

SUPERHERO SUMMER

Once again, a slew of superhero movies are in the summer cinematic forecast.

WiGOUT! Page 20



THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

May 3, 2012 | Vol. 3, No. 13

Advocates lobby Wis. Dems on marriage

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Activists are moving forward a resolution to include support for full marriage equality in the 2012 platform of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin.

Members of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin's LGBT Caucus are attending conventions in the state's congressional districts and asking attendees to vote for the resolution. Each of the state's eight districts will then send 10 resolutions to the party's state convention in Appleton on June 8-9, where the resolutions will be considered for inclusion in the platform.

So far, the LGBT caucus is meeting with success. The state's 2nd, 5th, 6th, and 7th congressional district conventions have approved the resolution. In the 2nd Congressional District, which includes Madison, the resolution received the most votes of any of the 13 under consideration.

Although current efforts are focused on congressional district conventions, members of the caucus have been working on the effort since the end of last year's party convention in Milwaukee, said Erik Paulson, caucus secretary and treasurer. In the months that followed, they've introduced the resolution at the party's county conventions, from where recommendations are forwarded up the chain to the congressional district level.

"I think it is the morally right thing to do," Paulson said of the resolution. "This should be what Democrats stand for. Whether or not it's the right thing for the national platform to do, ... I think it's time that the Wisconsin Democratic Party includes this."

The resolution reads: "WHEREAS, Section 13 of Article XIII of the Wisconsin Constitution denies equal

What will her majesty say?



PHOTO: AP/DOMINIC LIPINSKI

Activists hope Queen's Speech will royally boost gay marriage

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Gay marriage in the United Kingdom won't automatically follow a royal pronouncement and a wave of a white-gloved hand, but activists are hopeful they'll hear Elizabeth II call for

marriage equality when she delivers the Queen's Speech on May 9.

The speech, the most colorful of Parliament's ceremonies, opens the new session.

"The Queen's Speech is drafted by the government of the day. The

queen's role is to read out the speech she is given and undertake the formal ceremonial duties," says James Asser, co-chair of LGBT Labour, a partisan group similar to the Stonewall Democrats and Log Cabin Republicans in

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LGBT news with a twist

WIGWAG

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg



PHOTO: GLAAD

Chaz Bono and Cher

CHER HONORS CHAZ AT GLAAD AWARDS

Cher honored son Chaz Bono in mid-April at the second of GLAAD's three media awards ceremonies. At the celebration in Los Angeles, Bono, 43, received an outstanding documentary prize and the Stephen F. Kolzak Award for his transgender activism. U.S. Rep. Mary Bono Mack and Cher – wearing a super-size Afro wig – presented the Kolzak award. "I'm here because Chaz has the most courage of almost anyone I know," Cher said. Bono, accepting, said, "This truly means so much to me."

FREE IN SALT LAKE CITY, FUNDRAISER IN SAN FRAN

A federal judge has found in favor of the state of Utah, which tightened its anti-prostitution law by expanding the definition of "sex act" in the statute and thus criminalizing masturbation for a fee. Bet you thought that already was a crime in Utah. Law enforcement sought the change because hookers were using a loophole in the law to ID undercover detectives – cops couldn't arrest someone for offering masturbation as a service but they could not accept the offer either. Now activists are saying it's a good thing the Masturbation-A-Thon fundraiser takes place in San Francisco not Salt Lake City.

DEADLY SQUEEZE

A Chinese man reportedly died last week after a woman squeezed his testicles until he collapsed during a fight over a parking space. The two were

fighting over a space in front of a store in Haikou City that was owned by the 42-year-old victim.

CABLES CROSSED

TV watchers occasionally hear, "We interrupt this program with breaking news." WigWag doesn't think anyone has ever heard, "We interrupt this news with gay porn." But that's what happened on April 20 in Ontario, Canada, where station CHCH aired 3 minutes of "hardcore" gay porn at the end of its morning newscast. The station said a cable company inserted the wrong programming after repairing cut cable lines.

THE U.S.S. MILK?

Congressman Bob Filner, a San Diego Democrat, wants the Navy to name a ship after slain San Francisco gay rights activist Harvey Milk. In a letter to Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, Filner says naming a ship after Milk would promote equality in the military after the recent repeal of the

"don't ask, don't tell" policy.

Milk, who was a Navy officer in the 1950s, was shot to death on Nov. 27, 1978, while serving as a San Francisco supervisor.

TOO SEXY FOR YOUTUBE

YouTube added an explicit content warning to gay presidential candidate Fred Karger's "Sexy Frisbee" campaign ad. The Republican debuted the ad in mid-April in California. It's a beach-themed spot with a sunny same-sex kissing end that is as tame as anything in "Beach Blanket Bingo." Tamer. So why the disclaimer?

CONDOM-MAKER COMBAT

Mayer Laboratories and Church & Dwight typically work in Latex as the makers of Kimono and Trojan condoms, but over the last three years the companies also have produced 15 million pages of paper documents in their federal fight over retail shelf space. Mayer accused C&D of violating anti-trust laws by offering retailers a wholesale

rebate for premium placement on shelves. A federal judge has rejected the case without a trial, finding that Mayer failed to support its claims.

FLOATILLA OF SEQUINS

In September, a bevy of drag queens will headline a Royal Caribbean cruise. The "Disco Queens on the High Seas" cruise will feature disco parties and Broadway-inspired shows. Of course, the cruise's main event will be a three-part Miss High Seas 2012 Pageant.

COOL SHADES

Ray-Ban, the iconic eyewear designer, has introduced an online ad featuring a tony-looking gay couple holding hands. The ad is part of the company's 75th anniversary campaign, called "Never Hide." The company issued a press release saying, "The most fashionable thing to be is yourself." Aww.



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GSAFE honors youth activists

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

While stories about bullying dominate the media, a growing number of students in Wisconsin are succeeding at making things better for LGBT students in their schools.

Students have formed about 140 gay/straight alliances in Wisconsin's middle and high schools. These GSAs regularly engage in school-wide campaigns to educate their peers and teachers about LGBT issues, according to Brian Juchems, director of programs for the Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools in Madison, more commonly known as GSAFE.

Although Juchems says there's still a long way to go before every district has a club, the current number is a vast increase over the dozen GSAs that existed in the state 16 years ago.

"This work by students, combined with educators and administrators who are willing to take a stand for safety, is having a significant impact on the lives of LGBT

youth in schools," Juchem says.

Every year, GSAFE provides \$1,000 scholarships to four graduating Wisconsin seniors who have helped make their schools more welcoming. This year's awards will be presented at a dinner on May 12 at the Monona Terrace in Madison.

Scholarship winner Tou Fong Lee says the climate for LGBT students at Sheboygan High School has changed dramatically during his four years there.

He "took a big risk," Lee says, in joining the school's GSA during his freshman year.

"That first year was scary. I was called names, and when we made posters (for GSA events), people would vandalize them. I thought I was alone. I didn't feel that I had any friends or teachers I could trust."

When Lee joined, the GSA had only five members. In four years' time, however, that number has increased five-fold, thanks in part to his leadership and courage.

Although 25 members is a small number compared with the school's 1,200 students, Lee said there's "definitely been a positive change." But there's still much work to be done, he adds.

Last year when the GSA scheduled a bonfire at a member's home, "our advisors got a phone call and a bunch of students threatened that they were going to harm us," Lee says. As a result, the club moved the event to a secret location.

In contrast to Lee's rocky experience in Sheboygan, Maia Noll, another 2012 scholarship winner, says she's never experienced conflict at Logan High School in Onalaska, a community near La Crosse. Noll was raised by two moms.

"I've been super-lucky," she says. "At my school, people aren't getting physically or verbally harassed publicly."

Noll has been part of her school's GSA since it was founded three years ago. Logan has about 1,000 students, and the GSA's membership numbers about 20,

she says.

She transferred to Logan after attending a school where, "I had a community of students and families that were extremely open." Some of her classmates also had same-sex parents.

"It was kind of scary" when she transferred to a public school, Noll says. At first, she was careful about disclosing her parentage.

"I wasn't advertising it," she says. "It was a whole new world, and I was hesitant."

But in time Noll developed an instinct for identifying open-minded people, she says.

During the April 2012 Day of Silence, Noll was encouraged by how many students chose to participate, wearing colored duct tape to show solidarity with LGBT youth. Day of Silence is an annual event during which students at schools all over the nation either don't speak or limit their speech in order to symbolically illustrate the silencing effect of anti-LGBT bullying and harassment.

Noll feels part of her mission is to try bridging differences with people by listening to them rather than shunning them.

"I don't expect everyone to have the same viewpoint as me," she says. "I try to present myself as someone who is open to questions. I don't want to argue. I'm not going to tell anyone that they're wrong. I would like to be well-versed in other people's thoughts. It's the only way to grow as a human."

Noll says it saddens her to hear about the struggles and persecution so many young LGBT people face.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Tou Fong Lee

"It's hard to hear about it, but I feel a sense of pride ... to be involved in a community that's so open and moving toward a better future," she says.

Juchems says Noll and Tou Fong both exemplify how students who take a leadership role can create positive environments at their schools for everyone.

"What really stood out about these two was the


level of work they were doing in places where you wouldn't expect activism to happen, and that they were doing it as students of color in predominantly white areas of the state," Juchem says.

Also being honored at the awards dinner on May 12 are Daniel Bomberg of Marquette University High School and Allie Eykhold of Madison West High School.

ON THE CALENDAR

The Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools presents its 16th annual Celebration of Leadership Youth Scholarship & Awards Dinner on May 12 at the Monona Terrace in Madison. There's a social hour beginning at 5 p.m. and the dinner and program are at 6:15 p.m. For information, call 608-661-4141.

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Comic Jewell headlines Milwaukee fundraiser

By Jamakaya

Contributing writer

The story went viral: Was Geri Jewell, the actress, stand-up comic, lesbian and disability activist going to be featured on "Dancing With the Stars?"

It turns out that it was Jewell's own wacky and inspired idea. Her "Dancing with the Stars" gambit says a lot about the determination, humility and humor of Jewell, who will make an appearance at IndependenceFirst's annual Power Dinner May 23 at Potawatomi Bingo Casino in Milwaukee. Independence-First is a Milwaukee-based non-profit organization that assists people with disabilities to live independently and achieve their life goals.

"I created a Facebook page called 'Geri Jewell on Dancing With the Stars,'" Jewell said. "And then a week later I woke up and I couldn't walk and I thought, 'OK, what is the message here?'"

Her health, complicated by the effects of cerebral palsy, took a turn for the worse in early April. Yet she laughed at the irony of her setback and expressed renewed determination.

"Can I do 'Dancing With the Stars'? I don't know. But I look at it this way: Did people think I'd succeed in stand-up comedy? Did people think I'd ever star in a hit sitcom? The odds were against me. There's no guarantee you can do anything. The important thing is to put out the effort. The important thing is to try."

Jewell grabbed Hollywood's attention by bluffing her way onto a telethon for cerebral palsy in 1979. She performed stand-up comedy at the fabled Comedy Store and became the first actor with a disability to star in a network sitcom. She played Cousin Geri on "The Facts of Life" for four seasons. Later, she played the much put-upon Jewell on HBO's "Deadwood."

Most recently, she appeared on the FOX series

'It's not about overcoming the disability, but instead learning to accept it so you can live life to the fullest.'

"Alcatraz."

Jewell published her autobiography last year. The title, "I'm Walking as Straight As I Can," is a wry comment on her disability and her sexual orientation.

The book includes moving testimony about the challenges of living with CP, which is characterized by involuntary movements and perceptual difficulties (in Jewell's case, substantial hearing loss).

The autobiography also includes anecdotes about actors such as Carol Burnett, Patty Duke and Liza Minnelli and lots of rollicking humor. The stories about her dad's reaction to her finding condoms in her parents' bedroom and the earthquake that struck on her wedding night (she was married to a man for 12 years) are hilarious.

Jewell came out as a lesbian in her book and said of the reaction: "It has been 99 percent positive. There were a few people who deleted me as a friend on Facebook but, oh, well. It's the truth. If I wasn't going to tell the truth, why write a book?"

"It had always been an open secret. I had a large gay following and all my friends knew. It was just a matter of me maturing and evolving to the point of embracing all of me."

Jewell was involved in the "NOH8" campaign in support of marriage equality in California and promises to

continue her activism.

"I believe that I have a spiritual responsibility. Just as I have hopefully created sensitivity and understanding about people with disabilities, I would like to do the same for the GLBT movement. It's part of who I am – not all of me, but part of me."

Jewell said the greatest thing about stand-up comedy is "the response of the audience, the smiles and laughter. The biggest high is realizing that you have brought joy to people. The outcome, rather than the process of performing, is the real reward for me."

When acting in TV and films, the opposite is true, she said. "With movies or TV, you don't get that immediate response from a live audience. But I really enjoy the process. Whether it's drama or comedy, I love developing a character and bringing her to life. I have more fun acting than I do going on stage being me."

Jewell said that opportunities for actors with disabilities are improving. "But we are probably the largest minority group in any industry with the lowest number of people employed."

There is now a well-organized group that lobbies the studios and networks to hire people with disabilities both before and behind the camera. Jewell thinks the merger of two entertainment unions, the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, will concentrate that effort and enable more entertainers to obtain health insurance, a growing concern for all working people, especially those with disabilities.

The subtitle of Jewell's book is "Transcending Disability in Hollywood and Beyond." That is often the theme she addresses in her second career as a motivational speaker. She writes that "it is not about overcoming the disability, but instead learning to accept it so you can live life to the

fullest."

"Sometimes I think the real disabilities in life are not what we commonly perceive them to be," she said. "The real disabilities are prejudice, hatred, abuse, deception, greed, despair. Those are the real disabilities that face all humankind. They threaten all of us."

"A healthy sense of humor helps all of us to live our lives with greater ease because life is painful."

When told that she could have another career as a philosopher, Jewell cracked up.

"Oh yeah, like I don't have enough on my plate!"

She said that in her public speaking, "I try to give back the inspiration that's been given to me in a million and one ways."


"I hope by the time this article comes out I'm dancing a little, or at least making progress in that direction," Jewell said, still thinking about "Dancing With the Stars."

Then, as if it just dawned on her: "I've got a lot of work to do! I gotta go!"



PHOTO: FILMOUS.COM

Out comic-actress Geri Jewell is the keynote speaker at the 2012 IndependenceFirst Power Dinner on May 23 at Potawatomi Bingo Casino. For more, go to www.independencefirst.org/donate.html.




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PHOTO: PRIDEFEST

CARLISLE WILL HEADLINE PRIDE-FEST

Belinda Carlisle will headline the opening night of PrideFest Milwaukee 2012 with an 8 p.m. performance on June 8.

Carlisle rose to fame as a vocalist with the pop rock band The Go-Go's. After the breakup of the initial Go-Go's in 1985, Carlisle launched a successful solo career. Her second album, 1987's "Heav-

en on Earth," yielded three Top 10 singles, including "I Get Weak," "Circle in the Sand," and "Heaven Is a Place on Earth," which climbed to Billboard's No. 1 position.

Her 1989 album "Runaway Horses" featured the popular songs "Leave a Light On" and "Summer Rain." Other albums have included "Live Your Life Be Free," "Real" and "A Woman and a Man."

Carlisle's seventh album "Voila" was released in 2007

and she continues to tour internationally.

Carlisle became a gay rights supporter after her son James Duke Mason came out to her at the age of 15. Mason is the grandson of the late British actor James Mason.

"My son is gay, and I want the best for him," Carlisle told The Advocate after appearing in a public service announcement for marriage equality in 2010.

"I don't understand why gay marriage is such a divisive issue in the first place," she told the magazine.

Mason, 19, is a vocal advocate for equality. He participated in a roundtable discussion of LGBT youth on "Dr. Phil," has written about LGBT issues for The Huffington Post and did a video for the It Gets Better campaign.

Carlisle joins a growing list of entertainers set to appear at PrideFest, which is scheduled for June 8-10 at the Summerfest Grounds.

The annual event is the nation's largest LGBT music festival.

Taylor Dayne will headline the Saturday night line-up on June 9. Best known for her dance music, the pop singer/songwriter had a string of hits in the late 1980s and early 1990s. This year will mark Dayne's second appearance at PrideFest.

GOD-DES & SHE are the PrideFest headliners on June 10. The duo, who are based in Madison, have been featured on "The L Word." Their song "Love You Better" reached the No. 1 spot on LOGO.

For more about PrideFest Milwaukee 2012, go to www.pridefest.com.

LESBIAN WRESTLER QUALIFIES FOR OLYMPICS, MARRIES IN IOWA

Two days after qualifying for the U.S. Olympic wrestling team, Stephany Lee married girlfriend Brigg McDonald in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

On April 21, Lee defeated Ali Bernard to secure a place



PHOTO: FACEBOOK

Brigg McDonald-Lee and Stephany Lee.

at the mat with the U.S. team bound for the 2012 summer games in London.

On April 23, Lee and McDonald were wed in a five-minute ceremony that included McDonald's two children. McDonald wore a dress and sweater, Lee wore blue jeans and a striped shirt.

The family lives in Colorado Springs, Colo., where gay marriage is not recognized.

MAY DAY SOLIDARITY MARCH HELD IN MILWAUKEE

A May Day Solidarity March took place on April 29 in Milwaukee, with demonstrators walking from Voces De La Frontera at Fifth Street and Washington to Veterans Park for a rally that included keynote speeches by U.S. Reps. Gwen Moore, D-Milwaukee, and Luis Guterrez, D-Chicago.

Equality Wisconsin encouraged the LGBT community to participate. "Voces De La Frontera has always stood by Equality Wisconsin, and let's make sure we stand by them," said Jason Burns, EW's executive director.

Billboard award winners Kinto Sol headlined the event, held in concert with May Day Solidarity actions calling for immigrant and worker rights.

The marchers demanded a stop to the separation of families by deportations, good jobs and restoration of driver's licenses and in-state tuition for immigrants. They also opposed cuts to Badger-Care and public education and defended voter rights.

EAU CLAIRE ADOPTS BENEFITS

Joining a growing list of Wisconsin cities, Eau Claire voted on April 24 to extend family health insurance plans

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to the same-sex partners of city workers.

Council members voted 10-1 for the resolution, which is expected to take effect on July 1. In order to be eligible for the benefits, an individual must be registered with the county as the domestic partner of a city employee, live in the same household as the employee and be over 18 years of age.

Life insurance and dental plan coverage were not included in the resolution.

Councilman Andrew Werthmann proposed the resolution, calling it an issue of fairness. He told the Leader-Telegram that the policy would probably affect fewer than a dozen city workers.

"With all these things there's a growing movement," he said.

Over the past year, Appleton, Racine and Manitowish have adopted similar policies. Janesville City Council voted to extend up to three days of funeral and bereavement leave to city workers who lose their domestic partners.

CHICAGO LGBT GROUPS WITHDRAW SUPPORT FROM TRANSGENDER ORDINANCE

A coalition of LGBT groups withdrew support from a proposed ordinance on how Chicago Police Department officers treat transgender people.

The announcement from Equality Illinois, Lambda Legal and the Chicago-based Cen-

ter on Halsted cited problems with the language of the ordinance before the city council.

"The proposed ordinance that was introduced in March removed all major enforcement and accountability components that we had previously discussed were essential to include," said EI CEO Bernard Cherkasov.

The language originally agreed upon by the LGBT coalition included a definition of gender identity in police policy. It also prevented the police department from disclosing transgender status to other detainees for safety purposes, and it required police to provide officer training on the treatment of transgender individuals, according to Equality Illinois.

ILLINOIS STATE GAY STUDENT ATTACKED

A gay student at Illinois State University in Bloomington-Normal was hospitalized with a broken jaw and other injuries after an attack early April 21.

Eric Unger, 23, of Deerfield, Ill., told the Chicago Sun Times that he was walking home from a party at about 2:30 a.m. when he was confronted by a group of men. One knocked a mobile phone from his hand, prompting Unger to ask what the "problem was."

Unger said the men, yelling anti-gay slurs, then beat him. He suffered a broken jaw, broken teeth, bruises and scrapes.

Police are looking into the incident, but Unger could not describe the men and no witnesses have come forward.

"I don't know why people like that go out to do that to people, to single someone out and attack them for no reason," Unger told the Sun Times.

The Normal assistant police chief said Unger did not tell investigating officers that he thought anti-gay bias was a factor in the attack.

MANSLAUGHTER CONVICTION IN STUDENT DEATH

A Black Hawk County jury convicted a man of voluntary manslaughter in the beating death of a college student in Waterloo, Iowa.

The Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier said the jury returned the verdict on April 20 in the case against 20-year-old Paris Anding. He was charged in the August beating death of 19-year-old Marcellus Andrews during a fight.

Prosecutors said Anding swung a baseball bat and hit Andrews in the head. The defense claimed Anding was protecting his aunt.

The death drew nationwide attention from gay rights activists after witnesses were quoted in local media saying Andrews was taunted with anti-gay slurs.

Waterloo police said there was no indication of a hate crime. Andrews' family and friends said he wasn't gay.

ILL. ACTIVISTS LOBBY FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY

LGBT civil rights activists lobbied in Springfield on April 25 for marriage equality and other bills on the state agenda.

Equality Illinois announced a full day of meetings with representatives, senators and executive officers from both parties.

Activists pushed for passage of the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act, as well as support for adding gender identity, military status and immigration status to protected classes in the state hate crimes law. Another crucial bill would require all Illinois schools to develop new measures against bullying.

Illinois Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka, a longtime supporter, welcomed the activists at the Capitol.

Springfield Ald. Cory Jobe hosted a farewell reception.

LESBIAN OUSTED FROM OHIO BOY SCOUT GROUP

Members of an eastern



PHOTO: FACEBOOK

Jennifer Tyrrell and her son Jason

Ohio Boy Scout group and their parents are protesting after a woman who led the pack said her membership was revoked because she is a lesbian.

WTOV-TV reported the Tiger Cubs group recently protested outside the church where they held scout meetings in the Ohio River town of Bridgeport.

Jennifer Tyrrell said she had been a den leader for about a year. She said she questions what lessons the boys might learn from her ouster as leader.

An official with the Ohio River Valley Council of the

Boy Scouts of America says the organization does not grant membership to individuals who are openly gay.

— from Wig, AP reports

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Fair Wisconsin announces recall endorsements

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Fair Wisconsin PAC has announced endorsements for the upcoming Senate recall races, including the May 8 Democratic primaries and the June 5 general election.

But the statewide LGBT advocacy group declined to make an endorsement in the gubernatorial primary to decide who will take on Gov. Scott Walker in an historic recall race. Neither did FW-PAC make an endorsement in the race to choose an opponent for Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch, who also faces recall.

"Because there are multiple (gubernatorial) candidates who are committed to fairness, FW-PAC has made the decision not to endorse a candidate in the Democratic primary election," the group said in a statement. "Fair Wisconsin PAC is grateful to see such a multitude of pro-fairness candidates stepping up to take on an administration

that has not been a friend of the movement for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality in Wisconsin."

In the four Democratic primary races for the Senate, the Wisconsin Republican Party is running what it calls "fake Democrats" – Republicans who are posing as Democrats in order to force the May 8 election. Without multiple Democratic challengers, the general election would have been scheduled for that date instead of June 5.

The postponement allows Republicans to take full advantage of what appear to be unprecedented levels of financial backing from wealthy corporate leaders outside the state. Political analysts say the corporate right fears losses in Wisconsin would deter leaders in other states from pursuing their agenda, which includes weakening unions, providing tax breaks for the rich and eliminating environmental and consumer protection laws.

Republican supporters now have almost a month of additional time to use their money to inundate voters with ads attacking their opponents.

All four Republican senators targeted for recall oppose equality, reproductive freedom, voter's rights and other issues important to progressives. FW-PAC's endorsements not only let voters know which candidates support equality, but also can help voters avoid supporting the fake Democratic candidates.

- In Senate District 13, FW endorsed Lori Compas of Fort Atkinson, who wants to take on Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald. A political newcomer, Compas led the effort to collect signatures to recall Fitzgerald, who has shepherded Walker's agenda through the Senate.

- In District 21, FW endorsed John Lehman of Racine, who aims to unseat

Van Wanggaard. Lehman, who served five terms in the Assembly, is coming out of retirement to take on Wanggaard, a Walker loyalist. Lehman is considered a strong contender, and the district went for both President Barack Obama in 2008 and John Kerry in 2004.

- In District 23, Kristen Dexter of Chippewa Falls has been endorsed in the fight to unseat right-wing state Sen. Terry Moulton. The district went for Obama in 2008, and Dexter defeated an incumbent that year to become the first woman to represent the 68th Assembly District.

- In District 29, FW backs Donna Seidel of Wausau, who represents the 85th Assembly District, against Jerry Petrowski. This district also voted for Obama in 2008.

Polling places will be open from 7 a.m. to 8: p.m. For more information, go to gab.wi.gov/node/2337.

Fair Wisconsin hosts awards program

Fair Wisconsin is preparing for its annual leadership awards program honoring "significant contributions to the advancement of LGBT equality in Wisconsin."

The event is held at 5 p.m. on May 21 at the Capitol West Penthouse, 309 W. Washington Ave., Madison. Honorees include:

- Lambda Legal receiving the Tammy Baldwin Statewide Impact Award.
- Appleton Mayor Tim Hanna, members of the Appleton City Council and Appleton human resources director Sandy Neisen receiving the Advocates of the Year Award.
- Madison Gay Hockey Association receiving the Organization of the Year Award (picture below).
- Julie Schneider of the UW-Stevens Point Gay-Straight Alliance receiving the Activist of the Year Award.

For more, including ticket and sponsorship details, go to fairwisconsineducationfund.com.





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WELLS FARGO LEGAL DEPARTMENT WINS LGBT AWARD

The National LGBT Bar Association is awarding the legal department of Wells Fargo the Out & Proud Corporate Counsel Award.

"Wells Fargo supports diversity both in and out of the office," said D'Arcy Kemnitz, executive director of the LGBT Bar. "The company's impressive outreach efforts create a feeling of inclusion and acceptance for the LGBT community."

In 2011, DiversityInc ranked Wells Fargo among its top 10 companies for LGBT employees and top 50 companies for diversity.

HIV SUPPORT GROUP FORMS IN SOUTH MILWAUKEE

A new HIV support group is meeting on Milwaukee's South Side at the Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church, 1239 W. Mineral St.

The meetings take place at 7 p.m. on Mondays.

An announcement said, "Our group provides spiritu-

al, emotional, and social support for any person whose life has been affected by HIV/AIDS. ... The format of the meeting is participant driven and topics will vary based on interest, but may include issues such as health, relationships, self-care, spirituality."

The group also will host social events and activities, such as movie nights, picnics, barbecues and coffees.

For more, call 414-383-1100 or email hivministries@milmcc.org.

BALDWIN FUNDRAISER PLANNED

The Fair Wisconsin 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 Draeger, 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 email Fair Wisconsin's Katie Belanger

COMMUNITY BRIEFS



PHOTO: TAMMYBALDWIN

U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin is running for the U.S. Senate.

at katie.belanger@fairwisconsin.com.

FONDY PARTICIPATES IN WIN-AN-ORCHARD CONTEST

Fondy Food Center's Port Washington farm is the only Wisconsin site seeking to win a free organic fruit orchard in a nationwide competition sponsored by Edy's Fruit Bars Communities Take Root Program.

Fondy is one of 100 agencies nationwide vying for 17 fruit orchards, each with a \$5,000 value. Fondy would plant the orchard at its Ozaukee County farm, with harvested fruit sold at the Fondy Farmers Market in Milwaukee.

If Fondy wins, it will receive 20 fruit trees and shrubs, an irrigation system, training in organic fruit production methods, volunteer support in planting the orchard and a groundbreaking party.

The top 17 winning sites are determined by the number of on-line votes they receive through Aug. 30 at www.communitystakeroot.com website.

People can vote once per day.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR LGBT YOUTH AWARDS

A call for nominations is out for the Out In The Silence Campaign's 2012 awards for youth activism.

The awards, established last year, honor "courageous

and unheralded young people who are leading the way in making schools and communities safe from bullying and welcoming for all."

"We're now looking for powerful and inspiring young people, and youth organizations, to be considered for the 2012 Award for Youth Activism," said Joe Wilson, director of the Out In The Silence Campaign.

He said nominees should be bold and dynamic individuals or groups leading "important efforts to ensure that all youth are safe and free from bullying, harassment and discrimination."

Winners - announced in November - will receive \$2,500 and make the list of Out Magazine's "Out100" most influential people in gay culture.

Send one-page essays by June 30 to youthaward@gmail.com.

VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT SET FOR PRIDEFEST

The Open Grass PrideFest Volleyball Tournament is set to take place June 9-10.

The tournament will include competition inside

and on the outside lawns of the PrideFest festival grounds at Henry Maier Festival Park, 200 N. Harbor Drive, Milwaukee.

The tournament, open to the public in recreational and competitive divisions, is coordinated by the Milwaukee Gay Volleyball Association and Milwaukee GAMMA.

The registration fee, due by May 30, is \$210 per team of six players. Up to two additional players can be added to a team for \$35 per player.

Organizers are planning to host 200 players on six grass courts, with teams arriving from throughout Wisconsin and Illinois.

Last year 16 teams participated in the tournament.

For more, go to www.milwaukeegayvolleyball.com or call Jim Lautenbach at 414-248-0969.

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Send announcements to lmneff@wisconsin-gazette.com.

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Bullied gay Iowa teen commits suicide

From AP

The mother of a gay Iowa high school freshman who killed himself said she knew her son was being harassed but that she and the rest of the family didn't realize the extent of the bullying.

Jeannie Chambers, of Primghar, said her son, Kenneth Weishuhn Jr., dismissed her concerns over the bullying and hid his pain behind a smile.

"When I talked to him, he blew it off like it wasn't a big deal," Chambers told the Sioux City Journal.

Kenneth, 14, died April 15 of what the O'Brien County Sheriff's Office described only as a "self-inflicted injury." The sheriff's office is investigating, and Chambers said detectives were examining her son's cellphone and had already examined his Facebook account and a

computer he used.

Kenneth, who attended South O'Brien High School in nearby Paullina, came out about a month ago to family and friends, and he quickly became the target of threatening cellphone calls, voice-mails and online comments, his mother said.

His sister Kayla Weishuhn, a sophomore at the school, said her brother's life took a marked turn for the worse after he came out.

"He was pretty popular, he had a lot of friends, but once they found out he was gay a lot of them turned on him," she told Sioux City television station KCAU.

Kayla, 16, said some of her classmates were the first to bully her brother.

"I was just really mad because those guys were supposed to be my friends and they were making fun of

my brother. I tried to stick up for him a couple of times, but I guess it wasn't enough," she said.

Dan Moore, the superintendent of the South O'Brien Community School District, said administrators knew of only one incident regarding Kenneth and that he believes they dealt with it well.

"I feel the school did address the issue that they were aware of when it came to their attention," Moore said. "Obviously, we had no idea that we'd have an end result like this, or what was going on outside of here."

He said administrators didn't know about the alleged online and phone harassment, but that they may not have intervened even if they did unless it carried over into school.

Teachers began standing in

the hallways after someone complained that boys were yelling slurs at Kenneth, and the school addressed the issue of bullying at an assembly. But the teen's mother and sister said they don't think administrators did enough to protect him.

Chambers said the school never reached out to her about the harassment her son was facing, although she said she also didn't contact the school at her son's urging. She said her son told her the harassment died down when the bullies turned their attention to a pregnant girl, and he feared it would get worse again if she intervened.

"I didn't contact the school, which I should of, but he was just like, 'Mom, please don't ... you'll make it worse,'" Chambers said.

Moore said the district

has no plans to change its policies, but that it is still examining the circumstances surrounding Kenneth's death and will explore ways of better impressing upon students that bullying is unacceptable.

Kenneth's mother said it's up to the authorities to decide whether to press charges. She just wants the bullying to stop.

"I just hope that they see what they took from us and I really hope that it touches their heart for them to never, ever want to bully somebody again," she said. "If that's the one thing that comes out of this, that would make me happy."

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BULLYING HOTLINE UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR IOWA

Following the suicide of a 14-year-old northwest Iowa boy who was bullied after acknowledging to others that he was gay, Iowa officials are considering a bullying hotline.

The Des Moines Register reported that at least two lawmakers are checking into whether a hotline can be set up before the legislative session ends.

Rep. Mary Mascher, D-Iowa City, says she's been thinking about "how isolating it is for kids who are bullied and are scared."

Mascher and Rep. Beth Wessel-Kroeschell, D-Ames, are checking costs and looking into whether an anti-bullying component could be added to the Iowa Suicide & Crisis Hotlines.



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Paulson is optimistic that Wisconsin Dems will accept the equality plank

PLANK from page 1

treatment under the law to same-sex couples and their families; and

“WHEREAS, Wisconsin’s Domestic Partner Registry offers limited but critical protections to same-sex couples and their families;

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, the DPW is committed to: (1) preserving Wisconsin’s Domestic Partnership Registry; (2) repealing Section 13 of Article XIII of the Wisconsin Constitution; and (3) supporting marriage equality for same-sex couples.”

Paulson said that calling for marriage equality would keep Wisconsin Democrats at the vanguard on issues of equality. In 1982, the state became the first ever to pass a law banning anti-gay employment discrimination, and members of the state’s congressional delegation have been out front on LGBT issues in recent decades.

U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin

of Wisconsin is the only member of Congress from Wisconsin so far to call for the inclusion of a plank supporting same-sex marriage in the Democratic Party’s national platform. Wisconsin’s U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl and Rep. Gwen Moore have joined Baldwin as co-sponsors of the Respect for Marriage Act, which would overturn the Defense of Marriage Act, according to the national group Freedom to Marry.

Wisconsin’s former U.S. Sen. Russ Feingold was one of a handful of senators to vote against DOMA in 1996. Feingold first announced his support for same-sex marriage in 2006.

“Denying people this basic American right is the kind of discrimination that has no place in our laws, especially in a progressive state like Wisconsin,” he said at the time. “The time has come to end this discrimination and the politics of divisiveness that has become part of this

issue.”

Feingold also voted against “don’t ask, don’t tell” when it was first introduced.

While Paulson is optimistic that the Wisconsin Democratic Party will adopt a marriage equality plank in its 2012 platform, he’s not so confident about the national party.

“The national level is sort of a different animal,” he said. “It’s technically written by delegates to the convention, but the reality is that it’s heavily controlled by the presidential campaign. The presidential campaign will name the committee that will write the platform.”

A website at www.widemsforequality.org makes the case for including marriage equality in the Wisconsin Democratic Party platform. The website is not an official project of the LGBT Caucus.

Share comments at www.facebook.com/wigazette.



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English support for equality is as high as 61 percent

QUEEN from page 1

the United States.

Still, the speech is significant, serving traditionally as an outline of Her Majesty's Government program for the new session and symbolizing the unity of the Sovereign, the House of Lords and the House of Commons.

"It is very important that marriage equality is included in the Queen's Speech," Asser says. "If the government (is) committed on this, they need to send the signal that they will be including it in the new legislative program. There are growing numbers of Conservative MPs on the government side speaking out against this and the government needs to show those MPs (it is) serious."

The likely prospect of marriage equality making it into the Queen's Speech has some gay marriage advocates in the United States envious, even though the queen does not exercise direct political power in Britain. Elizabeth II, who has reigned since 1952, and President Barack Obama, elected in 2008, both have

sided with civil unions in the past. Now, the 86-year-old matriarch of Mother England could look more progressive – hipper – than the 50-year-old president of the former colonies.

IN THE COLONIES

In the United States, gay rights advocates are pushing the president's party to add marriage equality to the national platform to be adopted in September at the national convention in Charlotte, N.C.

An ever-expanding chorus is calling for the plank, including U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin and former U.S. Sen. Russ Feingold, both Democrats from Wisconsin. Feingold, a co-chair of Obama's re-election campaign, was among the first to join Freedom to Marry's "Democrats Say 'I Do'" campaign.

But Obama spokespeople continue to say only that the president's position on gay marriage is evolving.

Four years ago, Obama's position, stated in an open letter to the LGBT community, was that the anti-

gay Defense of Marriage Act must be repealed. The president should "use the bully pulpit to urge states to treat same-sex couples with full equality in their family and adoption laws," Obama said, and federal law should not discriminate.

But, he added, "I personally believe that civil unions represent the best way to secure that equal treatment."

Obama made the statement about four years after the British Parliament and Queen Elizabeth II approved the Civil Partnership Act, which affords same-sex couples most marriage benefits. In December 2005, hundreds of gay and lesbian couples in the U.K. went to local government offices to register.

The last Labour government introduced the CPA. Winning passage was a hard fight.

"It was the first time there had ever been any legal recognition of same-sex partnerships and proper protection for same-sex couples, which made a huge difference to lesbian and gay couples," Asser says.

Since 2005, about 68,000 people have entered into civil partnerships in England and Wales.

FROM PARTNERSHIP TO MARRIAGE

After the May 2010 general election, the queen appointed David Cameron, leader of the Conservative Party, as prime minister. Without decisive victories in the election that month, a coalition government was formed between the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats.

In September 2011, the government announced its intention to introduce civil gay marriage legislation before the next election in 2015. Last year, Cameron said, "Conservatives believe in the ties that bind us; that society is stronger when we make vows to each other and support each other."

By March, the government's Home Office was accepting comments on its marriage equality proposal for England and Wales, which includes:

- Enabling same-sex couples to enter a civil marriage in ceremonies in a register office or approved premises, such as a hotel.
- Making no changes to religious marriages.
- Retaining civil partnerships for same-sex couples as an option, but allowing couples already in a civil partnership to convert them into marriages.
- Continuing to permit civil partnership registrations on religious premises on a voluntary basis.
- Allowing individuals to legally change their gender without having to end their marriage.

In an impact assessment of legalizing gay marriage, the government says, "Whilst civil partnerships provide an almost identical legal framework to civil marriage, there is evidence to suggest that many people are unhappy with the existence of separate legal provisions and do not consider them to be equal. ... Government intervention is needed because the impediment to a same-sex couple entering (or converting a civil partnership) into a marriage is a legal one."



PHOTO: WWW.ROYAL.GOV.UK

Queen Elizabeth II

The Liberal Democrats, the Green Party, the Party of Wales and Labour have shown strong support for marriage equality.

All parties in the Scottish Parliament, which will act on different legislation, back legalizing civil marriage.

Advocates also can be found in the Anglican Church, including the archbishop of Wales, the bishop of Salisbury, the bishop of Buckingham and the dean of St. Albans.

The Quaker community too has endorsed civil marriage and is part of the Coalition for Equal Marriage, which includes Equal Out at the UN, the Peter Tatchell Foundation, MCC of North London, Liberal Judaism, LGBT Labour, LGBT Tory, LGBTIQ Greens, LGBT Liberal Democrats, several student groups and Stonewall, the U.K.'s largest and most influential LGBT civil rights group.

Stonewall, in its five-page response to the government's civil marriage proposal, says, "We are committed to working closely with the government to implement the proposed plans to extend the legal form of marriage to same-sex couples at the earliest possible opportunity."

The civil partnerships program, Stonewall says, failed to create a "marked shift in attitudes which would see measurable reductions in the prejudice and discrimination that gay people face. ...

By insisting marriages and civil partnerships be kept separate, organizations and individuals perpetuate the notion, even if inadvertently, that relationships between same-sex couples are not as stable or valid as those between heterosexual couples."

Opinion polls show enthusiasm for legalizing gay marriage as high as 61 percent in England and Wales. Still, an ad campaign on transit buses and an online commercial debuted in April to increase awareness and challenge anti-gay marriage campaigns getting prominent play in British tabloids. More than 1,000 buses in London are carrying advertisements that read, "Some People Are Gay. Get Over It."


"Britain has been subjected to vitriolic political campaigning from people who want to impose their 19th century values on 21st century society," says Stonewall chief executive Ben Summerskill. "Our very moderate and straightforward campaign, which will be seen by hundreds of thousands of Londoners, and many more people online, will help those who have been offended by anti-equality prejudice to tell the government why equal marriage is important to them."

The "vitriolic" campaign against marriage equality is being led by the Coalition for Marriage, which has collected the signatures of more than

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470,000 people who oppose civil marriage rights for gays.

Marriage equality opponents also include the United Kingdom Independence Party, the Telegraph and the Daily Mail newspapers and Conservative MPs David Burrowes and Roger Gale.

Gale, writing recently for the Anglican Mainstream website, says a marriage involves a man and a woman and "it is not a term or a status that I wish to see hijacked in the false name of 'equality.'"

Reports have indicated that Cameron will allow MPs a free vote on a marriage bill, but a call for marriage equality in the Queen's Speech could boost support, especially among Conservatives.

"There are growing numbers of Conservative MPs on the government side speaking out against this, and the government needs to show those MPs (it is) serious," Asser says.

A COLORFUL CEREMONY WITH A 'KALEIDOSCOPE' QUEEN

The traditional state opening and speech by the mon-

arch can be traced back to the 16th century, but the current ceremony dates to the opening of the rebuilt Palace of Westminster in 1852.

The event, which draws large crowds to the streets and large audiences for TV and the Web, begins with the queen's procession from Buckingham Palace to Westminster, with the queen and the Imperial State Crown traveling in separate carriages.

The queen arrives at the Sovereign's Entrance at about 11:15 a.m. and proceeds to the Robing Room, where she puts on the parliamentary robe and the crown and then joins a procession through the Royal Gallery into the House of Lords.

There, from the throne, the queen delivers her speech.

Could a citizen listening to the Queen's Speech tell where Elizabeth II's heart is on marriage equality?

Asser says, "The queen is politically neutral and does not get involved in politics — it is a very different role to an elected head of state. No one is ever told her views on anything political. She is nei-

ther pro- nor anti-anything, she just is."

But the queen is being personally courted and, by some, already praised.

In March, 12 members of the Religious Society of Friends of Truth or Quakers addressed Elizabeth II at a ceremony at Buckingham Palace and advocated for marriage equality.

Also in March, House of Commons Speaker John Bercow, the head of a gay rights group called Kaleidoscope Trust, addressed the queen at her Diamond Jubilee celebration.

"This is a land where men and women today are equal under the law and where your people are respected, regardless of how they live, how they look or how they love. This is a nation of many races, faiths and customs, now beginning to be reflected in Parliament. All this progress has occurred during your reign. You have become, to many of us, a kaleidoscope queen of a kaleidoscope country in a kaleidoscope commonwealth."

Share comments at www.facebook.com/wigazette.

Variety of relationships

Legal recognition of same-sex relationships at a glance...

Marriage: Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden.

Marriage performed, some locales: Brazil, Mexico and, in the United States in Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont and under Coquille, Suquamish tribal laws. Pending in Washington, Maryland.

Marriage recognized: Aruba, Curacao, Sint Marten, Israel, Japan and conditionally in California, Maryland.

Civil unions/partnerships: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Greenland, Hungary, Ireland, Isle of Man, Jersey, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, New Zealand, Slovenia, Switzerland, United Kingdom,

Uruguay and Venezuela. In the U.S. in California, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, New Jersey, Nevada, Oregon, Rhode Island, Washington and Wisconsin.

— L.N.



PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Queen Beatrix of Netherlands signed the world's first bill legalizing same-sex marriage in 2000.

A decade of 'I do'

2012

Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and Washington Gov. Chris Gregoire sign marriage equality bills. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie vetoes one.

2011

Brazil's highest court rules for same-sex marriage. The Colombian Constitutional Court orders congress to legislate marriage equality. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo signs the state's marriage equality bill. The French Parliament rejects a gay marriage bill. President Barack Obama blocks the legal defense of the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act. The first same-sex marriages take place in Mexico.

2010

Argentine President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner signs a gay marriage bill. Same-sex marriage becomes legal in Iceland, where the

country's prime minister becomes the world's first head of government to enter a same-sex marriage. Portugal legalizes same-sex marriage. It also becomes legal in New Hampshire and the District of Columbia.

2009

Vermont legalizes same-sex marriage. Maine loses same-sex marriage when voters overturn the law in a referendum. The Iowa Supreme Court legalizes same-sex marriage. The parliament of Sweden legalizes gay marriage. Japan allows nationals to marry same-sex partners in countries where it is legal.

2008

The supreme court of Nepal orders the government to pass marriage equality legislation. Connecticut legalizes gay marriage. Arizona, Florida and California voters approve constitutional amendments against gay marriage. Norwegian lawmakers approve same-sex marriage.

2006

South Africa legalizes gay marriage. Israel recognizes same-sex marriages that citizens enter abroad.

2005

Canada and Spain legalize same-sex marriage.

2004

Massachusetts legalizes same-sex marriage. Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Ohio, Oregon and Utah add anti-gay marriage amendments to their constitutions.

2003

King Albert II of Belgium signs a bill legalizing same-sex marriage.

2000

Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands signs into law the first same-sex marriage bill in the world.

— L.N.

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{ Editorial }

Accumulating power

A milestone in the battle for LGBT equality was quietly reached late last month.

On April 24, Brian Sims, a 33-year-old gay Philadelphia lawyer, won a Democratic state House primary. Since there is no Republican contender in his Democratic district, his victory put Sims on an inevitable path to becoming Pennsylvania's first out lawmaker.

As a result, all 50 states will have out LGBT elected officials for the first time ever, according to the Victory Fund.

In 1991, when the Victory Fund formed, there were 49 openly LGBT elected or appointed officials in the nation. Today, the number is more than 500, and 22 percent of Americans are represented by an out elected official.

Wisconsin has been at the vanguard of this history. When Tammy Baldwin was first elected to the Assembly in 1993, she had few peers in legislatures across the nation. In 1998, she was peerless when she became the first openly gay non-incumbent ever elected to Congress.

This year, Baldwin hopes to break yet another lavender ceiling. She is running – unopposed so far – for the Democratic nomination to succeed retiring Democratic Sen. Herb Kohl. If she wins, Baldwin will be the first out person ever elected to the nation's most exclusive club.

Meanwhile, out state Rep. Mark Pocan is running for the House seat that Baldwin currently holds, hoping to keep it in the LGBT column.

Although numerous LGBT allies serve our community in government with commitment, we need places at the table. When we're physically present, we're hard to dismiss. Our voices are heard and our perspectives shared. We have influence.

While it's great to be served, it is in serving that we truly move equality forward. Effective LGBT leaders provide role models for youth and demonstrate to our communities that we have much to contribute.

Passionate, gifted leaders like Baldwin and Pocan give us reason to hold our heads higher. We'd rather forget about characters like Tim Russell, the long-time gay accomplice of Gov. Scott Walker who's been indicted for fraud and embezzlement in connection with his service in Walker's Milwaukee County Executive administration.

But as our presence in government increases – from school boards to city halls to courtrooms to state capitols – we can expect many LGBT leaders who do us proud and some who make us sorry. Like members of every other group, we come in all styles and varieties, with individual strengths and foibles. The important thing is to have the same opportunities to excel or fail.

For more than two decades, the Victory Fund has helped to ensure that our community has more winners than losers. VF plans to endorse a record 200 candidates this year and to open a second office on the West Coast.

This is a critical election year, particularly here in Wisconsin. VF's next candidate and campaign training takes place in Milwaukee June 21-24, offering a tremendous opportunity for activists in the region to develop the skills needed for political empowerment.

To learn more, go to www.victoryfund.org.

BY THE NUMBERS
Catholic Priests...**1,723**

Number of clerical offenders identified in the U.S. since 2002

270

Number of U.S. priests reported for committing child sex crimes last year

275

Number of newly ordained diocesan priests in the U.S. last year

0

Number of Church officials disciplined for shielding pedophile priests

Source: Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests

{ Feedback }

WALKER'S ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER

A Wisconsin State Journal investigative story by Ron Seely uncovered chronic and blatant disregard for the laws that protect Wisconsin's air and water on the part of Gov. Walker's Department of Natural Resources. A look at the number of enforcement actions combined with reports from current and former DNR staff show a shocking drop-off in action taken against illegal polluters and unprecedented pressure on law enforcement to let violators off the hook.

DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp said, "Don't judge us by our words, judge us by our actions." When the

Another reason to send Scott Walker packing.

DNR's enforcement against illegal polluters drops from an average of 516 notices in a typical year to 233, your actions say you are allowing illegal polluters to get away with destroying our health and environment.

It appears that Walker's attempts to gut public health and environmental protections – from his attempt to eliminate Wisconsin's first-in-the-nation recycling program

to his attempted rollback of decades-old mining laws – weren't enough. He also has a backup plan: if you can't get rid of the law, just ignore it.

For years, conservationists of all political stripes have been calling for a return to an independently appointed DNR secretary to take politics out of DNR. Walker has taken this problem to new heights.

We can't afford to allow polluters to run roughshod over the health and future of our families. This is yet another reason we need to send Scott Walker packing.

Kerry Schumann, executive director, Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters

Our mission


To inform, engage and empower Wisconsin's LGBT community by providing a professional, independent print and online source for news and commentary, as well as coverage of political and cultural issues. Louis Weisberg Publisher/Editor in Chief Wisconsin Gazette (414) 961-3240.

Wisconsin Gazette .com

The Wisconsin Gazette is published every other week and distributed throughout the Milwaukee area, Madison, Racine, Kenosha, and 40 other cities statewide.

To have WiG delivered to your address, contact rwright@wisconsin Gazette.com or call 414-961-3240, ext. 101

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ON THE RECORD



“Keith Olbermann has more pink slips than Marcus Bachmann.”

– JIMMY KIMMEL addressing the White House Correspondents’ Dinner.

It’s one thing to oppose gay marriage, it’s another altogether to do it in a sweater vest.”

– JIMMY KIMMEL addressing the White House Correspondents Dinner about Rick Santorum.

“You should get one of your friends to screw your daughter straight.”

– DOMINIC DIETER, a DJ at Cleveland’s WMMS, responding to a man who emailed the station saying he’d caught his daughter kissing another girl.

“My pronouns for my child just jump all over the place.”

– CHER presenting a GLAAD award to her son Chaz Bono.

“There is no need to talk about Billy wanting to marry a goat.”

– State Rep. DWIGHT SCHARNHORST of Missouri, a co-sponsor of the state’s so-called “Don’t Say Gay” bill, explaining to his colleagues why his legislation is needed in public schools.

“Well I think that’s terrible and Christians shouldn’t do that. I mean, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, blah, blah, blah. You know, Christians shouldn’t do that. They ought to act in love.”

– Televangelist PAT ROBERTSON speaking out against bullying on “The 700 Club.”

“I need your help to stop Tammy Baldwin and her liberal allies from buying this Senate seat.”

– Former Wisconsin Rep. MARK NEUMANN making a fundraising pitch to right-wing donors.

“Were you there when they crucified the poor?”

– Words on a 50-foot banner unfurled by members of CATHOLICS UNITED, a progressive group, to protest an appearance by U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan at Georgetown University.

“The legislation that has my name on it – it got changed considerably, and I would not support that legislation and I would definitely vote against it.”

– State Rep. JIM CRAWFORD of North Carolina withdrawing his support from the state’s Amendment One, which seeks to ban same-sex marriage and civil unions in the state. He was one of 10 Democrats who voted to place the amendment on the May 8 ballot.

“We can learn to ignore the bullshit in the Bible about gay people.”

– DAN SAVAGE speaking to the National High School Journalist Conference in Seattle. His remarks prompted a walkout by some students.



Wisconsin’s feminist wave

I’m thrilled to report that two of the most enduring and joyous institutions of Second Wave feminism will be held here in Wisconsin once again: the WisCon Feminist Science Fiction & Fantasy Convention and the National Women’s Music Festival.

Wisconsinites should be proud of our role in sustaining these exciting feminist events, which are inclusive – not for women only. Everyone is welcome and accessibility- or income-related, are taken seriously.

Celebrating its 36th year, WisCon, the world’s leading feminist sci-fi convention, is being held in Madison at the Concourse Hotel May 25-28. WisCon features lectures, discussions, films, exhibits and social events for lovers of feminist sci-fi and fantasy. This year’s special guests are Andrea Hairston and Debbie Notkin.

Hairston’s short stories (“Griots of the Galaxy”) and novels have been well reviewed. Her second novel, “Redwood and Wildfire,”



received the James Tiptree Jr. Award, which is given annually for sci-fi or fantasy that expands our understanding of gender. Hairston is a professor of theater and African American studies at Smith College and artistic director of Chrysalis Theater.

Notkin is a writer and editor who has been a WisCon organizer for many years. As editor at Tor Books in the late 1980s, she acquired the last two volumes of Suzy McKee Charnas’ “Holdfast Chronicles.” She also has written the texts of two books of fine art photography by Laurie Toby Edison: “Women En Large: Images of Fat Nudes” and “Familiar Men: A Book of Nudes.”

I attended WisCon a few years ago with a girlfriend who was a big sci-fi buff. We both enjoyed it enormously. It was a great mix of stimulating discussion and socializing. I have given up on HBO’s over-

praised and overwrought “Game of Thrones,” with its predictable patriarchal plot lines (and equally predictable and exploitative sex scenes). WisCon is a gateway to fresh, imaginative alternate universes. It’s a great event for lovers of sci-fi/fantasy and lovers of women.

The 37th annual National Women’s Music Festival, a broad-ranging cultural event featuring concerts, theater, comedy, workshops and a marketplace, is set for June 28-July 1 at the Marriott Hotel in Middleton. Performers include Toshi Reagon, Holly Near, Jamie Anderson, Ladies Must Swing, Wahru & Drum Chorus, Melanie DeMore, Sharon Katz and The Peace Train, Mary Watkins, Sugarbeach, Emma’s Revolution, Nervous But Excited and many more.

The National Women’s Music Fest was first held in Champaign-Urbana, Ill., before moving for many years to Indiana University in Bloomington. After shifting to several other locations in Indiana and Illinois, the festival landed in Madison

in 2008. In contrast to the infamous Michigan Womyn’s Music Festival, which is held outdoors and restricted to woman-born women, the National Fest is an inclusive event held in indoor venues. My politics and comfort zone – air-conditioning! room service! – have always favored the national fest, and what a kick – an honor really – to have it right here in Madison.

There are always new artists to discover and veteran artists to enjoy again. There’s a talent show, an art auction and informal jam sessions. There’s a spirituality conference and a writers’ series. The atmosphere is intimate enough that you will rub elbows with many of the performers and be awed by the creative energy.

Take advantage of these national events, which we’re lucky enough to have in our own state. For registration and other information, visit www.wiscon.info and www.wiaonline.org.

Share comments at www.facebook.com/wisconsinmagazine.

Hope for LGBTQ people in church

Years ago I had a mentor from the church I attended during college. When I told her that I was in a relationship with a woman, she told me it was a sin. I ran into her once after that night, and she told me that I could call her if I decided that I was ready to change. I haven’t seen her since.

Sadly this experience of negativity is familiar to many people. Her voice did not share the love of God with me.

Fortunately, there were other voices in my life that spoke love and truth to me at that fragile time. One of them was a friend named Devin. He was openly gay, and without his honesty I’m not sure I would have had the courage to be honest myself. I came to see Devin as a man who was proud of the person that God made him, and he helped teach me to understand that.

Two years ago, I heard a



song called “inside” by an artist named Jennifer Knapp. She had just come out publicly, announcing her long relationship with a woman. The chorus of the song said, “I’m the one who keeps it on the inside. Locked away from judgments wrong. I’m the one who keeps it on the inside so they’ll leave me alone, leave me alone.”

The song captured my feelings of frustration so well. I was struggling because I wanted to be open about my sexuality and my relationship, but I had been hurt by so many people I was close to that I was burned out.

For a while I thought that if I didn’t tell people, they wouldn’t have a chance to condemn me. I didn’t feel like being vulnerable any more,

If Knapp could talk about her relationship and her faith on “Larry King Live,” I could be open with people in my life.

so I just stopped calling some of my friends so that they wouldn’t have a chance to reject me.

But they also didn’t have a chance to affirm me. Knapp was willing to take this criticism, in claiming both her sexuality and her identity as a child of God. I figured, if she could talk about her relationship and her faith on “Larry

King Live,” I could certainly be open with people in my life.

I’ve been able to move past these feelings of keeping things on the inside, and I’m so grateful for all who have walked alongside me in this wonderful journey. I’m currently in the process of becoming a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Many of my family, friends and the people of Lake Park Lutheran have gone out of their way to welcome my wife and I into their church and their lives. I am blessed to have these positive people in my life.

I am so thrilled that Knapp is coming to Lake Park Lutheran Church at 7 p.m. on May 12. She will share her music and her story with all who attend this free event. She is one of the voices of hope for LGBTQ people in the church. I hope that through her, we can be a voice of God’s love for all.

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NATIONAL GAZE

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PHOTO: VISITPHILLY.COM

In the heart of Philadelphia's gayborhood.

'GAYBORHOOD' TO GET SENIOR HOUSING

Construction is to start this fall on one of the country's only affordable housing complexes for elderly gay people after developers received what they described as critical state tax credits for the long-stalled project.

The 56-unit, \$19-million development is planned for a section of Philadelphia known as the Gayborhood.

The project had been stymied for years by financing and logistical problems, but received tax credits in mid-April from the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency.

Experts say such housing is needed because many LGBT seniors fear discrimination or disrespect by health care workers and elder housing residents. Some go back into being secretive about their sexual orientation after years of being open.

BRIEFS

At least 1.5 million elderly gay people live in the United States. That number is expected to double by 2030, according to the New York-based group Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders.

REVIEW SOUGHT OF NOM'S GIFT FROM ROMNEY PAC

Gay presidential candidate Fred Karger has filed a California complaint seeking a review of how a \$10,000 donation from a Mitt Romney PAC was missing from a National Organization for Marriage campaign report.

Earlier this spring, the Human Rights Campaign reported that in 2008 Romney donated \$10,000 to the anti-gay NOM through his Free and Strong America PAC. HRC noted that Free and Strong America PAC fil-

ings with the Federal Election Commission for the period did not show a contribution to NOM, but a contribution was disclosed by an Alabama-based Free and Strong America. The donation was not recorded on NOM's filing with the California Secretary of State.

"Mitt Romney and NOM appear to have gone to a lot of trouble to hide his contribution," Karger said in a statement. "I am sure that Romney's \$10K was never meant to see the light of day."

GAY REPORTER WINS PULITZER, COVERED LESBIAN MURDER, RAPE

Eli Sanders, an associate editor at The Stranger, received a Pulitzer Prize for feature writing for his account of a woman who survived a rape. Her partner

was killed, and the surviving woman testified about her ordeal in court.

"I was stunned at first," Sanders told the AP.

Sanders said it was "cool that a scrappy little alt-weekly in Seattle can produce something that resonates on this level."

LGB ADULTS REJECTED BY PARENTS SUFFER POORER HEALTH

A comprehensive new study led by Boston University School of Public Health researcher Emily Rothman shows that LGB adults rejected by their parents have poorer health.

Two-thirds of lesbian, gay and bisexual adults surveyed in Massachusetts reported receiving positive support from their parents after coming out to them. Their incidence of mental health and substance abuse problems was significantly lower than those who did

not receive support, the survey said.


Gay and bisexual males whose parents did not support them had six to seven times the odds of serious depression and binge drinking, while lesbian and bisexual females had five times the odds of developing serious depression and 11 times the odds of illicit drug use.

LAPD ADOPTS TRANSGENDER-FRIENDLY POLICY

LAPD Chief Charlie Beck has issued guidelines telling officers that when stopping or detaining a person, they must "respect the expressed gender and not question it."

The department also will begin housing arrested transgender men and women in a women's jail, the Los Angeles Times reported.


"This is a major change" that will allow for "an environment that's safe and secure, as there's been a



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PHOTO: WWW.SLDN.ORG

Air Force Sgt. Anthony Loverde was discharged under DADT but will be reinstated this month.

history of violence against transgender people” in jail, said LAPD Capt. David Lindsay.

The policy is the latest step in the long process of making the LAPD a more sensitive and professional force by ensuring police contacts with the transgender community are respectful and courteous, said Beck.

The policy also bars officers from frisking individuals or questioning them for the

sole purpose of learning their anatomical gender.

SERGEANT WINS REINSTATEMENT

Air Force Sgt. Anthony Loverde, discharged in 2008 under “don’t ask, don’t tell,” will be reinstated.

He will return to active duty this month, taking his oath in Sacramento, Calif., and then reporting to the 19th Operations Squadron at Little Rock AFB in Arkansas.

Loverde is the second servicemember reinstated to active duty following the repeal of DADT in September 2011, according to his representatives with the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network and the Morrison & Foerster firm.

Loverde’s reinstatement is the result of a resolution on his behalf in *Almy v. U.S.*, a case filed in 2010 that challenged the constitutionality of the three plaintiffs’ discharges under DADT.

EX-CATHOLIC NUN BECOMES PRIEST

A former Catholic nun defied the Church’s ban on

women becoming priests and went through an ordination ceremony, joining a push to crack open the all-male clergy.

A female bishop from Minnesota led the April 15 ordination ceremony for 71-year-old Maria Thornton McClain at Friedens United Church of Christ on the south side of Indianapolis.

McClain said she was a nun for 15 years before leaving her order and has been married to her husband for 31 years. She said she has been a devoted Catholic, but believed the ban on female priests needed to be challenged.

Since McClain cannot lead Masses in a Catholic church, she said she plans to find other places to hold services and that she’ll target those who feel alienated from the Church, including gays and lesbians, divorced Catholics and those who believe like she does on subjects such as the ordination of women.

— Lisa Neff

WiG’S TAIL-WAGGER

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For more information, visit wihumane.org.

MEET PUP PUP

Pup Pup is a 1-year-old Labrador retriever mix looking for an active family to call his own. He’s currently living in a foster home and does very well with other dogs. Pup Pup absolutely loves enrichment toys, so he’s really hoping to find a home filled with them! Like all of our dogs, Pup Pup has been neutered, vaccinated and microchipped, so all he needs now is you!



Pup Pup is a 1-year-old Labrador retriever looking for a permanent home.

TIP OF THE WEEK:

Does your new dog or puppy mouth at the leash on walks? Bring along his favorite toy and have him carry it in his mouth. He’ll have even more fun on walks and will soon have a better understanding of leash manners.

For more information, visit wihumane.org.

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Voting under way on anti-gay Amendment One

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Voters in North Carolina's primary are deciding now whether they'll join a confederacy and become the last state in the South to add an anti-gay marriage amendment to their constitution.

The May 8 ballot contains Amendment One, which would amend the North Carolina Constitution to define marriage as the union of a man and a woman and bar legal recognition of any same-sex relationships – marriage, civil union or domestic partnership.

Support for the amendment comes from Vote for Marriage NC, the Faith and Freedom Coalition, the North Carolina Republican Party, Catholic bishops in Charlotte and Raleigh and the North Carolina Values Coalition.

Opposition comes from the Human Rights Campaign, the Coalition to Protect NC Families, Equality North Carolina, Log Cabin Republicans, the North Carolina Demo-

cratic Party, Gov. Bev Purdue, U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan, several local government councils and more than 75 North Carolina CEOs who signed a letter asking state lawmakers not to send the amendment to voters.

Hagan, in a video released on April 26, said, "I believe that Amendment One has far-reaching, negative consequences for our families, our children and our communities. ... And I do not believe there is any reason that we should amend our state's constitution to take away people's rights."

White House officials, responding to press questions earlier this spring, have said that the president opposes anti-gay initiatives such as Amendment One, but in an April 24 speech in the battleground state that will host the Democratic National Convention in September, he did not address the issue.

Polling on some version of a North Carolina amendment has been taking place

since at least 2009, two years before lawmakers voted to place an initiative on the ballot. An Elon University poll consistently has shown majority opposition to an amendment, but percentages from Public Policy Polling, a Democratic-leaning firm, have shown majority support.

The gap in the PPP surveys narrowed, however, as the calendar advanced to Election Day.

On April 24, PPP reported, "The amendment is still favored for passage, but it's looking like less and less of a sure thing."

The newest poll showed 54 percent of voters in the state support the amendment and 40 percent oppose the initiative. When PPP first polled on the question six months ago, the amendment's support was at 61 percent.

The new poll also found that as voters become more educated about the scope of the amendment – that it bans recognition of same-sex partnerships and unions too – their support falls away. PPP

found that just 36 percent of voters correctly understood the meaning of the amendment. Among informed voters, support is at 38 percent.

Based on those statistics, PPP speculated, "There is some reason to think a huge upset ... is within the realm of possibility."

With voters' positions changing, the pro-gay Protect All NC Families released two TV campaign ads in the first week of balloting and intensified its voter outreach efforts, with volunteers working from offices in Greensboro, Charlotte, Raleigh, Durham and Asheville.

"The campaign is turning into a dead heat," said Protect All campaign manager Jeremy Kennedy.

A focus is on rallying young voters on college campuses, including Winston Salem State University, Central University, Bennett College and North Carolina A&T State University. North Carolina Central University and North Carolina A&T State University both released



PHOTO: FLICKR/PROTECTALLNCFAMILIES

Young activists against Amendment One in North Carolina.

statements condemning the amendment.

And on April 19, college students in Greensboro rallied and then marched to the polls aiming to get out 40 percent of the campus vote on the first day of early voting.

"Students joined in from every college in Greensboro

to march," said Human Rights Campaign activist Lauren Waters.

Anti-gay marriage amendments are embedded in constitutions in the Southern states of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia.

Pressure builds for president to protect LGBT workers

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Civil rights advocates continue to call on President Barack Obama to issue an executive order banning federal contractors from discriminating based on sexual orientation and gender.

The initiative would be an expansion of the order Lyndon Johnson issued in 1965 to prohibit discrimination by federal contractors and subcontractors on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

But White House officials have said the president wants to remain focused on passing the broader Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would prohibit most public and private employers from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. ENDA is mirrored to some extent on the protections and recourses that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 provides to workers on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, and national origin.

Campaigning for office in 2008, Obama delivered an open letter to the LGBT community, promising, "As president, I will place the weight of my administration behind the enactment of the Matthew Shepard Act to outlaw hate crimes and a fully inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act to outlaw workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity."

The Shepard legislation was signed into law in 2009. ENDA, however, is not likely to go anywhere in the House without a change in the majority party, and even with such a change there's no guarantee of passage. The bill has been introduced in each Congress since Bill Clinton's first term and it did not pass in 2010, when Democrats had control of the House and Senate.

LGBT workers can't wait for ENDA, said Tico Almeida, president of Freedom to Work, which is campaigning for an order along with the Human Rights Campaign,

Center for American Progress, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, National Council of La Raza and GetEQUAL.

"The president has an opportunity to level the playing field for nearly a quarter of the American workforce today and to ensure workplace fairness," said Almeida.

"The president," added outgoing GetEQUAL managing director Heather Cronk, "can put a down payment on ENDA by signing this executive order."

In April, volunteers with GetEQUAL were visiting Obama for America field offices to demonstrate for an order.

"Honestly, we were stunned at the response to this call for volunteers," said Cronk, who estimated that about 1,000 activists responded in the first few days to the group's call to action.

An order has widespread executive support among

voters, as well as endorsements from at least 72 members of Congress, labor leaders, civil rights leaders, business leaders and two of the nation's most-influential daily newspapers – the Washington Post and The New York Times.

But in an op-ed for The Advocate magazine, Democratic National Committee treasurer Andrew Tobias defended the White House decision. Referring to ENDA, he said, "Because there is the very real possibility we can return the speaker's gavel to Nancy Pelosi on Nov. 6, it's not inconceivable it could pass next year. If Republicans block it in the Senate, the president would then have even more reason to sign an executive order."

Tobias added that ENDA would be lasting, while an executive order could be repealed by Obama's successor – next year or in four years.

And, he suggested, Obama could lose support in key states – such as Virginia or

North Carolina – if he signed an order. "How much risk should we take to get the order signed this year rather than next?" Tobias asked.

Almeida, however, said the proposed order "is completely non-controversial and politically safe" and observed that Johnson's successors have not repealed his order, which applies to contractors and subcontractors who do more than \$10,000 a year in government business.

Johnson's order followed an order from Republican Dwight Eisenhower, which followed on an order from Democrat Franklin Roosevelt.

Other LGBT activists also have stressed that last fall Obama suggested at a White House strategy meeting that the administration needed to be more aggressive with executive powers. At that meeting, he reportedly came up with the slogan "We Can't Wait."

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FOR THE RECORD

About 86 percent of the top 50 federal contractors prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and 55 percent prohibit discrimination based on gender identity.

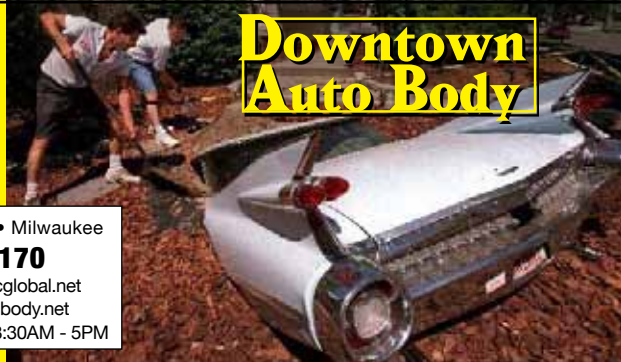
The numbers increased from 2011 for both categories of anti-discrimination policies, but the bigger increase was for gender identity, for which there was a 29 percent increase.

These contractors represent 47 percent of all contracting dollars awarded by the federal government – more than \$249 billion in spending.

But that means that 53 percent of federal contracting dollars go to companies without such protections.

Source: The Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Law and Public Policy.

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Forecast: Another superhero summer

By David Germain

AP writer

As superhero summers go, this one is truly super.

Amid one of the most-promising box-office seasons Hollywood has ever served up, three movies stand above the rest.

The first weekend in May brings "The Avengers," the ensemble adventure in 3D teaming Robert Downey Jr.'s Iron Man with such fellow Marvel Comics heroes as Thor, Captain America and the Incredible Hulk. The film has broken international box office records and is predicted to gross \$400 million in ticket sales by May 6.

"The Amazing Spider-Man" follows over the Fourth of July, as Marvel's web-slinger gets a fresh origin story, with Andrew Garfield taking over as teen-turned-superhero Peter Parker.

Finally, in late July, there's "The Dark Knight Rises," with Christian Bale returning as DC Comics' masked vigilante in the finale of director Christopher Nolan's Batman trilogy.

These three are the gold standard for fans: "The Dark Knight," Tobey Maguire's three "Spider-Man" flicks and Downey's two "Iron Man" movies are the six top-grossing superhero adventures ever.

Add in solid receipts for solo turns of "Avengers" co-stars Chris Hemsworth in "Thor" and Chris Evans in "Captain America: The First Avenger" — plus the lure of a new incarnation of the Incredible Hulk by Mark Ruffalo in "Avengers" — and this summer's superhero meter is off the charts.

"The Avengers" is literally one of the first books I followed regularly. ...Some of the work that was done in there was really groundbreaking and really epic," said "The Avengers" writer-director Joss Whedon. "It's great fun to take characters that you are so invested in,



PHOTO: ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM

"The Avengers" stars Robert Downey Jr. as Iron Man. The comic book characters Captain America, Thor and the Incredible Hulk also appear in the ensemble adventure extravaganza, which is already setting box office records abroad.

because you grew up with them, and get to put words in their mouths and figure out what they're going to be doing with their lives for a while."

Of course, there's plenty of cinematic action to fill in the gaps between superhero sagas.

Other action tales include "Men in Black 3," with Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones; Kristen Stewart and Charlize Theron's fairy-tale makeover "Snow White and the Huntsman"; Ridley Scott's return to sci-fi with "Prometheus"; "Avengers" co-star Jeremy Renner's "The Bourne Legacy"; Colin Farrell's remake of "Total Recall"; and the adaptation of the board game "Battleship."

Cartoon makers offer up the Scottish adventure

Plenty of cinematic action fills in the gaps between superhero sagas.

"Brave," the latest from the animation virtuosos at Pixar, while talking-animal franchises return with "Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted" and "Ice Age: Continental Drift."

The comedy and music front brings Adam Sandler's fatherhood story "That's My Boy"; the all-star song fest "Rock of Ages," featuring a singing Tom Cruise; Ben Still-

er, Vince Vaughn and Jonah Hill's suburban romp "Neighborhood Watch"; Sacha Baron Cohen's tyrant tale "The Dictator"; and Whitney Houston's final film "Sparkle."

And what would summer be without vampires? Johnny Depp turns blood-sucker as he reunites with director Tim Burton for "Dark Shadows," a big-screen take on the gothic TV soap opera. "Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter" has the great emancipator taking down the undead.

Summer highlights include:

MAY

- "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel": Those classy Brits put some sophistication into summer with a tale of UK retirees in India. With Judi Dench, Bill Nighy, Maggie Smith and Tom Wilkinson.

- "Chernobyl Diaries": Six rookie tourists mistakenly visit the site of the nuclear disaster and find unexpected horrors in the abandoned place.

- "The Dictator": Sacha Baron Cohen outdoes Castro with his wild beard in this comedy about a tyrant battling for untruth, injustice and the totalitarian way.

- "Men in Black 3": Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones return to fight aliens in a time-traveling action comedy that adds Josh Brolin as the young version of Jones' Agent K. Nice casting.

- "What to Expect When You're Expecting": Everyone's in a family way with an ensemble tale about pending parenthood that features Cameron Diaz, Jennifer Lopez, Elizabeth Banks and

Dennis Quaid.

JUNE

- "Brave": A Scottish lass (voiced by Kelly Macdonald) must undo the chaos her defiance has unleashed on her kingdom in the latest from Pixar.

- "G.I. Joe: Retaliation": The toy soldiers inspire another live-action firefight featuring Channing Tatum, Bruce Willis and Dwayne Johnson.

- "Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted": The zoo animals are still on tour as voice stars Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer and Jada Pinkett Smith return.

- "Magic Mike": Channing Tatum takes it off again in a story inspired by his early work as a male stripper. Steven Soderbergh directs.

- "People Like Us": "Star

Trek's" Chris Pine comes down to Earth as a salesman tidying up his late father's estate in a comic drama co-starring Elizabeth Banks and Michelle Pfeiffer.

- "Piranha 3DD": It's another Friday night fish fry in reverse as prehistoric piranha chow down on tourists at a water park.

- "To Rome with Love": Woody Allen woos Italy and appears on-screen for the first time in years with an ensemble romance co-starring Penelope Cruz, Alec Baldwin, Roberto Benigni and Ellen Page.

- "Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection": Filmmaker Perry reprises his role as saucy grandma Madea, who takes in the family of a CFO (Eugene Levy) in witness protection.

JULY

- "Ice Age: Continental Drift": For extinct species,

these cartoon critters sure are survivors. Ray Romano and his voice co-stars are back with another prehistoric comedy.

- "Katy Perry: Part of Me": The pop superstar gets the 3-D treatment in a music documentary featuring performances and behind-the-scenes access.

- "Neighborhood Watch": Ben Stiller, Vince Vaughn and Jonah Hill learn their town is teaming with space invaders disguised as average suburban dwellers.

- "Ruby Sparks": A character created by a novelist (Paul Dano) comes to life as a real woman (Zoe Kazan) in the latest from the directors of "Little Miss Sunshine."

- "Savages": California pot growers fight a Mexican drug ring in Oliver Stone's thriller featuring Salma Hayek, John Travolta, Taylor Kitsch and Uma Thurman.

- "Step Up: Revolution":

The next round in the dance franchise has a crew of Miami hoofers fighting a neighborhood developer.

- "Ted": A teddy bear come to life is every boy's dream – until the thing sticks around into the kid's adult years. Mark Wahlberg stars in the comedy from Seth MacFarlane ("Family Guy").

AUGUST

- "The Apparition": Ashley Greene stars in a spooky tale of a couple haunted by a presence conjured up in a college experiment.

- "The Bourne Legacy": The spirit of lethal operative Jason Bourne lives on, minus Matt Damon, with Jeremy Renner at the center of fallout from the first three action hits.

- "The Campaign": Dirty politics in this age of bipartisanship? Will Ferrell and Zach Galifianakis sling mud as congressional opponents in Jay Roach's comedy.

- "Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days": The hapless hero (Zachary Gordon) of the best-selling books stumbles through trouble over summer vacation.

- "The Expendables 2": Action heroes crowd the screen again as Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham, Jet Li and friends seek vengeance after a mission goes wrong.

- "Hope Springs": Meryl Streep and Tommy Lee Jones are a long-married couple trying to renew the spark with a counselor (Steve Carell) at a marital retreat.

- "The Odd Life of Timothy Green": A couple (Jennifer Garner and Joel Edgerton) eager to start a family gets a dose of the unexpected when a mysterious boy turns up at their door.


- "ParaNorman": The animated comedy centers on a boy who can speak with the dead and becomes the last hope of his hometown after it's overrun by zombies.

- "Premium Rush": A Manhattan bike messenger (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) is steered into a deadly chase when bad guys come looking for the delivery he's carrying.


- "Sparkle": Whitney Houston's final movie role features the late singer as mom to a girl group (including "American Idol" winner Jordin Sparks) struggling with the pressures of fame.

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PHOTO: JUSTFLICK.COM

Tom Cruise in the musical "Rock of Ages."

Milwaukee Ballet's 'Peter Pan' takes flight once more

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Dance fans who will never grow up should be delighted by the return of Milwaukee Ballet's high-flying production of "Peter Pan." The work, which premiered in 2010, returns to Marcus Center for the Performing Arts for four performances May 10-13.

The ballet was five years in the making, according to artistic director Michael Pink. He created the work with composer Phillip Feeney, the musical director and composer in residence at London's Ballet Central. The pair also is responsible for Milwaukee Ballet's "Dracula" and "Esmeralda," based on Victor Hugo's "The Hunchback of Notre Dame."

Most people are familiar with the tale of Peter, Tinkerbell and the pinch of fairy dust that enables the Darling children to leave their stuffy London flat and fly off to Neverland for adventures with pirates, Indians and the Lost Boys. But few know that the work premiered on the London stage in 1904 as a play by J. M. Barrie before he adapted it into a novel.

Pink had never seen a copy of the play, which had long been out of print. But in February, while he was in Denver helping to direct Colorado Ballet's production of "Peter Pan," Pink happened upon a copy in a vintage bookstore.

The play contains elaborate descriptions by the author on rigging the characters to fly. "I feel certain that J.M. Barrie must have been very involved in the staging of the play," Pink says.

As ballet fans know, flying is part of the magic in Mil-



PHOTO: MILWAUKEE BALLET

Marc Petrocci in Milwaukee Ballet's "Peter Pan." Flight is provided by ZFX Flying Effects, a Kentucky-based firm.

waukee Ballet's production. Once again, the ballet will take flight thanks to ZFX Flying Effects, a Louisville, Ky.-based firm that, as its name implies, provides flying effects for theatrical productions. Dancers are rigged with harnesses that attach by a single wire to an elaborate construction of cables and counterweights. An operator moves the performer up and down, as well as sideways.

"For the dancers, the hardest part when they're airborne is to do very little," Pink says. "It's the operator that controls the movement, and I insist the operators be dancers themselves who are

familiar both with the music and the movement."

ZFX provides the cast – which is nearly identical to the 2010 production – with three hours of safety training before rehearsals begin. Flight

support centers on a point between the performer's shoulder blades.

Although the ballet took five years from concept to stage, Pink had only five weeks to actually develop it on the boards, a challenge he is still not sure how he managed. Given the public reaction – the first Milwaukee run sold out all performances before the opening night curtain, and Colorado Ballet

added performances to meet public demand – its development time and efforts were well spent.

"We have 44 dancers, countless people backstage, the Milwaukee Children's Choir and the 50-piece Milwaukee Ballet Orchestra," Pink says. "This is a big production."

But despite the size, the sets and the special effects, it's really the story's emotional core that makes the ballet a success, Pink says.

"This is really a story about lost innocence, as characterized by a boy who refuses to grow up," he explains. "As we get older, we forget such things, and the Peter Pans in our lives go away. This ballet is a chance for people of any age to revisit and remember those times."

Based on the tears he saw after the premieres, Pink is convinced the universality of the story makes this the perfect choice for a ballet. "It's a production that touches people," he says.

ON STAGE

Milwaukee Ballet's production of "Peter Pan" runs May 10-13 at Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. For tickets and information, visit www.milwaukeeballet.org.

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'Veronica' looks at love from different positions

Theater

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

Politics, as the saying goes, makes for strange bedfellows. In the case of "Veronica's Position," the season-closing production for Milwaukee's In Tandem Theatre Co., the phrase is explored literally as well as figuratively, often with hilarious results.

Playwright Rich Orloff's award-winning comedy takes place in Washington, D.C., in early 1990. Veronica (Tiffany Vance) is a fading film star and the new fiancée of Harvey (Steve Koehler), a U.S. senator. Veronica is trying to revive her career by appearing in a stage production of Henrik Ibsen's "Hedda Gabler" with her former husband Philip (out actor Richard Ganoung), an actor she has twice married and twice divorced.

Alan (T. Stacy Hicks), Veronica's gay assistant, reunites with Zeke (Joe Fransee), an old friend and controversial photographer whose provocative work will soon be exhibited in D.C. with the assistance of public funding. The senator objects to the photographer's work and introduces a bill to curtail public funding to the arts to prevent the exhibit.

The senator further questions the validity of the budding romantic relationship between Alan and Zeke. The otherwise apolitical Veronica finds herself caught in the middle of this unusual situ-

ation and is forced to, well, take a position.

For those who need the dots connected, the play was inspired by actors Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton, U.S. Sen. John Warner and photographer Robert Mapplethorpe.

"About 30 years ago Taylor and Burton, already twice married and divorced, did reunite to create a disastrous Broadway production of Noel Coward's 'Private Lives,'" says the Manhattan-based Orloff. "I met someone who worked on the production and thought, 'This sounds like a play.'"

It wasn't until two years later, when Orloff introduced the Mapplethorpe-inspired character, that he found himself with a viable scenario, he says. The result is a well-balanced, accomplished comedy that appeals at a variety of levels, says In Tandem managing director Jane Flieller.

"I like 'Veronica's Position' because it couples Rich's wonderful sense of humor with hot-button topics like public arts funding and gay marriage," says Flieller, who is directing the production. "It's incredibly well-balanced writing that allows you to understand the issues well enough to take a position."

Orloff's balance comes from a great deal of research into the lives of the people who inspired his characters. He read numerous biographies and visited what is now the Paley Center for Media to watch film clips, particularly of Taylor and Warner. Despite the fictional scenar-

ON STAGE

In Tandem Theatre Co.'s production of "Veronica's Position" runs May 4-20 at the Tenth Street Theatre in the basement of Calvary Presbyterian Church, 935 W. Wisconsin Ave. Details at www.intandemtheatre.org.

io, a few elements of truth slip in.

"In the play, there is an engagement ring with red, white and blue gems," Orloff says. "It sounds like a joke I made up, but it's like the actual engagement ring Warner gave Taylor."

The deeper social issues are balanced by the humor. Despite the fact that comedies are often more dependent on audience response, directing a comedy is no more difficult than directing a drama, Flieller says.

"It's no more or less difficult to bake a cake than to bake a pie, if you bake well," she says. "As a director, I prefer comedies. They tend to be faster-paced and I like to work quickly."

If there is a driving sentiment, one that leads Veronica to her "position," it is love, Flieller explains. In fact, it is the only subject in which the film star in any way engages.

"She is a great romantic who says, 'I don't question love the way most people do. To me, it is the best reason to be alive, and it should be welcomed whenever it happens.'"

DVDiva

GREGG SHAPIRO

NO ANIMAL MAGNETISM IN THIS 'ZOO'

The latest in a string of well-intentioned but dissatisfying films by journalist-turned-filmmaker Cameron Crowe ("Say Anything," "Almost Famous"), "We Bought A Zoo" is an adaptation of the Benjamin Mee book of the same name. Taking more than a few liberties with the story, including relocating it to the U.S. from the U.K., "Zoo" follows widowed single father and self-described "adventure addict" Benjamin (Matt Damon) as he struggles to hold his family together following his wife's death.

Benjamin quits his journalistic job and buys a home on the grounds of a rundown zoo. With the aid of young daughter Rosie (Maggie Elizabeth Jones, who steals every one of her scenes), he sorts through clothes and memories and packs up the family's home.

Sullen teenage son Dylan (Colin Ford), who fills the hours following his expulsion from school drawing violent pictures, isn't thrilled about the new home. When he meets Lily (Elle Fanning), a relative of head zookeeper Kelly (a surprisingly butch Scarlett Johansson), it's obvious that she will have a positive influence on him.

Predictable and borderline manipulative, "We Bought A Zoo" brings out a too-familiar arsenal of dramatic and comedic devices as the motley crew prepares the zoo for opening day.

Special features on the Blu-ray/DVD/digital copy combo set include a gag reel, extended and deleted scenes, Crowe's commentary, a handful of featurettes and more.

AN IMMATERIAL LOOK AT THE WINDSORS

Leave it to Madonna, an immaterial girl from Michigan, to idolize and romanticize the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, described in her movie "W.E." as "the world's most celebrated parasites."

In 1998 Manhattan, Wally

(Abbie Cornish, doing her best Nicole Kidman), the wife of unstable shrink William (Richard Coyle), is obsessed with a Sotheby's auction of the belongings of the abdicated King Edward and his wife Wallis Simpson (Andrea Riseborough, the only reason to watch the movie). From there, the plot slithers back and forth in time to focus on the despised pair.

In its clunky way, "W.E." attempts to draw parallels between Wallis and Wally (who was named for Simpson), right down to their common reproductive issues. Both women suffer at the hands of physically abusive men before finding true love — Wallis with Edward, Wally with Russian security guard Evgeni (Oscar Isaac).

Overly ambitious and distracting, Madonna and her co-screenwriter would have been better off focusing their energy on the story of Wallis and Edward, the one that is obviously of most interest to them.

The DVD/Blu-ray/digital copy includes a "making-of" featurette.

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Bechdel scores with mom book

By Gregg Shapiro

Staff writer

Alison Bechdel's "Are You My Mother? – A Comic Drama" adds a unique dimension to what is turning out to be an astonishingly good year for LGBT literature. Like the book's lauded predecessor, "Fun Home," Bechdel's latest is a graphic memoir that incorporates her skills as a gifted storyteller and illustrator to tell the tale of her complex relationship with her mother.

I spoke with Bechdel in late April, a few days before the book was released.

Gregg Shapiro: Were you prepared for the reception that "Fun Home" received? (The book was named one of the best of 2006 by The New York Times, Publishers Weekly, Salon, New York magazine, Entertainment Weekly and Time. It was shortlisted for the National Book Award.)

Alison Bechdel: No! I think, in a way this new memoir is

kind of my own working out of what happened with "Fun Home." It was surprisingly, almost freakishly, successful. I was not prepared for that.

Therapy is a central figure in "Are You My Mother?" Do you ever consider writing, drawing and making art to be an extension of therapy?

I guess I do. I feel like I have such an odd life, where my work is about my life. That was even true, to a certain extent, when I was drawing my comic strip "Dykes To Watch Out For," where I was writing about the daily life I was living in the lesbian subculture. Now (laughs), I've gone further inward. My job is writing about my life, almost everything I do, including therapy, including my work. Everything just blends together in this sometimes confusing but mostly organic way.

Each chapter begins with a dream. Was that always your intention?

That happened pretty late in my process. Even then I was kind of resistant to it, because it is sort of inexcusable to belabor people with one's dreams. You're not supposed to even talk about your dreams, let alone put them in a book. I feel like they were the chronological key to the story. This book about my mother jumps around in time and in space so much that I felt like it needed some kind of spine or backbone.

In the book, you write about Dr. Seuss' "Sleep Book." As both an illustrator and a writer, how much influence has Theodore Geisel had on you?

Dr. Seuss was a huge influence. I loved all of his books as a kid.

Do you identify more as a writer or an illustrator?

That's a very interesting question. I want to argue that I am both equally. But the truth is I do think that

I am more of writer than a drawer. I think the drawing is a little more in service to the writing than vice versa. That balance varies a lot for different criteria. Sometimes the words have a little more primacy. Others are more driven by the images. Sometimes I feel like a crypto-writer, that I became a cartoonist as a way of being a writer that wouldn't annoy or challenge my mother.

Are there any recent words about the book from your mother that you'd like to share?

Pretty much all of my mother's reaction is in the book (laughs). I do know she is very happy about the reception the book has been getting. She's able to separate the fact of the book from the substance, and she's happy about the fact of the book.



PHOTO: GREG MARTIN

Alison Bechdel reads from and signs "Are You My Mother?" at Boswell Books in Milwaukee on May 7.

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Rufus Wainwright returns to the Pabst

Rufus Wainwright returns to The Pabst on Aug. 10 for a special performance with sister Martha Wainwright sponsored by the Wisconsin Gazette.

Milwaukee is one of 13 new cities in Wainwright's recently announced summer tour, which begins in Philadelphia on July 25.

Brew City is one of the gay icon's favorite cities and The Pabst is one of his favorite venues. In 2009, Wainwright recorded his live DVD "Rufus Wainwright: Milwaukee at Last!!!" at The Pabst, calling it "a magical place."

"That theater ... has been a real milestone for me in terms of both maintaining a stronghold in middle America and also bringing back a kind of European, sophisticated sensibility that I think once existed in America, throughout the country, which that theater

embodies," Wainwright told WiG in a 2010 interview.

A singer, songwriter and composer, Wainwright has recorded seven albums of original music as well as numerous tracks on compilations and film soundtracks. He also has recorded more than 80 music videos.

Earlier this spring, Wainwright released a music video for the title track of his new album "Out of the Game," released on April 23. The video features an appearance by Helena Bonham Carter.

Last year, Wainwright became a father when Lorca Cohen, daughter of Canadian icon Leonard Cohen, gave birth to his daughter Viva Katherine Wainwright Cohen. She is being raised by Wainwright, his partner Jörn Weisbrodt and Cohen.

Martha Wainwright is a folk-rock singer and song-

writer who got her start singing backup vocals for her brother. Since then, she's gone on to a successful recording and performance career of her own.

Visit Wisconsin Gazette's booth at PrideFest Milwaukee 2012 to register to win free tickets to Wainwright's Aug. 10 show at The Pabst.

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Event Highlights for Gazetteers.

Mon, May 7, 7 pm:

Alison Bechdel, author of *Are You My Mother?*, companion to the NBA-nominated *Fun Home* and the comic strip *Dykes to Watch Out For*.



Thurs, June 21, 7 pm:



Catherine Tuerk, PFLAG activist and author of *Mom Knows: Reflections on Love, Gay Pride, and Taking Action*, co-sponsored by Bronze Optical.

Wed, June 27, 7 pm:

Sapphire, author of *The Kid*, and also *Push*, also known as *Precious*. Event co-sponsored with Reader's Choice.



And so much more, including St. Sukie de la Croix, author of *Chicago Whispers: A History of LGBT Chicago Before Stonewall*, in conversation with Gregg Shapiro, author of *GREGG SHAPIRO '77* on Tuesday, July 24, 7 pm.



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Two cool

Music

GREGG SHAPIRO

THE BLACK KEYS

There is something inspiring about watching a band like The Black Keys hit its critical and commercial peak, especially when there is bound to be more to come. "El Camino" crashes ashore on the soul-surfer vibe of the album's opener, "Lonely Boy." It's a Black Keys song you can sing along with, particularly on the infectious chorus. Things stay soulful, thanks in part to the back-up vocals provided by Ashley Wilcoxson, Leisa Hans and Heather Rigdon, on "Dead and Gone," "Sister" and "Stop Stop." There's even a touch of glam on "Gold on the Ceiling."

CHAIRLIFT

Sophomore slump be damned! Chairlift, now a duo, returns with "Something" – and it's something special. Chairlift is powered by new wave/dance influences from the 1980s. But instead of recycling them, the duo reformats and refreshes the sound for the 21st century. Beginning with the rhythms of "Sidewalk Safari," Chairlift lifts listeners to their feet. The dance dynamic continues on "Wrong Opinion," "I Belong in Your Arms" and "Amanaemnesia." For pure '80s energy, dig "Take It Out On Me" and "Ghost Tonight."



PHOTO: PUNKNEWS.ORG

The Black Keys perform on May 16 at the Bradley Center in Milwaukee.

SCHOOL OF SEVEN BELLS

School of Seven Bells also is now a duo. Consisting of Benjamin Curtis and Alejandra Deheza, the pair updates dream pop for the iTunes generation on the spooky third album "Ghostory." Moody and misty, songs such as "Lafaye," "Love Play" and "Show Me Love" are like the soundtrack to your strangest dreams. "Low Times," "Scavenger" and the pulsing "White Wind" are songs you'd dance to in a dream.

MAGIC WANDS

"Aloha Moon," the title cut from the full-length debut by electro Nashville couple

Magic Wands (Chris & Dexy Valentine) is a trippy, tropical delight. The tune washes over the listener like warm waves kissing the coastline. The funky "Teenage Love" exposes Katy Perry's "Teenage Dream" for the nightmare that it is. "Kaleidoscope Hearts" is modern disco to dance to and love, while "Warrior" turns the dance floor into a booty-shaking battlefield and "Kiss Me Dead" plants a big, wet one on listeners.

PRINZHORN DANCE SCHOOL

UK mixed-gender duo Prinzhorn Dance School also skirts the cursed sophomore slump with "Clay Class." This is one dance school and disc that should come with knee pads and a neck brace. Minimalist but rhythmic songs such as "Happy in Bits," "Usurper," "Your Fire Has Gone Out" and "Sing Orderly" not only promote dancing, but they also encourage dancers to contort themselves in ways they might not be used to.

ELIKA

The shimmering "Always the Light" by Erika is a chilly electronic experience. On the album's most memorable tracks, including "Stay Beside Me," "Count Your Steps," "No One Gets Lost" and "Trials," vocalist Evagelia Maravelias is reminiscent of a less pinched and processed Madonna. Consider that a recommendation.

DEAD FINGERS

Clear across the musical spectrum, Alabama duo Dead Fingers (husband and wife Taylor Hollingsworth and Kate Taylor) make a lively debut with their "Big Legal Mess/Fat Possum" full-length disc. This is twangy Southern folk-pop at its most endearing. Songs such as "4 Stone Coaches," "Hold On To," "Against the River," "Lost in Mississippi" and "Closet Full of Bones" sound as familiar and comfy as a pair of well-worn overalls.

SOFT SWELLS

The eponymous debut by the California-transplant duo Soft Swells rides in on a wave of warm, modern pop sunshine. You can practically feel the sunlight sparkling on the surface of the strangely optimistic "Every Little Thing" and "Shake It Off." This is the kind of debut that makes you look forward to what will come next.

88NINE

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MAY 3, THURSDAY

Art and Soul Innovations presents "**Proud Theater: Beyond**," tonight through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the UW-Madison Memorial Union – Fredric March Play Circle, 800 Langdon in Madison. Call 608-265-2787.

Mitchell Theatre in Vilas Hall, 821 University in Madison, presents "**The Two Gentlemen of Verona**" at 7:30 p.m.



Othello

The classic revenge tragedy of "**Othello**" comes to life in an edgy adaptation set in the world of motorcycle gangs through May 6 in the Quadracci Powerhouse at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.

Skylight Music Theatre presents "**Things That Go Ding!**," a musical theatre spectacle featuring an assortment of vintage vaudeville percussion novelties, through May 6 in the Studio Theatre at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Danceworks presents "**Want or Need**" through May 6 at Danceworks Studio Theatre, 1661 N. Water. Call 414-277-8480.

Four Guyz in Dinner Jackets salute the '50s and '60s in "Always in Style" through May 6 at Sunset Playhouse, 800 Elm Grove Road in Elm Grove. Call 262-782-4430.

MAY 4, FRIDAY

Milwaukee Comedy and Caste of Killers Comedy Collective present the final round of the **Comedy Battle Royal Stand Up Competition** at 8 p.m. at Art Bar, 722 E. Burleigh. Call 414-372-7880.

Willy Russell's musical "**Blood Brothers**" runs through May 20 at La Crosse Community Theatre, 118 Fifth Ave. N in downtown La Crosse. Call 608-784-9292.

Milwaukee Theatre, 500 W. Kilbourn, presents the Tony Award-winning musical "**In The Heights**," through May 5. Call 414-566-1375.

Mitchell Theatre in Vilas Hall, 821 University in Madison, presents "**The Two Gentlemen of Verona**" at 7:30 p.m. through May 5.

Off The Wall Theatre, 127 E. Wells, presents the musical tribute cabaret "**Stage to Screen**" through May 6. Call 414-327-3552.

In Tandem Theatre presents the regional premiere of "**Veronica's Position**" through May 20 at Tenth Street Theatre, 628 N. 10th St. Call 414-271-1371.

West Allis Players presents "**In Lieu of Flowers**" through May 6 at West Allis Central Auditorium, 8516 W. Lincoln in West Allis. Visit www.wplayers.org.

MAY 5, SATURDAY

"**Miller & Shellabarger: Hiding in the Light**," the collaborative work of husband and husband Dutes Miller and Stan Shellabarger, runs through July 15, at Inova/Kenilworth, 2155 N. Prospect, with an opening reception tonight from 5 to 8 p.m.

"**Always . . . Patsy Cline**," starring Kelley Faulkner as Patsy



EDITED AND COMPILED BY GREGG SHAPIRO

Cline, runs through May 20 in the Stackner Cabaret at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.

Soulstice Theatre, 3770 S. Pennsylvania in St. Francis, presents the regional premiere of "Goldfish" by John Kolvenbach through May 19. Call 414-481-2800.

Red Green's (aka Steve Smith) **Wit & Wisdom Tour** stops by the Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood in Madison, at 7 p.m. Call 608-241-2345.

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



Justin Townes Earle

MAY 8, TUESDAY

Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood in Madison, welcomes **Tristen** and **Justin Townes Earle** at 7:30 p.m. Call 608-241-2345.

MAY 10, THURSDAY

High Noon Saloon, 701A E. Washington in Madison, presents **Margot & The Nuclear So & So's** at 7:30 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

MAY 11, FRIDAY

Inspired by Thornton Wilder's classic American play about life, death and theater, Isabelle Kralj and Mark Anderson's Theatre Gigante presents "**Our Our Town**," through May 19 at Kenilworth Square East, Studio 508, 1925 E. Kenilworth Place. Call 414-229-4308.

Kander & Ebb's musical "**Chicago**" runs through May 27 at The Racine Theatre Guild, 2519 Northwestern (Highway 38) in Racine. Call 262-633-4218.

Join the celebration at "**Tony & Tina's Wedding**," through May 19 at Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth. Call 414-286-3663.



Jennifer Knapp

MAY 12, SATURDAY

Lake Park Lutheran Church, 2647 N. Stowell, presents the free event "Inside Out Faith," part concert/part story telling evening with lesbian singer/songwriter **Jennifer Knapp** at 7 p.m.

Chris Botti, the sexiest trumpeter since Herb Alpert, plays The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin, at 7 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

MAY 13, SUNDAY

Out singer/songwriter and Wisconsin native **Patty Larkin** performs at 7 p.m. at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells. Call 414-286-3663.

Cactus Club, 2496 S. Wentworth, presents **Quintron** and **Miss Pussycat** at 8 p.m. Call 414-897-0663.

MAY 14, MONDAY

Pearl and the Beard performs at 7 p.m. at the Majestic, 115 King in Madison. Call 608-251-2582.

MAY 17, THURSDAY

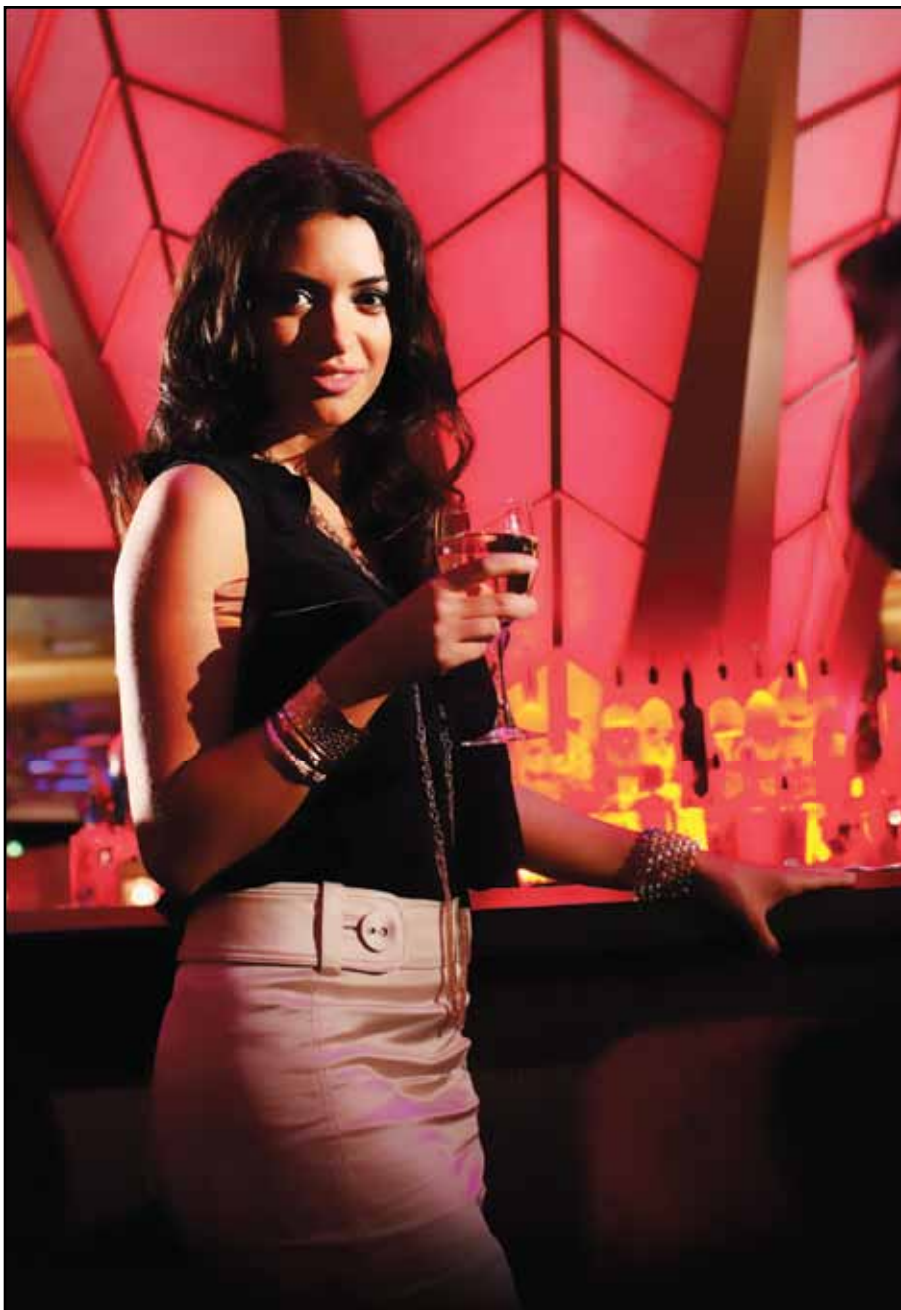
Indigo Girl and out singer/songwriter **Amy Ray** plays The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, at 9 p.m. Call 608-819-8777.

GERALDCASELDANCE presents the world premiere of "**Dwelling**," performed by Milwaukee-based artists, through May 19 at 8 p.m. in UWM Mitchell Hall, Room 254, 3203 N. Downer.

Boldt Arts Alive! Series presents "**Whose Live Anyway?**" at 7:30 p.m. at Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave. in Appleton. Call 920-730-3760.



Amy Ray



Play.



POTAWATOMI

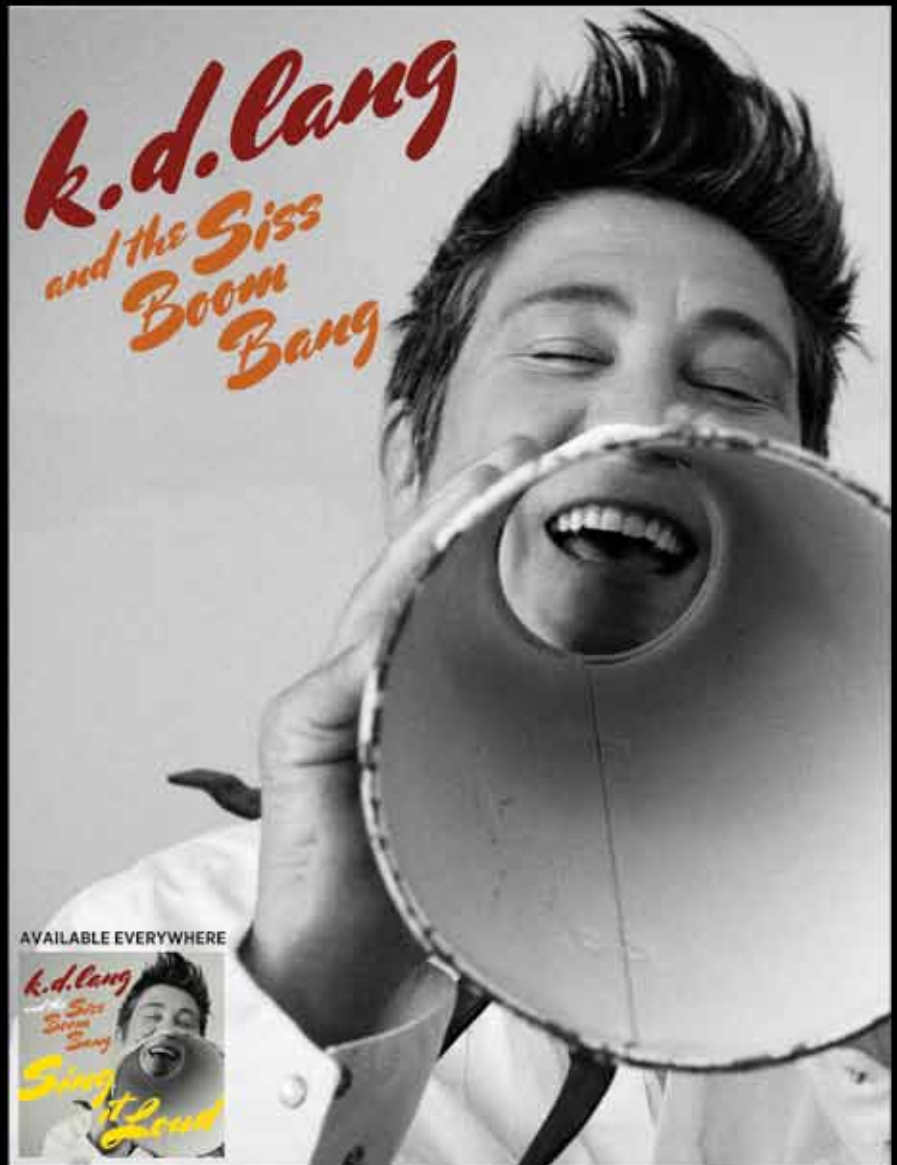
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