

SHAKESPEARE STRIPPED

American Players Theater presents two plays that invite questions about Shakespeare, the man and the playwright.

Page 23



THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

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Convention countdown

Activists prep for political parties' parties

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

The coming month brings two national events promising pageantry, drama, glamour, humor and folksy homages.

These aren't awards shows – the celebrities, for the most part, will be political stars, and the ultimate prizes are party nominations for the presidency.

The Republican National Convention takes place Aug. 27-30 in Tampa, Fla. The Democratic National Convention takes place Sept. 4-6 in Charlotte, N.C.

Both conventions are crucial to rallying the party bases going into the final two months of a close contest for the White House. With 270 electoral votes needed to win, Obama has 217 solid votes and Romney has 206. Battleground states include Wisconsin, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Nevada, New Hampshire, Iowa, Florida and Colorado.

In both Tampa and Charlotte, host committees are busy making sure the venues are ready – outfitted and secured for an estimated 50,000 delegates, politicians, staff, press and activists. But host police departments are also preparing for the thousands more who are planning to rally, parade and protest as part of the Tea Party and Occupy Wall Street movements, while party committees are firming up credentials, caucus meetings, draft platforms and speakers.

IN TAMPA

Official Republican National Convention plans include a kick-off party at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, the nomination

PARTIES page 16



Ryan has nearly perfect anti-gay record page 4

The sound of violence



Photo Illustration by Laura Gronenk

Sikh shooter a product of shadowy 'hatecore' music scene

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

When Arno Michaels learned that the shooter at Oak Creek's Sikh temple was a white supremacist, he lay "awake that night wondering if it was someone I recruited," he said.

It was a plausible fear. Michaels is a former white-power skinhead who helped found the Northern Hammerskins, part of the nation's predominant white

supremacist group. Around the time that shooter Wade Michael Page joined the movement, Michaels was actively recruiting in the Milwaukee area.

Eventually Michaels learned that Page lived in North Carolina at that time, which was the early 1990s. Initially, he was relieved, "but then it came out that he was in (white power) bands," Michaels said.

When they aren't rant-

ing in Web forums, many of the world's white supremacists employ a louder outlet for their views: thunderous, thrashing heavy metal or hardcore punk music known as "hatecore," with violent lyrics that call for a race war.

Hatecore bands echo the sounds of death metal and hardcore punk, with amplified, atonal guitar riffs, blast-beat drumming and screeching vocals. The

names of hatecore bands tell their story: Aggravated Assault, Angry Aryans, Attack, Definite Hate, Final Solution, Force Fed Hate, Fueled by Hate, Hate Crime, Jew Slaughter and White Terror.

Hate music has also emerged in the country and folk music genres. But it's the crashing, death-metal style that seems best suited to the message and

HATE page 12

News with a twist

WIGWAG

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg



PHOTO: FACEBOOK

LIKE A STATUE

Wearing designer underwear, David Beckham is making appearances around New York City – in the form of 10-foot-tall metallic statues, that is. The massive sculptures have gone up as part of a promotion for the soccer player's new line for H&M. In addition to NYC, there are also two statues in Los Angeles and one in San Francisco. They'll remain on display until Aug. 31.

MORE PUBLIC UNDERWEAR

An Oregon priest has apologized and said he was drunk when he was caught on the street in his underwear trying to chase down a 12-year-old boy he had just molested. The Archdiocese of Portland has said it will pay for the priest's criminal defense even though it was the first in the nation to declare bankruptcy in 2004, just hours before two civil trials on sex abuse allegations were to begin.

PERRY POOH-POOHS PC-NESS

Texas Gov. Rick Perry, talking to a politically charged group of conservatives in Iowa recently, said, "political correctness has to stop." He was referring to the protests against anti-gay Chick-fil-A, saying that when CEO Dan Cathy defended "the sanctity of marriage, the left went nuts." The former presidential candidate said when conservatives dislike a corporate policy, "we simply choose not to give them our business." Liberals, however, "try

to keep everyone else from giving them business." Apparently Perry is drinking his Starbucks and eating his Cheerios, unaware of right-wing boycotts.

POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT

A public charter school in Delhi, La., has dropped its policy that allowed administrators to require tests for female students suspected of being pregnant and for the expulsion of students who become pregnant. The school rescinded the policy at the urging of the American Civil Liberties Union. The measure also had opponents on all sides of the abortion issue.

IDAHO DOUBLE OUTING

An Idaho Democrat has taken himself out of the race for the state House. The decision comes after a party colleague accidentally outed Nate Murphy of Pocatello as a bisexual. Idaho Sen. Nicole LeFavour of Boise had told a newspaper that she was happy that Murphy would be taking up her legacy – and in

doing so let the public know of his orientation.

PILL PROBLEM

An evangelical Christian pastor tried to commit suicide in a Florida courtroom moments after a jury found him guilty of felony sex crimes involving a 15-year-old boy. The Rev. James Harris, 64, formerly the pastor of Belle Glade's Second Baptist Church, stuffed several pills in his mouth and tried to swallow them before West Palm Beach courtroom deputies ordered him to spit them out. Harris was previously arrested in March 2009 for aggravated assault after attacking a woman with a baseball bat at the Belle Glade Elks Club.

DIVERSE BEAUTY

BeautifulPeople.com, a dating website "exclusively for beautiful people," is celebrating diversity and the freedom to marry with an ad campaign featuring two faux same-sex weddings – that of Mitt Romney and Donald Trump and that of Michele Bachmann and Sarah Palin. President Barack Obama is the officiant at both.

BeautifulPeople, which recently launched lesbian and gay dating sites, wanted to put up a marriage equality billboard in Florida, near the site of the Republican National Convention. Turned down, the ads went up on mobile billboards in New York City.

ODD DETOUR

Someone recently hacked a construction sign in Provo, Utah, to make it flash the phrase "God Hates Gays," alternating with the phrase, "Follow Detour." Provo is where prominent Mormon college Brigham Young University is located.


PAIN IN THE ASS

Anal tattoos were the all the buzz at the 17th annual Florida Tattoo Expo, held at a Coral Springs convention center last weekend. A young woman was the subject of a demonstration, her butt pertly in the air as a tattoo artist inked her. Spectators ambled by, gawking and expressing opinions. The model told passersby that she had two boyfriends' names already inscribed on her anus – one of them presumably an ex.

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Ryan has mostly perfect right-wing record

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan has one pro-gay vote on his record, which was for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act in 2007. Gay rights opponents and proponents seem to agree that the vote is a blip on an otherwise unblemished right-wing record.

For his ENDA vote in the 2007 session of Congress, Ryan earned a 10 out of 100 rating from the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest LGBT civil rights group.

Before then and since, however, Ryan has earned zeros from HRC and his stable record against LGBT issues has raised questions about how he would vote if ENDA, which now includes protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity, reached the floor now.

Ryan's staff has referred questions about his ENDA vote to the Romney cam-

paign, which has dodged the issue.

"Ryan's record of voting against fairness, dignity and equality is out of touch with the majority of Americans and a fast growing majority of Republicans," said HRC president Chad Griffin. "LGBT Americans need leadership that will continue to fight for their rights to protect their families, marry the person they love, and enjoy equal protections under the law."

At the other end of the spectrum, Concerned Women for America president Penny Nance expressed only minor annoyance with Ryan's support for ENDA five years ago. She called the vote an anomaly.

"Paul Ryan is a great choice. He has one little blip in that he voted for ENDA ... a long time ago, but voted right on the marriage amendment and supports the unborn. Plus, I get to pull back out my T-shirt from 2008 that says,

'Our VP is hotter than your VP!' Bonus."

On other LGBT issues, Ryan has twice voted in favor of amending the U.S. Constitution to define marriage as the union of a man and a woman. In 2003, he supported the anti-gay Marriage Protection Act and voted in 1999 against allowing gay couples to adopt in the District of Columbia. He also voted against the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell," the policy that banned gays from serving openly in the Armed Forces. Ryan also has voted against hate crimes reform.

The congressman also staunchly opposes abortion rights, which prompted the Catholic Association to state, "We believe Gov. Romney has made an excellent choice. As a smart, serious Catholic, Congressman Ryan has been steadfast on issues of fundamental principle – defending religious liberty, life and traditional marriage."



PHOTO: COURTESY

U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., far right, is expected to get the Republican vice presidential nomination in Tampa, Fla. at the national convention.

Southern parties: Guide to the upcoming conventions

REPUBLICAN



When: Aug. 27-30

Where: Tampa, Fla.

Who: There are 2,286 Republican delegates; 2,125 alternates; 15,000 party leaders and credentialed media members. Wisconsin has 42 delegates.

What: The adoption of the party platform and the nomination of the party candidate for president. Presumptive nominee Mitt Romney is expected to give his speech in prime time on Aug. 30.

www.gopconvention2012.com

DEMOCRATIC



When: Sept. 4-6

Where: Charlotte, N.C.

Who: There are 5,556 voting delegates; 15,000 party leaders and credentialed media members. Wisconsin has 111 delegates, including 11 unpledged.

What: The adoption of the party platform and the re-nomination of Barack Obama, who is scheduled to give his acceptance speech on Sept. 6.

www.demconvention.com

— L.N.

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Family Research Council shooting triggers feud

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

A 28-year-old Virginia man with a 9 mm gun allegedly shot and wounded a security guard outside the Family Research Council offices in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 15.

But with the suspect – said to have been a volunteer at the local gay community center – in custody, the focus turned away from the alleged offender to organizations on the left and the right.

Within hours of the shooting, conservative groups such as the National Organization for Marriage were placing blame for the shooting on liberal organizations such as the Southern Poverty Law Center, which in 2010 labeled the FRC a “hate group.”

SPLC defended that action, saying FRC has long advocated criminalizing homosexuality, supported “ex-gay” therapy and circulated lies linking homosexuality with pedophilia.

On Aug. 15, dozens of leaders from LGBT civil rights groups signed a joint statement expressing support for the guard, his family and his co-workers.

The statement also said, “The motivation and circumstances behind today’s tragedy are still unknown, but regardless of what emerges as the reason for this shooting, we utterly reject and condemn such violence. We wish for a swift and complete recovery for the victim of this terrible incident.”

President Barack Obama and presumptive Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney also expressed concern.

Tony Perkins, the head of the FRC, at first issued a brief statement: “The police are investigating this incident. Our first concern is with our colleague who was shot today. Our concern is for him and his family.”

But by early Aug. 16, the focus had shifted from recovery.

NOM had purchased a new domain name, www.heroofgstreet.com, for a Web campaign.

Perkins held a press conference and said, “Corkins was given a license to shoot an unarmed man by organizations like the Southern Poverty Law Center that have been reckless in labeling organizations hate groups because they disagree with them on public policy.”

Representatives of several other organizations identified as “hate groups” by the SPLC were threatening to sue the Alabama-based group.

Responding, Mark Potok, a senior fellow at the SPLC, said the FRC earned the “hate group” designation in 2010 for spreading false propaganda about the gay community, not for its political opposition to same-sex marriage.

“The FRC routinely pushes out demonizing claims that gay people are child molesters and worse - claims that are provably false,” he said in a statement. “It should stop the demonization and affirm the dignity of all people.”

In defense of SPLC, Wayne Besen, of the gay rights group Truth Wins Out, said, “If the FRC wants to stop being labeled a hate group, it must stop doing and saying hateful things.”

THE SHOOTING

The shooting at the FRC took place mid-morning on Aug. 15.

An FBI affidavit alleges that Floyd Lee Corkins II, 28, of Herndon, Va., entered a building on G Street Northwest and encountered a security guard, identified as Leonardo “Leo” Reno Johnson.

Corkins allegedly told Johnson, who was near the front entrance, something like, “I don’t like your politics.”

The FBI said surveillance video shows Corkins removing a 9 mm Sig Sauer handgun from his backpack and firing at Johnson, who, wounded in the left arm, wrestled Corkins to the ground.

A second guard called 911, which brought paramedics, Metropolitan Police Department officers and FBI agents to the scene, along with the curious and the press.

Authorities say Corkins’ backpack contained 50 rounds of ammunition, as well as 15 sandwiches from Chick-fil-A, a restaurant franchise embroiled in controversy over its president’s anti-gay statements and donations.

The FBI affidavit signed by special agent Garrett Nabors said, “Based on my investigation, I know that a senior executive of Chick-fil-A Inc. recently announced publicly his opposition to same-sex marriage. This announcement received substantial publicity. I further know that the Family Research Council is a Christian conservative policy organization which supports traditional marriage.”

Authorities allegedly also found a note in the suspect’s pocket containing contact information for the Traditional Values Coalition, another anti-gay organization, whose president said she believes her group also was targeted.

Corkins was taken into custody and, on Aug. 16, arraigned on charges of assault with intent to kill and bringing firearms across state lines. Corkins, according to the FBI, parked his car in Virginia and took his gun on the Metro going into D.C.

A federal judge ordered the man held without bail. The judge also ordered a mental health examination and assigned a public defender.

The FBI affidavit said Corkins lives with his parents, who told investigators their son has “strong opinions with respect to those he believes do not treat homosexuals in a fair manner.”

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Progressives score big on Aug. 14

Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Although overshadowed by Mitt Romney's selection of Paul Ryan as his vice presidential running mate, the Aug. 14 primary elections in Wisconsin set the stage for a critical U.S. Senate race and helped define the tenor of the state's next legislative session.

Pro-equality challengers beat out several socially conservative incumbents in the Democratic Party, while anti-gay challengers lost resoundingly to pro-equality incumbents. On the whole, Democratic voters showed a clearly progressive bent, choosing the vast majority of candidates endorsed by Fair Wisconsin, Equality Wisconsin, Planned Parenthood, Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters and other progressive groups.

"It was a night when pro-equality candidates did exceptionally well all across the state of Wisconsin," said

Jason Burns, executive director of Equality Wisconsin.

WINNING OUT

Both out candidates on the Aug. 14 ballot easily won their races. Democrat Mark Pocan, the openly gay state representative who followed Baldwin in representing the state's 78th Assembly District, is now likely to follow her path to the halls of Congress as well. Baldwin decided not to seek re-election to the House so she could run for the Senate.

Pocan took 72 percent of the vote in a four-way primary, giving him a victory margin of 50 percent over second-place finisher state Rep. Kelda Roys. Given the overwhelmingly Democratic make-up of the 2nd District, which includes Dane County, he faces only nominal GOP opposition in November.

Pocan rose to prominence in the Assembly as a member of the powerful Joint Finance Committee, where

he played a leadership role in developing the state budget. Widely considered one of Wisconsin's most effective progressive lawmakers, Pocan won the endorsements of top party leaders and numerous unions and progressive groups. He outspent Roys, with \$512,000 in net expenditures compared to her \$388,000.

In the campaign's final weeks, Roys unleashed a slew of misleading attack ads that Democratic leaders strongly condemned. Roys tried to link Pocan politically to Republican Gov. Scott Walker and to Koch Industries.

The strategy appears to have backfired, given Roys' low vote total, despite being the only woman in the race and having won the endorsement of EMILY's List.

Pocan's victory was an important one for LGBT citizens throughout the country.

"Rep. Pocan has been fighting for LGBT equality along with Fair Wisconsin since the



PHOTO: COURTESY

Mark Pocan and husband Phil Franks celebrate at Pocan's victory party.

very beginning, and we are confident that he will continue to do so in Washington," Katie Belanger, executive director of Fair Wisconsin, said in a prepared statement.

Only four out gays or lesbians currently serve in the U.S. House. In addition to Baldwin leaving the House, longtime U.S. Rep. Barney

Frank, D-Mass., is retiring. Those exits would leave Jared Polis, D-Colo., and David Cicilline, D-R.I., as the only two out congressional members — if Cicilline survives what is predicted to be a tough re-election battle.

By winning his primary race, Pocan ensured that at least one of the four seats

will continue to be represented by an out member of the LGBT community. Several other out candidates' names will appear on congressional ballots, including Mark Takano in California, Sean Patrick Maloney in New York, Richard Tisei in Massachusetts and Kyrsten Sinema in Arizona.

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State Rep. JoCasta Zamarripa, who came out publicly as bisexual just weeks before the election, easily fended off challenger Laura Manriquez in a low-turnout race in Assembly District 8. Zamarripa received 596 votes (67 percent) in the majority Hispanic district, while Manriquez got 296 votes (33 percent).

Although she ran as a Democrat, Manriquez was endorsed by right-wing leaders and embraced some of the conservative agenda. She tried to make Zamarripa's sexual orientation an issue by distributing a press release accusing the incumbent of using her sexual orientation to attract votes, even though Zamarripa's coming-out was politically risky.

PASCH PREVAILS

Millie Coby, another candidate running as a Democrat while pursuing a conservative social agenda, lost her attempt to unseat progressive state Rep. Sandy Pasch in Assembly District 10. Republicans eliminated Pasch's previous district when they redrew the state's political boundaries following the 2010 Census. The redrawn District 10 included Shorewood, a white, affluent suburb that was part of Pasch's old district, and coupled it with Milwaukee's heavily African-American West Side neighborhoods.

High-profile black leaders, including state Rep. Beth Coggs and state Sen. Lena Taylor, threw their support behind Coby, a community youth organizer, in an effort to avoid losing an African-American seat in the Assembly. Two other African-American women also competed.

Coby, who is affiliated with a fundamentalist Christian church, opposes choice and advocates for a school voucher system. She linked gays with pedophiles on an Equality Wisconsin questionnaire and declined to state her position on marriage equality.

Pasch, a leading equality supporter in Madison, prevailed in the race with 61 percent of the vote. Coby garnered only 33 percent. Pasch took 96 percent of the vote in Shorewood, where overall turnout 32 percent.

Pasch celebrated her victory at Art Bar in Riverwest, a gay-owned establishment.

"Republicans and extreme special interests made an effort to eliminate me — and drastically minimize our voice — from the Legislature, so this victory ensures that I can continue standing up to the unprecedented attacks on our shared values and fighting for Milwaukee's needs and priorities," Pasch wrote in a message to supporters following her victory.

PROGRESSIVE SWEEP

Coggs, who was co-endorsed by Equality Wisconsin and Fair Wisconsin along with Milwaukee County Supervisor Nikiya Harris, lost her race to the latter. Harris received the endorsement of both the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters and Planned Parenthood.

The race between Coggs, who is part of a family political dynasty, and Harris, a relative newcomer, was hard fought. With more than 13,000 votes cast, Harris won the four-way race in Senate District 6 with 48 percent of the vote.

In that the Coggs-Harris race represented the old guard against the new, it reflected the 2010 state Senate race between former state Sen. Jeff Plale, a conservative Democrat, and his victorious challenger Sen. Chris Larson.

Similarly, progressives made strong showings across the board on Aug. 14.

In Assembly District 18, Evan Goyke, a young, unknown progressive took 37 percent of the vote in an eight-way race to win an open seat. In Assembly District 11, Mandela Barnes beat incumbent Jason Fields by campaigning on the latter's support for school vouchers and opposition to capping interest rates for payday lenders, who can legally charge more than 500 percent in annualized interest to the working poor who need such services.

"People are disappointed — they want new leaders," Barnes told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

The American Federation for Children, a group that promotes school vouchers, sent out mailers for Fields and other Democratic candidates, spending more than \$100,000 in Milwaukee, MJS

reported. AFC, which is associated with former Assembly Speaker Scott Jensen, a convicted felon, also backed Plale in 2010.

Despite all the money AFC spent, none of the right-wing group's candidates won.

State Rep. Peggy Krusick lost her primary to Dan Riemer in Milwaukee's 7th Assembly District after proposing that race should be removed as a factor in awarding higher education grants. During her tenure in the Assembly, Krusick consistently voted against equality, opposing the state's domestic partner registry and backing the 2006 ballot initiative that prohibits same-sex couples from marrying or forming civil unions.

SENATE RACE SET

The highest profile contest was on the Republican side of the aisle, where former Gov. Tommy Thompson won a contentious and closely fought GOP primary to represent the party in November's U.S. Senate race. Thompson took 34 percent of the vote in a four-way contest, besting businessman Eric Hovde, who came in second with 31 percent, as well as former U.S. Rep. Mark Neumann, the Tea Party favorite, and Assembly Speaker Jeff Fitzgerald, a close ally of Gov. Scott Walker.

Thompson will go on to face U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, the Democratic nominee. If she wins, Baldwin will become the first out senator in the nation and the first woman to represent Wisconsin in the U.S. Senate.

Thompson, a popular four-term governor, focused his campaign on electability. His moderate record and name recognition made him the candidate Democrats and progressives least wanted Baldwin to face.

But having governed the state as a centrist, Thompson faces a dilemma similar to Romney's in trying to persuasively shift his ideological course. On Aug. 14, two-thirds of Republican voters chose a candidate who claimed to be farther to the right than Thompson. Will they turn out in large numbers to support him in November?

Baldwin enjoys great cred with her base, but she will be cast as the stereotypical "tax-and-spend liberal" by the GOP. Baldwin's challenge is to overcome that branding to attract support from swing voters.

It's unlikely that Thompson's campaign will attempt to make Baldwin's sexual orientation an issue, since it could draw attention to his storied sexual indiscretions.

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{ Editorial }

Time is ripe for tackling gun control

The people of Aurora, Colo., had just begun returning to normalcy after the July 20 massacre at a cinema there when Milwaukeeans were hit with the news that a hate attack on a Sikh temple in Oak Creek had left six worshippers dead. A week later, a man opened fire on police officers and bystanders near the Texas A&M University campus, killing two and wounding four before he was gunned down by police.

According to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, the Texas case was the 12th mass shooting in the nation since the beginning of June. FBI statistics show guns are used in 67 percent of all homicides.

The National Rifle Association, which promotes the ownership and use of guns, is possibly the strongest and most effective lobbying group in the nation. Few elected officials will stand up to the all-powerful NRA. Even President Barack Obama has caved in to the group on such important policies as regulating the international small arms trade.

The NRA contends that guns don't kill – people do. But according to the circular reasoning behind this bumper-sticker philosophy, everybody should be entitled to a stockpile of H-bombs and chemical war agents.

Americans owned about 70 million firearms in 1999, and the number has been steadily climbing. Since the Tea Party began liberalizing access to guns, the number in circulation has grown to an estimated 260 million to 300 million.

Tea Party officials also have eliminated most restrictions on where and how firearms can be carried and used. At a time when there's widespread economic hardship and unprecedented polarization in the United States, it would be miraculous if this set of conditions did not have catastrophic results.

Not all deaths by firearms are the result of crimes. In 2010, for example, 11,015 homicides were committed with guns, but firearms were used in 19,308 suicides and caused 600 accidental deaths. In addition, there were about 200,000 non-fatal injuries involving firearms.

The World Health Organization studied and compared firearm deaths in 23 countries in 2003. The total U.S. population that year was 290.8 million, while the combined population of the other 22 countries was 563.5 million.

Yet 80 percent of all firearm deaths in the 23 high-income countries in 2003 occurred in the U.S., where guns rank among the top ten causes of death.

Recent events have created an opportunity for progressives to counter the NRA's propaganda and make a case for gun-control policies.

Democratic leaders in three big states have used the recent shootings to push bills to crack down on assault weapons and ammunition sales. But these scattered efforts have not gained traction in Congress or the presidential campaign, and we have yet to see an orchestrated gun-control effort emerge.

It's disappointing that progressive leaders are not pushing harder and louder to address this critical health issue. Not only disappointing, but cowardly and shameful.

BY THE NUMBERS

300,000,000 Number of guns owned by Americans

30,000 Number of people killed each year by guns in America

85% Proportion of extremist-related killings in the U.S. over the past decade committed by white supremacists.

63% Proportion of Tea Party members who own firearms.

23% Proportion of non-whites who own guns.

SOURCES: ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE, BRADY CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE, PUBLIC RELIGION RESEARCH INSTITUTE

{ Letters }

LGBT GROUPS CONDEMN VIOLENCE IN OAK CREEK, JOPLIN

A coalition of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender civil rights groups and allies issued a solidarity statement responding to the violence in Oak Creek, Wis., and Joplin, Mo.

The statement, released Aug. 9, reads:

As organizations serving lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) communities, we are stunned and saddened by the recent spate of violence against communities across the country.

The shooting at the Sikh gurdwara (temple) in Oak Creek, Wis., was certainly a blow to all of us on Aug. 5.

To hear about the fire at the mosque in Joplin, Mo., not even 24 hours later, com-

pounded our sense of tragedy and shock.

We send our deepest sympathies to the families affected.

Currently, details about both incidents are emerging. Local law enforcement in Oak Creek have been joined by the FBI in an ongoing investigation of the incident as a potential act of domestic terrorism and a potential hate crime.

The fire in Joplin was the second of its kind at the mosque, on the heels of another fire on July 4. Motives in both cases are still being determined (the first fire at the Joplin mosque was determined to be arson).

The LGBTQ communi-

ties we work with and serve are no strangers to violence. We know our communities are threatened on a daily basis by the many faces of hate and intolerance – not just because of our sexuality or gender identity, but because of our race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, ability, and many other facets of our identities. We stand in solidarity against all forms of violence, as well as the hate and intolerance that all too often propagate it.

As flags fly at half-staff around the country, we call for a fuller dialogue among diverse communities, law enforcement, and policymakers to better address violence in our communities.

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ON THE RECORD



“I defy these homosexuals to bring forth a baby from that part of the anatomy which they concentrate on. When that happens I will change everything I'm saying; until that happens, I wish those demonstrators would shut their mouth.”

– PAT ROBERTSON telling his TV audience that he would support gay Chick-fil-A protesters if they were able to conceive and deliver a baby anally.

“Every former whore seeks to lecture everyone on morality as she gets older – especially during tours and gigs abroad.”

– Russian Deputy Prime Minister DMITRY ROGOZIN showing that he can dish the dirt in his condemnation of pro-equality statements made by Madonna at her concerts in Russia.

“Maybe someone does not see the link, but after Madonna's concert maybe some boy becomes gay, some girl becomes lesbian, fewer children are born as a result and this big country cannot defend its borders – for me it causes moral suffering.”

– ALEXEI KOLOTKOV, one of a group of right-wing Russian activists suing Madonna for \$10 million, claiming the singer caused them moral suffering by delivering pro-gay messages during concerts in that country.

“My mom was a lesbian. Yeah, she liked women. My whole childhood was like that.”

– Rapper 50 CENT telling celebrity blogger Perez Hilton about growing up with a lesbian mother and how he came to accept her sexual orientation.

“I didn't know about those letters until very recently when they were brought to my attention because they went through our constituent case work system.”

– GOP vice presidential nominee PAUL RYAN explaining to Fox News why he was unaware of five letters he signed requesting federal stimulus money for an energy company in his Wisconsin congressional district. Ryan has continually demonized President Barack Obama's federal stimulus package.

“We've got a Muslim president who hates farming, hates the military, hates the U.S. – and we hate him.”

– Country music performer HANK WILLIAMS JR., addressing his fans at the Iowa State Fair.

“It seems to me, from what I understand from doctors, (becoming pregnant as a result of rape) is really rare. If it's a legitimate rape, the female body has ways to try to shut that whole thing down. But let's assume that maybe that didn't work or something. I think there should be some punishment, but the punishment ought to be of the rapist, and not attacking the child.”

– Missouri's GOP U.S. Senate nominee TODD AKIN, a Tea Party adherent, responding to an interviewer's question asking whether abortion should be legal if a pregnancy resulted from rape.



Sue Black deserved better



However the saga of Sue Black ends, the former Milwaukee County Parks director can certainly be gratified by the outpouring of public support after her sudden firing by County Executive Chris Abele.

Known for her strong work ethic, her cooperation with community groups and her skillful management of reduced budgets to maintain our extensive parks, Black was widely respected. Her firing was a surprise to everyone, including county supervisors who approved her reappointment this spring.

The clumsy handling of her firing – locking her out of her office and announcing it at a press conference – struck a universal chord among Milwaukeeans, many of whom have been pink-slipped, “voluntarily” retired

and otherwise terminated in recent years.

Regarding her lock-out, a standard protocol of big, paranoid bureaucracies: Did they think the long-term, well-paid and much honored Black was going to steal paper clips or sabotage the databases of county golf courses or toilets?

Abele called a press conference to announce Black's firing, only to express frustration with reporters who asked him the obvious question: “Why?” Wearing a smarmy grin, Abele said sarcastically, “I don't owe you gossip,” which of course only fueled more gossip.

Personally, I hope that Black was insubordinate. When working in any hierarchy run by tyrants or nincompoops, it's the most honorable reason to be fired. And, hey, Black's a lesbian. We tend not to suffer fools gladly. How could you not tell Abele he's on the wrong path regarding the future of the parks if parks have been

your whole life and what you strongly believe in? How could you not tell him that he's a condescending creep when he orders you to “get with the program” with that Cheshire cat grin of his?

Sue Black rejected a lucrative offer to head the Chicago parks system a while back to stay in Milwaukee. I'm confident she'll land on her feet and end her career in a better position than she's had so far.

Here's a few words about another fine public servant, also a lesbian, Sally Ride. I got two questions about Ride from many people. The first was: Did you know she was gay?

My simple reply to most was that I didn't know, but was happy to learn it. I had always assumed so. I'm kind of a lesbian chauvinist and assume that most women who are extremely talented and brave and accomplished probably are lesbians!

The second question was: Should the media have outed Ride after she died?

Ride was in a 27-year relationship with Tam O'Shaughnessy that she did not publicize but also did not hide from family, friends or colleagues. She may have felt that coming out publicly would harm her work. She may not have wanted to become a symbol for any cause beyond her passion, which was science. Or she may have felt it was just nobody's business. Obituaries made clear she led a life of diligent study, hard work and sterling integrity.

Ride could have used her considerable celebrity after her journeys to space in many financially profitable ways. Instead, she stayed close to NASA, serving on panels investigating the Challenger and Columbia disasters. She taught physics at University of California-San Diego and traveled widely promoting science education to girls. It's good to know that Ride was a lesbian, but her heroism and her legacy is so much bigger than that.

Why I need the center



Milwaukee financial advisor Andrew Vila has proven his ability to embrace opportunity. The support of the LGBT community has helped him navigate the process.

Born on the East Coast and transplanted to Wisconsin, Andy married shortly after college and fathered two sons. But in his late 30s, Vila realized that he wasn't heterosexual.

“My coming-out process happened relatively late in life, and I was worried how it would affect my family,” Vila says. Although it wasn't easy, Vila now enjoys a supportive relationship with his ex-wife and children, who occasionally show up to cheer Andy on when he competes in triathlons.

Vila says Rainbow Families is partly responsible for the good relationship he enjoys with his family. Years ago, he attended RF events at the urging of a friend who also

had children.

Milwaukee's LGBT Center has also played an important role in Vila's evolution. He began volunteering at the front desk, hoping to meet people and get involved in the community. He learned about the Center's Project Q program, which “opened my eyes to the fact that there was a safe place that kids could go to. I had no idea there was this whole segment of youth in our own community that needed support.”

Vila's background in accounting attracted him to a series of workshops at the center concerning domestic partnership law changes. “I was interested both from a professional and personal point of view. I love financial information and I wanted to know how same-sex couples were being impacted.”

It was around that time that Andy transitioned to a new career as a financial advisor with New York Life. Shortly after receiving his certifications, Vila started providing his own financial workshops at the center. Working with

staff member Kristen Donat, he put together a program on budgeting and smart holiday shopping for Project Q participants.

Vila also maintains regular drop-in hours at the center from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursdays for people seeking free financial advice. “I often look at people's tax returns, bills or even help them decide what is a better deal for them in terms of a car or house loan,” he says. “I help LGBT community members have a second opinion on anything related to money.”

In addition, Vila serves on the center's finance committee, helping guide the organization's future financial success.

Vila regularly attends center social events, such as the monthly TGIF parties and the recent “weed dating” mixer – although he grins mischievously without comment when asked whether a date grew out of the garden beds.

But asked why he needs the center, Andy is more responsive. “I need the center in order to connect with



PHOTO: DAVID LAUERSDORF
Andrew Vila, left, at the center's recent “weed dating” event.

the LGBT community and hopefully to provide support for people who might be facing the same challenges I faced over the past 20 years.”

Andrew C. Vila is an agent and financial services professional with New York Life Insurance Company and a certified public accountant in Wisconsin.

Martin Palicki is secretary of the board of the directors of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.

Milwaukee hosts gay softball tournament

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Camaraderie. Competition. Camp.

The Dairyland Classic takes place Labor Day weekend, drawing dozens of teams to Milwaukee for two days of co-ed softball, plus pre-tournament and post-tournament good times.

"It's been a great way to get people together," says Doug Weber, an IT manager from Whitefish Bay serving his first year as tournament director. He's been involved for about five years with the Saturday Softball Beer League, which runs the classic. SSBL, which has provided gay softball in Milwaukee for 34 years, is associated with North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance and the Milwaukee Gay Sports Network.

Weeks before the event that for many players closes out the summer softball season, Weber says he hopes to be organized enough on tournament weekend to play outfield for the Fluid Force.

Planning for the classic begins as early as February, when frost – if not snow – covers Milwaukee's turf. There are preliminary meetings, assigning of duties, searches for volunteers. The tournament director and the SSBL board handle the earliest work.

Tournament weekend, Sept. 1-2, Weber says he'll rely on about three dozen volunteers to help with registrations, field activities, party bartending and souvenir sales.

"We have a great group of volunteers. And we hope to have 30 to 40 teams," he says. "That would be a typical tournament for us."

Most of the teams, which typically have 15 to 20 players, come from Wisconsin. But some competitors travel from as near as Chicago and as distant as Dallas.

"We do get teams from other parts of the country – Texas, Florida, Arizona," Weber says.

In mid-August, a couple of Milwaukee teams headed to Minneapolis for the 2012 NAGAAA Gay Softball World Series. And in early September, a couple of Minneapolis teams likely will be bound for Milwaukee.

"Minneapolis and Chicago, they do a great job supporting our town," Weber says. "And the teams enjoy coming to Milwaukee, playing in Milwaukee. ... Milwaukee always seems to have a really fun tournament. It's a great time and good camaraderie."

The camaraderie is a major reason Jeff Weigand has played six seasons of softball with the SSBL, as well as the tournaments.

"I really enjoy my teammates," says the third-baseman and contact hitter for Woody's Silver.

Weigand, a Chicago transplant who stayed in Milwaukee after graduating from Marquette University, says the league helped him find a community.

"It's a good group of people," he says. "A fun group of people."

Weigand had played college intramural softball before the recreational league. He also played some Little League baseball.

Now, as then, playing the game is about competition and camaraderie. And now, as then, playing the game can bring thrills.

"There's still that excitement when you make a great play or score that winning run or get that big hit," Weigand says. "It takes you back to that place, that free place."

A self-described "huge sports fan," Weber didn't play organized sports in high school but he took an interest in intramurals in college and then the recreational leagues.

Weber has played in two Dairyland Classics, two world series and "lost track of how many other tournaments" he's played in.

The Dairyland Classic competition takes place at two venues – Wirth Park at Pilgrim and North Avenue in Brookfield and Wick Field at 51st and Vliet in Milwaukee.

On Aug. 31, registration begins at the host hotel, the Doubletree at Sixth and Wisconsin, with cocktails at the bar.

On Sept. 1, there's round-robin play, with C Division teams at Wirth and D Division teams at Wick.

On Sept. 2, there's a full day of play building up to the championship games – two or three, depending on the number of teams in the tournament.

Organizers expect to see more fans in seats on Sunday than Saturday.

Weigand says his dad, with whom he goes to Brewers games, probably will drive up from Chicago for the tournament. "He loves his gay softball," the son says.

After the sporting, comes the celebrating. "That's something unique for us," Weber says. "Milwaukee always puts on an end-of-tournament party."

And he promises a good one.

"Without a doubt, it's a highlight," Weber says, adding that this year's celebration, Party at the Ritz, takes place from 4 p.m. to midnight on Sept. 2 at the Pritzlaff Building at Plankinton and St. Paul Avenue. Entertainment includes a DJ and Chris America's "Madonna Tribute."

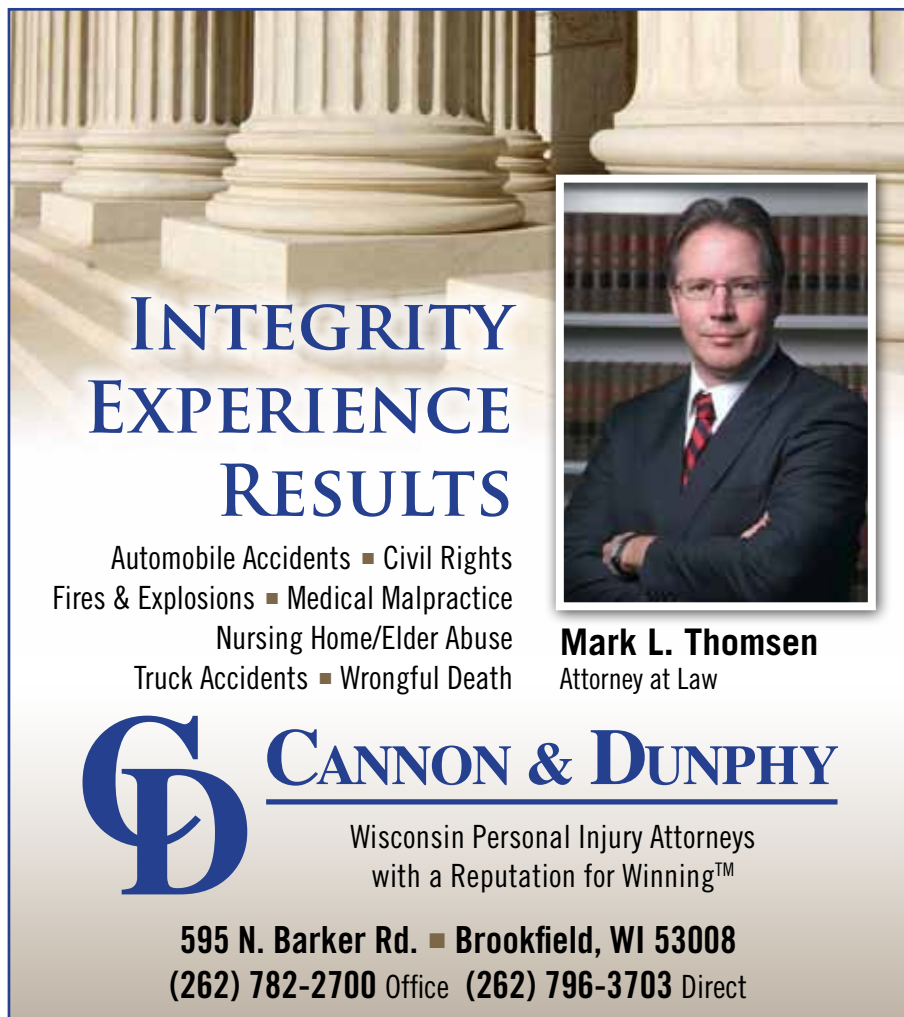
"She doesn't lip sync and has a couple of very hot guys as back-up dancers," Weber boasts.

Brian Reinkober, the SSBL commissioner and a player for La Cage Nemesis, says the party helps make the classic a "world-class event."

ON THE FIELD

The Dairyland Classic – billed as "Big Time in Brew Town" – returns to Milwaukee Sept. 1-2, with registration on Aug. 31.

For details about the gay softball tournament, go to www.ssblmilwaukee.com.



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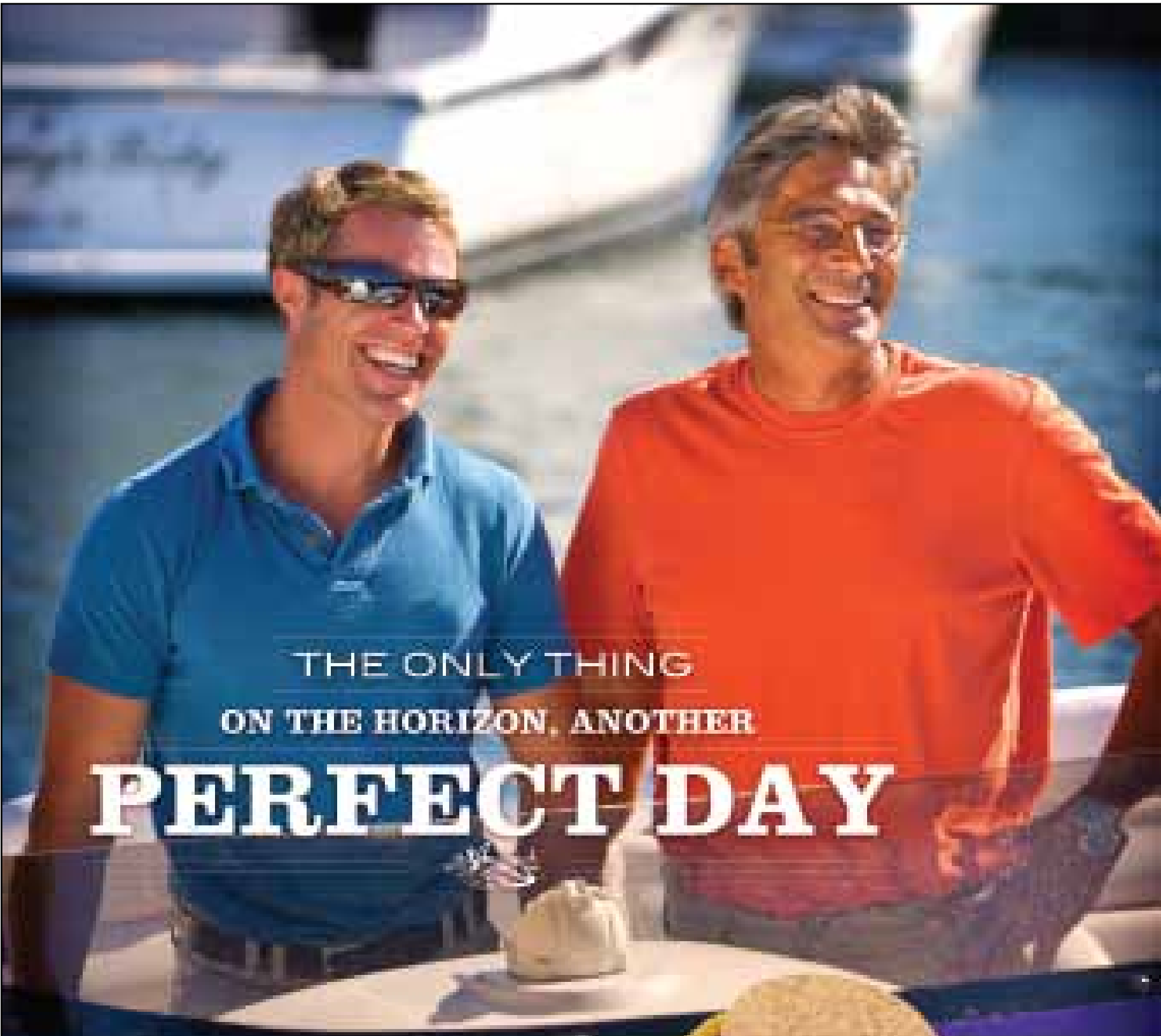
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Underground concerts fuel recruitment, bonding and ideological reinforcement

HATE from page 1 continues to dominate this tiny but socially significant music scene.

As frontman for one of these bands, Centurion, Michaels was a major player in that music scene. The group's underground concerts were one of its greatest recruitment and fundraising tools, he said, as well as a powerful mechanism for group bonding and ideological reinforcement.

Centurion's CD "14 Words" sold more than 20,000 copies, screeching the movement's call for the destruction of racial/ethnic minorities and LGBT people across the globe. Although that number is small in the context of mainstream rock, Centurion was Northern Hammerskin's primary fundraising tool and, for a while, it dominated the shadowy fringes of the racist skinhead music world.

"The odds are very good that (Page) was a fan of Centurion," Michaels said. "I feel

a very serious responsibility for helping to create the environment that created him."

Michaels now works with former gang members and white supremacists to produce Life After Hate, a monthly online magazine that promotes tolerance and compassion. He's also developed Kindness Not Weakness, a character development movement that discourages bullying and violence.

But no matter how much his mind and heart have changed, Michaels continues to be haunted by the damage he did as a teen and young man — not just to others but also to his own soul. The headlines about Page reopened an old wound.

"I used to be Wade Page," Michaels said.

'DEFINITE HATE'

Before he shot himself, ending his murderous rampage, Page was deeply involved with white-power

music, having performed with several bands. Monitors of hate groups had been tracking Wade since his 2000 debut on the hatecore scene.

Definite Hate, one of the bands in which Page performed, was signed with Resistance Records, the Cadillac label of the hatecore industry. DF's anthem is the song "Heart to My Nation," which begins, "Our heritage is fading/Our people have turned back," then builds over the course of six and a half minutes to the climax: "Our heritage is growing/Our people fighting back/Sieg heil! Sieg heil! Sieg heil!"

During its heyday in 2001, when GQ profiled Definite Hate, Resistance Records grossed \$1 million annually, making it the cash cow for the then-dominant neo-Nazi group National Alliance. That group was founded by William Pierce, who became a hero of the movement for his 1978 novel "The Turner Diaries," a sort of bible for racists that inspired Okla-

homa City bomber Timothy McVeigh, among others.

Coded messages permeate hatecore. For instance, Resistance often sold hate-rock albums for \$14.88 — "14" representing the 14 words in a popular skinhead mantra, and "8" referring to the eighth letter of the alphabet — "H."

"Doubling it up stood for 'Heil Hitler,'" said Todd Blodgett, a former Reagan White House aide who once had an ownership stake in Resistance Records but later informed on white supremacist groups for the FBI.

Resistance Records' sales slid precipitously after Pierce made a speech dissing members of other racist groups as "freaks and weaklings," according to the Southern Poverty Law Center. Pierce died in 2002 of cancer and kidney failure.

No comparable record label has emerged to dominate the scene the way that RR did. Today's hatecore groups are the equivalent



PHOTO: MYSPACE

Wade Page performing with the hatecore band Definite Hate.

of garage bands, distributed by specialized small labels that often consist of a single person and a post-office box. The bands come and go, and performers hop from one to another. At any given moment, there are between 100 and 150 bands in the United States, according to the Anti-Defamation League.

Hammerskins, the closest thing today to the National Alliance, dominates much of the white power music scene. Many hatecore bands

are affiliated with the group, which organizes hate music concerts, including Hammerfest, the genre's largest annual event. Page performed at Hammerfest in Georgia in 2010.

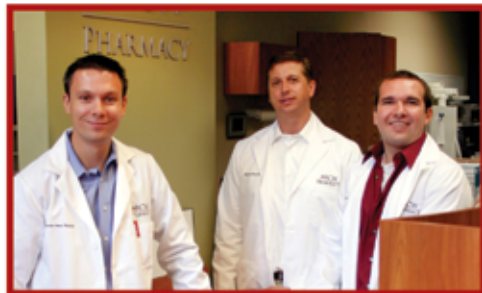
GATEWAY DRUG

The Internet has ushered in a new era of opportunity for hatecore music. People stumble across the music in the course of cruising the Web and can download it from many bands' sites for free. Those who are willing

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Hatecore can strike a chord with the kind of disaffected, angry youth that Page and Michaels once were. For Michaels, the pioneering British hatecore band Skrewdriver was like a gateway drug.

"The music has proven to be the single most effective recruiting tool for bringing young people into the movement," said Mark Potok, senior fellow at the Southern Poverty Law Center. "You hear from many people who come out of the white supremacist movement that the music is very important. Essentially what people say is that at (a young) age you listen to a given track hundreds and hundreds of times and the music seeps into your brain."

Prior to the Internet, getting the music out to the public was an overwhelming challenge.

"Just going around trying to find kids and give them hate music CDs in the hopes that they'll like it and get involved in the movement that way – that's a very time- and cost-inefficient tactic," said Michael Pitcavage, director of investigative research for the Anti-Defamation League. "But if you have a medium like the Internet, you can simply put the music out there where people encounter it in their everyday lives. It's the difference between a direct marketing campaign and a billboard campaign."

"Kids introduce themselves to this world on their own," Potok said. "Mom and dad are in the kitchen making dinner, and they're off in their room on their computer. It's kind of like looking at porn. Some small percentage gets more and more interested."

SHOWTIME

Exposure to the music is not a strong enough experience to seal a life-changing deal like joining a racist skinhead group. The leap from listening to the music on the Internet to being assimilated into the movement is a big one, and hatecore concerts help some over the divide.

"On the face of it, you think someone listening to a song and then wanting to go out and kill Jews – that's just ridiculous," Potok said. "The moment of truth is when



PHOTO: LIFEAFTERHATE.ORG

Arno Michaels today.

that kid walks out of his parents' house and into his first skinhead concert. There he meets that world."

Staging a hatecore concert presents a unique set of challenges. Very few, if any, legitimate venues permit such events on their premises, so organizers must resort to subterfuge or find out-of-the-way places, such as dank basements, warehouses or rural fields, in which to perform.

"It was pretty much anywhere we could get into," Michaels said. "We got into a VFW hall by pretending it was somebody's birthday party. We built a stage on a 10-acre field just north of Wisconsin Dells and had a concert there where there were a couple of hundred people."

Initiates have to clear a number of hurdles just to find a concert. They might receive directions to a parking lot where group members are waiting in a car to check them out before taking them to the concert site.

There are reasons for the secrecy. Although hate speech is protected in the United States, unlike some European countries, government agents try to keep tabs on extremist group activity.

Anti-racist skinheads, who equal their white-power counterparts in ferocity, can infiltrate an event and turn an

intended bonding experience into a brawl.

BLOODSHED COMMON

Michaels said bloodshed is common at the concerts, which he described as "testosterone-fueled" events where knife fights over women and brawls to resolve power conflicts are part of the allure. The concerts are also known for their violent mosh pits. Also features of heavy metal and hardcore punk concerts, mosh pits are areas close to the stage where solo dancers push and slam into one another in a frenzy of undirected aggression. "The pit during our shows would often get so violent that the audience would start tearing each other apart," Michaels said. "We were proud of the fact that a lot of our audience would leave in ambulances. That's how crazed we would get the audience worked up. We would be like, 'Yeah, that's what Centurion does.'"

For the kind of members sought by supremacists – men who are prepared to fight a race war – the violence is part of the movement's allure. Even the frequent battles with anti-racist skinheads have a romantic "West Side Story" appeal, Michaels said.

But while the white power movement is built on vio-

lence, it paradoxically offers its adherents the warm acceptance and sense of purpose lacking in their lives. In that sense it's very much like urban street gangs.

Michaels said it was the camaraderie and romantic appeal of being part of a mythic quest – to save the white race – that won him over to the white power movement. He saw his racist skinhead comrades as an all-embracing new family of rebellious misfits like himself, bound together by a common cause and a shared contempt for authority and the status quo.

While the Internet has empowered neo-Nazis and white supremacists to spread their message more effectively, Michaels believes the Web has "also empowered those of us who are countering hate and violence."

"Life After Hate has contributors from all continents short of Australia and Antarctica," he said. "We got more soldiers for LAH during the week after the Sikh shooting than during the prior two and a half years of our organization combined."

Michaels urged all people to fight hate "by committing themselves to treating the life around you with as much kindness and compassion as possible. That practice is the most beautiful thing about being a human being, and it is something that can change the course of life. It changed the course of my life, and it can change the course of the next Wade Page."



PHOTO: SCREENSHOT

Marching hammers in Pink Floyd's "The Wall." The hammers symbol was co-opted by white supremacist groups.

LOW NOTES

1960s: Johnny Rebel aka Clifford Joseph Trahane sings with a Cajun sound about the KKK and becomes known in music history as the "forefather of white power music."

1976: Ian Stuart Donaldson forms Skrewdriver, considered the first racist skinhead band, in Great Britain.

1978: The white supremacist National Front forms the Punk Front in Britain, launching the Nazi punk period.

Late 1980s: The first Hammerskins group, the Confederate Hammerskins, forms in Dallas.

1993: Resistance Records is founded.

1995: William Pierce's handbook "The Turner Diaries" informs Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh.

1999: William Pierce, leader of the neo-Nazi National Alliance, purchases Resistance Records, lead purveyor of "white power" music.

October 2000: Hammerfest 2000 is held in Georgia and described as a "Woodstock of hate rock."

2004: Panzerfaust Records, a white power music label, launches a campaign to distribute free white-power music CDs to middle and high school students.

Aug. 5, 2012: Wade Michael Page, a 40-year-old ex-soldier with ties to the white-power music scene, kills six before taking his own life at a Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wis.

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NATIONAL BRIEFS



PHOTO: COURTESY

David Richardson, standing, is Florida's first openly gay legislator.

FLORIDA ELECTS FIRST OPENLY GAY LEGISLATOR

David Richardson is the first openly gay candidate elected to the Florida House of Representatives.

Richardson won the Democratic primary for District 113 in Miami Beach on Aug. 14, edging out three opponents. With no opposition in the general election, he'll be Tallahassee-bound this winter.

Chuck Wolfe of the Victory Fund said, "David's election sends a message to Tallahassee that LGBT Floridians will be heard. Finally, we will have an authentic LGBT voice in the state capitol who will be unafraid to speak up and speak out for fairness."

Another openly gay candidate, Joe Saunders, won his primary on Aug. 14 and advances to the general election to represent Florida House District 49 near Orlando in Orange County. Saunders won on primary day with a 30-point margin of victory.

A third openly gay candidate, Ian Whitney, is running in the November election to represent Key West in the Legislature. He did not have a primary opponent.

LESBIAN PAC RAISING MONEY FOR BALDWIN

LPAC, a lesbian super PAC, dedicated its resources to raising money for Wisconsin Democrat Tammy Baldwin's run for the U.S. Senate. Baldwin is the first candidate to get an endorsement from the PAC, which was announced earlier this summer.

LPAC, on its website and with social media tools, said Baldwin, who will address the Democratic National Convention in September, "needs our help immediately" for her "important and historic campaign."

If elected, Baldwin would be the first openly gay member of the U.S. Senate. Her opponent in the November election is Republican Tommy Thompson, who won his

primary on Aug. 14.

The organization's advisory board offered a \$50,000 matching challenge to the PAC's supporters to raise \$100,000.

ANTI-GAY CAMPAIGN AIMS TO OUST IOWA JUDGE

Anti-gay zealots have launched a campaign to defeat Iowa Supreme Court Justice David Wiggins, who was part of the court's unanimous 2009 decision to allow gay marriage in the state.

The Family Leader, a right-wing group led by former Republican gubernatorial candidate Bob Vander Plaats, is directing the campaign with support from the National Organization for Marriage and backing from former U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum.

On Nov. 6, Wiggins faces a retention vote and needs simply more yes votes than no votes to keep his position.

In 2010, Chief Justice Marsha Ternus and Associate Justices David Baker and Michael Streit lost their bids for retention after being targeted in a costly anti-gay campaign for their support of the decision that made Iowa the only state in the Midwest where same-sex marriage is legal.

MICHIGAN PROTESTERS THREATEN DEATH, RAPE

Bible-preaching protesters at a Gay Day celebration in Grand Rapids, Mich., are said to have made threats of death and rape, yet they face no consequences. The event in Cherry Park on Aug. 4 was organized by The East Hills Council to celebrate the neighborhood's diversity.

Members of the Tolerance, Equality and Awareness Movement say they called Grand Rapids police to complain that anti-gay protesters at the event made death threats and also threatened to rape a woman at the celebration.

The police made no arrests, and the local newspaper reported that the police department said Gay Day organizers failed to file a formal complaint.

But gay rights advocates dispute that claim.

AMWAY FOCUS OF GAY RIGHTS BOYCOTT

Equal rights activists are calling for a boycott of Amway following reports that Doug DeVos, co-owner of the company, has given \$500,000 to the anti-gay National Organization for Marriage.

Fred Karger, the openly gay activist who ran for the Republican presidential nomination this year, says the community ought to boycott the Michigan-based Amway. The boycott includes Alticor and its sister companies Quixtar Incorporated and AccessGroup LLC. Amway responded with the statement, "As private citizens, the DeVos family supports causes and organizations that advocate for policies aligned to their personal beliefs."

The boycott campaign is headquartered online at boycottamway.com.

LAWYER ORDERED TO PAY \$4.5M TO GAY STUDENT

A jury has awarded a gay University of Michigan student body president \$4.5 million in his lawsuit against a former Michigan assistant attorney general who posted about him in an anti-gay blog.

Chris Armstrong accused Andrew Shirvell of defamation and causing him emotional distress on an anti-gay blog, in Facebook posts and during visits to the Ann Arbor campus.

Then-Attorney General Mike Cox fired Shirvell in 2010 after he criticized Armstrong. Shirvell says he was acting within his First Amendment rights and that his statements were either true or protected because of Armstrong's role as a public figure.

Armstrong had offered to drop the lawsuit if Shirvell apologized.



PHOTO: INTERNET

A screenshot taken from the site "Chris Armstrong Watch" run by ex-Michigan assistant attorney general Andrew Shirvell. Armstrong is on the right.

ACLU CHALLENGES MICHIGAN LAW BANNING PARTNERSHIP COVERAGE

The ACLU wants a federal judge to strike down a Michigan law that bans many public entities from providing health insurance to the domestic partners of their employees.

In a brief filed on Aug. 7, the ACLU asked the judge to block the ban until a decision is issued.

The law bars domestic partners from receiving health care coverage, while allowing government employers to offer these benefits to all other family members, including parents, siblings, uncles and cousins.

INDIANAPOLIS ADDS BENEFITS FOR WORKERS

The Indianapolis City-County Council has approved a proposal to provide health care benefits to the domestic partners of city workers.

The proposal would offer insurance coverage to both same-sex and heterosexual unmarried couples. Supporters say offering domestic-partner benefits will improve the city's image with many companies that already offer such benefits.

— AP and WiG reports

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Physicians target gun violence as social disease

By Marilyn Marchoneap

AP writer

Is a gun like a virus, tobacco or alcohol? Yes, say public health experts, who in the wake of recent mass shootings are calling for a fresh look at gun violence as a social disease.

What is needed, they say, is a public health approach to the problem, like the highway safety measures, product changes and driving laws that slashed deaths from car crashes decades ago, even as the number of vehicles on the road rose.

One example: Guardrails are now curved to the ground instead of having sharp metal ends that stick out and pose a hazard in a crash.

"People used to spear themselves and we blamed the drivers for that," said Dr. Garen Wintemute, an emergency medicine professor who directs the Violence Prevention Research Program at the University of California-Davis.

It wasn't enough back then to curb deaths just by trying to make people better drivers, and it isn't enough now to tackle gun violence by focusing solely on the people doing the shooting, he and other doctors say.

They want a science-based, pragmatic approach based on the reality that we live in a society saturated with guns and need better ways of preventing harm from them.

The need for a new approach crystallized for one of the nation's leading gun violence experts, Dr. Stephen Hargarten. He found himself treating victims of the Sikh temple shootings at the emergency department he heads in Milwaukee.

It happened two weeks after the shooting that killed 12 people and injured 58 at a movie theater in Colorado, and two days before a man pleaded guilty to killing six people and wounding 13, including then-U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, last year.

"This is what we're going to have to live with if we have more personal access to firearms," said Hargarten, emergency medicine chief at Froedtert Hospital and director of the Injury Research Center at the Medical College of Wisconsin. "We have a public health issue to discuss. Do we wait for the next outbreak or is there something we can do to prevent it?"

About 260 million to 300 million firearms are owned by U.S. civilians; about one-third of American homes have one. Guns are used in two-thirds of homicides, according to the FBI. About 9 percent of all violent crimes involve a gun — roughly 338,000 cases each year.

Mass shootings don't seem to be on the rise, but not all police agencies report details like the number of victims per shooting and reporting lags by more than a year, so recent trends are not known.

"The greater toll is not from these clusters but from endemic violence, (which) occurs every day and doesn't make the headlines," said Wintemute, the California researcher.

More than 73,000 emergency room visits in 2010 were for firearm-related injuries, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates.

At the same time, violent crime has been falling and the murder rate is less than half what it was two decades ago. And Gallup polls have shown support for stricter gun laws has been falling since 1990. Last year 55 percent of Americans said gun laws should remain the same or become more lenient.

Dr. David Satcher tried to make gun violence a public health issue when he became CDC director in 1993. Four years later, laws that allow the carrying of concealed weapons drew attention when two women were shot at an Indianapolis restaurant after a patron's gun fell out of his pocket and accidentally fired. Ironically, the victims were health educators in town for an American Public Health Association convention.

That same year, Hargarten won a grant to establish the nation's first Firearm Injury Center at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

"Unlike almost all other consumer products, there is no national product safety oversight of firearms," he wrote in the Wisconsin Medical Journal.

That's just one aspect of a public health approach. Other elements:

Host factors: what makes someone more likely to shoot, or someone more likely to be a victim. One recent study found firearm owners were more likely than those with no firearms at home to binge drink or to drink and drive, and other research has tied alcohol and gun violence. That suggests that people with driving under the influence convictions should be barred from buying a gun, Wintemute said.

Product features: which firearms are most dangerous and why. Manufacturers could be pressured to fix design defects that let guns go off accidentally and to add technology that allows only the owner of the gun to fire it. Bans on assault weapons and multiple magazines that allow rapid and repeat firing are other possible steps.

Environmental risk factors: what conditions allow or contribute to shootings. Gun shops must do background checks and refuse to sell firearms to people convicted of felonies or domestic violence misdemeanors, but those convicted of other violent misdemeanors can buy whatever they want. The rules also don't apply to private sales, which one study estimates as 40 percent of the market.

Disease patterns: observing how a problem spreads. Gun ownership — a precursor to gun violence — can spread "much like an infectious disease circulates," said Daniel Webster, co-director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research in Baltimore.

"There's sort of a contagion phenomenon" after a shooting, where people feel they need to have a gun for protection or retaliation, he said.

That's already evident in the wake of the Colorado movie-theater shootings during a screening of the new Batman movie, "The Dark Knight Rises." In mid-August, reports popped up around the nation of people bringing guns to the "Batman" movie. Some of them said they did so for protection.



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Protesters planning for big presence at conventions

PARTIES from page 1
speech and the nominee's acceptance speech. But a lot will take place outside the convention hall as well — parties, fundraisers, caucus meetings, platform talks and protests.

Several LGBT groups are finalizing plans, including GOProud, which earlier in the summer endorsed nominee-in-waiting Mitt Romney, and Log Cabin Republicans, which, if it makes an endorsement for the White House, will do so after the convention.

R. Clarke Cooper, the executive director of the 30-year-old LCR, said because the nominee officially is decided at the convention, ancillary groups traditionally wait to make endorsements.

LCR's schedule for the convention week includes:

- An Aug. 26 reception hosted by Florida chapters.
- A celebration of out Republicans in partnership with the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund on Aug. 27.
- A brunch celebrating the newly formed Conservatives for the Freedom to Marry on Aug. 29.
- A tribute to congressional allies on Aug. 30.

Cooper, who worked for former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, attended the 2000 convention that nominated George W. Bush. The acceptance speech, he said, "was everything any political junkie would expect." He remembered that convention as a display of party pride, state pride and a hub of "hyped-up retail politics."

Now, for 2012, Cooper is

returning to his home state.

"It is a point of pride," Cooper said of the homecoming.

The week before the convention, LCR representatives were in Tampa to weigh in on drafting a party platform. Because delegates aren't likely to adopt a platform that calls for marriage equality, Cooper wanted to focus on removing or modifying language. An LCR point, he said, would be, "If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all."

As of press time, however, it seemed the draft platform would call for an anti-gay constitutional amendment on marriage and a defense of DOMA.

LGBT advocates also will be involved with actions outside the GOP convention, as part of the Occupy the RNC campaign.

"Despite the oppressive rules intended to keep us away, we are going to be there and we are going to be heard on poverty, minimum wage, war, peace, the environment and human rights," said Sarasota activist Paul Whitacre.

A handbill for Occupy the RNC circulating in the area announced, "We will confront Mr 1% and the horrible cauldron of hate at the RNC with Non violent Direct Action and community building!"

Protest events include a march and "roving radical dance party" on Aug. 27 and a series of street protests and "decentralized direct-action demonstrations "lasting all night, all day" from

Aug. 27-30.

Aug. 30 also includes a March on the Democrats. A Web announcement said, "With the ending of the RNC, we set our sights on the Democrats. After all, both parties are f---ing over the country by pandering to corporate interests instead of the people they claim to represent. So follow us as we march in the streets against the Democrats and prepare our caravan to Charlotte, home of the DNC."

"One of the central goals of organizing around both conventions is to bring light to the lack of representation this system offers and demand alternatives to build our democratic voice," said Occupy activist/organizer Matthew Hickson.

IN CHARLOTTE

Gay activist Amelia Rivera of Charlotte will be among the protesters at the DNC. "For me, it is all about social justice. So, great if the party is good on gay issues, but it's not great that it does out support for civil rights and human rights like 'here's your treat, gays' and 'here's your treat, Latinos.' There is right and there is wrong. Period."

Gay rights activist Teresa Mitcham of Charlotte said she will attend both Occupy actions and a couple of public events at the convention.

"I'm a Democrat and happy to have the convention here," she said. "I think it will be inspirational. And a good way for us to be heard."

The official convention lineup includes speeches by first lady Michelle Obama, San



PHOTO: AP/LM OTERO

Then-nominee Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., right, his wife Michelle, second right, vice presidential nominee Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del., and wife, Jill, pose after Obama's speech during the final session of the Democratic National Convention at Invesco Field in Denver on Aug. 28, 2008.

Antonio Mayor Julián Castro and U.S. Senate candidates Elizabeth Warren and Tammy Baldwin. Former President Bill Clinton will deliver the nominating speech on Sept. 5 and Vice President Joe Biden and Barack Obama will make their acceptance speeches on Sept. 6 at the Bank of America stadium.

Jerame Davis of the National Stonewall Democrats said a milestone will be reached on Sept. 6, with the two incumbent nominees for the highest offices in the nation being on the record for marriage equality.

"The big news will be the historic nature of a major national political party (affirming) its support for marriage

equality and (re-nominating) an incumbent president who supports our freedom to marry," he said. "While not the panacea of equality, it is certainly a milestone in the LGBT movement."

Stonewall has plans for several events during the convention, including welcoming the LGBT delegates — the number is expected to exceed 400 and set a record. "Total LGBT participation — with groups like Stonewall, HRC, and the Victory Fund in addition to DNC staff, LGBT media, and others — is likely to exceed 500," Davis said.

The Coalition to March on Wall Street South is also organizing the Occupy campaign in Charlotte for Sept.

1-6. The largest events will be a march on Sept. 2 and a student-led liberation festival on Sept. 1.

"Our coalition is expecting thousands of people to turn out over Labor Day weekend (in Charlotte) and throughout the week," Hickson said.

Preparations ahead of the actions involve finding shelter for demonstrators and staging areas for protests.

"We are currently in the process of finding campgrounds, hotels, churches and private venues that would be willing to house folks during the DNC," Hickson said. "Outside of sleeping arrangements, we will be facilitating a convergence space where folks will be able to meet up and have meetings, make signs, share meals, et cetera."

"There are many reasons that folks will come to the March on Wall Street South, but we're united in our calls for jobs, justice for our communities, and money for human needs, not more wars and jails," said organizer Donna Dewitt. "Both corporate parties are working on behalf of the banks, not the people, and in order to create the world we deserve, we have to build an independent people's power movement from below."

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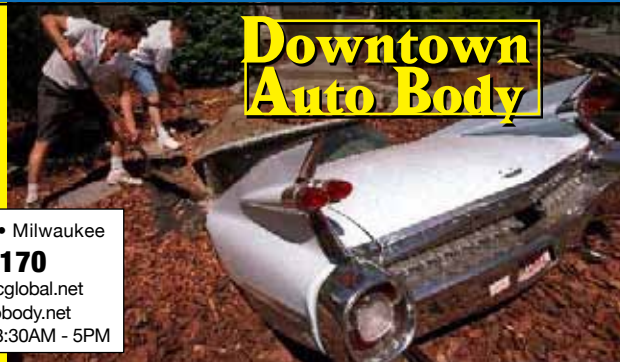


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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



PHOTO: DENISE CAWLEY

CREAM CITY EVENT RAISES \$28,000

Guests listen to an address by Cream City Foundation president and CEO Paul Fairchild. Cream City Foundation's annual fundraiser "My Best Friend is Straight" drew 220 people – a 32-percent increase over last year – to North Point Lighthouse on July 26 for "an evening of frivolity" that raised more than \$28,000. New this year was a silent auction that raised \$2,000.

FORUM PROMOTES DIALOGUE ON ISSUES

The Frank Zeidler Center for Public Discussions, 631 N. 19th St., Milwaukee, is hosting a series of discussions, called Beyond Polarization Dialogues.

The schedule includes discus-

sions on immigration on Sept. 19, economic fairness and freedom on Oct. 17, democracy on Nov. 5 and war on Nov. 12.

The goal is not to reach agreement, but to explore and better understand each other's perspectives, according to a news release.

The first program, a discussion on politics, took place Aug. 22.

For more, go to www.zeidler-center.org.

WORLD'S LARGEST DRAG-QUEEN CRUISE SETS SAIL DEC. 2

The Carnival Glory will set off from Miami on Dec. 2 on the world's largest drag-queen cruise.

The cruise is christened Drag Stars at Sea: Revenge of the Wench.

Hosts include Carnival and AlandChuck.travel.

Guests include more than 40 stars in drag, including winning performers from various seasons of "RuPaul's Drag Race."

The cruise departs from Miami for Nassau and the Grand Turks.

For more, go to <http://www.alandchuck.travel/>.

HAMBURGER MARY'S OFFERS 'HATE-FREE' CHICKEN SANDWICH

The gay-friendly franchise Hamburger Mary's has added a "hate-free" Southern-style chicken sandwich to its menu in response to controversy over the anti-gay actions of Chick-fil-A CEO Dan Cathy.

The idea for the "hate-free" sandwich came from Brian DeChane, co-owner of the Hamburger Mary's franchise in Tampa, Fla., where the Republican National Convention takes place this month.

Twin gay brothers Ashley and Brandon Wright, the owners of the Chicago and Milwaukee Hamburger Mary's franchises and part owners of the national brand, were enthusiastic about the idea.

"We wanted to create our own Southern-style chicken sandwich, made from free-range and 'hate-free' chickens," Ashley Wright said.

ANTI-VIOLENCE PROGRAMS GET \$25,000 VERIZON GRANT

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs recently received a \$25,000 Hopeline grant from Verizon Wireless to expand services to LGBT survivors of domestic violence.

Last year, the NCAVP released a survey showing that mainstream victim service programs lack the resources to help lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender survivors of domestic violence.

The grant is from Verizon's HopeLine program, which supports communities, shelters and agencies working to prevent domestic violence and help survivors.

The NCAVP, a coalition of LGBT anti-violence groups around the country, also received a HopeLine grant last October.

"We are honored to continue to work with NCAVP to provide the necessary resources and support to LGBTQ victims and survivors of domestic and intimate partner violence," said Elva Lima, executive director of community relations and multicultural communications at Verizon Wireless.

For more, go to www.verizon-wireless.com/hopeline.

SAGE MILWAUKEE BENEFITS FROM BINGO

SAGE Milwaukee benefits from proceeds raised with games of "Hambingo" at Hamburger Mary's restaurant, 2130 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., Milwaukee, on Sept. 16.

Bingo starts at 8 p.m. with Dear Ruthie calling the balls.

For more, go to hamburgermarys.com.

— Lisa Neff

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SPECIAL GUEST KEYNOTE: GERI JEWELL

Geri is best known as Cousin Geri on the NBC sitcom, "The Facts of Life". She is an actress, comedienne, keynote presenter, and corporate trainer who recently came out and wrote the book: "I'm walking as straight as I can".

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CENTERING ON ART

“The Second Annual Painting Show” continues at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, featuring the work of six artists from Milwaukee, Kenosha and Los Angeles. The work on display ranges from abstract to hyper-realism. The paintings are for sale, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the center. The show is open to the public during operating hours or by appointment.

Terry Schmerling, above, poses with her abstract painting “Blue,” currently on display at the center, 1110 N. Market St.

Milwaukee artist Jeffrey Eckel, left, also shows his work.

— LW.

PHOTOS: DAVID LAUERSDORF



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

ACCEPTANCE CAMPAIGN EXPANDS

Milwaukee Commissioner of Health Bevan K. Baker and Diverse & Resilient executive director Gary Hollander recently announced the expansion of a groundbreaking print and radio campaign designed to foster acceptance of LGBT people.

Acceptance Journeys seeks to reduce LGBT health disparities, which are caused in part by the damaging effects of discrimination. Studies by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other groups have found that discrimination has contributed to the sharp rise in HIV transmission among gay and bisexual men in Milwaukee. Between 20 percent and 40 percent of African-American gay and bisexual men in Milwaukee are infected with the virus.

In addition to higher HIV rates, the LGBT community has higher rates of tobacco use, earlier use of alcohol, greater community and partner violence and a greater incidence of suicide.

Acceptance Journeys' messages are posted on billboards, buses and other public venues,

including Milwaukee General Mitchell airport and the Milwaukee Intermodal Station. The project features pictures and stories by family members, friends, co-workers and neighbors, who tell how they came to accept the LGBT people in their lives.

The project includes 47 stories at this time, with an additional 15 in production. The effort is funded in part through an award from the MAC AIDS Fund and from the CDC, as well as the Charles E. Kubly Foundation.

For more, visit www.journey-2accept.org.

MILWAUKEE LGBT CENTER AWARDED \$15,000 GRANT

The City of Milwaukee Youth Council has awarded The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center \$15,000 for its youth program, Project Q. One of six agencies to be awarded grants, the center will use the money to enhance existing resources and fund community service projects for LGBT youth.

"This grant is a sign of continued faith in the center's programs," said the organization's



PHOTO: COURTESY

One of the 50 images connected with a story that's part of Diverse & Resilient's Acceptance Journeys project.

board co-president Paul Williams.

The center has reorganized following the abrupt departure of former executive director Maggi Cage, who left at a time when the center faced a deep budget deficit. With a strong new board and an outpouring of support

from the community, the center has been forging ahead with new financial management, new hires and an increase in activities and visibility.

For more, go to www.mkelgbt.org.

— L.W.

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MICHAEL MUCKIAN

Two plays currently running in Spring Green invite questions about Shakespeare, the man and the playwright.

'SHAKESPEARE'S WILL'

Was William Shakespeare bisexual? History has provided clues but not a definitive answer. However, the possibility is a central conceit behind "Shakespeare's Will," which opened Aug. 17 as part of American Players Theatre's "second season."

The one-woman show features APT veteran Tracy Michelle Arnold as Anne Hathaway, Shakespeare's wife, who was pregnant with the first of the pair's three children when they married in 1582. In 2005, Canadian playwright Vern Thiessen used the very few facts available about Hathaway to create a 90-minute monologue that commences on the day of Shakespeare's funeral and retraces in circular and fragmentary fashion the pair's tumultuous life. Much of that life was spent apart, with Hathaway remaining in Stratford to raise their children and Shakespeare pursuing his literary and dramatic aspirations in London.

One of the few historical facts known about Hathaway — that Shakespeare's will bequeathed to his wife his "second-best bed" — becomes Thiessen's foundation to postulate an open-marriage agreement between the couple that drives conjecture about the playwright's sexual orientation and Hathaway's own transgressions.

Hathaway revels in her own sexual promiscuity while pining for her lost love, who might have been having dalliances of a slightly dif-



ferent type in the capital. Several Shakespeare sonnets appear to be directed at a man, which further fuels play's dramatic premise.

But the truth of the situation matters little given Arnold's bravura performance as a woman left largely alone to deal with her all-too-familiar familial obligations. Director Brenda DeVita draws the full range of emotions from Arnold, who uses nothing more than a bare stage stocked with a chair, a nightstand and, presumably, the playwright's second-best bed to create a compelling scenario.

The actress sings and soars, cringes and cries her way through a role that embraces the most universal of emotions, giving them voice and context both foreign and familiar.

Without Shakespeare, Hathaway presumably would have been of little interest either historically or dramatically. But the universality of her personal struggle characterized by Arnold's performance touches us all.

Exposing
the Bard in
new ways**'TROIUS & CRESSIDA'**

It's not unusual for even the most gifted artist to occasionally miss the mark. In Shakespeare's case, literary critics refer to his misses as the "problem plays." One of the most unfamiliar and problematical, "Troilus and Cressida," opened Aug. 18.

The problem plays, which include "All's Well That Ends Well," "Measure for Measure" and, for some, "A Winter's Tale," contain unresolved issues facing the protagonist — or a problem in classifying the play. Both of these problems affect APT's production. When it comes to the comedy-or-tragedy question, "Troilus and Cressida" is neither fish nor fowl, which at 200 minutes long makes it a sizeable dramatic serving to swallow.

But much of the production's charm, if that's the right word, is that director William Brown has pulled out all the stops in telling Shakespeare's tale of the Trojan War, stretching the bounds of APT's family-friendly stage in the process.



Photos: Carlissa Dixon

Travis A. Knight and Nate Burger in "Troilus and Cressida," above, and Tracy Michelle Arnold in "Shakespeare's Will," left.

Brown apparently also saw the challenges facing his ornately costumed characters, choosing to spice up the mix and season the impending sorrow. In her only speaking scene, Helen writhes in sensuous dance before Paris, stripping a nearby male servant to the waist and drawing the men into an impromptu threesome. Achilles and Patroclus are a little more out than APT audiences are used to seeing. There is a considerable amount of beefcake, and the whole thing ends with a great sword-clashing, bloodletting finale, resulting in a mortal blow to the Trojans and their ultimate retreat.

There is comedy amid the chaos, primarily from DeVita's Pandarus, who capers around in a slightly simian stance, chattering in phrases and using a voice distinct from the rest of the cast's stentorian couplets. Unfortunately, it's not enough to balance the play's tragic aspects or lack of resolution.

One wonders if Shakespeare, who wrote "Troilus and Cressida" on the heels of "Hamlet," may have simply run out of steam.

ON STAGE

"Shakespeare's Will" runs through Oct. 21 and "Troilus and Cressida" runs through Oct. 5 at American Players Theatre, 5950 Golf Course Road in Spring Green. Call 608-588-2361 or go to americanplayers.org.

Troilus (Nate Burger) and Cressida (Laura Rook) are a young Trojan couple brought together by Cressida's scheming uncle Pandarus (Jim DeVita, in a scene-stealing performance). Presumably, they are meant to mirror the more famous relationship between Paris (Michael Perez), a Trojan, and Helen (Ally Carey), a Greek, which is what all the fighting is about. In T & C's case, boy gets girl, boy loses girl — she's traded to the Greeks for a prisoner of war — and that's about it for them.

But conflict continues as the opposing forces scheme. The Trojans debate whether to return Helen, "the face that launched a thousand ships," to the Greeks and be done with her. The Greeks struggle because their greatest warrior Achilles (Eric Parks) refuses to fight, choosing instead to dally in his tent with his lover Patroclus (Samuel Ashdown).

Each side realizes that it's no way to run a war.

The Rep's 'Assassins' aims to make a statement

Theater

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

Good theater makes a compelling statement, while great theater carries with it truths that stand the test of time. That's the measuring rod that Mark Clements, artistic director for Milwaukee Repertory Theater, uses frequently.

Stephen Sondheim's "Assassins" — a musical revue featuring history's most infamous U.S. presidential assassins — received mixed reviews when it first opened in 1990. But its characters' search for sudden celebrity and the show's celebration of the country's growing gun culture has more relevance today than ever before, Clements says. The Rep opens its 2012-13 season Sept. 4 with the controversial work.

"In the 22 years since it was written, I believe that the statement the piece makes

has grown in importance," says Clements, who also is directing the production. "It's deeply rooted themes force the audience to look into the mirror of our society, one which nurtures and maybe even encourages the kind of disenfranchised people we encounter in the show."

The disenfranchised characters are many, and some are better known than others. From Lincoln's assassin John Wilkes Booth to Kennedy's killer Lee Harvey Oswald, from Charles Guitreau, who shot James Garfield, to Leon Czolgosz, who murdered William McKinley, the stage is occupied by social miscreants who believe their right to happiness includes license to kill a U.S. president. In fact, "Everybody's Got the Right" is one of the show's signature numbers.

The narrative structure is a series of vignettes built around the slim history that's available about the characters. The book by Sondheim collaborator John Weidman,

adapted from an original work by Charles Gilbert Jr., uses both fact and conjecture to good effect in what Clements describes as a complex work.

"It's a very rich, very nuanced and very apt satire," Clements says. "There are definitely elements of comedy in it, but there is so much more to it than that. It's hard to label it as purely a dark comedy."

Central to the show, which won five Tony Awards during its 2004 revival, are the guns used by the assassins. Jim Guy, prop master for the Milwaukee Rep, did a thorough search for the types and vintages of the actual weapons used in the crimes. Acquiring the weapons turned out to be easier than first thought.

"The Rep's prop department actually had several of the harder-to-locate guns in stock from previous productions," Guy says. "For the others I have been working through trusted vendors with whom I have been doing

The musical revue, which features history's most infamous U.S. presidential assassins, is 'a very apt satire.'

business for some time to locate or supply guns that duplicate or very closely resemble the ones noted in the script."

The most difficult guns to replicate, he said, were the ones with which most of the audience is already familiar — the single-shot derringer with which Booth killed Lincoln and the bolt-action rifle used by Oswald to shoot Kennedy.

The Quadracci Powerhouse's excellent acoustics allows Guy to load the weapons with less than full powder behind the blanks, which reduces the weapons' recoil. Still, gun safety remains paramount in a production like "Assassins," he says.

"Safety instruction is absolutely necessary every time a gun is used on stage because no two live performances are the same and nothing can be taken for granted," says Guy, who teaches courses in firearms safety for the stage nationwide. "Before an actor touches a gun, the gun and ammunition undergo a series of tests in the shop and on the set to make sure that they are safe for the cast, crew and audience."

As to the controversial final scene in which the assassins line up and fire their weapons into the audience, Guy is not tipping the director's hand.



PHOTO: DAN BISHOP

Mark Clements.

"The scene hasn't been completely blocked yet, but serious discussion is already underway to make sure that the scene is absolutely safe for the audience and cast and generates the response that the director is after," he says.

Regardless of how Clements' version of the play ends, its themes ring true for the times, particularly following this summer's mass shootings

in Milwaukee's Oak Creek suburb and in Aurora, Colo.

"No matter what your viewpoint on the right to have guns may be, the laws currently in place are not working," Clements says. "Now is the perfect time to have a discussion about guns in our society, and I will be happy if 'Assassins' can be a catalyst for that conversation."

THE REP'S SEASON AT A GLANCE

Quadracci Powerhouse

"Assassins"	Sept. 4–Oct. 7
"The Diary of Anne Frank"	Oct. 23–Dec. 2
"Sense and Sensibility"	Dec. 11–Jan. 13
"Clybourne Park"	Jan. 29–Feb. 24
"A Raisin in the Sun"	March 12–April 14

Stackner Cabaret

"Gutenberg! The Musical!"	Aug. 24–Oct. 14
"Blues in the Night"	Oct. 19–Dec. 23
"Mind Over Milwaukee"	Dec. 28–Feb. 24
"Ring of Fire"	March 1–May 5

Stiemke Studio

"The Mountaintop"	Sept. 26–Nov. 4
"How the World Began"	Jan. 16–Feb. 24
"Rep Lab"	March 1–4

Pabst Theater

"A Christmas Carol"	Nov. 29–Dec. 24
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Reel Advice

GREGG SHAPIRO

'Sparkle' fails to glitter

As unnecessary remakes go, "Sparkle" ranks relatively high on the list. Moving the action from 1950s Harlem to 1960s Detroit (an homage to "Dreamgirls" or a rip-off?), "Sparkle" tells the rags-to-drugs-to- (potential) riches story of a sister trio and their fanatical and controlling mother.

Sparkle (Jordin Sparks, whose limited acting chops make Beyonce look like Viola Davis) is the songwriting kid sister of Sister aka Tammy (Carmen Ejogo) and Dee (Tika Sumpter). The singing sisters live at home with their Bible-wielding single mother Emma (the late Whitney Houston) and sneak out of the house to perform in nightclubs. Sister, who has returned home after a failed marriage and Dee, who plans to leave home to attend medical school, are supportive of Sparkle's goals and talents. When ambitious talent manager Stix (Derek Luke) offers to lend a hand in the management and booking of the trio and get them an important gig, they agree.

But Emma isn't the only thing standing in the way of Sister and Her Sisters' (really, that's the name they go by) path to stardom. Sister shuns the romantic advances of Stix's well-intentioned cousin Levi (Omari Hardwick), because he's broke. Instead she hooks up with sleazy comic Satin (Mike Epps – how is it that this man continues to get work?), who not only showers her in jewels and furs, but also insults Emma to her face. Satin eventually introduces Sister to cocaine and physical abuse.

As Sister's life spirals out of control, Sparkle is being courted by Stix. She and Dee try their best to save Sister and not become completely alienated from Emma. But it's only

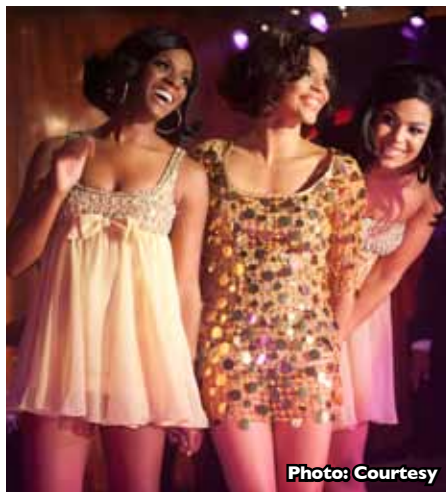


Photo: Courtesy

a matter of time before disaster and death make an appearance.

Ultimately this is a story about the power of music and the way it can be a source of comfort and so much more. The musical performance scenes, including Houston's nearly ecstatic rendition of "His Eye Is on the Sparrow," are the best part of the movie. The remake wisely includes a handful of the Curtis Mayfield compositions from the original, including "Something He Can Feel." Unfortunately, the newer material can't hold a candle to those songs.

Director Salim Akil, who makes Tyler Perry seem like Robert Altman, overuses slo-mo and makes a variety of questionable decisions throughout the film. But he does deserve credit for getting a relatively controlled performance out of Houston. When all is said – or sung – "Sparkle" doesn't even glitter.

'Bourne' lacks chemistry

Aaron Cross (Jeremy Renner) doesn't realize it, but he has some big shoes to fill. A soldier recruited by the CIA to be a pharma guinea pig, Aaron survives his solo time in the frozen wild and beats the best record for doing so by two days, fueled by a pair of colorful "chems." But shortly after getting the good news he finds himself under attack, narrowly escaping a missile delivered by drone. However, Aaron's not the only one. Three other "outcomes" like him have already met their early deaths.

Aaron's legacy, like that of Jason Bourne's, is being considered disposable by the U.S. government, as well as its pharma industry evil twin. In a Sterisyn-Morlanta lab, scientist Marta Shearing (Rachel Weisz), who has crossed paths with Cross on more than one occasion, finds herself under attack. Fellow scientist Dr. Foite (Zeljko Ivanek) shoots up the lab, killing six, with Shearing as the lone survivor. The event brings her unwanted attention from evil government agents, but

Aaron arrives in time to save her. And so begins their journey, which takes them all the way to Manila so that Marta can attempt to "viral out" Aaron.

Helmed by Tony Gilroy ("Michael Clayton"), who also wrote the screenplays for the three previous films in the Bourne series, "The Bourne Legacy" is slightly weighed down by too much globe-hopping interwoven with flashbacks and extended chase scenes. The chemistry between Renner and Weisz also is lacking, considering the way things end (nope, not giving anything away).

Alternating between exhilaration and exhaustion, the best part of "The Bourne Legacy" is the promise of sequels where the details can be fine-tuned or genetically modified, whatever the case may be.

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Jason Gorman creates culinary gems for Milwaukee

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

The existentialist Jean-Paul Sartre once said that to do is to be (and of course he would.) Chances are that were he alive today, the French philosopher-author would have appreciated Chef Jason Gorman's approach to cooking, as well as his culinary talents.

"It is more important to me that I cook, rather than where I cook," says Gorman, 42, who currently cooks and consults at La Merenda Bar & International Tapas, located at 125 E. National Ave. in Milwaukee's Walker's Point neighborhood. "I am happiest when I am creating food."

Gorman, a native of Chicago's River Forest suburb, has been a culinary force to be reckoned with since emerging onto the Milwaukee dining scene nearly a decade ago as chef at the original Dream Dance in the Potawatomi Bingo Casino. Behind a nearly anonymous wooden door on the casino's upper floor across from the



CHEF JASON GORMAN'S "LOBSTERWURST"

12 slices, serves 6-8 people

Ingredients

1-1 1/4 lb. live lobster
8 oz. scallops
8 oz. rock shrimp
1/3 oz. butter
1/2 oz. roasted garlic paste
2 1/2 oz. onions, minced
1/4 oz. tarragon, chopped
Kosher salt, lemon juice, peppercorns, bay leaf, black pepper and cayenne pepper to taste

Preparation

1. Cook lobster in boiling water, seasoned with salt, lemon juice, peppercorns, bay leaf and cayenne pepper for about 5 minutes. Immediately shock in

ice bath to stop cooking.

2. Clean lobster, removing all meat from tail, claws, and knuckles. Medium dice the meat.

3. In a food processor, puree the scallops and rock shrimp.

4. Sauté onions and garlic paste in butter until translucent. Cool.

5. Mix all components together along with tarragon, salt and pepper.

6. Form mixture into a sausage-like roll, then cover tightly with plastic wrap, tying the ends of the lobsterwurst tightly.

7. Poach in 170 degree water for about 8 minutes. Cool lobsterwurst in refrigerator until ready to serve.

bingo hall, Gorman and his staff created culinary marvels that Milwaukee soon discovered. He quickly developed a following, sharing his love of food and talent for creating it through culinary classes around the state.

"All food has the potential to be exceptional or mediocre, and I look for contrasts in flavors, textures and temperatures," says Gorman, who cooked professionally in Atlanta and Dallas before landing in Milwaukee. "When

you enjoy what you are eating, (the food) should be fulfilling the promise of its initial visual excitement. If it looks pretty but doesn't taste good, then I feel that I've been lied to."

The casino's popularity grew right along with that of its restaurant. The enterprise nearly doubled in size in 2008, and Dream Dance moved to the ground floor, gaining its own entrance from the street. But the restaurant's nature also changed, and its emphasis moved away from more creative dishes becoming Dream Dance Steak. Despite the restaurant's migration to what is largely high-level supper club fare, Gorman remained for several years in an effort to add more than an interesting patina to proceedings. But the relationship didn't last.

In early 2011, Gorman made a much-publicized jump to the Iron Horse Hotel to take the role of executive chef for Smyth and the hotel's other restaurants. The relationship lasted about

a year before he moved to his current berth at La Merenda, an Italian word meaning "early snack," which refers to the custom of early evening socializing and gathering for food and drink.

"The restaurant has been open five years and most people aren't aware of its commitment to sustainable food," Gorman says. "Owner Peter Sandroni works closely with more than 45 different farmers to source local ingredients. It's an exciting point for me in my career."

Gorman, an amateur guitarist and comic book artist, says the relationship with Sandroni is almost musical.

"When Peter and I are creating menus or specials, it's not unlike jamming," he says. "We have fun, we work with the freshest ingredients and we bounce ideas back and forth. Having a loyal audience packing the house each night doesn't hurt, either."

La Merenda, which specializes in small plates, covered an international culinary range even before Gorman

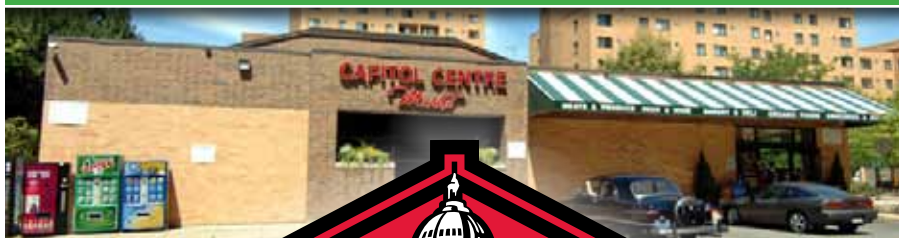
joined. The options run from locally sourced Wisconsin meats and cheeses to Costa Rican ceviche, from Lebanese falafel to sambal goreng udang, a sautéed shrimp dish with Indonesian roots. Seasonal items also are incorporated into the menu to capitalize on locally sourced ingredients.

The international flare combined with local roots is the perfect combination for Gorman, who didn't consciously set out to be a chef. It's a career that he says found him.

"There wasn't an 'aha' moment per se, but I can speak to what cooking is all about for me," Gorman says. "It's the moment when you see the look on a person's face who maybe wasn't happy when the meal started, and you know you played a role in making his (or her) life better. Being part of creating a good memory is what gives me purpose."

That's something even Jean-Paul Sartre could appreciate.

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Animation Nation

Replay

GREGG SHAPIRO

'WIZARDS'

Ralph Bakshi, of "Fritz the Cat" fame, combined anti-technology and anti-religion messages with images of Nazis and a second death for Hitler in his 1977 futuristic fantasia "Wizards." Now on Blu-ray in a 35th anniversary edition, "Wizards" is set far into a bleak future, in a world that has been blown apart by terrorists. Against the backdrop of a planet occupied by evil, hideous mutants and good fairies, elves and dwarves, Bakshi brings something new to the good-versus-evil formula.

Twin brothers Avatar (voiced by Bob Holt) and Blackwolf (voiced by Steve Gravers), represent good and evil, respectively. Three thousand years after Avatar defeated Blackwolf in a duel following the death of their mother Delia, the brothers have kept their distance from each other. But Blackwolf has his heart set on domination and destruction using the power of science and technology. He sends his minions to destroy the magic practiced by Avatar and his followers.

Blackwolf's massive army, fueled by Nazi film footage shown on a vintage projector, and Avatar's troops finally do meet on a bloody and corpse-strewn battlefield. Can you guess who triumphs?

"Wizards" looks like a Saturday morning cartoon on a bad acid trip, an indication of how far animation has come since the late 1970s. However, the themes in "Wizards," including the excesses of technology, political extremism and the horrors of war still ring true today. DVD special features include the collectible packaging, Bakshi's commentary, a

of the Beatles' voices is featured in the film, whose tripped-out script was co-written by Erich ("Love Story") Segal.

The cartoon does, however, weave more than a dozen Beatles songs into its soundtrack. Created at a time when the Vietnam War was in full swing, "Yellow Submarine" pits the violent Blue Meanies against the peaceful, music-loving citizens of Pepperland. The "all you need is love" message, while a bit idealistic, is as moving today as it was nearly 45 years ago. DVD special features include the "Mod Odyssey" featurette, interviews with crew and vocal talent and much more.



PHOTO: COURTESY

'THE SECRET WORLD OF ARRIETTY'

Easily the most accessible of the animated Studio Ghibli productions, the 2010 U.S. version of "The Secret World of Arrietty," available from Disney in a Blu-ray/DVD combo pack, is a delight. A retelling of Mary Norton's "The Borrowers," the cartoon feature juxtaposes the coming of age stories of sickly "human bean" Shawn (voiced by David Henrie) and rebellious and ambitious borrower Arrietty (Bridgit Mendler). Both adolescents are under the watchful eyes of their elders – Aunt Jessica (Gracie Poletti) and meddling housekeeper Hara (Carol Burnett) take care of Shawn, while Arrietty's parents are Homily (Amy Poehler) and Pod (Will Arnett).

The relationship between the borrowers, who "take only what they need," and the human beans, who are destructive, is tested when an unexpected relationship develops between Arrietty and Shawn.

The animation is spectacular, combining the painting-like backgrounds with classic Japanese animation in the foreground. Sweet and touching – full of messages about life, death and survival – "The Secret World of Arrietty" should be shared by one and all. Bonus material includes original Japanese storyboards, music videos and more.



PHOTO: COURTESY

featurette and more.

'YELLOW SUBMARINE'

The 1968 animated feature "Yellow Submarine," now available on DVD, puts to rest any doubt that the Beatles were dabbling with psychedelic drugs. Based on the Beatles' song of the same name, the movie is set in Pepperland, a colorful cartoon land designed by Heinz Edelmann in Peter Max fashion. None



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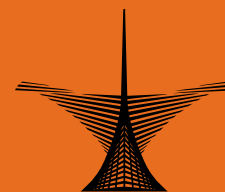


Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, *The Troupe of Mademoiselle Eglantine, 1896 (detail)*. Grand Rapids Art Museum, Purchase, Peter M. Wege.

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Wisconsinite Kelly Hogan mixes it up on brilliant new album

Interview

GREGG SHAPIRO,

In the 11 years between the release of "Because It Feel Good" and her brilliant new album "I Like to Keep Myself in Pain," Kelly Hogan explored all the musical crayons in her box.

Following her 2001 release, the Evansville resident toured for a couple of years, sang with Neko Case and joined John Wesley Harding and Nora O'Connor to record Elizabethan madrigals on "Songs of Misfortune," a Love Hall Tryst album. Three years ago, Hogan's jazz band The Wooden Leg began what was supposed to be a one-month residency at The Hideout in Chicago.

"I've been busy, Gregg! I never stopped singing," Hogan exclaimed when I caught up with her a few months ago to chat about her about her latest release.

Gregg Shapiro: It seems like most of the songs on "I Like to Keep Myself in Pain" were written for you.

Kelly Hogan: Certain songs might not have been written for me specifically, but they were given to me. Like in the case of The Magnetic Fields' ("Plain White Roses"), that was an old song of theirs. Stephin (Merritt), was going to write me one, but he was busy doing an opera, so Claudia (Gonson) said, "There's this song, I think it's a great song and it never really got its due," so she sent me a version from a Merge (Records) compilation from a long time ago. Now they do it in their live show and it's on a recent record. They're like, "Hey, that song is good!"

The album includes respectful nods to your Chicago cronies, including Andrew Bird, Jon Langford, Catherine Irwin and The Handsome Family.

Oh, man, I want to get one of those Mayberry police cars, with the giant speakers on top and go slowly down the street, "Ladies and gentlemen, check these people out! They kick ass!" I love waving the flag for people.

I heard some Lulu in your voice on "Pass On By."

KH: Good! I think Lulu is very soulful. Awesome! I apologized to Stephin Merritt. I said, "I Olivia Newton-Johned your song, I hope you don't mind" (laughs).

There's a disturbed domesticity on songs such as "We Can't Have Nice Things" and "Whenever You're Out of My Sight." Do you think domestic tranquility is an oxymoron?

I don't think it's ever tranquil. Where would all these sad songs come from? I think that's a myth, sir! I mean I have happy times, we all have happy times, but I don't think that exists. Go chase that windmill, dude, I've got other stuff to do. When I sing those songs, I see pictures on the floor, broken glass, and people smiling through it. I think that's reality.

Songs such as "Sleeper Awake" and "Haunted" have a commercial ring. They sound like the sum-

mertime hit singles you hear pouring out of car windows or radios at the beach. What would it mean to you to have a hit like that?

I love those songs, too. I don't just sit around listening to Lee Hazelwood, drinking brandy out of a snifter. I like The Archies and Olivia Newton-John and all that. John Wesley Harding sent me "Sleeper Awake" a long time ago, and he sent me some other songs when I asked him for this record. But I kept going back to it, and I thought it might finally be time to do "Sleeper Awake." I'm a horrible insomniac, and that song kind of gives me a heart attack to sing. Our idea was to take the song and flip it upside down. It was fun to play it with a Motown thing. I was thinking more of Kirsty MacColl. I love that stuff. I love to throw open my windows, clean the house and sing that stuff. I have an army dad and he used to flip on the light, throw off the covers and, with a wooden spoon and

a pan, beat it really loud next to our heads, while singing "Reveille." Actually, I wove the melody of "Reveille" into my background vocals as a little "up yours" to my dad, a little homage. I'm not ashamed to sound like a box of Honeycomb cereal, because I'll eat that stuff all day long.

So good and so good for you.

For "Haunted," my only mixing note for that song was, "Let's make it smell like beer." (Songwriter) Jon Langford is very robust. He's like a pirate. I love him so much. We wanted to make it like a bar sing-along. When Jon heard it, he said, "You've turned it into a Bay City Rollers song." I was like, "What?" I guess it was the clapping and all. But I love how it turned out. It's raucous.

How does it feel to be a part of the Anti-stable, along with Neko Case, Wilco, Kate Bush, Mavis

Staples and Bettye LaVette, among others?

I had to buy some adult diapers, man. Are you kidding? They were my favorite label in the world, and they asked me to make a record for them. I thought I was being punked. I was going to call my record "I'm Not Worthy."

But of course you are.

I just like how they invest in you. It's not like it's my Anti- record, it's my first Anti- record. They're even giving me that benefit of the doubt. It makes me excited. I want to do them proud.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Kelly Hogan performs at The East Side Club of Madison, 3735 Monona Drive, Madison, on Aug. 30.

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Ron Palillo, of 'Welcome Back, Kotter,' dies at 63

Television

MATT SEDENSKY, AP WRITER

Ron Palillo, the out gay actor best known as the nerdy high school student Arnold Horshack on the 1970s sitcom "Welcome Back, Kotter," died Aug. 14 in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., at the age of 63.

Palillo suffered an apparent heart attack at his home about 4 a.m., said Karen Poindexter, a close friend of the actor. He was pronounced dead at Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center.

Palillo is survived by his partner of 41 years, Joseph Gramm.

The actor was inextricably linked with the character he played from 1975 to 1979 on "Kotter," the ABC sitcom that introduced John Travolta to the world. The story line centered on the title character, who returns to his Brooklyn alma mater to teach a group of love-

able wise guys known as the Sweatshogs. Horshack was the nasally teen who yelped, "Oooh, ooh," and shot his hand skyward whenever Kotter posed a question.

The show was a ratings success and pop cultural phenomenon, injecting smart-aleck phrases such as "Up your nose with a rubber hose" into the mainstream and propelling Travolta to stardom. But the series only lasted as long as a high school education and its end, for Palillo, brought difficulty.

He said he felt exiled throughout the 1980s, unable to find parts, sinking into depression, and rarely venturing from his apartment. When offers did come, he felt typecast as Horshack.

"While I loved him, I really loved him, I didn't want to do him forever," he told the Birmingham News in 1994.

Ronald Paolillo was born April 2, 1949, in Cheshire, Conn., eventually dropping the first "o" from his surname. His father died of lung cancer when he was 10 and he developed a stutter. His mother thought getting him involved in a local theater might help. He fell in love with the stage and overcame his speech impediment.

He attended the University of Connecticut and earned parts in Shakespearean productions before his big break.

When he auditioned for "Kotter," he thought he'd be passed over for others who had more of a tough-guy New York look. He told interviewers that his dying father's voice inspired his character's trademark wheezing laugh. And he said Horshack tapped into feelings any teen could relate to.

"I think he was the smartest kid in school," he told the Miami Herald in 2009. "He was giving up his aptitude in order to be liked. Then and now, that is a very common

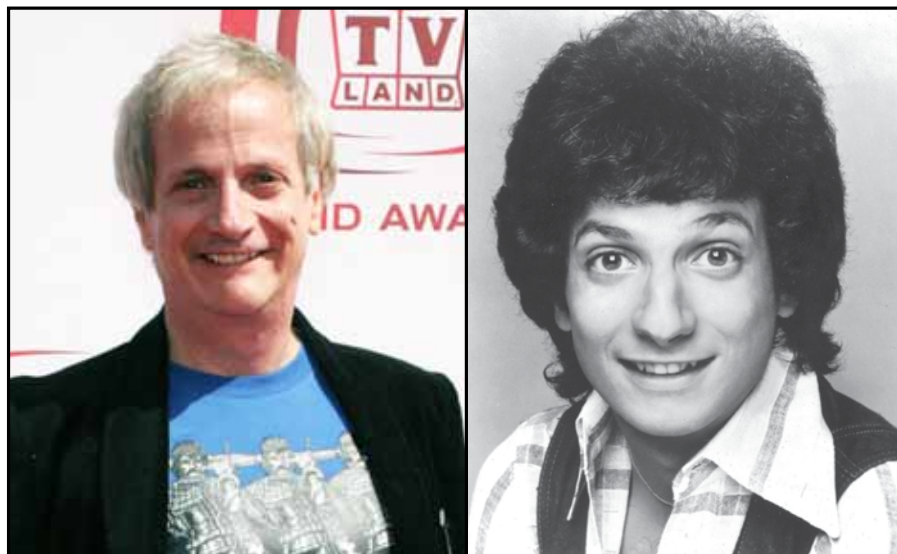


PHOTO: FABULOUSHOLLYWOODMEMORIES.COM

Ron Palillo, left, at the TV Land Awards in 2008 and, right, during his "Welcome Back, Kotter" days.

thing in teenagers."

Palillo went on to get a host of bit parts in shows from "The Love Boat" to "Cagney and Lacey" to "The A-Team," and played himself for a time on the series "Ellen." But "Kotter" remained his most well-known acting part, and

he focused on stage directing and writing.

His last act in life mirrored his most famous one, in a real-life classroom instead of one at the fictional James Buchanan High School. Palillo taught acting at G-Star School of the Arts, a high

school in West Palm Beach. He was due to return for the school year the morning he died.

Poindexter said that while her friend might, at times, have resented the shadow Horshack cast, he remained fond of the character.

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Lindsey Buckingham performs on Aug. 28 in Green Bay at the Meyer Theatre and on Aug. 29 in Washburn at Lake Superior Big Top Chautauque.

Buckingham still compelling

Lindsey Buckingham, the former partner (both romantic and creative) of Stevie Nicks, did something significant for the British blues band Fleetwood Mac when he and Nicks joined the group in the mid-1970s. He made them popular. By bringing his unique pop flair to Fleetwood Mac, he provided the group with the critical and, more importantly, commercial success that had eluded it in the States.

In 1981, Buckingham, like Nicks, released his first solo disc, "Law and Order," with its sexy George Hurrell cover pic, echoed some of what Buckingham had been doing with the Mac (see the hit single "Trouble"). It also allowed him to stretch.

Going solo again in 1984 with the more experimen-

Music

GREGG SHAPIRO

tal "Go Insane" (the title tune becoming a modest hit), Buckingham established a pattern of releasing solo albums every few years, with the longest gap occurring between 1992's "Out of the Cradle" and 2006's "Under the Skin." It was during this period that Fleetwood Mac regrouped, featuring both Buckingham and Nicks, and released the live "The Dance" disc and the studio album "Say You Will."

History repeated itself 30 years after Buckingham and Nicks released their first solo efforts. Nicks returned to form with "In Your Dreams"

and Buckingham made a strong comeback with "Seeds We Sow."

Unlike Nicks' album, Buckingham's self-released "Seeds We Sow" is a no-frills project, performed, recorded and mixed by Buckingham. You can still hear the Buckingham of his Fleetwood Mac-era's "Tusk," as well as the Buckingham who explored his experimental side over the course of his various solo releases.

"Seeds We Sow" is every bit as compelling as "In Your Dreams." Highlights include the elaborately rhythmic "In Our Own Time," "Gone Too Far," "Stars Are Crazy" (on which Buckingham shows off his trademark fretwork) and the fittingly dreamy "Rock Away Blind."

Band to Romney: Stop using our song

An attorney for Silversun Pickups has asked Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney's campaign to immediately stop the use of the rock group's song "Panic Switch."

The Los Angeles-based band's attorney sent a cease-and-desist letter to the campaign of the presumptive Republican presidential nominee. A news release said neither the band nor its representatives were contacted for permission and added that the group "has no intention of endorsing the

Romney campaign."

The lyrics of "Panic Switch" seem like a warning about "red views" that "keep ripping the divide." But singer Brian Aubert said that's not the song's message.

"We're nice, approachable people. We won't bite. Unless you're Mitt Romney!" Aubert told reporters. "We were very close to just letting this go because the irony was too good. While he is inadvertently playing a song that describes his whole campaign, we doubt that 'Panic Switch' really sends the mes-

sage he intends."

A Romney spokesperson said the campaign's use of the song was inadvertent, but it was covered under the campaign's blanket licensing agreement and was not illegal.

Nevertheless, spokeswoman Andrea Saul said there are no plans to play the song again.

This isn't the first time that musicians have asked Romney to drop their songs from his play list. Earlier this year, rapper K'naan complained after the campaign used his song "Wavin' Flag"

— AP and WiG reports

AUG. 23, THURSDAY

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre continues its lauded production of **"A Thousand Clowns"** by Herb Gardner, through Aug. 26, at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Wisconsin Public Radio's artist in residence, the **Kat Trio** (Vladislav Gorbich, Victoria Gorbich, and Julie Page), performs at 7 p.m. at the SummerStage Theater in Lapham Peak State Park, a mile south of I-94 on Highway C, south of downtown Delafield.

Milwaukee City Hall, 200 E. Wells, hosts the **Summer of Peace All City Parade Exhibit**. The public can view the floats, masks and costumes featured in the Summer of Peace All City Parade for free during regular City Hall hours through today. Go to www.milwaukeepublictheatre.org for more info or call 414-347-1685.

Jazz in the Park presents **The Right Now** at 6 p.m. in Cathedral Square Park, 825 N. Jefferson.

Ayre in the Square presents **The Delta Routine**, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Third Ward's Catalano Square, Broadway & Menomonee Streets. Visit musicinthesquare.org.

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

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

AUG. 24, FRIDAY

"Cheeseheads, The Musical" continues through Oct. 14 at The Amphitheatre in Peninsula State Park in Fish Creek.

Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer, welcomes Wisconsin author **Michael Perry**, author of "Visiting Tom: A Man, a Highway, and the Road to Roughneck Grace," at 7 p.m. Call 414-332-1181.

Walker's Point Center for the Arts, 839 S. Fifth, presents installations by **Cathy Breslaw** and **Charles Matson Lume** through Aug. 25. Call 414.672.2787 or visit www.wpca-milwaukee.org.

"Belgians in Heaven," set in Southern Door County's Belgian-American farming district, continues at The Amphitheatre in Peninsula State Park in Fish Creek.

Greymatter, 207 E. Buffalo, Ste. 222, presents **Ador(n)ed**, featuring new work by Chicago native **Tyanna J. Buie**, through Sept. 1. Call 414-687-2598 or visit greymattergallery.com.

AUG. 25, SATURDAY

The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin, presents **Gotye** at 7 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Waukesha County Airport in Waukesha is the place to catch the **Wings Over Waukesha Air Show**, featuring top aerobatics acts, today and tomorrow. For more, visit wingsoverwaukesha.com.

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

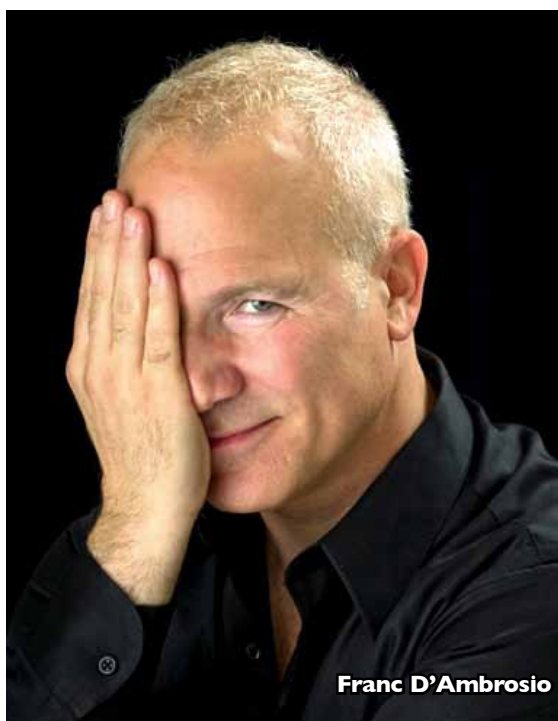


Wings Over Waukesha



AUG. 27, MONDAY

"Michelle Grabner: The Inova Survey" features a selection of paintings, prints, sculpture and video spanning the career of UWM alumna, Chicago-based artist, writer, teacher and curator Michelle Grabner, through Sept. 23 at Inova/Kenilworth, 2155 N. Prospect.



Franc D'Ambrosio

AUG. 28, TUESDAY

The new Live @ Peck Pavilion series presents **Franc D'Ambrosio's Broadway** at 7:30 p.m. at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.

Three-time Grammy winner, **Mickey Hart** performs songs from the new album "Mysterium Tremendum," Grateful Dead songs and more with his band at 7:30 p.m. at the Majestic, 115 King in Madison. Call 608-251-2582.

AUG. 29, WEDNESDAY

Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer, welcomes **Giulio Tononi**, a professor of psychiatry and a neuroscientist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and author of "Phi: A Voyage from the Brain to the Soul" at 7 p.m. Call 414-332-1181.

LIVE @ the Lakefront presents **D'Calleson** playing salsa,

beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Rotary Amphitheater at Discovery World, 500 N. Harbor Drive.

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. 30, THURSDAY

Jazz in the Park presents **The Erotic Adventures of the Static Chicken** at 6 p.m. in Cathedral Square Park, 825 N. Jefferson.

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



Erotic Adventures of the Static Chicken

SEPT. 1, SATURDAY

Present Music presents **"Change,"** featuring MYSO's steel drum band Calypso, in Vogel Hall at Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.

SEPT. 2, SUNDAY

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

SEPT. 4, TUESDAY

Directed by Mark Clements, **"Assassins,"** with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by John Weidman, runs through Oct. 7 in the Quadracci Powerhouse at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.

SEPT. 5, WEDNESDAY

Eric Simonson's **"Lombardi,"** based on the book "When Pride Still Mattered: A Life of Vince Lombardi" by David Maraniss, runs through Oct. 14 at Peninsula Players Theatre, 4351 Peninsula Players Road in Fish Creek. Call 920-868-3287.

SEPT. 6, THURSDAY

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



We are Diverse and Resilient

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

Our work is about you.

For news and program updates, join us on Facebook. To make your contribution of \$25 or more to our work, go to www.diverseandresilient.org/give.

