

## CUMMING'S IN CHICAGO

En route to Chicago, out entertainer Alan Cumming talks about his many roles. **Page 23**



THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

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# Walker drops registry defense

**By Louis Weisberg**  
*Staff writer*

Gov. Scott Walker will not defend the state's domestic partner registry law against a suit filed by the anti-gay organization Wisconsin Family Action, the governor's office announced May 13.

The governor filed a motion in court seeking either to withdraw from the case or to amend his administration's position to say the registry law is unconstitutional.

The governor's move, which was anticipated, comes at a time when right-wing religious activists have blasted the White House for dropping its defense of the federal Defense of Marriage

Act because the administration believes portions of that law are unconstitutional. Right-wing Christians have also condemned former Calif. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and current Gov. Jerry Brown for refusing to defend their state's Proposition 8, a gay-marriage ban enacted by voters, in federal court.

But in Wisconsin, anti-gay activists urged the governor not to defend the law.

News that Walker is dropping the state's defense of the registry comes just over a month after he fired the attorney defending it in court. The law, introduced by former Gov. Jim Doyle, gives registered same-sex couples 41 of the more than 200 benefits the state offers married couples.

Julaine Appling, president of Wisconsin Family Action, sued to overturn the law in 2009, charging that it violates a 2006 amendment to the state constitution banning legal arrangements that mirror marriage between same-sex partners.

Appling, who has never married or had children, lives with a longtime female companion in a home that the two own jointly in Watertown.

Equality advocates anticipated Walker's action and

**REGISTRY** page 15

# WISCONSIN'S NEXT SENATOR?



# Baldwin likely to run for Kohl's Senate seat

**By Louis Weisberg**  
*Staff writer*

U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin is seriously considering a run for the Senate seat that's being vacated by retiring Sen. Herb Kohl, putting her on track to possibly become the nation's first openly gay U.S. senator.

"I take major decisions very seriously," Baldwin said. "I intend to study this

very carefully, because if I do decide to do it, I'm going to be in it all the way. By summertime I should know."

Baldwin flew back to her Madison office from Washington on May 13, the day that the 76-year-old Kohl announced he would not seek re-election next year. She spent the weekend talking to leaders and

advisors, getting their feedback on her prospective candidacy.

"This is the first open Senate seat we've had (in Wisconsin) in a generation," said Baldwin, who represents the state's Second Congressional District. "There's been lots of discussion and lots of dialogue, and I've been encouraged to run, both

from people in Wisconsin, as well as national leaders."

Among those who want to see the seven-term congresswoman run are Katie Belanger, executive director of Fair Wisconsin, and Denis Dison, vice president of communications for the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund.

"Her running for the Senate would be a huge

**BALDWIN** page 17

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# LGBT news with a twist

## WIGWAG

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg



### LOOKING FOR MR. GOODBAR

For their new book "A Billion Wicked Thoughts," neuroscientists Ogi Ogas and Sai Gaddam used a computer program to analyze a billion Web searches to gather insights on sexual desire. Among the researchers' many surprising findings was that straight men search for pictures of other men's penises almost as often as they search for vaginas.

"There's about a thousand heterosexual sites dedicated to large penises, and large penises are a category of erotica in all the major porn video sites," Ogas told the online magazine Salon.

### CELEBRATING MR. GOODBAR

Speaking of mega phalli, a new book celebrating exceptional male organs had a launch party in Beverly Hills on May 11. "Taschen's Big Penis Book" comes complete with 3D glasses to enhance the viewing experience. A press release touting the party noted that Chi Chi LaRue

was the event's guest DJ and "our special 3D go-go dancers will be keeping the party going."

### SUED OVER MR. GOODBAR

Sad comic Andy Dick is being sued in Texas for allegedly grinding his genitals into a man's head during a stand-up appearance in Dallas. The complaint states that after fan Robert Tucker asked Dick for an autograph, "Andy Dick then took control of Plaintiff's head with his left hand and pulled down his costume skirt with his right hand, exposing the fact that he was not wearing underwear beneath the skirt. ... Defendant Dick then, while still controlling Plaintiff's head with his hand, forced his genitals against the left side of Plaintiff's face. Plaintiff immediately pulled away."

### SILENCE WOULD HAVE BEEN GOLDEN

Olympic gold medalist Peter Vidmar abruptly resigned as chef

de mission for the 2012 U.S. Olympic team after coming under fire for his anti-gay activism. Vidmar participated in two anti-gay marriage demonstrations and donated \$2,000 to the Proposition 8 campaign in 2008. Vidmar is the highest scoring male American gymnast in Olympic history.



### OUT AND PROUD

"Do I want to be 'the gay anchor?'" CNN's Don Lemon asked himself, according to a May 16 interview with NPR. The 45-year-old anchor realized that coming out could brand him and hurt ratings, but he nonetheless

acknowledged that he's gay in advance of the upcoming release of his memoir "Transparent."

Lemon's revelation closely followed that of Phoenix Suns president Rick Welts, who came out in an interview with The New York Times on May 15.

### BETTING ON DISPOSABLE INCOME

Resorts Casino Hotel recently opened Prohibition, the first gay nightclub in an Atlantic City casino. Investors are betting on the marketing claim that gays have more disposable income than straights. Prohibition is located on the 13th floor of the casino and decorated in a Roaring '20s theme. "People think gays don't gamble. That's not true. They gamble. They drink. They like to travel. And they have that extra income," said former gay bar owner John Schultz, who lobbied for the nightclub at Resorts.

### NRA TAKES AIM

The National Rifle Association has dropped its relationship

with King & Spalding because the Atlanta-based law firm dropped a case from congressional Republicans. Soon after K&S announced it would not be handling the defense of the Defense of Marriage Act, the NRA announced King & Spalding would no longer be handling its important cases. "We believe King & Spalding's decision is indefensible and raises serious concerns about its ability to be a reliable and effective advocate for any client facing potentially controversial litigation," the NRA stated in a letter.

### QUEEREST OF THE QUEER

Montreal is celebrating Pride 2011 with a global campaign to find the "Queer of the Year." The winner in the second annual contest promoted by Tourism Montreal might be a do-gooder, might be a diva, might be the guy next door, might be the girl just out of the closet. Or, the winner might be you. To enter go to Tourism Montreal's "Queer of the Year" page on Facebook.



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# Suit filed over West Bend Gay-Straight Alliance

**By Louis Weisberg**  
*Staff writer*

After years of being denied official status as a club, the West Bend High School Gay-Straight Alliance filed suit in Milwaukee federal court on May 12, charging school officials with illegal discrimination. The suit came just three days after the GSA's latest request for recognition was denied.

In addition to full recognition, the group seeks an apology, damages of less than \$20 and attorney fees.

The controversy over the GSA involves some of the same right-wing extremists who were behind a high-profile attempt to remove the children's book "Heather Has Two Mommies" from the West Bend Community Library in 2009. West Bend Christian activist Ginny Maziarka, who launched the petition drive to banish the book from the library, also fired up opposition to the GSA via her blog, wisup.blogspot.com. She spoke on



PHOTO: COURTESY

**Right-wing Christian activist Ginny Maziarka spearheaded the 2009 effort in West Bend to ban "Heather Has Two Mommies" from the public library. Now she's trying to stop a Gay-Straight Alliance at the local high school.**

behalf of the opposition just prior to the May 9 vote against the GSA.

West Bend students infor-

mally launched the GSA more than a decade ago and began requesting formal club status in 2002, Fincke said.

Over the years, students and student advisors have periodically renewed their request for recognition, only to be denied.

While other student groups were able to gain recognition without presenting a formal application, West Bend's GSA has been required to go through arduous procedures that seemed created specifically to keep it out, said Brian Juchems, program director for the Madison-based Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools, which has advised the group.

The last hoop that members of the GSA were forced to jump through was to demonstrate that their activities were somehow tied to the school's curriculum, according to Juchems.

"The school changed how groups had to form in order to get official recognition.

They said (groups) have to be connected to some particular issue related to the school's curriculum," Juchems said. "But even when the GSA went through that extra hurdle created to try to keep it from forming, even when they went through that extra hurdle, they were still turned down."

In his complaint, Fincke noted that at least one club – the Key Club – has been allowed to remain a school-sanctioned club even though it lacks ties to the curriculum. Key clubs address public service and leadership.

Although there have been a number of similar cases in the United States, mostly in the rural South, Fincke believes this lawsuit is the first of its kind to be filed in Wisconsin.

For breaking news visit [www.wisconsin-gazette.com](http://www.wisconsin-gazette.com).

# Judge calls molester 'gayer than a sweet-smelling jockstrap'

**By Louis Weisberg**  
*Staff writer*

While sentencing a former school bus driver to prison for molesting young boys, a Waupaca judge made a statement linking the defendant's pedophilia to the gay community.

"I think you were born gayer than a sweet-smelling jock strap," Judge Philip Kirk told Delton Gorges, 71, before sending him to prison for seven years on counts of sexual assault of a child, repeated sexual assault of a child and two misdemeanor counts of fourth-degree sexual assault.

Gorges will serve 15 years of extended supervision after his prison release.

The judge's May 9 remarks were condemned by local anti-violence advocates, who demanded he apologize for

fostering the myth that gay men are more likely than heterosexuals to sexually abuse children (see "Judge should apologize").

Kirk's statements came in response to Gorges' claim that he's a lifelong heterosexual, as evidenced by his marriage to a woman and his fatherhood. But the judge scoffed at the assertion, saying Gorges' interest in young boys was obviously the result of homosexuality.

"I think that if anyone believes that in the last 10 years or 15 years all of a sudden you developed an interest in homosexuality and young boys, then I must have looked ravishing in my prom dress this year," the judge quipped.

Kirk expressed sympathy for Gorges, saying the confessed abuser was forced to

deny his sexual orientation due to the homophobic climate he grew up in during the 1940s and 1950s.

"No one knew there was a closet to come out of in those days," Kirk said. "You know you had to be very careful, because you could have found your penis floating in the Wolf as walleye bait. It was a terrible life to have to live."

"Sometimes people don't say the right thing, but they potentially mean well," Andrew DeBaker, co-chair of New Pride, told local media. "The thing that concerns me is the linking homosexuality, linking being gay with, in this case, child molestation."

Gorges, who drove a school bus for 33 years, pleaded no contest to the charges.

# Judge should apologize

## Opinion

The following is a response from the LGBT Intimate Partner Violence Committee of the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault to statements made by Waupaca Judge Phillip Kirk in sentencing Delton Gorges on May 9.

While sentencing convicted child molester Delton Gorges, Judge Phillip Kirk made some distasteful jokes about gay people. He then went on to say that Gorges must be gay and a victim of society's homophobia, which explains his crimes. In effect, Kirk vilified gay men and tried to make Gorges appear just another victim of society.

According to a study by Child Welfare Information

Gateway, "A child's risk of being molested by his or her relatives' heterosexual partner is over 100 times greater than by someone who might be identifiable as being homosexual." The study also found that out of 269 cases of child sex abuse, only two offenders were found to be gay or lesbian.

The American Psychological Association has said it's a false myth that gay men are more likely to sexually molest children than heterosexual men. "There is no evidence to suggest that homosexuals molest children," the APA has stated.

Words like Kirk's help spread this myth, which has damaging consequences for gay men.

Anti-gay forces use this myth to deny loving gay male couples the right to adopt, become foster parents or to serve as volunteers in some organizations.

Members of marginalized groups are frequently stereotyped in a negative way to perpetuate homophobia, racism and religious intolerance. This intolerance helps fuel the cycle of violence against marginalized communities. The LGBT community has experienced rising incidents of hate crime, suicides and other forms of violence in the past 10 years – a rise that can be directly attributed to society's attitudes and lack of understanding.

A person's sexual orientation has nothing to do with pedophilia. Pedophilia is a violent crime committed against children by perpetrators who seek power and control over their victims.

We urge Kirk to issue an apology to the LGBT community. If he would like to learn more about sexual violence or the LGBT community, we are happy to assist him.

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

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# Hamburger Mary's is headed to Bay View

By Louis Weisberg  
Staff writer

Hamburger Mary's, where large gourmet burgers are served with a hefty side of sass, is headed to Milwaukee.

The Chicago-based restaurant company announced May 5 that a location is opening in the city's Bay View neighborhood at 2130 S. Kinnickinnic Ave. According to a press release, the site, which was formerly an Omega Burger, "will be fabulously remodeled to make way for the reigning 'Burger Queen!'"

The company hopes to open the restaurant, whose tagline is "Eat, Drink, and be... MARY!" by the end of the summer.

Gay twins Ashley Wright and Brandon Wright own the company as well as the popular Hamburger Mary's restaurant in Chicago's Andersonville neighborhood. The Milwaukee Mary's, their 10th location, will have a local business partner who's a resident of Bay View. "She and her partner with their newborn baby boy are becoming part of the Mary's family,"

Ashley Wright said.

While the Milwaukee menu will be similar to Chicago's, it also will feature some "distinctly local items," Wright said. "We don't want to be a chain restaurant. Each one is a little bit unique. Certain burgers are on all the Mary's menus, but otherwise we offer different things in different cities."

For instance, the Milwaukee Mary's will feature beer from Wisconsin craft breweries as well as local specialty foods.

A common food theme at Hamburger Mary's is oversized portions and an emphasis on "natural fresh ingredients and top-quality meat that comes from humanely treated animals," Wright said.

Another common theme is camp entertainment.

"It's just a fun atmosphere. It's classy kitsch," Wright said. "We are looking forward to rolling out some really fun entertainment, like 'Dining with the Divas,' 'Mary-Oke,' and our good-time-for-a-good-cause charity 'Ham-BINGO Mary's.'"

The Milwaukee Mary's will be the first to feature a separate entertainment area, where the restaurant will stage "Dining with the Divas."

"It's basically a drag show during dinner, so it's a dinner theater kind of thing," Wright said. "We're also going to have a three-season porch called 'Mary's Lanai.'"

Ald. Tony Zielinski, 14th District, said he lobbied the owners to choose the location on South Kinnickinnic because he believes it will become a popular destination to anchor the southern end of the trendy retail and entertainment corridor.

"The Becher end of KK has been kind of lagging, and I think this will bring people there," Zielinski said. "I think it's really going to add to the revitalization of the street."

Hamburger Mary's is one of several new developments slated for the area. A \$12 million development at KK and Conway will replace "five old dilapidated, hideous-looking buildings" with 9,000 feet of retail below 70 new residential units, Zielinski said.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Diners are drawn to the campy ambiance of Hamburger Mary's location in Chicago's Andersonville neighborhood.

South of that development, a new, high-concept movie theater "unlike any ever done before in the country" is being developed by the owner of Wauwatosa's popular Rosebud Cinema, Zielinski said, adding that the details are top-secret.

One block west of the new Hamburger Mary's, Sweet Water Organics is undergoing a \$250,000 expansion of its internationally recognized fish farm and urban agricultural facility, which will bring 45 new jobs to the area in the next year, according to

Zielinski. "KK and Bay View are getting stronger all the time," he said. "The economy is pretty tough right now, but we still have all these great projects moving forward. I'm meeting all kinds of new, creative, original thinkers."

# Chicago takes first steps to building LGBT senior housing

By Gary Barlow  
Special to the Gazette

Standing in front of the old Town Hall police station in Chicago's Boystown, openly gay Ald. Tom Tunney and other Chicago officials announced plans May 13 to convert the historic property into a 90-unit public housing project aimed at LGBT seniors.

"This is an exciting day for the community and the city," Tunney said. "This one-of-a-kind housing development will have up to 90 units and will be the first of its kind in the Midwest."

The Chicago Department of Housing designated Heartland Housing as the developer for the project, selling the property to the nonprofit for \$1.

Michael Goldberg, executive director at Heartland, said a 2005 study the group did estimated that there are more than 40,000 LGBT seniors in the Chicago area, a number that's going up every year. Those LGBT seniors face the same issues and needs for affordable housing that other seniors face, Goldberg said, compounded by discrimination issues. "Chicago needs affordable housing for LGBT seniors," Goldberg said. "Heartland Housing is proud to have been selected as developer of this critical project."

A 2009 report by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force noted that LGBT seniors across the United States often face discrimination in mainstream senior housing. Many, the report said, feel compelled to hide their sexual orientation in those settings. "Creating LGBT-targeted and LGBT-friendly elder housing is a



PHOTO: GARY BARLOW

Openly gay Chicago Ald. Tom Tunney, center, announces plans to convert the former Town Hall police station in the city's Boystown neighborhood into an LGBT senior housing project.

scarcely developed yet important option for enabling our elders to age in their own communities, avoid isolation and receive culturally competent care," the report stated.

But, the NGLTF researchers found, few such options exist. There are some senior housing developments targeting LGBTs around the country but almost all are market-rate or upper-income. Steps to open affordable, public-supported LGBT senior housing similar to the project announced in Chicago have been taken in Boston and Philadelphia. To date, the 104-unit Triangle Square-Hollywood in West Hollywood, which opened in 2007, is the only such development in the nation.

"LGBT-affirming or LGBT-centric housing options do not

exist for the vast majority of the nation's LGBT elders who seek them," the NGLTF report stated. "While the majority of initiatives in LGBT housing have been in the for-profit arena, the economic vulnerabilities experienced by LGBT elders over the lifespan documented here indicate that culturally competent, LGBT-affirming public and affordable housing options are most sorely needed."

Heartland is partnering with the Center on Halsted, Chicago's LGBT community center next door to the new development, to develop the project. The Center currently serves 800 to 1,000 LGBT seniors per year, an official there said.

The historic Town Hall police station, closed last November after more than a century, will be

preserved and incorporated into the overall design. A new building to go up between the station and the Center will be designed by Gensler, the same architectural firm that created the award-winning design of the Center.

"When the Center was born, we took the model of Daniel Burnham: Make no small plans," said Modesto Valle, executive director of the Center. "Today we take the opportunity to create something that will not only impact Chicago, but the whole country."

Chicago officials said they were pleased with the outcome after four years of research, planning and negotiation.

"We've done a lot of work with Heartland Housing over the years, and we're sure this will be another successful development," said Chicago Department of Housing Deputy Commissioner Bill Eager.

While the announcement of the agreement with Heartland was a big step, the project is still a long way from completion, and officials would not give an estimate on when it would become a reality. None of the financing for the development is in place yet, officials said.

"These projects require multiple financing sources and we're looking forward to getting going on it," Eager said.

And while the development will be geared to the needs of LGBT seniors, as public housing it won't exclude others who meet the age, income and other requirements.

"There won't be discrimination," Goldberg said. "This will be an open community."

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## Fire guts Milwaukee's Boot Camp bar

A fire that broke out shortly before 4 a.m. on May 18 destroyed Boot Camp Saloon, the popular leather bar in Milwaukee's Walker's Point neighborhood.

It took firefighters an hour and a half to control the two-alarm blaze at 209 E. National Ave., according to the Milwaukee Fire Department. News crews reported that half the building was fully engulfed, with flames shooting as high as 30 feet into the air.

Officials were on the scene early May 18 investigating the cause of the fire.

Although the building was called a total loss, much of the damage was near a deck on the south side. The bar is connected to a house but no injuries were reported.

WiG was unable to reach Si Smits, who has owned the bar for nearly 30 years and reportedly lived above it, prior to press time.



- LW.



# Pasch to take on Darling in recall election

By Louis Weisberg  
Staff writer

State Rep. Sandy Pasch decided to run for public office several years ago while listening to a public radio report about what was happening at the Capitol. The big topics on the legislative agenda of the day were enacting a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage and deciding whether to call the Christmas tree at the Capitol a "holiday tree."

Pasch, a psychiatric nurse concerned about education, healthcare and the environment, said she was enraged that lawmakers in Madison were focusing on divisive, mean-spirited and irrelevant issues when she saw so many problems around her that needed to be addressed.

As the mother of a gay teen, she was particularly disturbed that elected officials sought to limit her family's freedom. "This was my son

that they were talking about," she said. "They were taking away his rights. That was a moment for me."

Pasch, a Democrat from Whitefish Bay, won election to the Assembly in 2008 and re-election in November 2010. Now she's jumping into one of the highest-profile state races in the country, challenging right-wing Republican state Sen. Alberta Darling in a recall election in the 8th Senate District. The election is expected to be held on July 12.

"People approached me about entering the race, and the more I thought about it the more I realized we've got to save Wisconsin," Pasch said. "That sounds so melodramatic, but I really feel like Wisconsin is headed down a dangerous road, the road of the extreme right-wing agenda."

Since January, Pasch said she and her fellow Democrats

in Madison have watched as Gov. Scott Walker and the GOP majority has stripped away worker's rights, slashed funding for education and healthcare, eliminated environmental and consumer protections, and hobbled the ability of local governments to serve their citizens. At the same time, they've cut corporate taxes and engaged in a political power grab unlike anything the state has ever seen.

"We've got to get control of at least one of the houses and stop this nonsense," Pasch said. "All our values are being threatened. Everything that makes us great is being undermined. Take education. How do you grow the state and grow jobs when you decimate the public school system? Meanwhile, (Republicans are) blaming the most vulnerable people in the state for our financial problems. We're talking

about people with disabilities and seniors. The family care system that allows people our parents' age to stay in their homes with assistance is even under attack."

The 8th Senate District, which includes the affluent communities of River Hills, Fox Point, Mequon, Whitefish Bay and Shorewood, boasts some of the state's best public schools. In fact, that's what draws many families to the area.

"The key message in this race is education," Pasch said. "Alberta Darling is gutting public education. It's a quality issue in this district."

Another issue that's likely to emerge near the top of voter concerns in the 8th District is municipal services. The Republican budget, supported by Darling, slashes shared revenue for local communities and, at the same time, puts strict limits on what local governments can do to raise revenue. Although Walker stressed that his ban on collective bargaining by government workers would lower the cost of local government, he exempted police and fire workers from the ban — and their services represent the lion's share of local expenses.

Pasch said the result of this budget is that residents in many areas will have to pay for services that local governments once provided. With property taxes already high in many 8th District communities, that scenario is not going over well with local officials, Pasch said.

"What I've been hearing from village managers and village trustees is that (residents) will either have to pay fees or receive fewer services," Pasch said. "And fees aren't deductible from federal taxes. (Officials are) very disheartened. They feel (Republicans) are taking away local control and telling them how much they can spend on local services and not allowing them to raise revenue. We elect local officials to manage our local communities, not Scott Walker or Alberta Darling."

When Darling, who was once on the board of Planned Parenthood, won her first election to the Assembly in 1990, she positioned herself as a moderate. But as religious extremists and Tea Party radicals commandeered the state's Republican Party, Darling has followed their orders and now "marches hand in hand

with the right-wing rhetoric," Pasch said.

Darling's voting record backs up Pasch's assertion. She's received zero ratings from Fair Wisconsin and the ACLU of Wisconsin, while at the other end of the spectrum she's received perfect scores from right-wing groups such as Wisconsin Right to Life, Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce and Americans for Prosperity, a front group for the billionaire Koch brothers' corporate-right agenda.

"She's pretty extreme now," Pasch said.

Despite widespread voter anger over Walker's agenda, Pasch faces an uphill battle. Wealthy corporate players like the Koch brothers are expected to spend whatever it takes to keep this seat. And Darling is a good campaigner. In 2008, which was a watershed year for Democrats, she still managed to beat Rep. Sheldon Wasserman by a slim margin.

Political observers expect this to be a close race, which means that a strong LGBT voter turnout for Pasch could make a critical difference.

For breaking news visit  
www.wisconsin-gazette.com.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Sandy Pasch, center, talks with supporters at a fundraising event.

# Confronting old wounds after hate incident

Opinion  
LEONARD SOB CZAK

Last week my doorbell rang unexpectedly at 6 a.m. while I was sitting in my apartment reading the newspaper. I warily walked down the hallway to see who could be calling at such an early hour. Outside the glass door stood a disheveled young man who demanded to be let inside. After ascertaining that he didn't live in the building, I

turned him away.

Suddenly in a raised voice he said, "You've got a fucking Jew living here," and read the name of one of the tenants listed on the building directory. This ugly outburst caught me so off guard that it felt like a hot poker jammed into my brain. A verbal scuffle ensued as I tried to get the man to leave the premises.

"You're a damn faggot, lonely old man," he said. With that, I felt my power drain through my legs and into the floor.

It took me a few moments to regain my composure. When I did, I phoned the police on my cell phone and then used it to snap the young man's picture. He finally turned to leave.

I don't know why, but I followed him out the door in my pajamas, taking his photograph repeatedly. Hearing the police coming, he flipped me the bird and escaped between a couple of houses.

Later I wondered: How did a drunken, aimless 20-something gain so much power

over me, a successful, middle-aged businessman, simply by hurling a homophobic slur? That question set off a cascade of memories winding back to childhood.

I was the chosen sissy in my class. I was made fun of and chased home. Terror was a regular, silent companion. It never occurred to me that someone should be defending me. Instead, I developed all kinds of devices for protection, such as shyness and escaping into a make-believe world.

It wasn't until my mid-30s that I started probing the deeply held wounds of bullying that had become part of my cellular structure. The painstaking unwinding that followed was like dismantling a double helix of genetic encoding that defined who I was. I ultimately realized that I was none of those old messages — that I was much more and capable of much more.

I took back my power over this incident by having the police come to my office and file an incident report.

With the pictures I took, they are now looking for the perpetrator. They will arrest him for disorderly contact and possibly charge him with a hate crime. A judge will decide his fate.

Recovery from the wounds of early abuse is possible.

Leonard Sobczak is the CEO and principal of WiG Publishing, which produces the Wisconsin Gazette. He is also the president and principal of Eastmore Real Estate and the former chair of Milwaukee's Fire and Police Commission.

## REGIONAL BRIEFS

### ABELE RETAINS SUE BLACK AS PARKS CHIEF

Newly elected Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele is retaining out lesbian Sue Black as director of the Milwaukee County Parks Department, his office announced.

Black served in the position under Scott Walker for four years.

"Sue Black is one of the many fine employees already at home in

Milwaukee County," Abele said. "She has demonstrated an ability time and again to creatively do more with less, helping the parks system to win a national gold medal for excellent management."

In a statement to the press, Black said she's "never been more passionate about our parks system, and I can't tell you how excited I am about the future of our parks under our new administration."

### CATHOLIC GROUP THREATENS TO END ADOPTION SERVICES IN ILL.

Catholic Charities, which operates one of the largest adoption agencies in Illinois, is threatening to halt services in the state rather than comply with state law requiring the organization to place children with gay couples.

Catholic Charities has more than 3,000 children in its foster care and adoption agencies, which represents about 20 percent of all such services in the state, according to the Chicago Sun-Times. The state pays the organization about \$30 million a year for these services.

Catholic Charities is back-

ing legislation that would allow it to refer same-sex couples to other adoption agencies without risking a lawsuit or loss of state money. But so far the measure has been bottled up in a house committee.

"There's a real possibility that we will be forced out of foster care and adoption," said Bob Gilligan, executive director of the Catholic Conference of Illinois.

Equality activists object to the assertion that Catholic

groups might be "forced" out. They said Catholic adoption programs can choose to include everyone or they can choose to cut ties with state government.

"If they do not want to let gay couples adopt or be foster parents, fine. Let them do it on their own dime and not on millions of dollars of Illinois taxpayers," said Rick Garcia, who helped pass the law establishing civil unions in Illinois.

— L.W.

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# NATIONAL GAZE



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## Big names drive New York marriage bill forward

By Lisa Neff  
Staff writer

A former president and a current governor, a bad-boy hockey player and a retired talk-show host are driving marriage equality in New York state.

Still, there's a deficit in the state senate in "yes" votes for same-sex marriage legislation.

While the legislative season is nearing an end in many states, it is heating up in New York state.

On May 10, Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo launched his People First Campaign, a statewide tour to promote his legislative priorities. The governor's campaign includes capping property taxes, enacting ethics reform and passing a marriage equality bill.

"The clock is ticking, but when the people speak, the politicians will listen," Cuomo said.

An estimated 58 percent

of New York citizens support legalizing same-sex marriage. That majority includes some high-profile people, including former President Bill Clinton.

"Now we should do it again, in New York, with marriage equality. For more than a century, our Statue of Liberty has welcomed all kinds of people from all over the world yearning to be free. In the 21st century, I believe New York's welcome must include marriage equality."

Daughter Chelsea Clinton also endorsed the equality legislation, as did New York Ranger Sean Avery, TV personality Larry King and a number of other celebrities.

Chelsea Clinton, in her statement, said, "As someone who got married last year, it was certainly the happiest day of my life to be able to marry my best friend. I fundamentally believe that every New Yorker, every American and

everyone should have the same right."

The statement came out just days before about 1,200 lesser-known New Yorkers organized by Empire State Pride Agenda boarded buses from the Bronx to Utica to lobby in the capital for marriage equality.

While there is momentum for moving the bill, state Sen. Thomas Duane, D-N.Y., recently said there are not enough votes in his chamber. The assembly has passed a marriage equality bill several times, but not the senate.

Also, in the weeks before the session ends in June, the National Organization for Marriage plans to invest \$500,000 to block passage of the bill and another \$1 million to defeat Democrats who support such legislation.

Connect with the WiG community on Facebook.

### KENNEDY SIGNS FREEDOM TO MARRY PLEDGE

Caroline Kennedy is signer No. 100,000 on an open letter urging the president to support marriage equality for gays and lesbians.

While Barack Obama has said a portion of the Defense of Marriage Act should not be defended in court because it is unconstitutional, the president has not said he supports marriage rights for gays and lesbians.

"Falling in love, getting married and building a family is part of the American dream," Kennedy stated. "I believe that all Americans, including committed gay and lesbian couples, should have the opportunity to pursue that dream."

Others who signed the letter circulated by Freedom to Marry at [www.freedomtomarry.org](http://www.freedomtomarry.org): civil rights leaders Julian Bond and Helen Fabela Chavez; and performers,

including Anne Hathaway, Jane Lynch, Eric McCormack, Martin Sheen, Lily Tomlin, Ellen DeGeneres, Portia DeGeneres, Sara Bareilles, Lance Bass, Melissa Etheridge, Cyndi Lauper, LeAnn Rimes and Rufus Wainwright.

- L.N.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Caroline Kennedy recently signed a letter supporting same-sex couples' freedom to marry.

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## { Editorial }

## A good pro-life stance

As an LGBT advocacy publication, we seldom find ourselves in agreement with the Catholic Church. But we applaud those faithful who are pressing for an expanded definition of "pro-life" that includes actual living, breathing humans.

Seventy priests, nuns and professors recently took U.S. House Speaker John Boehner to task for what they called an "anti-life budget" that shrugs off the Christian duty of the powerful to care for the powerless. It's refreshing to see followers of Christ asking, "What would Jesus do?" and realizing it would not be to force people to starve and die in the streets in order to give tax breaks to the insanely wealthy.

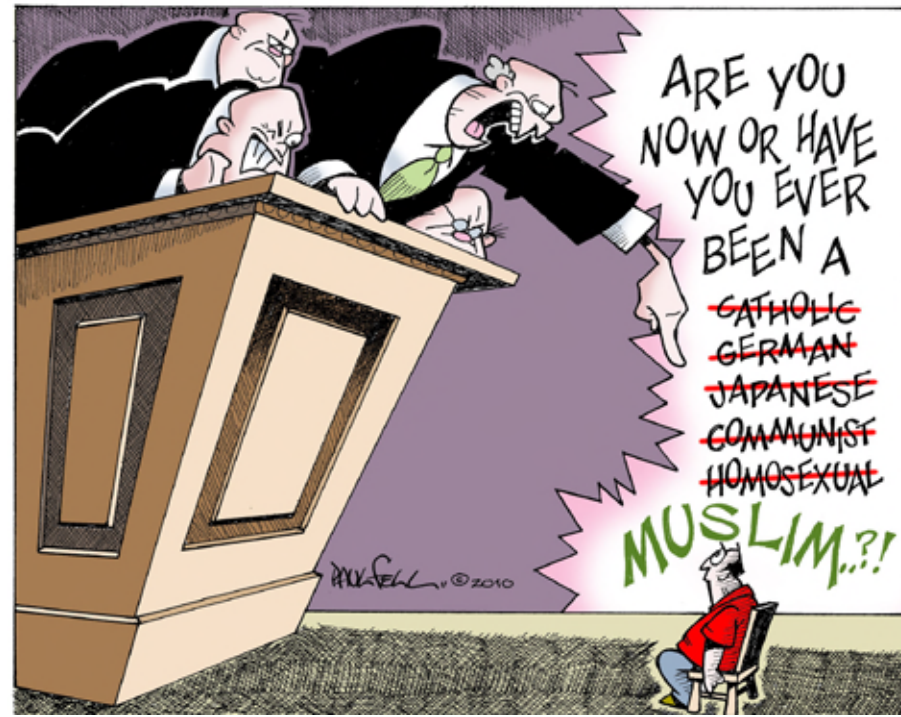
And while we're at it, Fr. Thomas Kelley of Elkhorn deserves recognition for an ad blasting U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan's budget as one that "abandons pro-life values." Evangelicals joined with Catholics in paying for the ad, in which Kelly says the budget "makes huge, irresponsible cuts (that hurt) families who are struggling to find jobs and put food on the table, but provides big tax breaks for millionaires and large corporations whose profits are soaring."

Indeed, after going on the offensive over budget deficits since taking control of the U.S. House, Republicans showed their true intentions when Democrats called their bluff by proposing to eliminate subsidies for oil companies, which are reaping record profits. The GOP unanimously voted down the motion on May 5.

Obviously, the deficit is only important to Republicans when they can use it to punish the poor, not when it comes to asking the special interests that fund their campaigns to give up taxpayer dollars they haven't earned and don't need.

Now Milwaukee Archbishop Jerome Listeki should get in on the act and use the weight of his office to pressure Gov. Scott Walker and his GOP cronies to abandon their plan to cut state tax credits to the poor that function as anti-poverty tools. Walker is trimming the Earned Income Tax Credit tax, which helps offset federal Social Security taxes and encourages work among the lowest-wage earners. In addition, he's slashing the Homestead Tax Credit, which offsets property taxes for low-income homeowners, many of them elderly.

There is nothing in this plan, which essentially raises taxes on the poor, that's either pro-life or Christian.



## { Letters }

## APPROPRIATE ATTIRE

With Pridefest coming up, I'm just wondering how others feel about the Pride parade. I'm not happy about people dressing inappropriately.

No, I am not a stuffy old queen, but do we really need people flaunting their boobs or guys with fake dicks hanging out for children to see? Are we not marching for acceptance? People who are being obviously vulgar should be thrown out of the parade. Am I just a fuddy-duddy or do others agree?

Jamie Taylor  
Milwaukee

## REVENUE CORRECTION

The news that state revenues are \$636 million higher than originally projected is a gift from the Democratic majority from the last budget. Our responsible budgeting that raised revenue from the most wealthy, closed corporate tax loopholes and held the line on taxes for the poor and middle-class has paid off.

Now, it is up to Republicans to be as responsible as Democrats were two years ago. Republicans have an opportunity to roll back Walker's Draconian gutting of SeniorCare, replace some of Walker's devastating cuts to public education and roll back Walker's job-killing \$250 million in cuts to the UW System.

With the new revenue, they can address all these areas without raising taxes on anyone.

I hope my Republican colleagues see this as an opportunity to fix Gov. Walker's devastating cuts and still treat all taxpayers fairly.

State Rep. Mark Pocan  
Madison

## CORRECTION

Our May 5 story "Two Mommies" author appears at Marquette" incorrectly stated that Lesléa Newman's children's book "Donovan's Big Day" is about a boy whose two daddies are getting married. The book is about a boy whose two mommies are getting married.

## 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

"I was the sex symbol, and I needed to dance and I needed to make girls crazy and I couldn't say that I was gay. It was a lot of struggle, and if you add to that culture, religion, society, what people say, you know, what I was feeling according to what I had in my mind, was evil."

— pop star Ricky Martin

"How many more gay people does God have to create before we ask ourselves whether or not God actually wants them around?"

— Minnesota state Rep. Steve Simon, D-St. Louis Park, defending gay marriage in an inspired speech that became a YouTube sensation.

"Arthur and I go way back to 'I Can Get It For You Wholesale' in 1962. Then we did 'The Way We Were' in 1973, and we were about to do 'Gypsy' together. He created people you care about because he cared about people. I spoke to him a few weeks ago, and he sounded so strong, as always. He was lucky to have lived a full and creative life up till the very end. I'll miss working with him again."

— Barbra Streisand on the passing of celebrated gay writer/director Arthur Laurents on May 5 at the age of 93.

"If the administration keeps pounding its agenda through the military, we'll need the Navy SEALs to rescue marriage."

— Gay-obsessed Family Research Council head Tony Perkins calling a decision to allow gay weddings on Navy bases 'an assault on religious freedom.' After an outcry from him and other right-wing extremists, the Pentagon suspended the policy.

"So when I was about 13 or 14, I realized I was attracted to women and then made the assumption that I was a lesbian, and didn't realize that that wasn't the case. It was the fact that I was a man and a heterosexual man. The issue wasn't my sexual orientation, but rather my gender identity."

— Chaz Bono telling Time magazine about becoming Chaz.

"This bill is about a new energy and excitement. It's about a moment in our history that came about because people came together to work for it, because it became clear that Delaware's LGBT community is in fact part of every Delaware community."

— Delaware Gov. Jack Markell on signing into law a bill legalizing same-sex civil unions in his state.

"I think it is important in particular for Republicans to know this is a bipartisan issue. If they're Republican, they will not be abandoned by the party for supporting this. On the contrary, I think they will find that there is a whole new world of people who will support them on an ongoing basis if they support this cause."

— Conservative Republican and gay-marriage backer Daniel S. Loeb telling The New York Times he hopes to make it clear to Republicans that same-sex marriage has a broad coalition of support.

## Run, Tammy, run!

Herb Kohl's retirement from the U.S. Senate at the end of his fourth term opens the way for a rush of candidates to the wide-open race in 2012.

I'd love to see U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin make a run for the seat. She's great on all the bread-and-butter issues — LGBT and women's rights, healthcare, labor, Social Security, agriculture, clean energy, consumer rights and peace.

Plus, she'd be a refreshing alternative to the boring old usual suspects, such as Tom Barrett, whom Democratic Party bigwigs probably will promote. Having a woman and an open lesbian run for the Senate would infuse new energy into the race and attract lots of young campaign workers.

Baldwin is a great fundraiser and a vigorous campaigner. She would provide a real contrast to whatever corporate shill or wingnut the GOP puts forward. She knows how to connect with people and frames the issues well. She's smart and ambitious and, despite



whatever anti-gay crud the opposition would throw at her, I'm convinced she could overcome it and win.

I have never been a big fan of Herb Kohl, who is often described as "beloved" by the state's mainstream media. His personal fortune and name recognition, due to his family's history in the retail trade and his ownership of the Milwaukee Bucks, have fueled his success as a candidate. It certainly hasn't been his charisma or, for me, his stands on the issues. As a senator, Kohl voted for NAFTA, the PATRIOT Act and the Iraq war, and he's been a real Herbie-come-lately to LGBT rights.

In 1993, Kohl voted for "don't ask, don't tell," which allowed gays and lesbians to serve in the Armed Forces as long as they shut up (or lied) about who they were. In 1996, he voted in favor of the Defense of Marriage

## Kohl belatedly had a change of heart on LGBT issues.

Act, which defined marriage as between one man and one woman and declared that no jurisdiction would be required to honor the marriage rights of any same sex couple.

Kohl belatedly had a change of heart on both issues. He voted last year to repeal "don't ask" and recently signed on to support S598, the "Respect for Marriage Act," which would repeal DOMA. S598 faces stiff opposition from Republicans and some Democrats, so it's just the beginning of a long fight.

I shouldn't be too hard on Kohl though. He did provide me with one of the most satisfying moments in my career as a journal-

ist and activist. I attended a State AFL-CIO Women's Conference in Manitowoc in 1993 at which Kohl appeared. It was shortly after his vote for "don't ask," and some of the women there really let him have it, questioning him aggressively about his alleged commitment to civil rights. They loudly scolded him and told him he should be ashamed of himself.

I asked Kohl whether he thought the anger over his vote could be due to the perception that he might be part of our "community."

"You mean, am I gay or lesbian?" he asked. I nodded, and he shook his head and said, "No."

More important than my little coup in getting Kohl to address the long-time speculation about his sexual orientation, I will never forget how fierce those union women were in speaking truth to power and demanding accountability. The attack on unions today is designed to quash forever that type of principled opposition and it must be met with equally fierce resistance.

## Stripping away hypocritical veneer

None of the six Republican state senators facing recall this summer are friends of the LGBT community. That is clear in their repeated votes for the 2006 marriage ban and in their votes against the state domestic partnership registry in 2009.

Usually when there is so much hostility toward the LGBT community a healthy dose of hypocrisy is not far behind. One particularly glaring example of this involves Sen. Robert Cowles, R-Green Bay.

Senator Cowles was quoted in 2008 as saying, "I'd like to think that I have family values."

That was a week before it was reported that his "values" apparently didn't make it into his investment portfolio. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported that Cowles actually owned stock in two companies in the adult entertainment industry.



The first company highlighted was VCG Holding, which owns a chain of 20 strip clubs across the country. The company also has a licensing agreement with the publisher of Penthouse magazine.

The second adult entertainment company that Cowles owned stock in was Rick's Cabaret International. Rick's also has strip clubs all across the country and operates several adult-themed websites, as well as such magazines as TEEZE, Exotic Dancer and StorErotica.

Cowles admitted that he knew about his investment in strip clubs, but said that he had no idea about the other operations. This is hard to believe, given his level of

## Pro-family state Sen. Robert Cowles is heavily invested in companies that operate strip clubs throughout the country.

at such a high level.

In his 2008 SEI filing, Cowles fully disclosed his interest in VCG Holding, but he listed the more conspicuously named Rick's International Cabaret only as "Rick" on the form. The entire point of having elected officials report their financial interests is public transparency. But how was the average citizen to know what Cowles' major investment in "Rick" was really all about?

The obfuscation was likely intentional.

Most people's personal investments are no one else's business. However, elected officials who seek to impose their self-proclaimed "family values" on other people are fair game for this sort of revelation. Acting morally superior to others and claiming the mantle of "family values" while heavily investing in strip clubs smacks of blatant hypocrisy.

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## Controversial video shows spiritual longing

### Religion

ANDREW WARNER

While beauty is in the eye of the beholder, heresy is in the eye of John Boehner.

Last year U.S. Rep. Boehner, now the speaker of the house, protested a Smithsonian exhibit featuring a film by David Wojnarowicz. The film, "Fire in My Belly," created in the mid-1980s, generated controversy because of a scene showing ants crawling over a crucifix.

Now the Milwaukee Art Museum will take up the issue with a lecture and panel discussion on May 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the Lubar Auditorium (free with museum admission).

The work of Wojnarowicz, an openly gay artist who died of AIDS in 1992, formed part of a Smithsonian exhibit called "Hide/Seek: Difference and Desire in American Portraiture." The exhibit was the first major exhibit to focus on how the sexual identity of artists affected their work.

Insightful research created an exhibit that tells our story from the time of Walt Whitman through the present day. Thomas Eakins' portrait

of a young boxer opens the show: Male spectators cheer on a triumphant boxer who is nearly nude. Hidden desire glints in the eyes of the audience members, who gaze intently at the boxer's privates instead of his prize hands.

The question of what must be sublimated and what can be revealed runs throughout the show, as it looks at the changing concepts of sexual identity in America and the unique insight that LGBT artists have on America.

The banning of one element of the exhibit unintentionally demonstrated the very point of the show — that some desires must still be hidden. Boehner, voicing the concerns of the Catholic League, objected to Wojnarowicz's four-minute film because it seemed sacrilegious. Boehner found the image of ants crawling over a crucifix repulsive and insulting.

Rep. Eric Cantor said at the time, "This is an outrageous use of taxpayer money and an obvious attempt to offend Christians during the Christmas season."

The film disturbs, but not for the reasons Boehner, Cantor and the Catholic League identify. Among its many rich, symbolic images are a set of reoccurring

scenes of ants on the crucifix, a man having his lips sewn shut, blood dripping into a bowl and a broken loaf of bread sewn back together. Can one look at these images without feeling the suffering and vulnerability of Wojnarowicz as he mourned the death of his lover and grappled with his own HIV-positive diagnosis?

The spiritualism of "Fire in My Belly," which can be seen on Youtube, struck me. Ants on the crucifix captured the agony of Jesus on the cross. The jarring image of ants saved the crucifix from its staid place above an altar to return it to us as a symbol of suffering.

Even more disturbing to me was the depiction of the artist's lips sewn shut. As a Christian, my mind went to the prophecy of Isaiah used in relation to Jesus, "He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter."

That image aligned Wojnarowicz's suffering with the crucified Jesus while also expressing the way our culture silenced him. Similarly, the dripping blood — was it from Jesus, from the artist or from us? — invited us to see our own oppression in the film.

But the image that stayed with me the most shows two halves of a loaf of bread sewn back together. It looked like the bread one might use in communion when the pastor says, "This is the body of

Christ, broken for you."

Wojnarowicz depicted the brokenness healed — an enigmatic image of hope.

Instead of sacrilege, the film gave voice to a spiritual longing and desire for

God. Perhaps that was what was most controversial for Boehner, that Thomas Eakins' hidden homoeroticism was less damning than David Wojnarowicz' open spiritual longing.

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

**Unitarian Church North**, 13800 N. Port Washington Rd., 53097, 262-375-3890, [www.ucnorth.org](http://www.ucnorth.org)

**Village Church**, 130 E. Juneau Ave., 53202, 414-273-7617, [www.villagechurchmilwaukee.org](http://www.villagechurchmilwaukee.org)

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### MADISON

**Beth'El Evangelical Lutheran Church**, 101 Bethel Drive, P.O. Box 70, Poynette, WI 53955-0070

**First United Methodist Church**, 203 Wisconsin Ave., 53703-2105, 608-256-9061, [www.wisconsinumc.org/madison-firstumc/](http://www.wisconsinumc.org/madison-firstumc/)

**Plymouth Congregational UCC**, 2401 Atwood Ave., 53704, 608-249-1537, [www.pucc.org](http://www.pucc.org)

### GREEN BAY

**Angels of Hope MCC**, P.O. Box 672, Green Bay, 54305, 920-983-7452, [www.aohmcc.org](http://www.aohmcc.org), [aohchurch@netnet.net](mailto:aohchurch@netnet.net)

**Hope United Church of Christ**, 141 S. 12th Ave., Sturgeon Bay, 54235, 920-743-2701, [www.hopechurchdc.org](http://www.hopechurchdc.org)

**Union Congregational United Church of Christ**, 716 S. Madison St., 54301-3609, 920-437-9266, [www.unionucc.com](http://www.unionucc.com), [office@unionucc.com](mailto:office@unionucc.com)

### FOX VALLEY

**Fox Valley UU Fellowship**, 2600 Philip Lane, Appleton, 54915, 920-731-0849, [www.fvuuf.org](http://www.fvuuf.org)

**SS Cyril and Methodius United Independent Catholic Church**, 3499 Oakridge Road, Neenah, 54956, 920-750-4465, [www.uicchurch.homestead.com](http://www.uicchurch.homestead.com)

### KENOSHA/RACINE

**Bradford Community Church-Unitarian Universalist**, 5810 Eighth Ave., 53140, 262-656-0544, [www.bradforduu.org](http://www.bradforduu.org)

**Olympia Brown Unitarian Universalist Church**, 625 College Ave., 53403, 262-634-0659, [www.obuuc.org](http://www.obuuc.org), [mail@obuuc.org](mailto:mail@obuuc.org)

### OTHER

**First Christian Church**, 1909 Highland Ave., Janesville, 53548, 608-752-3847, [www.fccjanesville.org](http://www.fccjanesville.org)

**First Congregational UCC**, 504 Washington Ave., Sauk City, 53583, 608-643-8387, [firstucc@merr.com](mailto:firstucc@merr.com)

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation**, 421 S. Farwell St., Eau Claire, 54701, 715-834-0690, [www.uueauclaire.com](http://www.uueauclaire.com)

## Delaware gov. signs civil unions law

By Lisa Neff  
Staff writer

After signing Delaware's civil unions bill into law, Gov. Jack Markell raised the document overhead like an MVP hoists a trophy.

"This is about a new energy and a new excitement," Markell said. "It's about a moment in our history — and make no mistake, because tonight is history — that came about because people came together, because it became clear that Delaware's LGBT community is in fact part of every Delaware community. And it's also clear tonight that the greater good is served when we speak out and when we fight hard, when we see that bias or prejudice or even outdated laws attempt to lessen any one of us."

The Democratic governor signed the bill in a ceremony on May 11 at the World Cafe Live at the Queen in Wilmington, with first lady Carla Markell attending and a jubilant crowd of about 600.

The legislation allows same-sex couples to join in civil unions to gain benefits associated with marriage. It also affirms the state will recognize same-sex marriages, unions and partnerships from other states.

The governor noted how quickly Delaware advanced the equality agenda — the state enacted an anti-discrimination law as recently as 2009, followed by passage of legislation to support LGBT parents, and then the civil unions bill.

"It's become clear that in Delaware, justice and equality move one way — and that is forward," Markell said.

## Fair Wisconsin will continue fighting

**REGISTRY** from page 1 are poised to take over its defense. In December 2010, the LGBT advocacy group Fair Wisconsin won legal standing to intervene in the case with Lambda Legal as chief counsel.

"The governor's decision highlights why Fair Wisconsin and Lambda



PHOTO: COURTESY PATRICK JACKSON/DELAWARE STATE SENATE  
**Delaware Gov. Jack Markell with first lady Carla Markell after the governor signed legislation creating civil unions in the state.**

Rep. Melanie L. George, the lead sponsor of the civil unions bill in the house, said at the ceremony, "With every fiber of my being ... this is the right thing to do."

She added, "Our government stands for liberty and justice for all. We haven't always gotten it right, but we have worked to correct those missteps, and this is a major step toward correcting an inequity and injustice."

Lisa Goodman, president of the statewide LGBT civil rights group Equality Delaware beamed. "Tonight is a wonderful night," she said. "We are so grateful for the support of the governor, the general assembly and Delawareans up and down the state." Equality Delaware drafted the measure and lobbied for votes.

Couples can join in civil unions on Jan. 1, 2012.

Legal intervened in this matter," said Christopher Clark, senior staff attorney in Lambda Legal's Midwest regional office in Chicago. "The domestic partnership law is plainly constitutional." "The limited protections provided by domestic partnerships are essential in allowing committed same-sex couples to care for each other in times of need," said Katie Belanger, executive director of Fair Wisconsin. "Fair Wisconsin will continue to fight for the more than 1,700 couples who have already registered as domestic partners, and for those who may do so in the future."

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# Presbyterians clear way for gay clergy

By Rachel Zoll

AP writer

After decades of debate, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on May 10 struck down a barrier to ordaining gays, ratifying a proposal that removes the celibacy requirement for unmarried clergy.

The change was endorsed last year by the Presbyterian national assembly, but required approval by a

majority of the denomination's 173 presbyteries, or regional church bodies.

The Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, based in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn., cast the deciding 87th vote late May 10. Sixty-two presbyteries have voted against the measure and balloting will continue, but the majority needed for ratification was secured in Minnesota.

"It's a thrilling day," said Sylvia Thorson-Smith, an elder at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church in Tucson, Ariz., whose family advocates for gays and lesbians in the church. She invited 40 people to her house for a party after the vote was announced. "I can't help but think of those who have worked and suffered and endured and hoped for this. Some have not lived to see it."

Differences over the Bible and homosexuality have split Protestant groups nationally and worldwide for years. Within the Presbyterian Church, about 100 of the 11,000 congregations had already broken away ahead of the vote, but a group of large theologically conservative congregations, which calls itself Fellowship, has decided to remain in the denomination for now.

Top Presbyterian executives issued a statement to the church acknowledging that "some will rejoice while others will weep" at the decision.

The measure approved

eliminates language in the church constitution requiring that clergy live "in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman, or chastity in singleness." The new provision instead requires ministers to "submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life."

Each regional body will decide whom it should ordain, and some districts are expected to continue to reject gay and lesbian candidates.

Highland Park Presbyterian Church in Dallas will send a letter to its nearly 5,000 members reaffirming the

congregation's commitment to traditional marriage and celibacy for unmarried clergy. The church has formed a task force to study the impact of the new policy.

"While this change is deeply troubling, it does not change (Highland Park church)," the Highland Park senior pastor and elders wrote in the letter. "We have the freedom and the responsibility to continue upholding biblical standards for church officers."

The 2.1 million-member denomination, based in Louisville, Ky., is the latest mainline Protestant group to move toward accepting same-gender relationships.

## Conservatives bankroll N.Y. gay marriage push

Some of the wealthiest financial donors to the Republican Party are bankrolling the campaign to legalize same-sex marriage in New York, The New York Times reported May 13.

According to the newspaper, two-thirds of the funds raised by the campaign so far have come from a group of conservative financiers and wealthy GOP supporters. The donors include Paul E. Singer, a hedge fund manager and top-tier Republican donor, as well as financiers Steven A. Cohen and Clifford S. Asness.

Singer's involvement is the most striking, NYT said. The chairman of the Manhattan Institute, a right-leaning research group, Singer is also

one of the most generous Republican donors in the country.

But Singer also has a gay son who married his partner in Massachusetts.

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who has been a major contributor to senate Republicans in New York, also is getting in on the act. He's given the campaign at least \$100,000 of his own money, hosted a fundraiser and lobbied lawmakers in Albany.

The conservative donors say that legalizing same-sex marriage is consistent with conservative principles of personal liberty and small government. Their contributions are financing an intensive campaign of television

- WiG

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# House committee backs anti-repeal measure

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

The House Armed Services Committee recently passed a defense spending bill containing an amendment intended to delay the repeal of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

Iraq war veteran Duncan Hunter, a Republican from California, proposed the amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act.

Enacted in 1993, "don't ask, don't tell" bans gay and lesbians from serving openly in the Armed Forces. Congress passed legislation repealing the policy in late 2010, which the president signed. However, the Defense Department is still in the process of implementing the repeal, and legal advisors continue to caution gay ser-



PHOTO: COURTESY

Rep. Duncan Hunter.

vicemembers against coming out.

Hunter's amendment would not void the repeal, but it could slow the process. He proposed that all the service chiefs certify that repealing DADT won't impact military readiness. The current repeal

process requires the defense secretary and the chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to certify DADT's repeal.

Additional amendments to the defense bill would prohibit the use of Defense Department facilities for same-sex marriages, even in states where same-sex marriage is legal.

U.S. Rep. Todd Akins, R-Mo., introduced the proposal that would ban the use of military facilities for same-sex ceremonies.

The defense bill is now headed to the floor in the House, where the GOP is the majority party and where civil rights advocates count a lot of "yes" votes.

However, the amendments aren't likely to find wide support in the Senate.

Alexander Nicholson,

a former Army interrogator and the director of

Servicemembers United, said the offering of the amend-

ments was "a shameful and embarrassing waste of time."

## NAVY RETREATS ON SAME-SEX UNIONS

The Navy on May 11 reversed course on a decision to allow chaplains to perform same-sex unions in states that recognize such relationships.

Rear Adm. Mark Tidd, in a one-sentence memo, stated that his decision to allow Navy chaplains to officiate at same-sex unions was "suspended until further notice pending additional legal and policy review and interdepartmental coordination."

Tidd's announcement followed complaints from GOP lawmakers who complained that allowing chaplains to perform same-sex union ceremonies violated the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act.

Responding to the Navy's retreat, Alexander Nicholson of Servicemembers United said: "At a time when the economy still needs attention, Osama Bin Laden was just killed and revolution and conflicts continue to rage across a fragile Middle East, having policy makers spend valuable and limited time on whether a few gay couples may or may not use a Navy facility for a private ceremony at some point in the future is just plain silly."



PHOTO: COURTESY

Rear Adm. Mark Tidd

# Justice Department delays gay deportations

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder has asked an immigration panel to reconsider the case of a gay man cleared for deportation.

Holder's request stalled the expulsion of Irishman Paul Wilson Dorman, who is in a civil union with a U.S. citizen.

The decision also put the brakes on the deportation of a Venezuelan man who married a U.S. man in Connecticut.

Dorman and John Paul Frederick were joined in a civil union in New Jersey in 2009. The two became a couple in 1997.

Had the 50-year-old Dorman married a female U.S. citizen, he would be eligible to remain in the country. However, the U.S. Board of Immigration Appeals denied Dorman's application for residency and ruled for his deportation citing the Defense of Marriage Act, which defines

marriage as the union of a man and a woman. The law also prohibits federal recognition of same-sex relationships.

Holder took the rare action of vacating that decision and asking the board to review the case. This could lead to a reversal of the decision, and, in the short-term, delays Dorman's deportation.

Holder asked the panel to consider whether Dorman would be considered the spouse of a U.S. citizen if

not for DOMA, which a conservative Congress enacted in 1996. In February, the attorney general announced that the Justice Department would cease defending the DOMA provision withholding federal recognition of legal same-sex marriages.

Specifically Holder directed the board to answer: • Whether Dorman's same-sex partnership or civil union qualifies him to be considered a "spouse"

under New Jersey law. • Whether, absent the requirements of DOMA, Dorman's same-sex partnership or civil union would qualify him to be considered a "spouse" under the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act.

• What, if any, impact the timing of Dorman's civil union should have on his request for that discretionary relief. The second case involves Henry Velandia of Venezuela

and Josh Vandiver of Colorado, who married in Connecticut in 2010.

On May 6, an immigration judge in New Jersey put Velandia's deportation on hold until December to await a final ruling in the Dorman case.

Activists said Holder's decision may have resulted from pressure by a coalition of lawmakers led by John Kerry and Patrick Leahy in the Senate and Zoe Lofgren in the House.

## 'There's a very good chance she would win and we would have the first out senator'

**BALDWIN** from page 1 milestone for the community," Belanger said. "And the fact that she really is an incredibly viable candidate means there's a very good chance that she would win, and we would have the first out senator in the entire country."

Dison said that having an out LGBT person in the Senate would create "a tremendous opportunity to educate other members."

"The Senate is a much more close-knit legislative body than the House," Dison said. "To have somebody in the Senate ranks from our community to develop those relationships and friendships is going to be a game changer in terms of having people

understand what the community is really about, not only on her side of the aisle but the other side. She would be our public face in the Senate, and that's something we've never had before."

Baldwin made history in 1998 when she became the first out non-incumbent ever elected to the House of Representatives. While she said she's aware of the difference it would make for LGBT people throughout the country if she were elected to the U.S. Senate, Baldwin added that if she runs it will be for all of the people of Wisconsin.

"Wisconsin is my home, and I love the state and its people," she said. "This is a time politically when we

need someone who can bring people together. I want to see the state and our country flourish again."

Dison said that if Baldwin runs, she could count on significant support from the Victory Fund and its national network of donors. In 1998, the organization raised \$250,000 for Baldwin's congressional election, and in 2009 it raised \$400,000 for Anise Parker's successful Houston mayoral campaign.

Baldwin could count on considerably more for a U.S. Senate campaign, Dison added.

"It would be a top priority for us," he said. "The LGBT community nationwide would be so excited about this race. People love

her. She's a true hero of the community. She's going to have the support of women, of pro-choice groups and of labor. I think she could put together a really, really strong campaign."

Most pundits believe that Baldwin would be a formidable candidate. Although her congressional district includes the state's liberal bulwark of Madison, it is somewhat of a microcosm of Wisconsin. A demographic checkerboard, the Second Congressional District is one-third urban, one-third suburban and one-third rural. Before Baldwin was elected, a Republican represented the district.

Baldwin has consistently earned comfortable re-election margins of more than 60 percent, proving she can connect with dairy farmers



PHOTO: COURTESY TAMMYBALDWIN.HOUSE.GOV

**U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin marches with civil rights activist Jesse Jackson at a workers' rights rally in Madison in March.**

and soccer moms as well as students and government workers.



# Uganda's anti-gay bill delayed amid outcry

From AP and WIG Reports

Uganda's Parliament on May 11 was forced to drop plans to debate a controversial bill that once proposed the death penalty for some gays and lesbians.

U.S. leaders and rights groups have denounced the bill in hopes Parliament will reject it. Internet petitions have gathered more than 1.4 million signatures.

The bill was first proposed in 2009, but wasn't debated until earlier this month. It had been scheduled to be debated before the full Parliament on May 11. But a walkout by female legislators over an unrelated bill prevented Parliament from discussing it.

Now Parliament appears ready to hold an extraordinary session to debate the bill. Its author, David Bahati, has said a new version would not contain the death penalty, but no amended version was

released publicly.

Frank Mugisha, the director of Sexual Minorities Uganda, a gay rights group, said he considered the lack of quorum a temporary reprieve.

"The way I saw, if the bill was debated today, it would have been passed because most MPs were in its favor," he said. "We were saved by the lack of quorum."

Online petitions from the groups Avaaz and Allout said they had gathered more than 1.4 million signatures. Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch called the bill's progress deeply alarming. A U.S. congressman said if the bill passes he would urge huge cuts in international aid, and the U.S. State Department again voiced its opposition.

Gay rights groups say the harassment of gays has increased in Uganda since

the introduction of the bill in October 2009.

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

Bahati's original bill would mandate a death sentence for active gays living with HIV or in cases of same-sex rape. "Serial offenders" also would face capital punishment. 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 gays also could get seven years.

If the bill is picked up by the next session, some, all or none of those provisions could change during Parliament negotiations.

Homosexuality is highly unpopular in Uganda, and pastors in this Christian country speak out loudly against it.

U.S. Rep. Barney Frank

said in a statement May 10 he was disturbed that Parliamentarians were again discussing the bill. He said if it becomes law that he would urge the U.S. government to oppose any aid to Uganda from international institutions that the U.S. belongs to, such as the World Bank and African Development Bank.

Avaaz, an Internet group that champions action on

issues such as poverty and climate change, said it had collected more than 1 million Internet signatures from people opposed to the bill. The group wants Parliament to reject the bill or Uganda's president to veto it if it passes.

"We've helped stop this bill before, and we can do it again," the group's website said.

## INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

### UN DECRIES HOMOPHOBIA

The United Nations, marking International Day Against Homophobia, released a pamphlet and video decrying anti-gay discrimination and violence in the world.

IDAH is observed annually on May 17 - the date chosen to commemorate the World Health Organization's decision in 1990 to remove "homosexuality" from its list of mental health disorders.

The video explores hate crimes in the United States, Brazil, Honduras and South Africa. The brochure emphasizes that LGBT civil rights are not "special rights."

### SOUTH AFRICAN LESBIANS TARGETED IN RAPES, SLAYINGS

They found Noxolo Nogwaza's body in a drainage ditch choked with trash and high reeds. The lesbian activist had been repeatedly stabbed with broken glass and beaten so severely with chunks of concrete that her teeth had been knocked out.

Activists say the death here late last month highlights an alarming rise in homophobic violence in some of the country's most impoverished areas.

South Africa's Ministry of Justice announced in early May that it wants to open special shelters for people

who fear for their lives because of their sexual orientation. But the governing party's women's league says the government must go further. It wants lawmakers to classify these attacks as hate crimes.

The assaults on lesbians have been called "corrective rapes." They're meant to humiliate and punish women who don't fit the norm. Some attackers have reportedly said they believed they could "cure" women of being lesbians by raping them. Victims include a 13-year-old girl who was assaulted in Pretoria.

Some 30 attacks have been documented since 2003. They have steadily increased over the years. But the real number is likely higher because victims can be reluctant to come forward for fear of being stigmatized or blamed and because the motives of murders aren't always known or recorded.

### BRAZIL'S TOP COURT APPROVES CIVIL UNIONS

Brazil's Supreme Court ruled that civil unions between same-sex couples must be allowed in this nation with more Roman Catholics than any other.

In a 10-0 vote, with one abstention, the justices said gay couples deserve the same legal rights as heterosexual pairs when it comes to ali-

mony, retirement benefits of a partner who dies, and inheritances, among other privileges.

The ruling sets a judicial precedent that must be honored by all public institutions, including notary publics where civil unions must be registered.

"This is a historic moment for all Brazilians, not just homosexuals. This judgment will change everything for us in society - and for the better," said Marcelo Cerqueira of the gay rights group Grupo Gay da Bahia. "Gays, lesbians and transsexuals will be recognized as being more human. We'll be more accepted by having our rights honored."

### CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON EQUALITY IN BALKANS

The California-based Williams Institute will hold a four-day conference in Belgrade, Serbia, on "Justice in the Balkans: Equality for Sexual Minorities" later this month.

The conference will feature scholars with the think tank, as well as the U.S. ambassador to Serbia, retired justices from Australia and Poland, the chief of the delegation of the European Commission in Belgrade and activists with a number of LGBT equal rights organizations.

- from AP and WIG Reports

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# SF Giants to create 'It Gets Better' video

The San Francisco Giants are to become the first major sports team to make an "It Gets Better" video, reported SF Weekly.

The video campaign, created by syndicated columnist Dan Savage, is designed to encourage LGBT youth who are victims of bullying and harassment. A number of celebrities and political leaders, including President Barack Obama and Secretary

of State Hillary Clinton, have participated in the project.

The Giants' decision came in response to an online petition campaign generated by change.org, according to Staci Slaughter, spokeswoman for the Giants. More than 6,500 people have signed it so far.

Slaughter told SF Weekly that the team was already considering doing an "It Gets Better" video even before the online petition.

Sean Chapin, a Giants fan, started the petition after Atlanta Braves pitching coach Roger McDowell accosted Giants fans last month at AT&T Park, asking the men if they were "homos." He then took a baseball bat and simulated gay sex in front of the men and their young daughters.

McDowell was suspended, fined and required to take sensitivity training. "Professional sports is one

of the few remaining pockets of strong homophobia in our country," the petition states. "That's why I am calling our the San Francisco Giants and their players to produce a video for the 'It Gets Better Project.' Should the team make a video to tell our LGBT youth that it does get better, the Giants may catalyze a watershed moment in professional sports."

— from wire reports



PHOTO: COURTESY Giants fan Sean Chapin



# NBA's Phoenix Suns president comes out

Tired of the emotional toll of sidelining his personal life, Phoenix Suns president and CEO Rick Welts took a jump shot out of the closet in an article May 15 in The New York Times.

PHOTO: COURTESY Phoenix Suns president and CEO Rick Welts

"This is one of the last industries where the subject is off limits," Welts told the newspaper. "Nobody's comfortable in engaging in a conversation."

Welts is believed to be the first man in a prominent position in men's sports to come out of the closet, according to ESPN.

In addition to acknowledging his sexual orientation to NYT, Welts met recently with friends and sports associates to let them know what was coming. All expressed strong support.

NBA commissioner David Stern was not surprised by the revelation. "What I didn't say at the

time was: I think there's a good chance the world will find this unremarkable," Stern told The Times. "I don't know if I was confusing my thoughts with my hopes."

Welts also talked to Suns guard Steve Nash, Hall of Famer Bill Russell and founding WNBA president Val Ackerman.

"Anyone who's not ready for this needs to catch up," Nash said. "He's doing anyone who's not ready for this a favor."

Welts told NYT he wants to mentor other gay people who seek to pursue a career in sports.

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# LEATHERMAN: an interview with IML founder Chuck Renslow's biographer

Interview

GREGG SHAPIRO

Chuck Renslow is a living legend in the LGBT community. Now in his 82nd year, the Chicago-based leather icon has lived a full life. He's been a bar owner, photographer, political activist, newspaper publisher and more.

Renslow's social and cultural influence stretches far beyond the Windy City. Each year, thousands of people flock to Chicago over Memorial Day weekend for International Mister Leather or IML. It was inevitable that Renslow's story would

be told. I spoke with Owen Keehnen, co-author of "Leatherman: The Chuck Renslow Story" (Prairie Avenue Productions, 2011), shortly before the publication of his book.

Gregg Shapiro: You interviewed Renslow years before this biography project.

Owen Keehnen: It was probably, I think, 15 years ago that I interviewed him. It was for an online leather blog that someone was doing. What struck me actually, in interviewing him that time, was the scope of his experience. That he had done the (Kris) physique photography studio, that he'd done

the Gold Coast (bar), that he'd been involved in politics, that he'd been involved in the (news)paper, it was just basically the scope of what you were talking about.

He's done a lot of living over the years.

Oh yeah, a lot. Capitalized, italicized (laughs)!

Why is the time right now for a Chuck Renslow bio?

So many of the people from that era, which just was this amazing, vibrant (time) — the '60s, the '70s, gay liberation, all of that stuff — there aren't a whole lot of people left. It was a population that was decimated by AIDS, and now it's sort



International Mr. Leather returns to Chicago's Hyatt Regency Hotel May 26-30. For the full schedule of events, go to www.imrl.com.

of a population that's threatened by a lot of other things. And it was just important for this story to be preserved.

Was Chuck a willing subject?

Oh yes, yes. Chuck approached us to write his life story. He wanted to tell it — wants and all. In this book we include interviews with so many people. (It's) interesting hearing the tales from a lot of different perspectives.

He's a good storyteller. Every single day of working on this project, I would either gasp or laugh or just say, "Oh, this is really cool." I never had a day of researching him where it was like, oh, you know, just another boring story from Chuck. It was never like that.

What were some things that you were surprised to learn about him?

You have this vibrant businessman and leather man who is out and ... he's very aggressive and he's known as the dominant-dominant top. And at the same time

he also is an amazing gourmet cook, raised orchids and ... he has this amazing paternal side. Like he always is wanting to protect and take care of people. I'd say probably his loyalty is really the most defining characteristic. He's like a daddy bear.

Are there things about Renslow that readers will be surprised to learn?

Oh, God, yes. There's this stuff with the leather scene, and there's this stuff politically that's going on, there's this stuff with the paper, there's this stuff with the bars — and at the same time he's having this spiritual life that's going on.

And then over it all is ... the "family," which is this created family he had of friends and lovers that were amazingly important to him. They had this incredible home life. So, all that's going on at the same time. I think people who are close to him are even going to be surprised by a lot of this stuff.

Who is the audience for the book?

People interested in

the history of leather, the Leather Archives and Museum crowd. People interested in gay history, people interested in political history. People who are just interested in a really good story, where you read it and say, "Oh my God, that's living." I think the thing that makes this book so exciting is that it really is bigger than any sort of marketing niche you can put it in.

Prior to this bio, you wrote a series of "Starz" books in which you interviewed gay male pornstars. Will the Renslow book appeal to that readership?

Well, one of the members of Chuck's extended family is (pornstar) Jeff Stryker. And there are connections with pornstars from dancing at Man's Country, from the sexual atmosphere at The Gold Coast and the Eagle, so I think that would appeal to that set. But I think this is a lot deeper. You're capturing an era more than like a sexual snapshot.



Leather icon Chuck Renslow.

PHOTOS: COURTESY



# Jim Nutt exhibit sparks new admiration

By Debra Brehmer

I never liked Jim Nutt's work. Emerging in the early 1960s in Chicago as part of what became the Hairy Who movement, Nutt spent two decades or more making cartoony paintings, often on shiny surfaces (Plexiglas or metal). Bad boy compositional antics of distorted, kooky figures with orifices, sexual peculiarities, hairy armpits, amputated limbs, warts and wounds felt like one-part carnival, one-part bored school boy doodles. The paintings held a strange set of double offenses — too goofy and too fussily crafted.

Then in the late 1980s, Nutt started painting what could be construed as portraits. He bled his previous figurative works of narrative, dropped the jokes and just painted women's faces in three-quarter profile. Of course, they were Jim Nutt faces — angular, asymmetrical, misused. He painted these portraits with the austere care applied to early Northern Renaissance works, a la Jan Van Eyck with his tiny brush and glazed surfaces or Hans Memling with his delight in delineating each eyelash and wrinkle.



PHOTO: COURTESY

"Lippy" by Jim Nutt.

These later Jim Nutt portraits didn't interest me much either, but I had only seen them in reproduction where they looked flat and stylized.

In the past few years, Nutt and company, known broadly as the Chicago Imagists, have slowly risen out of their Midwest farm camp. A show of Ed Paschke's work was curated by his former student Jeff Koons and shown

at Gagosian Gallery in New York a year ago to much acclaim. Roger Brown, Gladys Nilssen (Nutt's wife), Don Baum and Barbara Rossi are now being recognized as important cultural conduits of the 1960s and '70s. They drew from broad influences: popular culture, self-taught

art and underground comics as well as art history and politics.

This group now seems particularly absorbent of the crosswinds one might expect to feel in the middle regions of the country, where pop art was fertilized by surrealism and took on a decidedly odd

countenance.

I went to Jim Nutt's current show at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago (through May 29) because a friend who is a huge fan of Nutt's told me I must. He advised that it is best to proceed backwards, beginning at the end of the show with the

newest paintings.

Approaching the first portrait painting from 2010 called "Trim," I leaned in to take a look. The scale of these works is modest at 25 x 24 inches. What immediately surprised me was the surface beauty of the paintings. No reproduction can come close to duplicating the nuanced, delicate patterns, shapes and fragile colors. Nutt demands that we engage in an intimate stance, a true relationship, one-on-one, with these strange beauties' physicality. The paintings then reward our undivided attention with compacted virtuosity.

Nutt only makes one of these paintings a year and, surprisingly, uses acrylic paint. It is no stretch to say that at age 72, he has achieved some kind of master status and that these paintings are the contemporary, twisted equivalents of the greatest early Northern Renaissance portraits.

It is not the image of the face that speaks, but the skilled paint handling, with its gracefully woven complex geometries and minute patterns. Small passages chock full of pure poetic beauty abound. An oddly shaped hank of hair reminiscent of Ren and Stimpy cartoons in "Plumb" (2004) rises to a bald knoll where a lone black hair gracefully and humorously juts skyward. On the other side, the hair flips up in a perfect balanced oppositional pull and shimmers with highlight patterns.

The surfaces of these paintings read almost more like landscapes than faces. Each planar shift from the odd

geometry of skewed noses, to the curves and gentle cubist loops of invented physiognomy, feels like rich terrain that we drive through very slowly so not to miss one sublime passage. The faces glow with their own internal, nearly phosphorescent light. Control and grace are the operational forces, as well as a skill set accumulated from 50 years of determined study.

The exhibition allows us to witness how evolutionary Nutt's development has been. Even in his earliest 1960s cartoony work, we see the interest in persona and human form and the painstaking insistence on craftsmanship; an outmoded concern that brings renewed pleasure.

In a catalog essay from the Museum of Contemporary Art's previous Jim Nutt show in 1999, historian Robert Storr wrote that the portraits are "countenances that blossom like chiaroscuro orchids." He also stated that: "Once seen, good painting is not forgotten."

This is the heart of the show: Really good painting is almost a shock to the system. It lingers and creates an appetite for more.

In addition to "Jim Nutt: Coming into Character," which runs through May 29, a related exhibition across the hall, "Seeing is a Kind of Thinking: A Jim Nutt Companion," offers work by 50 contemporary artists whose work resonates with Nutt's. This smartly curated endeavor helps open up the broader context of these paintings and places Nutt within many other spheres of production and influences.



PHOTO: COURTESY

From David Wojnarowicz's "A Fire in My Belly"

## Artwatch

KAT MURRELL

A head's up for a very important art event coming our way. On May 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the Milwaukee Art Museum, one of the curators from the controversial exhibition "Hide/Seek: Difference and Desire in

American Portraiture" will discuss the show and the issues it stimulated. Jonathan D. Katz, chair of the visual studies doctoral program at SUNY Buffalo, is probably the country's foremost LGBT scholar in the field of art history.

"Hide/Seek" was an exhibition that ran Oct. 30, 2010,-Feb. 13 at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. It was the first exhibition at a major American

museum in more than 20 years to address the theme of same-sex desire. Despite the high level of scholarship and rigorous research, the show came under assault by the Catholic League and conservative members of Congress because of David Wojnarowicz's video, "A Fire in My Belly," which included footage of ants on a crucifix. The video was removed from the exhibition. For many, this was a

wound reminiscent of right-wing Sen. Jesse Helms' 1989 assault on the Robert Mapplethorpe show.

Katz's lecture at MAM is sponsored by Joseph Pabst and the Fine Arts Society of MAM.

Do not miss this important event. It is an honor for Milwaukee to the support this exhibition and assist in furthering the conversation about identity issues in art.

# Cumming takes his musical act to Chicago

## Interview

GREGG SHAPIRO



PHOTO: COURTESY

Alan Cumming does it all. He sings and dances in Broadway musicals. He writes and performs his own songs and interprets songs by others. He's a novelist and an actor, on both the big and small screens.

A man of many voices, the Scottish-born Cummings nails a Chicago accent for his role as Eli Gold in CBS' "The Good Wife." And he even had his own line of "Cumming" personal care and grooming products.

I spoke with Cumming in May, shortly before his concert appearance at the Harris Theater in Chicago.

**Gregg Shapiro: Your 2009 debut disc is derived from your stage show of the same name — "I Bought A Blue Car Today." Is your concert a recreation of the show?**

Alan Cumming: The show's kind of evolved since I did it first. There are new songs and new stories. (I) still (perform) quite a lot of songs from the album and I sing some new ones. The overriding theme of the show is me having come to live in America and taking my citizenship test. That's still the same.

**The songs on "I Bought A Blue Car Today" are wonderfully varied. Not surprisingly, you included songs from stage mus-**

**icals, such as "Mein Herr" from "Cabaret," in which you appeared. Why did you also choose selections from "Chess" and "Hedwig and the Angry Inch"?**

I don't do the "Chess" song ("Where I Want To Be") anymore. I haven't sung that in a while. I did ("Wig In a Box/Wicked Little Town") because I wanted to do something from "Hedwig." During the show I get to sing songs by people I really like and admire and I tell the story of how I met ("Hedwig" writer) John Cameron Mitchell when I first came to New York. I

love the idea that I'm singing a song that really should be sung by a German transsexual and I'm singing it as me. I love all that mash-up of ideas and things. And it rocks out, that song.

**You also cover songs by an array of legendary pop songwriters, including Cyndi Lauper, Jimmy Webb, Dory Previn and Barry Mann & Cynthia Weil. What was involved in the song selection process of those songs?**

The main thing was if I connected to them on some

sort of emotional level. That was really the bottom line. I didn't choose songs thinking, "Oh, I'm going to have a broad wave to show my eclecticism or range or whatever." I just chose songs that I liked and I felt I could bring something to, that my singing of it would be good and that people would be interested and I would be interested. All of the songs tell some kind of story. I still sing the Dolly/Mika mixture ("Here You Come Again/My Interpretation"), but I haven't done the Cyndi one for a while. I've got this really lovely medley of Elvis Costello's

"I Still Have That Other Girl" with "Losing My Mind" by Stephen Sondheim. That's really good.

**There is humor to be found in songs such as "Thinking of You" and "Beautiful." Was it important for you to include that aspect of your personality?**

In a way, what was scary about doing this show is that it's me. It's not a character. I'm being very honest and open. That's a scary thing to do. So the (song) choices are a reflection of that. I laugh a lot and I find things

hilarious. And part of the whole reason I thought this show might be interesting to people is my take on my life here in America and things that have happened to me. I think humor is a great way of sharing ideas and provoking people. Humor for me is a weapon and a cushion.

**"The Good Wife," the TV series in which you portray Eli Gold, is set in Chicago. Do you plan on checking out any of the locations from the series while you are in town?**

I don't know if they actually exist. I think they're all fictitious (laughs). I don't think I'll find a Lockhart Gardner (law firm on "The Good Wife"). I came to Chicago for the film festival last fall while I was shooting "The Good Wife." It was actually funny to be there and think, "I'm playing someone from here and I pretend to be here all the time," and I'm going around in the car thinking, "Ooh, what's this? Where are we?" I met people in Chicago who asked if we did location shooting in Chicago, and I said, "No." They insisted that we did. And I said, "No, we shoot everything in New York."

**You will be in Chicago the same weekend as the International Mr. Leather festivities. Any chance that you will be checking out the events while you're in town?**

Hello! I love to support the community. And I love a man in leather. Talk about timing!

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## Classic novel comes to life in Off the Wall show

### Theater

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

Even in Fyodor Dostoyevsky's time, bad things happened to good people. Based on the narrative in Off the Wall Theatre's stage adaptation of the Russian author's novel "The Idiot," which opens May 19, perhaps the only place a saint can be safe is in a sanitarium.

The Milwaukee company's adaptation of Dostoyevsky's tragic comedy ratchets the drama, humor, pathos and even music to high levels common to Russian literature, according to artistic director Dale Gutzman. He also believes a stage version of the 19th century Russian classic may be the best way to experience it.

"A stage version lifts the essence of the books and presents them in ways to which people can relate," Gutzman says. "They're part soap opera, part romance and lots of social and cultural drama. Most of all, they're

meditations on who we are, what life is about, our reason for being and our obligations to each other."

"The Idiot" chronicles the social journey Prince Lev Nikolayevich Myshkin (Eric Nelson) undertakes on his return to Russia after four years in a Swiss sanitarium. Prince Myshkin has epilepsy, but he is also naive, trusting and full of generosity and goodness. These are characteristics that isolate him from St. Petersburg society, earning him the scorn of those around him and his "idiot" sobriquet.

As corrupt members of all classes whirl around him, the fair Prince Myshkin finds himself caught between his affections for beautiful Nastassya Filippovna (Stephanie Staszak), a fallen woman and now paragon to the dark, worldly Parfyon Rogozhin (Jeremy Welter), and Aglaya Yepanchin (Jacqueline Roush), the beautiful, innocent daughter of a distant relative. The pot boils around the various love triangles, resulting in conflict, betrayal and, ultimately, a death that changes the lives



PHOTO: COURTESY  
Jeremy Welter and Eric Nelson in Off the Wall Theatre's production of "The Idiot."

of the remaining characters.

Scholars have labeled "The Idiot" as a classic struggle between good and evil, identifying Prince Myshkin with Christ and Rogozhin with the devil. The pair is described, respectively, with light and dark references and contexts throughout the novel. What's more, "Rog" in Russian means "horn," a coincidence that lends credence to the analysis. But Gutzman finds it too simplistic, citing Dostoyevsky's interpretation

of the duality in each of us as the driving force behind the characterizations.

"Even Prince Myshkin causes bad things to happen by trying to be good," Gutzman says. "He shows both Rogozhin and Nastassya their potential, and he corrupts them even more because they cannot stand to be good."

The love among the four principles tends to be equally distributed among men and women and men and men, a reality that is more cultural

than sexual, Gutzman says. "Men in that part of the world are generally closer to each other than they are to women, and their love is just as passionate," he explains. "The men don't have sex, but the famous scene at the end of the book and play has the two men spending the night together under blankets hugging and holding on to each other to ward off the dawn and the rest of the world."

Off the Wall has chosen to play "The Idiot" as a tragic comedy rather than a melodrama, an interpretation Gutzman said he learned working with theater companies in Russia and the Ukraine. Music from Russian Gypsy violin pieces and Rachmaninoff fill the air, creating a mood very much like that of imperial Russia. A row of old fashioned footlights line the front of the company's small stage to support the illusion that the 14-member cast is telling a story.

Gutzman believes "The Idiot," written as an emerging middle class in Russia looked westward for inspiration and

freedom, has relevance for today's political environment.

"Our day of world domination is over, and there is huge class struggle going on," Gutzman says. "Conservatives still in power use their money and their might, they say, to keep order, but it is really to ensure their economic and cultural superiority. I believe there will be a revolution in America, and we can learn from the history of other nations how to cope with this reality."

Off the Wall Theatre's production is designed to provoke such thought. "To be exposed to Dostoyevsky's thinking and feeling and to learn from it in the safe world of art is a gift we cannot refuse," Gutzman says.

#### ON STAGE

Off the Wall Theatre's production of Dostoyevsky's "The Idiot" runs May 19-29 at 127 E. Wells St. Call 414-327-3552 or visit [www.offthewall.com](http://www.offthewall.com).

## 'No Apology' necessary for Youngblood play

### Theater

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

How in Hell would you spend your last hour on Earth if you knew you were going to die?

Chicago playwright Mickle Maher thinks he knows what Dr. John Faustus, the literary figure who sold his soul to the devil, might do, and it isn't necessarily pretty. Youngblood Theatre's production of Maher's "An Apology for the Course and Outcome of Certain Events Delivered by Doctor John Faustus on This His Final Evening," which opens May 27 in recovered space at the Pritzlaff Building, will explore the paradoxes of human nature while looking at the Faustus legend through more contemporary eyes.

"So what happens when you've reached the end of your life having received all the power you've ever want-

ed but have nothing to show for it?" asks Michael Cotey, Youngblood's artistic director who plays Faustus in this two-character production. "It's a terrifying question and one that I think deep down troubles all people."

Maher's Faustus, who shares the stage with his servant Mephistopheles (Rich Gillard) in a production directed by Edward Morgan, is a man out of his own time, Cotey says. Despite having made the deal of a lifetime, so to speak, he is filled with self-doubts and second-guesses, endlessly examining his situation for other alternatives.

"He is regretful and unapologetic, contemplative and explosive, powerful and frail," Cotey says of his character. "That's really human nature and the noise of the human mind at work."

The production, whose setting is perched at the edge of midnight on the day of Faustus' death, runs barely an hour. But Maher has created a compelling portrait in miniature of just how hol-

low even the best-laid plans can become when critically examined, according to director Morgan.

"This is a devilishly ingenious little play," says Morgan, a former Milwaukee Rep associate artistic director. "A man of letters has sold his soul for 24 years of youthful power and glory with Mephistopheles as his servant. Now he stands, clutching his diary, contemplating the meaning and the meaninglessness of his journey."

The company was particularly attracted to the Faustus interpretation by Maher, cofounder of Chicago's Theater Oobleck, because of the playwright's facility with language and his ability to make his audiences think and reflect. Youngblood last year performed Maher's "Spirits to Enforce," an homage to Shakespeare's "The Tempest," to critical acclaim as one of the best productions of Milwaukee's theater season. Cotey is hoping "An Apology" recaptures some of that same energy.

The Youngblood artistic director also feels the raw gutted space of the Pritzlaff Building well complements the narrative. The troupe has become known for performing in found space, setting Maher's previous play in the gutted remains of Miller and Campbell Costume Services.

In the case of Pritzlaff, an Italianate structure at the edge of the Third Ward built in 1875 as home to John Pritzlaff hardware company, the ravaged space provides a perfect launching pad for Faustus' forthcoming journey across the River Styx.

"The trick with found space is not making it a gimmick, but an extension of the play," Cotey says.

Youngblood has also taken the space, which is expansive, and created a more intimate setting designed to seat about 40 people.

"This is Faustus' final chance to connect, to make his mark on the world," Cotey says. "And that's what everyone strives for — to be loved and to make life mean something."

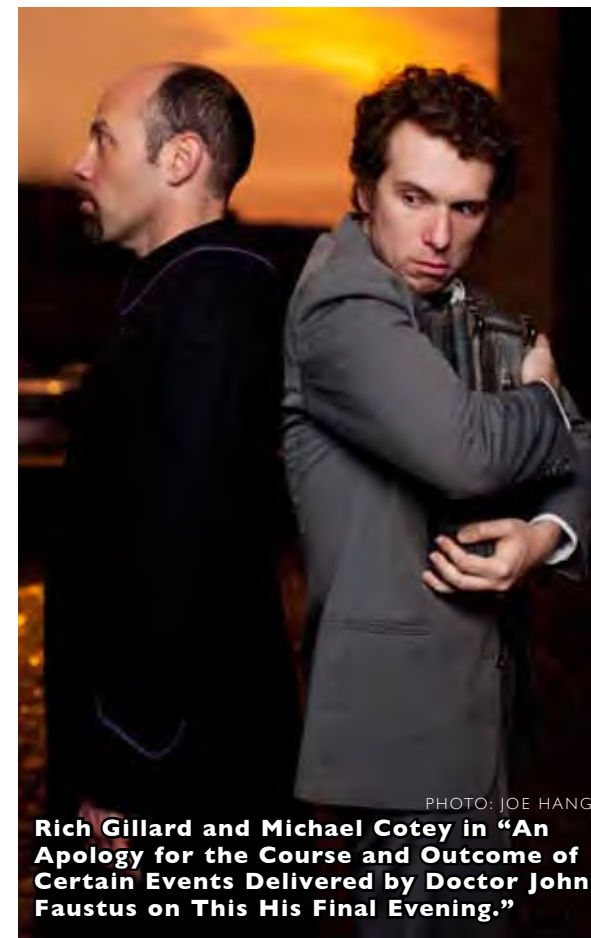


PHOTO: JOE HANG  
Rich Gillard and Michael Cotey in "An Apology for the Course and Outcome of Certain Events Delivered by Doctor John Faustus on This His Final Evening."

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# 'Pink Champagne' offers fresh look at family matters

**Theater**  
JODY HIRSH

**ON STAGE**

"Pink Champagne" plays at the Tenth Street Theatre, 628 N. 10th St., May 20-June 5. The May 20 performance is followed by a reception hosted by PFLAG. General admission is \$15. Call 414-383-3727 or go to milwaukeegay-artscenter.org.

The storyline sounds familiar: Joey, a 17-year-old kid, runs away from home and moves in with the grandparents he hardly knows, since they have long been estranged from his parents.

But we haven't quite seen this story before, because the grandparents are a gay couple, Donald and Patrick — yes, "Grandma" is a man. And Joey is a gay kid who has had enough of the bullying he's suffered and of the insensitivity of his own parents, Gene and Corrine.

The play is "Pink Champagne" by Wisconsin playwright Neil Haven. Funded by Joseph Pabst and the Milwaukee Arts Board, the production is the result of a groundbreaking collaboration between the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center and Uprooted Theatre, an African-American theater company.

"This production is our largest collaboration to date," says MGAC executive director Paul Masterson. "It is a large-scale production produced with an African-American theater, with Equity

actors and in an offsite venue, the Tenth Street Theatre. We're hoping that such a collaboration will be successful at reaching a diverse community, and will, in fact, help create change."

"The four founding members of Uprooted attended a staged reading of the play last year, and we loved it," says director Dennis F. Johnson, one of Uprooted Theatre's founders. "It's a very human story that focuses on coming out and family reaction, but it's just a play about people — a kind of everyman social commentary that spans three generations in one family. The fact that Joey's parents are an interracial couple is almost irrelevant. Corrine, the wife/mother/daughter-in-law just happens to be African-American. 'Pink Champagne' perfectly fulfills our mission

of bringing diverse stories to the stage."

The play is a double coming-out story (grandfather and grandson) that also deals with contemporary concerns about family, gay teens, gay seniors, bullying, parenting and other serious issues. But it's packaged in a hilarious comedy.

"We've had the luxury of the playwright, Neil Haven, being around as we've workshopped and expanded the play," Johnson says. "We've added about 45 pages to the script, including accenting the various relationship issues. There are a lot of heavy things in this show, but the humor saves us from being preachy!"

Most of the accomplished cast is well known to local theatergoers: Marti Gobel (Corrine), T. Stacy Hicks (Patrick), John Kishline (Donald), John Maclay (Gene). Also in the cast is newcomer Ari Shapiro (Joey).

"Essentially, all families have their issues and values, whether they are LGBT families, or traditional families," Masterson says. "They all have the same problems, and the same ways of dealing or not dealing with those problems."

"Pink Champagne" brings together a diverse audience by exploring those problems from a new perspective.

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DVDiva

GREGG SHAPIRO

**'LOVE & OTHER DRUGS'**

Watching "Love & Other Drugs" means never having to say you're sorry because you wanted to see more of Jake Gyllenhaal's body. Not since he threw down in a tent with the late Heath Ledger in "Brokeback Mountain" has Jake's snake gotten so much attention.

A throwback to the romantic dramas of yore, "L&OD" begins in 1996, when high-end electronics equipment salesman Jamie (Gyllenhaal) is fired for banging the boss' girlfriend. He's down, but not out for long. The charming and handsome Jamie scores a job with pharma giant Pfizer and puts his ladykiller shtick to good use, charming receptionists and nurses in Ohio River Valley doctors' offices.

Of course, falling in love is the last thing Jamie anticipates while he's racking up Zoloft sales and bedpost notches. But while shadow-



PHOTO: COURTESY

Jake Gyllenhaal in "Love &amp; Other Drugs."

ing Dr. Knight (Hank Azaria) on rounds, he meets fiercely independent Maggie (Anne Hathaway), who has been diagnosed with Parkinson's at age 26.

After a rough start, Jamie and Maggie begin a graphically depicted, no-strings-attached sexual relationship.

But that kind of intimacy is bound to lead to something more — and it does. As the couple struggles to figure out what to do about their increasingly complex feelings, Maggie's health declines.

Manipulating heart-strings between laughs and erotic interludes, "Love & Other

Drugs" feels like it could have been more. But in playing it safe, this film's creators wound up with less.

To its credit, "L&OD" isn't very kind to the pharma folks or the insurance industrial complex or the medical profession. And the movie is distinguished by featuring

the late Jill Clayburgh in her last film. Unfortunately, she deserves to be remembered for something much better.

The two disc Blu-ray includes a virtual medicine chest of extras, including deleted scenes and much more.

**'THE PEOPLE I'VE SLEPT WITH'**

In this feature directed by out filmmaker Quentin Lee, self-professed slut and bisexual Angela (Karin Anna Cheung) has her work cut out for her trying to find out who knocked her up. The tools at her disposal include gay BFF and fellow gallery/bookstore employee Gabriel (the increasingly hot Wilson Cruz) and the stack of tricks' pix that she converts into trading cards (complete with stats).

Once she decides to keep the baby, Angela is eventually able to whittle the potential number down to five, which includes a drunken tryst with Gabriel (who considers the experience further confirmation of his homosexuality) and sets out to collect DNA samples from the others. The remaining four range from suddenly dead Ron (Danny

Vasquez) and Republican politician Jefferson (Archie Kao) to "hung like a dinosaur" but boring Carlton (Randall Park) and young Alan (Chris Zylka, also recently seen as Thor in Gregg Araki's "Kaboom").

In the midst of everything, Angela also has to contend with the disapproval of her socially conservative sister Juliet (Lynn Chen, who played queer in "Saving Face") and liberal, yet paternal, advice from her father Charles (James Shigeta).

Meanwhile, Gabriel is having his own romantic crisis. After courting and connecting with cute convenience store clerk Lawrence (Rane Jameson), he almost blows it when he's caught tongue-dancing with a hot stranger in a bar. Lee (known for the well-received "Ethan Mao") has a natural touch for the rom-com genre and keeps things funny and sexy and, in spite of a touchy subject such as having unprotected sex (!), light and shiny.

DVD special features include alternative openings and ending and more.

Join the WiG community on Facebook.

## Gay filmmaker Francois Ozon talks 'Potiche'

Film

GREGG SHAPIRO

The title of the delightful new comedy "Potiche," from out French filmmaker Francois Ozon, translates as "trophy wife." That's how Suzanne (Catherine Deneuve) and her children, conservative daughter Joëlle (Judith Godrèche) and sexually ambiguous son Laurent (Jérémie Renier), begin to see her in the hours leading up to the strike at the umbrella factory run by the head of the household Robert (Fabrice Luchini). But everything changes following Robert's heart attack and Suzanne's sudden ascension to the company's helm. Funny, sexy and colorful, "Potiche" strikes all the right notes. I spoke recently with Ozon about the film.

Gregg Shapiro: "Potiche" is loosely based on the play by Pierre Barillet and Jean-Pierre Grédy. What about the story appealed to you?

Francois Ozon: I thought it was an amazing part for an actress. I loved the evolution of the character, the emancipation. And because I wanted to work again with Catherine Deneuve, I thought it was a

good opportunity to propose a new film.

"Potiche" also reunites Catherine Deneuve and Gerard Depardieu. What was it like to be a part of that?

For me it was a dream, because Depardieu and Deneuve belong to the history of the French cinema. We have seen them aging, film after film, and it is very touching to see them together. Seven films they did together. There is a magical chemistry between them.

With the story being set in 1977, was it fun to be working with the '70s fashions?

Yes, for me it was very funny. The '70s was my childhood. It was a pleasure to recreate this period and to play with my memories. I didn't try to make the film too realistic. I stylized my idea of the '70s.

Even though it's a comedy, the film tackles serious subjects, such as the changing roles of women in the 1970s and class issues. Are you ever concerned that because of the humor, the topics aren't given the respect they're due?

I think, for me, a comedy is

interesting if it's not just for laughing. The best comedies, for me, are the comedies of Billy Wilder. Very funny, very entertaining, but at the same time, there is something behind it, some great topics. When you have a message, when you want to transmit an idea to the audience, it's better to do it in a light way, with laughter. I think when you are too serious, sometimes it's difficult for the audience.

The film has a few other hot-button topics, specifically for American audiences, beginning with unions, especially in light of what has been recently occurring in Madison. Have you been following the story and do you think that the timing of the release of "Potiche" will be good for the film?

I don't know enough about American politics. But the film was a huge success in France. And the film was released at a moment when we were having big strikes (laughs). We very often have strikes in France. There were a lot of struggles between unions and politics in France when the film was released. It was funny because we realized things haven't changed since the '70s.

## Accessing 'Thor'

**REASONS NOT TO SEE "THOR":**

Chris Hemsworth: He portrays the Nordic god cum comic book character with an Aussie accent. Hemsworth (in a bad hairpiece) is not that pretty and when he's shirtless, he's not shirtless nearly long enough.

Natalie Portman: After spending the entire movie as storm-chasing scientist Jane (me Thor, you Jane, get it?), somewhere between agog and a drool, Portman should consider calling Annette Bening and graciously handing over her Oscar to the better actress.

Kenneth Branagh: the director can now get back to his Shakespearean scenery nibbling.

Your eyes: "Thor" is yet another good example of unnecessary 3D abuse (see "Monsters Vs. Aliens"). Please stop the madness — or make better fitting and more flattering 3D glasses.

Your hearing: If you see "Thor" in 3D, chances are you will also hear it in Dolby 7.1 Surround Sound. Bring earplugs. And Dramamine.

The "special effects": Didn't we already see some of these in "TRON: Legacy"? Here's an idea for a special effect: Anthony Hopkins' retirement.

**REASON TO SEE "THOR":**

Kat Dennings: As Jane's intern Darcy, she provides much needed comic relief.

PHOTO: COURTESY  
Chris Hemsworth portrays "Thor."

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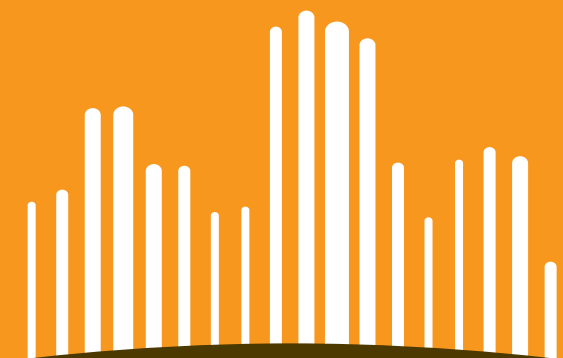
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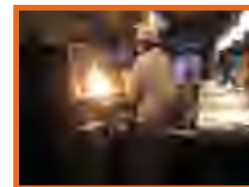
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## Music

GREGG SHAPIRO

**MARSHA AMBROSIUS**

Marsha Ambrosius, the other half of Floetry, is out with her own solo disc – “Late Nights & Early Mornings” (J). While she risks getting mired in the same monotony as her former duo-mate The Floacist, there are enough curves on the road she’s travelling to avoid highway hypnosis. Take “Hope She Cheats On You (With A Basketball Player),” which is more than just a little bitter and even mildly amusing. “Far Away,” and its accompanying must-see video address,

which speaks to the issue of bullying and suicide in the LGBT community, is another high point.

Ambrosius’ respectful cover of Portishead’s “Sour Times” is an unexpected delight, and the retro soul number “Tears” will have listeners crying out for more like it. “Chasing Clouds” is a high-flying pop tune, while she reveals her inner drama queen on “The Break Up Song.”

**BRUNO MARS**

Songwriter-turned-solo artist Bruno Mars is at the forefront of a new breed of soul singers. He sets the tone for “Doo-Wops & Hooligans” (Elektra) with the subtly explosive number “Grenade.” He then flips

another switch on the timeless “Just The Way You Are” (not the Billy Joel song).

“The Lazy Song” lives up to its name in a good way, and “Marry You” is destined to be a hit at weddings, straight and gay (where allowed by law). Mars demonstrates his way with a ballad on “Talking To The Moon,” and he’s perfectly comfortable sharing the spotlight with Cee Lo Green and B.O.B. on “The Other Side.”

**CEE LO GREEN**

Speaking of Cee Lo Green, Mars co-wrote the breakthrough hit song “Fuck You” on Green’s “The Lady Killer” (Elektra) disc. Whether you adore Cee Lo from his time in the Goodie Mob or as one half of Gnarls Barkley,

chances are this soul celebration will have you falling more deeply in love with him. Green is soul’s reigning god, but he also has a sense of humor that’s worth its weight in bling.

Ultimately it’s the combination of Green’s roof-raising vocals and a set of fantastic songs, including “Bright Lights Bigger City,” “Wildflower,” “Love Gun,” “Satisfied,” “Cry Baby,” “It’s OK” and “No One’s Gonna Love You” that make this disc such a, you guessed it, killer.

**CORINNE BAILEY RAE**

As EPs go, Corinne Bailey Rae’s five-song “The Love EP” (Capitol) is easy to, well, love. Rae kicks things off with an affectionate reading

of Prince’s “I Wanna Be Your Lover.” Then she unveils an unexpected side of herself on a grungy cover of Belly’s “Low Red Moon” before gliding into one of the steamiest readings of Bob Marley’s “Is This Love” ever recorded.

Rae wraps it up with an acoustic rendition of McCartney’s “My Love,” then slides into a languorous live version of “Que Sera Sera,” which recalls Holly Cole’s interpretation.

**NICKI MINAJ**

She’s no Janelle Monae, but Nicki Minaj is still a force to be reckoned with on “Pink Friday” (Cash Money/Universal Motown). Foul-mouthed as predecessors Lil’ Kim and Missy Elliott, Minaj isn’t afraid to go toe-to-toe with (the still homophobic) Eminem on the vicious “Roman’s Revenge” or spew rough rhymes on “Did It On ‘Em.”

Slightly schizo, Minaj wants to play the pink pop princess on “Save Me,” “Blazin” (featuring Kanye West and a Simple Minds sample), “Check It Out” (featuring will.i.am and a Buggles sample) and “Your Love” (featuring a The Lover Speaks sample).



PHOTOS: COURTESY

Nicki Minaj headlines Milwaukee Summerfest along with Britney Spears on July 9.



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MAY 19, THURSDAY

Art and Soul Innovations presents **Proud Theater: Rockin' the Rotunda!** at 7:30 p.m. tonight and tomorrow night at Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin in Madison. Call 608-204-0280.

Marcus Center for the Performing Arts presents **"Venus & Adonis"** by John Blow and **"Dido & Aeneas"** by Henry Purcell (sung in English) at 7:30 p.m. tonight and Saturday night in Vogel Hall. Call 414-273-2787.

Luigi Pirandello's **"Right You Are! (If You Think You Are!)"** runs through May 22 at Boulevard Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic. Call 414-744-5747 or visit www.boulevardtheatre.com.

"Hubble" is showing at the Humphrey IMAX Dome Theater, 800 W. Wells, through May 30.

"Souvenir," presented by Madison Theatre Guild, runs through May 21 at Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin in Madison.

La Crosse Community Theatre, 118 Fifth Ave. N in downtown La Crosse, finishes its mainstage season with the razzle-dazzle musical **"Chicago,"** through May 22. Call 608-784-9292.

The Boulevard Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic, closes its 25th anniversary season with **"Two 2 Go,"** a double-bill of one-act comedies by George Bernard Shaw and Thornton Wilder through May 29. Call 414-744-5747 or visit www.boulevardtheatre.com.

Rockin' the Rotunda!



MAY 20, FRIDAY

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center and Uprooted Theatre Company open local playwright Neil Haven's new comedy **"Pink Champagne"** at 7:30 p.m. at the Tenth Street Theatre, 628 N. 10th St. A reception hosted by PFLAG follows the performance. Tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$12 for seniors and students at the box office one hour before the performance. For information, call (414) 271-1371.

**"Adding Machine - A Musical,"** based on the play "The Adding Machine" by Elmer Rice, runs through June 12 in the Cabot Theatre at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Bon Jovi on May 21



City of Festivals Men's Chorus

MAY 21, SATURDAY

The debut concert by Milwaukee's **City of Festivals Men's Chorus**, under the direction of Ken Forney, features tunes ranging from gay anthems to bebop, with a show tune thrown in "just because," at 7 p.m. at Plymouth Church UCC, 2717 E. Hampshire.

Art and Soul Innovations presents **Proud Theater: Rockin' the Rotunda!** at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. at Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin in Madison. Call 608-204-0280.

Brewcity Bruisers host the **Midwest Brewhaha**, with 20 high-energy bouts on two regulation tracks, beginning at 9 a.m. today and tomorrow at Milwaukee County Sports Complex in Franklin.

For its 80th anniversary season, The Bel Canto Chorus of Milwaukee presents **"Give Us Peace"** at 7:30 p.m. at the Oconomowoc Arts Center, 641 E. Forest in Oconomowoc. Call 262-560-3109.

**Bon Jovi** returns to Bradley Center, 1001 N. Fourth for one night only, with no opening act (!), at 7:30 p.m. Call 414-227-0400.

MAY 22, SUNDAY

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

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

MAY 24, 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.

Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer, welcomes Bruce Dethlefsen and Marilyn Taylor for **"An Endless Skyway: Poetry from the State Poets Laureate"** at 7 p.m. Call 414-332-1181.

MAY 26, THURSDAY

Club 5 Bar, 5 Applegate Court in Madison, presents **Foxy Veronica's Peach Pies Caburlesque Show** at 10:30 p.m. Call 608-277-9700.

**International Mr. Leather** returns to Chicago's Hyatt Regency Hotel through May 30. For the full schedule of events, go to www.imrl.com.

MAY 27, FRIDAY

StageQ presents **"Queer Shorts 6,"** the sixth installment of the popular shorts play-fest, through June 4 at the Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin in Madison. Call 608-204-0280.

**Movie Night** at the SAGE Office, 1845 N. Farwell, Ste. 220, features Lisa Cholodenko's Oscar-nominated film "The Kids Are Alright" at 6 p.m.

Youngblood Theatre Company presents **"An Apology For The Course And Outcome Of Certain Events Delivered By Doctor John Faustus On This His Final Evening"** by Mickie Maher, through June 14 at The Pritzlaff Building, 143 W. St. Paul. Call 414-368-2375 or visit www.brownpapertickets.com/event/174893.

MAY 28, SATURDAY

The Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center at Taliesin, 5607 County Road C (at the intersection of Highway 23 and County Road C) in Spring Green, hosts **"Postcards of Taliesin (and other Frank Lloyd Wright Buildings),"** a free lecture and book signing with Randolph C. Henning, at 7 p.m. in the Hillside Theater. Call 608-588-7900.



Girl In A Coma

JUNE 1, WEDNESDAY

Queer trio **Girl In A Coma** performs at 8:30 p.m. at High Noon Saloon, 701A E. Washington in Madison. Call 608-268-1122.

**"Jersey Boys,"** the award-winning musical featuring the music of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons, runs through June 19 at Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave. in Appleton. Call 920-730-3760.

JUNE 2, THURSDAY

Carte Blanche Studios Theatre, 1024 S. Fifth, presents **"Titus Andronicus"** by William Shakespeare through June 19. Call 262-716-4689.

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

OUT & ABOUT



STATEWIDE BAR AND ENTERTAINMENT VENUE LISTINGS

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**GREEN BAY / FOX VALLEY**  
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**Ravens**, 215 E. College Ave., Appleton, 920-364-9599.  
**Napalese**, 1351 Cedar St., Green Bay, 920-432-9646.  
**SASS**, 840 S. Broadway, Green Bay, 920-437-7277.  
**The Shelter Club**, 730 N. Quincy St., Green Bay, 920-432-2662.  
**XS Niteclub**, 1106 Main St., Green Bay, 920-430-1301.  
**Debs Spare Time**, 1303 Harrison St., Oshkosh, 920-235-6577.  
**PJ's**, 1601 Oregon St., Oshkosh, 920-385-0442.

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**Art Bar**, 722 E. Burleigh St., 414-372-7880.  
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**Boot Camp**, 209 E. National Ave., 414-643-6900.  
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**Fluid**, 819 S. Second St., 414-643-5843.  
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**Hybrid**, 707 E. Brady St., 414-810-1809.  
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**Nut Hut**, 1500 W. Scott St., 414-647-2673.  
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**TempT**, 324 E. Mason St., 414-221-0228.  
**This Is It**, 418 E. Wells St., 414-278-9192.  
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**Tropical Niteclub**, 626 S. Fifth St., 414-460-6277.  
**Two**, 718 E. Burleigh St.  
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**Woody's**, 1579 S. Second St., 414-672-0806.

**NORTHERN**  
**Scooters**, 411 Galloway St., Eau Claire, 715-835-9959.  
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**The Flame**, 1612 Tower Ave., Superior, 715-395-0101.  
**The Main**, 1217 Tower Ave., Superior, 715-392-1756.  
**OZ**, 320 Washington St., Wausau, 715-842-3225.

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

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**Cream City Squares**, 414-445-8080, www.igagsdc.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, castawaysmnc@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.mklglt.org

**Milwaukee LGBT History Project**, 414-224-0517, www.mklgbthist.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@tcmmilw.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, ullrwolf.com/frontrunnersmke, thbolt@milwpc.com

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

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

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

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

**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@gvicc.org

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

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

**Rainbow Over Wisconsin**, 702 E.

Wisconsin Ave., Appleton, WI 54911, www.rainbowoverwisconsin.org

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

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

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

## RACINE/KENOSHA

## COMMUNITY

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

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

## SPORTS

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

## YOUTH/EDUCATION

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

## OTHER

**Baraboo LGBT Community**, barabooLGBTcommunity@gmail.com

**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, pflagmanitowoc@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

## WHAT'S GOING ON THIS WEEK?

## Peruse daily events and add yours.

[www.wisconsinngazette.com/calendar](http://www.wisconsinngazette.com/calendar)

## 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, Outwords men's book club, 2710 N. Murray Ave., 53211, 414-963-9089, www.outwordsbooks.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 Outwords Books, 2710 N. Murray Ave., 53211, 414-963-9089, www.outwordsbooks.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.

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.

## 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

Send community briefs to [lweisberg@wisconsinngazette.com](mailto:lweisberg@wisconsinngazette.com).

## PRIDEFEST SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Milwaukee PrideFest, the largest such event in the Midwest, is produced by an all-volunteer staff. Volunteer opportunities are still available for ticket scanning, security and other positions.

In addition to providing a service from which many others benefit, volunteers also receive free entry to the festival each day they work, a volunteer T-shirt, a meal ticket for each shift worked and entry into nightly drawings for great prizes.

Applications for volunteer positions are available online at [pridefest.com/index.php/volunteer/application-forms](http://pridefest.com/index.php/volunteer/application-forms).

**MILWAUKEE CENTER HOSTS TGIF MAY 20**

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center hosts TGIFs in interesting venues around the metro area on the third Friday of

every month.

It's a chance for members of the community to relax and socialize together in different restaurants and bars.

The next TGIF is 5 to 7 p.m. on May 20 at Mona's, 1407 S. First St., in Walker's Point.

## BARABOO LGBT COMMUNITY PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIP

On May 12, the Baraboo LGBT Community awarded a \$250 scholarship to a local high school student who has demonstrated a commitment to promoting respect for all, with an emphasis on LGBT issues.

The Baraboo LGBT Community is an informal group that organized in January 2010 and hosts monthly to plan a variety of social activities, including picnics, theater trips, bowling, and pot luck dinners.



## ACTOR MARK RUFFALO TO APPEAR AT FUNDRAISER IN KENOSHA

Oscar-nominated actor Mark Ruffalo appears at a fundraiser for the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin on May 21.



MILWAUKEE

# PRIDE FEST 2011



SUNDAY  
JUNE 12  
**LEANN RIMES**  
W/SPECIAL GUEST  
CHELY WRIGHT



FRIDAY  
JUNE 10  
**MO'NIQUE**



SATURDAY  
JUNE 11  
**SALT-N-PEPA**



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