Wisconsin Gazette ocom

Full schedule of PrideFest's 25th anniversary events. Page 20



THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY



Navy group at Great Lakes boosts Pride, p. 4





Countering antigay stigma in Milwaukee, p. 8



How Wisconsin passed first gay rights law, p. 12



Locals take center stage at PrideFest, p. 19



Milwaukee's gay Pride: A timeline, p. 24



Personal chefs make outdoor dining easy, p. 54

SHOW YOUR PRIDE AT THE POLLS - VOTE JUNE 5, P. 16

LGBT news with a twist

testant to compete

in the Miss Uni-

verse Canada pag-

eant reached the

penultimate round

to compete.

NOT SO OVER

enclaves. Anymore.

WWJD, WITH

A T-SHIRT?

THE RAINBOW

before losing her

bid to win the title. Jenna

Talackova, 23, did leave the glitzy

pageant with a Miss Congenial-

ity prize. And, with some help

from celebrity attorney Gloria

Allred, she already had secured

for herself and future transgen-

der contestants the opportunity

The Southern Poverty Law Cen-

ter is taking on school officials

in Savannah, Tenn., where an

administrator banned the wear-

ing of gay Pride symbols, includ-

ing rainbows, which "advertise

or promote sex." The SPLC

said schools are not totalitarian

A federal court has approved a

judgment that the Waynesville,



Photo: Rightwingwatch.org

ADS THAT MAKE KIDS GAY

OneMillionMoms, a sub-club of the ultra-right American Family Association, is targeting GAP for its BeOne T-shirt campaign and a billboard featuring two handsome young guys in one handsome gray T-shirt. Don't think the call for a boycott has anything to do with fabric or fashion. OMM, which earlier this year called for a boycott of JC Penney for hiring spokeswoman Ellen DeGeneres, complains, "GAP needs to seriously consider how their immoral advertising affects the youth of our nation."

MISS CONGENIALITY

The first-ever transgender con-

WIGWAG

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

Ohio, school district negotiated with Lambda Legal over a principal's decision to ban a student from wearing a "Jesus Is Not A Homophobe" T-shirt. The principal required the student to turn the shirt inside out and ordered him not to wear it again. In the next term, Maverick Couch asked permission to wear the shirt and was denied. Later, with Lambda on his side, he was told he could wear it one day a year - for the annual Day of Silence. Now, under the court order, he can wear it all the time, anytime.

MORE FROM LEVITICUS

A middle school social studies teacher in Buhler, Kan., is under fire for a Facebook post that compares being gay to being a murderer. Jack Conkling, who is also an assistant women's basketball coach, wrote that homosexuality "ranks in God's eyes the same as murder, lying, stealing, or cheating." Kansas Equality Coalition condemned Conkling's post. "What would Mr. Conkling

say to a student who is getting bullied for being gay or lesbian?" the organization asked in a statement.

BUT WHO IS SHE?

You know the fight for equality has reached a milestone when it seems that every week a celebrity is outed who WigWag has never even heard of. Most recently, "Secrets of a Restaurant Chef" host Anne Burrell has confirmed that she's a lesbian and in a committed relationship with a woman. The Food Network star made the announcement just days after "Chopped" host Ted Allen referred to her sexuality in an interview on SiriusXM radio. "Anne doesn't feel she was outed," her press rep said. "She has made no secret of her relationship."

RENT AN ACTIVIST

Apparently unable to find real activists, the coal industry paid people \$50 to wear pro-coal T-shirts at Environmental Protection Agency hearings held in Chicago and Washington, D.C.

The industry, which is fighting standards to reduce harmful pollutants, advertised for the activists on Craigslist.

PROUD DEBUT

Adam Lambert's new album "Trespassing" debuted at No. I on the Billboard Top 200 Album Chart. It's the first time an openly gay artist has ever done that. "The music industry in general is a tough market for a gay man. It's really conservative. It's hard," Lambert said during an interview in March. Fortunately, his fans have proven things do get better.

NOT EVEN GOING THERE

Lady Gaga has taken Indonesia off the schedule of her "Born That Way" world tour due to security concerns. Tour promoters have received serious threats from religious radicals in the Muslim country who oppose the sexual authenticity that Gaga espouses.



CONGRATULATIONS

To the Staff of Wisconsin Gazette, Winner of FIVE Milwaukee Press Club Awards



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First-ever military group eases integration of out recruits at Naval Station Great Lakes

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

The military is often an agent of social change, and the integration of out gays and lesbians is no exception. The overriding need to defend the nation, particularly during times of war, has sometimes forced military leaders to rise above the prejudices that divide society at large in order to fill their ranks.

World War II helped to spark the movements for racial integration and women's rights during the second half of the last century. Overseas combat opened doors for women to assume workplace roles formerly filled by men only. And once the military demonstrated that not comfortable and happy blacks and whites could live together, the foundation of America's apartheid society began to crumble.

World War II had a hand in the modern gay rights movement as well. Although homosexual acts were illegal in the military, countless closeted and not-so-closeted gay men distinguished themselves in combat. When the war ended, many gay men who had for the first time experienced the freedom of big cities chose not to return to small-town America. Instead they congregated in burgeoning gay havens such as New York and San Francisco, where they began to organize and develop politically.

Harvey Milk was among the closeted gays who served in the Navy during the Korean War. He was so proud of his military service that he wore a brass belt buckle bearing his Navy insignia until the day he was assassinated.

But the military lagged behind society at large when it came to gay acceptance. Despite polls that showed overwhelming public support for allowing gays and lesbians to serve, the Armed Forces continued to ban out servicemembers. In 2010, it was estimated that 13,500 gays and lesbians had been discharged under the military ban known as "don't ask, don't tell" since its imple-

mentation in 1993.

President Barack Obama finally signed a bill repealing DADT in 2010, but the ban wasn't officially lifted until September 2011.

lessie Virga, 21, joined the Navy shortly before DADT was lifted, and she said the difference for her has been significant. Virga, who is bisexual, said she "was walking on egg shells" prior to the policy change that allows her to serve openly.

"Knowing that I can be who I am at work allows me to dedicate more of my thoughts and energy to work," she said.

"I feel like you can't give 100 percent of yourself to something if you're with yourself," said Robert Baumgartner, 21, an out gay man who joined the Navy in the final months of DADT. He said that he would have enlisted even if the policy was not in the process of being overturned, but that "it was relieving" when it finally was.

"I was with someone (a partner) at the time, and it was great being able to include him in my work environment," Baumgartner said.

Baumgartner and Virga are members of Gay, Lesbian and Supporting Sailors, the first-ever military-sanctioned gay, lesbian and bisexual affinity group. The group held its first meeting at Naval Station Great Lakes on Feb. 13, drawing about 75 people.

It's fitting that the group formed at Great Lakes. The Navy's largest training center - and its only boot camp -Great Lakes processes about 40.000 recruits annually. Since the days when Theodore Roosevelt was commander in chief, recruits from every geographic region of the country and nearly every religious and ethnic background have launched their naval stints and careers at the 1,600-acre campus in North Chicago, III.

GLASS has become a source of great pride to the gay, lesbian and bisexual sailors stationed at Great Lakes, most of whom are there



Robert Baumgartner, Kristen Cross and Jessie Virga are GLASS members who are currently awaiting orders at Naval Station Great Lakes.

to undergo training before receiving orders, members

Like the military as a whole, GLASS members come from a variety of backgrounds. "We try to keep membership as broad and allinclusive as possible - all age groups, active duty personnel, veterans, straight, LGBT," said Baumgartner, a native Kentuckian who serves as the group's vice president.

Kristen Cross, 26, had worked at the Navy Federal Credit Union for several years before enlisting. She said that now she might make a career in the Navy, if she can get into officer training. The Navy's new openness and the camaraderie she's found in GLASS have helped Cross, who is bisexual, make the transition to military life.

Members engage in organized events such as cookouts and bowling nights. They field calls from recruits who are struggling with comingout issues or who have standard policy questions.

"Just to be able to go to a GLASS meeting where there are other people like them makes it easier to come out," Virga said.

The only report of harassment the group has received so far was that someone removed a flyer announcing a GLASS meeting.

Formed by servicemembers, the group got immediate and enthusiastic support regularly attracts 25 to 30

from Great Lakes command, said Great Lakes spokesman Matt Mogle.

'The captain (Randall J. Lynch) thinks this is one of the greatest things ever," Mogle said. "He gives them great support."

In fact, Lynch famously is said to have responded to the request to form GLASS by saying, "I wish I'd thought of it myself."

"It was pretty much just a matter of filling out the paper work, just like for any other group," Baumgartner said.

GLASS members say the geographic location of Great Lakes has played a role in facilitating the development of the group, which

'I don't want tolerance. I want the same rights, protections and responsibilities as everyone else.'

people to its meetings. The phenomenon that natives call 'Midwest nice" has allowed members to feel comfortable off base as well as on base. Locals in the area surrounding the base are very welcoming, they say.

"I wear my GLASS shirt out all the time in the area,"

'The support we've had from the local community and the local media in the region, particularly Chicago, has really made a difference," Baumgartner said. Spin, a gay bar in Chicago's Boystown neighborhood, staged a fundraiser for the group.

GLASS members plan to march in the Pride parades in both Milwaukee and Chicago.

As gay, lesbian and bisexual sailors trained at Great Lakes receive duty orders to other stations, they are taking the concept of GLASS with them and trying to form chapters on other bases, Cross said. GLASS co-founder Ann Foster is said to be currently trying to start a group in San Diego.

DISPARITIES

Despite all the positive developments for gay, lesbian and bisexual servicemembers, great disparities remain.

"I hear the fact that if person is sent overseas, a partner isn't allowed to travel with them," said Ellen Kozel, president and director of Milwaukee's Veterans for Diversity Inc. (formerly "Vets Do Ask, Do Tell").

"Transgender people aren't covered under the repeal. Housing isn't covered under the repeal. I believe

that medical benefits for or lesbian servicemember partners aren't covered. So there's still a lot of things that regular soldiers and sailors are entitled to that aren't available to gay soldiers and sailors."

GLASS members acknowledge the disparities but maintain that their desire to serve the country makes it worth enduring the downside.

"You have to learn to take one for the team in the military for the greater good," Virga said.

"Anything you get into, there's going to be pros and cons," Cross added. "If things do change, that would be great."

Former Army drill sergeant Miriam Ben-Shalom said the lingering disparities mean there is still a lot of work to be done before equality is achieved in the Armed Forces. A native Milwaukeean, Ben-Shalom was the first gay

ever to be reinstated to her position – by court order – in the United States military after being discharged for her sexual orientation.

Even though the Army eventually forced Ben-Shalom out, her successful service in the U.S. Army Reserves as an out lesbian undermined the military's opposition.

"I don't want tolerance," Ben-Shalom said. "I want the same rights, protections and responsibilities as every other citizen. We've been dying for our country all along, although we couldn't say anything about it."

Ben-Shalom warns that while gay, lesbian and bisexual personnel are protected at Naval Station Great Lakes by enlightened leadership, conditions might be different "when they might go on to other commands that aren't so enlightened."

"Do they intend to have a network, so they can get the word out and challenge nastiness?" Ben-Shalom asked.

Still, she said she would rejoin the Army if she could. In fact, the first thing she thought when DADT was lifted was, "whether I could go back in the military."

"It was my privilege and my pride to be of service to my country," she said. "Just because America doesn't love me as much as I love her, I shouldn't turn my back. I was proud to wear the uniform of my country."

But she urged activists not to stop until there's full equality for LGBT people in the Armed Forces.

"I think it's time to stop being complacent," she said. "Look at all the energy after Stonewall. We need to go back to our roots."

FROM THE REVOLUTION TO THE REPEAL

- 1776: Gen. George Washington approves the dishonorable discharge of Lt. Frederick Gotthold Enslin for sodomy and perjury.
- 1942: A formal policy is instituted that provides for gays and bisexuals even though celibate - to be given a "blue discharge" and made ineligible for GI benefits.
- 1947: A policy revision provides for gay or bisexual servicemembers to be given an "undesirable discharge"; those found guilty of same-sex relationships are to be given a "dishonorable discharge."
- 1957: Navy Capt. S.H. Crittenden Jr. conducts a review, and the resulting report finds "no sound basis for the belief that homosexuals posed a security risk." The report is buried for decades.
- 1975: Air Force Tech Sgt. Leonard Matlovich, recipient of the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart, challenges the military ban on gay servicemembers.
- 1982: President Ronald Reagan issues a defense directive stating that "homosexuality is incompatible with military service" and that those who engage in same-sex acts must be discharged.
- 1992: U.S. Navy Petty Off. Allen Schindler Jr. is beaten to death by two shipmates because he is gay. Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton pledges to lift the ban against gays in the military if elected to the White House.
- 1993: President Bill Clinton, with military leaders and a hostile Congress opposing an end to the ban on gays in the military, compromises and approves "don't ask, don't tell." The policy bans the military from asking about a servicemember's sexual orientation and prohibits gays from coming out.
- 1994: A federal court reinstates openly lesbian Army Col. Grethe Cammermeyer to the Washington State National Guard.
- **2000**: A report from Servicemembers Legal Defense Network documents military witch hunts under DADT, along with harassment, assaults and at least one killing.
- 2003: Former President Bill Clinton calls for a repeal of DADT.
- 2008: All the Democratic candidates for president pledge to end DADT if elected to the White House. Republican candidates for the job pledge to uphold the policy.
- 2009: A Gallup poll shows that 69 percent of Americans support repealing DADT and allowing gays and lesbians to serve in the military.
- 2010: President Barack Obama, in his first State of the Union address, pledges to "finally repeal the law that denies gay Americans the right to serve the country they love because of who they are" and Pentagon chiefs prepare a proposal for Congress, which votes to repeal the policy in December.
- **2011**: The Pentagon readies for repeal, which is finalized in September.



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NAACP: Marriage is a civil right

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

The NAACP, longtime champion of the civil rights movement, recently adopted a resolution affirming that marriage is a civil right and stating that denying the right American to gays is wrong.

On May 19, the board of directors for the 103-yearold NAACP met at its headquarters on Hope Drive in Baltimore and approved a resolution that reads:

"The NAACP Constitution affirmatively states our objective to ensure the 'political, educational, social and economic equality' of all people. Therefore, the NAACP has opposed and will continue to oppose any national, state, local policy or legislative initiative that seeks to codify discrimination or hatred into the law or to remove the Constitutional rights of LGBT citizens. We support marriage equality consistent with equal protection under the law provided under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution. Further, we strongly affirm the religious freedoms of all people as protected by the First Amendment."

The NAACP, the largest, oldest and most widely recognized grassroots civil rights organization in the country, was established in 1909. The group's name is synonymous with civil rights achievements

'It's time the shameful myth that the Africancommunity is somehow out of lockstep with the rest of the country on marriage equality is retired - once and for all.'

in the 20th century.

"When people ask why the NAACP stands firmly for marriage equality, we say that we have always stood against laws which demean, dehumanize or discriminate against any person in this great country," said Roslyn M. Brock, NAACP board chair. "That is our legacy. For over 103 years we have stood against such laws, and while the nature of the struggle may change, our bedrock commitment to equality of all people under the law never

Brock focused on the 14th

Amendment, which says in part, that no state "shall deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

"Marriage equality is just that, the right to be treated equally in the eyes of the government," she said.

Since at least the 1990s, the NAACP and affiliated state conferences have challenged marriage discrimination against gays and lesbians. The national organization opposed passage of the antigay Defense of Marriage Act in 1996 and state conferences fought anti-gay amendments, including the ballot initiatives in North Carolina and California.

In those fights and others, NAACP leaders often looked back to the struggle against marriage inequality as represented in Loving v. Virginia, the landmark 1967 case in which the U.S. Supreme Court declared unconstitutional Virginia's anti-miscegenation statute, which banned interracial marriage.

Speaking to the press on May 21, NAACP president and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous recited the words that Mildred Loving wrote a year before she died: "I am proud that Richard's and my name is on a court case that can help reinforce the love, the commitment, the fairness and the family that so many people, black or white, young or old, gay or straight seek



NAACP president and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous at a rally on Martin Luther King Jr. Day in South Carolina.

in life. I support the freedom to marry for all. That's what Loving, and loving, are

Jealous said the board's recent resolution makes the NAACP's support for marriage equality for gays unequivocal.

"What has really changed and why this statement now?" Jealous said. "What has changed is that this is the first time that we have made a full statement on marriage equality that goes beyond the circumstances of any one proposed law or any one state. We feel it is important that everyone understand our commitment to equality under the Constitution and to marriage equality."

The historic NAACP endorsement followed an announcement from President Barack Obama that his exploration of the issue has led him to support legalizing same-sex marriage. Days later, former Secretary of he doesn't "see any reason not to say that (same-sex couples) should be able to get married under the laws of their state or the laws of the country."

American Civil Liberties Union legislative representative Ian Thompson said the NAACP's resolution signals the failure of the National Organization for Marriage's divide-and-conquer strategy.

Earlier this year, an investigation of NOM's campaign finance practices in Maine produced internal memos outlining the anti-gay group's attempt to pit blacks against gays to drive a wedge between two core Democratic Party constituencies.

"Underpinning this strategy is a really poisonous assumption that the LGBT community is separate and apart and in one corner, while racial and ethnic minorities are in another," Thompson said. "Of course we know this is not the case. America State Colin Powell said that is much more diverse and

connected across ethnic, racial and sexual orientation lines than organizations like NOM seem to be aware."

An NBC/Wall Street Journal poll conducted in May found that half of African-Americans back marriage equality. A Washington Post poll showed that 54 percent of African-Americans backed the president's statement on marriage equality, and a Public Policy Poll taken in North Carolina after Obama's announcement showed an II-point increase in support for marriage equality among blacks in the state.

"It's time the shameful myth that the African-American community is somehow out of lockstep with the rest of the country on marriage equality is retired - once and for all," said Joe Solmonese, outgoing president of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest LGBT group. "The facts and clear momentum toward marriage speak for themselves."



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PRIDE 2012

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Love stories

Landmark project uses personal stories to combat stigma fueling HIV epidemic among black youth

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Kingston Lenard has always loved and accepted his gay uncle, but the idea of becoming a spokesmodel for LGBT equality never crossed his mind.

Recently, however, Lenard became part of a project known as Acceptance Journeys. Soon the straight 21-year-old will have his face appearing next to that of his uncle Ronnie Grace on posters and billboards throughout Milwaukee. Accompanying the image will be the story of their loving and mutually supportive relationship — a story designed to inspire LGBT acceptance.

"A lot of people were surprised when I told them about this," Lenard says. "But when I tell them who it's for and why I'm doing it, then I get their support."

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett rolled-out Acceptance Journeys at Milwaukee City Hall on Oct. 12, 2011 -National Coming Out Day. In the ensuing months, images of LGBT people with their friends, co-workers, family members, neighbors, pastors, etc., have appeared all over the city. Hundreds of packets of palm cards that include the images on one side and the stories behind the pictures on the other side have been passed out at churches, schools and events throughout the city.

United Way and the YWCA are among the local agencies that have trained staff and volunteers in how to

present the project's materials to large groups. Presentations have been made at Milwaukee's High School of the Arts, Riverside High School, Safe Schools Safe Communities, Black Health Coalition, Boys & Girls Clubs and Lindsey Heights Resource Fair.

The project, created and managed by Diverse & Resilient, is being closely watched by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as public health officials in other cities for possible expansion, says D&R executive director Gary Hollander.

In March, a radio component of the project was launched, ratcheting up the messaging a notch. Initially, the campaign asked members of the public to consider whose lives they could change with love. But in a radio message featuring Kingston Lenard's cousin Miracal Lenard, she says that she loves her gay uncle just as he is. The spot is currently airing on V100.7 (WKKV-FM) and 1290 (WMCS-AM) radio stations.

In coming months, the project will continue to sharpen the message of LGBT acceptance. The project's first phase was designed to spark public interest, but the billboards and posters didn't specifically mention the its LGBT component.

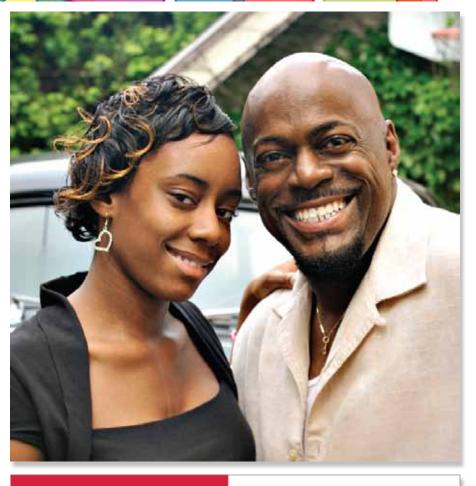
"We've been showing lots and lots of gay people to the world, only people don't realize that they're gay," Hollander says. But in the project's next phase, "it's going to get sprung on them that the people they've been seeing are gay," Hollander adds.

"The mass media is just getting you happy and comfortable with the imagery," Hollander says. "This is not an event, it's a process. It's a journey."

Acceptance Journeys began as an HIV intervention program, and it's based on information gleaned from research that the CDC conducted in Milwaukee in 2009. Alarmed by a local spike in new HIV infections among gay and bisexual African-American males ages 19 to 24, CDC researchers investigated not only patterns of transmission and risk behavior, but also what Hollander calls the "community ecology" behind the problem. That term refers to the matrix of self-reinforcing social conditions - such as racial discrimination and homophobia that continue to stoke the epidemic among young black males who have sex with other males, even as new infections in other demographic groups have leveled off or decreased.

Typical HIV-prevention programs focus on testing for the virus, disseminating condoms and transmission information and counseling high-risk individuals about harm reduction. But unlike other prevention programs for gay and bisexual men, this one focuses on society at large. For instance, the program shows how the marginalization of gay and

JOURNEYS next page



Miracal & Ronnie

There has never been a time when my Uncle Ronnie wasn't there. I never had a father in my life, and he was always there for me. He is really supportive, he's really dependable, and he just gives out this positive energy to the people he meets.

He didn't tell me he was gay; I asked him because I heard other family members talking about it. When I asked him if he was gay and he said he was, I said, 'No matter what, you'll still be my uncle and I love you with all my heart.' At that age I didn't really know yet what it meant to be gay, except that it was when the same genders liked each other. Most of my family is really accepting, but not everyone.

I have been to PrideFest four times. The first time I went I was 12, and it was just so amazing to see a bunch of people comfortable with who they were, even though they know there are people who are against who they are.

I'm in a school now where there are a lot of LGBT kids. I have really good relationships with them because I trust them, and most of the time they don't judge me or others. I also think a lot of them give really good advice. We should all just be comfortable with each other and accept each other. I am lucky to have these gay friends in my life.

Uncle Ronnie has always been someone I trust, too. He's showed me how to respect myself around boys and how to just be myself. He's taught me how to become a young lady. He is a great role model and he's encouraged me to pursue my dreams to become a pediatrician when I am older.

www.diverseandresilient.org/acceptancejourneys

The front and back side of an Acceptance Journeys' palm card.

PRIDE 2012

JOURNEYS from page 8

bisexual men leads to lower self-esteem; in turn, lower self-esteem contributes to problems such as alcohol and substance abuse, which can result in risky behavior.

another level of support. It really sparked

"We're asking straight people to look at themselves and how their behavior is affecting other people. We are challenging them to step up," says Kofi Short, the program's coordinator.

"We're trying to change the context," Hollander explains. "We're not asking gay people to change their behavior, we're expecting straight people to change."

The project's architects ultimately decided to frame its messaging within personal stories of acceptance and love, because those stories resonate universally in a way that statistics never could. Campaign participants say the experience of sharing their bonds of family and friendship have made those bonds even deeper.

"We've always been close as a family, but, if anything, we got even closer" by participating in Acceptance Journeys, says Kingston Lenard.

"It took us to another level of support," Grace says. "It really sparked some sweet conversations. Not only were family members saying they support us, they showed it by being a part of this project, which is really, really special."

Working on the project has also deepened Kingston Lenard's commitment to equality. "I'm feeling a lot better about the movement and getting this out to everybody," he says. "At the end of the day, everyone is human. I think people will get that message. If it can affect one person, that will be good enough."

Despite the emotional nature of the campaign, it is based in solid science. CDC researchers plan to evaluate its effectiveness by surveying populations exposed to the Milwaukee campaign

'It took us to another level of support. It really sparked some sweet conversations. Not only were family members saying they support us, they showed us by being a part of this project.'

concerning their attitudes toward LGBT people. The results will be compared to those of similar surveys conducted in Cleveland and St. Louis, where people will not be exposed to the campaign, Hollander says.

So far, Acceptance Journeys has had an overwhelmingly positive reception in Milwaukee, say its organizers. Presentations are given by pairs, with one LGBT person and a straight ally. "What we're doing is modeling that relationship for people," Short says.

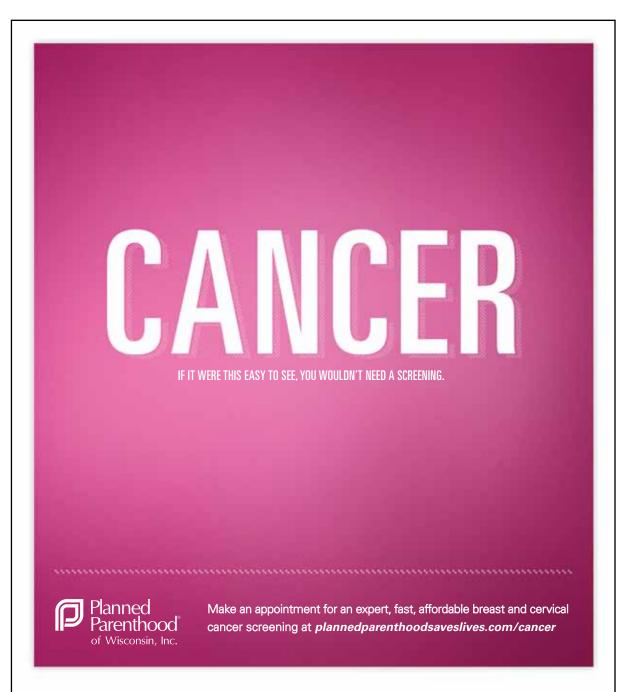
"Most of the places where we present, people ask for more packets," Grace says.

Can sharing personal stories of loving relationships reduce the stigma – both internalized and societal – that fuels HIV transmission? Can it lead communities to not merely tolerate their LGBT residents but accept them?

Those are audacious goals, but Acceptance Journeys is counting on the universality of love to achieve them.



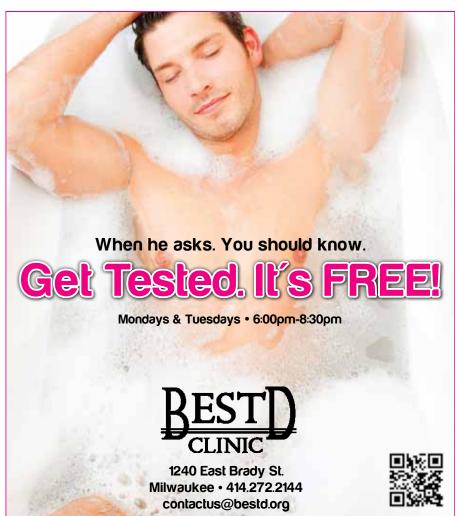
Billboards and posters displayed on public transit as part of the Acceptance Journeys campaign.



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The past as inspiration Remembering when Wisconsin led the nation with progressive laws

By Andrea Rottmann

Special to WiG

In February 1982, Wisconsin made history when it In 1967, he introduced a bill became the first state to enact a law protecting lesbians and gays from discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations. The Badger State remained the only state with a gay rights law until the end of the 1980s. Even today, only 21 states and the District of Columbia offer some form of legal protection against discrimination for gays and lesbians; an even smaller number include transgender people.

The year 1982 was not a particularly good one for any progressive cause, let alone gay rights. The backlash against the social and political changes of the 1960s was in full swing. The religious right had gained a solid footing in the GOP and in public discourse

In 1982, the Equal Rights Amendment, designed to constitutionally guarantee the equal treatment of women and men, died - three states short of the number needed for passage. Also in 1982, scientists came up with a name for the new fatal disease that was disproportionally affecting gay men: AIDS.

Wisconsin helped elect Ronald Reagan in 1980, and it was governed by a Republican. How did this largely rural and heavily Catholic state in the upper Midwest become the nation's gay rights leader? There are many reasons.

It happened because lawmakers put fairness before partisanship. It happened because religious leaders agreed that queer people needed their advocacy as much as any other oppressed group. But most importantly, it happened because a few passionate, determined and talented people worked ceaselessly until they had made it happen.

This is their story.

LLOYD BARBEE AND DAVID **CLARENBACH**

Civil rights activist Lloyd

the first lawmaker to bring gay rights into the political discourse of the Legislature. to decriminalize homosexuality and all consenting sexual practices. At the time, Wisconsin law prohibited oral and anal sex for everyone, including married couples. The laws were still being enforced, although on an irregular basis.

In 1971, two years after the Stonewall riots in New York, Barbee introduced a bill to protect gays and lesbians from job discrimination. In a radio interview that year, he explained why he supported gay rights.

"A significant number of people in this country enjoy members of their own sex, and they do not bother people who don't want this enjoyment," he told listeners. "And they should not be harassed and beaten down and brutalized and insulted and kept out of jobs and so

Barbee was in sync with his times, but the Legislature lagged behind. His bills never came close to passage. But he succeeded in putting the rights of lesbians and gays on the legislative agenda.

When Barbee left the Assembly in 1976, freshman lawmaker David Clarenbach of Madison took up the cause. Clarenbach joined the Assembly at age 21, having been politically active since high school. Like his mentor Barbee, he came to gay rights through civil rights.

During Clarenbach's 1970 high school spring break, he went south to register black voters in rural Mississippi, an experience that "framed my life's commitment to social change," as he recalled 40 years later. "It was here, in the Deep South, that I saw denial of basic civil rights and its impact on the real lives of real people."

After returning to Madison, Clarenbach joined demonstrations for civil rights and against the war in Vietnam. He also realized that he was attracted to men, and tentatively explored Madi-Barbee from Milwaukee was son's nascent gay and lesbian

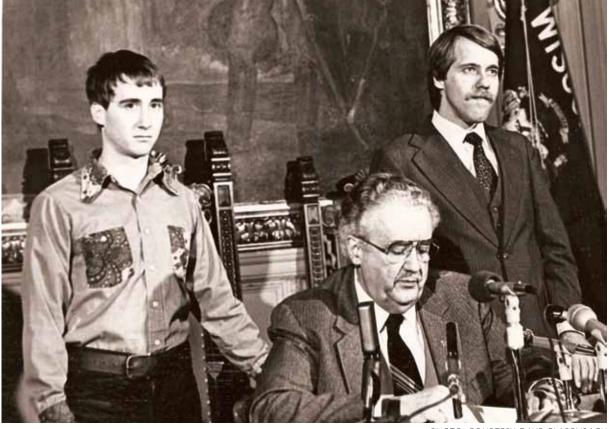


PHOTO: COURTESY DAVE CLARENBACH

Gov. Lee Dreyfus, center, signs Wisconsin's landmark gay rights bill into law in 1982 as Leon Rouse and then Rep. David Clarenbach look on.

scene. Though he never came out publicly during his political career, Clarenbach made no secret of his sexuality, and he was a reliable ally to the LGBT community. Session after session, he steadily built support for both a nondiscrimination bill and a sex reform bill in the Assembly.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

In June 1969, gay, lesbian and transgender patrons of the Stonewall Inn in New York City resisted a police raid, and coverage of the event and the ensuing riots mobilized thousands of gays and lesbians across the nation. Queer people in Wisconsin started organizing publicly just a few months after Stonewall. Their activism bore its first political fruit in 1975, when the Madison City Council revised its Equal Opportunity Ordinance to protect lesbians and gays from discrimination.

Madison's ordinance mirrored local legislation in a Baptist preacher to mount

many urban areas across the U.S. By the mid-'70s, 15 cities had passed some kind of gay rights legislation, and eight states had repealed their sodomy laws. Gay and lesbian infrastructures were growing in all major cities and college towns. Gay communities were thriving in places like San Francisco and, on a smaller scale, Milwaukee.

ANITA BRYANT

In the summer of 1977, a popular singer and second runner-up for Miss America used her celebrity to lash back at the nation's burgeoning gay rights movement. Anita Bryant, an evangelical Christian known primarily as the face of Florida orange juice, allied with conservative clergy to drive the repeal of Miami's gay rights ordinance. Their success resulted in repeal drives around the country, showing how fragile the achievements of the gay rights movement were.

In Madison, Bryant inspired

a repeal drive against the city's gay rights ordinance. He failed, thanks to the quick reaction of lesbian and gay activists and supportive local politicians. Bryant's campaign gave an enormous boost to gay organizing nationwide.

In Milwaukee, a political science major named Leon Rouse watched Bryant celebrate her victory on the news. Pounding on her podium, she proclaimed "The 'normal' majority have said, 'Enough! Enough!""

"Those were the words that got me into action," Rouse recalls today. Bryant had recruited the man whose church-based activism would be crucial to passing gay rights in Wisconsin five years later.

LEON ROUSE

Leon Rouse was born into a conservative Catholic family in northern Wisconsin in 1957. At 17, he came out to his parents, who committed him to the Milwaukee Psychiatric Hospital in achievement, he directed his

Wauwatosa in hopes of having him "cured." Ironically, it was there that Rouse learned about gay support groups in Milwaukee.

A master's student working at the hospital told Rouse about the Gay People's Union, the city's major gay rights organization at the time. She suggested to Rouse's parents that they let him go to a meeting. "Once he sees all those men dressed as women, and all those women dressed like men, he'll realize he's not one of them," she argued, playing to his parents' stereotypes. At the GPU meetings, Rouse realized that he was indeed one of them. He found friends and when he turned 18, he left home and moved to Milwaukee.

In 1978, as a student at UW-Milwaukee, Rouse won his first fight for gay rights when he succeeded in persuading the entire UW System to adopt a policy against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. After this

activism toward legal change on the local and state levels. He studied the recent repeal drives and found that in Seattle, the mainline churches had spoken out against repeal and the ordinance survived. Rouse borrowed the strategy. He was going to beat the fundamentalists at their own game.

In 1978, Rouse organized ministers from the Catholic, Lutheran, United Methodist, Episcopal, United Church of Christ and United Presbyterian denominations, as well as a rabbi, to join him on the board of a new organization called the Committee for Fundamental Judeo-Christian Human Rights. The cumbersome name wasn't just descriptive; it could also be read as an ironic imitation of fundamentalist lingo. Members of the committee lobbied their superiors as well as their political representatives, traveling to the Capitol to testify in favor of the gay rights bill.

ARCHBISHOP REMBERT WEAKLAND

of the state's believers, the Roman Catholic Church was the most influential denomination in Wisconsin, and its most influential leader was the archbishop of Milwaukee. Rouse knew that even the most reactionary lawmaker would listen to the archbishop's word.

Since 1977, Rembert G. Weakland had led the archdiocese. He was an outspoken advocate for reform who believed that the church had to open itself to the world and the massive changes that society was going through. Rouse approached him in Milwaukee's downtown Cathedral after Mass and asked him for his help. Weakland voiced his support in a letter distributed among legislators, and he publicly asked Catholics to respect gay people and to back their struggle for rights in a column for Milwaukee's weekly Catholic newspaper in July 1980.

'We have to see gay people ... as persons worthy of respect and friendship," he wrote. "We must be concerned, also, about their rights. It seems clear to me With almost 50 percent that gay people – like all of us - fare better when they are able to develop stable relationships, when they are not relegated to a same-sex society, when they are loved and respected as people trying to grow, humanly and spiritually."

Weakland was sensitive to the issue because two Catholic teenagers in Milwaukee had recently committed suicide, not knowing how to deal with their homosexuality. His column could also be read, though, as a coming-toterms with his own homosexuality. In the summer of 1979, Weakland acted out his attraction to men for the first and only time in a gay relationship that lasted only briefly. His column, written just three months after he ended the relationship, is thus also a very personal reflection.

SUCCESS

Whereas Rouse and the committee assembled religious support, Clarenbach and other progressive legislators organized the necessary

"The question before us today is not whether homosexuality is admirable, it's whether discrimination is tolerable," he appealed to the Assembly, framing the bill as a question of civil rights. Clarenbach put particular effort in finding Republican allies. He also brought to bear his strong ties with progressive interest groups and labor. And he didn't shy away from trading his vote to win over conservative legislators, supporting a controversial Milwaukee police bill in exchange for their vote for the gay rights bill.

Testimony to an enduring progressive tradition in Wisconsin, the bill found the support of 10 Republican representatives and passed both houses with bipartisan votes. Gov. Lee Dreyfus, a Republican, chose to sign the bill into law despite a massive last-minute campaign by Christian fundamentalists. "I have decided to sign this bill for one basic reason, to protect one's right to privacy," he explained.

After 15 years of activism, the bill finally became law on Feb. 25, 1982, adding another first to the state's history of pioneering progressive legislation.

Despite enormous changes in attitudes toward queer people, and significant legal progress on the local, state and federal levels, many of the problems that Barbee, Clarenbach, and Rouse worked so hard to overcome persist today. In April, 14-year-old Kenneth Weishuhn of Iowa took his life after classmates bullied him for being gay, the latest victim of a series of suicides among queer teenagers and young adults. While discrimination against lesbians and gays continues to be outlawed here, so is same-sex marriage. And our historic law urgently needs to be updated to include transgender people, who still have no remedy against discrimination.

Let's ask our state's legislators to look back 30 years and take inspiration from Wisconsin's pioneering step toward full equality.

Andrea Rottmann is a historian interested in the history of the LGBT movement in the U.S. and in Germany. Her thesis on Wisconsin's gay rights law won the prize for the best thesis

LEARN MORE:

View documents from Rep. David Clarenbach's files at Turning Points in Wisconsin History: http://www. wisconsinhistory.org/ turningpoints/search. asp?id=1750

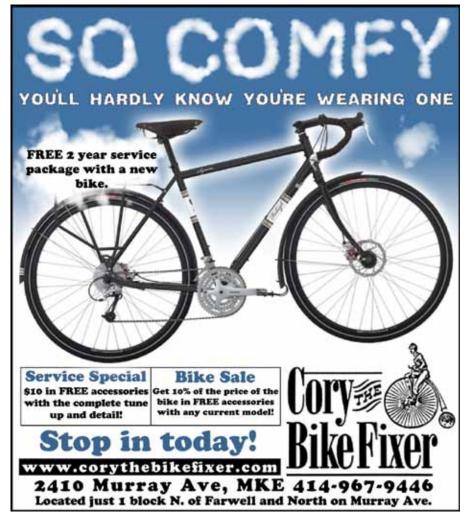
Listen to Lloyd Barbee's radio interview online at the Gay People's Union Collection, part of the University of Wisconsin's Digital Collections: http://tinyurl. com/barbee-interview

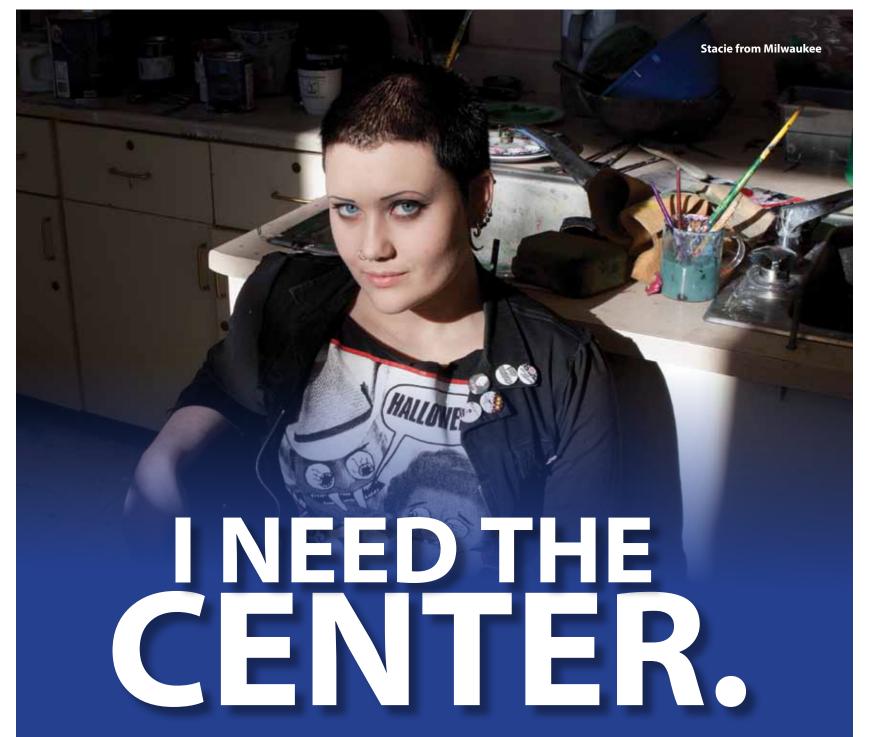
Learn about Madison's LGBT community at the UW-Madison Oral History Project: http://lgbt.wisc.edu/academics/ohp.php

Delve into Wisconsin's queer history at the Milwaukee GLBT History Project: http:// www.mkelgbthist.org/

in gender and diversity history, awarded by the Freie Universität Berlin, Germany. In the fall, she will continue her studies in a PhD program at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.







The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center provides services and programs that make the lives of LGBTQ people better -- healthier, safer, more fun. Can you make sure the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is there when we need it? Please support the Center through a donation at our PrideFest Marketplace booth or online at www.mkelgbt.org.

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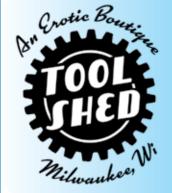
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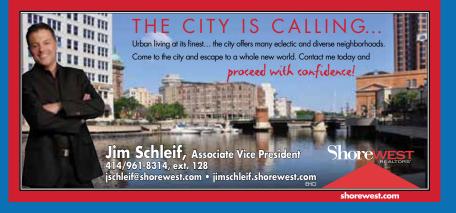


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{ Editorial }

Walker out = state forward

Gov. Scott Walker has received an obscene amount of money from donors in the fossil fuel, manufacturing and home-building industries. In return, he has represented their interests with unflinching determination, guiding their agenda - as articulated by the American Legislative Exchange Council - verbatim through the Legislature without debate.

On June 5, voters in Wisconsin will have an unusual opportunity to decide whether this agenda has benefitted the state.

Compared with the rest of the country, Wisconsin has fared poorly during the nearly year and a half since Walker took office. Regardless of whose statistics you're looking at, the state has lost a disproportionate number of jobs. Our quality of life has diminished and the state is more divided than ever due to Walker's self-professed divide-and-conquer style of leadership.

His so-called "business-friendly" policies have benefited big business at the expense of small businesses and workers. By his standards, states such as Mississippi are the nation's most business friendly - states that spend the least and have the fewest regulations while providing the lowest standard of living.

Walker claimed that cutting taxes for the very rich, limiting worker's rights and dismantling regulations to protect consumers and the environment would create job growth. But it hasn't worked out that way. Walker is simply regurgitating the trickle-down promises we've heard for the last 30 years, which have never come to fruition anywhere. But unfortunately, there's been a lot of negative trickle-down from Walker's agenda.

Environmental inspections of air and water quality have dropped alarmingly, giving Walker's benefactors license to pollute our environment without fear of reprisal. Seventy-three percent of school districts in the state cut teachers during the 2011-12 school year. Walker's cuts have also hurt the University of Wisconsin System and technical colleges in the state.

Walker eliminated state remedies for unequal pay for women. He's curtailed women's reproductive freedom and reduced uninsured women's access to health services. He's gotten rid of science-based sex education.

Possible criminal proceedings against Walker are also a major issue. There's a potentially devastating federal investigation surrounding his Milwaukee County Executive office staff that's resulted in numerous indictments. He's created a criminal defense fund that he's poured more than \$160,000 into during the past six weeks. State law only allows elected officials to start such a fund if they're under investigation for violating state campaign finance or election laws.

All politicians spin their achievements, but Walker is uniquely shameless. His campaign ads claim that he eliminated Wisconsin's budget deficit. But in requesting federal waivers to cut BadgerCare, a program that provides affordable health coverage to the working poor, Walker filed a claim with the federal government stating that the state has a structural budget deficit.

There are many reasons to get rid of Walker and not one to retain him. He has imperiled our future to reward his backers and boost his national profile. If he's re-elected, the state may have to suffer through his criminal indictment.

It's an unfortunate corollary of our political system that all elected officials owe fealty to special interests of some stripe. Walker's allegiance is to interests that are not in the interest of Wisconsin. They are not idealistic interests that want to create a cleaner planet and more just society. They are interests that only want to grab as much money as they can right now, without concern for the future or who gets hurt in the process..

BY THE NUMBERS Pride's progress...

Pride events in '69

Pride events in '70

Pride events in '72

Pride events in 2012

SOURCES: INTERPRIDE, WIKIPEDIA

{ June 5 voter info }

On June 5, voters in Wis-polling places due to redisconsin return to the polls. At the statewide level, they'll decide whether to retain or recall Republican Gov. Scott Walker, who faces Democratic Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett on the ballot.

The statewide lot also includes a contest between GOP Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch and Democratic Madison firefighter Mahlon Mitchell.

races for four Republicanheld senate seats.

To assist voters with questions about photo ID requirements (there are none), signrequirements and changing citizen and a resident of Wis-

tricting, the Wisconsin Election Protection hotline will be staffed with attorneys. Voters can call I-866-OUR-Vote with questions or to report problems.

Also, voters can obtain "Know Your Voting Rights" guides - in English and Spanish - from the ACLU of Wisconsin Foundation at aclu-wi. org/Issues/votingrights.

The guides clarify that vot-Voters also will decide ers do not need a photo ID for the recall election because of pending legal challenges to the law.

Also:

· You can vote if you are ing poll books, registration at least 18 years old, a U.S.

consin at least 28 days before the election.

- · You can register to vote anytime before the election. and even at the polls on election day using an accepted document that includes your name and voting address.
- · You can vote if you are a student living away from your parents and elect to get involved in your college town.
- You can vote if you have a felony conviction but completed your sentence.
- · You can vote early, at your clerk's office, through lune 1.
- You can follow voting issues in Wisconsin on Twitter at @EPWisco.

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



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ON THE RECORD

"Claiming that someone else's marriage is against your religion is like being angry with someone for eating a donut because you're on a diet."

- AN UNATTRIBUTED STATEMENT making the rounds on Facebook pages.

"If American women want to know where all the manly men have gone, they can blame the feminists. Not only can men no longer hold the door open for women, they can't even save a woman's life and get a gracious thank you. Most women like big, strong, John-Wayne-type men. But feminists have made a lot of men afraid to be manly."

 PHYLLIS SCHAFLY writing for the Eagle Forum.

"I've been waiting to do this for a long time."

- QUEEN LATIFAH, addressing the crowd at the 20th annual Long Beach Lesbian & Gay Pride Festival, where she recently performed. Some observers thought the movie star/singer, long-rumored to be gay, was officially coming out of the closet with that statement.

"In terms of the legal matter of creating a contract between two people that's called marriage, and allowing them to live together with the protection of law, it seems to me is the way we should be moving in this country. And so I support the president's decision."

- Former Secretary of State COLIN POWELL speaking in an interview with CNN's Wolf Blitzer.

"Why do homosexuals bother you so much?"

- CNN's BROOKE BALDWIN questioning gayobsessed Christian right leader Tony Perkins.

"I just refuse to hide. I did that way too many years and it's just not healthy. ... My life is not about money."

- BOB PAGE the owner of a china shop in Greensboro, N.C., commenting on all the hate mail and calls he's received since publicly opposing Amendment One, his state's recently enacted ban on legal same-sex relationships. Page's business has plummeted. He and his partner of 23 years are the fathers of 13-year-old twins.

"Myself being a gay person, (I felt it was) a kind of slap in my face that I couldn't have that same experience. So I thought that I would put a ban on bachelorette parties until every person will have the right to have a marriage and be able to marry their loved one."

- DAVID COOLE, founder of The Abbey in Los Angeles, one of the world's most popular gay bars, announcing that his establishment would cease hosting bachelorette parties until all of his patrons have the legal right to get married.

"Missiongathering Christian Church is sorry for the narrow-minded, judgmental, deceptive, manipulative actions of those who denied rights and equality to so many in the name of God."

- A BILLBOARD outside of Charlotte, N.C., on the Billy Graham Highway.



Celebrate Pride season

Woo-hoo, Pride season is again upon us! Time to don our gay apparel and boogie on down to that annual reunion known as PrideFest.

I'm getting to the age where blaring outdoor music doesn't appeal to me that much, but what I love more than ever is the peoplewatching. I'm delighted every year to rediscover how many ways there are to be gay. Or, more precisely, to express our gayness.

Cutting edge is too mild and clichéd a term to describe the breadth of LGBT styles. From daring and wacky and weird to jaw-dropping "did you see that?" exoticism, no accoutrements or ornamentation are beyond imagining. Retro or futuristic, butch or femme, leather or feathers, bushy or waxed, overdressed or nearly nude, most queers are certainly not shy about expressing themselves, and PrideFest is the place to do it.

The exuberance and friendliness of people at PrideFest is another plus for



me. Everyone is so open, it seems easier to start up conversations and meet new friends there than it does at other places.

The festival also serves as a kind of reunion. I often run into friends I haven't seen for years - or at least since the last PrideFest - and it's wonderful to catch up on what's happening in each others' lives.

The anti-gay zealots preaching hell and damnation outside the gate have become a regular feature of PrideFest. They used to piss me off, but lately I just think they're pathetic. Public opinion is rapidly turning against them and they are clearly on the wrong side of history. What kind of person spends whole days spewing hatred at others who are gathered

tolerance? Sad.

I've had a special weakness for the "drag races" at past PrideFests, which always left me in stitches. Contestants of all genders, sizes, colors and ages don outrageous drag costumes, do their best to run a footrace (those spike heels can be treacherous) and then face off in a lip-synching competition. A more zany, chaotic event has never been devised. Well, not until "Ru Paul's Drag Race" anyway.

I'm also a real sucker for the fireworks. Because of the long festival season at the lakefront, Milwaukee has a glut of pyrotechnics. But the fireworks and laser shows at PrideFest have always given me extra goosebumps, I guess in part because they're 'ours" and there are not that many Pride festivals around the country that can boast such a lavish display. I love those moments when the main stage concert is coming to an end, several

for a celebration of pride and loud booms are heard and the crowd starts moving en masse to the shoreline to find good seats. Let the "oohs" and "aahs" begin!

Amazingly, this is the 25th anniversary year for Pride-Fest, which has been at Maier Festival Park since 1996. I'm worried that many of us take the event for granted. Pride-Fest struggles financially from year to year. Good weather and big crowds in some years sustain it through the years when frigid weather keeps attendance and income

We learned recently with the crisis at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center how precarious our institutions are. I'm sure that Pride-Fest, like the LGBT center, can use some new benefactors and volunteer energy. While enjoying the festival this year, please be cognizant of what a precious resource it is for all of us and consider donating whatever time or money you can.

Join WiG on Facebook.

God's work of art

Coming out while remaining Christian poses several challenges. The apostle Paul's acerbic comments about gay and lesbian sex come to mind. After one makes peace with 10 or so biblical passages, one challenge remains: pride.

The Christian tradition long looked askance at pride. Pride made the list of the "seven deadly sins." These were seen as the gateway to all debauched behavior. The Christian tradition taught humility as the cure for pride.

But I quickly found humility was no virtue when coming out. Humility causes us to think, "Who am I to disagree with the apostle Paul?" Humility leaves us silent when bullies make homophobic slurs or bosses discriminate. The humble don't object. Humility keeps us in destructive relationships. The path to shame is paved with humility.

As a gay Christian I needed more than a rationalization for troublesome scrip-



tures; I needed to find pride in my identity, pride in who God created me to be, pride to push back against the bullies, and pride to demand the best in friendships and relationships.

A friend pointed me to a line in the Bible: "You are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus, for good works prepared beforehand, which are to be your way of life." It became my favorite verse, one that points to who we really are and how we are seen by God: a work of art, a masterpiece, worthy to be in the Louvre. How can we not take pride in ourselves when God takes such pride in us?

Imagine: Every human, in all our rich diversity, all our beauty and imperfections, every toned muscle and wart, every orientation from sensual to asexual - all of

How can we not take pride in **ourselves** when God takes such pride in us?

humanity in all our diversity treasured as God's works

The original word in scripture translated as "work of art" can also mean poem. "You are God's poem." Hearing the affirmation this way allowed me to see my life as a creative, playful articulation of God's love. Poets use words for their evocative power, a sense that stretches beyond the apparent meaning of a word to open up many different resonances. We are a poetic expression of God's love, an unstructured lyricism of compassion.

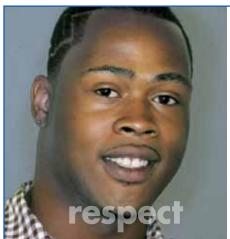
The verse promises that who we are matters, and what we do matters too. How God put us together our unique combination of all the gifts and flaws that make us up, shape that purpose. It may not be easy to find, it may not be clear, but everyone has a purpose.

It may be in lifting up a teenager overwhelmed with a negative self-image. It may be in comforting a grieving friend, caring for a neighbor who has trouble caring for herself. Your good work may be confronting racism, rallying for rights, speaking for justice, building community through action.

We all have pride and a purpose.

True pride comes when the poetry of our lives speaks to God's great love. Take pride in this: you are God's poem, give voice to God's love.

> Something to share? Email lweisberg@ wisconsingazette.com.





Get tested. Get involved.

Facts

- The rate of HIV infection is highest among young gay and bisexual men of color age 13-29.
- Higher rates of HIV infection among young gay and bisexual men appear to be related to stigma about being gay and lack of community support.
- Gay and bisexual men are the only group in the US in which **new HIV infections are increasing**.

Know your status

HIV Testing Program includes HIV testing, prevention education, and referrals to services for African American gay and bisexual men in Milwaukee. Walk-ins welcome at Diverse & Resilient. (2439 N. Holton Street, Milwaukee)

- Thursday, 4pm 8pm
- Friday, 3pm 7pm Appointments also available, just call 414.390.0444.



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Be ABLE Be African Americans Building Lives of Empowerment An opportunity for gay and bisexual African American men between the ages of 21 and 35 to build social support through open conversations about racial and sexual identity.

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

Contact

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PrideFest 2012 showcases local queer talent

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

he headliners draw the largest crowds and attract most of the media attention at PrideFest. But this year's event, which lights up the Summerfest Grounds from June 8 to June 10, deserves as much appreciation for its strong line-up of local LGBT and allied entertainers as for its stars.

Wisconsin performers are welcoming this year's "extra emphasis on the local talent," as PrideFest president Scott Gunkel puts it. They say it's an honor to present their acts to a hometown audience, to the region that nurtured and influenced their creative growth.

In a sense, this year's PrideFest is a reunion for some of gay Wisconsin's cultural ambassadors. "Throughout my career, I'll always be representing Milwaukee," says Shane Ashton, who grew up in Laona and now makes Milwaukee his home base. "I'm happy and proud and honored to take the (Miller Lite) stage."

Gunkel says festival organizers decided to go local as a way of celebrating the event's 25th anniversary. In addition to featuring more homegrown talent, PrideFest 2012 will give locals more time on the main stage and longer sets, Gunkel says.

Perhaps the best known Wisconsin group on the schedule is GOD-DES & She. Originally from Madison, the duo has described their work as "hip-hop/pop/soul." The two perform at 7 p.m. on June 10.

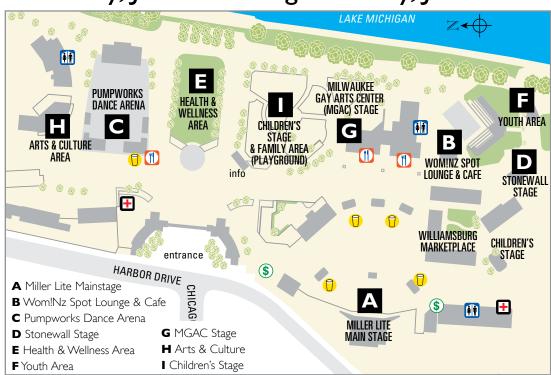
Soon to record their fourth fulllength album, GOD-DES & She gained national attention after being featured on "The L Word." Their

TALENT page 21



PrideFest Milwaukee 2012 Schedule of Events

Friday, June 8 through Sunday, June 10 at Henry Maier Festival Park



FRIDAY, JUNE 8

3:30 P.M.

- C DJ Kelly (Milwaukee)
- H Posters from Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival

- A The 2012 PrideFest Drag Show
- **B** Women's Open Mic

5:00 P.M.

- C D| Shawna
- **B** LeAnna Eden
- **B** Riverwest Artists

5:15 P.M.

A Shane Ashton

6:00 P.M.

G International Celebration of **Dance**

6:30 P.M.

D Interfaith Prayer Service

6:45 P.M.

A Opening Ceremonies

- C DJ Kelly
- **G** LGBT New Talent Showcase
- **B** BrewCity Boiz & Babez

8:00 P.M

- A Honey LaBronx
- **G** Brody Hess
- **B** Spoken Word Open Mic
- D Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video

- A Sue Debaco & Double Down
- G Jordin Baas & the Family Band
- C DI John Murges

10:00 P.M.

- **B** Annie B
- **G** Hot Topic Comedy

10:15 P.M.

A Belinda Carlisle

SATURDAY, JUNE 9

ALL DAY Open Grass PrideFest Volleyball Tournament

12:00 P.M.

- A Annie B & the Vagabond Com-
- C DI Kelly
- **H** Multiple Displays
- **B** The Dots
- **B** Riverwest Artists

- **D** Playing with your food with Felisha Wild!!
- C Lady Gia Presents 25 years of Glitz & Glamour
- Bob Bohm's Survivor Family Game Show

A City of Festivals Men's Chorus & Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus

E Yoga & Financial Literacy Presentation

2:00 P.M.

- **B** lude Kinnear
- **B** Women's VA Programming

2:30 P.M.

- A ABBA Salute
- D Nikki Rashan reads from her book "Cyber Case"

3:00 P.M

- C Joe Neary
- I Bob Bohm's Family Magic Show

- **B** Nomadic LIMBS hosts Bea Castaneda

3:15 P.M.

E Nia Dance

3:30 P.M.

D The Miltown Kings present "How to be a Drag King"

4:00 P.M.

- F Alliance School Graduation
- A BIG BAD GINA
- C Brew City Sisters
- **B** 2 Girlz

E Vegan Drag Queen Cooking Show with Honey LaBronx

- **D** How to Support Non-Normative Gender Expression in Kids
- **B** Adoption & Foster Parenting Stories & Discussion

- C Leather Show
- 5:15 P.M. **E** LGBT Dance Milwaukee

5:30 P.M.

- A Tyne Darling
- 6:00 P.M. C DI Ken-E
- **B** V-Squared
- G A Pride O\of Dancers: International Celebration of Dance
- B How Does She Do It?

6:30 P.M.

D Victory Garden Initiative & a Fruity Nutty Affair

7:00 P.M.

- A Mia LaBlon
- C Dance Hosted by Zander Mander, DJ Ron G
- **G** Singer Songwriter LGBT New Talent Showcase with Mallori Reichenberger

7:30 P.M.

G Brody Hess

8:00 P.M.

- D Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video **Festival**
- **B** Spoken Word Open Mic
- **B** Roxie Beane

8:30 P.M.

- A Jayme Dawicki
- G Jordin Baas & the Family Band

9:00 P.M.

C Dave Audé

9:30 P.M.

Fireworks

10:00 P.M.

- **B** The Miltown Kings
- **G** Hot Topic Comedy

10:35 P.M.

A Taylor Dayne

SUNDAY, JUNE 10

ALL DAY Open Grass PrideFest Volleyball Tournament

12:00 P.M.

- A Corky Morgan
- C DJ J-FLO
- H Displays all day.
- **B** Riverwest Artists
- **B** Jennifer Cintron Cuevas

12:15 P.M.

E Pilates

1:00 P.M.

- The Rock n' Roll Variety Juggling
- **B** Adoption & Foster Parenting Stories & Discussion

1:15 P.M.

E Meditation Practice

1:30 P.M.

A Pulsations

2:00 P.M.

- **D** Fifty Shades of Rainbow
- C Iordin Baas
- **B** Lisa Ridgely
- **B** VA Programming

2:15 P.M.

E ZUMBA!

3:00 P.M.

- **B** Nomadic LIMBS hosts Rachel Malehorn
- C To be announced

3:15 P.M.

3:30 P.M.

E Milwaukee MCC Church

D Financial Planning for Domestic

- Partners **B** Women's Voices Milwaukee
- A Martine Locke
- 4:00 P.M. B Big Bad Gina (acoustic)

4:15 P.M.

- E Tamarind Tribal Belly Dance 5:00 P.M.
- A Ronnie Nyles & Tallulah Who
- C loe Neary D Celebration of Our Relation-

ships

- 6:00 P.M. **G** International Celebration of
- Dance
- **B** Mandy Cappleman
- C DI NMF **B** Spoken Word Open Mic

7:00 P.M.

- A GOD-DES & She
- **G** LGBT New Talent Showcase

7:30 P.M.

- **G** Brody Hess
- C DJ Chris Spinazzola

8:00 P.M.

- C Sharon Needles
- **B** Open MIC

8:30 P.M.

A Berlin G Jordin Baas & the Family Band

- C Psycho Bitch & Terri Bristol 9:30 p.m.
- **G** Hot Topic Comedy
 - 11:30 P.M.
- C Sharon Needles Meet 'n' Greet

'I'm ready to give Milwaukee a show'

TALENT from page 19

song "Love You Better" reached the No. I spot on LOGO.

Ashton, who takes the Miller Lite Stage at 5:15 p.m. on June 8, says performing at PrideFest will be a highlight in what's been an extraordinary year for him. His song "Heartbeat" was featured in the most recent release from the gay movie franchise "Eating Out." Some proceeds from the song have been donated to The Trevor Project, Ashton says.

Growing up gay in a small Wisconsin town had a profound influence on Ashton and his music. "It was a hard time, and I think it changed me to what I am today. I feel like it made me a deeper person. I feel like I'm a more compassionate person. ... It definitely has inspired my music today. I've tried to write songs about that period of my life. But I've never been able to finish it, it's a hard subject for me."

In addition, Ashton's musical inspiration has come from some of the great divas of his formative years, particularly Whitney Houston, Mariah Carey, Celine Dion and Beyonce.

"Listening to these artists, I sort of learned to sing from them, how to harmonize with myself," he says.

LGBT ally Annie B., who's scheduled to perform at PrideFest both as a solo act and as part of the group Annie B. & the Vagabond

Company, welcomes her PrideFest appearance as an opportunity to show her support for Pride to the residents of her native state.

"I have performed at Walker's Pint and other venues like that." Annie B. says.

"I was featured in an LGBT publication in Kansas. But this is our first time performing at PrideFest, and we're really excited. It's a huge honor to be able to celebrate the LGBT community. I know that there's a lot of issues that they're still facing, and it's a bummer that those issues are still there."

Annie B. & the Vagabond Company performs on the main stage at noon on June 9. In addition, Annie B. performs a solo acoustic on the Wom!nz stage on June 8, at 10 p.m.

This year will mark Honey LaBronx's second turn on the stage at PrideFest after a less-than-auspicious debut last year. The Milwaukee native was scheduled to appear on Sunday at I p.m., when everyone was leaving PrideFest to attend the parade in Walker's Point.

LaBronx's mother valiantly tried to drum up an audience among the few people remaining on the Summerfest grounds, LaBronx says.

"My mom was walking the entire festival grounds handing out my fliers saying,"Oh you should come see my son, he's a really good drag queen."

This year, LaBronx got an enviable slot on the schedule

 at 8 p.m. on opening night, just before headliner Belinda Carlisle.

"Now I'm really ready to give Milwaukee, Wis., a show," LaBronx says.

LaBronx's life has changed considerably since childhood in Milwaukee. LBronx moved to New York City 12 years ago and became both a drag queen and a vegan. Now she exploits the attention that comes with dressing in drag to spread the word about animal rights and the vegan diet. She even has a drag queen vegan cooking show on the Web at vegandragqueen.com.

LaBronx also holds mock wedding celebrations to draw attention to gay and lesbian inequality. "They don't call me the vegan Harriet Tubman for nothing," LaBronx says. "I do try to use any and all opportunities I can as an opportunity to carry a message."

LaBronx's LGBT activism began during youth, assisting Mike Lisowski in organizing Milwaukee's first same-sex prom.

Due to the absence of marriage equality in Wisconsin, LaBronx's PrideFest performance will be bittersweet. "I'm going to be looking out over a sea of second-class citizens," she says. "And I want them to be as angry about that as I am. It's hard to go home and look at a bunch of people who aren't free. I'd like to work that into the dialogue with my audience in some way."

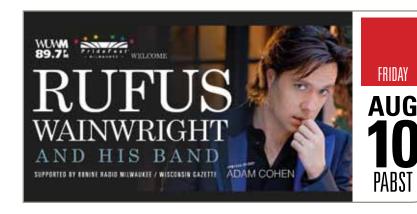


THE BEST OF WISCONSIN'S DRAGSTERS

PrideFest Milwaukee celebrates 25 years of glamour with a special drag show at 4 p.m. on June 8. Wisconsin's ever-popular Harmony Breeze, left, stars. Other stars include: Symphony Alexander-Love, Anastasia Deverreoux, Shawna "The White Trash Barbie" Love, "First Lady of Milwaukee" Jackie Roberts, Trina Lynn, Jaida Dumar, and Milwaukee drag icon Shannon Dupree.











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Lounging by the lake

PrideFest hosts Wom!nz Spot lounge, cafe

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

A new lounge is opening in Milwaukee - an intimate space with an impressive entertainment lineup.

The open sign goes up June 8. And it comes down lune 10.

The Wom!nz Spot Lounge and Cafe is a new, 25th anniversary amenity for Pride-Fest. Organizers invite festivalgoers to stroll toward the south end of the festival grounds, take the stairs or elevator to the second level and relax in an open-air space with a hoppy brew in the lounge or a coffee brew in the cafe while listening to an acoustic set or a poetry reading, watching a dance performance or visiting with women artists and activists.

In the volunteer-staffed lounge, the menu includes bottled water, soda pop, beer and wine. Tips benefit the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.

The cafe offerings include to attend. Matter of fact, I coffee, tea, H2O, cookies and scones provided by Bella Caffe. Also on the cafe menu are the Soup Market's vegetarian tomato bisque, African peanut and chicken soup and chicken dumpling soup.

PrideFest board member and women's outreach director Stephanie A. Knuteson says Wom!nz Spot was designed by women for

But, she stresses, Wom!nz Spot is not a separatist stronghold. "It's a space accepting of all," Knuteson says. "We're not segregating ourselves. ... The premise is this is a women's space, a place celebrating women's culture and women artists. And we're saying, if you want to celebrate that with us, you are welcome."

PrideFest president Scott Gunkel adds, "While the area is built around women, it is not gender exclusive men are more than welcome

encourage men to be part of this experience, you just might learn a thing or two."

Knuteson, a former board member at the community center, joined the PrideFest board in September, when organizers were reviewing a community survey.

"We were seeing that a lot of women are attending the festival and finding that there aren't a whole lot of things to do," Knuteson says. "We took notice."

She suggested the women's space and the concept quickly caught on – with both the PrideFest committee and the community. Within 36 hours of a shout-out to women artists, the weekend schedule was filled.

The cafe will feature an open mic for spoken word, discussions on wide-ranging issues, performances by the NomadicLIMBS Dancer Troupe, Women's Voices Milwaukee and a showcase for

Riverwest artists.

Lounge performers include LeAnna Eden, BrewCity Boiz and Babez, Lezy Desy, Annie B., The Dots, Jude Kinnear, 2 Girlz, V-Squared, Roxie Beane, Miltown Kings, Jennifer Cintron Cuevas, Lisa Ridgely, Mandy Cappleman and Big Bad Gina, who's performing an acoustic show.

In booking performers all of them are volunteering their time - there was a focus on local and regional talent, says Knuteson, who is Wisconsin-raised. There also was a focus on bringing new voices and faces to Pride-Fest, such as BrewCity Boiz and Roxie Beane, an acoustic funk-rock artist who has a strong Milwaukee following but has never performed at PrideFest.

While she probably won't be lounging, Knuteson is likely to spend much of the event in Wom!nz Spot Lounge and Cafe with Misty Jaeschke, her



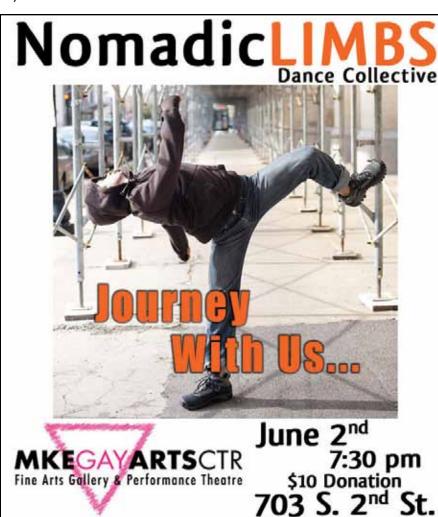
The Miltown Kings perform at the Wom!nz Spot Lounge at 10 p.m. on June 9.

An effort has been made to create a family-friendly environment, says Knuteson, who with Jaeschke is raising two teenagers.

She also promises a space that appeals to young LGBT Pride-goers and where newcomers to PrideFest are encouraged to get involved.

Volunteers, Knuteson says,

are needed for the weekend, but also for post-PrideFest. as Wom!nz Spot supporters plan for Pride 2013 and organize other events - maybe a picnic, maybe a concert. In the survey that led to Pride-Fest sponsoring Wom!nz Spot, women expressed a desire for more activities year 'round.





PUMP! Dance Pavilion at PrideFest 2010.

PUMPWORKS DANCE ARENA

Going to PrideFest to dance? Then head over to the PumpWorks Dance Arena. On June 8, DJs Kelly (a fixture of the Milwaukee gay community), Shawna (a Milwaukee native) and John Murges spin tracks to get you moving. The dance party continues on June 9 with DJ sets by Ken-E and Dave Aude, in addition to performances by Joe Neary and Brew City Sisters, as well as Lady Gia Presents 25 years of Glitz & Glamour and a Leather Show.

PumpWorks keeps it pumping on June 10 with DJs J-Flo (from Milwaukee), NMF (New Music Freak) and Chris Spinazzola, alongside return performances by Jordin Baas and Joe Neary, and a special guest appearance by RuPaul's Drag Race winner Sharon Needles.

Gregg Shapiro

Choral work focuses on the lives of Midwestern gays

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus, Madison's gay and gay-friendly vocal performance group, is celebrating 15 years of singing together by showcasing the lives of its members in "Heartlands," an original work by out composer Arthur Durkee.

Think of it as "Farm Boys" author Will Fellows' oral history of rural gay Midwestern men set to music.

"'Heartlands' was written primarily from personal stories given to me by men in the chorus," says Durkee, a Madison-based "freelance creative" who, in addition to being a musician and composer, is also a writer, photographer and graphic designer. "I received a wealth of information on the stories of their lives, which I set to music in various styles."

PHMC will premiere the 70-minute work in Madison and Milwaukee, on June 16 and 17, respectively. The City of Festivals Men's Chorus, Milwaukee's newest gay male ensemble, will add its voices to the work as well.

In addition, the two groups will perform at PrideFest on June 9.

"COFMC is our Milwaukee sibling chorus and is concluding its first season performing these joint concerts with us," says artistic director Ken Forney. "Bringing both of our choruses together builds community between the two groups and makes both of our voices stronger."

"Heartlands" was composed for a male chorus and piano, with soloists on several of its 19 individual movements, says Durkee, who is a member of the Madison Music Collective, which promotes the performance of live, improvised music. Written for both amateur and professional voices, "Heartlands" features a few vocally challenging modern sections.

"While I was sorting through the material given me by the men of the chorus, several common threads emerged, as well as life stories that were of special interest," Durkee says. "'Heartlands' became a weave of stories, with an emotional arc common to many gay men living



PHOTO: KEN FORNEY

Madison's Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus and Milwaukee's City of Festivals Men's Chorus perform at PrideFest Milwaukee on June 9. The ensembles present the world premiere of Arthur Durkee's "Heartlands" on June 16 at the Madison Masonic Center Auditorium and June 17 at Milwaukee's Plymouth Church UCC. Details at www.perfectharmonychorus.org.

in the Midwest."

Durkee's composition has both artistic sensitivity and social credibility for the LGBT community, Forney says. By exploring the gay experience in settings where sexual orientation is often repressed, the chorus and the composer have captured the lives of a generation.

Part of PHMC's mission is to build LGBT tolerance in smaller communities outside Madison. "Through 'Heartlands' we can share stories that ... can create change and promote acceptance of LGBT people," Forney says.

"We recognize that Madison can often be seen as post-gay, so we reach out to people wherever we can be a catalyst for change," he explains. "'Heartlands' definitely carries themes to which our rural neighbors can relate, and we'll use it as a door-opener and to help us share our message."

Durkee was a natural choice for the "Heartlands" commission, Forney says. He'd worked with the ensemble before. In 2009 he composed "Weavers of Light," a celebration of the winter solstice for chorus, piano, flute and orchestral

bells. When the new commission came up, his selection was a foregone conclusion.

"Arthur had some advantages in that, first and foremost, we loved his music," Forney says. "As someone who lives in Wisconsin, Arthur has greater access to us, important for collecting stories and collaborating on the end product."

Durkee also will sing with the chorus during its premiere concerts and offer an audience talkback session after the June 16 Madison premiere.

The commission of "Heartlands" represents a milestone in PHMC's career and helps fulfill the mission of creating a permanent oratory that tells the LGBT story, Forney says.

"There is only a small collection of music that speaks to our stories, and you won't find them at major music publishing houses," Forney says. "LGBT history has not been taught in public schools, and our lives have not been well represented. Creating more music and supporting composers who are writing about our experience is a way of giving back to the larger community."

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■ MAIN STAGE SCHEDULE ▶

THURSDAY
SISTAH NGOMA
LYNETTE MARGULIES
GODDISTAS
NERVOUS BUT EXCITED
LADIES MUST SWING

FRIDAY
MELANIE DEMORE
EMMA'S REVOLUTION
HOLLY NEAR
SUGARBEACH

SATURDAY A RAINBOW PATH BIG BAD GINA TOSHI REAGON ALL FESTIVAL JAM

SUNDAY WIA'S GOT TALENT Dana Goldberg Julie Goldman

■ DAY STAGE SCHEDULE ▶

FRIDAY CHRIS COLLIER SUMMER OSBORNE LEELA AND ELLIE GRACE

SATURDAY
MARY WATKINS
JAMIE ANDERSON
SHARON KATZ & THE PEACE TRAIN

Flashback PRIDE 2012

On PrideFest's 25th anniversary, WiG rewinds the years

1969: On June 28, police raid the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in New York City's Greenwich Village. Raids had been common, but this time a crowd forms, the mood is explosive, people riot and the modern gay rights movement has its symbolic start. Also this is the year that the Homosexual Alliance for Equality and Outreach are founded in Madison. Topping the charts: "Love Theme from Romeo and Juliet" and "Get Back."



1970: The activist groups Gay Liberation Front, Gay Liberation Organization and Homosexual Freedom League are established in Milwaukee. On bedside tables: Richard Bach's "Jonathan Livingston Seagull."



1974: The Gay Peoples Union, founded in 1971, hosts 350 people at its GPU Ball, held in June and considered Milwaukee's first Pride-like event.

Also, around this time in Madison, activists begin

Also, around this time in Madison, activists begin holding Pride picnics and parades.

Cost of a gallon of gas: 55 cents.

- **1978**: The Milwaukee Police Department launches a series of raids against gay bathhouses, leading to the arrest of dozens of men and fueling street demonstrations. Average monthly rent: \$260.
- 1979: The first National March on Washington for Gay and Lesbian Rights takes place, with hundreds traveling from Milwaukee to attend.

 Invented: The snowboard and the Sony Walkman.



1980: A Pride celebration includes an art show, a picnic, a film festival, a parade and a rally at MacArthur Square June 21-29.

Running for the White House: Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter.

1981: Pride, held June 27, includes a parade and a rally at Juneau Park.
Also, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports the first cases of what would become known as AIDS.
Average income: \$21,050.

1982: Wisconsin becomes the first state in the U.S. to enact a law banning discrimination based on sexual orientation. Also this year, the Cream City Foundation forms. U.S. Postage stamp: 20 cents.

- 1983: Gov. Anthony Earl appoints the Governor's Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues. Also, the state's sodomy law is repealed, decriminalizing same-sex sex.

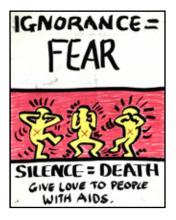
 New Dodge Ram truck: \$5,665.
- 1987: An estimated 200,000 people attend the Second National March on Washington for Gay and Lesbian Rights in October and return home inspired. The Pride movement truly takes hold.

 On television: "The Simpsons."
- 1988: The Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee hosts on Sept. 10 a Pride picnic at Mitchell Park, a formal ball, a town hall meeting, a film festival and a softball tournament.

Also this year, Wisconsin lawmakers pass a hate crimes bill that becomes model legislation for other states

Running for the White House: George Herbert Walker Bush and Michael Dukakis.

1989: On June 17, about 500 people join in the MLGPC twomile march from Walker's Point to Cathedral Square, where another 500 people are assembled. Mayor John Norquist issues a Pride proclamation that concludes, "We are proud of who you are." And for



that, religious right leaders threaten a recall. Cost of a gallon of gas: 97 cents.

1990: Pride participants march and rally at Cathedral Square on June 16, celebrating the arrival of "the gay 90s."
Also this year, a Milwaukee chapter of ACT UP! forms.
On computers:
Microsoft releases
Windows 3.0.



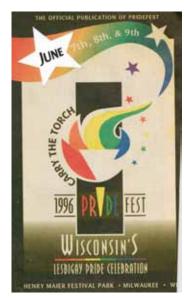
- 1991: The Pride celebration shifts to the lakefront and Juneau Park, where on June 15 the addition of food and entertainment creates a festival atmosphere. Also this year, Jeffrey Dahmer is arrested for multiple murders and the community demands reform in the Milwaukee Police Department. In fashion: Flannel and Nirvana.
- 1992:The "Power of Pride" takes place June 14 in Juneau Park.

 Also this year, Mayor John Norquist vetoes a \$5,000 allocation of city festival funds for PrideFest.

 On the way to the White House: Bill Clinton.
- 1993: The PrideFest theme is "Forward in Pride" and the celebration June 12-13 includes a festival at Juneau Park and a parade.

 Also this year, U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl votes for the anti-gay military ban and then explains to critics that he is not "gay or lesbian." The March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights takes place in April.

 In the tabloids: Michael Jackson is accused of child
- 1994: MLGPC dissolves, PrideFest incorporates and the celebration moves to Veterans Park, taking place June 11-12.
 At the market:The first genetically engineered tomatoes.
- 1995: PrideFest, held June 10-11, achieves a national first with the addition of a laser light show and fireworks display. There's also a lighted-boat parade.



1996: PrideFest moves to Henry W. Maier Festival Park, aka the Summerfest grounds, with professional amenities - the first event in the City of Festivals season and an expansion of days. Driving, torrential rains June 7-9 mean PrideFest '96 will be remembered as "RainFest."

> revenues for AIDS Walk Wisconsin. In the lab: Dolly the sheep is cloned.

1997: PrideFest, held June 6-8, features four entertainment stages, lectures, a volleyball tournament, a commitment ceremony, fireworks display, 100 vendors, a parade and a massive dance tent. In the news: Timothy McVeigh is convicted of murder and conspiracy.

1998: PrideFest moves to Aug. 28-30 to accommodate the Harley-Davidson Anniversary Celebration. Also this year, the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is founded. On the radio: Snoop Dogg.



Scene from Milwaukee's 1999 Pride parade.

1999: A date change is needed in 1999, too, when PrideFest - "Courage to Build Bridges" – is held Aug. 6-8. At the movies: "The Sixth Sense."

2000: PrideFest - "Proud from the Inside and Out" takes place June 9-11, with a first night parade. The Millennium March on Washington takes place in April. Average cost of a new house: \$134,500.

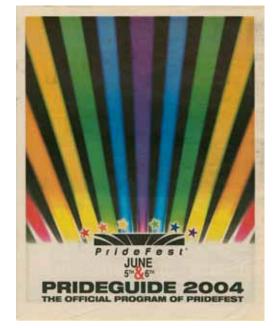


2001: "People-Pride-Power" takes place June 8-10. In the White House: George W. Bush.

2002: PrideFest expansion continues, with national performers drawing a record 18,604 people to the park June 7-9. Going off the tube: "The X-Files."

Also this year, Bette Midler draws record crowds and 2003: PrideFest, held June 6-8, incurs a nearly bankrupting debt, leading - with the aid of the Cream City Foundation - to the formation of a task force charged with reducing the debt and producing a 2004 celebration.

> In the headlines: Martha Stewart indicted in a securities investigation.



2004: A pared-down PrideFest takes place June 5-6 with perfect weather and more than 15,000 people attending.

In Stevens Point, the Central Wisconsin Pride Committee is founded.

A gallon of gas: \$2.10.

2005: PrideFest takes place June 11-12 and the parade is organized separately. This becomes the pattern for future Prides.

Average cost of a new house: \$297,000.

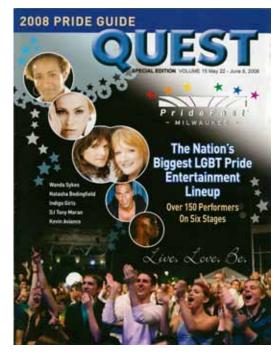
2006: PrideFest takes place June 9-11, returning to a threeday celebration. On tour: Madonna.

2007: PrideFest takes place June 8-10, with attendance surpassing 28,000. On everyone's wish list: Apple's new iPhone.

2008: PrideFest takes place June 6-8.

Also this year, NEWPride or Pride Alive is created to hold Pride celebrations in Green Bay, with the first taking place in Joannes Park and drawing more than 2,000 people.

Introduced to the lower 48: Sarah Palin.



2009: PrideFest takes place June 12-14, with attendance surpassing 29,000.

In the White House: Barack Obama.

2010: PrideFest, held June 11-13, features the addition of a health and wellness area and a dance stage with an LED screen.

In the news: A massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

2011: A history display becomes a permanent part of PrideFest, held June 10-12. Unemployment: 9.2 percent



2012: PrideFest celebrates its 25th anniversary June 8-10.

Lisa Neff

SOURCES: PRIDEFEST MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN LGBT HISTORY PROJECT.

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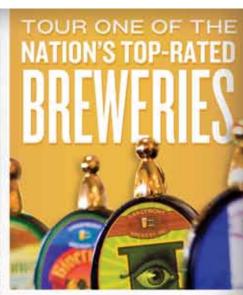
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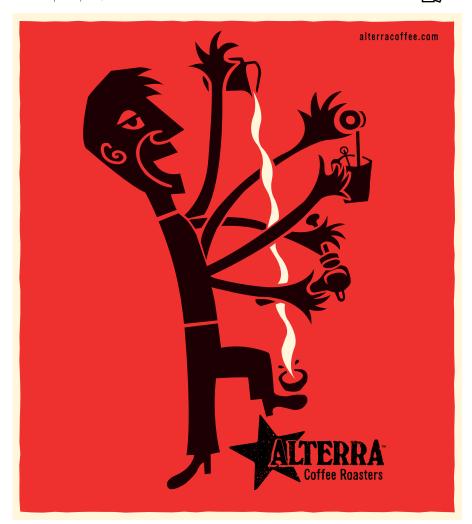
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History exposed

Controversial '60s book shows how far equality has come

By Will Fellows

Special to WiG

A stroll down memory lane reminds us how far we've come in 50 years.

In the quarter of a century since PrideFest was born, back when Ronald Reagan was president and AIDS was wiping out a generation of gay men, life for LGBT people in this country has moved forward dramatically. But if you look back yet another 25 years, you'll get an even more striking picture of the rapid must reading pace of cultural change.

Kennedy was in the White House and gay people were emerging from the shadows. Homophile organizations that started in California in the 1950s - the Mattachine Society, ONE Incorporated and the Daughters of Bilitis - were articulating a "gay agenda" and inspiring individuals in cities across the country to get involved.

A book from 1962, "The Homosexual Revolution," provides a fascinating window into this time. The book iacket features a stark color scheme of red and black (reminiscent of books that addressed the Communist threat), a bold title and an attention-getting subtitle: "A challenging exposé of the social and political directions of a minority group."

The author, psychologist R.E.L. Masters, was among the first to make the case that homosexuals constituted a minority group. Even for many gays, the "minority group" concept was new and disconcerting.

"It has been said that there are 12 million homosexuals in the U.S.," the book jacket states. "For that reason – and in the light of the Homophile goals - this book should be must reading for every citi-

"To accomplish (their) ends, the Homophile Movement seeks to create a homosexual voting bloc -

'It is estimated there are 12 million homosexuals in the U.S. For that reason, this book should be Fifty years ago, John F. for every citizen.'

> which would elect its own candidates on every level, and which would be able to pressure non-invert office-holders to back legislation favorable to the invert minority."

> Barack Obama was just a babby, but America's homosexuals were getting ready for him.

> As a commentator, Masters is quite well informed and progressive for the times. He projects not only brisk opinions, but also a sense of humor that distinguishes him from the pack of authors addressing "the homosexual problem" during that period.

> In chapter 10, "What Do the Homosexuals Want?" Masters draws on his knowledge of the homophile groups to give a detailed and insightful sketch of the nascent gay agenda. Reading this chapter 50 years after its publication illustrates dramatically the extraordinary changes that have taken place, including many that the author deemed inconceivable to the point of absurdity. What follows is a distillation of the chapter.

> "Most basically," Masters begins, "what homosexuals want is to be regarded as ordinary citizens who differ

from the rest of the population only in terms of their sex object-choices (which they would wish to have regarded as, for them, natural); and they would wish to be accepted on the basis of their worth as individuals (apart from their sexual inclinations and behavior).

"Almost equally basically ... they want to be freed from the laws that brand them as criminals, even though, as is usually the case, their prohibited sex acts occur between consenting and responsible adults."

Having stated these "most fundamental declared wants of homosexuals," Masters devotes the rest of the chapter to detailing and commenting on nine "quite specific wants of homosexuals wants often held to be 'rights.'"

I) "The homosexual, male or female, should be permitted, like any other citizen, to serve his or her country as a member of any branch of its Armed Forces.

"Those who seriously envision a situation where at the present time – known homosexuals could meet with official sanction as members of the Armed Forces are visionaries who have far exceeded the earthbound realm of the realities of the human psyche and emotions," Masters con-

2) "Homosexuals should not be disqualified from any government job, 'sensitive' or otherwise, simply on the basis of sexual orientation."

Masters predicts: "Until public attitudes change considerably more than they have to date, or at least until the laws and the official position of the government have changed, this condition, right or wrong, will continue to exist and render the homosexual unfit for important government service."

3) "Marriages between homosexual members of the same sex should be recognized and provided for by law and should have exactly the same status and confer the same benefits and responsibilities as heterosexual marriages."

Masters viewed this goal as absurd. "Probably most inverts recognize that the notion of legalized as well as religiously sanctioned homosexual marriage belongs to the utopian compartment of the homophile movement," he writes. "Can even the most starry-eyed crusader for homosexual 'rights' really imagine an American politician arising from his chair in a legislative body to propose tax relief - what would be called a 'subsidy for perversion' - for sex deviates?"

4) "Homosexual married couples - 'married' in the sense just discussed – should be permitted to adopt children if they meet the usual standards applied to heterosexual couples.

"Here we have the invert's notorious 'blind spot'... at its blindest," Masters observes. "Obviously, none of the homosexual wishes I have listed would meet with quite such violent opposition and antagonism as this one. That our society would, in any foreseeable near-future, turn over infants and children to 'married' homosexuals for rearing is a notion so improbable that it seems rather incredible it should be advanced at all."

5) "Bans on realistic representations of homosexual life in films, on television and elsewhere, should be eliminated. Artistic treatment of homosexuality should be subject only to the same general criteria of good taste and aesthetic merit applied to the treatment of heterosexual relationships and behavior.

"Sexual inversion is the central fact of millions of human lives," Masters comments. "Thus it is a proper



Barbara Gittings and others demonstrate for gay rights in Philadelphia in the mid-1960s.

and necessary subject for serious artistic treatment. This is not to say that proselytizing should be tolerated, that aesthetic standards should not be required and maintained, or that it should ever be permissible to treat the subject as though homosexuality were a glamorous and especially desirable way of life (which obviously, with the rarest if any exceptions, it is not). But neither should it be thought necessary, if the subject is dealt with, to behave like intellectual adolescents and insist that homosexuals must be punished in the end, meet with calamities, or otherwise be 'made to pay' for their transgressions?

6) "Homosexual love and marriage should be recognized by the churches, and

the invert should be religiously accepted subject only to the same criteria applied to heterosexuals.

"The invert has a very strong and seemingly quite legitimate case against the churches," Masters says. "Either they reject his desire to worship his God, or they insist that within the church he practice hypocrisy and deceit - approaching his Maker in heterosexual disguise, traveling incognito on the voyage of the spirit.

"It would seem that the churches are behaving quite properly in withholding the sacraments of marriage from those whose union is regarded by them as sinful. But how is a church to justify its refusal to accept into its

AGENDA next page

PRIDE 2012



PHOTO: UWM LIBRARIES/ARCHIVES COLLECTION

Two unidentified men enjoy a dance at a gay house party in Milwaukee, circa the early 1960s.

AGENDA from prior page

ranks any man or woman sincerely hungering after the love and knowledge of God?

"While churches have labored mightily to salvage the souls of head-hunters, cannibals, murderers, derelicts, atheists, etc., they seem to have avoided ever coming to grips with the problem of the salvation of homosexuals."

7) "Homosexuals should be permitted to wear clothing appropriate to their natures, just as heterosexuals are permitted to wear clothing appropriate to theirs."

Masters condemns the common police practice of enforcing a sex-based dress code, stating that "within decidedly liberal limitations, individuals in a free society — as ours professes to be — should be permitted to dress as they choose."

He also criticizes the con-

formist mindset that prevailed among gays and lesbians: "(Many homosexuals) wishfully suppose that if only all lesbians would look and behave femininely, and if all males would look and behave masculinely, then the social integration of homosexuals as a whole would be much facilitated if not completely accomplished.

"Yet the real moral and argumentative strength would seem to lie with the swish and the butch, who assert that 'it is nobody's damned business' what the individual wears, so long as his or her true sex may be discerned, and so long as — in keeping with the near-universal taboo of civilized peoples — the genitals and a few other body parts are not exposed."

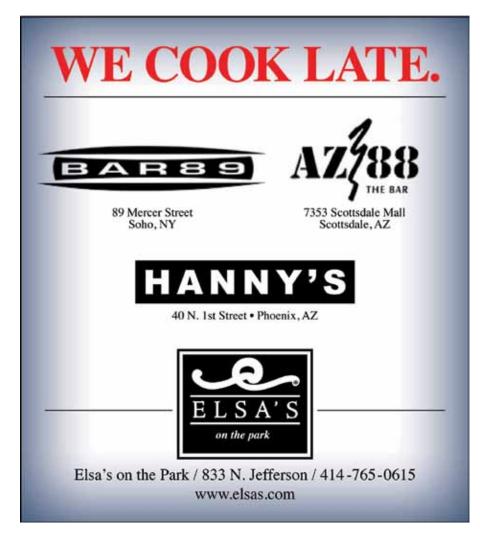
8) "The homosexual press should enjoy a freedom fully equal to that enjoyed by the heterosexual press. For example, male pinup photos and advertisements for homosexual 'lonely hearts' or 'pen-pal' clubs should be allowed."

"It may well be ... that tolerance of a certain amount of objectionable material is the price a society has to pay if it is to enjoy the benefits of freedom," Masters asserts. "Certainly, the gain from eliminating what is truly objectionable cannot begin to counterbalance the losses certain to result whenever the self-appointed censors and their ignorant (and nonreading!) backers are permitted to regulate the flow of literature for the whole population."

9) "Homosexuals should have the same freedom to make romantic or sexual advances to persons they find attractive as have heterosexuals."

"We rather take it for granted that the unescorted female in a typical heterosexual bar is likely to have advances made to her." Masters reminds readers. "When this occurs, we do not expect her to vomit, to fall into convulsions, or to call the police, or even - unless the approach is an extremely crude one - to assault physically the person making the advance. We expect her, if she is unreceptive, to 'simply say no."

Will Fellows is a Milwaukee writer whose most recent book is "Gay Bar: The Fabulous, True Story of a Daring Woman and Her Boys in the 1950s."





Gay humorist David Leddick still going strong in his 80s

By Gregg Shapiro

Staff writer

Dancer, playwright, actor and Lambda Literary Awardwinning writer David Leddick is still going strong in his early 80s. His latest book, the colorful and humorous selfhelp tome "How to Be Gay in the 21st Century" (White Lake Press) is chock full of advice and illustrated with campy photographs featuring the author. Already at work on his next theatrical productions, as well as numerous books, Leddick took time out of his busy schedule for an interview over lunch at Balan's in Miami Beach, Fla.

Gregg Shapiro: Did you ever think you would write a "howto" or advice book?

David Leddick: No. The need preceded the concept. I was a child in the 1930s, and I realized that these younger people in their 20s - the gay world they're in - is completely different. They think differently about it. The world I came out of for the most part was very closeted. I never was myself.

What was the inspiration for the book?

The inspiration was the younger generation, but I really am speaking to an older generation. Here in Miami I see a lot of people living in terms of a world that doesn't really exist. They're not constrained. I have a blog, "David's Gay Dish," and on Fridays I have a mini show called "Come on out with David Leddick." I have a lot of friends here, and I invite them to come be on camera. They won't be on the show, because they don't want to be filmed saying they're gay.

How old are these people?

In their 40s, 50s, 70s. I don't push it, but I say to them, "You think there's anyone in this world who doesn't think you're gay? Hello!" (Laughs.) They have an innate reluctance, whereas the younger ones don't have it at all.

Who do you see as the target audience for the book?

A lot of this is pertinent for everybody, not just gay people. It's how to live your life in the 21st century. A lot of older people are living in a 20th-century manner, where you're very concerned about what other people think of you, which is not 21st century. You have to be yourself. It isn't a matter of being caught. I love this century. You can't get away with anything. You're anti-gay, and then you're at the airport with your boyfriend, someone takes your picture, thousands know within minutes (laughs), which is fantastic. I think also because people are living longer. If you're 65, you might live to be 100. For 30 years of your life, are you going to sit on your butt? No! You can do all the stuff that you haven't done yet. That's my big thing. More

Did you always plan to be the model in the photos in the book?

We're

than gay rights, it's getting

older people to realize they

have a lot of living to do and

they can do it.

Yeah, sure, of course. I'm such a ham. I thought, "I don't want to write some boring, pompous, dictatorial thing. I wanted it to be fun." I told my nephew, "I don't think I've ever experienced homophobia," and he said, "You just never noticed." It would have to be pretty direct before it would ring any bells with me. I don't mind doing crazy pictures. People are much more willing to accept and learn when it's couched in an amusing way.

In the book, you address coming out later in life.

It's a must! I always say you can't lay down to die thinking you didn't do something you wanted to do. I exhort people: "Nobody cares, you're free to live your life, don't think everybody cares, they don't." It doesn't take that much bravery.

You also wrote a fulllength book titled "The Secret Lives of Married Men," about gay men married to women.

Yes. It kind of pisses me off that a gay man will marry a woman, waste her time, have children who never really know them. I have this friend, a fraternity brother, who has two daughters. He came out in his 60s, got a divorce, moved to Paris. His daughters have visited him, I've met them, and I realized they don't even know who he is. Because he's really funny and

nutty and kind of a wild guy, I had a sister near my age and it's a side of him they don't know at all. I thought, "That's not right." You should be involved with someone that you really want to sleep with. Everybody's entitled to

Did you come out to your parents?

My father died when was young, and I think I would've had a big problem if he hadn't. But I was brought up by a working mother, and

and two older brothers. I don't think it ever came up. I had a boyfriend when I was four. He was going to marry me when we grew up. It was pre-gayness. I was in rural Michigan. I think they had a kind of Victorian mentality. I think they knew boys slept together when women weren't available. There was a kind of "don't ask, don't tell" freedom.

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Argentina adopts world's strongest transgender rights act

In May, Argentina lawmakers passed a gender identity law that is considered the strongest, broadest transgender rights legislation in the world. University teacher and activist Alejandro Nasif Salum, secretary of international relations for Argentina Federation LGBT, explains the importance of the new law and describes the long, united effort to pass the bill.

By Alejandro Nasif Salum

Contributing writer

The Congress of Argentina on May 9 enacted the Gender Identity and Health Comprehensive Care for Trans People Act. It is the first time that the Argentinean Congress fully recognized the rights of trans people, and the legislation is the most advanced in the world in this regard.

From now on, anyone, just by manifesting his or her will through an affidavit, may request in the civil registry the change of sex and name in his or her identity card and birth certificate.



Alejandro Nasif Salum

Unlike what happens in other countries, he or she will not need the intervention of any judge or a medical diagnosis or witnesses or have to wait a certain period before being granted the change of documentation. Moreover, both the public

and private health systems must ensure comprehensive health care for trans people, and will have to cover hormone treatments, sexreassignment surgery or any other treatment they need. There is no need of judicial intervention or diagnosis of "gender dysphoria" or a "gender identity disorder." In

ogized trans identities.

Even people under 18 can access the documentation modification or health treatments.

The law in Argentina is really the only one with all these advances at the same time and in a single act that deals comprehensively with the rights of trans people.

Everyone is asking, "How did you do it?" It is not easy to answer that question, but reviewing what happened in the past few years we could understand the process a little hetter

The law that passed is not the first initiative to be introduced in the Argentine Congress. In 2007, Argentine Federation for Lesbians, Gay, Bisexuals and Trans and Association of Transsexuals, Transvestites and Transgendered of Argentina developed with the Socialist MEP Silvia Augsburguer the first draft of a Gender Identity Law, which was introduced in congress. The law was never addressed and was intro-

the Argentine state depathol- being addressed then, either. In 2011, the FALGBT and

ATTTA presented a much more ambitious project. We developed two bills: one dealing with the documentation and the other with the comprehensive health care. Both together contained all the points that stand in the act finally enacted. Later, other organizations focused on sexual diversity had a similar rule that gathered both issues in one project. All these rules were unified into a single project agreed upon by the civil society organizations and the lawmakers who promoted the change.

It would be difficult to understand how such an advanced bill could be adopted without regard to one central fact: In mid-2010 Argentina recognized the right of marriage for samesex couples. The discussion of the Equal Marriage Act set in the society the issue of LGBT rights as something that should be recognized and protected.

Since then, the activists of this sense, we could say that duced again in 2009, without the FALGBT insisted on the

importance of also passing a law on gender identity.

It was not just a slogan. We were convinced and we still believe that the gender identity law was much more important because the consequences on the lives of trans people would be enormous. It was a law much more difficult to explain to society, more complex, full of details, technicalities and queer theory. Equal marriage was simple: "We want the same rights, with the same name," we insisted.

After the enactment of the Gender Identity Act, while celebrating, we reflected: If this act had been discussed a few years ago, we would have negotiated every point and surely would have obtained a much more conservative measure. The key was to have installed the issue in public opinion over the years.

But that was not all. Both for the Equal Marriage Act and the Law of Gender Identity, the FALGBT organized a campaign that aimed to get the commitment and work of the courts, the congress and, to real social equality.

perhaps most importantly, public opinion. Basically, we convinced society, congress, justice and government that what was at stake was the right to identity, to be who you actually are and receive comprehensive health care.

All this was possible with the tireless work of activists of civil society organizations. In the case of the FALGBT, we are deeply proud to be a network that brings together more than 60 organizations and contains activists from the groups of gay men, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people. We believe that this diversity is what we must get working among organizations around the world - to share experiences, to network and to ensure that the progress made in each country drives change elsewhere in the world.

We are united by the same stories and the same causes. And probably it is when we are united in our diversity that we will achieve full recognition of our rights, and with hard work we will get



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What to do when pets don't get along

By Leanne Italie

AP writer

Kelly Lucas blissfully wed three years ago. For her cats, it was more like hell.

Happy to have married another cat person, she and her husband were hopeful they could blend their pets: two males for her and a plump old moody female for him. It was a no-go, then and now.

"I wouldn't call them oil and water," Lucas said. "It's more like gasoline and fire. Boom! It's been over three years and they still hate each other with a passion."

The Atlanta couple, who also have an 18-month-old human baby, keep their animal camps apart using a Plexiglas-reinforced screen door on the stairs of their two-story house. It's a measure they had hoped would be temporary.

"We rotate them around so that they all get the opportunity to be in all parts of the house and hang out with all of us," Lucas said. "It's nerve-racking, to say the least."

Merging pets usually has a happy ending, but it can take time, patience, medication (for the pet), or the help of an animal trainer or behaviorist, said Dr. Chessie Green, who heads the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association in Raleigh, N.C.

"It goes pretty well for probably eight out of 10 of my clients who blend their families," she said.

Suzanne Finch in San Diego has had her share of CATastrophes. The fur flew in 1990, when she realized just how much her boyfriend's cat hated her three cats – and her for that matter – after the whole gang moved in together.

"My boyfriend's cat loved him and was a jealous mistress. One of mine was a queen bee," Finch said. "His would pee on the carpet and my Queenie would poop on the carpet. We finally had to put plastic drop cloths all over the floor for the entire time we were together."

That turned out to be four long years, until he and his cat moved to Detroit and she stayed in California.

Does love – or, for platonic roommates, simple convenience – trump all when pets can't get along?

"I'll admit the thought of finding them

a new home has crossed my mind, not so much for our sake but because I hate that they have to go through rotations and get annoyed at each other," Lucas said. "But I'm selfish and can't stand the thought of being without them."

Making it work involves many variables. But Valarie Tynes, a veterinarian and behaviorist in Sweetwater, Texas, has one key observation:

"The first thing pet owners should be aware of is the importance that early socialization plays in future behavior of a dog or cat," she said. "A cat or a dog that has not spent much, if any, time around other dogs and/or cats during their adolescence will be much less likely to ever get along well with other animals."

Getting two adult cats to live in peace can take longer and pose greater challenges than blending unrelated dogs, Tynes said.

When combining dogs, Green suggests introducing them on neutral territory first, using leashes. "Do it in a neighbor's yard or the park or a friend's house, where the dogs don't have a stake."

Don't convey your own anxiety by holding the leashes too tight. "Dogs can read that," Green said. "Everybody in the environment needs to stay calm."

Let them sniff each other and investigate, and pay attention to their body language. Are their ears down or back, indicating anxiety, fear or aggression? Are their tails up or down? Down might mean they're feeling anxious or scared; up signals confidence. A tail straight out can mean either neutral feelings or aggression, Green said.

Barking is OK. "It's just another means of communication for dogs. They may even growl or snarl at each other a little bit, and that's OK initially, because it's establishing who's dominant and who's submissive. They have to get that straightened out first. You've got to let it happen."

What happens on neutral ground may or may not carry over to cohabitation, Green said, noting that some breeds, such as terriers, are more territorial than others. "You might have to do it all over again" when you get



home, she said.

Providing separate spaces at first is a good idea. That can mean giving dogs their own rooms or crates, especially when nobody is home. Make sure to reward good behavior and set up separate feeding stations to avoid conflict, Green said.

But if a truly bad situation doesn't improve over time – it could take six weeks or longer – and health issues have been ruled out, an animal behaviorist should be consulted, Green said.

"Behavioral medication may be needed," she said. "Or it could be a medical problem that can exacerbate behavior problems and make them aggressive or not get along."

Much of the same advice goes for cats, or mixing cats and dogs.

When mixing dogs and cats, Green said, "make sure the cat has a place to get away from the dog, whether it's on a counter or in another room separated by a baby gate."

Let cats sniff each other through a bar-

rier at first, or try a pheromone spray lightly around the house to create neutral territory. Hard-luck cases can take a year or two.

"Some cats end up preferring their own space," Green said. "They won't necessarily be buddies, but in the majority of cases they won't kill each other either."



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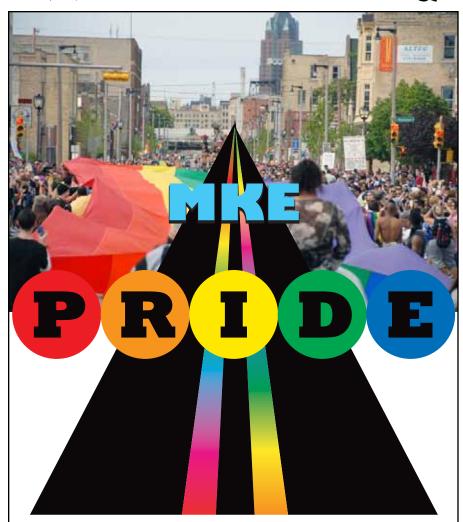
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NATIONAL GAZE

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Feds unveil regs to fight prison rape

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

"How do you like this, you faggot?" a Houston city jailer asked as he allegedly raped a gay veteran with a billy club.

The federal lawsuit filed in late May claims that another jailer stood by, laughing and watching, as the officer raped and beat the veteran, then dropped him in a urinestained cell.

The veteran, identified in court papers only as DL, had told corrections officers his sexual orientation after seeing a sign at the jail encouraging gays to come out so they could be segregated from the general population.

DL's civil suit seeks punitive damages for assault, battery, excessive force, due process violations, cruel and unusual punishment, sexual assault, wrongful use of medical treatment, conspiracy, false arrest, false imprison-

ment, abuse of process, intentional infliction of emotional distress, negligence and gross negligence.

Months, probably years, will pass before a conclusion is reached in DL's case.

But new government rules, mandated by the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003, were announced in May to better protect LGBT inmates and detainees in federal, state and local prisons, jails and detention centers.

"The standards ... reflect the fact that sexual assault crimes committed within our correctional facilities can have devastating consequences – for individual victims and for communities far beyond our jails and prisons," said U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder. "These standards are the result of a thoughtful and deliberative process - and represent a critical step forward in protecting the rights

The new, first-ever standards require that facilities:

- Develop and maintain a zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual abuse.
- Designate a point person to coordinate compliance
- Screen inmates for risk of being sexually abused or sexually abusive, and use screening information to inform housing, bed, work, education and program assignments.
- Develop and document a plan that provides for adequate levels of staffing and, where applicable, video monitoring.
- Train employees on their responsibilities in preventing, recognizing and responding to sexual abuse.
- Do background checks on prospective employees.
- Stop juveniles from being housed with adult inmates or having unsupervised contact

mon spaces.

- Ban cross-gender patdown searches of female inmates in prisons and jails and of both male and female residents of juvenile facilities.
- Enable inmates to shower, go to the bathroom and change clothing without improper viewing by staff of the opposite gender.
- · Enter into or renew contracts only with outside entities that agree to comply with the standards.
- Train staff on issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity.
- · Require that investigators consider anti-LGBT bias as the motive in incidents.
- Stop placing LGBT inmates in segregated facilities, unless it is for their own protection.

There are about 2.3 million people now jailed or detained in the United States. The Justice Department esti-

people in prisons, jails and detention centers are sexually assaulted.

The rate of sexual assault against LGBT inmates is much higher than in the general population, according to the American Civil Liberties Union, which says:

- Thirty-nine percent of former state prisoners who identify as gay and 34 percent who identify as bisexual report being sexual assaulted by another inmate.
- Fifteen percent of transgender prisoners report being sexually assaulted in jail. The percentage is much higher among black transgender prisoners – 46.3 percent.
- Lesbian and bi women in prison report rates of sexual assault double that of straight

The Human Rights Campaign, responding with praise for the government

mates that each year 216,000 rules, stressed, "Despite the strength of these standards, they will only be effective if they are fully implemented."

The ACLU said the new regulations protect child and adult prisoners, including LGBT inmates, but it remains unclear whether there will be adequate protection for immigration detainees.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has been tasked with creating its own PREA regulations, and the ACLU called DHS' record of preventing sex abuse in detention facilities "abysmal."

"The administration ... left unclear whether hundreds of thousands of immigration detainees - overwhelmingly Latinos - who are annually confined in DHS detention facilities will receive adequate protection," said ACLU legislative counsel Joanne Lin.

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Gaydar is real

College students have accuracy greater than mere chance in judging others' sexual orientation, according to research said to confirm the existence of "gaydar."

The findings, published in the online journal PLoS ONE, suggest people unconsciously make gay and straight distinctions.

"It may be similar to how we don't have to think about whether someone is a man or a woman or black or white," said author Joshua Tabak, a graduate student at the University of Washington. "This information confronts us in everyday life."

In the study, 129 college students viewed 96 grayscale photos of young adult men and women. Concerned that facial hair, glasses, makeup and piercings might provide easy clues, the researchers used photos of people who did not have such embellishments. They also cropped the images so that only faces were visible.





From the research published in PLoS ONE.

For women's faces, participants were 65 percent accurate in telling the difference between gay and straight faces when the photos flashed on a computer screen. Even when the faces were flipped upside down, participants were 61 percent accurate in telling the two

At 57 percent accuracy, they had a harder time differentiating gay men from straight men. The partici-

pants' accuracy slipped to 53 percent - still statistically above chance - when the men's faces appeared upside down.

Tabak said he was surprised that participants were above-chance judging sexual orientation based on upside down photos flashed for just 50 milliseconds, about a third the time of an eyeblink.

- Lisa Neff

Appeals planned in Rutgers spy case

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer
Prosecutors likely will appeal the sentencing of former Rutgers University student Dharun Ravi to 30 days in a county jail for using a webcam to spy on his gay roommate kissing another man and then creating a cover-up.

Prosecutors and their supporters say Ravi got petty time for a serious crime. The 30-day sentence handed down on May 21 is a third of the 90-day mandatory sentence for a third shoplifting offense in New Jersey.

Ravi was not accused of a role in the suicide of his roommate, Tyler Clementi. Clementi jumped from the George Washington Bridge just days after he learned of Ravi's spying in September 2010. That same autumn, at least 10 gay students in unrelated cases committed suicide after being harassed by peers, fueling a national focus on anti-LGBT bul-

Ravi and Clementi, both of whom were freshmen, were randomly assigned to share a dorm room. The trial record shows they didn't talk much and that Ravi wasn't happy about having a gay roommate. He was however, excited about going to a friend's dorm room on Sept. 19 and remotely accessing his computer webcam, which was turned to capture Clementi kissing another man. Ravi boasted about what he saw on Twitter.

Two days later, after Clementi asked again to have the dorm room to entertain a guest, Ravi told his Twitter followers they'd be able to watch a same-sex encounter on the Web. The next night, Clementi, who followed Ravi's Twitter feed, committed suicide.

In March, Ravi was convicted of 15 criminal counts, including invasion of privacy, tampering with evidence and bias intimidation. For the most serious charges, he faced 10 years in prison.



At the three-hour sentencing hearing broadcast on television and the Web, New Jersey Superior Court Judge Glenn Berman heard from both the Clementi and Ravi families.

Ravi's mother, through tears, talked about her son hiding out at home this past year, losing weight and being forced to go to school online. She blamed the media, alleging the press misconstrued the facts in the

Ravi's father also said his son was falsely portrayed: "Dharun was not raised to hate gays."

Clementi's mother, referring to her son's death, said, "I felt like a piece of me died in September 2010."

Father Joseph Clementi said he wanted justice and accountability, not revenge.

Brother James Clementi said he wanted Ravi to show remorse, to apologize. "For so long I have craved to hear some small amount of recognition, awareness and humanity from Mr. Ravi," he said. "I have had to accept that this likely will never hap-

The judge did not hear from Ravi, who later said

he did not apologize because he didn't want to appear insincere.

To Ravi, Berman spoke sternly, suggesting a tough sentence would follow. "I heard this jury say 'guilty' 288 times – 24 questions, 12 jurors – that's the multiplication," the judge said. "And I haven't heard you apologize once."

But then Berman ordered Ravi to serve 30 days in the Middlesex County jail, three years of probation and 300 hours of community service. Ravi, the judge said, did not commit a hate crime and is not hateful, but he did act "out of colossal insensitivity.'

New Jersey's largest statewide LGBT organization, Garden State Equality, had encouraged a fair sentence, but GSE chair Steven Goldstein said Berman didn't find bal-

"We opposed throwing the book at Dharun Ravi," Goldstein said."We have spoken out against giving him the maximum sentence of 10 years in jail and against deporting him. That would have been vengeance beyond punishment and beyond sending a message to the rest of society. But we have similarly rejected the other

extreme that Ravi should have gotten no jail time at all, and today's sentencing is closer to that extreme than the other. This was not merely a childhood prank gone awry. This was not a crime without bias."

Ravi, in a text message to a friend before Clementi's death, said, "Keep the gays away." He also texted, "I saw him making out with a dude. Yay." In an effort to manufacture a pro-gay reputation as he came under police investigation, Ravi created a series of text messages that read false with the

"Since the verdict, Dharun Ravi's extraordinary lawyers and their media operation have deemphasized these facts, stunningly able to recast Ravi in the role of victim, scapegoat and even folk hero," Goldstein said.

He added, "Those who have opposed giving Dharun Ravi jail time have asked, hasn't he suffered enough? But we believe there's another question: Has Dharun Ravi done enough? Has he done enough to use his place in history to speak out against student bullying and to make a positive impact on millions of lives across our state and

Other LGBT leaders also expressed disappointment with the sen-

"This is an outrageous slap in the face to all who believe in equal justice," New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn said in a statement. "We continue to work to make sure that all LGBT people are accepted as equals."

Yet others in the community supported Berman's sentence or said Ravi shouldn't go to jail at all. Bill Dobbs, a longtime gay activist in New York and civil libertarian, said New Jersey's hate crime law has "got so many problems that it should be repealed" and conservative gay writer Andrew Sullivan characterized the prosecution of Ravi as a "judicial witch hunt."

Middlesex County Prosecutor Bruce Kaplan said he will appeal the sentence.

"The imposition of this term is insufficient under the sentencing laws of this state, the facts that were determined by a jury and long-standing appellate precedent," he said.

Ravi may also file an appeal of his conviction.

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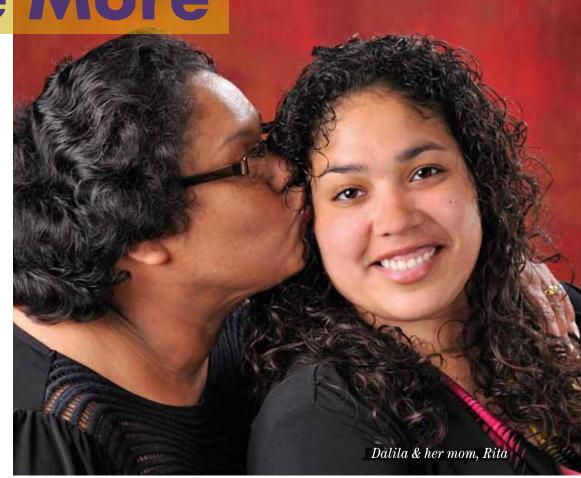
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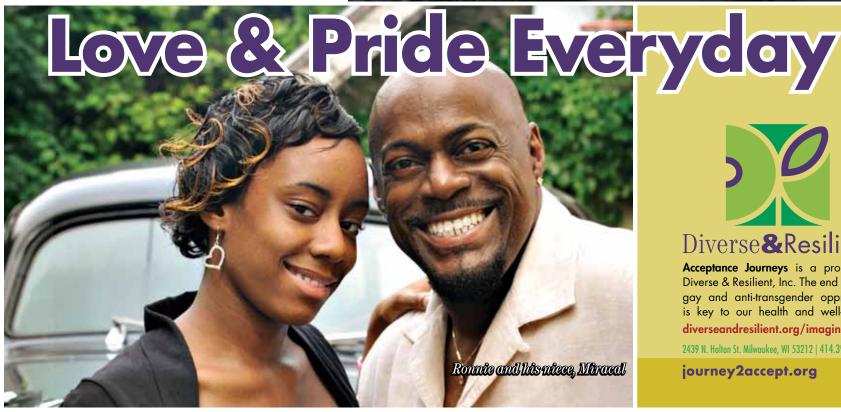
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New plea delays trial in lesbian activist's death

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

The Milwaukee man accused of fatally shooting lesbian activist Desiree Marie Harrell on Jan. 2 has changed his plea to not guilty by reason of mental defect.

Raymond Earl Baker, 35, made the plea on May 22, the day after he was scheduled to go to trial on a charge of first-degree intentional homicide.

Baker faces up to life in prison if convicted of killing give authorities a false alibi.

Harrell on Jan. 2 in the 3800 block of North 24th Street.

The Milwaukee Police Department says Harrell, 43, was found dead in her Buick Regal, slumped over in the front seat and shot eight times.

A candlelight vigil took place two days later for Har-

The next day, MPD announced the arrest of Baker, who allegedly confessed after attempting to Baker, according to police papers, said Harrell was his wife's lover and she had been harassing him. He was concluding a drug deal when he saw Harrell drive by. He followed her and, after she angered him, he shot her with a .40-caliber Glock that he hid in a trash cash.

Baker pleaded not guilty to intentional homicide on lan. 17.

The court record contains a note that attorneys were attempting to negotiate a plea in mid-April.

On May 18, represented by attorney Robert Haney, Baker appeared in court for a plea hearing and made a guilty plea.

But, according to the court record, the plea was not accepted because the parties could not agree on the facts in the complaint.

So Baker was ordered to go to trial on May 21, when there were questions raised about the defendant not being on his medication, his

competency and whether the case could proceed.

The next day, Haney asked for a trial postponement and to enter a new plea - not guilty by reason of mental defect or disease - for Baker.

Now Baker must undergo an examination by a courtordered psychiatrist or psychologist.

A doctor's report on the psychiatric examination is due June 26.

A pre-trial hearing is set for Sept. 14 and a trial for

Last September, in a separate case, Baker pleaded guilty to domestic abuse. He received a sentence of nine months in jail, which was stayed, and two years' probation. He also was ordered not to have any contact with the victim, to undergo a mental health evaluation, maintain sobriety, complete a batterer's intervention program, maintain employment and not possess any weapons.

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REGIONAL BRIEFS

FORMER PRIESTS OPPOSE ANTI-GAY AMENDMENT IN **MINNESOTA**

A group of 80 former Catholic priests came out against the proposed Minnesota constitutional amendment banning gay marriage.

John Estrem, a former rector at the Cathedral of St. Paul, said the Church he

knows is about love and inclusion.

"Enshrining discrimination does not promote marriage. It simply diminishes us all," Estrem said.

The Church strongly supports the November ballot measure, which would define marriage as between one man and one woman.

Also, the Saint Paul Area

Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has overwhelmingly passed a resolution to publicly oppose the amendment, becoming the fifth synod in Minnesota to do so. The Saint Paul Area Synod has more than 145,000 members and includes 112 congregations.

ARSON DESTROYS SUBURBAN DETROIT HOME

A woman says antigay threats and slurs were

written throughout her suburban Detroit home that was destroyed by arson.

Tawana Williams said her home in Novi, Mich., was burned down while she and her partner were in Las Vegas. Williams said the threats and slurs were written on the refrigerator, the walls and in the couple's bedroom.

Police they're say investigating and seeking tips in the May 20 fire.

The couple has offered \$5,000 reward for information.

CHRISTIAN CONSERVATIVES OPPOSE ANTI-BULLYING BILL

The Illinois Family Institute claims proposed anti-bullying legislation would be used by "homosexual activist organizations" that want to indoctrinate students and teachers.

So the group is opposing the bill as it currently stands in Springfield.

IFI lobbyist Ralph Rivera

said opposition would be lifted if lawmakers added an opt-out clause so students could skip events and lessons they find objectionable.

Supporters of the bill say it doesn't contain anything about homosexuality or promote LGBT civil rights. Rather, the legislation spells out steps schools must take to prevent bullying, such as publishing a policy in a handbook or on the Web.

- from WiG and AP reports

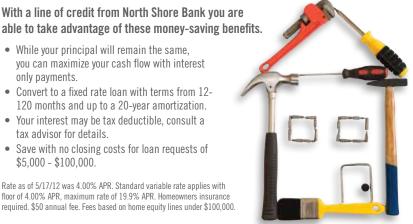
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Gay Waukesha Republican investigated for possible dirty trick against Democrats

Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

A Waukesha Republican volunteer was investigated - but not charged - by the Milwaukee County District Attorney's office for allegedly offering to sell party secrets to Democrats related to the June 5 recall election.

According to investigators' reports, Erik Turner, 19, was cruising the Internet looking for gay hook-ups the same day he contacted Democratic Party of Wisconsin spokesman Graeme Zielinski with the offer.

Using the email address man4men69@hotmail.com, Turner wrote to Zielinski: "I have the Republican Party of Wisconsin's Dropbox pass-

ing to sell it to you for a certain price. Name that price and we can work something out. This is not a joke, and I actually have their entire Dropbox username and password, please respond D.T."

Zielinski alerted authorities, who searched all digital equipment used by Turner, including computers at the Waukesha Republican Party Victory office. Investigators learned through the search warrant that Turner accessed the man4men69@hotmail address from various locations, including the WisGOP offices.

Turner told "Today's TMI 4" that he was innocent of wrongdoing and "was just screwing around with the word and account. I am will- people." But Zielinski told

PolitiScoop he believes the offer was a serious dirty Republican trick and that Turner was acting as a stooge for higher party officials.

"It's a funny shop they run there with the Waukesha Republican Party," Zielinski said. "I fail to believe that some 19-year-old would act alone to try to entrap Democratic officials, using specific knowledge of highly sensitive information. But the ethic of dirty tricks starts at the top and seems to have found its way down to low-level Republican activists. I am sympathetic to a kid who is being used as a patsy, however."

This isn't the first time Gov. Scott Walker has faced embarrassment involving gay aides. Tim Russell, a gay former associate and close companion of the governor who served as Milwaukee County housing administrator under Walker, was charged with three counts of theft for embezzling money from a fund intended for veterans

A 40-page complaint filed by Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm's office charged that some of the stolen money was spent on vacations in Hawaii and a Caribbean cruise with Russell's longtime domestic partner Brian Pierick. Some of the money was used to renew Walker's website.

Pierick was taken into custody on charges of child enticement, based on evi-

dence seized in an ongoing John Doe probe of Walker's Milwaukee County staffers. Pierick was not part of Walker's administration but campaigned on his behalf with

Pierick was an administrative assistant with the Department of Public Instruction, a state agency that provides education for homeless youth.

Prosecutors said the charges against Pierick resulted after they inadvertently discovered pornographic images of underage males on Russell's computer. Also found were graphic text-message chats with a then 17-year-old Waukesha boy that included references to sexual "role play" between

ing to the complaint against Pierick.

A lengthy chat in which Pierick attempts to arrange a three-way sexual tryst involving him, Russell and the teen, who repeatedly claimed to be over 18, is transcribed in the complaint.

Among the usernames that Pierick and/or Russell used on pornographic fetish sites were "Walker04" and "TRusell."

Although Walker appears to have many closeted gay supporters and close gay friends, he has actively opposed LGBT civil rights, including domestic partner benefits for same-sex couples and even the hospital visitation rights.

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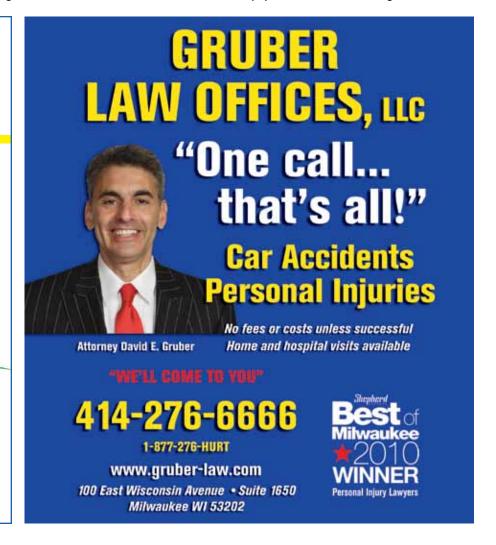
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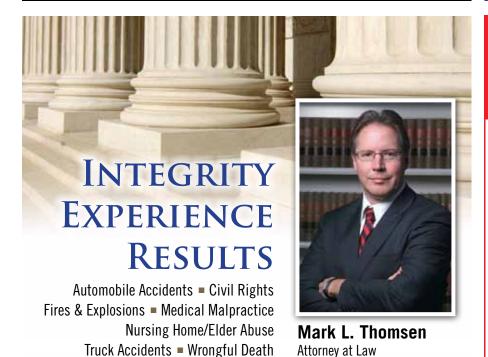




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WISCONSIN GAZETTE ENTERTAINMENT

Gay partners with a unique artistic connection on exhibit in Milwaukee

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

To artists Dutes Miller and Stan Shellabarger, ultimate loss is a part of true love. That duality is a foundation of their truth, and it's echoed both in their work and in their lives.

The Chicago-based husband-and-husband artistic team explores the deeper human and artistic continuum in their installation "Miller and Shellabarger: Hiding in the Light." The installation runs through July 15 at Inova/Kenilworth, the gallery affiliated with UWM's Peck School of the Arts on Milwaukee's East Side.

In addition to following their individual muses in a variety of media, Miller and Shellabarger are performance artists, and the statements they choose to make often govern the art form they select.

"We use the medium to define the artistic process, and the process is part of metaphor," says Miller, 45, whose unusual first name was also his grandfather's nickname. "My preferred medium for our collaborative work is performance art. For me, that's the most satisfying."

The pair's best-known performance piece opened their Inova showing on April 20, when each sat across from the other crocheting opposite ends of a long pink tube. Known as "Untitled (Crochet)," the artists began knitting the work in 2003, starting with a single chain of crochet that closed into a circle. It eventually grew to its current 65-foot length, and it represents the couple's enduring relationship.

"It's not for sale and it's never going to be finished until one of us can no longer crochet. It will then be the other person's job to unravel

the entire work," Miller says. "It's a living metaphor of our time together."

The couple's time together began when the two former art majors met in ceramics class at Illinois State University at Normal in the late 1980s. After each earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in 1991, they moved as a couple to Madison, where Shellabarger earned a masters in fine arts at the University of Wisconsin in 1996. The pair then moved to Chicago, where they have continued to practice their art and live their lives.

With shaved heads, long beards and a work-wear wardrobe that could cause them to be mistaken for northern Wisconsin bachelor farmers or members of a ZZ Top tribute band, Miller and Shellabarger appear an unlikely pair of gay men, especially when crocheting in both artistic and non-artistic settings. They've crocheted in galleries, coffee houses and public parks from Basel, Switzerland, to Portland, Ore., as they continue their work.

The artists are often approached by people intrigued by their unusual appearance and their even more unusual work. They always engage the audience, but they never try to explain their art.

"We don't try to tell people what the performance means," says Shellabarger, 43. "You don't walk up to a painting and ask it what it's about. The audience ultimately decides what a piece means."

The same holds true for audience members who learn the artists are gay despite their non-stereotypical appearance, he says.

"We don't care that we're queer. It doesn't seem unnatural," Shellabarger says. "Our work is about a relationship.

It's not about a queer relationship?

Expressions of that relationship extend to everything they do, including the series of silhouettes of the artists that grace Inova's wall. Some show the pair with their beards intertwined, others with the artists making contact in other gentle and meaningful ways.

Over the course of nearly 20 years, Miller and Shellabarger have worked in multiple media, both individually and together, investigating issues of love, relationship and existential separateness. Some of their most popular performance pieces even explore afterlife possibilities.

In Portland, the pair mounted a performance piece called "Untitled (Graves)." Both artists dug proportionally sized sideby-side graves, laid down in them and then dug a tunnel between the two so they could hold hands. The work speaks to life after death and the ability of love to endure, Shellabarger says.

"When people see the ('Graves') piece, they have a strong reaction," the artist explains. "It's really about everyone's relationship, not they'll continue to crochet. just ours.'

Given the subject matter of many of their works, it would be fitting for the artists to have an epitaph in mind to define their conjoined career. But Miller hesitates when asked to create the perfect phrase to memorialize them for future generations.

"It would be great to be remembered for how we might have changed people's minds about what a gay couple looks like and what love

Time will tell. Until then,

ON VIEW

"Miller and Shellabarger: Hiding in the Light," curated by Josie Osborne, runs through July 15 at UWM's Peck School of Art Inova/ Kenilworth, 2155 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee. Info: www.uwm. edu/psoa/inova.



Dutes Miller and husband Stan Shellabarger have been crocheting opposite ends of a long pink tube together in public displays since 2003. "It's not for sale, and it's never going to be finished until one of us can no longer crochet," Miller says. "It will then be the other person's job to unravel the entire work. It's a living metaphor of our time together."

Anshaw's book on loss resonates

Interview

GREGG SHAPIRO

"Carry the One" (Simon and Schuster, 2012), the fourth novel by author and painter Carol Anshaw, is one of the best-reviewed novels of 2012. The story concerns a group of friends, including siblings Carmen, Alice and Nick, who are involved in an accident resulting in the death of a young girl named Casey. Casey is "the one" in the title whom the survivors of the accident carry with them for the rest of their lives.

Each survivor finds a way of coming to terms with the tragedy. Alice, for instance, paints portraits of the child. Throughout the novel, Anshaw balances the sorrow with generous doses of humor, which is only one of the reasons why the book is such a triumph.

Gregg Shapiro: "Carry the One" has received exceptional press. Were you prepared for the reception?

Carol Anshaw: No, of course! I'm a total worrywart. So I imagined horrible, savage (laughs) reviews. But they haven't been. On the other hand, it's a book I took a very long time writing, and ... I revised it and revised it. I compressed it from 350 to 250 pages. I get so many emails every day from readers who, in one way or another, so appreciate the book in the ways that I wanted people to get it. That's an author's dream. Forget the cocktail party or the Amazon ranking.

Dogs play a supporting role in "Carry the One," as they did in "Lucky in the Corner." What can you tell me about the role dogs play in your life?

It's huge. I enjoy the com-

pany of dogs, I guess I would say. I go to the dog beach every day with (my dog) Tom. For him, mostly, but maybe a quarter of it is for me to play with other dogs, to have them come up to me. I'm honored if a great Dane comes up to me and stands next to me and allows me to pet him or her (laughs). Dogs are great. They're just too wonderful. And once you know them, you get a little glimpse of their world.

You write, "Painting was a world without clocks." Would you say that that is true of writing, too?

No. No, when I'm painting, I could lose four or five hours. I know that I'm thirsty or I have to pee or whatever it is that brings me back, gets me out of that chair to go down the hall. That never happens to me with writing. There are a lot of differences between the ways that you use your brain. I can tell because I play rock music

while I'm painting, but I could never do that while I'm writing. I'm using my brain in different ways. I think I'm writing in a more conscious way than I am painting. Because if you ask me what am I thinking while I'm painting, I would have a hard time calling that up.

The relationship of the siblings – Carmen, Alice and Nick – are at the center of the novel. Do you have siblings, and if so, how does your relationship with them compare to the one shared by the siblings in "Carry the One"?

I've always longed for a sister. I don't have one. My brother's addictions are Nick's, and he also did not make it.

So you made a very personal investment in this book.

I had wanted to write a character with (my broth-



er) Doug's addictions, and I asked him while he was still alive and he said, "Yeah, get the stories out there." I created a different person, but with his addictions. You see a lot about addicts in literature, but not so much about the families and how far down that pulls everybody; the cen-

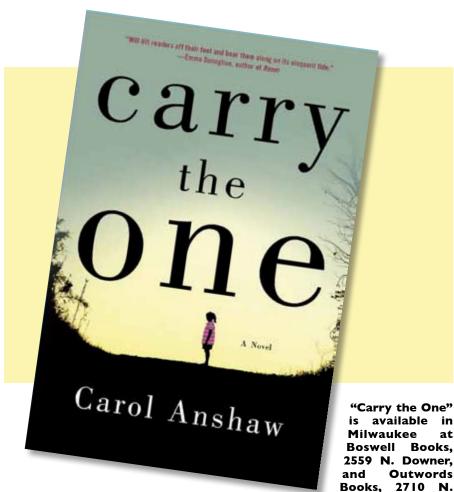
trifuge spinning around this craziness, entering a world that you have no understanding of.

Nick is portrayed as something of a hopeless case when it comes to addiction and recovery. Do you think Nick,





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and by extension, Doug, is an exception to the rule - or do you think it is possible for an addict to overcome addictions?

After Doug died, a friend of mine who is big in AA told me that ... (Doug) was the worst she'd ever heard of. His stories to me ... he told me that there were people worse than him. There was a guy who lost his stomach to whiskey, and he had a feeding tube. And they came into the hospital room, and he was pouring a fifth of bourbon down the feeding tube. It can get worse than my brother, that the characters but he was pretty ferocious.

He wasn't just an alcoholic, he was an addict, too. A barrel of fun there. But I wish he was still alive every day.

How long has he been gone?

He died on New Year's Eve of 2003/2004. His death certificate says 2004.

The intimate relationships in "Carry the One" don't seem to last. Is that a reflection of the lasting impact of the traumatic event shared? Or do you

think that their relationships were doomed regardless?

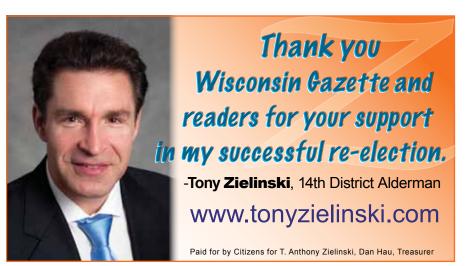
Murray.

Outwords

I think it's more an authorial convenience. To have the changes in their relationships be signals of how they're changing as people. I needed some shifting around.

In terms of relationships, do you consider yourself a cynic or a hopeless romantic?

A hopeless romantic, totally (laughs).











PRIDE 2012

BOOKS

GREGG SHAPIRO

REELING AND ROCKING

- Hal Leonards' Music on Film series presents books about two movies close to queer readers' hearts: "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" (Limelight Editions, 2012) by Dave Thomson examines what is, to this day, still one of the gayest movie musicals of all time; and "Purple Rain" (Limelight Editions, 2012) by John Kenneth Muir looks at Prince's ground-breaking 1984 movie debut.
- In "Dear Cary: My Life With Cary Grant" (itbooks, 2011/2012), now out in paperback, ageless, Oscar-nominated movie star Dyan Cannon writes about her tumultuous marriage to silver screen legend Cary Grant.
- Actor Steve Guttenberg, who played queer onscreen in "P.S. Your Cat Is Dead!" and also starred with the Village People in "Can't Stop the Music" tells his story in "The Guttenberg Bible" (Thomas Dunne/St. Martin's, 2012).
- Johan Kugelberg writes about music and pop culture in the essay collection "Brad Pitt's Dog" (Zero Books, 2012), which includes pieces dating from 2003 to 2011.

Pride pages

New and upcoming books

- Punk cabaret diva and firstrate belter Storm Large recounts her life with a bipolar mother as well as her sexual awakening and exploration in the memoir "Crazy Enough" (Free Press, 2012).
- Arriving just after the DVD/Blu-ray release of "My Week with Marilyn," the colorfully illustrated "Dressing Marilyn: How a Hollywood Icon Was styled by William Travilla" (Applause, 2012), by Andrew Hansford with Karen Homer, is a perfect fit.
- "Film Noir: The Directors" (Limelight Editions, 2012), edited by Alain Silver and James Ursini, features queer filmmaker Nicholas Ray and the iconic Ida Lupino among its many subjects.

TRANS-FORMATIVE TEXTS

- Featuring a new epilogue, the paperback edition of "Transition: Becoming Who I Was Always Meant to Be" (Plume, 2011/2012) by Chaz Bono is the triumphant story of the most famous trans man of our time.
- "Transitions of the Heart: Stories of Love, Struggle

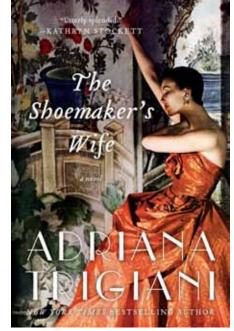
and Acceptance by Mothers of Transgender and Gender Variant Children" (Cleis, 2012), edited by Rachel Pepper, consists of 32 essays written by mothers from all walks of life.

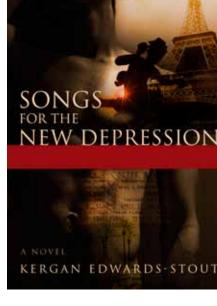
POETRY OF PRIDE

- "He Will Laugh" (Lethe Press, 2012), Doug Ray's powerful debut poetry collection, relates the story of how two young men met and fell in love – and the profound impact of the suicide of one of them.
- Lesléa Newman, the prolific lesbian author of "Heather Has Two Mommies," presents "October Mourning" (Candlewick Press, 2012), a cycle of poems about Matthew Shepard.

TELLING THE TRUTH

- Originally published in 2006 as "Religion Gone Bad: The Hidden Dangers of the Christian Right," the retitled paperback edition is "Holy Terror: Lies the Christian Right Tells Us to Deny Gay Equality" (Magnus Books, 2012). The paperback includes an updated preface by author Mel White.
- Edited by Sarah Moon, the Y/A anthology "The Let-





- ter Q" (Arthur A. Levine Books/Scholastic 2012), features more than 60 writers and illustrators corresponding with "their younger selves."
- "Chicago Whispers: A History of LGBT Chicago Before Stonewall" (University of Wisconsin Press, 2012) by St. Sukie de la Croix, includes a forward by gay historian John D'Emilio and covers a period of almost 300 years.
- Written and illustrated (with watercolors) by the late gay writer Clyde Phillip Wachsberger, "Into the Garden with Charles" (Farrar Straus Giroux, 2012) is a memoir about

- "growing old and falling in love."
- Examining the camaraderie between straight women and gay men, "Odd Couples" (Duke University Press, 2012) is Anna Muraco's study of "friendships at the intersection of gender and sexual orientation."
- Picking up where Clint Eastwood's Hoover biopic "J. Edgar" left off, Darwin Porter's "J. Edgar Hoover & Clyde Tolson" (Blood Moon, 2012), promises to be an investigation into "the sexual secrets of America's most famous men and women."
- "Why Is the Penis Shaped Like That? ... and Other

- Reflections on Being Human" (Scientific American/FSG, 2012) by Jesse Bering answers a variety of fascinating questions about which many of us have wondered.
- Told in brief, insightful essays, "Red Nails, Black Skates: Gender, Cash, and Pleasure On and Off the Ice" (Duke University Press, 2012) tells of queer critic Erica Rand's experiences in the slippery world of ice skating.

FICTIONALLY SPEAKING

- What queer person doesn't love shoes? Adriana Trigiani's New York Times bestselling novel "The Shoemaker's Wife" (Harper, 2012) has something to fit almost every reader.
- Earning comparisons to the work of Mary Renault, Madeline Miller's acclaimed novel "The Song of Achilles" (Ecco, 2012) retells the "lliad" with a queer twist.
- Denver-based writer Jerry L. Wheeler's "Strawberries and Other Erotic Fruits" (Lethe Press, 2012), is an erotic collection of 14 stories that proves oranges really aren't the only fruit.
- Due out in the fall, the

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Y/A book "One in Every Crowd" (Arsenal Pulp, 2012) contains more than 40 short stories, both new and drawn from other collections, by Ivan E. Coyote.

- With a more than a subtle nod to Bette Midler, "Songs For the New Depression" (Circumspect Press, 2012) is the debut novel by filmmaker and writer Kergan Edwards-Stout.
- Patrick Flannery's first novel "Absolution" (Riverhead, 2012) is set in modern-day South Africa and focuses on acclaimed but isolated South African writer Clare and her obsessive biographer Sam.
- "A Sea of White Impatiens" (Robertson Publishing, 2012) by Chris Murphy introduces us to the Gallagher family, including nine children, in Book I of the Impatiens series.
- Celebrity and fashion journalist Rupert James enters the romance/mystery novel fray with "Silk" (Cleis, 2012), which proves that revenge is always in fashion.
- "Architect, friend, lover, mystery" Edward is the main character in Lewis DeSimone's anticipated

new novel "The Heart's History" (Lethe Press, 2012).

- The debut novel by Boi-Party.com co-director and head promoter Justin Like Zirilli, "Gulliver Takes Manhattan" (Amazon Encore, 2012) tells the story of the titular Gulliver, who leaves everything behind in L.A. and escapes to New York to make a new beginning.
- Described as "a work of dream logic," Lambda Literary and Ferro-Grumley Award finalist Daniel Allen Cox's new novel "Basement of Wolves" (Arsenal Pulp, 2012) is set in Hollywood and centers on actor Michael-David and his rapidly deteriorating world.
- Chris Kenry's fourth novel, "The Survival Methods and Mating Rituals of Men and Marine Mammals" (Kensington, 2012) finds children's book author Davis living through desperate times.
- In the historical romance "Purgatory" (Bear Bones Books, 2012), poet and writer Jeff Mann writes about two young Civil War soldiers, fighting on opposite sides, but falling in love.

a Cair to remember The **Villa Terrace Decorative** Arts Museum and the Charles Allis Art Museum's premier fund raising event brings together community friends of the museums for one night in June, for a **chair-ity** auction. One of a kind chairs created by members of the community will be auctioned live at this distinguished event, **Wed. June 20, 2012** beginning at 6:00 p.m. Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum This year's contributors include, Wisconsin Public Radio, The Green Team, Jewish Museum Milwaukee, Samara Garden and Home, Third Coast Digest, Pink Banana Theatre Company, HANmade Milwaukee, Zhou Hongtao, The Business Journal Serving Greater Milwaukee, Moss Floral Design Studio, and more... Photos & chair information are available at www.villaterracemuseum.org. Chairs will also be at the Villa Terrace's Renaissance Garden opening, Sun. June 3, 2012 for viewing. \$25 Admission includes hors 'd oeuvres & cash bar. RSVP@cavtmuseums.org or call Ann Steinbach at 414/278-8295. Charles Allis Art Museum Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum 2220 N. Terrace Avenue 1801 N. Prospect Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53202 Milwaukee, WI 53202 www.villaterracemuseum.org www.charlesallis.org

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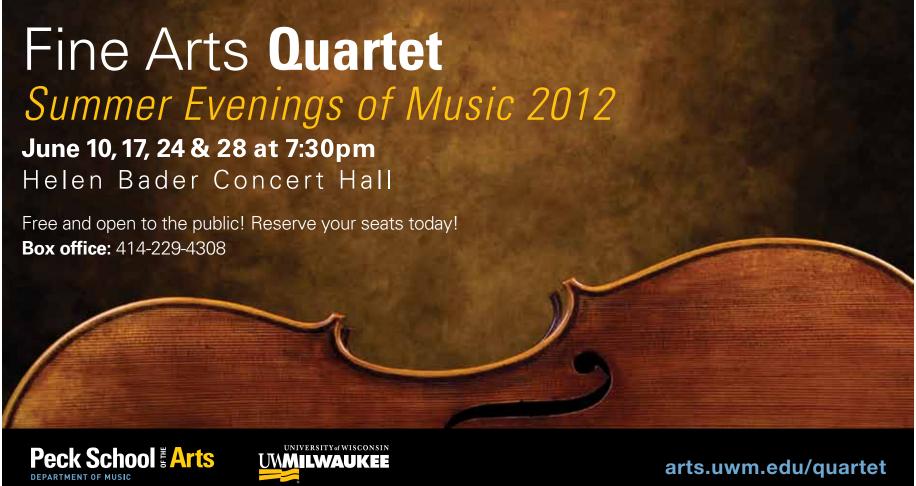
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Dancer inspired by 'Billy Elliott'

Theater

"Billy Elliott the Musical" has become one of the most highly decorated and beloved musicals to hit the boards in the past decade. Out actor/dancer Christopher Howard believes that's because the narrative about a little boy who would rather dance than box has redemptive qualities.

"I believe 'Billy Elliott's' greatest message is that the main character realizes he can't give up, no matter what it takes to succeed," says Howard, 26, a cast member of the touring production that's set to perform at three different Wisconsin venues over the next two months. "That message has spoken to me."

"Billy Elliott the Musical" opens June 19 at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center in Appleton, closing June 24. The show next travels to Madison for a six-day run

at Overture Center for the Arts July 10-15. The Badger States tour concludes in Milwaukee, where Marcus Center for the Performing Arts hosts the show July 17-22.

With music by Elton John and book and lyrics by Lee Hall, who wrote the screenplay for the film version of the story, the multiple Tony Award-winning musical tells the tale of a young boy living in northern England during a coal miners' strike in the 1980s. When both his widowed father and brother lose their jobs, the family tries to prevail upon young Bill to box, just as his father did at his age.

Billy tries and fails. But he discovers that his true talents lie in ballet. In order to achieve his dream of becoming a dancer, Billy must first overcome the disapproval of his family, friends and society.

Howard sees some parallels to his own career. A graduate of the theater arts program at the State University of New York-Buffalo and scholarship recipient to New

York's Joffrey Ballet School, Howard came to dance late. He found he had to prove himself repeatedly, not only to others but also to himself.

"I did have very supportive friends and family and am very grateful for that," says Howard, who's part of the touring show's ensemble and one of several understudies for Older Billy. "But I didn't start dancing until I was 18, and I had to continually prove that I was good enough, no matter what anyone said."

As an out-of-work actor, Howard answered the casting call almost as a fluke.

"I auditioned on whim," he says. "All I knew about the show is that it was about miners and tap dancing."

The show, in fact, has multiple forms of dance, including tap, ballet and partner dancing. Even after he was hired, Howard didn't feel he was right for the show and worried he would embarrass himself or fail. An internal struggle to prove himself ensued. He turned for inspiration to the perseverance

of the play's main character.

"This is the most difficult thing I've ever done," he says. "But it has made me a much stronger person, not only physically but internally."

Howard believes the struggle overcome by Billy is something that not only inspired him but also can inspire all gay people.

The play's much talked-about scene in which Billy's friend Michael kisses him on the cheek is something of a model for gay-straight relations, Howard implies. Billy tells his friend he is not gay, but he does not reject the other child. That's how life should be, and it's the sort of understanding that sets "Billy Elliott the Musical" apart from the crowd, he says.

"The message behind the show is very powerful," Howard says. "I believe it speaks loudly to the gay community."

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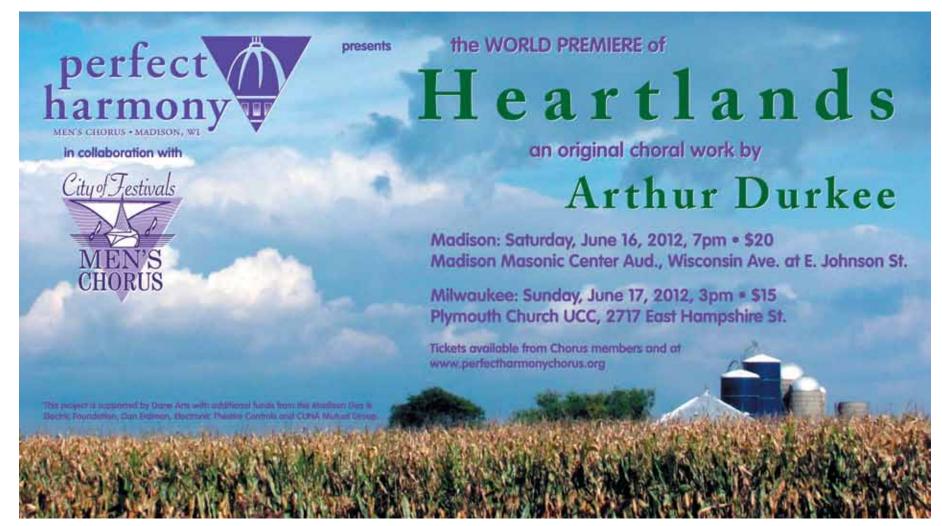


PHOTO: COURTESY

Christopher Howard.

ON STAGE

"Billy Elliott the Musical" makes multiple stops in Wisconsin during June and July. For general information, tour dates and tickets, visit www.ticketmaster.com.



Hold the mayo!

Personal chefs add creativity, convenience to outdoor parties

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Sami Fgaier's first experience with outdoor grilling was no different than that of other boys his age on the Kerkennah Islands in his native Tunisia.

"We'd build a fire on the beach, get some mussels from the Mediterranean and throw them into the flames," said Fgaier, 37, now owner of Madison-based Le Personal Chef. "The shells would open up in the heat and the mussels would cook very nicely."

Mussels still feature prominently in the indoor and outdoor menus Fgaier prepares as a personal chef for clients in southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois. As the weather turns warmer, he says, the demand for outdoor catered affairs heats up.

"I always associate outdoor events with grilling," says Fgaier, who started Le Personal Chef in 2009 after seven years in the kitchen at the former Le Chardonnay Restaurant in Madison. "It helps if the clients have a good grill, but a good chef can make any grill work."

In addition to outdoor

grilling, the demand for personal chefs also is catching fire. Although growth has been slower in the conservative Midwest than on the coasts, more people are turning to personal chefs due to their increasingly busy lifestyles and desire for healthier, better-prepared food. And they are discovering they don't have be Oprah Winfrey to afford it.

"Chef Sami catered my fifth 29th birthday party," says gay client Ed Edney.

According to the San Diego-based American Personal & Private Chef Association, there are more than 11,000 personal chefs in the United States — about 4,500 of them are association members. Of that number, Wisconsin has 20 association members, and the number is growing.

Sheldon "Chef Shel" Walker, 49, is among those who prepare restaurant-quality dishes in private homes. A former bank branch manager and the former interim director of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, Walker had toyed with the idea of opening a restaurant or bed-



PHOTO COURTESY

Personal chef Sami Fgaier puts the finishing touch on a creation.

and-breakfast, but was ultimately put off by the long hours and loss of weekends and holidays. The flexibility and opportunities of a personal chef were more to his liking.

"I once spent an hour discussing the virtues of a Yukon Gold potato with another chef," says Walker, a graduate of the Culinary Business Academy in Albuquerque, N.M. "Friends and family encouraged me to pursue a career in the culinary industry and, after 23 years in banking, the personal chef business turned out to be a perfect fit."

Walker, who opened Haute Dish, A Personal Chef Service in Milwaukee in 2009, specializes in what he calls "make-ahead meals." Clients contract for two weeks' worth of meals, which he prepares in their homes using his own materials and utensils. The meals are then stored in the refrigerator or freezer for later consumption.

"I want to thank Chef Shel for making our lives so much easier," says frequent client Denise Cawley. "You get a lot for what you pay."

Walker also does dinner parties and, this time of year, sees many of them moving outside. Food safety is one of the most important issues to consider when working outdoors, he says.

"Keeping cold foods below 40 degrees and hot foods above 140 degrees. Along with keeping food preparation surfaces clean, this is where many people miss the mark," Walker says. "No one wants uninvited guests at their cookout, and this includes bacteria and viruses."

Rochelle Herrmann, a relatively new personal chef and owner of Milwaukee-based Chef-n-Stuff, a firm that focuses on cooking education as well as personal chef services, agrees that cleanliness should be at the top of a chef's list. She advocates careful advance planning and making sure that the chef will be working in a setup that meets his or her needs.

"Look at the space you'll be working in," says Herrmann, 41, who is completing her culinary degree at Milwaukee Area Technical College. "Is it adequate for what you will be doing? Does it have the proper equipment or facilities to keep the food warm prior to serving?"

Like other chefs, Herrmann advises outdoor party planners to step away from the potato salad, because the mayo could spoil in the heat and cause illness. Instead, she stresses creative summer foods that blend flavors and textures, such as matching blueberries with cracked black pepper or a molé sauce of chocolate and jalapeno peppers. Until now, her strawberry basil lemonade had been a well-kept secret.

"Create a puree of fresh strawberries, water and









PHOTO COURTESY

Sheldon Walker examines fresh produce.

sugar, then strain the mixture through a cheesecloth to remove any pulp," Herrmann says. "Add fresh squeezed lemons without the seeds, and add more water and sugar to taste. Then add chopped fresh basil leaves."

Walker agrees with the need for creativity. "Outdoor menus can be a lot of fun," he

says. "Generally it is best to offer items that are familiar to your guests, as well as something to surprise them."

For Fgaier, the best outdoor menus strike a balance among the various elements. Start with a crisp Salade Niçoise, he says, followed by fresh fish on the grill – swordfish or mahi mahi are best – and end with fresh fruit. Fgaier's favorite is fresh watermelon cubed and mixed with feta cheese and fresh mint.

"You don't want to hire me to cook hamburgers and chicken," Fgaier says. "That's something you can too easily do yourself."

Find recipes, next page

HOW TO CONTACT

Sami Fagier, Le Personal Chef, Madison: www.lepersonalchef.com Rochelle Herrmann, Milwaukee: www.chef-n-stuff.blogspot.com

Sheldon Walker, Haute Dish, A Personal Chef Service, Milwaukee: www.hautedishwi.com





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Six dazzling summer wines

Just like pairing beer and burgers, culinary creativity calls for alluring wines. Here are six winners you might not have considered:

BIOHOF PRATSCH 2011 GRUNER VELTLINER (\$13)

This light-bodied Austrian is a suitable alternative for those who want to move beyond cloying German Rieslings. A fruit-forward spicy nose of peach and apricot gives way to a tangy white-pepper palate and well-rounded body. It works as a light aperitif, salads and seafood dishes.

RAMON BILBOA 2011 VALINAS ALBARINO (\$14)

The Albarino grape is a delightful Spaniard too often overlooked. In this wine, the results are bright gold and greenish hues, giving way to pineapple-mango flavors with stronger citric notes and a lingering finish. Best served with cheese, lobster salad and shellfish.

H&B 2011 ROSÉ LANGUEDOC (\$12)

Nothing says summer like chilled rosé, and this wine from southern France's Languedoc-Roussillon region makes a light-bodied, yet elegant statement with a crisp, refreshing edge and fine finish. Serve alone or with grilled veggies.

GHOST PINES 2009 WINEMAKER'S RED BLEND (\$21)

Sourced from multiple California AVA vineyards, this red wine from Michael Eddy has a blackberry-pepper nose and flavor profile that includes licorice, dark berries, cedar and dried herbs with a long, lingering finish. Best with heartier fare, such as steaks and roasts.

PETER LEHMAN'S 2009 CLANCY'S RED (\$15)

A striking red from Australia's famous Barossa region, this wine's raspberry nose leads to a flavor palate of dark plums and chocolate that's well-balanced and complex. Try with grilled meats or aged cheeses.

PRIMUS CARMENERE 2010 (\$17)

Chile can be credited with helping save the Carmenere grape after it was destroyed by blight in its native Bordeaux a century ago. This particular example adds a little bit of Cabernet Sauvignon to provide a wine with flavors of dark cherries and currants shrouded in a smoky spice with hints of chocolate on the palate. Perfect for outdoor steak entrees.

- Mike Muckian



Recipes Insider secrets from the pros

Kerkennah-style Shrimp, Fig and White Pearl Chef Sami's **Onion Skewers**

1/2 pound large shrimp (21/35)

8 black figs cut in half

I bag of white pearl onions (blanched and individually peeled, they should be soft and halfway done)

2/3 cup olive oil

I tablespoon red wine vinegar

4 garlic cloves minced

1/2 tbsp coarse sea salt

1/2 tsp cracked black pepper

1/2 tsp smoked Spanish paprika

2 tbsp fresh thyme

Recipe for honey lemon dressing:

I cup of extra virgin olive oil

2 tbsp honey

Juice of 2 lemons

1/2 tsp white pepper

1/2 tsp fine sea salt

Whisk all ingredients very well until almost creamy texture.

In a large glass bowl, combine olive oil, garlic, sea salt, cracked black pepper and thyme. Mix thoroughly.

Add shrimp and pearl onions to mix, cover with plastic and refrigerate for two hours.

Preheat an outdoor grill to high heat.

Make skewers with shrimp, white pearl onions and figs. Make sure they are pushed well together so they can withstand the grill.

Grill 3-4 minutes per side.

Drizzle with honey lemon dressing and enjoy!

Chef Shel's Peach and Brie Quesadillas

2 large peaches peeled and thinly sliced

I tsp of honey

3 ounces of Brie, sliced (he prefers a double-cream Brie)

4 (8") flour tortillas

Oil for brushing quesadillas

Set your grill to a medium or indirect heat.

In a bowl, combine peaches and honey.

Place I/4 of the Brie and spoon peach mixture on one tortilla and fold in half (be careful not to overload the tortilla).

Grill approximately. 2 minutes per side, until cheese is melted.

Repeat with remaining tortillas.

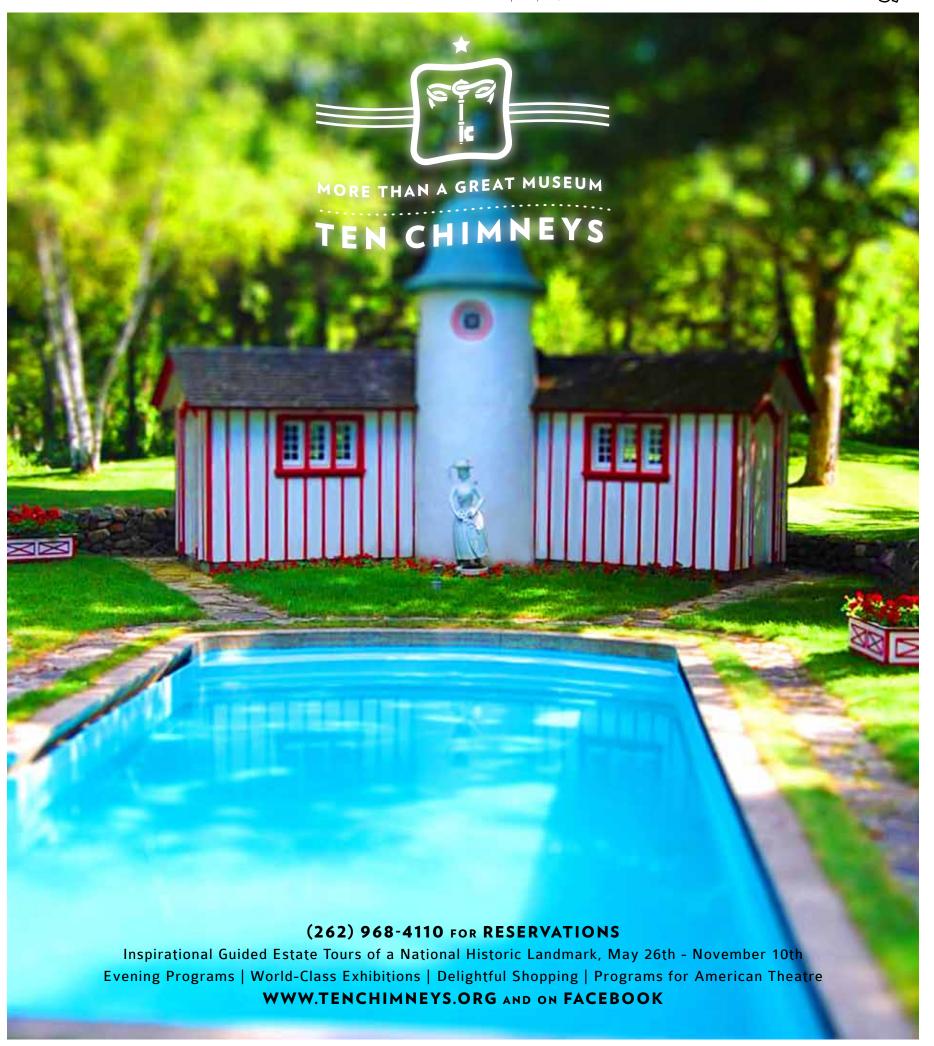
These are great as is or with a drizzle of honey.

Try other fruit and cheese combination, such as apple and cheddar, for example.









Film

GREGG SHAPIRO

JACK BLACK SHOWS NEW LIFE AS A GAY FUNERAL **DIRECTOR IN 'BERNIE'**

Jack Black gives a career-defining performance as the titular gay funeral directorturned-murderer in Richard Linklater's lowkey new flick "Bernie." But Shirley MacLaine as Marjorie, the wealthy widow who's the object of Bernie's affection, gobbles enough scenery for both of them.

Based on a true story, "Bernie" alternates

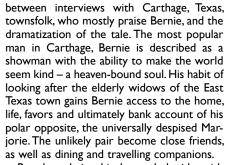




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But the relationship has a dark side, with the demanding, condescending and socially awkward Marjorie practically making the accommodating Bernie her servant as well as her business manager. He sorts her pills, folds her laundry, gives her pedicures, plucks her chin hairs and so on. Tensions arise in the relationship and town gossip only adds

Finally, the docile Bernie reaches his breaking point, shoots Marjorie and hides her body in her freezer. From there the movie turns to the murder investigation and resulting trial. Homophobic district attorney Danny Buck (Matthew McConaughey) promises to bring Bernie to justice.

Don't go to see "Bernie" expecting the usual kind of Linklater fare. See it for Black's restrained performance.



"Men in Black 3" is precisely what a summer blockbuster should be. First and foremost, it's entertaining - with equal doses of comedic and touching moments. It's got enough special effects to keep the audience engaged without going overboard (although the 3D is completely unnecessary). As the third installment in a series, "Men in Black 3" not only stands up to its predecessors, but also improves on them by answering previously unanswered questions in ways both satisfying and sensible.

Director Barry Sonnenfeld returns to direct agents | (Will Smith) and K (Tommy Lee Jones) for the film. This time out, Boris (Jemaine Clement), a vicious Boglodite space thug locked up in a maximum security lunar prison, escapes to enact revenge on K and enslave and slaughter the inhabitants of Earth. In order to prevent this, I must travel back in time to 1969 Cape Canaveral on the day



PHOTO: COURTESY

Shirley MacLaine and Jack Black in "Bernie."

of the Apollo 11 launch to ensure that the younger K (Josh Brolin doing a bang-up job of channeling Jones) kills Boris once and for all.

In addition to marvelous and mind-blowing special effects, "MIB3" features terrific supporting performances by Michael Stuhlbarg (as gentle alien Griffin) and Emma Thompson (as Agent O), among others. "MIB3" ties up some loose ends, including explaining what happened to J's absentee dad. Put this one on your summer movie list.

'WHAT TO EXPECT' DELIVERS A STILLBORN ROM-COM

There's so much wrong with "What to Expect When You're Expecting" that it's difficult to know where to begin. Often tasteless and offensive, "WTEWYE" feels immediately dated and tired. In spite of a few timely references (such as food trucks and reality TV shows featuring competing dancing celebrities and competing obese people), this movie could have been made in the 1980s or 1990s. The irresponsible screenplay by "Whip It" scribe Shauna Cross and Heather Hach seems to exist in another time period. It's 2012 - doesn't anyone have safe sex anymore? It's 2012, where are the sane same-sex

The couples include some familiar faces: Jules (Cameron Diaz) and Evan (Matthew Morrison), Holly (Jennifer Lopez) and Alex 'Men in Black 3' has equal doses of comedic and touching moments, as well as enough special effects to keep the audience engaged.

(Rodrigo Santoro), Wendy (Elizabeth Banks) and Gary (Ben Falcone), Rosie (Anna Kendrick) and Marco (Chace Crawford), Skyler (Brooklyn Decker) and Remington (Dennis Quaid), and Kara (Wendi McLendon-Covey) and Craig (Thomas Lennon). They muddle through the perils of pregnancies planned and unplanned, as well as potential parenthood, with various degrees of success. Banking on the frank humor of "Bridesmaids" (as well as some casting similarities), it would appear that some suit was hoping to cash in on the irreverence trend. But this comedy is

Not even pretty Crawford or a usually shirtless Joe Manganiello (as the single Davis, through whom a few of the fathers live vicar-

> iously) can resuscitate this fiasco. If ever a movie functioned as a strong argument for keeping abortion safe and legal (if not mandatory), it's

this one.

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Chicago's out JC Brooks riding retro soul wave

GREGG SHAPIRO

Chicago's go-to party band these days is JC Brooks & the Uptown Sound. The retro soul group is perhaps most famous for playing at Mayor Rahm Emanuel's inaugural party in Grant Park in May 2011, but the group's star has been on the ascendency since its amped-up cover of Jeff Tweedy's "I Am Trying to Break Your Heart" went viral. Uptown Sound's version won the admiration of Tweedy himself, leading to invitations to play at higher profile gigs.

Although gay sensibility is not something that fans associate with the group, front man Jayson (aka JC) Brooks is openly gay. I spoke with Brooks earlier this year, following the release of the group's sophomore album "Want More."

Gregg Shapiro: Unlike previous Chicago's mayor, Emanuel actually likes cool music. We saw him at Susan Werner's show at Chicago's Old Town School of Folk Music.

Brooks: Also, he has to support the arts or the artists will dredge up his ballerina past (laughs).

Yes, Twinkle-Toes Emanuel. Are JC **Brooks & the Uptown** Sound on the Obamas' radar as well?

He's inviting people like Beyoncé to perform. If we get mentioned in the same lungful as Beyoncé that would be great.

"Want More" fits in with the soul revival currently taking place. Why do you think this style of music is having such a strong resurgence?

Looking back, it seems that there's always something bad going on in society. I think we were hitting a point as a society, similar to the last time that soul music was around, when great social change was needed. They needed a kind of free music, and then

soul got political. Before that soul was a freeing, fun, forget your troubles music. At the beginning of the 2000s, there was so much focus on overproducing and math rock and things like that overly complex music. We just wanted to strip it down, get it simple and have danceable shit. I think it's coming back around, because I think the political side to it does speak to soul. It's a time for action as you've seen this past year. I was so proud when the Occupy Movement started. I was floored! We still do something! We get out into the streets, oh my God! I thought the time for that was gone.

You have also established yourself as an actor, most recently in the Chicago production of the Tony-Award winning musical "Passing Strange." Do you consider yourself an actor who sings, or a singer who acts?

I'm an actor who sings. It's something that came up in a conversation a couple of years ago. I could tell that the band got kind of bristly when I said it. People are like, "Brother's like an old soul singer."And I'm like, "No, I'm just acting like a soul singer."

Did you go to school for theater?

Yes, I graduated from Point Park College in Pittsburgh with a BA in theater. When I started school I was kind of anti-musical, but as a high I doubt it. But I hope so. school graduation present, my mother got me tickets to "Rent" and I saw it and thought, "Holy shit, this is what musicals can be." "Rent" is the reason that I decided to choose musical theater as a major.

You performed at the Alt Q Festival at the Old Town School of Folk Music in May.

I've always been looking for a way to be more involved on the social and active side of the community, not just patronizing bars (laughs). Because I'm very involved in that part of the community (laughs). It gives me another connection to the community at large. Espe-

IN PERFORMANCE

JC Brooks & the Uptown Sound perform at 6 p.m. on June 14 as part of Jazz in the Park at Cathedral Square Park, 825 N. Jefferson in Milwaukee.

cially when I feel like the band, not consciously, pushes this aside. I'm gay. I've never said anything else in any interview. But not everybody reads interviews, and I don't want to alienate the females in the audience. It's awesome for the band, because I'm the best lead man ever because. after shows girls are like, "Hey can I buy you a drink?" It's taught me how to politely put someone off. The other

guys come in and sweep up. I'm sure there are gay guys in the audience, but no guys are ever coming up to me and talking to me after shows.

That could change. Here's hoping.

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JC Brooks, left, and the Uptown Sound.



Rated one of the top art festivals in the country. LFOA is a fundraiser for the Milwaukee Art Museum featuring paintings, jewelry, photography, and much more by 180 jury-selected artists. Weather is never a problem since all of the art is displayed under a 60,000 square foot tent or in the museum itself. Your admission also includes the Museum's feature exhibition and permanent collection.

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Dialing for divas

Music

IDINA MENZEL

Idina Menzel is one of those larger-than-life performers whose brilliance can't really be captured in a recording studio. But you can hear her shine on the live "Chess in Concert" CD and especially on her new disc "Live: Barefoot at the Symphony." Intended as a companion to her live DVD, the disc covers virtually all the bases, including songs from "Rent" and "Wicked." A born storyteller, Menzel regales the audience with personal anecdotes about Barbra Streisand, appearing on "Glee" and falling in love with a gay drama teacher.

LIZA MINNELLI

Like Idina Menzel, with whom she shares much in common, Liza Minnelli recently released a live disc. Part of the "Legends of Broadway" series, Minnelli's "Live at the Winter Garden" isn't on par with the celebrated "Liza With a Z" album. It does, however, possess a pleasing pleasantness. Patter songs, such as "And I in My Chair" and the politically incorrect "Exactly Like Me," and such covers as "Quiet Thing" and Stevie Wonder's "You and I" make the disc recommended for hardcore and casual fans alike.

"END OF THE RAINBOW"

In the show "End of the Rainbow," British actress Tracie Bennett portrayed Liza's mother Judy Garland on London's West End - and now on Broadway – to great acclaim. The 12-track cast recording "Tracie Bennett Sings Judy: Songs from the Broadway Production 'End of the Rainbow' and other Garland Classics" features such Garland standards as "Somewhere Over the Rainbow.' "The Man That Got Away," "Zing Went the Strings of My Heart" and "Get Happy."

MADONNA

Still shameless and somewhat out of touch after all these years, Madonna follows up the worst album of her career ("Hard Candy") with one that isn't much better. The drug that Madonna's "MDNA" most closely resembles is Milk of Magnesia. Clearly, Madonna is in desperate need of new songwriting partners - just listen to the embarrassing "I'm Addicted" and then book the material mom into Hazelden. She could also use a decent therapist (check out the vitriol and violence on "Gang Bang" and "I Don't Give A"). Mostly derivative ("Give Me All Your Luvin'") and dull ("Superstar"), "MDNA" tries to redeem itself with "I'm a Sinner" and "Falling Free."

KATY PERRY



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RIHANNA

Rihanna sharpened her focus on the dance floor with her "Talk That Talk" (Def Jam) disc. High energy tracks such as "We Found Love"

blame for train wrecks such as Katy Perry. Madonna gave a whole generation of teenile performers of questionable talents (hello, Britney!) permission to strut their limited stuff. On the expanded reissue of her mega-bestselling sophomore spin "Teenage Dream," Perry trades in the faux-Pink pre-fab rock snarl of her ridiculously popular debut disc and aims her sites on Lady Gaga's dance diva crown. A little long in the tooth to be anyone's "teenage dream," Perry does her best Ke\$ha (remember her?) on "Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.)." "California Gurls," featuring Snoop Dogg (why?), is a gooey concoction, and "Peacock" never takes wing. "The One That Got Away," yet another cookie-cutter Max Martin composition, and the squirm-worthy "Hummingbird Heartbeat" don't help. But the album's centerpiece "Circle the Drain" is a knockout, and "Not Like the Movies" does reel in listeners. Only the acoustic version "Part of Me" qualifies as a bonus among the bonus tracks.

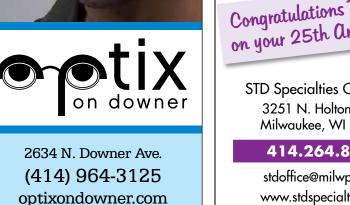


Idina Menzel performs at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts on June 20.

(featuring Calvin Harris) and 'Where Have You Been" raised her stock among the dance club queens. But are we any closer to figuring out who this publicity monger really is? Is she a sleazy sex kitten ("Cockiness," "Birth-

day Cake") or a tear-jerking rock diva ("Farewell," "We All Want Love")? And does anyone really care?

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'LOVE IN ACTION' HAS A PROUD, **HAPPY ENDING**

Directed by gay filmmaker Morgan Jon Fox ("Blue Citrus Hearts"), "This is What Love in Action Looks Like" is a scathing exposé of Christian ex-gay ministries that attests to the power of social

The doc begins in 2005, when Zach Stark's fundamentalist Christian parents sent the 16-year-old to Love In Action's ex-gay youth camp to get the gay out of him. Zach's blog about the situation went viral, resulting in protests at Love In Action's Memphis, Tenn., headquarters. Diane Sawyer, Paula Zahn, Montel Williams and other national media figures covered the story.

Fox formats the film to look like a social media site. He presents both sides of the story, including the Christian

Captures the essence of the AIDS epidemic's early days and underscores how far we've come since then.

Gay docs

Broadcasting Network's coverage and interviews with LIA's former executive director John Smid (who came out - again - in October 2011, after the film was released and finally admitted that changing one's sexual orientation is impossible). Fox even includes footage of Exodus International's Alan Chambers, who speaks in the calm, reassuring tone of a cult leader.

The film also captures revealing interviews with former LIA clients, including playwright Peterson Toscano, Memphis Flyer writer Chris Davis and protest organizer Janessa Williams. The film's happy ending shows Zach as a well-adjusted gay college student in 2010.

DVD special features include Morgan Jon Fox's surprise marriage proposal to his partner at the Memphis premiere of the film.

'WE WERE HERE' DOCUMENTS THE EARLY DAYS OF AIDS

'The Cockettes" co-directors David Weissman and Bill Weber again point their lens at San Francisco with their incredibly powerful doc "We Were Here: The AIDS Years in San Francisco." The "we" of the title are the five main interview subjects featured -Ed Wolf, Paul Boneberg, Daniel Goldstein, Guy Clark and Eileen Glutzer. While their stories are deeply personal, they resonate in the most universal of ways.

The documentary begins



"We Were Here" airs on PBS stations on June 14.

interviewee arrived in San Francisco's Castro district in the 1970s, when it was the epicenter of gay liberation. But the thrill was short-lived for florist Guy, nurse Eileen, artist David and political activists Paul and Ed. First came the 1978 assassination of Harvey Milk. Then, in June of 1981, came the news that about 20 percent of the Castro's gay male population was

with the story of how each

What follows is a portrait of those heart-wrenching years of sudden loss, terror, sorrow, confusion, rage, politics and redemption. The period video and still photographs capture the essence of the AIDS epidemic's early days and underscore how far we've come since then. "We

Were Here" is a profoundly moving film.

DVD bonus features include interviews with the

filmmakers and a series of PSAs about HIV from the mid-1990s.

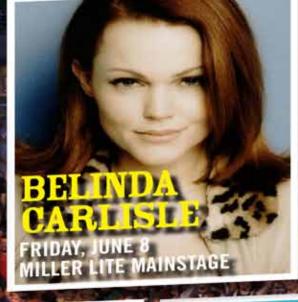




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MAY 31, THURSDAY

The UWM Department of Dance presents "Summerdances: **Destiny/Chance & Circumstances**," new works from faculty members, through June 2 at 7:30 p.m. at UWM Mainstage Theatre, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd. Call 414-229-4308.

Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell, welcomes dance-pop act **Graffiti 6** at 8 p.m. Call 414-276-7288.

Kander & Ebb's musical "**Chicago**" has been extended through June 2 at the Racine Theatre Guild, 2519 Northwestern (Highway 38) in Racine. Call 262-633-4218.

IUNE I, FRIDAY

StageQ presents "Queer Shorts 7," featuring 11 one-act plays, through June 9 at Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin in Madison. Call 608-204-0280.

Bay View Gallery Night, an evening of exploration in the Bay View community, from 5 to 9 p.m., features more than 50 local artists and 20 local bands. For venues and show times, go to www. bayviewgallerynight.com.



JUNE 3, SUNDAY

Skylight Music Theatre presents "**Sunday in the Park With George**" through June 10 in the Cabot Theatre at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

The Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum, 2220 N. Terrace Ave. in Milwaukee, opens the **Renaissance Garden** at 1 p.m. In celebration of the garden's 10th anniversary, the museum offers free admission from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Festivities include a musical kick-off by the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music Jazz Students, Fair Winds



Navy Band Great Lakes and more. Call the Villa Terrace at 414-271-3656 or visit www.villaterracemuseum.org.

JUNE 4, MONDAY

An exhibit inspired by three book collaborations by photographer **James Caulfield** and architectural writer **Patrick F. Cannon** runs through Oct. 31 at the Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center at Taliesin, 5607 County Road C (at the intersection of Highway 23 and County Road C) in Spring Green. Call 608-588-7900.

JUNE 7, THURSDAY

Jazz in the Park presents **Reverend Raven** at 6 p.m. in Cathedral Square Park, 825 N. Jefferson.

The world's first (and only) science fiction football musical comedy, "Packer Fans from Outer Space," runs through July 22 in Vogel Hall at Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.



JUNE 8, FRIDAY

PrideFest weekend begins today, with **Belinda Carlisle** as tonight's headliner. Visit pridefest.com for the complete schedule of events and performers.

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

JUNE 9, SATURDAY

PrideFest weekend continues with **Taylor Dane** as tonight's headliner. Visit pridefest.com for the complete schedule of events and performers.



JUNE 10, SUNDAY

PrideFest weekend wraps up with **Berlin** (featuring Terri Nunn) as tonight's headliner. Visit pridefest.com for the complete schedule of events and performers.

Iron & Wine performs at 7 p.m. in the pavilion at Ravinia Festival, 200-231 Ravinia Park Road in Highland Park, III. Call 847-266-5100.

JUNE 13, WEDNESDAY

American Folklore Theatre in Door County presents the world premiere of "Victory Farm," set in World War II Door County, through Aug. 25 at the Amphitheatre in Peninsula State Park in Fish Creek.



JUNE 14, THURSDAY

Jazz in the Park presents **JC Brooks and the Uptown Sound** at 6 p.m. in Cathedral Square Park, 825 N. Jefferson.

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