

MANCHESTER REWOUND

Melissa Manchester talks about her latest release, which demonstrates the evolution of her career.

WiGOUT! Page 21

THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY



Photo: Jason Getz/AP

GOP is turning back the clock for women

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Patty Shannon was just nine years old when Loretta Lynn charted an anthem for reproductive freedom.

"This old maternity dress I've got is going in the garbage/The clothes I'm wearing from

now on won't take up so much yardage/ Miniskirts hot pants and a few little fancy frills/Yeah I'm making up for all those years since I've got the pill."

"The Pill" was controversial then, in 1975, when some country stations kept the tune off the air and ministers preached sermons

against the song and the singer.

But that was then.

Right?

"Barefoot and pregnant, that was like my grandma's fight," said Shannon, who never expected to make the fight her own. But on March 12 she joined hundreds of other

Atlanta demonstrators who circled the state Capitol to protest what's become known as the GOP war on women.

Shannon marched with friend Nancy Smith, 39, who thinks prescribing birth control pills should be as controversial as an

WOMEN page 9

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

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Wis. cities move toward equality

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

The Manitowoc Common Council has voted to extend health care benefits to the registered domestic partners of city employees, joining a growing number of small cities in Wisconsin that are creating fairer workplaces for their gay and lesbian workers.

Manitowoc council members voted 5 to 4 in favor of adopting a new policy that will provide same-sex couples with the same employment benefits as married heterosexual couples.

Not a single person spoke against the domestic

partnership policy during the March 20 common council meeting, said Fair Wisconsin executive director Katie Belanger. She worked with Mayor Justin Nickels, Ald. Matt Kadow and other members of the common council to coordinate passage of the measure.

The Manitowoc Common Council was spurred into action on the issue after Racine adopted a domestic partnership policy earlier this month. The vote in that city was 10 to 4. Racine Aids. Bob Mozol and Melissa Kaprelian-Becker spearheaded the effort.

Appleton's elected officials enacted a partner-

ship policy last fall, overcoming stiff resistance from right-wing Christians affiliated with Julaine Appling. The head of Wisconsin Family Action, Appling is the lead plaintiff in a lawsuit to overturn the state's domestic partnership registry.

Ironically, the never-married Appling lives with a longtime, also never-married female companion in a home the two own together in Watertown.

Belanger said the state's domestic partnership registry has facilitated the adoption of laws and policies extending employment benefits to same-sex couples in the state.

EQUALITY page 19

LGBT news with a twist



By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

LIGHT HIM UP

Pat Robertson surprised viewers of his religious broadcast "The 700 Club" recently by saying marijuana should be legalized and treated like alcohol. The war on drugs has cost taxpayers billions of dollars and failed, he said. People should not go to prison for smoking pot, he added.

RESTROOM ART

A 1989 mural that pop artist Keith Haring created on the walls of a men's restroom at the LGBT community center in Manhattan went on public view in March. Haring, who died of AIDS-related illness in 1990, called the mural "Once Upon a Time." The bathroom where he painted the piece has since been stripped of its toilets for use as a different kind of meeting room. This past year, the mural underwent a \$25,000 conservation. The artwork was part of a project to mark the 20th anniversary of the Stonewall riots.

WEDDING'S OFF?

The spokesperson for the San

Diego Tea Party was arrested March 15 on charges of kidnapping, sexual assault and sex with a foreign object after allegedly pulling a 56-year-old woman into his car and attacking her. Before his arrest, Michael Kobulnicky had endorsed a national boycott of the drink Red Bull after its makers aired a commercial in South Africa featuring a cartoon Jesus. He'd also posted an engagement announcement on his Facebook page, saying he planned to marry on April 7.

WHOLESOME AS APPLE PIE

Vermont-based Ben & Jerry's renamed its Apple Pie-flavored ice cream to Appl-y Ever After to promote gay marriage in the U.K. The company said, "Social justice is at the core of our values. Since our humble beginning 34 years ago, Ben & Jerry's has been an advocate for equal rights." A couple years ago, B&J renamed its popular Chubby Hubby flavor to Hubby Hubby to celebrate mar-

riage equality in Vermont.

TIME TO QUIT?

A Madison group placed a full-page ad in the Sunday New York Times urging "liberal" and "normal" Catholics to leave the Church over its opposition to contraception. The Freedom from Religion Foundation's ad, which ran under the headline "It's Time to Quit the Catholic Church," asked: "Will it be reproductive freedom, or back to the Dark Ages? Do you choose women and their rights, or Bishops and their wrongs? Whose side are you on?" The ad blamed the Church for causing misery, poverty, unwanted pregnancies and deaths, and it criticized Church leaders for protecting pedophiles.

UNWELCOME AT WANG'S

The Illinois Department of Human Rights is investigating a complaint that Wang's, a gay bar in Chicago's Boystown neighborhood, is not welcoming to women. The complaint stems from a "Men Only After 11

p.m." message posted on a menu board and statements from some women – including posts on Yelp – that they have been refused service. The state is looking into the complaint since the Illinois Human Rights Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in public accommodations, including bars.

SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE

After spending more than \$100 million publicizing the rapture through billboards and broadcasts on his Oakland, Calif.-based Family Radio International, doomsday preacher Harold Camping admitted his prediction was something of a hoax. Camping, 90, apologized to his followers in an open letter that acknowledged he had "no new evidence" for his apocalyptic claims.

GUN EQUALITY

The Missouri House passed a bill that would add gun owners to the list of groups that are specifically protected from discrimi-

nation in the state. The move outraged equality supporters, because there's no legal recourse in Missouri for LGBT people who are targeted for discrimination.

OLYMPIC ORIENTATION

Organizers of this summer's Olympics in London led volunteers through a multiple-choice quiz on dealing with sensitive situations. About 70,000 people attended the training sessions and took a quiz that included questions such as, how does one respond to a complaint from a spectator made uncomfortable by two men holding hands? A) Tell him "stop being a homophobic idiot." B) "Politely ask the couple to stop holding hands." C) "You explain that there is a huge diversity of people at the London 2012 Games, which includes gay, lesbian and bisexual individuals and couples." And the answer is?

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SALE & REPAIR OF ALL JEWELRY & WATCHES

Dems fight to take Dane Co. seats

By Louis Weisberg
Staff writer

Progressives are closely watching three Dane County Board races in which political newcomers are challenging right-wing incumbents.

Conservatives control only 14 seats on the board, while progressives hold 23. But despite their minority status, conservatives have succeeded at mustering the 10 votes necessary to block borrowing initiatives that have jeopardized the county's ability to make road improvements, purchase vehicles and 911 equipment, manage land conservation projects and operate other vital programs and services.

"They've been able to use procedural tricks to hold up funding for very important projects," says Dane County Democratic Party chair Michael Basford. "Just like the U.S. Senate, a small minority on the county board can grind things to a halt."

Democrats believe the anti-Republican backlash against Gov. Scott Walker will help them eliminate the board's conservative bloc on April 3. Basford

says that during his 25 years in county politics, "I've never seen this amount of excitement and interest among activists on our side."

But Republicans will be drawn to the polls on April 3 to vote in a contentious presidential primary, while Democrats have no high-profile races on the ticket. Basford acknowledges the challenge but says the caliber of progressive candidates who've been inspired to run for the board this year is exceptional.

The county, which voted overwhelmingly Democratic in the 2008 presidential election and the 2010 U.S. Senate race, also has a new electoral map that favors Democrats, Basford adds.

Among this year's Democratic challengers is out candidate Susan Bailey, an IT project manager who's taking on Ronn Ferrell in District 15. Ferrell voted against domestic partner benefits for Dane County workers, against collective bargaining rights, against a voter's rights resolution and in favor of eliminating county funding for Planned Parenthood.

Bailey says Ferrell has won in the past — in 2010 by a margin of only 43 votes

— by misrepresenting his record and hiding behind the façade of a moderate.

"He's a very genial man, and when he goes out and talks to people, he tells them how moderate and independent he is," Bailey says. "But when you look at his vote straight down the line, he's strictly ... Tea Party."

"I want to see the district represented fairly," Bailey says. "I'm a constituent of his, and I don't feel like I've been represented. I don't feel like he's listened or paid attention to me. Ronn's values just don't match the values of the people in this district."

Ferrell is supported by the Republican Women of Dane County.

If Bailey wins, she will become one of only three out gay members of the 37-member Dane County board, joining supervisors Kyle Richman and Chuck Erickson. Madison, the county seat, ranks seventh among the nation's mid-size cities in the number of same-sex couples per 1,000 households, according to the 2010 Census.

In District 17, which includes the east side of Madison, equality ally Jeff



PHOTO: COURTESY

Jeff Pertl, right, speaks with a voter in Dane County's 17th District. Pertl hopes to unseat conservative Dane County Supervisor Don Imhoff on April 3.

Pertl hopes to unseat Don Imhoff, who's also backed by the Republican Woman of Dane County. Imhoff beat a progressive incumbent in 2010. Since joining the board, he's voted to delete already-budgeted county funding for Planned Parenthood and opposed a board resolution to file a "friend of the court" brief on behalf of the state's domestic partner registry law. He also voted "no" on a resolution to extend county contracts with union workers in order to keep their bargaining rights intact before Gov. Scott Walker's controversial union-busting bill took effect.

"Don is part of a conservative gang of 10 that's been hawkish on budget issues," Pertl says. "He's played politics with the debt. The debt really isn't our biggest challenge. We spend about 3.5 percent of the county budget servicing the debt. By contrast, Walker's budget spends five."

"This ... debt, debt, debt is something they use to scare people. But (a candidate) can be super progressive and still be really smart about the budget — and use it to serve more people."

Pertl has a master's degree in public policy from the University of California — Berkeley. He works as a policy advisor on education issues and serves as federal funds trustee for Tony Evers, the state's superintendent of public instruction.

Pertl managed out U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin's 2006 congressional campaign.

Emhoff is a real estate appraiser who had no political or public policy experience prior to his election to the county board.

The third race that's being closely watched by progressives is in District 32, which includes Verona, where progressive Erika Hotchkiss is challenging conservative Mike Willett.

Willett, who has the most right-wing voting record of the three supervisors, opposed Dane County domestic partner benefits and was the lead sponsor of the board's resolution to eliminate county funding for Planned Parenthood. He has opposed resolutions to support both voter's rights and union rights.

Hotchkiss is a small business owner and a mental health nurse.

Friess brings unwanted attention to Rice Lake

By Louis Weisberg
Staff writer

Foster Friess popped up on the public's radar recently when he offered his prescription for birth control to MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell: "Back in my days, they used Bayer aspirin for contraceptives," he said. "The gals put it between their knees, and it wasn't that costly."

The meaning, of course, was that if women held an aspirin between their legs, they would be unable to open them.

While Friess is just now getting his first turn in the public spotlight, the multi-millionaire has been on the radar of political types for some time. A self-described "born again" Christian, he's not only the biggest backer of anti-gay GOP presidential candidate Rick Santorum, but also one of Gov. Scott Walker's biggest backers. To date, Friess has donated \$104,600 to Walker's campaign to fight being recalled.

Although Friess, 71, now wears a cowboy hat, he's a native cheesehead. Born in Rice Lake, Wis., he attended UW-Madison before moving to the East Coast. He made his fortune after he and wife Lynn Friess founded the company Friess Associates. That company spawned the Brandywine Fund, named by Forbes magazine as one of the 1990s top mutual funds.

Friess spent many years on the East Coast before moving to Wyoming, where state taxes are cheaper.

Although he left Wisconsin decades ago, Friess continues to support his hometown. He is the principal donor of the Friess Family Community Campus at Rice Lake High School. The \$3.7-million complex includes football, baseball and softball fields, as well as a track.

LGBT activist and Rice Lake native Jason Rae, 25, said he's "disappointed that I come from a hometown where we have an athletic facility named after a man supporting one of the most discriminatory candidates for president that we've seen in

A \$3.7-million sports complex in Rice Lake is named for Friess.

a long time."

Rae said Rice Lake is evolving into a more tolerant place to live than it was when he was growing up.

"I think it's on its way to being a very tolerant place. It's a city that's made great progress, and people are concerned about how it's being portrayed now," in the wake of all the attention Friess is receiving.

Rice Lake is 97 percent white and has a median household income of \$32,808. Friess is estimated to be worth more than \$500 million.

In the same interview in

which he made his now-famous comment about the use of aspirin, Friess told Mitchell that a man recently approached him at his "country club" and said that Santorum is too extreme for opposing same-sex marriage.

Friess responded: "So I said to this guy, 'You know, through the beginning of time, not just the major religions but various African tribal people have said man is marrying a woman. At what point in your life did that suddenly become an extreme idea?' Well, obviously, he couldn't answer. So the whole idea of extremism, it's kind of a bizarre terminology for someone that believes marriage is between a man and a woman. Why is that extreme?"

In the past, Friess has blamed liberals for the 1999 school shootings at Columbine High School in Colorado.

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PHOTO: WEB

Lynn and Foster Friess

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Heated race unfolds in 14th Ald. District

Tony Zielinski is proud of record in 'new urbanism'

By Louis Weisberg
Staff writer

Ald. Tony Zielinski is bullish on his district, and he has reason to be. It's not only the fastest growing, but also one of the most dynamic — and gayest — areas of Milwaukee, if not the state. The 14th District's Bay View neighborhood is a model of urban revitalization.

Zielinski, who's represented the district on the Common Council for eight years, says his vision and leadership are behind the neighborhood's renaissance.

"I'm a strong proponent of the new urbanism," he says, explaining that his goal for the district is to create communities where people can live within walking distance of restaurants, stores, entertainment and jobs.

In his bid for a third term as alderman, Zielinski is touting the developments that he's helped bring to his district — development that he credits with helping to further his vision of walkable communities.

Zielinski says he's particularly proud of facilitating Alterra's decision to locate its consolidated wholesale bakery operation in the area.

He also touts Dwell Bay View, a 70-unit apartment building with street-level retail stores, currently under construction on the corner of South Kinnickinnic and Conway avenues.

Dwell's retail tenants will include Community Bark Dog Wash & Coffee Bar, which is opening its second location there. That enterprise is typical of the kind of innovative businesses that have proliferated in Bay View. Another example is Hamburger Mary's, 2130 S. Kinnickinnic. The alderman played a role in bringing the gay-owned company to open a franchise at the site of an abandoned Omega Burgers and Custard store.

But Zielinski says he envisions more for his district than trendy restaurants, bars and shops. He also wants his area to be a model for quality of life and environmental sustainability. Helping to facilitate the expansion of Sweetwater Organics, the city's largest urban farming project, is one of his most important achievements, Zielinski says. So is the task force he created to turn a Bay View bus shelter into a public art project, which will

help to solidify the neighborhood's reputation as a magnet for creative people, he adds.

"The shelter will be 35-feet high with mood lighting that's 100 percent powered with renewable energy," Zielinski says. "The business improvement district voted unanimously to pay for the costs of maintenance."

Despite his suave appearance and thick South Side accent, Zielinski is something of a wonk who enjoys discussing the details of his deals. He's also a committed equality supporter and a leader of progressive issues on the common council.

Zielinski earned a law degree from Marquette University and a Master of Business Administration from Cardinal Stritch.

Zielinski's supporters include numerous businesses in the district, as well as the Milwaukee Police Association, Milwaukee Professional Firefighters, Milwaukee County Deputy Sheriff's Association, United Auto Workers, Service Employees International Union and Milwaukee County Labor Council.

Zielinski dismisses his opponent's charge that he's a "career politician," saying his experience, which includes 12 years on the Milwaukee County Board, has made him a better leader.

"Every year that goes by I learn more and that helps me be a more effective legislator to get things done for my district," Zielinski says. "Experience is invaluable. That means I can do more for my constituents."

Pierce says he's a grassroots alternative to Zielinski

By Louis Weisberg
Staff writer

Jan Pierce is very clear about why he entered Milwaukee's 14th District aldermanic race: He doesn't like the way incumbent Tony Zielinski has run the office. In fact, he doesn't like Zielinski at all.

Pierce, a political newcomer, describes himself as a progressive grassroots candidate who reflects the style and values of the district, which includes the trendy and heavily gay Bay View neighborhood.

At the same time, he questions the current alderman's progressive credentials, alluding to statements Zielinski made during his years as a county supervisor (1988 to 2000).

As an attorney with Mawicke & Goisman, a Milwaukee business law firm, Pierce has represented clients who were at odds with Zielinski, particularly Blackbird Bar, 3007 S. Kinnickinnic Ave. Zielinski opposed granting the bar a patio liquor license, apparently setting off something of a neighborhood feud that seems to have played a key role in igniting this race.

Pierce charges Zielinski with using aldermanic privilege to reward his friends and supporters with liquor licenses, zoning variances and other bureaucratic spoils. He also accuses the alderman of focusing development in the 14th District around the intersection of South Kinnickinnic and Lincoln avenues while neglecting other areas.

"The real challenges are on the western end of the district," Pierce says.

"(There), we have more foreclosures, we have higher crime, more vacant store fronts and neighborhoods that are crying out for better coordination with city resources."

But one thing that Pierce and Zielinski have in common is their passion for the resurgent neighborhood of Bay View and its residents. Pierce first moved to the area in 2007. He's served on the board of the Bay View Neighborhood Association and the Victory Garden Initiative. He provides pro-bono legal counsel to area nonprofit groups, including the Brewcity Bruisers roller derby league.

"Jan Pierce is a person of rare integrity," Morales wrote in an endorsement that appears on his campaign website.

"He means what he says and he does what he commits to doing. He's smart, forthright, and hardworking. He also is an extraordinary relationship-builder. He's got great ideas to address our community's problems, but he knows that the best ideas only emerge when there is open dialogue and collaboration among all of the people involved."

He would encourage economic growth in the district by supporting artisan entrepreneurs rather than orchestrating large-scale projects involving real-estate developers, Pierce says. He says he would also work to

change how the community interacts with government by empowering the grassroots.

Pierce served for 10 years in the U.S. Army Reserves and earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Viterbo University before obtaining a J.D. from Marquette University Law School.

His donors include attorneys and some progressive Democrats, including out former school board member Jennifer Morales. Pierce says he's an across-the-board supporter of LGBT equality.

Generally, because of U.S. tax laws, health insurance coverage costs more for domestic partners than married couples. The firm, in a press statement, said that in order to address the "inequitable" situation, it had started providing a salary "gross up" to reimburse domestic partners employees.

"I am very proud of the firm's ongoing efforts



REGIONAL GAZE

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REGIONAL BRIEFS

LAW FIRM ENHANCES DOMESTIC PARTNER POLICY

A national law firm headquartered in Milwaukee has amended its domestic partnership policy to eliminate the additional costs that same-sex couples often face for health care insurance.

Quarles & Brady LLP, which employs 425 attorneys in Wisconsin, Illinois, Arizona, Florida and China, announced the policy change in early March.

to maintain an inclusive environment as it pertains to race, gender and sexual orientation," said partner George Marek. "That is the goal of our new policy and one that we feel is both necessary and fair."

Some University of Notre Dame students and faculty are renewing a push for protections for gays and lesbians on campus.

NOTRE DAME STUDENTS SEEK CAMPUS PROTECTIONS

A campus group released a video earlier in March called "It Needs to Get Better" that asks the school to add sexual orientation to its non-discrimination policy and recognize a gay-straight alliance, The South Bend Tribune reported.

FORMER IOWA JUSTICES WIN JFK COURAGE AWARD

Advocates say repeated requests for the changes to school policy have been turned down. They're calling their newest effort the "4 to 5 Movement," which they say is based on the estimate that about four of every five college-educated young adults in the U.S. currently support equal rights for all, regardless of sexual orientation.

KENNEDY PROFILE IN COURAGE AWARD

Former Iowa Chief Justice Marsha Ternus and Michael Streit were chosen, according to a news release, "in recognition of the political courage and judicial independence each demonstrated in setting aside popular opinion to uphold the basic freedoms and security guaranteed to all citizens under the Iowa constitution."

A 2012 Profile in Courage Award also goes to Robert Ford, the U.S. ambassador to Syria, for "bold and courageous diplomacy" that has "provided crucial support to Syrians struggling under the brutal regime of Syrian president Bashar al-Assad."

Caroline Kennedy will present the awards during

MAN CHARGED FOR GRABBING ACTIVIST'S SIGN

A man has been charged with assault after grabbing a sign held by an anti-gay demonstrator near a Traverse City, Mich., elementary school.

Matthew Todd Paulic was charged with a misdemeanor after a Feb. 15 confrontation with Bill Wiesner, who regularly brandishes his sign at various locations around town, the Traverse City Record-Eagle reported. The sign reads, "Truth Academy About Homosexuality."

RECLAIMERS RALLY IN WISCONSIN

Activists rallied outside the Wisconsin State Capitol on March 10, concluding the statewide Reclaim Wisconsin tour.

Activists protested Gov. Scott Walker's anti-worker agenda as they marked the first anniversary of legislation stripping public employee unions of bargaining rights.

Wisconsin AFL-CIO president Phil Neuenfeldt said, "This marks one more step toward re-establishing democracy in Wisconsin."

Cherry Knoll Elementary School approached Wiesner as he stood nearby. The parents were disturbed by the sign and wanted Wiesner to leave, the report said.

- Lisa Neff



Ald. Tony Zielinski.

PHOTO: COURTESY

ON THE BALLOT APRIL 3

Non-partisan race
Milwaukee's 14th Aldermanic District

Where?
Bay View and the neighborhoods immediately to the south and west.



14th District aldermanic candidate Jan Pierce.

PHOTO: COURTESY

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

GAY ARTS CENTER PRESENTS PRIDE RETROSPECTIVE

To celebrate its 25th anniversary, Milwaukee PrideFest presents "25 Years of Pride" fundraiser from 6 to 10 p.m. on March 30 at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second St.

The event includes a digital multimedia presentation featuring images from throughout the event's history. Attendees can tag themselves via Facebook in any featured images in which they appear.

The \$50 admission fee, which includes beer, wine and a voucher for the June event, benefits the 25th Annual PrideFest Celebration. To purchase tickets, go to 25.pridefest.com.

ORGANIZING UNDER WAY FOR DAY OF SILENCE

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network is working with its affiliates across the country to organize the national Day of Silence on April 20. For the event, participating students take a vow of silence to protest anti-LGBT harassment.



IMAGE: COURTESY GLSEN
The Day of Silence in U.S. schools is approaching.

On March 15, GLSEN rolled out its Day of Silence website at dayofsilence.org, where student activists and faculty advisers can find event-planning tips, images for social networks and other materials.

SAFE SCHOOLS GROUP PLANS CONFERENCE

The Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools hosts "Safe



Schools, Safe Communities: State Superintendent's Conference on LGBT Youth" on March 29, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the UW-Milwaukee Union.

The conference, sponsored by State Superintendent Tony Evers, involves a partnership with Diverse & Resilient, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and the UW-Milwaukee LGBT Resource Center.

The event focuses on best practices in schools to ensure that every child graduates.

FILM FEST ACCEPTING ENTRIES

Milwaukee Film is accepting

entries for its fourth annual festival, set for Sept. 27-Oct. 11.

The deadline for entries – in any genre – is June 15.

"The Milwaukee Film Festival is continuing its dedication to being filmmaker-friendly by offering free entry to all films this year," said MF executive Jonathan Jackson. "We want filmmakers to save their money for filmmaking. They should put that \$100 into their next film."

The festival also will feature a youth show for filmmakers 18 and younger.

For more, go to milwaukee-film.org.

– L.N.

'Voters are sick of it, sick of women's health being used in this way'

from page 1

apple a day and aspirin. "I'm here. I'm protesting," said Smith. "Do they really want to roll back our rights? Is this war?"

Smith, who says she engaged in activist politics through the Occupy movement, guessed the answer is yes, and she's not alone.

"I've been working in this field for 10 years," said Nicole Safar, public policy director for Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin. "This last year is nothing like I've ever seen."

FROM THE GOP ARSENAL

"Bang." Republican U.S. Rep. Roy Blunt proposed that an employer rather than a doctor should decide, based on the employer's religious convictions, what type of health care a woman can seek.

"Boom." Republican U.S. Rep. Darrell Issa convened an all-male panel to discuss contraceptive coverage and refused to hear the testimony of any women.

"Pow." Republican radio jockey Rush Limbaugh called a 30-year-old female law student a "slut" and a "prostitute" because she spoke in favor of birth control coverage in health care plans.

"Bash." Republican Gov. Rick Perry led the campaign to defund Planned Parenthood in the Lone Star State, forcing the closure of clinics that provide health services to low-income women.

"Blast." In one of the first flash points in the war, Virginia Republicans pushed a bill to require that women undergo a medically unnecessary procedure, a transvaginal ultrasound, before getting an abortion. The measure was amended to require an abdominal ultrasound instead and signed into law by Gov. Bob McDonnell.

The women health's organization NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia called that legislation "an unprecedented invasion of privacy and government intrusion into the doctors' offices and living rooms of Virginia women."

Skirmishes have occurred in each state that has had its presidential primary or caucus and in state capi-

tols approaching the end of sessions. The Guttmacher Institute, a health think tank, estimated that 430 abortion restrictions were introduced in legislatures this year, including measures in Wisconsin.

IN WISCONSIN

In the last two days of Wisconsin's regular session, lawmakers sent three controversial bills to Republican Gov. Scott Walker:

• AB 337 repeals the Healthy Youth Act that was enacted to provide medical information about how youths can protect themselves from sexually transmitted diseases and unintended pregnancy. The bill, backed by Pro-Life Wisconsin and Wisconsin Catholic Conference and opposed by PPAW, requires schools to teach abstinence as the only reliable way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

• AB 154 bans abortion coverage from insurance policies obtained through a health insurance exchange to be set up under the federal health care reform law starting in 2014. The legislation likely will result in private insurers eliminating coverage for abortion care in the state.

• AB 371 requires a doctor to give a woman a physical exam and be in the room with her when handing out drugs to induce an abortion. It also requires doctors to speak privately with women at least 24 hours before performing an abortion.

"These three bills, scheduled on the last day of our regular legislative session, do nothing to promote the fiscal or public health of the state of Wisconsin – which is where legislative efforts should be focused," said PPAW executive director Tanya Atkinson.

As the votes took place, Planned Parenthood protested in a "Mad as Hell" rally. "These are really unpopular policy decisions," said Safar, who estimated about 400 protesters turned out.

The demonstrators talked with Democratic lawmakers, but Safar said Republicans' response "has been like crickets."

A week before the Wisconsin rally, female senators in Georgia – all of them

Democrats – walked out of their chamber to protest Republican majority votes to prohibit state employee health benefits from covering legal abortions and to deny employees of religious institutions the right to insurance coverage for contraceptives.

Georgia state Sen. Nan Orrock said, "Women are on the bull's-eye target."

Women's rights advocates quickly organized a "Walk in My Shoes, Hear our Voice" march on the Capitol in Atlanta on March 12.

The Rev. Harry Knox, the interim director of the faith-based gay rights group Integrity, joined with his husband.

"My nieces and sisters and friends are under attack, and I'm determined to stand with them as they have stood with me through many a struggle," Knox said. "I've noticed many who say they are for 'limited government' really mean 'maximum government control' when it comes to women's bodies. I trust the women of Georgia and would not presume to make health decisions for them."

Mom Elsa Lewis also was among the hundreds who attended.

"I grew up Republican and voted Republican because

that's the way it's been in my family," Lewis said. "But I never realized this party would do this to women. I've got no problem voting Democrat."

Lewis predicted that there will be fallout this fall from the winter war.

In Wisconsin, Safar agreed. "I see there being consequences in the November election. These ideas are not popular with the voters and I think they are sick of it, sick of women's health being used in this way."

HER VOTE

The women's vote is crucial in the general election. There's general agreement that Barack Obama would not have won the White House without his 13-point edge among women over John McCain.

One new poll shows that the president's approval rating among women has risen 10 points since December. Another survey shows, in a race between Obama and Romney, women favoring the president 57 percent to 37 percent. The numbers are similar in a match between Obama and Santorum.

Given the poll numbers, some Republican Party officials want to transform the

ON THE COVER
Occupy Atlanta's Sara Amis, center, cheers with other protestors as she holds a sign, "Stop the War on Women!" during the "Walk in My Shoes, Hear Our Voice" protest March 12 at the state Capitol in Atlanta.

debate to one about religious liberties rather than women's rights – or just get to a focus on jobs and gasoline rather than birth control and vaginal exams.

But the Democratic Party is flooding the inboxes and mailboxes of its faithful with warnings about the GOP's war on women. "Enough is enough! The Republican War on Women must be stopped NOW," read an e-mail from Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee deputy executive director Jennifer Crider on March 15.

"The GOP's war on women has reached the danger zone, and I need your urgent help," read another from U.S. Sen. Patty Murray on March 14 on behalf of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

The same day, an e-mail from U.S. Rep. Diana DeGette, on behalf of the DCCC, said, "It's important that national Republicans and their allies like Rush Limbaugh are held accountable for their vile, outrageous, and unceasing attacks on women's health care."

At the same time, Obama campaign mailings went out to one million women and a nationwide Nurses for Obama effort debuted to usher in a "Women's Week of Action" at Obama for America field offices.

The Cleveland Democrat said, "The men in our lives, including members of the General Assembly, generously devote time to fundamental female reproductive issues – the least we can do is return the favor. It is crucial that we take the appropriate steps to shelter vulnerable men from the potential side effects of these drugs."

ROOM FOR RIDICULE

Meanwhile, at the state legislative level, some Democratic lawmakers fought legislative fire with legislative fire.

In Oklahoma, state Sen. Constance Johnson offered a handwritten "spilled semen" constitutional amendment that would declare it an act against unborn children for men to waste sperm.

"I am increasingly offended by state law trends that solely focus on the female's role in the reproductive process," Johnson said. "With Oklahoma's new,

never-before-experienced Republican majority, we are seeing enactment of more and more measures that adversely affect women and their rights to access safe medical procedures when making reproductive health care decisions."

In Illinois, openly lesbian state Rep. Kelly Cassidy introduced a bill to require that men watch a graphic video about Viagra's side effects before obtaining a prescription. The treatment for priapism, a possible side effect of Viagra use, isn't a pretty procedure, Cassidy told the press.

In Virginia, Sen. Janet Howell proposed a legislative amendment to require that men undergo a digital rectal exam and cardiac stress test before getting a prescription to treat erectile dysfunction.

And in Ohio, state Sen. Nina Turner introduced a bill to require men to undergo psychological counseling to verify that they have a medical reason for taking erectile dysfunction medications, such as Viagra, before they can obtain a prescription.

The Cleveland Democrat said, "The men in our lives, including members of the General Assembly, generously devote time to fundamental female reproductive issues – the least we can do is return the favor. It is crucial that we take the appropriate steps to shelter vulnerable men from the potential side effects of these drugs."

Right-wing leaders have complained that the Democratic women are mocking pro-life bills.

Activist Shannon, who supports the men's health measures as gender equity, said, "We got a lawmaker here in Georgia who's against abortion and thinks women should carry stillborn fetuses to term because he's seen cows and pigs do that. There's room for ridicule."

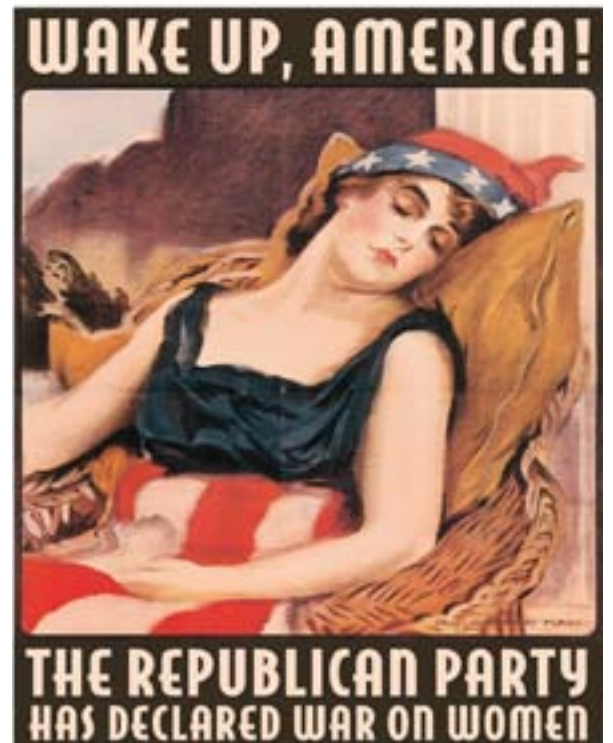


IMAGE: COURTESY POLITICAL LOUDMOUTH
A poster protesting the GOP war on women designed for PoliticalLoudmouth.com, which promotes sharing of art for "political party animals."

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ZIELINSKI EARNS ANOTHER TERM AS ALDERMAN

Ald. Tony Zielinski has earned a third term representing the 14th District, which includes the heavily gay neighborhood of Bay View. His record of achievement in the district is one that other aldermen in Milwaukee can only hope to emulate.

Zielinski's district is one of the most thriving in the city, with two multi-million dollar developments currently underway within a block of each other. He has an impressive list of developments that he's either coordinated or facilitated in the district, as well as a long list of endorsements from a range of local businesses, organizations and civic leaders.

Challenger Jan Pierce, an attorney, says the district is thriving despite and not because of Zielinski. But he can offer no evidence to support that claim. He also accuses Zielinski of an

authoritarian style of leadership that fails to take public input into account.

But whatever Zielinski's style might be, it's working for the overall benefit of his district's residents. In fact, we believe that he's demonstrated creative vision and bold leadership in his job, along with an undisputable commitment to his constituents.

It's not surprising that the alderman has ruffled some feathers, including Pierce's, in the course of performing his duties. It's impossible to please all of the people all of the time, particularly when handing out liquor licenses and zoning variances.

Pierce also challenges Zielinski's authenticity as a true progressive, pointing to statements the alderman made decades ago. But Zielinski has certainly acted as a progressive in recent years. He spearheaded resolutions to make Milwaukee the first major U.S. city to become a "Fair Trade" city

and to prohibit the city from purchasing items manufactured in sweatshops. He's embraced urban agricultural projects and promoted green energy projects.

Zielinski has also been a dependable equality supporter who's earned the endorsements of gay leaders and groups.

Pierce has waged an aggressive and unnecessarily negative campaign. He's a bright and earnest man with an obvious passion for his neighborhood and for public service. He has an impressive depth of knowledge about the machinations of local government and a commitment to fair play. When focused on the positive, his rhetoric is impressive.

But when aimed at his opponent, Pierce's rhetoric dissolves into a personal attack that undermines the qualities he has going for him.

DIMITRIJEVIC FOR COUNTY BOARD, FOURTH DISTRICT

Since becoming the youngest woman ever elected to public office in Milwaukee County eight years ago, Marina Dimitrijevic has developed a reputation for hard work and effective leadership that extends well beyond the Fourth District's boundaries. Readers of the Shepherd Express have named Dimitrijevic "best county supervisor" three years in a row, and she has emerged as a leading contender to serve as the board's next chair.

In fact, Dimitrijevic has been a model of responsible civic leadership. She's held 140 listening sessions with her constituents, energetically supported the major neighborhood groups in her district and authored legislation to make the county more energy efficient. By creating the County Legislative Information Center or CLIC, which provides online access

to board meetings, she's made county government more transparent.

Dimitrijevic is an enthusiastic equality supporter. She led the successful effort to extend employment benefits to the same-sex partners of county workers, and she's a frequent and welcome guest at LGBT community events. Equality Wisconsin and Fair Wisconsin have both recognized Dimitrijevic for her outstanding leadership.

So it's ironic that Bill Buresh, an out gay man, is challenging Dimitrijevic. The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund has endorsed Buresh in this race.

A political newcomer, Buresh presents a conservative alternative to the incumbent, espousing the "smaller government" line of thinking.

Like Dimitrijevic, Buresh was an early achiever. He bought his first apartment building at age 26 and now owns a successful car wash business in Bay View. He's

genuine, hard-working and likable.

But Buresh should have done more homework on the issues before taking on Dimitrijevic. At a Feb. 7 debate held at Humboldt Park School, her command of the facts and her compelling and detailed defense of her record left no doubt as to which candidate can best serve the residents of the county's Fourth District. (Video of the debate is available on YouTube.) In addition, her bicultural family and her fluency in Spanish are a great fit for the district's demographics.

The belief that well-intentioned citizens can parlay their success in the private sector into achievement in the public realm is questionable at best. For all the current prattle to the contrary, government is about much more than budgets. Local officials are required to work within a very complex bureaucracy and an often-

hobbling framework of laws in order to serve the varied needs of their constituents.

Dimitrijevic possesses an impressive depth of knowledge in this area as well as the requisite skills to navigate the system effectively. Rather than branding committed government workers like her as "career politicians," we should be grateful for their expertise.

TIM CARPENTER FOR MILWAUKEE TREASURER

The treasurer's office oversees primarily administrative functions, such as collecting property taxes and revenue from parking tickets. Many advocates for better government want to eliminate elected treasurers, because they believe comptrollers and other government offices could handle the related duties more efficiently — at both the local and state levels.

Eliminating the Milwaukee Treasurer would save taxpayers more than \$140,000 in salary plus many additional thousands in benefits.

In an unusual move, openly gay state Sen. Tim Carpenter plans to keep his Senate office if elected treasurer. He says he's running for the position with the ultimate goal of getting rid of it by delegating its functions to other

entities. He contends that with the current stalemate in Madison and the shift of political focus in the state to upcoming recall races, he can coordinate the dismantling of the office without having to resign his Senate seat.

Carpenter has also promised to reduce the treasurer's salary by 20 percent and to work to complete the elimination of the office before the next four-year term expires.

With more than two decades of distinguished service in both the Assembly and the Senate, Carpenter, says he has the experience to undertake such an enterprise. In addition to his government experience, Carpenter has a master's in public policy and administration from the University of Wisconsin-Madison's La Follette School.

If elected treasurer, Carpenter would become the first out gay person to win citywide office in Milwaukee. The time is long overdue to break that glass ceiling.

We agree with him that the office is an unnecessary relic from an era preceding electronic financial transactions and other technological improvements. In endorsing him, we take Carpenter at his word that he will work on an accelerated timetable to shut down the costly treas-



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{ Editorial }

Home-town acceptance

"We are everywhere" is a longstanding motto of the LGBT civil rights movement.

Two decades ago, it was printed on T-shirts, baseball caps and other items to assert that we've had a presence in all communities and at all times. Today the message remains critical, both for American society at large and for the countless LGBT people still living in isolation and fear.

The majority of people in the United States now seem to know that "we are everywhere." The last Gallup poll taken on the subject (2009) found that 58 percent of people in the United States — and more than 70 percent of liberals — had a gay or lesbian friend, relative or coworker.

Even in societies such as Russia and Iran, where public officials have sought to deny our existence, LGBT people have surfaced to claim their truth, despite facing grievous persecution.

As more people have emerged from the closet, "we are everywhere" has gone from being the claim of a marginalized minority to a social axiom.

One of the reasons it was necessary to emblazon "we are everywhere" on T-shirts was that LGBT people throughout history have migrated to large population centers where they could live in relative anonymity and meet others like themselves. People in small towns and rural areas believed we were rare or non-existent because LGBT people either fled those communities or stayed in the closet.

Happily, that situation is changing. In both the 2000 and 2010 Census, data showed same-sex couples living in every county of Wisconsin. In fact, 96 percent of all counties in the nation reported having at least one same-sex couple who were raising children.

But even though we've proven that we're everywhere, we are not treated the same everywhere — not by neighbors and not by the law. For this reason, recent developments in Wisconsin should be considered milestone achievements, even though they affect only a small number of people.

On March 20, the Manitowoc City Council voted to extend full spousal benefits to the registered same-sex partners of city workers. Manitowoc was spurred into action after the Racine City Council took the same action earlier in the month.

Last month, the Janesville City Council voted unanimously to extend up to three days of funeral and bereavement leave to city workers who lose their unmarried domestic partners, including same-sex partners. The proposal was as an incremental step toward ultimately allowing Janesville city workers to share their health benefits with their partners.

All of these moves toward equality show that our struggle for fairness is reaching smaller cities — the very places that LGBT people once felt they had to leave in order to live openly and without fear of persecution. These developments encourage hope that some day LGBT Wisconsinites won't have to leave their families and their roots in order to live in freedom.

Perhaps some day we will not only be everywhere but will be welcome everywhere as well.

BY THE NUMBERS

Freedom to Marry is campaigning for the Democratic National Platform, which will be adopted in early September, to include an endorsement of marriage equality for same-sex couples.

35,536

Citizens endorsed the Democrats Say 'I do' petition

25

U.S. senators endorsed the petition

5

U.S. reps endorsed the petition

2

State attorneys general endorsed the petition

1

Wisconsin politician (Russ Feingold) endorsed the petition

To join the campaign, go to www.freedomtomarry.org.

{ Feedback }

WARM WELCOME

Thank you for the warm welcome to Milwaukee. In the last 10 days I have met so many of you, and will be forever grateful for the support and kindness everyone has shown. I especially want to thank Cream City Foundation's board of directors for putting their trust in me to lead the foundation at this pivotal time in its history. I also want to thank Griselda Aldrete for her leadership during the past year, and for her personal support of me during this time of transition.

There are so many things that excite me about moving to Milwaukee. I am a Midwestern guy. I have lived in Michigan, Minnesota

and Illinois. I have been in Chicago for more than 20 years, and it was time for a move. Milwaukee is perfect. It's a Lake Michigan thing. I need to be able to walk along the lake to be grounded, as do my two Irish Setters.

As the foundation turns 30, it's a time to reflect on its history — to take note of the lessons learned, to celebrate our success and to plan for our future. To that end, we will begin a strategic planning process very soon.

Our completed strategic plan will guide our work. It will hold us accountable to our mission, to one another, to our donors, to our grantees and to our communities.

Together we will create

a shared vision and strategic plan for Cream City Foundation's future and for its support of Milwaukee's LGBT community.

The process and the outcomes will prove to be exciting, but even more exhilarating is putting our shared vision and strategic goals into action. Together — and only together — we will not just succeed, but we will flourish.

I hope all of you will join me at a community meet and greet on April 20 at the Urban Ecology Center. I am all ears and trying to learn all things Milwaukee as quickly as I am able.

Paul Fairchild,
Cream City Foundation
executive director

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CEO/PRINCIPAL
Leonard Sobczak

**PUBLISHER/
EDITOR IN CHIEF**
Louis Weisberg

NATIONAL NEWS EDITOR
Lisa Neff

GRAPHIC DESIGN
Maureen M. Kane

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Brody Hess

NATIONAL ADVERTISING
Rivendell Media, (212) 242-6863

ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
Gregg Shapiro

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER
Robert Wright

OFFICE ASSISTANT
Anita Gielow

CONTRIBUTORS
Adam Horwitz, Debra Brehmer, Jody Hirsh, Rick Karlin, Cory Liebmann, Jamakaya, Mike Muckian, Kat Murrell

ON THE RECORD

"Speaking of prostitutes, big oil's top call girl Sen. Inhofe wants to kill fuel economy backed by automakers, small biz, enviros, & consumers." — ROBERT KENNEDY JR. tweeting his disdain for Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla.

"Absolutely. And it was gay men who first really got me as an actress too. My life is kind of, I am Auntie Mame, let's just face it."

— WHITEFISH BAY HIGH SCHOOL ALUM KRISTEN JOHNSTON, who starred in TV's "Third Rock from the Sun," telling *The Advocate* about her affinity with the LGBT community.

"What this body has done is put protecting gun ownership above discriminating against somebody because of their sexual orientation, and I just don't think that's right."

— OUT MISSOURI STATE REP. MIKE COLONA commenting on a proposed law that would protect gun owners from discrimination. There is no law in the state protecting LGBT people from discrimination.

"One of my best friends growing up was gay. It's never been an issue for me. I think there was a time in my life ... that I wished every guy was gay because it meant more woman for me! I don't know what everyone's problem with it is. ... If I have to suffer through marriage why shouldn't they?"

— DONALD TRUMP JR., expressing an attitude toward equality that's very different from his famous father's.

"As far as Seamus the dog, look, all I would say is, the issues of character are important in this election, and we need to look at all of those issues and make a determination as to whether that's the kind of person you want to be president of the United States."

— GOP PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE RICK SANTORUM commenting on ABC's "This Week" about Mitt Romney's so-called "Crate-Gate" scandal. Thirty years ago Romney drove from Massachusetts to Canada with his terrified family dog Seamus in a crate strapped to the roof of his car.

"We have learned the very painful lesson that all of creation is in God's hands and he will end time in his time, not ours."

— DOOMSDAY PREACHER HAROLD CAMPING acknowledging that his predictions of the rapture in May 2011 and October 2011 were made without evidence.

"I don't think the message should be about what my sexuality is. It's the message that he's saying about sexuality that matters."

— TIMOTHY TROSS, who caused a stir when he kissed another man at a Rick Santorum rally in suburban Chicago.

"I will come to St. Petersburg to speak up for the gay community and to give strength and inspiration to anyone who is or feels oppressed. I'm a freedom fighter."

— MADONNA announcing she'll break a law against "promoting homosexuality" while touring Russia.

Stop the wrecking ball

A series of events in recent weeks have me wondering if some brakes are finally being applied to the wrecking ball unleashed by Gov. Scott Walker and the GOP-dominated Legislature.

Two judges have issued injunctions against the GOP's voter ID law, which is one of the most restrictive in the nation. The judges said the law would disproportionately affect those with the fewest resources to comply: the poor, the elderly and people with disabilities. It's worth Googling the decision by Dane County Judge Richard Niess, who issued a passionately worded defense of the state constitution's guarantee of the right to vote.

The Walker administration suffered another blow with the defeat of a mining bill that would have reduced environmental regulations and allowed Gogebic Taconite to dig an open pit iron mine atop a forested ridge in Iron and Ashland counties. The mine would have brought needed jobs but could have despoiled vegetation, soil and groundwater. One Republican senator, Dale Schultz, voted against

his party on the measure. The Wisconsin Judicial Commission filed ethics charges against Supreme Court Justice David Prosser for his manhandling of Justice Ann Walsh Bradley last year. Prosser, whose ill temper was legendary during his days in the Legislature, contends that the charges are politically motivated. That's a pretty cowardly excuse for a man who grabbed his fellow justice by the neck during an argument. Prosser is one of three conservative, corporate-funded justices who have faced ethics charges in recent years. Meanwhile, state Sen. Pam Galloway, a Republican who faced a recall election, abruptly announced her retirement due to family concerns. Galloway was facing a tough challenge from popular Democratic state Rep. Donna Seidel. Her departure leaves the Senate split 16-16, depriving the GOP of

Opinion
JAMAKAYA

History tends to move in fits and starts, from eras of progress through periods of reaction.

its majority — at least until a new senator is elected.

History tends to move in fits and starts, from eras of progress through periods of reaction. Idealists believe that the checks and balances built into our system ultimately curb the worst excesses. Policies that are too extreme on either end of the spectrum are gradually reversed or modified. So could that be the case now? Are we finally turning the corner to better times?

Not necessarily. Unless Walker is ousted this summer in the recall election, his administration is still expected to cut thousands of people from Medicaid. A new

set of restrictions on abortion and sex education will soon go into effect. And any slim hope of advancing high-speed rail in the state was quashed with the Senate's rejection of the long-planned train maintenance base in Milwaukee (an insane vote that will destroy existing jobs and waste a \$71 million investment).

The gutting of K-12 schools and the UW System portends the most disastrous consequences. It's a no-brainer that education spurs innovation and economic development. The growing economic power of China, India, Brazil and others is fueled by huge public investments in education and research. Yet here in Wisconsin, the Republican Party is dedicated to dismantling our once great public education system.

It may be true that history is cyclical and moves from progress to reaction and back again, but that movement is not some abstract process driven by mysterious forces. Change is driven by active and informed citizens, committed to improving their communities and the lives of their families.

Hate-mongers are not credible pundits

1) Farm subsidies are a satanic plot to destroy our seed.

2) Climate change will lead to bestiality.

3) If we take steps to reduce the use of trans-fats in restaurants, civilization goes down.

4) Those arguing to extend the payroll tax cuts are practicing to receive the mark of the beast.

These statements are obviously nonsense. Anyone espousing any of these ideas would be laughed out of any respectable newsroom in the country. And every one of them came right from the mouths of our nation's most frequently quoted anti-gay activists.

Substitute practically any other issue for LGBT equality, and the views of opponents look like fringe lunacy. But the mainstream media is banging down the door

Opinion
AARON MCQUADE

abuse alcoholism and even "jumping off a 10-story building."

The truth is, many newsrooms don't actually know the extent of the animosity that such activists hold toward the LGBT community. They're often careful not to say bizarre things in the mainstream media. But what they express on right-wing radio and in statements to their supporters shows how they really feel.

Most of the voices the mainstream media turns to for stories about LGBT issues are completely out of touch with the way everyday Americans view their LGBT friends, family, neighbors and co-workers. The result is an unbalanced story.

The Commentator Accountability Project contains facts that every journalist who covers LGBT issues should be familiar with,

but usually is not. It's the responsibility of journalists to inform their audiences about an issue. But it is also journalists' responsibility to fully inform themselves about the people they're calling on to provide opposition to the LGBT community and to relay that information to their readers, listeners or viewers.

We hope journalists make note of the histories and patterns of those speaking out against the LGBT community, and that the Commentator Accountability Project informs their work so that Americans will have a clearer picture of where these opponents are truly coming from.

Straight ally Aaron McQuade is GLAAD's director of news and field media. His team monitors the media and proactively shares stories of LGBT people and issues.

'Don't ask' rule introduced for HUD landlords

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has a new rule for the owners and managers of government-funded housing properties: Don't ask. The pro-gay policy bars property owners and managers receiving federal funds from asking about a housing applicant's sexual orientation

or gender identity, which in the past has led to discrimination against LGBT couples. Housing Secretary Shaun Donovan announced the rule had taken effect during a White House-sponsored conference on LGBT housing and homelessness in Detroit in March. The rule represents "a real demonstration of how important this issue is to

me, to the president, to the entire administration," Donovan said. "If you're denying HUD housing to people on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity - actual or perceived - you're discriminating," he continued. "You are breaking the law, and you will be held accountable." The secretary also announced plans for a five-

year study on LGBT housing discrimination to get "a clearer picture of the problem." The conference, held at Wayne State University, also put a spotlight on the plight of homeless LGBT youth, a population estimated at about 600,000 nationwide. "At a time in life when most young people are worried about which college they're going to go to, what

their first job might look like, or what opportunities might exist once they graduate from high school, thousands of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender teenagers are worried about something far more basic," Donovan said. "Where they might be able to sleep that night - and whether they'll be safe once they get there." The conference was one

in a series sponsored by the White House. The next, focusing on safe schools, took place on March 20 in Arlington, Texas, with remarks by U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and White House senior advisor Valerie Jarrett.

Contact Lisa Neff at lmnneff@wisconsin-gazette.com

LGBT groups recovering from economic decline

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

LGBT groups are recovering from the decline of 25 percent in revenues that coincided with the economic downturn of 2008-09, according to a new analysis. The Movement Advancement Project reports that funding for

LGBT organizations generally has stabilized, with revenues on the rise, but that the number of individual donors continues to decline. The report from the think tank showed a dip in individual donors and foundation contributions but an increase in corporate giving, bequests and in-kind support.

The report, examining funding for 40 LGBT groups in the United States, found that less than 3 percent of LGBT adults give to national LGBT groups. Meanwhile, marking its 30th anniversary, Funders for LGBTQ Issues recently published a look at philanthropy in the community from 1970

to 2010. The report details the role grant-making played in the equal rights fight over four decades. Funders president Karen Zelermyer observed, "To go from virtually nothing to just under \$100 million annually in four decades is hugely significant."

The report found:
• 799 U.S. foundations have invested more than \$771 million and nearly 36,000 grants in LGBTQ issues from 1970 to 2010.
• National organizations received the majority of LGBTQ funding - 44 percent - from 1970 to 2010.
• LGBTQ civil rights

received 20 percent. LGBTQ people of color projects and organizations received 9 percent of LGBTQ funding from 1970 to 2010. "We are marching from Selma to Montgomery in memory of Jimmy Lee Jackson, who gave his life so all Americans could vote, and to call on the Department of Justice to invalidate all strict voter ID laws so that all may continue to vote," said NAACP president Benjamin Todd Jealous. "We march in memory of the Rev. James Reeb, a white minister who gave his life to make America one, and against HB56 that threatens to tear us apart. We march because in 2011 and 2012, states have passed more laws to block more Americans from voting than

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Attacks on voting rights, extremism spread

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

Civil rights activists in March retraced the route of the 1965 voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., but their journey was more than a historical re-enactment of those bloody yesterdays. On the 47th anniversary of the Bloody Sunday March, activists were protesting the politics of today, demonstrating against the largest effort to suppress voting in the last 100 years and enactment of Alabama's anti-immigrant House Bill 56, described by some marchers as a racist, modern-day segregationist policy.

"We are marching from Selma to Montgomery in memory of Jimmy Lee Jackson, who gave his life so all Americans could vote, and to call on the Department of Justice to invalidate all strict voter ID laws so that all may continue to vote," said NAACP president Benjamin Todd Jealous. "We march in memory of the Rev. James Reeb, a white minister who gave his life to make America one, and against HB56 that threatens to tear us apart. We march because in 2011 and 2012, states have passed more laws to block more Americans from voting than

at any point since the Voting Rights Act was passed in 1965."

At the same time the six-day march was taking place in Alabama, the state's renowned Southern Poverty Law Center was reporting that radical right-wing extremism in the United States had grown to record levels.

"For many extremists, President Obama is the new symbol of all that's wrong with the country - the Kenyan president, the secret Muslim who is causing our country's decline," SPLC senior fellow Mark Potok said. "The election season's overheated political rhetoric is adding fuel to the fire. The more polarized the political scene, the more people at the extremes."

The most powerful growth came in the Patriot movement, made up of armed militias and other conspiracy-minded organizations that see the federal government as their primary enemy, according to the SPLC.

Patriot groups increased by 755 percent during the first three years of the Obama administration. Their number has now surpassed - by more than 400 groups - the previous all-time high set in 1996, when the first

wave of the militia movement peaked shortly after the Oklahoma City bombing that left 168 people dead.

The SPLC said that with the rise in extremist groups there has been a rash of domestic terrorism.

In Michigan, members of the Hutaree Militia are on trial for allegedly planning to murder a police officer and then attack the funeral with homemade bombs in an effort to spark a war.

In Georgia, four militia members are facing charges of conspiring to bomb federal buildings and attack four cities with the deadly ricin toxin.

In Alaska, four members of the Peacemakers Militia are accused of planning to murder judges and law enforcement officials as part of a plan to overthrow the federal government.

The hate groups listed in the SPLC report include neo-Nazis, white nationalists, neo-Confederates, racist skinheads, Klansmen and black separatists.

Other hate groups on the list target LGBT people, Muslims and immigrants, and some specialize in producing racist music or propaganda denying the Holocaust.

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PHOTO: COURTESY NAACP PHOTOS

Civil rights activists at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Alabama earlier this month. They demonstrated against attacks on voting rights, a surge in anti-immigrant legislation and explosive growth of radical right militias.

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New Jersey webcam spying case is a lesson in the cost of casual cruelties

From AP

A former Rutgers University student convicted in the webcam spying episode that ended in his gay roommate's suicide could be headed off to prison in a case experts say stands as a tragic lesson for young people about casual cruelties and unintended consequences in the Internet age.

Dharun Ravi was found guilty of all 15 charges against him, including invasion of privacy and anti-gay intimidation. The jury decided that he not only spied on Tyler Clementi and another man as they were kissing but also singled out Clementi because he was gay.

Ravi, 20, could get up to 10 years in prison by some estimates and could be deported to his native India, even though he has lived legally in the United States since he was a little boy.

The case stirred a national conversation about anti-gay bullying and teen suicide. It also illustrated the dangers of technology in the hands of people who have grown up with the likes of Twitter and Facebook.

Prosecutors said Ravi set up his webcam in his dorm room and watched Clementi kissing another man on Sept. 19, 2010, then tweeted about it and excitedly tried to catch Clementi in the act again two days later. A half-dozen students were believed to have seen the live video of the kissing; no video was taken in the second instance.

On Sept. 22, 2010, Clementi threw himself off the George Washington Bridge after posting one last status update on Facebook: "Jumping off the gw bridge, sorry."

At a courthouse news conference after the ver-

dict, Clementi's father Joe addressed college students and other young people, saying: "You're going to meet a lot of people in your life. Some of these people you may not like. Just because you don't like them doesn't mean you have to work against them."

Ravi shook his head faintly after hearing the verdict. He and his parents left the courthouse without comment, his father's arm around his shoulders.

His attorney Steven Altman issued a brief statement saying "everyone could rest assured that at the appropriate time an appeal will be filed."

Ravi's lawyers had argued at the trial that the college freshman was not motivated by any hostility toward gays and that his actions were just those of an immature "kid."

In letting the case go to



Dharun Ravi. PHOTO: WEB

trial, Ravi gambled and may have lost big. Months ago, he and his lawyers rejected a plea bargain that would have spared him from prison, and prosecutors would have even helped him avoid deportation.

The most serious charges — two counts of bias intimi-

nation based on sexual orientation — carry up to 10 years in prison each. But legal experts said the most Ravi would probably get at sentencing May 21 would be 10 years. The judge could also give him no prison time at all.

Prosecutors said they would consult with Clementi's family and the other man in the video — identified as only as M.B. — before recommending a sentence.

Ravi was also convicted of seven counts of covering up his actions by instructing a friend what to tell investigators and deleting tweets and text messages.

He was not charged with causing Clementi's death. And while the jury was told Clementi had taken his life, prosecutors did not argue directly that the spying led to his suicide.

Clementi's death was

one in a string of suicides by young gays around the country in September 2010. President Barack Obama commented on it, as did talk show host Ellen DeGeneres.

New Jersey lawmakers passed an anti-bullying law in the aftermath, and Rutgers changed its housing policies to allow people of the opposite sex to room together in an effort to make LGBT students feel more comfortable.

"The verdict today demonstrates that the jurors understood that bias crimes do not require physical weapons like a knife in one's hand," said Hayley Gorenberg, deputy legal director of the gay rights organization Lambda Legal.

Some of the jurors said that Ravi's tweets, especially one that "dared" friends to watch, were key evidence in convicting him of anti-gay intimidation.

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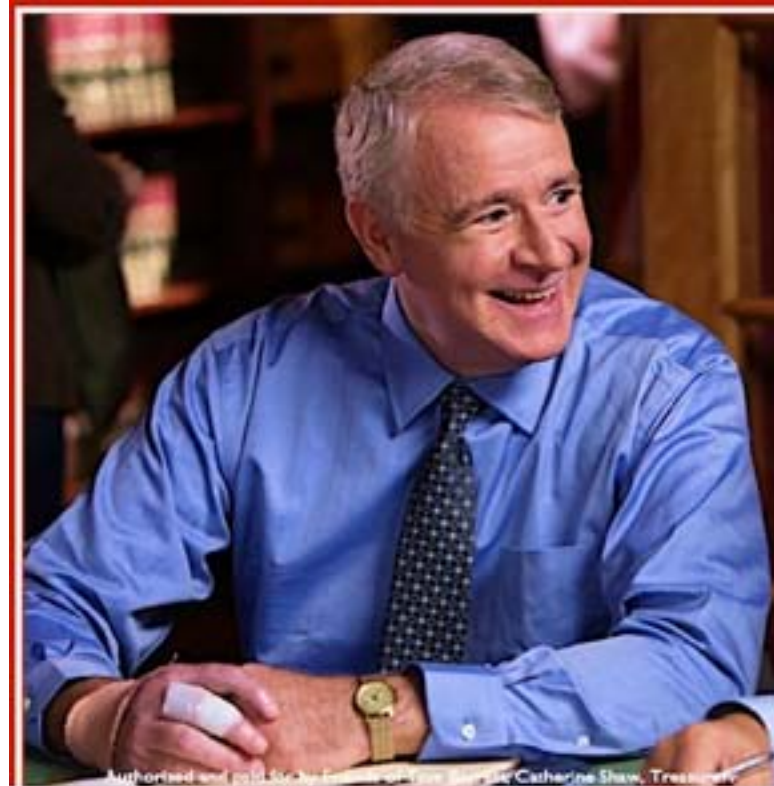
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NATIONAL GAZE

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NATIONAL BRIEFS

CONVENTION ADOPTS 'DIVERSITY CONTRACTING' POLICY

The Democratic National Convention Committee and the Charlotte, N.C., host committee recently adopted a policy stating that at least a third of convention dollars will be spent with minority businesses, women-owned businesses, disabled-owned businesses, LGBT-owned businesses and veteran-owned businesses.

DNC chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz, a U.S. representative from Florida, said, "Our party values economic inclusion and shared prosperity and I believe that this groundbreaking effort will increase opportunity for all."

Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx said, "Never before has a host committee or a convention committee dedicated the resources and effort to diversity contracting at the levels we see here."

CHURCH CUTS HOMELESS CHARITY FUNDING

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Sacramento, Calif., will no longer fund a homeless group because its director spoke in support of civil marriage for gays and abortion rights.

The diocese pulled an annual \$10,000 contribution from the nonprofit Francis House because the Rev. Faith Whitmore's statements clash

with Catholic teachings. Whitmore is a United Methodist minister who became head of the agency, the Charlotte, N.C., host committee recently adopted a policy stating that at least a third of convention dollars will be spent with minority businesses, women-owned businesses, disabled-owned businesses, LGBT-owned businesses and veteran-owned businesses.

She said her comments were made as an individual, not as head of the agency, and called the diocesan decision "surprising and disappointing."

MAN ACCUSED OF EXTORTING STUDENT

A Utah man is accused of trying to extort sexual favors and money from an engaged, male Brigham Young University student whom he met on Craigslist.

Brad Ray Adams, 36, faces one felony charge for attempted forcible sodomy and three misdemeanors. Police say the pair had consensual sex, but Adams then repeatedly demanded that the 21-year-old BYU student pay him hundreds of dollars and continue the relationship if he wanted to keep the previous encounter a secret.

Provo police say Adams repeatedly threatened the man that he would report their encounter to officials at BYU, where a strict honor code prohibits students from

having pre-marital sex. The school, which is owned by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, says it doesn't punish students for their sexual orientation but they cannot act on their same-sex attraction.

ALL-STARS AGAINST BULLYING

U.S. Health Secretary Kathleen Sebelius helped launch the Cartoon Network's anti-bullying campaign on March 14, joining network officials and educators of a Washington, D.C., middle school for the national premiere of the documentary "Stop Bullying: Speak Up."

The film features NBA



PHOTO: COURTESY NASCAR winner Trevor Bayne is among the sports celebrities appearing in the documentary "Stop Bullying: Speak Up."

all-star Chris Webber, BMX champ Matt Wilhelm and NASCAR drivers Trevor Bayne, Jeff Burton and Joey Logano. Meanwhile, star power got behind the campaign to change the "R" rating for "Bully," another feature-length documentary set for release this month.

The most active campaigner for the rating change is a Michigan teenager named Katy Butler, but higher-profile names include Meryl Streep, Justin Bieber, Johnny Depp, Ellen DeGeneres, Demi Lovato, New Orleans Saints Quarterback Drew Brees and 26 members of Congress.

GOP DISALLOWS GAY CANDIDATES

A South Carolina county GOP committee has a new set of rules for its candidates.

In Lauren County, Republicans on the ballot must oppose abortion, endorse the idea of balanced state and federal budgets, remain abstinent outside of marriage, be faithful to a spouse, not have a same-sex spouse, not look at pornography and take a "compassionate and moral approach to teen pregnancy."

Candidates, according to the county GOP, should sign the pledge to be placed on the ballot for the primary.

However, the state GOP said the rules are not enforceable.



State Sen. Nicole LeFavour, D, is running for Congress in Idaho.

LESBIAN CANDIDATE RUNNING FOR CONGRESS IN IDAHO

Out state Sen. Nicole LeFavour is running for the U.S. House of Representatives in Idaho's second congressional district. There are two other Democrats in the primary. The winner will face incumbent Republican Mike Simpson.

"This is a hard time in our nation and sadly I feel Congress is not doing all it could to set our economy right," LeFavour said. "Idaho families want to feel secure about retirement, about their jobs and the opportunities their children will have. I understand that so well. We have a job to do as a nation and we have no time for partisan struggles."

Students Rudolpho Tribulio and Anna Carmicheal told Colorado Spring's KRDO-TV that their yearbook adviser prohibited them from placing the picture of a lesbian couple holding hands on a page about high school relationships.

Tribulio told the station the adviser said, "You either cut the gay couple or I cut the page."

Tribulio and Carmicheal were dismissed from the staff after they refused to remove the photo. Two other students quit the yearbook in protest.

District spokeswoman Devra Ashby said the photo was one of three rejected for violating a policy against

DRAG PERFORMER SENTENCED FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING

A Georgia judge has sentenced a drag performer to at least 14 years in prison in connection with a human trafficking operation.

Judge David Emerson sentenced Christopher Thomas Lynch, who is known on stage as Pasha Nicole, to 30 years - with 14 years of the term to be served in prison.

Douglas County District Attorney's office spokesman Andrew Agan said Lynch pleaded guilty on March 7 to two counts of sexual exploitation of a child, one count of pimping a victim under the age of 18 and one count of pandering by compulsion.

Lynch's roommate, Steven Lemery, is charged with aggravated child molestation, human trafficking, child molestation, enticing a child for indecent purposes and pandering by compulsion.

STUDENTS PROTEST CENSORED LESBIAN YEARBOOK PHOTO

Four former members of Colorado's Palmer High School yearbook staff protested after a school adviser ordered them to eliminate a picture identifying a lesbian couple.

Students Rudolpho Tribulio and Anna Carmicheal told Colorado Spring's KRDO-TV that their yearbook adviser prohibited them from placing the picture of a lesbian couple holding hands on a page about high school relationships.

Tribulio told the station the adviser said, "You either cut the gay couple or I cut the page."

Tribulio and Carmicheal were dismissed from the staff after they refused to remove the photo. Two other students quit the yearbook in protest.

District spokeswoman Devra Ashby said the photo was one of three rejected for violating a policy against

"excessive displays of public affection."

She said the yearbook staff is replacing the relationship page with a diversity page.

LESBIAN T-SHIRT PROMPTS DRESS CODE DEBATE

A reprimand for wearing an "All the cool girls are lesbians" T-shirt generated debate among students and faculty at a Massachusetts high school.

The controversy took place at Lynn English High School, where a school committee was convened earlier in March to address an alleged dress code violation.

Committee chair Judith Flanagan said she received a letter from a student who was sitting in a cafeteria when she was told by a vice principal that she had to cover her T-shirt for the day and could not wear it again.

The student said she thought she was wronged. Kennedy agreed: "I did some legal research on this and I believe she is right. I don't believe the



PHOTO: COURTESY

A T-shirt prompted a reprimand - and extended discussion - at a Massachusetts high school.

school had the authority to ask her to cover it up." The dress code, according to the chair, prohibits wearing clothing that depicts weapons, drugs or alcohol, or anything considered disruptive. But it does not specify gender issues.

N.H. TO VOTE ON MARRIAGE REPEAL

New Hampshire lawmakers were expected to vote on a proposal to repeal the state's marriage equality law and re-enact the

civil unions law that existed in 2008 and 2009.

The vote was to take place as WiG went to press. Republican state Rep. David Bates introduced the measure, which would eliminate gay marriage on March 13, 2013, following a nonbinding referendum in November.

Bates said if voters endorsed marriage equality in the fall, then lawmakers would have time to stop the repeal from going forward.

- Lisa Neff

'There is real momentum' for equality

from page one

"It is definitely a very strong tool for communities to use," Belanger said. "With couples having the ability to go to their county clerk and register their relationships, the process is streamlined for cities' human resource departments. The qualification process is already set for them."

Belanger said the recent enactments of domestic partnership polices show "that there is real momentum around how these cities are investing in their future."

"We've got these amazing local leaders who are looking ahead and seeing that building an inclusive workplace is what they need to do to remain competitive - to bring people to their cities and hire the most talented workers," Belanger said.

Janesville was scheduled to take up a domestic partner benefit policy in February, but Ald. Yuri Rashkin, who was originally a



PHOTO: COURTESY

Janesville Ald. Sam Liebert.

sponsor, successfully moved to postpone consideration of the policy until May. That's when the city begins its budgeting process for the next fiscal year.

But the Janesville Common Council did vote unanimously to extend family funeral leave benefits to

city workers who lose a same-sex partner, an incremental move toward equality according to Belanger.

Janesville Ald. Sam Liebert is committed to moving the domestic partnership proposal forward," Belanger said.

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Activists call on airline to lift breed ban

From WiG

Thousands of petitioners are calling on United Airlines to lift its flight ban on nine canine breeds.

The airline adopted the ban from Continental when the two companies merged.

Under the policy, UA has the right to refuse flight to any animal that displays aggressive tendencies – a provision that is not being challenged.

But also under the Pet Safe Policy's Dangerous Dog Breed Restriction, United Airlines automatically bans from its flights pit bull terriers and American Staffordshire terriers, as well as the rarer Presa Canario, Pero de Presa Canario, Dogo Argentino, Cane Corso, Fila Brasileiro, Tosa and Ca de Bou.

The Chicago Tribune recently reported that one possible reason is that in 2002 a dog, said to be a pit

United is the only U.S. carrier that bans breeds based on their reputation.

bull, escaped from its carrier and chewed through electrical wiring on a plane.

United is the only U.S. carrier that bans breeds based on their reputation.

The petition, circulating on Change.org, states, "The Humane Society of the United States and the American Veterinary Medical Association oppose such breed-specific policies. A dog is an individual with his own unique personality and should be judged based on temperament, not on appear-

ance or breed."

The petition drive originated with Jessie Huart of Kailua, Hawaii, who tried to book a flight with her 10-year-old pit bull Slaw but was denied.

In Denver, the group Pit-A-Full is promoting the campaign.

"We neither endorse nor support businesses that discriminate against breeds of dogs based on appearance or public stigma," said member David Edelstein. "In our opinion, it is obvious that United Airlines was put in a position by ... small breed customers to take a stand on policy for transporting certain large, muscular, broad jawline type breeds. The vilified breed lost, while the all mighty dollar won, again."

As of March 17, the petition to United Airlines contained more than 32,000 signatures.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Pit bulls are among the breeds that have been banned from flight by United Airlines. A Change.org petition seeks to pressure the carrier to change its "profiling" policy and base restrictions on behavior rather than breeds.

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WISCONSIN GAZETTE ENTERTAINMENT

By Gregg Shapiro

Staff writer

Melissa Manchester's connection to the gay community is long and enduring. From her early days as a Harlette, one of Bette Midler's original backup singers, to her rise through the singer/songwriter ranks in the 1970s and her ascension to full-fledged diva-hood, Manchester has remained on our radar. "Playlist: The Very Best of Melissa Manchester" represents the various phases of Manchester's career.

Gregg Shapiro: How does your latest compilation compare to 1983's "Greatest Hits" and 1997's "Essence" discs?

Melissa Manchester: This is more of a musical journey. I wanted to include never-before-released duets. I wanted to pay tribute to my first band-mate Cooker LoPresti, with whom I sang "I Can't Get Started With You." I also wanted to include two songs that had been used in films within the last two years. I also wanted to include two songs that I wrote by myself, "Talking To Myself" and "Shine Like You Should."

"Come In From the Rain," from the "Playlist" and other discs, is one of your most covered songs. Are there versions, other than your own, for which you have a special fondness?

Barbara Cook's version is exquisite. Since she is my musical hero, I was honored to have her record that. As a songwriter, you yearn to have people record your songs.

You've made a name for yourself in movie music. What do you like about having a song associated with a movie?

Any time somebody asks me to write a song that captures a moment in a larger story, I'm your girl (laughs). In terms of "I Know Who I Am," the fact that Tyler Perry felt that that song somehow represented his story sort of revalidated my feeling.

You were one of the divas that gay teen Clarke idolized in "Dirty Girl." What does your long history of being idolized by the LGBT community mean to you?

It's something I don't take lightly. I really feel honored, because the gay community has always supported divas worth supporting. To say some of my best friends are ... (laughs) don't take that as trivializing anything.

I was raised around gay people, so it's not anything other than part of my everyday life. My father was a bassoonist at the Metropolitan Opera and my mother was one of the first women designers on Seventh Avenue. The gay community has been part of my home.

When I actually committed myself to an artistic life, which is also second nature to me, it was part of the journey. While historically the gay community has supported divas, I'm honored that in the world of disposable amusement that they have stood by me. I really appreciate that. I sang a couple of Christmas concerts with the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles this past December – you can go online and find the video that they made of me singing the song "A Mother and Father's Prayer" to support the It Gets Better campaign. These things need to be acknowledged and addressed. What I know for sure as I get deeper into my life and my career is that the currency of a song, while mostly it is disposable, on occasion can move a nation, change a mind, keep somebody from committing suicide, can give people a tool to hold onto to pass through a storm. I know that because that's what people have written to me. I don't take any of it for granted. I'm very grateful for the gift of being able to write songs and to share them.

What do you enjoy about performing in and writing for musical theater?

It's painting on a much larger canvas. When your songs are in the world of purpose, which is that each song is specifically constructed to help move a larger story forward, that's a fantastic muscle to use creatively. Because your assignment is so specific, if you miss the mark, you change the balance of the way you're telling the story. When you look at the masterpiece musicals – "Sweeney Todd," "My Fair Lady," "The King and I," "Carousel" – the precision and the concision of the scores is not an accident. Everything is precisely placed and creates these magnificent motifs for each character.

Do you have an all-time favorite musical?

I think "Sweeney Todd" is the masterpiece of my age.

Have you met Stephen Sondheim?

I actually was in "Sweeney Todd." I played beggar woman in the 25th anniversary (production) at the Ahmanson. Mr. Sondheim came backstage and

The evolution of Melissa Manchester



PHOTO: COURTESY

Melissa Manchester performs on May 19 at the Saugatuck Center in Michigan.

congratulated the cast, congratulated me, and I looked at him and I said, "Now this is serious fun." He gave me a sly wink and nodded his head as if I got it. It was magnificent. He came to see a musical I wrote called "I Sent a Letter to My Love," which played off-Broadway, and he wrote me a very lovely note. He's the master.

On your website in early February, you wrote that you are redirecting the royalties from your song "The Power of Ribbons" from the Susan G. Komen Foundation to Planned Parenthood.

When I was first starting to write, Carole

Sager and I found our songs underscoring the women's movement. They would use our songs on Ms. Magazine specials. When I wrote "The Power of Ribbons," it was inspired by my friend Nancy Colton, who was fighting a valiant fight. I just think Planned Parenthood has a more comprehensive, holistic approach to women's health issues. I think it is really cruel to withhold breast exams, mammograms and education from poor and underprivileged women.

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Musical looks at Ted Haggard scandal

Theater

JAY RATH

For years, evangelical pastor Ted Haggard preached against homosexuality and contributed to a climate of fear and intolerance in Colorado Springs, Colo. Then, in 2006, it was revealed that he'd bought sex and crystal methamphetamine from a male prostitute. Haggard almost immediately resigned from his New Life Church and entered counseling.

Sound like a good idea for musical theater?

"This Beautiful City," which follows the scandal, makes its Wisconsin debut on March 30 in Madison. The unusual but critically acclaimed script was created by The Civilians, a New York-based troupe founded in 2001 as an "investigative theater." Its members conducted hundreds of hours of interviews with

Colorado Springs residents to explore the community's perception of morality at the time the scandal erupted into national headlines.

"This Beautiful City" illuminates the thoughts of dozens of residents – conservative Christians, atheists, secular progressives, city employees and a Celtic Wiccan – all vying to describe the place of religion in their community.

When the play debuted in 2008, the New Yorker called it "Inspired! Vivid, empathetic and witty!" Variety called it "Wicked smart! Remarkable."

"It's an amazing script," agrees Tara Ayres, artistic director at StageQ, a Madison theater company devoted to gay- and lesbian-related productions.

"It's really moving, it's really interesting," she says. "And given what's going on politically in Wisconsin right now – the issues are so really, really similar – the play is really applicable to what's

going on here."

While one of the play's focuses is homosexuality, it's really about all forms of intolerance engendered by fundamentalism, Ayres says.

"What I love about this play is that it – it sort of has a point of view, and yet it doesn't make fun of, or marginalize, or is disrespectful of people that I'm pretty sure the playwrights disagreed with rather strongly," Ayres adds. "It would be pretty easy for the people on the left to just bash the people with these positions, but that doesn't happen in the play."

One of the characters is a Jewish career Air Force officer. He relates how his superiors advise new recruits to be evangelized. Another character is a young evangelical woman whose father is gay.

"She actually tried to organize a group of people to



Larry King interviews Ted Haggard, right, about the scandal.

PHOTO: COURTESY

talk about homosexuality in the church, because she was feeling so much struggle with the church's attitude," Ayres says. "She was really pretty homophobic herself, in really

believing it was sinful, inappropriate behavior, but she really loved her father, and she wanted to transform the dialogue from hate-filled to something more thoughtful."

The hatred documented in the script, meanwhile, has been a challenge for the Madison production's cast. Discussions about how to **HAGGARD** next page

'We are not here to mock'

from previous page

fairly represent the characters' points of view have been going on since the first rehearsal.

"Whether the characters in this play are battling demons, working for religious freedom, fighting for gay rights, falling from grace or trying to save your soul, we are approaching them with an open heart and an open mind," says director Laurie Attea.

Rather than judge or mock, she says, "We are here to present people, ideas and events. We hope to engage the audience in a way that makes them reflect on how we live in our own communities with people of different belief systems. As I learned through the process of working on this play, it isn't all black and white."

While the show is a musical, Ayres describes the score as organic.

"It's not an 'I'm bursting into song as I walk down

the street' kind of musical," she says. "There's a lot of music in that environment, in the places where they were conducting the interviews, whether it was in church or in coffee houses."

"This Beautiful City" plays at 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays and 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays March 30-April 14, with a 2 p.m. matinee on April 14.

On March 31, the cast will be joined for a talkback after the show by Scott Anderson, executive director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches; Annie Laurie Gaylor, co-president of the Madison-based Freedom from Religion Foundation; and others.

Talkback guests on April 7 include Jade River, co-founder of the Madison-based Re-Formed Congregation of the Goddess; Andrew Seidel, a constitutional consultant with Freedom from Religion; and Michael Weinstein, founder of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation. Weinstein was one of the people inter-

It's not an 'I'm bursting into song as I walk down the street' kind of musical.

viewed during the creation of the show and a character in the play is based on him.

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ON STAGE

"This Beautiful City" plays at the Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin St., Madison, March 30-April 14. Call 608-661-9696, ext. 3, or go to stageq.com.

Pro Arte concert debuts new piano quintet

Music

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

American composer William Bolcom believes an artist's role is to mirror society. Bolcom's Piano Quintet No. 2 – commissioned by the University of Wisconsin Pro Arte Quartet as the third of four works to help celebrate its 100th anniversary season – serves both a social and artistic purpose.

"It is a very broad and passionate piece, and very emotional," says Bolcom, a Pulitzer Prize- and Grammy Award-winning composer. "It's a kind of warning, even a lament perhaps, about what we've become in our lives today."

Bolcom's composition receives its world premiere performance by Madison's Pro Arte Quartet on March 24 at the Wisconsin Union Theater, located in the Memorial Union on the UW-Madison campus. The

8 p.m. concert, which also features UW-Madison associate professor of piano Christopher Taylor, is free and open to the public. No tickets are required.

The third of the centennial season's four concerts also includes Webern's Langsamer Satz, (Slow Movement); Darius Milhaud's String Quartet No. 7, Op. 87, (dedicated to and premiered by the Pro Arte in 1925) and Mozart's famous String Quintet in G minor, K. 516. The Mozart work features guest artist and violist Samuel Rhodes, who is a member of the famed Juilliard String Quartet.

Pro Arte's centennial year concludes April 21 with another free concert that includes the world premiere of John Harbison's String Quartet No. 5. Previous concerts included the premiere of Walter Mays' String Quartet No. 2 on Oct. 22 and Paul Schoenfield's Piano Quintet.

The Quatuor Pro Arte of Brussels, founded in 1911,

was performing at the Wisconsin Union Theater on the UW campus on May 10, 1940, when Belgium was occupied by Nazi forces. Three of the group's original four musicians instantly became war orphans. By October 1940, the group had officially become the UW Pro Arte Quartet, making it the first university ensemble-in-residence in the United States. That academic affiliation became a model for most other quartets.

Current musicians in Pro Arte, believed to be the world's oldest continuously performing string quartet, include violinists Suzanne Beia and David Perry, violist Sally Chisholm and cellist Parry Karp.

As a piano quintet, Bolcom's composition offers a fuller sound than a string quartet, which will help give his composition broader, more emotional appeal.

"The quintet made up of a piano and a string quartet has an almost orchestral feel, versus a trio of violin, cello

and piano, which has a whole other atmosphere," he says. "The piano quintets most emblematic of this are those by Schumann and Brahms. I'd like to invoke and evoke the expansive feelings those pieces exude."

Bolcom, named 2007 Composer of the Year by Musical America, is familiar with Pro Arte and, especially, with Taylor. Pairing the pianist with the quartet heightened the composer's enthusiasm about this commission.

"The Pro Arte is one of the icons of the string quartet world, and I'm thrilled to write for them," Bolcom says. "I've also known Christopher Taylor since he was a boy, so it has been a real delight to write this piece thinking of them in combination."

Taylor was age 10 when he first came in contact with Bolcom, who was a champion of the 1970s ragtime revival. The young pianist had learned some of Bolcom's piano rags and tried his hand at composing his own, sending them off to Bolcom. The



PHOTO: COURTESY

American composer William Bolcom was named 2007 Composer of the Year by Musical America.

older composer was encouraging and supportive, says Taylor, who looks forward to performing the new work. "My initial impression is that it's fairly stark in a lot of ways, but there also are passages that are lyrical and quite beautifully written," says Taylor. "It's a great piece and I hope I can be its advocate."

Both Taylor and Bolcom are confident the piano quintet marks a new step both

in the composer's storied career and for Pro Arte. Each has high hopes for the March 24 world premiere performance.

"I hope both the musicians and the audience will leave with the satisfaction that something emotionally right has happened for them," Bolcom says.

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PHOTO: COURTESY
Toby Allen.



Toby Allen explains Human Nature

By Gregg Shapiro
Staff writer

Sometimes it seems like you can't turn on your local PBS station without seeing the Australian vocal group Human Nature performing faithful renditions of songs from the Motown songbook. The quartet's latest release, "The Motown Record" (Ume) finds the dudes from down under teaming up with Smokey Robinson on "Get Ready," singing a cappella on "Ooo Baby Baby" and "Just My Imagination (Running Away With Me)." They apply their natural brand of humanity on classics such as "Stop! In the Name of Love," "Dancing in the Street" and "Reach Out I'll Be There" – among others.

I spoke with Toby Allen, the out gay member of Human Nature, earlier this year.

Gregg Shapiro: **Why the name "Human Nature"?**

Toby Allen: We were actually a vocal group singing together for a number of years before we changed our name. We were called The Four Trax, which was actually a nod to a lot of the Motown groups, such as The Four Tops. But when we were starting our recording career, we started thinking that people were really not going to get into a group called The Four Trax in this day and age. So we felt we had to change our name. We brainstormed, and we had pages and pages of names. I think there was human-something and something-nature. We were trying all sorts of different combi-

nations. It might've been Mike, I think, who suggested putting the two together. At first we thought it was probably a bit obvious, because it's such a well-used term, but then the more we lived with that we realized that it suited us. We were singing a cappella at the time, and it represented what we were about: Singing was our human nature.

Prior to recording your latest album of Motown hits, had you and your band mates ever been to Detroit, the Motor City?

We didn't before the first album. We've actually recorded three Motown records in Australia. There were so many songs to choose from. We did the first one and it ended up being the highest-selling album of that year in Australia. There were so many songs that we weren't able to fit on that first record that we did a second, and it was also very successful. So we decided to try and approach a third. We thought, 'Let's try doing duets with some of the original (Motown) artists.' The people we asked all said yes. Smokey Robinson, The Temptations, Martha Reeves, and Mary Wilson from the Supremes. We took a trip over to the states, and went to Detroit. Martha Reeves was our tour guide through Hitsville, which was very cool (laughs). She told us amazing stories about doing backing vocals for Marvin Gaye.

Why do you think the music of Motown endures in Australia?

The music was global. It was a huge hit all around the world. The music's intention was to be for everybody. That's what Smokey said to us about when he and Berry Gordy originally started Motown. They didn't want to make black music. They wanted to make music for everybody. It's written with such integrity and quality that it's bound to endure.

What's your all-time favorite Motown song?

It probably changes daily. But I think "Reach Out (I'll Be There)" is a classic Motown song. When it came time to do our first Motown record and we were thinking of songs to include, it was an obvious one. It's the very last song that we do in our show at the moment. It gets people on their feet, singing and doing the moves. It's so infectious.

I'm glad you mentioned "doing the moves," because I have to ask you if there are specific challenges to dancing in tuxedos?

(Laughs) Yes! It's probably not the ideal thing to wear. When we're wearing the tuxedos at the start of the show, we're also wearing ruffled shirts, so there's like an extra layer there as well. It gets pretty hot. But that was part of the appeal of Motown. They took such pride in their presentation and how they presented their music. One of their biggest aims was to perform for the Queen ... and they did. I think it was through doing the moves, and at the same time doing it

in a very stylish, well-manicured approach.

Human Nature has become quite popular with the American PBS – public television – audience. Why do you think that is?

It's because we went after it (laughs). We arrived in Vegas as complete unknowns ... and somebody suggested to us that we seriously consider getting onto PBS. We knew they were very supportive of the arts and supportive of new talent. The people from PBS came and saw our show and loved what we were doing. The music is such a great match for them and their audience, because they have such a broad audience and Motown has such broad appeal.

Is there a gay following for Human Nature?

Not so much here, at this point. I know back in Australia we had a gay following. We've done a number of things to support that. We performed at the huge party Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, back in 2000. From our pop days, we had quite a young female following. So we were used to screams and cheers. We came on stage at this (Mardi Gras) party, there was this mighty, manly roar. We performed "I'm Your Man." It was a lot of fun.

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**BREAKING NEWS
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Steven Brinberg is 'Simply Barbra'

By Michael Muckian

If Steven Brinberg ever has the chance to meet Barbra Streisand, the performer he's been impersonating for nearly 20 years, his first question for the superstar would be about Chinese food.

"Barbra grew up in Brooklyn and as a girl worked as a cashier in a Chinese restaurant," says Brinberg, a native of the nearby Riverdale section of the north Bronx. "She likes to eat, and I would want to know if she has ever found an old-fashioned chow mein parlor like the ones we probably both remember."

Brinberg will soon have the chance to explore some of Madison's Chinese restaurants when he brings "Simply Barbra" — his tribute show to the protean artist — to the main stage at the Overture Center for the Arts on March 30. Creating a stunning illusion with the use of costumes, mannerisms and impeccable vocal imitation, Brinberg will bring Streisand to life for a 75-minute tribute through the artist's greatest

hits and those that might have been.

"Barbra Streisand is an iconic figure in entertainment and has been for many years," Brinberg says. "If you're going to do a show about someone, she has to be fascinating."

Streisand, who turns 70 on April 24, has fascinated Brinberg since he launched his first "Barbra" show in 1993, just months before the legendary singer announced her comeback tour. Brinberg, who attended New York University and The New School, has always been good with voices. A brush with a karaoke machine, a cassette recorder and a sheaf of Streisand songs set him on his career trajectory.

"My father was always the nosy type and when he found a cassette tape with my name on it, he just plugged it in," Brinberg says. "He thought it was Streisand singing, and I thought, 'Maybe I could do this.'"

Brinberg is one of only two male Streisand imper-



PHOTO: MARK RUPP

Steven Brinberg.

sonators who does his own singing rather than lip-synching to Streisand recordings. "Hers is such a unique voice that it's hard to do properly," he says. "I want to do her justice because I am such a fan."

Brinberg doesn't break his Streisand character during his show, but he does do other voices. During the current tour, he performs "Alfie" and has Barbra imagine what other singers would do with the material. The results include measures sung by Lena Horne, Eartha Kitt and Cher.

"When I tour England I also do Julie Andrews because they love her so much there," he says. "I could probably do Cher better than I do Barbra, but her music is generally dance songs, and those are not something you can do standing there in a beautiful gown."

Some of Brinberg's most memorable moments have come from accompanying composer and pianist Marvin Hamlisch, who has also served as music director on some of the real Streisand's tours. Thanks to Hamlisch, who was impressed by Brinberg's CD of Streisand songs, the singer almost got to share the stage with his idol for a New Year's Eve performance.

"Marvin's idea was for Barbra to say something like, 'You know I'm so busy with two of me,' and then for me to come out in full costume and makeup," he says. Unfortunately, the performance was too far along in its production phase, and

singer Lauren Frost was already booked to portray a younger Streisand, so the idea was shelved.

However, Brinberg immediately went on to perform with Hamlisch in Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C., coming on as a surprise guest to sing "The Way We Were," "People" and "You Don't Bring Me Flowers." He's also performed on "The Rosie O'Donnell Show" and met more than his share of celebrities, including Liza Minelli, Alan Cummings, Michael Feinstein and Patricia Neal. He even stood in for Streisand when the singer couldn't make it to her friend Donna Karan's birthday party.

Brinberg's Madison show will include some numbers Streisand hasn't sung, including "I'll Never Say Goodbye" and "Make Someone Happy." Brinberg knows Streisand is listening, because she has recorded songs that he's performed as her. And he also knows that impersonating the singer has changed his life.

"Barbra says she's shy, but I think I'm more shy," he says. "Sometimes, when I get in a tough situation, I think 'What would Barbra do?' And that helps me out."

Having spent his career as "Simply Barbra" has never caused Brinberg any regrets, he says.

For an actor, I know there are three great roles to play," Brinberg says. "Hamlet, God and Barbra Streisand. I am very lucky."

ON STAGE

Singer Steven Brinberg performs "Simply Barbara" on March 30 at Madison's Overture Center for the Arts. For details, visit www.overturecenter.com. Use the code OUTREACH when you purchase the ticket, and \$5 will be automatically donated to the critical programs provided by Madison's OutReach Community Center.

Jackman in the future, Turkey in the past



JACKMAN TAKES ON ROBOTS IN RAUCOUS 'REAL STEEL'

"Real Steel," which is set a few unspecified years in the future, finds down-on-his-luck boxer Charlie (an occasionally shirtless Hugh Jackman) reduced to the county fair circuit. There he performs with his gigantic, fighting, RockEm, SockEm-style robot Ambush. But Charlie, who owes everyone money, gets deeper in debt when Ambush is gored by a bull in the ring.

To add insult to injury, Charlie's ex-girlfriend Caroline, the mother of his 11-year-old son Max (Dakota Goyo), has kicked the bucket, and he has to make an appearance at a custody hearing. Sensitive father figure that he is, he has no trouble handing Max over to Caroline's sister Deborah (Hope Davis) and her loaded hubby Marvin (James Rebhorn). For a sum.

While Debra and Marvin are off globe-trotting, Charlie temporarily looks after Max. The two virtual strangers bond over a series of mishaps and mayhem. Max turns out to be a quick study, not only when it comes to train-

ing fighting bots, but also in making friends (and enemies) and influencing people in the sordid world of robot boxing. He's also got some pretty smooth dance moves. Together, they're almost unstoppable.

This surprise box office blockbuster is as loud and violent as anything in Michael Bay's bag of tricks. After all, it is about boxing robots. The ending leaves plenty of room for a sequel — and with any luck it will feature a more shirtless Jackman. If you don't mind a mild ringing in your ears, there are probably worse ways to waste a couple of hours.

Bonus material on the two-disc Blu-ray/DVD combo pack includes bloopers, deleted and extended scenes, featurettes and much more.

'STEAM: THE TURKISH BATH' DISPLAYS EARLY TALENT OF FERZAN OZPETEK

Set in mid-1990s Turkey and Italy, "Steam: The Turkish Bath" is gay filmmaker Ferzan Ozpetek's full-length feature debut. It tells the story of Francesco (the hot Alessandro Gassman), who has inherited a hamam from his itinerant Aunt Anita. Francesco travels from Rome to Istanbul with the intention of selling the Turkish bath-

'Steam' is rather unsteamy. It's more a loveletter to Istanbul.

house, but once there he is smitten with the people, the culture and the bath. He also finds himself attracted to Mehmet (Mehmet Günsür), the son of the family who ran the baths for Anita.

The problem is that Francesco is married to Marta (Francesca d'Aloja). She's having an affair with Paolo (Alberto Molinari), and when she surprises Francesco with a visit in Istanbul, divorce papers in her purse, she is in for a surprise herself. For all of its sexual intrigue, "Steam" is rather unsteamy. It's more of a love letter to Istanbul, and the vaguely foreshadowed and violent ending feels a bit rushed.

Still, it's worth seeing, if only as an example of early work by an important gay filmmaker.

DVD special features include an Ozpetek interview, a 20-minute doc about the film, the original trailer and much more.



PHOTO: COURTESY

From "Steam: The Turkish Bath."

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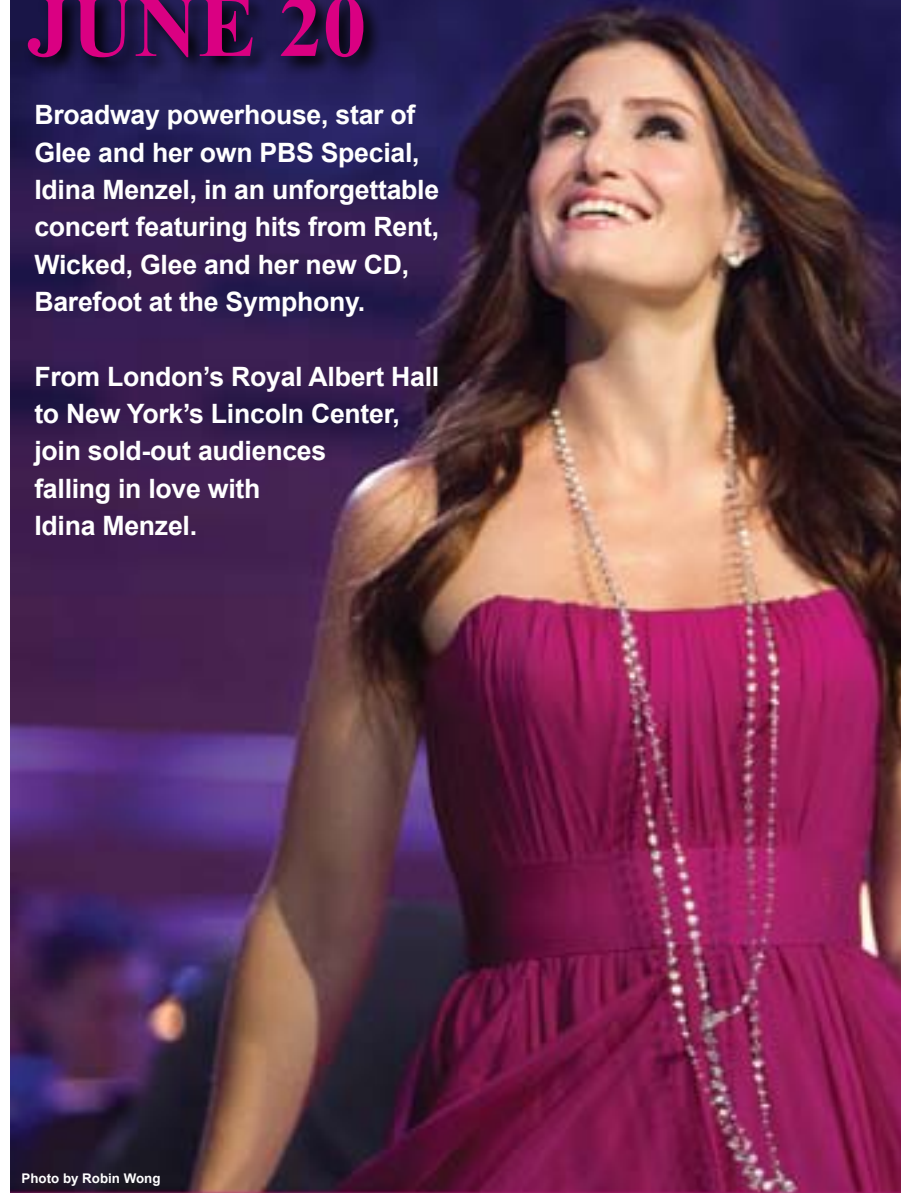


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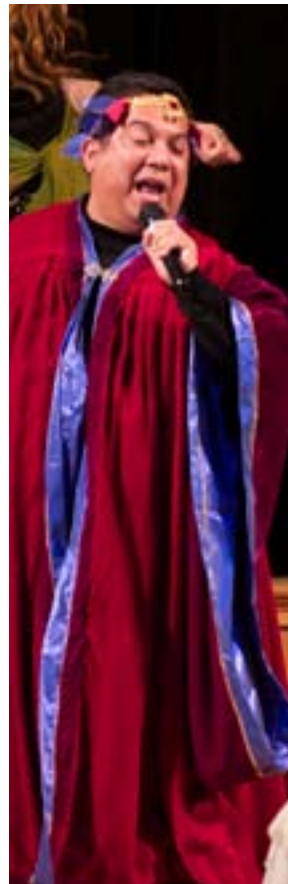
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Theater

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

In mounting its concert version of "Jesus Christ Superstar" later this month, In Tandem Theatre Company is seeking economic salvation. That's what the Milwaukee theater troupe received in 2010, when it staged a successful fundraiser using the same material.

In Tandem cleared \$11,500 after expenses from the 2010 show, enough to cover more than two-thirds of the cost to replace the ceiling in its 99-seat theater, located in the lower level of Calvary Church, 935 W. Wisconsin Ave.

PHOTO: COURTESY
From In Tandem's 2010 concert production of "Superstar."

From this year's performances on March 30 and April 1 – Palm Sunday – the troupe hopes to net an additional \$10,000 to support

its operating fund, according to managing director Jane Flieller. Revenue from tickets simply can't cover all the costs of producing live theater and running the organization's administrative aspects, she says.

In Tandem is presenting Lloyd Webber's work, which began as a 1969 concept album based loosely on the last seven days in the life of Christ, in Calvary Church's 300-seat sanctuary. The location, timing and subject seem especially appropriate for the Easter season, Flieller says.

"The concert version of 'Jesus Christ Superstar' is the only project we've done in the church sanctuary," she says. "For a fundraiser like this, it's advantageous to have more seats and great acoustics. JCS is a natural fit."

This year's production, under the musical direction of David Bonofiglio, will include returning cast mem-

bers Ryan Charles (Jesus), Alison Mary Forbes (Mary Magdalene), David Flores (Herod) and Matt Daniels (Caiaphas). In Tandem artistic director Chris Flieller will perform the role of Pilate and James Jones will appear as Judas Iscariot.

The troupe is counting on the show's familiarity and its innate seasonal appeal to draw strong crowds. Composer Andrew Lloyd Webber's increased popularity since writing the music also has awakened renewed interest in what is one of his earliest efforts in collaboration with lyricist Tim Rice. A revival is playing on Broadway.

"Jesus Christ Superstar" is one of the most beloved and recognized musicals ever written, and certainly one of the best rock operas," Flieller says. "The cast of singers and musicians love the musical so much that they are donat-

ing their time and talents in support of this fundraiser for us."

In Tandem had hoped for a replay of this 2010 fundraiser last year. But rights to the show had been put on hold and were only recently released.

Some staging is involved in the concert performances, and there will be costumes and lighting effects as well.

However, there will be minimal movement and the chorus will perform "on book," meaning they will read from musical scores. The principals will not use scores.

"Some shows are better than others for this format," Flieller says. "Standards like 'The Music Man' and 'The Sound of Music' can be done and enjoyed because everyone knows the music. 'The Rocky Horror Show,' which we bantered about as a possibility, didn't seem like a good choice, because it is

such a visual show and half the fun comes from audience interaction.

"We hope folks will come down and enjoy some terrific music in this beautiful setting, and at the same time help raise money to support In Tandem's artistic programming."

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ON STAGE

In Tandem Theatre Company presents a concert production of "Jesus Christ Superstar" at Milwaukee's Calvary Church, 935 W. Wisconsin Ave., on March 30 at 8 p.m. and April 1 at 2 p.m. For more information, go to www.intandemtheatre.org.

An uneven spring dance party

Music

GREGG SHAPIRO



The Naked and Famous plays Turner Hall Ballroom in Milwaukee on April 13.

LADY GAGA

As if to improve on imperfection, the 14-track "Born This Way: The Remix" serves up remixes of nine tired tunes from "Born This Way," with a few songs appearing twice. There's also the "BTW" bonus cut "Black Jesus/Amen Fashion." Some of the remixes do what remixers do best – inflate and expand on the original versions. That's the case with Foster The People's remix of "The Edge of Glory," the Guena LG Club Remix of "Scheiße," Gregori Klosman's remix of "Americano" and Twin Shadow's remix of "Born This Way." But the cracks begin to show when the songs are slowed or stripped down. Those of us still waiting to see what Lady Gaga's really made of probably have a long wait ahead.

FOSTER THE PEOPLE

Foster The People provided the real dance music delight of 2011. Straight white dudes with a knack for delirious dance numbers, the trio caused a stir at Lollapalooza and on "Saturday Night Live." Their aptly titled hot debut "Torches" is the kind of disc you throw on at a party to get the guests off their asses. "Pumped Up Kicks" lives up to its name. In spite of its guns-and-bullets theme, it's an infectious track. "Call It What You Want" brings on the joyful funk. "Houdini" is inescapable. "Warrant" is arresting and "Life on the Nickel" is sure to have listeners shaking their moneymakers.

DAVID GUETTA

David Guetta's 2009 "One Love" disc (and its subsequent remix reissue "One More Love") provided the French dance master with the mainstream crossover audience that he craved. The

disc was notable for a pair of tracks with vocals by out singer Chris Willis. Guetta's dismal follow-up "Nothing But the Beat" sounds like the soundtrack to a night out at the sleaziest strip club in town. It should come with its own STD testing kit. Class acts such as Chris Brown and will.i.am are among the male-dominated headliners. Tracks by Jennifer Hudson ("Night of your Life") and Sia ("Titanium") are buried in the rubble.

NATALIA KILLS

Speaking of Natalia Kills, the poor girl sounds like she's trying to find a ray of (spot)light peaking through the massive shadow cast by Lady Gaga on her debut disc "Perfectionist." But if Natalia (Keery-Fisher) really was a perfectionist, would she need that ubiquitous professional interloper (and label-head) will.i.am on the disc's title song "Free"? The answer is no, because the song works best when he's nowhere near it. The ultimate insult is the Lady Gaga rip-off "Mirrors." Are there really no original ideas left in the world of dance music?

KATY B

Yes, of course, there are original ideas in dance music. Take Katy B's "On A Mission," for example. With nary a trace of will.i.am or Frankmusik, this young, UK dubstep diva's album will move your feet. Whether it's straightforward dance

cuts such as "Power On Me," "Witches' Brew" and "Movement" or dubstep-specific numbers such as "Katy on a Mission," "Lights On" and (the fittingly repetitive) "Broken Record," Katy B accomplishes her mission.

THE NAKED AND FAMOUS

"Passive Me, Aggressive You," the full-length domestic debut disc by New Zealand's The Naked and Famous, mixes club-style dance tracks such as "Punching in a Dream" and "Girls Like You" with dance rock numbers such as "Young Blood," "All of This" and "Spank." There's also an '80s pop homage ("Eyes") and some respectable experimentation ("The Sun").

IVY

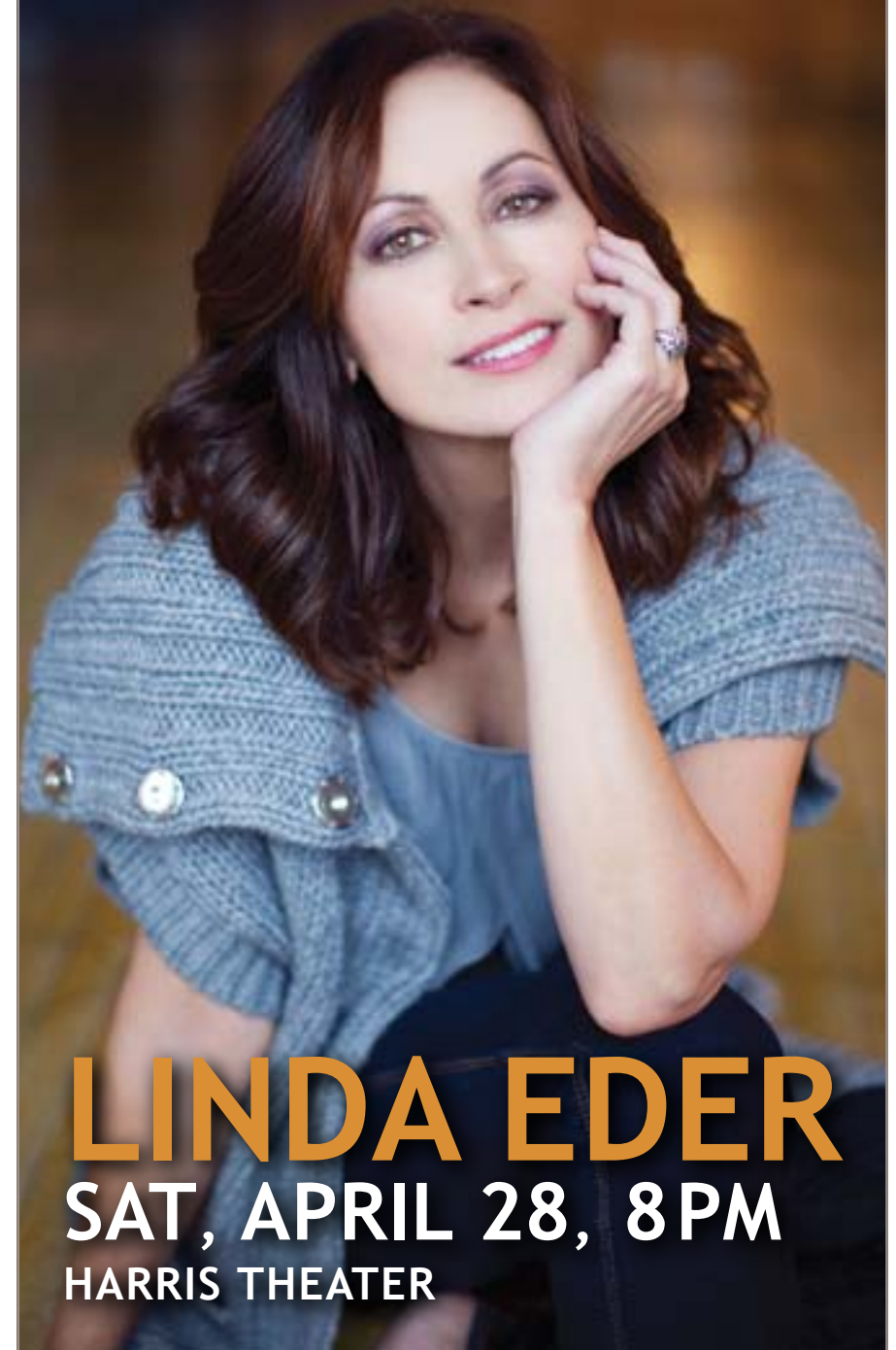
Before he cofounded Fountains of Wayne, Adam Schlesinger had already logged time as one-third of the trio Ivy. Ivy's first half-dozen discs, with vocals by French chanteuse Dominique Durand, were pop pastries – sweet, sticky and easy to digest. On "All Hours," Ivy takes an unexpected turn in the dance direction. It's a nice fit. Durand transforms herself into a sort of disconnected disco diva on songs such as "World Without You," "Distant Lights," "How's Never" and "She Really Got To You."

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OutReach is Madison and SC Wisconsin's LGBT Community Center. www.lgbtoutreach.org



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MARCH 22, THURSDAY

Soulstice Theatre, 3770 S. Pennsylvania, Suite 2, in St. Francis, presents the regional premiere of Adam Rapp's "Nocturne" through March 24.

Skylight Music Theatre presents "Daddy Long Legs," through April 1 in the Cabot Theatre at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

In Tandem Theatre presents "The Chosen," adapted for stage from Chaim Potok's classic novel and winner of the Barrymore Award for Outstanding New Play, through March 25 at the Tenth Street Theatre, 628 N. 10th St. Call 414-271-1371.

MARCH 23, FRIDAY

The Florentine Opera Studio Artists perform their acclaimed revue of American operas in their program "America's Songbook" at 7:30 p.m. at the South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center, 901 15th St. in South Milwaukee. Call 414-766-5049.

Sarah Ruhl's "In the Next Room or the vibrator play" runs through April 22 in the Stiemke Studio at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.

The Midwest premiere of Irish playwright Conor McPherson's "This Lime Tree Bower" runs through April 1 at Boulevard Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic. Call 414-744-5747.

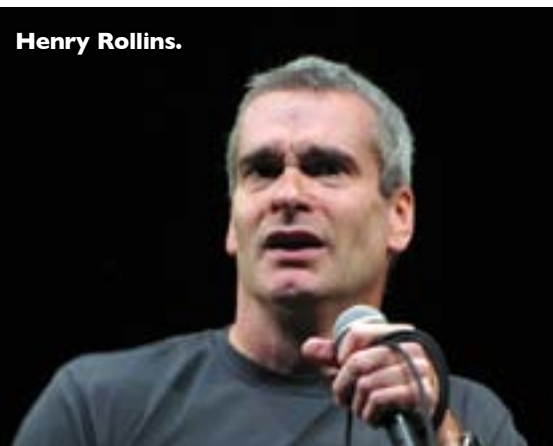
Renaissance Theaterworks concludes its 19th season with "Honour," which plays through April 15 in the Studio Theatre at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave. in Appleton, presents "Stomp," through March 25. Call 920-730-3760.

"Pedro and the War Cantata" runs tonight, tomorrow night and March 31 at 7:30 p.m. at the Hemsley Theatre, 821 University in Madison. Call 608-265-2787.

Eileen Ivers, called "the Jimi Hendrix of the violin" by The New York Times, performs tonight in Uihlein Hall at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.

Longtime friend of the LGBT community, punk rock poet and musician Henry Rollins performs at 7 p.m. at Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth. Call 414-286-3663.



Henry Rollins.

MARCH 24, SATURDAY

"Always ... Patsy Cline" runs through May 6 in the Stackner Cabaret at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.

The Chicago-based comedy group Second City brings its "Laugh Out Loud Tour," which includes sketch comedy and improv to the Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State in Madison, at 8 p.m. Call 608-258-4141.

Perennial favorite ComedySportz comes to The Racine Theatre



Guild, 2519 Northwestern (Highway 38) in Racine, at 8 p.m. Call 262-633-4218.

Rosie Thomas performs at 8 p.m. at The Sett, Union South, University of Wisconsin in Madison, 1308 W. Dayton.

MARCH 25, SUNDAY

Festival City Symphony presents "Give Me That Country Life" at 3 p.m. at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells. Call 414-286-3663.

Theatre MXT presents "Success" through April 1 at Next Act Theatre, 255 S. Water. Call 414-278-7780.

Filmmaker Kevin Smith, director of the lesbian-themed flick "Chasing Amy," speaks at 6:30 p.m. at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells. Call 414-286-3663.



Hunx and His Punx.

MARCH 28, WEDNESDAY

Queer band Hunx and His Punx performs at 9 p.m. at Cactus Club, 2496 S. Wentworth. Call 414-897-0663.

Cotter Smith appears as Al McGuire in "Coach: The Untold Story of College Basketball Legend Al McGuire," through March 29 at Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.

The Hotel Foster, 2028 E. North, presents Juniper Tar's "First Waltz" with special guest John Sieger (Semi-Twang) at 8 p.m.

MARCH 29, THURSDAY

Chamber Music Milwaukee presents the American Brass Quintet at 8 p.m. in the Helen Bader Concert Hall in the Helene Zelazo Center of the Performing Arts, 2419 E. Kenwood. Call 414-229-4308.

High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, welcomes Gardens & Villa with Fanfarlo at 8 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

Kevin Horrigan and Bill Sargent's REALLY Big Band performs at 7 p.m. at The Racine Theatre Guild, 2519 Northwestern (Highway 38) in Racine. Call 262-633-4218.

UWM Mitchell Hall, Rm B70, 3203 N. Downer, presents the Milwaukee premiere of the documentary "Precious Knowledge," which explores recent efforts in Tucson, Ariz., to put an end to ethnic studies in the public school curriculum, at 7:30 p.m. Filmmaker/director Eren Isabella McGinnis is scheduled to attend.

MARCH 30, FRIDAY

StageQ presents "This Beautiful City," a "docu-musical" about the residents of Colorado Springs, through April 14 at Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin in Madison. Call 608-204-0280.

Cactus Club, 2496 S. Wentworth, welcomes Oberhofer at 8 p.m. Call 414-897-0663.

In Tandem Theatre brings back its concert version of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's celebrated rock opera "Jesus Christ Superstar," tonight at 8 pm and April 1 at 2:00 p.m. The performance, staged at Calvary Presbyterian Church, 935 W. Wisconsin, will benefit the theatre company. For more information, visit www.intandemtheatre.org.

Boldt Arts Alive! Series presents "Cabaret" tonight and tomorrow night at 7 p.m. at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave. in Appleton. Call 920-730-3760.

New Directions presents the dark comedy "Mr. Marmalade" at 7:30 p.m. tonight and tomorrow night and 2 p.m. on April 1 at Kenilworth Square East, Studio 508, 1925 E Kenilworth Place. Call 414-229-4308.

Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State in Madison, presents "Simply Barbra: Live in Concert," starring Steven Brinberg, at 8 p.m. Proceeds from the event support the OutReach LGBT Community Center. Call 608-258-4141.

MARCH 31, SATURDAY

The LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin presents "Hat Tricks, Hot Licks and Bonnets on a Pole," an Easter bonnet eggstravaganza at 7 p.m. at Cooler Near the Lake, 506 56th St. in Kenosha. For info, visit www.lgbtsewis.org.

Helen Bader Concert Hall in the Helene Zelazo Center of the Performing Arts, 2419 E. Kenwood Boulevard, presents the Woody Herman Jazz Educational Workshop Concert, featuring the Milwaukee Jazz Orchestra, at 7:30 p.m. Call 414-229-4308.

APRIL 1, SUNDAY

Wisconsin Cream City Chorus, now in its final season, presents its 25th Anniversary concert "We Are One: Celebrating Diversity" at 3 p.m. in the Unitarian Universalist Church West/Playhouse, 13001 W. North in Brookfield. Visit creamcitychorus.org.

APRIL 4, WEDNESDAY

High Noon Saloon, 701A E. Washington in Madison, welcomes Reptar at 8:30 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

APRIL 5, THURSDAY

"Shrek The Musical" runs through April 8 at the Milwaukee Theatre, 500 W. Kilbourn. Call 414-566-1375.

Youth Lagoon performs at 7 p.m. at Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth. Call 414-286-3663.

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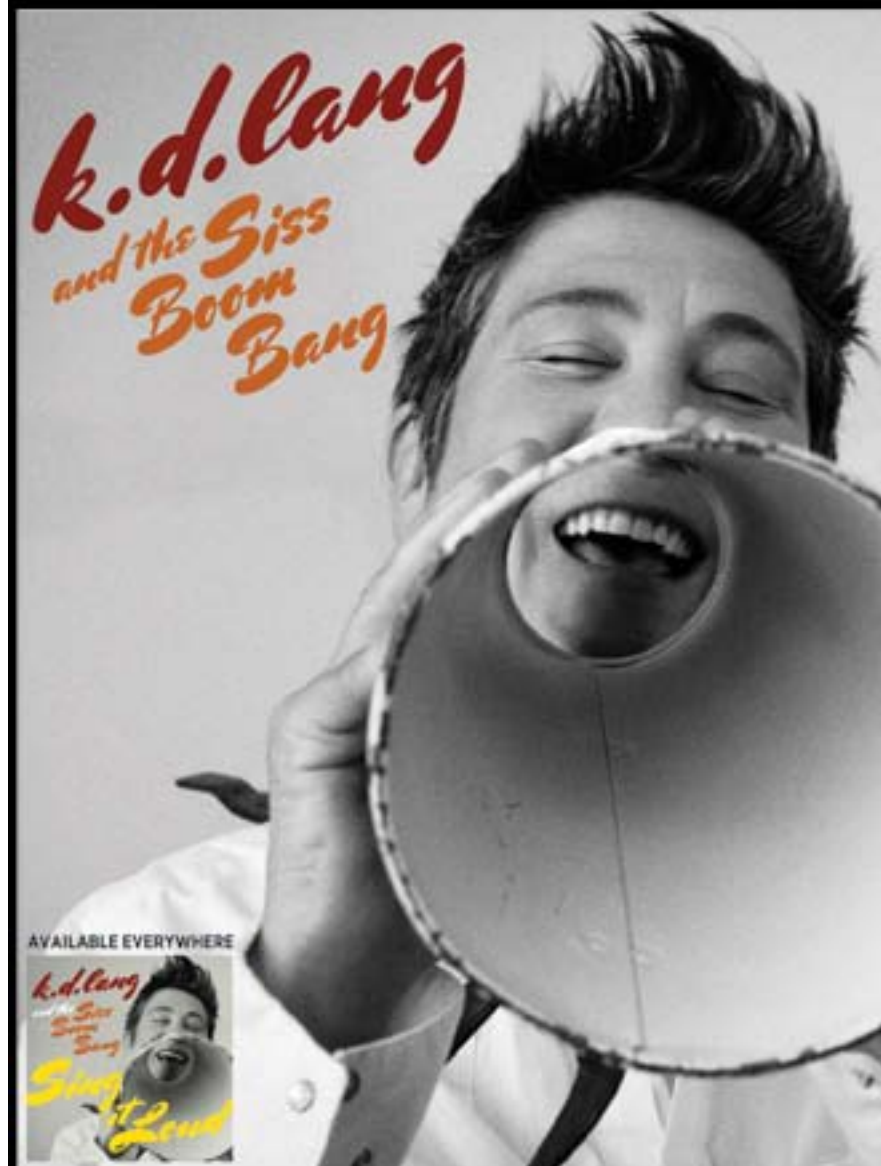
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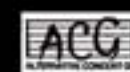
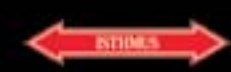
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