair will play at Marcus Center for the Performing Arts' Vogel Hall in Milwaukee May 13-22.

The Florentine decided to go for Baroque once again largely based on the success of "Semele" by George Friedrich Handel two seasons ago, according to William Florescu, the opera's stage director. The accessibility of Baroque music is a big draw for opera novices and fans alike.

"I made the decision to bring back Baroque as soon as possible based on the enthusiastic response," Florescu says. "The Baroque period's dance-like energy and the brevity of these two operas make them the perfect evening for everyone from opera neophyte to veteran. And they are extraordinary works for opera geeks like me!"

The story behind "Venus," if it matters, involves the namesake god and goddess as well as Cupid and a host of Cupid wannabes. For good measure, there are also shep-

herds, shepherdesses, huntsmen and an enormous boar. There is loss of love, remorse and the requisite death.

The boar reportedly does not sing.

In "Dido," the title characters struggle with a benighted love affair amid the drive to establish a new Troy. A jealous sorceress dresses a spirit as Mercury, who convinces an unwitting Aeneas to sail for lands unknown, much to Dido's despair. There is an argument, a misunderstanding and the requisite death. The Cupid wannabes, presumably held over from the previous show, reappear to scatter rose petals on the tomb.

"I have always loved "Dido," but it does not make for a complete evening," Florescu says. "Studying them, I realized that Purcell had fashioned the opera structurally on his mentor's earlier work, so it made great sense to present them together."

There are distinct musical similarities between Blow's "Venus" and Purcell's "Dido," but Blow's work sounds "earlier" in style and more spare, Florescu says. Purcell's melodies echo those of Handel

and Vivaldi.

"What the two operas have in common is extraordinarily beautiful choral writing," Florescu says. "Blow is becoming more popular – he's quite a wonderful composer – and his 'Ode on the Death of Mr. Henry Purcell' is a breathtaking work."

Although Purcell was Blow's student and only 10 years younger, he also became his friend and preceded his mentor in death by 13 years, encouraging Blow to compose the ode.

Florescu made a conscious decision to present the Baroque operas in the more intimate confines of Vogel Hall rather than the much larger Uihlein Hall, where the Florentine usually performs. His goal is to replicate the 17th century "jewel box" style of theaters in which the works might first have been performed.

"Our goal is to give operagoers the feeling that they popped into a working Baroque theater," Florescu says. "'Turandot' they ain't, so Uihlein would not have been appropriate."

The two casts feature the return of Metropolitan Opera soprano Patricia Risely and baritone Craig Verm. Countertenor Ian Howell, formerly with the all-male ensemble Chanticleer, and mezzo-soprano and Milwaukee native Jean Broekhuizen will both make their Florentine Opera debuts. Members of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, conducted from the harpsichord by Christopher Larkin, will accompany both performances.

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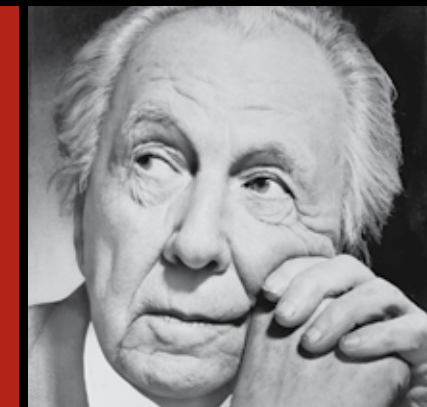
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"Isadora and  
Nijinsky" is on  
stage May 5-8.

## Radicals in movement

### Theater

HARRY CHERKINIAN

Vaslav Nijinsky came from the classical world of ballet. Isadora Duncan emerged from the outer galaxy of what is now known as modern dance. Together, they revolutionized the dance world and at times scandalized the world around them by promoting ideas and lifestyles far ahead of their time.

Theatre Gigante has created an original performance piece based on the works and ideas of the two iconoclastic dancers in "Isadora and Nijinsky," which combines dialogue, visual art, music and movement. TG co-founders Mark Anderson and Isabelle Kralj, a couple for 13 years (married for 10), created the 80-minute piece in collaboration with Ed Burgess, professor of dance at UW-Milwaukee, who has performed in a number of the troupe's works over the years.

In developing the work, Kralj researched Nijinsky while Burgess researched Duncan. Then each took on the role created by the other. Originally, the presentation was to be two separate pieces, but Burgess had the idea of combining them into a single piece. Anderson acts as an onstage narrator of sorts, guiding the audience through the multi-media spectacle.

Duncan and Nijinsky shocked the dance world with their radical ideas about dance and movement. Duncan rejected traditional ballet moves as too rigid and structured. Instead,

**ON STAGE**  
"Isadora and Nijinsky" is staged May 5-8 at UVWM Kenilworth, Studio 508, 1925 E. Kenilworth Place. For more information, call 414-229-4308 or visit [www.theatregigante.org](http://www.theatregigante.org).

she emphasized improvisation and emotion in dance, focusing on the human form through the use of free-flowing costumes, bare feet and loose hair.

Nijinsky was renowned for his technical skills and prowess as a dancer. In fact, he was one of the few males who could dance en pointe. Like Duncan, he pushed the boundaries of classical dance as a choreographer, moving toward modern dance and using what was then considered radically modern music, such as compositions by Stravinsky. He designed movement that focused on the angularity of the body.

As innovators and creators, both dancers are perfect material for a theater that's aptly named for its "big ideas." Theatre Gigante (the name comes from the Grotto Gigante, the world's largest tourist cavern in Trieste, Italy, where Kralj's parents live) started out as Milwaukee Dance Theatre when Kralj formed it in 1987. Anderson joined in 1999, and the duo has been creating original pieces ever since.

"The dialogue comes from dialogue they actually said, which was the easy part because the two were very opinionated and in many

instances had similar outlooks," Kralj said.

For Burgess, who is an out gay man, working with TG provides fresh inspiration for his own work. "It's always a surprise and always an adventure," he said.

Part of the adventure in this case is visual art that's literally projected onto the performers. The visual artworks were created by the late Schomer Lichtner, an artist and friend of the performers who created three sets for TG. He was in the process of creating a fourth when he died at the age of 101.

Videographer Iain Court has compiled visual artist Lichtner's images, which will be projected virtually everywhere: on scenic designer Rick Graham's backgrounds, hanging materials, the floor, even the performers themselves.

"We want to conjure up a time and conjure up fuller personalities (of Duncan and Nijinsky) than we could just in the language," said Burgess, adding that "art is an important aspect and element in our lives."

For Kralj and Anderson, the chance to work together as a couple and with their good friend continues their own journey as artists who are pushing boundaries and exploring new ideas, just as Isadora and Nijinsky did.

"It's a journey of our imagination to go back and honor these radical innovators who are our predecessors and changed art in the world, particularly dance," Kralj said. "It's a fabulous, playful journey for the three of us."

## Treat Mom to brunch on her day

### Dining

RICK KARLIN

It's no wonder that brunch has become the traditional Mother's Day meal: There's plenty of time afterward to recover with a cocktail. Hedge your bets on having an enjoyable time by booking reservations at one of the following eateries.

#### COQUETTE CAFÉ

If Mom is a Francophile, this is your best option, short of a flight to Paris. Amid simple but refined décor, this Third Ward eatery serves traditional French bistro fare. The onion soup with gruyere cheese is one of the best versions of the classic dish to be found in the area. A vast selection of patés and wines rounds out the experience. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (316 N. Milwaukee, 414-291-2655, [coquettecafe.com](http://coquettecafe.com))

#### ENVOY

Old World glamor abounds in the 1920s-era Ambassador Hotel. Envoy is known for its

unlimited small-plate menu, but Mother's Day features a traditional brunch with the requisite stations — meat carving, waffles and omelets. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$25.95 adults, \$14.95 for kids 12 and younger. (At the Ambassador Hotel, 2308 W. Wisconsin, 414-345-5015, [ambassadormilwaukee.com](http://ambassadormilwaukee.com))

#### FLEMING'S STEAKHOUSE

You won't find a better steak than at Fleming's. Treat Mom to a three-course brunch and Fleming's will throw in a \$25 dining card for a future visit. This special is available at both the Madison and Brookfield locations. (Brookfield: 15665 W. Bluemound Rd., 262-782-9463, [flemingssteakhouse.com/Milwaukee](http://flemingssteakhouse.com/Milwaukee); Madison: 750 N. Midvale Blvd., 608-233-9550)

#### IL MITO

Il Mito has perfected its blend of breakfast and lunch dishes, plating up heaping helpings of eggs and waffles, breakfast pizzas and gluten-free options for its entrée menu. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (6917 W. North, 414-443-1414, [ilmito.com](http://ilmito.com))

#### BOERNER BOTANICAL GARDENS

If Mother is a gardener, brunch by Bartolotta's at the Boerner Botanical Garden is certain to be a hit. A buffet of epicurean delights is served amid nature's finest. 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (9400 Boerner, 414-525-5635, [boernerbotanicalgardens.org](http://boernerbotanicalgardens.org))

#### MOTOR

If Mom was a wild child or wants to get in touch with her inner biker chick, lead her down the orange carpet to enjoy a buffet brunch. If you're going with the entire family, there are special kids' brunch tables. Each guest receives "Mom" temporary tattoos. Depending on the weather, patio dining will be available. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. \$24.95 per adult, \$9.95 children. (At the Harley-Davidson Museum, 400 Canal, 414-287-2778, [harley-davidson.com](http://harley-davidson.com))

#### ROOTS

This sustainable and organic bi-level spot serves its plated brunch menu for Mother's Day. All mothers will receive a free plant (tomato, peppers and flowers), tied up

with a bow. The great view of the city is an extra treat. Brunch service is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (1818 N. Hubbard, 414-374-8480, [rootsmilwaukee.com](http://rootsmilwaukee.com))

#### PFISTER HOTEL

The folks at the Pfister brag that the brunch in the grand ballroom will make your mother "feel like a queen." If you're willing to share your throne by treating Mom to the \$49 buffet brunch, she'll get a \$25 gift certificate for the Well Spa + Janice Salon. With prices at the Pfister, that might be enough to manicure one hand. But it's the thought that counts. (424 E. Wisconsin Ave., 414-273-8222, [thepfisterhotel.com](http://thepfisterhotel.com))

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# Mindy Cohn is no shrinking 'Violet'

## Interview

GREGG SHAPIRO

In "Violet Tendencities" (Embrem), available on DVD, Mindy Cohn plays the Violet of the title – the self-described "last fag hag."

Dedicated to her circle of gay pals, including roommate Luke (screenwriter Jesse Archer), Violet realizes that if she's ever going to meet a (straight) man, she has to apply some self-imposed space between her and her gang. Meeting potential partner Vern (Armand Anthony) only serves to drive home the point. But can Violet live without her gays and vice versa?

I spoke with the warm and wonderful Cohn, known to many from her years as Natalie on TV's "Facts of Life," about the movie and her career.

### Gregg Shapiro: How were you cast as Violet?

Mindy Cohn: It actually was an offer. It was definitely one of the few times in the last 25 years that I did not have to audition for something, which is only because Jesse Archer, the writer and my co-star, was a fan and sort of felt that I could have the sensibility. It was sort of a "meant-to-be" part for me.

### How much, if any, of Mindy is in Violet? Do you have a circle of gay friends in your life?

I do. We are, Violet and Mindy, incredibly different. My friends will tell you that I have a mouth like a truck



PHOTOS: COURTESY

Mindy Cohn with some of her boys in "Violet Tendencities." Left: As Natalie on the 1980s sitcom "The Facts of Life."



driver, and I'm very blunt but definitely not to (Violet's) point. Violet takes it to a whole new level. It was great to play someone who absolutely has no boundaries whatsoever. Jesse ... and I had a really amazing conversation about how different our views of a fag hag are. I love being a woman, I don't want to be a gay man, I don't want to have sex with gay men, I don't want to have sex like a gay man (laughs) and my gay friends know that about me. I'm all woman, and I think with Violet there is a tendency, so to speak, for (her) to be much for comfortable in the skin of a gay man. I mean, she loves being a woman but the fact of the matter is she doesn't want to get married and have kids, I

do. We're very different.

### Did you ever have a gay roommate?

No. A couple of my gay friends and I have come close. It was sort of like "Look, we both have to be 90 to do this (laughs)." I have definitely experienced being each other's beards, not on purpose. I've cramped my gay friend's style and they've cramped mine, because people assume that you're a couple.

### The movie raises the topic of gay parenting, a subject that continues to be a hot-button issue. How do you feel about it?

I'm one of those girls who is incredibly liberal when it comes to what is best for the child, and I have many gay friends

who have children in a variety of ways – whether it's adoption, whether it's surrogate, whether it's a sperm donor. Good parenting is good parenting. Not everyone should be a parent and that includes some straight people and it includes some gay people.

### You got to wear some wild costumes in the movie. In one scene Violet is seen in a black patent leather cat suit and in another she is walking down the street in her slip.

That stuff does not come easy. Definitely the scenes that didn't make it to film, more of the sex scenes, were easier to shoot than me running down the street, Central Park West, in a slip

at sundown. Trust me. I was screaming for a shot of alcohol. It was fantastic to be able to test myself.

### Randy Jones, best known as the Cowboy from the Village People, appears at the end of the movie as Buck Winston. Had you ever met Randy before this?

I hadn't. I obviously knew exactly who he was. The cameo that really flipped my lid. The crew will tell you that I went gaga over Michael Musto.

### Would you like to do more movies?

What isn't known about me is that I've been supporting myself doing these independent films for years,

especially for the past five years. Most of them either go straight to DVD or on Pay-Per-View or don't even see the light of day. But it has kind of been a conscious choice of mine to do parts that are different from Natalie, that don't necessarily take me away from her but challenge me, Mindy, as an actor. ... The best thing about Violet is that it's really great to have a character like this as a lead in a movie, whether it's Mindy Cohn or not. I just think that's kind of lovely.

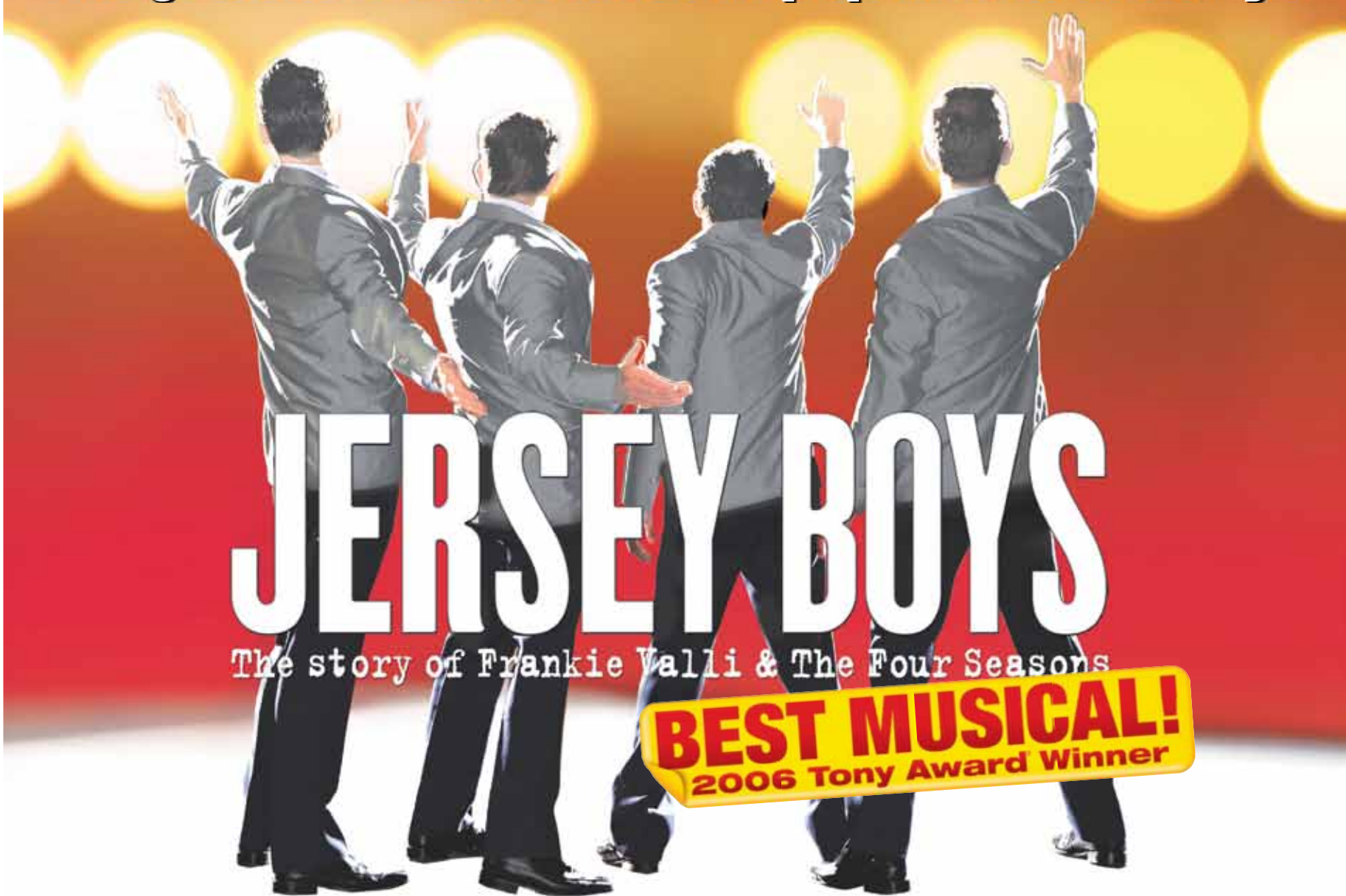
### Have you remained in contact with your "Facts of Life" co-stars Kim Fields, Lisa Whelchel and Nancy McKeon?

Oh yes, oh definitely. I equate it like high school. We were together for nine years, nine formative years. While we aren't bosom buddies, we always know what each other is doing, and we always make sure everyone is OK, and births and deaths and big events don't go unnoticed without touching base.

### Would you like to return to TV?

MC: I would love it. I'm an actor just like every other actor in L.A. My normal state of being is unemployment. What's great is that I actually haven't been in a really long time so that's kind of a lovely feeling. Hopefully with something like "Violet," it just takes one or two people to see you to jog their memory and get you into different kind of rooms and get those auditions, so who knows. So, yes, always looking.

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## MAY 5, THURSDAY

Club 5 Bar, 5 Applegate Court in Madison, hosts the **Cinco de Mayo/Drag Down Cancer Comedy Benefit Teaser Show** with performances by Josie Lynn, Trina Lynn, Kandi Barr, S Suzie S and Diamond D'Flowers at 9 p.m. Call 608-277-9700.

Winner of the inaugural Queer Palm award at the 2010 Cannes Film Festival, Gregg Araki's **"Kaboom"** screens at 7 p.m. in the UWM Union Theatre, UWM Student Union, 2nd level, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. Call 414-229-4070.

Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave. in Appleton, presents **"Lewis Black: In God We Rust"** at 8 p.m. Call 920-730-3760.

Theatre Gigante presents **"Isadora and Nijinsky,"** an exploration through text, movement, video and sound of the radical genius of Vaslav Nijinsky and Isadora Duncan through May 8 at Studio 508, Kenilworth Square East, 1925 E. Kenilworth Place. Call 414-229-4308.

**"Death of a Salesman"** by Arthur Miller runs through May 8 in the Quadracci Powerhouse at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.



## MAY 9, MONDAY

A screening of the documentary **"Their Eyes Were Dry,"** about the courage of children held hostage by terrorists on May 15, 1974, during the Ma'alot Massacre in Israel, is at 7 p.m. at The Majestic, 770 N Springdale in Waukesha; Menomonee Falls Cinemas 16, W180 N 9393 Premier Lane in Menomonee Falls; Sheboygan Cinemas 13, 3226 Kohler Memorial Dr. in Sheboygan; South Shore Cinemas 16, 7261 S. 13th in Oak Creek; Cinema at the Renaissance, 10411 Washington in Sturtevant; and North Shore Cinemas 11, 11700 N Port Washington in Thiensville.

**"Mummies: Secrets of the Pharaohs"** plays through May 30 at Humphrey IMAX Dome Theater, 800 W. Wells.

## MAY 10, TUESDAY

**Mummies of the World**, the largest exhibition of mummies and related artifacts ever assembled, continues through May 30 at Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 W. Wells.

## MAY 11, WEDNESDAY

Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer, presents **June Skinner Sawyers**, author of "Bob Dylan: New York," at 7 p.m. Call 414-332-1181.



## MAY 13, FRIDAY

**"Dirty Rotten Scoundrels,"** with book by Jeffrey Lane and music and lyrics by David Yazbek, runs through May 29 at The Racine Theatre Guild, 2519 Northwestern (Highway 38) in Racine. Call 262-633-4218.

The Florentine Opera Company presents the double bill **"Venus & Adonis"** by John Blow and **"Dido & Aeneas"** by Henry Purcell (sung in English) at 7:30 p.m. tonight and tomorrow night in Vogel Hall at Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.

## MAY 14, SATURDAY

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

Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer, presents **Jerome Pohlen**, author of "Progressive Nation: A Travel Guide with 400+ Left Turns and Inspiring Landmarks" at 2 p.m. The book is a travel guide to over 400 markers of progressive politics in the United States, including the former camera shop where Harvey Milk launched his campaign to become America's first openly gay elected official. Call 414-332-1181.

**Go GaGa**, a fundraiser for the LGBT Center of Southeast Wisconsin, starts at 6 p.m. at Cooler Near the Lake, 505 56th St. in Kenosha. Call (262) 664-4100 or visit www.lgbtsewisc.org.

## MAY 15, SUNDAY

High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, hosts **"Pro-Choice Rocks! A Benefit Show for NARAL Pro-Choice Wisconsin"** featuring The Sandrose Band, Hewn and Mitey Wittey and the Talent at 6:30 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

The Florentine Opera Company presents the double bill **"Venus & Adonis"** by John Blow and **"Dido & Aeneas"** by Henry Purcell (sung in English) at 2:30 p.m. in Vogel Hall at Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.

## MAY 16, MONDAY

**Terry Gavin**, author of "When Men are Young," is at Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer, at 7 p.m. Call 414-332-1181.

## MAY 18, WEDNESDAY

The Florentine Opera Company presents the double bill **"Venus & Adonis"** by John Blow and **"Dido & Aeneas"** by Henry Purcell (sung in English) at 7:30 p.m. tonight and tomorrow night in Vogel Hall at Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.



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

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

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

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

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## MEET HENRY

Henry is a 5-year-old shepherd/hound mix with many lovable quirks — long legs, enormous feet and one ear that won't quite lie flat. Henry's most unique feature is the scar that runs down his back. We don't know how he got it, but it's just one more reason to admire his gentle, loving demeanor. If you're looking for a loyal companion with a knack for comedy, Henry's your guy. He's neutered, micro-chipped and vaccinated. All he needs is you!

## TIP OF THE WEEK:

At least a million dogs in the United States can be trusted to behave politely in society and they have the papers to prove it. They've earned the American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen Award by successfully completing a 10-step test that judges their behavior. Many animal-friendly landlords in the Milwaukee area give discounts to Canine Good Citizen tenants. Call 414-431-6165 for more information.



Henry is a 5-year-old shepherd/hound mix.

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- STD testing and treatment for men.
- Hepatitis A & B Vaccinations for gay or bisexual men.

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1240 East Brady St • Milw., • 414-272-2144 • contactus@bestd.org

## COMMUNITY GROUPS

Got news? Tell us  
managingeditor@wisconsinngazette.com.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.iagsdc.org/creamcity

**Milwaukee Kings** drag king troupe, www.miltownkings.com, miltownkings@yahoo.com

**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/lgbtfilm

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

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

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

## COMMUNITY

**Bay View Gays**, 414-482-3796, www.bvgays.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 St., 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, queerprgrm@aol.com

**SAGE Milwaukee**, 1845 N. Farwell Ave., 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., 414-390-0444

**Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence Brew City Sisters Abbey**, brewcitysisters@yahoo.com, www.brewcitysisters.org

**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.arcw.org, info@arcw.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

## POLITICS

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

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

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

## SPORTS

**Front Runners/Front Walkers**, 262-285-7645, ullwolf.com/frontrunnersmke, thbolt@milwpc.com

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

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

**Milwaukee Gay Volleyball League**, www.milwaukeeegayvolleyball.com

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

## YOUTH/EDUCATION

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

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

**Gay Youth Milwaukee**, P.O. Box 090441, 53209, 414-265-8500, 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, toooldforthis@tds.net

## POLITICS

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

## SPORTS

**Madison Gay Hockey Association**, www.madisongayhockey.org

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

**Madison Minotaurs Rugby Club**, www.madisonminotaurs.com, madisonminotaurs@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.

## WHAT'S GOING ON THIS WEEK?

Peruse daily events, meetings  
and happenings and add your event.  
www.wisconsinngazette.com/calendar

**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., La Crosse, 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 La Crosse**, 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

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

## ONGOING

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

10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin drop-in, Racine.\*

## THURSDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

## FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## SATURDAY

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

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

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

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

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

## SUNDAY

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

10:30 a.m., AA Step/Topic meeting, 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, Galano 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, 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.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS



PHOTO: COURTESY

## U.S. Rep. Gwen Moore

Milwaukee's Festival City Singers. Tickets are \$30. For more information, call 414-964-1513.

## GSAFE CELEBRATES 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

On May 14, GSAFE's annual awards and scholarships dinner, the "Celebration of Leadership," will mark 15 years of Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools in Wisconsin. The dinner is from 5 to 8:30 p.m. at the Madison Pathfinders and features music by

hours of training, a meal, festival admission and a stipend that will cover their travel and other expenses for a four-hour shift.

Last year's efforts helped to more than double the number of tests administered and increased testing of young gay and bisexual men of color tenfold.

Contact Christopher Allen, prevention coordinator, at 414-390-0444.

## MILWAUKEE CENTER RECEIVES BREAST HEALTH GRANT

The Southeast Wisconsin Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure awarded a \$104,467 grant to the Milwaukee LGBT Community center to support its LGBT breast health program.

The program targets LGBT people at risk for breast cancer in SE Wisconsin with education, outreach and referrals for breast health screenings.

Studies in recent years suggest that LGBT people are at greater

risk than the general population to suffer adverse health outcomes and may face significant barriers to health care, including breast health screenings.



Under the center's program, people who are uninsured or under-insured are referred for free screenings. Upon completion, they receive a \$50 gift card to Pick N Save.

To participate in the program or find out more about health risks, contact Claudia Kabler-Babbitt at 414-292-3061 or e-mail ckb@mkelgbt.org.

## PLYMOUTH CHURCH DINNER HONORS MOORE

U.S. Rep. Gwen Moore is the keynote speaker and honoree at a May 14 dinner celebrating Plymouth Church's decision to become an open and affirming congregation. The event, from 6 to 9 p.m. at 2717 E. Hampshire St., honors Moore and the agency Pathfinders and features music by



We were on the water all of five minutes when Mara started making pirate jokes: "Avast Mates, there be treasure ahead!" Dean took his oar like a foil and yelled: "I'll bunk with Davy Jones before you get my gold!" It went on like this for hours; our little armada,  riding the "high seas" of Door County. 

Your stories. Our setting.



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