

HALLOWEEN FRIGHTS

From the stage to the haunted houses, there's a lot to make this Halloween spooktacular. **Page 22**



THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

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A NEW OCCUPATION



PHOTO: BEN SLAINE

Anti-greed movement comes to Wisconsin

By Louis Weisberg
Staff writer

The pro-union cries that shook up Madison last winter echoed on the fall streets of Milwaukee on Oct. 15 as about 2,000 people marched to protest

what they called the corporate takeover of America. The protesters were part of the Occupy movement, which claims that decades of corporate-influenced government policies have created a new class of uber-

wealthy political donors while dooming the economic prospects of the poor and middle class. Although unfunded and loosely organized, the Occupy movement has been growing steadily since

demonstrators began camping out on Wall Street more than a month ago. Oct. 15 was the movement's busiest day thus far, with demonstrations in dozens of U.S. cities, from Boston to Seattle, as well as in Europe,

where a rally in Rome turned violent. In Chicago, police arrested 175 demonstrators. But Occupy participants there have vowed to remain camped out on a corner across from the Federal

Reserve Bank through May, when Chicago hosts the 2012 NATO and G8 summits. "Right now there are 85 occupations and 2,000 in the works," said Eric Meyer, **OCCUPY** page 12

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inside and online at [wisconsinGazette.com](http://wisconsin Gazette.com)

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Milwaukee LGBT Center reports loss

By Louis Weisberg
Staff writer

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center incurred a loss of \$77,522 in 2010, according to an annual report mailed to its members in September.

The center's total revenue in 2010 was \$841,143, while expenses amounted to \$917,808. Revenue came primarily from government

and foundation grants, which amounted to 65 percent of the center's total income. Grant revenue was down about \$100,000 from 2009.

Seventeen percent of the center's 2010 income came from contracted services, and another 5 percent from renting out space to other groups.

Notably, less than 3 percent of the center's income

came from private contributors in 2010, according to an IRS filing. By comparison, Chicago's Center on Halsted receives about a quarter of its income from individual donors.

The two largest individual donors to the Milwaukee center were its executive director Maggi Cage and development director Patrick Price, who also

serves as the organization's chief financial officer and compliance manager. They were listed on the annual report in the category of \$5,000 to \$9,999 donors.

It is unclear whether Cage's and Price's donations were cash or in-kind. Some people listed as donors on the center's annual report told WiG that their contributions were, in fact, in-

kind. But the annual report contains a disclaimer that states in-kind donors are not listed.

On the center's IRS Form 990, Cage and Price each claimed to have worked an average of 60 hours per week during 2010.

Cage has not responded to repeated requests for an interview about the center's financial health. The **CENTER** page 5

LGBT news with a twist



By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

MILWAUKEE'S PIANO MAN

Michael Douglas is set to play Milwaukee native Liberace in a biopic for HBO. The film is to be based on "Behind the Candelabra," the wonderfully titled memoir by Liberace's lover Scott Thorson, to be portrayed by Matt Damon. Steven Soderbergh is directing, with Jerry Weintraub producing. Lest any Wisconsinite need a description of Liberace, Weintraub tells the LA Times, "He was a fun guy and a brilliant artist. He was Elton John and Lady Gaga before they even dreamed of it."

SARAH GET YER GUN

Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin continues to display her enthusiasm for firing weaponry and conservative rhetoric. The 2008 vice presidential candidate for the GOP caught some flak for putting Arizona Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords in the crosshairs. More recently, at the Extraordinary Women Conference at the ultra-right Liberty University in West Virginia, Palin told an audience, "Now isn't the time to retreat."

Now is the time to reload with truth so we can fight for this country and reload for America."

OOPS

The police chief of Primera, Texas, has resigned following accusations that he sent pornographic pictures of a transgender woman to the cell phone of a political opponent. Cameron County constable Robert Lopez said he believed the photos were meant to tarnish his public image. "Because I have a county-issued phone, anyone can ask for an open records request and see what's on my phone," Lopez said. Rodriguez told him he had intended to send the images to his cousin but had accidentally sent them to Lopez instead.

31 DAYS. 31 ICONS

The Philadelphia-based Equality Forum is celebrating LGBT History Month with the 31 Days, 31 Icons campaign. Each day this month, Equality Forum is posting a video or biography of an LGBT

icon at LGBTHistoryMonth.com. The postings are in alphabetical order, with transgender hoopster Kye Allums on Oct. 1 and gay reality TV star Pedro Zamora coming up on Oct. 31.

THE REST OF THE STORY

Steve Stevlic, one of the top organizers of TeaCon 2011, describes himself as an ordinary family-values man. But he's not ordinary in at least one sense: He was arrested last summer for soliciting a prostitute. Last September, Stevlic mocked and condemned U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr., via Twitter over revelations that the congressman had a two-year extra-marital affair. Those tweets were sent out two months after Stevlic's arrest.

ANOTHER KISSING TALE

A lesbian couple say they were thrown out of the Four Seasons Hotel in St. Louis for kissing by the rooftop pool. Teresa Folds said a security guard approached her

and girlfriend Juleigh Snell as they were kissing in the Jacuzzi. They complained to a manager, but "he basically insinuated that we were not a normal couple and should not be kissing," Snell said.



REPLANTING 'MAGNOLIAS'

WiGWag knows some fellas who can recite, line for line, the "Steel Magnolias" script. Lifetime is planning a remake, but isn't likely to mimic the 1989 film that united Dolly Parton, Sally Field, Shirley MacLaine, Darryl Hannah, Olympia Dukakis and Julia Roberts (pictured above). The remake, still set in Louisiana, will be updated to 2012 and feature an all-black cast.

OUT IN THE RESUME PILE

A new study shows that openly gay men are less likely to be called back for job interviews than straight men, especially in the South and Midwest. A Harvard University researcher sent two fictitious resumes to 1,700 companies advertising white-collar job openings, such as managerial positions. He found that resumes indicating an applicant was gay were 40 percent less likely to be offered an interview. The study was published in the American Journal of Sociology.

OLD SPARKY

A Florida Republican wants to bring back the electric chair and the firing squad. Brad Drake, a state representative from northern Florida, filed a bill to eliminate lethal injection. "We still have Old Sparky. And if that doesn't suit the criminal, then we will provide them a .45 caliber lead cocktail instead," he said in a press statement. Florida retired its electric chair in 2000 after several inmates caught fire during executions.



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Anti-gay group forms in Appleton to fight new domestic partner benefits

By Louis Weisberg
Staff writer

Anti-gay activists have created a new group that aims to overturn Appleton's domestic partner benefits policy.

The Appleton Common Council voted Sept. 7 to extend employment benefits to the registered same-sex domestic partners of city workers. But former Appleton Ald. Jo Egelhoff, a staunch anti-equality activist, and Perry Bovee, a right-wing Christian leader with a record of multiple arrests, are fighting the decision. They've formed Appleton Taxpayers United, which has

'It is clear that this is not about saving money.'

the single-issue mission of eliminating the partnership benefits, perhaps via referendum in next April's general election.

Egelhoff and Bovee claim the city cannot afford the estimated \$100,000 cost

of providing city employees in registered same-sex relationships with the same employment benefits that married employees receive. But Mayor Tim Hanna and the majority of city leaders supported the benefits, arguing that they make the city a more competitive recruiter.

The city spends about \$9 million annually on health care, which represents about 6 percent of Appleton's \$147 million budget. The cost of same-sex domestic partner benefits will amount to an estimated .068 percent of the city's annual budget.

"Given the portion of the city budget that we're talking

about here, it is clear that this is not about saving money," said Fair Wisconsin executive director Katie Belanger. "It is about targeting gay and lesbian employees who deserve fair and equal treatment."

Neither Egelhoff nor Bovee have targeted other, much larger expenditures in the budget. But both have a history of opposing LGBT rights.

Bovee wrote an open letter to the Appleton Post Crescent accusing Hanna of conspiring with Ald. Curt Konezke "to shove their homosexual agenda" down the throats of Appleton taxpayers.

Bovee, a divorced man who says he stands for "family values," has a history of personal problems. He was convicted of battery once and disorderly conduct three times. In addition, he's been found guilty twice of driving while intoxicated and was served with a restraining order for harassing a woman.

Egelhoff, who operates a fringe-right blog called FoxPolitics.net, is named as one of the plaintiffs in a lawsuit that claims the state's domestic partner registry law is unconstitutional. She's a close associate of Julaine Appling, the executive director of Wisconsin Family

Action — the anti-gay group behind both the lawsuit and the state's constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage and civil unions. Although Appling has made fighting same-sex marriage the focus of her activism, she lives with longtime companion Diane Westphal in a home they own together in Watertown. Neither of the middle-aged women has ever married.

Nelson to retire from AIDS Resource Center



PHOTO COURTESY OF Doug Nelson

Doug Nelson, who has headed the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin since 1988, is retiring as the organization's president and CEO.

Michael J. Gifford, ARCW's chief operating officer, will assume Nelson's position beginning April 2012.

Nelson will remain as a consultant to ARCW through the end of next year to ensure a smooth transi-

tion, according to a release.

Under Nelson's leadership, ARCW evolved from a small social service agency with an annual budget of \$266,000 to a major provider of HIV medical, dental, mental health, pharmacy and social services. The organization's annual operating budget grew to \$31 million.

"I am so fortunate to have had this leadership role in

the fight against AIDS and have thrived on every challenge of this historic epidemic," Nelson said in the press release.

Gifford has worked at ARCW for 18 years. Originally hired as director of government relations, he was promoted to chief operating officer in 1998. He's credited with establishing the ARCW Medical Center in

Milwaukee and expanding it into Kenosha and Green Bay.

In 2010, Gifford led the creation of the ARCW Pharmacy, Wisconsin's only HIV-dedicated pharmacy.

"The AIDS epidemic is one of the most serious health crises the world has seen. One in five Americans with HIV does not know they are infected and more than 600,000 people living with

HIV in our country cannot access HIV health care," Gifford said. "At stake are the lives of thousands of people throughout Wisconsin. I am honored to lead ARCW as we overcome these challenges and achieve results — early HIV diagnosis, treatment for all, excellence in clinical care and long and healthy lives for people with HIV."

— Louis Weisberg

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Running for school safety

Nearly 500 supporters turned out at the Goodman Center in Madison on Oct. 16 for the Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools' 5th Annual Walk/Run/Eat. The theme was superheroes, and many participants wore costumes based on their comic-book idols. The event raised more than \$40,000 to support GSAFE's efforts to make middle schools and high schools safe for LGBT youths and other students in Wisconsin.

PHOTO: ERIC BAILLIES

The center's fundraising and membership declined in 2010

CENTER from I board's co-chairs also did not respond to questions.

The center moved to a 22,000-square-foot space downtown in November 2010. Last fall, the center also changed the way its board of directors is chosen.

Previously, members selected the board, but at Cage's urging, the organization switched to a self-selecting board.

Critics said the change would silence members and isolate the center's governance from community input. But Cage said the change was needed because the agency's growth necessitated a more professional board.

In the 11 months since the change, however, the board has not grown. It currently has only seven members — two fewer than are required by its own bylaws.

Cage also said at the time of the change that she needed a board whose members could meet fundraising goals and who had expertise in business and management

oversight.

Despite the center's 2010 losses, Chuck McLean, vice president of research for GuideStar, a national non-profit information service, said the center's financial filings in recent years looked good, especially in the current economic climate.

"It looks like a healthy organization," McLean said. "The revenue bounces up

and down but that's not unusual in this economy and for organizations that depend largely on grants. It's really not unusual to see those kinds of swings."

The center, located at 252 E. Highland Ave., provides several health and social service programs, including an LGBT youth program, an anti-violence program, a breast health program and HIV prevention services.

Individual support for Milwaukee LGBT Center shows losses, gains

	2008	2009	2010
Donations	\$11,985	\$17,133	\$22,026
Planned Gifts	0	201,738	9,139
Workplace Giving	5,420	19,683	28,542
Memberships	8,586	8,230	6,145
Fundraising (Net)	33,746	31,070	15,068
TOTAL GIVING	\$59,737	\$277,854	\$80,920
Total Revenues	\$600,856	\$1,061,648	\$841,143

Source: Milwaukee LGBT Center financial audits

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Presbyterians ordain first openly gay minister

From The Associated Press
A man who left his Presbyterian ministry in California more than 20 years ago after telling his congregation that he's gay was welcomed back into the church leadership as its first openly gay ordained minister on Oct. 8.

In a quavering voice ripe with emotion, 56-year-old Scott Anderson told the hundreds of friends and backers who packed Covenant Presbyterian Church in Madison for his ordination ceremony that he never thought the day would come.

"To the thousands of Presbyterians who have worked and prayed for almost 40 years for this day, I give thanks," Anderson said. "And I give thanks for those who disagree with what we're doing today yet who know that we are one in Jesus Christ."

When he was presented to the crowd, audience members gave him a thunderous standing ovation and began roaring with cheers.

"That was very atypi-

cal of Presbyterians," Doug Poland, an elder at Covenant Presbyterian Church, told the Wisconsin State Journal. "Usually our hands are in our laps."

Anderson was closeted when he served as a minister in Sacramento, Calif., from 1983 until 1990. When a couple threatened to reveal his sexual orientation, he came out to his congregation and resigned because the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) barred gays from serving as ministers.

But things changed last year when the church's national assembly voted to remove the ban, clearing the way for Anderson's ordination.

Nancy Enderle, the interim executive director of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, told The Associated Press the ordination was a glorious celebration that touched everyone, especially Anderson.

"He's a very dignified and poised person but you could tell he was deeply moved," she said.

Anderson currently serves as the executive director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches in Sun Prairie. His ordination means he'll be ordained to the specific job he already has. The only change is that he'll now be able to administer sacraments such as communion. He could also become a parish minister, a role he said he might consider in three or four years.

Anderson chose the Rev. Mark Achtemeier of Dubuque, Iowa, to deliver the sermon at his ordination. Achtemeier used to be a vocal opponent of gay ordination, but he announced a complete turnaround after friendships with gay Christians prompted him to re-evaluate scriptural teachings about homosexuality.

He told attendees he hopes Anderson's ministry will bring "healing good news" to all those who have felt "ostracized and alienated" from the church, the State Journal reported.

Supporter Bob Lorenz told WISC-TV the ordination

was long overdue for someone of Anderson's talents.

But a week after Anderson's ordination, a Sacramento church voted to split from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) over the decision to ordain gay clergy.

Fremont Presbyterian Church voted 427 to 164 to join the more conservative Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

"Let me make it clear that Fremont didn't leave the PCUSA, they left us," said the Rev. Donald Baird, senior pastor.

About 800 congregants attended a meeting about the pros and cons of what is technically known as seeking "dismissal" from the mainline Presbyterian fold. Supporters of the separation argued that their denomination had drifted away from biblical teachings.

Fremont, with weekly attendance of about 1,400, is the seventh Sacramento-area church to leave the mainline Presbyterian Church over doctrinal issues in the past few years.



PHOTO: AP/DINESH RAMDE
Scott Anderson poses at his office in Sun Prairie, Wis. Anderson was ordained Oct. 8 at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Madison, Wis. With his ordination, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) becomes the latest mainline Protestant church to move toward accepting same-sex relationships.

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Young LGBT professionals invest in their careers

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

Jason R. Rae is offering an investment opportunity. He's hoping that people buy into the concept of Young LGBT Professionals of Milwaukee, a new organization.

"We really want this to be something organic that people can invest in and feel ownership (of)," said Rae, who works in public affairs, serves on the Fair Wisconsin board and serves as a member of the Democratic National Committee.

Rae and other founders will launch the new group with a party at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 25 at VINO 100 in the Third Ward. In recent weeks, they've sprinkled news of the group's formation on Facebook and Twitter, and they are hoping to capitalize on the might of social media to build membership and encourage participation.

"We know that the overwhelming majority of those under 40 access most of their information via the Internet and through their phones, so it only makes sense that this is our primary means of communication - and it is cheap for a fledgling organization," Rae said.

WiG recently connected with Rae - to ask about the new organization, its purpose and its founders.

WiG: Tell me about your background. This is a difficult

What's on your resume?

Jason R. Rae: I moved to Milwaukee in 2005, when I started at Marquette University, and decided after graduation a few years ago that Milwaukee really felt like home. Milwaukee is a small big city that has many of the amenities of a big city while not being too overwhelming and I love it. ... I work at Nation Consulting, a public affairs consulting firm in Milwaukee, doing a variety of work with corporate, nonprofit and political clients.

Why did you decide to form a young LGBT professionals group?

I've always believed in building stronger communities. I have felt for some time that the LGBT community of Milwaukee could become more closely knit. I know a number of young LGBT professionals on an individual basis, but it seems that most are not connected to one other in a more professional setting. I brought my idea to some friends - one with a background similar to my own in politics and nonprofit organizations and one with a marketing and business background - and the three of us started planning and organizing what might this group look like.

time for young professionals, especially the youngest ones - those just of out college. Do you see LGBT Young Professionals of Milwaukee as a way to help them find jobs or advance in their careers?

Certainly, I think this will be a great opportunity for folks to network in their respective fields, make connections and create ties across professions. We see this group forming from the ground up, where individuals shape the direction of the activities. ... I also see this as a way we can simply build a stronger, more connected community. To me that is goal No. 1. I want young LGBT professionals to feel a broader sense of community in Milwaukee and to feel connected to one another.

Why do you, as a young professional, need an LGBT young professionals group?

I think for me, as is the case with others, we want to simply build a stronger and broader community here. ... I think we wield a great amount of potential influence and power in this city, and I am hoping that this is yet another step in bringing us together and to really unite.

Follow the news at www.wisconsin Gazette.com



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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.

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Gay military strategist key to Washington's victory over British

By Victoria A. Brownworth

Special to WiG

There is no more fascinating character among the Founding Fathers than Benjamin Franklin. Among other things, he was an early gay ally. One of his many contributions to the fledgling republic was recruiting a gay man to serve as one of George Washington's key military strategists.

An intellectual powerhouse credited with an extraordinary number of inventions and writings, Franklin also was one of the three most pivotal players in establishing the new Colonial government, along with Washington and Thomas Jefferson.

Franklin also was known as the great communicator among the major players in the Colonial era. His *joie de vivre* and sense of humor ingratiated him with everyone, which is why he became the primary diplomat from the Colonies, an ambassador to the French and Prussian courts and U.S. minister to both France and Sweden. In each capacity he negotiated treaties and opened communication between supporters in Europe and the colonies.

It was as ambassador to France that Franklin helped a gay man escape prosecution to become a pivotal figure in the American Revolution. In fact, Franklin's role in bringing gay military strategist Baron Friedrich von Steuben from the court at Paris to Washington at Valley Forge

might have been his greatest contribution to the war effort.

Washington certainly came to regard von Steuben as vital to his success against England. Von Steuben's military manual – "Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States" – became the fundamental guide for the Continental Army. The manual remained in use through the War of 1812 and was published in over 70 editions.

Had it not been for Franklin, however, Washington would never have gotten this extraordinary advisor, and von Steuben might have spent the remainder of his life in prison in Europe.

At the beginning of the Revolution, Franklin was a mediator between the French and the colonists in negotiating the support of France against the British. It was during this period of intense political complexity and foment that von Steuben was first approached.

Franklin knew of von Steuben's same-sex encounters, but he didn't consider them relevant to a position in Washington's Continental Army. In June 1777, rumors of homosexual activity had forced von Steuben to resign his role as chamberlain to Prince Joseph Friedrich Wilhelm of Hohenzollern-Hechige, in southern Germany. At age 47, Von Steuben travelled to Paris – some say he fled – seeking a position in the French or the Continental Army.

At the time, Washington

was looking for a military strategist who spoke fluent English. Von Steuben spoke German and French and very little English. So Franklin was initially leery of recommending him for the position.

But Franklin had empathy for von Steuben's increasingly problematic circumstances and decided to make the recommendation to Washington after all. This came after Franklin discovered von Steuben was in danger of being prosecuted for his sexual behavior.

A letter dated Aug. 13, 1777, to the prince for whom von Steuben had been chamberlain warned: "It has come to me from different sources that M. de Steuben is accused of having taken familiarities with young boys which the laws forbid and punish severely. I have even been informed that that is the reason why M. de Steuben was obliged to leave Hechingen and that the clergy of your country intend to prosecute him by law as soon as he may establish himself anywhere."

Franklin and von Steuben met again, and Franklin expanded and revised von Steuben's résumé to make it more attractive to Washington. He wrote letters of recommendation for von Steuben and arranged for his passage to Pennsylvania.

Von Steuben arrived at Valley Forge in February

1778, with his 17-year-old French lover, Pierre Etienne Duponceau.

The rest – thanks to Franklin – is history.

It wasn't solely as ambassador that Franklin made gay-friendly history in early America. In his role as America's printer extraordinaire, Franklin was responsible for facilitating the printing of the first male same-sex love story in North America through his friendship with French printer Fleury Mesplet.

Franklin had befriended Mesplet after meeting him in London during one of his many sorties there. There are different versions of how Mesplet arrived in Philadelphia, but his friendship with Franklin deepened during his time there. He then moved to Montreal with the American Army in 1775 as a printer for the Colonial Confederation. But when he failed to convince Quebec to engage in the American Revolution, he was charged with sedition and imprisoned by the British Crown.

Mesplet would become one of the most historically significant printers in Canada. In 1785, he founded the Montreal Gazette, now the oldest continuing newspaper in Canada. For LGBT historians, however, Mesplet is famous for printing the first book in Montreal, which

was also the first homoerotic publication in North America.

In 1776 Mesplet published the play "Jonathas et David," or "Le Triomphe de l'Amitie." The play details the homoerotic relationship between Jonathan and David in the Old Testament – a depiction still considered controversial today.

Franklin's life was mesmerizingly rich and the breadth of his contributions to America incalculable. Added to that, now, can be his contributions to LGBT

history in North America.

Victoria A. Brownworth is an award-winning journalist and syndicated columnist. She is the author and editor of nearly 30 books, including the award-winning "Too Queer: Essays from a Radical Life" and "Coming Out of Cancer: Writings from the Lesbian Cancer Epidemic." In 2010, she founded Tiny Satchel Press, an independent publisher of young adult books for tweens and teens, which specializes in books for LGBT youth and youth of color.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Friedrich von Steuben, a gay man, was one of George Washington's chief military strategists.

REGIONAL BRIEFS

REPUBLICANS SEEK TO CHANGE WISCONSIN'S ELECTORAL COLLEGE LAW

Under a proposed new law being circulated among Republicans in Madison, Wisconsin would split its Electoral College votes for president rather than give them all to the winner. The GOP's goal is to prevent Barack Obama from taking all 10 of the state's electoral votes if he prevails again in Wisconsin.

Currently only Nebraska and Maine split their electoral votes, but the small population in those states makes it mathematically impossible for a candidate to win the popular vote and lose the electoral vote.

Last month, Republicans in Pennsylvania attempted to pass a law similar to the one introduced in Wisconsin, but it stalled following an outcry from voters and civic leaders.

Currently, Republicans represent five of the state's congressional districts and Democrats hold three. If Wisconsin voters were to maintain the current partisan split by congressional district in the 2012 presidential race, Obama would receive only half of the state's electoral votes even if he wins the entire state, under LaMahieu's plan.

This latest proposal,

which comes on top of a new Republican law forcing voters to show photo ID – drew harsh criticism from Democrats and progressives.

"The depths to which Republicans in Wisconsin will sink to rig elections appear to be bottomless," said Scot Ross, the executive director of One Wisconsin Now.

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CHICAGO TO LIMIT, RE-ROUTE PRIDE PARADE

After experiencing problems related to crowd control this year, Chicago is altering the starting time, size and route of its annual Gay



PHOTO: COURTESY Chicago Gay Pride Parade

Pride Parade in 2012.

Last year's event drew more than 800,000 spectators and was marred by public drunkenness that resulted in several arrests.

The 2012 parade, to be held on the last Sunday in June, will step off at 10 a.m. instead of noon. The number of entries will be reduced from 250 to 200 to shorten the time of the event.

At the same time, the parade route will be expanded from 17 to 22 blocks. Organizers said the change would stagger crowds, add two El stations to the route and reduce congestion.

The Chicago Gay Pride

Parade is the second largest in the city, behind only the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

WALKER BROKE MAJOR CAMPAIGN PROMISE

Gov. Scott Walker broke a campaign promise to pay the full cost of his state pension immediately after taking office in January. The Associated Press has learned. "As governor, I'll pay my share toward my retirement because everyone should pay their own way, including me," Walker vowed during his campaign. After his election, Walker enacted a law forcing public workers to pay more

for their pensions. But Walker's pay stubs, provided in response to an AP open records request made in September, showed the governor did not follow through on his promise. Neither did Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch, an outspoken born-again evangelical Christian who made the same pledge.

Walker only began paying toward his pension after a bill requiring that all state workers pay 5.8 percent toward their pensions went into effect. The provision was part of a controversial bill pushed by Walker that also took away nearly all collective bargaining rights from most public employees.

Walker's spokesman Cullen Werwie did not offer an explanation for why the governor didn't start paying for his pension until the law forced him to do so. Walker reneged on a similar promise he made before winning election as Milwaukee County executive in 2002.

Republican Party of Iowa Chairman Matt Strawn says the Nov. 8 election could be the state's most expensive legislative race.

IOWA MARRIAGE COULD HINGE ON SPECIAL ELECTION

A special election for an Iowa Senate seat could threaten Iowa's status as the only Midwestern state where gay couples can marry.

Gov. Terry Branstad's decision to appoint Sen. Swati Dandekar to the Iowa Utilities Board ensures Republicans will have a shot at sharing control of the Senate. Democrats have used their 26-to-24 majority to block a number of GOP efforts, most notably a proposed constitutional amendment to overturn Iowa's gay marriage law.

Branstad and the Republican-controlled House support beginning the multi-year process of referring a constitutional amendment to voters. A 25-to-25 split wouldn't ensure they would succeed in the next legislative session, but their odds would improve.

Republican Party of Iowa Chairman Matt Strawn says the Nov. 8 election could be the state's most expensive legislative race.

From staff and wire reports

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Sheriff launches new effort to ID Gacy victims

From AP reports

More than 30 years after a collection of skeletal remains was found beneath John Wayne Gacy's house, detectives have secretly exhumed bones of eight young men who were never identified in hopes of answering a final question: Who were they?

The Cook County Sheriff's Department says DNA testing could solve the last mystery associated with one of the nation's worst serial killers, and authorities have asked for the public's help in determining the victims' names.

Investigators are urging relatives of anyone who disappeared between 1970 and Gacy's 1978 arrest — and who is still unaccounted for — to undergo saliva tests to compare their DNA with that of the skeletal remains.

Detectives believe the passage of time might actually work in their favor. Some families who never reported the victims missing and never searched for them could be willing to do so now, a generation after Gacy's homosexuality and pattern of preying on vulnerable teens were splashed across newspapers all over the world.

"I'm hoping the stigma has lessened, that people can put family disagreements and biases against sexual orientation (and) drug use behind them to give these victims a name," Detective Jason Moran said.

Added Sheriff Tom Dart: "There are a million different

reasons why someone hasn't come forward. Maybe they thought their son ran off to work in an oil field in Canada, who knows?"

Authorities also hope to hear from people who came forward back in the 1970s, convinced that their loved ones were buried under Gacy's house but without any dental records or other evidence to confirm it.

In other cases, some potential Gacy victims who had been reported missing were later mistakenly recorded as being found after police received tips that they supposedly were sighted.

So "people may have been told the person they were looking for was located, when in fact they weren't," the sheriff said.

The department is prepared to hear from thousands of people from across the country.

Gacy is remembered as one of history's most bizarre killers, largely because of his work as an amateur clown. He was convicted of murdering 33 young men, sometimes luring them to his Chicago-area home for sex by impersonating a police officer or promising them construction work. He stabbed one and strangled the others between 1972 and 1978. Most were buried in a crawl space under his home. Four others were dumped in a river.

He was executed in 1994, but the anguish caused by his crimes still resounds today.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Serial killer John Wayne Gacy

A judge recently granted a request to exhume one victim whose mother doubted the medical examiner's conclusion that her son was found under Gacy's house. Dart said other families have the same need for certainty.

Asked about the price of the effort, Dart said the lab is doing the analysis for free, and the costs will not be exorbitant. To not take advantage of the DNA technology would be "somewhat immoral," he said.

"Here are eight people who had futures, who could have

done so much for society (and) instead this evil monster destroyed them. And we're really going to just sit here and say, 'You know, they're forgotten, let's keep them forgotten'?" he said at a news conference. "Talk about the final insult."

The plan began unfolding earlier in the year, when detectives were trying to identify some human bones found scattered at a forest preserve. They started reviewing other cases of unidentified remains, which led them back to Gacy.

"I completely forgot or didn't know there were all these unidentifieds," Dart said.

It was not a cold case in the traditional sense. Gacy admitted to the slayings and was convicted by a jury. But Moran and others knew if they had the victims' bones, they could conduct genetic tests that would have seemed like science fiction in the 1970s, when forensic identification depended almost entirely on fingerprints and dental records.

After autopsies on the unidentified victims, pathologists in the 1970s removed their upper and lower jaws and their teeth to preserve as evidence in case science progressed to the point they could be useful or if dental records surfaced.

Detectives found out that those jaws had been stored for many years at the county medical examiner's office. But when investigators arrived, they learned the remains had been buried in a paupers' grave in 2009.

"They kept them for 30 years, and then they got rid of them," Moran said.

After obtaining a court order, they dug up a wooden box containing eight smaller containers shaped like buckets, each holding a victim's jaw bones and teeth.

Back in June, Moran flew with them to a lab in Texas. "They were my carry-on," he said.

Weeks later, the lab called.

The good news was that there was enough material in four of the containers to provide what is called a nuclear DNA profile, meaning that if a parent, sibling or even cousins came forward, scientists could determine whether the DNA matched.

But with the other four containers, there was less usable material. That meant investigators had to dig up four of the victims. Detectives found them in four separate cemeteries and removed their femurs and vertebrae for analysis.

At a meeting last week, the men who investigated and prosecuted Gacy reminded the sheriff that many victims were already lost when Gacy found them.

"I can almost guarantee you that one or two of these kids were wards of the state," said retired Detective Phil Bettiker. "I don't think anybody cared about them."

Most were 17 or 18 years old and had been "through God knows how many foster homes and were basically on their own."

Dart doubts that all eight victims will be identified. But he is confident the office will be able to give some of them their names back.

"I'd be shocked if we don't get a handful," he said. "The technology is so precise."

For more information, the sheriff's department is asking people to go to www.cookcountysheriff.com or call 800-942-1950.

Principal assaults student over GSA shirt

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Civil rights activists are demanding a criminal investigation into an allegation that a Tennessee high school principal assaulted a student for wearing a T-shirt advocating a gay-straight alliance.

The incident allegedly occurred Sept. 30 at Sequoyah High School in Tennessee's Monroe County School District.

Witnesses say principal Maurice Moser emptied a classroom of all students but Chris Sigler and his sister Jessica. The principal then allegedly shoved, bumped and grabbed Sigler, shouting,

"Who's the big man now?"

Moser, according to the American Civil Liberties Union attorneys who are representing Sigler, was angry over a homemade T-shirt the student was wearing.

The T-shirt slogan stated, "SQHS" on the front and "GSA: We've got your back" on the back. Sigler and other students, with the assistance of the ACLU, were working to establish a GSA club at the school.

Sigler had worn the T-shirt previously and reported that other students called him names, a complaint that the school administration had dismissed.

"All I want is to have a GSA at my school to help stop the bullying against gays and lesbians and their friends who support them," Sigler said. "The shirt was a way to use my voice and show my support for the club."

A teacher's complaint about the T-shirt, however, prompted Moser to call Sigler into his office. There, the principal instructed the student to take off the T-shirt or leave the school grounds.

Sigler, instead, went to his fourth period economics class, where Moser allegedly assaulted him.

The ACLU, in a letter to the school district, demanded

that officials issue a statement guaranteeing students can wear expressive clothing "free from threats of discipline or physical intimidation."

The ACLU also demanded that Sigler be permitted to take an economics test he missed on Sept. 30, that his absence from school not be counted on his attendance record and that he not "be subject to any further punishment or retribution."

The attorneys cited the First Amendment guarantee of free speech, along with protections in the Tennessee Constitution. They noted that while Sigler was ejected

from school for wearing a GSA T-shirt, students walk the halls in shirts emblazoned with the Confederate flag.

"It is totally unacceptable that a young man who was peacefully exercising his First Amendment rights would have his speech shut down by the public school principal," said ACLU of Tennessee executive director Hedy Weinberg. The incident, she said, "clearly illustrates the hostile environment LGBT students face at Sequoyah High School."

ACLU attorney Amanda Goad called Moser's actions "absolutely reprehensible as well as illegal."

She called for a fair and quick police investigation.

Petitioners with a Gay-Straight Alliance Network and Tennessee Equality Project online campaign also are demanding a criminal investigation, either by the Monroe County Sheriff's Department or the Madisonville Police Department. Within days of posting a petition at Change.org, the campaign had more than 80,000 signers.

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GOP candidates court right-wing fringe voters

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

The candidates for the GOP presidential nomination championed conservative causes as they competed for endorsements and votes at a Washington, D.C., summit earlier this month.

The Values Voters Summit brought the full slate of Republican presidential candidates to the Beltway to genuflect to leaders of the Christian right, including Gary Bauer of American Values, Bryan Fischer of the American Family Association, Mat Staver of the Liberty Counsel, Brian Brown of National Organization for Marriage, Tony Perkins of Family Research Council and Phyllis Schlafly of Eagle Forum. The liberal People For the American Way described the event as a parade of "who's who of the far right."

U.S. Rep. Ron Paul of Texas won the straw poll at the event, with businessman Herman Cain coming in second.

Cain criticized the president's decision not to defend the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act in court and Mitt Romney reiterated his support for DOMA, noting that a Democrat signed the bill into law.

At the speaker's podium,



PHOTO: COURTESY

Mitt Romney

most of the anti-gay positioning was done by the conservative leaders the candidates were courting. Fischer, for example, said the next president must "treat homosexuality not as a political cause at all, but as a threat to public health."


Several civil rights groups had urged the Republican candidates to boycott the summit, including the Southern Poverty Law Center.

"The Family Research Council and the American Family Association are among the chief purveyors of lies about the LGBT community — lies that stoke hate and violence," said SPLC director Mark Potok.

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For 30 years, Republicans have promised tax cuts for the rich would create jobs

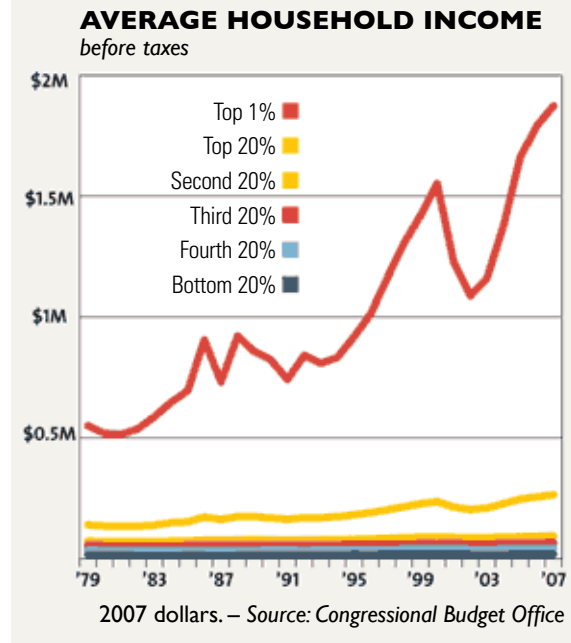
OCCUPY from 1 a volunteer coordinator of Occupy Milwaukee. The unifying theme of the Occupy movement is “we are the 99 percent,” contrasting its followers to the nation’s wealthiest 1 percent of citizens. The occupiers say they are the middle class, working class and poor people whose incomes have stagnated or fallen over the past 50 years while wealth became concentrated at the very top.

This is a movement based on facts rather than ideology, questions rather than answers. Its adherents point to figures compiled by the government, such as statistics showing that from 1980 to 2005, more than 80 percent of the total increase in American income went to the top 1 percent. This occurred during a time when taxes on corporations and the very rich fell, resulting in a crumbling national infrastructure and cutbacks of government services, services that both support and employ middle- and working-class Americans.

Republicans have claimed for 30 years that tax cuts to corporations and the rich would result in job growth and economic opportunity for all Americans – the so-called “trickle down” theory promoted by Ronald Reagan. But statistics show that although the United States still leads the world in research, technology and innovation, income inequality in the nation is at an all-time high, greater than that of unstable developing countries such as Guyana, Nicaragua and Venezuela.

“It hasn’t trickled down,” Meyer said bluntly. Some protesters who gathered before the march in Milwaukee’s Zeidler Union Square on Oct. 15 were more vivid in their analysis of Republican economics. One held up a sign proclaiming, “The only thing that trickles down from the top 1% is piss.” Another sign compared super-wealthy Americans to the Russian oligarchy.

“Rich got bailed out, we got sold out,” marchers chanted as they headed east



on Michigan Avenue, waving signs with messages such as “democracy is not for sale” and “incarcerate corporate criminals.”

While their theme might have been reminiscent of the French Revolution, their mood was upbeat and collegial – Midwest nice rather

than storm-the-Bastille angry. Some passing marchers thanked police officers in bulletproof vests standing guard along the route.

Overwhelmingly white, the marchers represented the full range of ages. A small contingent of blue-haired ladies holding a sign that said

“Grannies against greed” marched side-by-side with pierced and tattooed college students.

Veteran gay protester Ray Vahey, of Equality Wisconsin, carried a large rainbow flag. “This is a collective bunch of people who are looking for social justice, and that is part and parcel of the LGBT rights movement,” Vahey said.

Milwaukeean Brian Berdin held a large flag containing the Human Rights Campaign’s equal-sign logo, although he said he was unaware of its meaning. “But I support LGBT,” Berdin said when told. “I support human rights all over the world.”

Turning north on Water Street, marchers stopped for speeches in front of Chase Bank, 111 E. Wisconsin Ave., where Julio Guerrero was one of several demonstrators holding yellow crime-scene tape.

“We think it’s a crime that banks and corporations have more control over government than we do,” said Guerrero, who described himself as a college student

working full-time and barely making ends meet.

Several speakers with bull-horns struggled to be heard over the din of the crowd.

“The rich make the rules. We don’t make the rules, so why do we have to live by their rules?” Guadalupe Gallardo, of the group Voces de la Frontera, asked the crowd.

Marchers continued north to M&I Bank, 770 N. Water St., where they stopped for another round of speeches. Scot Ross, director of One Wisconsin Now, lambasted Gov. Scott Walker for cutting support to the University of Wisconsin system while doling out tax breaks to his corporate campaign supporters.

Chants and signs calling for Walker’s recall were interspersed throughout the event, giving the protesters a local target and reviving memories of last winter’s protests in Madison. More than 100,000 people gathered around the Capitol in February to protest the governor’s budget bill, which in addition to slashing education funding also took away nearly all collective bargaining rights from public unions.

Meyer told WiG that the Occupy movement is non-partisan. He said both political parties had sold out the American people. “They’re archaic institutions that have lost touch with the culture,” he said.

Meyer said LGBT people should embrace the occupy movement, because it’s about social justice and equality.

“Obviously the LGBT community has been disenfranchised and ostracized from conservative society in America for years and years and years,” Meyer said. “I think it’s garnering a lot of respect now. But with gay marriage, right-wing politicians and PACs are keeping LGBT people as second-class citizens with their radical ideologies. I think it’s important for the LGBT people to be involved with us.”

Meyer said he hoped “a strong organization” would emerge as the result of bringing together “a concentrated group of like-minded people in one space.”

“I’m hoping for an occupation that stays an occupation – that keeps on spreading messages and ideas,” Meyer said.

‘Gay is good’ pioneer Frank Kameny dies

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

Dr. Frank Kameny, who died Oct. 11 at the age of 86, had a saying. “Gay is good” became Kameny’s trademark slogan at a time when to be gay was classified as a sickness and to engage in gay relations was a crime in most states.

The gay civil rights pioneer died of heart failure on National Coming Out Day and in the midst of LGBT History Month. Both of the ceremonious celebrations owed a debt to Kameny’s activism, which spanned

seven decades and more than 50 years.

“Frank Kameny led an extraordinary life marked by heroic activism that set a path for the modern LGBT civil rights movement,” said Joe Solmonese of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation’s largest LGBT civil rights group. “Dr. Kameny taught us all that ‘Gay is good.’ As we say goodbye to this trailblazer on National Coming Out Day, we remember the remarkable power we all have to change the world by living our lives like Frank – openly,

honestly and authentically.” Kameny “taught us the power that our visibility and stories have in changing hearts and minds,” said Mike Thompson of GLAAD.

The record of Kameny’s activism dates to the late 1950s, when he was an astronomer with the federal government. He had been on the job for five months when he was fired for being gay. Kameny did not leave without protest. He challenged his dismissal, filing a complaint with the U.S. Civil Service Commission, writing to Congress and the White

House and suing in court. Kameny lost the case and soon co-founded an early gay civil rights group, the Mattachine Society of Washington. In 1965, Kameny and 10 others were the first to demonstrate for gay civil rights at the White House and later at the Pentagon.

Kameny, described by allies and adversaries as feisty and combative, continued a career of activism until his death. His last year was busy with speeches and award receptions, attendance at D.C. same-

sex weddings, and advocacy for the repeal of the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy barring gays from serving openly in the Armed Forces.

In 2010, Kameny attended a ceremony during which John Berry, director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, apologized for Kameny’s firing in 1957 and presented the former astronomer with the Theodore Roosevelt Award.

“I am grateful for his life, his service to his nation in WWII and his passion and persistence in helping build a more perfect union,”



PHOTO: COURTESY Kameny

Berry said. “He was a great man, and I will sorely miss him.”



PHOTO: COURTESY Ettelbrick

Gay legal advocate Ettelbrick dead at 56

Attorney Paula Ettelbrick, a pioneering advocate for LGBT equality in the United States, died at the age of 56.

According to the Stonewall Community Foundation, Ettelbrick died of ovarian cancer on Oct. 7 in New York. She was the advocacy group’s executive director.

The mother of two helped broaden the legal definition of family to include same-sex partners.

In the 1980s, long before same-sex marriage topped any LGBT organization’s agenda, Ettelbrick argued publicly that gay and lesbian couples should have the

right to marry.

She also was involved in a key legal victory: persuading New York City to grant domestic partner rights and benefits equal to those of traditional spouses.

Ettelbrick also held top positions in groups such as the Lambda Legal

Defense and Education Fund, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

“She was unflinching in her feminist vision of full inclusion and justice for all,” said Kate Kendell of the

National Center for Lesbian Rights. “Paula tirelessly and fiercely fought for the almost forgotten and often ignored. Whether it was people, or issues, Paula was always asking and challenging us to think bigger, more broadly, more expansively.”

— L.N.

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{ Editorial }

Opening hearts with truth

The Christian right often points to the health disparities faced by LGBT people as evidence there's something inherently unhealthy about them. The disparities are indeed alarming: higher rates of psychiatric disorders, alcohol and substance abuse, smoking and suicide.

But the Christian right's oppression of LGBT people is the self-fulfilling prophecy behind the grim statistics. A growing body of research shows the unhealthy choices made by LGBT people result from social stigmatization, discrimination and denial of rights – all of which are promulgated by religious extremists.

LGBT people are caught in a trap similar to that experienced by blacks in the Jim Crow South. Racists gloated over illiteracy rates as evidence of black inferiority even as they blocked blacks' access to education.

Unfortunately, LGBT people inevitably absorb the message that something is wrong with them – and behave accordingly. They fail to accept and love themselves. They fail to treat themselves and each other with compassion and respect.

At a press conference in Milwaukee City Hall on Oct. 11, National Coming Out Day, the group Diverse and Resilient rolled out a bold new campaign designed to combat oppression. Dubbed "Acceptance Journeys," the campaign challenges LGBT people to expect more out of life. It encourages them to imagine how different life would be if they lived in a world where they could hold their partners' hands in public and live openly anywhere they wished without fear of discrimination or violence.

Like John Lennon's anthem "Imagine," the campaign inspires a yearning for the endless possibilities life offers.

Acceptance Journeys is built around the most universal of human interactions. Through billboards and advertisements on public transit, it presents portraits and stories of LGBT Milwaukeeans with their friends, co-workers, family members, neighbors, pastors, etc. Each picture includes a story that, together with the image, encapsulates how an LGBT person allowed a straight person the opportunity to get to know them, and how that knowledge opened a mind and a heart. In essence, "the campaign puts words, faces and names to the process that each of us goes through in learning to love," according to D&R's description of the project.

At the press conference, D&R passed out five-by-five cards with images and stories from the campaign. One picture shows a young man with his two brothers – an obviously close-knit family. On the other side of the card, the young man tells the story of coming to terms with the discovery that one of his brothers is gay. On another card, a young woman stands next to her beaming uncle. Her story centers on the positive impact her gay uncle has had on her life.

"I think all of us want to be accepted, and we want to be accepted for who we are," said Mayor Tom Barrett, who participated in the campaign. "We can find ways to isolate ourselves or feel isolated ... and to isolate others. But we can't live up to our full potential (without acceptance)."

We hope our readers will take this innovative campaign to heart and utilize it as an opportunity to reach out to people in their circle of acquaintance. We hope it will inspire members of Milwaukee's LGBT community to imagine the rewards of living in a world where they are accepted, and to help make that world a reality.



{ Feedback }

DEAR MR. ROMNEY

The following is an open letter to GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney:

As you campaign for the presidency, we expect you to stand up and speak out against expressions of hate and intolerance that go against your basic values. At the Values Voter Summit, you were scheduled to speak immediately before the American Family Association's Bryan Fischer, one of the most prominent purveyors of hate and intolerance in this country and a vocal critic even of your own religion. By sharing a stage with Fischer at an event sponsored in part by his employer, you help to raise his profile and lend a veneer of credibility

to his bigotry.

I urge you to publicly denounce Fischer's bigotry.

He has a long record of hate speech toward gays and lesbians, American Muslims, Native Americans and other religious and cultural minorities, including Mormons. He argued on his radio program that Mormons do not have the First Amendment right to exercise their religion and claimed the church still sanctions polygamy. Fischer has:

- held gays responsible for the Holocaust and likened them to domestic terrorists and Nazis;
- said "we have feminized the Medal of Honor" by awarding it to a soldier who saved his fellow combatants rather than killing

enemies;

- demanded all immigrants "convert to Christianity" and renounce their religions;
- asserted that Muslims have "no fundamental First Amendment claims" and should be banned from building mosques and deported from the US, adding that they are inherently stupid as a result of inbreeding;
- claimed African-American women "rut like rabbits" due to welfare.

I and others have criticized you for abandoning your principles for political convenience, but I hope in this instance you will prove us wrong.

Michael Keegan
People For the American Way

ON THE RECORD

The next president must "treat homosexuality not as a political cause at all, but as a threat to public health."

– BRYAN FISCHER of the American Family Association addressing the Values Voters Summit in Washington, D.C. The far-right confab included a presidential straw poll that was won by anti-gay U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, with businessman Herman Cain coming in second.

"It's not the same thing. You are black by the color of your skin. You are not homosexual, necessarily, by the color of your skin."

– GOP PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE RICK SANTORUM explaining why racial discrimination is unfair but anti-gay discrimination is justified.

"It was very sad and tragic to see what fear would do to people you knew."

– ACTRESS LINDA EVANS recounting how hurt felt when people started avoiding her because she'd shared an on-screen kiss with Rock Hudson in the TV series "Dynasty" in the 1980s. It was later revealed he had AIDS.

"Kids are being indoctrinated in schools and bullied into accepting homosexuality."

– GARY RANDALL, president of Faith and Freedom in Washington, responding to a poll showing that a majority of voters in his state no longer oppose same-sex marriage.

"As a gay man, it made me feel like there's still so much work to be done, and there's still so many things that need to be looked at and addressed."

– ACTOR ZACHARY QUINTO coming out of the closet in an interview with New York Magazine about his critically acclaimed performance in the Broadway revival of "Angels in America."

"For the same reason that Zach decided to come out, I, too, no longer wanted to hide this part of my life. There have been too many tragic endings and too many cases of bullying because of intolerance.... As a journalist, I don't want to be the story, but as a gay man I don't want to stand silent if I can offer some inspiration or encouragement to kids that might be struggling with who they are."

– ABC ANCHOR DAN KLOEFFLER, after coming out on the air during a broadcast. Kloeffler said he was inspired by the coming out of Zachary Quinto.

"If you don't have a job and you're not rich, blame yourself!"

– PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE HERMAN CAIN.

"Teachers are supposed to be role models for our children, not hatemongers. I don't see how this teacher could possibly be effective in implementing the state's new anti-bullying law, designed precisely to teach children that bullying, including cyberbullying, is unacceptable."

– STEVEN GOLDSTEIN, chair of Golden State Equality, responding to anti-gay slurs posted on Facebook by Viki Knox, a public school teacher.

Film fest a welcome friend

Like a very welcome old friend, Milwaukee's LGBT Film Fest returns Oct. 20-23. Screenings for the movies below are at the Union Theatre in the UW-Milwaukee Union.

"Gen Silent" (3 p.m. Oct. 22) is a compelling, sometimes heartbreaking documentary about LGBT elders facing discrimination in institutions for seniors. It shows the challenges faced by two gay male couples, a lesbian couple and a transgender woman as health fades and assisted living support or nursing care become necessary.

The prospect of our LGBT pioneers having to return to the closet to avoid the bias of fellow nursing home residents or professional caretakers should alarm us all. "Gen Silent" is unsettling to watch but effectively dramatizes the need for increased training and ethics around the treatment of LGBT seniors. The social workers at one agency avidly respond to the needs of one of their clients, creating a support network that



provides companionship and assistance in her final months. Let's hope it represents the beginning of real changes in attitudes and practices.

"Tomboy" (5 p.m. Oct. 22) is an endearing French film about an intense little girl with short-cropped hair who prefers to be a boy. Moving into a new neighborhood, Laure introduces herself as Mikael, roughhouses with the boys and attracts the attentions of a pretty girl. But the idyll cannot last, and its unraveling leads to a poignant climax.

"Tomboy" is a tender, intimate film, told almost exclusively from the children's points of view. Extended scenes of children playing and bonding, especially Mikael with his little sister, are remarkably rendered and something we rarely see in movies these days. Kudos to director Celine Sciamma.

"The Night Watch" (3 p.m. Oct. 23) is the fourth film version of a book by Sarah Waters, a startlingly talented British lesbian who writes historical novels with fascinating gay characters and plot twists that blow your mind. "Fingersmith" and "Tipping the Velvet" got big budget,

"Tomboy" is a must-see.

In "I Am" (11 a.m. ct. 23), director Sonali Gulati returns to her homeland of India to explore why she never came out to her mother and, more broadly, the attitudes that compel Indian LGBTs to come out or stay closeted. Her personal story is touching, and the cross-section of individuals interviewed have riveting stories, whether they end in violence or acceptance.

The cinematography in "I Am" is lovely and shows thoughtful choices that move beyond the static headshots common to documentaries. It ends on a positive note, with Indians celebrating the repeal of the British-era law that criminalized homosexuality.

Three things undercut character development and the power of the story: the miscasting of the lead, who is supposed to be butch but is played by a scarily thin, tremulous Anna Maxwell Martin; the baffling backward-moving timeline from 1947 to 1941 (which works better in the book); and the abbreviated 90-minute length of the film, probably due to BBC budget cuts.

Waters' reputation grows exponentially with the publication of each new book. Let's hope she gains the clout to have more influence over the movies made from them.

State GOP is rigging the system

Gov. Scott Walker and his rubber-stamp majority in the Legislature have repeatedly shown us their extreme and divisive agenda. That is why Republicans lost members in the state senate this summer, and that's why Walker and others still face recalls.

So it should be no surprise that they would try every dirty trick in the book to prolong their abusive control of state government. Their shameless and shortsighted view of electoral politics knows no limits. It's clear they will do anything to win elections, even if they must sacrifice the long-term integrity of our electoral system.

After taking control of state government, these radical Republicans passed one of the strictest voter ID laws in the nation. They did this even though there is no evidence showing Wisconsin has a voter fraud problem. The legislation was entirely about making it more difficult to vote, especially for the poor, for minorities and for students, all groups that vote in large numbers for Democrats.



When they passed their voter ID legislation, Republicans said it included provisions to provide free photo IDs. However, internal correspondence was later obtained showing that the Walker administration was planning on making the process as difficult as possible. The Walker administration sent instructions to DMV workers saying that although voters could obtain IDs for free, they should still be charged unless they specifically requested them for free. In other words, if a voter doesn't already know that photo IDs are provided for free, they will either be required to pay for it or leave without one.

While Republicans were facing historic recalls this summer, they were also putting the final touches on the redistricting of Wisconsin. They conspired on this almost entirely behind closed

doors. Their redistricting plan is actually nothing more than a Republican protection plan, changing key districts to greatly favor their own electoral prospects. In many cases they have quite purposely redistricted some key Democrats out of their own districts and have made other districts much less competitive.

Republicans also are threatening the bipartisan nature of the Government Accountability Board. They are changing GAB's traditional rule-making authority. A recent example includes tampering with GAB rules allowing colleges to use stickers on student IDs that would make them acceptable as voter IDs. They are also maneuvering to take rule-making power away from GAB regarding the administration of recall elections. In fact, they would bestow much of this new rule-making power on Walker. That could put Walker in control of the rules governing his own recall.

Republicans are also maneuvering to take votes away from

Barack Obama in Wisconsin by changing the way Electoral College delegates are chosen. Wisconsin's popular vote has gone to the Democrat in every presidential election since the 1980s. Therefore, Wisconsin Republicans are circulating a bill in Madison that would award the state's Electoral College votes by congressional district. In this way, Republicans could again lose the popular vote for president in Wisconsin but keep the president from getting all 10 of the state's electoral votes. In a close election, this could sway the national results.

If this law passes, it would make Wisconsin one of only three states to split its electoral votes.

How do you hang on to power when you have spent your entire first year implementing an extreme agenda rather than focusing on creating jobs? Republican strategy is to do it by rigging our entire electoral system in every way possible and to ruin any sense of electoral integrity in the process.

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Frank Kameny: a saint of activism

Religion

ANDREW WARNER

In a symbolic coincidence, pioneering LGBT civil rights leader Frank Kameny died on National Coming Out Day, observed on Oct. 11.

Kameny began as a straight-laced academic who gave himself over to his work. But arrests and run-ins with the police in the 1950s radicalized him, especially after he was fired from his work at the U.S. Army Map Service.

Well before the Stonewall Riots in New York City, Kameny helped to found Washington's Mattachine Society and organized a 1965 picket of the White House. Kameny started working for

LGBT rights so long ago that the Smithsonian displays his memorabilia. Items include his White House picket signs with their formal, antique sayings, such as, "First Class Citizenship for Homosexuals." Hey, hey, ho, ho, Frank Kameny started long ago.

Kameny worked long and hard on LGBT rights, living through some of the most remarkable transformations in our culture, from the police oppression of the 1950s to the amazing apology the federal government made to Kameny. The apology came from John Berry, the openly gay director of the Office of Personnel Management. In it, Berry wrote of Kameny, "With the fervent passion of a true patriot, you did not resign yourself to your fate or quietly endure this wrong.

With courage and strength, you fought back."

Like Martin Luther King Jr., Kameny tied his advocacy to the essence of America. The Declaration of Independence asserts every human's inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. More than once, Kameny pointed to the declaration to frame LGBT civil rights as part of the nation's commitment to those unalienable human rights. Kameny, like King, dedicated his life to ensuring our nation fulfilled that promise.

King once wrote, "The arc of the moral universe is long but it bends towards justice." Movements for justice do not succeed because of one march, one rally or one impassioned speech. Kameny didn't stop with one picket of



PHOTO: COURTESY

Gay rights pioneer Frank Kameny died on Oct. 11.

the White House. Through his decades of effort, he not only saw historical change but also worked to ensure history was a little more bent.

Every fall my congregation celebrates All Saints Day (Nov. 1) by commemorating people

in our congregation who died. We honor their lives and light a candle in remembrance of their unique beauty. This year when my congregation gathers for All Saints, I'll light a candle for Kameny, raised Jewish,

might find it ironic to be honored among Christian saints. Yet his life gave witness to how I want to live as a Christian — daringly, courageously and willing to struggle for what's right even if it takes a very long time.

In these days when a disastrous election can feel overwhelming, Kameny speaks as a patron saint of the long view. He was the first to coin the phrase "gay is good," and he was foremost in never giving up the fight to make others realize the truth of his words. That's the kind of saint we need more of.

Kameny came out in an America far different than ours today. In fact, our America is different because of all the difference he made. And for that, I'll rejoice on All Saints.

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

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

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OTHER

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

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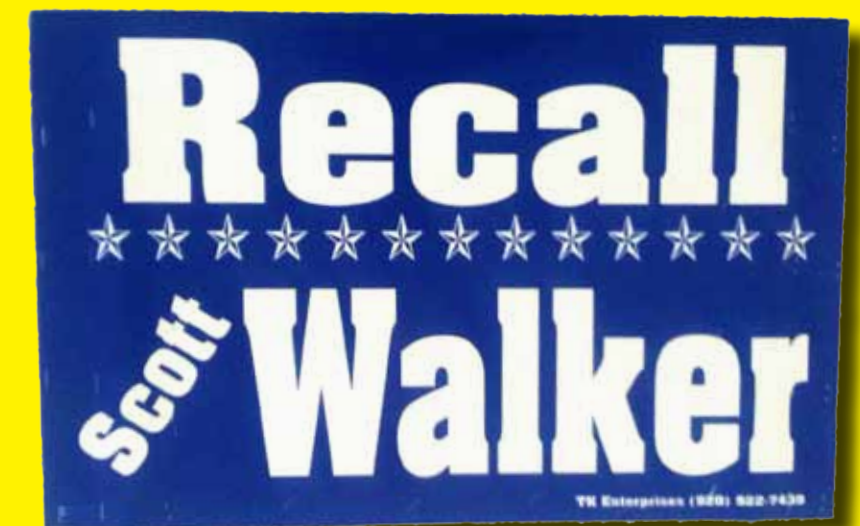
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Agile pooches and doting humans bond through exercise at Zoom Room

By Peggy Shulz

Contributing writer

How do you keep Fido fit and content on wintry days when a tossed Frisbee could wind up buried in a snowdrift?

The Zoom Room, 1701 N. Humboldt Ave., Milwaukee, has the answer.

The storefront business, part of a franchise operation, specializes in dog agility training – the latest canine fad. It's equipped with weave poles, A-frames, tunnels, jumps, teeter-totters and other equipment designed to combine exercise and flexibility training with dog-on-dog, as well as dog-on-human, socialization. It's like an indoor theme park for pets.

Owner Gretchen Kabler said purchasing Milwaukee's Zoom Room franchise, the nation's ninth, was the culmination of a passion for dogs that's been building over a lifetime. Her first canine epiphany came when she was five years old and her mom took her to a dog show in Madison, she said.

At that first of what would turn out to be many dog shows, Kabler met an Irish Wolfhound named Pat, who

won best in show. "Pat and I stood eye-to-eye," Kabler said. "I absolutely fell in love with that dog. I was dog-crazy ever after."

That "craziness" has been reflected in both Kabler's work and home life.

Her most recent job, before starting the Zoom Room franchise, was as director of operations at Direct Supply, a healthcare equipment provider. That was the first position in a long time that did not involve pets or pet products.

"I worked at a veterinary hospital in Florida for five years, managed a pet motel and grooming facility," Kabler said. "I worked for Science Diet for nine years. And I managed a wholesale pet supply distributorship."

After nine years at Direct Supply, Kabler said she'd had enough.

"When I realized that I needed to do something different with my life, I had an idea," Kabler said. "They always say match your passions with your experience."

So she started doing research into pet-related businesses and discovered Zoom Room. "I initially dis-

counted it, because it wasn't what I had in mind," Kabler said. "But I kept coming back to get more information."

Two weeks after her initial inquiry, Kabler was in Hollywood, Calif., at a discovery day for Zoom Room. She signed the franchise agreement roughly one month after that.

"The biz model made a lot of sense," Kabler said. "The Zoom Room really is about making agility more accessible to everyday pet owners who just want to have a good time with their dogs."

There's a social aspect to the Zoom Room, too. People and their dogs can enjoy each other and other like-minded dog owners, Kabler said.

Business has been good so far, and Kabler hopes to continue to reach more dog owners, despite the slow economy.

"Pet services have been less affected by the recession," Kabler said. "Boutique kinds of things were negatively impacted. But services, including dog day care and grooming, were significantly less affected by the whole recession."

Kabler also looks to societal trends to help boost her



PHOTO: COURTESY ZOOM ROOM
A Zoom Room visitor practices on the hedgehog hoop.

business.

"People are delaying marriage and childbirth," she said. "Empty-nesters have dogs. A lot of people have dogs in lieu of children, although not necessarily consciously. People will spend money on their pets that they won't spend on

themselves or other things."

Kabler does all the training at Zoom Room. Classes include sessions focused on agility and obedience, and some designed especially for puppies. Specialty classes include therapy dog training and work with shy dogs.

Kabler has two part-time employees who assist with classes and social activities, such as doggie birthday parties. A recent party featured a room full of black Labs and a doggie disco.

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Grace is a ringed turtledove.

TIP OF THE WEEK

Every Wisconsinite knows that deer collisions are a very real danger on our roadways. As we enter peak season for deer/vehicle accidents, be sure to stay alert and use your high beams while driving at night when there's no opposing traffic. If you see a deer near the road, slow down. They're extremely unpredictable and often travel in groups. For more tips, visit wihumane.org.

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WIGOUT!

WISCONSIN GAZETTE ENTERTAINMENT

What's hot in this year's costume department?

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Fashionista Bjorn Nasett wants you to know that dressing as Lady Gaga is still a go-go this year, but suiting up as a used Tampon is a no-no and donning a Green Bay Packer No. 4 jersey will make you look like a bozo.



PHOTO: FACEBOOK

Bjorn Nasett.

a used Tampon or a condom.

"The things I have seen - ick!" he adds. "Don't wear anything that has to do with children, overt sexual things or crude racist or sexist things."

This year the LGBT community has a number of reasons to celebrate, Nasett says, including the legalization of same-sex marriage in New York, the end of the U.S. military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy and other social victories. The mainstream emergence of gay themes and performers on television, including Jane Lynch on "Glee" and contestant Chaz Bono on "Dancing with the Stars," has provided role models who are prime for interpretation and representation through costumes, Nasett says.

"I have run the gamut in both the 'gay' arena and the fashion and performance arena," says Nasett, who currently is fashion commentator for WTMJ-TV's "The Morning Blend." He also pens a fashion column for Milwaukee Magazine online, and for 17 years he has colored and cut hair at Beauty, a Milwaukee salon.

"I would say that may not qualify me as an expert (in fashion), but it does come pretty close," Nasett says. Nasett is upbeat, enthusiastic and filled with advice when it comes to both the theory and practice of costuming. So he knows what's hot and what's not for Halloween 2011.

"What's always hot is total creativity and out-of-the-box thinking when it comes to costumes of any kind," he says. "What's not hot is going to a costume party with no costume at all, or worse yet as something that's really in bad taste like

"There are some really weird ones out there in cyberland and at the pop-up costume places," he says. "You can be an Angry Bird, a sock monkey or a Blunt Master joint. There is even a mini-pole-dancer-puppet-and-stage costume where your head becomes the head of the puppet."

Homemade costumes score extra points, Nasett says, because they require greater creativity. "I always admire people who make their own costumes rather than buy or rent, even if those costumes are terrible," says Nasett. "It's the act of cre-

ativity that makes Halloween costume-making cool."

Nasett followed his own advice recently, creating a Lady Gaga costume for a friend from items found at an area Goodwill resale store. He even turned a clutch purse into a hat as part of the outfit. Nasett chronicles his process in the column he writes for www.amazinggoodwill.com (look for it under "Ask the Experts").

The right costume should serve as a form of personal expression for the wearer, Nasett says. "A wonderful costume allows the wearer

ON THE WEB

At www.instructables.com, people share their costume-making tips, providing both inspiration and know-how when it comes to suiting up for a costume party.

to play a role for a whole evening that he or she could never do in real life," he says. "It's the one pass you have each year without being branded in that role for life."

Nasett's preferred costume? If he could, he would dress as Edward Scissorhands, the film role that catapulted Johnny Depp to stardom.

"There was something very sexy about the fact that he could tear you to shreds, but still shed an emotional tear over the fact that humanity could not accept him for being different," he says. "He was scary, romantic and poetic - and the film was a great allegory."

But then one could say that about Halloween as well.

IN AND OUT - HALLOWEEN 2011



IN: Lady Gaga is a great costume choice and offers so many possibilities.



IN: Mocking Anthony Weiner is fair game and should get a few laughs.



IN: Wedding costumes reflect this year's political victory in New York.



OUT: Bloody Tampon costumes are always in poor taste, as are used condom outfits.



OUT: Unless you update your reference by carrying a cellphone that receives text messages, Brett Favre is way too last year.



OUT: Racist costumes, like this blackface get-up that Will.i.am wore to the VMA awards, are just plain wrong.

Get your freak on at these Halloween events

No trick, all treats! A frightfully large array of spooky happenings and events are on the schedule this Halloween.

Friday, Oct. 21

At 20,000 square feet on two floors at State Fair Park, **HauntFest** is Milwaukee's largest and only heated Halloween attraction. This year's "Halloween Hollywood" theme conjures up demons and murderers from a myriad of memorable scary movies. "The Last Ride" is a motion-based simulator organizers say "promises to take you on your last journey - DEATH!" Regular admission is \$15, though special "RVIP" rates are available. Times vary; check www.hauntfest.com for details and tickets.

Named the No. 1 "Must See" Haunted House in America by Haunted Attraction Magazine, the **Wisconsin FearGrounds** consist of three haunted houses: Morgan Manor, Morgana's Torment and Unstable. Visitors are encouraged to envision a witch and her eight sisters, "who roam free from every corner of her grounds to wreak chaos and havoc. That scream you hear might be your own!" The brew-haha starts nightly at 6:30 p.m. at the Waukesha Expo Center Grounds, 1000 Northview Road, Oct. 21-22 and from Oct. 26 through Halloween night. Tickets range between \$10 and \$30. Visit www.wisconsinfeargrounds.com.

Saturday, Oct. 22

The LGBT Center of Southeast Wisconsin holds its **Halloween Spooktacular Costume Ball** from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Infusino's Banquet Hall, 3201 Rapids Drive in Racine. Admission is \$20 for a food buffet, costume contest, dancing and

cash bar. Call 262-664-4100.

Club ICON, 6305 120th Ave. in Kenosha, urges patrons to come dressed as the undead for its **Zombie Apocalypse Party**. Enjoy a costume contest, prizes and drink specials. Visit www.club-icon.com.

Thursday, Oct. 27

Miss Gay Wisconsin USofA Bryanna Banx\$ hosts **Halloween Bingo** at Fluid, 819 S. Second in Milwaukee, starting at 8 p.m. Visit <http://fluid.gaymke.com>.

Friday, Oct. 28

Tonight and tomorrow at 11 p.m., Milwaukee's Ballgame, 196 S. Second St., will have a **Halloween Party**. Prizes will be given for the best costumes each night; judging takes place at 11 p.m. Call 414-273-7474.

Hybrid Lounge, 707 E. Brady St. in Milwaukee, holds its **Second Annual Halloween Party**. Judging is from 10 p.m. to 11 p.m. Visit www.hybridlounge.net.

Saturday, Oct. 29

After spending months perfecting your homage to Lady Gaga, you'll probably want to get as much mileage out of it as possible. Show off your costume at the annual **Racine Skeleton Skamper**. There is a half-marathon for \$55, a 5K for \$30 or a kids walk for \$15. Sponsored by the Racine County Convention and Visitors Bureau, the costumed race is the only one of its kind in southeast Wisconsin and takes place starting at 8:30 a.m. at the scenic Mount Pleasant Village campus, near the intersection of Hwy. 20 and 90th St. in Mount Pleasant. Pre-registration is required; call 262-884-6400 or e-mail kari@racine.org.

Everyone is invited to a **"Transgender Halloween Bash"** held by the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's Breast and Chest Health Program. Come in costume and enjoy contests, prizes, snacks, non-alcoholic drinks and dancing to a live DJ. The festivities are from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the center's Community Room, 252 E. Highland Ave. Call 414-292-3061 or e-mail rboettner@mkelgbt.org.

The **fourth annual Halloween party** - co-hosted by Madison's OutReach LGBT Community Center, OutThere youth group and Frontiers men's group - will be a spooktacular event. The night is filled with fun activities, including a buffet dinner, scary movies, pumpkin carving and costume contest. All ages are welcome, though children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Suggested donation is \$20; children under 18 are free. Join the fun from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Kneeland residence, 725 Gannon Ave., Madison. Go to www.lgbt Outreach.org.

Rise up with the undead for the Milwaukee Ballet's **"Trans-Fusion"** at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. Take in a performance of "Dracula" at 7:30 p.m. and then enjoy an thrilling afterparty featuring DJ Multidimensional Fortitude from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Center's Atrium. Visit www.milwaukeeballet.org/events.

Social group Milwaukee GAMMA holds a **Halloween Costume Extravaganza** from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second St. Costumes are encouraged but not required. Visit www.milwaukeegamma.com.

A women-only **Halloween Womyn's Dance** will be held



PHOTO: WISCONSIN FEARGROUNDS

At Wisconsin FearGrounds, the scream you hear might be your own. Info at www.wisconsinfeargrounds.com.

at the Marian Center, 3211 S. Lake Drive in St. Francis. Doors open at 8 p.m., and dancing and music by DJ Pooh continues until midnight. Bring your business cards or fliers for the networking table. Street clothes or costumes are welcome. Tickets are \$13. Contact yourlegend@yahoo.com.

Kenosha's Club ICON, 6305 120th Ave., hosts a **Halloween Spooktacular**. Best costume wins a prize package valued at \$500. Visit www.club-icon.com.

Brew City Bombshells presents **"Halloween Extravaganza"** at 10 p.m. at Times Cinema, 5906 W. Vliet St. This freaky free-for-all showcases the Bombshells' always hot burlesque dancers and features guest performers from the Miltown Kings and Dead Man's Carnival. Tickets are \$10 or \$7 in costume. E-mail brewcitybombshells@gmail.com.

Sunday, Oct. 30

Four bars in Milwaukee's

Walker's Point district are hosting a **Halloween Costume Contest Pub Crawl** with more than \$1,000 in prizes. The freaky festivities get underway at Triangle, 135 E. National, at 7:30 p.m. and continue on to Walker's Pint, 818 S. Second, at 9 p.m. and Fluid, 819 S. Second, at 10:30 p.m. The top three winners from each bar advance to the finals at La Cage, 801 S. Second, at midnight.

Miss Club 5 Trina Lynn has lined up a whole cadre of ghoulish guests and drag queens from throughout the state for her **Spooktacular Halloween Bash** at Madison's Club 5, 5 Applegate Court. The show begins at 10 p.m. Visit www.club-5.com.

Monday, Oct. 31

Milwaukee's KRUZ, 354 E. National, holds a **Masquerade Ball** 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Call 414-272-KRUZ.

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Psycho-biddies in drag battle it out in 'Baby Jane'

Theater

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

With apologies to the late, great Bette Davis, fasten your seatbelts. Off the Wall Theatre's production of "Whatever Happened to Baby Jane" means we're in for some campy nights.

OTW's upcoming production is Dale Gutzman's stage adaptation of the 1962 Robert Aldrich film, the first of the short-lived "psycho-biddy" genre. The Bette Davis/Joan Crawford-inspired vehicle, which opens Oct. 27, replaces Gutzman's previously scheduled production of "The Rocky Horror Show." It is one of two "dueling hags" productions scheduled for Milwaukee's Halloween theater season.

"I decided not to do 'Rocky' this time because I couldn't find the musical director I wanted for the show," Gutzman says. "I wanted something equally kinky, corny and camp and found 'Baby Jane' waiting in the wings."

Gutzman has upped the production's campiness by not only making his "Baby Jane" a drag show, but also allowing lead performers Mark Hagen and Jeremy Welter to switch back and forth between the Davis and Crawford characters in alternating productions.

"It's a gimmick, but it's a fun gimmick," Gutzman admits. "Both of our boys are chomping at the bit to play the over-the-top Jane and the sweet and innocent Blanche. And both have special fans who want to see them in either one role or the other."

The story, for those who missed the black-and-white film, involves child vaudeville performer (and spoiled brat) Jane Hudson (the Davis character) and her jealous sister Blanche (played by Crawford), who watches from the wings as her sister's star ascends. Later, as adults in 1930s Hollywood, the roles have reversed. Blanche is now a successful, glamorous movie star and Jane is a hard-drinking has-been.

A car accident changes things again. By the 1960s, both sisters are living together in seedy anonymity, with Blanche confined to a wheelchair and at the mercy of a spiteful Jane. And that's when the claws really come out.

"I think what makes the relationship work are the small touches of tenderness mixed in with the fighting and the horror," Gutzman says. OTW's scenario, which remains as true as possible to the film and its 1960s milieu, further employs the old theatrical trick of having the actors merge with the characters to give the production greater depth. Hagen's and Welter's role-switching adds



PHOTO: COURTESY

Off the Wall Theatre's stage production of "Baby Jane" stars Mark Hagen (aka "Dear Ruthie") and Jeremy Welter. It runs Oct. 27 to Nov. 6.

an even deeper dimension to Gutzman's show.

"For us it becomes a triple game," he says. "Mark Hagen is Bette Davis as Jane Hudson and Jeremy Welter is Joan Crawford as Blanche Hudson. And then, because they switch, the game doubles again."

Although it requires a great deal more effort in mastering two characters and learning two sets of lines, the approach appeals to both performers says Hagen, an OTW veteran known locally

as "Dear Ruthie."

"I've always had a thing for Joan Crawford and have been doing her as part of my drag act for years," says Hagen. "I am enthralled with her beauty, her talent and her odd behavior behind closed doors. But I will say that the role of Baby Jane is so complex and intriguing that any actor would be instantly drawn to it and enthralled by it."

Gutzman says he's been considering the production for a while and decided this

year's Halloween season was perfect timing. OTW commits to one gay-themed show each year and, while this technically isn't a gay show, it's one that falls well within the gay community's parameters of interest.

"Female impersonators have been playing Joan and Bette for years and when the actresses teamed up it was like a gift from heaven," he said. "The film was so over-the-top that it just begged for imitation and parody."

Gutzman hopes his pro-

duction, which includes several midnight shows, will attract a large gay contingent and multiple viewings to get the full effect from both actors. However, the veteran writer/director/producer is skeptical about his audience's allegiance.

"We do a camp parody or a Charles Busch play every few years," Gutzman says. "But lately we've had to back off because we found that, although they clamor for more gay art, the gay community has not supported those kinds of endeavors to the degree necessary. Quite frankly, we can make more money doing mainstream musicals."

His skepticism hasn't dampened the showman's enthusiasm for "Baby Jane," however. He believes this production will succeed based on the strengths of its stars' performances.

"No doubt we run a risk by unleashing two such powerhouse performers in two such iconic roles," Gutzman says. "My role is less of a director and more of a lioness tamer."

ON STAGE

Off the Wall Theatre's production of "Whatever Happened to Baby Jane" runs Oct. 27 to Nov. 6 at 127 E. Wells St. Details: www.offthewalltheatre.com.

'Gorgons' takes camp icons to new extremes

Theater

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

A servant is dismembered, a wheelchair occupant is tortured, and heads roll ... literally. Can comedy get any blacker than that?

Not according to Milwaukee's Renaissance Theaterworks, which is ushering in Halloween with a production of "Gorgons," author Don Nigro's blackest of black comedies.

Author Don Nigro's blackest of black comedies.

Happened to Baby Jane" or other films from the unseemly genre it occupies is anything but coincidental, according to "Gorgons" director Drew Brhel.

"This is just a guess, but I think Don Nigro started to write a backstage play about the making of 'Baby Jane' and found he had a much deeper and more universal subject," says Brhel, who is making his Renaissance directorial debut. "I think the whole 'Baby Jane' aspect of this play is, in the end, superficial."

Despite the fact that the characters bear more than a passing resemblance to "Baby Jane" actors Bette Davis and Joan Crawford gone to seed, the "Gorgons" narrative follows its own course to what is described as a surprising conclusion. Think of it as another chapter in the lives of the same two characters without the crippling car accident.

By the 1960s, former screen legends Ruth (Renaissance co-founder and veteran Jennifer Rupp) and Mildred (Renaissance newcomer Marcella Kearns) are past their primes. But they are still in fighting shape when it comes to their long-standing professional and personal rivalry.

An opportunity for Ruth appears in the form of "Gorgons," a low-budget, campy horror film about two homicidal sisters – but only if she can coerce a fellow screen legend to sign on and thus secure the production's necessary funding. What better choice than Mildred, who like Ruth is desperately seeking to reignite her long-faded career?

The pair agrees and ends up throwing fits, punches and heads. In the process, they seriously injure each other before realizing the value of working together. It is a match made in hell, but one that must mount a united effort to keep a disaster of a film from becoming an

embarrassing career epitaph for both of them.

"Don Nigro has done a fantastic job conjuring the essences of Davis and Crawford in their dialogue, their histories and their careers," says Kearns, whose character is patterned after Davis. "There are quite a few references to 'Baby Jane,' 'Hush, Hush Sweet Charlotte,' 'Strait-jacket' and other films of that genre."

The play also pays homage to the low-budget horror films of the 1960s. And the references to Davis and Crawford will not be lost on fans who know and love – or maybe hate – them.

"Ruth makes quite a few references to Mildred's overacting, so I am taking a page out of Bette's demon inside and working the eyes," she says.

Brhel takes a more philosophical approach to his characters. The references to Davis and Crawford are, at best, entrees that can be both helpful and limiting to a story with a deeper core.

"I was quite clear at the outset that I didn't want Bette Davis and Joan Crawford impersonations," Brhel says. "The parallels between Mildred and Davis and Ruth and Crawford are merely handles to grasp to get the message across in a pleasing and funny way."

Like its more famous counterparts, "Gorgons" is a narrative about two people

lost in the fog of their own artificial personas and how they battle their way back to reality. Underneath the comedy and insanity (literally as well as figuratively) beats a more universal story reflective of the human condition.

"Any play worth its salt will ask something about what it means to be human," Kearns says. "Gorgons" asks flat out what it means to be so accustomed to playing a role that we lose touch with reality. I think that can apply to any of us, actors or not."

However, the audience should not take "Gorgons" as a philosophical treatise, but as the entertainment it was meant to be, Brhel says. "What should the audience look for? Nothing," the director says. "They should come in, sit down and let the play wash over them.

There are parts of the play that are a funny as anything I've ever worked on, and parts that are not funny at all. Just open up and see what happens."

But beware of the rolling heads.

ON STAGE

Renaissance Theaterworks' production of Don Nigro's "Gorgons" runs Oct. 14 to Nov. 6 at 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. Call 414-291-7800 or go to www.r-t-w.com.



PHOTO: RENAISSANCE THEATERWORKS

Jennifer Rupp and Marcella Kearns in "Gorgons."

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MILWAUKEE LGBT FILM & VIDEO FESTIVAL

'Gen Silent' documents LGBT senior hardships

By Jay Rath

Contributing writer

You're old, ill and in a nursing home. How can you survive discrimination?

That's the subject of "Gen Silent," a new LGBT documentary from award-winning filmmaker Stu Maddux. He'll visit Milwaukee to present and discuss his work as part of the 24th annual Milwaukee LGBT Film and Video Festival Oct. 20-23.

The documentary chronicles the lives of six LGBT seniors as they deal with a care system that's often hostile to their lifestyles.

"There is this generation of people who have decided to be silent rather than be out there anymore, because they've been forced back into the closet," says Maddux, who lives in San Francisco.

"It's happening everywhere," he says. "The problem is that even LGBT people around the world don't see it. Their eyes aren't open to it." "Gen Silent" premiered in Boston in 2010, and has been widely praised.

"This film is critically important to our movement," says Loree Cook-Daniels, program and policy director for the Milwaukee-based FORGE Transgender Aging Network. FORGE is co-sponsoring Maddux's appearance, with SAGE/Milwaukee (Senior Action in



PHOTO: COURTESY

The Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival screens "Gen Silent" at 3 p.m. on Oct. 22 in the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Union Theatre, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd.

a Gay Environment).

"I've been working on LGBT aging issues for 37 years, and there were facts in this documentary that I'd never known," says Cook-Daniels. "More importantly, it introduces us to real people who get under our skin, who make us laugh, and who move us to tears. It's unforgettable."

Maddux's films include the critically acclaimed "Bob and Jack's 52-Year Adventure," about an Army sergeant who began an affair with his commanding officer in 1952. The

two men came out to their unit and are still together.

It was while making that film that Maddux became interested in the struggles of older LGBT people. The subjects of "Gen Silent" were all drawn from the Boston area. They include Lawrence Johnson and Alexandre Rheume, an interracial couple with a 22-year age difference. When Johnson searched for an assisted living home for his partner, he was made to feel uncomfortable even for feeding Rheume or holding his hand.

"It's bad enough that you have to put someone in a nursing home," Johnson says. "Then to compound the fact there may be prejudices, and the person going into the nursing home might not be treated as well — not in overt ways, but all these subtle things that let you know you're not wanted."

Also profiled in "Gen Silent" are Sheri Barden and Lois Johnson. Their story traces past indignities, from narrowly avoiding being outed by 1950s magazines that published the names of

'This film is critically important to our movement.'

suspected homosexuals to being tailed by FBI agents after rallies in the 1960s.

Another subject, Krysa Anne Hembrough, a 59-year-old transgender woman dealing with a terminal illness, is now deceased. She transitioned in 2003 and afterward was estranged from her family. Even when diagnosed with lung cancer, she received no calls or visits.

Making the film was sometimes emotionally grueling. "Very much so," Maddux says. "The most emotionally difficult part for me was being a caregiver for Krysa Anne, shooting that, and then having to go back and look at the footage of all those hours of caregiving again, and her hope that her family would come back into the picture."

"Gen Silent" has been shown at film festivals throughout the United States and Europe. It's received

audience and jury awards at 10 of them, including the Rhode Island International Film Festival, the Sacramento Film and Music Festival, the Charlotte Film Festival and Outflix Memphis Film Festival. In November, PBS excerpted more than 20 minutes of the documentary as part of its program "In the Life," which focuses on social injustice within the LGBT community.

Maddux is looking forward to visiting Milwaukee for the first time.

"What's really cool about this screening is that there are some leaders in LGBT aging work right there in Milwaukee," he says. "Anything I can give back in a small way, I'm delighted to be of service."

"Gen Silent" will be shown at the Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival at 3 p.m. on Oct. 22 in the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Union Theatre, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd.

A talk-back with Maddux and an in-depth discussion will be held afterward. Snacks will be provided.

Parking is available beneath the theater.

Festival ticket prices vary. For reservations or more information on the festival, call the box office at 414-229-4308, or visit arts.uwm.edu/lgbtfilm.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Ido Rosenberg in "Mary Lou."

'Mama Mia' meets 'Gypsy'

By Jody Hirsh

Contributing writer

"Mary Lou," the latest piece of cinematic brilliance from Israeli filmmaker Eytan Fox, has it all — fun, drama, thoughtfulness, hit music by '70s Israeli glam pop idol Svika Pick and even drag queens.

Co-sponsored by the Milwaukee Jewish Film Festival and the Milwaukee LGBT Film and Video Festival, the film screens at 7 p.m. on Oct. 27, at the Marcus North Shore Cinema in Mequon.

Sort of a cross between "Mama Mia" and "Gypsy," the film tells the story of Meir, a gay small town Israeli teenager who spends his life trying to understand why his mother abandoned her family when he was 10 years old. After being humiliated during a high school graduation talent contest, Meir flees to Tel

ON SCREEN

"Mary Lou" screens at 7 p.m. on Oct. 27, at the Marcus North Shore Cinema in Mequon.

Aviv and throws his lot with a band of drag queens, becoming a star on that circuit.

Clichéd? Yes and no. Stories of performers finding themselves and making it in show biz despite pain and hardship are a dime a dozen. But this thoughtful and well-written production, originally an award-winning TV mini-series, elevates the theme above cliché.

Part of the film's brilliance is Pick's music. The movie's title comes from one of his most enduring hits, whose first line refers to "always the same dream." That's also the text of the brief note Meir's

mother leaves to explain her disappearance. And it's the major theme of the story: The dream of becoming a pop star destroys Meir's mother, just as it redeems him.

In a film of stellar performances, including that of well-known actress/singer Maya Dagan as Meir's troubled mother, it's young actor Ido Rosenberg's portrayal of Meir that stands out. Walking the fine line between masculine and feminine, Rosenberg is the perfect Meir. His drag persona (Mary Lou) is totally feminine. His male persona is, in the words of filmmaker Fox, the antithesis of the typical macho Israeli film star. It's a softer male image, a refreshing addition to Israeli cinema.

"Mary Lou" is a rich, rewarding experience that's well worth the drive to Mequon. Don't miss it.

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MILWAUKEE
BALLET
MICHAEL PINK, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

David Hovhannisyan. Photo: Jessica Kaminski

Impressionist drawings at Milwaukee Art Museum provide much to linger over

By Kat Murrell
Contributing writer

It's immediate, spontaneous, studied, exploratory. Highly finished or a powerful scrap of an idea. Simple lines in graphite or fully realized scenes in luminous color.

The works in the newly opened exhibition at the Milwaukee Art Museum called "Impressionism: Masterworks on Paper" cover this range of appearances and more.

There is no doubt that this is a major show. About 125 works are on view. The vast majority are drawings. But interspersed are a handful of paintings, including Renoir's frolicsome "Bathers with Crab," on loan from Pittsburgh's Carnegie Museum of Art in fulfillment of a Super Bowl bet and subsequent Packers' win last season.

Walking through the expansive galleries, the museum's director of exhibitions and driving force behind the show, Laurie Winters, described how ideas for this show blossomed with conversations about Impressionist drawings during the 2007 Pissarro exhibition. Working in partnership with the Albertina in Vienna (an institution also key to the 2005 Rembrandt and 2006 Biedermeier exhibitions), the museum secured loans from internationally renowned museums and collections.

Impressionist art is often characterized as blockbuster material because of the decorative and approachable nature of its subjects — pretty colors and people enjoying themselves. But

this exhibition is more than just eye candy. There are some significant points that Winters and guest co-curator Christopher Lloyd are interested in exploring.

The advent of Impressionism is traditionally ascribed to Claude Monet and August Renoir. The two worked closely together in the late 1860s and 1870s, painting similar scenes of modern life outdoors ("en plein air") with flickering, loose brushwork and brilliant color.

This exhibition reassesses Eugene Boudin, a French artist who was a mentor to young Monet, as a precursor to Impressionist practice. His vivacious drawings describe the pleasures of modern leisure in social settings, capturing the fancy details of fashion on the spot, in the moment.

The exhibition challenges the notion that Impressionist artists were largely devoted to working immediately, sans preparation. The Milwaukee Art Museum's "Waterloo Bridge, Sunlight Effect" by Monet was actually a studio piece, created after visits to England. In this exhibition, the painting is shown alongside brilliantly colored sketches that Monet made while in London at the Savoy Hotel. The sketches are precursors to finished paintings, but they capture light and atmosphere with exciting immediacy as Monet stared out on the smoky Thames.

When it comes to drawing ability, for Impressionist artists or otherwise, Edgar



In Degas's "Two Dancers," 1905, turquoise tutus barely detach from the same-colored background.

PHOTO: MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM

Degas is a superstar. His lines are poetic — confident with contours, or supple touches creating the textures of flesh or ethereal ballet skirts.

Degas' draftsmanship is duly celebrated, but Winters explained that his extraordinary sense of color is some-

what overlooked. Notice the details in the color combinations and the peculiar shade of green that often shows up, which was specially mixed for Degas. The counterpoints of complementary green and red appear like supporting characters — electric jade

shadows in the background and the light russet of a woman's hair. This pairing is most vibrant in the stunning "Two Dancers," in which turquoise tutus barely detach from the same-colored background.

The most exciting aspect of this exhibition is the feel-

ing of having a peek at the private, working life of artists — the feeling of experimentation and exploration, trying new ideas on for size. Even at his loosest and most unfinished, Post-Impressionist Paul Cezanne has the energy of a powerful idea behind his recapitulations of Mont St. Victoire. His purposeful flatness and vagaries of space would be profoundly influential to 20th century Cubists like Picasso.

Van Gogh, too, would become posthumously monumental. Drawings are included from early and late in his decade-long career.

The late work from St. Remy, where he admitted himself to an asylum, connects to his ongoing affection for the rural, working countryside and penchant for capturing his surroundings in his unique style. A view of his studio window is energized by lines following the contours of the room. The window where black-outlined bottles sit is definite, yet ghostly. It was a bleak time for van Gogh mentally, but brilliant in terms of his artistic powers.

This exhibition is a delight in the quality and variety of works on view. There are many marquee names, but exciting introductions are made to less well-known figures. Eva Gonzales, Federico Zandomenighi and Jean-Louis Forain are just a few pleasant acquaintances viewers will come to know.

"Impressionism: Masterworks on Paper" will be on view through Jan. 8, 2012, after which it heads off to Vienna and the Albertina.

Artwatch

DEBRA BREHMER

Fall Gallery Night is Oct. 21-22. Lots of new shows are opening. You might want to mozy over to the Milwaukee

Institute of Art and Design for its **Student and Alumni Art Sale** (5 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Oct. 21 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Oct. 22). Each artist has a small cubicle to show work. Deals will abound. Also at MIAD is a group photography show called **"Homeless is not my name,"** featuring work

by Mark Hines, Stephanie Bartz, Troy Freund, Adam and Miranda Zynda-Kneeland, Mark Brautigam and Andrea Bartley. The show explores Milwaukee's homeless population.

Other new shows include a fresh batch of paintings by former Milwaukeean **Jason Rohlf** and sculpture by

Chris Berti at Tory Foliard (through Nov. 26); new prints by MIAD instructor **Rina Yoon** at Elaine Erickson (through Nov. 19); a large group show at H2O Gallery, 221 N. Water St., called **"Madonna and Child,"** with more than 30 artists interpreting the theme. Dean Jensen Gallery, 759

N. Water Street, also hosts a large group show of prints by mostly nationally known artists such as **Alex Katz** and **Julian Schnabel**. This show runs through Dec. 3. Continuing at Green Gallery, 1500 N. Farwell Ave., are new paintings by Milwaukee's **Richard Galling** (through Oct. 30).

After you are done carousing the streets, the Milwaukee Art Museum offers a party-environment with MAM After Dark's **Run up to the Runway**, an annual fashion extravaganza from 5 p.m. to midnight. The fashion show begins at 9 p.m. Tickets range from \$15 to \$60 (front row).

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COFFEE WITH CREAM CITY Meet & Greet the Movement!



Ever wonder what is going on in the LGBT Movement? Who is behind the desk of Cream City? What exactly does "social change" mean? Cream City Foundation has joined with Bella Cafe to give you a chance to answer all your questions! Join CCF at one of its Coffee with Cream City Events!

You'll have a chance to talk to Cream City's executive director, board members, grantees, and other donors and LGBT leaders. No RSVP required, but gratefully accepted. Coffee will be provided by Bella Cafe's Tim Talsky — a QShare Member.

These conversations will be held every other month on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 7:30 to 9 a.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 15 • 7:30 to 9 a.m. Bella Cafe • 189 N. Milwaukee St., Milwaukee
RSVP at www.creamcityfoundation.org

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TARYN SIMON PHOTOGRAPHS AND TEXTS

Through Jan 1, 2012

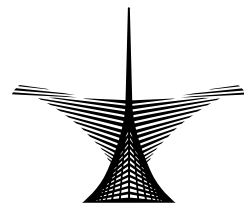


White Tiger (Kenny), Selective Inbreeding,
Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge and Foundation,
Eureka Springs, Arkansas, 2007

From *An American Index of the Hidden and Unfamiliar* series

Internationally acclaimed artist Taryn Simon's photographs and writings underscore the invisible space between language and the visual world—a space in which translation and disorientation continually occur. This exhibition presents a selection of works from Simon's major projects from 2002 to 2010.

Sponsored by Herzfeld Foundation



MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM
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© Taryn Simon. Courtesy Gagosian Gallery.

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Despite racy history, Elkhart Lake offers serenity – especially in fall

By Michael Muckian
Contributing writer

Few activities provide more serenity than bobbing peacefully in the middle of Elkhart Lake in a kayak from Ecology Outfitter.

At its deepest point, the pristine water descends 119 feet, making this 282-acre lake Wisconsin's fourth-deepest and isolating paddlers from their earthbound cares.

Ringed with a riot of fall colors and enveloped in crisp October temperatures, the village of Elkhart Lake may be at its finest in the fall. The summer vacationers have long since departed the lakeside resorts, and Road America race fans, who number in the tens of thousands when the nearby track hosts major events, are off pursuing their speed dreams elsewhere.

It's then that this northern Sheboygan County community of slightly more than 1,000 residents settles in to enjoy its well-earned respite.

Potawatomi Indians first called the lake "Me-shay-way-odeh-nibis," or the Great Elk Heart Lake, because its shape resembles an elk's heart. They also believed the water of the lake, fed by thousands of springs, had rejuvenating powers. That's a belief that's still promoted by massage therapists at Aspira Spa, located

in the Osthoff Resort – one of three lakeside resort complexes in the village.

The village has hosted vacationers since the late 19th century, when the old Milwaukee and Northern Railroad connected Elkhart Lake to Milwaukee, Chicago and St. Louis. Various resorts came and went, as did different forms of entertainment.

During the Roaring '20s, the community was a big-city getaway well known for its open gambling, bootleg liquor and prostitution. Repeal of the Volstead Act and the end of World War II changed the nature of Elkhart Lake, however. The little Wisconsin village took on a more law-abiding demeanor.

But the loss of revenue from its former sinful ways forced the community to find a new way to distinguish itself as destination. That's when Elkhart Lake discovered road racing.

GIs returning from Europe, coupled with America's growing affluence, fueled the demand for autos. Enterprising entrepreneurs affiliated with the Chicago chapter of the Sports Car Club of America liked the area's road configuration. In 1950, they held the first open race on the streets of Elkhart Lake and its surrounding rural roads. The original 3.35-mile circuit drew 5,000 specta-

tors and was considered a huge success.

The annual event was held for two more years on an expanded 6.5-mile circuit. In 1952, it drew an estimated crowd of 100,000.

Shortly thereafter, citing safety concerns, the state banned racing on public roads. But speed was already in the community's blood. By 1955, Elkhart Lake had turned 640 acres of farmland south of the village into Road America, today considered one of the country's top road-racing tracks.

Signs mark the races' original routes through the village and countryside, and the course can be traversed by car, bicycle or even on foot. A section of the course runs through what might best be described as "resort row" – past the Victorian Village, Siebken's Resort and the Osthoff, all with lake views and small beach access. The first two resorts were built in the late 19th century, but the Osthoff, the largest of the three, has a slightly different history.

The site was once home to Otto Osthoff's Hotel, built in 1885 by a former manager of Milwaukee's Schlitz Park. The couple moved to Elkhart Lake due to his wife's failing health. In 1955, the property was sold to a Chicago couple, who created the Harand Camp of Theater

Arts, which specialized in teaching drama, song interpretation and ballet to mostly Chicago-area youths. The camp was sold in 1989, demolished in 1990 and the current Osthoff opened at the site in 1995.

As much as anything, the new Osthoff marks another chapter in Elkhart Lake's tourism evolution. The resort's rooms are large, its grounds beautifully manicured. In addition to Aspira Spa, the Osthoff boasts L'Ecole de la Maison, a prestigious cooking school that teaches students to prepare everything from artisan breads and hand-dipped chocolates to full multi-course French meals.

For those who don't want to prepare food, the hotel also hosts Lola's on the Lake, one of several excellent restaurants in the village, serving regional cuisine that emphasizes sustainable agricultural practices. Lola's grows much of the organic produce that it serves, shortening the distance from field to fork and supporting the "green" practices that are coming to characterize the Osthoff.

At the center of all the trends and developments surrounding its shores, however, the lake remains unchanged – its waters still offering the rejuvenating power of serenity.



The shore of Elkhart Lake at the Osthoff Resort.

PHOTO: COURTESY

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Curl up with new fiction

Books

GREGG SHAPIRO

It's that time of year again. The days are getting shorter and the temperatures are getting cooler. What better way to welcome autumn than with a stack of new books, perfect for curling up with in front of a fireplace with a hot beverage within reach.

"Who Do, Voodoo?" by Milwaukee-born mystery writer Rochelle Staab, launches a brand new mystery series featuring no-nonsense psychologist Liz Clark. (Berkley Prime Crime, 2011, \$7.99)

In **"The Marriage Plot,"** by Pulitzer Prize winner Jeffrey Eugenides, the literary device of the title occupies Madeleine Hanna's life as she enters the real world after graduating college. (Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux, 2011, \$28)

"The Karaoke Singer's Guide to Self-Defense" is the debut novel of prolific indie rock musician Tim Kinsella. It tells the story of the outcast, eccentric and sometimes bitter citizens of Stone Claw Grove, Mich. (Featherproof Books, 2011, \$14.95)

"Artifacts" is the debut novel of Milwaukee-based writer, artist and musician Mary Dally-Muenzmaier. Alfreda "Al" Thompson makes a career change that results in more of a life change than she had expected. (Cerebral Bends, 2011, \$18.99)

"Father Tierney Stumbles" follows a priest's guilt, shame and struggle for redemption after being diagnosed with HIV. Author John Shekleton is a former Wisconsin Jesuit. (Universe, 2011, \$16.95.)

Wayne Hoffman's **"Sweet Like Sugar"** examines the unlikely, faith-testing and community-baffling friendship between young and gay Benji Steiner and elderly widowed Rabbi Jacob Zuckerman. (Kensington Books, 2011, \$15)

"The Indelible Heart," by Marianne K. Martin, is the anticipated sequel to "Love in the



PHOTO: STEFAN BEETZ/VINNY.COM

Jeffrey Eugenides appears at Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer, at noon on Oct. 23.

Balance." Readers will be reintroduced to beloved characters and welcome new ones. (Bywater Books, 2011, \$14.95)

Scott Alexander Hess' **"Diary of a Sex Addict"** is said to be inspired by the Marquis de Sade, Dennis Cooper and Brett Easton Ellis. A gay New Yorker recounts how he juggles his boring daily life with anonymous, random sex partners and orgies. (JMS Books, 2011, \$13.50)

The sophomore Kevin Connor mystery **"Second You Sin,"** by Scott Sherman, finds the call boy/sleuth investigating who is killing New York City's male prostitutes. (Kensington Books, 2011, \$15)

Author Philip Hensher's **"King of the Badgers"** begins in the ritzy English town of Hanmouth, away from London's crime. An 8-year-old girl goes missing and the abduction opens up the privacy of the residents' homes, leading to the discovery that the little girl is in one of them. But the question is which one? (Faber and Faber, 2011, \$26)

The New York Times best-selling author Jackie Collins and her character Lucky are back in the novel **"Goddess of Vengeance."** Lucky is still running the high-profile hotel and casino The Keys. The Middle Eastern prince Armand is trying to take it away from her, no matter what the cost. (St. Martin's

Press, 2011, \$26.99)

"The Two Krishnas," by writer-director-producer Ghalib Shiraz Dhalla, centers on a woman who's heartbroken after finding her husband in love with a younger man. She tries to keep the faith and her family together in this novel that explores the nature of desire. (Magnus Books, 2011, \$14.95)

Set during the final years of Apartheid in South Africa, **"The Dubious Salvation of Jack V.,"** by Jacques Strauss, is told from the point of view of Jack, an imaginative 11-year-old. His simple life is made awkward by the arrival of the housekeeper's son Percy (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2011, \$24)

The saga continues in author Michael Griffo's second teen vampire novel **"Unwelcome."** The follow-up to "Unnatural" has Michael and Ronan heading to Archangel Academy where trouble finds them again. (Kensington, 2011, \$9.95)

In **"Wilde Stories,"** edited by Steve Berman, a wide variety of gay men venture between the weird and the fantastic. Included are award-winning authors as well as newcomers. (Lethe Press, 2011, \$18)

"The Unreal Life of Sergey Nabokov," a novel by Paul Russell, recounts the extraordinary and troubled life of writer Vladimir Nabokov's gay brother Sergey. (Cleis, 2011, \$16.95)

Folding Folds' career into a three-disc set

Interview

GREGG SHAPIRO

As the lead singer of the trio Ben Folds Five in the 1990s and later as a solo artist, singer/songwriter and premier piano player, Ben Folds has developed a devoted legion of followers. But when he settled in at the judge's table on the TV show "The Sing-Off," he raised his profile considerably.

Folds' new three-CD anthology "The Best Imitation of Myself" has something for everyone – for those new to Folds' fold as well as the established Ben-heads.

Gregg Shapiro: **In the pantheon of piano men, do you consider yourself more like Elton John or Billy Joel?**

Ben Folds: I have to say kind of neither. In that I write the whole song myself and that I'm American, Billy Joel. Maybe in terms of style of harmony ... there's some-

thing that I have in common with Elton John. I listened to a lot of Elton John when I was a kid. I didn't really have Billy Joel's records until later. I think Billy Joel's a fucking genius songwriter.

Because of the wit and humor in your work, does Tom Lehrer count as an influence?

Yeah. Tom Lehrer, Randy Newman. I think I use humor in a little different way than Lehrer, although I've dabbled in that, with songs such as "All You Can Eat." The way that I use funny is more to highlight what's not funny.

There is a theatrical quality to a number of your songs. Is there a Ben Folds Broadway musical in the works?

I was talking to all those people, Broadway producers, loads of them, I was approached a lot – and it was radical back then in 1995, 1996. And we would begin. And I have this whole list of producers that I think are wonderful that we've start-

ed down the road. I probably have a reputation as someone who seeks a few meetings about it, starts off and then quits. I think that's unfortunate. It's just that I've gotten so busy and I haven't been exactly sure of what I was doing. It just hasn't happened yet. But I've got something that I feel is pretty solid at the moment.

Do you think that Bette Midler's 1998 cover of "Boxing" gained you an LGBT following?

I know there is (an LGBT following) and I love that. ... And I was really thrilled that Bette Midler did my song. For no other reason than that I want people to cover my music. Delusionally, I expected that when I set off down the yellow brick road of musicianship, that I'd be a covered writer and I wasn't. It didn't happen until Bette did that. Of course, I bragged about that for years (laughs). And then a cappella groups at universities started doing my songs and there were

hundreds and hundreds of versions floating around.

Before your current involvement with "The Sing-Off," did you ever think that a cappella music would be such a force in your life?

No. And that's the way your career works. It's like the theater thing. You can premeditate these things and go, "That makes so much sense – chocolate and peanut butter, it should go together." And then it doesn't. Sometimes you just step into it. I move intuitively.

How does it feel to have a box set such as "The Best Imitation of Myself" to represent your musical contributions of the past 15 years?

It's kind of weird. I worked really hard on it because – it's on Legacy Records – and I did view it as a legacy. I know I'm not going to have time to go through tapes and all this kind of support system and schedule and ability to do it. I took it seriously.

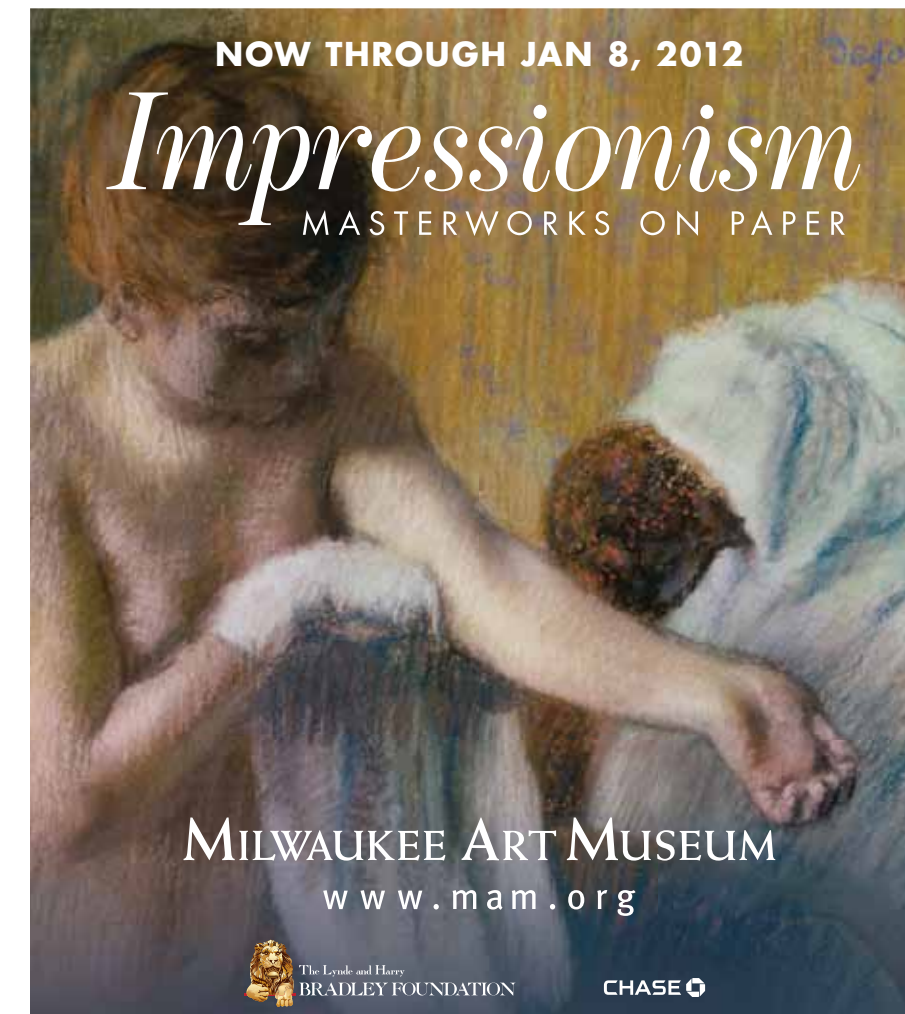


PHOTO: COURTESY Ben Folds

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OCT. 20, THURSDAY

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

"Doubt: A Parable" by John Patrick Shanley, winner of the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, runs through Oct. 23 at The Racine Theatre Guild, 2519 Northwestern (Highway 38) in Racine. Call 262-633-4218.

"The Sins of Sor Juana" by Karen Zacarias, brings to life the legendary 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.



OCT. 23, SUNDAY

Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer, welcomes **Jeffrey Eugenides**, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "The Marriage Plot," at noon. Call 414-332-1181.

The exhibit **"Cleopatra: The Search for the Last Queen of Egypt,"** which features nearly 150 artifacts from Cleopatra's time, continues at Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 W. Wells.

OCT. 24, MONDAY

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre hosts **"A Tribute to Ruth Schudson,"** a special event for the Leading Lady Fund. More than 20 local actors will perform scenes from Schudson's signature appearances at 7:30 p.m. in the Cabot Theatre at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

OCT. 25, TUESDAY

The Boldt Arts Alive! Series presents the **Eighth Annual Fox Cities Choral Music Festival** at 7:30 p.m. at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave. in Appleton. Call 920-730-3760.

OCT. 26, WEDNESDAY

Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer, hosts a book signing by **Kathleen Russo**, widow of Spalding Gray, for "The Journals Of Spalding Gray," at 6:30 p.m. Call 414-332-1181.



"Cleopatra: The Search for the Last Queen of Egypt" at Milwaukee Public Museum.

OCT. 22, SATURDAY

Jerry Grillo and **John Hefter** perform at 7 p.m. at The Savoy Restaurant in The Shorecrest Hotel, 1962 N. Prospect. Call 414-270-1070.

Greymatter, 207 E. Buffalo, Ste. 222, presents work by artists who explore the intersections of personal, cultural, and political concerns in mixed media and printmaking, 12-5 p.m. through Nov. 12. Call 414-687-2598 or visit greymattergallery.com.

Boston-based **Debo Band** returns to Milwaukee with its Ethiopian funk at 8 p.m. at the Pitman Theatre on the campus of Alverno College, 3400 S. 43rd. Call 414-382-6044.

New Photo Expression 2011, a show of new photography by eight Milwaukee photographers, runs through Nov. 12 at Blutstein Brondino Fine Art in the Marshall Building, 207 E. Buffalo, Suite 212. Call 800-737-3715 or visit www.blutstein-brondino.com.



"The Little Dog Laughed"

OCT. 21, FRIDAY

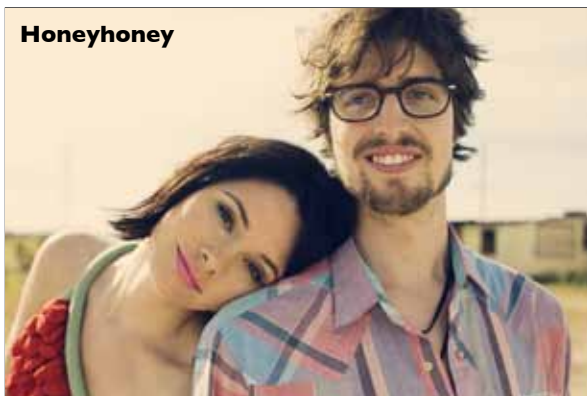
Renaissance Theaterworks presents **"Gorgons"** by Don Nigro through Nov. 6 in the Studio Theatre at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

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.

StageQ's world premiere production of **"Ghost of a Chance,"** a fast-paced comedy with mistaken identities, ghostly possession and quirky characters, runs through Nov. 5 at Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin in Madison. Call 608-204-0280.

Theatrical Tendencies presents **"The Little Dog Laughed"** at 7:30 p.m. tonight and tomorrow night at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second. Call 414-383-3727.

The Boldt Arts Alive! Series presents **"In the Mood"** at 7:30 p.m. at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave. in Appleton. Call 920-730-3760.



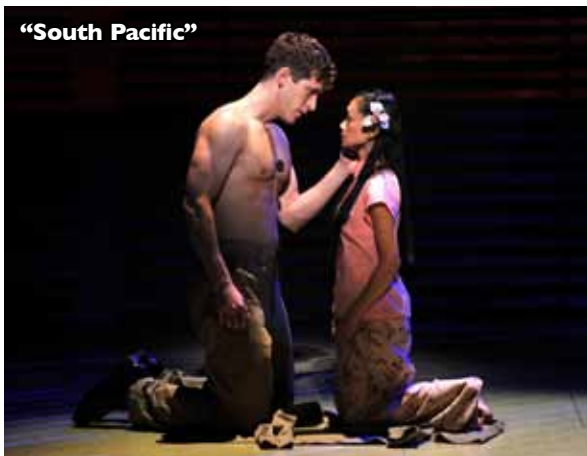
Honeyhoney

OCT. 27, THURSDAY

Theatre Gigante presents **"Shades of Gray,"** celebrating the art and life of acclaimed performance artist, writer, actor, monologist Spalding Gray, at Kenilworth Square East, Studio 508, 1925 E. Kenilworth Place, through Oct. 29. Call 414-229-4308. Call 414-273-2787

Unruly Music presents virtuoso performances of post-classical music at 7:30 p.m. in Vogel Hall at Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State, through Oct. 29

Country duo **Honeyhoney** performs at 8 p.m. at The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison. Call 608-819-8777.



"South Pacific"

OCT. 28, FRIDAY

Rodgers & Hammerstein's **"South Pacific"** runs through Oct. 29 at Milwaukee Theatre, 500 W. Kilbourn. Call 414-566-1375.

"Leaving Iowa" by Tim Clue and Spike Manton runs through Nov. 13 at La Crosse Community Theatre, 118 Fifth Ave. N in downtown La Crosse. Call 608-784-9292.

Musical duo **They Might Be Giants** performs at 7:30 p.m. at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells. Call 414-286-3663.

Carol Rennebohm Auditorium in Music Hall at the foot of Bascom Hill on Park Street at the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus presents University Opera's fall production, Giacomo Puccini's **"La Bohème,"** sung in Italian with English surtitles by Christine Seitz, at 7:30 p.m. tonight and Nov. 1 and at 3 p.m. on Oct. 30.

OCT. 31, MONDAY

Happy Halloween! For events for the two weeks leading up to fright night, see page 23.

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GORGONS

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WRITTEN BY DON NIGRO

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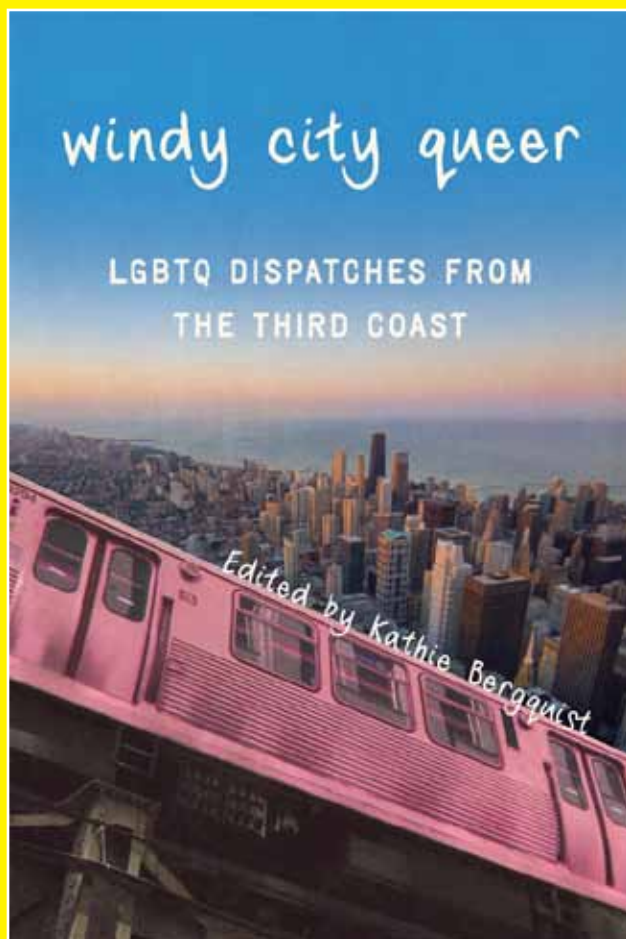
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Mark Zubro is the author of 22 mystery novels and five short stories. One of the keys in Zubro's mysteries is you do not want to be a person who is racist, sexist, homophobic, or a school administrator. If you are any of those, it is likely you are the corpse, or, at the least, it can be fairly well guaranteed that bad things will happen to you by the end. And if in Zubro's books you happen to be a Republican and/or against workers' rights, it would be far better if you did not make a habit of broadcasting this. If you did, you're quite likely to be a suspect, or worse.

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