

AVENUE Q

Skylight Music Theatre's production of the award-winning "Avenue Q" uses puppets for some very adult-themed material.

Page 21



THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

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Guerilla propagandists

Protesters overcome harassment, draw worldwide attention

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

It's nearing sunset on Aug. 27 and a festive atmosphere is evolving at the intersection of Seventh and Ring Street on in Milwaukee's central city. People are arriving in cars, waving hello and exchanging greetings through their windows. Soon more than two dozen vehicles and 80 people are gathered in the normally quiet area, chatting in the

cerulean glow of a perfect late-summer evening. Laughter hums in the air with the mosquitoes.

But this is a serious event, coordinated by an emerging group of activists whose novel form of protest has drawn international attention. At sunset, 19 volunteers from the crowd line up on the Ring Street overpass above I-43, each holding two- by three-foot cardboard signs bearing letters and punctua-

tion marks made from strips of LED Christmas lights. Facing northbound traffic, the cards in formation spell out the words "Palermos - Negotiate!" - a show of support for striking workers at Palermo's Pizza plant in Milwaukee. Drivers honk their approval in staccato and their disagreement in long, angry blasts.

The Overpass Light Brigade has conducted more than 70 such eye-catching demonstrations over the

past 10 months. The effort was born of "the Wisconsin uprising," as group co-founders Lane Hall and Lisa Moline refer to the massive demonstrations that overran the Capitol during early 2011 and the subsequent effort to oust Gov. Scott Walker earlier this year.

"It all began with a single lighted sign that said 'Recall Walker' during the beginning of the signature

PROTESTERS page 14

PHOTO: ADAM HORWITZ
Volunteers with the Overpass Light Brigade display their support for striking workers of Palermo's Pizza at the Ring Street overpass on I-43 on Aug. 27.

Zealots shut down play in Delafield

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

"The Bible - The Complete Word of God (abridged)" features three actors taking on dozens of characters from biblical lore. Costumes fly around the stage as fast as groaner puns. From the first fig leaf, it's obvious the play is intended as a light-hearted farce.

"The Bible ... (abridged)" is part of the sharply pared canon of classics by Reduced Shakespeare, the American company responsible for "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)," "All the Great Books (abridged)" and similar crowd pleasers. Since its award-winning 1995 premiere at Washington's Kennedy Center, the play has

been performed for audiences all over the world.

But it will not be seen in Delafield. Responding to a wave of protests from fundamentalist Christians incited by right-wing talk radio, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources abruptly canceled a version of the comedy that was scheduled to run at Lapham Peak State

Park's SummerStage. DNR officials and SummerStage board members were inundated with threats and complaints from people around the country claiming that the work is blasphemous, according to Amy Geyser, associate producer of Phantom Cicada Theatre Company, the play's producer.

PLAY page 12

Famous Milwaukee mansion up for sale

page 16



News with a twist

WIGWAG

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

LACEY FOR OBAMA

An actress known for her roles on the television shows "Cagney and Lacey" and "Judging Amy" stumped for President Barack Obama in Wisconsin. The Janesville Gazette reported that Tyne Daly stopped in Whitewater, Janesville and Beloit, where she urged about 100 Democratic supporters to work harder for Obama, saying the president brought the country back from the brink of disaster and needs more time to continue his work.



PHOTO: FACEBOOK

TAKING IT OFF FOR HARRY

A new Facebook group is dedicated to supporting Prince Harry in the wake of his Las Vegas nude-photo scandal. Pictures of the prince

naked with a female companion in a hotel suite found their way to the press – and the Web – during the weekend of Aug. 18.

To show their empathy for the prince, more than 32,000 of his fans have joined the Facebook group Support Prince Harry with a Naked Salute. "Cover your crown jewels (and) support the nation's favorite Royal," the group declares – and thousands have done just that, posting pictures on the site that reveal nearly everything.

ONE MILLION FOOLS

The anti-gay group One Million Moms is in a furor over a television series produced by Jennifer Lopez for ABC. OMM is blasting the show as "anti-family" because it centers around a lesbian couple. In a statement, the group vows to stop it "dead in its tracks." The series has the working title of "Meet the Fosters." Before turning its righteous ire to Lopez's TV show, OMM attacked the candy Skittles over a commercial in which a woman

kisses a walrus. OMM said the commercial shows the candy maker "is taking lightly the act of bestiality."

SKINNY DIPPING IN GALILEE

U.S. Rep. Kevin Yoder, R-Kan., rode the Tea Party wave into Washington. As a freshman congressman, he went to Israel in August 2011 and, after an evening of drinking and dining, went skinny-dipping in the Sea of Galilee. He was with about 20 other lawmakers who went for the swim, but the only one who stripped for the bath. Yoder has apologized for the incident, but WiG still has at least two questions. Given recent revelations from U.S. Olympic swimmers: Did he pee in the sea? And shouldn't Tea Party types be refusing such trips as a matter of principle?

SAY CHEESE

Feast assured: Wisconsin still produces more cheese than any other state – 227 million pounds in June alone. California produces more milk, but is second in cheese production.

NOT BUYING IT

In a recent interview with the National Catholic Register, the Rev. Benedict Groeschel, of the conservative Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, alleged that teens have acted as seducers in some of the clerical sex abuse scandals. "Suppose you have a man having a nervous breakdown, and a youngster comes after him?" Groeschel asked, implying that added priests are really the victims of their victims. Although he's never been charged with such atrocities, we wonder if he's setting up a defense strategy for himself. If so, here's a word of advice for the good father: It won't work.

'BACHELORETTE' STAR CHICK-FIL-A

The National Organization for Marriage boasted on its website that "Bachelorette" star Ryan Bowers had touted his support for Chick-fil-A and the "sanctity of marriage" in a tweet. Bowers, referring to the Cathy family that founded and runs the Chick-fil-A company, tweeted, "Everyone is

eating at chick fil-a (sic) today to support the Kathy (sic) family and their stand for the sanctity of marriage!!! Lv it!!" NOM ate that up. But why? Because the ABC reality show is all about the sanctity of marriage?

ROLLING OUT THE RED CARPET

Tampa's gay bathhouses, bars and male strip clubs rolled out the red carpet for the Republican National Convention. Known as the "lap dance capital of the world," the Gulf Coast city offered special programs and discounts expressly targeting the GOP's closeted gay and repressed "family values" delegates. Ybor Resort and Spa, a gay bathhouse in the city's party district, provided free entrance to all GOP delegates. In an advertisement, the bathhouse touted: "Male Revue Upstairs in the VIP Room Featuring Paul Ryan Look-alike!" The cabaret also offered a "Champagne salute to S.C. Sen. Lindsay Olin Graham." Another club offered Sarah Palin impersonators.

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32,000 donate online to support bullied bus monitor

Creates foundation to address bullying

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Curses. Taunts. Jabs. Jeers. A student with a cellphone videotaped the brazen, brutal bullying of Greece Central School District bus monitor Karen Klein, 68, on the second to the last day of the 2011-12 school year in the upstate New York community.

One student told Klein, whose eldest son committed suicide 10 years ago, that she was without family because "they all killed themselves because they didn't want to be near you." Another poked at her and joked about her weight.

The video of the 10-minute assault went viral and led an international audience to show concern and care for Klein with cash donations in a campaign launched by Max Sidorov, a stranger moved by outrage at the kids' cruelty.

The cyber Samaritans' goal had been to raise enough money – about \$5,000 – for the bus monitor to take a vacation. But with more

than \$700,000 collected, she could do a lot more than get away.

"We raised a lot more money than what I needed to go on vacation," said Klein, adding that "32,000 people around the world raised \$703,873 for my behalf. It has changed my life forever."

So Klein – whose experience called attention to the fact that not all bullies' targets are tweens and teens – decided to fund the Karen Klein Anti-Bullying Foundation. Established as part of the GiveBack Foundation, the foundation has four initiatives:

- Fund anti-bullying counseling in schools.
- Create an educational curriculum that will teach about bullying and what individuals can do to stop it.
- Support organizations bringing awareness to the anti-bullying movement.
- Develop new media assets that will help prevent bullying.

"The goal of the anti-bullying campaign is to help teach kids and

teens about being kind, friendly and playing nicely with others," Klein said. "Because of my own personal bullying story, I've now decided to become an advocate of change."

The grandmother said she wants the foundation to provide resources for children and adults: "When the adult is being bullied, I don't know who the heck they can talk to. That's why I want to help."

Surveys show that 70 percent of students at high schools and middle schools say they've been bullied. That percentage is likely higher, since other surveys show that students are reluctant to report bullying.

Studies examining bullying of adults find that workplace bullying is three times as prevalent as illegal discrimination and at least 1,600 times as prevalent as workplace violence.

"Bullying can take place within the family, at work, in the neighborhood, at church, at the store," said author and educator J. Richard Knapp, an expert on bullying. "The



PHOTO: AP/STEVEN SENNE

Karen Klein, who was shown in a viral video being relentlessly bullied by a group of boys, has retired and founded the Karen Klein Anti-Bullying Foundation.

most reported incidents take place at work, but that does not mean that the incidents did not happen in the other places I mentioned – they just weren't reported."

The foundation "will be the gathering point for millions of people to support the anti-bullying movement," Klein said. "Together, we will change the world."

To promote the work, Klein is involved in the No Bully concert tour, which begins this fall in Myrtle Beach, S.C., and celebrates the slo-

gan, "Be a buddy, not a bully."

Meanwhile, in the Greece Central School District, students returned to class on Sept. 6 for a new year. The students who bullied Klein, however, are apart from their friends. Their punishment was a one-year suspension, 50 hours of community service and participation in an anti-bullying program.

As for Klein, she's retired from the district but not from education.

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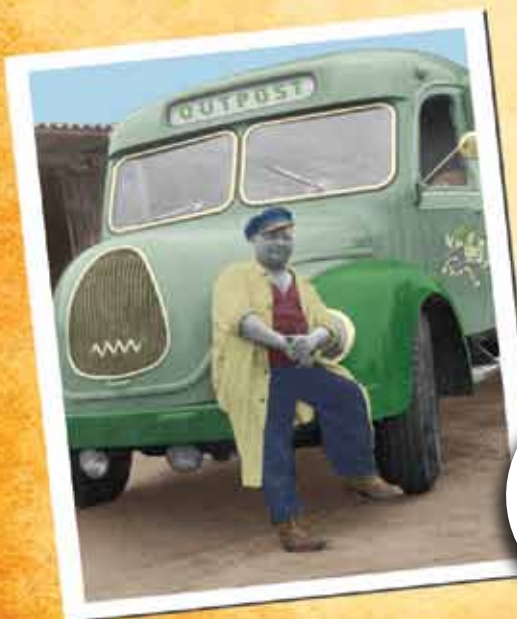
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WiG at the Republican National Convention

From 'Raging Grannies' to unruly Ron Paul delegates, the unscripted moments were the highlights

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

In four years, when Republicans gather again for a national convention, will they remember the 2012 event took place in Tampa? Maybe – if they attended or hosted or watched The Weather Channel.

Will they remember what Mitt Romney said? Perhaps they'll vaguely recall he pledged to reduce the role of government, except when it comes to marriage and choice.

Will they remember Clint Eastwood talked to an empty chair, pretending to converse with Barack Obama? Oh, yes.

Today's nominating conventions no longer take place in smoke-filled back rooms. Instead they are orchestrated from back rooms to be highly scripted, slightly glamorous affairs. Speeches are drafted, redrafted, rehearsed and then released with an "embargoed until delivery" stamp for the press' consumption before the call to order. Slick signs are handed out in the hall to delegates, and any handmade signs need party approval. Evenings follow themes. Speakers adhere to

scripts. Audiences applaud mostly on cue.

So some of the most memorable are the moments not programmed into the teleprompters – such as mystery speaker Eastwood's inexplicable dialogue with an invisible president. Isaac – a threat to Tampa Bay as a tropical storm and a disaster in the Northern Gulf as a hurricane – was not in the script. The renegades for Ron Paul didn't go by a script. Neither did the Code Pink protesters who disrupted the convention nights nor the attendee removed from the forum after making racist comments to a black CNN camerawoman.

Below are some of the moments WiG found most noteworthy.

AUG. 25

It's Saturday and reporters gather in downtown Tampa to collect credentials – shiny daily passes that dangle on a lanyard – along with swag bags containing Mitt Romney's book, a magnet, a beer can koozie, Tampa brochures, sunscreen, sunglasses and a battery-powered fan.

Afterward, it's a rush to televi-

sion sets to watch forecasters track the path of slow-moving Tropical Storm Isaac and listen to anchors make odds on whether the weather will force a delay in the convention.

At about 6:30 p.m., RNC chair Reince Priebus, who formerly headed the Wisconsin Republican Party, announces that Day 1 is off. Now attendees can look at Sunshine State maps to see about making a day trip to Busch Gardens or Disney World. Wisconsin delegates get directions to hot spots from their headquarters at the Hyatt Regency Tampa.

AUG. 26

Stormy skies and forecasts for severe weather later in the evening don't interfere with the RNC welcome party at Tropicana Field – home of the Tampa Bay Rays. Hosts provide open bars and serve Cuban sandwiches and seafood fresh from Tarpon Springs, but working reporters complain about being kept off the field.

The same night, Florida chapters of the Log Cabin Republicans carry on with a meet-and-greet party for gay delegates at the Rusty Pelican, a steak and seafood spot that draws crowds for the sunsets.

AUG. 27

The convention opens and then immediately recesses due to the threat of Isaac, which turns out to be a minor event for the Bay area. The National Hurricane Center says the storm veered away on a northwesterly path due to upper-air steering currents and warm Gulf water. But a local pastor boasts that her prayer team prayed away Isaac: "It has really moved out of the way for us and we appreciate God doing that and moving it for us."

For delegates, the weather delay provides the opportunity to explore nearby venues, especially the cigar bars, restaurants, coffee houses and nightclubs of Ybor City. Some are heard talking about the Paul Ryan lookalike at a gay bathhouse in Ybor City and porn star and Palinesque stripper Lisa Ann at The Dollhouse. But no one admits witnessing the shows to WiG.

Not many delegates line downtown streets to see rain-soaked demonstrators calling for peace, justice and jobs in the March on the RNC. About 500 protesters participate, and both police and press outnumber them. At one point, a member of the Raging Grannies

Action League, which is challenging the GOP's anti-abortion plank, is surrounded by eight reporters and three photographers and, beyond them, six state troopers. "I still have hope for Barack," she says.

Dozens of the protesters are lodging at Camp Romneyville on vacant land behind an army-navy surplus store near an interstate overpass. Some sleep in tents, others in cars. "We are here because we want peace, and it hasn't been fully delivered," says Amelie Robertson of Orlando, Fla. "We are here because we want health care for all, and it hasn't been delivered. We are here because we want jobs created and civil liberties recognized."

AUG. 28

One of the first orders of convention business is the adoption of the platform, a 62-page document that reflects the beliefs of the party's right-wing and calls for "defending marriage against an activist judiciary," adopting a constitutional amendment against same-sex mar-

riage, banning abortion, encouraging voter ID laws, backing oil exploration in the Arctic Refuge and construction of the Keystone Pipeline. The platform pledges to move Medicaid and Medicare away from the "entitlement model," opposes "any form of amnesty" for undocumented immigrants and demands the repeal the Affordable Care Act on the first day of a Republican presidency.

Convention business also involves the adoption of rules and the roll call of states for the nomination. Vocal and ardent Ron Paul supporters in the hall shout for the Texas congressman to be allowed to speak and his delegates to be seated, creating a ruckus. Security becomes more visible but delegates get even more unruly. They chant "USA! USA!" as Zori Fonalledas of Puerto Rico tries to make her speech and Priebus calls for order.

Later, an RNC attendee is ejected after throwing peanuts at an African-American camerawoman for CNN. "This is how we feed



PHOTO: C. WOLGAST

Delegates to the Republican National Convention await the start of the program on Aug. 29 at the Tampa Bay Times Forum.



PHOTO: C. WOLGAST

Photographers get into position before a speech by Wisconsin Congressman Paul Ryan, the GOP nominee for VP.



PHOTO: C. WOLGAST

Paul Ryan and his family wave to a standing crowd at the Tampa Bay Times Forum.

animals," he said.

The evening's script focuses on "We Built It." Loyalists cheer speakers who talk about the businesses they say they built and repeatedly attack the president for saying, "If you've got a business — you didn't build that. Somebody else made that happen." Critics observe that the GOP has based four hours of speeches on that out-of-context remark by the president who, during a campaign speech in Virginia, was talking about how government, with infrastructure and programs, helps businesses prosper.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker

speaks, talking about his recall election survival and his "reforms," which means union-busting.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie delivers the keynote, highlighting his "reforms," which also means union-busting.

AUG. 29

Delegates wake up with coffee and the Tampa Tribune, which has a full-page ad purchased by Young Conservatives for the Freedom to Marry and LCR. The ad emphasizes conservative reasons to support marriage equality.

The made-for-TV theme of the

day is "We Can Change It," and Wisconsin is in the spotlight as the program builds to Ryan's speech. Although that speech provides some touching personal moments, it is laced with falsehoods. Ryan gives the press fodder for days of gleeful fact-checking by making some far-fetched claims on and off the podium. He says he ran a marathon in under three hours — he really finished in just over four hours. He attacks Obama for failing to deliver on his promise to help save a plant in Ryan's hometown of Janesville from closure, but fails to mention that the plant closed before the president took office.

Ryan and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee both attack marriage equality and abortion rights. Huckabee says, "The only self-professed evangelical is Barack Obama, and he supports changing the definition of marriage, believes that human life is disposable and expendable at any time in the womb or even beyond the womb and tells people of faith that they must bow their knees to the god of government and violate their faith and conscience in order to comply with what he calls health care."

Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice sends cheering delegates to their feet with a hawkish speech that at times sounds like a call for more war. Just as there are delegates who wanted Ron Paul to be the presidential nominee, there are delegates who wish Rice was the vice presidential nominee — but she's pro-choice and pro-civil unions, which disqualifies her.

AUG. 30

The theme is "We Believe in America" and the night is supposed to be all about Romney — speakers talk about the candidate's years as a volunteer pastor, as the builder of Bain Capital, as the governor of Massachusetts and as the savior of the 2002 Olympics. They talk about his compassion for people and his leadership style. They also call him cheap.

The lineup is light, because the nominee's speech traditionally is long. Highlights include introducing Tea Party star Marco Rubio to the masses. Unscripted, the Cuban-American senator from Florida calls for freedom and liberty on the island.

The night also brings Eastwood — who supports marriage equality — to the stage with a chair, which the actor pretends contains the sitting president. Delegates laugh, but seem confused at the rambling speech. They really want to hear Dirty Harry say, "Go ahead, make my day." After he obliges, Eastwood walks off stage.

Romney speaks for about 45



PHOTO: C. WOLGAST

Wisconsin's delegates celebrate on Aug. 29, when the state's Republican politicians were in the spotlights.

minutes before the big balloon and confetti drop. He talks at length about the president's record on the economy.

"If you felt that excitement when you voted for Barack Obama, shouldn't you feel that way now that he's President Obama?" he asks in an appeal to independents and Democrats.

AUG. 31

The barricades and fencing come down in Tampa, streets reopen, press flies out, security forces move on and the homeless — the city has one of the largest homeless populations in the country — reclaim downtown parks, some toting GOP swag bags and sporting Romney-Ryan buttons.

The top-of-the-ticket candidates depart from a small airport, where they are waved off by well-wishers and shouted at by protesters. "You tell me how to feel about two dicks who want to tell me what to do with my body," says Robin Greaves of Port Charlotte, Fla.

A caravan of demonstrators departs for Charlotte, N.C., for the Democratic National Convention, which is to take place at Times Warner Cable Arena.

Occupier Sean Holder of Sarasota, Fla., says he's making the trip, partly because the Democrats "get

better bands."

The DNC's entertainment lineup includes James Taylor, Foo Fighters, Marc Anthony and Mary J. Blige on the night Obama accepts the nomination. The RNC's lineup included "American Idol" Taylor Hicks, gospel singer BeBe Winans and Jake Blades, the former lead singer of Night Ranger.

SEPT. 1

A new month. A day off.

SEPT. 2

Late, around 11 p.m., WiG departs Tampa Bay for Charlotte, traveling north into Georgia, then South Carolina and North Carolina, because DNC credentials will be dispersed on Sept. 3. The Democrats begin their party on Sept. 4. Other reporters are also on their way, as are politicians, protesters and delegates. Wisconsin's delegation will be staying at the Embassy Suites-Airport, along with the celebrities. But Clint Eastwood? Probably not.

GOP pride gear for sale. Inside the forum, officially licensed Romney-Ryan apparel and souvenirs were sold. On Tampa's downtown streets more creative memorabilia was on the market, including Shepard Fairey-style posters of Mitt Romney that said, "Dope."



PHOTO: C. WOLGAST

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Ballots in four states contain gay-marriage measures

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Voters in four states are being courted for engagements on Election Day.

In Maryland and Washington, voters will decide whether they are wedded to the marriage equality bills signed into law earlier this year.

In Maine, they'll decide whether to re-legalize same-sex marriage in the state. A prior pro-gay marriage law was voided in an electoral annulment in 2009.

And in Minnesota, a state that's had a long-standing love affair with a gay marriage ban, voters will decide whether to amend their constitution to define marriage as

the union of a man and a woman.

The marriage questions are four of many ballot initiatives to be decided in the general election, which also will determine the next president and vice president, control of the U.S. House and Senate and numerous state and local races.

In 19 states, including Wisconsin, there are no statewide questions, but elsewhere voters will weigh in on capping property taxes, protecting hunting rights, halting executions, legalizing medical marijuana, reforming education and health care, protecting religious freedom, tightening gun control, banning genetically modified food and legalizing or banning same-sex marriage.

MAINE

The proponents of Question 1 want to reinstate gay marriage in the state. The Legislature passed a marriage equality bill three years ago, but voters, in a fierce campaign at the ballot box, repealed it in 2009.

The November ballot question, which both proponents and opponents criticized for its simplicity, asks, "Do you want to allow same-sex couples to marry?"

Maine Gov. Paul LePage has not been vocal about his personal views on the initiative, but in May he criticized the teachers' union for endorsing the question and soon after vetoed a teachers' pay bill.

Recent polls suggest majority support – 57 percent or 58 percent – for the initiative.

"These are some of the strongest numbers in support of marriage that we have seen anywhere in the country," said Matt McTighe, campaign manager for Mainers United for Marriage. "But supporters of the freedom to marry cannot grow complacent. There's a lot of work still to do and we know that the attacks from opponents of marriage are coming."

McTighe said Mainers United has talked with more than 100,000 citizens and raised at least \$1 million.

MARYLAND

In the Old Line State, proponents want to enact a referendum that repeals the Civil Marriage Protection Act passed and signed earlier this year.

The Maryland Catholic Conference, representing the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington and the Diocese of



PHOTO: THIRD WAY

Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, D, signed the state's marriage equality bill earlier this year. The legislation faces a repeal effort on the Nov. 6 ballot.

Wilmington, endorsed the repeal, stating, "While prominent politicians, deep-pocket donors and Hollywood stars try to influence Marylanders into believing that they aren't 'progressive' enough, the average citizen of Maryland has enough common sense to know that marriage cannot be redefined; that a child comes from both a mother and a father; that marriage is the building block of society; and that it is not discriminatory to reserve marriage for one man and one woman."

But polls have shown strong support for marriage equality during legislative debates on the bill, and there was a spike in support after Barack Obama endorsed same-sex marriage in May.

"Every weekend, we canvass – walking door to door to talk to our neighbors about the importance of defending dignity and equality at the ballot box in November," said

Marylanders for Marriage Equality field organizer John Michael Watkins.

In late June it was reported that the anti-gay campaign faced a debt of more than \$800,000.

WASHINGTON

Evergreen State voters face Referendum 74, a veto campaign to repeal the hard-fought marriage equality law signed by Gov. Christine Gregoire, D, in February.

The ballot question asks voters to approve or reject the bill, which "allows same-sex couples to marry, applies marriage laws without regard to gender, and specifies that laws using gender-specific terms like husband and wife include same-sex spouses. After 2014, existing domestic partnerships are converted to marriages, except for seniors. It preserves the right of clergy or religious organizations to refuse to perform or recognize any marriage or accommodate wedding ceremonies. The bill does not affect licensing of religious organizations providing adoption, foster-care, or child-placement."

Brian Brown of National Organization for Marriage has boasted that his side submitted twice the number of signatures needed to hold a referendum. "This," he said, "shows the broad and deep support that traditional marriage enjoys, and sets the stage for a tremendous victory for marriage this November."

But Washington United for Marriage recruited more than 1,000 volunteers and raised about \$2 million by the end of June for its campaign. Corporate supporters of marriage equality in Washington



PHOTO: MAINERS UNITED FOR MARRIAGE/PENNY GUISSINGER

A candy-throwing team for Mainers United for Marriage prepares for a parade. Mainers United is campaigning to pass a ballot measure to legalize same-sex marriage in the state.

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*September 29th
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TUNED OUT

While Lisa Neff was capturing the Republican National Convention's spirit for WiG readers, the public at large was mostly tuned out. Only the 1996 Republican convention – which nominated Bob Dole – was watched by fewer people.

Those who did tune in were largely unimpressed with what they saw. Only 38 percent of those surveyed by Gallup rated Mitt Romney's acceptance speech as "excellent" or "good," the lowest since the polling firm began asking the question in 1996.

Although Wisconsin congressman Paul Ryan, Romney's vice presidential pick, has been hailed by conservatives as an attractive "young gun" who adds appeal to the GOP ticket, his acceptance speech was watched by 20 million people, nearly half the 37.2 million who tuned in four years ago to watch Sarah Palin accept the position and considerably fewer than the 24 million who watched Joe Biden accept the Democratic veep nod in 2008.

Republican leaders had initially predicted that Romney would get a 10-point bounce from the convention, but a Gallup poll released on Labor Day showed virtually no change, with Romney trailing President Barack Obama by 46 percent to 47 percent. Nate Silver, the author of FiveThirtyEight Blog who's considered the world's most accurate political prognosticator, said he believed that Romney received a lackluster 2 to 3 percent bounce from the convention coverage.

— L.W.

include Starbucks, Microsoft, Google, Nike, Amazon.com and Alcoa.

Campaign manager Zach Silk said, "It's clear that people in Washington do not want this law overturned and believe strongly that everyone should be able to marry the person they love. We are so grateful to those who understand that money in the door now enables us to build a winning campaign that protects marriage by approving Referendum 74 in November."

MINNESOTA

In the North Star State, where same-sex marriage is not currently legal, Republican lawmakers and Christian right activists still want a constitutional amendment

banning it. So, they are asking voters to say "yes" to the ballot question, "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to provide that only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Minnesota?"

Opponents of the measure include former vice president Walter Mondale, General Mills, Thomson Reuters, Target, Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak, St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman, U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison and U.S. Sen. Al Franken.

In mid-June, Minnesota United for All Families reported that it had raised more than \$4.6 million from 19,000 individual donations.

"The conversation we are having across this state is working, and more and more

Minnesotans are coming to the conclusion that limiting the freedom to marry for same-sex couples is not how we do things in Minnesota," said campaign manager Richard Carlbom. "Minnesotans know that marriage is about love, commitment and responsibility, and no one

would want to be told it's illegal to marry the person you love."

IN OTHER STATES

A ballot initiative to repeal a marriage ban will not reach voters this year in Nebraska.

Campaigns to repeal anti-gay marriage laws also failed

to make ballots in California and Ohio.

Earlier this year, in North Carolina, voters approved a constitutional amendment against same-sex marriage, and also domestic partnerships and civil unions. The vote was 61 percent to 39 percent.

SAVE THE DATE

If Maryland voters approve gay marriage, same-sex couples can marry on Jan. 1, 2013.

If Washington voters approve gay marriage, same-sex couples can marry on Dec. 6.

If Maine voters approve gay marriage, same-sex couples can marry on a date still to be determined.

If Minnesota voters reject the constitutional amendment, same-sex couples still cannot marry in the state.

— L.N.

PORN AT THE POLLS

Los Angeles County voters decide on Nov. 6 whether to require condoms on the set of local porn productions.

The AIDS Healthcare Foundation and partners collected more than 360,000 signatures to place the question on the ballot.

If the measure passes, condoms would be required for any sex acts in locally produced adult films. The measure also would require producers to display a public health permit obtained from the county that details the condom requirement. Opponents fear that the industry will move underground, ironically lessening oversight.

City, state and federal regulations already exist for the adult film industry, which has opposed condom use with the basic argument that viewers don't want to see them.

The industry largely is based in Los Angeles County in the San Fernando Valley. — L.N.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Bishop Joseph Tyson

CATHOLIC PARISHES CALLED ON FOR ANTI-GAY BALLOT CAMPAIGN

Washington state's watchdog for campaign finance cautioned Catholic leaders that they can't collect donations from parishioners for the ballot campaign to overturn the state's same-sex marriage law.

In mid-August, Bishop Joseph Tyson sent a letter to priests in 41 Washington parishes asking that they announce a special collection at upcoming services that would go to Preserve Marriage Washington, which is opposed to same-sex marriage and is forcing a vote with Referendum 74.

The diocese's chief of staff, Monsignor Robert Siler, said the collection date was set for Sept. 8-9.

But Lori Anderson, a spokeswoman for the state's Public Disclosure Commission, said no organization can be an intermediary for a contribution. The church can hand out envelopes at Mass, but a member of Preserve Marriage Washington has to be on hand to collect them or parishioners must send them in individually, she said.

Anderson said the restrictions stem from Initiative 134, which voters passed in 1992 to regulate political contributions and campaign spending.

— Lisa Neff

CANCER

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{ Editorial }

Rape remarks reflect GOP platform

GOP Senate candidate Todd Akin of Missouri created a firestorm when he told a St. Louis reporter that women generally can't conceive as a result of "legitimate rape." According to information the learned congressman claims to have gleaned from doctors, women's reproductive systems shut down automatically from the trauma.

In the hypocritical fallout over his remarks, chagrined Republican leaders called on Akin to resign – despite the fact the GOP's official stance on rape and abortion is identical to Akin's. The party's 2012 platform calls for a federal ban on abortion, with no exception for rape and incest survivors – the very policy that Akin was defending when he made his offensive comment.

Akin joined with Republican vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan in sponsoring last year's No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act of 2011. That bill stated that insurance should only cover abortion in cases of "forcible rape" – language that echoes Akin's. Ryan also sponsored a federal law seeking to give a fertilized egg the same rights as a living person – the so-called "fetal personhood" law. That measure would have outlawed abortion under any circumstances, even when the mother's life was at stake.

Ryan plans to headline the "Values Voter Summit" this month, a far-right confab hosted by the American Family Association. The Southern Poverty Law Center has branded AFA as a hate group for spreading inflammatory lies about LGBT people. AFA spokesman Bryan Fischer has been one of Akin's most vocal supporters.

"You talk about a forcible situation, you talk about somebody being a victim of forcible assault, that would be Todd Akin," Fischer said recently in an attempt to cast the congressman's treatment by GOP leaders as the equivalent of a "legitimate rape" victim.

Tony Perkins, head of the Family Research Council, another designated hate group, is so tight with GOP leadership that he was given the privilege of writing the Republican National Committee's plank on marriage, which calls for a constitutional amendment banning marriage equality in all the states forever.

Of course, none of these positions were featured during the Republican National Convention. Even the GOP knows they are not winning policies. So, the hypocrisy continued, as speaker after speaker tried to humanize the party's hardline right agenda. As New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd wrote, the convention was a masquerade of caring: "They care deeply about making us think that they care deeply," she opined.

Before the cameras, Mitt Romney and Ryan struggled to convince America that they're capable of normal human feelings by sharing tidbits of their personal histories. Meanwhile, their cruel agenda was being drafted backstage, partly by hardline evangelists like Perkins, who would gladly sacrifice a woman's life for his ideology, and partly by big-money interests like the Koch brothers, whose goal is to sack the middle class, destroy the free market economy and establish an oligarchy headed by privileged straight white men like themselves.

The GOP has become the very definition of hypocrisy, a smiling mask concealing an evil grin.

BY THE NUMBERS

Obama's 5 top PAC contributors:

University of California	\$491,868
Microsoft Corp.	\$443,748
Google Inc.	\$357,382
DLA Piper	\$331,715
Harvard University	\$317,516

Romney's five top PAC contributors:

Goldman Sachs	\$676,080
JPMorgan Chase & Co.	\$520,299
Morgan Stanley	\$513,647
Bank of America	\$510,728
Credit Suisse Group	\$427,560

SOURCE: OPENSECRETS.ORG

{ Letters }

STONEWALL DEMOCRATS RESPOND TO LOG CABIN REPUBLICAN'S SUPPORT FOR GOP PLATFORM

Gay Republicans are touting new language in the GOP platform as being a step forward for LGBT equality and as evidence the Republican Party is moderating on LGBT issues. The specific text reads, "We embrace the principle that all Americans have the right to be treated with dignity and respect." The idea that this generic bit of meaningless rhetoric is movement by the GOP toward a more inclusive and pro-equality footing is preposterous. For

decades, the Republican platform has included anti-LGBT language that, at various times, has opposed adoption rights, marriage equality, and the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell."

What's even more ridiculous is the idea that this language is something new. The Republican Party platform has included similar language since at least 1996. This is just a rewording of a generic principle that few Republicans would construe to

include LGBT equality. While the GOP gives lip service to the principle of dignity and respect for all, the reality of that ideal clearly escapes them. The real message to read in this is that the GOP's cognitive dissonance continues unabated and the apologists at Log Cabin Republicans are still selling snake oil and calling it progress.

Jerame Davis, executive director of National Stonewall Democrats

CORRECTION:

In a story that appeared in our Aug. 23 issue titled "Pocan wins Democratic Primary, progressives score big on Aug. 14," WiG reported that former Assembly Speaker Scott Jensen is a convicted felon. Jensen's felony conviction was overturned on appeal and was never reinstated.

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ON THE RECORD



“New message from Bob Barker: ‘To prevent animal pregnancies, have your pets spayed, neutered or raped.’”

– Pundit FRANK CONIFF riffing on U.S. Senate hopeful Todd Akin.

“You should read the entire plank on marriage, which I wrote. I’m very happy with it.”

– TONY PERKINS, head of the Family Research Council, bragging that he wrote the GOP’s national plank opposing marriage equality.

“The fight for gay marriage is, in reality, a fight for all of our rights. (The religious right’s) goal is to dehumanize everyone’s sexuality and reduce us to using sex for the sole purpose of perpetuating our species. To that end, they will criminalize your entire sex life.”

– Playboy founder HUGH HEFNER coming out in favor of marriage equality.

“This is about the ludicrous situation where a picture can be seen by hundreds of millions of people around the world on the Internet, but can’t be seen in the nation’s favorite paper read by 8 million people every day.”

– Managing editor DAVID DINSMORE of the U.K. tabloid *The Sun* explaining why he decided to publish photos of Prince Harry cavorting naked in a Las Vegas hotel room.

“The hurricane headed directly for the Republicans. More proof that God is a woman.”

– DAVID LETTERMAN skewering the GOP in his opening monologue on Aug. 23.

“I think that God can turn a bad thing into a good thing. ... If I got raped and a beautiful baby who was innocent was born out of it, that would be a blessing. The DNA of a baby is individual. It’s not the mother’s DNA. ... And that’s why I believe abortion is murder, because it’s not the woman’s body. It has its own DNA. If there’s a boy baby inside of me, he has a penis. That’s not my body.”

– Former “Saturday Night Live” cast member VICTORIA JACKSON explaining the potential blessing of being raped to a reporter at the Republican National Convention.

“I found out Scott (Brown) is anti-union and I’m a Teamster guy. I found out he’s also against gay marriage, and I say if you love someone you should have the same rights no matter who you are.”

– Legendary boxer MICKEY WARD, who was portrayed by Mark Wahlberg in the movie “The Fighter,” canceling a planned news conference to endorse Massachusetts Republican Sen. Scott Brown for re-election.

“We’ll offer her the role of officiant at Mitch and Cam’s wedding. As soon as it’s legal.”

– “Modern Family” co-creator STEVE LEVITAN responding to the news that the ABC show is Ann Romney’s favorite TV comedy.



The ordeal of democracy

Opinion
JAMAKAYA

It’s a sad comment on the state of American politics that most people fervently wish for the fall campaign to be over with as soon as possible. The election is talked about as if it were an ordeal or bad smell that needs to be avoided or, failing that, overcome.

The national party conventions rouse their members to action for the Nov. 6 election. Already, large corporate and other interests are airing blistering attack ads accusing candidates of undermining American values and destroying the American way of life.

Most folks I know say these ads all start sounding the same after awhile and they tune them out or press the “mute” button. Whether liberal or conservative in message, their persistence and negativity contribute to the alienation felt by voters.

The obscene amount of money poured into these ads may reach a billion dollars this year. The Supreme Court, in its Citizens United decision, ratified unlimited expenditures by private interests that can remain essentially anonymous. Unless and until that ruling is modified or reversed, the glut of attack ads and disinformation will continue unabated.

For LGBTs, the choices this fall should be a no-brainer: supporting Republican candidates who deny our existence and rights or supporting Democratic candidates who recognize our existence and rights. That sounds simplistic, but it is true.

In an article in *The New York Times*, Frank Bruni interviewed gay Republicans about the GOP convention. They defended their party, saying that the absence of any mention of gays and lesbians was actually a hopeful sign. The executive director of the Log Cabin Republicans said: “Our messaging within the party has been: if you can’t

say anything nice, don’t say anything at all.”

How pathetic is that? The Republican platform is actively anti-gay, yet these oxymoronic gay Republicans are willing to accept that and abase themselves as long as party leaders don’t say anything mean about them? Someone ought to use gay Republicans to study the power of self-delusion.

The Democratic platform is actively pro-gay and Barack Obama came out this year in support of marriage equality for same-sex couples. Contrast this to the GOP platform, which supports a constitutional amendment on marriage that excludes same-sex couples. And the GOP stand on reproductive rights is just as clear: ladies, you don’t have any.

The Tammy Baldwin vs. Tommy Thompson senatorial race should be another no-brainer for LGBTs. Baldwin is a long-time public servant who is openly lesbian. She supports the Affordable Care Act (derided as “Obamacare”) and prioritizes jobs,

education, civil rights and the environment. She consistently voted against the billions handed to private contractors for our misadventures in Iraq and Afghanistan, money that is largely unaccounted for.

Baldwin faces a tough race against Thompson, who has won four statewide races and is more familiar to most voters. Thompson was almost comical in his insistence on being more right wing than his three opponents in the GOP primary this summer. If he wins, have no doubt that he will vote as a hard-right conservative on social, economic and defense issues.

The biggest challenge for LGBT and progressive voters is not to succumb to the fatigue of these seemingly endless campaigns. As clumsy, long and outrageously expensive as our national elections are, we can’t afford to sit them out. Somehow, every four years, we and our country manage to survive our democratic ordeal.

Contact Jamakaya at jamakaya@aol.com

A lifelong pursuit for equality

Opinion
ROBERT STARSHAK

Dr. Robert Starshak delivered the following speech at the Champions for Change Award dinner held at Potawatomi Bingo Casino on Aug. 16. Presented by Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee, the event honored Starshak and his husband Ross Draegert for their decades of supporting LGBT organizations, including Cream City Foundation and Fair Wisconsin Education Fund.

Ross and I want to thank Community Shares for this award. It is gratifying to have our efforts acknowledged in this way. We sincerely appreciate it. We have especially valued our time on the boards of Cream City Foundation and Fair Wisconsin.

Cream City Foundation is southeast Wisconsin’s LGBT charitable foundation. Fair Wisconsin is the statewide LGBT political advocacy

organization. Both groups have worked tirelessly for the advancement of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered individuals in Wisconsin. Through our service on these boards and through other efforts, Ross and I have worked to achieve that end.

Last year, we had the pleasure of being guests for the Center on Halsted’s annual awards dinner. The center is Chicago’s LGBT community center. The evening was filled with the usual speeches and wonderful entertainment. But what impressed me most were the two words gracing the cover of the event’s program: Human First.

Those words acknowledge that we all share a trait that sets us humans apart from other animals – our ability to reason. The process of deductive reasoning, to assimilate facts and draw conclusions from them, is uniquely human. It frustrates and dismays me that people misuse this talent by allowing their inculcated biases and



prejudices to distort their conclusions.

Perverved reasoning allows people to wrongly conclude that people who differ from them by virtue of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression are inferior. Their incorrect conclusions lead them to actions that are inherently harmful to those they feel are inferior.

We must do all in our power to expose the egregious errors that are the result of such faulty reasoning. This struggle is seemingly never ending. But we must persist and, ultimately, the correctness of our position

will lead to equal treatment of all persons.

Hopefully, one day we may achieve what Thomas Jefferson wrote in steamy Philadelphia in July of 1776: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among them are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

To these words, I would add the quest for justice. In due time, freedom will triumph over fear and equality will prevail over exclusion.

We hope this will happen soon. This has been our lifelong pursuit.

ACLU investigating DNR for limiting speech

PLAY from page 1

The production has since moved to Milwaukee's Next Act Theatre, where it's playing an abbreviated schedule.

The furor began when Vic Eliason, the Christian-right host of "Crosstalk" on WVCY, went on a rant against the play after watching a preview on YouTube, he said. "Crosstalk" is heard on nine stations in Wisconsin and 92 across the nation.

For the LGBT community, Eliason is a ghost of persecutions past. In 1990, he outed UPI Supreme Court reporter Julia Brienza as a lesbian after she penned a freelance article on hate radio for the Washington Blade. Eliason hit back with a national campaign attacking Brienza as unfit to work in journalism. Eventually, UPI fired her.

"Christianity has triumphed," Eliason told his radio audience.

But Brienza had the last laugh. She won an unlawful termination suit against Eliason and UPI, and in 1995 the

minister was forced to pay her a \$255,000 settlement.

This summer, Eliason's evangelical activism found a target in Phantom Cicada Theatre Company. Eliason acknowledged that he's never seen "The Bible ... (abridged)" or read the script, but he said the video on YouTube told him everything he needed to know about the play. In that video, an actor portraying Moses descends from Mt. Sinai to announce that he has some good news and some bad news: The good news is that he negotiated God down to just 10 commandments; the bad news is that the ban on adultery is still on the list.

Eliason told WiG he was not amused to see adultery treated as a joke at a time when broken families are imperiling society and sexual sin is rampant. "There's a certain aspect of respect that people show to other religious traditions, but it's open season on Christians," he said. Eliason went on to lament that while people get

beheaded in Islamic countries for ridiculing the Koran, Americans can spoof Christianity on public property with impunity.

It's SummerStage's location on public property that got his dander up, the minister said. "We talk a lot about the separation of church and state, but it's OK if you're going to mock (the church)," Eliason said. "We didn't want to stop them from performing the play. Our concern is that it was being done on state property with taxpayer dollars."

Eliason's crusade against "The Bible ... (abridged)" was taken up and amplified by far-right radio host Mark Belling of WISN. He's denounced the play on the air at least twice in recent weeks, Geyser said. Like Eliason, his primary objection centers on staging what he contends is an anti-religious theatrical work on public property.

But others, including the ACLU of Wisconsin, have the opposite perspective. Direc-

tor Chris Ahmuty is concerned that in ousting the production, DNR used a particular religious view to limit free speech on public property. He's investigating whether to file a legal complaint over the incident as a free-speech violation.

"How far this goes could depend on how fearful SummerStage is about losing their contract for next year," Ahmuty said.

Meanwhile, DNR claims that the play was not cancelled due to religious pressure at all, but rather because of a clause in the SummerStage contract that stipulates all productions must be "family-friendly." DNR officials cited promotional materials for the production recommending it for audiences over 13 years old as evidence that the play is not appropriate for children.

But with no nudity or violence, "The Bible ... (abridged)" falls squarely in the family-friendly category, Geyser insisted. Her group's warning was based solely on concerns that younger children would not understand the humor and be bored, she said.

Ahmuty agreed with Geyser that the "family-friendly" clause is just a pretext for censorship.

"If (Eliason and Belling) don't want to go see it, and if they want to tell their friends not to go because they think this is blasphemous, that's fine," Ahmuty said. "But for DNR to cave – and apparently it didn't take much persuasion for them to cave – that's a real problem."

The angry reaction that the play elicited from Eliason and Belling marks a first in its 17-year production history, according to Geyser. Elsewhere even religious audiences have warmly received the play as an affectionate spoof that might actually raise interest in reading the Bible.

The Catholic Herald, for instance, gave the play a positive review, opining that



PHOTO: MATTHEW KONKEL

Emmitt Morgans, Nate Press and Brian Faracy in "The Bible – The Complete Word of God (abridged)."

"the almost nonstop chaos is suspended during occasional moments of quiet and respect: one while reciting Psalm 23, another during the Passion."

'BLASPHEMY?'

Throughout history, religious extremists have condemned as blasphemous art of all types. Right-wing evangelists railed against Cecil B. DeMille's blockbuster 1956 version of "The Ten Commandments," which is filled with sex, violence and campy humor.

Gay film buffs have practically made a parlor game out of quoting that film's excesses, such as the scene in which actress Anne Baxter, playing Throne Princess Nefertiri, exclaims to Charlton Heston's beefcake, scantily clad Moses, "Oh, Moses! Moses! You stubborn, splendid, adorable fool!" Or the scene in which Moses approaches a well in the desert and the daughters of Jethro howl in delight, "A man!"

Yet mainstream Christians and Jews view the DeMille epic as good, clean family entertainment that promotes traditional religious awareness and values. The promoters of "The Bible ... (abridged)" view their play in the same vein.

As religious right extremist groups have grown in number, so have their attempts to censor art they view as objectionable. Ironically, even before Eliason's assault on "The Bible ... (abridged)," the ACLU of Wisconsin had signed up as a lead sponsor

for Skylight Music Theatre's upcoming production of "Avenue Q" to underscore the organization's support for the First Amendment's protection of free speech in artistic expression.

"Avenue Q" features a band of trash-talking, Muppet-style puppets who belt out such songs as "The Internet Is for Porn." One of the longest running shows in Broadway history, "Avenue Q" won multiple Tony Awards but went on to stir controversy during productions in other cities.

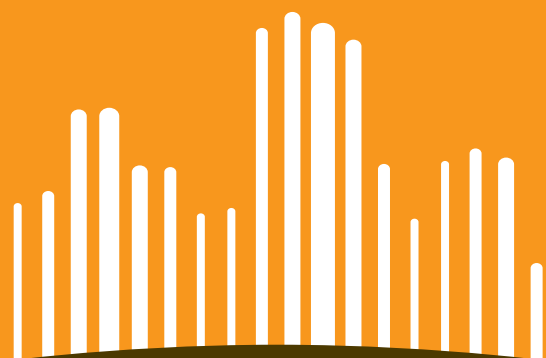
"The controversy over 'The Bible ... (abridged)' illustrates exactly why we're partnering with Skylight on 'Avenue Q,'" said ACLU of Wisconsin development director Kristen Hansen. "We believe it is not the job of the government in any form to tell people what they should see."

The Sept. 20 performance of "Avenue Q" will be a fundraiser for the ACLU. For tickets, go to forwardforliberty.org/aveq.

Editor's Note: Wisconsin Gazette is the show's primary media sponsor.

ON STAGE

Next Act Theatre, 255 N. Water St., presents "The Bible: The Complete Word of God (abridged)" Sept. 7-9. For tickets, call 414-278-0765 or go to www.brownpapertickets.com.



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‘We’re the people’s bandwidth’

PROTESTERS from page 1

collection phase” of the recall process, Moline says. “We wanted something that would light up our efforts at night.”

The OLB is a mix of public art, political activism, propaganda and social networking, according to Hall. Both Hall and Moline, who are a married couple, are artists.

“This is guerilla advertising, guerilla propaganda,” Hall says. “I think it makes some people think and question.”

While their medium of protest is low-tech, social networking has allowed their group to attract participants and grow. “We kind of feel like we’re starting a movement,” Hall says. “We’re the people’s bandwidth.”

Although there are only about 150 registered volunteers in Milwaukee and 80 in Madison, scores of others have shown up at the demonstrations after learning about them on the group’s Facebook page, which has more than 5,300 “likes.”

More than 1 million people worldwide have viewed the group’s posts, say the organizers. Protesters associated with the Occupy movement have staged OLB-style demonstrations from Harrisburg, Pa., to Hilo, Hawaii. A group called Light Brigade Maryland is currently staging marriage equality protests using OLB as a model.

The technique can be adapted to convey any message in a cost-effective yet dramatic manner, Hall says. OLB volunteers have held up signs spelling out, “Corporations are not people,” “Money is not speech,” “Health care for all,” “Mitts off Medicare” and dozens of other slogans.

Critics say the demonstrations encourage drivers’ to take their eyes off the road. But Joe Brusky, a Milwaukee school teacher and OLB volunteer who also is active in the Occupy movement, says the group’s signs are safer than billboards, which are off to the sides of roadways and cause drivers to turn their

heads. “Our lights are in one place right in front of the drivers,” he says.

OLB’s organizers say their grassroots protests are an economical way of countering the massive advertising expenditures of corporations supporting right-wing Republican political candidates and causes. They also believe their style of protest has the benefit of being appealing and accessible to the masses.

“This allows a demographic of people who want to be engaged in activism and don’t have the knowledge or the time to get involved in something bigger a chance to participate,” Moline explains.

A highlight in OLB’s history occurred when the nuns traveling with this summer’s Nuns on the Bus social justice tour joined in one of their demonstrations.

“One of the nuns celebrated her 82nd birthday standing on a bridge holding one of our signs,” Moline says.

A by-product of the OLB movement is that it brings together disparate people

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who might otherwise never meet. Participants in the Aug. 27 action came from all over the metro area and represent a range of ages, occupations and life experiences.

"I've made such great friends," says Laurie Daft, a hospital lab worker who learned about the OLB from a post on the Daily Kos. She drove from Hartford for the Aug. 27 demonstration.

"This is something I feel comfortable doing," she says. "I don't like canvassing, I don't like phone banks, I want to do something."

The Aug. 27 demonstration is a special one because it's a makeup for an Aug. 24 action that went awry when an estimated 20 law-enforcement vehicles, most of them from the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office, interrupted the protesters. Deputies harassed and intimidated participants in an excessive show of force, according to several witnesses. According to them, the deputies claimed the demonstration was illegal and ordered the OLB volunteers to desist.

When they refused to comply, deputies grabbed

signs being held against the overpass fence and ripped them from volunteers' hands, according to witnesses. Moline began making a video of the fracas, but a deputy she described as "a six-foot guy" assaulted her, putting her in a headlock as he tried to forcibly take the camera away from her, she says.

At least two camera phones belonging to volunteers were confiscated and never returned, according to a formal complaint that's been filed against Deputy Sheriff Van Callies by OLB and the immigrant rights group Voces de la Frontera. The latter group has been organizing protests against Palermo's, one of the nation's largest frozen pizza producers, since its workers went on strike and a boycott was launched three months ago.

Peace Action of Wisconsin has joined OLB in demanding a full investigation into the incident. OLB and Voces have also begun a Freedom of Information Act request and sent formal letters to local elected officials asking for a full investigation.

The Aug. 24 protest was

the first time OLB has encountered serious interference from public officials, its organizers say. And it's the reason more than 80 people are here on Aug. 27, to "show we won't be intimidated," says Voces spokesman Joe Shanksy.

Ron Fry, a legal observer from the ACLU of Wisconsin, is on hand "to keep an eye on things, to record what happens and make sure people are aware of their rights," he says.

OLB organizers hope their decisive reaction to the alleged harassment will discourage similar incidents in the future. They say they're accustomed to a little heckling now and then.

Following Walker's recall victory, OLB went out with signs that read, "We shall overcome." The reaction was overwhelmingly positive, and some passersby wept.

But a few Walker supporters accused the demonstrators of being out-of-state hooligans on the payroll of unions and progressive billionaire activist George Soros.

"I'm still waiting for my check from George Soros,"



PHOTO: ADAM HORWITZ

OLB co-founder Lane Hall.

Moline grins. Then she looks around proudly at the crowd.

"It's such a nice, festive atmosphere," she says.

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Milwaukee's historic Trostel Mansion goes up for sale

By Kat Murrell

Contributing writer

The broad, tree-lined streets winding above the Lake Michigan shoreline on Milwaukee's East Side are abundant with diverse architectural gems. Revivalist styles, from ornate Italianate villas to stately homes heavy with English Tudor gravitas, stand proudly side by side.

One of the area's more notable homes, the Trostel mansion, 2611 N. Terrace Ave., is on the market. It's a sprawling place, complex in its appearance as well as its more than 100-year history. The exterior is ornate, with bays that project and recede and arched windows that echo the porch arcade. The primary building materials – wood, stone, and brick – also are used as decorative accents. These details perfectly reflect the German Renaissance style, as interpreted in 1899 by German architect Adolph Finkler.

To get a sense of what the home

of shoe leather.

Gustav and his brother Albert O. Trostel became active in their father's business and eventually each built formidable homes near Lake Michigan. The home Albert O. Trostel constructed in 1907 was the most expensive in the city at the time. But Gustav Trostel's Terrace Avenue home, built in 1899, was striking in its own right. Finkler's design was a sophisticated combination of elements. The undulating Renaissance gable contrasts with the smaller jerkinhead gable, decorated with ornamental millwork. The terra cotta roof underscores the European character.

The house contains 28 rooms and well over 7,000 square feet. The interior has seen many changes over the years, but most of the downstairs rooms carry their age proudly, with many original focal points. The scale of the rooms is surprising to contemporary view-

the ghost of a past party lingers.

The parlor's atmosphere is light, airy and elegant. The crown molding is accented with sculptural roses, and plump plaster cherubs perch on the tall fireplace surround. One wall is nearly filled with windows, decorated with a stained glass transom. The light catches the chandelier in the middle of the room, casting around bits of flickering brilliance.

In this room I caught up with current owner Dan Pauli. His connections with the house are complex. He first moved into it some 20 years ago, but sold it five years ago during a divorce. Living in an East Side condominium, Pauli was in search of a new dining table and followed up on a classified ad for one that seemed suitable. By coincidence, the seller of the table lived at 2611 N. Terrace. He asked Pauli if he knew where the home was.

"I said I know it well," he recalls. When he went to pick up the table, he learned that the present owner was interested in selling, and Pauli purchased the property again.

During Pauli's 15-year break as owner, the house began to need renovation. Wall stucco had to be removed and major tuck-pointing was needed.

Now, after only five years back in the home, health issues are prompting Pauli and his second wife to sell it again. He doesn't expect to recoup all the money he put into the house. His goal in owning the home was not investment but responsible stewardship.

Pauli's favorite part of living in the home has been the grand entertaining it affords. His wife Laxsiri Pauli is deeply involved with Milwaukee's Thai community, and their home has been the site of many Thai weddings and gatherings. "The fun of living in the house was the parties," he says.

The main floor includes the library, parlor and an exquisite dining room featuring stained glass and a luminous green-tiled majolica fireplace, one of several in the house. A series of small rooms off of the main foyer hark back to the days of butler's pantries and service halls. The kitchen has been renovated but elements such as the overheard light fixture are designed to evoke the sense of stained glass, which is a recurring feature of the house.

If there is a crown jewel, it is the window on the landing of the main staircase. Situated midway between the first and second floors, it is a large window



PHOTO: COURTESY

A stained glass window depicting Queen Louise of Prussia.

depicting Queen Louise of Prussia. A sedately regal young woman, she sits by a large tree wearing a simple, long white dress. During her lifetime and after, Queen Louise came to be regarded as an embodiment of feminine virtues.

But the most curious aspect of the house in its present incarnation is the manner in which it's divided into separate living quarters. After the death of Mrs. Trostel in 1944, the house was transformed into a duplex, and doors were installed to close off the second floor from the living quarters downstairs. Today, this floor is a spacious apartment, replete with many original details. It's as though one stepped into a historical apartment building rather than another floor of an opulent family mansion.

The third floor and the basement have seen even more dramatic transformations. The house is zoned for occupancy as a duplex, but the top and bottom floors have ample room for additional living space. The third floor was originally open, an expansive ballroom for entertaining as well as for children's play. The basement has been mostly refinished to function as a rec room, laundry and workroom. The decor on this level is bluntly modern – it could be any downstairs space in any home.



PHOTO: COURTESY

The mansion's dining room.

In the best-preserved areas of the home, the decorative details of a bygone era survive intact, with showpieces of windows, fireplaces and metalwork by the renowned artist Cyril Colnik. But in some of the home's redone areas, it is as though the veil of modern life has lowered, obscuring the innermost character of the home.

There is a good deal of interest in the fate of the Trostel mansion, which is listed on both national and local registries of historic architecture. The building is "one of the great German-design inspired houses existing in the state," according to Paul Jakubovich from the City of Milwaukee Historic Preservation office.

The home could be returned to a single-family structure. Jakubovich acknowledges that the conversion would take "more than a hefty chunk of change, but (is) not altogether that unusual."

A number of historic East Side homes have been transformed – some rescued from renovations as rooming houses and brought back to their former grandeur. Jakubovich says tax credits are available to help defray renovation costs. The mansion's location in a neighborhood with a wealth of one-of-a-kind homes makes such a renovation more than commonly worthwhile and feasible, Jakubovich says.

Before I left the Trostel mansion, I lingered for a few minutes in the dining room. It is formal but intimate, a room that seems certain of its lasting quality and craftsmanship. The soft, gleaming wainscoting made from Black Forest wood and the shimmering green tiles of the fireplace whisper of an aesthetic pleasure that too often seems absent in antiseptic contemporary architecture. Stained glass filters the sun, decorating daylight with fancy and color.

A Latin aphorism is inscribed in the window: *Ars Longa, Vita Brevis*, which means "art is long, life is short." This house offers proof. It has lasted generations and lifetimes, and it is soon to pass into new hands and begin another chapter.



PHOTO: COURTESY

The Trostel mansion on Milwaukee's East Side was built in 1899 from plans by German architect Adolph Finkler.

looked like in its earliest days, mentally erase the other large homes from the area. Picture the surrounding landscape as mostly farmland and swamp, a lonely place far from the bustle of town. The nearby North Point Lighthouse, which then kept watch over the waters below, eerily cut slices of light through the darkness, as there was little in the way to impede its trajectory.

But it was here that tannery magnate Gustav J. A. Trostel chose to build his mansion. He was the son of German immigrant Albert Trostel, who founded a tannery in Milwaukee at a time when the city was an important center in the leather industry. Albert Trostel's company became a major producer

ers. Grand houses today, of the McMansion variety or not, tend to have gigantic great rooms, expansive bonus rooms and even square-footage-scarfing man caves.

But the rooms in this house are generally personable and intimate. It does not feel crowded, but rather like each space is manageable. You can stand anywhere and have a conversation without having to shout.

The entryway is wide and gracious, a pleasant center point between the main rooms on the ground floor. The wood floors gleam with a tritone blend of colors, from light blond to deep brown. In the adjacent library, a polished baby grand player piano effortlessly spins out tunes, the keys depressing and releasing as though



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REGIONAL AND NATIONAL BRIEFS



PHOTO: COURTESY

Wisconsin is among the stingiest states.

WISCONSIN AMONG NATION'S STINGIEST STATES

A new report by The Chronicle of Philanthropy ranks Wisconsin 44th out of the 50 states in charitable giving.

With a donation rate of 3.9 percent, Milwaukee ranks 42nd out of the country's 50 largest metro areas in terms of philanthropy.

The report, America Gives, analyzed IRS data to determine the rate of charitable giving across states and metro areas.

WISCONSIN OKS ELECTRONIC DOCS FOR VOTER REGISTRATION

Wisconsin residents may present electronic documents as part of the voter registration process, state elections officials decided in August.

Under Wisconsin law, voters who register by mail or on Election Day must provide a document at the polls showing proof of residency, such as a utility bill, a tax bill, paycheck or bank statement. The Wisconsin Government Accountability Board, which oversees state elections, had required those voters to show paper copies of their documents.

The AFL-CIO, the progressive Institute for One Wisconsin and Wisconsin Election Protection, a group affiliated with the American Civil Liberties Union, asked the board to allow voters to print out electronic documents or show poll workers documents on a laptop or smartphone.

The organizations argued electronic documents are beginning to displace paper documents.

MICHIGAN ADOPTION BAN GOES TO COURT

The state of Michigan is asking a federal judge to dismiss a lawsuit that challenges a ban on adoption by unmarried couples.

The lawsuit is led by two Detroit-area lesbians who are raising three children.

State law says that April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse can't adopt the children as a couple, an option available only to heterosexual married couples.

DeBoer and Rowse say their

civil rights are being violated.

Detroit federal Judge Bernard Friedman heard arguments on Aug. 29.

In a court filing, the state attorney general's office says Friedman should defer to the judgment of Michigan lawmakers and dismiss the case.

SCANDALIZED LAWMAKER DROPS OUT OF RACE

A Minnesota Democrat who had a rest-stop sexual encounter with a

17-year-old boy has dropped his reelection bid. Party leaders wanted him out as they fight to regain control of the state legislature.

Rep. Kerry Gauthier, 56, told The Associated Press the decision was his own after multiple conversations with Democratic leaders pressing him to withdraw.

The first-term Duluth legislator also told the AP that an overdose of muscle relaxants he took was a suicide attempt. He'd earlier issued a statement saying he has been in recovery from chemical dependency for 30 years with one relapse.

ANTI-GAY GROUPS TARGET IOWA JUDGE

Opponents of same-sex marriage are gearing up to oust an Iowa Supreme Court judge in November, and advocates of an independent judiciary fear defeat unless justices defend themselves.

The state Republican Party and other opponents of same-sex marriage have declared an all-out battle to convince voters to vote "no" on a ballot question that asks whether Justice David Wiggins should be retained. In 2009, he sided with the other justices on the Iowa Supreme



PHOTO: COURTESY

One family is challenging Michigan's anti-gay adoption law.

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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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PHOTO: COURTESY

Justice David Wiggins

Court decision to allow same-sex marriage.

In 2010, three of Wiggins' colleagues were voted out after an intense campaign by religious-right groups, which spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on advertising.

Justices in Iowa have refused to campaign, saying courts must remain removed from politics. But legal experts are concerned that campaigns like the one against Wiggins imperil the judiciary's independence.

MICHIGAN MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL HATE CRIME CHARGE

A Michigan man who struck a convenience store customer in the face because he appeared to be gay recently pleaded guilty to a federal hate crime charge.

Everett Dwayne Avery, 36, of Detroit, was convicted on Aug. 29 for the assault, which occurred on March 7, 2011. The victim suffered facial injuries, including a fractured eye socket.

Avery was prosecuted under the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which President Barack Obama signed into law in 2009. The law added crimes based on perceived and actual sexual orientation and gender identity to the federal hate crime statute.

INDIANA TEEN SUES SCHOOL OVER BULLYING

An openly gay Indianapolis teenager expelled for bringing a stun gun to school to ward off bullies is suing Indianapolis Public Schools, accusing administrators of failing to stop the "relentless, severe harassment" he faced.

Darnell "Dynasty" Young, 17, and his mother, Chelisa Grimes, filed their suit in federal court in Indianapolis. It seeks unspecified damages over a series of alleged bullying incidents that led Young to fire a stun gun at Arsenal Technical High School in the spring, reportedly to scare away bullies. The move led to his expulsion.

The Indianapolis Star reports that the suit alleges bullies used homophobic slurs, spat at Young and threw rocks and glass bottles at him, but that school administrators blamed Young, who carried his mother's purses and wore her jewelry to school.

"Rather than take effective measures to protect him, school staff told him that he was to blame for the harassment because of his appearance and told him to change his dress and behavior to conform to stereotypical ideas of masculinity and to be less 'flamboyant,'" the suit says.

LESBIAN ARRESTED FOR FALSE ASSAULT REPORT

Police in Lincoln, Neb., say a woman made up her story about three men entering her home, binding her up, carving slurs into her skin and setting her house on fire.

The woman, identified as 33-year-old Charlie Rogers, faces a charge of filing a false report with police.

Lincoln Police Chief Jim Peschong said Rogers provided her motive – to make a difference – on Facebook four days before she filed the police report.

Rogers, a former college basketball star, told police in July that men wearing ski masks had broken in and assaulted her before setting fire to the house. Early reports were that the attackers carved "dyke" and "slut" into her skin.

Those first reports prompted a vigil at the state capitol and a statement from the local LGBT civil rights group of shock and sadness.

49ERS MAKE 'IT GETS BETTER' VIDEO

The San Francisco 49ers became the first team in the NFL to join the It Gets Better Project and make a video reaching out to LGBT youth.

The video features 49ers safety Donte Whitner, who said, "The San Francisco 49ers are proud to join ItGetsBetter.org to let all LGBT teens know that it gets better. On behalf of the entire 49ers organization, we are on your side, and we promise it gets better."

Other 49ers in the video include defensive tackles Ricky Jean Francois and Isaac Sopoaga

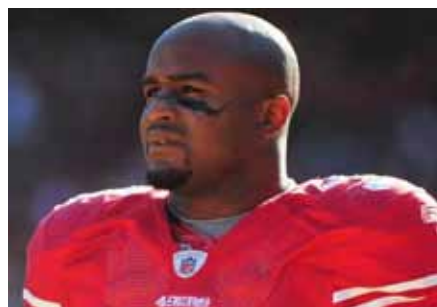


PHOTO: COURTESY SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

49ers safety Donte Whitner appears in an "It Gets Better" video.

and linebacker Ahmad Brooks.

Also, the Duke University Blue Devils recently made a video promoting a campaign against homophobia in sports.

WILL CALLS FOR GAY MAN TO MARRY WOMAN

Manhattan Criminal Court Judge Robert M. Mandelbaum is contesting his father's will, which says he must marry the biological mother of his 2-year-old son or the child will not inherit from the family fortune.

Mandelbaum says the provision in the will would "induce the beneficiary to enter into a sham marriage of convenience." He also argues that his partner could be considered the boy's "mother" and that excluding the boy from sharing in the family fortune would run counter to public policies protecting same-sex marriages and their offspring.

– from WiG and AP reports

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WIGOUT!

WISCONSIN GAZETTE ENTERTAINMENT

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Are you part of the generation that grew up watching “Sesame Street”? Do you wish the long-running PBS show had grown up with you? If you do, you’re ready for “Avenue Q,” the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical that opens Milwaukee’s Skylight Music Theatre’s 2012-13 season.

The flesh-and-fabric quasi-fantasy about the challenges faced by young adults in a fictional New York City neighborhood takes on some tough themes with the fun and freedom that only a human-and-puppet cast can have.

The Skylight performance, which runs Sept. 21-Oct. 14 at the Cabot Theatre in Milwaukee’s Broadway Theatre Center, is co-sponsored by the ACLU of Wisconsin, Cream City Foundation and the Wisconsin Gazette.

Despite the fact that 11 of the 15 cast members are puppets – or perhaps because of it – “Avenue Q” is able to tackle some very adult issues, and not in polite or politically correct ways. Subjects such as homosexuality, pornography, racism and the quintessentially German concept of *schadenfreude* – deriving pleasure from the misfortunes of others – thread their way through this narrative about a young college grad who realizes that real life is nothing like what he’d been promised.

There is even simulated puppet sex, meaning this is not a show for children, says out New York director Donna Drake, who’s coming to town to direct the Skylight’s production. “If you can’t deal with a range of adult emotions, this show is not for you,” she says.

The musical, developed by Jeff Marx and Robert Lopez, co-creator of “The Book of Mormon,” focuses on Princeton (Ben Durocher), a recent college English grad who needs to find an apartment, a job and a life. Unfortunately, he can afford only



PHOTO: WIKIMEDIACOMMONS.COM

In ‘Avenue Q,’ puppets help test audience boundaries

The cast of “Avenue Q” performs “It Sucks to Be Me” at Broadway on Broadway, Sept. 10, 2006. The winner of three Tony Awards in 2003, the musical is the 22nd longest-running show in Broadway history. It ended its Broadway run on Sept. 13, 2009, and then reopened Off Broadway a few weeks later.

seedy digs on Avenue Q, a neighborhood so far downtown that it doesn’t really exist, Drake says.

“Manhattan ends at Avenue C, and after that everything is in the river,” she says.

Princeton’s new neighbors are a blend of people and puppets, and one of the show’s opening numbers – “It Sucks to Be Me” – is an argument about which character’s life is the most pathetic. Through the narrative, however, both Princeton and the audience members learn what it’s like to function as part of the extended family that a neighborhood can often become.

“This is about a neighborhood and all the wonderful people trying to get along with each other,” the director says. “If we weren’t so greedy and judgmental, real life might work better. The show offers gentle lessons that humans can learn from puppets.”

Members of the original Broadway cast, which included Rick Lyon and out actor and master puppeteer John Tartaglia, earned their puppet chops as part of the “Sesame Street” cast. Lyon’s puppets, patterned after Jim Henson’s style of animated characters and used for the initial Broadway and subsequent runs, will be put to work once again in Milwaukee. Tartaglia, a friend of director Drake, spent a week in town in late August to train local puppet actors how to properly handle their characters.

“It is real difficult to become a master puppeteer,” Drake says. “It’s one of the most difficult things in the world.”

The actors animating and speaking for the puppets are always visible and interacting with the human actors. The actors have to respond not to their live-action counterparts, but to the individual

puppets they are manipulating.

The actors essentially mirror what their puppets say and do, with exception of the puppet sex scenes. The fabric characters end at the waist, meaning some aspects of intercourse have to be imagined. But then “Avenue Q” as a whole requires an above-average suspension of disbelief, which is central to the show’s success, Drake says.

“With other shows you get into the heaviness of issues, but that’s not possible with ‘Avenue Q.’ The show runs the gamut of emotions, and you may cry a little, but mostly you’ll laugh. We poke fun at everybody and especially ourselves,” she adds.

Although a touring production brought “Avenue Q” to the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts a few years ago, the Skylight’s upcoming version is the

first local professional production of the work. It’s a show Milwaukee is ready for, according to Bill Theisen, the Skylight’s artistic director.

“I had the great fortune to see the show early in its Broadway run, and I was enthralled from start to finish,” Theisen says. “It’s definitely out there, but its core has such heart that it is relatable to everyone.”

Theisen knows that the adult themes and profanity may offend some audience members, but he says that’s true of some aspect of every show the Skylight produces. Audiences have come to respect the theater’s choices, and Theisen believes they will embrace the show for what it is.

“I do think Milwaukee is ready for it,” he says. “It is a parody and so darn funny, but it comes from a place of honesty and warmth and the show will find its following.”

SKYLIGHT’S SEASON

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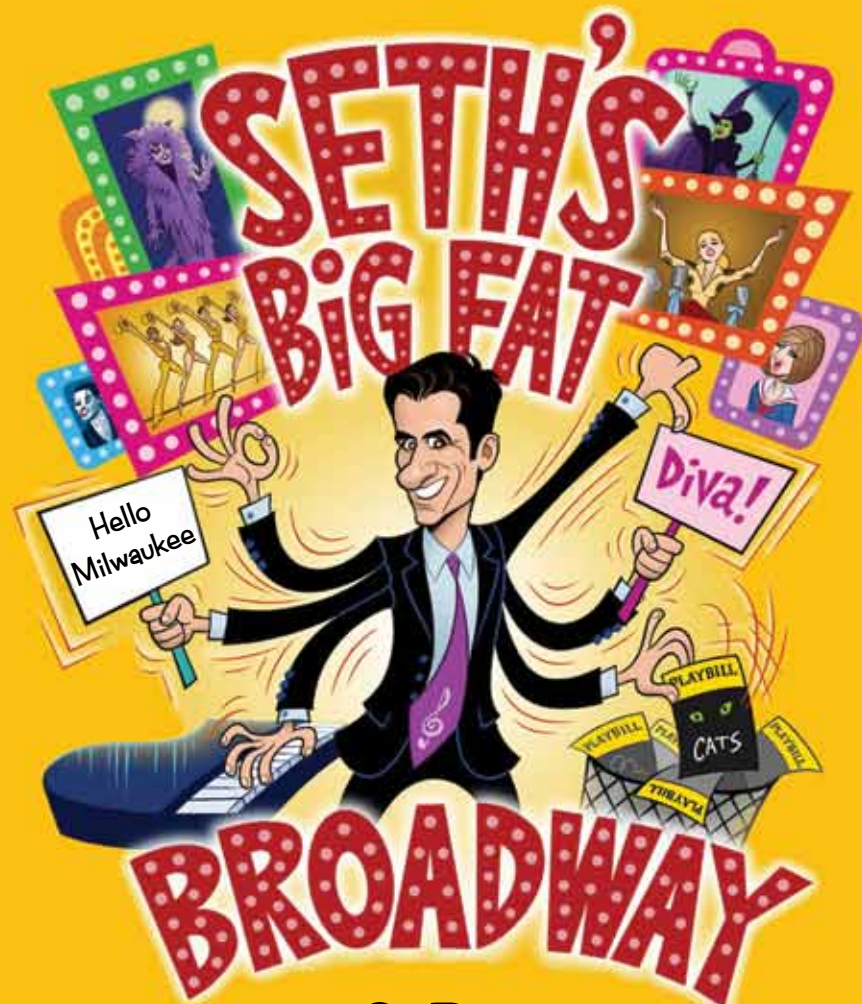
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"44 Plays" takes on the nation's chief execs

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Theater has always been a political medium, and never more so than in a presidential election year. Madison's Forward Theater plans to increase the political quotient this month by opening its 2012-13 season with "44 Plays for 44 Presidents." The production debuts Sept. 20 at The Playhouse at Madison's Overture Center for the Arts.

What makes "44 Plays" particularly appealing, in addition to its proximity to the November election, is its structure. The original version — "43 Plays for 43 Presidents" — was created in 2002 by members of Chicago's Neo-Futurists, an experimental theater troupe based on the Italian Futurist movement of the early 20th century, which was committed to the aesthetics of honesty, speed and brevity.

The play consists of two-minute vignettes about the life of every American president, from George Washington through Barack Obama, performed by a revolving cast of five actors. The vignettes attempt to highlight the mistakes and successes of the chief executive while he was in office.

The original version of the play was written and produced by now-former Neo-Futurists Andrew Bayiates, Sean Benjamin, Geneva Gallo-Bayiates, Chloë Johnston and Karen Weinberg. The quintet split from the group to form this year's Plays for Presidents Festival. Their mission is to inspire 44 separate productions of "44 Plays for 44 Presidents" across the country in the months leading up to the presidential election.

To connect all the 2012 productions, the Plays for Presidents Festival will also unveil an online composite video of the show consisting of clips from all 44 productions. Forward Theater will film the George W. Bush play as its contribution to the project, Forward artis-



ILLUSTRATION: DISTILLERY DESIGN

tic director Jennifer Uphoff Gray says. (Visit <http://playsforpresidents.com> for more information.)

"One of the things that I really appreciate about '44 Plays' is the non-partisan take on politics," says Gray, who also is directing. "It gets everyone talking together about our civic responsibilities and sends them out the door to vote."

Beginning with the almost Eden-like perfection of Washington's presidency, the scenes shift frequently between the comic and the tragic, Gray says. Benjamin Franklin gives Thomas Jefferson a Borscht Belt-style roast, and the play takes a frank look at William Henry Harrison's life as an "Indian slayer," and later the grim onset of the Civil War.

Act II begins the 20th century with the assassination of William McKinley, moves through a Richard Nixon-praising dance number and a George Bush Sr., mini-musical about dirty campaigning before arriving at a polarized America in both the George W. Bush and Barack Obama segments.

"As a director, I love the theatricality and form of the work," Gray says. "There's singing, dancing, verse, audience interaction, vaudeville-style routines and elements of farce. It's something we really haven't done before."

A self-described "political nerd," Gray admits to owning action figures of presidents as a child. She hopes the production will encourage audiences "to consider their role in shaping the history they've

just witnessed, as they are left to ponder where the presidency has gone since its fall from paradise, and where it will go next."

Although the plays are historically accurate, "the presidents are presented as heightened versions of themselves," Gray says. "Everything in the show is based in history, and there are many portions of the plays that use direct quotes being showcased, so this is not fiction. At the same time, it's a lot more entertaining than reading textbooks."

Forward's five-member cast, headed by UW-Madison theater professor Patrick Sims, includes Milwaukee actors Matt Daniels, Marcella Kearns, Georgina McKee and Jonathan West.

"I hope that people take away the message that presidents are human beings who, without exception, all did what they thought was right," Gray says. "Now, they may have been misguided or at odds with most of the American people, but it's our job to be informed, engaged, responsive — and not just at election time, but year round. It's our job as a populace to be educated as we vote."

This production seems to offer a good start in getting this election-year initiative underway.

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Milwaukee movie theaters snub local director

'A Lonely Place for Dying' has won 27 awards and played nationwide, but not in director Justin Eugene Evans' hometown

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

No prophet is accepted in his own hometown, as the saying goes, and that's certainly been filmmaker Justin Eugene Evans' experience. Although the New Berlin resident is not native to the Milwaukee suburb, he credits his local address with preventing him from getting his award-winning film "A Lonely Place for Dying" shown on Milwaukee-area movie screens.

"I approached most of the Milwaukee theaters in June, but no one responded," said Evans. "For whatever reason, we could book showings in five other states more easily than in our hometown."

Could it be the kind of twisted case of snobbery that Groucho Marx had in mind when he quipped, "I don't care to belong to any club that would have me as a member?"

Evans' film has won 27 awards at film festivals across the country, including 18 for best picture. It's being screened in multiple cities in Idaho, Montana, Ohio, Oregon and Washington in coming weeks. Outside of Milwaukee, the movie has engagements in the Wisconsin communities of Chetek, Medford and Merrill, as well as a Sept. 7 date at the historic Al Ringling Theatre in Baraboo.

Evans will be on hand for a three-day, six-show run Sept. 14-16 at Madison's Barrymore Theater. He'll answer questions following each screening.

Evans, 39, has an impressive lifelong resume in his field. The son of former video store owners, he started his first theater company at 14 and began making films at 15. He graduated from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where he became the first undergraduate to complete a feature film while in school. He was the art director for an Albuquerque, N.M., video gaming company.

But despite those credentials, Evans has experienced his share of rejection. Seven

festivals turned down his film before it landed its first slot. The reason that each festival gave was that, despite being an indie film produced for less than \$250,000, "A Lonely Place for Dying" was far too "slick" with too much of a Hollywood action-flick quality to it.

Ironically, these backhanded compliments have since been the reasons for the film's growing success.

Set in 1972, "A Lonely Place for Dying" is a spy thriller that pits a Russian KGB agent against a member of the American CIA — with dire consequences. Nikolai Dzerzhinsky (Ross Marquand) has a microfiche with photos of an illegal CIA-run bombing raid on Vientiane, Laos, during the Vietnam War. He is willing to trade the film to Washington Post editor-in-chief Howard Simons (Academy Award nominee James Cromwell, who also serves as the film's executive producer) in exchange for asylum in America.

Dzerzhinsky agrees to a meeting with a Post reporter in an abandoned Mexican prison, but instead finds himself facing CIA agent Robert Harper (Michael Scovotti), who has been sent to kill him and retrieve the evidence. The majority of the film takes place in the prison, evolving from a running battle between the two operatives to an unlikely alliance when both men learn that they're being hunted by the CIA.

Evans co-wrote, produced, directed and served as one of the cinematographers for the film, which was shot in its entirety in the former New Mexico State Penitentiary, a now-abandoned prison outside of Santa Fe. (In 1980, the penitentiary was the site of one of the most violent prison riots in U.S. history.) Special effects and back projections were used for the film's early scenes in Laos and Washington, D.C., but the bulk of the action occurs within the confines of the decaying prison.

Evans, who also spent a decade as a freelance art

director in Hollywood, China and India, got his original idea for the film from an unlikely source at the video game company where he formerly worked.

"One of the members of our technical department was ex-CIA," Evans says. "We'd go out for lunch and he'd tell these amazing anecdotes about working for 'The Agency.' That's when I started thinking about making a spy film. His knowledge made it easier to tell an honest, realistic spy story."

Evans' video game experience also allowed him to create the film's special effects and save money in the production process. He tapped artist Marc Leonard to create more than 300 visual effects — from gunshot wounds to enhanced sunlight pouring in through the prison's barred windows. All those effects translate into one for every 20 seconds of screen time.

"When I joined the film as a visual effects artist I understood that I'd be doing muzzle flares and blood splatter, but as time went by it became clear that Justin wanted me to be an extension of his cinematography," Leonard says. "I'd wrap up a shot and Justin would ask me to add more dust, add rays of light and animate the clouds."

Evans was fortunate to attract a talented cast. More than 10,000 actors submitted portfolios for the various roles. In addition to Cromwell, Liam Neeson and Tim Robbins expressed interest in the role of Simons, but were unable to commit for various reasons.

"If you have the ability to write compelling dialogue and craft a well-told story, then any movie star is accessible," Evans says. "All we did to attract Cromwell was send him the script. It really is that simple."

Now Evans, who has 23 other scripts in development, hopes he will have as much success finding a hometown screen to show his film. The filmmaker plans to reach out to local real estate inves-



PHOTO: COURTESY

A scene from "A Lonely Place for Dying."

tor Lee Barczak, the owner of Bay View's Avalon Theater and recent purchaser of Milwaukee's Times Cinema and Wauwatosa's Rosebud Cinema Drafthouse, in hopes that one of the classic theaters

might project his work.

"I'd like to book a Milwaukee theatrical run immediately," Evans says. "I'll sweep the floors, clean bathrooms and help with concessions. Whatever it takes!"

Chances are, after all Evans has been through to produce his award-winning film, his local aspirations won't be disappointed.

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The great pumpkin brews are out, get the spirits



PHOTO: DAILYBEERREVIEW.COM

Weyerbacher Imperial Pumpkin Ale is one of the author's personal favorites.

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

It might not feel like fall yet, but now is the time to fill your jack-o'-lantern with ice and brews.

The popularity of pumpkin beer is increasing, as witnessed in both selection and consumption. The Wall Street Journal Market Watch predicts the seasonal favorite will make its best showing yet in terms of sales this fall. That means by the time you're ready to shop for your Halloween party, the brew might be in ghastly short supply on store shelves.

Although its popularity is relatively new, pumpkin beer

is not just another trendy by-product of the craft ale movement. The drink has its roots in colonial history. As far back as 1801, it was cited in medical texts for its restorative qualities.

As a squash variety native to North America, pumpkins were more plentiful to the early European settlers than malted barley, and they provided a good source of the fermentable sugars necessary for brewing. Today, the pumpkin and its spices serve mostly as additives to ales and lagers.

Each year, more and more breweries produce pumpkin beer. The following list

is by no means exhaustive, but it offers a cross-section of brands available, perhaps including the one that's right for your palate.

FROM THE LOCAL PATCH

Lakefront Pumpkin Lager, Milwaukee. Utilizing a recipe sourced from Thomas Jefferson, Lakefront produces one of the few pumpkin lagers. The beer pours a light copper with a full, creamy head, with a light pumpkin and spice nose gives way to an even lighter presence on the palate.

There are two other locally produced pumpkin beers. Tyrana Brewery in Lake Mills produces **Painted Ladies Pumpkin Spice Ale** and Stevens Point Brewery bottles **Whole Hog Pumpkin Ale**. Unfortunately neither brand had hit the shelves by WiG's Sept. 6 publication deadline.

PUMPKIN POWERHOUSES

Imperial Pumking, Southern Tier Brewing Co., Lakewood, N.Y. At 8.6 percent alcohol by volume, this ale is serious. Imperial Pumking pours a bright copper color with orange overtones. Its pronounced pumpkin spice nose is the prelude to a spicy palate with considerable effervescence. This brew is dangerously alluring.

Samuel Adams' Fat Jack Double Pumpkin, Boston Beer Co. Part of the brewery's Limited Release series, Fat Jack boasts 28 pounds of pumpkin per barrel of beer and an ABV of 8.5 percent. The beer pours a dark copper, with more

pumpkin than spice on the nose and palate. It offers a nice balance for a powerful beer.

Weyerbacher Imperial Pumpkin Ale, Easton, Pa. Another Imperial at 8 percent ABV, this one pours unfiltered with a dark amber opacity. Subtle pumpkin notes combine with pronounced spices, including cloves, nutmeg, cinnamon and cardamom, to make this one a personal favorite.

OTHER PLEASURABLE PUMPKINS

Buffalo Bill's Original Pumpkin Ale, Hayward, Calif. Buffalo Bill's Brewery was the first to reintroduce pumpkin ale to the modern market, and the emphasis appears to be on the pumpkin rather than spice. The beer pours deep amber with a slight nose and a clean, primarily pumpkin finish.

Tommyknocker "Small Patch" Pumpkin Harvest Ale, Idaho Springs, Colo. With its blend

of molasses and spice, this one is a little different. The beer pours with a dark, porter-like color and consistency. A pumpkin molasses nose gives way to mostly molasses on the palate. This one is not your typical pumpkin beer.

Wild Onion Pumpkin Ale, Lake Barrington, Ill. Available only in cans, Wild Onion is an unfiltered pumpkin spice beer that pours cloudy amber with a modest head. This one leans in the direction of pumpkin pie in a glass, with pronounced cloves on a palate that is pleasant and not overly sweet.

O'Fallon Pumpkin Beer, O'Fallon, Mo. Missouri's little brewery that could was almost out of business a year ago. But new arrangements have helped the producer of one of our favorite pumpkin beers roar back to life. The beer pours an opaque copper with a bright, creamy head. The cloves on both the nose and palate are stronger than the pumpkin in this pie-style beer, which has a creamy mouth-

feel and crisp effervescence.

Ichabod Pumpkin Ale, New Holland Brewing Co., Holland, Mich. Look for bright flavors here. The beer pours bright amber with a creamy head and pronounced pumpkin and spice blend on both the nose and palate. It's clean, crisp and flavorful.

Smuttynose Pumpkin Ale, Portsmouth, N.H. Another personal favorite, this one pours with a clear amber color and modest foam. The deeply nuanced pumpkin nose gives way to a drier pumpkin beer with a better flavor balance.

Wasatch Pumpkin Seasonal Ale, Park City, Utah. As the lightest of the pumpkin beers at just 4 percent ABV, the Wasatch is another pie-in-the-glass beer. Pouring cloudy amber, the beer has a nice pumpkin spice nose, with a strong vegetable presence underneath the cloves and cinnamon. The beer isn't sweet, but its flavors are pronounced.

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Joe Jackson brings Duke Ellington to Milwaukee

Music

GREGG SHAPIRO

Riding the new wave of angry young men in the mold of Elvis Costello, cranky, queer British musician Joe Jackson made his mark with two albums in 1979. His debut "Look Sharp," containing the massive hit "Is She Really Going Out With Him?" and its successor "I'm the Man" established him as an international talent. Not only could he sneer in disgust with the best of them, but he also had no qualms about displaying a sensitive side, as on the track "It's Different for Girls."

On his third disc, 1980's "Beat Crazy," the prolific Jackson provided hints about his sexual orientation on songs such as "Pretty Boys" and "Biology." Then he switched gears entirely on 1981's big band blowout "Jumpin' Jive," an ambitious

album of jazzy covers. This disc is significant as a reference point for his most recent work. It bridged Jackson's musical evolution to 1982's synthy "Night and Day," featuring the gay-themed "Real Men," 1984's retro "Body and Soul" and 1987's orchestral "Will Power."

Jackson's star faded somewhat during the 1990s, as his output of hits failed to live up to the promise of his earlier work. He tried his hand at orchestral music again with 1994's "Night Music" and 1999's Grammy Award-winning "Symphony 1," as well as 1997's "Heaven and Hell," an attempt to merge his pop and classical sensibilities.

Jackson came out officially in his 1999 memoir "A Cure for Gravity: A Musical Pilgrimage." He went on to regain his footing in the early part of the 21st century with "Volume 4" and "Rain."

It makes sense that the piano-playing Jackson would

want to tackle Duke Ellington, as he does on "The Duke." Another possible attraction to the material is Ellington's affiliation with his openly gay collaborator Billy Strayhorn. Jackson takes on such Ellington/Strayhorn compositions as "Isfahan" and medleys of "I'm Beginning to See the Light/Take the 'A' Train/Cotton Tail" and "Satin Doll/Perdido."

While taking a fair amount of liberties with the material, Jackson and his musical guests, including Sharon Jones, Regina Carter and Steve Vai, still show their respect. Interestingly, Jackson doesn't change the pronouns in the song "I Got It Bad and That Ain't Good," which was originally written for a female vocalist.

ON STAGE

Joe Jackson and The Bigger Band, featuring Regina Carter, perform at The Pabst in Milwaukee on Sept. 29.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Joe Jackson.

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'Fifty Shades' dominates fall publishing

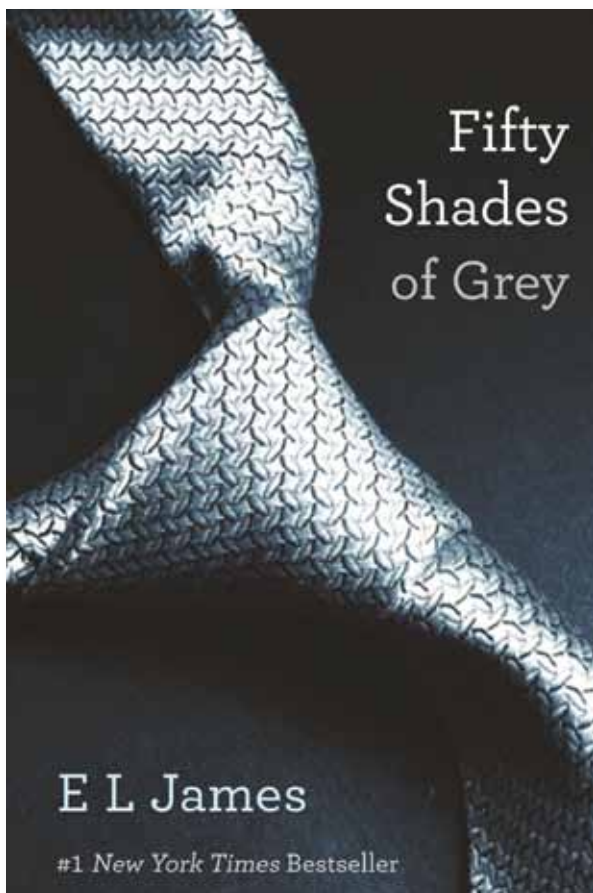


PHOTO: COURTESY

The 2011 novel "Fifty Shades of Grey" was the first in a trilogy of erotica by British author E L James that has ignited a cultural craze among women aroused by the notion of dominating a man. The novels' theme, in turn, is expected to dominate this fall's book publishing scene.

From The Associated Press

The "Fifty Shades" phenomenon will only get hotter this fall.

Booksellers and publishers expect at least a dozen novels to benefit from E L James' multimillion-selling erotic trilogy, a list-topper since early spring, and new ones continue to be acquired.

Releases likely to catch on include Sylvain Reynard's "Gabriel's Inferno" and "Gabriel's Rapture," Sylvia Day's "Reflected in You" and a compilation of Harlequin novellas subtly titled, "12 Shades of Surrender."

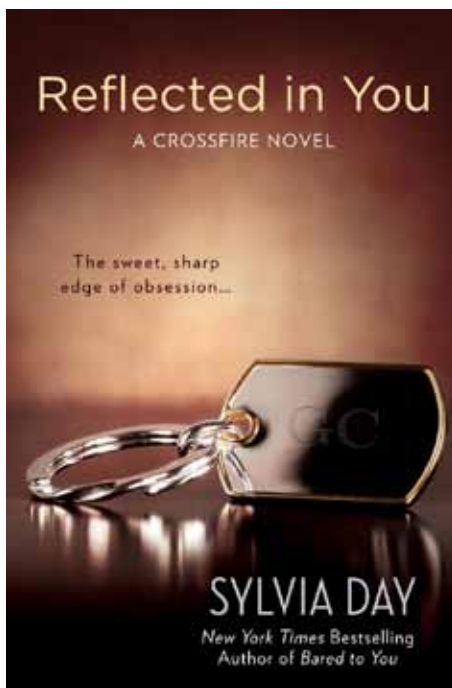
In recent weeks, St. Martin's Press took on Sara Fawkes' self-published hit "Anything He Wants (Dominated by the Billionaire)," and Gallery Books, a Simon & Schuster imprint, signed up Jennifer Probst's "The Mar-

riage Bargain." Open Road Integrated Media, a digital publisher, announced it would release the popular "Eighty Days" trilogy, written by a "well-known publishing insider" and a "familiar figure in London's fetish scene" collectively known as Vina Jackson.

Cindy Hwang, executive editor at Berkley Books and Sylvia Day's publisher, says that thanks to "50 Shades" the door between erotica and mainstream fiction has been "kicked down completely." The market, "this fascination with the uber-rich," demands more masters of the universe, at least fictional ones.

NOVELS

New novels are coming from James Patterson, Mitch Albom, Michael Connelly,



Dennis Lehane, John Grisham and Patricia Cornwell. J.K. Rowling will find out how many of her adult "Harry Potter" fans are game for a book without wizards with "The Casual Vacancy." Justin Cronin follows his best-selling "The Passage" with "The Twelve," the second of a planned trilogy.

Ken Follett has a pair of projects: A TV miniseries of his epic medieval saga "World Without End" is scheduled to air on Reelz Channel starting in October. And his new novel "Winter of the World" is the second of his "Century" trilogy on war. The author explained during a recent interview that "Winter of the World," a World War II story running nearly 1,000 pages, was an education for him.

"Before I started (it), I didn't know that the Nazis had killed thousands of handicapped people," he says. "World War II has been done so many times before that I needed to find something new."

Tom Wolfe, who helped define 1980s New York in "The Bonfire of the Vanities," has set his 650-page crime story "Back to Blood" in the contemporary "melting pot" of Miami, a sprawling canvas "full of hard cases who just won't melt." Michael Chabon keeps it close to home with

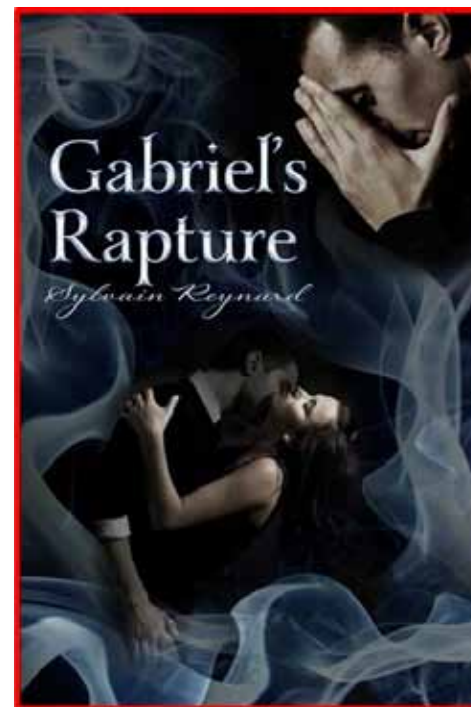
"Telegraph Avenue," named for the famous stretch of his longtime residence, Berkeley, Calif. Zadie Smith's "NW" is another local story, set in northwest London, where the author grew up.

MEMOIRS AND ESSAYS

Salman Rushdie's "Joseph Anton" is a memoir that uses as a title the author's alias when he was in hiding after Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini called for his death due to the alleged blasphemy of "The Satanic Verses." Chinua Achebe's "There Was a Country" is a long-awaited memoir about the 1960s civil war in his native Nigeria.

Rushdie's ally Christopher Hitchens died of cancer last December, but his name will appear on a handful of books. Hitchens' essays about his fatal illness will be published as "Mortality." Martin Amis has dedicated "Lionel Asbo," a dark farce set in London, to his close friend, as did Ian McEwan for his novel "Sweet Tooth." Meanwhile, two books will feature the late David Foster Wallace: Wallace's essay collection "Both Flesh and Not" and D.T. Max's biography "Every Love Story Is a Ghost Story."

Patricia Bostelman, Barnes & Noble Inc.'s vice president of marketing, notes a wave of Kennedy books, includ-



ing David Nasaw's in-depth biography of patriarch Joseph P. Kennedy. White House tapes of John F. Kennedy with daughter Caroline Kennedy provide an introduction. Bill O'Reilly looks into the darkest days with "Killing Kennedy," a follow-up to his million-selling "Killing Lincoln." More on the Kennedys may come from an estranged in-law, Arnold Schwarzenegger, and his memoir "Total Recall: My Unbelievably True Life Story."

POLITICS

Bob Woodward's "The Price of Politics" will test the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist's skill for scoops; Woodward promises a close, inside account of President Barack Obama's economic policies, a subject in recent years of Ron Suskind's "Confidence Men," Noam Scheiber's "The Escape Artists" and other books. Former FDIC chair Sheila Bair will give her version of the financial crisis in "Bull by the Horns."

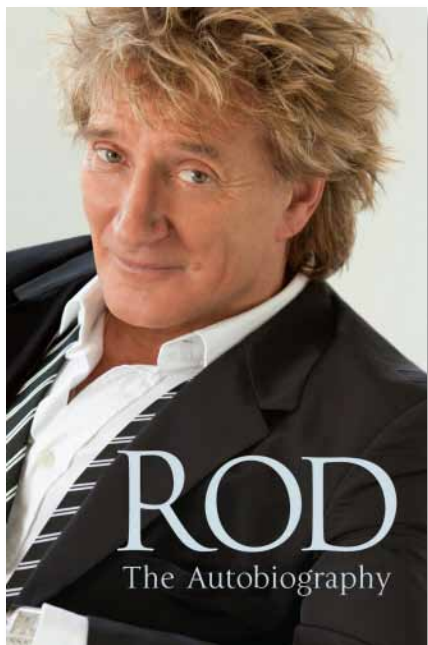
The May 2011 killing of Osama bin Laden is remembered firsthand in "No Easy Day" by Mark Owen, a pseudonym for a former Navy SEAL (believed to be Matt Bissonnette) who was part of the historic raid in Pakistan. Bin Laden's death has been a highlight

of Obama's term, but The New York Times' "Five Thirty Eight" pollster Nate Silver doubts the book – or any others, Woodward's included – will have an impact on the election, even if it's critical of the president.

"Political books don't usually have much effect in the short term. They seep into the culture and can affect things in ways that are hard to perceive," says Silver, whose book on predictions, "The Signal and the Noise," comes out in September.

Jeffrey Toobin's "The Oath" is a review of the current Supreme Court, right through Chief Justice John Roberts' startling decision in June to uphold much of Obama's health care legislation. Jon Meacham, the Random House editor and Pulitzer winner for his Andrew Jackson biography, has written "Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power." The book, which includes blurbs from such top historians as Gordon Wood and Doris Kearns Goodwin, was conceived in 2008, the year of Obama's election.

"The appeal of the Jefferson book was in part of the emergence of a tall, cool, cerebral president who affected a dislike for politics, but was awfully good at it," says Meacham, a former Newsweek editor.



MUSIC TO THE EYES

A handful of works prove there is no age limit for the writing profession. Critic and anthologist M.H. Abrams, who turned 100 this summer, has a book of essays, "The Fourth Dimension of a Poem." Herman Wouk, 97, and author of "The Caine Mutiny" and "The Winds of War" has a new and comic novel, "The Lawgiver." Beat poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti, 92, has a new book of verse, "Time of Useful Consciousness," an expansive personal and social history that honors his beloved San Francisco.

Two of the season's most notable music books come from another San Francisco institution – McSweeney's, the publisher founded by Dave Eggers. Talking Heads leader David Byrne tracks the influence of his primary art form in "How Music Works." Beck's "Song Reader" is, in fact, a new album issued exclusively as sheet music. "Song Reader" is "an alternative," McSweeney's advises, "that enlists the listener in the tone of every track, and that's as visually absorbing as a dozen gatefold LPs put together."

Most rock stars will stick to the memoir: Neil Young, Rod Stewart, Pete Townshend, Courtney Love, sisters Ann and Nancy Wilson of Heart. Stewart, whose memoir is called "Rod: The Autobiography," said during a

recent telephone interview that he enjoyed the work – talking into a microphone, jotting down notes, a bottle of wine at his side.

"Me and Keith (Richards, author of the million-selling 'Life') and Pete – we've done it all. We've been there and seen it and we have a lot of stories to tell," says Stewart, who calls "Rod" an "uplifting book. It's not like Keith's book, which is very dark."

Or so he's heard: "I'm not a great reader," he says with a raspy laugh.

HUMOR

Humor books include the complete "Calvin & Hobbes" and the latest Calvin Trillin verse, "Dogfight: An Occasionally Interrupted Narrative Poem About the Presidential Campaign." But the main event is a clash of titans, and titles: Stephen Colbert's "America Again: Re-becoming the Greatness We Never Weren't" vs. The Onion's "Book of Known Knowledge: A Definitive Encyclopaedia of Existing Information."

A promise from Colbert: "'America Again' will single-bookedly pull this country back from the brink. It features everything from chapters, to page numbers, to fonts."

The top iPhone and iPad apps for week ending Aug. 27

From The Associated Press

TOP PAID IPHONE APPS:

1. WhatsApp Messenger (WhatsApp Inc.)
2. Where's My Perry? (Disney)
3. Camera+ (tap tap tap)
4. Angry Birds Space (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
5. MyCalendar Mobile (K-Factor Media, LLC.)

TOP FREE IPHONE APPS:


1. What's My IQ? (Orangenose Studios)
2. The Simpsons: Tapped Out (Electronic Arts)
3. iBooth (App Street Software Private Limited)
4. SongPop Free (Fresh Planet Inc.)
5. Amateur Surgeon 2 ((adult swim))

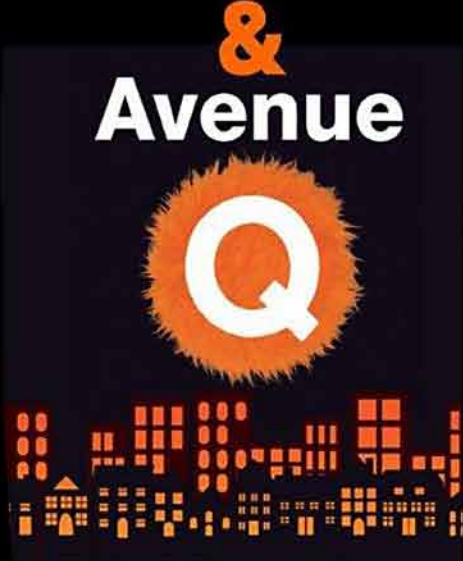
TOP PAID IPAD APPS

1. Where's My Perry? (Disney)
2. Notability – Take Notes & Annotate PDFs with Dropbox Sync (Ginger Labs)
3. NFL Fantasy Football Cheat Sheet 2012 for iPad (NFL Enterprises LLC)
4. Pages (Apple)
5. Minecraft – Pocket Edition (Mojang)

TOP FREE IPAD APPS


1. The Simpsons: Tapped Out (Electronic Arts)
2. Disney Fish Hooks (Disney)
3. Talking Ginger for iPad (Out Fit 7 Ltd.)
4. Skype for iPad (Skype Communications S.a.r.l)
5. Pinterest (Pinterest, Inc.)








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Why Steven James' latest detective novel is set in post-Dahmer Milwaukee and other mysteries

By Gregg Shapiro

Staff writer

In Milwaukee in 1997, just a few years after the horrors of Jeffrey Dahmer, a copycat serial killer is at work. This is the setting for the latest installment in author Steven James' The Bowers Files series, featuring detective Patrick Bowers. Titled "Opening Moves" (Signet Select, 2012), this novel is a prequel, retroactively setting the stage for James' previous Bowers' books.

Gregg Shapiro: How much, if any, is there of Steven James in detective Patrick Bowers?

Steven James: Well, he's a better rock climber than I am, more of a coffee snob and a little smoother with the ladies. But I have to admit that many of the struggles that I have do find their way into Patrick's life. After the first book in the series, "The Pawn," came out, someone asked my wife who I was the most like – Bowers or the serial killer. She said the serial killer. I think she was joking, but I'm still not quite sure (laughs).

Some of your books can be categorized as genre fiction. You write it, but do you also read it?

Most writing instructors say you should write in the genre that you like to read, but truthfully I don't read all that much suspense. I enjoy it, but I don't want my writing to inadvertently mirror that of another writer. So, I read a variety of genres and nonfiction and watch suspense movies. I love stories with a twist, so watching films is a good way to get my fix when I avoid novels that might be similar to the ones I write.

You write about the '90s being a violent decade, beginning with Dahmer, followed by OJ. Do you think these kinds of events set the tone for the 21st century, ranging from the events of 9/11

to more recent events such as the Aurora, Colo., movie theater shooting and the shooting at the Sikh Temple in Oak Creek?

That's a really good question. Justice Department crime statistics from the last 20 years have shown a marked decline in the number of violent crimes in most major U.S. cities. We hear about these brutal mass killings and they naturally shock us. Several times a week suicide bombers in the Middle East kill dozens of innocent people and it ends up being only a small blip on our news media's radar screen. Truthfully, I believe we can be thankful to live in our country.

Why did you set "Opening Moves" in 1997 Milwaukee?

Part of the storyline involves a criminal orchestrating reenactments of horrific crimes from Wisconsin's history. Dahmer is one of those killers, so are a father/son team that followed him the next year. Placing the prequel to my book in that time of turmoil was a perfect fit.

Were you living in Wisconsin at the time of Dahmer?

Yes. I was working at a camp in central Wisconsin and still remember the story breaking on the news.

At one point in the book you write that "Wisconsin winters are long enough" – is that why you live in Tennessee?

I moved to Tennessee back in the mid-'90s to pursue a master's degree in storytelling. I admit it: I fell in love with the weather right away, and when I finished grad school we couldn't think of any good reasons to leave.

You write about how childhood events shaped the lives of the characters of Patrick and Josh-

ua, the serial killer in the novel. Was there a parallel in your life?

As I mentioned in the prologue to the book, my father was being targeted by James Oswald, but thankfully James and his son were apprehended before they could commit any more crimes. I was no longer living at home at the time, but there was an event that did affect me deeply that appears in the book. When I was about 10 or 11, a girl disappeared in our hometown and the authorities told everyone to look in their outbuildings for any sign of her. We had a tree house at the time and I remember my dad going out there to look for a body in it. It was deeply disturbing. In "Opening Moves," I drew from that experience in one of the scenes and it ended up as a powerful and terrifying scene.

You write about "our choices" and accountability. Would you elaborate on that?

While writing "Opening Moves," I thought a lot about justice and our choices and the point at which we become responsible for them. I think that in every crime the offender can point to extenuating circumstances – a mental illness, abuse as a child, fear of being killed himself, and so on – but how do we determine that there were enough of those to diminish the punishment of the person? I don't have answers to all of these questions, but I think they are important ones to ask, so I let them surface throughout the narrative of the book.

If there was a movie version of the Patrick Bowers series, who would you want to play Bowers?

So, I have to admit I've thought about that. I really like Colin Farrell for the part. He has this darkness, this intelligence, and strong screen presence. I think he'd be great.

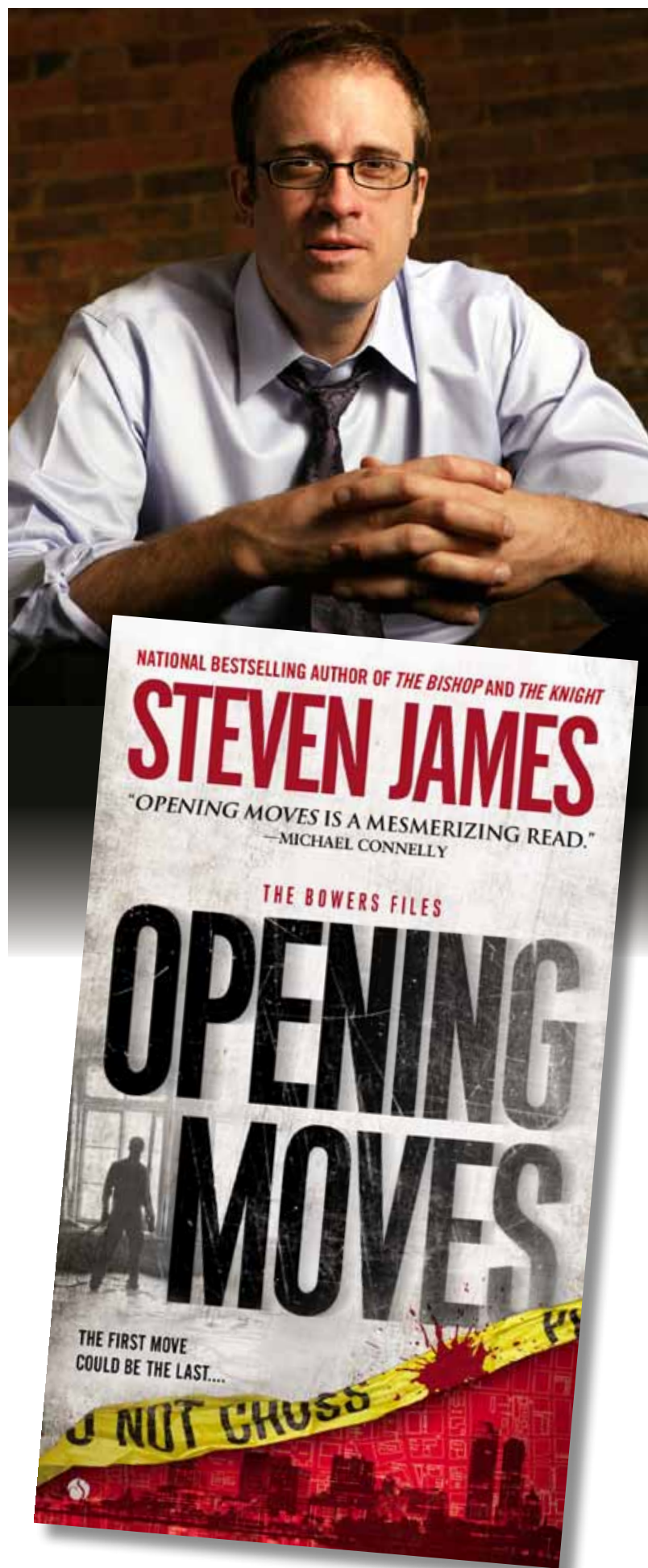


PHOTO: FICTIONADDICT.COM

Award-winning mystery author Steven James.

The Muddle East

Replay

GREGG SHAPIRO

'THE DEBT'

Directed and co-written by Assaf Bernstein, this Israeli film was remade in 2010 starring Helen Mirren, Jessica Chastain and Tom Wilkinson. It's a taut thriller that traverses 30 years.

In the 1960s, Mossad agents Rachel (Neta Garty), Ehud (Yehezkel Lazarov) and Zvi (Itay Tiran) are given a heroes' welcome that they only partly deserve. They failed at their mission of capturing Nazi war criminal Rainer (Edgar Selge), known as the Surgeon of Birkenau. Terrified and ashamed, the threesome invents a story that glorifies the mission's outcome.

Thirty years later, an older Rachel (Gila Almagor) has written a book about her experience in the Mossad. Zvi, who is now wheelchair-bound, shows up to tell Rachel that Rainer is still alive and living in a nursing home in Ukraine. In order to save face and keep their secret safe, Rachel, joined by an unstable and

alcoholic Ehud, decide to bring their long-delayed assignment to completion. It is the debt they owe to each other and to their country.

While it lacks the Hollywood star-power that fueled the remake, the original version of "The Debt" makes you understand the inspiration behind the remake, which is available in Hebrew, German and Russian with English subtitles.

'SALMON FISHING IN THE YEMEN'

Remember when Lasse Hallström ("My Life as a Dog") made good movies? "Salmon Fishing in the Yemen" isn't one of them. The biggest problem is Simon Beaufoy's stilted and clunky screenplay, based on Paul Torday's novel. From the first weighted frame, it's obvious we are watching a movie based on a book.

Efficient advisor Harriet (Emily Blunt) and stuffy civil servant Alfred (Ewan McGregor) form an unlikely pair who are thrown together when Alfred's fishing expertise comes in handy for Harriet's "fundamentally unfeasible" project for Sheikh Muhammed



PHOTO: COURTESY

From "Salmon Fishing In the Yemen."

(Amr Waked) to introduce salmon fishing to the Yemen. In addition to their quirky personalities, Harriet and Alfred bring along their personal baggage. Alfred's marriage to dull Mary (Rachael Stirling) is on the rocks. Harriet's burgeoning relationship with soldier Robert (Tom Mison) is just heating up when he is shipped off to Afghanistan.

Cartoonish comic relief arrives in the form of Patricia (Kristin Scott Thomas), the unscrupulous press secretary who sees the project as a way of patching up the frayed Anglo-Yemeni rela-

tions.

But complications abound. Robert goes MIA in Afghanistan following an assault with mass casualties, leading Harriet into a depression tailspin. Meanwhile, Mary goes on an extended business trip, causing Alfred to question their marriage. This allows for a spark of romance to ignite between Harriet and Alfred. However, by the time the Sheikh's dam is sabotaged (following a failed assassination attempt), "Salmon Fishing" has sprung more than a few leaks.



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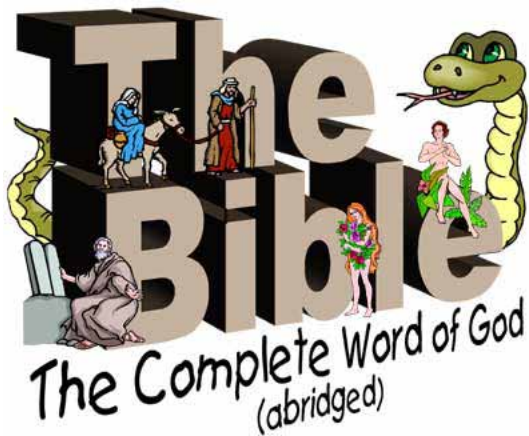
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SEPT. 6, THURSDAY

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

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

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

American Players Theatre, 5950 Golf Course Road in Spring Green, presents "**In Acting Shakespeare**," playwright and APT company member Jim DeVita's adaptation of Sir Ian McKellen's 1987 one-man show, through Oct. 4. Call 608-588-2361.

SEPT. 7, FRIDAY

The Pabst, 144 E. Wells, presents comedian and PBS' "**Wait, Wait Don't Tell Me**" panelist **Paula Poundstone** at 6:30 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Phantom Cicada Theater presents the irreverent and controversial comedy "**The Bible: The Complete Word of God (Abridged)**" through Sept. 9 at Next Act Theatre, 255 S. Water.

SEPT. 8, SATURDAY

Milwaukee's Marcus Center for the Performing Arts welcomes "**Get the Led Out: The American Led Zepplin**" at 8 p.m. in Uihlein Hall. Call 414-273-2787.

Legendary Minneapolis band **The Suburbs** plays the Majestic, 115 King in Madison, at 8 p.m. Call 608-251-2582.

SEPT. 10, MONDAY

Eric Simonson's "**Lombardi**" runs through Oct. 14 at Peninsula Players Theatre, 4351 Peninsula Players Road in Fish Creek. Call 920-868-3287.

SEPT. 11, TUESDAY

"**Cheeseheads, The Musical**," a "modern day dairy-tale with a lotto heart," runs through Oct. 14 at Door Community Auditorium, 3926 Hwy. 42 in Fish Creek. Call 920-868-2728.

SEPT. 12, WEDNESDAY

"**Gutenberg! The Musical!**" runs through Oct. 14 in the



Stackner Cabaret at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.

SEPT. 13, THURSDAY

ComedySportz, 420 S. First, hosts **Renaissance Theaterworks'** 20th season with a shindig beginning at 7 p.m. Visit r-t-w.com for more info.



Lewis Black

SEPT. 14, FRIDAY

The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin, presents the always-topical comedian **Lewis Black**, at 7 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

A 7 p.m. premiere party at Turner Hall Ballroom celebrates the launch of **Cream City Soundcheck**, a video series documenting the experience of national touring acts in Milwaukee. Performing bands will include **Kane Place Record Club**, **The Fatty Acids** and **R.A.S. Movement**, featuring American Idol finalist and UWM dance alum **Naima Adedapo**. Admission is free.

SEPT. 15, SATURDAY

Miltown Kings kick off a ninth season at the Miramar Theater, 2844 N. Oakland, with an over-18 show titled "Arrgh We're Glad You Came" at 9 p.m. There's a reduced cover charge for those in their best pirate/naval gear.

Veteran's Memorial Park, 1010 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive, hosts **Rock the Green**, "the second annual not-for-profit, near-zero waste music festival," with a lineup including Third Eye Blind, Metric, Switchfoot, Imagine Dragons, Atlas Genius and Morning Parade. Visit rockthegreen.com for more info.

Seventh annual Global Union, a free festival of world music and culture, features Panorama Jazz Band at 12:30 p.m., MC Rai at 2 p.m., Rana Santa Cruz at 3:30 p.m. and Swedish hip hop/swing band Movits! at 5 p.m. in Humboldt Park, 3000 S. Howell in Milwaukee's Bay View neighborhood – rain or shine.

SEPT. 16, SUNDAY

In support of their musical collaboration "Love This Giant," **David Byrne** and **St. Vincent** perform at The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin, at 7 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

SEPT. 17, MONDAY

A staged reading of "**More Losers**" by Milwaukee-based playwright James Fletcher is presented at 7:30 p.m. by Milwaukee Chamber Theatre as part of its Montgomery Davis Play Development Series in the Skylight Bar & Bistro at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

SEPT. 18, TUESDAY

Built To Spill plays the High Noon Saloon, 701A E. Washington in Madison, at 8 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.



The Jesus and Mary Chain

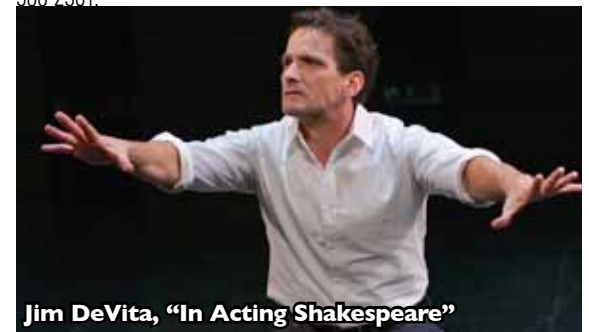
SEPT. 19, WEDNESDAY

Boulevard Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic, presents the Milwaukee premiere of "**Life (X) Three**" by playwright Yasmina Reza ("God of Carnage" and "Art") through Oct. 14. Call 414-744-5747 or visit www.boulevardtheatre.com.

The Jesus and Mary Chain bring their brand of feedback rock to the Majestic, 115 King in Madison. Call 608-251-2582.

SEPT. 20, THURSDAY

American Players Theatre, 5950 Golf Course Road in Spring Green, continues its production of "**In Acting Shakespeare**," playwright and APT company member Jim DeVita's adaptation of Sir Ian McKellen's 1987 one-man show, through Oct. 4. Call 608-588-2361.



Jim DeVita, "In Acting Shakespeare"

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Acceptance Journeys is a project of Diverse and Resilient, Inc. The end of anti-gay and anti-transgender oppression is key to our health and well-being. Imagine more.

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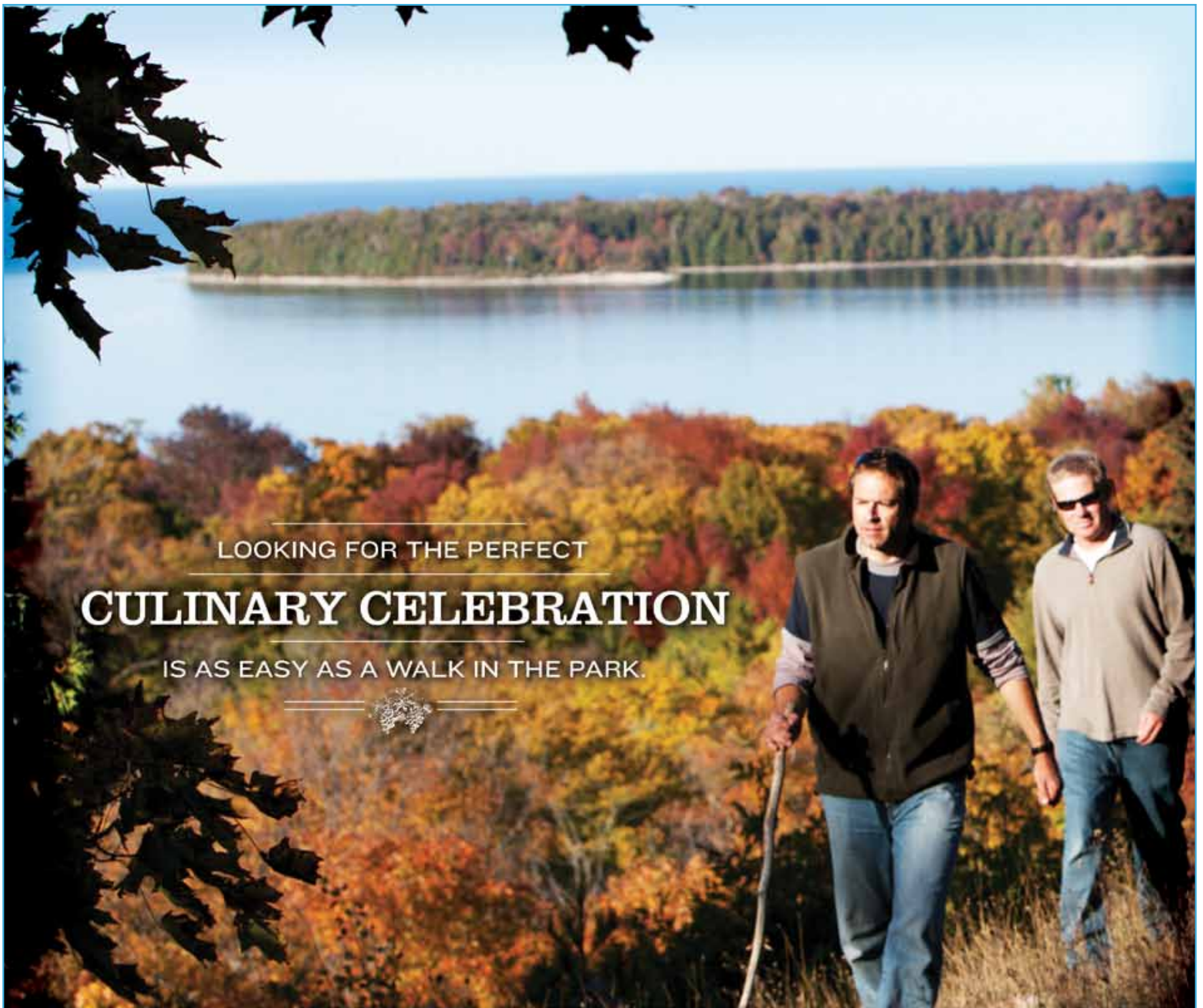
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