

EXPLORING IDENTITY

Milwaukee Art Museum presents the sublime videos of out London artist Isaac Julien.

WiGOUT! Page 21



THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

April 5, 2012 | Vol. 3, No. 11

New life for Milwaukee LGBT Center

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center has an enthusiastic new leadership team ready to tackle the future, say recently elected board co-chairs Jennifer Morales and Paul Williams.

While the team might be new, it includes a number of familiar faces from the center's past, including popular past executive director Neil Albrecht, who's joined the center's finance committee.

"We're all coming home," Williams said. "That's the theme. We came home because there were some problems and we wanted to help out.... There's someone on the board or advisory council representing every year since we started organizing in 1996."

The center first opened its doors in 1999.

The renewed vigor surrounding the community

center stems from an open meeting held by the group's former board with the city's LGBT community at large on Jan. 26. At that time, the center was reeling from a deep budget deficit and the abrupt departure of former executive director Maggi Cage, who had alienated donors, members and a large swath of the community served by the center.

About 200 people showed up at that meeting, and many of them volunteered to help put the center back on track. An advisory council was formed, and the group's board has since expanded from four members to 13 people who represent a diversity of valuable experience, Williams says.

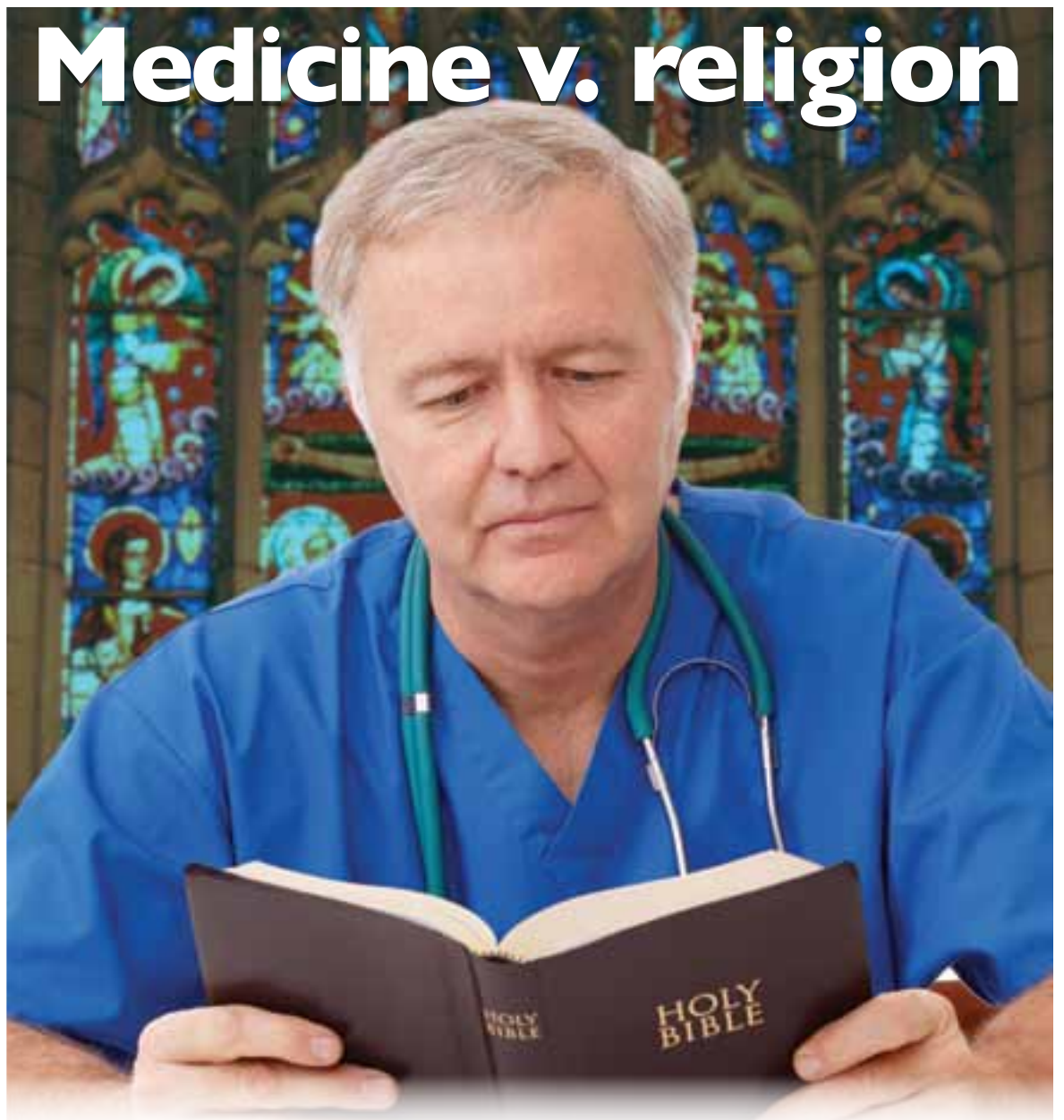
Interim executive director Sheldon Walker, who spearheaded the effort to bring the community together during the crisis, has returned to his career as a chef. Karen Gotzler, who was part of the center's early history, is currently acting as interim director on a consulting basis.

One of the first orders of business was to restructure the center's debt and negotiate a more affordable lease arrangement with Siegel-Gallagher, the company that manages the building currently occupied by the center — the Blatz Boiler House, 252 E. Highland Ave., in downtown Milwaukee.

Gotzler said she's working on an arrangement to reduce the square foot-

CENTER page 10

Medicine v. religion



When doctrine clashes with health care

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Patients at Columbia St. Mary's Airport Medical Clinic in Milwaukee are greeted with a large silver crucifix on the wall behind the check-in desk. Smaller crucifixes are affixed to corridor walls on the way to examining rooms.

Patient-history forms provide no

option to designate a "same-sex spouse" or "registered domestic partner," although the latter is recognized in Wisconsin and the former is legal in neighboring Iowa.

Surrounded by Catholic iconography and confronted with church directives, do gay and lesbian patients hide relevant information from their physicians? Can women receive appropri-

ate reproductive health care from institutions that ban contraception and abortion?

The Roman Catholic Church has sparked interest in these questions by its vehement opposition to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Led by former Milwaukee archbishop Cardinal Timothy

CHURCH page 8

This issue

inside and online at wisconsin Gazette.com

News

WiGWAG.....	2
Regional Gaze.....	6
National Gaze.....	11
Editorial.....	12
Pet Gaze.....	19

Features

WiGOUT.....	21
Theater.....	24
Music.....	26
Film.....	27
On the Town.....	30

LGBT news with a twist



By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

ROYAL FAMILY

A headline in Britain's The Sun newspaper summed up MP Tory Peter Bone's concern about legalizing same-sex marriage: "Gay marriage law means 'there could be two Queens' on the throne." The British government is in a "consultation" process intended to result in a final proposal to legalize same-sex marriages by 2015. Bone said there are too many unanswered questions about how legalizing gay marriage would impact the royal family: Would royals also be able to enter into civil same-sex marriages? Could there be two lesbian queens? A pair of gay kings?

RUSHING AWAY?

Rush Limbaugh's fourth wife is threatening to leave him over the backlash she's experienced over his "slut" remarks, according to the National Enquirer. A family friend told the tabloid, "Kathryn is fit to be tied. She feels as if she's being tarred and feathered with the same brush that people are using on her

husband. She really let him have it." Limbaugh also has lost nearly 150 advertisers since calling Georgetown University law student Sandra Fluke a slut for testifying before Congress that contraception should be covered by health insurance.

BUZZ KILL

The National Organization for Marriage has singled out Starbucks to boycott because of its corporate support for marriage equality in Washington State. LGBT civil rights activists, without encouraging an expansion of any boycott, can't figure out why NOM went after Starbucks and not other pro-gay companies, like Alcoa, Amazon, Google, Microsoft, Nike, Vulcan, Apple, Yahoo and Facebook. NOM's DumpStarbucks campaign was launched on Facebook - we assume with a computer. Perhaps NOM has some kind of deal with Dunkin' Donuts.

IN HIS OWN JAIL

A former Colorado sheriff who was known for his crusade against youth drug use pleaded guilty to trading methamphetamine for sex with young men. Patrick Sullivan, who is married, will serve 38 days in the jail that bears his name in Arapahoe County. The 69-year-old will also serve two years of probation for felony possession of methamphetamine and a count of solicitation for prostitution.

SOILING THE SPOILS

Televangelists Paul and Jan Crouch have survived allegations of a homosexual tryst and a prolonged battle with the Federal Communications Commission. But the most recent attack on the founders of Trinity Broadcasting Network comes from their granddaughter, Brittany Koper. She recently filed court papers alleging \$50 million worth of financial shenanigans at the world's largest Christian broadcasting network. Yet another suit filed by a relative

details the Crouch's lavish lifestyle, including private jets, mansions in California, Tennessee and Florida and a \$100,000 mobile home for Jan Crouch's dogs.

BEST OF SHOW

An international group of arts critics has awarded a controversial LGBT art exhibit at the Smithsonian - "Hide/Seek: Difference and Desire in American Portraiture" - a first-place prize for Best Thematic Museum Show Nationally. Conservatives, especially the Catholic League, objected to the exhibit because of a video that included an image of ants crawling on a crucifix. The piece was removed from the show, a decision Smithsonian officials later said was wrong.

CHINESE OUTING

Out Apple CEO Tim Cook surprised shoppers recently with an appearance at the Apple Store in a Beijing shopping mall. A blogger posted photos of Cook smiling with Apple store employees

and posing with customers.

BULLY FOR BUTLER

In mid-March, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation honored teen activist Katy Butler of Michigan with a special award for her campaign to change the rating for "Bully," a documentary about an epidemic of bullying in the United States. Days after the New York ceremony, Butler won another prize - the announcement that "Bully" would be shown in theaters without its restrictive "R" rating. Instead the movie is "unrated."

OFF THE CRUISE LIST

Rich Campbell, president of Atlantis Events, sided with the Dominican government when two of his customers were arrested by authorities during a stop. The couple pleaded guilty to public nudity. Campbell compared their experience to nothing more than getting a traffic ticket, but one of the men said they were humiliated and subjected to inhumane treatment.

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AIDS Walk Wisconsin



THANK YOU

Dear LGBT Friends,

As I depart the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin for retirement after 24 years as President & CEO, I am compelled to express my deepest gratitude to all of you for the historic contribution you have made to the fight against AIDS and the wonderful support you have given to ARCW.

From the very beginning of AIDS the LGBT community came together as a powerful force to fight back against AIDS stigma, homophobia, terrifying illnesses and ultimately the loss of our loved ones. Your donations, your participation in AIDS Walk Wisconsin and Make A Promise, your volunteerism and your unwavering moral support were the reasons we endured the worst of times of the AIDS epidemic.

Your continuing strong support over so many years has enabled ARCW to build the ARCW Medical Center providing medical, dental and mental health care, the ARCW Pharmacy assuring access to the most advanced HIV medications and a comprehensive system of social support services. Nowhere in America can HIV patients

access as many health and social services in one place than at ARCW.

The new CEO at ARCW will be Mike Gifford who has served as ARCW Chief Operating Officer for many years and is a great ally of the LGBT community. I encourage your support of Mike as he is an outstanding leader who will make sure that ARCW thrives in the years ahead with the highest quality HIV prevention, care and treatment services.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for your passion, commitment and steadfast support.

Sincerely,

Doug Nelson
President & CEO
AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin



AIDS RESOURCE CENTER OF WISCONSIN

Excellence in HIV Health Care

U.S. High Court declines to hear case to reinstate Wisconsin anti-transgender law

By Louis Weisberg
Staff writer

The U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal filed by Wisconsin Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen that sought to reinstate a state law banning transition-related health care for transgender people in prison.

LGBT legal advocates celebrated the victory, calling the Wisconsin law the nation's most "draconian" anti-transgender measure.

"We still have much work in front of us, but today's victory is just one more step along the road toward a more equitable future for transgender health care," M. Dru Levasseur, Lambda Legal transgender rights attorney,

said in a statement.

The High Court's action marks the end of a seven-year legal battle over a 2005 law that barred prison doctors from providing hormone therapy and sex reassignment surgery to transgender prisoners in state custody.

The law, dubbed the "Inmate Sex-Change Prevention Act," was struck down after Lambda Legal, the ACLU and the ACLU of Wisconsin challenged it in a lawsuit. The plaintiffs in the case were transgender inmates who said the law caused them severe physical and psychological harm by halting treatment deemed medically necessary by physicians.

The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin ruled in *Fields v. Smith* that the law was unconstitutional, violating both the Eighth Amendment's ban on cruel and unusual punishment and the Equal Protection Clause.

Although the ruling did not make transition-related care available to all incarcerated transgender people, it was significant in that it says physicians and not legislators have the authority to determine medical care for transgender inmates, according to Lambda Legal.

Despite the District Court's finding, Van Hollen continued to appeal the ruling, at an undisclosed cost to

the state. In 2010, he took the case to the U.S. District Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. That court issued a unanimous ruling that said, "Refusing to provide effective treatment for a serious medical condition serves no valid penological purpose and amounts to torture."

Still, the attorney general appealed to the Supreme Court, which rejected the case on March 26.

"Access to discrimination-free health care is a constant challenge for transgender people, and people in prison are particularly vulnerable to limited care," said Levasseur. "Legislators, politicians and policy makers should not be in the business of making medical decisions. We all lose when politicians get to decide what course of treatment our doctors prescribe for us."

Van Hollen continued to appeal the ruling at an undisclosed cost to the state.

The recent development in *Field v. Smith* follows success in a case filed by the National Center for Lesbian Rights and Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders. In order to settle that case, the Federal Bureau of Prisons changed its policy for treating transgender inmates. The new policy gives federal prisoners access to an evaluation by a doctor and treatment in accordance with

the standards of care issued by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health.

Loree Cook Daniels of FORGE, a Milwaukee-based organization that provides support and advocacy for transgender people, said recent developments illustrate the progress that's been made in terms of understanding transgender issues. She said that in addition to the legal rulings, many of the nation's Fortune 500 companies now offer insurance that covers transition-related surgery.

"We're beginning to see a medical consensus that medical treatment is required for transgender people, and I think that's a very important move," Daniels said. "Treatment is becoming far more accepted as medically necessary." (See related story on page 9.)

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Republican enthusiasm, margins are down

Louis Weisberg
Staff writer

If the April 3 voter turnout is any indication, Wisconsin Republicans could be in trouble come November.

With 98 percent of precincts reporting, about 720,000 votes had been cast in the state's hotly contested Republican presidential primary. That's about half the 1.4 million Wisconsin voters who turned out for the Democratic presidential primary in 2008.

Mitt Romney's win in the Badger State, combined with his wins in Maryland and Washington, D.C., earlier that day, should help seal the deal for his up-and-down struggle for the GOP nomination. But the 43 percent of the vote he amassed in Wisconsin over Rick Santorum's 38 percent compares dismally with Barack Obama's 58 to 40 percent win over Hillary Clinton four years ago.

This in spite of Romney's spending 55 times more than Santorum. Overall voter turnout in the state signaled an unenthusiastic electorate. Only about 23 percent of eligible voters participated in the April 3 elections – far short of the 35 percent voter turnout predicted by the Government Accountability Board.

About 290,000 people voted in the Democratic primary, which was not contested.

Some of the difference can be attributed to the rescheduling of the presidential primary election from February to April, meaning that the presidential race was further along this year before Wisconsin voters got to weigh in. But the GAB had predicted that competitive local races on the ballot would compensate for the difference.

Local races also boded poorly for Republicans in the state, who face an historic recall election of Gov. Scott Walker in June. The animosity toward the governor percolated down to the grassroots level, where three Walker-appointed judges were voted off the bench, in Milwaukee, Dane and Racine counties. Voters rarely unseat incumbent judges.

Carolina Stark, an administrative law judge, won a commanding victory for Milwaukee County Circuit Court over incumbent Judge Nelson Phillips III, who was appointed by Walker last October. With no name recognition and meager funding, Stark took 56 percent of the vote.

"She just ran right at Scott Walker," said Wisconsin Democratic Party spokesman Graeme Zielinski. "This is unusual for a judicial race, but it's kind of a canary in the coal mine."

Zielinski said Walker's absence in the media in recent days shows that the GOP is aware of how tarnished the governor's political brand has become in the state.

"(Walker) loves prancing around in front of the national cameras comparing himself to Reagan and talking about how bold he is," Zielinski said. "But here we had the national media focused on Wisconsin Republicans, and suddenly Scott Walker was nowhere to be found."

Instead of Walker, the GOP trotted out U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Janesville, during the

waning days of the campaign.

Zielinski noted that Walker appeared to disappear from public view around the time of the bombing of a Planned Parenthood clinic in Outagamie County. The Wisconsin GOP voted to eliminate Planned Parenthood funding and, in its final acts of the last legislative session, passed what Zielinski called "all these nutty bills about reproductive health."

Santorum condemned the bombing as an act of domestic terrorism, but neither Walker nor Romney commented publicly on it.

A man was arrested in Grand Chute on April 3 in connection with the bombing.

PRO-EQUALITY

In other races, candidates endorsed by the Fair Wisconsin PAC scored strongly at the polls, said executive director Katie Belanger.

Belanger said she was particularly encouraged by the victory of Appleton Mayor Tim Hanna, who won re-election with 67 percent of the vote after 16 years in office. Last year, Hanna championed a resolution that extended employment benefits to the same-sex domestic partners of city workers.

The resolution stirred up an aggressive backlash from right-wing Christian fundamentalists in the area, who organized a group called Appleton Taxpayers United. The group is believed to be affiliated with Wisconsin Family Action, the state's leading crusader against equality.



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APRIL 3 ELECTION ANALYSIS

"Appleton Taxpayers United ran some pretty conservative anti-equality candidates at the city council and the school board level," Belanger said. "In the school board race, they ran a candidate who wanted to ban any books that made reference to LGBT people. That was his platform and he lost."

"The story coming out of Appleton is just so powerful," Belanger added. "All of the pro-fairness people running for re-election on the city council won – all of the people who voted for domestic partner benefits won their faces. That really changes the landscape. They faced the strongest backlash of the communities we've worked in for taking a step forward and becoming an inclusive community. And they own overwhelmingly."

Three out gay candidates in Wisconsin lost their races on April 3.

State Sen. Tim Carpenter lost his bid to become Milwaukee Treasurer to his colleague – and equality supporter – Sen. Spencer Coggs. Carpenter would have become the first openly gay person to win a citywide office.

Coggs' margin of victory was razor thin – 50.5 percent to 49.5 percent.

Bill Buresh, an out Bay View businessman who challenged Milwaukee County

Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic in the Fourth District, lost to the incumbent. Dimitrijevic played a leading role in enacting a domestic partnership policy for Milwaukee County workers. She was endorsed by both Fair Wisconsin and Equality Wisconsin.

Susan Bailey, an out lesbian running for the Dane County Board, was defeated by incumbent conservative Ronn Ferrell. He received the endorsement of the Republican Women of Dane County.

But four pro-fairness incumbents on the Dane County Board survived challenges, and progressives picked up three open seats on the board that were previously held by anti-equality incumbents. Three anti-fairness incumbents were defeated.

In all, progressives increased their majority on the Dane County Board from 23 to 28. Conservative incumbents Jack Martz of Fitchburg, Don Imhoff of Madison and Mike Willett of Verona all lost to progressive challengers.

In other election news, Milwaukee Ald. Tony Zielinski defeated newcomer Jan Pierce in the city's 14th Common Council District. Zielinski, who was endorsed by Fair Wisconsin, took 57 percent of the vote. Pierce is also an equality supporter.

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FIRST LADY TALKS ABOUT RIGHT TO 'LOVE WHOMEVER WE CHOOSE'

Campaigning for her husband's re-election, Michelle Obama is reminding voters of the importance of Barack Obama's Supreme Court choices.

At a campaign event at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, Minn., on March 16, the first lady said of the president's nominations of Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor: "Let us not forget what it meant when my husband appointed those two brilliant Supreme Court justices — and for the first time in history, our daughters and our sons watched three women take their seat on our nation's highest court. And let us not forget the impact their decisions will have on our lives for decades to come — on our privacy and security, on whether we can

speak freely, worship openly, and yes, love whomever we choose. But that's what's at stake. That is the choice we're facing."

SMALL EXPLOSIVE DAMAGES PLANNED PARENTHOOD CLINIC

An arrest has been made in connection with the bombing of a Planned Parenthood clinic in eastern Wisconsin, where a small homemade explosive caused minimal damage April 1.

Grand Chute Police Chief Greg Peterson said a bottle containing a chemical was placed on the clinic's outside window. A small fire broke out when the bottle exploded, but quickly burned itself out.

Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin CEO Teri Huyck said there was minimal damage to an exam room.

No one was in the building at the time.

Peterson said the FBI is helping to investigate.



PHOTO: COURTESY
**Former Vice President
Walter Mondale.**

MONDALE FIGHTS ANTI-GAY INITIATIVE IN MINNESOTA

Former Vice President

Walter Mondale is the co-founder of a group to challenge a ballot initiative to amend the Minnesota Constitution to ban same-sex marriage.

The ballot measure, which asks voters to approve the statement, "Only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Minnesota," will be decided in November.

Mondale, who served as vice president in Jimmy Carter's administration, is working with former Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice Kathleen A. Blatz to rally the legal community against the initiative.

TRIBAL COUNCIL CONSIDERS MARRIAGE MEASURE

The tribal council of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians is considering a constitutional amendment that would recognize same-sex marriages.

The Petoskey News-Review reported recently that the tribe would be the first in Michigan and among a few nationwide to legalize same-sex marriages if the amendment is adopted.

Most of the nearly 4,000 people in the tribe live in Michigan's northern Lower Peninsula. If the measure is approved, at least one partner would have to be a member of the tribe.

The proposal currently is in a public comment period.

INDIANA CITY ADOPTS NON-DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE

The South Bend, Ind., City Council on March 27 voted in favor of an ordinance extending employment and housing discrimination protection to gays and lesbians.

The vote came after nearly five hours of debate and public testimony.

The ordinance exempts churches and other religious organizations, but opponents argue it should also exempt individuals and other

business owners who believe homosexuality is immoral.

ANTI-GAY IOWANS RALLY AT CAPITOL

Several right-wing groups rallied in mid-March at the Iowa Capitol to protest senators' lack of action on a proposed constitutional amendment against same-sex marriage.

The National Organization for Marriage, Family Leader and CatholicVote.org organized the event.

The anti-gay marriage amendment passed the state House in 2011 but stalled in the Senate, where Democrats hold a slim majority.

INDIANA STRIPS GAY GROUP OF SPECIALTY PLATES

A gay-youth advocacy group that survived a legislative attempt to strip it of its specialty license plates is losing them anyway, along with two other organizations also accused of selling low-digit license plates for additional fees.

The Indiana Youth Group, the Greenways Foundation and the Indiana 4-H Foundation violated prohibitions against selling low-number license plates, said Dennis Rosebrough, deputy commissioner of the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

"The contract specifically states that they cannot in effect sell the plates, the low-digit plates, as they advertised they were doing on their website," Rosebrough said.

IOWA AG REFUSES DEATH CERTIFICATE LISTING 2 MOMS

The Iowa Attorney General's office is continuing to refuse to issue a fetal death certificate naming two women as the parents of a stillborn child.

The office maintains that it made the correct decision when it erased one mother's name from the death certificate for the child, even though the two women are

legally married in Iowa.

Lambda Legal is providing legal representation to Jenny and Jessica Buntmeyer. Lambda launched a petition drive to flood state officials with public appeals on behalf of the lesbian couple.

Petitions signed by more than 8,000 people were delivered to the state on March 28.

CHICAGO ANNOUNCES LGBT HEALTH PLAN

The city of Chicago says it has developed a plan for addressing the specific health needs of LGBT residents.

Among the goals, it will search for ways to address higher levels of smoking among the gay community. It will also focus on HIV prevention, obesity and improving access to health care.

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel said he's "committed to ensuring all Chicagoans have access to the care and information they need to live healthy lives."

The plan will promote the collection of sexual orientation data in electronic medical records and better tracking of hate crimes against transgender residents.

The plan also will promote the inclusion of same sex couples in programs aimed at healthy pregnancies, childbirth and early childhood health.

—WIG and AP reports

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

V-DAY MILWAUKEE, PINK BANANA PRESENT BENEFIT

V-Day Milwaukee and Pink Banana Theatre present a production of "A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant, and A Prayer: Writings to Stop Violence Against Women and Girls."

Performances are April 5-7 at 7:30 p.m. at Tenth Street Theatre, 628 N. 10th St., Milwaukee.

Eve Ensler and Mollie Doyle edited the writings from many sources. Casey Harding directs the production, which benefits Hope House of Milwaukee and the international V-Day campaign to stop violence against women and girls worldwide.

For tickets, go to www.brownpapertickets.com/event/236098.

For more about the campaign, go to www.facebook.com/vdaymke.

PRIDEFEST RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS

The PrideFest volunteer team is seeking workers for the Milwaukee LGBT celebration that takes place June 8-10.

The team's recruitment announcement said, "We have so many opportunities to take part in and some special benefits which come with being a PrideFest volunteer. Now, we understand that lives are busy and you may not have a lot of spare time, well don't worry, if you can sign up for one shift, great! We value and appreciate whatever time you can give."

PrideFest is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2012. For more, go to www.pridefest.com or e-mail volunteer@pridefest.com.

DEAR RUTHIE NAMED MILWAUKEE PRIDE PARADE GRAND MARSHAL

The Milwaukee Pride Parade has named its grand marshal for the 2012 event: Dear Ruthie, chosen because of "her numerous contributions to the LGBT community of southeast Wisconsin

and the state of Wisconsin as a whole."

Parade organizers celebrated Dear Ruthie's work as an advice columnist, actress and activist and noted that she's appeared in nearly every Pride parade since 1993.

This year's parade is June 10, beginning at 2 p.m. on South Second Street in Milwaukee.

BEN & JERRY'S CO-FOUNDER VISITING UWM

Jerry Greenfield, co-founder of Ben & Jerry's ice cream and socially responsible businessman, takes the podium at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee as part of the 21st annual Distinguished Lecture Series. The event is at 7 p.m. April 17 in the Union Wisconsin Room.

Greenfield plans to share anecdotes and advice for creating environmentally friendly products while strengthening a company's significance for employees, shareholders and consumers. For Greenfield and business partner Ben Cohen, it all began with a \$5 ice cream making course and some radical management concepts.

For more, call 414-229-3111. Tickets are available at 414-229-4201 or 800-662-5668.

DIVERSE & RESILIENT HIRING FOR TEAM

Diverse & Resilient is hiring three team members to "advance health and prevent HIV disease" in greater Milwaukee.

The statewide nonprofit is seeking to fill the full-time posts of program coordinator, youth HIV program coordinator and data specialist.

The organization is accepting applications — resumes and letters of intent — mailed to the attention of Mark O'Neil, Diverse & Resilient, 2439 N. Holton St., Milwaukee, WI 53212 or e-mailed to moneil@diverseandresilient.org.

FAIR WISCONSIN HOSTING BALDWIN FUNDRAISER

The Fair Wisconsin



PHOTO: COURTESY
Activist, actress, advice columnist Dear Ruthie is the grand marshal for Milwaukee's 2012 Pride parade.



PHOTO: COURTESY
Promsters pose during last year's UW-Waukesha Pride Prom.

UW-WAUKESHA PRESENTS PRIDE PROM 2012

The UW-Waukesha Pride Alliance presents its annual prom from 6 to 10 p.m. on April 14 on the campus. All Wisconsin college students, Waukesha-area high school seniors, parents, teachers, allies and community members are invited.

The festivities include a DJ, dance floor, professional photographs, light refreshments, and prom king/queen contests. Tickets are free for UW-Waukesha students and faculty/staff chaperones, \$5 for others.

This year's theme is "Black & White with a Splash of Color." The dress code is "something a little more fabulous than your everyday wear," and guests are invited "to be as spectacular as you like in creating your ensemble for the evening ... gender bending, breaking, parodying, or exploding is heartily encouraged," according to an announcement.

For directions and other information, go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/368215293190572/>.

PAC hosts a fundraiser for Democrat Tammy Baldwin's U.S. Senate campaign on May 20.

The 3 p.m. event takes place at the Milwaukee home of supporters Nels Burke and Michael Hanson.

The host committee includes Ross Draegert, Dennis Kohler, Laurie Guilbault, Jason Rae and Steven Miller.

Organizers are seeking sponsors for the fundraiser.

For more, call 608-441-0143, ext. 308, or e-mail Fair Wisconsin's Katie Belanger at katie.belanger@fairwisconsin.com.

MILWAUKEE ORGANIZATION WINS HIV HOUSING GRANT

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has announced it will renew grants for 18 Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS programs.

A \$1,310,577 grant will go to the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin. A HUD release said the money for ARCW would support "providing tenant-based rental assistance and supportive housing assistance to 61 chronically homeless households living with HIV/AIDS and their families across the state of Wisconsin."

—Lisa Neff

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In southeast Wisconsin, two of the four major health care systems are Catholic

CHURCH from page 1
Dolan, the church contends that its freedom of religion is violated by a provision in the law requiring organizations to offer insurance coverage for contraception. Church leaders have waged a furious, high-profile battle against the law – a battle that has drawn other fundamentalist Christian groups into the fray.

In southeast Wisconsin, two of the four largest health care systems are directly affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church and bound to abide by the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services promulgated by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Although interpretation of the directives appears to vary from institution to institution, women's health advocates are alarmed by the intrusion of religious orthodoxy into science-based medicine.

This issue has emerged as the latest salvo in the nation's raging culture war – a war that has ramped into high gear during this contentious political year.

THE PLAYERS Aurora Health Care

The state's largest employer, Aurora Health Care operates 15 hospitals, employs more than 1,400 doctors and manages "hundreds of clinics and pharmacies," according to the organization's website. Aurora is a nonprofit group without religious affiliation, although it manages hospitals formerly associated with religious denominations.

Columbia St. Mary's Health System

Columbia St. Mary's Health System operates four hospital/health care systems and 65 community clinics. Affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church's Sisters of Charity, the system employs 200 physicians.

Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare

Affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church's Franciscan order, Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare operates six hospitals in southeast Wisconsin, outpatient centers in Wauwatosa and Glendale and three transitional and extended care facilities. The system employs more than 300 physicians.

Froedtert Health

Froedtert Health is a regional hospital system operating four hospitals in southeast Wisconsin, as well as two community hospitals with primary care and multispecialty clinics operated in conjunction with The Medical College of Wisconsin. The system currently has no religious affiliation.

– LW.

PERCEPTION OF BIAS

According to Lambda Legal, LGBT people are routinely either denied health care or treated in a discriminatory manner by providers. In 2010, Lambda Legal released a survey on the health care experiences of LGBT people and people living with HIV. Nearly 56 percent of lesbian, gay and bisexual respondents reported having experienced discrimination while accessing health care. Seventy percent of transgender respondents said they'd encountered bias. The survey made no distinction between secular and religious-affiliated providers.

The report accompanying the survey results concluded that prejudice often prevents LGBT people from accessing care and, when it does not, it often prevents them from discussing their sexual orientation or gender identity with providers.

The perception of bias in the health care system – both secular and religious – persists among LGBT people. That has a direct bearing on the quality of health care they receive.

In a study conducted last year by researchers from the Medical College of Wisconsin and UW-Milwaukee, nearly 30 percent of 270 gay men interviewed in Milwaukee said their primary care physician did not know their sexual orientation. Half as many African-American men as white and Hispanic men said they'd disclosed their sexual orientation to their physicians.

That's troublesome because a patient's sexual behavior is a critical part of his or her medical history, according to Andrew Petroll, assistant professor of medicine and psychiatry at the Medical College of Wisconsin's Center for AIDS Intervention.

"Providers need to be able to recommend and administer appropriate preventive health services, such as vaccinations, counseling on risk-reduction and even medications that can reduce the risk of acquiring HIV," Petroll said. "In addition to the prevention of illnesses, providers need accurate information so that they can order proper screening tests, such as for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections."

"This is not to say that being LGBT automatically places a person at risk for certain illnesses. While many illnesses are more prevalent in the LGBT community, an individual's own behavior determines the risk for acquiring an illness. However, being able to openly discuss sexual orientation and sexual behaviors with a health care provider is necessary to allow the provider to take the best care of each patient. If an individual feels uncomfortable discussing their sexual orientation or sex practices with their health care provider, they should probably find a provider with whom they can discuss these issues."

Gary Hollander, executive director of Diverse & Resilient, said that he and his partner, who has advanced multiple sclerosis, have experienced both subtle and blatant bias in their frequent contacts with health care providers in Milwaukee. For example, a technician balked at performing an EKG on his partner because he's gay, Hollander said. He's frequently asked during emergency room visits if his problem is related to HIV infection.

Hollander's partner receives care through the Columbia St. Mary's system, but he doesn't believe the discrimination is related to the affiliation. In both his personal and professional experience, he's found that institutional policies don't matter as much as the attitude of individual staff members toward LGBT people, he said. A local secular health care system that employed "a disproportionate number of staff who were fundamentalists" was the source of numerous complaints several years ago, Hollander added. During his partner's hospitalizations, Hollander attenuates the religious overtones of the experience simply by removing the crucifixes from his partner's hospital room walls. "It's décor," he said. "I don't need to look at it. They're removable. I put them in a drawer."

It's unknown whether crucifixes on the wall or the word "saint" in the name of an institution (which is commonplace even in secular health care systems such as Aurora) have a deterrent effect on an open dialogue between LGBT patients and providers. Also unknown is how religious affiliation might or might not affect physician training in LGBT health issues. Past surveys have found that medical schools spend only two to four hours over four years addressing LGBT health issues. Milwaukee advocates for LGBT health care, including AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin president Mike Gifford, said systemic health care problems related to anti-gay bias have vastly diminished since the early days of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Terri Rocolo, senior vice president of mission services for Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare, said her system's religious affiliation heightens its commitment to nonjudgmental and compassionate care. Rocolo noted that the Franciscan order has been at the forefront of HIV/AIDS care and advocacy globally. Wheaton Franciscan hospitals even offer an option to

designate "domestic partner" on patient forms.

Rocolo quoted Directive 23 from the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services. "The inherent dignity of the human person must be respected and protected regardless of the nature of the person's health problem or social status," Rocolo read. "Human dignity extends to all persons who are served by Catholic health care."

But on the level of operating policy, a difference clearly exists between secular and religious-affiliated health sys-



tems in Milwaukee. Aurora Health Care, which is secular and also the state's largest employer, provides domestic partnership benefits, while Columbia St. Mary's and Wheaton Franciscan do not. Through a spokesperson, Columbia St. Mary's declined any interviews for this story.

POTENTIALLY DEADLY

While religious affiliation might have little effect beyond perception for gay and lesbian patients, when it comes to end-of-life issues, the differences between Catholic and secular institutions are pronounced. Catholic directives, for example, prohibit the removal of feeding tubes, even for patients in persistent vegetative states with no hope for recovery. This policy potentially affects a large part of the nation, since half of all people are unable to make their own decisions at the time of death.

For women, the difference in care is potentially deadly. Women have endured unnecessary agony in Catholic hospital emergency rooms due

to directives prohibiting an array of reproductive health services.

In southeastern Arizona, a woman was forced to travel 80 miles to terminate a pregnancy that her doctors said would have killed her, simply because the only hospital in her rural area was in the process of joining an out-of-state Catholic health system. As a result of the publicity surrounding that case, a coalition of residents, physicians and activists put a halt to the merger.

But such mergers continue – and with increasing

require that all affiliated hospitals and clinics operate according to church directives. On the other hand, when a Catholic hospital is acquired by a secular system, its buyers often are forced to uphold the church's bans



on contraception, abortion and other critical services, even when women's lives are in danger.

Adam Beeson, public affairs manager for Aurora Health Care, said none of the hospitals in his system operate according to religious doctrine, including those that were formerly associated with religious organizations.

How Catholic hospitals interpret church policies can vary. Some ban doctors from providing any treatment to a woman having a miscarriage as long as fetal heart tones are detected, according to the National Women's

according to NWLC. Women who request tubal ligations following caesarean sections are refused, forcing them to needlessly undergo a second operation at another hospital.

Ectopic pregnancies, which occur outside the womb and cannot survive – but can kill the mother – are a particularly thorny issue. Treatment involves removal of the fetus and often one of the fallopian tubes, which is where most ectopic pregnancies occur.

Rocolo said the Church's directives do allow for the treatment of ectopic pregnancies, as well as any other medically necessary treatment to save a woman's life.

"Medical review committees look at the circumstances of every situation to determine if there is an underlying medical necessity," she said. "If there's an underlying medical pathology that requires treatment, then we would allow these types of procedures to be performed."

"I think there are a lot of misperceptions out there" about Catholic health care,

Rocolo added.

While Rocolo's assessment might apply to the Wheaton Franciscan health system, a study presented at the 2008 meeting of the North American Primary Care Research Group reported that 19 percent of doctors working in religiously-affiliated institutions had experienced conflicts between science-based medicine and church doctrine. Eighty-six percent of them said they would refer patients to secular institutions to get the care they required in such cases.

Although doctors are reluctant to complain publicly about these issues, some physicians are said to have fled when Columbia Hospital merged with St. Mary's and became subject to Roman Catholic rules, according to local lore.

Critics charge that denying or delaying appropriate treatment for women due to religious views is unconscionable. They contend that medical decisions should always be made in the best interest of the patient, espe-

RELIGIOUS MATTERS

Catholic-affiliated institutions treat these issues and others differently than secular health systems:

- End-of-life options.
- Research and therapy using fetal and embryonic stem cells.
- Counseling about the use of condoms by HIV patients and others with sexually transmitted diseases.
- Infertility treatments.
- Emergency contraception, including for rape victims.
- Procedures pertaining to ectopic pregnancies.
- Tubal ligations and other forms of sterilization.
- Contraceptive services, including prescriptions and counseling.

– LW.

cially since taxpayers and private insurers pay for the care provided at hospitals.

Dr. Peter Lipsop, an internist in southeast Michigan who writes about the current "de-enlightenment in medicine," noted in a 2010 essay that appeared in "Science Based Medicine" that even denying a woman an abortion due to the practitioner's religious views is a breach of medical ethics.

"Ethics demand that they serve their patients' needs above their own," Lipsop wrote. "There is no set of data that says that 'abortion is harmful to women,' so doctors who oppose abortion cannot claim that science supports their bias."

Transgender patients and the 'penis question'

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Having to go to the emergency room is an unpleasant experience for everyone, but for transgender patients it can feel as if the personal treatment they get from the ER staff isn't worth the medical treatment they're seeking.

Michael Munson, of the Milwaukee-based transgender advocacy group FORGE, recalls the case of a female-to-male transgender patient who went to a local ER seeking treatment for symptoms of pneumonia.

"When asked about the medications he was on, which is routinely asked of everyone, he did report he was on testosterone," Munson said. "When the provider asked why he was on testosterone, he stated that it was because he was trans. Rather than this being the end of the discussion about his medications, the provider then began asking about if he had had surgery, if he had a penis, why

didn't he want a penis, how could he be legally male if he didn't have a penis, etc. The result was that the provider ended up being excessively curious, violating the person's privacy and not addressing his primary concern about his breathing and possibly having pneumonia."

Munson added, "This type of experience is extremely common." The result of these experiences is that transgender people typically are reluctant to go to the emergency room when they need to, Munson said.

Loree Cook Daniels, also of FORGE, said the problem is persistent at both religious-affiliated and secular health care systems and affects male-to-female as well as female-to-male patients.

"The perennial penis question ... seems to get asked of trans people no matter which end of the spectrum they're on," Daniels said. "When we train professionals, we say,

"You do not ask the penis question. It's treating someone as if the only thing about them that's relevant is this one characteristic."

Gary Hollander, executive director of Diverse & Resilient, said medical ignorance also presents a barrier to effective health care for transgender people. Physicians are often unable to competently address medical issues that arise about hormone therapy and post-surgical complications, he explained.

"I have been to the emergency room over 20 times in the past year with friends and for myself," wrote a transgender person who lives in another Midwest city and asked not to be identified. "We have very rarely walked out feeling good about the experience. The doctors do not understand our bodies, nor do they understand our genders."

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Karen Gotzler.

PHOTO: COURTESY

'Every person I've asked to help has said yes'

CENTER from page 1
 age occupied by the center from 21,000 square feet to 10,000 square feet by sub-leasing unnecessary space. "(Siegel-Gallagher) has been an incredibly supportive partner," she said.
 Standard financial systems and work reports have been put into place, and the board is reviewing the group's bylaws, including the controversial policy promoted by Cage that turned the board from one elected by members to a self-selecting body.
 In addition to addressing financial matters, the new leadership is seeking input from the public about the

kinds of programs and activities community members want at the center.
 "A couple of board members said recently that we need to be more fun," Morales said.
 "We have all this great energy now about making the center what we want it to be," Williams said.
 Apparently, every possibility is on the table, from ballroom dancing to cooking classes to movie nights. "The role of the new leadership is to broaden the center," Gotzler said.
 An effort also is under way to re-engage former donors who withdrew their

support during Cage's tenure. Morales said board members planned to meet with each donor individually to apologize for the past and "make sure they know that one of the key lessons we've learned is that we always have to be in regular communication with our supporters."
 Meanwhile, the service contracts and grants that the center obtained under Cage's leadership are being fulfilled and programs are ongoing, including Project Q, which supports LGBTQ youth and their allies.
 Jewish Family Services, which supported the creation of the center's Milwaukee LGBT Mental Health Clinic under Cage, is referring patients to other providers until the center hires a coordinator for the program. Cage briefly held the role immediately after stepping down as executive director and before leaving the center's employment altogether.
 The enthusiasm and commitment at the center these days has become a self-reinforcing phenomenon that continues to draw in new people while reenergizing those already committed, says the group's new leaders.

NEW OFFICERS

- Jennifer Morales**
co-chair
- Paul Williams**
co-chair
- W. Peter Larson**
treasurer
- Halanna Lathon**
secretary

With so much to be done, "it would be overwhelming if there weren't so many passionate, intelligent people involved," Morales said.
 "My resolve gets stronger every day," Williams said. "It goes back to the old days when there were all kinds of people running into each other (at the center). It was a place you knew you wanted to be, because it was the center of the community."
 "This is an opportunity for us to come together with our best selves, with our highest selves (and) ... to come out the other end with a better organization," Gotzler said. "Every single person I've asked to help has said 'yes.' To me, that says the community wants this place to be successful and wants us to have a location where we can come together."



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NATIONAL GAZE

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Anti-gay group seeks to divide blacks, gays

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

Internal documents that the National Organization for Marriage provided to Maine investigators reveal that the anti-gay group's strategy is to divide blacks, Latinos and gays in order to stall the campaign for marriage equality and disrupt the Democratic Party.
 A NOM memo from 2009 – kept secret until Maine court officials unsealed the papers on March 25 – states, "The strategic goal of this project is to drive a wedge between gays and blacks – two key Democratic constituencies."
 NOM also suggests "interrupting" the process of cultural assimilation for Hispanics to curtail support for same-sex marriage.
 "With the veil lifted, Americans everywhere can now see the ugly politics that the National Organization for Marriage traffics in every day," said Joe Solmonese of the Human Rights Campaign, which posted the NOM documents on the Web on March 25. "While loving gay and lesbian couples seek to make lifelong commitments, NOM plays racial politics, tries to hide donors and makes up lies about people of faith."
 Veteran civil rights leader Julian Bond responded to the disclosure: "NOM's underhanded attempts to

divide will not succeed if black Americans remember their own history of discrimination. Pitting bigotry's victims against other victims is reprehensible; the defenders of justice must stand together."
 And NAACP president Benjamin Todd Jealous said the documents reveal "the limits of a cynical agenda. The truth is that no group, no matter how well funded, can drive an artificial wedge between our communities. People of color understand what it is like to be the target of discrimination. No public relations strategy will make us forget that."
 NOM president Brian Brown ignored the criticism, saying the organization has support from black and Hispanic leaders who agree that marriage is not a civil right.
 "We proudly bring together people of different races, creeds and colors to fight for our most fundamental institution: marriage," Brown said in a statement.
 The controversy comes as NOM seeks to raise millions of dollars to repeal marriage equality legislation in Washington, Maryland and New Hampshire; to block a same-sex marriage measure at the polls in Maine; and to pass anti-gay measures at the ballot boxes in North Carolina and Minnesota.

The news may prove most damaging for NOM in North Carolina, which on May 8 could become the first state in the South to reject at the ballot box a constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman and prohibiting the recognition of same-sex partnerships, civil unions and marriages.
 Polling in December 2011 showed a majority in North Carolina supporting the amendment. New polling shows a majority – 54 percent – opposing the ballot measure.
 "This strategy of creating an imagined rift between North Carolinians illustrates that the only way to pass one of these amendments is by dividing the very groups that it will hurt the most," said Jeremy Kennedy, campaign manager for Protect All NC Families, the coalition effort to defeat Amendment 1.
 NOM has experienced rapid growth in recent years, raising questions about its financial network, especially from civil rights groups and watchdog organizations that have challenged campaign finance disclosure documents in Minnesota and in Maine.
 A complaint to the Maine Ethics Commission in 2009 led to the March release of the controversial confidential NOM documents, which outline the following goals:
 • To "drive a wedge between

gays and blacks."
 • To manipulate Hispanic communities by "making opposition to gay marriage an identity marker, a badge of youth rebellion to conformist assimilation to the bad side of 'Anglo' culture."
 • To spend \$100,000 for a "study of what schools are teaching in gay marriage/civil union regimes."
 • To hire at \$60,000 an "outreach coordinator to identify children of gay parents willing to speak on camera."
 • To "protect the identity of our donors."
 • To "expose Obama as a social radical" by developing "side issues" like "pornography."
 Another related document released in March showed that Mitt Romney's PAC contributed \$10,000 to the group.



PHOTO: COURTESY COALITION TO PROTECT NORTH CAROLINA FAMILIES
An activist holds a sign opposing the anti-gay Amendment 1 ballot measure in North Carolina. The vote is set for May 8.

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{ Editorial }

Freedom from religion

Not long ago, freedom of religion meant freedom from others' religions. This quintessential American principle was foremost among the goals of our nation's founders, because early settlers came here to escape religious oppression.

But a growing number of right-wing religious leaders are on a crusade to overturn the great American doctrine dubbed by Thomas Jefferson as "separation of church and state." They've revised our history to read that our founders never intended the government to be free of religion, but rather to be a tool for enforcing their religion – fundamentalist Christianity.

Even U.S. Sen. John McCain, once a Republican moderate, revised his views and proclaimed the United States "a Christian nation." For the millions who listen to the Orwellian Ministries of Truth known as Fox News and right-wing talk radio, this view has been repeated so often that it's become an accepted fact, despite the historical record to the contrary.

These right-wing theocrats have colluded across denominational lines to rally their base around opposition to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The capstone of their disapproval is the law's mandate requiring employers to offer insurance policies that cover contraception. Far-right religious zealots argue that the mandate violates their religious freedom and encourages sexual promiscuity.

On March 24, protesters in cities across the nation took to the streets to blast what they call "Obamacare" as essentially a left-wing plot to funnel taxpayer dollars into abortion clinics. The law's religious critics also condemned it as a dreaded expansion of what they call "big government."

The religionists don't like the government, because it's secular and constrains them from imposing biblical law. Until the day finally arrives when the Constitution is tossed aside and replaced with Leviticus, the fundamentalists will continue to be co-opted by the corporate right's campaign to eradicate federal programs and oversight, even when that means supporting policies that conflict with the most basic Judeo-Christian principles.

The health care reform law is not forcing anyone to choose an insurance policy that covers contraception. It only requires employers to make such coverage available for employees who want it. Why? Because sensible family planning and allowing women – and not church leaders – to make decisions about their own reproductive health is fair, just and in the best interests of society.

The religious institutions that want to exert control over women's bodies by denying them contraceptive care are like parents who tell their kids, "You're not doing that under my roof." Except that the kids aren't theirs.

Besides, as everyone knows, the kids do it anyhow. The proof is in the pews of Roman Catholic churches, where 98 percent of sexually active women use some form of contraception, according to surveys.

The crusade against the health reform act is an utterly bogus effort using specious reasoning to incite sympathy for religionists. It's a showy display of fundamentalists' rage toward a system of government that won't let them impose their religious views on everyone.

Shame on Christian leaders for fighting a law that would provide health care to so many poor and suffering people, and doing so under the banner of Jesus.

BY THE NUMBERS

Percentage of undisclosed independent spending in U.S. elections:

1% | **43.8%**
2006 | 2010

Source: Center for Responsive Politics

{ Feedback }

SLOW RESPONSE

I am concerned about the quality of decision-making continuing to take place at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. First, a new board was appointed without contacting those people who generously signed up at the town hall meeting to serve on the board or on committees, even though current board members pleaded with the community to do just that. According to the center's press release, people from those lists have yet to be contacted, even though the meeting was two months ago. Thus, by not reaching out even to those who attended the town hall meeting, the board continues its reputation for exclusivity and self-perpetuation.

Second, a new staff person was just hired/contracted, even though the center is mired in debt and lease obligations it cannot meet. These

practices leave me saddened, uninspired, frustrated and worried about the future of the center.

Joe Dominic, Milwaukee

SERVING JUSTICE

The tragic killing of Trayvon Martin is a national call to action. Our hearts go out to Trayvon's family and friends for the loss they have experienced. We stand in solidarity with them as they demand answers and justice. ...Many in our community have been targets of bigotry and bias. We have a great deal of experience grappling with the role bias plays in crimes against our communities. We know the stories of young people targeted for violence just because of who they are.

Trayvon's killing is a wake-up call to the enduring cancer of racism and racial profiling. The pain his family continues to endure transcends communities and unites us all. Every person ... must

be able to walk the streets without fear for safety.

CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers, Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals, Equality Federation, Family Equality Council, Freedom to Marry, GLAAD, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, GLSEN, Gay Men's Health Crisis, Human Rights Campaign, Immigration Equality, International Federation of Black Prides, Lambda Legal, LGBT Progress at the Center for American Progress, National Black Justice Coalition, National Center for Lesbian Rights, National Center for Transgender Equality, National Coalition for LGBT Health, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, National Stonewall Democrats, Out & Equal Workplace Advocates, PFLAG, Pride at Work, Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders, Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, The Trevor Project, UNID@S

ON THE RECORD

"I know my brother, he's a great guy, goes to church, doesn't screw anybody over, and yet he's still got some religious yahoos and politicians over to the side going: 'Change your ways or you're going to hell.' Stay out of my brother's bedroom, buddy ... he's a good dude."
– CELEBRITY KEVIN SMITH ("Clerks," "Dogma") bragging about his gay brother to Piers Morgan. Smith performed at Milwaukee's Pabst Theater on March 25.

"So Peyton Manning was a tremendous MVP quarterback, but he's been injured. If that injury comes back, Denver will find itself without a quarterback. And in my opinion, it would serve them right."

– TELEVANGELIST PAT ROBERTSON telling his audience that the Broncos deserve to be punished for replacing uber-Christian quarterback Tim Tebow with Peyton Manning. Denver traded Tebow to the New York Jets.

"If you haven't cursed out a New York Times reporter during the course of a campaign, you're not really a real Republican, is the way I look at it."
– Obsessively anti-gay GOP presidential CANDIDATE RICK SANTORUM bragging to "Fox and Friends" about cussing out a NYT reporter during his recent visit to Wisconsin.

"You probably saw it every night on your television. You saw union members holding out in the state Capitol. You actually saw them trash the state Capitol. It was just an amazing thing. Playing music, there's nothing wrong with music. It was just strange behavior. They even got out from school to do this."

– WISCONSIN LT. GOV. REBECCA KLEEFISCH talking with Sandy Rios on the American Family Association radio network about last year's turmoil in Madison. The AFA has been classified as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

"I didn't want to end up like Whitney Houston, and I could have so easily ended up like Whitney Houston. It's a miracle I didn't. Because I'm sure I did as much cocaine as she ever did."

– ELTON JOHN telling David Burtka of "E! News" that his proudest accomplishment in life was not his six Grammy Awards, but getting sober in 1990.

"I don't know, a lot of therapy. Perhaps he could be honest about what terrible thing must have happened in his childhood that turned him into such a negative, ranting, raving person. I mean babies are not born that way."

– PROTO-FEMINIST GLORIA STEINEM during an appearance at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Women Leaders Conference answering the question, "What should be done with Rush Limbaugh?"

"If you think a Party Line is what Charlie Sheen puts on a mirror to share with his guests, you probably aren't a senior citizen."
– COMEDIAN RUTH BUZZI tweeting to her boomer followers.

Farewell to Adrienne Rich

Adrienne Rich, an acclaimed lesbian writer whose poetry, essays and activism defined the Second Wave of feminism and promoted lesbian-feminist ideals, died on March 27. She was the Virginia Woolf of our time.

The brilliance of Rich's poetry was recognized by the arts establishment, which honored her with many literary awards and grants. But her greater, incalculable legacy is in the standards of feminist and lesbian ethics she articulated and in the transformative influence she's had on two generations of women who found their deepest disappointments and aspirations reflected in her writing.

The New York Times published a detailed obituary for Rich. In the hundreds of comments afterward, many readers expressed anguished mourning, as though her death was a personal loss. They told how reading her poetry helped them identify and overcome their own problems or how they were simply transported by the beauty of her language and expression. Some related anecdotes about kindnesses Rich extended to them at chance meetings.

I compared Rich to Virginia Woolf. They were different in some ways, of course. Although they both wrote non-fiction, Woolf is primarily known for her fiction, Rich for her poetry. Woolf took her own life at age 59; Rich hung in there until complications of rheumatoid arthritis claimed her at 82.

But Rich and Woolf are united in their blending of art and politics, specifically their focus on women's lives and the restrictions and expectations that stifle women's personal fulfillment. They are united as well in identifying the problem: male-dominated institutions and definitions of women and their "place," what unregenerate feminists like me continue to call patriarchy.

Rich published several volumes of poetry before hitting a universal chord with women readers in her 1973 collection "Diving Into the Wreck." With startling imagery and heart-wrenching honesty, Rich reflected on her loss of identity and purpose within an unfulfilling marriage. It is sometimes compared in impact to Betty Friedan's "The Feminine Mystique," which helped launch the women's movement.

All of her poetry after "Diving" is intensely personal and deeply political. Among the best collections (whose titles convey the beauty of the verse) are "The Dream of a Common Language," "A Wild Patience Has Taken Me This Far" and "Your Native Land, Your Life."

In 1976, Rich published "Of Woman Born: Motherhood as Experience and Institution." In this work, she expressed this cornerstone of feminist ethics: "The most notable fact that culture imprints on

Two generations of women found their aspirations reflected in her writing.

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All of her poetry after "Diving" is intensely personal and deeply political. Among the best collections (whose titles convey the beauty of the verse) are "The Dream of a Common Language," "A Wild Patience Has Taken Me This Far" and "Your Native Land, Your Life."

In 1976, Rich published "Of Woman Born: Motherhood as Experience and Institution." In this work, she expressed this cornerstone of feminist ethics: "The most notable fact that culture imprints on

women is the sense of our limits. The most important thing one woman can do for another is to illuminate and expand her sense of actual possibilities."

Rich taught at universities, lectured widely and published essay collections. "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence," a must-read from 1980, can be found in "Blood, Bread and Poetry." In another great essay, "Vesuvius at Home: The Power of Emily Dickinson," she shatters the image of a timorous, asexual Dickinson, craving approval a la "The Belle of Amherst." Rich sees Dickinson as an artist of rigorous intellect and purpose whose passion for women is evident throughout her work and whose poetry is revolutionary even by today's standards.

Adrienne Rich was a woman of remarkable integrity. In 1997 she declined the prestigious National Medal of the Arts, which would have been conferred at the White House. She cited "the radical disparities of wealth and power in America" and said the president "cannot meaningfully honor certain token artists while the people at large are so dishonored."

Rest well, sister.

Coming together at the Passover seder

The past few weeks seemed to have sped by at lightning pace. Somehow I find myself 11 days away from Passover and quite honestly unprepared.

Yes, I've started to remove the chametz from my home. I did an initial deep clean, I've pestered people who haven't RSVPed to my seder and am putting the final touches on my menu.

Yet, despite all of these preparations it still feels like I should have at least another two weeks of planning, when in fact it's inching closer to one week day by day.

Passover is one of those holidays when I feel lucky to live in New York City surrounded by a lot of Jews. When you think about it, nearly all Jewish holidays are home-focused, but Passover seems to be the second most popular holiday for head-

Opinion
ERIKA K. DAVIS

an Orthodox shul and always asked if I had a place to eat Shabbat dinner.

I find that it's the same for Passover. A friend of mine recently told me a story about how a client of hers, an Orthodox woman, invited her to Pesach dinner during an appointment. This woman looked past the brown skin of my friend, past her pants and saw the Magen David around her neck. Her first question was, "Are you a Jew?" Her second was, "Do you have a place to go for seder?"

I thought it was incredibly remarkable that this virtual stranger was willing to open her home to another Jew – simply because. Sure it's a part of our Passover tradition to open the door as the seder starts and declare, "Let all who are hungry come to eat!" But how many of us do

this in real life?

I feel blessed to have a group of friends that I can count on being around my seder table. Just like last year, a mixed multitude of religions, races and ethnicities will find their way to my Pesach Seder. Some of us are Jews, some of us are Christians, and some of us only believe in a great meal with friends.

I cherish these holidays with friends. I feel lucky that I can share my home with people, and I hope that when I have a family of my own I continue to open my door to Jews who find themselves alone for the holidays.

Who's going to be around your seder table?

Erika K. Davis is author of the blog "black, gay and jewish" at www.blackgayjewish.com.

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LGBT health experts: High stakes at High Court

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

The Affordable Care Act, if it stands a Supreme Court test, will help close the health care gap for LGBT Americans, say health experts who closely monitored the top court's three days of arguments over the controversial legislation. The Court arguments, held March 26-28, occurred nearly two years to the day after President Barack Obama signed his landmark legislation into law. Almost immediately after the White House signing, a series of constitutional challenges were filed.

The central component of the law now being examined by the Court is the so-called individual mandate, which will require that uninsured

people purchase health coverage – with government help for those who can't afford the premiums. The Court question: Does the U.S. Constitution allow the government to require Americans to obtain insurance or pay a penalty?

The Court also is exploring whether, with an expansion of Medicaid, the federal government is unconstitutionally forcing states to spend more on health care for the poor. And the Court has heard arguments on the fate of the act if its key components are struck down.

Outside the Court building, demonstrators talked about "Obamacare" derisively and admiringly, depending on their political persuasion. Court experts speculated

that the decision likely will hinge on Republican appointees John Roberts and Anthony Kennedy, who showed strong reservations about the mandate during arguments.

A ruling from the Justices is expected in June, coming just before their summer recess and guaranteeing that health care reform, a central issue in the 2008 election, will be key to the 2012 election. The decision also likely will spark a debate over the composition of the Supreme Court.

The Court arguments over ACA coincided with the 10th annual observance of the National Coalition for LGBT Health's LGBT Health Awareness Week, which traditionally yields studies, lectures, seminars and

campaigns focused on the unique health needs of LGBT people and disparities in care. This year, the week focused



PHOTO: SEIU INTERNATIONAL/WILLIAM MELTON JR.

A young activist rallies for the Affordable Care Act on March 27.

on the ACA and its impact on LGBT citizens.

In observing the week, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said, "When this administration took office, the health care system wasn't working for a lot of Americans. But it was especially broken for LGBT Americans. That wasn't right. All Americans, regardless of where they live or their age, sex, race, sexual orientation or gender identity, have a basic right to get the care they need."

The Affordable Care Act provides for:

- A National Prevention Strategy that says, "All Americans should have the opportunity to live long, healthy, independent, and productive lives, regardless

of their ... sexual orientation or gender identity; geographic location; or other characteristics."

- Data collection, beginning in 2013, to better understand LGBT health disparities.

• A Patient's Bill of Rights to end insurance company abuses. The law ended lifetime limits on coverage in 2010 and by 2014 will phase out annual limits on where they live or their age, sex, race, sexual orientation and relationship laws, are

- Expanding Medicaid eligibility so that adults under age 65 and earning less than \$15,000 a year become eligible. Studies show that LGBT people, with discrimination in employment and relationship laws, are

HEALTH page 15

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'This is one our greatest opportunities to close the LGBT health disparities gap'



PHOTO: SEIU INTERNATIONAL/WILLIAM MELTON JR.

Outside the U.S. Supreme Court building on March 27, citizens rally in support of the federal Affordable Care Act. The High Court held three days of hearings on the controversial legislation.

HEALTH from page 14

disproportionately more likely to make less than \$15,000 a year and be uninsured.

- Creating a health insurance exchange in 2014 that offers subsidies to small employers and individuals earning \$15,000 to \$43,000 a year to purchase coverage. The law prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in coverage and requires that benefits include

drugs, hospital stays, mental and behavioral health services.

- Publishing Web-based resources that help same-sex couples find plans that include domestic partner coverage.
- Tripling the size of the health service corps in underserved areas of the country, expanding community health centers and increasing support for LGBT sensitivity training from Health and Human Services.

• Prohibiting, beginning in 2014, insurance companies from denying or canceling coverage on the basis of a pre-existing conditions, including HIV or gender dysphoria.

• Making HIV/AIDS drugs more affordable and eliminating the requirement that people with HIV wait for an AIDS diagnosis before qualifying for Medicaid.

• Prohibiting insurance companies from charging co-pays or other fees for preventive services recommended by a U.S. task force, including testing for HIV and STDs, depression screening, vaccinations, cholesterol and blood-pressure screening.

"The Affordable Care Act is one of the greatest opportunities we have ever had to begin to close the LGBT health disparities gap," said Jeff Krehely, vice president of

The Affordable Care act has 'enormous potential to impact the domestic AIDS epidemic.'

LGBT research for the Center for American Progress.

The ACA has "enormous potential to impact the domestic AIDS epidemic," added Scott Schoettes, HIV project director for Lambda Legal.

In 2010, when the Affordable Care Act was enacted, 17 percent of Americans with HIV/AIDS had private insurance coverage, and nearly 30 percent had neither private nor public insurance. Health experts expect those percentages to go down as the ACA is phased in.

Looking to Massachusetts, where Mitt Romney signed a health reform bill into law that expanded the pool of the insured in part by enacting an individual mandate, the number

of uninsured has declined dramatically, along with a decline in HIV infections. Between 2005 and 2008, after Massachusetts enacted its health reform law, the state saw a decrease in HIV infections of 38 percent. At the national level, infections increased 8 percent.

Lambda Legal, a leading LGBT civil rights group, joined with 130 other organizations in filing a friend-of-the-court brief supporting the Affordable Care Act. Others that signed the brief include the AIDS Interfaith Network, National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors, National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network, Queer People's Health Collective, Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition and the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association.

The brief supports the administration's position that the ACA's minimum coverage requirement – the individual mandate – is constitutional under the Commerce Clause and the Necessary and Proper Clause.

The brief also supports the argument that the individual mandate is necessary because insurers need a larger pool of customers, including young healthy people, in order to spread out risk and cover the sick.

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Shootings stoke furor over gun laws

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

The fatal shooting of an unarmed black teenager in Sanford, Fla., has led to mass protests, a congressional hearing, Justice Department scrutiny and widespread debate on gun laws, bias crime and racial profiling.

The death of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin on Feb. 26 is not a whodunit – without question it was volunteer neighborhood watch captain George Zimmerman who shot and killed Martin with a licensed semiautomatic.

But many questions do remain about the incident in the gated Retreat at Twin Lakes in suburban Orlando and how the police department and prosecutor's office responded. Zimmerman, 28, who has not been arrested, claims he acted in self-defense. He says Martin seemed suspicious and became the aggressor, breaking his nose and bashing his head.

Martin's family and their many supporters, however,

claim Zimmerman pursued the teen because of his color. They maintain that the 17-year-old, who was carrying a can of iced tea and a package of Skittles while talking on a cellphone to his girlfriend, posed no threat.

On March 27, Martin's parents spoke briefly at a congressional hearing on bias crime and racial profiling. Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee called the hearing for "a discussion of the issues surrounding when the federal government can intervene in matters relating to hate crimes."

Lawmakers heard from an attorney for the Martin family, as well as from representatives of the Justice Department and civil rights groups, including the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest LGBT group.

"This case is a tragedy," HRC deputy legislative director David Stacy testified. "We don't know the degree to which racial bias played a role. That is an important question for the investigation,

not only in finding justice for Trayvon and his family, but also so that we can determine how best to prevent another tragedy."

Stacy named several LGBT people killed in bias crimes and noted several anti-LGBT crimes in Washington, D.C., in recent months.

"Bias-motivated crimes terrorize an entire community. Individuals feel less safe, less secure and less free," he said. "As we see with the incredible national response to Trayvon's death, or as we saw with the deaths of James Byrd Jr. and Matthew Shepard, these specific incidents have a much broader impact."

Stacy described the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crime Prevention Act that Barack Obama signed into law in 2009 as "badly needed authority to expand the federal government's ability to investigate and prosecute hate crimes."

The Justice Department and the FBI are investigating

the Martin shooting to determine whether federal charges should be filed, possibly under the Shepard-Byrd law, which expanded the U.S. government's role in investigating and prosecuting bias crime and also expanded classifications to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

During a March 20 speech at a conference on LGBT issues at the University of Texas-Arlington, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said that under the Obama administration, Justice's Civil Rights Division has taken "preventing, investigating and prosecuting hate-fueled crimes and violence" to a "new level."

In fiscal 2011, Justice set records in the number of hate crimes cases filed, the number of defendants charged and the number convicted. Seven cases have been indicted under Shepard-Byrd, 24 defendants have been charged and eight have been convicted, Holder said. Valerie B. Jarrett, senior

'No one should be forced to look over their shoulder because of who they are.'

advisor to the president, also addressed the conference. She reminded attendees that when Obama signed the Shepard-Byrd act he said, "No one in America should be forced to look over their shoulder because of who they are."

The U.S. government showed an interest in the Trayvon Martin case as citizen protests began over the Sanford Police Department's failure to arrest Zimmerman and the lack of prosecutorial action from the Seminole County State Attorney's office.

Now, as the Justice Department and FBI continue to investigate, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement is conducting a state review and a local grand jury will hear evidence.

Also, several Florida Democrats have suggested holding a special legislative session to review the Stand Your Ground law that the Sanford police chief has said gave Zimmerman the authority to shoot. The statute allows a person who feels threatened to use force to prevent harm.

Similar statutes are under scrutiny in other states, including the so-called "Castle Doctrine" in Wisconsin that was cited in the defense of a homeowner's killing of 20-year-old Bo Morrison in West Bend on March 3. Morrison, also black and unarmed, died a week after Martin.

At a rally at UW-Madison on March 3, organizer Dan Suarez characterized both deaths as "lynchings."

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NATIONAL BRIEFS

BINATIONAL COUPLES SUE TO OVERTURN DOMA

Five same-sex couples filed a suit April 2 in the Eastern District of New York, challenging Section 3 of the federal Defense of Marriage Act. The 1996 law prevents lesbian and gay American citizens from sponsoring their spouses for green cards.

The lawsuit, filed on the couples' behalf by Immigration Equality and the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, alleges that DOMA violates the couples' constitutional right to equal protection.

"Solely because of DOMA and its unconstitutional discrimination against same-sex couples these Plaintiffs are being denied the immigration rights afforded to other similarly situated binational couples," the complaint states.

Were the plaintiffs opposite-sex couples, the suit says, "the federal government would recognize the foreign spouse as an 'immediate

relative' of a United States citizen, thereby allowing the American spouse to petition for an immigrant visa for the foreign spouse, and place (them) on the path to lawful permanent residence and citizenship."

JIMMY CARTER: 'IT IS FINE' FOR GAYS TO MARRY

In an interview focused on his new book, "NIV Lessons from Life Bible: Personal Reflections with Jimmy Carter," former President Jimmy Carter says its fine for gays to marry in civil ceremonies.

The Huffington Post had asked Carter - Nobel Peace Prize winner, Sunday school teacher and Christian - about homosexuality and the Bible, saying, "A lot of people point to the Bible for reasons why gay people should not be in the church, or accepted in any way."

"Homosexuality was well known in the ancient world, well before Christ was born and Jesus never said a word

about homosexuality. In all of his teachings about multiple things - he never said that gay people should be condemned," Carter replied. "I personally think it is very fine for gay people to be married in civil ceremonies."

SEC DENIES OIL COMPANY REQUEST TO BLOCK RESOLUTION

The federal Securities and Exchange Commission recently rejected a request from ExxonMobil to block a shareholder resolution adding sexual orientation and gender identity to the company's non-discrimination policy.

Shareholders are set to vote on the proposal during an annual meeting May 30. New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli proposed the resolution.

When Exxon Corp. acquired Mobil Corp more than 10 years ago, Mobil lost domestic partner benefits for new employees. Such ben-

efits never existed at Exxon. Since then, the Human Rights Campaign and other groups, including the New York City Pension Funds, have pressed for reinstating benefits through the passage of a shareholders' resolution.

SENATE CONFIRMS GAY JUDGE

The U.S. Senate on March 15 confirmed Michael Fitzgerald to the bench in the U.S. District Court for Central California.

A simple majority was needed to confirm the gay man. The vote was 91-6, after a four-month delay.

The "no" votes came from Republicans Roy Blunt of Missouri, Jim DeMint of South Carolina, James Inhofe of Oklahoma, Mike Lee of Utah, Rand Paul of Kentucky and David Vitter of Louisiana.

In a statement, Fitzgerald expressed gratitude for his nomination and his confirmation and said, "I look forward to serving the people of the Central District of California."

U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-California, who nominated Fitzgerald, called his confirmation historic.

GROUP SUES U.S. PASTOR FOR PERSECUTING GAYS

An East African gay advocacy group filed a federal lawsuit on March 14 against a Massachusetts evangelist, alleging he has waged a decade-long campaign to persecute gays in Uganda.

The suit was filed in federal court in Springfield, Mass., against minister Scott Lively under a statute that Sexual Ministries Uganda says allows non-citizens to file U.S. court actions for violations of international law.

Frank Mugisha, who heads the advocacy group, said it was singling out Lively for "helping spread propaganda and violence" against Uganda's gay people.

Lively, of Abiding Truth Ministries, is one of a handful of American pastors whom Ugandan gay activists accuse

of having helped draft the original version of the African nation's anti-homosexuality bill calling for the death penalty.

N.H. LAWMAKERS VOTE AGAINST MARRIAGE REPEAL

New Hampshire lawmakers rejected a proposal to repeal the state's marriage equality law and re-enact the civil unions law that existed in 2008 and 2009.

Republican state Rep. David Bates introduced the measure to eliminate gay marriage on March 13, 2013, following a nonbinding referendum in November.

Polls in the state continue to show that a majority of voters oppose repealing marriage equality. Also, New Hampshire Gov. John Lynch said he would have vetoed the bill if it had passed.

- Lisa Neff

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PET GAZE

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Adieu to the visible soul of my home

By Louis Weisberg Staff writer

Abby came into my life in early January 1999. It was about a week after a record-breaking blizzard dumped 21 inches of snow on Chicago, where I was living at the time. I remember trudging through a thigh-deep bank of plowed snow lining the curb while she yowled in a plastic carrier.

Abby was about two years old at the time - an overstuffed, tuxedo-style domestic shorthair with a distinguishing black spot just above her mouth. I immediately pronounced it to be a beauty mark.

Abby had come into my life the usual way - as an orphan. Her previous owner, who was a friend of a friend, was getting married and moving to California. His fiancée was allergic to cats. It was either me or the pound, I was told by my friend. Since I already had four cats, I figured, "What's one more?"

For the first months of our time together, Abby mostly hid. The other cats greeted her with hostility, as cats do. The hisses, howls and shattering glass that accompanied their late-night battles woke me from many a sound sleep.

Eventually Abby developed a bladder infection from holding her urine. Understandably, she didn't want to use the same litter box as her tormentors.

After shelling out a couple of hundred dollars to treat the infection, I started giving her a lot more attention - and created new litter arrangements.

Abby gradually blended in with the other felines, but never comfortably. She maintained a cool distance. Any cat who ambled too close was inevitably punished with a hiss and a smack.

But she was a great lover of people, complete with a sonic purr and an uncontrollable propensity for any available lap. Most of my

friends proclaimed her their favorite among my brood. Somehow she acquired the nicknames "Schmabbs" and "the Schmabbers."

The Schmabbers had a number of endearing traits. She greeted visitors with a polite meow. She'd gaze out the window for hours chattering at the birds. She liked sitting in my bathtub and bathing at the water dripping from the leaky faucet.

Unlike other cats, she didn't mind traveling too much, and I was able to take her with me on short trips.

Schmabbs had one very strange behavior that I was never able to decipher: She'd carry around a shoelace in her mouth while meowing very loudly, as if she'd just caught a mouse and wanted the entire world to know of her conquest.

In 2005, when the last of the older felines died, the Schmabbers became the top cat of my household. She slept next to me at night, enfolded in my right arm like a baby (she would never sleep on my left side).

That same year, she was diagnosed with diabetes. For the next seven years, my entire life revolved around her need for insulin every 12 hours, and the accompanying requirement to check her blood sugar level. She never objected or squirmed when I had to prick her ear for a drop of blood to test. In fact, she'd

turn her little head up so that I could do it more easily.

In 2010, Abby's health began a gradual slide. She developed hyperthyroidism. Her kidneys began to fail, and my partner and I had to infuse her with fluids every other day to eliminate the toxins from her body that her kidneys could no longer handle. As with the ear pricks and the insulin, she tolerated these treatments with patience I'd never seen in a cat.

Last fall, she was diagnosed with lymphoma and had to undergo chemotherapy. She shrunk before our eyes. From the hefty 15-pound cat I first met on that snow-covered Chicago day in 1999, she shrunk to 6 pounds.

Still, she enjoyed life - taking long naps on her electric heating pad and in the morning sunlight, occasionally showing off her shoelace and greeting visitors at the door. She could still leap from the floor to her spot next to me on the bed without faltering.

My partner and I knew the end was near in February. Her feisty, confident spirit was fading. Her lively eyes grew hollow.

We cherished every day with her as if it was the last. We amassed an insane stock of every kind of cat food imaginable, hoping that something would stimulate

Last fall she was diagnosed with lymphoma.

her appetite again.

When she ate a healthy meal, we rejoiced. When she turned up her nose at dish after dish, we despaired. We often joked about the inherent craziness of allowing our moods to be determined by a cat's eating habits.

We lived in constant dread of the day when we would have to say good-bye. That day came on March 16, when Dr. Kathryn Christensen aka The Cat Doctor helped to ease Schmabbs' way over what we pet-lovers call "the Rainbow Bridge."

The doctor had devotedly seen our brave, sweet little friend through many health crises, but on this occasion it was our grief she had to attend. Vets say it's the most difficult part of their occupation.

Schmabbs was a central part of my life for 13 years. She was my comfort through many a trying time. She watched me write a novel and pull together the project that became this publication. She was, as the French



PHOTO: PEGGY MORSCH

The Schmabbers in October 2011.

novelist Collette said of her cats, the "visible soul" of my home.

We still have three amazing felines, but our home and our lives are much emptier now. We try to remember her with joy and gratitude instead of sorrow, but it's a tearful struggle. It probably will be for some time to come. Rest in peace, little Schmabbers. If you have pet stories you would like to share with WIG readers, send them to lweisberg@wisconsinngazette.com.

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WIGOUT!

Isaac Julien videos explore the sublime at MAM

By **Kat Murrell**
Contributing writer

In a dark gallery at the Milwaukee Art Museum, three large screens glow with the projection of a video. A tall black woman swathed in heavy clothes makes her way across a vast icy, landscape of rocks, snow and sky. The screens show her near and far while a low, rumbling soundtrack accompanies her journey.

This is just one moment of an exploration and exposition of the sublime, a meditation on awesome beauty and ruggedness of physical land, a rumination on deep questions of identity within ourselves and the strands that connect us through history and culture.

The video is "True North," by out London-based artist Isaac Julien. The 12-minute piece, shown on a continuous basis, is the first in a trilogy of Julien's exploration videos to be on view in coming weeks at the Milwaukee Art Museum.

The exhibition of these three videos – "True North" (2004), "Fantôme Afrique" (2005) and "Western Union: Small Boats" (2007) – is notable. Milwaukee will be the first institution to show all of these related works sequentially. They function powerfully on their own, but we will have the opportunity to explore the works over time. The third video is newly acquired by MAM.

Julien's work has often focused on issues of identity, sexuality, gender and politics. His award-winning 1988 film "Looking for Langston" delved into the life of Langston Hughes, the gay African-American poet associated with the Harlem Renaissance. "True North" takes inspiration from the journey of Matthew Henson, an African-American explorer who was part of Robert Peary's party. Organized in 1909, Peary's expedition was to be the first to reach the

North Pole. Though Peary was formally declared in 1911 to have been the first man to reach this remote point, it is most probable that Henson was actually the first. Narration from Henson's biography is incorporated in the video soundtrack as we watch the journey of Julien's protagonist, performed by Vanessa Myrie. She appears in various forms, as a figure of contemporary life, as a kitted-out explorer and as an ethereal vision in flowing white garb on a cold, stony beach. Throughout, she is self-possessed, usually alone but without a sense of loneliness.

The notion of searching, of exploring the footsteps of history, truth and personal quest, underlie her poised demeanor, even in the most treacherous of landscapes. At times she is accompanied by Inuit explorers, a suggestive reminder that while record books may note events as unprecedented, indigenous cultures have traversed these wilds long before the appearance of outside explorers.

The film is not a single narrative per se, but rather a connected series of images and events meant to evoke elements of a journey. Some moments are like a dream sequence, while other segments present landscape as abstract beauty. In one scene, deeply crevassed terrain

An exploration and exposition of the sublime, a meditation on the awesome beauty and ruggedness of physical land.

causes uncertainty, and it is as though the camera falls down a deep abyss, plunged into darkness.

The filming of "True North" took place over 10 days in Iceland. The natural ruggedness of the landscape has a beauty all its own. In the framing and colors there is also a sense of the sublime, as investigated by Caspar David Friedrich, a 19th-century German Romantic painter. Friedrich was one of the first to explore alpine scenery as a locus of interest, a place that calls to mind solitude, quietness and grandeur. Some 200 years later, the impact of this land still holds true.

As a work of contemporary art and technology, Julien's video directs our attention masterfully,



PHOTO: COURTESY OF ISAAC JULIEN, METRO PICTURES, NEW YORK AND VICTORIA MIRO GALLERY, LONDON
From Isaac Julien's "True North" (2004).

It is a highly collaborative work, orchestrated by the artist and including the skills of composers, musicians, actors, film crew and writers. The soundtrack accents the visuals with visceral bass, moments of stillness, percussive strikes and evocative indigenous vocals. The narration of text, recount-

ing the thoughts of Matthew Henson, highlights shifting questions. Where is true north, and where is true history? What are the identities of those who search, and why do we take on exploration? It is not a question that Julien will answer for you, but rather he offers this moment of time for you to consider it.

ON VIEW
"True North" is on view through April 9, to be followed by screenings of "Fantôme Afrique" and "Western Union: Small Boats" this spring and summer.

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Grilled cheese grows up at Melthouse Bistro

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

April is National Grilled Cheese Sandwich Month, and Troy Davis hopes diners will celebrate America's staple dish at the Melthouse Bistro, the new restaurant he started with wife Susan M. Davis.

As the name implies, the bistro offers a wide and evolving selection of gourmet grilled cheese sandwiches, the likes of which many fans of the Velveeta-and-white-bread wonders of childhood have never seen before. The message behind the creative menu is simple: This is not your mother's grilled cheese sandwich.

"You've grown up and now your favorite sandwich has grown up, too," says Troy Davis, a Kraft Foods veteran who also works from his East Side home as marketing director for the Evogi Group, an insurance technology firm based in Scottsdale, Ariz.

The first recorded evidence of grilled cheese sandwiches in America comes from the 1920s. Since then, the economical favorite has become a household staple for busy parents. Quick and easy to fix, it's also one of the first dishes many college students learn to prepare — using a clothes iron (that may be the only thing the iron ever gets used for).

Melthouse Bistro, which opened in November 2011, takes the sandwich up on the food chain with a variety of creative recipes. Davis' concept is based on a "barn-to-bistro" ethos that stresses fresh, locally sourced ingredients and creative preparation. Davis says the project is a labor of love, as well as a carefully calculated marketing approach to a niche he and his wife felt was begging to be filled.

"There is a growing interest in gourmet Wisconsin cheeses, and this was a market no one else was addressing," Davis says. "Focus group results and other research convinced us there would be a strong interest in the concept."

The restaurant is built on a "fast casual" format, in which customers order at the counter, then take a seat and wait for their food to be



PHOTO: COURTESY MELTHOUSE BISTRO

delivered. Fast casual is the fastest growing segment in the restaurant industry, Davis says, and the growth is driven by women, ages 24 to 45.

Davis' research also indicated that the restaurant's location, 1857 E. Kenilworth Place — four blocks from the Davis residence — is the heartbeat of that bracket, making it the perfect setting.

Melthouse Bistro is a partner of sorts with the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, the Madison-based state dairy trade group. Davis taps the Grilled Cheese Academy, a WMMB micro-site, for many of his grilled cheese recipes. He also provides the site with some of his own.

April's featured sandwich is The Maliblu, a Davis creation described as "the classic club sandwich meets Cobb salad and grilled cheese," according to a WMMB press release. Wisconsin blue cheese is paired with smoked turkey breast, smoked bacon,

Melthouse Bistro takes the old standby up the food chain.

avocado, hard-boiled egg, roasted garlic mayo, tomatoes and romaine lettuce. The combination is grilled between two thick-cut slices of French country bread. (For the recipe, go to www.grilledcheeseacademy.com.)

Thickly sliced artisan bread delivered daily from Milwaukee's Breadsmith bakery is used in all Melthouse Bistro sandwiches, Davis says. The current house favorite is The Buffalo Bill, a blend of Monterey Jack and blue cheeses complemented by

hand-battered fried chicken and buffalo wing sauce with peppers and lettuce on sourdough bread.

The Biloxi features Fontina cheese, pulled barbecue pork, pickles and creamy coleslaw on buttermilk white bread. There are non-meat options as well, including The Cheesehead, featuring provolone, aged (sharp) cheddar and Muenster cheeses served with pesto aioli on whole wheat bread; and The Sergeant Pepper, consisting of pepper jack and cheddar cheeses, roasted cauliflower and red peppers with tempu-

ra-battered fried onions on sourdough bread.

All cheeses are, of course, from Wisconsin. The menu also features soups, salads, Wisconsin microbrews and wine. Last month the restaurant started serving brunch on Saturday and Sunday, and the reigning favorite is The FlatIron, which is essentially two thick slices of French toast stuffed with melted brie, pecan wood-smoked bacon and hash browns — served with a fried egg on top.

"Grilled cheese sandwiches are experiencing a

renaissance," says Davis, an Engleton, Texas, native whose wife Susan Davis hails from Cudahy and serves on the board of Cream City Foundation. "We're moving from childhood favorites to adult flavors, and there is so much from which to choose." The Milwaukee restaurant is at the epicenter of the renaissance, helping everyone's favorite sandwich grow up.

For hours, menus and more information, go to www.melthousebistro.com.

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Gay conductor marches UW band forward

By Jay Rath

Contributing writer

This month Justin Stolarik will conduct what may be the best-known musical group in the state. When he does, he'll be wearing a white tuxedo with red sequins on his vest, tie and sneakers.

"What I'm wearing is definitely, stereotypically gay," he laughs. "Except that my colleague wears sequins from head to toe! I just have accents."

Stolarik is assistant director of the University of Wisconsin-Madison marching band, and the upcoming event is the Varsity Band Concert, led by the flamboyant (and straight) Mike Leckrone, director of bands. The Madison concert, an annual spectacle, is subsequently broadcast by Wisconsin Public Television.

Stolarik is openly gay. Besides the marching band (called the Varsity Band when not at football games), UW-Madison has five concert wind ensembles. He conducts one of the three university

bands and takes over at the Varsity Band Concert when Leckrone is off the stage — or over it; Stolarik's boss, who's led the marching band since 1969, loves to be suspended on wires to perform aerial stunts.

Stolarik grew up on Long Island and in Orlando. He didn't realize he was gay until college. "When I came out to my sister, she said, 'Well, when did you know?' And I said, 'Kind of recently.' And she said, 'Well, your brother and I should have told you when you were in high school.'"

In 2008, Stolarik received a doctorate in musical arts from the University of Texas-Austin. He spent a year as assistant director of bands at Henderson State University in Arizona before joining UW-Madison in the fall of 2009.

In Madison, his sexual orientation never comes up with colleagues. "Living in different parts of the country, for instance Texas or Arkansas, people would ask,

"Oh, do you have a wife?" Whereas people on this campus are more inclined to ask, "Are you married or do you have a partner?" That was a big surprise.

"I do feel like they know," he says of his students. "I don't discuss it with them because, straight or gay, my personal life is not their business."

While it's statistically certain that some of his students are not straight, they never ask him about it.

"I did get that at Henderson State, at the smaller school," he recalls. "I kind of chalk that up to its being in a more rural area, where students don't have a lot of outlets, so they would approach me with questions about themselves."

Whether working with the 300-strong marching band or his university band, "I think the rewards in the end are the same," he says. "Seeing the students getting excited about something they've accomplished after going through the whole rehearsal process."

Another reward for Stolarik is in programming dissonant, "ear-stretching" music by composers that undergraduates might not be familiar with, such as Philip Glass.

"I always tell them, 'I'm not asking you to like it, and I'd prefer you not to make a judgment on any of the music today, but make a judgment after we perform it,'" he says. "And if you still don't like it, that's totally cool. But don't judge it until then, because your opinions may change and may evolve."

Jay Rath is a Madison-based reporter who sometimes assists the UW-Madison Bands with freelance marketing work.

IN CONCERT

Dr. Justin Stolarik will help lead the UW Varsity Band Concert at 7:30 p.m. April 19-21, at the Kohl Center in Madison. For tickets or more information, call 608-265-4120 or visit badgerband.com.



Justin Stolarik

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James Lloyd, *Among the Grasses* (Susanna York), n.d. (detail). Gift of Anthony Petullo. Photo by John R. Glembin.

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Three acts, connected by love

By Michael Muckian
Contributing writer

Effective communication is the heartbeat of any relationship, and its absence can extinguish even the most passionate coupling. The connection among couples – and its lack – threads together the three one-act plays that comprise “Love Stories,” the final 2011-12 seasonal offering of Madison’s Forward Theater Company. The three-plays-as-one runs April 12-29 in The Playhouse at Madison’s Overture Center for the Arts.

Forward’s “Love Stories” include Bertolt Brecht’s “The Jewish Wife,” Dorothy Parker’s “Here We Are” and George Bernard Shaw’s “Village Wooing.” Although being presented for the first time in Wisconsin, the combination of works was something that Jennifer Uphoff Gray, Forward’s artistic director, first assembled some 20 years ago.

“The three classic plays in ‘Love Stories’ were ones I had first paired up in an off-off-Broadway production I created when I was just out of college and new to New York City,” writes Gray in her blog on the Forward Theater website. “I knew they were great pieces that complemented and informed each other in interesting ways, but I certainly had no relevant life experience then to help me interpret what they had to say about marriage.”

Gray’s domestic situation and her understanding of the rigors of relationships has

since changed. But the three works have endured in their interconnectivity and appeal, according to Milwaukee Shakespeare’s Paula Suozzi, who directs Forward’s production.

Casting James Ridge and Colleen Madden, American Players Theatre company members who are married in real life, brings a twist to Forward’s production, she adds.

“We were thrilled when Jim and Colleen agreed to do these plays,” Suozzi says. “The rehearsal hall was completely comfortable from Day One because they know each other so well.”

The three individual works focus on the importance communication plays in supporting and nurturing relationships, the director says. The female character in “The Jewish Wife” talks to friends on the phone, telling them what they want to hear. She then says what she really feels to an absent husband, but remains silent when he enters the room. In “Here We Are,” a young couple, terrified for their future, converse freely but about nothing that has any importance. In contrast to the other works, in “Village Wooing” the characters are open and speak their minds.

“Most married people would put communication as being the fundamental component to a successful relationship,” Suozzi says. “These plays are a study in communication, or the lack thereof. It’s a fantastically diverse evening examining how people communicate.”

ON STAGE

Forward Theater Co.’s production of “Love Stories” runs April 12-29 at The Playhouse at Madison’s Overture Center for the Arts. For more information, visit www.forwardtheater.com.

Theater

MICHAEL MUCKIAN



PHOTO: COURTESY

Colleen Madden and James Ridge.

Suozzi sought a larger narrative to weave the three works together and bring a fresh approach to some classic texts. Ridge and Madden delivered the over-arching dynamic as two professional actors trying to manage both their careers and family while maintaining their relationship as husband and wife. That gave Suozzi the structure she sought.

“We can each speak to that challenge out of our own life experience,” Suozzi says. “I think it’s going to be a really interesting frame for the piece, one that much of the audience can relate to.”

Each of the three plays retains its original

and distinct characteristics. Brecht’s realism is accompanied by unspoken emotions that roil just below the surface. Parker’s characters speak in fits and starts, never saying what they really mean, while Shaw’s dialogue is verbose and direct, something that fans of the Irish playwright savor.

“There is a pacing that comes into play in each work that we use as a jumping-off point to pace the conversation,” Suozzi says. “Part of what will make the evening fun is to see the same actors embrace very different styles, and we’re leaning into that to make the performances come to life.”

Does Suozzi have a favorite play from among the three? She did, she says, but since becoming involved in the project, her preferences have changed.

“Several weeks ago I would have said ‘The Jewish Wife’ was my favorite, because I have always enjoyed realism in theater,” she explains. “But now I would say ‘Village Wooing,’ because I am falling in love with each of the characters in the play, and I owe a big part of that to Jim and Colleen’s amazing skills.”

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Curator Kuntz brings Claudette Colbert to Charles Allis Museum

By Michael Muckian
Contributing writer

Fans of Claudette Colbert can relive the late screen star’s glory years starting in April thanks to the resources of Dale Kuntz. The Milwaukee film historian will draw on his personal collection of some 500 16mm films to present six of the French-born actress’ best works for 12 weeks during the Movie Time series at Milwaukee’s Charles Allis Decorative Art Museum, 1801 N. Prospect Ave.

The series, shown every other Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the museum’s Margaret Rahill Great Hall, opens April 11 with 1934’s “It Happened One Night,” in which Colbert stars opposite Clark Gable and for which she won her only Academy Award. The series closes June 20 with 1947’s “The Egg and I,” the comedy costarring former Beaver Dam, Wis., resident Fred MacMurray that is considered Colbert’s last great success.

“Claudette Colbert remains one of the most popular, successful and endearing stars in motion picture history,” says Kuntz, 79. “In a career that spanned more than 40 years and 66 motion pictures, she was known in Hollywood as a star who didn’t change her hairstyle or her husband for 25 of those years.”

Colbert, the daughter of a banker and a pastry chef, was born in Paris in 1903 and raised in New York City, where she began her Broadway career during the 1920s. She moved to Hollywood at the advent of talkies and became the most highly paid motion picture actress of the 1930s. She performed with most of the leading men of the day, making her mark in screwball comedies and maintaining a solid career until the early 1960s. She performed intermittently in theater and on television after that, eventually moving to Barbados, where she died from a series of strokes in 1996 at age 92.

The Colbert series is one of several the museum will host, Kuntz says. The next series, beginning in July, is devoted to leading ladies of the 1930s. Among those featured are Norma Shearer, Greta Garbo, Bette Davis, Irene Dunn, Myrna Loy, Jean Harlow and Jeanette MacDonald, Kuntz’s personal favorite.

“I am a big fan of musicals and I just love Jeanette MacDonald,” says Kuntz, who will again draw on his personal collection for the program content. “I was enchanted by her when I was a kid, and I personally own 27 of her 29 films.”

In addition to films, Kuntz also owns a large collection of film memorabilia, including more than 1,000 promotional stills from “Gone With the Wind,” his favorite movie. However, the crown jewel in Kuntz’s collection is the wedding invitation that the mother of the bride received to Jeanette MacDonald’s wedding. “I am very proud of that one,” he says.

A former director of purchasing for WISN-TV and former film curator for the Milwaukee Art Museum, Kuntz has spent his retirement years hosting showings like those scheduled for Charles Allis. He draws on his personal collection to show films primarily from the



PHOTO: WEB

Claudette Colbert and Clark Gable in “It Happened One Night.”

Colbert remains one of the the screen’s most enduring stars.

1930s and ‘40s – as often as seven times a month for senior centers, community centers, libraries and church groups. The small amount of money raised from the showings goes toward building his film and memorabilia collection, which he is considering donating to the Wisconsin Historical Society’s Wisconsin Center for Film & Theater Research in Madison.

His most popular series, “Remembering World War II,” features film clips and memorabilia from films of the 1940s. “Christmas on the Screen,” another popular series, features clips of cinematic Christmas songs including, of course, Bing Crosby’s signature version of “White Christmas.”

“I personally think Bing Crosby has gotten a bad rap over the years,” Kuntz says. “People say that Sinatra was a better singer and Tony Bennett is a better singer. But Crosby had an uninterrupted film and music career from the 1930s through the 1950s and was at one time the most popular movie star in America. You can’t say that about Sinatra.”

Kuntz hopes to reintroduce Bing Crosby to a new generation, and who knows? With the right presentation, Crosby may one day be even bigger than Jeanette MacDonald.

Film
MICHAEL MUCKIAN

FILM SCHEDULE

The Movie Time tribute to Claudette Colbert, playing at the Charles Allis Decorative Art Museum, 1801 N. Prospect Ave., includes:

April 11
“It Happened One Night” (1934, 105 min.) with Clark Gable and Walter Connolly.

April 25
“The Palm Beach Story” (1942, 87 min.) with Joel McCrea and Mary Astor.

May 9
“So Proudly We Hail!” (1943, 126 min.) with Paulette Goddard and Veronica Lake.

May 23
“No Time for Love” (1943, 83 min.) with Fred MacMurray and June Havoc.

June 9
“Tomorrow is Forever” (1946, 105 min.) with Orson Wells and George Brent.

June 20
“The Egg and I” (1947, 108 min.) with Fred MacMurray and Marjorie Main.
For more details, call 414-278-8295.

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New releases, reissues for cover lovers

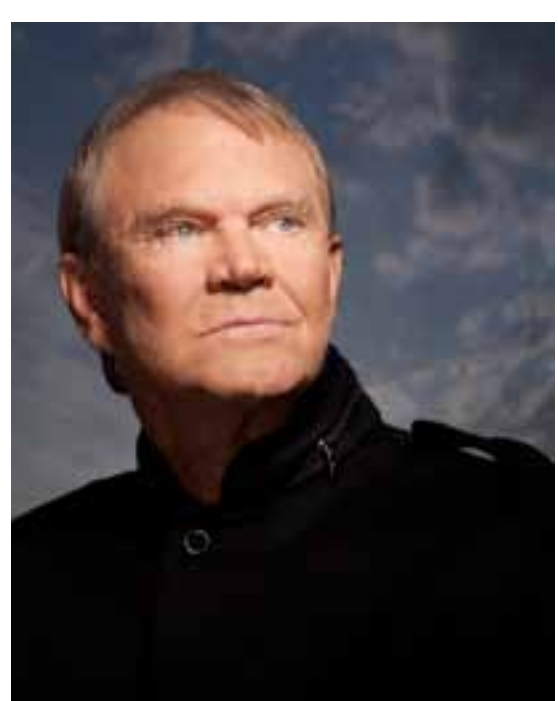


PHOTO: COURTESY

Glen Campbell performs at Ravinia in Highland Park, Ill., on June 28; at the Meyer Theatre in Green Bay on June 29; and at the Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua in Bayfield on June 30.

Music

GREGG SHAPIRO

GLEN CAMPBELL

Released in 2008, the ironically titled "Meet Glen Campbell" seemed calculated to help the legend cash in on the resurgent popularity of other country artists of his generation, including Loretta Lynn, Bettye LaVette, Johnny Cash and Mavis Staples. The album was a strong effort. Still in good voice, Campbell covered songs by Travis ("Sing"), Tom Petty ("Walls"), Foo Fighters ("Times Like These"), U2 ("All I Want Is You") and others. Following his announcement that he's suffering from Alzheimer's disease, Campbell announced his retirement and released an expanded 2012 reissue of "Meet Glen Campbell" featuring more covers as well as some originals. The album includes five bonus cuts and two 2008 remixes of the

'Voice of Ages' is the right name for the new album by the acclaimed Irish folk band The Chieftains.

classics "Gentle on My Mind" and "Galveston."

PAUL MCCARTNEY

Paul McCartney wrote or co-wrote some of the greatest love songs of the 20th century. So it's fascinating to ponder the love songs written by others that he chose to record on the pleasant, if not earthshaking, "Kisses On the Bottom." Exercising different vocal muscles to perform "some of the old songs" that his "parents' generation used to sing," McCartney is backed up (almost exclusively) by Diana Krall, the wife of past McCartney collaborator Elvis Costello. They take on classics by Harold Arlen, Billy Rose, Johnny Mercer, Irving Berlin, Frank Loesser and others. The Paul with whom we are most familiar can be heard loud and clear on his own "My Valentine" (featuring Eric Clapton) and the lush "Only Our Hearts" (on which he is reunited with Stevie Wonder).

CAROLE KING

The CD reissue of 1980's "Pearls: Songs of Goffin and King" is an interesting idea for a covers album. On it, Carole King performs songs that she co-wrote with ex-husband Gerry Goffin that became hits for others. It's a reclamation project of sorts. It's a pleasure to hear King apply her distinctive performance talents to songs such as "The Loco-Motion," "One Fine Day" and "Hi De Ho (That Old Sweet Roll)." But the real highlights here include "Dancin' With Tears in My Eyes" (written new for the disc), "Goin' Back" and especially "Oh No, Not My

Baby" and her sensational reading of "Hey Girl."

ANASTASIA BARZEE

Albums by Broadway divas often fall into the schmaltzy cabaret category, due to a combination of well-trodden material selections and the misguided desire to be unnecessarily flashy (are you listening, Kristin Chenoweth?). Idina Menzel has managed to avoid that trap, and so does Anastasia Barzee on her debut album "Dimming of the Day." The album's title comes from a Richard Thompson song that is given a respectful reading, although it would have been better without Brian D'Arcy James. Barzee also offers interpretations of songs by Rufus Wainwright ("Dinner at Eight"), Kate Bush ("The Man With the Child in His Eyes"), Paul Simon ("American Tune"), Rickie Lee Jones ("Company"), Jimmy Webb ("All I Know"), Randy Newman ("Feels Like Home") and April Smith ("Terrible Things").

THE CHIEFTAINS

"Voice of Ages" is the right name for the new album by acclaimed Irish folk band The Chieftains, who are celebrating their 50th year together. As with 1995's lauded "The Long Black Veil," "Voice of Ages" features The Chieftains teaming up with an impressive array of contemporary artists, including Carolina Chocolate Drops ("Pretty Little Girl"), Bon Iver ("Down in the Willow Garden"), The Civil Wars ("Lily Love"), The Decemberists ("When the Ship Comes in") and others for the musical anniversary celebration.

'CHIMES OF FREEDOM: THE SONGS OF BOB DYLAN'

Like The Chieftains, Amnesty International is celebrating its 50th anniversary. "Chimes of Freedom: The Songs of Bob Dylan" (from Amnesty International/Fontana) is spread out over four CDs and includes more than 70 songs performed by an impressive array of musicians. Not only do you

support a worthy cause by purchasing "Chimes of Freedom," but you also get to hear previously unreleased versions of Dylan songs done by Adele, The Belle Brigade, Carly Simon, Patti Smith, Bryan Ferry, Darren Criss, Ximena Sariña, Sinéad O'Connor, Raphael Saadiq, Joan Baez and many others.

ÓLÖF ARNALDS

On the five-song EP "Ólöf Sings," Icelandic musician Ólöf Arnalds performs light-as-air acoustic renditions of songs by five male songwriters. She opens the disc with a haunting version of the late gay songwriter Arthur Russell's "Close My Eyes." A medley of Gene Clark's "With Tomorrow" and Bruce Springsteen's "I'm on Fire" has a similar effect. It also sounds as if Arnalds really connected with Bob Dylan's "She Belongs to Me."

LYLE LOVETT AND CHRIS ISAAK

"Release Me," by Lyle Lovett, features the alt-country forefather singing a duet with k.d. lang on "Release Me," being backed up by out vocalist Arnold McCuller on "White Boy Lost in the Blues" and "Isn't That So," and teaming up with jazz diva Kat Edmonson on "Baby, It's Cold Outside." Chris Isaak applies his trademark retro performance style to a set of retro selections that includes "Ring of Fire," "Can't Help Falling in Love," "So Long I'm Gone" and "She's Not You," on his beaming "Beyond The Sun," a record he says that he's always wanted to make.

AND MORE COVERS

More examples of recordings by and for cover lovers include: The Wee Trios' "Ashes To Ashes: A David Bowie Intranspective," "Ain't We Got Fun" by Robert Creighton, "You're Not Alone" by Sean McDermott, "Consider it Swing" by former "Duke of Hazzard" turned Broadway actor Tom Wopat, "Under a Painted Sky" by jazz vocalist Judy Wexler and "One Day" by David Burnham.

Hit gay movie unites the former Yugoslavia

By Jovana Gec

AP writer

AP and soldiers usually don't mix in the conservative Balkans. Neither do former foes from the region's ethnic wars.

Yet a tale about a Serbian wartime fighter who recruits enemy veterans to protect a gay pride event has become an unlikely movie sensation.

"The Parade," a black comedy made by a Serbian director, has been the biggest box office hit in the former Yugoslavia in years, even as it challenges both the region's ethnic divide and its deeply rooted homophobia.

The movie has drawn more than half a million people since its release in October. It has been equally acclaimed in Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia — something no local film has managed since the 1990s wars between the

ex-Yugoslav republics.

"The whole region is united for the first time in liking this film," director Srdjan Dragojevic said in an interview.

"The Parade," which won an award at the prestigious Berlin film festival this year, is set in the Serbian capital of Belgrade, where a gay couple tries to organize a pride event in the face of threats and violence from far-right groups.

To make it possible, they enlist a Serbian war veteran to protect the parade. He brings in a group of rag-tag former fighters from other Yugoslav republics — a Croatian, a Bosnian Muslim and a Kosovo Albanian.

Using an uproarious plot spiced with dry humor, Dragojevic tackles Balkan prejudices and the highly sensitive topics of gay rights and

postwar relations.

Film critic Milan Vljajic says Dragojevic's success lies in the fact that he managed to send a universal message of tolerance without turning the film into a propaganda tool.

"Black humor played a key role," Vljajic said.

While Serbia's gay activists have been divided about the role the movie plays in promoting gay rights, Dragojevic insists that "it is very important for people to recognize the simple message that it is irrelevant what nationality you are, how you pray or who you go to bed with."

Wounds stemming from the Balkan war remain a source of division years after the fighting ended.

The frictions were apparent during a recent premiere of Hollywood star Angelina Jolie's directorial debut — a

himself, balancing theatrics and subtleties with special effects and compelling performances (especially those of Lawrence and Harrelson). "The Hunger Games" is a thoroughly satisfying movie experience that leaves you hungry for more.

'MIRROR, MIRROR' CRACKS OPEN THE TALE OF SNOW WHITE

You don't have to consult the mirror on the wall to know that "Mirror, Mirror," Tarsem Singh's revisionist retelling of Snow White, isn't the fairest of them all. In a portrayal that some have described as out of character (or is it?), Julia Roberts plays the evil Queen who raised princess Snow White (Lily Collins) following the disappearance of her father the King (Sean Bean). During the Queen's reign of terror, Snow White has been relegated to her bedroom tower. The villagers have been taxed to near-death and live in fear of a beast that patrols the woods. And a band of seven dwarves spend less time whistling while they work than they do pillaging and plundering.

One of the seven dwarves' love story set in the Bosnian war — which received standing ovations in Bosnia, but was shunned by Serbs as propaganda.

"The Parade," co-produced by companies in Serbia, Croatia, Macedonia, Slovenia and Great Britain, seems to have been accepted by most, if not all.

In Bosnia, it has become the most popular Serbian film since the war, seen more times than James Cameron's "Avatar," said the film's Bosnian distributor. In Croatia, some 150,000 people have seen "The Parade."

Still, Croatia's influential Catholic Church banned the screening of Dragojevic's film in a church-owned theater in the coastal town of Dubrovnik. The Church objected to the gay theme and Dragojevic's alleged attempt to put equal blame

for the war on all sides. Illustrating attempts by authorities to underline divisions between Serbs and Croats, Croatian authorities recently asked local TV stations and film distributors to put subtitles on all Serbian movies, although the two nations speak an almost identical language.

Dragojevic's earlier film "Rane" ("Wounds") was among the first to be subtitled in Croatia in the early 2000. The opening scene caused the audience to break into laughter: When the words "Jesen 1991" (Fall of 1991) appeared on the screen, the Croatian subtitle below it was identical: "Jesen 1991."

Dragojevic said the success of "The Parade" shows that common bonds of culture and history exist in the Balkans.

Now, we just have to wait to see how first-time director Rupert Sanders' forthcoming "Snow White and the Huntsman" fractures this fairy tale.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Srdjan Dragojevic

"That is bad news for nationalists," he said.

Dusan Stojanovic in Serbia, Aida Cerkez in Bosnia and Darko Bandic in Croatia contributed to this report.

Film

GREGG SHAPIRO

'THE HUNGER GAMES' IS THOROUGHLY SATISFYING

In a bleak and not-too-distant future (maybe sometime after the end of Rick Santorum's second term?), in the North American land of Panem, preparations are underway for The Hunger Games. Young residents are selected by lottery to participate in a death sport for the entertainment of the decadent denizens of the Capitol. The games were created as a punishment for a failed uprising.

In the coal mining-centered 12th district, sisters Katniss (Jennifer Lawrence) and Prim (Willow Shields) attend the selection ceremony. To Prim's shock and dismay, she is selected to represent her district as a "Tribute" (competitor). Knowing that Prim won't survive, the heartier and older Katniss volunteers to take her place. Baker's son Peeta (Josh Hutcherson) of "The Kids Are All Right" is selected as the male Tribute.

What follows is the elaborate training and transition of Katniss and Peeta from impoverished country folk to first-rate killing machines, under the guidance of Haymitch (Woody Harrelson), Cinna (Lenny Kravitz) and Effie (Elizabeth Banks). Once the Games begin, the body count rapidly mounts, with each death marked by a cannon blast and the image of the fallen Tribute projected on the sky. As you might have guessed, Katniss and Peeta survive, with a potential romance simmering below (and occasionally on) the surface.

Other characters include Gale (hot Liam Hemsworth), the guy Katniss left behind in District 12; white-haired President Snow (a particularly insidious Donald Sutherland), who uses hope as a weapon; colorful TV personality Caesar (Stanley Tucci), who colors his commentary of The Hunger Games blood red; and chief Gamemaker Seneca (Wes Bentley), who manipulates the computer-generated terrors that the Tributes must face.

"The Hunger Games" is exhilarating, thought-provoking and visually captivating. Director Gary Ross outdoes



PHOTO: COURTESY

Julia Roberts in "Mirror, Mirror."

also is spectacular, potentially destined for Oscar noms next year.

Exhibit looks at lesbian life in Deep South

By Jay Reeves

AP writer

Founded to teach about human rights and the fight for equality during the days of racial segregation, the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute is introducing a new topic: Lesbian awareness in the South.

The museum opened a new exhibit March 30 featuring photographs of lesbian couples and families living in the Deep South. Some women are depicted arm-in-arm or embracing with their faces fully visible. Others who weren't comfortable being identified publicly are pictured with their backs to the camera. Some photos include the women's children.

The 40 images are stark and plain. Shot against a white background, there's nothing but the women and their kids to draw viewers' eyes.

Two women are shown in military uniforms with their faces to the side; two female ministers were photographed in clerical garb. The women are young and old.

While one couple is kissing there's nothing sexual about the photos, and everyone is fully clothed.

Organizers say the exhibition is meant to encourage civil dialogue about inclusion and equality in Birmingham, once a flashpoint of conflict and violence in the civil rights movement. The museum is down the street from the spot where firefighters used water hoses to douse young civil rights demonstrators in 1963.

While lesbians are the focus of the exhibit, titled "Living in Limbo: Lesbian Families in the Deep South," professional photographer Carolyn Sherer said her work also is meant to encourage greater inclusion for gay men, bisexuals and people who are transgendered.

"We're hoping to start a conversation about equality for everyone," said Sherer. She has never before acknowledged her homosexuality publicly, but the exhibit includes a photo of her and her partner.

Alabama is a deeply conservative state, and Sherer expects some "push back" once people begin filtering through the exhibit, located beside galleries that document the struggle for civil rights in the 1950s and '60s. School groups tour the institute almost daily.

The art exhibition, which runs through June 11, is the first at the 20-year-old Civil Rights Institute to feature works of the museum, Lawrence J. Pijaux Jr., said he has received more than 125 e-mails in support of the exhibit and just one complaint.

"I've been pleasantly surprised with the reaction," said Pijaux. As he spoke, a museum director hung the final portraits ahead of the opening.

Sherer, who grew up in Birmingham, said she was inspired to do something to encourage greater understanding and acceptance of lesbians after a friend died. The woman's female part-

ner met resistance from the family when she tried to get clothes and other items from the home the couple had shared, Sherer said.

"That galvanized my resolve to go ahead and address my own identity as a lesbian," she said. "This is really my coming out story."

Armed with an idea and a camera, Sherer said she approached friends in the lesbian community and asked them to let her take family portraits for display at the museum.

"Most of my friends would not do this even with their backs to the camera," she said.

But a few did agree, and word of the project spread along with some of Sherer's initial photos. Soon, the dam broke and women agreed to be photographed. Anna Koopman said she and her partner, Hanne Harbison, attended a photo session with their 9-month-old son Amon after getting a couple e-mails about the project.

Koopman said she and Harbison had to overcome some initial doubts about being photographed as a family, but she is glad they did.

"It felt really monumental. It felt really courageous on the part of the artist, and it felt really great for us to stand up and be seen as part of this," said Koopman. "Who we are is love and commitment and caring, and we were very excited to be counted in that regard."

While the downtown institute is best known for its focus on civil rights, Pijaux said the exhibit fits its overall theme of promoting human rights.

"I think it's important to note that we don't take sides on issues. Our goal is to bring people together to talk about issues so they can leave with some common ground as we all wrestle with many of the problems we



An image from the "Living in Limbo" exhibit at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute in Alabama. Photo is by Carolyn Sherer/beta pictorial gallery/Maus Contemporary Art.

have in the community at large," he said. "This exhibition lends itself to that end."

Poet Maureen Seaton embodies the art of collaboration

By Gregg Shapiro

Staff writer

Award-winning lesbian poet and writer Maureen Seaton is at it again. She has nine titles to her name alone – including the Lambda Literary Award-winning "Fear of Subways" and "Sex Talks To Girls." In addition, Seaton has seven collaborations with other poets, including Denise Duhamel, Neil De La Flor and David Trinidad, to her credit as well. That's prolific.

A longtime educator, Seaton teaches in the University of Miami's creative writing program. I spoke with her earlier this year about one of her two latest poetry collaborations, "Sinéad O'Connor and Her Coat of a Thousand Bluebirds" from Firewheel Editions in 2011.

Gregg Shapiro: **Your recent collaboration with Neil De La Flor is the latest in a series of book-length collaborations. What attracts you to collaborate?**

Maureen Seaton: I get to read and write a poem simultaneously! The wonder factor is pretty huge with this arrangement. I'm often blown away by the stuff my collaborator produces, and I'm convinced that most (or all) of what I come up with would never exist without the prompts of my co-conspirator. There's also a lovely immediacy, the gift of gratification: What could be better than an instant audience? It's not as if there's praise being thrown back and forth all the

time, but someone's reading your stuff as it rolls out, and responding to it too, often in very curious ways. And last, there's the growing intimacy – a literary cross between friend, sibling and muse.

Were you listening to Sinéad O'Connor's music at any point during the writing of the titular poem or the book itself?

Neil and I, who are very different people yet close kin in our poetic and artistic realities, both love Sinéad and her music. So, yes, I'm sure we listened to her in the

in your work?

The role of music, and I hope it (music) won't feel too much pressure if I say this, is to keep me alive so I can write as many poems as I'm supposed to before I die. I was a musician at age seven. My childhood house was a musical house. I played several instruments until I was in my 30s, and then I started to write poetry. Now my kids are music lovers. My partner is a musical genius. I myself would rather die of music than anything else, and when the time comes, I know that whatever comes next is made of music.

On the back cover, we are told to "Ask Sallie," who appears by name in the poems "Foxy in the Tire Shop" and "Rotonda (Sic)." Who is Sallie?

Could be Neil's imaginary boyfriend. Or his evil step-

brother. Or his favorite swear word. She comes flying out of his mouth whenever she feels like it, that's all I know. Sallie is a force, but more like a god than a bank. Or she's a horse. A horse with or without a conscience.

Weather, such as hurricanes and tornadoes, also appears throughout the book. What role does the weather play in your life and work?

After Hurricane Frances in 2004, I started collaborating about weather with other Floridians. (Neil and I actually began to write our book during Frances.) After Katrina, Rita and Wilma in 2005, I tried to stop writing about weather but couldn't, it having turned from obsession to trauma. When I walk out the door of my house between July and October, my sunglasses fog up. I have an endurance for heat and a relationship with humidity that makes me laugh out loud in August in Death Valley. I

wear mittens when it's 60 degrees. And the last time I saw snow I wept. I used to think God was in the ocean, but since moving to Florida, I realize God is in the wind. In both my life and my work, when it comes to weather, I try to do what Robert Hass suggests (in his book "Praise") in the face of a beast so large, terrifying and unpredictable: praise it.

Have you begun to think about what your next book-length collaboration might be?

I'm working on new poems with Neil de la Flor as we speak (we're so lucky we live close to each other), and also on a new book with Samuel Ace over e-mail that has multimedia components. Fun!

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Good actress, bad actress in new DVD releases

'ANNIE HALL'

Diane Keaton received the best actress Oscar for her portrayal of the titular character in Woody Allen's best picture-winner "Annie Hall," now available on Blu-ray.

Keaton and Allen had been working together, on and off screen, since around 1972. That may be why so much of "Annie Hall" rings true. There is a familiarity in their relationship that can't be

faked.

Allen opens "Annie Hall" with his character, comedian Alvy Singer, speaking directly to the camera. His opening monologue blends his trademark self-deprecation with

old-fashioned Borscht-belt comedy.

As the film progresses, we laugh with, not at, Alvy as he explains his tumultuous childhood in an apartment below the Coney Island roller coaster and relates stories about his failed relationships with women.

When Alvy meets Midwestern shiksa Annie (the riveting Keaton), he's as surprised as we are at the mutual attraction. We follow the relationship from the couple's introduction at a tennis club through the infamous lobsters-on-the-loose sequence to Alvy's introduction to Annie's goyishe family. We witness the details of their sexual incompatibility, fidelity issues and life on opposite coasts.

"Annie Hall" not only set the standard for Allen's future as a filmmaker, but also for practically every romantic comedy that followed.

Deserving of every award that it won, "Annie Hall" is as familiar as it is refreshing 35



years later. The Blu-ray's sole special feature is a theatrical trailer.

'BAD ACTRESS'

In "Bad Actress," D-list TV star Alyssa (Beth Broderick), known as the Queen of Wednesday Night TV via her lead role on the series "HMO Nurse," now shifts for her husband Bernie's (Chris Mulkey) chain of large appliance stores. But her life takes an unexpected turn following a freak accident that takes the life of her youngest daughter Topanga (Keri Lynn Pratt).

Feeling guilty for the part he played in the tragedy, Bernie goes spiritual, threatening to upend the lifestyle to which Alyssa and their other children have become accustomed. That's when the death toll rises. Bulimia,



PHOTO: WEB

From "Annie Hall."

obsession, tarot cards, funerals, bloody earrings and the LAPD all play various roles, although none is as coveted as the one that Alyssa gets to play in the final act.

Director Robert Lee King needed a script like the one he had for the Charles Busch movie "Psycho Beach Party." The script by David Michael Barrett just doesn't cut it.

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APRIL 5, THURSDAY

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.

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

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

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

Next Act Theatre, 255 S. Water, presents the world premiere production of **"One Time"** by Richard Lyons Conlon, through April 29. Call 414-278-7780.

APRIL 6, FRIDAY

Catering to the after-work lesbians who "still love to party but don't want to wait until 10 to get started," **Ladies Night Out** is held at Hot Water Night Club, 818 S. Water, from 5 p.m. until closing. Call 414-383-7593.

"Always . . . Patsy Cline," about the life and music of one of the most acclaimed vocalists of the 20th century, stars Kelley Faulkner as Patsy Cline. The production runs through May 20 in the Stackner Cabaret at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.

APRIL 7, SATURDAY

Milwaukee Rep artistic director Mark Clements brings **"Othello"** to life in a modern and edgy adaptation set in the world of motorcycle gangs, with an ensemble cast including Lee E. Ernst. The play runs through May 6 in the Quadracci Powerhouse, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.

Tony Kushner's Tony Award-winning **"Angels in America, Part One: Millennium Approaches"** and **"Part Two: Perestroika"** runs through June 3 in Chicago at Court Theatre, 5535 S. Ellis St. Call 773-753-4472.

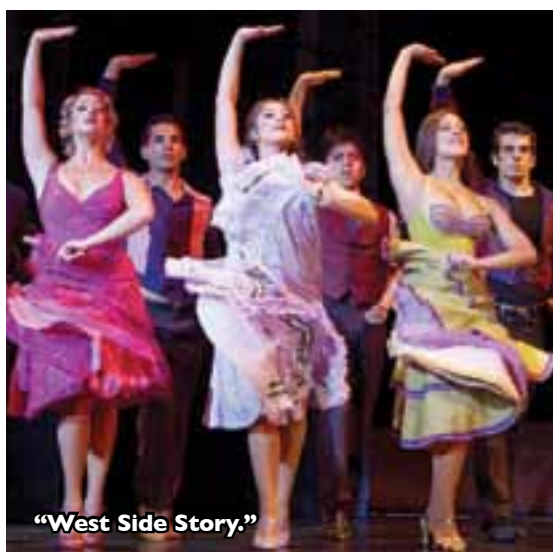
APRIL 8, SUNDAY

London's dubstep duo **Nero** performs at 8 p.m. at The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin. Call 414-286-3663.



APRIL 10, TUESDAY

The smash-hit Broadway revival of **"West Side Story"** runs through April 15 at Marcus Center For the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.



APRIL 11, WEDNESDAY

The Hotel Foster, 2028 E. North, presents Juniper Tar's **"First Waltz,"** with special guests Trapper Schoepp and Black Eagle Child at 8 p.m.

The swashbuckling comedic opera **"The Pirates of Penzance"** runs through June 10 at The Marriott Theatre, 10 Marriott Drive, in Lincolnshire, Ill. Call 847-634-0200.

APRIL 12, THURSDAY

Singer/songwriter **Rickie Lee Jones** performs in the Lower Level at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells. Call 414-286-3663.

Barrimore Theatre, 2090 Atwood in Madison, presents **Trampled By Turtles** at 7:30 p.m. Call 608-241-2345.

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre presents **"Bus Stop,"** a collaborative venture with UW-Parkside Theatre, through April 29 in the Cabot Theatre at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, welcomes Denver band **The Lumineers** at 7:30 p.m. Call 608-819-8777.

APRIL 13, FRIDAY

The Belle Brigade, featuring out member Barbara Gruska, and **Good Old War** play the High Noon Saloon, 701A E. Washington in Madison, at 9 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

The musical **"Little Shop of Horrors"** runs through April 29 at Carte Blanche Studios Theatre, 1024 S. Fifth. Call 262-716-4689.

Comics **Josh Wolf, Jen Kirkman** and **Brad Wollack** appear as part of the "Comedians from 'Chelsea Lately' Tour" at 8 p.m. at Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave. in Appleton. Call 920-730-3760.

"Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" runs through April 22 at The Racine Theatre Guild, 2519 Northwestern (Highway 38) in Racine. Call 262-633-4218.

South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center, 901 15th in South Milwaukee, welcomes the band that defies all genres, **Rupa & the April Fishes**, at 7:30 p.m. Call 414-766-5049.

Dance act **The Naked & Famous** and **Now, Now** come to Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, at 7 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

APRIL 14, SATURDAY

The U.S. Cellular Arena, 400 W. Kilbourn, presents **Brewcity Bruisers** roller derby at 7 p.m.

David Zambrano's Soul Project performs at 3 and 8 p.m. at the Todd Wehr Conference Center on the campus of Milwaukee School of Engineering, 1047 N. Broadway.

Boldt Arts Alive! Series presents **The Flying Karamazov Brothers** at 7 p.m. at Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave. in Appleton. Call 920-730-3760.

Present Music performs the world premiere of **"Buffalo Nation (Bison bison),"** by composer and Milwaukee native Jerome Kitzke and librettist Kathleen Masterson, at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. at Indian Community School, 10405 W. St. Martins in Franklin. Call 414-525-6100.

Majestic, 115 King in Madison, welcomes **The Naked and Famous** and **Now, Now** at 9 p.m. Call 608-251-2582.

APRIL 15, SUNDAY

Join Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, working in conjunction with Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells, for a special presentation of Sarah Ruhl's **"In the Next Room or the vibrator play,"** beginning with a 5:30 p.m. reception and pre-show discussion in The Rep's Quadracci Lounge, followed by a 7 p.m. performance of the play. For more info, visit <http://safehealthstrong.com/portfolio/the-next-7>.

The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin, has **Death Cab for Cutie** with **The Magik*Magik Orchestra** at 7 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

APRIL 16, MONDAY

Frankly Music presents the **British Invasion** concert contrasting British composers William Walton and Edward Elgar at 7 p.m. at Wisconsin Lutheran College's Schwan Concert Hall, 8815 W. Wisconsin in Wauwatosa.

APRIL 17, TUESDAY

Hot duo **Cults** performs at 8 p.m. at Majestic, 115 King in Madison. Call 608-251-2582.



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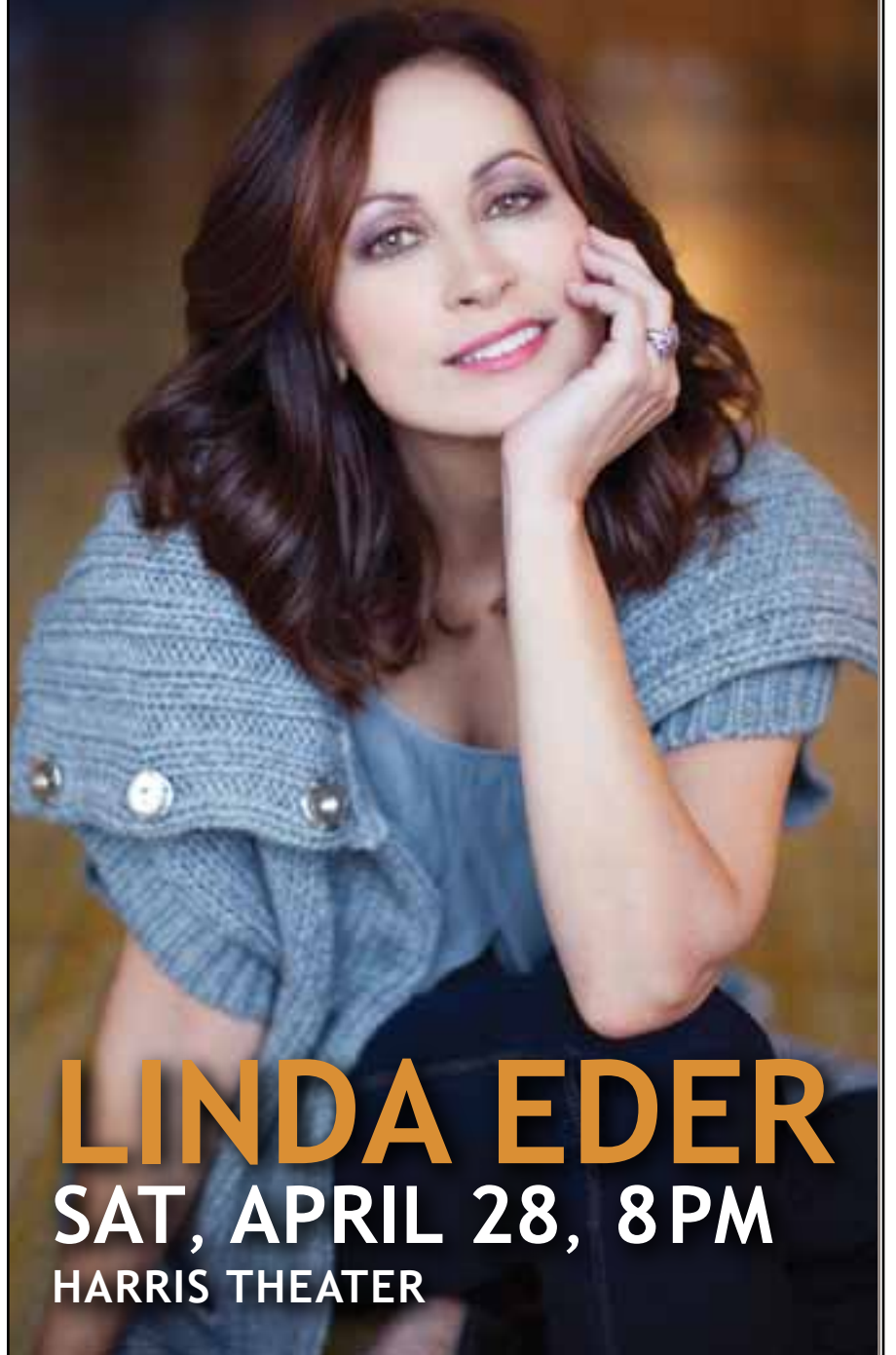
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