

MAM's current exhibit features the colorful posters of Paris, which adorn the walls of homes as well as galleries and museums.



July 26, 2012 | Vol. 3, No. 19

## Epidemic of shame

### Sexual abuse twists lives, contorts society

**By Louis Weisberg***Staff writer*

The courtroom testimony last month in the sex abuse case of former Penn State football defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky was all too familiar to Milwaukeean Karl Larson.

From the ages of 10 to 16, Larson was abused by a similar kind of man – a popular, charismatic, respected local church and Boy Scout leader, he said. The stories told by Sandusky's victims mirrored Larson's shattering experience.

Like Sandusky, Larson's abuser "groomed" him, he said, courting him with flattery and attention and providing him with things that his father couldn't. The sexual abuse started slowly, with exposure, then escalated. Experts say this pattern is typical among abusers of boys, who manipulate their victims to win their friendship and then pres-

sure them into sexual acts.

Sexual abuse thrives in silence, and Larson's abuser was menacing in his demands for secrecy. When Larson questioned what was happening, his abuser tried to console him by saying, "Don't worry, it happened to me, too," Larson remembered.

Sandusky, 68, was convicted this summer on 45 charges of sexually abusing 10 boys over the course of 15 years. He faces more than 400 years in prison.

Larson said he discovered that his abuser "had a farm of young men." His perpetrator has never been apprehended, and he's continually worked in positions affording him access to boys and male teens, Larson said.

**HEALING**

Larson's focus these days is not on perpetrators but rather on

Photo: iStock

**TWISTED** page 14

**Film producer thanks Milwaukee's Q-Block program**  
Page 4

## Athletes, activists go for gold at Olympics

**By Lisa Neff***Staff writer*

With the nation-by-nation parade of athletes at the Games of the XXX Olympiad, history will be made – in the sports arena and in the political arena.

Two women – 800-meter runner Sarah Attar and judoist Wodjan Ali Seraj Abdurrahim Shahrkhani – will join in the July 27 procession in London's Olympic Stadium with

the team from Saudi Arabia, a first for the conservative nation that bans women from driving or traveling without a male guardian.

And, in another first, women will outnumber men on Team USA – 269 to 261.

The 2012 Summer Olympics are certain to bring other firsts. Human rights advocates hope the games inspire Olympians to come out as bisexual, gay or les-

bian and perhaps even inspire some to seek asylum.

Far less than 1 percent of Olympians in London are out. And that tiny figure isn't due just to the elimination of softball as an Olympic sport.

In Beijing, there were just 11 out athletes going into the 2008 summer games. There also were 11 out athletes going into the Athens games in 2004 and just seven out athletes at the games in Syd-

ney in 2000.

On the U.S. scorecard, only two openly gay men have ever competed at the Olympics – divers David Pichler and Patrick Jeffrey.

Athletes don't come out because, even in progressive nations, homophobia remains pervasive in sports.

And in other nations, out athletes face more than taunts from fans and teammates.

"LGBT athletes are forced to hide their sexuality in order to get selected and compete," stated British LGBT civil rights activist Peter Tatchell. "Otherwise they would be rejected and possibly face imprisonment."

Eighty-four nations criminalize homosexuality. Convictions under the anti-gay laws can result in fines, imprisonment and – in Iran,

**OLYMPICS** page 16

## LGBT news with a twist

**WIGWAG**

By Lisa Neff &amp; Louis Weisberg

**HOUSTON, WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM**

During Piers Morgan's July 6 interview with singer LL Cool J about Whitney Houston's life, producers aired some generic footage of the late singer. Or so they thought. It turns out the footage was actually of Ikenna Beney Amaechi, a female impersonator from Berlin who's portrayed Houston for 21 years.

**NON-COGNITIVE KIRK**

Kirk Cameron, who starred on "Growing Pains" as a child TV actor, recorded a video opposing marriage equality for the National Organization for Marriage. Gay rights activists took pleasure in noting that a NOM memo released earlier this year outlined a goal of finding "non-cognitive elites" to serve as celebrity spokespeople for its cause.

**HERE COMES THE POOCH**

Bride Baby Hope Diamond, a white Coton de Tulear with black-gray markings, was led down the aisle, resplendent in a

canine couture gown, to marry Chilly Paternak, a dapper poodle. The ceremony on July 12 raised money for the Humane Society of New York and set a record for the most expensive dog wedding in the world, at \$158,000. No word on whether Virginia will recognize the union. Ellen DeGeneres' pet food company catered the extravaganza.

**GO, HILLARY**

If diplomatic achievements were measured by the number of countries visited, Hillary Rodham Clinton would be the most accomplished U.S. secretary of state in history. Since taking the position in 2009, Clinton has logged 351 days on the road, traveled to 102 countries and flown a whopping 843,839 miles, according to the State Department. While some previous secretaries may have flown more miles – mainly due to shuttling back and forth to the Mideast on peace missions – none has visited more nations. Clinton broke that

record last month, eclipsing Madeleine Albright's total of 98, when she traveled to Finland for number 99 and then hit the 100 mark in Latvia.

**MORE MAGIC**

The male half of Wigwag is excited about this item. Channing Tatum has confirmed that a sequel of "Magic Mike" is in the works. The original movie about male strippers, based on Tatum's past as an exotic dancer in Tampa, earned almost \$92 million during its first three weeks on screens. "We want to flip the script and make it bigger," Tatum told gay celebrity blogger Perez Hilton – a statement that's pregnant with possibilities, given the subject matter.

**MONEY AND MAGIC**

The news site Gawker.com has offered reward money for information leading to details on how basketball legend Magic Johnson became infected with HIV decades ago. A Gawker writer complained that yet another interview with Johnson failed to advance the story beyond the

former athlete's 1991 explanation of "sleeping with a lot of women." "If anyone has any more information about who gave Magic Johnson HIV, please feel free to contact us. I think we can afford to pay more money for this now," read a post on the site.

**OUT ... OF THIS WORLD**

An asteroid is now named for Frank Kameny, the late gay rights pioneer. Kameny was an astronomer with the U.S. Army Map Service in the 1950s but was fired from his job for being openly gay. His battle over his ouster set him on a new course – more than 50 years of activism. A Canadian astronomer inspired by Kameny, who died last year at 86, proposed naming his discovery – Minor Planet 40463 – as "Frankkameny."

**HEY. IT WAS A PORN THEATER**

Comedic actor Fred Willard recently was arrested on charges of "lewd conduct" for masturbating at an adult movie theater in Hollywood, according to TMZ.

Authorities conducting what they called a "routine sweep" said they saw the 72-year-old funnyman at the Tiki Theater watching an adult film with his "penis exposed and in his hand." TMZ reported that Willard was arrested and released from custody soon afterward. Ironically, his next film project is titled "The Yank."

**CHICKENING OUT**

The Jim Henson Company, creators of The Muppets, announced on its Facebook page that the company has terminated its business relationship with Chick-fil-A for its support of anti-gay hate groups. For years, the fast food chain had distributed toys from Henson's Creature Shop in Chick-fil-A children's meals. "CEO Lisa Henson is personally a strong supporter of gay marriage and has directed us to donate the payment we received from Chick-fil-A to the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation," said the Facebook posting.

Also find WiGwAGgy news at [www.wisconsin Gazette.com](http://www.wisconsin Gazette.com).



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# Native son

## Acclaimed film producer says Milwaukee LGBT Community Center inspired him to success

By **Gregg Shapiro**  
Staff writer

Wauwatosa native Michael Raisler is co-founder of Cinereach, a New York-based nonprofit movie production company and foundation. Raisler has experienced his greatest success since the company launched in 2006 as executive producer of "Beasts of the Southern Wild." The feature film debut of director Benh Zeitlin, the acclaimed movie is currently in release. It won the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance Film Festival and the coveted Camera D'Or at Cannes.

Raisler spoke with WiG in advance of appearing in Milwaukee at a series of screenings.

### Gregg Shapiro: How does it feel to be on your home turf?

Michael Raisler: I'm literally freaking out. We had this amazing spread in the (Milwaukee) Journal Sentinel today. That's a paper I grew up reading. Having Duane Dudek review the film was incredible. We did a screening at the Oriental Theater. That's where I saw "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" – I grew up in that movie theater. To have it show in Milwaukee, at that theater, is insane. To have all my friends and family and high school and swim team coming out, showing up to see something I did is insane.

It's like being at Sundance (Film Festival) all over again.

### Were you prepared for the response to "Beasts"?

Not at all. We had hopes. We felt like we made a film that was working and that we were going to have an audience. We thought people were going to respond to it. But we never anticipated the explosion that happened. People have really engaged with this fable that we told. I guess we just struck a chord. It's beyond our wildest dreams. It's something that's so humbling, but keeps us going. That's why you make movies. You make movies so hopefully people will like it and have something to say about it.

### As a youth, you were involved with the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's Project Q. What can you tell me about your involvement?

Project Q is a by-youth, for-youth program. When I was in high school, I was coming out when I was 14, 15 years old. I wasn't out to my family yet. Project Q is a program for youth that is partially conversations about sexual health, identity and dealing with bullying. But it's also a space in the community for young gay people to come

together with their allies and their friends and hang out in a safe space. For me, it was a really important time, a fragile period of my life where I was dealing with a lot of struggles, being young and gay at a Catholic school, trying to figure out everything. It was tremendous to have a community that I could call on and be a part of. It was great, and that's where I met a lot of my dear friends.

### What kind of impact did Project Q have on your career?

Basically it gave me the motivation and confidence to move to New York at 17 years old and pursue my dream and be confident in who I am and what I want to do. Right now, I'm the kind of person who doesn't take no for an answer. I meet challenges head-on. I have dialogues with people, engage in conversations and troubleshoot and network. I do all the things a producer has to do. A large part of that is due to the spark of being a young person who had to figure something out very early and survive. I had a long history of pain and then came out better for it and that was due in large part to having the support of community and Project Q and the (Milwaukee LGBT Community) Center.

**'Project Q gave me the confidence and the motivation to move to New York at 17 years old and pursue my dream.'**

### Cinereach also was involved with the films "Pariah" and "Bully."

And also with the (Iranian) film called "Circumstances."

### Is Cinereach's focus geared toward LGBT subject matter?

We're focused on the issues of our time, the conversations of our time. These particular films are really striking and speak to important issues. There's a conversation about what it means to be a young African-American woman, a conversation about what it means to be gay in the Middle East, a conversation happening about what it means to be a young person being bullied and facing that conflict. There's a reason we



PHOTO: BEASTSOFTHESOUTHERNWILD.COM

**Michael Raisler, producer of the award-winning independent film "Beasts of the Southern Wild."**

supported those films, there's a reason they're being made. As long as there's something to say about LGBT issues, or any other issue really, it's something we're going to engage in. Right now our country is so divided, so red and blue, and there are going to be a lot of filmmakers that have things to say about that dialogue.

### What do you miss about Wisconsin?

I miss the space. I miss having room to breathe and being able to get out to nature. Living in New York, it's really hard. I don't have a car. I can't just drive out to

the woods if I want. I really miss the lakes and all that. There are a lot of people here that I love that I don't get see as much as I'd like to. I make it back once or twice a year. It's always hard, even if you're here for a week, to see everybody you want to.

### Would you like to someday produce a film set in Milwaukee?

I think that would be incredible. There are some Milwaukee-based filmmakers that I'm getting to know that I think are really promising. I think there's a lot of fertile ground in Wisconsin, a lot of stories to tell.

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# Regional hospitals score mixed results on Health Equality Index

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Two Wisconsin hospitals participated in the Human Rights Campaign's 2012 Health Equality Index survey, but both have a way to go before achieving the organization's status of "Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality."

The survey is in its third year.

Grant Regional Health Center in Lancaster was one of the two that responded. The center answered that it has a publicly available patient bill of rights that includes sexual orientation. But the center said it does not have a policy that offers same-sex couples or same-sex parents the same visitation rights as heterosexuals.

And while Grant Regional has an employment non-discrimination policy that includes sexual orientation, it does not include gender identity. Nor does the center provide training in LGBT patient-centered care.

The William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital in Madison also participated in the survey – and also fell short of earning leadership designation. Middleton Memorial does not have a non-discrimination policy that includes sexual orientation, although it does include gender identity. The hospital does not offer visitation rights to same-sex partners, but it does provide training for key staff in LGBT-centered care.

Although there is room for improvement, Middleton Memorial's response to the survey in itself marks a big step forward, according to HRC spokesman Paul Guequierre: It's the first veteran's hospital in the nation to respond to the index – a direct result of the lifting of the military's anti-gay "don't ask, don't tell" ban.

"This is a sign of the ongoing progress that we're making," he said.

This year also marked the first time that a Catholic hospital participated in the survey – Bon Secours Health System, based in Richmond, Va.

While other Wisconsin hospitals did not participate, it's not because they turned down the opportunity, Guequierre said. "It's because they haven't been contacted," he explained. "We have not been able to do outreach to Wisconsin as much as we would like. We are working on expanding the program."

Guequierre, a native of Whitewater, said he thinks a number of Wisconsin hospitals will score well on the survey when they are contacted.

The 2012 survey netted a 40-percent increase in the number of rated facilities, which totaled 407 nationwide. Two hundred and thirty-four received leadership designation, an increase of 162 percent.

"Just a few short years ago the health care industry wasn't having conversations about LGBT healthcare equality," said HRC president Chad Griffin. "Now, thanks to advocacy

by the LGBT community and some standout leaders, growing numbers of health care providers are making an explicit commitment to treat all patients with dignity and respect. The health care industry is beginning to heed the call for fairness and compassion."

For Indiana University Health Ball Memorial Hospital, the index provided a pathway for turning around operations that had suffered a high-profile embarrassment for its insensitive care.

Erin Vaught, a transgender woman, claimed she was called "it" and "he-she" – and eventually denied treatment when she visited the hospital's ER on July 18, 2010, for a lung condition causing her to cough up blood.

After Indiana Equality and Indiana Transgender Rights Advocacy Alliance filed complaints about the incident, the news went viral. The hospital shot to international fame. In the wake of the incident, IU Health BMH president and CEO Mike Haley issued a challenge to all physicians, employees and volunteers to meet every key indicator on the Health Equality Index.

The challenge was met, and this year the hospital landed at the top of the list, becoming the only facility in Indiana to be recognized as a "Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality."

"We are proud of the recognition," Haley said. "It's the result of a lot of hard work. ... It's one thing to apologize. It's another to say, 'And furthermore, I want this hospital to be considered as a place anyone would want to go if they needed a hospital.'"

Jessica Wilch, a board member and past president of Indiana Equality, said she was not surprised the hospital "hit all of the marks" this year.

"They have become, essentially, one of the leading hospitals in the country, because it really started with them," she said. "They were the ones who reached out to us and said 'How can we make this better? How can we do the right thing?'"

Haley said he believed the training and policies developed at IU Health BMH will be used "across IU Health."

Among neighboring states, three hospitals in Illinois received perfect scores – all located in Chicago. Those included Advocate Illinois Masonic, which is located in Lakeview, as well as Northwestern Memorial Hospital and Rush University Medical Center.

Other regional hospitals that achieved leadership status were University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City and Park Nicollet Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park, Minnesota.

Fifteen Michigan hospitals participated in the survey and received mixed scores.



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# Secret committee affirms Boy Scouts anti-gay ban

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

A confidential committee spent two years reviewing the Boy Scouts of America's ban on gay members and leaders before affirming the policy in mid-July.

"The vast majority of the parents of youth we serve value their right to address issues of same-sex orientation within their family, with spiritual advisers and at the appropriate time and in the right setting," BSA chief executive Bob Mazduca stated. "We fully understand that no single policy will accommodate the many diverse views among our membership or society."

Critics of the decision included editorial writers, educators, parents, petitioners and politicians.

"By standing behind this ban, the Boy Scouts of America are contributing to a climate that promotes the bullying of gay young people and putting parents in a place where they are forced to explain to their children why

some scouts and hard-working scout leaders are not welcomed in the organization," said Herndon Graddick of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

Jeremy Pittman, deputy field director for the Human Rights Campaign and an Eagle Scout, asked, "How can the BSA possibly think lessons of division and intolerance are better than lessons of friendship and kindness?"

Another Eagle Scout, Log Cabin Republicans executive director R. Clarke Cooper, said, the "decision to continue to exclude gays from membership is extremely disappointing and sends the message that gay youth are not fit to serve God and country. This is absolutely the wrong policy for the Boy Scouts."

The BSA has long maintained that its ban on "open or avowed" gays, as well as its bans against agnostics and atheists, is necessary to promote the Scout Oath and Law.

In 1991, the BSA put in

force a policy that stated, "We believe that homosexual conduct is inconsistent with the requirement in the Scout Oath that a Scout be clean in word and deed, and that homosexuals do not provide a desirable role model for Scouts."

The BSA thus "believes that a known or avowed homosexual is not an appropriate role model of the Scout Oath and Law."

The BSA then adopted a policy in 1993 that stated, "We do not allow for the registration of avowed homosexuals as members or as leaders of the BSA."

Twelve years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the gay ban. The Court, in a 5-4 decision, said the national organization was exempt from laws that bar anti-gay discrimination because it is a private entity.

William Rehnquist, writing for the majority, said the BSA had a right to express its views against lesbians and

gays.

The ruling fueled a nationwide campaign against the BSA. If it wanted to be considered a private organization, the BSA should not receive public support in the form of government rent subsidies, free meeting space and financial aid.

That campaign continues, but the intensity diminished in the years after the Supreme Court decision.

The BSA, still holding to the ban, adopted a new policy in 2004 that read, in part, "Most boys join Scouting when they are 10 or 11 years old. As they continue in the program, all Scouts are expected to take leadership positions. In the unlikely event that an older boy were to hold himself out as homosexual, he would not be able to continue in a youth leadership position."

Earlier this year, the ban was applied not to an older boy or man but to a woman — the lesbian mom of a 7-year-old Cub Scout.

The BSA removed Jennifer Tyrrell as den leader of a pack in Bridgeport, Ohio. She responded with a petition drive for reinstatement and repeal of the ban that captured national attention. The petition drew more than 300,000 signatories, celebrity endorsements and high-profile support from two BSA executive board members.

Tyrrell delivered the petition to the BSA headquarters in Dallas on July 18.

The day before, the BSA disclosed that an 11-member secret committee was formed in 2010 to review the



PHOTO: COURTESY GLAAD

**Eagle Scout Zach Wahls, an opponent of the Boy Scouts of America's ban on gay members and leaders. Wahls has two lesbian moms.**

ban and recently concluded that it is the best policy for the 102-year-old group.


Still, Tyrrell said, "We are going to stand strong, and we won't rest until the Boy Scouts of America recognizes that their current policy only punishes families, punishes troops and wrongfully teaches our children that discrimination and bigotry are acceptable."

Another activist, Zach Wahls, an Eagle Scout whose moms are lesbian, also is petitioning the BSA for reform.

Wahls said he planned


to attend the 100th anniversary celebration for the Eagle Scouts in Michigan July 30-Aug. 4 and rally opposition to the ban.

"Secret committees do not speak for 3 million scouts," Wahls said. "Scouts are taught from day one to be trustworthy and to value integrity. There is nothing trustworthy about an unelected and unaccountable secret committee refusing to release an official report about such a sweeping decision affecting millions of people."




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# Lesbian couple files suit to halt deportations

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

A lesbian couple and their son have filed a class-action suit seeking to halt the break-up of same-sex households and deportations under the Defense of Marriage Act.

The Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law in Los Angeles filed the federal challenge in mid-July on behalf of Jane DeLeon, her wife Irma Rodriguez and her son Martin Arenas.

The suit challenges DOMA, which defines marriage as the union of a man and a woman for federal purposes. Under DOMA, federal benefits based on marriage, including immigration, are denied to same-sex couples.

DeLeon, an immigrant from the Philippines, has been living in California with Rodriguez, a U.S. citizen, for 20 years. The women married in 2008.

"For over 20 years I have loved and been in a committed relationship with Jane DeLeon, and in 2008 we were lawfully married," said Rodriguez. "We have accepted all of the obligations and responsibilities that come with the blessing of marriage. It deeply saddens me that despite President (Barack) Obama's support of the rights of gay married couples, after living here for 20 years, my spouse has been told by immigration authorities that her presence here is unlawful and she must leave the country."

**'We would experience persecution in the Philippines.'**

To get lawful resident status to remain in the United States, DeLeon received sponsorship for a green card from her employer. But she also needs a waiver from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service. Such waivers are commonly available to immigrants whose deportation would cause extreme hardship to a U.S. citizen spouse, but the federal government doesn't recognize DeLeon's same-sex marriage. Her application was denied in September 2011.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, which does not comment on individual cases, said it will enforce DOMA "unless and until Congress repeals it or there a final judicial determination that it is unconstitutional."

Immigration told DeLeon that her temporary lawful status would be revoked and, if she did not leave the United States within 12 months, she would be barred from reentry for at least 10 years.

Her son's status also is in jeopardy.

"I have been living in this country since I was nine years old. ... After many years of having temporary legal sta-

tus, I now face 'illegal' status only because my mother is in a same-sex marriage," he said. "I hope and pray that President Obama will allow me and the hundreds or thousands of children of gay married couples to continue living here with some legal protection until the courts decide whether denying our parents immigration benefits is constitutional."

In February 2011, U.S.

Attorney General Eric Holder notified congressional leadership that the Obama administration had determined that DOMA is unconstitutional as applied to legally married same-sex couples.

At the time, Holder said that while the Justice Department would not defend DOMA in court, it would enforce the law.

Immigration cases, he said,

would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

In contrast, the class action suit argues that the administration should implement a national program placing a hold on immigration cases that involve same-sex marriages.

"Irma and I have committed to each other for the rest of our lives," DeLeon said. "We now face being forced to move to the Philippines or

breaking up our family only because we are legally married women. We would face persecution in the Philippines because we are a same-sex couple, not to mention dire poverty, separation from our extended families who live here and lack of access to medical treatment Irma needs."

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## { Editorial }

**Sell health reform**

GOP representatives in the U.S. House have now voted 31 times either to dismantle or hobble President Barack Obama's health care reform act – known variously as Obamacare or the Affordable Care Act. Those votes in the House have been symbolic, since the Democrat-controlled U.S. Senate has made it clear that any efforts to alter the legislation will halt at the door of its chamber. Thus the time spent on those votes is a waste of energy that would be better spent on developing policies to stimulate the lagging economy.

GOP House members hope to gain political traction by their opposition to Obamacare. They've focused enormous efforts on attempts to brand the bill as "socialized medicine." Never mind that Obamacare is not remotely socialized anything. In fact, it delivers 30 million new customers to the private insurance industry.

Health insurers oppose the plan because it contains regulations that benefit patients over their bottom line, such as a rule mandating coverage of pre-existing conditions. Although the public likes many of these rules, for-profit insurers have helped the GOP demonize the ACA as an example of "big government." And like the GOP, private insurers believe they can terrify the public more with the specter of socialism than that of dying from lack of health care.

But the campaign against health care reform fails to resonate strongly outside the GOP's base. Polls show the public is gradually starting to like the ACA as they learn its details. Even its most stringent GOP critics are utilizing the law to keep their kids under 26 on their health insurance plans.

The latest average of polls by Real Clear Politics shows opposition to Obamacare is at a historic low of 46.9 percent – although support for the law remains at only 41.6 percent.

Yet inexplicably, Democratic leaders have been reluctant to campaign on what the ACA does for America. Instead they've been crouched in defensive mode, ducking the "S" word and "big government" labels rather than touting the critical need for the law and the benefits it confers.

The GOP has given the Dems lots of political ammunition. For instance, House Republicans voted against a motion to require congressional members who support repeal to give up their own golden health insurance policies. If Democratic leaders can't make political hay out of that sort of blatant hypocrisy, perhaps it's time for a leadership change.

Despite the ACA's flaws and unknowns, it has to be an improvement over the current system, under which millions get no care, are forced into bankruptcy over health costs and are denied critical services by insurers that put profits over lives. Our system is twice as expensive as the world's second-most expensive system – Canada's. Yet there's strong evidence that Canada has better health outcomes than the United States. Life expectancy there ranks 10th in the world (80.7 years), while here it ranks 39th (78.2).

In other words, we get less health care for more money than any other nation in the world. Unless Republicans can show us a better plan than Obamacare, they should shut up – and Democrats need to make that challenge with force and with pride in what they've accomplished.

**BY THE NUMBERS**  
**Michigan's 'War on Women' Bill**

**90%** Women who showed up to testify against Michigan's far-reaching "War on Women" bill

**0%** Women who were allowed to testify

**45** Pages are in the "War on Women" bill passed by the Michigan House

**<4** Hours passed between when representatives received and passed the bill

**100%** Percentage of abortion providers in Michigan who will be impacted by the bill

SOURCE: AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF MICHIGAN

## { Letters }

**PALERMO WORKERS HAVE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE**

In early June, Palermo workers went on strike against Palermo Pizza after the company began firing employees for engaging in the legally protected activity of organizing a union.

U.S. workers have had a protected right to organize and engage in collective bargaining since the Wagner Act – the National Labor Relations Act – was passed in 1935.

Palermo's response to the collective effort to exercise this protected right has included:

- The termination of 75 workers;
- The hiring of replacement workers;
- An aggressive anti-union campaign inside the plant;
- An attempt to use a federal immigration investigation to undermine the union drive;
- A public relations campaign aimed at sanitizing their anti-employee behavior.

We, as members of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, support the rights of workers to organize and engage in collective bargaining.

Unions provide workers with a voice at work, create a more loyal and produc-

tive workforce, ensure a safer workplace for all employees and create a collaborative framework for dispute resolution.

We urge the management of Palermo's to respect the right of their employees to organize a union.

We also urge Palermo's management to meet with representatives of the Palermo Worker's Union and negotiate a settlement to this dispute.

*Milwaukee County Supervisors Nikiya Q. Harris, David Bowen, Jason Haas and Russell W. Stamper II*


Send letters to [lweisberg@wisconsin-gazette.com](mailto:lweisberg@wisconsin-gazette.com).

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Gazette .com**

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

To have WiG delivered to your address, contact [rwright@wisconsin-gazette.com](mailto:rwright@wisconsin-gazette.com) or call 414-961-3240, ext. 101

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## ON THE RECORD



“What’s traditional? Is traditional when marriage (meant that) brides were bought with goats? I think it’s a civil rights issue.”

– ANGELINA SIMMONS, an independent voter in Maine, telling reporters why she’s voting for marriage equality. Recent polls show support for same-sex marriage is 57 percent among Mainers.

“So usually black women that look like me don’t engage in relationships like that.”

– Florida Lt. Gov. JENNIFER CARROLL, a Republican, arguing that it’s visibly obvious she didn’t have a lesbian relationship, despite the accusation by a former aide.

“God’s mercy on our generation that has such a prideful, arrogant attitude to think that we have the audacity to define what marriage is about.”

– Chick-fil-A president DAN CATHY explaining to Ken Coleman’s radio audience why his company funnels millions of dollars to anti-gay hate groups.

“Chick-fil-A doesn’t like gay people? So lame. Hate to think what they do to the gay chickens! Lost a loyal fan.”

– Actor ED HELMS declaring via Twitter that he’s boycotting Chick-fil-A over its anti-gay activism.

“Conservatives and God-fearing Americans: Take your Boy Scout troop out to a Chik-fil-A tonight!”

– PETER LABARBERA, president of the hate group Americans for Truth About Homosexuality, tweeting his approval of the Boy Scouts and Chick-fil-A. LaBarbera has been dubbed “porno Pete” for his “undercover” appearances at leather bars and events such as Folsom Street Fair, where he meticulously videotapes hardcore gay sexual encounters.

“I have never said I could cure someone completely from homosexuality. All my books make it quite clear that homosexual attractions will persist to some degree throughout a person’s lifetime.”

– JOSEPH NICOLOSI, co-founder of the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality, acknowledging that same-sex attraction is an immutable characteristic.

“It’s becoming too commonplace that some frustrated person will go on a killing spree of random people. ... Where’s the fear of God in our society? I don’t think people would do those sorts of things if they truly understood the reality of Hell.”

– FRED JACKSON, news director of the American Family Association, an anti-gay hate group, blaming the shootings in Aurora, Colo., on liberals.

“Toys are regulated with greater care and safety concerns than guns ... we have become so gun loving, so blasé about home-grown violence that in my lifetime alone, far more Americans have been casualties of domestic gunfire than have died in all our wars combined. (The NRA is) the enabler of death – paranoid, delusional, and as venomous as a scorpion.”

– PBS’ BILL MOYERS blaming the Aurora, Colo., shootings on the National Rifle Association.



## The rising of the women

## Opinion

JAMAKAYA

There’s a great line in the old labor anthem “Bread and Roses” that declares that “the rising of the women means the rising of the race.”

I sang that line in recent weeks as various news stories seemed to dramatize the point.

The Girl Scouts of America celebrated its centennial anniversary this year. Given the Boy Scouts of America’s recent decision to continue discriminating against gay, bisexual and transgender boys, there is much to revere in the wise and inclusive policies of the Girl Scouts.

The Girl Scouts have not been hit by the controversy rocking the Boy Scouts because they never adopted a policy excluding anyone. If I’m reading their policy correctly, even a boy who identifies as a girl can, with the consent of his parents,

join the Girl Scouts. The policy describes “sexual preference” as a personal matter irrelevant to membership. It is accompanied by the reasonable provisos that “sexual displays” of any kind are not permitted at scouting events and that leaders are forbidden to “promote” their sexual preference.

Kids are coming out at younger ages these days, and there are many openly lesbian girls in scout troops. There always have been and continue to be lesbian adults who serve as scout leaders. Conflicts? Zip. Controversy? None. The Girl Scouts fosters a culture of inclusion and tolerance that manifests itself in a diverse, thriving organization whose members love it.

In a minor controversy resolved 20 years ago, Girl Scout leaders exhibited the wisdom of Solomon (perhaps I should say of Esther) by adopting a policy that neither requires nor prohibits prayer at scouting events and that allows scouts who are not monotheists to substi-

tute another word for “God” when reciting the Girl Scout Promise.

It’s an old truism that girls mature more quickly than boys. Apparently that maturity extends to our scouting organizations, too.

Another story that had me furious, then philosophical, was the sentencing of a U.S. Air Force training instructor to 20 years in prison for the sexual harassment and assaults of women recruits under his command.

The horrendous numbers of sexual assaults of women in the Armed Forces and the institutional inertia that tolerates it have been the focus of recent cable news shows and a hard-hitting documentary called “The Invisible War.” Of 3,192 reports of sexual assault in the services in 2011, only 240 went to trial. The Pentagon admits that the crime is vastly underreported and that there may be up to 19,000 rapes in the military annually.

In a system of command and subordination, where

the perpetrators are often senior officers, victims are too intimidated to speak up. Evidence reveals that the few who do are ignored or harassed even more.

It’s not easy to change a culture as macho and a bureaucracy as massive as the military, but change is clearly afoot. The number of women joining the services and achieving senior ranks is increasing every year. More and more victims are standing up and taking their stories to the media. Congress is demanding more thorough investigations and enforcement, and Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta has ordered administrative reforms to improve accountability. The advancement of women in the military, where brains are now more important than brawn, may signal the end of a culture of impunity and sexual aggression.

Like the song says, the rising of the women means the rising of the race.

Join the WiG Facebook community.

## Violence Against Women Act is a success

## Opinion

GWEN MOORE

Since the Violence Against Women Act first passed in 1994, we have witnessed nothing short of a sea change. The rate of non-fatal intimate partner violence has decreased 53 percent. More men and women are reporting domestic violence, and fewer people are being killed by intimate partner violence.

As the time approached to reauthorize this successful law, a nationwide assessment was conducted that surveyed service providers, law enforcement officials, court personnel and victims on how VAWA could be improved. We took their recommendations, and produced the most LGBT-inclusive VAWA yet.

LGBT Americans face domestic violence at the same rate as heterosexual

## But stronger LGBT provisions are needed.

Americans, but they face unique barriers to accessing services. A combination of discrimination, gender stereotyping and a lack of education contribute to an environment where less than 20 percent of LGBT victims receive help. Service providers are not conducting outreach to the LGBT community, don’t have the cultural competency to deal with LGBT victims, or don’t have the money to pay for LGBT-specific services.

To pass VAWA with gender-neutral language wouldn’t fix any of these problems. The only way to address these concerns is by passing a real VAWA that does exactly what victims, law enforcement, and ser-



vice providers have said they need.

The VAWA we need to pass, Senate Bill S. 1925 – which I proudly sponsored in the House – will protect LGBT Americans in a profound way. This bill explicitly includes the LGBT community in major VAWA grant programs and makes LGBT programs eligible for special grants for typically “underserved communities.” It will also prohibit service providers from refusing service to victims because of their sexual orientation or gen-

der identity. This provision is especially important since 85 percent of service providers report working with an LGBT victim who had previously been denied services.

We cannot pass a bill to end domestic violence by ignoring the fact that it occurs in every community. This bill passed with support from members of both parties, including 2008 Republican presidential candidate John McCain. Supporters were men and women, gay and straight, black and white.

To allow VAWA to pass without explicit protections for LGBT victims would be reprehensible, and I will do all in my power to be sure that doesn’t happen.

Congresswoman Gwen Moore represents Wisconsin’s Fourth District in the U.S. House of Representatives. She was recently selected by ThinkProgress.com as one of the nation’s most LGBT-supportive members of Congress.

**Diverse and Resilient** is committed to the healthy development of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in Wisconsin. We envision a state where we thrive and live satisfying lives.

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ABLE

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Rm2B Safe

### We believe that LGBT people are good.

LGBT youth and adults are beautiful, creative, flexible, and smart. We are deeply connected to one another, to our families, and to our communities. We are born leaders and cooperative. Without LGBT people, Wisconsin communities would be at a loss in education, science, public service, health care, religion, business, industry, and the arts.

### We have worked on health promotion and disease prevention,

including our higher risks for violence, alcohol and drug use, tobacco use, and mental health disorders. Diverse and Resilient recognizes that our community problems are within our power, even though their source traces to the stressors which oppressive systems put on us.

### To do our work, we partner with organizations and community leaders

from Eau Claire to Milwaukee and La Crosse to Green Bay to do the daily hard and exciting work of promoting health and building community.

### Our work is about you.



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- [diverseandresilient.org](http://diverseandresilient.org)
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- [rm2Bsafe.org](http://rm2Bsafe.org)
- [rm2breathe.org](http://rm2breathe.org)



Diverse and Resilient, Inc. | 2439 N. Holton Street, Milwaukee, WI 53212 | 414.390.0444

## NATIONAL BRIEFS

### SALLY RIDE DIES AT AGE 61

Sally Ride, who blazed trails into orbit as the first American woman in space, died July 23 of pancreatic cancer. She was 61.

Ride died at her home in the San Diego suburb of La Jolla, said Terry McEntee, a spokeswoman for her company, Sally Ride Science. She was a private person and the details of her illness were confined to just a few people, she said.

Ride is survived by Tam O'Shaughnessy, her partner of 27 years; her mother, Joyce; her sister, Bear, a niece and a nephew.

Ride rode into space on the Challenger in 1983 when she was 32. Since her flight, more than 42 other American women have flown in space, NASA said.

"Sally was a national hero and a powerful role model. She inspired generations of young girls to reach for the stars," President Barack Obama said.

### LABOR FILES BRIEF AGAINST ANTI-GAY DOMA

Legal opposition to the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act continues to grow with the filing of a friend-of-the-court brief from the AFL-CIO, National Education Association and Change to Win.

The labor groups filed the brief in a federal case before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. The case challenges the constitutionality of Section 3 of DOMA, which says that for federal purposes marriage is the union of a man and a woman.

Lambda Legal is representing a lesbian couple in the suit, which may be on its way to the U.S. Supreme Court in the next term.

Thirteen amicus briefs were filed in the first weeks of July.

### GAY APPOINTEE RESIGNS TO PROTEST ARIZONA EFFORT TO REPEAL BENEFITS

A gay man appointed to Arizona's tourism council has resigned.

He's protesting Gov. Jan



IMAGE: TEXAS RANGERS/  
PORTLAND PD

### The latest sketch of the suspect wanted in the shooting of girlfriends in a Texas park.

Brewer's appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn an injunction blocking the state from eliminating domestic partnership benefits for gay state employees.

Edwin Leslie said Brewer's move hurts tourism and stands "in direct conflict with your reiteration that all Americans are entitled to the same inalienable rights."

The Republican governor is perhaps best known on a national level as the defender of Arizona's controversial "show me your papers" anti-immigrant law.

In an appeal filed on July 2, she asked the High Court to overturn rulings from a trial court and an appeals court that require the state to continue domestic partner benefits to state employees while a case against repeal is heard.

### THREE IN ATLANTA SENTENCED FOR BEATING GAY MAN

Three young men were sentenced to five years in prison for the beating of a gay man on an Atlanta street corner that was captured in a widely viewed video.

Dorian Moragne, Dareal Demare Williams and Christopher Cain were also given five years of probation.

Their sentences stem from the Feb. 4 beating of 20-year-old Brandon White. A fourth suspect is still at large.

The video showed men punching and kicking White as he walked out of a grocery store in the city's Pittsburgh neighborhood, south of downtown. Gay slurs were heard on the video, and one man slammed a tire on White.

### NEW SKETCH RELEASED IN SHOOTING OF TEXAS GIRLFRIENDS

Texas authorities released a refined artist rendering of the suspect in the murder of Mollie Judith Olgin and the shooting of Mary Kristene Chapa.

The double shooting of the young women took place June 22 in a park in Portland, Texas. Witnesses said the young women were taking a walk in the park before going to a movie.

Olgin died at the scene. Her girlfriend survived the attack but was critically injured by a gunshot wound to her head. In mid-July, she left the hospital but continues rehabilitation.

Law enforcement first released a sketch of a suspect, based on a description provided by Chapa, on July 4.

Chapa, as she improved, indicated she wanted to revisit the drawing. She worked with a forensic artist with the Texas Rangers – the same artist who drew the first sketch.

Police are receiving tips at 361-777-4444.

### DALLAS MEN FACE FINES, JAIL TIME FOR MARRIAGE PROTEST

Two men arrested for protesting after they were denied a marriage license by the Dallas County clerk face \$2,000 in fines and 180 days in jail.

Mark Jiminez and Beau Chandler say they were protesting Texas' ban on same-sex marriage, passed in 2005. The two men went to the clerk's office to file for a marriage license they knew they wouldn't receive. When they were denied, they sat down and handcuffed their arms together.

The two are charged with criminal trespassing, which is a class B misdemeanor.

— L.N.

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# Arts pump \$145M into Madison-area economy

By Jay Rath

Contributing writer

Art is many things, and the Madison area recently learned that one of those things is big business. A study found that arts and cultural activities annually pump \$145 million into the Dane County economy.

"This report affirms what we've known for so many years: Dane County's arts and culture community, fueled by highly talented individuals and creative industries, continues to be an important sector of our local economy," said county executive Joe Parisi.

The study, released in June, was conducted by Americans for the Arts, an advocacy and research nonprofit group based in Washington, D.C. The report includes indirect spending by audiences.

For example, not counting the ticket price, an individual county resident on average spends \$20.79 to attend an arts or cultural event – by having a meal at a restaurant, and so on. A non-county resident visiting the Madison area spends an average of \$43.78.

All that spending creates an additional \$13.8 million in revenue for state and local governments, according to the study.

The findings "clearly demonstrate the scope, power and impact of the regional nonprofit arts sector for the economy and everyone in Dane County," said Anne Katz, executive director of the Madison-based Arts Wisconsin, a statewide arts advocacy

organization. She hopes to use the study to promote the arts statewide.

"Arts Wisconsin and its strong network of advocates throughout the region and state will share this information widely, to continue to show how much the arts create for Wisconsin and all of its communities," she said.

According to the study, nonprofit arts and cultural organizations directly spent more than \$69 million in fiscal year 2010, the most recent for which data were available. In addition, audiences of nearly 3 million people spent an additional \$76 million.

The study reflects only the economic activity of the 49 Dane County organizations that provided data. It does not extrapolate data to encompass the entire nonprofit arts and culture industry, which means the results are likely a conservative estimate. Further, it does not include the for-profit arts and entertainment sector, including industries such as film production, cinemas, music stores and rock concerts.

"This study shines a much-needed light on the vital role the arts play in stimulating and sustaining economic development," announced Richard Lynch, president and CEO of Americans for the Arts, upon its release. "Contrary to popular belief, the arts are a bustling industry that supports a plethora of diverse jobs, generate significant revenues for local businesses and the federal, state and local governments and provide quality of life

that positions communities to compete in our 21st-century creative economy."

The study compares Dane County to communities of similar size, with populations between 250,000 and a half million. Arts and cultural spending in the Madison area is nearly double the median for similar regions in the study.

"That's one of the most important findings," said Robert Chappell, director of strategic communication for Madison's primary civic venue, the Overture Center for the Arts. "That says something about our community's collective commitment to the arts. What that tells me is that the greater Madison area is a place where the arts will always be important and thrive."

In 2008, Americans for the Arts released a survey of arts spending and employment in all 50 states, based on figures culled from Dun and Bradstreet. That study showed that Wisconsin's overall arts employment grew 4.19 percent from January 2007 to January 2008. In south-central Wisconsin, arts employment was even more robust, with an increase of 10.62 percent.

The survey ranked Wisconsin 20th in the nation for its number of arts businesses, but 44th for the number of arts workers who were paid. In other words, Wisconsin stretches its arts dollars by adding a lot of volunteer hours.

The recent study was commissioned by

## OVERTURE REACHES FUNDRAISING GOAL

Overture Center Foundation, the nonprofit that operates Overture Center for the Arts, reached its fundraising goal for fiscal year 2012, bringing in \$2.365 million in donations and pledges before July 1.

The foundation nearly tripled the total contributions of the previous year.

The fiscal year 2013 budget, approved by the OCF board of directors on June 26, includes another fundraising goal of \$2.4 million in donations and pledges. It anticipates increases in both revenues and expenses for the center's touring Broadway series, which includes 80 performances, up from 33 in fiscal year 2012.

— LN

the Dane County Arts and Economic Prosperity Collaborative, whose members include the county's cultural affairs commission, the city of Madison Arts Commission, the Overture Center for the Arts and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arts Institute.

The report, including its methodology, can be downloaded at [www.artswisconsin.org/aepdane](http://www.artswisconsin.org/aepdane).



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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### NO-KILL GROUP LAUNCHES FOSTER PET FUND

Milwaukee Pets Alive launched Lily's Fresh Start to support the fostering of homeless pets in Milwaukee.

The program is named after a 3-year-old hound mix and current MPA foster animal.

Through Lily's Fresh Start, MPA wants to give animals – usually passed up at Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control Commission for other rescues – a second chance.

As part of this program, Grabowski said Lily's Fund was established to help pay for training, professional evaluations, dog handling equipment and toys.

For more, email [contact@milwaukeekeepet-salve.org](mailto:contact@milwaukeekeepet-salve.org).

### SAGE HOSTS ICE CREAM SOCIAL

SAGE Milwaukee hosts an ice cream social and garden party from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on July 28 at a member's home in Milwaukee.

SAGE will provide the ice cream. Attendees are asked to bring a chair – and their favorite topping.

For more, go to [www.sagemilwaukee.org](http://www.sagemilwaukee.org).

### KISS-IN AT CHICK-FIL-A

A nationwide same-sex kiss-in is set for Aug. 3 at Chick-fil-A restaurants in the United States.

A Facebook event page says, "In honor of their support for love, equality, and the real definition of family, we're holding a NATION-

AL Same Sex Kiss Day at Chick Fil A's around the country. So grab a friend (or 20) and head out to your nearest Chick Fil A! And don't forget to post photos/videos of it here! For all the world to see!"

The company's website shows only one restaurant in Wisconsin – at 5802 Durand Ave. in Racine.

### ON THE STATE FAIR MENU

The menu is expanding for the Wisconsin State Fair, which starts Aug. 2 and continues through Aug. 12.

There are 57 new foods at this year's fair, including:

- A deep-fried, bacon-wrapped cheddar hot dog on a stick.
- A beer float involving beer and ice cream.
- A pork doughnut, which is a sugared doughnut stuffed with barbecue pork.
- Deep-fried, bacon-wrapped Tater Tots on-a-stick.
- Sweet potato fries with marshmallow dipping cream.
- A Chimi-Nutella, which is banana, Nutella, cinnamon, pecans and powdered sugar in a flour tortilla.
- A "fat Elvis on a stick," which is a peanut butter cup in banana batter with bacon.

For more, go to [www.wistatefair.com](http://www.wistatefair.com).

- WiG

## Center presents 'weed dating'



PHOTO: MILWAUKEE LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER

**Two volunteers take a break at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's successful Weed Dating event, held on July 21 at Concordia Community Garden. Volunteers worked with different partners every 10 minutes, giving them a chance to spend time with people they might not otherwise have met while performing a service. Raffle prizes included a pair of tickets on Southwest Airlines. Cream City Foundation partnered with the center for Weed Dating, which will be repeated this fall. Concordia Garden is part of the Victory Garden Initiative.**

## REGIONAL BRIEFS

### ANTI-GAY MICHIGAN MAYOR FACES RECALL

The Oakland County Elections Division certified that Troy Mayor Janice Daniels, elected less than a year ago, will be in a recall election on Nov. 6.

Daniels had contested the recall petitions, hoping to block the vote.

She was elected last November and soon after became embroiled in controversies.

An anti-gay post she had made to Facebook months earlier, in June 2011, went viral on the Web and prompted calls for her resignation. The post, in reference to New York's legalization of gay marriage, read, "I think I am going to throw away my I Love New York carrying bag now that queers can get married there."

### THOMSON REUTERS OPPOSES ANTI-GAY INITIATIVE IN MINNESOTA

The legal, business information and media company Thomson Reuters says an amendment to ban gay marriage in Minnesota would be bad for business.

In a statement, Thomson Reuters said it doesn't believe the amendment "would be good for Thomson Reuters or the business community in the state."

### WISCONSIN DEMOCRATS RETAKE SENATE

Democrats officially took control of the Wisconsin Senate on July 17 after a recall victory earlier in the summer handed them a one-seat majority.

Democrat John Lehman ousted Republican Sen. Van Wanggaard in Racine County in the June 5 election. He acknowledged he'd lost in early July.

The Senate met July 17 but Democrats probably won't pass any legislation before Republicans get a shot to retake the chamber in the November elections. The Legislature doesn't convene again until January.

### SAINTS TO CHANGE NAME FOR ATHEIST NIGHT

The St. Paul Saints plan to change their name for a game sponsored by atheist groups.

The American Association

minor league baseball club will call itself the "Mr. Paul Aints" when they host the Amarillo Sox on Aug. 10.

The Minnesota Atheists and American Atheists suggested the promotion to tie in with a regional atheist conference in town that weekend.

Saints executive Derek Sharer says the club has "no intention of mocking or making fun of anyone's faith." He says several faith-based organizations have sponsored games before and the Saints felt it would be "hypocritical" to tell the atheists no.

### GOP LEADERS ASKED TO APOLOGIZE

Groups upset over last month's silencing of a female Democratic lawmaker who said "vagina" during a Michigan House debate about anti-abortion legislation and another who said "vasectomy" have delivered 115,000 signatures asking for an apology.

Members of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee and Democracy For America took the signatures to the office of House Speaker Jase Bolger.

The signers ask GOP lead-

ers to publicly apologize to state Reps. Lisa Brown and Barb Byrum after suspending their speaking privileges for one day.

Bolger spokesman Ari Adler said he doesn't anticipate any apology is forthcoming.

### STATE LAWMAKER COMES OUT

State Rep. JoCasta Zamarippa came out as bisexual during a July 24 interview with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

Zamarippa, who represents Milwaukee's South Side, is the only Latino/a member of the Assembly. Now she joins out state Rep. Mark Pocan as its second current LGBT member.

"The choice to become open about who you are is a very important and very personal decision in a person's life," Pocan said in a statement. "Before today, I was the only openly gay member of the Wisconsin State Assembly. With my tenure in the Assembly coming to an end, I'm glad to know such a bright and talented person will be able to continue the fight for fairness."

Pocan is leaving the Assembly to run for Congress.

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## 'There's no place for men to go to heal – it's either at bars or behind bars.'

**TWISTED** from page 1

healing the psyches of their victims. He and James Kaminski recently founded the Spiritual Health Network, an educational non-profit organization at 2923A S. Delaware that focuses on male issues.

Kaminski, who does custom artwork and interior finishing, is transforming the unassuming storefront space in Milwaukee's Bay View neighborhood into an ethereal haven of safety. The entrance area, with white paint layered like clouds on white walls, is reminiscent of a high-end Third Ward gallery. The space, scheduled to open at the end of August, will become the home base for Larson's Claiming Sanctuary ministries for men.

Kaminski and Larson have created a comfortable room in the rear of the building – complete with a fireplace – where they hope male abuse survivors will establish support groups and sessions. In essence, they're creating a space that they believe will facilitate healing, and they hope male abuse victims will use it to support each other.

"There is no place for men to go to heal – it's either bars or bars," Larson said. "Either you go to a bar or you're locked up behind bars."

"There are so few therapists who really know about this topic," Larson added. "It's hard to know how to heal someone from this unless you've been through it yourself."

### NON-TRADITIONAL PATH

When Larson, 65, decided to devote his life to working with male sexual abuse victims, he obtained a master's degree in spiritual psychology and became an ordained non-denominational Christian minister. He decided against the conventional path of obtaining a master's degree in social work, because licensed clinicians are required to keep clinical records. Men are reluctant to talk about their sexual abuse "if they know it's going to wind up as part of a file," Larson explained.

As a non-denominational Christian minister, Larson can provide counseling without

### Male sexual abuse increases the risk for drug and alcohol abuse, bullying, poor school performance and aggressive or criminal behavior.

even recording his client's names – which he doesn't.

Larson counsels men both one on one and in groups. He also does workshops, such as "The Men's Series," which he conducted in Janesville. In 2002, he founded the Ministries for Men Foundation in that city.

Larson has long been active in men's personal growth programs, including the Wisconsin-based Mankind Project. It was the project's New Warrior Training Adventure weekend where he had his first emotional breakthrough surrounding his abuse. That's when he began to overcome the guilt and shame it produced in his life.

And also the anger. "He took something away from me," Larson said, including his innocence, his virginity and his childhood. His perpetrator, he continued, robbed him of the ability to discover his body and develop sexually at his own pace and in his own way.

Since his initial emotional breakthrough, "I've helped other groups and organizations where they have men's weekends," Larson said. He's developed a reputation for his ability to help men access their repressed feelings and memories of abuse.

"If (facilitators) have a problem where a man is stuck, they call me over," he said. "I get to them to the point of what's really going on.



PHOTO: COURTESY KARL LARSON

### Karl Larson

And that's when the tears roll."

### TENTACLES

While there's a large body of knowledge and established support networks surrounding female victims, the sexual abuse of boys remains a relative mystery that comes to light only occasionally, in high-profile cases such as Sandusky's. "It's a quiet epidemic," Larson said. "People don't realize how extensive its tentacles are."

By tentacles, he means the exponentially damaging effects that abuse has on the abuser's partners, families, friends and society. Unlike young female victims, who tend to internalize their reaction to abuse, male victims tend to externalize the trauma, research shows. As adolescents, they're more likely to engage in extreme use of alcohol and drugs, aggressive/criminal behavior – including bullying, Larson said – poor school performance and sexual risk taking.

Among all children who suffer some form of child abuse, 59 percent are more likely to be arrested as a juvenile, 28 percent are more likely to be arrested as an adult, and 30 percent are more likely to commit violent crime, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Even when abuse does not produce such drastic behaviors, it often results in sexual shame, based on feelings of responsibility for the abuse that occurred. This frequently leads to such adult sexual problems as excessive promiscuity and fear of intimacy.

Parents, including Larson's, often refuse to believe boys when they report sexual abuse, particularly if the perpetrator is a respected family friend, as his abuser was. The resulting anger and feelings of abandonment toward the parents can create an additional layer of emotional problems, experts say.

Although it's generally believed that one in six boys is sexually abused before age 16,

Larson said he believes the real number is one in four. That doesn't include male victims molested by adult females, he added, which are seldom reported.

"You never hear about the mother, the stepmother, the aunt or the nun who sexually abuses boys," he said. Actor/director Tyler Perry drew some attention to the issue when he announced on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" that he was sexually abused as a child by three men and the mother of one of this childhood friends.

The American Psychological Association says female perpetrators represent 14 percent of the cases that are reported by boys and 6 percent of the cases reported by girls.

Specific research into the prevalence and long-term effects of male sexual abuse has been complicated by the reluctance of men to report it. Guilt, shame and the social stigma still attached to homosexual acts fuel the silence, according to experts. So does the victim's fear that he will be seen as someone who will become an abuser.

Moreover, one out of every three incidents of child sexual abuse are not remembered by the adults who experienced them, according to a 1998 study.

Larson, 65, didn't begin coming to terms with his abuse until the 1980s, when he was married and a father. "I began realizing that there was something going on in my life, that something wasn't right," Larson said. "It's like my body was telling me something was wrong."

He began having "troubling dreams" and experiencing marital discord as well as issues with male authority figures. Later, he was able to trace his problems to anger over his parents' failure to protect him and his loss of power to his abuser.

Larson, who was molested while he slept, developed sleep apnea so severe that it could

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**TWISTED** from prior page

have been fatal, he said.

His feelings about his abuse are summed up in a poem Larson wrote titled "I Can't Do This ...":

*I was trained to become one of the damned.*

*A paranoid male ... always looking sideways – wondering who knew? Can they see the naked shadows clinging to me? ...*

*I put this veil of shame between you and me*

*Disguised with expert maneuverings so you can't see*

*The naked shadows clinging to me ...*

**PERPETRATORS**

In addition to victims, Larson has worked with perpetrators. When he facilitates perpetrator group meetings, he always lets the attendees know that he's one of their victims.

Unfortunately, Larson said, he's seen "very little regret" among perpetrators. When Larson confronted his own abuser, the man laughed at him "in a mocking way," he said.

"They know what they're doing isn't right, but everything is OK unless you're caught," Larson said. "And they don't think they'll ever get caught."

Despite homophobic myths spread by fundamentalist Christian organizations to marginalize gays, the American Psychological Association has found that heterosexual and gay men are equally likely statistically to sexually abuse children. "A perception that

most perpetrators are gay men is a myth and harmful stereotype," the APA states.

Many abusers of boys have conventional marriages or outwardly successful relationships with adult partners or spouses, just as Sandusky did. The relative ease with which these men blend into society limits the ability of parents and school authorities to recognize them.

There are practical measures that can be taken to protect children from abuse, such as thorough background checks of people who work with kids, screening tests to identify potential abusers and parental watchfulness for signs of abuse. Those signs might include: sudden trouble walking or sitting, a chronic state of alert and fearfulness, an age-inappropriate knowledge of or interest in sex, fear of changing clothes in front of others and unusual efforts to avoid a particular adult.

Larson and others who work in the field hope that the high-profile incidents of abuse involving youth and religious leaders in recent years have heightened public awareness of the problem and will result in greater vigilance and more aggressive reporting and prosecution to get perpetrators off the streets.

Since the Penn State scandal came to light in November, lawmakers in more than a dozen states have introduced bills adding coaches, athletic directors and university officials to the list of "mandated reporters" of suspected child abuse or neglect.

The bankruptcy of archdioceses such as Milwaukee due to lawsuits over clerical abuse has incalculably increased the incentive of

religious organizations to ferret out abusers. Churches and universities also are putting more money than ever into legal defense funds to fight sex abuse charges.

The unprecedented penalties that the NCAA imposed July 23 on Penn State create a dramatic new incentive for institutions to protect youths from perpetrators. The NCAA fined the school \$60 million, imposed a four-year postseason ban on Penn State football, placed the program on probation for five years and enabled any current or incoming player to transfer and play immediately without restriction.

But sports writers noted that the most stinging sanction was that the NCAA vacated all of Penn State's wins from 1998 to 2011. That means the late Joe Paterno, who successfully oversaw the university's football program for nearly 46 years but turned a blind eye to complaints about Sandusky, is no longer the all-time winningest coach at college football's highest level.

In announcing the sanctions, NCAA president Mark Emmert said that he hoped the extreme punishment would deter the sort of indifferent environment in which Sandusky's abuse flourished. He said that while examining the case, the NCAA "kept foremost in our thoughts the tragic damage that has been done to the victims and their families. No matter what we do here today, there is no action we can take that will remove their pain and anguish."

**ON THE WEB**

[Spiritualhealthnetwork.org](http://Spiritualhealthnetwork.org).

**WHO ARE THE PERPETRATORS?**

- Most children are abused by someone they know and trust.

- An estimated 60 percent of perpetrators of sexual abuse are known to the child but are not family members, such as family friends, babysitters, childcare providers and neighbors.

- About 30 percent of perpetrators are family members, for example, fathers, brothers, uncles, cousins.

- Just 10 percent of perpetrators are strangers to the child.

- Child pornographers and other abusers who are strangers may make contact with children via the Internet.

- Not all perpetrators are adults — an estimated 23 percent of reported cases of child sexual abuse are perpetrated by individuals under the age of 18.

- Common characteristics of perpetrators include: a history of abuse (either physical or sexual); alcohol or drug abuse; little satisfaction with sexual relationships with adults; lack of control over their emotions; mental illness in some cases.

Source: American Psychological Association

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# Activists called on the Olympics to ban nations that criminalize homosexuality

**OLYMPICS** from page one

Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen – death.

“The International Olympic Committee and London Olympic organizers should require all competing nations to sign a pledge that they do not discriminate on the grounds of gender, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation,” Tatchell said. “If they refuse to sign, they should be denied participation in the games.”

In advance of London 2012, Tatchell and other activists called on the IOC to ban nations that outlaw homosexuality. They also appealed to athletes to come out, encouraged gay athletes who fear persecution to seek asylum and invited sports fans to cheer equality.

In the week before the opening ceremonies for London 2012, more than 14,000 athletes were arriving at Heathrow Airport and settling into the Athletes Village. The arrivals included out Olympians:

- Diver Matthew Mitcham and beach volleyball player Natalie Cook with Team Australia.
- Handball player Mayssa Pessoa with Team Brazil.
- Cyclist Judith Arndt and fencer Imke Duplitzer with Team Germany.
- Field hockey players Marilyn Agliotti, Maartje Paumen and Carlien Dirkse van den Heuvel and equestrian competitor Edward Gal with Team Netherlands.
- Triathletes Carole Péon and Jessica Harrison and handball player Alexandra Lacrabère with Team France.
- Handball player Rikke Skov with Team Denmark.
- Dressage competitor Carl Hester with Team Great Britain.
- Soccer players Jessica Landström, Hedvig Lindahl and Lisa Dahlkvist with Team Sweden.
- Tennis player Lisa Raymond,

basketball player Seimone Augustus, soccer coach Pia Sundhage and soccer player Meghan Rapinoe with Team USA.

“I think it’s important to be out. It’s important to stand up and be counted and be proud of who you are,” Rapinoe recently told USA Today.

## POLITICAL?

Critics of the LGBT rights campaign, including critics in the United States, said the Olympics should be about sports, not politics. But activists volleyed back, saying that the Olympics have always been about politics and human rights.

“People who say that human rights issues have no place in the sporting arena tend to be those who don’t believe in human rights at all,” said Mark Stephens, a prominent British attorney and activist. “As an argument, it is the refuge of the ignorant, and therefore, ultimately, damned.”

Stephens urged the IOC to ban anti-gay nations and called on gay athletes to come out in a celebrated Guardian newspaper column and a recent speech at the University of East London, which is not far from Olympic Stadium.

He and other activists described a long tradition of politics intersecting with sport.

“An athlete even winning the gold for her country is political,” said London LGBT civil rights activist Elizabeth Mead. “But also, some of the most significant events in the games’ history were of political importance.”

Mead, 43, said her favorite Olympic moment came during the opening ceremony in 1996 in Atlanta, when boxing legend Muhammad Ali lit the cauldron in the stadium. “He’s one of the world’s greatest athletes, but he also was suspended from his sport for objecting to the war in Vietnam.”



PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES/LONDON 2012/ANTHONY CHARLTON

**An aerial view of Olympic Park in London.**

Other politically significant Olympic events:

- The four gold-medal wins and world-record achievements of Jesse Owens at the 1936 Olympics hosted by Nazi Germany.
- The bloody water polo match between the Soviet Union and Hungary at the 1956 Melbourne Games as Hungary was in the midst of a nationalist uprising.
- The black power salute that U.S. runners Tommie Smith and John Carlos gave on the medal stand at the ‘68 Games in Mexico.
- The Palestinian terrorist attack at the 1972 Munich Olympics that resulted in the murder of 11 Israeli athletes.
- The United States’ boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics after the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan; four years later, the Soviet Union boycotted the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

• South Africa’s participation in the 1992 Olympics after being banned for years because of Apartheid rule.

• The 2000 ban imposed on Afghanistan because of the ruling Taliban’s discrimination against women.

Before the Olympic torch arrived in London, politics were already at work in the 2012 Summer Games.

At the U.S. Capitol, lawmakers in mid-July complained that most of Team USA is being outfitted in Ralph Lauren-designed uniforms with “Made in China” labels. U.S. Rep. Steve Israel, D-N.Y., called the fashion decision “self-defeating.” U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., said, “When America’s best athletes are representing our country on the world stage, we should be representing the best of American-made goods.”

A week before the games, Amnesty International demanded

that London organizers apologize for hiring Dow Chemicals to provide the fabric wrap for the Olympic Stadium. Amnesty said organizers should have known about Dow’s ties to the company responsible for the 1984 gas leak that killed 15,000 people in Bhopal, India.

And activists were hoping that when the closing ceremonies take place on Aug. 12 that more than 21 out Olympians will be celebrating and the IOC will be looking to reforms before the 2014 Winter Games. Those games take place in Sochi, Russia, where organizers already have nixed an LGBT Pride House for athletes.

And, for a gay take on the games, check out [www.outsports.com](http://www.outsports.com).

## GAMES TIME

NBC holds the rights to coverage and will broadcast the games on its local affiliates.

And, for a gay take on the games, check out [www.outsports.com](http://www.outsports.com).

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# Street to salon

## Posters of Paris come alive in museums and homes

By Kat Murrell

Contributing writer

Celebrities, dance halls, Champagne and bicycles. Those are some of the subjects of “Posters of Paris: Toulouse-Lautrec & His Contemporaries,” the marquee exhibition on view this summer at the Milwaukee Art Museum. These large works on paper from the late 19th and early 20th centuries were created more for commercial interests than as art for art’s sake.

Many of the posters in the exhibition were originally street advertisements. Nineteenth-century Paris was characterized by a growing middle class with more time and money for leisurely pursuits than prior generations. A proliferation of cafe-concerts and nightclubs catered to middle-class entertainment and fostered a cult of celebrity. The posters advertising all of this covered entire walls as well as freestanding kiosks that were created simply to tout the modern delights of the city.

The artists behind the posters became known for their work. The best created *affiches artistiques* (artistic posters), which were not just advertisements but were also admired for their aesthetic values. The best-known artists in this field are Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec and Jules Chéret, considered the “king of the poster.” Alphonse Mucha was also highly regarded, particularly for his glorious, glamorous posters for the legendary actress Sarah Bernhardt. One of the exceptional pieces in MAM’s exhibition is Mucha’s representation of Bernhardt in the role of Gismonda, glowing with Byzantine splendor and shimmering gold.

In Paris, popular posters were stolen off walls – or poster hangers might be bribed to

part with choice pieces. In the 1880s, posters became available through the gallery system, and along with this came poster exhibitions. While the posters didn’t have the same pedigree as



PHOTO: JOHN R. GLEMBIN. COURTESY OF JIM AND SUE WIECHMANN.

paintings or sculptures, the bright scenes of modern life sparked *affichomanie*, or poster mania.

MAM’s exhibition includes a wide variety of posters, plus archival pieces such as studies and drawings. The layout of the exhibition gives a strong sense of the variety of artistic styles, from the early works with nuanced light and shadow, to the swirls of Art Nouveau, to the boldness of color and flat forms in the early 20th century. The posters on view come from museums as well as a



PHOTO: COURTESY MR. AND MRS. CARTER H. HARRISON COLLECTION, THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO.

number of private collections, including that of Milwaukeeans Jim and Susee Wiechmann.

Just as they once adorned the streets of Paris, these posters today can be found on the walls of many fashionable homes.

Their colorful vibrancy and commanding size appeal to museum-goers, collectors and decorators alike.

Designer Beth Liebl, owner of Applegate’s Interior Design in Mequon, is an aficionado of decorating with posters as well as a collector. She contends that the right installation of a poster can “make a room.” A dramatic composition can make an excellent focal point to enliven a quiet room, especially when placed against a neutral background, Liebl says. Another option is a dark wall color that offers a rich contrast to the brightness of a poster.

Milwaukeean Julie Solochek is an avid collector of posters whose interest in them has

spanned decades. Like many collectors, she became curious following visits to antique galleries and art fairs. From there it was only a matter of time before she bought her first poster.

Solochek advises to “buy what you like. Like any other art, you don’t buy it for an investment. You have to love it and want to look at it.”

On a practical note, however, she also advises considering wall measurements. The posters tend to be quite sizable, and while crowded posters on the streets of Paris were *de rigueur*, it is too much for a living room.

For Solochek, the posters’ appeal is in their history as well as their artistic value. She finds it fascinating to think about their origins as pieces of advertising – that they were part of everyday life preserved as artifacts of art.

“Posters of Paris: Toulouse-Lautrec & His Contemporaries” offers an enjoyable, informative overview of the poster as a form of street art. But keep your eyes open, as you are sure to see their likes again – in galleries, or as vivacious decoration in well-appointed homes.

### POSTERS ABOVE

Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec’s posters captured the personalities of Parisian nightlife, as seen in his poster “Ambassadeurs: Aristide Bruant” (R). “King of the Poster” Jules Chéret plays with the energy of nightclub acts in “L’Horloge: Les Girard” (L). “Posters of Paris: Toulouse-Lautrec & His Contemporaries” continues at the Milwaukee Art Museum through Sept. 9.



# Playwright draws his 'Hero' from Milwaukee memories

## Interview

GREGG SHAPIRO

Milwaukee-area native playwright Aaron Thielen has a hit on his hands. His original musical "Hero," which runs through Aug. 19 at the Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire, Ill., is receiving rave reviews from the press and audiences.

The story concerns Hero (Erich Bergen), who lives at home with his widowed father Al (Don Forston), above the comic book store they own. Hero, who draws his life like a comic book, is faced with a series of important and potentially life-changing decisions, especially when former flame Jane (Heidi Kettnering) enters the frame. The play touches on

themes of love and loss and finding the power within you.

**Gregg Shapiro: How much of Aaron is in the character of Hero?**

Aaron Thielen: That is a good question. Very little, actually. It's not autobiographical. It all came out of my head, so I'm sure there's a little bit of me in it.

**Do comic books play a role in your life?**

Yes. I think that like a lot of young boys growing up ... they were definitely a part of my life. I loved the idea of having a superpower, and I think it resonates with real people (laughs). ... I like the idea of people having a gift and being accepted with that gift.

**In the comic book**

**world, are you a Marvel or DC Comics fan?**

I don't discriminate between either. There are things I like about both. The thing about DC is it's been around so long. I've always been a huge Green Lantern fan. But I really like Marvel and where it's gone, especially this year. There's been a lot of really amazing stuff. I like that.

**Do you draw at all?**

Not even a little bit (big laugh).

**How important was it for "Hero" to have a Milwaukee setting?**

The idea sort of started there. I had been working on new works, and I thought it would be fun to go out on my own and write something, even just as a pet project.

There's an antique shop right by Allen-Bradley downtown, and it's quintessential Milwaukee. It's kind of small, but it's got two bay windows. It's an old tavern turned into an antique shop. I used to go there and look around. In the back of the shop is a yard with a house attached. I thought it would make an awesome set. I kept thinking, "Who would live there? If this shop wasn't an antique shop what would it be? A comic bookshop. Who lives there? Who runs it? What are the lives that happened?" That's what it all generated from. Some of the characters are based on people that I know.

**Your cousin's name is Kirk and there's the scene where the character of Kirk dresses up for Halloween as Captain Kirk.**

Yes, it happened during rehearsals, but I never made the connection (laughs).

**What do you think the Comic-Con crowd would think of "Hero"?**

I don't know. Part of me thinks they would think musicals are nerdy, and not in a good way. There might be a hierarchy of going, "We're nerds, but we are not that nerdy."

**That's a case of the pot calling the kettle black.**

Right! That would be something that they could go, "Ugh, that's so lame! Come on let's go see Kevin Smith." Whom I love! I always thought, because Comic-Con just ended, and I do have friends that love going, that it would be fun, next year, if the show has a life, to go there and see, could we have an audience there.

**It seems like sort of a natural fit.**

This is a big generalization, but I think that they might at first go (shakes his head) and



PHOTO: COURTESY

**Playwright Aaron Thielen with composer/lyricist Michael Mahler at a rehearsal for "Hero."**

then they might hear that it's pretty OK. They might realize that it's not making fun of it. That's the thing that I'm most proud of the show. I feel like so many contemporary musicals now comment on the form or they're cynical and that's their definition of the form. I feel like this is a throwback musical in that it doesn't make fun of itself, it doesn't poke fun of musicals, but were cool." It embraces the musical form. It's about depression and finding oneself and struggling and finding humor in things that maybe aren't funny and the goofiness of the world we live in. That's what I'm most excited about the show, that that's what I was able to achieve.

**"Hero," like comic books, puts emphasis on the role that fate plays in our lives. What part has fate played in your life?**

(Long pause) That's an interesting question. This career is just weird in gen-

eral; especially my trajectory, starting out as an actor and landing here. Six or seven years ago I never would've guessed what I would be doing. When I was performing, I thought, "I'll be doing this forever." I never thought I'd write five years ago. I never went to school for it. It was never a thing I thought that I needed to do with my life. Fate brought the right people into my life and the right situation. The fact that I did (the stage musical adaptation of) "For The Boys" last year, it's ludicrous that I was able to pull that off. Even just to get it on stage, the fact that that happened is fate stepping in and making that happen. But I wouldn't have been able to do "Hero" had I not done it.

### ON STAGE

"Hero," with Alex Goodrich and Erich Bergen, plays at the Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire, Ill., through Aug. 19.

## POSTERS of PARIS TOULOUSE-LAUTREC & HIS CONTEMPORARIES



Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, *The Troupe of Mademoiselle Eglantine*, 1896 (detail). Grand Rapids Art Museum, Purchase, Peter M. Wege.

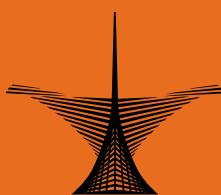
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# Garbage picks up where it left off

Music

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

Musicians will tell you there is nothing like a little time off to recharge the batteries and refresh the mind. The members of the pop band Garbage thought so, too, but they didn't expect their hiatus to last seven years.

Garbage, which started in Madison in 1994 and went double platinum with its first album "Garbage" in 1995, cut short its 2005 tour supporting the then-new release "Bleed Like Me." The quartet felt it needed a break and assured its fans that the band hadn't broken up.

"When we decided to take some time off, none of us thought it would be seven years — seven months maybe," says bassist/guitarist Doug "Duke" Erikson. "Perhaps we didn't realize how exhausted we all were and how completely occupied we had become with Garbage. So we lived life for awhile."

Erikson returned to his home in Madison and guitarist Steve Marker headed for the mountains of Colorado. Vocalist Shirley Manson, a native of Edinburgh, Scotland, began working on a still-unreleased solo album.

Drummer Butch Vig, equally well known as co-founder with Marker of Madison's Smart Studios and the Grammy Award-winning producer of such seminal albums as Nirvana's "Nevermind," Green Day's "21st Century Breakdown" and Foo Fighters' "Wasting Light," went back to the studio. Vig now lives, produces and records in Los Angeles, where Manson also lives.

The lengthy hiatus had its healing effect, and the band finally began working on its fifth album. "Not Your Kind of People" was independently produced and released May 15 during a lengthy Euro-

## Garbage plays only three U.S. dates this year, including Madison.

pean tour. Reviewers have compared the album to the band's inaugural effort and "Version 2.0," its second album, both of which were well received.

"I suppose it's a step forward in that we had got the album done at all and that we're on the road promoting it," Erikson says. "We felt the slate had been washed clean when we started recording the album. No preconditions or expectations. We just started working to see what would happen."

Garbage will play only three U.S. dates this year on the promotional tour, one each in Chicago, Kansas City, Mo., and at Pondamonium, the Aug. 9 outdoor concert at the Madison Mallards baseball field in Warner Park on the city's north side. Garbage will headline a show also featuring The Flaming Lips, Dum Dum Girls, Royal Bangs and The Congregation.

The Warner Park date marks a homecoming for Erikson, Marker and Vig. The trio played together in the prominent local bands Spooner and Fire Town, developing a sound that moved the grunge rock of the 1980s forward, adding more depth and dimension. The Smart Studios experience and the bands eventually led to the formation of Garbage.

"This has always been about writing songs and recording them," Erikson says. "Spooner was the incubator for all that came later. That's where it began, where we all saw the possibilities."

It was the introduction of

vocalist Manson that helped galvanize the band and define its sound. The three met with Manson on April 8, 1994, in London after Marker had seen her perform with the band Angelfish on television. But plans for the future band were put hold after Vig was informed that same day of the suicide of Nirvana's Kurt Cobain, whose album he had produced just three days earlier.

The three met Manson again at a later time in Chicago, inviting her to Madison for an audition. Manson's initial auditions with the band went badly, but things began to gel as the band discovered the singer had musical tastes similar to theirs. The band's initial demo tapes were recorded at Smart Studios, and the musicians made a valiant effort to rise above the grunge rock label that still occasionally haunts them.

"Anyone who describes Garbage as either grunge or electronica would have only been listening to one song or a few bars of one song, or not listening at all," Erikson insists. "We are a pop band, and by that I mean we combine any and all musical elements to make something new."

"Not Your Kind of People" bears this out. Comparisons to the first record have been deliberate, a way to tell fans that after seven years' rest, the energy that defined the original group is back.

"When we were about to hit the road, we expected to see a lot of Garbage fans out there who had grown up, aged, been through some changes," Erikson says. "We do see those folks, but we also see a lot of kids who look like they couldn't have been more than five when we were out last time."

Credit that to the band's renewed energy or its evolving sound. At any rate, it's clear that Garbage has come around and, for Madison fans, will soon be back in town.



Photos: bandswallpapers.com

### ON STAGE

Garbage appears at Pondamonium, the Aug. 9 outdoor concert at the Madison Mallards baseball field in Warner Park. For more, go to [www.pondamonium.com](http://www.pondamonium.com).

### MUSICAL HISTORY

Smart Studios, which closed in 2010, is the subject of part of a current exhibit on the Madison music scene of the 1970s and 1980s at the Wisconsin Historical Museum on Madison's Capitol Square. "Smart Sounds, Alt Music, Mad Scenes" runs through Sept. 15.

For more, go to [historicalmuseum.wisconsinhistory.org/Events](http://historicalmuseum.wisconsinhistory.org/Events).

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## Film

GREGG SHAPIRO

**GRITTY AND SURREAL,  
'BEASTS' IS A WORK OF  
WONDER**

In director and co-screenwriter Benh Zeitlin's full-length feature debut "Beasts of the Southern Wild," pint-sized philosopher Hushpuppy (Quvenzhané Wallis) is fascinated with heartbeats and the way pieces of the world fit together to make it whole. But in the days leading up to and following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in her NoLa neighborhood known as The Bathtub, she has other things on her mind.

Hushpuppy lives with her ailing father Wink (Dwight Henry) in a trailer and tree house following the departure of Hushpuppy's mother. They get around on water in the back half of a pick-up truck that's been converted into a boat. Hushpuppy goes to The Bathtub equivalent of a school, run by Miss Bathsheeba (Gina Montana), when she's not exploring (or destroying) her surroundings.

In a narrative monologue, Hushpuppy shares what she knows about the water, the giant warhog-like pre-historic beast known as the aurochs, her missing mother, the fabric of the universe, survival and father/daughter relationships. She may only be six years old, but she speaks with the wisdom of the ages.

With the exception of Wes Anderson's equally quirky "Moonrise Kingdom," there



PHOTO: COURTESY

**"Beasts of the Southern Wild"**

is no other movie currently in theaters that achieves this level of wide-eyed wonder and woe. Alternating between gritty and surreal scenarios, "Beasts of the Southern Wild" turns the tragedy of Katrina into a fireworks-fueled fairy tale and a lesson in ecology. As Hushpuppy, young actress Wallis makes an enduring impression, leaving audiences to look forward to what will come next for her.

**'RUBY' SPARKS AND BEAMS**

Something wonderful occurs when actor Paul Dano is under the guidance of directors Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris. We first witnessed it when they directed him in the dysfunctional family ensemble piece "Little Miss Sunshine." The good news is they've struck gold again with the twisted rom-com "Ruby Sparks."

Calvin (Dano), an acclaimed, best-selling author at 19, is buckling under the pres-

sure to produce another masterpiece. The publication of the 10th-anniversary edition of his celebrated novel has not helped his writer's block at all. His therapy sessions with Dr. Rosenthal (Elliot Gould) aren't helping either, with Calvin usually in the fetal position clutching Bobby the Teddy bear.

His brother Harry (Chris Messina) is his best friend and confidante, while his dog Scotty is Calvin's only true constant companion. He regularly avoids his agent Cyrus (Aasif Mandvi) and his hippie-dippy mother Gertrude (Annette Bening).

But something inspirational happens to Calvin. Dr. Rosenthal suggests that he write something, even if it's bad. Inspired by a red-headed woman who appeared in one of his dreams, Calvin creates a character named Ruby.

Before you can say Woody Allen, the quirky and offbeat Ruby (Zoe Kazan, who also

wrote the screenplay) appears in his house. Naturally, this leads to a near-catastrophic freak-out on Calvin's part. Eventually, he realizes that he has somehow manifested one of his characters in the flesh, and everything changes for him.

Ruby's arrival provides a variety of comedic and romantic possibilities that pleasantly come to life on screen. On the flip side, there also is the potential for darkness, a concept lingering in the background throughout. Once it reveals itself, "Ruby Sparks" takes a momentarily ugly turn.

For the most part, however, this film is endearing and engaging. A visit to Gertrude's home in Big Sur, where she is shackled up with furniture maker Mort (Antonio Banderas) is especially entertaining. "Ruby Sparks" may not be as luminous as "Little Miss Sunshine," but it allows Dano to beam.

**NO LOVE FOR ALLEN'S 'ROME'**

Lazy and only occasionally vaguely funny, "To Rome With Love" relies too much on improvisation, completely wasting a talented cast that includes Alec Baldwin, Judy Davis, Jesse Eisenberg and Ellen Page. Once the master of the overlapping storylines, Woody Allen, who looks more ill at ease on screen than ever, has completely lost control here. Rome gets a fraction of the love he showered on Paris. The sightseeing scenes feel too familiar, forced and self-consciously self-referential.

Worse, for a country so famous for its cuisine, Allen pays very little attention to food. A joke about tapenade ends with a formaldehyde punchline. Everything gets the short shrift here but opera (yawn). Let's hope that Allen, currently in his late 70s, has many more years and better movies ahead of him. It would be a shame, after all, if the unlovable "To Rome With Love" were to be his last.



PHOTO: COURTESY

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## Renaissance Theaterworks receives first Schubert grant



PHOTO: COURTESY

**Marti Gobel and Cassandra Bissell in Renaissance Theaterworks' production of "Crumbs from the Table of Joy," which ran Jan. 14-Feb. 6, 2011.**

**By Anne Siegel**

*Contributing writer*

Renaissance Theaterworks, Wisconsin's only women-founded-and-operated theater company, recently received its first national grant. And it only took 20 years.

The Shubert Foundation recently awarded the Milwaukee-based theater company \$10,000. Suzan Fete, Renaissance's co-artistic director, and Lisa Rasmussen, the company's full-time development director, were instrumental in securing the funding.

"The grant will be used to further our mission of creating moving theater that awakens our recognition of what it is to be human – from classics to world theater," Fete said.

"Our company focuses on women's roles in theater, both onstage and off," she added. That means not only do female actors have increased opportunities to perform onstage, but many of our productions feature women playwrights, directors and technical designers and staff."

A number of Renaissance productions have explored non-traditional male/female roles. "Stop Kiss," by Diana Son, focused on the story of Sara and Callie, friends-turned-lovers who are assaulted for kissing. Another Renaissance production, Steven Tomlinson's "American Fiesta," featured popular local gay entertainer John McGivern. His one-man play was about collecting colorful, retro Fiestaware bowls, dishes and pitchers. Lanford Wilson's "Burn This," another Renaissance offering, dealt with themes of gay identity and relationships.

Renaissance Theaterworks' performances are held in the Studio Theatre at the Broadway Theater Center in Milwaukee's Third Ward. The company opens its 21st season in mid-October with Tanya Saracho's "Enfrascada."

According to Fete, the Shubert Foundation grant could not have come at a better time. "Financial assistance is very difficult to get in these economic times," she said. "Businesses and even foundations have been hit hard by the drop in the stock market."

The company plans to use the funds to keep producing shows "with high artistic quality, showcasing new plays, and giving new artists a chance to display their talent," she said.

Fete believes the Shubert grant will raise the company's visibility on the national scene. "We will certainly note the Shubert Foundation money in other grant proposals we submit," Fete said. "This is certainly a feather in our cap."

The company also continues to receive funding from a variety of local sources, including UPAF (the United Performing Arts Fund), the Wisconsin Arts Board, the Milwaukee Arts Board, CAMPAC (a funding source operated by Milwaukee County) and private foundations, as well as from individual donors and subscribers.

The New York-based Shubert Foundation, founded in the 1940s, awards annual grants to more than 300 theaters nationwide. In 2011, Shubert Foundation grants were received by two Milwaukee theater companies, First Stage Children's Theater and the Milwaukee Repertory Theater.



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[ElysseW@CommunitySharesMKE.org](mailto:ElysseW@CommunitySharesMKE.org) or (414) 342-0883.





# 'C' words – cancer, Christians and comedy

## Replay

GREGG SHAPIRO

### 'THE BIG C – THE COMPLETE SECOND SEASON'

As cancer-stricken Cathy, Golden Globe-winner Laura Linney earns her place among the great actresses of her generation. Her performance in this series effortlessly balances comedy and tragedy, often at the same time.

Surrounded by family and friends, school-teacher/swim coach/wife/mother/sister Cathy makes her way through her personal war zone with as much grace as she can muster. Over the course of 13 episodes (three discs), Cathy and husband Paul (Oliver Platt) try to be the best parents they can be to son Adam (Gabriel Basso). They provide a temporary home for Cathy's student Andrea (Gabourey Sidibe), whose parents are overseas serving as missionaries. Paul deals with Cathy's health insurance dramas and loses his job. Andrea is romanced by Paul's co-worker Mykail (Boyd Holbrook), while Adam is pursued by the much older Poppy (Parker Posey). Meanwhile, Cathy's mentally unbalanced brother Sean (out actor John Benjamin Hickey) teeters

ever closer to the edge of the abyss.

The high point of the season is the introduction of Lee (Hugh Dancey). A fellow cancer patient, Lee meets Cathy as part of a clinical trial run by cancer doc Sherman (Alan Alda). Lee, a gay marathon runner and wine aficionado, proves to be a source of compassion and inspiration to Cathy. Their shared experience is played out with authenticity. Keep a box of tissues at hand, because tears are sure to flow. DVD special features include deleted scenes and outtakes.

### 'GCB: THE COMPLETE FIRST SEASON'

Campy as "Ugly Betty" with a Southern drawl and as silly as Texas is big, "GCB" (which stands for good Christian bitches) is a goofy, crazy blast. Liberally making fun of the Lone Star State, this live-action cartoon begins with the return of recovering mean girl Amanda (Leslie Bibb). Newly widowed and with two teens, she returns to the sprawling Dallas home of her gun-toting mama Gigi (Annie Potts), following the sud-



PHOTO: COURTESY

The cast of "GCB."

den death of her philandering husband.

Before you can say "Texas toast," the gossip mill is spinning and Amanda comes face to face with four women whose lives she made a living hell in high school. The vengeful quartet includes pint-sized powerhouse Carleen (the over-animated Kristin Chenoweth), tough as acrylic nails Cricket (Miriam Shor of "Hedwig" fame), ditzzy but determined Sharon (Jennifer Aspen) and real estate climber Heather (Marisol Nichols). Their combined wrath is greater than their God's. Their endless array of schemes to turn the tables on Amanda – as opposed to turning the other cheek – don't always go as planned and hilarity ensues.

The men in these women's lives are mostly buffoons. Cricket's husband Blake (the hot Mark Deklin) is gay, and Cricket is not only aware of this but approves. Blake spends almost as much time with his ranch hands as he does strutting around shirtless. It's a nice touch for comedic and dramatic purposes, but it also reminds viewers that not every metropolis is a welcoming place for the gay community. Bonus features on the three-disc, 10-episode set include a variety of featurettes, bloopers, deleted and extended scenes and more.

### 'PANTS OFF AND TIRED HOOKER'

The single-disc double feature "Pants Off and Tired Hooker" consists of Kathy Griffin's Bravo TV specials, as well as unaired bonus footage described as "comedy unfit for TV."

"Pants Off" opens with the D-List diva's mother, the notorious 91-year-old lush Maggie, introducing Griffin to the Costa Mesa crowd. It's funnier and more focused than the distracting, Atlantic City-shot "Tired Hooker."

Fit and trim in black for both specials, Griffin shares her pop culture obsessions, including the Kardashians, Casey Anthony, Nancy Grace, Michele and Marcus Bachmann, the Real Housewives, the newly out Anderson Cooper, Hugh Jackman, Lindsay Lohan, Grindr and, of course, her gays. Cher figures prominently in the bonus material.

### 'THE SARAH SILVERMAN

### PROGRAM – THE COMPLETE SERIES'

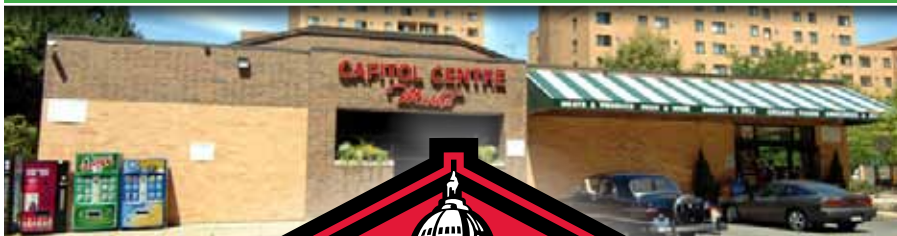
You know her, you love her, you're shocked and appalled by her. Sarah Silverman might be the only female comedian who could make Kathy Griffin blush. Nothing is sacred or off limits in the irreverent world of her TV series "The Sarah Silverman Program," which ran for three seasons, from 2007-2010, on Comedy Central. Over the course of more than 30 episodes, Silverman applies her unique perspective to a variety of subjects, including gays and lesbians, racial stereotypes, abortion, homelessness, AIDS, pedophilia, the disabled, bedwetting, drug use, sibling relationships and rivalries, often in a manner that includes toilet humor and a taboo perspective. Not for the faint of heart, Silverman has a way of making people laugh at things that are cringe-worthy and better avoided. The multi-disc set includes an abundance of bonus features.



PHOTO: COMEDYCENTRAL.COM

The cast of "The Sarah Silverman Program."

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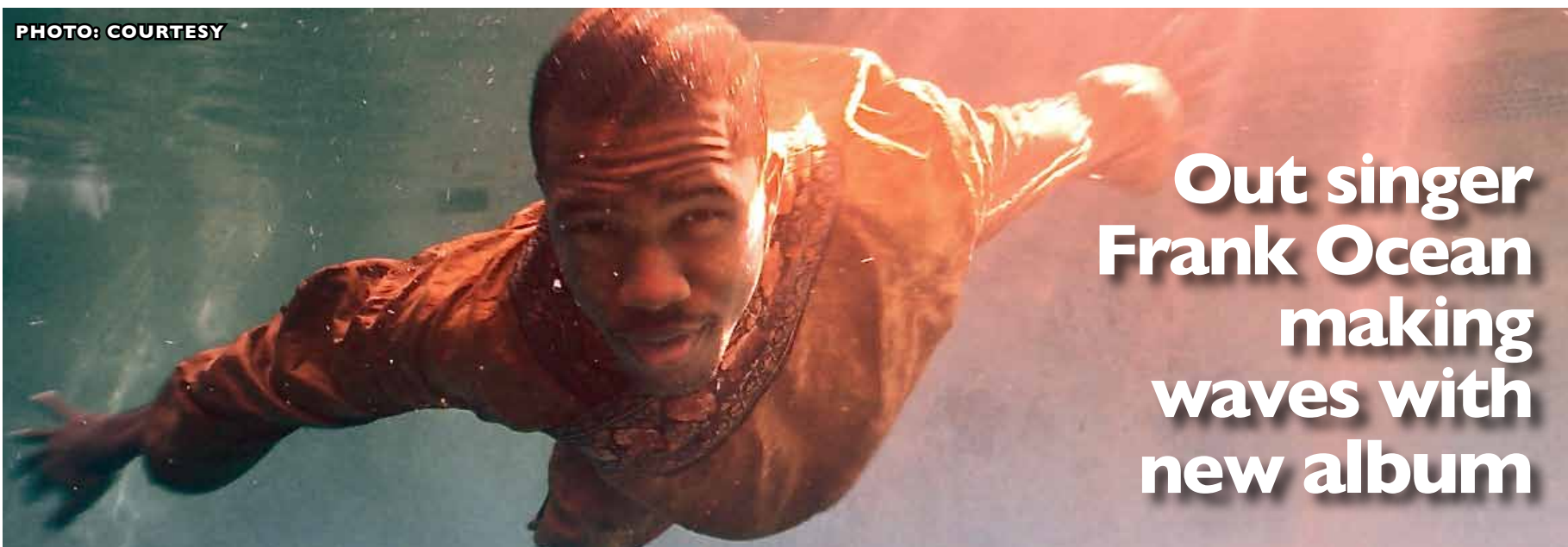
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## Out singer Frank Ocean making waves with new album

By **Nekesa Mumbi Moody**

AP music writer

In this cynical world, Frank Ocean's timing in revealing his sexual orientation seems a bit curious: The Tumblr-page announcement that shook the urban music world came less than two weeks before the release of his sophomore album, "Channel Orange," bringing him an avalanche of publicity and making him the most celebrated figure in music at the moment.

It would all seem a bit manufactured — if we were talking about a lesser artist. But

the 24-year-old Ocean — who already had music fans in the know enraptured by his self-released "nostalgia, ULTRA" last year — is so genuine in his artistry that it's unthinkable that anything else in his mind could be contrived. And on the wonderful "Channel Orange," Ocean continues to demonstrate that he's among the truest, brightest new talents to emerge on the scene in a while.

In many ways, "Channel Orange" picks up where "nostalgia, ULTRA" left off: It continues on a similar musical path, filled with luscious, pillowy slow grooves

("Thinkin Bout You," "Pilot Jones"), whirring electro beats ("Pyramids") and retro-soul ("Sweet Life"). But "Channel Orange" digs deeper than just intriguing melodies and beats: Ocean, who co-wrote most of the album with Pharrell Williams, James Ho and others, gets political on "Crack Rock." And he gets deeply personal on "Bad Religion," where he's tormented by a male lover who doesn't return the affection, and cries: "If it brings me to my knees, it's a bad religion."

Of course, it's Ocean's same-sex declara-

tion that has garnered him so much attention in recent weeks. But anyone expecting "Channel Orange" to be some kind of gay Pride statement may be disappointed: On most of the songs he's pining for a woman, and the most overt same-sex love song, "Forrest Gump," may be social commentary, but it comes across as just a sweet, whimsical love song.

As headline-grabbing as Ocean's recent announcement turned out to be, the enduring story remains his talent, which is showcased brilliantly on "Channel Orange."



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## JULY 26, THURSDAY

Off The Wall Theatre, 127 E. Wells, presents Terrence McNally's bathhouse caper **"The Ritz"** through Aug. 5. Call 414-327-3552.

Milwaukee's very own **BoDeans** performs at 8 p.m. at the Majestic, 115 King, Madison. Call 608-251-2582.

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

Alterra Cafe at the Lake, 1701 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive, presents **Florentine (Opera) at the Lake** at 7 p.m.

Ayre in the Square presents **10 Paces, Fire and Boy Blue**, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Third Ward's Catalano Square, Broadway and Menomonee Streets. Visit [musicinthesquare.org](http://musicinthesquare.org).

Painter J.J. Joyce's **"Aquatic Series"** is on display through July 31 at Boerner Botanical Gardens, 9400 Boerner Drive, Hales Corners. Visit [www.BoernerBotanicalGardens.org](http://www.BoernerBotanicalGardens.org).

## JULY 27, FRIDAY

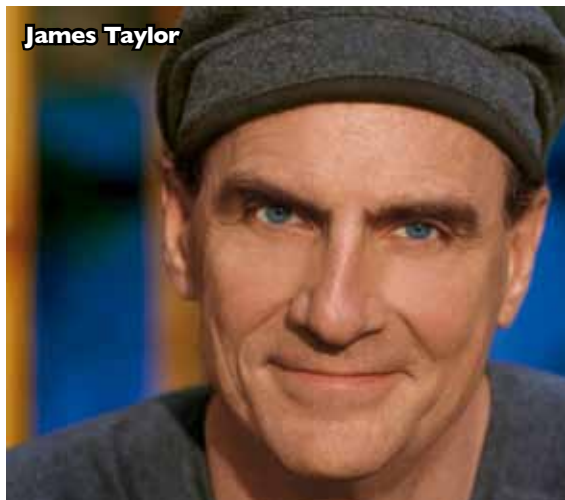
Dating back to 1989, the images in Milwaukee-native Thomas Hellstrom's **"Sugar is Combustible: BCC MKE"** photo diary exhibition are on display through tomorrow at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second St. in Walker's Point. There's a reception tonight from 5 to 10 p.m. Call 414-383-3727.

**Dancemakers 2012**, presenting new choreography by Dance MFA students, begins at 7:30 p.m. tonight and tomorrow night at Kenilworth Square East, Studio 508, 1925 E. Kenilworth Place. Call 414-229-4308.

Ravinia Festival in Highland Park, Ill., presents **James Taylor** tonight and tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. in the Pavilion. Call 847-266-5100.

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.

James Taylor



## JULY 28, SATURDAY

Gay cellist/songwriter **Ian Cooke** is at Indie Coffee, 1225 Regent in Madison. Visit [indiecoffee.net](http://indiecoffee.net) for more information.

Returning for its ninth season, the musical comedy **"Belgians in Heaven,"** set in Southern Door County's Belgian-American farming district, runs through Aug. 24 at The Amphitheatre in Peninsula State Park in Fish Creek.

## JULY 29, SUNDAY

**"Cheeseheads, The Musical"** runs through Aug. 25 at The Amphitheatre in Peninsula State Park in Fish Creek.



## JULY 31, TUESDAY

The new Live @ Peck Pavilion series (in the Marcus Center's Peck Pavilion) presents **"Steve Lippia - Simply Sinatra"** at 7:30 p.m. at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. Call 414-273-2787.

## AUG. 1, WEDNESDAY

Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer, welcomes Ron Tanner, author of **"From Animal House to Our House: A Love Story,"** at 7 p.m. Call 414-332-1181.

LIVE @ the Lakefront presents **Los Ciegos del Barrio** playing Latin music, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Rotary Amphitheater at Discovery World, 500 N. Harbor Drive.

## AUG. 2, THURSDAY

Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer, presents Joe Meno, author of **"Office Girl,"** with opening poet **Dan Nowak**, author of "Recycle Suburbia: Poems," at 7 p.m. Call 414-332-1181.

Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth St., has **Sharon Van Etten** and **Tennis** at 7 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Ayre in the Square presents **Trolley and Micah** and the  **OCD Big Band**, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Third Ward's Catalano Square, Broadway and Menomonee streets. Visit [musicinthesquare.org](http://musicinthesquare.org).

Jazz in the Park presents **New Orleans Suspects** at 6 p.m. in Cathedral Square Park, 825 N. Jefferson.



Mary Chapin Carpenter

## AUG. 3, FRIDAY

Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood, Madison, presents singer/songwriter **Mary Chapin Carpenter**, at 8 p.m. Call 608-241-2345.

**Milwaukee Comedy Festival** presents Matt Griffo, Meanwhile and The Nerdologues at 7:30 p.m. and Erik Kokonis, Barretta and Tape Deck Grade 10 p.m. at Next Act Theatre, 255 S. Water. Call 414-278-7780 or visit [www.nextact.org](http://www.nextact.org).

## AUG. 4, SATURDAY

21st-century new wavers **Neon Trees** and **Shiny Toy Guns** play the Potawatomi Bingo Casino Main Stage at 8 p.m. at the Wisconsin State Fair Park, 640 S. 84th, West Allis. Call 800-884-FAIR.

The world premiere of **"Hero,"** a new musical by Wisconsin native Aaron Thielen and Michael Mahler, runs through Aug. 19 at The Marriott Theatre, 10 Marriott Drive, in Lincolnshire, Ill. Call 847-634-0200.

**Milwaukee Comedy Festival** presents The Comic Thread, The OC Alumni and Johnny Beehner at 7:30 p.m., Lara Beitz, Stripper's Picnic and Drew's Tumbler at 10 p.m., followed by David Drake, The Business and Last Action Movie at midnight at Next Act Theatre, 255 S. Water. Call 414-278-7780 or visit [www.nextact.org](http://www.nextact.org).

High Noon Saloon, 701A E. Washington in Madison, welcomes singer/songwriter **Mindy Smith** at 6 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

## AUG. 5, SUNDAY

The 1960s come alive when the **Happy Together Tour 2012** hits the Potawatomi Bing Casino Main Stage at 7 p.m. at the Wisconsin State Fair Park, 640 S. 84th, West Allis Call 800-884-FAIR.

The legendary **Crosby, Stills and Nash** perform at 7 p.m. at The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin. Call 414-286-3663.

Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell, has **The Dunwells**, at 8 p.m. Call 414-276-7288.

The Pabst, 144 E. Wells, welcomes **The Tallest Man on Earth** at 7 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.



Crosby, Stills and Nash

## AUG. 6, MONDAY

**The Dunwells** play The Frequency, 121 W. Main, Madison. Call 608-819-8777.

## AUG. 7, TUESDAY

Relive the past when **Herman's Hermits**, starring Peter Noone, plays the Cousins Subs Amphitheater, tonight and tomorrow night at 8 p.m. at the Wisconsin State Fair Park, 640 S. 84th, West Allis. Call 800-884-FAIR.

**Florentine Opera** presents a twilight performance at 7:30 p.m. in the Marcus Center's Peck Pavilion, at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.





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