

ON SCREEN

WIGOUT! previews the Milwaukee LGBT Film and Video Festival, which runs Oct. 20-22. Offerings include "Leave It on the Floor" (pictured right). **Page 20**



THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

October 6, 2011 | Vol. 2, No. 24

America's first gay president?

NATIONAL GAY HISTORY MONTH

By Timothy Cwiek

Special to WIG

More than 150 years before America elected its first black president, Barack Obama, it most likely had its first gay president, James Buchanan.

Buchanan, a Democrat from Lancaster County, Pa., was the 15th president of the United States, and a life-long bachelor. He served as president from 1857 to 1861, tumultuous years leading up to the Civil War.

Historian James W. Loewen has done extensive research into Buchanan's personal life, and he's convinced Buchanan was gay. Loewen is the author of the acclaimed book "Lies Across America," which examines how historical sites inaccurately portray figures and events in America's past.

"There is clear evidence that he was gay," Loewen

said. "And since I haven't seen any evidence that he was heterosexual, I don't believe he was bisexual."

According to Loewen, Buchanan shared a residence with William Rufus King, a Democratic senator from Alabama, for several years in Washington, D.C. Loewen said contemporary records indicate the two men were inseparable, and wags would refer to them as "the Siamese twins."

Loewen also said Buchanan was "fairly open" about his relationship with King, causing some colleagues to view the men as a couple. For example, Aaron Brown, a prominent Democrat, writing to Mrs. James K. Polk, referred to King as Buchanan's "better half," "his wife" and "Aunt Fancy ... rigged out in her best clothes."

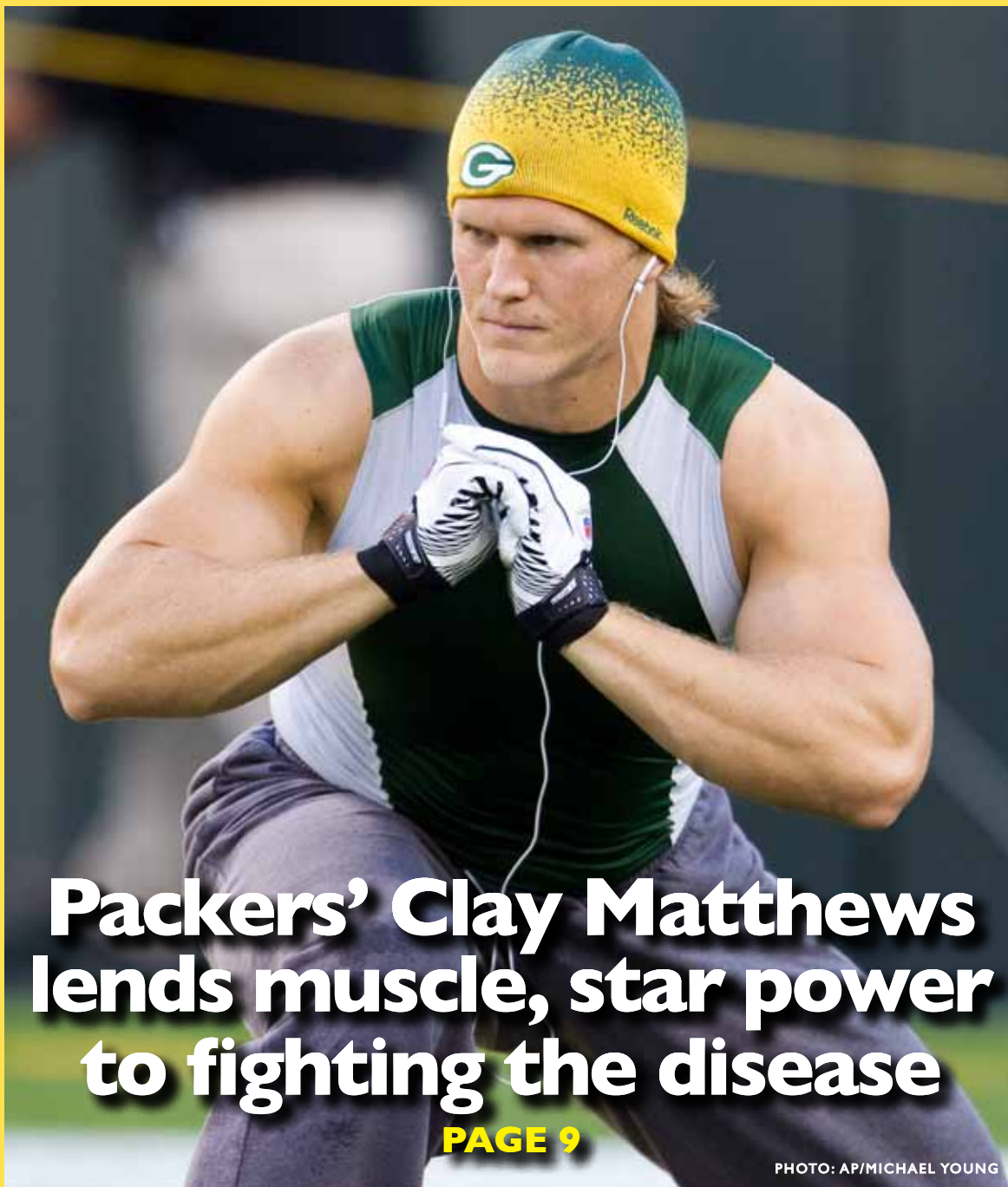
In 1844, when King was appointed minister to France, he wrote Buchanan, "I am selfish enough to hope you will not be able to procure an associate who will cause you to feel no regret at our separation."

Loewen also said a letter Buchanan wrote to a friend after King went to France shows the depth of his feeling for King.

"I am now solitary and alone, having no companion in the house with me," Buchanan wrote. "I have gone a wooing to several gentlemen, but have not succeeded with any one of them. I feel that it is not good for man to be alone; and should not be astonished to find myself married to some old maid

PRESIDENT page 10

TACKLING HIV/AIDS



Packers' Clay Matthews lends muscle, star power to fighting the disease

PAGE 9

PHOTO: AP/MICHAEL YOUNG

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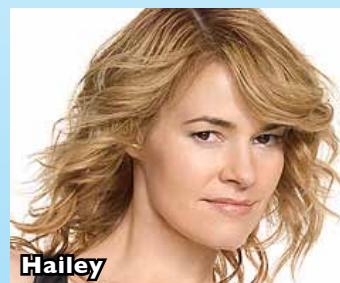
LGBT news with a twist

WIGWAG

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

SMALLER NUMBERS ON SMALL SCREEN

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation recently released its survey of LGBT TV characters in the 2011-12 broadcast season. The number of regulars on network series is down from 3.9 percent in 2010 to 2.9 percent in 2011. The number of scripted LGBT characters on cable also is down from 35 in 2010 to 29 this season. Fox TV leads the networks with the highest percentage – 6.9 percent – of regular LGBT characters.



Hailey

KISS AND CURSE

Lesbian actress-musician Leisha Hailey – who starred on “The L-Word” – has called for a

boycott of Southwest Airlines because she says she and partner Camila Grey were escorted off a plane for “one modest kiss.” “We want to make it clear we were not making out or creating any kind of spectacle of ourselves, it was one modest kiss,” read a statement from the couple. “We are responsible adult women who walk through the world with dignity. We were simply being affectionate like any normal couple.” Southwest, in a statement, said other passengers complained about an “excessive public display of affection” but the use of “profane language” was the reason Hailey and Grey were ordered off the plane.

GOOGLE’S GAYDAR

Ask Google whether someone is gay, and you might get an answer in the form of a “best guess.” But whether Google’s best guess is accurate or not is anyone’s guess. For instance, type in: “Is Marcus Bachmann gay,” and you’ll get

the answer, “Best guess for Marcus Bachmann Sexual orientation is Straight.” Ask about Rachel Maddow or Ellen DeGeneres, however, and you’ll get the answer you expect.

BABY NEWS

U.S. Rep. Jared Polis of Colorado has announced the birth of a new son, making him the only openly gay member of Congress to be a parent. An announcement sent by e-mail from Polis and his partner Marlon Reis said Caspian Julius was born weighing in at 8 pounds, 12 ounces. The announcement asked well-wishers for “nice thoughts for Caspian, humankind, the planet and the universe.”

SKATING ON THIN ICE

Wayne Simmonds of the Philadelphia Flyers put the NHL on thin ice with LGBT sports fans. Simmonds, during a game in late September, called New York Rangers player Sean Avery a “fucking faggot.” Fans and gay civil rights advocates – including 34,000 signers of a Change.org petition –

demanding the NHL demand an apology and fine Simmonds. But as of Sept. 30, the NHL hadn’t taken those steps.

FALLEN IDOL

The former gay porn star known as Ryan Idol was convicted of attempted murder in California for attacking his ex-girlfriend in a jealous rage on Sept. 5, 2009. Marc Anthony Donais (Idol’s legal name) faces up to 15 years behind bars for attacking his ex with a porcelain toilet tank lid. The 41-year-old woman testified that Donais was furious because she broke up with him after discovering he was cheating on her with a man. Donais scored a major hit in the successful Broadway run of the 2007 revival of Terrance McNally’s “The Ritz.”

MATCH THIS

The host of Bravo’s “Millionaire Matchmaker” has come under fire for remarks that offended gays, Jews and women. Appearing on Bravo’s call-in show “Watch What Happens Live,” Patti Stanger, a self-proclaimed love and marriage



Stanger

guru, depicted all gay men as promiscuous and unfaithful. She characterized Jewish men as liars. “In the gay world, (relationships) will always be open,” she said. “There is no curbing the gay man.” Stanger apologized after Twitter was flooded with calls for her dismissal.

SKIVVIES IN SALT LAKE

About 3,000 people stripped to their underwear to join in the first Utah Undie Run through Salt Lake City. The event, held on Sept. 24, challenged Utah’s “uptight laws,” said organizer Nate Porter. The route began downtown and circled the state capitol.



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(Andrew Haigh, UK, 2011)

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Gay Marquette student forced out of leadership posts

By Louis Weisberg
Staff writer

A Marquette student was dismissed from his leadership roles with a campus student group after informing its staff advisor that he's gay.

Campus officials investigated the incident and initially suspended the group for anti-gay discrimination. A university policy bans discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The group appealed and, after an outcry from influential right-wing members of the university community, it was found guilty of a technical infraction of policy rather than discrimination. The suspension was lifted and the sentence was reduced to probation.

The student, who asked to be identified only as "George" because he fears reprisal, said the events were reminiscent of last year's reversal of a job offer to out lesbian Jodi O'Brien to serve as dean of the university's college of arts and sciences.

GAY AND CHRISTIAN

George said he was a

devout Christian who attended Marquette specifically because it's a Jesuit institution, which has a tradition of both faith and social justice.

"I grew up very Christian and struggled with that because I knew I was gay since I was a kid, and I came to Marquette hoping I would finally be able to reconcile these two identities in myself," he said. "I was hoping I could be openly gay and still be Christian."

George joined the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship in January 2010 and was elected to two leadership positions with the group in May 2010. IVCF is a chapter of an international conservative Christian organization, which, as a registered student group, is subject to university policy.

George said he felt compelled to come out to the group as gay before taking the leadership roles. He disclosed his sexual orientation in June 2010 to one of the group's staff advisors, because he trusted her. Weeks later, he was interrogated by the group's staff advisors about

his religious beliefs.

"They asked me questions about celibacy," George said. "I said, 'I don't think celibacy applies to me, because the Bible does not have a place that discusses gay identity. Also, what's the point of being celibate if you can't get married in the future? Do I have to stay celibate and single forever unless I pretend to be straight?'"

After George said he disagreed with biblical teaching on celibacy and homosexuality, he decided not to step down voluntarily from his official positions until the matter was brought to the attention of the student leadership. He was told that he would be able to address the Student Executive Board to give his side of the story.

But the opportunity to have his say was never granted, he said. Instead, he received correspondence from group leaders letting him know that he'd been summarily dismissed from his leadership positions.

An e-mail that George shared with WiG informs him that he was "removed

from the Night of Worship team" because he had "decided to make a lifestyle choice which (sic) contradicts the Christian lifestyle we are called to live as presented in the Word of God."

The e-mail goes on to list biblical injunctions against same-sex relations, including a verse that compares gays with murderers and says they "deserve death."

George filed a discrimination complaint with Marquette's Office of Student Affairs, alleging that he was dismissed for his sexual orientation and was singled out for questioning about his faith as a direct consequence of coming out.

SUSPENSION OVERRULED

In a July 14 hearing, George's complaint was reviewed by conduct administrators Erin Lazzar and Ian Jamieson, who found the group responsible for discrimination based on sexual orientation. They suspended the group for a year, and ordered probation.

George said Jamieson

notified him of the finding by phone on July 21.

At that point, Marquette's Christian-right constituency stepped into the fray. Right-wing radio host Mark Belling reported on the group's suspension, stirring outrage from the campus' influential conservative constituents. John McAdams, a political science professor at Marquette and a right-wing blogger, posted an attention-grabbing item online on Aug. 4 titled "Marquette InterVarsity Christian Fellowship Threatened With Suspension for Failure to Accept Sexually Active Homosexual Officer."

The publicity unleashed a letter-writing campaign from anti-gay conservatives just as Dean of Students Stephanie Quade was reviewing the case on appeal. She ultimately overturned the original decision, finding that IVCF had not broken the university's anti-discrimination policy. Instead, she ruled the group had violated IVCF's own policy, as well as a corresponding university policy, requiring every student officer to be given a fair trial before dismissal.

She reduced the penalty for the group to probation. "Any student organization has the right to place restrictions on its membership (for example, honors groups or academic groups have GPA or major requirements, fraternities and sororities can only have students of particular gender, etc.)," Quade wrote to WiG in an e-mail. "Based on the principle of free association (you do not have to join a particular group, nor do you have to be an officer in a group), groups have the rights to establish reasonable parameters."

But, Quade added, "Marquette expects all student organizations to adhere to the university's Statement on Human Dignity which 'recognizes and cherishes the dignity of each individual regardless of age, culture, faith, ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation, language, disability or social class.'"

Quade contended there was no reversal of decision in the case, because "no student conduct decision is final until the time in which to file

continued on next page

continued

an appeal has passed or an appeal is filed and decided."

She also stated that "communication from alumni or other constituents from the university and outside community are not considered in a response to an appeal, as the Code of Conduct specifies that the parameters of an appeal are limited to a review of the materials related to the hearing."

DENIAL

George said that what troubled him the most is that Jamieson later denied ever saying the group was guilty of discrimination. George provided WiG with documentation of that finding.

Reached by phone, Jamieson, whose title is coordinator for student organizations, declined

to comment on the case. Quade did not return a phone call seeking an explanation for her reversal of the initial finding.

George said he felt betrayed by his fellow Christians as well as Marquette's administration.

"I initially believed that Marquette would make the right judgment and would address this issue fairly," he said. "And I also thought Marquette was an advocate for LGBT issues, because the university has a strong component of social justice and service. I don't trust that the university any more. When I received the final decision, I was considering transferring. But I had one year left."

As a result of his experience at Marquette, George said he no longer identifies as a Christian and "the Bible is

no longer a voice of authority for me."

"I no longer hold the belief that this is the only religion," George said. "People who profess to be Christian leaders only accept you if you are exactly as they are and abandon you in your greatest need."

George said the university demonstrated, as it did in the Jodi O'Brien case, that it is wrestling with its dual identities as a Catholic and an academic-driven institution.

"They're torn between the right and the academic left," he said. "They're afraid of making any statement in any direction, because it would drive one part of their population nuts. So they try to play the middle ground... They'll find that their strategy will continue to backfire and jeopardize their reputation in the long run."

OBITUARY

Community activist Bea Green dies at 69

By Michael Lisowski
and Paul Masterson

Longtime community activist Bea Green died Sept. 24 at West Allis Memorial Hospital. During the last three months, she endured complications from a leg injury she suffered nearly three decades ago. Early in August, while recuperating at Columbia Saint Mary's Hospital, she suffered a severe stroke.

Although seemingly recovering well after her transfer to West Allis, Ms. Green died suddenly during the night.

Born Aug. 5, 1942, Ms. Green grew up in New York City. She studied in Boston and later at New York University, where she received a doctorate in history with a focus on ancient Rome and early literature.

Ms. Green participated in archeological digs in Turkey and Greece. She learned the field was inundated with many competitors for few jobs, so she returned to school and earned a second doctorate in social psychology.

Ms. Green met her life partner Elizabeth Hitz in New York City, where both served as board members of a women's organization. They moved to Nashotah in the mid-1980s and remained together for 35 years.

Ms. Green worked for the Wisconsin State AIDS/HIV



member of Saint Simon's Episcopal Church in Port Washington.

Although known to be a stubborn, challenging, and often contentious advocate, she was passionate about the underdog, whether LGBT people, youth, seniors, women or those with HIV. She demanded and expected much of our leadership and she articulated her frustration with a certain candor that left no doubt about her opinions.

She was a dear friend to those who met her through the various organizations with which she was affiliated. Ms. Green was one of the most giving persons in the community. Her generosity, honesty and compassion as an activist will always be remembered. Her devoted commitment to LGBT causes will be sorely missed and impossible to replace.

Ms. Green is survived by her loving partner and best friend Lisi, an extended family of friends and her favorite feline companions, Charlie and Sammy.

According to Ms. Green's wishes, her remains will be cremated and her ashes spread over Bear Mountain in Westchester County, New York.

Private services will be held. Memorials in her name may be made to the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 South 2nd Street, Milwaukee, 53204.

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Same-sex domestic violence spotlighted

By Louis Weisberg
Staff reporter

The family of Rosalind "Roz" Ross, a former Oklahoma University basketball star who was gunned down by her female partner, tearfully recounted their loss at a press briefing in Milwaukee on Sept. 28.

Ross' parents and siblings described a scenario of domestic abuse that's all too familiar to experts: The abuser gains control over the partner by isolating her from family and friends, then turns violent when the partner tries to exit their unhealthy relationship.

Ross was planning to move to Oklahoma for a new job when her partner Malika Willoughby shot her in a restaurant parking lot on Milwaukee's north side on Sept. 15, 2010. Willoughby pleaded guilty to the killing and is scheduled for sentencing on Nov. 18.

"My daughter did not get a chance to walk away," said Ross' mother Pam Collins. "Some people don't know

Domestic violence accounted for nearly 30 percent of all homicides in the state last year.

what love is, because love does not hurt."

"You could see the signs (of abuse)," said Ross' brother Spencer Collins. "A lot of people don't know about homosexual relationships. (Willoughby) thought she owned my sister. We would try to talk to (Roz). But there's nothing you can do about it. It's all up to them. You can just be there for them."

The press briefing was

held in conjunction with the release of the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence's annual report. Marianne Gorski, who heads the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's anti-violence program, also spoke, outlining the unique challenges faced by people in abusive same-sex relationships.

It was likely the first time that the issue of same-sex domestic violence has ever been highlighted in this way by the coalition, said the coalition's policy development coordinator Tony Gibart.

"Gay people are really afraid to call police," Gorski said. She said gays and lesbians fear that law-enforcement personnel won't take their relationships seriously or, worse, might victimize them for their sexual orientation. For the same reason, lesbian and gay victims of domestic abuse are reluctant to share their relationship problems with friends and co-workers, she said.

Gays also are afraid to

have abusive partners served with restraining orders. If the order is served at work, Gorski explained, the abusive partner might lose his or her job as a result of being outed.

If the abusive partner is the legal parent of children the couple is raising together, the victim might fear being permanently separated from the kids if she leaves the relationship, Gorski said. Another challenge for victims of same-sex domestic violence, she said, is the lack of targeted services, including temporary housing shelters, for them.

In addition to drawing new attention to same-sex domestic violence, the coalition's report showed overall progress against the problem. In 2010, 58 people were killed statewide as a result of domestic violence — a decrease from the 10-year high of 67 killings in 2009. Both numbers include perpetrators as well as victims. (Seven killings in 2010 were suicides committed by abusers.)

Even with the decrease,

however, domestic violence accounted for nearly 30 percent of all homicides in the state last year, according to the report. Deaths occurred in 17 counties, with victims ranging in age from younger than 1 year to as old as 87, according to the report.

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett said boys who witness domestic violence are more likely to become abusers, and girls who witness it are more likely to become victims. One of every four women in the nation experiences domestic violence, he said.

As a congressman, Barrett was one of the original co-sponsors of the national Violence Against Women's Act. He was seriously beaten in 2009 when he intervened to stop an act of domestic violence on the State Fair grounds.

Milwaukee County Chief Deputy District Attorney Kent Lovern also noted the toll of domestic violence on what he called its "silent victims" — the parents, siblings

and children who witness it. "Children who witness violence are more likely to drop out of school, pick up a gun and join a gang," he said.

Lovern characterized the problem of domestic violence as "the most urgent public safety concern in Milwaukee today."

Last year, police began working with Sojourner Family Peace Center to address domestic violence, and prosecutors were stationed at six of the city's seven precincts specifically to deal with such problems before they turn deadly. As a result of the effort, police received 1,700 referrals of potential domestic abuse in 2010.

That number is expected to quadruple this year, according to statistics compiled so far, Lovern said.

"Rather than waiting for them to come to us, we are going to them," Lovern said. "There is reason to be hopeful in this community. This collaboration is only growing stronger."



PHOTOS: COURTESY



JUST MARRIED

Although same-sex marriage isn't legal in Wisconsin, many gay couples do celebrate their nuptials the old-fashioned way. Nikki Hartman Wayd and Jenny Wayd, left, held a traditional wedding ceremony on Sept. 23 at the War Memorial Center in Milwaukee to celebrate their registration as domestic partners. Sixty guests attended.

"We went through some bumps with some unsupportive family members, but we are proud of who we are and the show went on!" Nikki Hartman Wayd wrote to WiG. "It was beautiful and perfect and we couldn't be happier. Everything was just beautiful."

Congratulations to Mrs. And Mrs. Wayd.

—L.W.

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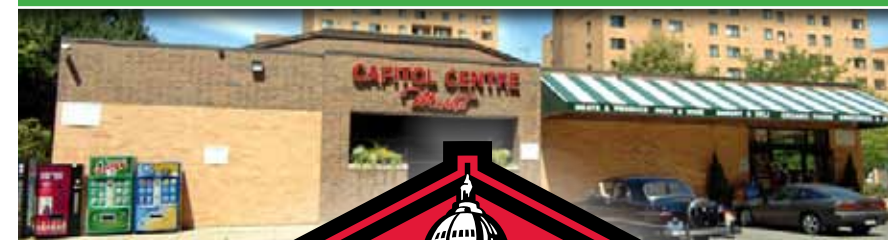
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Equality Wisconsin honors county leaders

By Louis Weisberg
Staff writer

Progressive leaders from state and local government attended Equality Wisconsin's annual meeting on Sept. 21 to honor the Milwaukee County officials who led efforts earlier this year to extend domestic partner benefits to county workers.

Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele signed the benefits into law on Aug. 3 after the County Board approved them on July 28 by a supermajority vote of 13-5. The board had previously passed a resolution to study the costs of the benefits in 2009, but former County Executive Scott Walker, now the governor, vetoed it.

The partnership benefits take effect on Jan. 1, 2012.

Milwaukee County Supervisors Marina Dimitrijevic and Eyon Biddle Sr. spearheaded the successful effort to obtain County Board approval. But Dimitrijevic told meeting attendees that Equality Wisconsin was a "central part" of their successful effort.

"They were with us from the beginning to the end," Dimitrijevic said.



PHOTO: COURTESY SUPERVISOR MARINA DIMITRIJEVIC

From left, Milwaukee County supervisors Eyon Biddle Sr., Nikiya Harris and Marina Dimitrijevic, Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele, and Supervisor Jason Hass hold awards from Equality Wisconsin for their leadership roles in enacting domestic partner benefits for county workers. County Clerk Joe Czarnecki also was honored.

"Supervisors received hundreds of e-mails through their efforts. They had people calling their representatives. ... This was a true grassroots effort."

Biddle agreed. "Your phone calls were so effective," he said. "I wish everyone could be as organized and passion-

ate as you guys were. When you have advocates on the outside doing their work, the system works."

Abele told listeners he was thrilled to have played a role in their efforts and reiterated his support for LGBT equality.

"This isn't the position

that needs to be defended," he said. "It's the other position that needs to be defended, and I haven't heard a good defense yet."

Thanks to Walker, EW had a great year overall, said Ray Vahey, co-president of the group's board of directors. "Walker was probably

our best organizer," he said, referring to the progressive backlash over the new governor's far-right agenda.

EW outlined an ambitious agenda for its next fiscal year, including efforts to repeal the state's same-sex marriage ban and pass a law banning discrimination based on gender identity. "Those are not going to be six-month projects," Vahey said.

The organization is finalizing plans to hire an executive director to coordinate those efforts and others. At a recent fundraiser, EW succeeded in raising additional funds to pay the director's salary.

Other leaders who attended the Sept. 21 event included state Reps. Mark Pocan and Jon Richards and Milwaukee School Board member Larry Miller.

ON THE CALENDAR

Equality Wisconsin sponsors "Coming Out with God: Bringing Your Whole Self to Faith" from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Oct. 11, at UWM Student Union, Room 240, 2200 E. Kenwood in Milwaukee. LGBT people and their allies are invited to tell their stories about searching for and finding a welcoming congregation. Call 414-431-1306 or 414-229-4116.

OBITUARY

Ronald Edward Ball dies at 79



Ronald Edward Ball, age 79, died Sept. 25. He was preceded in death by parents Edward and Helen Ball and brother Thomas.

Ron Ball was a proud member of the Milwaukee LGBT community. He led a

life strictly of his choosing, often reclusive, but always responsive when you reached out for him. The owner of Ball Tax Service, he was also a talented commercial photographer and a commercial and residential painter.

Mr. Ball was proud of his acceptance into Mensa, a social society that only accepts people with high IQs. An Air Force veteran, he was stationed in Germany during the Korean War. He was a base photographer

and shot a lot of photos of his commander, Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Mr. Ball is survived by his sister Pat (Cliff) Barbian, brothers Alan (Nancy), Dan (Ellen), Chuck and sister-in-law Bev. He also survived

by nephews, nieces and cousins.

Graveside services were scheduled to be held at the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Union Grove at 2 p.m. on Oct. 6.

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Green Bay Packers' linebacker Clay Matthews addresses AIDS Walk participants via a taped message played at the Oct. 1 event.

PHOTO: AIDS RESOURCE CENTER OF WISCONSIN

Matthews powers up AIDS Walk

By Louis Weisberg
Staff writer

For the family of Dan Gordon, a Racine native who died of AIDS-related complications at age 35, AIDS Walk Wisconsin has become an annual milestone event.

"It's actually a joyful day, because it helps me to remember my brother," said Rob Gordon, Dan's brother. "I always bring my kids so they'll remember. It's an event we try never to miss."

Emma Gordon, 25, Dan Gordon's niece, first began walking to raise money for HIV prevention and care when she was 4. Growing up in the shadow of the disease, she's seen both progress and setbacks. Now she worries that people her age have little awareness and also harbor harmful misconceptions about HIV/AIDS.

Attending the 22nd annual AIDS Walk on the Summerfest grounds on Oct. 1, Gordon saw fewer participants than when she was a kid in the mid-1990s. In those days, "Dan's Dream Team" was the highest-grossing individual team participating in the event.

Turnout for the event and others like it across the country have been declining since new treatments began improving the course of the disease for many people, creating the erroneous perception that it's no longer a serious problem. Today's AIDS walks must also compete with numerous other cause-related walks, runs, bike-a-thons and other events that didn't exist 20 years ago.

TO DONATE

To make a \$10 donation to AIDS Walk, text the name "Clay" to 25383. The donation will show up on the donor's phone bill.

This year, AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, which stages the event and is its primary beneficiary, used some innovative strategies to bolster the event's impact. ARCW asked the Packers' defensive star Clay Matthews to serve as AIDS Walk's honorary chair, a choice that guaranteed attention from Wisconsinites of Gordon's age group as well as from the state's large community of sports fans.

ARCW also utilized the power of new media to extend the event's fundraising reach. By texting the name "Clay" to the number 25383 on their phones, supporters could – and still can – easily donate \$10 to the event (it shows up on callers' phone bills).

By the close of the event on Oct. 1, the walk had already raised \$293,175 – 12 percent more than last year. Some of that money came through Tweets that Matthews sent to his 250,000-plus fans asking them to submit donations via their cellphones. More money was expected to be raised in this way during the days following the event.

Matthews, who was preparing for the Packers' 49-23 victory over the Denver Broncos the next day, was unable to attend the walk. He addressed the crowd via a message that was

videotaped in advance in the Packers' locker room.

In a phone interview several days before the walk, a charged-up Matthews told WiG it was "fantastic" to be able to "lend my celebrity and face" to AIDS Walk Wisconsin. It's part of his commitment to giving back to the community, he said.

Matthews also backs CureDuchenne, which supports research to find a cure for muscular dystrophy.

"Hopefully, bringing a younger athlete like me on board opens up a lot of people's eyes who wouldn't be open to researching (HIV)," Matthews said, adding that he hoped his involvement would help break down social barriers that still surround the disease.

Matthews isn't the first sports celebrity to lend his name to AIDS Walk Wisconsin – Magic Johnson, Paul Molitor and Bud Selig served in the role before him. But he's a unique attention grabber. As a member of the defending Super Bowl champs, who also happen to be the home team, he's very much in the limelight.

As a spokesperson, Matthews is a commanding presence. His flowing blond locks contrast a six-foot-three-inch, 255-pound frame that's proven to be the nemesis of many an opposing quarterback.

He's also comfortable and even self-effacing on camera. Shortly after the Packer's Super Bowl victory, Matthews appeared on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," where he took a good-natured

ribbing about his hair and lowered his pants to show the audience a pair of boxers DeGeneres had given him.

"So your tight end is covered?" DeGeneres asked.

"My tight end is covered," Matthews said.

Matthews told WiG he doesn't have a close friend or family member who's dealt with HIV/AIDS, so serving as honorary chair of AIDS Walk was largely an educational experience for him.

"When I initially signed on, I heard so much about how devastating this is, but doing my own research has put it all in perspective," he said. "Looking at the numbers puts it all in perspective. You come to realize the destruction this has had on people worldwide."

Matthews said he's heartened every time he walks into a restaurant and sees an AIDS Walk flier with his image on it. He said it's important to him to be part of a sports franchise that makes an effort to give back to its community.

"I think that's one of the things we pride ourselves on," Matthews said of the Pack. "Having individuals on this team who don't get into a lot of trouble and aren't about drama but being good people. The community outreach here presents new opportunities each and every week to give back to the community. That's one of the things we take pride in here."

"The amount of positive support and encouragement I've received from my teammates and the public by doing this is fantastic."



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William Rufus King: First gay U.S. vice president?

By Lou Chibbaro Jr.

Special to WIG

William Rufus DeVane King, the 13th U.S. vice president, has the distinction of having served in that office for less time than any other

vice president.

He died of tuberculosis on April 18, 1853, just 25 days after being sworn into office, according to an official biography of King prepared by the Office of the Historian of the

U.S. Senate.

Other historians have speculated that King holds yet another distinction: He was likely the first gay U.S. vice president.

King (1786-1853) served in the House of Representatives from North Carolina and in the Senate from the newly created state of Alabama from 1819 to 1844, when he became U.S. minister to France.

King returned to the Senate four years later, in 1848, where he served until December 1852. He resigned after winning election in November 1852 as vice president under Franklin Pierce.

A lifelong bachelor, King lived for 15 years in the home of future President James Buchanan while the two served in the Senate. Buchanan is believed to be the first gay president.

"They certainly didn't have the word 'gay' back then," said Paul F. Boller Jr., professor emeritus of history at Texas Christian University and author of several books on presidential politics.

In a telephone interview, Boller said Washington insiders at the time speculated over whether King and Buchanan's well-known close friendship had evolved into a romantic relationship.

"I don't think the word homosexual was used either,"

Boller said. "So they'd sort of use the term 'a little feminine' and all of that."

Boller and historian Jean H. Baker, professor of history at Maryland's Goucher College and author of a biography of Buchanan, each cite reports that President Andrew Jackson referred to King as "Miss Nancy" and "Aunt Fancy." Aaron V. Brown, who became U.S. postmaster general while Buchanan was president, reportedly referred to King as Buchanan's "wife."

Baker reports in her Buchanan biography that King's and Buchanan's nieces reportedly destroyed their 'uncles' correspondence with each other.

Most accounts by historians of King's political career portray him as a moderate southerner who supported slavery but voiced opposition to calls by his fellow southerners to secede from the union.

"From such a calamity may God in His mercy deliver us," King wrote in expressing opposition to the growing calls for secession.

The Encyclopedia of Alabama reports in a 2003 article that rumors circulating in Washington about King's sexual orientation increased as his close friendship with Buchanan became widely known.

"Neither man ever married, and by 1836 they were sharing a residence in Washington,"

the encyclopedia article says. "Any negative reactions to their relationship appear to have had little effect, and the men continued with their living arrangement and their work as legislators."

By 1840, newspapers in Alabama supportive of the Democratic Party, of which King was a prominent member, promoted King as a vice-presidential running mate for incumbent President Martin Van Buren. Although King received little support outside Alabama for the vice-presidential nomination, he continued to position himself behind the scenes as a possible vice-presidential candidate for the next two decades.

The Senate biography of King says President John Tyler interrupted King's vice-presidential ambitions in 1844 when he nominated him to become U.S. minister to France. The bio says King succeeded in his main mission to persuade France not to oppose U.S. plans to annex Texas.

In 1852, after nominating Franklin Pierce for president on the 49th ballot, the Democratic Convention, convening in Baltimore, nominated King as Pierce's running mate. In the ensuing months, King campaigned aggressively for the Pierce-King ticket, playing some role in Pierce's victory.

But King's coughing spells became increasingly fre-

quent and painful, leading to a diagnosis of tuberculosis. In December 1852, King resigned from the Senate and made arrangements to spend the winter in Cuba, where he hoped the warm, tropical climate would help him regain his health.

In early February 1853, King realized his condition was getting worse and he would not be well enough to travel to Washington in time for the March 4 inauguration ceremony. Congress took the unusual step of passing a law allowing him to take the oath of office for vice president on foreign soil.

"On March 24, 1853, the gravely ill statesman, too feeble to stand unaided, became the nation's 13th vice president," his Senate biography says. King boarded a ship to return to the U.S. in April 1853 and arrived home at his Alabama plantation on April 17. He died one day later at age 67.

Lou Chibbaro Jr. has reported on LGBT issues for more than 30 years, currently as senior news reporter for the Washington Blade. In 2011, he became the first reporter from the LGBT press to be inducted into the Society of Professional Journalists D.C. Professional Chapter's Hall of Fame. He received the Justice for Victims Crime Award from the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia in 1998.

Buchanan was fairly open about his relationship

PRESIDENT from I who can nurse me when I am sick, provide good dinners for me when I am well, and not expect from me any very ardent or romantic affection."

Loewen said their relationship — though interrupted due to foreign-service obligations — ended only with King's death in 1853.

In the late 1990s, Loewen visited Wheatland, the mansion in Lancaster, Pa., where Buchanan spent his later years. Loewen said he asked a staffer there if Buchanan was gay, and the reply was, "He most definitely was not."

Loewen said the staffer pointed to a portrait of Ann Coleman, the daughter of a wealthy iron maker, whom Buchanan was engaged to briefly in 1819 — shortly

before she committed suicide.

However, Loewen scoffed at the staffer's suggestion that the brief engagement to Coleman proved Buchanan was heterosexual. Loewen said Buchanan showed little interest in Coleman, appeared more interested in her fortune and possibly contributed to her suicide due to his emotional detachment.

Patrick Clarke, the director of Wheatland, said the staff now takes a neutral stance on Buchanan's sexual orientation.

"There's no solid proof that Buchanan was heterosexual, nor is there solid proof that he was homosexual," Clarke said. "If we ever come up with a smoking gun that proves it one way or the other, I would definitely encourage our staff to share

it with the public."

But, he said, Ann Coleman's portrait no longer is displayed at Wheatland.

Loewen said many historians rate Buchanan as one of the worst U.S. presidents. He was part of the pro-slavery wing of the Democratic Party, and corruption plagued his administration.

But Loewen said those flaws shouldn't discourage LGBT people from acknowledging Buchanan's status as a gay man.

"Lots of gay people have been exemplary," he said. "Let's look at Walt Whitman. For my money, he's the best poet in the history of the country. But we also have to acknowledge the failures. If we only admit that really great people are gay, what kind of history is that? And

how is that believable? It's ridiculous. We have to tell it like it was."

As a heterosexual male, Loewen added, he has no hidden agenda in outing Buchanan.

"I'm not gay," Loewen said. "I don't run around trying to find gay folks or black folks underneath every rock. But I'm not going to ignore clear evidence."

Timothy Cwiek holds a bachelor of art degree in U.S. history from West Chester University. He has written for Philadelphia Gay News since the late 1970s and written for numerous publications on topics such as the Lincoln assassination, the Kennedy family, the shootings at Kent State University, first ladies and the macrobiotic movement in America.

Democratic lawmakers introduce fair housing bill

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Democratic lawmakers in the House and Senate recently introduced legislation to extend federal civil rights protections in housing and credit to individuals, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status or source of income.

In the U.S. House, Jerrold Nadler and Edolphus Towns of New York and John Conyers of Michigan introduced the Housing Opportunities Made Equal or HOME Act. Massachusetts Democrat John Kerry introduced the companion bill in the U.S. Senate.

"LGBT people and families should not have to face housing discrimination at the hands of the unscrupulous or bigoted," Nadler said. "This legislation will provide key updates to the Fair Housing Act to ensure that the law is actually protecting all Americans and guaranteeing people of any sexual orientation, gender identity, marital and

familial status, and source of income the right to the housing they choose."

"We can't win the fight for equal housing opportunities without the HOME Act and its greater protections against housing discrimination," Conyers added. "I am pleased to introduce this bill with my colleagues as it will further the cause of the original Fair Housing Act and the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King in promoting integrated communities."

The HOME Act would amend the Fair Housing Act by prohibiting discrimination in the sale or rental of housing, the financing of housing and in brokerage services on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, source of income or marital status.

HOME also would amend the Fair Housing Act's definition of "familial status" to include "anyone standing in loco parentis" of one or more individuals who are not 18 years of age, thus providing gay families with equal protection.

'LGBT people and families should not have to face housing discrimination at the hands of the unscrupulous or bigoted.'

"These much-needed changes to the Fair Housing Act will improve our neighborhoods and expand important civil rights to those currently left out," said Shanna L. Smith, president of the National Fair Housing Alliance. "This kind of discrimination runs counter to the American spirit of opportunity and instead is

part of America's dark history of senseless exclusion. We rejected this exclusion when we passed civil rights laws in the 1960s, and have routinely updated these laws when necessary. It's necessary to do so again."

The Fair Housing Act, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act, was enacted in 1968 shortly after King's assassination. The act makes it illegal to discriminate based on race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability or familial status and mandates that the federal government promote integrated communities.

Kerry said the HOME Act would "end discrimination that continues to hurt people."

"Housing discrimination against LGBT Americans is wrong," said the 2004 presidential candidate. "But today in most states there isn't a thing you can do about it."

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Obama blasts GOP rivals at HRC dinner



PHOTO: COURTESY

“Every single American deserves to be treated equally in the eyes of the law,” Obama told HRC supporters in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 1.

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

President Barack Obama did not stake out any new positions during a speech Oct. 1 to the members of the nation's largest LGBT civil rights groups. But the president did take on the Republicans who want his job, rebuking the candidates who did not defend a gay servicemember booed by the audience at a recent debate in Florida.

The commander in chief must support all U.S. servicemembers, Obama told an annual gathering of the Human Rights Campaign membership in Washington, D.C. “You want to be com-

mander in chief? You can start by standing up for the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States, even when it's not politically convenient,” Obama said.

Referring to the boos generated by an active-duty gay servicemember during the GOP presidential debate in Florida on Sept. 22, the president said, “We don't believe in standing silent when that happens.”

Obama, in the speech, celebrated the end of the policy banning gays from serving openly in the Armed Forces and promised to fight for legislation to end workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

The president said “every single American deserves to be treated equally in the eyes of the law,” but he did not endorse marriage equality. On that issue, Obama repeatedly has said his thoughts are evolving.

None of the GOP candidates supports marriage equality, and most do not support other LGBT civil rights reforms.

The president, rallying an active donor base, asked the more than 3,200 HRC members gathered to join his re-election campaign. “This is a contest of values,” the president said.

Follow the news at www.wisconsin Gazette.com.

Census counts 131,729 married same-sex couples

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

The U.S. Census Bureau offered new data on the number of married and unmarried same-sex couples sharing households. The 2010 census counted 131,729 married same-sex couples and 514,735 unmarried same-sex couples.

Gay civil rights advocates, with praise for the bureau's continued effort to get an estimate, said that the number of same-sex couples sharing a home in the United States is probably higher. Some gay couples might have

been afraid to identify as such in the census or didn't understand how to come out on the survey.

But the number of same-sex couples that are actually legally married is probably lower than the census indicates. Some gay couples that feel married probably identified as such in the survey, regardless of their legal status.

“The legal relationship options for same-sex couples in the U.S. are complicated and vary across states,” said Gary Gates, a census consultant with the Williams

Institute. “Unlike their different-sex counterparts, same-sex couples cannot marry in most states. Regardless of the legal options in their state, many believe that ‘husband’ and ‘wife’ are the most accurate terms available among options on the census form available to describe their relationships.”

Earlier this year, the Census Bureau released preliminary statistics that showed higher numbers of married same-sex couples, 349,377, and unmarried same-sex couples, 552,620.

The revised figures, based

on more information, are more consistent with the findings in the bureau's 2010 American Community Survey and are derived from what the bureau characterized as “another set of estimates to provide a more accurate way to measure same-sex couple households.”

“We understand how important it is for all groups to have accurate statistics that reflect who we are as a nation,” said Census Bureau director Robert Groves. “As scientists, we noticed the inconsistency and developed the revised estimates to provide a more accu-

rate portrait of the number of same-sex couples.”

The new figures reduced the estimated number of couples who reported as same-sex by about 28 percent.

“Better data improves our understanding of the same-sex couples population, and so we applaud the bureau's effort to improve the accuracy of the data,” Gates said.

The bureau calculated its counts of same-sex couples from two questions in the ACS study and on the decennial 2010 census. One question asked about the rela-

tionships of people in the home to the head of a household and the second question asked about the gender of people in those residences. From the answers, the bureau could identify households with same-sex partners.

In 2000, the bureau counted 358,390 unmarried same-sex couples in the United States.

The highest increases in same-sex couples — married and unmarried — were reported in less-populated states, including West Virginia, Montana, the Dakotas, Oklahoma and Kentucky.

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NY police link serial killer, transgender slaying

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

New York's LGBT anti-violence project is offering assistance to investigators seeking to solve 10 deaths that may involve one or two serial killers stalking workers in the sex trade.

The New York City Anti-Violence Project announced in mid-September that their experts were reaching out to the Suffolk County, N.Y., Police Department after learning that at least one

victim may have identified as transgender.

The police department, in an appeal to the public for information in the case, had released composite sketches of two unidentified individuals found dead near Gilgo Beach, Long Island.

The police described one victim, dead for 5-10 years, as an Asian male, age 17-23, wearing women's clothing.

“Police are currently theorizing that this individual may have engaged in sex work

at the time of death,” the NYCAMP stated, adding that the victim possibly was transgender. The release continued, “AVP is reaching out to the Suffolk County Police Department, local elected officials and community organizations on Long Island and throughout New York City.”

The other sketch was of a Caucasian woman authorities named “Jane Doe No. 6” and described as age 18-35. The woman's torso was found in November 2000 in Manorville, Long Island. DNA testing linked a head, hands and right foot recovered in April on a beach 45 miles away.

Jane Doe No. 6 also may have worked in the sex trade, said Suffolk County Police Commissioner Richard Dormer, who held a news conference two weeks ago to ask citizens with knowledge of the crimes to call a crime-stoppers hotline.

“There could be one, there could be more killers,” Dormer said. “We don't know.”

Authorities have recovered the remains of 10 people, mostly along Ocean Parkway. Five of the victims remain unidentified, and five of the victims worked as prostitutes — four were last seen leaving to meet a client.

“The investigation hasn't stalled,” Dormer emphasized to the press. “We're making progress. It's a slow, methodical process. This is not a television show where everything is solved in an hour.”

Investigators have identified other DNA links:

- DNA links the body of a toddler found near the remains of Jane Doe No. 6 to the remains of another unidentified woman found in Nassau County in April.
- DNA links a skull found in a dumping ground in April to two legs found in a plastic bag dumped on Fire Island in 1996.

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Follow the news at www.wisconsin Gazette.com.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

PRESIDENT ADDRESSES UN ON LGBT RIGHTS

President Barack Obama, addressing the United Nations General Assembly Sept. 21 in New York City, outlined a new, global partnership for open government that he said must further civil rights.

“Together, we must harness the power of open societies and open economies,” the president said.

He added, “That's why

we've partnered with countries from across the globe to launch a new partnership on open government that helps ensure accountability and helps to empower citizens. No country should deny people their rights to freedom of speech and freedom of religion, but also no country should deny people their rights because of who they love, which is why we must stand up for the rights of gays and lesbians everywhere.”

REP BACKS DOMA REPEAL

U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Miami became the first Republican co-sponsor of the Respect for Marriage Act.

The legislation would repeal the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, which federally defines marriage as the union of a man and a woman

and allows states to refuse to recognize a same-sex marriage from another state.

“I co-sponsored the repeal of DOMA because I believe that equality is enshrined in our Constitution and in our great democracy,” Ros-Lehtinen said.

The bill also has 124 Democratic co-sponsors. Chief sponsors Jerrold

Nadler, Barney Frank, Tammy Baldwin, Jared Polis, David Cicilline and John Conyers recently asked House Speaker John Boehner to hold a congressional briefing on the legislation.

GAY MARSHAL NOMINATED IN WASHINGTON

President Barack Obama recently nominated Michael Hughes, an 18-year veteran of the U.S. Marshal Service, to serve as the U.S. marshal

for the District of Columbia. If confirmed, Hughes would be the second openly gay person to serve as a U.S. marshal. The Senate confirmed Sharon Lubinsky as a U.S. marshal for Minnesota in 2009.

The D.C. marshal is in charge of protecting federal judges and courts, as well as the transportation of federal prisoners, the protection of federal witnesses and serving federal warrants.

— L.N.

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{ Editorial }

The GOP's monster has seized the castle

It's becoming difficult for voters of good conscience to identify with the Republican brand. If the GOP presidential debates continue in the spirit they've begun, by the time November 2012 creeps around there will be few decent people left willing to identify publicly as party members.

At a California debate last month, Texas Gov. Rick Perry bragged that he had lost no sleep over signing off on 234 executions – more than any other governor in modern history. The crowd erupted into cheers. It was like a scene from "Gladiator."

At the next debate in Tampa, Ron Paul was asked who should pay when a young person needs expensive intensive care but has no health insurance. The congressman replied, "That's what freedom's all about, taking your own risks."

"But, Congressman, are you saying that society should just let him die?" moderator Wolf Blitzer asked.

"Yeah," shouted several people in the audience – and the crowd followed up with a round of applause.

Interestingly, Paul and his followers don't believe freedom includes a woman's right to get rid of a mass of cells dividing in her womb due to insemination from a male, even if that male raped her. They believe the woman should be forced by law to bear the child those cells eventually become.

It is only after the child has been born and cannot afford health insurance that Paul and his crowd believe that freedom entails policies resulting in his or her preventable death.

At the next debate in Florida, a few members of the audience booed an active-duty gay soldier who appeared on screen via YouTube to ask whether the GOP contenders would reverse the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell."

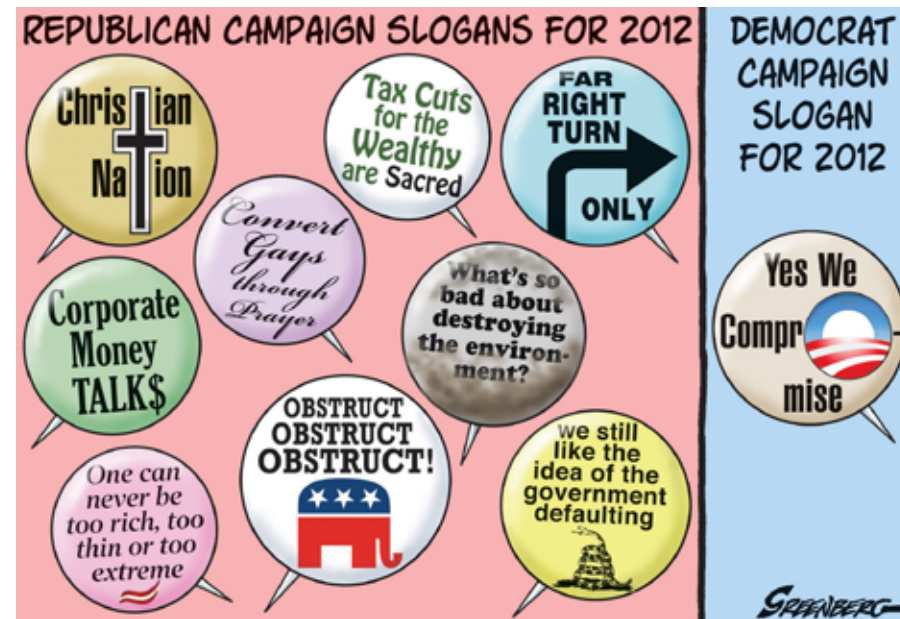
The obsessively anti-gay Rick Santorum, in a rambling answer, said that repealing the policy had undermined the military. The audience nearly drowned him out with cheers and applause directed against an active-duty service member risking his life for their freedom.

It's bad enough that the Republican audiences bear more resemblance to lynch mobs than forums of civilized debate. But the most troubling aspect of these debates is the near-total silence it has elicited from the candidates.

Republican leaders have spawned the Frankenstein monster that their followers have become with decades of hateful, deceitful talk radio and Fox News incitements. Now the monster has taken charge of the castle and its creators are captives in a horror film of their own making.

If GOP candidates stand up to the grassroots maniacs, they'll be instantly tossed from the nearest turret. So they're forced to stand fully exposed as the shameless, amoral panderers they are.

Despite all the GOP's expensively produced and finely tuned propaganda aimed at turning Americans into eager serfs for the super-class, we are still by and large a fair and moderate people. We have solid values and crave strong, intelligent and moral leadership.



{ Feedback }

WALKER GETS AN 'F' IN EDUCATION

An educated workforce is key to the high wage jobs of the 21st century, but Gov. Scott Walker and the Republican-controlled legislature slashed funding for schools, job training and the UW system by almost \$2 billion, while giving tax breaks to millionaires and corporations that pay no taxes. That makes no sense.

Wisconsin had a great school system consistently scoring among the top in testing in the nation.

Walker took a record \$1.6 billion from public school children that is caus-

ing teacher and staff layoffs, school closings, larger class sizes, cancelling sports and music programs.

The budget approved by Walker and legislative Republicans shifts \$1.6 billion away from public schools while giving \$40 million to unaccountable voucher schools. GOP legislators across the state voted to cut their schools while supporting this tax giveaway.

A new report shows that Walker cut more from public schools than any other state. The study by the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities looked at the 24 states where the budget data is available. The report found the Badger State at the front of the pack for cuts.

The study also showed that Wisconsin's budget deficit was much smaller than Illinois, California, and Texas, but our student funding cuts were higher.

Walker get's an "F" for failing our children.

We need him to put our money where his mouth is to restore the investment in our children and job training to create jobs and a better Wisconsin for our children.

Rep. Brett Hulsey, Madison, is a parent of two children, a former teacher and PTO president.

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

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GOP candidate Neumann tunes his right-wing dog whistle

Opinion
CORY LIEBMAN

Will Neumann be honest about his extreme social agenda?

There are still a number of unanswered questions about the upcoming race for retiring U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl's seat.

However, we do know that Republican Mark Neumann, who has repeatedly failed in statewide races, is running. And we also know he brings an extreme right-wing agenda with him.

Neumann is especially extreme when it comes to his obsession with social issues. In the past he said that if he were God for a day, he would not allow homosexuality. He also suggested that he would never hire a gay staffer and would use the heavy hand of government to enforce his brand of religion.

It will be interesting to see if Neumann's campaign will attempt to hide his extremism from the public. This is especially relevant given that the only Democrat to announce for the seat is U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, the first – and only – open lesbian to be elected to Congress.

The political landscape for

LGBT issues has changed dramatically since Neumann was last an elected official in the 1990s. While in a Republican primary it may still be desirable to launch paranoid attacks against the LGBT community, today it is also something that could hurt in a general election.

So will Neumann be honest about his extreme social agenda? Will he temper his comments? Or will he try to avoid those subjects all together?

Thus far it seems that Neumann is keeping his social extremism largely in check. It looks like he may try to rely on blowing a right-wing dog whistle so that he doesn't have to actually say what he means. For example, in his most recent fundraising e-mail to supporters, Neumann complains that "seemingly, every nutty liberal group in America" is behind Baldwin.

While he doesn't go on one of his gay-bashing rants in the e-mail, Neumann makes a particular point to list the "Gay and Lesbian Action Fund" (sic) as one of those allegedly "nutty" groups.

Instead of directly calling Baldwin "gay," he blows a right-wing dog whistle by throwing in the outdated name of a gay organization. Or did he intentionally change the name of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund to something that his followers would be able to get more easily?

In recent comments at a luncheon hosted by WisPolitics, Baldwin stressed

that her overall record does not provide a real basis for such shallow name-calling. She pointed out several examples of bipartisan leadership, as well as times when she bucked her party and the president to act in Wisconsin's best interests. Baldwin also pointed to several past votes, such as her opposition to the war in Iraq, that were once viewed as "liberal" but are now positions shared by most Wisconsinites.

Neumann plans to get ahead by saying as little in the way of substance as possible. He plans to attack Baldwin by name-calling rather than exploring the actual substance of her record. And it appears that he also plans on using a right-wing dog whistle rather than actually being honest with Wisconsin about his extremist social views.

Neumann may think this approach is a winning tactic, but it fails to provide the kind of substantive and honest debate that Wisconsin deserves.

Coming out do's and don'ts

Oct. 11 is National Coming Out Day. Who are you coming out to?

Although I've been out to almost everyone since the 1970s, I always try to find someone new to come out to. Sharing our stories and being honest with people is the most simple, effective means we have for winning hearts and minds. In addition to the personal satisfaction and deeper relationships that result from coming out, it advances the LGBT community's quest for equal rights.

Almost 40 years ago, my first attempts to come out were like shaky little baby steps. When I was still in high school, I carried around a big pink-covered book with the title "Out of the Closets: Voices of Gay Liberation." I guess the idea was to provoke comment. The funny thing is that when comments ensued, I would launch into a passionate defense of gay people without really coming out myself.

Given that I had hopeless

Opinion
JAMAKAYA

crushes on half the girls in school – to the point of lapsing into moony-eyed stares and buying them excessive gifts – I wasn't exactly clueless or conflicted about my sexuality. But I was apparently still afraid to say it out loud.

Then I got to college and bonded with feminist and lesbian activists at UW-Milwaukee at the height of the women's movement. I entered a militant coming-out phase. I had had relationships with women by that point, so my lesbian tendencies were happily confirmed, and I was ready to declare myself to the world. What is it some wag said about "the love that dare not speak its name has become the love that won't shut up"? That was me.

I was loud. I was confrontational. I wore T-shirts with big letters spelling out "DYKE"

and "LEZZY." Involved in student activities, I'd demand lesbian speakers at university events. I'd harangue professors about including famous lesbians in the curriculum. Worse, I would berate straight women friends, telling them they were not politically evolved enough because they were not lesbians. I was insufferable.

In my 30s, I got a graduate degree, professional work and writing awards. I became downright respectable, darn it, and my position gave me increasing opportunities to speak before academic and community groups. In coming out and in being a "public" lesbian, I toned down the anger and strived for connection. This was after learning the rather obvious lessons that humor trumps hostility and understanding requires empathy.

Today when I come out to people, it's usually matter-of-factly, in the natural context of getting to know them. Sometimes a new acquaint-

Share your coming out stories on WiG's Facebook page.

ON THE RECORD

"We don't believe in the kind of smallness that says it's OK for a stage full of political leaders – one of whom could end up being the president of the United States – being silent when an American soldier is booed. We don't believe in that."

– PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA commenting on Republicans who booed a gay soldier serving in Iraq during a presidential debate in Florida. The president made the remarks at a Human Rights Campaign fundraiser.

"Somebody's sexual preference is, like, who cares?"

– COUNTRY MUSIC STAR TOBY KEITH on the end of "don't ask, don't tell."

"I think he feels the same way I do. I don't think about a person as gay, I think about them as a human being."

– HENRY WINKLER tells interviewers how he thinks his iconic TV character "The Fonz" would feel about gay people.

"People keep saying I'm gay, and I'm not. I'm pretty sure I've never made out with a girl."

– SINGER KELLY CLARKSON in an interview with E! News.

"There is nobody in this country who got rich on his own. Nobody. You built a factory out there – good for you. But I want to be clear. You moved your goods to market on the roads the rest of us paid for. You hired workers that the rest of us paid to educate. . . . Part of the underlying social contract is you take a hunk of that and pay forward for the next kid who comes along."

– ELIZABETH WARREN, who's challenging Republican U.S. Sen. Scott Brown in 2012. In a special election last year, Brown picked up the Senate seat that formerly belonged to Ted Kennedy.

"In the gay world, it will always be open. . . . There is no curbing the gay man."

– PATTI STANGER, the host of Bravo's "Millionaire Matchmaker," saying essentially that all gay men are sluts. She also said that Jewish men are liars.

"I think nobody gives a crap, for the most part. For whatever reason . . . in men's team sports we just have a hard time discussing it. I think the more we talk about it, the more comfortable we can be with it and the less, perhaps, threatening and scary it seems to those who are on any side of the issue."

– FORMER PHOENIX SUNS CEO RICK WELTS responding to a reporter's question about whether he's breaking down barriers as an openly gay official in professional sports. Welts recently signed on as chief of the Golden State Warriors.

"I just want to tell you that part of our life was very fulfilling, so I don't know. In Hollywood they talk about everyone in some form or another. If that was the case, I never saw any indication of it."

– ACTRESS DYAN CANNON denying rumors that her ex-husband, screen legend Cary Grant, was gay.

Film shows meaning of Jesuit spirituality

Religion

ANDREW WARNER

"The Mouth of the Wolf," which screens at the Milwaukee LGBT Film and Video Festival at UWM at 1 p.m. on Oct. 23, is an unusual film.

Funded by a Jesuit foundation, it's about a petty criminal and his transgender lover.

The film's name comes from Italian slang for "good luck." The sarcasm is obvious: Who wants to be in the mouth of a wolf? The slang is used to wish luck to someone headed directly into life's difficulties.

True to its slang title, the film encompasses a number

of challenges. Not just those of Enzo, newly released from prison, and Mary, his lover. But also of the city of Genoa itself. Scenes of Enzo's journey home from prison mingle with archival film footage of Genoa and snapshots of its current malaise.

The back-and-forth images create the visual equivalent of a poetic rhyme. It may be compared to a *terza rima*, the triplet rhyming structure invented by Dante.

This poetic structure makes the film unique in the offerings of the Milwaukee LGBT Film and Video Festival. "It is not a conventional documentary nor is it a conventional or typical LGBT film, though it has this couple at its center," festival director Carl Bogner explains. "I wanted to show-

case it for that reason – to show what different forms LGBT film can take, and that genuine feeling can come from such forms."

The effect of the visual *terza rima* overwhelms: First in the poignancy of the love letters between Enzo and Mary, read with scenes of Enzo on the road or scenes of life in Genoa. Then in the reoccurring images of exuberance and destruction in Genoa, all powerfully underscored by music. And lastly in the final scene of Enzo and Mary talking about their relationship, surrounded by their brood of dogs, beautiful in all the broken edges of their lives, two wounded people who have found tremendous love in each other.

Many images of the relationship between Enzo and Mary are memorable. During their time in prison, Enzo convinced the guards to move him to a cell across the hall from Mary. He taught her sign language so they could communicate across the divide. What a powerful desire to find some sense of intimacy amid the degradations of jail.

One wonders why a Jesuit foundation funded this project. Part of the answer lies in the purpose of the foundation to call attention to the situation of the poor in Genoa. A much larger answer lies, I suspect, with the direction of Jesuit spirituality.

The founder of the Jesuits taught his followers to "find God in all things." Jesuit spirituality takes this motto to



PHOTO: COURTESY

"The Mouth of the Wolf" screens at the Milwaukee LGBT Film Festival at 1 p.m. on Oct. 23.

heart, cultivating an awareness of what happens in the daily world around us so that one can discern where God may be leading us.

With that lens, the visual

poem becomes a call to find God or beauty or joy in the troubled, difficult, fragile world of Genoa's poor, and in particular in the jagged lives of Enzo and Mary.

OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATIONS

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

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

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

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

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.milccc.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

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 3022 W. Wisconsin Ave., 53208, 414-342-5252, www.oslcmilw.org

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

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

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

Unitarian Universalist Church West, 13001 W. North Ave., Brookfield, WI 53005, 262-782-3535 ext. 12, <http://uucw.org>

Universal Anglican Church – Christ Enlight, Marion Center for Nonprofits, 3195 S. Superior St., 53207, 414-793-4828, www.uacmilwaukee.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

MADISON

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

Beth'El Evangelical Lutheran Church, 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/

James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 2146 E. Johnson St., 53704, 608-242-8887, www.jruuc.org

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

GREEN BAY

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

FOX VALLEY

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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Bradford Community Church-Unitarian Universalist, 5810 Eighth Ave., 53140, 262-656-0544, www.bradforduu.org

Olympia Brown Unitarian Universalist Church, 625 College Ave., 53403, 262-634-0659, www.obuuc.org, mail@obuuc.org

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 Church of the Lakes, 319 N. Broad St., Elkhorn, 53121, 262-723-7440, www.uulakes.org

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Facts

- Did you know, the HIV infection rate is highest among young gay and bisexual men of color age 13 – 29?
- Gay and bisexual men are the only group in the US in which **new HIV infections are increasing.**
- In Milwaukee, 1 in 3 gay and bisexual African American men **will be diagnosed with HIV infection.**

Act

- Join a **Be ABLE** group session **or** retreat.
- Always use condoms for anal sex.

Join

Be ABLE holds weekend retreats and weekly group sessions where African American gay and bisexual men can discuss the different factors that may place them at risk for HIV and STDs.

Contact
Chris Allen, Diverse and Resilient
414.390.0444

www.diverseandresilient.org/BeABLE

Dog lovers exercise political clout in San Francisco

From the Associated Press

There are more dogs than kids in the City by the Bay. So it stands to reason dog owners carry a lot of clout – so much so they believe their endorsement can sway the upcoming mayoral race.

Dog lovers have formed a political action committee to promote the interests of their four-footed friends, namely space to run free in one of the world's largest urban national parks. And they are calling on mayoral candidates to defend their stands on canine affairs.

"We expect the dog vote to be a game-changer," said Bruce Wolfe, president of DogPAC, which held a forum attended by several mayoral hopefuls recently.

There are an estimated 150,000 dogs in the city, compared with some 108,000 children, according to the San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the 2010 U.S. Census. More than 800,000 people are sandwiched into 7-by-7 square miles in the city named for St. Francis, patron saint of animals.

As more parents seeking new schools and lower housing costs move out of the city, more straight and gay couples, as well as aging baby boomers, are choos-

ing canines over kids. San Francisco is renowned for its dog parks and, like Paris, many of its restaurants and shops welcome pampered pooches in their leopard-print sweaters and bling-ringed dog collars.

City officials typically can be found at animal fairs and forums. Debates over the funding of the city's Animal Control department and bans on the sale of shark fins and pet-store hamsters can turn into big brouhahas.

"San Franciscans take their dogs very seriously," said Wolfe, who has a disability and recently lost Charlie, his service dog of 10 years.

Seven of the 16 candidates vying for City Hall's top job in the Nov. 8 election attended DogPAC's recent forum, where candidates were asked about the cost of dog licenses, trash cans in parks where owners can dispose of dog waste and pet-friendly rental housing for people who want to adopt foster animals.

Candidate Joanna Rees – a venture capitalist with two dogs, Jack and Jill – held her own "Bark in the Park" forum several weeks ago.

"Dogs are an important part of many families and neighborhoods across our community," Rees said. "Open lines of communica-



PHOTO: ABBY WILCOX/ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

tion between City Hall and pet owners – as with merchants, educators, parents, working families and other stakeholder groups – are the foundation of good policy."

Some campaign websites even note where candidates stand on puppy policy.

"Making San Francisco a family-friendly city means recognizing the multitude of ways in which we define families," City Attorney Dennis Herrera says on his site. "And in the city of St. Francis, that includes dogs and companion animals."

Herrera made national headlines in 2002 when, after lengthy city investigations, he sued Petco Animal Supplies Inc. for the alleged mistreatment of animals. The pet supply chain settled the lawsuit, and the rock star Pink sent her thanks in a photo pasted on his website.

The big issue that has the city's dog owners on edge is an investigation by the National Parks Service as to whether it should close down great swaths of parkland in Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo counties

where dogs are allowed to run off leash. The Golden Gate National Recreation Area, some 75,400 acres of open land and water, is nearly two and a half times the size of the city of San Francisco itself. The Park Service's proposed dog plan, which will be finalized next year, has elicited about 4,700 public comments on its website.

The Park Service is considering mandating leashes in some open spaces and fencing off some popular dog-walking areas. They and environmentalists want to protect some 1,200 native plant and animal species, including the Snowy Plover, a federally endangered shorebird.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society is working with the Park Service to find the right balance. Measures they're recommending would mandate that dog walkers be limited to three dogs each and that professional dog walkers be required to carry permits.

Fort Funston, a former military outpost of sand dunes and eucalyptus groves on cliffs that overlook the Pacific Ocean, is one of the most beloved dog parks in America. Dogs run free in joyous packs through trails that line the 35 acres of wilderness.

Wolfe and Sally Stephens, president of the dog owners' association SF Dog, walked the Fort Funston trails last week and handed out leaflets to the dog walkers, urging them to attend the forum and help them decide which mayoral candidate they should endorse.

"It is miles and miles of smiles out here," Stephens said, as dog walkers cheered on Fritz, a plucky Dachshund who needs wheels on his hind legs to get around and keep up with his pack. "It's such a great community out here – and people who don't have dogs just don't get that."

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Jaspurr is an 11-week-old domestic shorthair kitten.

TIP OF THE WEEK

Did you know that a cat's scratching post should be as high as your cat is tall when he or she is fully stretched out, plus a few inches? They'll appreciate the fully extended stretch and it will encourage them to use the post instead of the couch. For tips on how to make your own scratching post, visit wihumane.org and click the pink "education" tab.

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MILWAUKEE LGBT FILM & VIDEO FESTIVAL Festival offerings run the gamut, from lesbian sci-fi comedy to transgender drama

By Jody Hirsh

Contributing writer

The Milwaukee LGBT Film and Video Festival has something for nearly everyone in the LGBT rainbow – and then some, says festival director Carl Bogner.

The popular event returns for the 24th year on Oct. 20, and runs through Oct. 23.

The festival has changed considerably since it was founded a quarter of a century ago, says Bogner, who's been part of it for 14 years. He's also a senior lecturer in UWM's film department.

The idea for the festival originated with Carl Szatmary, the proprietor of Milwaukee's Outwards Books, Bogner says. The idea floated around the UWM film department for awhile and eventually evolved into the full-fledged international film festival it is today.

Prior to last year, the festival ran for two weekends – 11 days in all. But last year the event switched to a

format featuring one activity-packed opening weekend in October, followed by screenings on the first Thursday of every month.

That's the plan for this year as well.

The festival is an ever-changing event. The subjects and styles of its offerings have shifted over the years to reflect evolving social attitudes about LGBT people, Bogner says.

In the early days, "gay storytelling was by no means mainstream," Bogner says. "LGBT work used to be more difficult, edgier and more challenging in form and content."

The gay coming-out or coming-of-age story used to be a staple of LGBT cinema, but this year's festival does not feature even one film that follows that kind of storyline.

"As it's become mainstream ... queer cinema has become more conventional," Bogner says. "Now,

ON SCREEN

The Milwaukee LGBT Film and Video Festival, presented by the UWM Peck School of the Arts, runs from Oct. 20 through Oct. 23. The festival continues with monthly showings in November and December, as well as in 2012. Details at www4.uwm.edu/psoa/programs/film/lgbtfilm.

queer work has entered popular forms. Romantic comedies are by far the most popular (now), giving LGBT people compelling fantasies that they like seeing over and over."

This year's festival proves that transgender film has arrived. Two feature films courageously asserting their identities. In the French film "Tomboy," 10-year-old Laure uses the opportunity provided by her family's relocation to become a boy in the eyes of her new playmates. This year's closing film, "Gun Hill Road," tells a powerful tale of family dysfunction as a father returns

to the Bronx after serving time in prison to discover that his teenage son is transitioning into a woman.

This year's festival also demonstrates the international boom of independent LGBT cinema. Films from France, Israel, Brazil, Italy, Norway, England, Australia, and the United States are represented.

The range of characters has become broader. LGBT cinema is no longer just about stories involving white people, and there are characters of all ages – from children through senior citizens.

Genres represented at this year's festival run the gamut – comedy, romance,

drama, documentary. There's even a cheesy Ed Wood-style lesbian sci-fi romance.

Despite all of the changes in both form and content, however, this year's festival promises once again to be a crowd pleaser. After all, as Bogner puts it, "We're just showing really good movies."

Following are Gregg Shapiro's previews of some festival highlights:

'LEAVE IT ON THE FLOOR'

Sheldon Larry's "Leave It on the Floor," showing at 7 p.m. on Oct. 22, joins such films such as Casper Andreas' "The Big Gay Musical," HP Mendoza's "Fruit Fly" and Wendy Jo Carlton's "Jamie and Jessie Are Not Together" in the fresh new trend of original gay movie musicals.

Brad, played by Ephraim Sykes, is a gay teen with an Usher thing going on. He's thrown out by his single, homophobic mother and forced to live on the street, inspiring the first of the movie's dozen or so songs – "Loser's List."

In a Los Angeles convenience store, Brad gets his pocket picked by Carter (Andre Myers), whom he pursues into a nightclub. There he's introduced to the world of the vogue ball and to a motley crew of drag/dance/performance queers called the House of Eminence.

Princess (Phillip Evelyn) offers Brad a place to crash for the night, and Brad decides that he wants to become a member of the House of Eminence. But there's a lot of work to be done to prepare Brad for the Imperial Mini Ball, which takes place in two weeks.

Dedicated to gay and trans kids escaping from oppressive circumstances, the movie narrowly avoids being a "High School Musical" for the drag ball community. With music by Beyonce's music director Kim Burse and choreography by Michael Jackson's Frank Gaston Jr., "Leave It on the Floor" possesses some stunning musical numbers and impressive production values. Critics have predicted that a number of new queer musical anthems will emerge from this film.

'CODEPENDENT LESBIAN SPACE ALIEN SEEKS SAME'

Following "Leave It on the Floor" at 9 p.m., writer/director Madeleine Olnek's hilarious black-and-white sci-fi comedy "Codependent Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same" is out of this world. Paying homage to classic 1950s science fiction as well as Woody Allen, this is a movie that could dispel the myth of the humorless lesbian once and for all.

Plain Jane (Lisa Haas) dreams of a note dropped from a spaceship that reads, "What are you doing later?" At least she thinks it's a dream. Jane's therapist thinks her patient's rich fantasy life is a problem. But who could blame stationery store clerk Jane for fantasizing?

Meanwhile on planet Zot, a hole in the ozone is widening. The inhabitants believe it's due to the overwhelming load of their emotions. In order to prevent further damage, select Zot beings are sent to earth to have their hearts broken by *continued on next page*

continued

heartless earthlings.

Zoinx (Susan Ziegler) is among the crew that arrives on earth in a pie tin-looking spacecraft. Zoinx is a quick study, and in no time she's in Jane's store buying a "love card," which she purchases and immediately gives to Jane. From there, the relationship develops rapidly, under the watchful eyes of two government agents who are closely tracking the aliens while harboring secrets of their own.

But all good and alien things must come to an end. Once it's discovered that the ozone destruction back home is actually being caused by the sun reflecting off the bald Zot pates, Zoinx and the rest of her crew are summoned to return to their planet.

If you seek a funny and refreshing comedy, this one fills the bill.

'I AM'

Sonali Gulati's documentary "I Am" opens the festival on Oct. 23 at 11 a.m.

In the beginning of the film, Gulati leaves the United States to return to Delhi, where her family home has sat empty for 11 years since her mother's death. In that house, surrounded by a lifetime of belongings and associated experiences, Gulati attempts to come to terms with the reasons she remained closeted to her mother.

"I Am" alternates between Gulati's personal reflections and a series of interviews with Indian lesbians and gay men. Some are quite sad. But there are stories of hope, as well. For instance, there's openly gay Indian prince Manvendra,

who was disinherited by his family. But he continues to live his life out and proud.

"I Am" closes with the emotionally charged rally celebrating the decriminalization of homosexuality in India in July 2009.

'I SHOT MY LOVE'

This intimate doc by gay Israeli filmmaker Tomer Heymann is about the families we make. It screens at 7 p.m. on Oct. 23.

Heymann is the director of the Filipino drag queen movie "Paper Dolls." In the beginning of the film, he takes his mother Noa with him to Berlin for a screening of the film. It's the first time either of them has been to Germany since Heymann's grandparents escaped the Nazis in 1936 and relocated to Israel.

The night after the premiere, Heymann goes out to a club and meets dancer Andreas. Andreas moves to Tel Aviv to be with him.

At a Passover dinner with Heymann's family, Andreas gets the chance to connect with the German side of his partner's family. The role of family in "I Shot My Love" is emphasized when Andreas invites Heymann to spend Christmas with his family in Germany.

'GUN HILL ROAD'

Screening at 7 p.m. on Oct. 23, "Gun Hill Road" is the festival's closing night feature. By writer/director Rashaad Ernesto Green, it was a 2011 finalist for the jury award at the Sundance Film Festival.

Enrique, portrayed by Esai Morales, returns to his Bronx neighborhood after serving time in prison. His



PHOTO: COURTESY
"Gun Hill Road"

wife Angie (Judy Reyes) is throwing a welcome-home party for him, even though she's considering leaving Enrique for the more stable and gainfully employed Hector (Vincent Laresca).

Enrique's teenaged son Michael, played by Harmony Santana in an impressive screen debut, doesn't plan to stick around at the party for long. Once out the door, he transforms into Vanessa and takes the stage to perform at a poetry slam.

After her performance, Vanessa is hit on by Chris (Tyronne Brown) and respectfully finds a way to let him know that she is transgendered. The scene has a raw honesty and is intensely intimate. To Vanessa's surprise, Chris is undeterred.

The lives of the father and son are juxtaposed. Enrique meets with his parole office and vows not to go back to prison. Michael is harassed by classmates in the school locker-room. Enrique gets a job working in the kitchen of a restaurant. Michael hangs out with his friends and shows no interest in attending sporting events with Enrique.

Eventually, father and son come to blows. When Enrique tells Michael he "didn't raise you to be like this," Michael responds, "You didn't raise me."

In one of the film's most remarkable scenes, Vanessa dresses for her date with Chris. The attention to detail, including forearm and chest shaving, tucking, dressing, hair, make-up, press-on

nails and even the addition of hip-padding, is incredible. But the date has a tragic quality, as it becomes clear that Chris' comfort level is being tested.

As if the night couldn't get any worse, Enrique is waiting up for Michael when he returns home with traces of Vanessa. An enraged Enrique drags him into the bathroom where he proceeds to cut off most of his hair.

Enrique soon quits his job and is back to his old ways, getting a gun and threatening Hector. Vanessa wants more than sex from the relationship with Chris, and a date at a restaurant ends badly when Vanessa is taunted on the street and Chris doesn't defend her. At a parent/teacher conference, Enrique is embarrassed to

learn about Michael's behavior at school, something that Angie had been keeping from him. Angie, who supports and approves of Michael's transition, knew that Enrique wouldn't.

Ultimately, Enrique's final two acts of desperation – one of which includes taking Michael to a prostitute – backfire on him. Michael, meanwhile, has temporarily run away to Hector's, a place that both he and Angie know is safe for him. In the film's finale, both Michael and Enrique head for home and reconciliation, but only one of them will reach their destination.

"Gun Hill Road" is an explosive film fueled by Harmony Santana's riveting performance.

– Gregg Shapiro



PHOTO: COURTESY
"Leave It on the Floor"

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MILWAUKEE LGBT FILM & VIDEO FESTIVAL

Haigh talks about his memorable 'Weekend'

By Gregg Shapiro

Staff writer

"Weekend," written and directed by out British filmmaker Andrew Haigh, is the most anticipated gay-themed movie of the season. In the film, Tom Cullen plays Russell, a gay lifeguard whose social circle revolves around his group of straight buddies and their wives. One evening as he heads home after an evening with his friends, Russell stops in at a gay bar where he meets Glen, played by Chris New. The next morning, they wake up in Russell's bed together and begin the process of getting to know each other. What looks promising as a potential relationship for the men is dampened by

the fact that Glen is leaving shortly for a two-year stint in the United States.

Sexy and smart, "Weekend" is garnering praise from reviewers and audiences alike. I spoke with Haigh about his movie last month.

Gregg Shapiro: How much, if any, of Andrew is in the characters of Glen and Russell?

Andrew Haigh: (Pause.) That'd be giving a lot away. Inevitably, there's elements of both the characters in me, certainly. Depending on the mood I'm in that day, I'm either angry about the world, like Glen, or desperate to settle down, like Russell (laughs).

Can you please say something about the casting of Chris New, a gay actor, and Tom Cullen, a straight actor, as Glen and Russell.

I thought a lot about it. It's hard because in my head, ideally, when I was writing it, it would have been great if it was two gay actors. I know a lot of people get quite upset that gay actors don't get the roles. To start with, it was a quite traditional casting process, and you can't ask people in the casting session if they're gay or not. So you just have to put that aside and go with who you think is going to be best at the role. I knew about Chris New before I auditioned him anyway, and

I knew that he was gay and out. But I didn't know anything about Tom. When I met Tom, he was fantastic in the audition. The only question I asked was how he felt about playing a gay character. He said, he was fine and talked about why he was fine with it. It didn't make any difference to him. It's just an element of that character. There's more to the character than his sexuality. For most actors, they just see it as another facet of the character. I always think it's strange that people get applauded for playing gay, when it's just the same as playing straight.

How rare, in this day and age of Grindr and Manhunt, do you think is the kind of connection that occurs between Glen and Russell?

I've been in a relationship for quite a long time, so I've been away from part of the world for a long time. In my day you went out and you met people in bars. That was how it worked. In the end it's still the same thing. You can meet someone on Grindr, but then once you start talking with them, it doesn't matter.

Glen is preparing to go to Portland, Ore., for two years. If he's an artist, why Portland and not New York?

I think in my head he would have sat down and said, "Oh no, New York is too obvious." His whole life he is desperately trying to

be a certain type of person and every decision he makes is trying to be that kind of person. He probably met someone who said, "Portland is really cool," and that's his reason for going there.

In a way, drugs and alcohol are like characters in the movie. What do you think their conversations would be like without drugs?

They probably wouldn't have gotten as intimate. The fact that they are drinking and taking drugs is almost an excuse to open up. They can always blame the fact that they are taking cocaine on what they're talking about. I think that's a relatively common thing - people often when they are using drugs do say things that they never would say normally. I don't think of them as drug addicts, they're recreational drug users. It's also interesting to me the type of drugs they take. Russell smokes a lot of marijuana and drinks beer, which makes sense for his character. They're almost like downer drugs. And Glen uses coke, which is quite an aggressive drug. You just talk and talk and talk rubbish. That's the kind of person Glen is. He doesn't want to have a nice drunken chat talking about stupid stuff. He wants to have a really intense conversation.

The movie also utilizes a device popular in straight romances - arriving at the train

station for one final goodbye, for a train platform kiss. Is that your way of making homage to that?

Certainly making homage to that. In straight films people meet at train stations and they hug and kiss, everyone applauds and everyone's lovely. People aren't going to applaud when two guys kiss.

In fact, they're heckled.

Exactly. I think that's the reality, and I wanted to put that in. They're having an intimate moment, and people are calling them names. I think a lot of gay people know what that's like.

Did you have a target audience in mind when making the film?

I wanted a gay audience to see it. That was the most important audience to me. At the same time I wanted it to be more than that I suppose. You want people who aren't gay to see it, because you want people to understand what it's like to be gay. I suppose I was going more for the indie film audience more than the specifically gay niche DVD audience. I wanted people to see it in the cinema.

ON SCREEN

UWM's Milwaukee LGBT Film and Video Festival screens "Weekend" at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 20 at the Oriental Theater.



PHOTO: COURTESY

A scene from Andrew Haigh's "Weekend"

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PHOTO: COURTESY
Skylight Opera Theatre's
"The Rivals"

PHOTO: JESSICA KAMINSKY
Milwaukee Ballet's
Valerie Harmon

NOT THE SAME OLD SONG & DANCE

Previewing this season's musical highlights

By Michael Muckian
Contributing writer

Classical music is more than symphonies and string quartets. Opera and vocal music present the treasures found in nature's most perfect musical instrument, while movement, especially to music, presents our mean form at its most elegant.

Here are some highlights from these areas of the performing arts on the 2011-12 season calendar.

OPERA

MADISON OPERA

Madison Opera launches a series of "firsts" under new general director Kathryn Smith. With Tchaikovsky's "Eugene Onegin," MO offers its first Russian opera in the company's more than 50 years of existence. Based on Alexander Pushkin's verse novel of the same name, "Onegin" excerpts scenes from the title character's life of love and regret. Soprano Maria Kanyova, tenor Scott Ramsay and baritone Hyung Yun star (Nov. 4, Nov. 6).

Later this season the Overture Center stage comes alive with Philip Glass' "Galileo Galilei" (Jan. 26-28), which looks at the great astronomer's struggles with the Catholic Church and his complex relationship with his

daughter, a nun. This production marks the work's first full-operatic performance. Soprano Jaime-Rose Guarrine and baritone John Arnold star in The Playhouse at Overture Center.

The season closes in Overture Hall with MO's premiere of Rossini's "Cinderella" (April 27, April 29), the composer's bel canto (which literally means "beautiful song") treatment of the traditional fairy tale modernized to a 1930s Hollywood backdrop. Soprano Daniela Mack performs opposite tenor Gregory Schmidt.

Overture Hall, Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State St., Madison; 608-258-4141, www.madisonopera.org.

FLORENTINE OPERA

Puccini's mighty "Turandot" opens the Florentine Opera's 2011-12 season, filling the stage at Uihlein Hall in grand style. The classic romance, a battle of wits and wills, finds a valiant hero pursuing the heart of an icy princess. Tenor Renzo Zulian returns as Calaf to perform the show-stopping "Nessun Dorma," the aria that made Pavarotti famous.

Soprano Lise Lindstrom plays Princess Turandot, a role she performed to critical acclaim at New York's Metropolitan Opera and Milan's La Scala. Brava! (Nov. 4,

Nov. 6).

Later in the season, the Florentine Opera Studio Artists take the Vogel Hall stage for "Isn't It Romantic?," a collection of love-touched operatic and Broadway show tunes that makes the perfect St. Valentine's Day gift for couples of all orientations (Feb. 10-12).

The Florentine then returns to Uihlein Hall for "Susannah," composer Carlisle Floyd's dramatic story of an innocent young golden-voiced soprano whom star Niffer Clarke grew up idolizing. With Richard Carsey in the Studio Theatre (Dec. 30-Jan. 8).

Leslie Fitzwater brings a legendary chanteuse to life in "Edith Piaf Onstage," a

premiere of composer Kirke Mechem's "The Rivals." The season continues with Meredith Wilson's "The Music Man," in which fast-talking Prof. Harold Hill tries to stem the rising tide of "trouble in River City" by creating a boy's marching band (Nov. 18-Dec. 18).

In "Beyond the Ingenue" examines the progression of young golden-voiced sopranos whom star Niffer Clarke grew up idolizing. With Richard Carsey in the Studio Theatre (Dec. 30-Jan. 8).

The Skylight season closes with Stephen Sondheim's Pulitzer

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PHOTO: COURTESY

Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus

newly expanded version of the dramatic musical revue (Jan. 27-Feb. 12). The highly acclaimed musical "Daddy Long Legs," presented by Skylight as part of a larger theatrical consortium, features a mystery benefactor who helps a young girl progress from orphanage through university (March 9-April 1).

In "Things that Go Ding," a collection of vaudeville percussion instruments offer zany takes on the music of Bizet, Liszt and Gilbert and Sullivan in the Studio Theatre (April 27-May 6).

The Skylight season closes with Stephen Sondheim's Pulitzer

continued on next page

continued

Prize-winning "Sunday in the Park with George," a musical love story inspired by pointillist George Seurat's famous painting "A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte" (May 18-June 10).

Cabot Theater, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee; 414-291-7800 www.skylightopera.com.

CHORAL GROUPS

BEL CANTO CHORUS

The Bel Canto Chorus will fill stages at numerous area venues with its gorgeous vocal renditions of works both sacred and secular.

The upcoming season, led by conductor/composer Richard Hynson, includes the following: "Christmas at the Basilica" offers a program of beloved holiday carols in the stunning Basilica of St. Josaphat, assisted by the Bel Canto Boys Choir and the Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble (Dec. 10-11); "Evensong" features the Anglican-inspired choral work of composers Hynson, Gerald Finzi and John Rutter at St. Joseph's Center Chapel (March 4); and Antonin Dvorak's "Stabat Mater," known as

"the Czech Messiah" in the composer's native country, will be performed at Christ King Parish in Wauwatosa with the Bel Canto Orchestra (May 20).

The season ends with "Give Us Peace," which combines the oratory, poetry and music of Frederick Douglass, Walt Whitman and Ralph Vaughn Williams with the talents of Edo de Waart and the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, the Waukesha Choral Union and other groups at the Oconomowoc Arts Center (May 21).

158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee; 414-481-8801 www.belcanto.org.

BACH CHAMBER CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA

Devoted to preserving the art of fine choral music, conductor Brian McLinden and the Bach Chamber Choir and Orchestra open their 2011-12 season with Brahms' "Liebeslieder" and other songs from the heart, in a program titled "Isn't It Romantic" at Bergstrom Hall's Alumnae Dining Room at Mt. Mary College (Oct. 22). The season continues with a post-holiday carol festival featuring Pergolesi's "Magnificat" at

St. Mary's Visitation Parish, Elm

Grove (Jan. 8); Haydn's "Pauken Messe" ("Kettledrum Mass") during a Palm Sunday celebration at the Basilica of St. Josaphat (April 1); and Palestrina's "Pope Marcellus Mass" at St. Mary's Visitation Parish (May 20).

Milwaukee; 414-427-7160, www.bachchoirmilwaukee.com.

FESTIVAL CHOIR

Madison's Festival Choir and new conductor Bryson Mortenson start their season with a post-Halloween "Things That Go Bump in the Night," which explores the darker side of choral music, including Hugo Distler's "Totentanzem" and other works (Nov. 5). The season continues with "The Language of Love" (Feb. 25), including the more romantic works of Monteverdi, Fauré and Brahms; and "I Am Flying" (May 12), which takes listeners on a musical journey around the world.

First Baptist Church, 518 N. Franklin Ave., Madison; 608-274-7089, www.festivalchoir.org.

LGBT VOICES

PERFECT HARMONY MEN'S CHORUS

Madison's gay and gay-friendly men's chorus, led by artistic director Ken Forney, will present four programs, including "Inside Ediel" (Oct. 8-9); "Winter Concert" (Dec. 10-11); the popular "Cabaret" (March 10-11); and the group's "15th Anniversary Concert" (June 18).

Madison; 608-445-6767, www.perfectharmonychorus.org.

WISCONSIN CREAM CITY CHORUS

WCCC will celebrate 25 years in 2012 with a season that starts with an appearance at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Holiday Party (Dec. 3). The 2011-12 season also includes "A Year in the Life: Celebrating through the Seasons" (Dec. 10-11); "UUCW Playhouse: We Do!" (Feb. 10-11); "We are One: Celebrating Diversity," which also is WCCC's anniversary concert (April 1); and "Schlimmiel! Schlamazel! Celebrating the Cream City," the chorus' popular cabaret show.

Unitarian Universalist Church, 13001 W. North Ave., Brookfield, www.creamcitychorus.org.



PHOTO: RICK BRODZELLER

Dancer Marc Petrocci in Milwaukee Ballet's "Peter Pan"

GOTTA DANCE!

MILWAUKEE BALLET

Milwaukee Ballet artistic director Michael Pink once again begins his season with the enormously popular "Dracula," a retelling of Bram Stoker's vampire legend through dance and a guaranteed way to liven up the Halloween season (Oct. 27-30). Seasonal celebrations continue with "The Nutcracker" (Dec. 10-26), arguably the best known and most often performed ballet in the canon.

Three daring choreographers – Brock Clawson, Petr Zahradnick and Mauro de Candia – combine forces for the Ballet's "Winter Series," this one in the intimate confines of the Pabst Theater (Feb. 16-19). The "Spring Series" follows, featuring dance compositions by Lila York, Matthew Neenan and Alejandro Cerrudo (March 29-April 1). The season closes with the return of "Peter Pan," Pink's wildly popular and athletic retelling of the famous

fairy tale of the boy who wouldn't grow up (May 10-13).

Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 N. Water St., Milwaukee; 414-902-2103, www.milwaukeeballet.org.

MADISON BALLET

Still recovering from the economic recession, Madison Ballet is once again limiting its production schedule this year to "The Nutcracker." A combination of fabulous costumes, dynamic lighting and lavish set design are the perfect vehicle for the energetic choreography of artistic director W. Earle Smith. Tchaikovsky's famous score makes this a family favorite (Dec. 17-26).

Overture Hall, Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State St.; 608-258-4141, www.madisonballet.org.

OTHER VENUES

Madison's Overture Center for the Arts (201 State St.) offers several professional dance troupes during its 2011-12 season. Join

Ballet Maribor for its unique production of "Radio and Juliet" (Oct. 25), Shakespeare's familiar tale of star-crossed lovers set to the music of Radiohead.

The season continues with the annual return of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago (Feb. 3), a Madison favorite for 15 years. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (March 27) closes the season in its first national tour under new artistic director Robert Battle. Details at www.overturecenter.com.

The Fox Cities Performing Arts Center this spring offers "Swan Lake," (Jan. 27) performed by the State Ballet Theatre of Russia. Tchaikovsky's masterpiece is one of the world's most beloved ballets and sure to be a hit among dance fans of all ages.

For dance of a completely different type, check out "Stomp" (March 23-25), an innovative mix of choreography and percussion with everything from Zippo lighters to garbage cans playing a role. Details at www.foxcitiespac.com.

Broadway returns to Wisconsin this season

Theater

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Local troupes aren't the only ones offering first-class productions this season. Not to be outdone, some of the best performing arts venues in both Milwaukee and Madison are featuring area premieres of some of the top shows in the country.

Regardless of your theatrical tastes, there are selections to please everyone. And for musical fans, the all-singing, all-dancing lineups will have audiences' toes tapping from the moment the performers take the stage.

Here's a look at some of what lies ahead:

MARCUS CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

"Billy Elliott" may have been postponed until next summer, but the Broadway in Milwaukee series still opens this fall with a dynamic production that will wow music fans of all ages. "Million Dollar Quartet," the rock musical, chronicles the 1956 recording session

at Memphis' Sun Studios that brought together Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins for the first and only time in history. You don't have to be a rockabilly fan to appreciate the multi-million dollar impact these legendary performers had on popular music (Nov. 15-20).

The season continues with the azure-faced percussionists/performers known as "Blue Man Group." These characters bring a form of uniquely anonymous, but infinitely engaging entertainment (Jan. 3-8).

The Disney classic "Mary Poppins" follows, reminding audiences that life can indeed be supercalifragilistic-expialidocious — try saying it three times fast without taking a breath in between (Feb. 28-March 4).

Spring arrives with the Bernstein-Sondheim classic "West Side Story," an update of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" that has become one of the greatest love musicals of all time (April 10-15).

Finally, at long last, "Billy Elliott" dances into Milwaukee July 18-29. The smash musical about the little British boy who trades his boxing gloves for ballet slippers won 10 Tony Awards in 2009 and has delighted audiences around the world ever since.

Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 N. Water

St., Milwaukee; tickets 414-273-7206; www.marcuscenter.org.

MILWAUKEE THEATRE

Tyler Perry's riotously funny "The Haves and Have Nots" — the latest work from the actor, author, filmmaker and director — opens the season with a look at the education that a wealthy family receives when they see how their maid and her family live (Oct. 7-8).

Next up is the Rogers & Hammerstein seminal classic "South Pacific," guaranteed to provide some enchanted evenings for audiences (Oct. 28-30). The season continues with "Disney Live: Three Classic Fairy Tales."

Included are the familiar stories of Cinderella, Beauty and the Beast and Snow White and the Seven Dwarves, all set to lush, charming music (Nov. 20).

The Beatles tribute "Rain" brings the Fab Four to life once again (March 1). Chicago blues' fans can enjoy the sounds of Jake and Elwood and the "All New Original Tribute to The Blues Brothers" (March 8). "Shrek the Musical," based on the animated film, proves that large green ogres need love, too (April 5-8).

Milwaukee Theatre's season ends with the 2008 Tony Award-winning "In the Heights," a musical set in New York that explores what



PHOTO: COURTESY

"Billy Elliott" finally dances its way into Wisconsin in 2012.

it takes to make a living and what it costs to have a dream (May 4-5). It's the show that has everyone talking, and you will, too!

Milwaukee Theatre, 500 W. Kilbourn Ave., Milwaukee; tickets: 800-745-3000; www.milwaukee-theatre.com.

OVERTURE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Overture Center, too, saw "Billy Elliott" postponed from 2011 to a 2012 date. In the meantime, Madison's Broadway season opens with "Disney's Beauty and the Beast," considered

one of the finest Broadway film adaptations to hit the boards and the winner of both a Tony and an Olivier Award. It's a story of true love that is felt with the heart and seen with mind, not the eyes (Dec. 6-11).

The season continues with percussionists "Blue Man Group" (Jan. 24-29) and the classic "Fiddler on the Roof" (Feb. 24-26). Spring brings Andrew Lloyd-Weber's perennial favorite "Cats" and its memorable hit song "Memories" (March 16-19). Runaway hit "The Addams Family," based on the 1960s sitcom

which, in turn, was based on the macabre, humorous "New Yorker" cartoons of Charles Addams, comes to town on its first national tour May 1-6.

Madison's Broadway season will close with the heart-warming "Billy Elliott" (July 10-15). Fans who want to see the show more than once should note that "Billy" dances into Madison a week before he arrives in Milwaukee. Perhaps he's traveling from the West Coast.

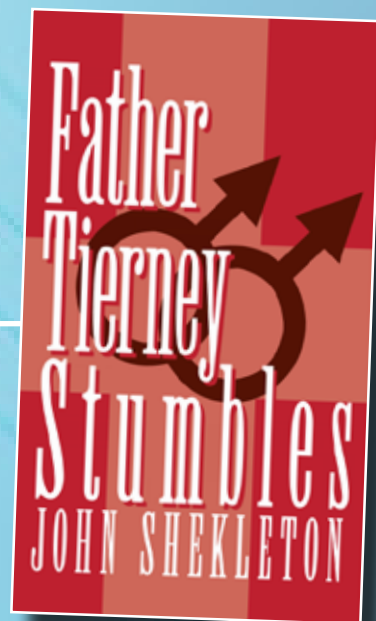
Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State St., Madison; tickets 608-258-414; www.overture-center.com.

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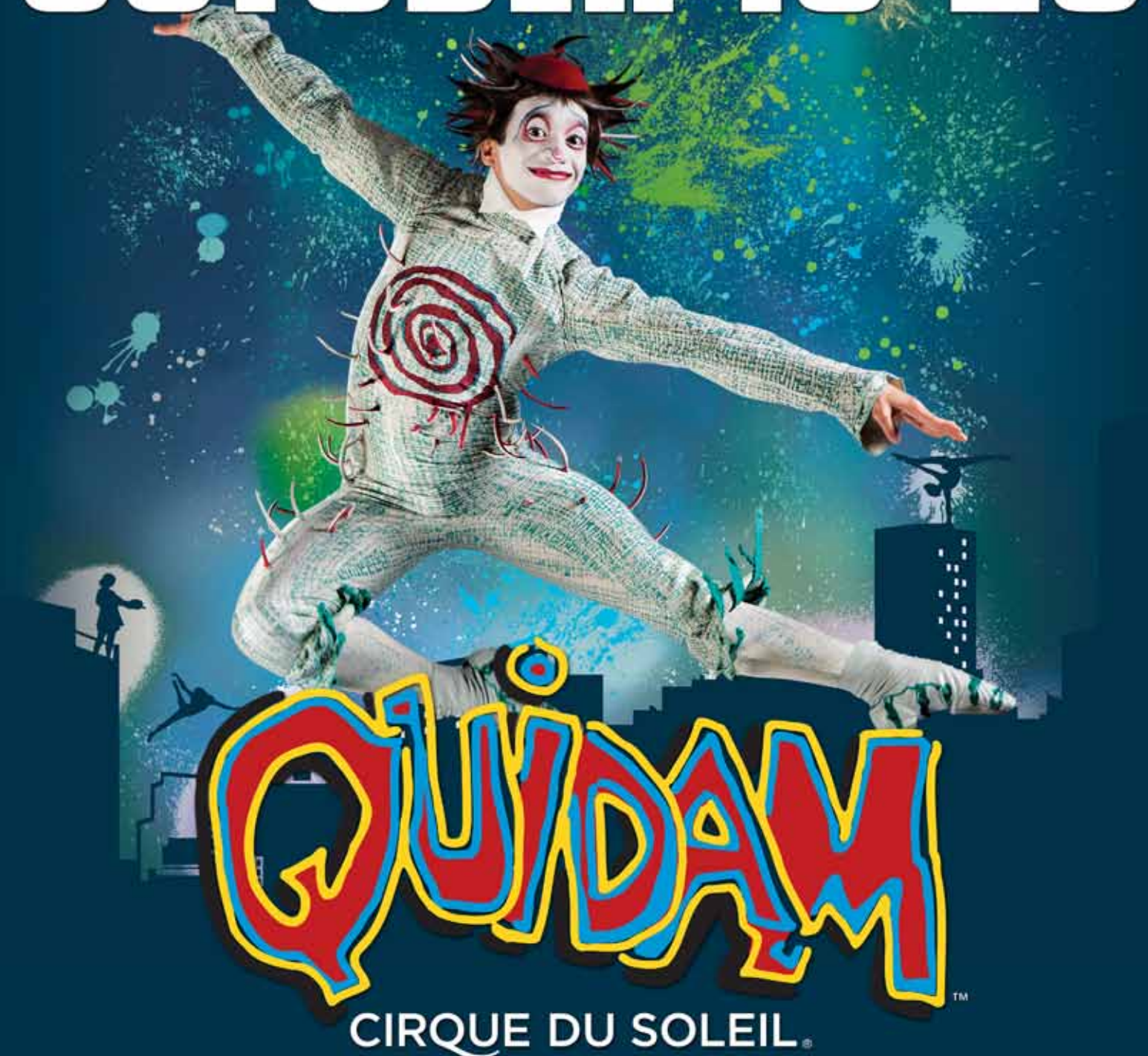
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MAM acquires Copley portrait

By Debra Brehmer

Contributing writer

Such a forlorn lass, this Alice Hooper. She is just 17 years old and about to marry Jacob Fowle Jr. in colonial Massachusetts. We are told she is the daughter of one of the wealthiest men in Marblehead, Robert "King" Hooper, who made his fortune with a fleet of fishing vessels.

Chances are, in life, Ms. Hooper never strayed far from Boston. But she now has a new home in the basement of the Milwaukee Art Museum, snuggled permanently into the American art collection. Her richly painted countenance has fetched the highest price ever paid for a work of art by the museum — \$3.5 million. According to auction records, this may be the most money ever paid for a John Singleton Copley portrait.

The Hoopers chose the 25-year-old Copley to execute this engagement portrait because he was already a rising star. Copley, like most of the colonial American painters, was self-taught. There were no art schools here in the 1700s, but there was a need for portrait painters as a new middle and upper class was emerging.

By age 15, Copley had apprenticed with his stepfather, who was an engraver, and seemed to quickly learn the rudiments of portrait work. By the time he was 17, he was gaining commissions, somewhat out of necessity due to the death of his stepfather and the need for family income. The development



PHOTO: COURTESY
John Singleton Copley's "Alice Hooper"

and sophistication of Copley's paintings were astonishing. By age 18 he was painting some of Boston's social elite.

Copley is widely considered the best painter of the 18th century in America. It is for this reason that William Keyse Rudolph, the new curator of American Art and Decorative Arts, wanted one to anchor the collection.

The museum has another Copley on long-term loan from Harvard — the portrait of Thomas Boylston Jr. It hangs around the corner from Ms. Hooper and offers a useful comparison.

Because of the \$3.5-million price tag, this new portrait is, in some ways, the Mona Lisa of Milwaukee. But Ms. Hooper, with her prominent nose and

fleshy neck, with her faint sneer and thin upper lip, with her middle-aged rather than girlish countenance, may keep would-be admirers at bay. She repels as much as ensnares.

The painting is too specific and formal to lure us into universal notions of humanity in the way some portraits can. Ms. Hooper is very much of her moment and what Copley

seems to give us is a stalwart, strong, Mayflower girl who will rule her parlor with organized proficiency.

The painting is 49 x 39 inches. Because it is an engagement portrait, it must show its subject not only in the best possible light, but also with a spark of sensual fecundity to attest to marital conquest and future offspring. Copley divides the canvas with a diagonal line formed by an ochre-toned concrete or stone fountain with a small round opening spilling rivulets of water. Ms. Hooper reaches a gracefully limp hand to the water, touching it with a fingertip.

The other side of the canvas packages her in a deep-blue satin dress with frothy lace sleeves and bodice. The moral and proprietary restraint of the colonies limits the cleavage to a suggestive swelling. If there is a sexiness to the picture, it might lie in the undulating and lavish rhythms Copley paints into the satin gown.

If one looks carefully, however, there seems to be a secret encounter between the thin sheer ruffle at Ms. Hooper's neckline and the suggestion of her left breast (and possibly her nipple) beneath. That point of contact between flesh and lace mirrors the contact of finger to streaming water, offering two sensual moments of touch.

If by the year of this commission, 1763, Copley has indeed mastered his skills, he seems to delight in his own virtuosity. He lavishes atten-

tion to the ruby necklace that rings Ms. Hooper's squat neck. The build up of textured paint makes it appear that the necklace was collaged onto the canvas. The glint and weight of the gemstones draws us in and reaffirms that Alice is a trophy wife of the highest ranking. The demure homeliness of her expression was perhaps meant within its historic context to summon more of the mood of reverie and pastoral eroticism found in European Rococo painting.

The fountain, in keeping with Copley's use of objects as symbols of the sitter's background or status, might refer to Ms. Hooper's family fortunes related to water and the sea. Or, as in the painting of the same year of Mrs. Daniel Sargent in which Copley adds a shell to cup the falling water, it may be an allusion to Venus, goddess of love.

What was to become of this homely merchant princess? She and her betrothed would bear five children, but husband Jacob would die in 1778 at age 36. Alice would then marry Joseph Cutler in 1782 and produce three more children. Joseph, too, met an early demise at age 56.

Alice, however, sturdy as a tree trunk, would live until age 81.

Her most unlikely fate, perhaps, is her new displacement to Milwaukee, where we will either claim her as our own or let her languish as an expensive historical bookmarker.

Artwatch

KAT MURRELL

October arrives with a bountiful harvest of exhibitions and art lectures in Milwaukee. Here are some early fruits to enjoy:

Oct. 6, has a veritable cornucopia of events. UWM Art History Gallery opens "The Expressionist

Portrait: Pathos and Persona in German Art, with a talk by Kenneth Bendiner at 6 p.m. On the Marquette University campus, 13th Street and Clybourn, Milwaukee artists present "Conversations About Art, Philosophy, and Communication." This discussion is a complement to the "Current Tendencies" exhibition, and it is followed by a reception.

Vying for your attention this same evening is artist **Jim Campbell** at the Milwaukee Art Museum, 700 N. Art Museum Drive. He speaks at 6:15 p.m. about his art, technology, and his recent addition to the MAM collection, "Taxi Ride to Sarah's Studio" (2010).

Fear not, dear reader — this logjam of lectures dissipates to a more leisurely pace next week.

MAM continues cel-

ebrating the 10th anniversary of the winged addition at 1:30 p.m. on Oct. 11. In conjunction with the exhibition "Building a Masterpiece: Santiago Calatrava and the Milwaukee Art Museum," chief curator Brady Roberts shares the backstory of how this internationally recognized building came to be in Milwaukee.

UWM carries on with its

"Artists Now!" series, a recurring exploration of contemporary visual practice through the voices of cutting-edge makers, at Arts Center Lecture Hall, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd. **Tom Loeser** speaks at 7 p.m. on Oct. 12, about his quirky, sculptural objects. You may recall Loeser's art from an exhibition last year at Villa Terrace and his furniture-like pieces that easily and delightfully slip between function

and dysfunction.

"Impressionism: Masterworks on Paper" officially opens at MAM on Oct. 14, with art by blockbuster names such as Degas, Renoir, Van Gogh and others. As part of the opening festivities, guest curator Christopher Lloyd, whose credits include overseeing the British royal collection as Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures, talks about the exhibition in the Lubar Auditorium at 1:30 p.m.

For 'Gay In America' photographer Scott Pasfield, every picture tells a story

Interview

GREGG SHAPIRO

"Gay In America" (Welcome Books, 2011, \$45) by Scott Pasfield takes its rightful place beside such coffee-table classics as Tom Atwood's "Kings In Their Castles" and Michael Goff and Out Magazine's "Out In America."

Pasfield spent three years and traveled 52,000 miles to prepare the book, which features 140 gay male subjects, all of whom responded to a call for photographic subjects. It includes both their pictures and their unique stories, creating a colorful portrait of 21st century gay life in all 50 states.

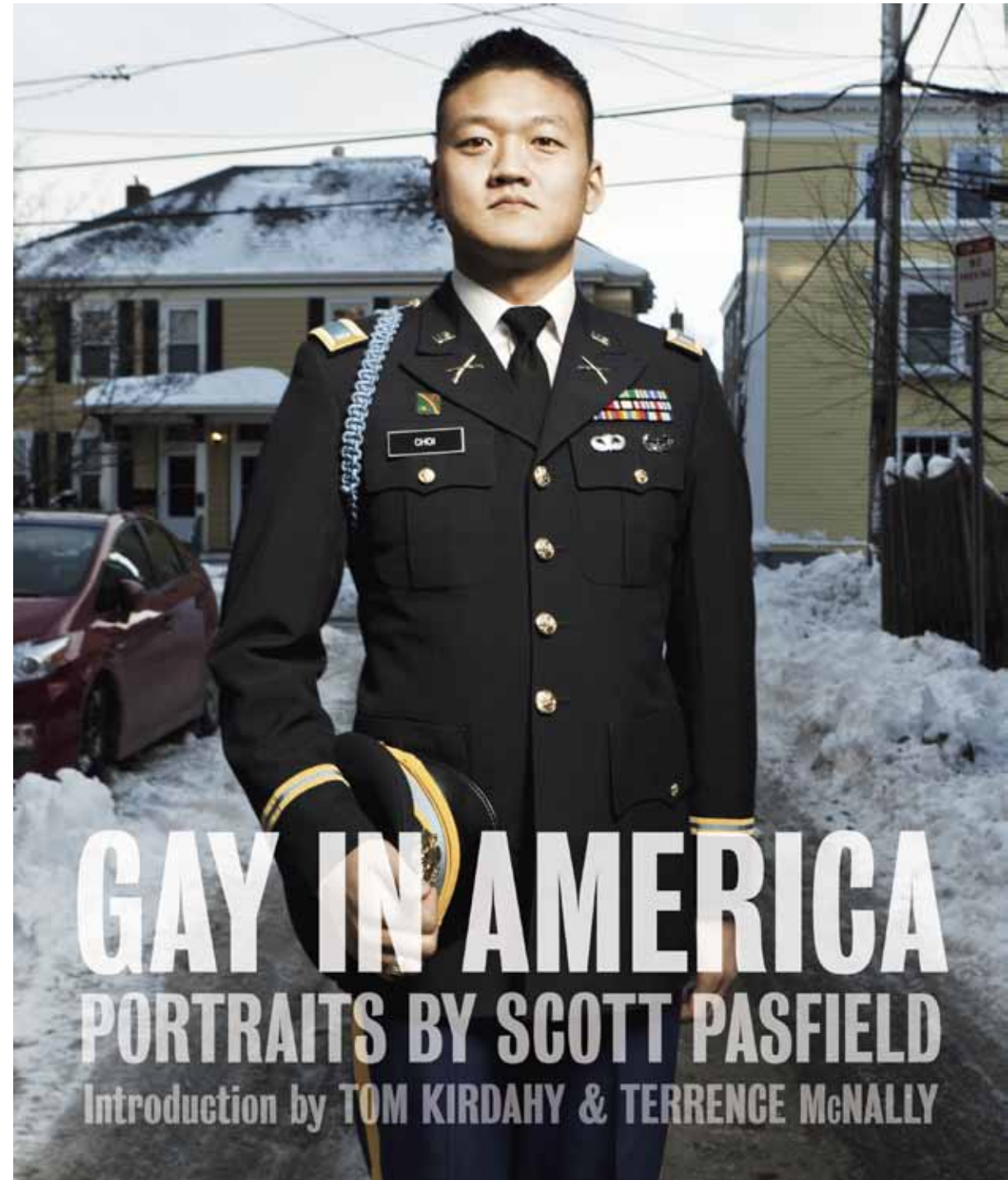
I spoke with Pasfield in September.

Gregg Shapiro: My partner and I have two dogs, so one of the first things that I noticed in the pictures was that there are more than a dozen pictures of men and dogs.

Scott Pasfield: And so many dogs got cut from the book (laughs). I think there was something like 30 or 35 dogs that I photographed over the course of the project. I was always excited to try and include pets when I could. I think they are such an important part of gay men's lives. More often than not, if the dogs or pets were around and seemed intrigued by the whole process, I asked if we could try to get them in the shot and most pet owners are happy about that (laughs). The dogs by far were the most popular. I think there were five cats, some goats and lots of birds, too.

Who had the final say in the setting, what was worn and what would be included in the shots?

I guess I had the final say in terms of editing the pictures and narrowing it down to my favorites. The designer and I always were on the same page in terms of selecting the final image. During the actual photo



shoots I always did my best in terms of trying to compose the most interesting photographs. The location in their home dictated where that picture and portrait setting should be. It always seemed like a natural choice. In terms of their clothing, usually I asked the guys beforehand to dress in their most comfortable clothes. In instances where I felt like it wasn't the perfect choice for the photograph, we would revisit some of their clothes. I would say that 98

percent of the time what they wore ended up in the final shoot.

Reading Ken from Maryland's story, it's understandable why he got a few more pages to tell it. What came first in the process, the photos or the subjects' stories?

I decided who to go photograph based on their story. Their story had to ring true to me and it became very clear

right away who was right for the book and who wasn't. It hit me like over the head like a ton of bricks. This person was being so honest and his story is so wonderful and I haven't heard anything like it before, therefore I'm going to go photograph him.

Of the 140 men, five are from Alaska and seven from Georgia, but only one from Illinois. How did that kind of geography

come to pass?

The stories really dictated who I picked, so long as every state was represented at least once. When I felt so strongly about two different people or two different people in the same city, I would photograph them both thinking that in the end the editor might narrow that choice down. As often was the case, both subjects in the same city ended up making it in the book, and the editors really enjoyed the compara-

tive stories in the same city. You would think that some places, like Chicago, would be a very easy place, but for some reason it wasn't. People didn't reach out to me in the same way.

How different do you think this book would have been if you'd done it 10 or 20 years ago?

The Internet played a big part in how I found people. It would have been much more difficult to find them. The thing that surprised me the most is the regularness of all these guys. I think most outspoken gay men and all facets of the LGBT community are those people who defined themselves very much by being gay and they have that issue that they really want to share with the world. They're very outspoken. I think the type of men I was looking for aren't as outspoken as a lot of those advocates are. That difficulty in finding them was made so much easier by the Internet. Ten, maybe 20 years ago I'm not quite sure how I would have found the same men because they're not going to gay community centers, most of them. They're not out at a lot of gay bars or clubs in urban areas.

Did you learn things about gay men that you didn't know before?

Really a lot of the reason for the book was to search out that wisdom from gay men in determining how to live a happy, fulfilled life and not to let other people's views of homosexuality affect your being. And I was able to learn from them just how not to let all of that get to you, how to be happy. I think the more we share our stories and we learn how other people overcome those same things, it can help us all understand what it does mean to be gay in America a little better.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Scott Pasfield appears at OutWords Books in Milwaukee on Oct. 15.

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"Heartbeats/
Les amours imaginaires"

Happy heartbeats

DVDiva
GREGG SHAPIRO

'HEARTBEATS/ LES AMOURS IMAGINAIRES'

If you were utterly blown away by young gay French-Canadian filmmaker/writer/actor Xavier Dolan's directorial debut "I Killed My Mother," then you are certain to be happy to learn his talents are no fluke. His second movie "Heartbeats/Les amours imaginaires" is an equally original and engaging film.

The relationship of BFFs Marie (played by Monica Chokri) and Francis AKA Frankie (played by Dolan) is put to the test when they become involved in a potentially lethal romantic triangle with a self-satisfied blonde Adonis named Nicolas. Played by Niels Schneider, Nicolas is a country lad studying literature at McGill University and making his way in Montreal.

Both are appreciative of Nic's attention and, at first, are unaware that he is pursuing each of them. The sexually ambiguous Nic is as at ease being physical with Marie as he is with Frankie. Despite maintaining sexual relationships with others, Frankie and Marie both have their hearts set on being the one to bed Nic and make him fall in love with them.

When the threesome leaves the city for the countryside, the tension is thick. After Nic feeds Frankie a roasted marshmallow in a

sexually suggestive manner, things turn explosive. When Frankie attempts to prevent Marie from leaving in a huff, they end up slugging it out on the ground.

Once back in Montreal, Nic doesn't return any of the numerous voice mail messages left for him by Frankie and Marie. When Nic and Frankie finally meet face to face, Nic is clearly perturbed that Frankie thought he was gay and misinterpreted his intentions. Even worse is the less-than-subtle way Nic embarrasses Marie when they see each other on the street.

A year later, Frankie and Marie have repaired the damage to their friendship when Nic shows up again at a party they are attending. But they have the final word. Or do they?

Dolan employs an interesting device throughout the film: A variety of people around the main trio's age relate stories of romantic trauma. The use of this modern Greek chorus along with the dialogue spoken by Frankie, Marie and Nic combine to give the film a delightfully queer mumblecore feel.

Touching, funny and heartfelt, "Heartbeats" should appeal to everyone with a pulse.

'HAPPYTHANK-YOUMOREPLEASE'

With this debut as a writer/director, actor Josh Radnor does his best to enter Zach Braff/Miranda July territory. It's an admirable goal and attempt.

Writer Sam, played by

Radnor, is anxious to expand his short fiction repertoire to include novels. On the way to a meeting with a publisher he sees a little boy named Rasheen (Michael Algieri) get left behind on a New York subway car. Already running late for his appointment, Sam brings Rasheen with him. Utterly inexperienced in the guardian role, Sam stops in a bar to get Rasheen some water and experiences an immediate attraction to waitress Mississippi (Kate Mara), an aspiring cabaret performer.

Still unsure of what to do about Rasheen, Sam takes him along to a soiree at Annie's (Malin Akerman). She's thrown the party to explain her alopecia situation. While he's there, Sam runs into an old friend whose boyfriend Charlie is in L.A. thinking about relocating, which is causing friction in the relationship.

There you have it. A cast of mildly interesting characters on a quest for meaning, fulfillment and direction. Rounding out the bunch is another Sam, this one a lawyer at the office where Annie works. Nothing would make the second Sam happier than for Annie to go out with him, but she's too busy obsessing over Ira (Paul Scanavino), one of a long line of men who are bad for her.

"Happythankyoumoreplease" has its share of funny and touching moments. For the most part, the acting is decent (Algieri is especially endearing), as is the writing and direction. What will Radnor come up with next?

Gay couple credited with preserving Mineral Point

By Michael Muckian
Contributing writer

Along High Street, the steep thoroughfare that threads through hilly Mineral Point, mornings start quietly with a stirring of locals gathered for breakfast at The Red Rooster Café, 158 High St.

The main street's relative peace, flanked by quiet neighborhoods dappled with fall-colored leaves, makes it hard to believe that back in 1830 this rural southwest Wisconsin community of 2,500 had a population greater than that of Milwaukee and Chicago combined.

In many ways, Mineral Point was the starting point for Wisconsin's history, and that history continues in its impact today. Settled by Cornish lead miners in the early 19th century, Mineral Point in 1836 saw Henry Dodge sworn in as the first governor of the Wisconsin Territory, 12 years before statehood was granted. By 1857, mining and farming had combined to make the community a prosperous commercial hub and bustling railroad destination.

Times changed and commerce found other hubs to inhabit, eventually leaving much of the community's historical buildings to decay and disrepair. But in 1971, Mineral Point became the first Wisconsin community listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The designation was due initially to the restoration of the miners' stone cottages in what is now Pendarvis, 114 Shakerag St., one of the state's most important historical sites. That designa-

tion was but a milestone in the community's continued rebirth and renewal.

Mineral Point's restoration efforts were first spearheaded by community native Robert Neal and Stoughton, Wis., native Edgar Hellum, who met at the Art Institute of Chicago. In 1935, they moved as a closeted gay couple to the community and began reviving areas that had fallen into ruin. Considered "eccentric" at the time, Neal and Hellum supported themselves by running Pendarvis House, a restaurant serving Cornish specialties. The eatery was a favorite of "neighbor" Frank Lloyd Wright.

But the couple also was busily reviving Mineral Point's history. Since then, historic restoration efforts have continued along High Street, thanks largely to a community of artists, both gay and straight, who have made the Iowa County community both an artistic and historic destination. Those two emphases combine Oct. 14-16, when Mineral Point becomes the hub of the Fall Art Tour, an annual event that also encompasses artists in Baraboo, Dodgeville and Spring Green.

"This is the busiest weekend for our artists and provides a huge economic boost for the community," says Joy Gieseke, who heads the Mineral Point Chamber of Commerce. "This is an opportunity for visitors to see the artists at work."

Nearly 5,000 art aficionados are expected to descend on Mineral Point, home to more than 20 artists working in glass, pottery, paint-

ing, wood, photography, fiber, jewelry, collage, furniture, sculpture and other media.

"It's the live demonstrations and personal invitations into home studios that make this weekend stand out," Gieseke says.

Art and architecture combine as two of Mineral Point's key attractions. Nineteenth-century immigrants brought with them stonemason skills that led to the construction of the sandstone and limestone cottages that characterize the community. Restoration efforts last year included the beautifully refurbished Mineral Point Opera House, 139 High St. The former vaudeville venue, designed and built in

1914 by noted Madison architects Claude and Stark, was restored last year to the tune of \$2.25 million.

The venue, which originally seated 725, in its time hosted performances by Burns and Allen, Bing Crosby and even a speech by presidential candidate John F. Kennedy. The successful restoration continues the efforts begun by Neal and Hellum more than 75 years ago.

"Most people around here would tell you that Neal and Hellum saved Mineral Point," says community resident Coleman, an out playwright and theater producer who operates Alley Stage (he does not use a first name) His

production of Caleb Stone's "Faux Poe" will appear at the Opera House over the Art Tour weekend.

"It was their drive that kept the community's economic engine going and prevented all these wonderful old buildings from being torn down," Coleman says of his gay predecessors.

The couple's presence also helped lay the groundwork for an environment that some describe today as being among the state's most gay-friendly. During their lifetimes, Neal and Hellum remained closeted, with their orientation largely unaccepted by the community. (Reports say many local teens were not allowed to wait tables

at Pendarvis House because of the owners' "eccentricities.")

But the couple's community impact has been undeniably felt, according to Coleman, who in 1998 moved with his domestic partner to Mineral Point from Chicago.

"Neal and Hellum instilled in this town a love of its own old architecture, and helped make the community a welcome home for artistic people," he says. "Mineral Point is not anyone's idea of a gay Mecca, and it's not trying to be. It's just a place where people are accepted for who they are, and it happens to have a lot of great artists, shopkeepers and farmers who do a pretty good job of getting along."

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Centraal pairs food, drink

Dining

RICK KARLIN

We've all sung the song at summer camp, or a long drive: "One hundred bottles of beer on the wall, 100 bottles of beer. At Café Centraal you could act out that song twice and still barely put a dent in the 16-page menu of beers, ales, lagers and other assorted brews. Even by Milwaukee standards the list is impressive, and these folks know their product.

Ah, but man (and woman) does not live by beer alone, and this place has got the food to go with the drink. From simple snacks to full-blown meals, the menu is designed to pair with beer, but the dishes stand on their own. You'll find the expected — jumbo pretzels, burgers, meat loaf, chili and any variety of fried stuff. However, you'll find some unexpectedly sophisticated dishes as well. Elegant entrée salads include roasted beet salad with goat cheese and candied walnuts, as well as

a Caesar topped with slices of blackened flat iron steak.

Appetizer options include a traditional Scotch egg (beef sausage wrapped around a hard-cooked egg rolled in breadcrumbs and deep fried).

The expertly prepared version of this homey dish is kicked up a notch with a side arugula salad and garlic aioli. Frites (regular and sweet potato) are served in the Belgian style, with a choice of dipping sauces. These greasy salty treats are the perfect counterpoint to an ice-cold brew. Healthier appetizer options include a platter of grilled veggies or a bowl of hummus served with slices of cucumber for dipping.

Burgers are a natural pairing with beer, and Centraal's titular one features a half pound of freshly ground beef rubbed with black sea salt, served with gruyere and sautéed mushrooms. The Bay View version adds bacon and substitutes cheddar for gruyere, while the turkey burger is topped with peppers and onions. The black bean burger is a great vegetarian option.

Speaking of menu options, kudos to Centraal for featuring an entire menu of gluten-free options in addition to many vegetarian and vegan options.

Other sandwich options include: chicken breast with artichokes, curried chicken salad with cashews in a pita and a catfish poorboy. Entrées include such sophisticated dishes as five-spice ginger tofu, rosemary-infused mac and goat cheese, soba noodles topped with grilled mahi and cashews and the aptly named funky chicken — grilled chicken breast topped with cauliflower, spinach, chick peas, potatoes and golden raisins in a coconut curry sauce.

The crowd at this place tends to be composed of regulars who come as much for the food as for regular events such as "Biero Bingo," trivia contests and the annual September "Sausagefest." In nice weather there's a sizable outdoor patio. Service is friendly, if not the most efficient or polished, but after a few beers, who really cares?

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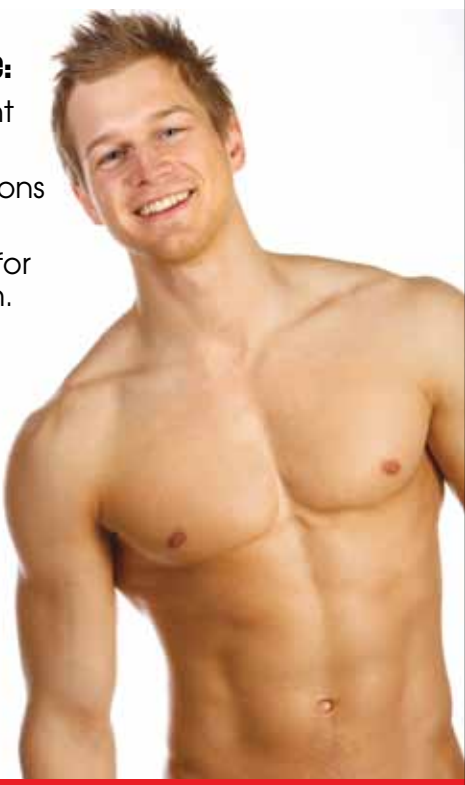
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Music

GREGG SHAPIRO

MADELEINE PEYROUX

With a distinctive voice that recalls none other than Billie Holiday, Madeleine Peyroux made an indelible impression with her 1996 debut album. Then she virtually disappeared. Fortunately, when she returned in 2004, she sounded just the way her fans remembered her. On her third album "Standing on the Rooftop," Peyroux interweaves originals, including the remarkable title cut, with her lovely renditions of tunes by the Beatles ("Martha My Dear"), Bob Dylan ("I Threw it All Away") and Robert Johnson (a thorough reinvention of "Love in Vain"). Poetry plays a delightful role on this disc. Peyroux teamed up with Andy Scott Rosen on "Don't Pick a Fight With a Poet," and the Auden poem "Lay Your Sleeping Head, My Love" is set to music by Marc Ribot.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Madeleine Peyroux plays The Pabst Theater in Milwaukee on Oct. 13.

and Cassandra Wilson are reunited on Al Green's "Simply Beautiful." The disc ends as it begins, with another new reading of "Transformation," and the Auden poem "Lay Your Sleeping Head, My Love" is set to music by Marc Ribot.

EDDIE VEDDER

When Eddie Vedder titled his non-soundtrack major-label solo effort "Ukulele Songs," he wasn't fooling. Vedder utilizes the hipster instrument of choice over the course of 16 tracks, which include his cover versions of a pair of Billy Rose numbers ("More Than You Know" and "Tonight You Belong to Me"), as well as "Dream a Little Dream of Me" and "Sleepless Nights" (a duet with Glen Hansard). Vedder's own compositions, including the exceptional "Sleeping by Myself," "Goodbye," and "You're True," reveal a romantic side that he has managed to keep hidden all these years.

LEA SALONGA

Theater queens far and wide

are sure to recognize Lea Salonga as the actress who originated the role of Kim in the Broadway production of "Miss Saigon." On "The Journey So Far," recorded live at Café Carlyle, Salonga opens singing and then speaking in Tagalog before breaking into a medley of "My Romance/Let's Fall in Love" in English. Born to perform for the cabaret crowd, Salonga sticks with interpretations of show tunes, including "On My Own" (from "Les Miserables"), "Too Much for One Heart" (a song cut from "Miss Saigon") and even a pair from "They're Playing Our Song" ("Fallin'" and "I Still Believe in Love").

PAT METHENY

Jazz guitar god Pat Metheny is better known for his original compositions than for his renditions of songs by others. That's what makes "What's It All About" such a treat. Mainly playing solo baritone-guitar, Metheny applies his hands (and fingers) to several songs from

the 1960s, including "Sounds of Silence," "Cherish," "Alfie" and "And I Love Her," as well as selections from the early '70s, including "That's the Way I've Always Heard It Should Be," "Rainy Days and Mondays" and "Betcha By Golly Wow." Metheny's reinterpretation of these classic tunes is pure listening pleasure.

2 CELLOS

While it probably helps that Croatia cellists Luka Sulic & Stjepan Hauser of 2 Cellos are hot, it's their combined talents as musicians on their self-titled "2 Cellos" disc that makes this disc so enjoyable. The dudes have great taste in music, as they display in their renditions of songs by U2 ("Where the Streets Have No Name," "With or Without You"), Michael Jackson ("Smooth Criminal," "Human Nature"), Kings of Leon (the much-covered "Use Somebody"), Muses ("Resistance"), Nine Inch Nails ("Hurt"), Coldplay ("Viva La Vida") and Nirvana ("Smells Like Teen Spirit").

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The Red Hot Organization has been incorporating music in its fight against AIDS for more than 20 years, ever since the release of the groundbreaking benefit disc "Red Hot + Blue." More than a dozen albums later, we have the double-disc set "Red Hot + Rio 2/Nova Tropicalia 2," a sequel to 1996's popular "Red Hot + Rio." If you didn't think it would be possible to equal the marvel of the first "Rio" album, this collection does just that. It offers brilliant pairings (including Alice Smith + Aloe Blacc, Mia Doi Todd + Jose Gonzalez and David Byrne + Caetano Veloso) along with sensational solos and, performing songs from the 1960s and '70s. "Red Hot + Rio 2" is one of the best party-for-a-cause albums of 2011.

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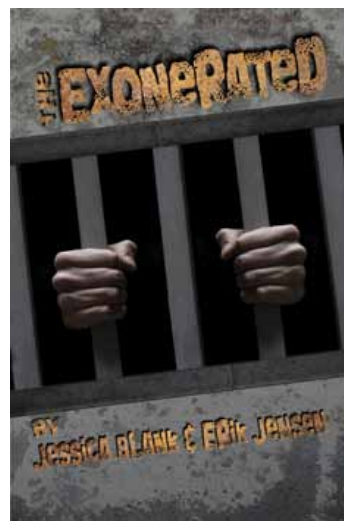
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OCT. 6, THURSDAY

The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, welcomes **The Belle Brigade**, featuring out member Barbara Gruska, and **Grouplove** at 8 p.m. Call 608-819-8777.

"The Exonerated," based on the true stories of six people sent to Death Row for crimes they did not commit, opens tonight and runs through Oct. 30 at Tenth St. Theatre's new facility, 255 S. Water St. in Walker's Point. Call 414-278-0765 or visit www.nextact.org.



Angelo's Piano Lounge, 1686 N. Van Buren, presents an open jam with **Jerry Grillo** and **Neal Charles** at 9:30 p.m.

Soulstice Theatre Company presents **"Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks"** Fridays & Saturdays through Oct. 8 at Soulstice Theatre, 3770 S. Pennsylvania, Suite 2 in St. Francis.

OCT. 7, FRIDAY

Theatrical Tendencies presents Douglas Carter Beane's **"The Little Dog Laughed,"** at 7:30 p.m. tonight, tomorrow night and Oct. 14-15 at Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second. Call 414-383-3727.

StageQ partners with OUT!Cast Theatre to present **"Z-Town: The Zombie Musical"** through Oct. 15 at Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin in Madison. Call 608-204-0280.

In Tandem Theatre presents the regional premier of Ten Chimney's playwright Jeffrey Hatcher's new comedy **"Mrs. Mannerly"** through Oct. 23 at Tenth Street Theatre, 628 N. 10th. Call 414-271-1371.

Peninsula Players presents the state premiere of **"God of Carnage"** through Oct. 16 at Peninsula Players Theatre, W4351 Peninsula Players Road in Fish Creek. Call 920-868-3287.

The Bay Players opens its season with **"Leading Ladies"** tonight and tomorrow night at 8 p.m. at the Whitefish Bay High School Auditorium, 1200 E. Fairmount in WFB. Visit www.thebayplayers.com.

OCT. 8, SATURDAY

Miramar Theater, 2844 N. Oakland, presents **Miltown King's Mythology Show** at 9 p.m. Reduced admission if you wear a myth-based costume.

Legendary a cappella group **Sweet Honey in the Rock** performs at 8 p.m. at Pitman Theatre on the campus of Alverno College, 3400 S. 43rd. Call 414-382-6044.

Internationally renowned musician Jordi Savall and son Ferran present "Folias & Romances: Musical Dialogues Between Orient and Occident, and Between Ancient Europe and the New World" at 8 p.m. at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Helene Zalazo Center for the Performing Arts. Visit www.earlymusicnow.org or call 414-225-3113 for tickets.



OCT. 9, SUNDAY

Festival City Symphony presents **"Tell Me a Story"** at 3 p.m. at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells. Call 414-286-3663. South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center, 901 15th in South Milwaukee, presents The Nancy Einhorn Milwaukee Ballet II's **"Classical to Contemporary"** at 1:30 p.m. Call 414-766-5049.

OCT. 13, THURSDAY

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre presents **"Driving Miss Daisy"** through Oct. 30 in the Cabot Theatre at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

OCT. 14, FRIDAY

Renaissance Theaterworks presents **"Gorgons"** through Nov. 6 in the Studio Theatre at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800. **"Doubt: A Parable"** by John Patrick Shanley, winner of the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and Tony Award for Best Play, runs through Oct. 23 at The Racine Theatre Guild, 2519 Northwestern (Highway 38) in Racine. Call 262-633-4218. **"1964,"** the tribute that recreates the 1964 Beatles invasion of America, is at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells, tonight and tomorrow night. Call 414-286-3663.

OCT. 15, SATURDAY

Outwords Books, 2710 N. Murray, hosts a **book launch and signing for Scott Pasfield's "Gay in America"** at 2 p.m. Call 414-963-9089.

As part of the "Boerner Through the Seasons, 2011 Garden Walks," gardening expert, TV/radio host, author and columnist **Melinda Myers** leads two fall garden tours of Boerner Botanical Gardens in Hales Corners, at 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. To register, please call 414-525-5659. Visit www.BoernerBotanicalGardens.org.



OCT. 16, SUNDAY

The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, welcomes queer dance bands **MEN** and **CSS** at 8 p.m. Call 608-819-8777.

OCT. 17, MONDAY

Spoken word artist and poet **George Watsky** brings his rapid-fire poetry performance style to the South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center, 901 15th in South Milwaukee, at 7:30 p.m. Call 414-766-5049.



OCT. 19, WEDNESDAY

iPic Theaters at Bayshore Town Center, 5800 N. Bayshore Drive in Glendale, presents a one-night screening of **"The Mikado,"** captured live at the Sydney Opera House. Call 414-963-8779.

"The Sins of Sor Juana" brings to life 17th century poet and nun Juana Ines de la Cruz, in the UWM Mainstage Theatre, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd., through Oct. 23. Call 414-229-4308.

SNL's **Seth Meyers** brings his act to the Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood in Madison, at 7:30 p.m. Call 608-241-2345.

The Distinguished Lecture Series at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee presents writer, director and producer Morgan Spurlock's **"The Greatest Lecture Ever Told,"** at 7 p.m. in the UWM Union, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. Call 414-229-5538.

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OCT. 14-
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WRITTEN BY DON NIGRO

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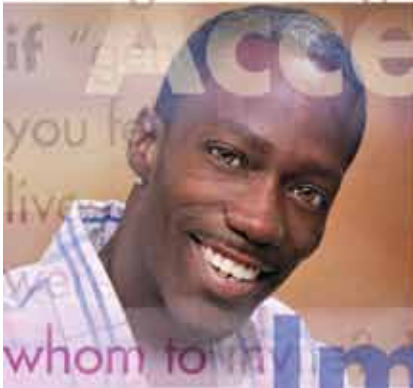
Visit milwaukeeballet.org/events for information on post-show events including TRANS-FUSION, The Party

MILWAUKEE
BALLEI
MICHAEL PINK, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

David Hovhannisyan. Photo: Jessica Kaminski

Acceptance Journeys

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Acceptance Journeys is a project of Diverse and Resilient, Inc. The end of anti-gay and anti-transgender oppression is key to our health and well-being. Imagine more.
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