

TILLING UP PAST FLAVORS

Revive the past and preserve agricultural history by planting heirloom tomatoes, fruits and vegetables.

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THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

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Nature in the buff



Photo illustration by Maureen M Kane

Despite growing restrictions, Mazo Beach remains a Top Five haven for naturists

By Michael Muckian
Contributing writer

Mark Porter first heard about Mazo Beach in the early 1990s. Wisconsin's famous nude beach, located on the Wisconsin River in northwest Dane County, held an immediate attraction for him.

"At that time, it was considered a mysterious place. You had to have someone tell you how to get there," says the out IT professional, now 52, who lives just outside of Madison. "I had never been to a nude beach before, and it seemed like a way to possibly meet gay

men outside of the bar environment."

Porter may have had ulterior motives, but it was the area's natural beauty and the beach's comfortable ambience that kept him returning, mostly on Monday afternoons when the crowd was sparse. The 800-yard strip

of sand fronting the slow-moving river looks out over a series of sandstone bluffs. Above the bluffs numerous birds, including red-tailed hawks and sandhill cranes, seem to float effortlessly in the azure sky.

Mazo Beach was an accepting place, Porter says,

attracting men, women and, yes, children of all ages and sexual orientations. Individuals and groups would swim, sun, play volleyball and carry on just like they would at any other beach.

"I learned the rules of the beach," he says. "Clean up after yourself, maintain the

place as if it was your own, and be polite and respectful to all people."

Porter also came to understand the rules of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, which owns the beach and the surrounding 60-plus acres

Natural page 16

Will Dem platform say I do?

The Democratic Party's platform drafting committee voted to include language backing gay marriage during a recent weekend meeting in Minneapolis. A larger committee was expected to vote

on the draft after WiG went to press.

Democratic delegates will formally approve the platform during the party convention in Charlotte, N.C., in early September.

Earlier this year, gay rights advocates began lobbying for marriage equality to be included in the platform. From the start, the campaign had the support of prominent politicians, but it

got a major boost when the president endorsed same-sex marriage in May.

Earlier this summer, the Democratic Party of Wisconsin included a call for marriage equality in its platform.

Right-wing 'Dems' seek to beat true progressives in Aug. 14 primary.

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BALLOT BOX

News with a twist

WIGWAG

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg



TRAMPY TEXTS

British e-publisher Clandestine Classics is releasing sexed-up editions of Sherlock Holmes stories, "Pride and Prejudice" and other classics with erotic passages woven into the traditional texts. AP reports that this means Dr. Watson is declaring his "joy of knowing other men." Clandestine's managing director said she's drawn to "the underlying sexual tension" in older novels.

TUNE IN

NBC will air a pair of "Saturday Night Live" prime-time specials spoofing the November election. The live "SNL" specials, which follow an election-cycle tradition for the satire series, will air Sept. 20 and Sept. 27.

'HI, I'M LANA'

The director of "The Matrix" and the highly-anticipated film "Cloud Atlas" has become the first major Hollywood director to publicly come out as transgender. Lana Wachowski revealed her transition from Larry Wachowski while promoting the new film, which stars Tom Hanks

and Halle Berry. In a promotional video, she appears with pink dreadlocks and says simply, "Hi, I'm Lana."

TESTS BEFORE TOASTS

The owner of a Mankato, Minn., bar has installed a pregnancy test dispenser in the women's rest room in an effort to prevent fetal alcohol syndrome. Pub 500 owner Tom Fredrik says it may sound strange, but it took him about 30 seconds to say "yes" when one of his regular customers suggested the idea. With the swipe of a debit card, women can buy a \$3 pregnancy test from the vending machine. Proceeds benefit the nonprofit Healthy Brains for Children.

MAYBE HE SHOULD READ THE LAW AGAIN

Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, complained recently that "there's something wrong with" outlawing dogfighting when "people fighting" is legal. In clarifying his

remarks, King said his problem with anti-dogfighting laws is that it shows animals have more rights than fetuses. He went on to say that liberals have so devalued life that a man can rape a young girl, kidnap her, force her to undergo an abortion across state lines, and then "drop her off at the swingset ... and that's not against the law in the United States of America."

CHICK-FIL-A'S CONSUMER APPROVAL PLUMMETS

YouGov BrandIndex, which tracks public perceptions about name brands worldwide, says Chick-fil-A's consumer approval rating has nose-dived since revelations that the fast food chain gave more than \$2 million to anti-gay hate groups in 2010.

Chick-fil-A's index score was 65 on July 16, the day the Baptist Press published an interview with company president Dan Cathy in which he said marriage equality is "inviting God's judgment." Since then, the company's index score has dropped 26 points.

The company's anti-gay fans responded with a customer appreciation day on Aug. 1 that drew long lines of fundamentalist Christians at Chick-fil-As throughout the nation.

ANOTHER HORNY PASTOR

The pastor of one of the nation's 20 largest megachurches has been fired over an extramarital affair, possibly with an underage woman. Pastor Jack Schaap of Indiana's First Baptist Church of Hammond is the subject of a criminal investigation, as is Hyles-Anderson College, which is affiliated with the church. Since adultery is not a crime in Indiana, observers believe there's more to the story than an affair.

Mark Kiesling, a columnist for the Times of Northwest Indiana, believes the investigation is the result of "an alleged dalliance with a teenage girl associated with the church's college." He also wrote that "sources close to the investigation say the girl was taken to Illinois and Michigan for Schaap's interludes."



PEACE, MAN

Federal data shows the number of live marijuana plants eradicated in outdoor and indoor grow operations has dropped in most states over the past three years, while the amount of bulk processed marijuana seized has doubled in that time. Authorities can't pinpoint exact reasons. One thing is known: California, which provides the lion's share of the millions of plants eradicated every year in the United States, saw a 46.5 percent drop in plants eradicated between 2010 and 2011, bringing down the nation's overall numbers.

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Right-wing 'Dems' challenge Zamarripa, Pasch

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

State Reps. JoCasta Zamarripa and Sandy Pasch, along with their supporters, charge that their Democratic primary opponents' views are more in line with Republicans than with mainstream Democrats.

Laura Manriquez, who hopes to unseat Zamarripa in the 8th Assembly District, calls herself a "lifetime Democrat." But she has the backing of Scott Suder, the right-wing Republican Majority Leader of the Assembly.

Manriquez touts Suder's support as evidence she can work in a bipartisan spirit to get things done. She denies his Tea Party connections, even though he's a headline speaker at Tea Party meetings around the state and has consistently voted with Gov. Scott Walker.

Pasch's leading challenger in the 10th Assembly District is Millie Coby, who filled out a questionnaire for Equality Wisconsin in which she linked gays and lesbians to pedophilia. She refuses to take a stance on choice, and she's a licensed minister in the fundamentalist Church of God in Christ, as well as a member of Christian Faith Fellowship Church, whose pastor is stridently anti-gay.

Opponents say both Coby and Manriquez are receiving support from the American Federation for Children, a right-wing group that supports a school voucher system giving parents government money to pay private school tuition. Public education supporters like Pasch believe this would decimate the current system by draining scarce funds from already strapped public schools for private and parochial school coffers.

The AFC has backed conservative Wisconsin Democrats in the past. In 2010, the group supported state Sen. Jeff Plale in his unsuccessful re-election bid against progressive then-challenger Sen. Chris Larson.

Coby told WiG she didn't know whether she'd received donations from the federation. "Any donation I've gotten goes to my treasurer, so that I don't know," she said.

Manriquez declined to return WiG's phone calls.

HOMO-BAITING

Manriquez is trying to use Zamarripa's sexual orientation against her with the 8th District's Hispanic-majority voters. Zamarripa came out publicly last month as bisexual in an interview with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

Manriquez and her allies lost no time in spreading the news

through the district by issuing a press release accusing Zamarripa of trying to capitalize on her sexual orientation.

According to several sources, Manriquez has been trying to out Zamarripa since the two opposed each other in the 2010 Assembly election. "I remember being at the Democratic convention in 2010 when we were both candidates and people were coming up to me and saying that she was telling people I'm gay," Zamarripa said.

That same year, the conservative Spanish Journal tried to out Zamarripa by Photoshopping a rainbow over her head in a picture that

do for youth.

"I saw it as the single thing I could do to help raise awareness of LGBT students, parents and employees in the midst of" the 2006 campaign to amend the state's Constitution to ban same-sex marriage and civil unions, she said.

Morales said Zamarripa's coming out could hurt her in the district. "The Latino community remains fairly socially conservative," she said. "Generally, people take a sort of live-and-let-live attitude, but when it comes to political figures, I would say overall it's a negative."

Still, Morales said coming out was worth it to her. "It's a very freeing

and has met with various state representatives and state senators regarding a myriad of issues."

DODGING THE ISSUES

Millie Coby is one of two African-American women running against Pasch in the 10th Assembly District. Pasch currently represents the 22nd District, which was eliminated by Republicans when they redrew the state's political boundaries following the 2010 U.S. Census. The new 10th District combines the heavily African-American neighborhoods of Milwaukee's West Side with the white, affluent community of Shorewood.

Some black leaders have branded Pasch, who currently lives in Whitefish Bay, as a "carpet-bagger" and urged African-Americans to support, as state Rep. Beth Coggs put it, "someone that looks like you."

The other candidate in the race is Ieshuh Griffin. She made national headlines in a prior campaign when she fought to get "NOT the 'white man's bitch'" listed as her statement of purpose on the ballot. (A fourth candidate in the race dropped out and threw her support behind Coby.)

Coby, who is involved in youth leadership development and outreach as executive director of the Commission on Education and Doctrine for the Church of God in Christ, has the support of Coggs, state Sen. Lena Taylor and other African-American leaders. Taylor has said she fears losing the small presence that African Americans currently have in the Assembly.

Jason Burns, executive director of Equality Wisconsin, is alarmed that race has become an issue in the 10th Assembly District. He said progress is only achieved when people work together.

"Equality Wisconsin has a long history of intersectional work with both the African-American and Latino communities," he said. "When making our endorsements we primarily consider how candidates have been on LGBT issues, but we also consider how they've been on other progressive issues, as evidenced in our endorsement of Marina Dimitrijevic over LGBT

community member Bill Buresh (last fall)."

Coby told WiG that neither she nor her church are homophobic. "We believe that Christ loves all people," Coby said. "We teach them how to be good citizens and good constituents to their area."

But apparently that love only goes so far. Coby declined to respond to the item on an Equality Illinois candidate questionnaire asking about support for marriage equality. She also declined to answer a question about the federal Uniting Families Act, which would make it possible for the foreign partners of American gays and lesbians to immigrate to the United States.

In addition, Coby left blank the answer to a question asking whether she supports an immigration bill similar to Arizona's controversial law, parts of which have been declared unconstitutional.

Coby did respond, however, that she would defend Wisconsin's domestic partner registry and support an increase in hate crime penalties.

Her most upsetting response, according to Burns, was to a question about extending adoption rights to registered domestic partners.

"I would support adoption as long as the persons who want to adopt are not pedophiles and have no history of any child molestation," she responded. "Children should not be in any household that would put them in harm's way."

Coby told WiG she does not remember that answer. "I don't even know that I said that," she said.

Asked about her position on choice, Coby refused to answer, saying only that she was the child of a teenage mother who put her up for adoption. "I'm thanking God that I've had the opportunity to be born," she said, going on to talk about the positive impact she's had on the world.

Coby said she moved to Shorewood because she has a special-needs child, and she wanted to be near a school with a strong Individualized Education Program. "I'm in favor of parents having the option of getting the education they want for their children," she said. But she declined to state her stance on school vouchers.

Coby's positions, many of which are shared by the Republican right, have led to charges by Pasch and others that she's a Republican in Democrats' clothing. It appears likely that her election would give the GOP a Democratic vote on some of the most divisive social issues.



PHOTO: MILLIE COBY FOR ASSEMBLY FACEBOOK PAGE

Shorewood supporters of Millie Coby, who opposes choice and equality.

appeared on the publication's cover. Zamarripa said she considered coming out then, but her campaign team urged her to wait.

After agonizing for years over going public, Zamarripa dismissed the charge that she's capitalizing on her sexual orientation as not only ridiculous but insulting.

"This was not an easy decision," Zamarripa said. "You're damned if you do and damned if you don't. I have always wanted to strive for openness and honesty and transparency and to be that kind of leader to my constituents."

Zamarripa said the deciding factor was how much her coming out could help LGBT youth, and she was encouraged by the success of other out candidates around the country.

Jennifer Morales, a former Milwaukee School Board member who came out as lesbian in 2006 and who is a staunch supporter of Zamarripa, agreed that coming out is the best thing LGBT officials can

feeling that at last you don't have anything to lose any more. I know that it did cost me some political support and that was really hard, but I wouldn't trade the experience of being out for any political support."

Zamarripa said she hasn't had any blowback from her constituents. "I've been knocking on doors and talking to voters since the (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel) piece came out," Zamarripa said. "Nobody's brought it up to me. I think my constituents are very pragmatic. I think there's other concerns that will take a priority."

Manriquez has never held public office, but she's known as tenacious. She also ran for the 8th Assembly seat in 2008, and when she came in third in the 2010 Democratic primary, she ran in the general election as a write-in candidate.

Her campaign literature lists among her qualifications that Manriquez "has visited the state Capitol to speak at numerous committees

Gay man celebrates 100th

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

One of the most common and malicious myths that homophobes perpetrate about LGBT people is that they live on average 20 years less than heterosexuals, due to their "unhealthy homosexual lifestyle."

Tell that to Ken Fells.

Born in 1912, Fells celebrated his 100th birthday in July at the Rainbow Community Potluck Picnic. Surrounded by friends from SAGE Milwaukee, Fells was feted with a cake and got a treasured chance to spend time away from the group home where he lives.

The oldest known living gay man in Milwaukee, Fells has become something of a mascot to SAGE Milwaukee, and the organization has connected him to an LGBT community that didn't exist for the vast majority of his life.

At a July 28 SAGE ice cream social and garden party, Fells recounted how he wasn't aware of any gay life in Milwaukee when he was a young man. He always hoped to move to Chicago, where there was more freedom, but it never worked

out, Fells said.

Fells remembers clearly the house he grew up in on Milwaukee's South Side – he even recalls the address. It's in the vicinity of what is now the gay nightclub La Cage.

The first gay club he remembers visiting was The Castaways, which opened in 1979.

But Fells knew of no gay clubs in Milwaukee as a young man. He didn't have his first sexual encounter until about 1960, when he met a man named Victor at the train station and they began seeing each other every Saturday. It wasn't a relationship, really, just a regular tryst.

Fells remembers Victor fondly.

Fells said he could recall being attracted to other boys as early as kindergarten. But his father picked up on his attraction and condemned it. Since Fells lived with his parents or relatives for most of his life, he didn't have the leeway to explore his sexuality. He had no LGBT friends.

So it's ironic that at age 100, he's finally surrounded by a supportive LGBT community through Sage Milwaukee. The group is affiliated

with SAGE USA, the oldest and largest organization in the nation devoted to improving the lives of LGBT elders. SAGE Milwaukee offers a schedule of social events, provides advocacy for LGBT seniors, offers counseling and assists the city in planning and coordinating services for this underserved population.

Located on Milwaukee's East Side in Plymouth Church, 2712 E. Hampshire Ave., SAGE Milwaukee is run entirely by volunteers.

The group currently has about 100 dues-paying members and an email list of about 500, according to board president Dawn Schmidt. Four hundred people receive newsletters in the mail (some of them also receive it by email).

The average age of SAGE Milwaukee members is 60, but about a quarter of them are under 50.

For many of the older members, events such as the July ice cream social are their only opportunities to interact with LGBT peers.

Fells does not feel safe being out in the long-term care facility where he resides due to the number of fundamentalist Christian residents. He has a couple of friends there, but the connections are nothing like those he feels with fellow SAGE members, he said.

Fells requires a walker to move about and his mind is slowing down. His memories are mostly dim and only recalled with effort. His speech is slow, soft and child-like.

Most of his memories are from childhood. He doesn't remember much about his work life, which was in blue-collar jobs. Fells' fondest recollection is of riding on the engine of a steam locomotive from West Bend to Milwaukee.

Despite living in the closet and never making that move to Chicago that he dreamed of, Fells said he looks back on his century on the planet without regret.

"I think I've had a pretty interesting life," he said. "And when I go to parties and things like today, it makes me happy."



Ken Fells

PHOTO: ADAM HORWITZ

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DEAR RUTHIE

Milwaukee Public Schools stonewalls on partner benefits

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Equality advocates were overjoyed when Milwaukee Public Schools decided in September 2008 to extend employee health benefits to the same-sex partners of city school workers. The decision was hailed as a significant local civil rights advancement.

But for the about 100 employees who were affected by the new policy, the benefits were a long time coming. Partner benefits were not implemented until November 2011, and then only after \$65,000 of taxpayer money had been paid to a contractor to determine the best approach for implementation, despite the fact that such benefits are routinely provided by hundreds if not thousands of government agencies and private companies whose procedures could have served as models.

Even after MPS gave the

benefits the go-ahead, the process for applying was labyrinthine and arduous. Other government bodies and private companies, including the law firm Quarles and Brady and Aurora Health Care, the state's largest employer, simply require partner registration under Wisconsin law to qualify beneficiaries.

But Chris Toth, director of insurance and risk management for MPS, decided that the requirement for registering as domestic partners was not rigorous enough to weed out fraudulent applications. The \$65,000 study aimed to establish more stringent application procedures.

"I find it insulting," said Jennifer Morales, whose spouse Tina Owen is cofounder of The Alliance School, a charter school that offers safe haven for students who are bullied and harassed at other schools. "It devalues the registry and puts an undue bur-

den on a group of employees and almost relegates them to second-class status."

Morales and Owen are a high-profile lesbian couple who have appeared on the cover of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. Morales is a former school board member.

Still, despite the visibility of their relationship, the couple was required to supply an astounding amount of information in order to win approval for MPS benefits.

Each woman had to produce copies of her life insurance policy and will to prove the two were mutual beneficiaries on both. They had to produce a copy of their mortgage to show their home was in both names. They had to show copies of their children's birth certificates and a credit card statement or checking account under both names.

"By the time we'd finished it all, I think we'd submitted



PHOTO: FACEBOOK.COM/TINA.OWEN

Jennifer Morales and her spouse Tina Owen.

maybe 50 pages of documentation," Morales said. "Meanwhile, all a heterosexual couple has to submit is a marriage license."

Morales said the experience was an unwarranted intrusion into her family's personal life. "When you think about the kind of information that's in someone's will, it's not the kind of thing you want to share with the public," Morales said.

After finally getting approval, Morales and Owens moved into a new home. MPS then required the couple to prove they were domestic partners at the new address.

"There were a lot of tears and frustration," she said.

MPS also set an astronomical value on the benefits.

Domestic-partner beneficiaries are taxed due to the federal Defense of Marriage Act, which bans the U.S. government from recognizing same-sex relationships. MPS declared the value of the benefits at \$20,000, twice the amount set by other local governments and school boards. The amount creates an excess tax of nearly \$3,700 for each employee and \$755 per policy for the employer, according to Equality Wisconsin.

Heterosexual married couples pay no taxes on such benefits.

In May, Morales and others reported their frustrations to a committee of the school

board, which responded by ordering an investigation of the situation and a report addressing the concerns that were raised.

When the committee finally presented its findings at a July 26 meeting of the school board, gay and lesbian advocates were astonished. Rather than recommending changes, the report primarily defended the unwieldy and unusual procedures already in place without explaining how the original investigators arrived at the process.

"The report flatly failed to address the concerns of those who spoke (in May) and falls short of suggesting any modifications that would actually result in significant changes to the process of obtaining benefits," EW responded in a letter.

EW also took exception to some inaccurate information contained in the report, including the statement that the paperwork required by MPS is consistent with that required by the state, county and city of Milwaukee.

The group provided a chart illustrating the significant differences.


Jason Burns, executive director of Equality Wis-

consin, said he's repeatedly asked for a copy of the original report on which the MPS partnership application procedure is based, despite submitting multiple requests under the federal Freedom of Information Act. MPS has refused to comply with the law.

Activists were heartened when the school board rejected the administration's report at the July 26 meeting and forwarded the issue to yet another committee for investigation. The next report will be presented at the Accountability Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 18.


But despite some encouragement, four years after MPS decided amid much hoopla to extend benefits to the same-sex partners of employees, few have had the means or the stamina to obtain them.

"After observing this for several years and trying to be objective about it, I can only conclude that it must be because of homophobia on the part of several people at the central office," Morales said. "And I don't make that accusation lightly."




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Endorsements for Aug. 14 primaries

Equality Wisconsin endorses:

ASSEMBLY

Assembly District 7, Daniel Riemer
 Assembly District 8, JoCasta Zamarripa
 Assembly District 9, Josh Zepnick
 Assembly District 10, Sandy Pasch
 Assembly District 11, Mandela Barnes
 Assembly District 62, Melissa Lemke
 Assembly District 65, Dayvin Hallmon

STATE SENATE

Senate District 6, dual endorsement of Elizabeth Coggs & Nikiya Harris

Planned Parenthood endorses:

ASSEMBLY

Assembly District 7, Daniel Riemer
 Assembly District 8, JoCasta Zamarripa
 Assembly District 9, Josh Zepnick
 Assembly District 10, Sandy Pasch
 Assembly District 12, Fred Kessler
 Assembly District 44, Deb Kolste
 Assembly District 45, Janis Ringhand
 Assembly District 51, Maureen May-Grimm
 Assembly District 78, Brett Hulsey
 Assembly District 80, Sondy Pope-Robert

STATE SENATE

District 6, Nikiya Harris

Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters endorses:

ASSEMBLY

Assembly District 1, Patrick Veeseer
 Assembly District 7, Dan Riemer
 Assembly District 8, JoCasta Zamarripa
 Assembly District 10, Sandy Pasch
 Assembly District 11, Mandela Barnes
 Assembly District 12, Frederick Kessler
 Assembly District 13, Tom Schellinger
 Assembly District 17, Fred Royal
 Assembly District 18, Evan Goyke
 Assembly District 25, Bernie Starzewski
 Assembly District 34, Merlin Van Buren
 Assembly District 37, Mary Arnold
 Assembly District 44, Deb Kolste
 Assembly District 45, Janis Ringhand
 Assembly District 51, Maureen May-Grimm
 Assembly District 62, Melissa Lemke
 Assembly District 78, Brett Hulsey
 Assembly District 79, Dianne Hesselbein
 Assembly District 80, Sondy Pope-Roberts
 Assembly District 85, Jeff Johnson

STATE SENATE

Senate District 6, Nikiya Harris
 Senate District 12, Lisa Theo

Fair Wisconsin endorses:

ASSEMBLY

Assembly District 7, Daniel Riemer
 Assembly District 8, JoCasta Zamarripa
 Assembly District 10, Sandy Pasch
 Assembly District 12, Fred Kessler
 Assembly District 18, Dual endorsement of Evan Goyke & LaShawndra Vernon
 Assembly District 45, Janis Ringhand
 Assembly District 47, Robb Kahl
 Assembly District 51, Maureen May-Grimm
 Assembly District 62, Melissa Lemke
 Assembly District 65, Dayvin Hallmon
 Assembly District 78, Brett Hulsey
 Assembly District 80, dual endorsement of Sondy Pope-Roberts & Joe Wineke

STATE SENATE

District 6, dual endorsement of Elizabeth Coggs & Nikiya Harris
 District 12, Lisa Theo

VOTING RIGHTS CELEBRATION PLANNED

The Milwaukee ACLU Chapter, along with the Sherman Park Association, is sponsoring a voting-rights information event with free food, music and school supplies for kids.

The event is set for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Aug. 11 in Sherman Park.

Cosponsors include the League of Young Voters and the Cold Spring Park Neighborhood Association.

Organizers are seeking volunteers and encouraging people to share details through social media outlets.

For more, call email athan.theoharis@marquette.edu.

– Lisa Neff

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{ Editorial }

Reverse racism is not progress

Following the U.S. Census, the party in control of each state legislature gets to redraw the boundaries of its political districts, ostensibly to reflect population changes. The party so empowered inevitably uses the opportunity to design a map shamelessly serving its advantage.

In Wisconsin, the reigning GOP leadership used the occasion of the 2010 Census to implement a number of controversial maneuvers, including eliminating the former 22nd Assembly District. Among other things, Republicans folded the district's white, upscale community of Shorewood into the 10th Assembly District's inner-city boundaries, creating a super-majority Democratic district that politically unites two diverse populations.

Meanwhile, state Rep. Elizabeth Coggs, who represents the 10th District, decided to step down this year and run for a state Senate seat. Her move left the seat vacant, and Rep. Sandy Pasch, who did an outstanding job representing the 22nd District, decided to run for it.

Pasch's three opponents include two unqualified candidates and Millie Coby, whose position on choice is blurry at best and whose opinion of LGBT people is insulting at worst. Coby's foes say she's tied to a Republican school voucher group, which she did not deny during a conversation with WiG. For such a Democratic district, the choice in this election should be easy.

But because Pasch's three opponents are African-American and the district is 61 percent black, racial overtones have emerged.

Coggs amped up the ugliness when she told a largely black audience to "vote for someone that looks like you" in the Aug. 14 primary. State Sen. Lena Taylor, a former Pasch supporter, also has urged blacks to vote on racial lines.

Both Coggs and Taylor have thrown their support behind Coby.

In a representative democracy, elected officials should reflect the diversity of their constituents. Everyone benefits when our leaders have a divergent range of experience, insight and sensibilities. But elevating identity politics above all other considerations balkanizes our democracy.

For the record, Pasch is the only Jewish member of the Assembly.

Last fall, WiG endorsed Milwaukee County Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic over openly gay challenger Bill Buresh, even though there's not a single out gay or lesbian on the county board. Dimitrijevic has been an exceptional leader for LGBT equality and other issues that matter to us. Buresh was a newcomer who wanted to curtail the board's size and power. We disagreed.

Pasch, too, has been an exceptional legislator and a champion of progressive issues. On merit, she's become assistant Assembly Democratic leader and chair of the Milwaukee Democratic Legislative Caucus. Meanwhile, none of her challengers has ever held elected office.

Barack Obama was elected president not because he is black but in spite of it. He was the best candidate to lead, and the voters of America looked past the color of his skin and the nation's racist past to let the best man win.

Coggs and Taylor's rhetoric would move us back to a time when that couldn't have happened.

BY THE NUMBERS

408,000 Children in foster care in the United States

107,000 Children in foster care and awaiting adoption

42 States, along with D.C., are silent on fostering by LGBT parents

2 States ban fostering by LGBT parents

6 States protect fostering by LGBT parents

SOURCE: FAMILY EQUALITY COUNCIL

{ Letters }

CONDEMNATION FOR MILWAUKEE SHOOTING

The board of directors and staff of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center express our deep concern and support for the Sikh community of metro Milwaukee at this moment of crisis.

At least seven people were killed, including one shooter, just after 10 a.m. on Aug. 5 at the Sikh Temple in Oak Creek. Early reports from the scene suggest that the shooter's motives appear to have been based on religious or racial/ethnic bias. The shooter was a white male in his 30s.

As LGBT people and allies—members of a community which also is a frequent target of hate crimes

and violence—we know that when acts of hate-based violence occur, the impact is felt across the entire community. We stand in solidarity with the Sikh community and all groups targeted by hate crimes and discrimination.

Regardless of the motives of the assailant, we send our thoughts and prayers to the victims, their families, and the entire Sikh community.

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center board

This is not only an act of extreme violence, it is also an act of evil. It is beyond the power of words to fully express our sorrow.

Our prayers and condo-

lences go out to those killed and injured, and we share the grief of everyone affected by this senseless event. We are grateful for the bravery and immediate work by local, state and federal law enforcement.

Residents of Milwaukee County have an amazing ability to support one another in times of crisis. This is one of those times. The Sikh community is an important part of what makes that happen in Milwaukee County, with a long tradition of standing up for and supporting others. Now we need to stand with them.


*Milwaukee County Executive
Chris Abele*

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ON THE RECORD



“Turning a chicken sandwich into Public Gay Enemy Number One makes LGBT people look superficial, vindictive and juvenile – everything that we as a community have worked hard to overcome.”

– R. CLARKE COOPER, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans, speaking out against the backlash over Chik-fil-A’s donations to anti-gay hate groups.

“I have to say that I’m frustrated by how much we – I mean the Republican Party – are willing to give deferential treatment to our extremes in this moment in history. ... We render ourselves incapable of governing when all we do is take severe sides. ... I would say that the friends I have in the Democratic Party I find ... much more congenial – a little less angry.”

– U.S. Rep. RICHARD HANNA, R-N.Y., speaking candidly to The Post-Standard editorial board about the current state of the GOP.

“(We) don’t lift weights in order to look hot, especially for the likes of men like that. What makes them think that we even WANT them to find us attractive? ... Cause you are clearly the kindest, most attractive type of man to grace the Earth with your presence.”

– British Olympic weightlifter ZOE SMITH, 18, responding to sexist tweets about female weightlifters.

“We’re endorsing Mark Neumann because he has the strongest conservative record in the field, he has the support of the grassroots, and he’s in the best position to win this race for freedom-loving Americans.”

– Far-right, anti-gay U.S. Sen. JIM DEMINT coming out for Mark Neumann in the Aug. 14 GOP Senate primary in Wisconsin.

“The word’s out that he hasn’t paid taxes in 10 years. Let him prove that he has paid taxes because he hasn’t.”

– Senate Minority Leader HARRY REID joining the chorus asking Mitt Romney to release his tax records.

“I’m very looking forward to a Republican being back in office. When you’re rich, you want a Republican in office.”

– Porn star JENNA JAMESON endorsing Mitt Romney for president.

“This is simply an attempt on the part of the gay community to try and leverage their beliefs on another institution, a private company, since they can’t seem to get enough attention.”

– Former GOP presidential candidate HERMAN CAIN weighing in on the Chick-fil-A brouhaha.

“I am not objective when it comes to equality. And that means for all. I want it for you, for me, for everybody.”

– MSNBC host Thomas Roberts, announcing plans to marry his partner of 12 years in late September.



Fifty years of Milwaukee’s gay history



1972: The Gay People’s Union, founded in 1971, was incorporated. The founding was delayed due to the difficulty of finding five individuals willing to sign the articles of incorporation for an openly gay group and the reluctance of attorneys to assist with the legal process. GPU was Milwaukee’s primary gay activist organization through the early 1980s. It was housed in a lower flat at 1568 N. Farwell for many of those years.

GPU sponsored a “Midwest Homophile Conference” at the Marc Plaza (now the Hilton) Hotel in Milwaukee. Frank Kameny and Barbara Gittings, national leaders of the emerging gay and lesbian movement, were the keynote speakers, and more than 100 people attended.

In October, a federal court declared Wisconsin’s involun-

tary commitment law unconstitutional. The judges said the law violated a person’s right to legal representation and failed to consider “less restrictive alternatives.” It permitted forced commitment based on hearsay evidence and allowed detention for more than 48 hours without a hearing. Prior to the ruling, LGBT people could be forcibly committed with few rights or the ability to appeal.

1982: In February, Gov. Lee Dreyfus signed the first-in-the-nation law banning sexual orientation discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations.

The women’s music circuit was in full swing. Milwaukee saw concerts by Maxine Feldman, Holly Near, Meg Christian, Cris Williamson, Deidre McCalla and Llena de la Madrugada, Claudia Schmidt, Judy Gorman-Jacobs and others. Venues included the Pabst Theater, Jazz Gallery, Blue River Café and UW-Milwaukee’s Student Union. Christian and Williamson per-

formed their historic concert at Carnegie Hall Nov. 26.

1992: In January, Mayor John Norquist vetoed an allocation of \$5,000 to support Milwaukee’s Pride Festival. Norquist had encouraged the Pride committee to apply for the city festival funds, and the common council had approved the request. After a tidal wave of anti-gay incidents in the wake of the Jeffrey Dahmer case, the veto led to bitter protests.

In February, Dahmer was convicted of 15 counts of homicide and sentenced to 15 life sentences. He was killed by a fellow inmate in 1994.

In November, Tammy Baldwin became the first openly gay or lesbian member of the state Legislature. She was elected to the Assembly while serving her sixth year on the Dane County Board of Supervisors. Baldwin was elected to the U.S. Congress in 1998 and now is running for the U.S. Senate.

2002: In February, a

Milwaukee jury convicted Pablo Parrilla of intentional homicide in the death of Juana Vega, a lesbian. The LGBT community mobilized to demand a hate crime investigation of the murder. The Milwaukee District Attorney’s office has yet to issue a hate crime enhancement charge in any homicides of gay, lesbian or transgender victims.

A Great Lakes Two Spirit Gathering was held on the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Reservation in northern Wisconsin. The multi-tribal gathering focused on cultural teachings and healing rituals as they impact Two Spirit children, adults and elders.

The United Way of Greater Milwaukee passed a resolution opposing discrimination based on sexual orientation while stating that it would continue to fund the local Boy Scouts Council. What is needed, said United Way leaders, is more “dialogue” with the Boy Scouts. Ten years later, the dialogue continues ...

A view from the AIDS Conference



“Hey, there’s Whoopi Goldberg,” I blurted into a cell phone during a call with someone halfway across the country.

It’s the classic International AIDS Conference experience: Not just seeing but talking with famed researchers, politicians and advocates, observing the mixing of cultures throughout the world and reconnecting with friends and colleagues from around the globe.

All totaled, 23,767 attendees from 183 countries reviewed the latest developments through more than 5,000 speeches, meetings, abstracts, posters and countless informal discussions throughout the conference center.

All of this activity was surrounded by panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt hanging

on walls throughout the conference venue as a solemn reminder of the millions lost. For me the quilt will always bring to mind my friend Mike Johnson, whose valiant fight against AIDS ended in 2010.

At the conclusion of my fourth International AIDS Conference and on the cusp of my 20-year anniversary working in AIDS, inspiration is tempered with the pragmatic reality of the challenges that lie ahead.

It is difficult not to be inspired by the strength of the international AIDS community as evidenced at the conference. There were delegates struggling to deliver HIV medications to developing countries; African grandmothers hand-making jewelry to fund prevention and treatment programs; professionals who have dedicated their lives to defeating AIDS.

Where else but at the IAS would you find people calling for zero new HIV infections when we are now facing more than 2.8 million new

infections annually?

The pragmatic challenges are immense. Evidence shows us that in the United States treatment is only succeeding with 28 percent of those infected. New HIV infections are steady or rising. HIV patients face serious problems related to accelerated aging, chronic inflammation and cancers.

Success in overcoming the social injustice that fuels the AIDS epidemic is slow. How many times could conference attendees clap in appreciation for the Obama administration’s lifting of the travel ban on people with HIV, while many basic rights and full equality is still denied to people with and at risk for HIV here and across the globe?

The work to defeat AIDS is daunting. Most frustrating and troubling is the rhetoric of an “AIDS-free generation” and its expectation of a cure. We are far from this goal, maybe generations away.

I am greatly concerned

that the hopeful message of that catch-phrase may diminish safer sex practices and lead patients not to stay in care because they think a cure is close at hand. And, at a time when more resources are needed, this message could lead to reduced private and public support. Those developments would assure that the goal of an AIDS-free generation would never be met.

It’s amazing that we can even begin research to find a cure. We struggled to imagine this just a few years ago. But the loudest refrain from Washington, D.C., was not about a cure but about the moral obligation for universal HIV prevention, care and treatment while we patiently await scientific advancement. Only if we accomplish that goal can we look toward, someday, a world without AIDS.

Mike Gifford is president and CEO of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.

REGIONAL BRIEFS



PHOTO: STATE DEPARTMENT

Hillary Rodham Clinton remains a top choice for the 2016 presidential race among Iowans, who traditionally have the first say with their caucuses.

IOWANS PREFER CLINTON IN 2016

Iowa voters surveyed by Public Policy Polling continue to prefer Hillary Rodham Clinton in a Democratic race

for president in 2016.

Clinton leads Vice President Joe Biden 60-18 and no other Democrat even comes close in the polling. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and

Massachusetts Senate candidate Elizabeth Warren each have 3 percent, Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer and Virginia Sen. Mark Warner are at 1 percent and Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick register almost no support.

Among Republicans, Mike Huckabee and Rick Santorum are Iowans' top favorites, polling at 17 percent. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie follows at 16 percent, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul at 11 percent, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio at 10 percent, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush at 8 percent, Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan at 6 percent and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin each at 4 percent. Ryan, Walker and Palin are behind the 8 percent support for no candidate.

ORGANIZING FOR BANNED BOOKS WEEK

Wisconsin's ACLU activists are organizing to observe

Banned Books Week, which takes place Sept. 30-Oct. 6.

The ACLU embraces Banned Books Week because, according to an announcement, "the right to read and freely exchange information is at the heart of the First Amendment."

To participate or host an event, contact the ACLU's Stacy Harbaugh at sharbaugh@aclu-wi.org or 608-469-5540.

For more information about Banned Books Week, join the I Read Banned Books - Wisconsin Facebook group or visit American Library Association website at www.ala.org.

WISCONSIN PARTISAN PRIMARY SET FOR AUG. 14

Wisconsin voters return to the polls for the state's partisan primary this month.

Primary election day is Aug. 14, with polling places open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Early voting began July 30 and continues through Aug. 10.

The top race in the primary is on the GOP side for the nomination to run against Democrat Tammy Baldwin for the U.S. Senate seat long held by Herb Kohl. The Republicans in the primary race are Eric Hovde, Mark Neumann, Tommy Thompson and Jeff Fitzgerald.

The general election is Nov. 6.

VANDALS TARGET INDIANAPOLIS GAY BAR

Indianapolis police in July investigated reports of vandalism at a gay bar in the

city's downtown area.

The owner of Gregs said a picture window facing the street was shattered by a possible gunshot, but no bullet was found.

There were no injuries in the incident, which occurred at about 9:30 p.m. on a Saturday.

Police characterized the incident as vandalism.

SCOUT RETURNS MEDAL TO PROTEST GAY BAN

A suburban Chicago man has mailed his Eagle Scout medal back to the Boy Scouts of America to protest the group's decision to continue its ban against gays.

Rob Breymaier of Oak Park said he has long opposed the Scouts' policy and given up hope the 102-year-old organization will change it.

Breymaier was a Boy Scout in Toledo, Ohio, for a decade and spent another 10 years as an adult leader of the same troop. Eagle Scout is the highest rank in the Boy Scouts.

Breymaier said he won't let his 8-year-old son continue being a Scout. He said instead he'd like to start a local group that has Scout values but is also inclusive.

ACLU, ILLINOIS REACH DEAL ON BIRTH CERTIFICATES

The state of Illinois is close to settling a dispute over how it handles birth certificates for people who undergo gender-related surgeries.

Under the proposed settlement, people would be able to change the gender on their birth certificate even if

their surgeries did not modify their genitals.

The American Civil Liberties Union has sued the state, arguing the rules should not specify what kind of surgery a person must have before updating a birth certificate.

The group says some surgeries don't involve the genitals for medical or financial reasons.

After the ACLU filed its legal challenge, the Department of Public Health changed its policy to eliminate the requirement for genital reconstruction. But the court proceedings continued because the ACLU feared the department could reverse course.

MICHIGAN GAY CENTER LEADERS ON HUNGER STRIKE

The LGBT community centers in Michigan are protesting the state's "extreme anti-equality environment" with a 100-day hunger strike.

The campaign began on July 30, 100 days before the election.

The Community Centers Network consists of eight lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Michigan community centers. The network organized the demonstration, which involves people volunteering for daily, 24-hour hunger strikes until Nov. 6.


The hunger strike is taking place on public display - the windows of Affirmations, Michigan's largest LGBT community center on 9 Mile Road in downtown Ferndale.

-Lisa Neff

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MARK WALDO DIES AT 58

Born to Joan Huss Waldo and Reggie Waldo of Manitowoc on May 18, 1954, Mark Waldo died on July 19 after spending a month in a Los Angeles hospital.

Mr. Waldo is survived by siblings Deborah Waldo of New Hampshire, Lisa Waldo Price of Waupaca and brother Steven Waldo of Madison; nephew Cory Wado and nieces Fay Waldo and Caroline Wright; and many friends in Milwaukee, Neenah, Ariz., and California.

The world is richer because of Mr. Waldo, who was flamboyant, gregarious, fun-loving, hilarious and a clown. He loved his family and friends and spent exorbitant amounts of money on gifts throughout his years.

A committal service will be held in Neenah on Aug. 18.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

FONDY FARM FEAST FEEDS FUNDS

Milwaukee farm-to-table chefs will prepare a multi-course meal with ingredients from the Fondy Farmers Market, Fondy Farm and other local producers for the Fondy Farm Feast.

The event is set for 4 p.m. on Aug. 26 at Fondy Farm, 850 County Highway P, Port Washington. Tickets are \$100.

Guests will mingle with farmers and take a tour, feast, then savor dessert while musicians entertain.

Proceeds benefit the Fondy Farmers Market, 2200 W. Fond du Lac Ave., and the Fondy Farm Project in Port Washington.

"We thought a farm dinner would be a fun way to show our supporters where some of the food at the market is grown and to share our other projects with the community," said Fondy Food Center executive director Young Kim.

Benefit sponsors include the Brewers Community Foundation, BMO Harris Bank and Gorman & Company, with donations also from Digital Edge Copy & Print Centers in Milwaukee and

Tony and Lori Koch.

For more, go to www.fondymarket.org.

LONGTIME RIGHTS ADVOCATE TO LEAD ARCUS FOUNDATION

Longtime gay rights advocate Kevin Jennings will lead The Arcus Foundation, a leading global foundation on social justice and conservation issues.

The foundation announced the appointment of Jennings as executive director in mid-July. He starts work there in September.

Jennings currently is the CEO of Be the Change, Inc., where he was instrumental in launching the Opportunity Nation campaign to promote economic opportunity and social mobility in the United States.

Jennings has served as assistant deputy secretary of education under President Barack Obama. He also founded and led the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, the leading national education organization focused on ensuring safe schools for all students and educators.

Prior to founding GLSEN, Jennings taught high school

history at the Moses Brown School in Providence, R.I., and at Concord Academy in Concord, Mass., where he was the faculty advisor of America's first gay-straight alliance.

CELEBRATION PLANNED FOR REPEAL ANNIVERSARY

A group that advocates for LGBT servicemembers is planning to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell."

The end of the gay ban came last September.

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network is planning Celebrating Our Heroes for Sept. 18 in New York City.

An announcement said the event marks the first anniversary of repeal and features Adm. Mike Mullen, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who was instrumental in building support in Congress and at the Pentagon for ending the policy.

The party takes place at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum on Pier 86.

For more, go to www.sldn.org.

— Lisa Neff

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.



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

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and these websites:

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- journey2accept.org
- rm2Bsafe.org
- rm2breathe.org



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PRESENTING THE GROOMS

Nathan Brunner, left, and Jason Burns, executive director of Equality Wisconsin, are tying the knot at 3 p.m. on Aug. 31 at the D.C. Superior Courthouse in Washington, D.C. A Milwaukee reception is scheduled from 3 to 6 p.m. on Sept. 29 at a private residence. In lieu of gifts, the grooms are asking for donations to Equality Wisconsin. Sponsorships for the reception are available, including best man/maid of honor (\$500), groomsmen/bridesmaid (\$250) and ring-bearer/flower girl (\$125).

Lesbian PAC forms with high-profile backers

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

A lesbian political action committee launched this summer with the help of such high-profile backers as actress Jane Lynch and tennis legend Billie Jean King.

"After decades of being a small subset of players in women's rights and LGBT political efforts, the women of LPAC are stepping up to get organized like never before, aiming to give lesbians a real and meaningful seat at the table," LPAC's announcement read. "With significant resources behind us, LPAC plans to make a true impact for lesbians in the 2012 election cycle and beyond."

The PAC, according to its website, is committed to candidates who champion issues that impact lesbians and their families, including:

- Ending discriminatory treatment of LGBT people and their families.
- Supporting sexual and reproductive freedom.

- Supporting women's access to quality health care.
- Furthering social, racial and economic justice for all.

"Members of the LGBT community are inspirational leaders and role models in every aspect of American life," King said. "The formation of LPAC provides lesbians and the entire LGBT community a new, stronger voice and a real and respected seat at the table when politicians make policy that impacts our lives."

Lynch said, "This year we have seen politicians repeatedly support policies that harm women. It is important to me to elect leaders who care about issues that impact women and their families. That's why I support LPAC."

The advisory board includes longtime activist Urvashi Vaid; former newspaper publisher Alix Ritchie; Chicago businesswoman Sarah Schmidt; political consultant Valerie Berlin; lobbyist

Emily Giske; New York businesswoman Margaret Traub; pollster Donna Victoria and Chicago Cubs co-owner/director Laura Ricketts.

Ricketts – whose father is a major donor to conservative causes through the Ending Spending Action Fund – is a co-chair of the Democratic National Committee's LGBT Leadership Council and a major backer of Barack Obama.

"I support LPAC because courageous elected officials who support women's rights, fairness, and equality for all of us deserve our unconditional support," she said.

LPAC has yet to announce its first funding commitments, but mentions have included Wisconsin Democrat Tammy Baldwin, who would be the first openly lesbian member of the U.S. Senate, and the marriage-related ballot measures in Washington, Minnesota, Maryland and Maine.

"Frankly, we created LPAC because we were shocked by

this past year," said Schmidt, LPAC's chair and treasurer. "Lesbians could no longer stand by and witness continued attacks on reproductive freedoms and marriage equality, and be immersed in a political sphere where women are not given a meaningful voice in politics."

A week after LPAC began rallying lesbian donors and voters across the country, a group of conservative women gathered in Concord, N.H., to announce their general election plans.

The women – aligned with the anti-gay hate group Family Research Council – held a press conference to call the "war on women" a myth and blast Obama for trampling religious freedoms.

"It is essential that conservatives of every stripe step up to speak against the divisions President Obama depends upon for victory in the fall elections," said Connie Mackey of the FRC.

Mackey said the few



PHOTO: POPTOWER.COM

Out actress Jane Lynch is backing LPAC. She said, "This year we have seen politicians repeatedly support policies that harm women. It is important to me to elect leaders who care about issues that impact women and their families. That's why I support LPAC."

women who spoke in Concord "stand firmly for the values that made this country great and who look forward to getting this country back on the right road."

ON THE WEB

The Lesbian Political Action Committee – LPAC – is at www.teamlpac.com.

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NEBRASKA LESBIAN ASSAULTED, SLURS CARVED INTO HER SKIN

Police in Lincoln, Neb., investigated an alleged anti-lesbian assault in which three men broke into a woman's home, tied her up, carved into her skin and set her house on fire.

A candlelight vigil for the woman, whose name has not been publicized, took place at the state Capitol on July 22. Others followed later in the week.

"Many in our community are understandably experiencing a great deal of sadness, anger and confusion," Outlinc president Tyler Richard said in the statement. "We look to our entire community to pull together in this difficult time."

The police responded to the woman's call at about 4 a.m. on July 22. She reported that men wearing ski masks had broken into her home and assaulted her.

Police, who in late July consulted with the FBI on the case, declined to say what was carved into the woman's stomach and arms, but a friend of the victim's said the words included "dyke."



PHOTO: OUTLINC.ORG

A candle at the vigil held in Lincoln, Neb., for the lesbian victim of a hate attack.

U.S. EVANGELICALS EXPORTING ANTI-GAY EFFORTS

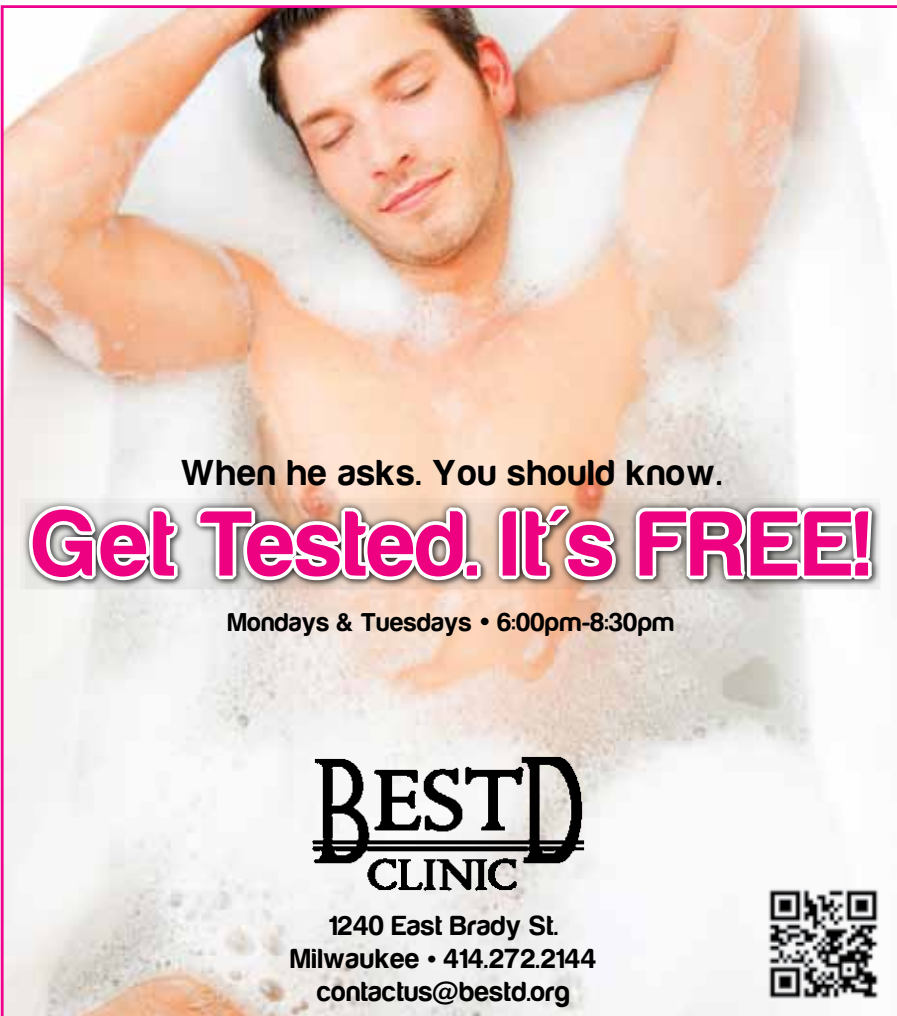
Conservative U.S. Christian groups are "culturally colonizing" Africa to fight for anti-gay legislation, according to a report from Political Research Associates in Boston.

The report says evangelists such as Pat Robertson, along with ultra-conservative Catholic and Mormon groups, are setting up campaigns in Africa that are "reshaping national political dynamics and even laws based on an American template."

The PRA examined trends in seven Afri-

can nations and concluded that U.S. evangelicals have "launched or expanded Africa-based offices dedicated to promoting their Christian right worldview. A loose network of rightwing charismatic Christians called the Transformation Movement joins them in fanning the flames of the culture wars over homosexuality and abortion by backing prominent African campaigners and political leaders."


— L.N.



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315 Court St., # 201 (5 blks north of the Bradley Center) Milwaukee, WI 53212

LGBT youth, advocates plan for back-to-school

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

LGBT youth and advocates at every level are busily preparing for a safer, more equal school year.

In Wisconsin, the 13th Annual Leadership Training Institute, a four-day camp begins Aug. 10, presented by Wisconsin's Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools.

GSAFE booked the camp at the MacKenzie Environmental Education Center in Poynette, where 35 students will get training through workshops, team-building exercises and discussion forums "to build a team of strong GSA activists in Wisconsin and help transition GSA leadership down to younger students," said Tim Michael, GSAFE GSA outreach manager.

The camp, said Michael, "trains current GSA students to return to their schools in the fall with the skills, motivation and support they need to be leaders."

Last school year, Wisconsin had 143 active GSAs

in high schools and middle schools.

"Most of these GSAs are in public schools, and with 426 public school districts in Wisconsin, that means that about one in three school districts has a GSA," Michael said.

Expanding the number of GSAs is a goal for 2012-13.

Establishing safe zones at schools is another goal.

Last year, GSAFE worked with the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network to send safe-space kits to every GSA in Wisconsin.

For the 2012-13 school year, GLSEN launched a nationwide campaign to encourage alumni to send safe-space kits – each package costs \$20 – to every middle school and high school in the United States.

GSAFE also offers to assist educators and administrators in creating safe-school zones.

"We often hear from students that it makes a huge difference when a teacher establishes a safe zone in their classroom from day one,

making clear their expectations for respectful behavior and spelling out what kind of language will not be allowed in their classroom," Michael said.

He added, "If a school district is interested in learning more about what that looks like, they can contact GSAFE and we would be more than happy to assist them with that, or set up a safe-zone training for their staff."

It's important for protection and policies to be consistent in a school building. "We believe that anti-LGBT language and behavior should be addressed consistently throughout a school building, and we hope that school staff include conversations about how that will happen at the start of the school year," Michael said.

The GSAFE representative identified several other major efforts for the Madison-based nonprofit in the 2012-13 school year:

- Strengthening regional work. "We are looking to build stronger infrastruc-

ture and relationships in key regions of Wisconsin," Michael said.

- Strengthening racial and economic justice by establishing programs and staff positions "devoted to working with students of color and low-income youth who are also LGBTQ" and "incorporating racial and economic justice into all of our work."

- Advancing educational justice "so that LGBTQ youth, youth of color, low-income youth, and youth with disabilities all thrive. This work includes helping to build a statewide educational justice coalition to build community support for statewide and school-district level educational justice policy."

On a national level, the National Education Association also is focused on educational and social justice in 2012-13. At the union's summer assembly, NEA executive director John Stocks challenged educators to become "social justice patriots" and "valiantly fight every day to make America live up to its promise."

"NEA members keep standing strong, keep fighting for justice, keep fighting for

our students," Stocks said, rallying the teachers returning to the classrooms for a new term.

The 2012-13 calendar, depending on the outcome of the November elections, also may include congressional action on several education reform bills.

One measure, H.R. 998, or the Student Non-Discrimination Act, would establish a federal prohibition of discrimination in public schools based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. It would provide legal remedies, modeled after Title IX.

Openly gay U.S. Rep. Jared Polis, D-Colo., is the bill's sponsor in the House, while Minnesota Democrat Al Franken has introduced a companion bill in the Senate.

In April, the president endorsed the measure, along with Education Secretary Arne Duncan, who said, "Bullying can no longer be seen as a normal rite of passage. As a country, we must all work together to take action against bullying and improve the safety climates of our schools and communities. That's why I support the Student Non-Discrimination

Act and the Safe Schools Improvement Act."

Duncan was the keynote speaker at the Education Department's third annual bullying prevention summit.

Held Aug. 6-7 in Washington, D.C., the event also featured speeches by Maryland first lady Katie O'Malley, White House senior advisor Valerie Jarrett and Cynthia Germanotta, mother of musician-activist Lady Gaga.

A number of extracurricular events and campaigns dot the school year for LGBT pupils, including: LGBT History Month in October; National Coming Out Day on Oct. 11; Ally Week Oct. 20-24; Transgender Day of Remembrance on Nov. 20; World AIDS Day on Dec. 1; No Name-Calling Week in January; National Gay-Straight Alliance Day on Feb. 6; Day of Silence on April 19; and gay-straight alliance meetings throughout the year.

FOR THE RECORD

Wisconsin law bans discrimination and harassment based on real or perceived sexual orientation, but not based on gender identity or expression.

In 2010, the state also enacted anti-bullying legislation requiring districts to develop an anti-bullying policy or adopt the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction policy.

BACKING AT SCHOOL

Support and advocacy for LGBT students

- Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools: Promotes safe schools for LGBT middle schoolers and high schoolers in Wisconsin, especially with support for gay-straight alliances.
- OutThere: Based in Madison, OT supports LGBT adults ages 18-24.
- Proud Theater: Promotes self-expression, supports LGBT youth in Madison.
- Teens Like Us: Supports Madison LGBT youth.
- GALAXY: Supports LGBT teens ages 14-19 in La Crosse.
- Gay Youth Milwaukee: Supports LGBT Milwaukee youth.
- Project Q: Supports LGBT youth in Milwaukee.
- Students for a Fair Wisconsin: Promotes young LGBT adults, sponsors fairness campaigns.
- College groups: Marquette University Gay/Straight Alliance, St. Norbert College Rainbow Alliance, UW-Eau Claire Spectrum, UW-Green Bay Sexuality and Gender Alliance-Fair Wisconsin, UW-La Crosse Pride Center, UW-Madison LGBT Campus Center, UW-Madison Ten Percent Society, UW Law School QLaw, UW Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Alumni Council, UW-Milwaukee LGBT Resource Center, UW-Oshkosh LGBTQ Resource Center, UW-Parkside LGBT Resource Center, UW-Parkside Rainbow Alliance, UW-Platteville Alliance, UW-Stevens Point GSA, UW-Stout Out @ Stout, UW-Superior Queer and Allied Student Union and UW-Whitewater IMPACT.

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PHOTO: GOAL.COM

Major League Soccer's highest paid player David Beckham. The league recently announced it will no longer support the Boy Scouts of America, which continues its ban on gay members and leaders.

SOCCER LEAGUE ENDING PARTNERSHIP WITH BOY SCOUTS

Major League Soccer's partnership with the Boy Scouts of America was under contract for just one year.

And, according to the

league, that contract won't be extended.

The pro league issued a statement in late July, as the Boy Scouts of America disclosed that a secret committee had reviewed and affirmed the group's ban on gay members and leaders.

"Major League Soccer's agreement with the Boy Scouts of America expires at the end of the 2012 season and MLS does not intend to renew the agreement for a variety of business reasons," MLS president Mark Abbott said in the statement.

Major League Soccer continues to support You Can Play, a campaign to combat homophobia in sports.

PASTOR GOING TO TRIAL IN LESBIAN CUSTODY CASE

A Virginia pastor facing federal charges for helping a former Vermont woman flee the country with her child will probably try to argue he didn't know she was fleeing so she wouldn't have to share

custody with her former lesbian partner, federal prosecutors said.

During a court hearing in July in U.S. District Court in Burlington, prosecutors and the defense attorney for Kenneth Miller, of Stuarts Draft, Va., discussed some of the details of his upcoming trial.

Judge William Sessions ruled Miller's trial should begin in August, after WiG went to press. He rejected a request by prosecutors to delay the trial because the wife of a key witness living in Nicaragua is expecting a baby around that time. The trial is expected to last about a week.

Miller, a Mennonite pastor, is charged with aiding and abetting in an international kidnapping. Prosecutors say he helped Lisa Miller, who's not related to him, and her daughter, Isabella, now 10, drive in September 2009 from Virginia to Buffalo, N.Y., where Lisa Miller and her daughter entered Canada.

Once in Canada, they were met by another Mennonite who helped them in Toronto to board a plane that took them to Mexico City, from where they traveled to Nicaragua.

TRANSGENDER ADVOCATES SEEK NEW DIAGNOSTIC TERMS

The nation's psychiatric establishment is overhauling its diagnostic manual for the first time in almost two decades.

Advocates have spent years lobbying the American Psychiatric Association to rewrite or even remove categories typically used to diagnose transgender people, arguing that certain terms promote discrimination by broad-brushing a diverse population with the stigma of mental illness.

Professionals who have been part of the amendment process say the latest wording respects the broader shift in society's understand-

ing and acceptance of what it means to be transgender, since the last major revision of the manual was published in 1994.

The most symbolic change under consideration for the manual's fifth edition, known as the DSM-V for short, is a new name for "Gender Identity Disorder," the diagnosis now given to adults, adolescents and children with "a strong and persistent cross-gender identification."

In the manual's next incarnation, individuals displaying "a marked incongruence between one's experienced/expressed gender and assigned gender" would be diagnosed instead with "Gender Dysphoria," a term that comes from the Greek word for emotional distress.

CHENEY DEFENDS SILENCE ON GAY MARRIAGE IN 2000

Former Vice President Dick Cheney says he didn't see the point of raising the issue of gay marriage in the

2000 presidential campaign, even though he supported it.

Cheney suggested it wouldn't have done much good and probably would have sunk President George W. Bush's prospects for office. "Why?" he responded to ABC News when asked in a televised interview whether he should have pushed harder for gay couples to marry.

Cheney's daughter, Mary, married her longtime partner in June.

Cheney said of the wedding: "I'm sure it was fine. We wished them well. She wanted to avoid having it be a media circus or having it become part of the political debate. So Lynn and I were very proud and happy and congratulated them."

— from WiG and AP reports

Agreement calls for reforming New Orleans Police Dept.

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

The Department of Justice entered into an agreement intended to reduce allegations of unlawful and discriminatory misconduct in the New Orleans Police Department.

The filing of the agreement in federal court began federal court oversight to ensure effective and constitutional policing in New Orleans, according to the Justice Department.

A federal investigation began in May 2010 and found that NOPD engages a pattern or practice of excessive force, including stops, searches and arrests in violation of the Fourth Amendment and other federal laws.

The investigation, separate from other prosecutions of NOPD officers, also found evidence of discriminatory policing based on race, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation.

The consent decree

requires NOPD to make broad changes in policies and practices related to use of force; stops, searches and arrests; custodial interrogations; photographic line-ups; preventing discriminatory policing; community engagement; recruitment; training; officer assistance and support; performance evalua-



PHOTO: LOUISIANAJUSTICEINSTITUTE.BLOGSPOT.COM

A New Orleans resident talks to the media about New Orleans police violations at a 2010 press conference.

tions and promotions; supervision and misconduct investigations.

The agreement also requires more transparency by NOPD, encourages greater civilian oversight and increases community interaction and partnerships.

The agreement, according to Justice, will remain in effect until the city demonstrates it has complied with its provisions for two years.

"This groundbreaking agreement represents a critical milestone in the recovery of New Orleans and a victory for our city, its police department and most of all its citizens," said U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana Jim Letten. "The consent decree will serve as a blueprint for the New Orleans Police Department, so that it may become a world class police department — one which will be more effective in protecting its citizens against all threats and dangers."



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Wisconsin statutes prohibit the 'indecent' exposure of genitals in public

NATURAL from page one

of wooded land. No drugs, no public sex, no lewd and lascivious behavior.

"I had a friend who was fined last year for applying sunscreen too vigorously to himself, in the DNR warden's opinion," says Porter. "I don't recall seeing anyone engage in activities that might make others uncomfortable, but I'm sure they

took place."

In the past five to six years such activities and the resulting enforcement procedures have started to change the bucolic nature of Mazo Beach. Visitors like Porter, who hasn't been to the beach in five years, might be surprised at what one of their favorite former recreational spots has become.

as 100 cars parked along Conservation Drive, the main access road to the beach. The crowding comes despite the somewhat ill-defined rules involving public nudity.

Technically, Wisconsin statutes prohibit the exposure of genitalia by either sex in public, but the Dane County district attorney's office has chosen not to pursue violators of what is considered a misdemeanor under state law providing the naturists adhere to strict boundaries as defined by the beach. Nudity at Mazo Beach, while not technically legal, is apparently legal enough.

In 1999, lawmakers introduced legislation in Madison that would have made public nudity on state-owned land illegal. However, nothing ever came of the motion and no bill has been introduced since that time.

The issue of legality is further muddled by the fact that the beach, located between the communities of Sauk City and Mazomanie, rests on a part of the river that separates Dane County from neighboring Sauk County. The beach, which is on the river's eastern shore, is technically part of Dane County where the precedent for nudity had been

established and is tolerated. Naturists who go beyond the islands in the center of the river venture into nearby Sauk County and run the risk of arrest.

The issue causing greatest concern to officials, residents and beachgoers themselves, however, has less to do with how much you show, but what you do with it after you've shown it. In recent years, DNR enforcement of state statutes involving lewd and lascivious behavior has netted a growing number of perpetrators who have taken the beach's relaxed approach to socialization one step too far.

Although there have been some arrests for possession of drugs and drug paraphernalia, mostly involving marijuana, by far the majority of arrests have involved instances of public sexual acts, not only in the confines of the nearby woods but sometimes on the beach itself or its nearby sandbars.

On this point, the law is very clear. Those arrested for sex in the woods will likely be charged with disorderly conduct and a civil forfeiture of \$263.50. And sex on the beach? While that may make a fine cocktail, sex anywhere within easy

view of nonparticipants is considered a criminal misdemeanor. The penalties for such acts will be set in courtrooms, but chronic offenders can expect to pay as much as a \$10,000 fine and/or spend nine months in prison.

Last year DNR wardens arrested a Florida man who admitted that he came to Mazo Beach for no other reason than to find a sexual encounter. There also have been advertisements on Craigslist and other social media sites seeking sexual trysts at the beach.

"The number one concern of those we arrest for a sexual encounter is, 'Will this become public information because I have a wife and kids at home,'" says Nate Kroepin, one of a number of DNR wardens assigned to northern Dane County, an area that includes Mazo Beach. "Most of our arrests are for sexual disorderly conduct, and I would say there are slightly more arrests for homosexual activity than for heterosexual."

NOT ON MY RIVER

Public perception differs from DNR statistics, however, and gay beachgoers more often than not

IF YOU GO

Interested in visiting one of the top five nude beaches in America? The Friends of Mazo Beach, a volunteer organization of frequent beachgoers who take care of the property provided directions:

From Madison, take Hwy. 12 north to Cty. Y; turn left (west) to the second turn at Laws Drive; take a short right to Conservation Road (gravel). At the parking lot, walk or bike a mile to the handicap parking lot and beach. Do not disrobe before you reach the beach! No, no, no ... busted!

Visit <http://friendsofmazo-beach.wordpress.com> for more information.



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PHOTO: FLICKR

Mazo Beach has sandy shores and lots of sandbars.

tend to be stereotyped as less discrete in their public sex activities than their straight counterparts.

"As with any nude beach or resort, it's mostly male," says an extensive Mazo Beach post on The Academic Naturist, a blog for public nudists. "There are gay males that go, but they congregate at the south end of the beach. Don't worry about the 'south-enders' though. They're far enough away to be out of sight, and the trouble they cause (a majority of the legal violations) is generally very rare."

In the past few years, wardens have made a more concerted effort to stop lewd and lascivious behavior, patrolling in groups of six or seven officers through the woods and surrounding areas. They know the area well and catch most if not all violators. Some beachgoers even make it a sport to spot the officers and warn others of their presence.

Despite the increase in enforcement, the rate of illegal activity has

not changed, Kroeplin says. Last year DNR wardens made 42 arrests, and this year appears to be on track to hit the same number.

"If you sit in a car and watch the foot traffic to the beach, it's clear that 75 percent of those walking are middle-aged males who have arrived alone," Kroeplin says.

The warden would not venture a guess as to the intent of those single male beachgoers, but the agency in recent years has taken steps to make easy sexual trysts or drug deals difficult if not impossible. The DNR banned beach camping, a popular activity on sand dunes all along the river, in the late 1990s. The agency also enacted a curfew that limits beach hours from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. to reduce the opportunity for sexual activity.

Last year, the DNR went further, clearing trees surrounding the beach to reduce the cover for sexual encounters. The agency cleared even more land this year.

There is a parking lot for beachgoers, but the road has been gated. Access to the beach requires walking or biking roughly a mile down a designated pathway. Bright yellow signs warn that the woods are closed to the public from April to September.

A PLACE TO BE NUDE ... AND NATURAL

"The greatest downside to the beach now may be the mile-long walk through the mosquito tunnel," says Waukesha resident Pete Schell, 43, a sales assistant at a Milwaukee-area car dealership and frequent beach visitor. "I started visiting Mazo Beach six or seven years ago. This was my first nude beach."

Schell is part of GAMMA, a 30-year-old gay Milwaukee-area social group that plans outings, including those to Mazo Beach. He made his first beach visit on a GAMMA outing and has returned 12 times since.

"It's a pretty friendly and welcoming place," says Schell, "I think that people need to be a little less puritanical about their bodies."

Mazo Beach is largely a place to relax with a cross-section of people most of whom, he is quick to point out, do not look like they just stepped off a model runway.

"It's not an orgy or a modeling show," he says. "You may find some beefcake if that's what you are looking for, but most of them are just plain folks and Wisconsin is, after all, a heavier state."

But that may be the point, Schell says, and what makes Mazo Beach not only an

HARLOT! WHORE! JEZEBEL!

Mazo Beach has attracted more than its share of attention from protesters, right-wing politicians and neighbors, including some who need binoculars to get a clear view of the nudity that so offends them.

In 2000, the Rev. Ralph Ovadal, pastor of Pilgrims Covenant Church in Monroe started leading protests against nudity and other implied sins in the beach parking lot. On May 28, 2001, his group of protesters singled out Nancy Jo Erickson, a naturist who in 1998 moved from her native Minneapolis to Mazomanie to be near the beach, as she was arriving for a visit.

The group called for Erickson to repent, to which she responded with an expletive and threats to raise her top and bare her breasts. Cries of "harlot," "whore" and "Jezebel" ensued for the six minutes it took Erickson to unload her car. A DNR warden who was present asked the religious group to stand back and allow Erickson to proceed, but the naturist was angry enough to file a complaint against Ovadal. The pastor was later charged with disorderly conduct and required to pay a \$1,000 fine.

"We've spoken to religious groups and asked them to stop protesting," says DNR Warden Nate Kroeplin. "They seemed satisfied once they knew that we were taking enforcement action here."

Erickson has since married financial planner Jeff Wirth and the couple has opened Wall Street Gallery and Bistro, 14 Broadhead St., in Mazomanie. Nancy Jo Wirth is still an avowed naturist, but she and her husband no longer visit the beach.

attractive place to visit, but one that also is socially necessary.

"Public nudity is not some deep, dark monster, but something as natural and regular as walking down the street in a suit of clothes," Schell says. "It's good that there's

a place that people can be nude. After the first couple of visits you start to wonder why there aren't more places like this."



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Chick-fil-A provokes protest, customer support

From the Associated Press

Gay rights activists kissed at Chick-fil-A stores across the United States just days after the company set a sales record when customers flocked to the restaurants to show support for the fast-food chain president's opposition to same-sex marriage.

The dueling displays of activism demonstrated an unusual amount of staying power over a flap that erupted weeks ago. The prolonged controversy speaks to underlying regional tensions in the United States that transcend the issue of gay rights.

Coursing throughout the conversations on social media, in letters to the editor and in long lines to buy chicken sandwiches is the sense among proud Southerners that the outcry over Chick-fil-A president Dan Cathy's comments smacks of regional stereotyping.

When public officials in Boston, Philadelphia and Chicago tell a Southern icon such as Chick-fil-A that it's no longer welcome, and that Cathy should keep his opinions to himself, many in the Atlanta-based chain's home region hear more than a little northern condescension.

"Maybe the reaction is just because we're Southerners," said Rose Mason, who was lunching recently at a Chick-fil-A in suburban Atlanta.

Mason, who described herself as Christian, said she grew up in New York City.

Now, she said, "I deal with my sister telling me we're a little backward. People have this idea that we're just behind on everything. So they view anything we say through that (perception)."

Cathy, a devout Southern Baptist whose family has always been outspoken about its faith, sparked the controversy by telling the Baptist Press that he and his family-owned restaurant chain are "guilty as charged" for financially supporting groups that campaign against marriage equality. Some of them have been designated hate groups by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Cathy also said that the United States is "inviting God's judgment on our nation when we shake our fist at him and say, 'We know better than you as to what constitutes a marriage.'"

Marci Alt, organizer of a protest at a Chick-fil-A in the relatively liberal Atlanta suburb of Decatur, said Cathy has a constitutional right to speak out against same-sex marriage.

"But when he puts a pen to paper and writes a check to an organization that is about to squash my equal rights, I have a problem with that."

Cathy's comments were in keeping with the tradition established by his father, Truett Cathy, who started the chain in 1967 and never allowed franchises to open



PHOTO: AP PHOTO/THE FRESNO BEE/CRAIG KOHLRUSS

Same-sex couples kiss outside a Chick-fil-A restaurant in Fresno, Calif., on Aug. 3. Gay rights activists kissed at Chick-fil-A stores across the United States, just days after the company set a sales record when customers flocked to the restaurants to show support for the fast-food chain president's opposition to gay marriage.

on Sundays.

Beyond the organized kisses, there were other signs that the furor still had legs. Police were investigating graffiti on the side of a Chick-fil-A restaurant in Torrance, Calif., that read "Tastes like

hate" and had a painting of a cow, in reference to the chain's ubiquitous ads featuring cows encouraging people to eat poultry.

In Tucson, Ariz., an executive at a medical manufacturing company lost his job after filming himself verbally attacking a Chick-fil-A employee and posting the video online.

KISS-IN-TELL

In Decatur, Ga., protesters invited Dan Cathy to accept a dinner invitation from a same-sex family.

- In Atlanta, protesters staged a kiss-in to spread the message that "God loves everyone."
- In Los Angeles, the kiss-in lasted well into the night, allowing for live 11 p.m. newscasts.
- In Dallas, a small protest attracted media attention, infuriating a customer, who tried to eject the media from the property in the middle of an interview.
- In Omaha, Neb., protesters were confronted by a customer who said, "You don't have to be a pervert!"

SOURCE: THINKPROGRESS.COM

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LIKE SOME HATE WITH THOSE FRIES?

Lauren Kelly, the gender editor at AlterNet, put together a list of five fast-food companies whose owners have spent "significant money opposing gay rights, abortion rights and other important causes" by funding attack ads against progressive politicians.

1. **Chick-fil-A:** Founder S. Truett Cathy admitted giving at least \$2 million to anti-gay groups, including hate groups.

2. **Carl's Jr.:** Founder Carl Karcher, who died in 2008, supported anti-abortion groups such as Operation Rescue for decades. Gay rights groups dubbed Carl's Jr. burgers "bigot burgers" after Karcher supported a 1978 ballot proposition in California that would have allowed school boards to fire teachers for being gay.

3. **White Castle:** According to a ThinkProgress report, White Castle has helped bankroll right-wing attack ads. The company gave \$25,000 to the Congressional Leadership Fund super PAC, a group linked to House Speaker John Boehner that supports conservative candidates in the upcoming election.

4. **Waffle House:** So far in the current election cycle, Waffle House has given \$100,000 to the Karl Rove super PAC American Crossroads.

SOURCES: THE ADVOCATE, THINKPROGRESS



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WISCONSIN GAZETTE ENTERTAINMENT

The legendary Tret Fure to sing with Women's Voices Milwaukee



When the definitive history of the women's music movement is written, Tret Fure's name will be prominently featured. In fact, she will have at least one chapter.

Shortly after releasing her major-label debut in the mid-1970s, Fure worked behind the scenes at the legendary women's music label Olivia. There she recorded an album of her own and also met Cris Williamson, with whom she launched both a personal and professional

relationship. Following their breakup, Fure went on to release a number of her own albums, most recently "The Horizon."

Fure appears with Women's Voices Milwaukee in "a program of choral music, honoring the past generation of courageous and talented women who challenged the mainstream music institution by writing, producing and performing music by, for and about women." The performance includes selections by such

pioneering women's music composers as Williamson, Alix Dobkin, Meg Christian and Kay Gardner.

I spoke with Fure in July.

Gregg Shapiro: Were you involved in putting together the program or did the chorus ask you to participate after it was planned?

Tret Fure: They asked me afterward. They did a similar show before ... to great success. What

was inspirational was that younger women were educated in a way they had not been. They really loved the music, bought the old CDs, appreciated what had come before. And I think for the women who experienced that time, it was a great remembrance and celebration. So we are hoping to once again recapture that feeling, that time, that energy and bring the younger generations into the history of our work, our legacy.

Have you had the experience of having your songs performed in a choral setting before?

I've had that experience many times, and it is always transformational, inspiring. One time I remember quite well was in 2003 at P-Town (Provincetown, Mass.). I hadn't been in three years, since Cris (Williamson) and my separation, and I felt it was time to come back. People wanted me back in P-Town. I did a show that opened with the Hartford Women's Chorus, and we did "Coming Home" at the end of their set. It was very poignant. In fact, I walked on stage to a standing ovation, which is rare, and when we did that song, there was great magic in the air.

Were you ever a member of a women's chorus?

No, I've always shied away from choruses. I don't know why. I never considered myself a singer until I picked up the guitar, and it took a few years after that to find my voice. So I've always been solo or duo. I'm not a joiner, and that might be part of it. I tend to move alone or in partnership.

You have a lot of well-deserved awards. What does that kind of recognition mean to you?

It makes me feel that I do serve a purpose. Though being an artist is mostly a selfish endeavor, it is also about feeling valued and being valuable in one's community. I know I have touched lives, I know I have somehow, in some small way, enriched the lives of women and men through my music, through the

Interview

GREGG SHAPIRO

many ways I work and through the commitment I have to our culture and our heritage.

Until fairly recently, you were a Wisconsin resident. What precipitated your relocation?

I am in a new relationship. My partner has children, and they are rooted in Virginia. It was much easier for me to move to Newport News than for them to move to me. I'm really a vagabond, a rambler. I've lived in 13 cities so far in my life. My home is the world..

What do you miss most about Wisconsin?

I miss being in a liberal environment and a very gay environment, but what I have in Newport News is tremendous cultural diversity, much more so than Wisconsin. But Virginia is the Old Dominion. We have work to do. But then again so does Wisconsin.

Your most recent studio recording "The Horizon" was released in 2010. Is there a new album in the works?

Yes, I hope to have a new CD in 2013, but most likely late in the year. I'm on the road for most of the rest of the year, and find it hard to write on the road. ... And I am president of Local 1000, and that takes up a great deal of my time. It's hard to squirrel away time to write! And I'm supposed to be slowing down (laughs).

ON STAGE

Tret Fure appears with Women's Voices Milwaukee at 7 p.m. on Aug. 18 at the Miramar Theatre, 2844 N. Oakland, Milwaukee. Call 414-534-1578.

Broadway's long-running 'Phantom' brings the Great White Way to Milwaukee

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Singer Franc D'Ambrosio was taught at an early age to capitalize on his talents, which led to his current career on Broadway.

"I grew up in a family of Italian bakers in the Bronx, so music and singing were part of our culture," says D'Ambrosio, who turns 50 on Aug. 11. "My 'aha' moment came when I was in the fifth grade and realized my voice was louder than anyone else's."

Volume is only one of D'Ambrosio's skills. He's parlayed his vibrant tenor and seamless legato style into a string of successful performances on screen and stage, including as one of Broadway's longest-running leads in Sir Andrew Lloyd Weber's "Phantom of the Opera."

His Milwaukee fans will have the opportunity to enjoy D'Ambrosio's talents in person on Aug. 28, when

"Franc D'Ambrosio's Broadway" takes the stage at Marcus Center for the Performing Arts' Peck Pavilion. He's looking forward to the visit.

"My grandmother was from Milwaukee, and I love the city," D'Ambrosio says. "It always brings back good memories."

If "A Star is Born" had been written about a man, it could have been the story of the little boy from the Bronx with the large voice. After high school, D'Ambrosio studied at the Hartt School, the performing arts academy of the University of Hartford, Conn., that focuses on music, dance and theater. He also attended the Vocal Academy in Lucca, Italy.

D'Ambrosio was appearing in the first revival of Stephen Sondheim's "Sweeney Todd" on Broadway – the singer's first professional performance – when he was tapped to play the role of Anthony Corleone, the son of Michael

Corleone in the 1990 film "The Godfather: Part III." The singer's casting as the ruthless gangster's opera-singing son ended a nearly two-year talent search for producers at Paramount Pictures. It also was D'Ambrosio's first experience with the movies.

"The switch from the Broadway stage to the film set was challenging," says D'Ambrosio. "But the highlight was working with Al Pacino (Michael Corleone) and Diane Keaton (Michael's ex-wife Kay and Anthony's mother.) They took me under their wings, taught me film acting techniques and kept an eye on me."

D'Ambrosio also was asked to sing "Speak Softly Love," the film's love song, on "The Godfather: Part III" soundtrack recording.

Appearing in the last installment of one of the greatest film franchises provided an international showcase for D'Ambrosio's oper-

ON STAGE

"Franc D'Ambrosio's Broadway" comes to the Peck Pavilion stage at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts on Aug. 28. For details, go to www.marcuscenter.org.

atic talent. As Anthony, the singer performed the lead role in Mascagni's "Cavalleria rusticana." His performance attracted the attention of another Italian tenor – Luciano Pavarotti – who asked D'Ambrosio to come to Italy and spend three months studying with him.

"He was the most generous artist I ever worked with. We ate, sang and laughed a lot," D'Ambrosio says. "He taught me some vocal techniques, but most importantly he taught me how to integrate the rigors of being a professional singer into my life."

D'Ambrosio's lucky star continued to shine. Following his "Godfather" role, the singer found himself auditioning for a production of "Miss Saigon." He had made it as one of the finalists, when his career took another fateful turn.

"After they heard me sing, they told me I was auditioning for the wrong Broadway show and sent me down the block to audition for 'Phantom,'" he says.

D'Ambrosio went on to more than 2,000 performances of the masked impresario, making him one of the longest-running "phantoms" in the history of the show. It also earned him the title "The Iron Man in the Mask" moniker for his continued stamina in performing "Music of the Night."

Impressive? Wait, there's more.

Following "Phantom," D'Ambrosio worked with a New York consortium of artists attempting to mount a production of "Valentino," which was based on the life of the Italian designer Valentino Garavani, not the silent film star Rudolph Valentino. It was during this period that he caught the eye of Barry



PHOTO: FRANCDAMBROSIO.COM

Franc D'Ambrosio.

Manilow, who cast him as Tony, the lead in the musical "Copacabana," based on Manilow's hit song. The show lasted a year and earned D'Ambrosio a National Theater Award nomination for Best Male Performer in a Musical.

Which brings us to "Franc D'Ambrosio's Broadway," conceived in 2004, and D'Ambrosio's perspective on making it on the Great White Way. First, the singer suggests, would-be performers need to get in tune with their lives.

"There was a lot of social pressure growing up to act, be and talk like everyone else," he says. "Choosing to be an individual and standing up for what I felt was right for me and my life path was one of the biggest challenges I faced as a young person."

Next, he says, make sure you are ready for what Broadway throws at you. Only the strong survive, and not even all of them make the cut.

"Make sure you are prepared. You only have one chance to make a good first impression," he says. "And make sure that you need to sing and perform for your

'You need to sing and perform for your life. Just wanting this might not be enough....'

life. Just wanting this might not be enough to get you through all the bull it will take to get you to your professional show."

Two days prior to his Aug. 28 appearance, D'Ambrosio will perform at a private residence in the area for the lucky winners of a bid to help support the Milwaukee Ballet.

During the time between performances, the Broadway star will soak up the Milwaukee memories of his past, anchoring his present success with his past reminiscences.

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Milwaukee again: Rufus Wainwright returns



Rufus Wainwright

PHOTO: COURTESY

Out singer/songwriter Rufus Wainwright digs Milwaukee so much he not only recorded his 2009 live CD/DVD set at the Pabst Theater in August 2007, he titled it "Milwaukee At Last!!!"

The son of music marvels Loudon Wainwright III and the late Kate McGarrigle, Wainwright has been a musical presence since childhood. He stepped out on his own in 1998 with his highly regarded eponymous debut disc, and he's been delighting his devoted following ever since.

In addition to his live performances and albums, marked by rolling piano melodies and poignant lyrics, Wainwright is renowned for his movie soundtracks. His renditions of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah," used in "Shrek," and the Beatles' "Across the Universe," heard on the "I Am Sam" soundtrack, are legendary.

In fact, Wainwright's talent and creativity go far beyond being merely an acclaimed musician, songwriter and singer. In 2007, he did a live,

spot-on recreation of Judy Garland's famous 1961 concert live and recorded it for the CD "Rufus does Judy at Carnegie Hall."

Wainwright's latest recording is the soulful "Out of the Game," which Rolling Stone has lauded as one of the best albums of 2012. The album has charted in 13 countries and reached the Top 10 in Denmark and the United Kingdom.

"Game" is a distinct contrast to his prior release, 2010's soul-baring and mournful "All Days are Nights: Songs for Lulu," and it finds Wainwright at the top his game. His sense of humor is on exhibit throughout, beginning with the title track's dishy observations about the behavior of younger gay men (he's 39). The track "Rashida" effortlessly updates vintage soul, Rufus-style, complete with wailing diva back-up vocals. The retro R&B vibe continues on the sexy "Barbara," the swirling "Bitter Tears" and especially with the full-on funk of "Per-

Music

GREGG SHAPIRO

fect Man," which deserves to be remixed for club play.

To producer Mark Ronson's credit, Wainwright doesn't get lost in the shuffle. On the contrary, he's the central focus throughout the disc. Playing less piano and more guitar than usual, the Rufus we have all come to know and love can be heard loud and clear on "Welcome to the Ball," "Respectable Dive," "Sometimes You Need" and the amazing and utterly gay "Montauk."

Milwaukee audiences will be treated to Wainwright's latest as well as his earlier work when he takes the stage at The Pabst once more on Aug. 10.

ON STAGE

Rufus Wainwright is at The Pabst in Milwaukee on Aug. 10.

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Preserving the past with heirloom tomatoes

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

After enjoying heirloom tomatoes in restaurants for years, my wife and I decided last summer to grow our own. We watched and waited for our Russian Purples to ripen to a lovely, edible shape and size. But we waited too long, and the egg-shaped orbs developed long splits at the stem base, then fell lifelessly into the dirt.

Despite our initial failure as urban farmers, we vowed to try again. This year we planted five different kinds of heirloom tomatoes in our 12' x 8' backyard garden.

We don't expect any of them to ripen to a brilliant grocery-store red. Our 2012 crop includes Black Krim, Orange Oxheart, Lemon Boy, Chocolate Cherries and Mr. Stripey, all heirloom varieties whose colors and patterns are reflected in their whimsical names. We plan to study the plants in our care more closely this year, because our little garden is an exercise in preservation, not for ourselves as much as for the

fruit itself.

Heirloom vegetables and fruits – also known as antique fruits – have attracted a mainstream following among diners, cooks and canners looking for more flavorful strains that haven't been hybridized for mass production. But many varieties are also turning up on the fruit-and-vegetable equivalent of the "endangered species" list, as the drive for mass production threatens the future of some historic strains.

In the Midwest and Central Plains states alone, 16 varieties of vegetables, grains, cereals, meats, poultry, fish and legumes are in danger, according to the Ark of Taste, a food preservation effort launched by Slow Food USA. The list includes Lake Michigan whitefish, midget white turkeys, the Beaver Dam pepper and the Sheboygan tomato.

Much of this decline has to do with efforts by the agricultural industrial complex to create brands with mass appeal and warehouse stay-



PHOTO: MINIFARMBOX.COM

For some fans, it's the imperfections of heirloom tomatoes that make them beautiful.

ing power, compromising or eliminating historic varieties in the process. But sometimes it's the unusual appearance and variant tastes of the vegetables themselves that confuse consumers who, like us, never before knew they existed.

"They look different, taste different and sometimes are smaller or have imperfections," says Leah Caplan, chief food officer for Metcalfe's Market, which has locations in Wauwatosa and Madison's Hilldale Shopping Center. "But to me it's the imperfections that make them beautiful."

Metcalfe's often stocks Black Krim, Green Zebra and Yellow Taxi heirloom tomato

varieties, and the names say it all. The store also carries various heirloom lettuce and antique apple varieties in the fall, depending on their availability.

To qualify as an heirloom, a vegetable or fruit must be 80 years old or more and able to reproduce the same variety from its own seeds, which is something hybrids often can't do. They have delicate skins, because they have not been bred for warehouse storage. They also must be eaten closer to harvesting than hybrids, which makes them healthier by default. There's less time for nutrients to break down during storage.

"They also tend to be deli-

cious, because your great-great-grandmother wouldn't have kept planting them if they hadn't been," Caplan says.

Heirlooms tend to be products of certain times, places and harvesting schedules, linking them to their terroir in much the same way as wine grapes. They bring greater biodiversity to the species, which comes in handy when some varieties are struck down by disease or blight.

Caplan has several personal favorites among heirloom fruits and vegetables. She loves Blue Pearmain apples for their purplish-blue color and complex flavors and fragrances. "It's like eating apple

perfume," she says.

She also favors Little Gem romaine lettuce for its bright green color and high nutritive value. She recommends the tan, squatty Long Island Cheese Pumpkin because of its rich flavor and low moisture content, which make it the perfect pie pumpkin. She also has high praise for green rhubarb, which tends to be sweeter than the red varieties.

If all goes well with our heirloom tomatoes, maybe next year we'll try out some other varieties, such as Cherokee Purple, Moneymaker, Pineapple or Kellogg's Breakfast tomatoes. But there will always be a place in our garden for Mr. Stripey.



From AP

The recent heat wave and drought across the upper Midwest have taken a toll on some crops, but the weather has helped make some peppers extra-spicy and other vegetables more flavorful. For diners who want to take advantage of extra-hot peppers, here's an adapted recipe for jalapeno poppers from Dan Jacobs, executive chef at Roots Restaurant and Cellar in Milwaukee.

JALAPENO POPPERS

The seeds and inner membranes of the jalapenos contain much of their heat. They can be left in or scraped out and discarded depending on your heat tolerance.

Start to finish: 1 1/2 hours. Makes 18 halves.

INGREDIENTS

3 ounces diced pancetta
9 large jalapeno peppers (about 12 ounces)
4 ounces cream cheese, softened
1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese
1 1/2 cups milk
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 1/2 cups breadcrumbs
1 quart canola or peanut oil, for frying
Sour cream, to serve
Salsa, to serve

PREPARATION

In a small skillet over medium-high heat, brown the pancetta until lightly crisp,

about 4 minutes. Use a slotted spoon to transfer the pancetta to paper towels to drain excess fat. Let cool slightly.

Meanwhile, slice each jalapeno in half lengthwise. If desired, use the tip of the knife to scrape out and discard the seeds and membranes.

In a medium bowl, use your hands to mix together the cream cheese, cheddar cheese and pancetta. Use a butter knife to spread a bit of the cream cheese mixture into each jalapeno half. The cheese filling should be level with the sides of the peppers, not mounded.

Place the milk in one wide, shallow bowl, the flour in another and the breadcrumbs in a third. One at a time, dip the stuffed jalapeno halves first in the milk, then in the flour, shaking off any excess, but making certain the peppers are well coated. Arrange the peppers on a plate and allow

to dry for 10 minutes.

Once the peppers have dried a bit, dunk them again in the milk, then roll them in the breadcrumbs to coat well. Set them aside again to dry for another 10 minutes. Repeat the process of dunking the peppers in the milk and breadcrumbs one final time. By this point, the milk will be more of a sludge, but this is fine.

In a medium saucepan over medium-high heat, bring the oil to 365 F. Working in batches of 3, so as not to crowd the pan, add the jalapenos and fry for 1 to 2 minutes, or until golden brown. Use a slotted spoon to transfer the peppers to paper towels to drain excess oil. Check the temperature of the oil between batches, then repeat with the remaining peppers.

Serve immediately with sour cream and salsa.

Replay

GREGG SHAPIRO

Seen and heard

'HIT SO HARD'

Patty Schemel, the subject of P. David Ebersole's doc "Hit So Hard," may not be a household name, but she deserves to be. A drummer with a reputation as one of the hardest hitting musicians in her profession, Schemel has been playing since the age of 11. Keeping the beat in a variety of bands, Schemel is perhaps best known for her tumultuous tenure in the band Hole, led by Courtney Love Cobain (as she is identified in the film).

Schemel documented her experiences in Hole, and her vintage film footage enhances what is already a gripping story. Schemel, who came out in a 1995 Rolling Stone interview, somehow balanced her musical career and role in Hole, playing Lollapalooza and a multitude of festivals, recording albums and living the rock star life. Of course, such a life can also include negative experiences, including Kurt Cobain's suicide, followed soon after by Hole bass player Kristen Pfaff's drug overdose. In and out of rehab, Schemel hit rock bottom when she quit Hole and ended up strung out and living on the streets.

Ebersole makes especially good use of interviews in "Hit So Hard." Interviewees include Schemel's mother, who tells a touching story about Schemel's coming out; her brother Larry, close to her in age and with whom she shared a series of substance abuse issues; Love Cobain, who comes off as crazy and self-absorbed as you'd expect; female musicians such as Go-Go's drummer Gina Schock and Bangles drummer Debi Peterson; and out musicians including Luscious Jackson drummer Kate Schellenbach and Fanny drummer Alice de Buhr, among others.

With all the drama in her story, the greatest impact of "Hit So Hard" turns out to be that Schemel, six years sober at the time the doc was completed, has found a happy ending. Happily running the Dog Rocker Dog Care business, married to her girlfriend, with whom she



PHOTO: COLLIDER.COM

Drummer Patty Schemel.

is a proud parent (thanks to sperm donated by brother Larry), Schemel continues to perform. She also is actively nurturing the next generation of female drummers.

Blu-ray bonus features include audio commentary by the director and Schemel, previously unseen rare footage and much more.

'JOHN MELLENCAMP: IT'S ABOUT YOU'

Photographer Kurt Markus and his son Ian co-directed "John Mellencamp: It's About You," a doc about singer/songwriter Mellencamp's 2009 concert tour with Bob Dylan and Willie Nelson. The

film also includes considerable footage of Mellencamp's Memphis recording sessions at Sun Studios under the direction of T-Bone Burnett.

Markus, who has known Mellencamp for more than 20 years, provides running commentary through which we learn as much — if not more — about the photographer than we do about Mellencamp. It's an unusual approach to documentary filmmaking to say the least, and it comes off as antagonistic at times. However, Mellencamp fans will find plenty to their liking, particularly in the Sun Studio scenes. The Blu-ray contains minimal special features.



PHOTO: TICKETSINVENTORY.COM

John Mellencamp.

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Green Lake and Heidelberg House, relaxed and surprising

PHOTOS: HEIDELHOUSE.COM

By **Michael Muckian**

Contributing writer

As snow fell under the outdoor lamps, inside we sat next to a warm, crackling

fire and watched Charles Dickens' redemptive tale of Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim and ghosts of Christmas past, present and future unfold.

The storyteller who brought "A Christmas Carol" to life on that cold November night in 2005 was Gerald Charles Dickens, the great-

great-grandson of the work's world-famous English author.

Most amazing of all, perhaps, is that the dramatic reading did not take place in London's Old Vic Theatre, but in the Heidelberg House Resort & Spa in Green Lake, which is less than 90 minutes by car from both Milwaukee and Madison.

As we learned from numerous visits, a weekend spent at the Green Lake County resort brings with it surprises just like this one. The Heidelberg House is a year-round destination, but it is during the summer months that the resort, located on the shores of Green Lake, really shines.

Green Lake itself is the state's deepest natural inland lake, covering 7,346 acres and boasting 29.3 miles of shoreline. Sailboats, jet skis and other assorted watercraft ply the lake's surface on summer afternoons. Some carry serious fishermen, while others bear passengers who've simply come to play. In either case, the water's gentle lap against the side of a boat can be a potent tonic for big-city stress.

The Heidelberg House and its host community of Green Lake (population about 1,200) help bring a relaxing focus to the area, while adding their own activities and options for visitors. The area's

draw goes beyond watersports, combining small town charm, fine dining, exquisite spa services and, yes, even the occasional appearance of a famous author's progeny.

The town itself wraps the resort, both of which hug the lake's northern shore. The rural community takes on a languid air in the summer, and a stroll through downtown and residential areas turns up interesting shops and restaurants that will be worth a visit.

But there is no doubt that the resort is the center of activity, capitalizing on the area's natural beauty to draw visitors and encourage them to linger. The integration of activities on the lake with those offered by the resort add an element of class to the outdoor fun.

The Heidelberg House is home to the elegant Grey Rock, long considered one of the state's top 25 restaurants. Comfortable attitudes combine with fine cuisine to offer diners an exceptional experience. Whether your tastes run to sausage and black truffle chicken roulade (\$23) or pan-fried alligator scallopini (\$22), the Grey Rock has something for just about every palate.

During the summer months, the Grey Rock offers its Dine and Sail Experience. Diners board the Escapade Yacht and enjoy a choice of sirloin with sautéed portobello mushrooms, cilantro-rubbed tilapia, hazelnut-crusted chicken or pasta puttanesca with tomatoes, garlic, capers and olives for \$42 per person. The season's final dinner cruise is Aug. 23.

The Grey Rock also will host one more New England lobster bake on Aug. 31. Held on the resort grounds, the menu includes one live Maine lobster of choice, grilled tiger shrimp, steamer clams, grilled sirloin steak and a soup and salad buffet for \$50 per person. Call 920-294-3344 for details about both events.

For those who are only here for the beer, as the saying goes, the Escapade yacht this season also is offering three more beer cruises, each featuring craft beers from different Wisconsin brewers. On Aug. 17, enjoy beer from Big Bay Brewing Co. in Shorewood; on Sept. 7, beers from Glendale's Sprecher Brewery are featured; and on Oct. 12,

enjoy the beers from Middleton's Capital Brewery, along with the changing fall colors.

To work up an appetite for events, golfers can test their skills at Tuscumbia, the state's oldest golf course, located just across the street from the resort. The area also features The Golf Courses of Lawsonia just a few miles down Highway 23, and Mascoutin Golf Course, a 27-hole course off Highway 49 that's home to many tournaments.

The resort's major draw may be the Evensong Spa, which offers massages and other treatments designed to energize mind, body and spirit. Evensong's signature massage, Inner Journey, begins with heated stones placed on key energy points of the body to promote relaxation, followed by a full body massage with your choice of aromatic oils. Therapists are trained in reflexology, facial therapies and water cures. There's a couples massage and even a Hole-in-One Golfer's Massage, designed for pre-game conditioning.

One of Evensong's most intriguing aspects is its labyrinth, an indoor path that functions as a contemplative tool for psychological and spiritual transformation. With designs based on those found in ancient Greece, labyrinths were popular in Europe in the Middle Ages. The most famous labyrinth is located in Chartres Cathedral near Paris.

Walking a labyrinth has reemerged today as a metaphor for the spiritual journey and a powerful tool for transformation. Labyrinths are currently being used worldwide as a way to quiet the mind, find balance and encourage meditation, insight and celebration.

One could say the same about a visit to the Heidelberg House Resort, with or without an appearance by Charles Dickens' great-great-grandson. The resort offers its own redemptive features in a beautiful natural setting.

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Out dancer Travis Wall leaps to new career heights

Television

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

Travis Wall may be having what's known in sports as a "career year," a time of high productivity when everything comes together. July is certainly a career month for the out dancer and choreographer.

Nominated for an Emmy Award as resident choreographer for the FOX television series "So You Think You Can Dance," Wall will see the premiere of "All the Right Moves" this month. The reality series on the Oxygen cable network chronicles the adventures of Wall and three choreographer friends as they launch a dance company in Los Angeles called "Shaping Sound."

The series, which premiered July 31, was preceded by the July 27 release "Step Up: Revolution," the latest film in producer/choreographer Adam Shankman's dance/romance series – and the first involving Wall. The producers saw Wall's work on the Fox series and asked him to become one of the three choreographers for the production,

"It's my first movie, and I was so excited to be there," says Wall, 24. "There is more dancing in this one and it's really great."

Wall exudes enthusiasm for dance, and those who know his background understand his passion for that he calls "moveable art." Wall has been dancing all his life and then some, a feat not surprising for the child of a dance instructor.

"I was literally dancing when I was in the womb," the Virginia Beach, Va., native says. "Whenever my mom would put on music, I would be kicking and moving inside her."

As an infant, Wall would spend his days in a crib in the dance studio as his mother taught. When he got older, his mother sequestered him in a separate room, plugged in a cassette tape and told Wall to develop a dance routine by the time the music ended 30 minutes later.

"She would let music be my babysitter," says Wall. "I did my first routine at two years of age."

At age 9, Wall appeared in a Dr. Pepper soft drink commercial, an opportunity he considers the turning point in his life. "I loved being on camera, and I knew dancing was something I wanted to do with my life," he says.

When he was 12, Wall landed a part in the

2000 Broadway revival of "The Music Man." He moved to New York City by himself, staying with various relatives and friends-of-friends during the show's run. He credits his early independence with allowing him the freedom to follow the opportunities that eventually led him in 2006 to "So You Think You Can Dance."

"I was a contestant during season two, and in 2009 they asked me to come on as resident choreographer," says Wall, who also was invited back for next year.

But his work on the FOX series will have to coexist with his appearances on "All the Right Moves." In the series, Wall shares a Glendale, Calif., house with lifelong friends Nick Lazzarini, who also appeared on "So You Think," and Teddy Forance and Kyle Robinson, both of whom appeared on "Dancing With the Stars." The four comprise Shaping Sound.

"Nick and I are gay and Teddy and Kyle are not, so there is something for everyone in the show," Wall says.

Shaping Sound appeared May 8 at the Saban Theatre in Beverly Hills, a performance that included 22 of Los Angeles' hottest dancers and cost \$70,000 to produce – more than three times what Wall and his friends anticipated paying. But Shaping Sound also sold out the Saban faster than any other performance in the venue's history and the audience reception was overwhelmingly positive, he said.

"We received a standing ovation after the first act," he enthused.

Wall hopes to become a director and producer in addition to being a choreographer. He's more confident about his ability to create dance than to perform it.

"If I were a choreographer casting a show, I don't know that I'd hire myself," he admitted.

In the meantime, Wall and his friends are pleased at the renewed public enthusiasm in dance inspired by shows like "So You Think You Can Dance," "Dancing With the Stars" – and, they hope, "All the Right Moves."

Wall is a strong supporter of multiple charities, including Dancers Responding to AIDS, which is devoted AIDS fundraising and grant-making organizations; the Point



PHOTO: COURTESY

Travis Wall.

Foundation, which provides financial support, mentoring and leadership training to students who are marginalized due to sexual orientation or gender identity; and the "So You Think You Can Dance" Dizzy Feet Foundation, which aims to increase dance education in the United States and help underprivileged youth realize their dreams of becoming professional dancers.

Capping off his career-high month, Wall performed July 28 at the Dizzy Feet Foundation "Celebration of Dance Gala" at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles.

"It's my favorite of the charities I support because it's sponsored by my boss," Wall says.



FARRELL IS THE BEST THING ABOUT THE 'TOTAL RECALL' REMAKE

In the late 21st century, following catastrophic destruction caused by a global chemical war, Doug (a fit Colin Farrell) works in a factory in the Colony that manufactures a synthetic police force. The Colony, one of two surviving nations – the other being the United Federation of Britain – is basically a territory of workers. The Fall, a transport vehicle that shuttles people back and forth between the two continents, is both a modern convenience and means of enslavement.

Happily married to UFB

cop Lori (the robotic Kate Beckinsale), Doug finds his sleep regularly interrupted by the frightening “same dream” at the “same time.” Doug’s mostly boring life hits a glitch following a visit to ReKall, which sells complete sets of memories. Before you can say Arnold Schwarzenegger, Doug realizes he isn’t who he thinks he is. In fact, he’s Hauser, a spy with a skill set that would make Jason Bourne jealous.

Lori, who was bidding her time until Hauser figured out who he was, proceeds to do everything in her power to destroy him. But her boss, the ruthless and corrupt ruler Coahaagen (Bryan Cranston), wants Hauser brought in alive.

Reel Advice

GREGG SHAPIRO

What follows is a series of extended chase and fight scenes, interrupted only to follow a potential love interest developing between Hauser’s fellow agent Melina (Jessica Biel) and set pieces that unapologetically recall those from “Blade Runner.” Farrell is a natural action/adventure hero and is the primary reason for seeing this.

'THE DARK KNIGHT' IS A LONG GOOD-BYE THAT'S WORTH EVERY MINUTE

Beginning with a misguided memorial tribute to the late Harvey Dent (Aaron Eckhart) and concluding with the kind of finale you might expect to see in the “Oceans” or “Bourne” series, “The Dark Knight Rises” would rise to the occasion sooner if director Christopher Nolan had shaved off about 30 minutes.

As we’ve come to expect with anything regarding the

Batman, nothing is ever as it seems. Ruthlessly brutal, virtually indestructible and often indecipherably masked and muscled villain Bane (Tom Hardy) rigs an ingenious plot to elude his government captors and kidnap nuclear physicist Dr. Pavel (Alon Aboutboul). Bane and his multiple accomplices plan Gotham’s reckoning in the form of a multi-mega-ton atomic bomb. The bomb-making components just happen to be stored at Applied Sciences, run by Lucius Fox (Morgan Freeman), who’s employed by the millionaire Bruce Wayne (Christian Bale), aka Batman.

In addition to having to decide whether to come out of retirement (guess what he chooses), Wayne finds himself at odds with his faithful manservant Alfred (Michael Caine), becomes acquainted with the driven and orphaned detective John Blake (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) and gets



PHOTO: COURTESY

“The Dark Knight Rises.”

romantically tangled with millionaire Miranda (Marion Cotillard) and (possibly bisexual) cat burglar Selina (Anne Hathaway). One of his female interests turns out to be good and the other very, very evil. Hathaway gets all the clever lines and bits, and she pulls them off impeccably.

Wayne suffers greatly at the meaty hands of Bane, in a tour de force performance of bitterness and revenge. Wayne also is tormented by his mentor Ra’s Al Gul (Liam Neeson), but championed by Commissioner Gordon

(Gary Oldman).

As you can see, a lot has been crammed into nearly three hours of suspense and action, including fight and chase scenes that go on far too long.

“The Dark Knight Rises” may be the end of the trilogy, but there are hints that it’s not the end of the franchise. As farewells go, this long goodbye is almost worth every minute.

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AUG. 9, THURSDAY

The inaugural Pondamonium outdoor music festival features Madison's "most popular musical product," **Garbage**, along with **The Flaming Lips** and more, beginning at 2:30 p.m. at Warner Park Duck Pond, 2920 N. Sherman, Madison. For more, visit pondamonium.com.

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre presents "**A Thousand Clowns**" through Aug. 26 at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. At 2 p.m. on Aug. 12, there's a talkback about the play led by Jody Hirsh, education director of the Milwaukee Jewish Community Center. At 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 15, Jerry Benjamin presents a ViewPoints Lecture about Jewish life and literature in the 1960s. Call 414-291-7800.

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

Ayre in the Square presents **All Good Things and The Imperial**, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Third Ward's Catalano Square Third Ward, Broadway and Menomonee. Visit musicinthesquare.org.

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

Kander and Ebb's "**Chicago**" runs through Aug. 12 at Peninsula Players Theatre, 4351 Peninsula Players Road, Fish Creek. Call 920-868-3287.

The Pabst, 144 E. Wells, presents **Hugh Laurie** of TV's "House" in concert performing on piano, guitar, drums, harmonica and saxophone, at 7 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Milwaukee Comedy Festival presents **Ryan Lowe, Running With and TIM: The Improvised Musical** at 7:30 p.m. at the Next Act Theatre, 255 S. Water. Call 414-278-7780 or visit nextact.org.



Hugh Laurie

AUG. 10, FRIDAY

Gay singer/songwriter **Rufus Wainwright** returns to Milwaukee and The Pabst, 144 E. Wells, at 7 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Jam along when the Last Summer on Earth Tour, featuring **Barenaked Ladies, Blues Traveler** and others, beginning at 7 p.m. on the Potawatomi Bingo Casino Main Stage at the Wisconsin State Fair Park, 640 S. 84th, West Allis. Call 800-884-FAIR.

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, Fish Creek.

Laugh it up at the **Milwaukee Comedy Festival**, with shows beginning at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. at the Next Act Theatre, 255 S. Water. Call 414-278-7780 or visit www.nextact.org.

Danceworks Studio Theatre, 1661 N. Water, presents **Danceworks on Tap: The Pursuit of Tappyness**, through Aug. 12. Call 414-277-8480.

AUG. 11, SATURDAY

Waukesha BluesFest features a full roster of performers



from 12:30 to 10:30 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 12 at Naga-Waukee Park, one-half mile north of I-94 on STH 83, in Delafield. Visit waukeshabluesfest.com or call 800-366-1961.

Milwaukee Comedy Festival presents shows at 7:30 and 10 p.m. at Next Act Theatre, 255 S. Water. Call 414-278-7780 or visit nextact.org.

"**Belgians in Heaven**" runs through Aug. 24 at The Amphitheatre in Peninsula State Park in Fish Creek.

AUG. 12, SUNDAY

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

AUG. 13, MONDAY

Milwaukee City Hall, 200 E. Wells, exhibits the floats, masks and costumes made by members of the community for the "**Summer of Peace All City Parade**" during regular city hall hours through Aug. 23. An artist reception, including light refreshments and a silent auction of some of the items, is scheduled for 4:30 to 6 p.m. on Aug. 17. Visit milwaukeepublictheatre.org or call 414-347-1685.

AUG. 14, TUESDAY

Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer, hosts a Summer Poetry Night, featuring **Francesca Abbate**, associate professor of English at Beloit College and author of "Troy, Unincorporated," **Tyler Farrell**, author of "The Land of Give and Take," and **Andrea Potos**, author of "We Lit the Lamps Ourselves" at 7 p.m. Call 414-332-1181.

The new Live @ Peck Pavilion series in the Marcus Center's Peck Pavilion presents the Chicago tribute band **Transit Authority** at 7:30 p.m. at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.

AUG. 15, WEDNESDAY

LIVE @ the Lakefront presents **Finbar McCarthy** playing Irish music, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Rotary Amphitheater at Discovery World, 500 N. Harbor Dr.

Agatha Christie's "**Murder on the Nile**," runs through Sept. 2 at Peninsula Players Theatre, 4351 Peninsula Players Road in Fish Creek. Call 920-868-3287.

AUG. 16, THURSDAY

Jazz in the Park presents **Shaker & the Egg** at 6 p.m. in Cathedral Square Park, 825 N. Jefferson.

AUG. 17, FRIDAY

The **Brian Jonestown Massacre** performs at 7 p.m. at Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth. Call 414-286-3663.

Movies at Dusk presents a "**Grease**" Sing-A-Long at 5 p.m. at Discovery World, 500 N. Harbor Drive.

AUG. 18, SATURDAY

Women's Voices Milwaukee presents a program of choral music, featuring compositions by Malvina Reynolds, Alix Dobkin, Meg Christian, Holly Near, Chris Williamson, Kay Gardner and others, with guest artist and women's music pioneer **Tret Fure** at 7 p.m. at the Miramar Theatre, 2844 N. Oakland.

AUG. 20, MONDAY

The Dukes of September (Donald Fagen, Michael McDonald and Boz Scaggs) perform at 6:30 p.m. at The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin. Call 414-286-3663.

AUG. 21, TUESDAY

"**Gutenberg! The Musical!**" runs through Oct. 14 in the Stackner Cabaret at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.

The new Live @ Peck Pavilion series presents **Natya Dance Theatre** at 7:30 p.m. at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.

The ABBA musical "**Mamma Mia!**" runs through Aug. 26 at Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave., Appleton. Call 920-730-3760.

Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer, welcomes Milwaukee native **Stacy DeKeyser**, author of the y/a fantasy "The Brixen Witch," at 7 p.m. Call 414-332-1181.

AUG. 22, WEDNESDAY

LIVE @ the Lakefront presents the reggae of **Natty Nation** beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Rotary Amphitheater at Discovery World, 500 N. Harbor Dr.

Music legend **Bonnie Raitt** performs at 7:30 p.m. at Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787



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