

SUMMER SOUNDS

Milwaukee duo Mrs. Fun appears at Shorewood's summer music fest on Aug. 4 **Page 29**



THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

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Gay foes funnel big cash into recall races

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

An anti-gay extremist group is pouring big money into commercials for GOP senators facing recall elections on Aug. 9.

Wisconsin Family Action has spent at least \$304,000 in recent weeks on broadcast ads smearing the Democratic opponents of two right-wing state senators. That's a remarkable level of spending for the small evangelical group, according to political observers.

Although WFA is not required by law to disclose individual donors, contributors are likely to be some of the same out-of-state groups that are shoveling cash into Wisconsin senate races at levels never before seen in the state, observers said.

WFA is an evangelical Christian group headed by Julaine Appling, a never-married woman who lives with her lifelong companion, Diane Westphall, in a home they own jointly in Watertown. The two also work side by side at WFA.

But despite the marital status of its leaders, WFA's stated mission is to bolster the institution of "traditional" marriage. The group works to achieve this goal exclusively by fighting legal recognition of gay and lesbian relationships.

Appling spearheaded the successful 2006 campaign to amend the state's constitution to ban same-sex marriage and civil unions in the state. She's currently mounting legal challenges aimed at revoking the domestic partner registry law signed by former Gov. Jim Doyle.

Yet the commercials paid for by WFA never mention gays, abortion or any other right-wing social issues. In fact, WFA's most frequently aired ad attacks the driving record of state Rep. Fred Clark, who hopes to unseat Sen. Luther Olsen in Senate District 14 (which stretches from Waupaca County to the eastern part of Sauk County).

"They're not talking about gay marriage, they're talking about Fred Clark accidentally hitting a bicyclist

CASH page 6

PHOTO: AP/JASON DECROW



Just Married

Gay couples wed in NY

From AP and Wig reports

Hundreds of gay couples dressed in formal suits and striped trousers, gowns and T-shirts recited vows in emotion-choked voices and triumphantly hoisted their long-awaited marriage certificates on July 24 as New York became the sixth and largest state to recognize same-sex weddings.

Couples began saying "I do" at midnight from

Niagara Falls to Long Island, though New York City became the sometimes raucous center of action by daybreak as couples waited on a sweltering day for the chance to exchange vows at the city clerk's office.

Thousands of protesters rallied in several cities around the state, a signal that the long fight for recognition may not be over just yet.

But a party atmosphere

reigned in the lobby of the Manhattan clerk's office, with cheers and applause breaking out whenever a couple was handed their white-and-blue wedding certificate. Balloons floated overhead. One couple wore matching kilts. Another wore sparkly crowns. Children scurried up and down the lobby. Workers with bullhorns called out the numbers of each couple.

Poignant signs of pent-

up emotion were common from couples who had in some cases waited for years to wed. Couples cried and voices quavered. Newlywed Douglas Robinson ex-claimed, "You bet your life I do," when asked if he would take Michael Elsassner as his spouse.

Stuart Gaffney of Marriage Equality USA said **NEW YORK** page 22

Above: Patrick Plain, left, and Seong Man Hong seal lips after sealing the deal at the city clerk's office in New York on July 24, the first day of same-sex marriage ceremonies.

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LGBT news with a twist



By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

GLITTER BARBARIANS

A horde of gay "barbarian" activists, armed with glitter, descended on a clinic owned by GOP presidential candidate Michele Bachmann and her husband Marcus. Describing themselves as barbarians in need of discipline, the group demanded to see Marcus Bachmann, an unlicensed "Christian counselor" who practices "pray away the gay" therapy. Marcus Bachmann described gays as "barbarians" in need of "discipline" on a Christian radio show. The group of about 10 protesters showered Marcus Bachmann's waiting room with glitter while chanting, "You can't pray away the gay, baby I was born this way."

RECTORY EXAM

A Spanish priest was "separated" from his parish after the discovery of a picture in which he posed shirtless with his arm around a hot, younger shirtless man. But the priest says he can prove to church authorities he's not gay. "I have told them that

they should do the test to measure my anus to see whether it is dilated," the Rev. Andrés García Torres said in an interview on Spanish TV.

SLOGAN OR SMEAR?

A lesbian couple complained after a guard at Dollywood told one of the women to turn her T-shirt inside out before entering the theme park. The problem? The T-shirt read, "Marriage is So Gay." A spokesman for the park said he planned to talk with the women, because there probably was a misunderstanding or miscommunication. The park, he said, has a dress code policy — attire that might offend another is prohibited. Could it be the guard, as the women alleged, has a problem with same-sex marriage? Or could it be the guard has a problem with "so gay," which usually is meant as a put down?

INSULT INTENDED

Right-wing activist Bob Vander

Plaats, founder of Iowa's Family Leader, chuckled merrily over a joke from a member of his audience. On a video, Vander Plaats is listening as an audience member refers to Iowa as "the state where you can't smoke a fag, but you can marry one." "That's pretty good," laughed Vander Plaats, who made an unsuccessful run for governor but helped wage a more successful campaign to oust three state supreme court judges who ruled for marriage equality.

CENTER COURT

WNBA star Sheryl Swoopes came out — reluctantly and uncomfortably — in 2005 as a "lesbian." That apparently was the wrong word. Swoopes, who had been married to a man before coming out in 2005, is now engaged to marry another man, according to Mechelle Voepel of ESPN.

LARRY KING TAPED

Larry King has posed for a NOH8 photograph and participated in a PSA to raise awareness for marriage equality. The cam-

paign photographs celebrities and everyday folks around the nation with their mouths duct-taped and NOH8 written on one cheek.

FREEDOM TO QUIT

A town clerk in rural western New York State has resigned rather than grant marriage licenses to same-sex couples. "I would be compromising my moral conscience by participating in licensing same-sex couples," wrote Laura Fotusky, a 56-year-old self-described Christian from Barker, in her letter of resignation. "I had to choose between my job and my God."

YOU NEVER KNOW

A Roman Catholic bishop in Ohio told the parishes and schools of his diocese to stop raising money for a national breast cancer charity. Toledo Bishop Leonard Blair sent a letter banning fundraising for Susan G. Komen for the Cure to all priests and parishes in his 19-county diocese. The reason? The organization might some day decide to pay for stem cell research. The Northwest

Ohio Affiliate of Komen has given \$300,000 to a Catholic hospital over the past five years.

BOX OFFICE DEFEAT

The fawning Sarah Palin documentary "The Undefeated" has bombed so badly at the box office that it's headed to pay per view just weeks after its premiere. Maybe that's because Palin actually was defeated — and on the largest stage possible in November 2008. Starting in October, a "special edition" DVD with bonus content will be sold — only in Walmart.

WALMART JESUS

Speaking of Walmart, a South Carolina couple says an image that appeared on their Walmart receipt is the face of Jesus. Jacob Simmons told WYFF-TV in Greenville, "Then the more you look at it, the more it looked like Jesus, and it was just shocking, breathtaking." Jesus Christ and Sarah Palin — you gotta love Walmart.

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**POLLS HAVE
BAD NEWS FOR
WALKER, GOP**

A majority of Wisconsinites disapprove of Gov. Scott Walker's job performance and don't like the way things are headed in the GOP-controlled state, according to a poll released July 13.

The University of Wisconsin Survey Center's Badger Poll found that 59 percent of residents disapprove of Walker, and 55 percent disapprove of the direction of the state. The latter figure is an all-time high for the poll.

Sixty percent of residents disapprove of the Legislature, which is controlled by Republicans. Nearly two-thirds of Wisconsinites feel that state government is run for the benefit of a few big interests over that of the people.

The Badger Poll showed that President Obama's approval rating in Wisconsin is up slightly at 50 percent, one percent higher than it was a year ago.

"There are a lot of voters who gave Republicans a chance last November and we are seeing a pretty serious case of buyer's remorse," said Mike Tate, chairman of the state's Democratic Party.

Meanwhile, voter turnout in the July 12 Democratic primary races was considerably higher than predicted. The Democratic candidates who are running against GOP senators in six recall races were forced into the primaries when Republicans pretending to be Democrats ran against them in an attempt to trick voters. All six authentic Democrats prevailed in the races, which cost taxpayers more than \$400,000.

In the GOP's three most vulnerable districts, turnout was extremely high — as much as 88 percent of the turnout in last fall's high-profile races.

**TWO CHARGED
IN CHICAGO
LAKEVIEW
STABBING**

Demetrius Moore, 26, was arrested and charged with felony aggravated battery and felony drug possession in connection with a July 16 stabbing in Chicago's heavily gay Lakeview neighborhood.

Israel D. Johnson, 23, was charged with misdemeanor battery over the same incident.

The two suspects are alleged to have attacked a 24-year-old man who was walking in the 900 block of West Belmont Avenue, near the Berlin nightclub, around 3:30 a.m. The victim suffered a stab wound to the back and was taken in good condition to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center.

Chicago police also made an arrest in connection with a videotaped stabbing that occurred in the gay entertainment strip along North Halsted Avenue over the July 4 weekend.

The Cook County State's Attorney's office said analysis of the video resulted in an anonymous tip from someone who saw it on YouTube. That led law enforcement to 24-year-old Darren Hayes, of Hammond, Ind., who was arrested on charges of aggravated battery and ordered held in lieu of \$700,000 bond.

Published reports indicate an anti-gay slur led to the confrontation.

Police said they're still looking for several other people who can be seen on the video punching and kicking 26-year-old Ruben Robinson in the 3400 block of North Halsted Street on July 3. Robinson was treated at an area hospital and released a few days later.

Ongoing assaults in Boystown have led to the creation of the Facebook group "Take Back Boystown" and the creation of a citizen patrol group called Boystown Dog Walkers Community Awareness Program.

There have been three stabbings in the area in less than a month.

**SUIT FILED
AGAINST SCHOOLS
IN MINNESOTA
DISTRICT**

Several current and former students are suing Minnesota's largest school district over a policy requiring staff to remain neutral when the topic of sexual orientation is raised in the

classroom.

The five plaintiffs contend that the Anoka-Hennepin School District policy has created a virtual gag order

that prohibits staff from protecting students from harassment. The school district lies within the congressional district of anti-gay GOP presi-

dential candidate Michele Bachmann.

Four top district officials were named as defendants in the suit, which was filed by the National Center for Lesbian Rights and the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Three of the plaintiffs are openly gay or bisexual. Another of the plaintiffs was targeted because he's perceived to be gay, and the fifth has been harassed for having two fathers.

The lawsuit alleges that the students were subjected to years of bullying, which included near daily anti-gay slurs, as well as being urinated on, stabbed in the neck with pencils, choked and shoved into walls or lockers.

"Far from being isolated incidents, this type of verbal and physical abuse was a relentless and inescapable aspect of plaintiffs' school experience," the lawsuit said.

The Anoka-Hennepin district has 40,000 students in 13 suburbs north of Minneapolis and St. Paul. One student involved in the lawsuit attempted suicide after years of bullying, and at least four gay or lesbian students in the district succeeded in committing suicide between November 2009 and July 2010.

A total of seven students in the district have committed suicide since the fall of 2009, when the policy was adopted, fueling an "epidemic of harassment," according to Kate Kendell, executive director of NCLR.

**IOWA TO GRANT
EMPLOYEES
SAME-SEX LEAVE
BENEFITS**

A spokesman for Iowa's human resources agency says state employees who are in same-sex marriages will qualify for family leave to care for their ill spouses going forward.

Communications director Robert Bailey said the Iowa Department of Administrative Services will rewrite a rule that barred employees in same-sex marriages from qualifying for spousal benefits under the

Family Medical Leave Act.

An Iowa prison guard challenged the rule after she was denied time off in April to care for her spouse when she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. She argued the rule conflicted with the Iowa Supreme Court decision that legalized gay marriage in 2009 and prohibited discrimination against same-sex couples.

The Iowa Attorney General's office agreed and advised the state to change the rule so same-sex spouses would qualify.

**STRAIGHT MAN
WHO 'LOOKS GAY'
CAN'T DONATE
BLOOD**

A heterosexual man from Gary, Ind., was told he could not donate blood because he "appear(ed) to be a homosexual."

Aaron Pace, 22, said after undergoing the usual interview and screening procedures at Bio-Blood Components Inc., he was told that he was unqualified to donate blood because his "looks, character and behavior" made him "appear" gay.

Pace told local media he was "humiliated and embarrassed" by the experience.

"It's not right that homeless people can give blood but homosexuals can't," he said. "And I'm not even a homosexual."

Pace said he plans to sue over the incident. A U.S. Food and Drug Administration policy enacted in 1983 prohibits all men who have ever had sex with another man — even once — from donating blood. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services decided last year to leave the policy in place.

"(The policy) is unfair, outrageous and just plain stupid," said Curt Ellis, former director of The Aliveness Project of Northwest Indiana. "The policy is based on the stigma associated with HIV that existed early on. It seems like some stigmas will just never die."

All blood is now routinely tested for HIV, which can also be transmitted between heterosexuals and people who share needles.

— from WiG and AP sources



PHOTO: BEN SLANE

U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin chats with a voter during a recent fundraising event for pro-equality state Rep. Sandy Pasch. Pasch faces far-right, anti-gay incumbent state Sen. Alberta Darling at the polls in the state's Eighth Senate District on Aug. 9.

**BALDWIN POSTS STRONG
FUNDRAISING NUMBERS**

In reports filed with the Federal Election Commission on July 13, U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin's campaign committee reported receipts of \$502,485.62 for the second quarter and cash on hand totaling \$1,114,488.59. During the month of June alone, Baldwin raised more than \$435,000.

Baldwin received contributions during the second quarter from 2,339 individual donors.

Baldwin is a likely candidate for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Sen. Herb Kohl. In addition to impressive fundraising, Baldwin had a strong showing at the Wisconsin Democratic Party's State Convention in early June and encouraging public and internal poll numbers.

Baldwin said that she was thrilled with the response thus far. "As I reach out to people throughout the state, I am gratified by the encouragement and support that I'm receiving. Senate campaigns are expensive and fundraising is an important measure of support," said Baldwin.

If she runs and wins, Baldwin would become the first woman to represent Wisconsin in the Senate — and the first out gay person ever elected to the Senate.

— L.W.

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Where did the small, anti-gay fringe group get so much money to spend?

CASH from page 1 with his car," said Wisconsin Democratic Party chairman Mike Tate.

Tate said Appling was able to spend only about \$200,000 for WFA's flagship effort, the voter referendum that prohibited same-sex marriage and civil unions. Put in that perspective, Tate finds WFA's sudden high-stakes position on issues outside its narrow purview to be alarming and suspicious.

"All of a sudden this little, tiny anti-gay outfit becomes a major player on the political scene? Come on. They've become a front group for somebody's dirty cash," Tate charged.

Cash from outside interest groups is dominating the summer recall races, as it did the recent Supreme Court race. It's possible that WFA's dollars are coming from Focus on the Family, a right-wing organization designated as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center, Tate said. According to Tate, who once headed Fair Wisconsin, Focus on the Family leader James Dobson often engages in stealth campaigns in local races.

All of the Republicans facing recalls have anti-gay records, according to Fair Wisconsin's current executive director Katie Belanger. That would make them



Julaine Appling, right, who heads the anti-gay group Wisconsin Family Action, and Mike Tate, chair of the Wisconsin Democratic Party, are seen here in a 2006 debate on same-sex marriage. Appling's group spent about \$200,000 on its successful effort to ban gay marriage and civil unions in the state – its signature achievement. But that amount pales in comparison with the more than \$300,000 WFA has spent on efforts to retain GOP senators facing recall next month. Tate wants to know where the small extremist group got so much money.

PHOTO: AP/MORRY GASH

natural magnets for evangelical Christian donors like Dobson.

But ironically, Olsen is the only one of the group who ever sat down to speak with LGBT advocates, Belanger said. So why is WFA spending hundreds of thousands of

dollars on defending this particular incumbent, when there are five others who won't even bother listening politely to FW's equality pitch?

WiG put this question to Appling via voicemail but she declined to return the call. Experienced observ-

ers said there's not much mystery to the situation. According to them, WFA has likely become another tool in the far right's well-coordinated strategy to ensure Wisconsin remains solidly red. It's speculated that Club for Growth, a front group

used by the billionaire Koch brothers to promote their company's corporate agenda, is now throwing money at Appling in an attempt to spread out its dollars.

If so, that represents a significant shift in Koch's political strategy.

KOCH MONEY

David and Charles Koch run Koch Industries, the nation's largest privately held company, with 70,000 employees and sales of \$100 billion in 2008. The company was built by their father on oil trading and refining, but the brothers have

CASH continued expanded it to include coal mining, the paper company Georgia-Pacific and household products such as Teflon.

David Koch, a Kansan who's intent on buying his way into New York society through massive gifts to art groups, has never been directly involved in anti-gay campaigns, Tate said. He would probably avoid being connected to a group of religious zanies as odd as WFA, which appears to be a tabloid scandal waiting to happen.

"That's why there's such a premium on being able to raise unlimited, anonymous dollars, so people don't have to be publicly affiliated with causes and agendas that have some liability attached to them," said Kelly Steele, spokesman for We Are Wisconsin, which is coordinating the effort to recall Republicans.

There's no question that Koch and other big players on the corporate right are desperate to maintain the GOP's tight grip on Wisconsin government. "At this point it is about absolute power," Steele said. "They have both branches of the Legislature, the govern-

ON THE WEB

www.prwatch.org/news/2011/07/10880/alec-bills-wisconsin

nor's office and the Supreme Court to back them up."

But it's also about money. The state is considered Ground Zero for Koch's national efforts to dismantle the organized labor movement. Since virtually assuming control of Wisconsin government in January, Koch and his fellow corporate nabobs have managed not only to incapacitate public unions but also to reduce access to the ballot box among minorities and students. They've decimated financial regulations, corporate rules and environmental standards in the state to benefit their business interests.

All of this has been accomplished through cookie-cutter bills created by the corporate-right group American Legislative Exchange Council. The bills are modified by local lawmakers to fit into each state's existing statutory framework, according to the Center for Media and Democracy, which has created an online archive of over 800 ALEC bills.

Many of those bills

have become familiar to Wisconsin residents in recent months, as the GOP has rammed them through the Assembly in advance of next month's recall races. Some Wisconsin lawmakers even sit on ALEC's board or hold prominent positions in Wisconsin government. State Sen. Alberta Darling is a dues-paying member.

Introduced in Wisconsin by Koch-backed lawmakers, ALEC bills have changed the state in six months into a place that would have been unrecognizable a year ago. In fact, a study published earlier this year said Wisconsin now resembles Mississippi in terms of the "pro-business environment" here. That means Republicans have given big tax breaks to the wealthy, created corporate welfare in the form of taxpayer-funded "incentives," relaxed environmental and product liability laws, and eliminated many worker protections.

The study's corporate-right authors touted all this as a great achievement, but few

Wisconsin residents would want to be positioned alongside the nation's perennial lowest-ranking state in terms of health, education and other quality-of-life issues.

Koch Industries has at least 17 facilities or offices in the state that stand poised to secure millions in lucrative no-bid government contracts from Walker and GOP lawmakers. But it appears that Koch wants not only to get those contracts but also to wring the maximum profitability from them by avoiding potentially costly rules and regulations – and by not having to deal with an empowered work force.

Steele said that's why Koch will go to the mat to prevent the Wisconsin Senate from changing leadership next month. That change would occur if three of the six Republicans being recalled were to lose their races, while the two remaining Democrats being targeted win theirs.

As of July 22, Club for Growth had spent at least \$1.5 million on commercials in Wisconsin to support Republicans, Steele said. He expected that figure to climb much higher as the election draws closer.

Aug. 9 races

All of the Democratic challengers (in bold) are pro-equality and endorsed by WiG. To contribute or volunteer for their campaigns, go to wearewisconsin.org.

DISTRICT 2: Former De Pere Mayor **Nancy Nusbaum, D**, takes on Republican state Sen. Robert Cowles.

DISTRICT 8: State Rep. **Sandy Pasch, D**, faces off in a closely contested race with GOP state Sen. Alberta Darling, one of Koch Industries' closest allies in Wisconsin.

DISTRICT 10: Democrat **Shelly Moore**, an English teacher, tries to unseat state Sen. Sheila Harsdorf, R.

DISTRICT 14: Democratic Rep. **Fred Clark** is running against Republican state Sen. Luther Olsen a close race.

DISTRICT 18: Attorney **Jessica King, D**, is looking to unseat Republican state Sen. Randy Hopper, whose tax situation and extra-marital affair have made him a relatively easy target.

DISTRICT 32: Democratic state Rep. **Jennifer Shilling** of La Crosse stands a good chance of unseating right-wing state Sen. Dan Kapanke, R.

—L.W.

FOR THE RECORD: VOTING HISTORY OF THE GOP SENATORS FACING RECALLS

WiG looked at the ratings that various special interest groups have awarded the six GOP senators facing recalls. The ratings indicate the percentage of time the senators voted with positions taken by the groups during the legislative sessions shown in parentheses.

ROBERT COWLES, GREEN BAY DISTRICT 2

- Voted to ban same-sex marriage and civil unions in Wisconsin.
- Planned Parenthood: 25 (2007-08), 0 (2006), 0 (2005)
- Americans for Prosperity: 90 (2007-08), 71 (2005-06)
- Wis. Manufacturers and Commerce: 100 (2010), 90 (2009)
- ACLU: 0 (2006)

- Fair Wisconsin: 0 (2004)
- League of Conservation Voters: 67 (2009-2010), 50 (2005)
- Sierra Club: 29 (2005-06)
- Wis. AFL-CIO: 27 (2007-08)

ALBERTA DARLING, RIVER HILLS DISTRICT 8

- Voted to ban same-sex marriage and civil unions in Wisconsin.
- Planned Parenthood: 50 (2007-08), 17 (2006), 0 (2005)
- Americans for Prosperity: 100 (2005-06)
- Wis. Manufacturers and Commerce: 75 (2010), 90 (2009)
- ACLU: 0 (2006)
- Fair Wisconsin: 0 (2004)
- League of Conservation Voters: 50 (2009-10), 39 (2005-06)
- Sierra Club: 14 (2005-06)
- Wis. AFL-CIO: 27 (2007-08)

SHEILA HARSDORF, RIVER FALLS DISTRICT 10

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

- Planned Parenthood: 50 (2007-08), 0 (2006), 0 (2005)
- Americans for Prosperity: 79 (2005-06)
- Wis. Manufacturers and Commerce: 100 (2010), 90 (2009)
- ACLU: 0 (2006)
- Fair Wisconsin: 0 (2004)
- League of Conservation Voters: 58 (2009-10), 50 (2005-06)
- Sierra Club: 43 (2005-06)
- Wis. AFL-CIO: 36 (2007-08)

LUTHER OLSEN, RIPON DISTRICT 14

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

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

RANDY HOPPER, FOND DU LAC DISTRICT 18

- First elected to public office in 2008, Hopper has a limited legislative record.
- Wis. Manufacturers and Commerce: 100 (2010), 100 (2009)

- League of Conservation Voters: 50 (2009-10)

DAN KAPANKE, LA CROSSE DISTRICT 32

- Voted to ban same-sex marriage and civil unions in Wisconsin.
- Planned Parenthood: 0 (2007-08), 0 (2006), 0 (2005)
- Americans for Prosperity: 76 (2005-06)
- Wis. Manufacturers and Commerce: 80 (2010), 81 (2009)
- ACLU: 0 (2006)
- League of Conservation Voters: 67 (2009-2010), 50 (2005-06)
- Sierra Club: 43 (2005-06)
- Wis. AFL-CIO: 50 (2007-08)

Source: Project Vote Smart

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Best offense really is a good defense, expert says

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Now that it's legal in Wisconsin, are you thinking of carrying a concealed gun as a method of self-defense?

Think again, cautions Wes Manko, president of the Milwaukee-based firm DefenseWorks. Without proper instruction and experience in handling a weapon, it's more likely to wind up being used against you — or directed at the wrong person, according to statistics.

Manko has met some of the people behind those statistics. For instance, he recalls the man who came to him for self-defense instruction after getting rid of his gun due to a tragic accident. His daughter had come home early from college for a visit and hidden in a closet to surprise him. The man thought she was an intruder and fired at the closed closet door, killing her.

Such stories are familiar to people in his industry, says Manko, whose company provides training in the Russian martial arts method known

as "Systema."

Aware of the bullying and hate-motivated assaults faced by LGBT people, Manko is reaching out to members of the community to attend a Sept. 17 Systema training seminar.

In recent weeks, rumors of several anti-gay attacks in Milwaukee's Bay View and Riverwest neighborhoods have percolated through the LGBT community. But there is no coordinated outreach effort in the city to identify victims of such attacks and warn the public about potential dangers. WiG has identified victims but they have declined to come forward and report their stories.

The daylong Sept. 17 seminar, which costs \$175 to attend, offers a common-sense solution for LGBT people to take safety into their own hands, Manko says. The lead instructor for the event is internationally known Systema practitioner Martin Wheeler. He's also a screenwriter who serves as actor Richard Gere's stunt coordinator and his body



PHOTO: COURTESY

DefenseWorks' "Systema" training seminar with celebrity instructor Martin Wheeler, above right, is Sept. 17. Go to www.defenseworks.us/programs/systema.

double in action sequences, including those in the upcoming film "The Double." Manko says the beauty of Systema is that it's a uniquely

cal system that capitalizes on the instinctive way that each practitioner moves and thinks.

Best of all, you don't have to be in top physical shape to be successful at Systema, he says. He first learned the method in Toronto, where he was paired with a 69-year-old man he describes as half his size. "He threw me around like a rag doll," Manko says.

"The key principal of Systema is non-destruction," Manko explains. "There's no strict rules or rigid structure. It's based on instinctive reactions and individual strength."

Another key Systema technique is learning how to read an attacker — how to predict his likely moves and behavior based on body language, facial expressions and behavior. Then it's a matter of leveraging your personal strengths to overcome your adversary's likely course of action and exploit his observed weaknesses.

But it's not a complicated technique that requires a lot of chess-like calculation and

planning. Manko says it's vital to act swiftly during a potentially violent encounter, and that means knowing and relying on your gut instincts and reactions.

Systema is truly about self-defense. It focuses on learning how to disarm an attacker and how to take blows in a way that minimizes their impact and damage to your body. This is accomplished largely through "breathing relaxation and energy redirection," Manko explains.

In addition to physical self-defense, Manko also teaches people how to utilize low-tech, commonsense methods to guard against attacks. Something as simple as shining a high-powered flashlight into an attacker's eyes can thwart an assault, he says. Even putting a large dog bowl in your yard engraved with the word "Killer" is proven to deter break-ins, Manko laughs.

With right-wing hate violence on the rise, knowing even a little can go a long way toward guarding your safety, Manko says.

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Dalila and her mother, Rita

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Kofi and his brother, Babatu



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Senate committee holds DOMA repeal hearing

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee on July 20 held a first hearing on Democratic legislation to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and return the federal government to its historic role of deferring to states on marriage.

The hearing was on the Respect for Marriage Act, legislation sponsored by Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., in the Senate and Jerry Nadler, D-N.Y., in the House. The bill's first lines make clear the intent: "A bill to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for state regulation of marriage."

DOMA was signed into law in 1996 by then-President Bill Clinton, who was seeking re-election and dealing with a hostile, Republican-dominated Congress.

DOMA contains two primary provisions. One provision requires the federal

government to withhold recognition of same-sex marriages, which are now legal in six states and the District of Columbia. Under DOMA, gay and lesbian couples in those states are denied more than 1,100 federal rights and benefits available to straight couples. A second provision allows states to refuse to recognize same-sex marriages legalized in other states.

The Obama administration announced earlier this year that it will adhere to DOMA, but it will not defend the federal denial of benefits in court.

On July 19, the president endorsed the Respect for Marriage Act and DOMA's legislative demise.

U.S. Sen. John Kerry, a co-sponsor of the repeal bill, said Obama's endorsement was another "historic signal that momentum is growing to end the era of DOMA."

He and Feinstein were

among the 14 Democratic senators to vote against DOMA in 1996.

"I'm proud that I voted against it then, and determined now to end the discrimination it enshrined in our laws," Kerry said. "The Respect for Marriage Act provides long-awaited federal protection and benefits to married gay and lesbian couples."

The Judiciary Committee heard testimony from proponents and opponents of DOMA's repeal, including activists and lawyers, policymakers and parents.

Representatives from several right-wing groups – including Focus on the Family, Ethics and Public Policy Center and the Alliance Defense Fund – took up DOMA's defense.

Representatives from a number of civil liberties and LGBT rights groups – including the Human

Rights Campaign, ACLU and Freedom to Marry – testified before the committee for repeal.

"DOMA stigmatizes people by dividing those married at the state level into first-class marriages and second-class marriages for those the federal government doesn't like," testified Evan Wolfson of Freedom to Marry. "But in America, we don't have second-class citizens, and we shouldn't have second-class marriages either."

In the mid-1990s, Wolfson represented same-sex couples seeking the right to marry in Hawaii. Conservative, irrational fears that the Aloha state was about to legalize gay marriage fueled the drive for DOMA, he said.

Congress, Wolfson said, "did not wait to consider evidence or undertake serious analysis before rushing to add a new layer of marriage discrimination against

couples already barred from marrying. In floor debate, members repeatedly voiced disapproval of homosexuality, calling it 'immoral,' 'depraved,' 'unnatural,' 'based on perversion' and an 'attack on God's principles.'"

The committee also heard from Ron Wallen, who married Tom Carrollo, his partner of 58 years, in California before voters passed Proposition 8 and brought such marriages to a halt in the state. Carrollo died in March and, because of DOMA, Wallen cannot receive his Social Security survivor benefits, nor can he afford to keep the home he shared with his partner.

"Tom and I played by the rules, as we pursued our own version of the American dream," Wallen testified. "We served our country; we paid our taxes; we volunteered; we maintained our home, and got married as soon as

we were legally able to do so.

"And yet, as I face a future without my spouse, it is hard to accept that it is the federal government that is throwing me out of my family home. Congress can fix this problem by repealing DOMA. It's a discriminatory law against gay and lesbian couples who have assumed all the responsibilities of marriage. All we ask is to be treated fairly, just like other loving and committed married couples. I beg you to repeal this law."

New polling on marriage found that 53 percent of U.S. adults believe that a same-sex marriage from one state should be recognized in another state. The poll, conducted by Harris Interactive, also found that 49 percent "support the right for same-sex couples to marry."

A May Gallup poll found that 53 percent of Americans supported full marriage equality.

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More facts

- Higher rates of HIV infection among young gay and bisexual men appear to be related to stigma about being gay and lack of community support.
- Gay and bisexual men are the only group in the US in which **new HIV infections are increasing.**
- At some point in their lifetimes, 1 in 16 African American men **will be diagnosed with HIV infection.** For young African American gay and bisexual men in Milwaukee, that number becomes **1 in 3.**



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With repeal certification, DADT ends Sept. 20

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

DADT is gone in 60 days.

Certification for repeal of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy barring gays and lesbians from serving openly in the military came July 22, with the signatures of President Barack Obama, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Joint Chiefs Chairman Admiral Mike Mullen.

Certification means that the military is nearly ready to lift the ban after months of preparation that followed Congress' vote to repeal DADT in late 2010. About 1.9 million military personnel have received training in advance of the repeal, but additional training is needed before the Sept. 20 deadline is reached, according to Pentagon officials.

"I believe the U.S. Armed Forces are ready for the implementation of the repeal of 'don't ask, don't tell.' I conveyed that opinion yesterday to the president and to the secretary of defense, and today we certified this to Congress," Mullen stated July 22.

Obama stated, "As commander in chief, I have always been confident that our dedicated men and women in uniform would transition to a new policy in an orderly

manner that preserves unit cohesion, recruitment, retention and military effectiveness. Today's action follows extensive training of our military personnel and certification by Secretary Panetta and Admiral Mullen that our military is ready for repeal. ... Our military will no longer be deprived of the talents and skills of patriotic Americans just because they happen to be gay or lesbian."

DADT, passed by Congress in 1993, prohibits those who "demonstrate a propensity or intent to engage in homosexual acts" from serving in the U.S. military because their presence "would create an unacceptable risk to the high standards of morale, good order and discipline and unit cohesion that are the essence of military capability."

DADT was a compromise between Congress and Bill Clinton, who had campaigned on a promise to lift barriers to gays serving in the Armed Forces. Instead Congress codified the anti-gay ban in a defense spending bill and Clinton issued a directive barring the military from asking servicemembers and recruits about their sexual orientation.

The policy, since its implementa-

tion, has been the target of activists and attorneys, policymakers and politicians.

Congress, in passing DADT, had maintained that gays in the military threatened unit cohesion and troop morale, but studies then and since have shown DADT itself to be detrimental to morale and cohesion. And last fall, a federal court struck down the policy as unconstitutional.

With the announcement of certification came applause and praise.

A chief proponent of repeal, Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin, D-Mich., said, "It is a fact that gay and lesbian service members have fought and died for our country and are serving in our military now. But the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy requires them to conceal their sexual orientation so that they can continue their service to our nation."

Researcher Aaron Belkin, who has studied gays in the military for years for the Palm Center in California, said, "On Sept. 20 we will be a better nation, a stronger nation and a nation that is now in step with its allies in allowing open service by gay and lesbian troops. The president really delivered on his promise."

FOR THE RECORD

Following the certification of the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell" July 22, the following statements were issued:

"In this moment of celebration, I remember and honor the service of all the courageous lesbian and gay members of our Armed Forces who have been required to live a lie so that they can serve our country, or have been discharged because of who they are. These patriotic Americans deserve our thanks and our apologies. I look forward to the day, fast-approaching, when lesbian and gay servicemembers can serve our country openly and with pride."

— U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Madison, the only openly lesbian member of the House.

"Gay and lesbian servicemembers can and will breathe a huge sigh of relief. While we still must wait 60 days for this change to formally take effect and for the law to officially be off the books, this step is nothing short of historic."

— Alexander Nicholson, executive director of Servicemembers United and an Army intelligence collector discharged under DADT.

"Certification ... is part of that shift in our laws, hearts, and minds. As brave Americans continue building a more perfect union, the Obama Administration will work alongside them, every step of the way."

— Valerie Jarrett, senior advisor to the president.

"The president's certification of repeal is a monumental step, not just for those forced to lie in order to serve, but for all Americans who believe in fairness and equality."

— Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign.

Bachmann practice prompts pledge push

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Video showing the use of long-discredited "ex-gay" therapy at a Minnesota counseling center owned by Michele and Marcus Bachmann has led to a pledge drive: Republican presidential aspirants are being asked to repudiate reparative therapy.

Since her declaration of candidacy earlier this summer, U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn., has become a focus of LGBT groups who want to make sure voters know her record as a conservative social warrior. The Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest LGBT civil rights group, now issues regular "Better Know Bachmann" reports, part of the group's "Call It Out" campaign against homophobia and transphobia.

Bachmann, a star with Tea Party voters, opposed the repeal of the policy banning gays from the military and passage of hate crimes reform. She supports both the federal Defense of Marriage Act and constitutional amendments banning same-sex couples from marrying.

In 2004, Bachmann, then a state lawmaker, told a Minnesota radio audience that "the immediate consequence, if gay marriage goes through, is that K-12 little children will be forced to learn that homosexuality is normal, natural and perhaps they should try it." She also has referred to her step-sister's lesbianism as "part of

Satan." And a gay state representative in Minnesota said he once found Bachmann praying over his desk.

In 2009, in a floor speech against a bill reforming hate crimes law, Bachmann said people "who are practicing pedophiles would be considered protected under this legislation, but not, I understand, veterans, not, I understand, pregnant women, not, I understand, 85-year-old grandmothers would be protected under this law. But who would be protected? A pedophile, someone who considers themselves gay, someone who considers themselves transgender, someone who considers themselves a cross-dresser? That is who is protected."

Earlier this summer, video was released of a gay client at a Bachmann and Associates Christian clinic being told that with reparative therapy he could be cured of his homosexuality.

The video resulted from an investigation by Truth Wins Out, a nonprofit organization founded by Wayne Besen that fights anti-LGBT religious extremism.

"Taking a client's hard-earned money for a 'cure' that is not possible is unethical and a form of consumer fraud," Besen said.

Marcus Bachmann, a therapist, has said his clinics are not anti-gay, but if a client wants to talk about "ex-gay" therapy "certainly we'll talk about it."

But Besen said, "Our investigation clearly shows that

his clinic has great antipathy towards gay and lesbian people, and his therapists work to convert clients from gay to straight."

The TWO video from the clinic shows a prominent sales display for "Called Out: A Former Lesbian's Discovery of Freedom," by Janet Boynes. In the book, the minister writes that the effects of "living a homosexual lifestyle" are "Hurt. Despair. Frustration. Loneliness. Depression. Restlessness. Shame."

TWO's investigation was not the first revelation that the Bachmanns have endorsed ex-gay therapy, which has been discredited by the American Psychiatric Association, American Psychological Association and American Medical Association. Michele Bachmann, at a conference seven years ago, said gays suffer "deep emotional wounds," but she offered the "message of healing that is possible."

HRC and other LGBT groups now want Bachmann and other candidates for the GOP presidential nomination to pledge to "take a public stand against 'ex-gay' therapy and the insidious anti-gay ideology behind it."

The groups also are encouraging people to sign a petition at www.hrc.org/callitout urging support for the pledge.

As of WiG press time, more than 22,000 people had signed the petition. However, no GOP presidential candidates had taken the pledge.

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{ Editorial }

The politics of self-annihilation

What's more important – your tax rate or your sexual orientation? Would you give up love and/or sex forever for a smaller government?

These questions should be no-brainers. No emotionally healthy person would trade something as humanly essential as physical love and affection for a discredited chance at personal economic gain.

Yet in 2010, roughly one-third of gays and lesbians voted for Republican candidates, helping the party sweep into power in Wisconsin and elsewhere. The overwhelming majority of these candidates were not social moderates working for the common good. They were not "Rockefeller Republicans" or libertarian "Goldwater Republicans." They were lunatic fringe Republicans who owe their political allegiance to the evangelical right.

The evangelical right has a clear agenda: to criminalize consensual same-sex relations and push us back into the closet.

As a sideline, they also want to reduce the size of government and eliminate taxation. But even if you're an LGBT person who agrees with their sideline positions, can you justify helping people who seek to annihilate you to gain power?

No doubt some LGBT people who voted for the sworn enemies of their own freedom were either self-loathing or misinformed. But the majority of them were intentionally self-deluded. They believe that the anti-gay posturing on the right is merely empty rhetoric – de rigueur pandering to a core GOP constituency. They fail to see it as a real threat.

Perhaps they need a stroll down history's memory lane.

The early National Socialists in Germany preached only moderate anti-Semitism. That's something Jews had experienced for centuries in Europe, so it was of no great concern to many of them, especially those who were German nationalists and WWI vets. Many of these patriotic Jews threw their support to the Nazi party, believing its leaders could fix the disastrous German economy. They dismissed the familiar anti-Semitic rhetoric as innocuous.

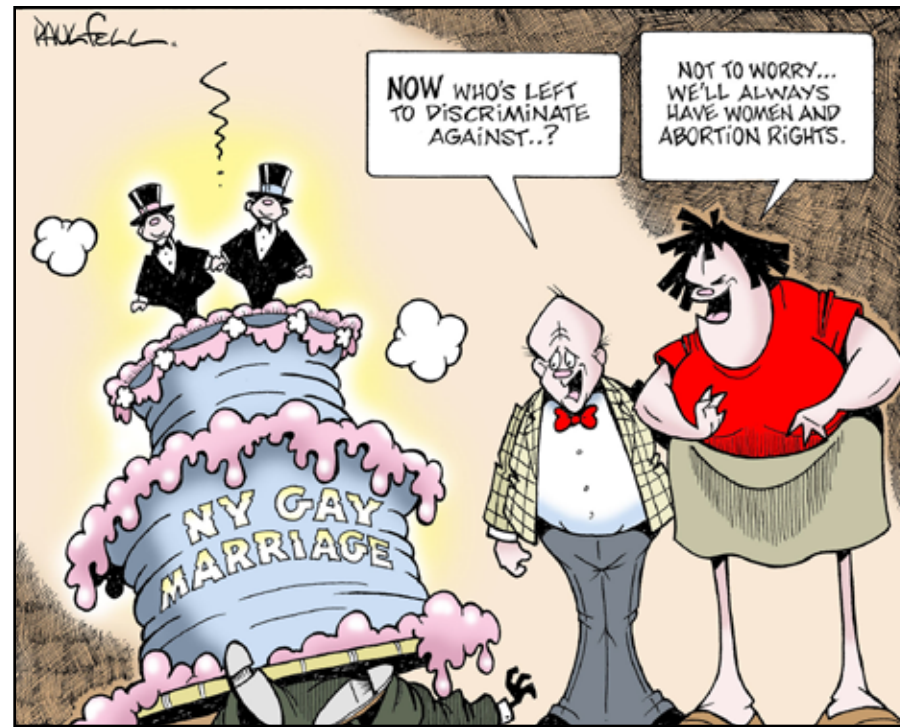
Sound familiar?

Holocaust comparisons are by nature overblown. It's unlikely that contemporary America would round up and slaughter any group of people. In fact, it's the very example of what happened in Germany that would help to prevent this from occurring again.

But it's hardly a stretch to imagine a steep backward slide for LGBT people in this country. Our social gains are very recent and tenuous. Many of us vividly remember the bar raids, the job dismissals, the constant pressure of living in an unapologetically homophobic world.

It is neither paranoid nor overblown to imagine a return to this way of life. Just witness what's happened to women's reproductive freedom just since the 2010 election. In some states, many women now have virtually no access to family planning services, including affordable birth control. In other states, including Wisconsin, the newly empowered GOP fringe is desperately trying to roll back LGBT rights.

Hopefully, there will come a time when LGBT people have the luxury of voting on the basis of other considerations. But that time has not come yet. In fact, it will only come if we oppose those who fight against our rights and support those who support us.



{ Feedback }

BULLYING REVISITED

Your article in the July 14 issue about the California student who committed suicide touched me deeply. It brought back memories of the daily harassment I endured from seventh grade through graduation in 1982.

I did not come out until age 33, but everyone perceived me to be gay. I wasn't good at sports, I was skinny, and I wore glasses.

I endured the same harassment as Shawn Walsh and more. In addition to daily verbal attacks, I was subjected to physical assaults (groups of kids shoving me into lockers and one kid in seventh grade pulling a knife on me and threatening to stab me.) When my parents went to the police about the knife incident, the police made excuses for

the attacker! They said, "He comes from a broken home, and his father is a firefighter." My mother complained to the school administrators. The principal told her, "He just needs to toughen up a bit."

In seventh grade social studies, a kid threatened to beat me up in class. The teacher broke it up. But rather than discipline the kid who threatened me, the teacher said, "I should have let him beat you up."

The school newspaper encouraged students to write harmful things about other students. There was a special column in the newspaper that used no names – just initials.

It got worse in high school. Even though I was on the honor roll, I thought seriously of dropping out. Somehow I survived six years of unremitting torment.

I did enjoy my 20-year

class reunion in 2002. I had just signed with a modeling agency in Madison. All right people came up to me and said, "Wow! So you're a model!" Most of the guys had let themselves age badly. I had improved with age.

Coming out in 1998 allowed me to find an inner strength and self-confidence I never knew I had. It was the best thing that ever happened in my life.

During my toughest times at school, my mother told me, "Don't worry about what other people think." She died in 1995, but I came to terms with who I was in 1998. She would be proud that I no longer worry about what other people think.

Thank you for such a good article on this issue.

William-Andrew Elbert
Madison

ON THE RECORD

"I'm not gay, but I was afraid to even let anyone have the thought. I can only imagine the agony – being a prisoner in your own mind – for someone who wants to come out. If I'm not gay and I am afraid to mention it, I can only imagine what an athlete must be going through if he is gay."
– Former Dallas receiver Michael Irvin talking to *Out* magazine about his gay brother.

"Our friends in New York six weeks ago passed a statute that said marriage can be between two people of the same sex. And you know what? That's New York, and that's their business, and that's fine with me."

– Texas Gov. Rick Perry speaking at a forum in association with the Republican Governors Association convention in Aspen.

"Honestly, you should wait as long as you can to have sex. As a woman you don't even begin to enjoy it until your mid-20s."

– Lady Gaga, 25, in an interview with *Howard Stern*.

"The issue of lesbianism is common. I came to realize it is not a physical battle; we need divine intervention in order to control and curb it. I tell you it worked for us. This is a thing of the past. It is never mentioned."

– Nigerian women's soccer coach Eucharia Uche telling *The New York Times* that she prayed the lesbians off her team.

"She's got a good family, she's got a good husband, she's got awesome support, she's got God on her side, and I think people are envious of that."

– Bristol Palin explaining that people don't like her mother Sarah Palin because they're envious of the many gifts her supporter God has bestowed on her.

"I think that marriage should be between a man and woman, but I think that the Republican Party would be well advised to get the heck out of people's bedrooms and let these things get decided by states."

– Rudy Giuliani on CNN's "State of the Union."

"I need to be mindful that the church has always asked people to live in committed monogamous, faithful relationships. I won't allow heterosexual clergy to live in a rectory or church housing without the benefit of marriage. When one puts it in that context, then you see how it all begins to make sense."

– Long Island Episcopal Bishop Lawrence Provenzano explaining why he's ordered all clergy in same-sex relationships to get married now that it's legal in New York.

"We're old, we wanted a good parking space."
– Al Martino explaining to *The New York Times* why he and longtime partner Harold Lohner wanted to be among the first gay couples in New York to get legally hitched.

More blood on the right's hands

"It was international jihadism that we feared," said a Norwegian leader about the terrorist bombing and massacre of young liberals in his country. "But what we have now is more painful in terms of a re-evaluation of ourselves."

What's true for Norway is equally true for the United States. Our country is more politically fractured than ever. Polarization has been exacerbated by economic collapse and unemployment. And our anything-goes media often fan the flames of unreason and resentment through sensational and inaccurate reporting.

I hope the Department of Homeland Security is investigating domestic extremists – and I don't mean Quakers signing petitions against our foolish wars. Conservatives, always on offense, attacked DHS a few years back for documenting how the economic and political climate was fueling a resurgence in radicalization and recruitment among right-wing groups, including private militias. The DHS, thoroughly cowed, withdrew the report and unwisely cut the number of analysts tracking domestic

terrorism from six to two. The report had cited an increase in anti-government rhetoric, conspiracy theories, resentment about immigration – a laundry list of things that motivated Norway's Anders Breivik and our own Timothy McVeigh, who killed 168 people in Oklahoma City in 1995.

I worked as director of the Wisconsin Center for Pluralism for six years. The center studied and tracked right-wing activity across the state. I attended right-wing conferences, monitored extremist websites and interviewed many true believers. I always was, and still am, shocked by the casual violence of right-wing rhetoric and it came to mind again thinking about the horrific events in Norway.

At the Wisconsin Conservative Leadership Conference in 2006, Madison radio squawker Vicki McKenna urged the audience to challenge the

Opinion
JAMAKAYA

"left-ended world view" of the mainstream media "until we kill them, until they are dead than dead."

At the same meeting, Chris Kliesmet of Citizens for Responsible Government repeatedly referred to politics as a "blood sport" and revealed in the current "target-rich environment."

Stanley Zurawski Sr., of Tosans for Responsible Government, a perennial "anti" campaigner (anti-tax, immigration, gays, Victoria's Secret), declared in 2005: "We need more intolerance."

Ralph Reed, former director of the Christian Coalition, on political campaigns: "I want to be invisible. I do guerrilla warfare. I paint my face and travel at night. You don't know it's over until you're in a body bag."

J.J. Blonien on staff members of the Madison-based Freedom From Religion Foundation, which promotes separation of church and state: "Somebody should kill them all!"

Ann Coulter could have coached Anders Breivik in his mass political assassination of liberals. In 2002, Coulter opined about the "American

Taliban" John Walker Lindh: "In contemplating college liberals, you really regret, once again, that John Walker is not getting the death penalty. We need to execute people like John Walker in order to physically intimidate liberals by making them realize that they could be killed too. Otherwise, they will turn into outright traitors."

Although liberals like me can be vociferous in our opposition to right-wing leaders and policies, there is no comparison to the overt, lethal threats continually issuing from the right.

Controls traditionally exercised by ethical, scrupulous editors over uncivil discourse have dissolved in our free-wheeling Internet age. The Supreme Court has ruled video games depicting the mutilation and murder of women are protected by the First Amendment, making it highly unlikely they will ever restrict political speech.

So the fear mongering, scapegoating and intimidation will go on. Bloodbaths will ensue. Where is the moral leadership to stop this free fall into chaos?

Keep Steitz out of the Senate

Most people in the LGBT community are well aware of the radical anti-gay agenda that exists at the group Wisconsin Family Action.

The group was a primary force behind the effort to enshrine discrimination in our state constitution in 2006. Its leader Julaine Appling is so far out on the fringe that she even lobbied legislators against something as commonsense as anti-bullying legislation to protect students.

Now WFA is apparently being used to funnel large amounts of special interest money to run attack ads against Democrats in the state's recall elections. WFA is not only trying to protect GOP incumbents, it is also trying to boost first-time Republican candidates who share Appling's extreme agenda.

WFA recently put its stamp of approval on Republican candidate Jonathan Steitz in

Opinion
CORY LIEBMAN

his race against incumbent state Sen. Robert Wirch, D-Pleasant Prairie. The day WFA's endorsement was made public, Steitz took immediately to his campaign's Facebook page to tout that he "strongly agrees with their mission."

Steitz went on to say that he looks forward to "working with the organization in the future." Any promised "working with" an organization like WFA should be interpreted as working directly against equality for LGBT citizens and directly against the health of their families.

Steitz's embrace of such a hateful organization is no surprise when you take a closer look at where he stands on the political spec-

trum. He is a Chicago-based corporate attorney who, as a law student, was a member of the Federalist Society, an extreme-right group. Founders and other prominent members of that group have taken extreme positions in the areas of reproductive rights, Miranda rights, discrimination law and state sodomy laws, just to name a few.

Steitz also describes himself on his website as being "adamantly pro-life." He was endorsed earlier this month by Wisconsin Right to Life, and his positions are so far off the charts that he was even endorsed by the controversial extremist group Pro-Life Wisconsin.

Apparently even in his business dealings Steitz aligns himself with the extremists. On the Statement of Economic Interests form that he submitted to the state, he lists a fundamentalist church in Greeley,

Colo., as his only entry in the Commercial, Customers, Clients and Tenants section. A quick visit to that church's website reveals links to "ex-gay" groups such as Exodus International and books that tout the thoroughly debunked idea of being "reoriented to heterosexuality."

If the anti-gay propaganda isn't enough to turn you off, there is also an unhealthy dose of the subjugation of women.

Given these views, it is no wonder that a gay-obsessed group like WFA would endorse Steitz. Likewise, it's no surprise that he would proudly tout the organization's support and promise to work with Appling in the future. The two belong together.

Where they don't belong is in the Wisconsin Senate.

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Leonard Sobczak

PUBLISHER/
EDITOR IN CHIEF
Louis Weisberg

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Anita Gielow

CONTRIBUTORS
Debra Brehmer, Will Fellows, Jody Hirsh, Rick Karlin, Cory Liebmann, Jamakaya, Mike Muckian, Kat Murrell, Peggy Schulz, Dan Wilson

Presbyterians bend toward justice

Religion

ANDREW WARNER

Martin Luther King Jr. often invoked Unitarian minister Theodore Parker's famous saying, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice."

Barack Obama added, "But here is the thing: it does not bend on its own. It bends because each of us in our own ways puts our hand on that arc and we bend it in the direction of justice."

Obama aptly captured the essence of progressive action. Our faith looks with hope to the future; our work moves us towards that future.

Over the past few years, dramatic change occurred among mainline Protestants as more and more Christian movements officially endorsed the ordination of LGBT people and began to advocate for LGBT rights. On July 10, the Presbyterian Church USA officially changed ordination rules to allow for LGBT clergy. As a result, one in five practicing Christians in Wisconsin

belong to denominations allowing LGBT clergy.

While I'd like to see a higher percentage, this represents significant change over the last decade. The arc of universe bends toward justice.

The change within the Presbyterian Church happened because of the persistent hope and hard work of many people over a long time. The Rev. Deborah Block of Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Milwaukee stood at the forefront of those efforts. The road she and others took in support of LGBT ordination exemplifies progressive faith and work.

The road to LGBT ordination began badly. In the 1970s, Presbyterians voted to bar gays and lesbians from ordained ministry. Though consistently contested during the following two decades, conservatives successfully strengthened the gay ban in the 1990s by defining marriage as a union between one man and one woman and requiring either fidelity in marriage or celibacy in singleness for clergy.

Yet progressives maintained hope even as they got to work fighting for change. Presbyterians make

rules at their national convention, which then must be approved by a majority of their regional bodies throughout the country (not unlike the amending of the U.S. Constitution). Pro-LGBT amendments were introduced several times over the last decade.

At first, progressives could not succeed in garnering enough votes in the regional bodies. But each time they sought approval, the margin of defeat narrowed. In 2010, the national Presbyterian convention again approved a change that would allow LGBT ordinations.

"I think the next time is our time," Block said at the convention.

Her prediction came true this summer, when the Presbytery of Twin Cities cast the deciding vote in favor of allowing gay and lesbian clergy. For over three decades progressive Presbyterians held onto hope that change would happen and worked tirelessly to make it so.

Block and the many who joined her in this work around the country demonstrated the positive change we can create when we

ground ourselves in both hope and work. They give us a model to follow in other

religious institutions and the wider, civic society. To maintain hope that the arc of the

universe bends toward justice and provide the weight of our work to help bend it.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, 12012 W. North Ave., Wauwatosa 53226, 414-258-0456, www.mtzionlutheran.org

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

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

Tippecanoe Church PCUSA-Living Waters Contemplative Life Center, 125 W. Saveland Ave., Bay View, 53207, 414-481-4680, www.tippecanoechurch.org

Underwood Memorial Baptist Church, 1916 Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa 53213, www.underwoodchurch.org

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

Village Church, 130 E. Juneau Ave., 53202, 414-273-7617, www.villagechurchmilwaukee.org

Wauwatosa Presbyterian Church, 2366 N. 80th St., Wauwatosa, 53213, 414-774-5005, www.tosapres.com

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Advent Lutheran Church ELCA, 7118 Old Sauk Rd., 53717, 608-836-1455, www.madisonchristiancommunity.org

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101 Bethel Drive, P.O. Box 70, Poynette, WI 53955-0070

Community of Hope UCC, 7118 Old Sauk Rd., 53717, 608-836-1455, www.madisonchristiancommunity.org

First United Methodist Church, 203 Wisconsin Ave., 53703-2105, 608-256-9061, www.wisconsinumc.org/madison-firstumc/

Plymouth Congregational UCC, 2401 Atwood Ave., 53704, 608-249-1537, www.pcucc.org

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

Hope United Church of Christ, 141 S. 12th Ave., Sturgeon Bay, 54235, 920-743-2701, www.hopechurchdc.org, hopeucc@hopechurchdc.org

Union Congregational United Church of Christ, 716 S. Madison St., 54301-3609, 920-437-9266, www.unionucc.com, office@unionucc.com

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Fox Valley UU Fellowship, 2600 Philip Lane, Appleton, 54915, 920-731-0849, www.fvuuf.org

SS Cyril and Methodius United Independent Catholic Church, 3499 Oakridge Road, Neenah, 54956, 920-809-3969, www.uicchurch.homestead.com, sscyrilandmethodius@yahoo.com

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OTHER

First Christian Church, 1909 Highland Ave., Janesville, 53548, 608-752-3847, www.fccjanesville.org

First Congregational UCC, 504 Washington Ave., Sauk City, 53583, 608-643-8387, firstucc@merr.com

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 421 S. Farwell St., Eau Claire, 54701, 715-834-0690, www.uueauclaire.com

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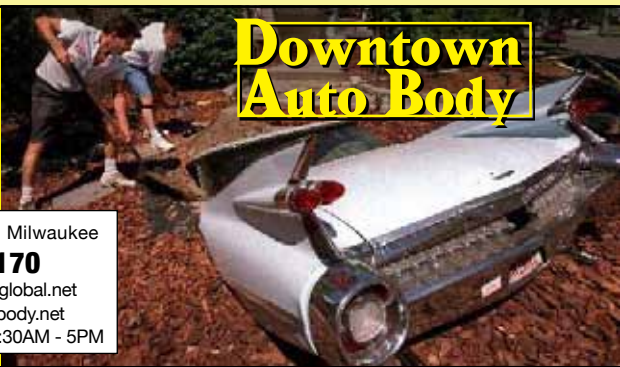
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California governor signs gay history bill

From WiG and AP reports

California school children will learn about the gay civil rights movement in their social studies lessons under legislation signed in July by Gov. Jerry Brown.

The school children may also learn a few lessons about politics and right-wing ballot campaigns.

Within days of Brown signing the bill, the anti-gay Capital Resource Institute announced plans to pursue a referendum to repeal the measure, the first in the nation to add lessons about gays and lesbians to classes in public schools.

"History should be honest,"

the Democratic governor said in a statement. "This bill revises existing laws that prohibit discrimination in education and ensures that the important contributions of Americans from all backgrounds and walks of life are included in our history books."

California Sen. Mark Leno, a Democrat from San Francisco and the bill's author, hailed the bill-signing as a step toward teaching tolerance. Supporters say the bill will teach students to be more accepting of gays and lesbians in light of the bullying that happens to gay students.

"We are making history in California by ensuring that

our textbooks and instructional materials no longer exclude the contributions of LGBT Americans," Leno said in a statement.

California law already requires schools to teach about women, African Americans, Mexican Americans, entrepreneurs, Asian Americans, European Americans, American Indians and labor. The state legislature over the years also has prescribed specific lessons about the Irish potato famine and the Holocaust, among other topics.

The new law, SB48, requires the California Board of Education and local school

districts to adopt textbooks and other teaching materials that cover the contributions and roles of sexual minorities, as soon as the 2013-14 school year.

The legislation leaves it to local school boards to decide how to implement the requirement. It does not specify a grade level for the instruction to begin.

The bill was supported by such gay rights organizations as Equality California and the Gay-Straight Alliance Network.

Teacher groups also said the bill would help students prepare for a diverse and evolving society.

"There is no room for discrimination of any kind in our classrooms, our communities or our state," said Dean Vogel, president of the California Teachers Association.

Republican lawmakers who opposed the bill had called it a well-intentioned but ill-conceived bill. Some complained that it would indoctrinate children to accept homosexuality.

Randy Thomasson, president of SaveCalifornia.com, a conservative family group, said that under the new law parents will have no choice but to take their children out of public school and homeschool them to avoid

what he said was "immoral indoctrination." The new law applies only to public schools, not private schools or families who homeschool.

"Jerry Brown has trampled the parental rights of the overwhelming majority of California fathers and mothers who don't want their children to be sexually brainwashed at school," Thomasson said. "This new law will prohibit textbooks and teachers from telling children the facts that homosexuality is neither healthy nor biological."

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NATIONAL BRIEFS

HOMELESS MEN SAY ANTI-GAY SLURS MADE BEFORE ATTACK

For the second time in less than a month, Colorado Springs police are investigating an assault in which the victims say anti-gay slurs were made.

Two homeless men told police that two men made anti-gay slurs before stabbing them. The incident follows one in which at least one person reported he was beaten because the assailants believed he was gay.

Police are investigating the attack that occurred July 3 outside a restaurant.

Police Sgt. Steve Noblitt said the stabbings aren't being investigated as a hate crime. He says the motive could be the growing friction

between transients squatting in vacant homes and area residents.

Two Colorado Springs men were arrested in the attack. The homeless men were treated for their injuries.

D.C. COPS INVESTIGATE KILLING OF TRANSGENDER PERSON

A 23-year-old transgender person has been fatally shot, and police in the District of Columbia are investigating whether it's a hate crime.

The shooting occurred around 4:30 a.m. July 21 in the 6110 block of Dix Street NE. Police identified the victim as Myles Mclean, who is also known to friends as Lashay Mclean.

D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray

says the investigation is continuing and no motive has been determined. But he says bias based on sexual orientation or gender identity cannot be tolerated.

The D.C. Council held a hearing earlier this month to discuss the police department's response to hate crimes.

A.J. Singletary of Gays and Lesbians Opposing Violence says any violence against members of the LGBT community is alarming and needs to be investigated.

LESBIAN COUPLE: VT. RESORT BARRED RECEPTION

Two New York City women say a Vermont inn refused to host their wedding reception because of the owners' anti-gay bias. The

couple is now suing, alleging discrimination under the state's public accommodations law.

Kate Baker and Ming Linsley say they were turned away by the Wildflower Inn, a 24-room inn in Lyndonville, when they told the inn the wedding would have two brides but no groom.

The inn's owners say their wedding coordinator "did not handle the couple's request in the manner that it should have been."

2ND SUSPECT ARRESTED IN N.C. GAY-BASHING

Police say they have charged an Asheville, N.C., teen in connection with an assault investigators have labeled a hate crime.

The 15-year-old was charged July 21 with assault

and damage to property.

The teen and three others are accused of taunting a man as gay, then assaulting him in the parking lot of an Asheville grocery store Feb. 14. He was treated for broken facial bones.

Police say the officer who originally responded to the incident also is under investigation for not filing a police report on the matter.

OPENLY GAY MAN CONFIRMED AS U.S. JUDGE

A former Clinton administration lawyer has become the first openly gay man to be confirmed as a federal judge.

J. Paul Oetken will become a federal judge in Manhattan when President Obama signs his confirmation.



PHOTO: COURTESY
J. Paul Oetken.

The Senate voted 80 to 13 to confirm the appointment, which was recommended to Obama last year. But Republicans held up the appointment.

— from AP

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N.Y. gay marriage celebrated as victory, opposed as 'abomination'

NEW YORK from page 1
the Statue of Liberty seemed to stand taller July 24.

New York's adoption of legal same-sex marriage is viewed as a pivotal moment in the national gay rights movement. It's expected to galvanize supporters and opponents alike. The state joined Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont, along with Washington, D.C., when it voted last month to legalize gay marriage.

Shortly after midnight, Gov. Andrew Cuomo, D, issued a proclamation commemorating the "profoundly important day" as a "proud demonstration of our state's commitment to ensuring complete equality for all of our citizens."

Cuomo, who championed the marriage equality bill and on July 24 hosted a reception for lawmakers and LGBT civil rights advocates, said, "Passing this law not only completes the promise that we made to the people of the state during the campaign, it's going to make a real difference in people's lives."

THE OPPOSITION

Protest rallies took place in Manhattan, Buffalo, Rochester and Albany. Gay marriage opponents unhappy that Cuomo and lawmakers legalized same-sex marriage last month are calling for a statewide referendum on the issue.

"God is the author of marriage," said Bishop Joseph Matterna, presiding bishop of the Christ Covenant Coalition in New York and Let the People Vote coalition member. "Marriage unites men and women and provides the best opportunity for children to be raised by their mother and father. Children need both a mom and a dad. For centuries, this is the way it has been. If New York is going to change the definition of marriage, it should be the people and not the politicians who make the decision."

Several hundred people crowded into the street across from Cuomo's Manhattan office to protest the new law. They waved signs saying "Excommunicate Cuomo" and chanted "Let

the people vote!" "I'm here for God's sake," said Steve Rosner, 65, of the Lower East Side. "To sanctify same-sex marriage is an abomination. It's beyond belief."

Hundreds more protested on the steps of Buffalo's City Hall and at the state Capitol in Albany.

Additionally, at least two town clerks resigned, saying they could not marry same-sex couples for religious reasons.

THE CELEBRATIONS

But clerks in about a dozen other cities statewide opened their doors to cater to same-sex couples. Judges waived a mandatory 24-hour waiting period that allowed couples to exchange vows moments after receiving their licenses.

In New York City, the festive atmosphere included couples who posed for pictures in front of a photo backdrop of City Hall and bought T-shirts saying "I got married in New York City" from the clerk's office gift shop. In Brooklyn, an elegant reception was held in

Borough Hall with champagne and a lineup of cakes — one with a two-men cake topper, another with two women and a third with a heterosexual couple.

The first couple to marry in Manhattan were Phyllis Siegel, 77, and Connie Kopelov, 85, who have been together for 23 years. Kopelov arrived in a wheelchair and stood with the assistance of a walker. During the service, Siegel wrapped her hand in Kopelov's hand and they both grasped the walker.

Witnesses cheered and wiped away tears after the two women vowed to honor and cherish each other as spouses and then kissed.

"I am breathless. I almost couldn't breathe," Siegel said after the ceremony. "It's mind-boggling. The fact that it's happening to us — that we are finally legal and can do this like everyone else."

Outside afterward, Siegel raised her arms exultantly as Kopelov, in the wheelchair, held out a marriage certificate.

New York City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn, who is openly lesbian, witnessed those first marriages in Manhattan. She told The New York Times, "To hear a judge say, 'By the laws of our state,' it sent a chill up my spine."

In Manhasset on Long Island, Dina Mazzaferro and Robin Leopold of Great Neck got married in the North Hempstead town clerk's office with their 8-year-old daughter, Sasha, and Robin's mother, Barbara, watching. The elder woman wiped away tears during the brief ceremony while Sasha mouthed some of the words

along with her parents.

The couple has been together 15 years.

"We've been waiting for this day," Leopold, an attorney who works in the Queens district attorney's office, said after the service. "And now we're waiting for the day it becomes legal on a federal level. It's a wonderful thing that the town has been so embracing of this."

Across the state in Buffalo, the first in line were Daniel Rodgers, 54, and Scott Klaurens, 40, who were married in shorts, T-shirts and sneakers. They had gone expecting only to get a license and planned to wed July 26, but were told they could go ahead because of their marriage six years ago in Toronto.

"This is just a flower opening up for us and everyone else, a flower of equality," Rodgers said.

At Buffalo City Hall, City Clerk Gerald Chwalinski zipped a black robe over his shorts and golf shirt and spent three hours marrying couples in the ornate city council chambers. His office issued 20 licenses and performed eight ceremonies.

In Syracuse, officials issued licenses to 25 same-sex couples and eight of them were granted waivers. Of the 15 same-sex couples granted licenses in Binghamton, one was from neighboring Pennsylvania and three were from New York City.

There were some glitches, though. In Brooklyn, Eufemio Torres and John Torres were told incorrectly by a city employee that they could not wed July 24 because Eufemio had only a Mexican passport. "Our hearts sank. But

I'm a fighter, and we were not going home," said John Torres, a legal secretary.

Soon after speaking with the Brooklyn borough president's chief of staff, the pair stood before a judge in the hall's elaborate wood-carved main chamber. Eufemio Torres cradled a bouquet of white lilies and orchids, and the men took their wedding vows.

The day began with some couples exchanging vows right after midnight. In Niagara Falls, gay rights activists Kitty Lambert and Cheryl Rudd were legally married the very first moment they could be during a midnight ceremony.

"We've turned Niagara Falls into rainbow colors. What a wonderful day in New York," said Kevin Cathcart of Lambda Legal.

With the rainbow-lit falls as a backdrop, Lambert, 54, and Rudd, 53, were among the first gay couples to tie the knot with the blessing of the state. Lambert and Rudd, who have 12 grandchildren between them, have been together for more than a decade and had long been fighting for the right to marry.

The couple, both from Buffalo, smiled broadly as they exchanged traditional marriage vows, promising to love and cherish each other in sickness and in health. A crowd of several hundred people cheered as they were pronounced married and shared their first wedded kiss.

"What an incredible night this was," said Lambert, who wore an electric blue satin gown with a sequined train for the ceremony and carried a bouquet of blue hydrangeas. "Everything was absolutely perfect."

VISIT GAY CHICAGO

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Interview

GREGG SHAPIRO

You can add out singer/songwriter Bob Mould's name to the list of musicians who have made the move from the stage to the page and written a memoir. "See A Little Light: The Trail of Rage and Melody" (Little, Brown, 2011), written by Mould with Michael Azerrad, is one of the bolder autobiographies out there, telling the musician's personal story. It follows his life from his difficult roots in upstate New York to his years at Macalaster College in Minnesota to the formation (and dissolution) of his groundbreaking band Hüsker Dü. It includes his acclaimed solo work and the formation of his second band Sugar.

Longtime fans are sure to enjoy the inside story of Mould's musical background and his highly regarded contributions to modern rock. Queer readers will appreciate the way he handles the subject of coming out as a high-profile artist.

I spoke with Mould shortly before the publication of the book.

Gregg Shapiro: There's been an increase in popularity of musician memoirs in recent years. Did you read any of those before writing your own?

Bob Mould: No, I sure didn't. I'm aware of all of them. I don't know how to explain the popularity of the subgenre. It sure seems to be the thing to do right now for artists of a certain age, and longevity, I guess. It's nice. I know Patti (Smith's memoir) is so acclaimed and revered by so many people. I probably should get to that one.

In addition to being about your music career, "See A Little

Light" is also about your life as a gay man. Were you writing the memoir for a specific audience?

I think the audience evolved as the book progressed. There's a handful of key threads in the book obviously. Most people know me as a musician. Many people know of my homosexuality, a lot of people did not know anything about my family of origin.

I suspected there would be an LGBT audience for the book. I suppose that there might be a recovery audience for the book, beyond the music audience and a music personality audience. As I worked on the book ... the path became clear.

Regarding Hüsker Dü, you wrote, "This is the story that has never been told." Was it liberating to be able to put pen to paper and tell the story?

Yeah, ultimately liberating. I don't relish the story. But for decades I never talked about sort of the slow dissolve of Hüsker Dü. I didn't really feel like it was that important to my progress as an artist, but there's been a lot of conflicting stories out there. I've never gone on record with what I remember. I just thought, I'll say this once, I'll say it clearly and then we'll all move on from this.

Do you think Grant or Greg will write their own books in response to yours?

I don't know if I'd want my book to be the inspiration for somebody else's retort. I think if anyone wants to tell their story they should do it unfettered (laughs).

You make a joke about "Catharsis," the Broadway stage version of this book. With the success of rock musicals such as "Hedwig and the Angry Inch,"



PHOTO: COURTESY

A LITTLE LIGHT

Bob Mould
reveals all in
new memoir

"American Idiot" and "Spring Awakening," do you think there might be a rock musical in your future?

That's a big genre to tackle. I love the joke, "Catharsis: The Broadway Musical." It's a word that gets pinned on me so often. I thought it was a beautiful moment to make light of it. Sort of the idea, when do I get to be happy? If somebody else reads the book and feels

inspired and has the backing of (entertainment company) AEG to put a musical together ... (laughs).

What about your own original concept for a Broadway musical?

I think the idea of Broadway is always there for people who write music or write stories. I've got a pretty big catalog and a history as a songwriter and

I'm starting up as an author so, you never know. There might be a book about wrestling, who knows?

I'm glad that you mentioned wrestling. During your time in the pro-wrestling world, did you ever come in contact with any gay wrestlers?

No. There was a fellow at WCW who wrestled under the name "Canyon"

who has since passed. He committed suicide last year. He was gay. I did not know it at the time. It wasn't germane to the work at hand. As it turned out, this fellow was gay and bi-polar and struggled and had a really tortured life towards the end, from his all accounts. It's a very homoerotic business without being gay at all. It's an interesting place to work, that's for sure.



By Kat Murrell

Contributing writer
"What is art?"

This a slippery, skittish, even smug question – but a good one to ponder. I think one of the defining qualities of art is "transformation." Art is alchemy that creates something new from raw materials, whether that is the birth of a physical object or a nudge into a fresh perspective on the way we see things.

With that in mind, three new exhibitions offer worthwhile explorations of art and its transformative powers.

"Objects for Objects: Work by Venetia Dale" is a compact show at the Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum, 2220 N. Terrace Ave. Dale requires you to slow down and pause over the details of her richly textured, lustrous, metallic sculptural groups. Silvery woven webs shine on the wall, like postmodern chain mail or something between a weapon and a garment, touched by a pewter-preferring Midas.

Let yourself be taken in

OBJETS D'ART

by the combination of varied surfaces, wobbly contours and machinist precision in the crisscross of lines. Then, have a look at the photographs on the wall for the backstory of where these lovely items originated. If Dale's re-imagining and transformation of ugly, lowbrow items like Dollar General shopping baskets into such graceful objects isn't visionary, I'm not sure what is.

If there is a thorn of disappointment, it is in not being able to see some pieces as closely as desired. One can't get close enough to drink in the detail of sculptures on the floor without sitting on the floor. And this exhibition doesn't seem designed to be that interactive.

The loveliest lingering

thought from Dale's work is in the potential for transformation: ugly ducklings of plastic, consumer utilitarianism are refined into swans of high art. A parallel manipulation is found in the bones, feathers and hair used by Martha Glowacki in "Private Science," which recently opened at Inova/Kenilworth, 2155 N. Prospect Ave.

Glowacki's show opens with the two-dimensional series "Natural Philosophies" (2005). Astronomical diagrams of a dark blue sky are punctuated by stars, floating animal skeletons and fine cursive script over a firmly measured grid. The grid is an interesting device. It provides a way to get one's arms around all this mystical stuff, to organize and figure it all out.

Multi-object installations and shadow boxes dominate the exhibition, inviting the viewer for a dip into natural history and poetry. The arrangements are visually delicate, with deceptively strong materials such as hair and bones covered with black and silver paint in gothic, romantic splendor. Glowacki inserts this raw, visceral stuff into fancy and elegance. Yet, these pieces sidestep their messy origins, creating a slightly removed psychic space for contemplation.

"Private Science" is running concurrently at Inova/Kenilworth with an exhibition of large paintings by Greg Klassen titled "Air." Whichever exhibition you start with, going from one to another is a slightly jarring

experience. Chalk it up to the diversity of contemporary art on the scene.

Klassen shows a series collectively called "Perishable Atlas," and on that note, you may adopt the map of your choice: landscape, undersea topography or the world seen via microscope and petri dish.

Standing in the center of the gallery is one place to start, but go up close, within inches or so of the surface of the painting. The tooth of the canvas comes into focus and the residual dance of paint, applied quickly, deftly or softly. Breathily dots suddenly seem miles away as eye and mind give in to a sense of atmospheric perspective, or the perception that things faint and fuzzy are far away. Purposeful or a happy improvisation, it's hard to say.

But the variation in gradient creates space.

Klassen's color palettes play off each other in small ensembles of visual harmony. One especially luminous work derives its energy from a bright yellow swath, like a solar flare that all but obliterates the pale, gentle gray beneath. The arc of the deepest gold is like a diver, created out of molten color, about to plummet.

How is it that a rippling wave of yellow paint caught on a canvas can invoke simultaneously the radiant power of the sun and the gravitational weight of a diver? Alas, these are mere suggestions. Like looking at clouds, viewers bring their own imagination and baggage to each. Klassen is rather coy. He implies shapes and things, but not definitely. Paintings are full of light, but without the counterpart of shadow. One piece includes dots of sand on the canvas. A real landscape, a day at the beach? Klassen lets you wonder. He has begun the transformation, now you complete it.

Left and far right, works in Martha Glowacki's "Private Science."
Center, "Objects for Objects: Work by Venetia Dale."

PHOTOS: KAT MURRELL

Artwatch

DEBRA BREHMER

Hey friends, it's gallery night July 29. There's so much going on all over town that if you walk out your door you will stumble upon something that

looks or smells like art. There will be 57 venues presenting stuff.

Let's begin with the least raucous of the offerings and work our way up. Walker's Point Center for the Arts, 839 S. Fifth St., offers "Quiet," an exhibition curated by UWM professor Josie Osborne. In an age of large, loud, fast and

flickering, Osborne cultivates a welcome retreat. Artists include Melanie Pankau, Devin Giese and Tyler Meuninck. The show was funded in part by Cream City Foundation's Joseph R. Pabst LGBT Infrastructure Fund.

Due north and into the Third Ward, we move from quiet to still. Katie Gingras

Gallery, 241 N. Broadway, offers "Stay Still," a group show of works that explore the still-life tradition. Pat Hidson's richly colorful and compositionally rambunctious paintings sit well next to Sara Mulloy's lavishly rendered single object studies.

If these contemplative, sedate offerings have lulled you into a zen stupor, then

take another little leap north to Dean Jensen Gallery, 759 N. Water St., where the old lion of art is staging a house party with a bunch of 20-somethings. Jensen has swept the cobwebs from his rafters and is trying to perk things up by giving the youngsters a shout-out.

And last but not least, don't

forget that the Paul Baker Prindle exhibition, "Memento Mori," opens tonight, July 27, at the Museum of Wisconsin Art in West Bend. The show features large-scale photographs of mundane looking places that are actually the sites of murders of gay or transgendered individuals. Joseph Pabst is sponsor of this exhibition.

Thumbs up for Trocadero's bounteous brunch

Dining

RICK KARLIN

There is a growing number of gastropubs in cities across the country – and with good reason. Gastropubs tend to serve upscale bar fare, and are, for the most part, reasonably priced and have casual, relaxed atmospheres that people like.

Trocadero could serve as a textbook example of how to run a gastropub. We stopped by for brunch and had a nearly perfect experience.

The place was full within a few minutes of opening, always a good sign. During our short wait, we lounged at the bar over one of the best examples of the classic Blood Mary I have ever had. The tomato juice base had just

enough horseradish to give it a kick, but not so much as to overpower the subtler tastes of Worcestershire and celery salt. The addition of a simple rib of celery, an olive, pickle and a green bean provided the perfect garnishment.

No sooner were we seated than our server Meghan introduced herself and offered to get our beverages going. I hope Trocadero realizes what a gem it has in this server. Her sparkling personality and knowledge of the menu made our visit all the more pleasant.

In addition to traditional breakfast items, more unusual fare is available. The breakfast tacos combine scrambled eggs with white cheddar cheese and chorizo (although my vegetarian friend had that last item omitted). They're presented on three soft, warm flour tortillas with a

side of excellent rosemary enriched home-fried potatoes and a just-spicy-enough pico de gallo. Banana-coconut pancakes are regular griddle cakes tarted up with slices of caramelized banana and toasted coconut. Fresh maple syrup added another layer of sweetness to this rich dish.

Another decadent option is the "Almost French Toast," which is a butterscotch bread pudding. The entire dish is drizzled with caramel sauce and chopped candied walnuts. When I die, I want to be buried in this dish!

The crab cake Benedict combines poached eggs and perfectly prepared crab cakes served with creamed spinach and tomato slices, topped with a creamy corn sauce fragrant with a hint of curry. I asked for the sauce on the side, as most places use too much for my taste. My

dish arrived with the sauce on the eggs, but it was just a splash so it was fine. Our server apologized profusely that the back waiter delivered the dish the wrong way and offered a replacement.

If all of that richness seems too much for you, there are

lighter options available. The yogurt parfait combines fresh berries, granola and yogurt with a drizzle of lavender honey in a way that makes healthy fare scrumptious. I was looking forward to the mini-doughnuts available as a side, but was too full to even

contemplate that indulgence. Our coffee and tea was constantly replenished, and we left feeling like visiting VIPs.

Not bad for a meal that ran less than \$15 a person. (Trocadero, 1758 N. Water St., 414-272-0205)

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Hepburn resurrected in encore performance

Theater

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

Angela Iannone wants to make it perfectly clear that screen legend Katherine Hepburn, whom she plays in the In Tandem Theatre Co.'s upcoming production of "Tea at Five," is not a celebrity in the modern sense. And the Milwaukee actor is strident in her opinion.

"Kate Hepburn is an authentic artist," Iannone says. "She was celebrated for her unique and brilliant artistry, but isn't one of those strange people famous only for being famous."

Legendary might be a better word.

Playwright Matthew Lombardo's 2002 one-woman show is based on Hepburn's autobiography "Me: Stories of My Life." The play tells Hepburn's story in a monologue form, in two acts that occur at different points in Hepburn's career. But both take place at the actor's

estate in the Fenwick section of Old Saybrook, Conn.

Act 1, set in 1938, introduces the young Oscar-winner facing an industry that has just labeled her "box office poison," causing the actress to contemplate her childhood and her start in show business. Act 2, set in 1983, shows us an elderly Hepburn, recovering from a recent car crash, reflecting on her artistic triumphs and her heartbreaking romance with actor Spencer Tracy.

"Kate Hepburn is a fascinating person both for herself and the time in which she lived," says Iannone, who's reprising the role that she first undertook with In Tandem's 2009 production of the same play. "There is no difference in the Hepburn we admire from film or stage and who she was as a person."

In Iannone's mind, Hepburn was an individualistic, modern and thoroughly "to-the-marrow" an American woman who sometimes confounded audiences and critics with her East Coast patri-



PHOTO: IN TANDEM THEATRE
Angela Iannone as Katherine Hepburn in "Tea at Five."

cian air, breathy voice and direct manner. Hepburn, the daughter of a women's suffragist, won four out of her 12 Oscar nominations for best actress. She appeared with leading men Cary Grant, James Stewart, Laurence Olivier and, of course, Tracy, with whom she had a lifelong love affair.

"She embodies everything

we like about ourselves when we speak of being American, and her career was a journey in defining emerging modern femininity and the ideals of individuality, freedom and self-expression," Iannone says.

The encore performance is not part of In Tandem's regular season. It presented itself as an opportunity for

the company to revisit one of its most successful productions, according to artistic director Chris Flieller, who also directed it.

"We don't often repeat a show because it's so difficult to recapture the ephemeral nature of live theater," says Flieller, who studied with Sanford Robbins' professional theater training program when it was still housed at the UW-M. "In this case, it hasn't been that long since we did the show, so it was fresh in our collective memories and Angela was eager to do it."

Both the actor and her director are adamant that playing Hepburn is no more difficult than playing a fictional character. The role as defined by the play, not the actor's impersonation skills, determines a production's success or failure.

"I don't see a greater or lesser challenge directing a character based on a real person as opposed to one who comes from a playwright's imagination," Flieller says. "It's the ultimate goal

to bring both to life, allowing the audience to spend time with someone to whom they feel a connection."

Iannone agrees with her director. "The playwright and audience expect a certain amount of 'personation' to be done," she says. "There are speech cadences, turns of phrase and physical characteristics that the viewing public expects. Those must be honored as part of the person being portrayed."

When the person is Katherine Hepburn, the expectations and the audience's pleasure at their fulfillment is that much higher, Iannone says.

ON STAGE

In Tandem Theatre's production of "Tea at Five" runs Aug. 3-21 at Tenth Street Theatre, located in the lower level of Milwaukee's Calvary Church, 628 N. Tenth St. Go to www.intandemtheatre.org.

A little bit of summer Fun

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Some musicians put a lot of thought into what they should name their bands. Members of Jethro Tull ran through a litany of identities before assuming the name of the father of modern English farming and fertilizer usage. The name stuck.

Something similar happened to the Milwaukee duo known as Mrs. Fun.

"We were so caught up in making music together that when we booked our first gig we didn't have a name," says keyboard player Connie Grauer. "When the club owner asked, 'What is the name of your band?' I called (drummer) Kim (Zick) and she said, 'Mrs. Fun.' I thought it would work for that gig and that we would promptly change it. Instead, here we are 20 years later with the same name and answering the same question for the 1,000th time."

Despite the name, or perhaps because of it, Mrs. Fun has attracted a large following for what the pair calls "neo-

cabaret" or "nu jazz," a mix of off-center standards, ultra-funk and spoken-word rap. The two women flex their musical muscles on Aug. 4 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. as part of the Shorewood's Hubbard Park outdoor music series, one of a number of summer dates the duo has in and around the Milwaukee area.

Grauer and Zick hail from Waukesha, which they proudly note is the home of electric guitar pioneer Les Paul. Zick started out playing the flute in elementary school but switched to drums in seventh grade. She met Grauer in a seventh-grade drum class, and the pair have been playing together ever since.

It was time the duo spent in Nashville in the 1990s that helped propel their career to success. Veteran producer Jim Rooney produced the pair's first recording "Lulu's Walk" and Mrs. Fun's star began its ascent.

While in Nashville, Grauer and Zick met k.d. lang, who invited the pair to perform Cole Porter's "So in Love" with her on "Red, Hot +

Blue." Collaborations continued, with lang performing on Mrs. Fun's compositions "Lulu's Lament" from "They Are Not a Trio" and "Daughtera" from "No Ennu." Lang's 1997 release "Drag" features Mrs. Fun playing on Jane Siberry's composition "Haint it Funny."

The duo also met the Indigo Girls in Nashville and laid down some basic tracks for "Dead Man's Hill," featured on the album "Swamp Ophelia." The Indigo Girls reciprocated, recording vocal backing for Mrs. Fun's "Gossip" featured on the album "No Ennu." The pair also has shared the stage with Bela Fleck and the Flecktones, Robert Cray, Janis Ian, the Violent Femmes, John Schofield and Billy Cobham.

Mrs. Fun relocated from Nashville to Milwaukee a few years ago, and now considers the Cream City to be home base.

Grauer cites musicians from Mozart to Ella Fitzgerald as influencing not only the band's sound, but also its deep exploration of



PHOTO: COURTESY
Mrs. Fun performs 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Aug. 4 at Shorewood's Hubbard Park, 3565 N. Morris Blvd.

different musical styles that have all melded together into a unique and distinct musical style that has earned Mrs. Fun multiple honors from the Wisconsin Area Music Industry. Mrs. Fun has been voted best contemporary jazz group for three consecutive years.

Grauer and Zick also

have earned WAMI awards for best instrumentalists and Grauer grabbed WAMIs for best female vocalist and best stage entertainer.

Mrs. Fun's next musical port of call will be studying Afro-Cuban rhythms. A trip to the Havana Jazz Festival kindled an interest, and the pair have since been able to

perform with Cuban musicians Ana Ruth Bermudez and Luis Diaz.

Where such an interest will take Grauer and Zick remains to be seen. In the meantime, Mrs. Fun remains a bellwether group who should be seen frequently, if only so fans can mark the tides of change.

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Music festival opens Door to classical season

By Michael Muckian
Contributing writer

In many ways, the village of Fish Creek is the artistic heart of the Door County peninsula. Among other things, this small community on the Green Bay side of the Door is home to the Peninsula Music Festival, which hosts its 59th season in August.

This year's series of nine classical concerts begins Aug. 2 at Door Community Auditorium with Verdi's overture to his opera "Nabucco," Beethoven's Triple Concerto Op. 56 in C Major and Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 3, Op. 56 in A minor, which is also known as the "Scottish" symphony. A symphonic rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner" will round out the performance.

"People come to Door County for the beauty of its geography, and many of them don't even know we're here," says Sharon Grutzmacher, PMF's executive director. "We are one of the best-kept secrets on the peninsula."

PMF performed its first

concert as a chamber orchestra on Aug. 6, 1953, conducted by founder and musical director Thor Johnson. The fledgling festival had a budget of \$10,000, a single funder and troupe of volunteer supporters.

Over time, the ensemble grew from a chamber orchestra with 25 players to its current symphonic size, with a roster of 64 professional musicians and music educators from major symphonies throughout the country.

Johnson died in 1975. PMF went through several music directors before hiring Victor Yampolsky in 1985. A Russian émigré, Yampolsky studied violin under David Oistrakh at the Moscow Conservatory, was offered a music scholarship and a position in the Boston Symphony Orchestra string section by Leonard Bernstein, and currently serves as professor of music performance at the Northwestern University School of Music in Evanston, Ill.

"The music is our artistic mission, and it's displayed in

every brochure, every poster and heard at every concert," Yampolsky says. "My aim has always been to present the greatest music by the greatest composers who ever lived."

This year's line-up includes works by Franz Schubert, Camille Saint-Saens, J.S. Bach, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and a host of others. The series also features a two-concert Liszt-Berlioz Fest and an evening of stage and film music, including works by Bernstein, John Williams, Richard Rodgers, Lerner and Loewe and others. "From Broadway to Hollywood," helmed by guest conductor Stuart Alltop, will play on Aug. 6.

Last year PMF commissioned a work from pianist Stewart Goodyear. The artist has said his inspiration for the piano concerto, a "highly caffeinated" work written to be performed with a full symphony orchestra, was his love of Door County itself.

"Every movement is based on a dance," says Stewart, whose heritage is half British



PHOTO: COURTESY

Peninsula Music Festival presents its 59th season of the classics in Fish Creek's Door Community Auditorium Aug. 2-20. Go to musicfestival.com.

and half Trinidadian. "The concerto itself is full of joy and I am prouder of this piece than any other piece that I have composed."

PMF presents outstanding compositions and performances in a uniquely comfortable and relaxed environment. Out performer Paul Ledwon, principal cellist both with PMF and the Omaha

Symphony Orchestra, says that despite the cultured image of long-haired music, its aficionados are a welcoming crowd. Their openness extends to sexual orientation, he adds.

"I think maybe the most interesting thing about being gay in the classical music world is that it's such a non-issue," Ledwon says.

"Personally, I've never experienced anything negative having to do with it."

Out PMF chairman Bruce McKeefry, who owns McKeefry & Yeomans Landscaping and McKeefry & Yeomans LLP, agrees.

"The music doesn't know my sexuality," McKeefry says. "It isn't straight or gay - it's about the music."

Unforgettable: an interview with Bob Smith

Interview GREGG SHAPIRO

Bob Smith is a ground-breaker. He was the first out gay comic to perform on the "Tonight Show." With his book "Openly Bob," he moved to the front of the memoir pack.

More recently, Smith has followed up his first novel "Selfish and Perverse" with the provocative and extremely funny "Remembrance of Things I Forgot" (Terrace Books, 2011). I spoke with him shortly before the book's publication.

Gregg Shapiro: **John, the main character of "Remembrance of Things I Forgot," owns a comic book store. Was this your way of coming out as a comic book geek?**

Bob Smith: I read comic books as a boy, but now my interest in superheroes is essentially limited to thinking I'd like to hammer Thor.

If you were a comic book superhero, which one would you be?

Superman, the gay superhero who faster than a speeding bullet can tell which Broadway

shows are really worth your time and which restaurants I have reasonably priced great food and the most delicious waiters. His super-power is that he never exercises and can eat and drink anything and yet he still keeps his rock hard pecs and six-pack. Plus, his withering glance can trump any straight superhero's heat or x-ray vision.

The book also has a sci-fi subtext.

I like the time travel stories of Jack Finney and thought a gay time travel short story could be interesting, since you could literally fuck yourself. Or be repulsed by the changes in your body - or more importantly in your personality, values and beliefs.

For me, the fascinating appeal of a time travel novel was being able to have the older you meet the younger you and exploring the comic and tragic elements of their relationship. I also embraced playing with how "would you change your life?"

"Remembrance of Things I Forgot" is your most political book. It begins (and technically continues) during the George W. Bush reign.

I started writing it in 2008 and the political aspect of the story developed from an idea I used in my short

story - what if your boyfriend became Republican? I know I'd find it less horrific having a boyfriend turn into a vampire or werewolf. That idea blossomed into having to explain all the political changes from 1986 to 2006 to your younger self, which sounds unbelievable, and then having your younger, more idealistic self try to convince you to stop them.

"Remembrance of Things I Forgot" allows you to vilify Dick Cheney, in both a comedic and a serious manner.

Once I decided upon making him the villain of the story, I realized that I'd stumbled on the one historical character who you could make do anything evil and it would be plausible. That's comic gold. But I also wanted to make him at times seem almost dangerously likable. I didn't want to make Bush or Cheney cartoons.

The book also feels like you commenting on relationships. What do you think makes for a successful relationship?

Love and sexual attraction helps. I also think it's about sharing common interests and having interests that you can share with someone else. My partner Michael's a screenwriter and playwright, and he's opened my eyes to certain films and plays that I might have never seen. He's even made me appreciate musicals. But we also share the same values. We love our dog Bozzie and both refuse to buy products that are animal tested and both regard political parties that don't believe in universal healthcare as despicable and heartless. Where Michael and I strongly disagree is over the importance of a clutter-free dining room table. I lead the pro-paper faction.

"Remembrance of Things I Forgot" is available as an e-book.

It is my first e-book. I'm glad since I've started buying e-books and want all my books to be in that format. Although I'll always buy my friends' books in hard-cover as I like signed first-editions.

What about your next book?

I'm about 160 pages into a novel set in ancient Greece told by Sophocles. It's going to have everything from a bad comedian to a male beauty pageant (yes, the ancient Greeks had male beauty contests). One of the most enjoyable parts of writing this novel was the research. I've read over 20 books about ancient Greece.

And what's great is that classical scholars have to find their niches, so there's books on every aspect of their culture. From birds to God-on-man action, it's been covered.

Finally, I'm sure your fans are concerned about your health.

I was diagnosed with ALS/Lou Gehrig's disease in 2007, and according to my doctors I should be dead by

now. So that's good news. I've had to stop doing stand-up due to the deterioration of my voice, which was painful, because I still immodestly think I was one of the best gay male stand ups out there.

But I'm not depressed and I should be. I'm precariously optimistic that I'll beat this disease or end up punching God in the face for putting me through this ordeal.

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REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS I FORGOT

A NOVEL BOB SMITH

"If H. G. Wells had been funny and Oscar Wilde obsessed with time travel they might have mated and produced Bob Smith, who has written the funniest and wildest ride imaginable through the recent past and near future." - *Samuel W. Hite*

These friends come with entertaining benefits

Film

GREGG SHAPIRO

'FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS'

Possibly the funniest rom-com since "(500) Days of Summer," "Friends With Benefits" takes the no-strings-attached relationship concept and ties it in little love knots. Right from the beginning, the laughs are fast and furious, silly and sexy.

In New York, executive recruiter Jamie (Mila Kunis) is dumped by boyfriend Quincy (Andy Samberg). Meanwhile, in L.A., website wunderkind Dylan (Justin Timberlake, bringing sexy back and more) is getting the ax from John Mayer-obsessed girlfriend Kayla (Emma Stone).

As luck would have it, Dylan is recruited by Jamie to come to New York for a job interview as an art director at GQ magazine. He nails it, of course. But will he nail Jamie? That's what you're expected to ponder.

While they maintain a professional and social relationship during Dylan's transition, the sexual tension is palpable. It's also handled with grace and humor. So when they begin their sex-driven but emotionally bereft association, it comes as no surprise. How long they can make it last before love rears its ugly head is anyone's guess.

"Friends With Benefits" confirms that both Timberlake and Kunis are able to carry a movie as lead actors. Kunis has had a bit more practice and pulls it off effortlessly, proving she's a natural born comic. Timberlake, on the other hand, is the real revelation here. Anyone who has seen him on "Saturday Night Live" already knows how capable he is. In "Friends" he meets and exceeds all expectations.

Supporting characters such as Tommy (Woody Harrelson), the gay sports editor at GQ, and Lorna (Patricia Clarkson), Jamie's free-loving mother, almost steal the show from the young couple.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Mila Kunis and Justin Timberlake are "Friends With Benefits."

'CRAZY STUPID LOVE'

Is it wrong to expect more from Glenn Ficarra and John Requa, the co-writers/co-directors of the wonderful "I Love You Phillip Morris"? More dramedy than rom-com, "Crazy Stupid Love" is not a total loss. After all, we do get to see Ryan Gosling in various states of undress.

Over dinner at a restaur-

ant Emily (Julianne Moore) asks husband Cal (Steve Carell) for a divorce. High school sweethearts who married in their teens when Emily became pregnant, the disclosure that Emily had an affair with co-worker David (Kevin Bacon) causes Cal to throw himself from the car on the drive home. He survives, but his spirit is crushed.

13-year-old son Robbie (Jonah Bobo) is experiencing the blush of first love in the form of a crush on 17-year-old babysitter Jessica (Analeigh Tipton). But Jessica pines for Cal! Somewhere across town, law school grad Hannah (the ubiquitous Emma Stone) is leading a PG13 life, aside from her crush on Conan O'Brien. Sitting in a bar with best friend Liz (Liza Lapira), Hannah brushes off the advances of ladies' man Jacob (Ryan Gosling), choosing to remain faithful to lawyer boyfriend Richard (singer Josh Groban).

Later, in the same bar where Hannah turned him down, Jacob overhears a drunk and slightly belligerent Cal bemoaning his situation. One look at Cal in his ill-fitting clothes and worn-out New Balance kicks, and Jacob is inspired to make him his very own Eliza Doolittle, assisting him in redeeming his manhood. The scenes involving Cal's transformation are among the funniest in the movie, culminating in

Cal picking up teacher and recovering alcoholic Kate (Marisa Tomei).

At the same time, Emily is trying to put David off as she tries to figure out the next step in her life. One of the more hilarious, and awkward, moments occurs when Cal and Emily come together for a parent/teacher conference at Robbie's school, only to discover that Kate is Robbie's teacher. And poor Hannah has her own uncomfortable moment at a party thrown in her honor after she passes the bar exam. She realizes that she and Richard aren't on the same page. This leads her to track down Jacob at his bar hangout and make up for lost time.

The Hannah and Jacob relationship, which gets serious quickly, is the first in a series of unexpected twists and turns. Some you see coming, some you don't.

Ultimately, that's the problem with the movie. It wants to be taken seriously as a portrait of love's various facets, but it also wants to tickle you until your eyes water.

Love hurts, scars and wounds in 'Blue Valentine'

DVDiva

GREGG SHAPIRO

'BLUE VALENTINE'

Just like the song says, love hurts, scars, wounds and marks in Derek Cianfrance's romantic tragedy "Blue Valentine."

There's little doubt that this married couple - house painter Dean (Ryan Gosling) and nurse Cindy (Oscar-nominee Michelle Williams) - love each other when we first encounter them at home with their young daughter Frankie. But the unmistakable cracks are beginning to show, especially after Cindy fails to lock the yard gate and the family dog Megan gets out and is hit by a car.

Another indication of trouble brewing is that Cindy's boss, Dr. Feinberg (Ben Shenkman), has offered her a job that involves relocation, something she hasn't yet discussed with Dean. Dr. Feinberg is attracted to Cindy. Leaving the present set-

ting, "Blue Valentine" sets up a series of flashbacks to the past to establish that Dean and Cindy's relationship wasn't always so tenuous. Dean, sweet and kind of goofy, interviews at a moving company and is hired, in spite of his lack of experience. Cindy is in college where she is studying medicine and dating jock Bobby (Mike Vogel).

Back in the present, Dean books a room at a Sybarist-style motel so that he and Cindy can get away following their pet's death. On the way to the motel they stop at a liquor store/gas station to pick up libations. There Cindy runs into Bobby and it has an unexpected impact on her. Once in the car, she tells Dean about seeing Bobby, and he is visibly upset.

Dean has good reason to be upset, as we discover in several of the flashbacks, because Bobby is a dark bruise in both of their lives. The scenes from the past provide viewers with an understanding of how Cindy and Dean arrived at the crucial point at which they find

themselves. The performances are intimately rendered, with a combination of humor and raw erotic heat. Williams and Gosling believably portray the blush of new and real love and the devastation of falling irretrievably out of love. DVD special features include deleted scenes, home movies, a "making of" featurette and audio commentary.

'GNOMEO & JULIET'

A story that's been told before, a lot, is told again here - this time with an Elton John score and animated lawn ornaments that come to life. On Verona Drive, the Montague and Capulet neighbors don't care for each other, and their antipathy extends to their lawn gnomes and other yard decorations. Those include a fawn voiced by Ozzy Osbourne, a pink flamingo voiced by Jim Cummings and a fountain frog voiced by Ashley Jensen.

It's the Red gnomes (Juliet's family and friends) versus the Blues (Gnomeo's



PHOTO: COURTESY
Ryan Gosling and Michelle Williams fall in and out of love in "Blue Valentine."

clan and compadres) in this version of the story of the star-crossed lovers. Bursting with Shakespearean and pop culture references, "Gnomeo & Juliet" alternates between being lawn-gnome

cute and creepy. It's meant to be another G-rated flick for kids that won't have parents, gay and straight, running for the exit. But even at only 84 minutes, "Gnomeo & Juliet" feels like it goes on too long.

Blu-ray bonus material includes two (!) alternate endings, deleted and alternate scenes, behind-the-scenes footage, the "Elton Builds a Garden" featurette and more.

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Music to soothe migraines? A speculative peek at Michele Bachmann's iPod

Music

GREGG SHAPIRO

In addition to Anita Bryant, Stryper, Buju Banton, Smoking Popes, Eminem, Pedro The Lion, Rosie Thomas, Danielson Famile and Switchfoot, it's a safe bet that some of the following artists can be found in the playlists on Michele Bachmann's iPod.

OWL CITY

Music for home-schooled shut-ins, Owl City's new disc "All Things Bright and Beautiful" picks up where Bachmann's fellow Minnesotan Adam Young left off with his 2009 major-label debut "Ocean Eyes." Rocking a bit harder than before, Owl City still relies heavily on immature puns and clichés. Less than subtle religious references abound in "Angels," "Galaxies" and "Hospital Flowers." Especially scary is the use of a recording of Ronald Reagan's voice (re: the Challenger explosion) on "January 28, 1986." I could easily picture Bachmann shaking her bony booty to this junk, but I just had lunch.

AMERICAN IDOL

Politician that she is, Bachmann is sure to appreciate how Fox's tacky talent show "American Idol" allows the citizens of the United States to have their say in who gets a lucrative recording contract. No doubt the various artists compilation "American Idol, 10th Anniversary - The Hits: Volume 1" is in heavy rotation on her iPod. Down-home diva Carrie Underwood ("Before He Cheats"), Kelly Clarkson ("Since U Been Gone"), Daughtry ("Home"), Taylor Hicks ("Takin' It To The Streets") and, of course, Ruben Studdard ("Superstar") are sure to be Bachmann faves. But she probably skips selections by homo barbarians such as Clay Aiken, whom she probably wishes was as "invisible" as the title of his song, and Adam Lambert, the 21st-century's Boy George.

COLD WAR KIDS

Even though Cold War Kids' music probably isn't to her taste, Bachmann would be delighted to know that guitarist Jonathan Russell is the son of an evangelical Christian preacher. On "Mine Is Yours," Cold War Kids sing

about tested faith ("Royal Blue"), trials and treasures (the title tune), leaps of faith ("Finally Begin"), a "new prophet" ("Out of the Wilderness") and so on. This sounds like a cross between U2 and Kings of Leon.

JOSH GROBAN

Does Bachmann dig Josh Groban? Does Sarah Palin shriek, "You betcha!?" Listening to his pop-eratic voice must make her feel as if she'll explode like the Chicken Lady on "Kids in the Hall." In spite of being about that modern-day Sodom and Gomorrah, "Bells of New York City," from Groban's "Illuminations," sounds like Christmas. Although deeply suspicious of Galileo the man, Bachmann might find herself humming along to the song "Galileo (Someone Like You)." Songs such as "Hidden Away," "Love Only Knows," "London Hymn" and "Straight To You" (heck, any songs with the words "hymn" and "straight" in the title) should fill her with that special feeling.

MATTHEW MORRISON

If Bachmann had a secret musical love, who would it be? Golly, that Matthew

Morrison on "Glee" sure is a hunky specimen of manhood. But, gee whiz, could his self-titled Mercury CD be any more boring or derivative? His original compositions, including "Summer Rain," "My Name" and "It's Over," all have a vaguely familiar ring to them, as if he thought the only way to write a song was to imitate what someone else did. And did much better. Even worse, duets with Sting ("Let Your Soul Be Your Pilot"), Gwyneth Paltrow ("Somewhere Over the Rainbow") and (again with the gays!) Elton John (the "Mona Lisas and Mad Hatters/Rocket Man" medley) are lackluster.

GLEE

Why, it's enough to drive someone to listen to the latest "Glee: The Music - Volume 6/Season Two." Bachmann could justify it because of the Fox connection. The interpretations of Fleetwood Mac classics such as "Dreams," "Songbird" and "Go Your Own Way" will bring back a flood of memories from her misspent youth. But the Glee kids' take on Lady Gaga's "Born This Way" is bound to send Bachmann running for her migraine meds.



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JULY 28, THURSDAY

Summer Sounds presents Peter Vaguely with Coolville at 6:30 p.m. in Hubbard Park, 3565 N. Morris Blvd., along the Milwaukee River in Shorewood. Call 414-847-2700.

Direct from their successful Broadway run, producers Fran Kirmser and Tony Ponturo bring the hit show "Lombardi," by Academy Award winner and Wisconsin native Eric Simonson, home to Wisconsin for a series of dramatic readings featuring members of the original cast, through July 30 at 7:30 p.m. at Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave. in Appleton. Call 920-730-3760.

Friend of the LGBT community Rickie Lee Jones performs at 8 p.m. at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells. Call 414-286-3663.

The musical "Church Basement Ladies," featuring an all-Milwaukee cast runs through Aug. 7 in Vogel Hall at Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.

Eco-batik's one year anniversary celebration, at 3385 S. Kinnickinnic, begins at 5 p.m., featuring door prizes and refreshments.

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

Prost! German Fest kicks off at Maier Festival Park, 200 N. Harbor Dr., and runs thru July 31.



EDITED AND COMPILED BY GREGG SHAPIRO

AUGUST 2, TUESDAY

Peninsula Music Festival presents the festival opening concert with Felicia Moye, violin, Wendy Warner, cello and Winston Choi, piano, at 8 p.m. in the Door Community Auditorium, 3926 Hwy. 42 in Fish Creek. Call 920-868-2728.

Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave. in Appleton, presents "Til Death Do Us Part: Late Nite Catechism 3," running through Aug. 13. Call 920-730-3760.

AUGUST 3, WEDNESDAY

In Tandem Theatre presents the return of "Tea At Five," featuring actress Angela Iannone as Katharine Hepburn, through Aug. 21 at Tenth Street Theatre, 628 N. 10th. Call 414-271-1371.

AUGUST 4, THURSDAY

Summer Sounds presents Mrs. Fun at 6:30 p.m. in Hubbard Park, 3565 N. Morris Blvd., along the Milwaukee River in Shorewood. Call 414-847-2700.

UWM Union Theatre, UWM Student Union, 2nd level, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., hosts a special advance screening of "Circumstance," a film from Maryam Keshavarz, at 7 p.m. Call 414-229-4070.

Florentine Opera presents Florentine at the Lake at 7 p.m. at Alterra Cafe at the Lake, 1701 N. Lincoln Memorial Dr.

Peninsula Music Festival presents Liszt-Berlioz Fest I with Wendy Warner, cello, at 8 p.m. in the Door Community Auditorium, 3926 Hwy. 42 in Fish Creek. Call 920-868-2728.

The Rave, 2401 W. Wisconsin, welcomes The Summer Set at 8 p.m. Call 414-342-RAVE.



Mrs. Fun

AUGUST 7, SUNDAY

Singer/songwriter Amy LaVere is at The Hotel Foster, 2028 E. North, at 8 p.m.

AUGUST 8, MONDAY

The Frank Lloyd Wright@ Visitor Center at Taliesin, 5607 Cty. Rd. C (at the intersection of Highway 23 and County Road C) in Spring Green, presents the free annual Rural Musicians Forum Concert, "Taliesin at Taliesin," in the Hillside Theater. Call (608) 588-7900.



Josh Groban

AUGUST 9, TUESDAY

Pop crossover artist Josh Groban performs at 7:30 p.m. at the Bradley Center, 1001 N. Fourth. Call 414-227-0400.

Peninsula Music Festival presents "Baroque & Classics" at 8 p.m. in the Door Community Auditorium, 3926 Hwy. 42 in Fish Creek. Call 920-868-2728.



Amy LaVere

AUGUST 10, WEDNESDAY

Singer/songwriter Amy LaVere is at IQ's Food, Music, and Art, 2105 University in Green Bay, at 8 p.m.

AUGUST 11, THURSDAY

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre presents Beth Henley's "Crimes of the Heart," through Aug. 28 in the Cabot Theatre at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Summer Sounds presents The Gleasons at 6:30 p.m. in Hubbard Park, 3565 N. Morris Blvd., along the Milwaukee River in Shorewood. Call 414-847-2700.

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MILWAUKEE (continued)

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JULY 29, FRIDAY

The award-winning Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons musical "Jersey Boys" runs through Aug. 14 at Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.

Oscar-winning writer Aaron Sorkin's riveting courtroom drama "A Few Good Men," featuring Lee E. Ernst, Matthew Brumlow, Karen Janes Woditsch and the rest of the Peninsula Players, runs through Aug. 14 at Peninsula Players Theatre, W4351 Peninsula Players Rd. in Fish Creek. Call 920-868-3287

UWM Peck School of the Arts presents Dancemakers 2011, a yearly showcase of new choreography and dance from Peck School graduate students, in the Mainstage Theatre, tonight and tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m.



Revolush

JULY 30, SATURDAY

Milwaukee-based rock band Revolush performs at a Broadway Theatre Center benefit concert in the Cabot Theatre at 8 p.m., 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Enjoy a full day of entertainment — including the popular drag show — from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. at the Brady Street Festival on Milwaukee's east side. Visit www.bradystreet.org.

AUGUST 6, SATURDAY

Peninsula Music Festival presents "From Broadway to Hollywood: Great Love Stories and Heros & Villains," at 6:30 p.m. at Door Community Auditorium, 3926 Hwy. 42 in Fish Creek. Call 920-868-2728.

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Holly is a 3-month-old Labrador retriever

TIP OF THE WEEK

Crate-training your dog may take some time and effort, but it can be extremely useful in a variety of situations. Especially with puppies or new dogs, crates will limit their access to the house until they learn all the rules. Crate-training helps set your new companion up for success. For more information, visit wihumane.org.

When he asks. You should know. Get Tested. It's Free!

We Provide:

- Hepatitis B Vaccinations for straight men and women.
Anonymous or name associated HIV testing & counseling.
STD testing and treatment for men.
Hepatitis A & B Vaccinations for gay or bisexual men.

Be sure to stop in at our booth at PrideFest this year!

BEST'D CLINIC

Hours: Mondays & Tuesdays • 6:00pm - 8:30pm

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

MILWAUKEE
ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

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

Cream City Squares, 414-445-8080, www.iagsdc.org/creamcity

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

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second St., 53204, 414-383-3727, www.milwaukeegayartscenter.org

Milwaukee/LGBT Film/Video Festival, www4.uwm.edu/psao/programs/film/lgbtfilm

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

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

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

COMMUNITY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Firebirds, P.O. Box 159, 53201

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

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

Gemini Gender Group, P.O. Box 44211, 53214, 414-297-9328, gggwi.tripod.com

Lesbian Alliance, 252 E. Highland Ave., 53202, 414-272-9442, www.lesbianalliance.org

Lesbian Fund of the Women's Fund of Milwaukee, 414-290-7350, www.womensfundmke.org/grantmaking/cultures-giving-funds/lesbian_fund

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 252 E. Highland Blvd., 53202, 414-271-2656, www.mkelglt.org

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

Milwaukee Pride Parade, P.O. Box 0091, 53201, 414-607-3793, www.prideparademke.org, paradecoordinator@prideparademke.org

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

PrideFest, 252 E. Highland Ave., Stop 1, 53202-9600, 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, debydo02@yahoo.com

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

Wauwatosa Rainbow Association, tosarainbow@yahoo.com

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

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

HEALTH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

POLITICS

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

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

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

SPORTS

Front Runners/Front Walkers, 262-285-7645, ullrwwolf.com/frontrunnersmke, thbof@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 Association, www.milwaukeegayvolleyball.com

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

YOUTH/EDUCATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MADISON

ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

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

COMMUNITY

OutReach, 600 Williamson St., Suite P1, Madison, 53703, 608-255-8582, www.lgbtoutreach.org, info@lgbtoutreach.org

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

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

POLITICS

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

SPORTS

Madison Gay Hockey Association, www.madisongayhockey.org

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

Madison Minotaurs Rugby Club, www.madison-minotaurs.com, madisonminotaurs@gmail.com

YOUTH/EDUCATION

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

FOX VALLEY

COMMUNITY

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

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

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

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

PFLAG-Appleton, Harmony Café, 233 E. College Ave., 54911, pflagappleton.org, pflagappleton@gmail.com

PFLAG-Fox Cities, 740 Kensington Road, Neenah, 54956, 920-722-7145

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

Rainbow Over Wisconsin, 702 E. Wisconsin Ave., Appleton, WI 54911, www.rainbowoverwisconsin.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, wiwarriors.com, wiwarriors@yahoo.com

YOUTH/EDUCATION

Rainbow Alliance, UW-Parkside, Student Center, L108D, 262-595-2685, http://www.uwv.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, 920-421-8815, www.pflagdoorcounty.org, pflag@doorcounty.com

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

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

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

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

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

ONGOING

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

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

THURSDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY

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

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

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

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

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

SUNDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MONDAY

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

7 p.m., Spectrum-Social and networking LGBT group, Harmony Cafe, Appleton.*

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

TUESDAY

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

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

Club, Milwaukee.*

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

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Send community briefs to lweisberg@wisconsinngazette.com.

'MY BEST FRIEND IS STRAIGHT' RETURNS JULY 28

Gay and straight friends alike are invited to this popular annual fundraiser, which benefits the Cream City Foundation. This year's "My Best Friend Is Straight" takes place at the newly renovated Northpoint Lighthouse, 2650 N. Wahl Ave., Milwaukee. Featuring food by Localicious, the festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 28.

An after-party at Club Charlies, 320 E. Menomonee St. in the Third Ward, features drink specials. For tickets, go to www.creamcityfoundation.org/my-best-friend-is-straight.html.

MEMORIAL SCHEDULED FOR HARRY STRAETZ

A memorial for Harry Straetz, OutReach program coordinator, is scheduled for 5-10 p.m. on Aug. 27 at Madison's Club 5. Straetz died on June 8 following a long battle with cancer.

Memorials may be made to Gilda's Club of Madison, HospiceCare, Inc. and

OutReach. To donate a memorial to OutReach in Harry's name, go to www.lgbtoutreach.org.

For information, phone Outreach at 608-255-8582.

SLUTWALK RAISES SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS

Slutwalk Milwaukee steps off at 2 p.m. on Aug. 13, in Milwaukee's Humboldt Park. The event is part of a Slutwalk movement that's sweeping the nation as a campaign to raise awareness about the victim-blaming that often accompanies sexual violence.

BROADWAY THEATRE CENTER HOSTS OPEN HOUSE

Broadway Theatre Center hosts an open house from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on July 29, at 158 N. Broadway.

Guests are invited to tour the facilities, grab a drink in the bar and get a sneak peek of the performing arts season soon to come.

The center is home to Bel Canto Chorus, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Milwaukee Children's Choir, Present Music, Renaissance Theaterworks and Skylight Opera Theatre.

CAPITOL PRIDE MARCHES AUG. 21



VOTE
AUGUST 9

SANDY PASCH - ON OUR SIDE

I'm running to be your next State Senator to ensure equality for all of Wisconsin's residents and to protect what truly matters in our community.

I'll continue to fight for our world-class schools and quality health care and to honor the promises made to our seniors instead of tax breaks for huge corporations.

Our state is at a crossroads and we cannot wait, we must act now to correct the damage done by the extreme agenda being pushed through the Capitol.

MORE INFO AT:

SANDYFORSENATE.COM

OR CALL: 414-573-0157

FIND YOUR POLLING INFO AT VPA.WI.GOV

Authorized and paid for by Sandy Pasch for Senate, Jackie Boynton, Treasurer.