

## 'LINCOLN'

Steven Spielberg and actor Daniel Day-Lewis talk about creating the historical epic, with screenplay by out playwright Tony Kushner.

page 20

THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY



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## Baldwin and Pocan make history, right shellshocked by election

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

After two years of heart-wrenching defeats, capped by Republican Gov. Scott Walker's recall victory this summer, Wisconsin Democrats were on an unrelenting losing streak.

And when popular former Gov. Tommy Thompson decided to run for U.S. Senate, Republicans appeared poised for yet another prominent win that would give them control of both Wisconsin's Senate seats for the first time since the 1950s.

But there was to be no GOP sweep.

President Barack Obama fired up his turn-out machine and made winning Wisconsin a priority, pouring star power and money into the state. All the attention that Wisconsin received, along with a backlash against Republican voter-suppression efforts targeting minorities, young people and other predominantly Democratic groups, led to huge Democratic turnout. In Milwaukee, home to the state's largest minority population, 87 percent of registered voters cast ballots.

Meanwhile, out Democratic U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin put together a well-funded, disciplined and smart campaign against Thompson. On the stump and in televised debates, she presented a calm, reassuring and likeable contrast to Thompson's blustery, old-fashioned hucksterism.

On Nov. 6, both Obama and Baldwin won their races, keeping alive Wisconsin's tradition as a state that doesn't stay all blue or all red for too long. The president and senator-elect won by margins wider than most polls had predicted – six and five percentage points, respectively.

The victories were the biggest scores for Democrats since Obama's surprising 14-point win in Wisconsin in 2008 that left Republicans sullen and confused. The GOP found itself in a similar position Nov. 6.

"We're all quite stunned at the results because we had such an energized base, the independents were falling our way," Republican state Sen. Alberta Darling, co-chair of Mitt Romney's Wisconsin campaign and an avid opponent of equality, choice and environmental protection, told AP. "People were coming out of the woodwork to help. Maybe we were just not dealing with the real reality?"

ELECTION page 6



## THE LAST CLOSET

### A game plan for liberating gay pro athletes

Vikings punter Chris Kluwe had this picture taken for the NOH8 campaign promoting marriage equality. An outspoken equality supporter, he was a high-profile opponent of the anti-gay marriage amendment on the Minnesota ballot, which went down in defeat on Nov. 6.

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Recent sports headlines have shown a marked uptick in the number of straight athletes giving homophobes

the penalty flag. That could lead an observant scout to predict that the hinges might soon come off the door of the last closet.

The last closet. This isn't

a reference to professional tennis or golf, cycling or running, gymnastics or swimming. Many out LGBT athletes have played on courts and links. They've raced on tracks and in

pools, including groundbreakers such as transgender tennis player Renee Richards and superstars such as Grand Slam champ Martina Navratilova.

ATHLETES page 12

PHOTO: ADAM BOUSKA/COURTESY NOH8 CAMPAIGN

# News with a twist

## WIGWAG

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg



PHOTO: MGM/COLUMBIA/EON

### GAY BOND VILLAIN?

There's some more homoerotic teasing in the latest James Bond film "Skyfall," starring Daniel Craig. In one scene, the movie's villain, played by Javier Bardem, caresses a tied-up Bond's face, chest and legs while interrogating him. The scene climaxes with Bond saying, "What makes you think this is my first time?" Some fans were surprised by the line, but screenwriter John Logan said he didn't

expect it to shock anyone. He told the Hollywood Reporter: "Some people claim it's because I'm, in fact, gay but that's not true at all." When Craig was asked whether Bardem's character is supposed to be gay, Craig said no but added, "I think he'd f--k anything."

### AND BABY MAKES FOUR

Sir Elton John and his partner David Furnish are expecting their second baby together in 2013 from the same surrogate mother who bore their first. According to The Sun of London, the surrogate mother is "several months" pregnant and due to deliver early next year. Her name is being kept private, but The Sun reports that the couple loves her "like a sister."

### HIRSUTE HONORS

Virginia City secured the title of Nevada's "most bearded community" by



entering 57 whiskered faces in a contest held as part of the Nevada Day 2012 celebration in Carson City. The host city only entered 46 hairy guys in the competition. Awards also were presented for the blackest beard, the best salt-and-pepper beard and other bushy brandings.

### SOME BLESSING

An ordained Christian "counselor" devoted to "freeing" people from homosexuality was charged with eight counts of criminal sexual conduct after two young men filed complaints against him in Minnesota. The Rev. Ryan J. Muelhauser, who's affiliated with a group that claims to cure same-sex attraction through prayer, allegedly fondled the two young men, who had sought his help to rid themselves of homosexuality. One young

man said the pastor cupped his genitals with his hands several times to bless him. Both men said the pastor had them masturbate in front of him, telling them it would bring them spiritual strength.

### PLAYING ON THE PRESIDENTIAL IPOD

President Barack Obama told a Cincinnati radio DJ that the tunes on his iPod suggest varied musical interests. "I've got old school - Stevie Wonder, James Brown. I've got Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan," he said. He also has "everything from Jay-Z, to Eminem, to the Fugees, to you name it. There's probably not a group that you play that I don't have on my iPod." The president also mentioned John Coltrane, Miles Davis and Gill Scott-Heron. We assume there's no MP3 of Bill Clinton on sax. But what about the Boss?



PHOTO: BIOGRAPHY.COM

### AND ALSO TO YOU

Clearly bummed out by Barack Obama's victory, Detroit rocker and right-winger Ted Nugent took to Twitter to denounce the "pimps," "whores" and "welfare brats" who voted for America's "economic (and) spiritual suicide." He bid America "Goodluck" and good riddance.

### MARK RUFFALO CALLING

Oscar-nominated actor Mark Ruffalo recorded robocalls on behalf of Rob Zerman, Paul Ryan's congressional opponent. "Hi, this is Mark Ruffalo. You may know me as The Hulk

in "The Avengers," but what you might not know is that Kenosha is my hometown. I'm calling to ask you to vote for Rob Zerman for Congress on Tuesday," Ruffalo said. Ryan went on to beat Zerman, but by the congressman's lowest percentage of votes ever.

### REALLY OLD VOTERS

Not long after early voting began in North Carolina, the records showed that more than 900 people aged 112 had cast ballots. Fraud? Nope. In 2008, about 10,000 108-year-olds cast ballots in the general election and, in 2012, about 9,000 110-year-olds voted. A report from the Pew Charitable Trusts explained that the centenarians are really voters who didn't provide a birth date for their registration after passage of the 1993 National Voter Registration Act. So, the state assigned a birth date - Jan. 1, 1900

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# Boy Scouts shielded sex abusers for decades

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

If Boy Scouts officials had not protected him in 1987 when he molested two boys, his life would have been devastated, retired Greenfield pediatrician Thomas Kowalski told the L.A. Times.

"Had that been publicized, I would have been out of business, reputation destroyed, and I don't know how I would have faced people at church," Kowalski, now 75, said.

But scouting officials were too concerned about the organization's reputation to make the incident public. They reported it to law enforcement, but when the victims declined to press charges, the officials pulled strings to keep the story out of the media.

As a result, Kowalski continued working with children for 14 more years, until he retired in 2001.

The Kowalski incident was one of thousands recorded in 14,500 pages of secret "perversion files," confidential records of suspected child abusers from 1947 to 2005. The files were released to the public last month as the result of a successful \$20 million lawsuit in Portland, Ore.

Officials said they used the files to blacklist suspected molesters and keep them out of scouting. But the files show that again and again, an array of authorities including police chiefs, prosecutors, pastors and local Boy Scouts leaders

quietly shielded scoutmasters and others accused of molesting children.

At the time, those authorities justified their actions as necessary to protect the good name and good works of scouting, a pillar of 20th century America. Like Roman Catholic Church leaders, they allowed sexual predators to go free.

Both the church and the BSA condemn homosexuality, and the BSA has a ban prohibiting gay staff, volunteers or members. Only weeks before the group released the perversion files last month, a gay teen in California was denied an Eagle Scout award that he'd earned, prompting an online petition signed by 410,000 people.

The perversion files, kept at Boy Scouts headquarters in Texas, consist of memos from local and national BSA executives, handwritten letters from victims and their parents and newspaper clippings about legal cases. The files contain allegations that stretch across the country and to military bases overseas, from a small town in the Adirondacks to downtown Los Angeles.

In Wisconsin alone, some 51 cities had troops where scouting officials quietly removed adult leaders or volunteers who committed various sex crimes against children.

Responding to the release of the files, the Wisconsin director of the Survivors

Network of Those Abused by Priests renewed his group's call for the Milwaukee Archdiocese to release its own files on clerical abusers.

"The evidence from the Boy Scouts files and the continual legal stonewalling of the Milwaukee Archdiocese are more demonstrable proof that institutions continue to put the reputation of institutional officials before the safety of children," said John Pilmaier, SNAP Wisconsin director, in a statement to the press.

"Parents and the public need to know who these child sex predators are, where they are living, why they have not faced criminal prosecution, and what jobs and occupations they are currently engaged in," he said.

## TROUBLING PATTERNS

The BSA's files document troubling patterns. There is little mention in the files of concern for the welfare of Scouts who were abused by their leaders. But there are numerous documents showing compassion for alleged abusers, who were often sent to psychiatrists or pastors for help.

In 1972, a local BSA executive implored national headquarters to drop the case against a suspected abuser because he was undergoing professional treatment and was personally taking steps to solve his problem.

"If it don't stink, don't stir

it," the local executive wrote.

Scouting's efforts to keep abusers out were often disorganized. There's at least one memo from a local scouting executive pleading for better guidance on how to handle abuse allegations. Sometimes the pleading went the other way, with national headquarters begging local leaders for information on suspected abusers, and the locals dragging their feet.

In numerous instances, alleged abusers were kicked out of scouting but showed up in jobs where they were once again in authority positions dealing with youths.

The files also show scouting volunteers serving in the military overseas, molesting American children living abroad and continuing to molest after returning to the states.

But one of the most startling revelations to come from the files is the frequency with which attempts to protect Scouts from molesters collapsed at the local level, at times in collusion with community leaders.

It happened when a local district attorney declined to prosecute two confessed offenders and when law enforcement sought to protect the name of scouting and let an admitted child molester go free.

When cases against Scouts volunteers or executives went forward, locals often tried and sometimes managed to keep the organization's name out of court

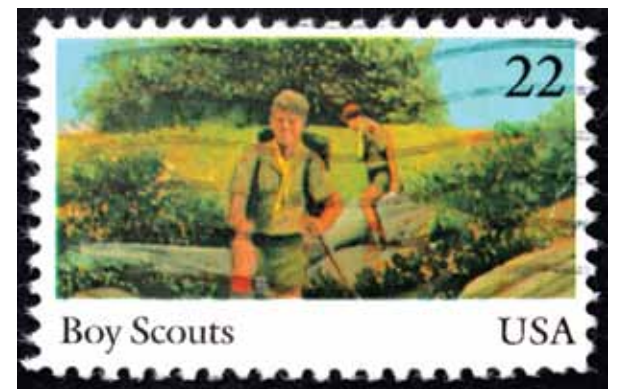


PHOTO: BORISLAV MARINIC

The U.S. Postal Service released this stamp in 1985 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America.

documents and the media, as in Kowalski's case.

## QUIET EPIDEMIC

The cases included in the BSA's files are probably only the tip of the iceberg. For every case that was documented, there are likely to be many more that weren't.

Among those not included is the case of the troop leader who molested Milwaukee resident Karl Larson continually from the ages of 10 to 16 in the 1950s. This summer, Larson started the Spiritual Health Network, which offers a drop-in space for male survivors of sexual abuse in Bay View at 2923 A S. Delaware Ave. ([spiritual-healthnetwork.org](http://spiritual-healthnetwork.org)).

"I've confronted the man," Larson said, but "I've not seen that he's been approached by authorities."

Larson said his abuser

"always positioned himself to be around where boys would be active, where he could have access. He would have like a farm almost of young men. He was active with the church, and the church sponsored the Boy Scouts troop, which he helped create."

Larson calls child sexual abuse the "quiet epidemic," because it thrives on the silence of victims and institutions like the Boy Scouts. He said parents must be vigilant and develop relationships with their children that allow them to feel comfortable talking about such matters.

Preventing abuse "takes awareness of parents, and it takes the young men that are being molested to feel confident that it's not their fault, so they can come out and say, 'This has happened to me,'" Larson said.



PHOTO: LESLIE VON PLESS/  
LAMBDA LEGAL

Activist Zack Wahls.

## UPS cuts Boy Scouts funding over discrimination

From WiG and AP reports

The philanthropic arm of UPS said it will cease donating to the Boy Scouts as long as the group continues to discriminate against gays.

UPS is the second major corporation to recently strip funding from the Scouts. Intel took the same action earlier this year.

Both companies changed course after Zach Wahls, an Eagle Scout with two mothers and founder of the group Scouts for Equality, began petitions at Change.org calling for corporations to end

their financial support of the BSA.

Other groups took up the cause, including GLAAD, which has highlighted the case of a lesbian mother in Ohio barred from volunteering with her son's Cub Scout pack.

The Atlanta-based UPS Foundation gave more than \$85,000 to the BSA in 2011, according to its federal tax return.

"Corporate America gets it better than most: Policies that discriminate aren't simply wrong, they're bad for business and they're hurt-

ing the scouting community," Wahls said following the UPS announcement.

UPS spokeswoman Kristen Petrella said groups applying for the foundation grants must adhere to the same standards UPS does by not discriminating against anyone based on race, religion, disability or sexual orientation.

"We promote an environment of diversity and inclusion," Petrella said. "UPS is a company that does the right things for the right reasons."

Petrella said the company had been concerned about discrimination by the BSA

before the petition drive.

The Scouts said this summer it was sticking with its long-standing policy of excluding openly gay youth and adults.

Deron Smith, the director of public relations for the Texas-based BSA, said the group was disappointed about the decision from UPS.

"These types of contributions go directly to serving young people in local councils and this decision will negatively impact youth," Smith said. "Through 110,000 units, Scouting represents millions of youth and adult mem-

bers in diverse communities across the nation, each with a variety of beliefs on this topic."

The policy of excluding gays has come under increased scrutiny within the last month, as thousands of confidential files released as part of a lawsuit show top leaders for decades tracked thousands of scoutmasters and volunteers who sexually abused boys in their care but routinely failed to report them.

Email Louis Weisberg at [lweisberg@wisconsin Gazette.com](mailto:lweisberg@wisconsin Gazette.com)



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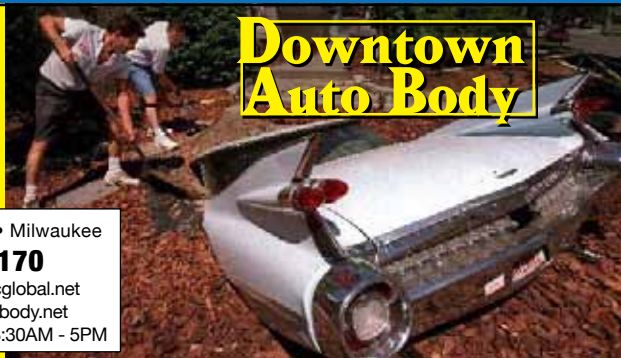
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## 'Wisconsin is not a red state – the false idea that we are is now proven wrong'

**ELECTION** from page one

Democrats, on the other hand, were overjoyed with a measure of success at the top of the ticket that exceeded their dreams.

"I'm feeling positive, full of wonder," state Rep. Sandy Pasch told WiG at a Democratic election night victory celebration in Milwaukee.

"This is a great night! This is a grassroots win!" enthused Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett.

State Sen. Chris Larson said if Walker fails to learn from the outcome of the election, "he'll be on the same path in two years."

"This is a fantastic victory," Larson said. "This is a victory for the middle class. Wisconsin is not a red state. The false idea that we are is now proven wrong. We all need to work together."

Republicans who were searching for a silver lining in the national losses found it with the GOP winning back the state Senate. That returned state government to where it was before a Republican loss in a recall election in June gave the Democrats a narrow one-vote majority in the Senate. The temporary Democratic majority was largely symbolic, since the legislative session doesn't begin until January.

Republicans also held control of the state Assembly, losing only one seat.

There was no change in the makeup of the state's U.S. House delegation. Five Republican incumbents, including Mitt Romney running mate Paul Ryan, won reelection, although there were hints of GOP vulnerability



PHOTO: AP/ANDY MANIS

**Tammy Baldwin waves to supporters as she takes the stage on Nov. 6 to make her victory speech. She is the first out person ever elected to the U.S. Senate and will be the first woman ever to represent Wisconsin in Congress' upper chamber.**

ahead. Ryan won with the lowest margin of his career, garnering slightly less than 55 percent of the vote against Democratic challenger Rob Zerban. That's 20-percent lower than the average proportion of votes Ryan's won in his previous seven races.

And, in what had to be the most embarrassing result for the GOP in Wisconsin, Obama won Rock County, Ryan's home district, with 60 percent of the vote.

Republican incumbents Reid Ribble and Sean Duffy also showed future vulnerability by earning 56 percent of the vote in their districts.

### THE STRATEGIST

The state's three Democratic-held U.S. House seats stayed in that column but added a new face. State Rep. Mark Pocan took 68 percent of the vote to win Baldwin's 2nd Congressional District seat, which includes Dane County. An out gay man, Pocan became the first LGBT candidate in history to succeed another out member of Congress.

Like Baldwin, Pocan ran a disciplined campaign that focused on leveling the playing field for the middle class. With the backing of top party leaders, numer-

ous unions and progressive groups, he took an astonishing 72 percent of the vote in a four-way Democratic primary in August to nail down the nomination.

In his victory speech Nov. 6, Pocan emphasized the progressive roots of his district. "This is the district of Fighting Bob La Follette. This is the seat of Bob Kastenmeier. And this is the seat of Tammy Baldwin," he said. "This is the seat where we expect our representatives to work hard for progressive values and the middle class and lower-income families of Wisconsin, and I will do that."

Pocan pledged to do his part toward ending gridlock at the U.S. Capitol. "At the end of the day we have one job, and that is to actually get something done. It doesn't mean you have to compromise your values. But you do need to find compromise. I have done that for my 14 years in the Legislature, and I will do that in Washington with this district."

"Mark Pocan is the quintessential legislative strategist," said Fair Wisconsin executive director Katie Belanger, who has for years observed his performance in

the Assembly, where he rose to prominence as a member of the powerful Joint Finance Committee, playing a leadership role in developing the state budget. He's widely considered one of Wisconsin's most effective progressive lawmakers.

"Mark knows how to build relationships across the aisle and he knows how to get things done," Belanger said. "Mark Pocan is the kind of person you want to have on your side regardless of issues, because he knows how to move legislation."

Celebrating his victory at Baldwin's election night campaign headquarters in Madison's Monona Terrace, Pocan thanked and kissed his husband Phil Frank before a wildly cheering crowd that included a very large number of gays and lesbians. The kiss was an iconic moment for Wisconsin.

"This is the gayest room in the world," a local gay politico quipped. "I could find a date right now if I wasn't working."

### 'BREATH TAKING LEAP'

Among those on hand at Monona Terrace to watch

history unfolding was Chuck Wolfe, president and CEO of The Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund. The fund supported Pocan and ranked Baldwin's election as its top priority in the 2012 election cycle.

AP called the race for Baldwin at 8:30 p.m. but then retracted the announcement, calling it a mistake. Over the next couple of hours, several news organizations announced Baldwin as the winner and Slate magazine called her victory "the second-biggest win of the night."

But it wasn't until 11:15 p.m. that Wisconsin Democratic Party Chair Mike Tate finally took the stage to introduce "the next Senator from Wisconsin." A cry of jubilation erupted from the crowd, along with chants of "Tammy, Tammy, Tammy." Baldwin's supporters were as moved as they were joyous. Tears filled the eyes of many.

In her victory speech, Baldwin focused on her commitment to fairness and the bread-and-butter issues, such as preserving Medicare, which formed the heart of her populist campaign message.

"When people are struggling,"

**ELECTION** next page

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# LGBT activists revamp strategy after GOP recaptures state Senate

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Mingled with the joy over all the high-profile political victories on Nov. 6 was the realization that the state's tea party-led Republicans regained total control of state government by retaking the Senate.

Republicans were in command of state government when political maps were redrawn following the 2010 Census. That once-a-decade process, known as "reapportionment," allowed the GOP to create district boundaries for Assembly and Senate seats that are favorable to their side. Despite a strong field of Democratic Assembly and Senate candidates who worked hard, the state's new political map made it all but impossible for them.

What Republicans intend to do with their reclaimed majority remains to be seen. They passed all of their hot-button issues last session, including Gov. Scott Walker's union-busting budget bill, mandating

**'I'm very worried that people will disengage and say that we've won and now we can sit back and relax.'**

photo ID at the polls and legalizing concealed weapons.

Their general goals, from relaxing mining standards to revising photo identification requirements for voters in order to satisfy court challenges that left the law in limbo, could stir things up again.

But one thing is certain: The GOP can push through just about any proposal it chooses when the next legislative session begins in January.

"We have a very conservative Assembly and now a conservative Senate to go with," said Jason Burns, executive director of Equality Wisconsin. "I'm very worried that people will disengage and say, 'We've won,' and now we can sit back and relax. And that's exactly what we can't do. We need to remember that our level of engagement cannot diminish for one minute or the hard-fought victories that we've won could all be in jeopardy."

Wisconsin advocates for women's health, LGBT equality, the environment, public education and consumer rights know they'll probably spend at least the next two years at the state level playing defense rather than moving forward.

Katie Belanger of Fair Wisconsin said her organization will continue

to focus on issues at the local level, where FW has had great success over past months in helping to enact domestic partnership benefits in Appleton, Racine, Eau Claire and Janesville.

"Fair Wisconsin's perspective is this is a time for us to be political realists," Belanger said. "We know the state is going to be in Republican control for the foreseeable future. It's an opportunity to build relations and do our educational advocacy work with an eye toward the long term."

Belanger said the historic victories for equality across the country on Nov. 6 should have a dampening effect on any GOP desires to enact anti-gay legislation in Madison. Those victories include the decisive win of U.S. Senate candidate Tammy Baldwin in Wisconsin, the re-election of the nation's first pro-marriage equality president and the unprecedented triumphs for equality at the polls in four states. Minne-

sotans rejected a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage and voters approved same-sex marriage laws in Maine, Maryland and Washington. Iowans voted to retain a judge who was targeted for defeat by the Christian right for ruling in favor of marriage equality in their state.

And a record number of LGBT candidates were elected to both local and national offices across the country.

"Even David Koch and Paul Singer, two of the biggest conservative donors in the country, are for marriage equality," Belanger said. "I think Republicans and conservatives are seeing the writing on the wall — that the population is moving very, very quickly in this direction. They're grappling with how to shift their views on this issue."

"They're either going to get on the train or they're going to get in the way of the train, but it's still moving forward, with or without them."

## ELECTION from prior page

gling, you don't talk down to them, you reach down and lift them up," she said in a summation of her belief in the role of government. "We can only move forward if we all move forward together."

Baldwin made only a passing reference to the historic dimensions of her election, but it drew the loudest applause of the night.

"Now I am well aware that I will have the honor to be Wisconsin's first woman U.S. senator," she said. "And I am well aware that I will be the first openly gay senator. But I didn't run to make history. I ran to make a difference."

To the rest of the world, however, Baldwin's gender and sexual orientation embodied progress and engendered hope.

"Last night was a breathtaking leap forward," Wolfe wrote in a press statement the morning after the election. "Tammy Baldwin shattered a sturdy glass ceiling that's been in place for more than two centuries. At long last, LGBT Americans will see one of our own take the oath of office in the United States Senate, and I cannot wait for that historic moment."

Baldwin's victory occurred exactly 20 years after she was first elected as an openly gay candidate to the Assembly, Wolfe noted.

"With Baldwin, we now have a voice in the Senate," said Jason Burns, executive director of Equality Wisconsin. "It's one thing to have allies, but if you don't have someone who's part of your community, the conversations are about you instead of with you."

Burns said Baldwin's mere presence in Congress' upper chamber would help to change the hearts and minds of her homophobic colleagues there.

"I think the best way that the LGBT community advances our history is for people to come out and meet LGBT individuals and say, 'Hey, wow they're just like me,'" he said. "It makes it much harder for people to say mean things about gay people when there's a gay person in the room and they like that person."

Likeability has always been one of Baldwin's strongest political assets, Burns said.

"She is probably one of the most genuine congresswomen and now Senator-elects that I've ever met," he said. "She's absolutely wonderful and amazing in all sorts of ways, but the likeability factor is huge for her."

The Associated Press and Leonard Sobczak contributed to this story.

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PHOTO: AP/ANDY MANIS

**Out Congressman-elect Mark Pocan, left, kisses husband Phil Frank on Election Day in front of a cheering crowd. Pocan won Tammy Baldwin's U.S. House seat, becoming the only gay person ever to succeed another in Congress.**

## { Editorial }

## Women voters turn the tea party tide

LGBT history will recall the election of 2012 as a critical turning point in the quest for equality. Broader history will remember Nov. 6 for proving definitively that the close association of the Republican Party with the tea party and the Christian right is politically lethal.

Evangelical tea party candidates clearly cost Republicans control of the U.S. Senate for the second election cycle in a row. All the tea party candidates who shared their shocking views about rape lost their races. They also shifted attention away from issues on which the Democrats were vulnerable, instead bringing visibility to the GOP's goal of criminalizing abortion in all circumstances, including rape, incest and the life of the mother.

President Barack Obama's considerable advantage among women had been shrinking in the weeks leading up to the election. An AP poll released on Oct. 25 showed a virtual tie between Romney and Obama among women voters.

But that was before reports hit the media of yet another Republican Senate candidate opining on rape: Richard Mourdock of Indiana described pregnancies resulting from rape as God's will. That revelation also hurt Josh Mandel, R-Ohio, who refused to disagree with him. On Election Day, the president took the women's vote 55-44 percent, and among single women he led 67-31 percent.

At the same time, a record number of women won U.S. Senate races, including Wisconsin's openly gay Tammy Baldwin. And Florida voters soundly defeated an anti-choice amendment.

It's been an axiom that the gay rights movement is linked inextricably to feminism, and this election was no exception. With the help of a supportive female electorate, 2012 was a watershed year for LGBT rights.

Women played a significant role in reversing the success of anti-gay efforts at the polls. Up until this election, marriage equality advocates suffered an eight-year string of defeats in 31 states. But this year, three states – Maryland, Maine and Washington – voted to allow same-sex couples to marry, and Minnesota voted down a constitutional gay marriage ban.

In all four states, the majority of male voters opposed the pro-gay position, but women's support ranged from 55 percent in Maryland to 61 percent in Maine.

Gay and lesbian voters also played an important role in all of these victories, as well as in the presidential race. Angered by homophobic positions in the Republican platform and buoyed by Obama's support for marriage equality, LGBT voters flocked to the polls to vote Democratic. An analysis of exit polls by the Human Rights Campaign showed that LGBT voters were responsible for nearly half of the president's victory margin.

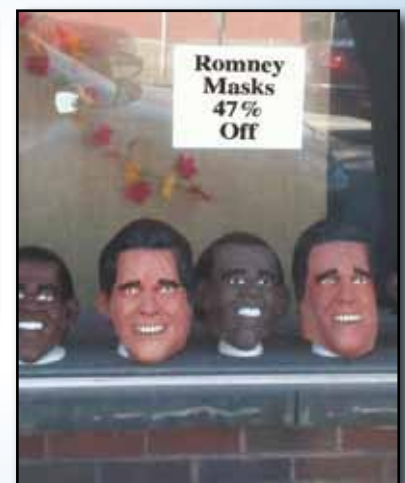
In 2008, gays comprised 4 percent of the electorate, but this year that number rose to 5 percent. In 2008, Sen. John McCain won 27 percent of the gay vote, but Mitt Romney garnered only 23 percent of this year's larger gay vote.

Seven out gays – a record number – were elected to the next Congress, including Baldwin and Mark Pocan of Madison, who won the seat she is leaving. Pocan will be the first gay member of Congress to succeed another.

All of this proves that a new political era has dawned. Extremist Christian views against women and gays were winning distractions for Republicans during the Bush era. Today, they're a certain path to defeat.

## NETIZENS WEIGH IN

America's cyber-citizens wasted no time in creating their own post-election editorials:



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## ON THE RECORD

On Nov. 6, a regiment of anti-choice Republican men conceded defeat at the polls, vanquished in their lost War on Women. We look back at the words about “the rape thing” that helped cost them their elections.



“If it’s a legitimate rape, the female body has ways to try to shut that whole thing down. But let’s assume that maybe that didn’t work or something: I think there should be some punishment, but the punishment ought to be of the rapist, and not attacking the child.”

– Republican U.S. Rep. TODD AKIN, a six-term congressman with tea party support who lost his bid for the U.S. Senate in Missouri to incumbent Claire McCaskill.

“In that horrible situation of rape, that (pregnancy) is something God intended.”

– Republican RICHARD MOURDOCK, who lost his bid for the U.S. Senate in Indiana to Democrat Joe Donnelly, who also is anti-choice.

“And he just said, ‘Remember, Roger, if you go down that road, some girls, they rape so easy.’”

– Republican Wisconsin Rep. ROGER RIVARD recalling his father’s lesson about casual sex. Rivard lost his race to Democrat Stephen Smith.

“The common exceptions that people who are pro-life without exception are in cases of rape and incest – horrific, evil, terrible events. In cases like that, I am still pro-life. There is still a life there.”

– Republican U.S. Rep. JOE WALSH, a tea party favorite, who lost his bid for re-election in Illinois to Democrat Tammy Duckworth.

“Having a baby out of wedlock ... is similar (to rape).”

– Republican TOM SMITH, who lost his challenge to incumbent U.S. Sen. Bob Casey in Pennsylvania.

“On the rape thing, it’s like, how does putting more violence onto a woman’s body and taking the life of an innocent child that’s a consequence of this crime – how does that make it better? You know what I mean?”

– Republican JOHN KOSTER, who lost his congressional campaign in Washington state to Democrat Suzan DelBene.

“I’m very proud of my pro-life record, and I’ve always adopted the idea that, the position that the method of conception doesn’t change the definition of life.”

– Republican vice presidential candidate PAUL RYAN, referring to rape as one of many methods. He lost the campaign for vice president but retained his congressional seat in Wisconsin by the lowest margin ever.



## Reality check is in order

## Opinion

JAMAKAYA

Although it’s fun to watch the GOP and conservative pundits reeling from shock over President Barack Obama’s victory, progressives should not be too smug. After the celebrations, we’re in need of a reality check, too.

The biggest thrill for me was seeing Tammy Baldwin defeat the old warhorse Tommy Thompson for a U.S. Senate seat. She overcame her opponents’ accusations that she was a dangerous radical even as she overcame some supporters’ doubts that she could beat Thompson.

Baldwin is no radical, but the campaign proved once again that beneath her calm, mild-mannered demeanor lies a tenacious leader. I’m so glad Wisconsinites have elevated her to higher office. The civility, intelligence and progressivism Baldwin has exhibited in more than 20 years of diligent public ser-

vice are desperately needed in the nation’s capital.

It’s a big plus that Baldwin will be joining 19 other women – most Democrats and many liberals – in the Senate. It will be interesting to see what impact she and Elizabeth Warren can have on policy-making in that staid institution. At least they won’t have to deal with the likes of Todd Akin and Richard Mourdock, whose ignorant comments about rape led voters to repudiate them soundly.

Republicans and right-wing pundits are brooding over the changing demographics of the country and their failure to attract Latino, African-American and women voters. Some are moping that they are no longer in control. Aw, it’s tough to live in a diverse country, isn’t it? And kind of scary for them to contemplate whether those assuming power will abuse or ignore you as you have abused and ignored them for centuries.

The influence of the Catholic hierarchy and evangelical churches also

seemed reduced. They lobbied hard and poured millions into defeating marriage equality but failed. The voters of Maine, Maryland and Washington approved same-sex marriage. Minnesotans turned back an initiative to outlaw it. Eight states and the District of Columbia now allow gay marriage. A majority of Catholics say they support it.

These demographic trends seem encouraging, but they don’t account for Republican advances in many state legislatures and governorships, nor do they acknowledge the enormous amounts of concerted labor that secured the national victories. This is where we need a reality check.

The near future in Wisconsin looks bleak. The GOP won control of the Wisconsin Senate on Nov. 6. The party will again control the legislative and executive branches and be supported by a conservative majority on the State Supreme Court. They are poised to push through more privatization and deregulation measures for their corporate cronies,

make massive cuts to health and education budgets, and further reduce women’s reproductive choices.

To re-build progressive power in Wisconsin and to maintain and extend the advances we have made nationally requires vigilance and hard, focused work.

While changing demographics, the disaffection of women, and a flawed campaign by Mitt Romney were all factors in Obama’s re-election, intensive organizing was the heart of his successful campaign. Voter registration drives, neighborhood meetings, leaflet drops, social media campaigns, shuttles to the polls and many other labor-intensive means of winning support and getting people to vote often provide the margin of victory.

We can’t slack off and assume that shifting demographics alone will secure our rights. Besides, the “empire” will certainly strike back. It’s essential that each of us channel the positive energy we’re feeling now into a personal commitment to work for lasting change.

## The losses we aren’t talking about

## Opinion

JASON BURNS

By all accounts last week’s election was historic. All across this nation we overwhelmingly voted to re-elect President Barack Obama, the first sitting president to support same-sex marriage. In Wisconsin, we continued our proud heritage as one of the most progressive states by electing Tammy Baldwin to the U.S. Senate. Not only will she be the country’s first openly gay senator, she also is the first woman ever elected to the Senate from Wisconsin. In addition, we elected Mark Pocan to succeed Baldwin in Congress, marking the first time in history that one LGBT person has succeeded another in the House of Representatives.

One would think that all those victories put our com-

munity on solid ground. But the reality is that we lost more than we won on down-ballot races – races for lower-profile offices. As a result, several key protections for our community could now be in jeopardy.

Throughout Wisconsin on Nov. 6, progressives lost their bids for the state Senate. Most notable was incumbent Jessica King’s loss to Rick Gudex in the Oshkosh/Fond du Lac area. That loss, along with Tom Tiffany’s victory in the 12th Senate District, gives the Republicans a 17-15 advantage in the Senate.

There also is the problem of a pending special election to fill the seat vacated by Sen. Rick Zipperer when he accepted a position with Gov. Scott Walker’s administration. His district, which is consistently a deep shade of red, likely will produce an 18-15 edge for Senate Republicans.

What does that mean for

Wisconsin’s LGBT community? All we can do is prepare to play defense in order to protect what we have obtained. It definitely prevents us from playing offense in pushing for complete equality.

As we go into a bi-annual budget year, the statewide domestic partner registry could be in jeopardy. Many Republicans, including Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch, are on record citing tough economic times as a reason the state can no longer afford the registry.

Our efforts to expand the 1982 law that banned discrimination based on a person’s sexual orientation to include transgender citizens will have to wait. And work toward full adoption equality for same-sex couples likely will be at a standstill for the next two years.

As a community, we had a lot riding on this election. Although we are – and should be – celebrating the

historic victories at the top of the ballot, we have a lot of work to do on the state level. Our engagement in political activity must continue beyond this election year and evolve into a year-round effort to hold our elected officials accountable.

During his bid for re-election, Barack Obama asked you if you were “in.” Now it’s my turn to ask you to stay “in.” Stay involved with community organizations, stay involved with your advocacy and continue to ask what you can do to make our community better.

We are Wisconsinites, our will is strong and our commitment is true. By remaining united we can make sure we don’t lose the rights we have fought so hard to obtain.

*Jason Burns is executive director of Equality Wisconsin, a Milwaukee-based LGBT advocacy group.*

# Election 2012 brings milestones, mandate for LGBT equality

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Election Day brought milestones and mandates that send the United States forward on a path to furthering LGBT equality, advancing health care for all, protecting women's reproductive freedoms and expanding the middle class.

Coast to coast, voters turned out for the Nov. 6 general election to deliver progressive victories:

- The re-election of Barack Obama and Joe Biden to the White House.
- The legalization of same-sex marriage in Washington, Maryland and Maine.
- The defeat of an anti-gay ballot measure in Minnesota.
- The election of the nation's first openly gay candidate to the U.S. Senate and of six out candidates to the U.S. House.

There were more victories and, even in defeat, progressives could cheer Election Day results – consider how close arch-conservative Michele Bachmann came to losing her congressional seat in Minnesota.

"It's an equality landslide," trumpeted Chad Griffin, president of the Human Rights Campaign.

He added, "When the history books are written, 2012 will be remembered as the year when LGBT Americans won decisively at the ballot box. The dreams of millions of fair-minded Americans were realized as discrimination crumbled and equality prevailed."

## VOTING 'I DO'

Voters on Nov. 6 proved that a president and vice

president could come out for legalizing same-sex marriage and not commit political suicide. They also showed that such endorsements could help secure gay marriage rights in the states.

In 2004, voters approved anti-gay marriage amendments in 13 states. In 2008, voters in California approved an anti-gay marriage amendment, Proposition 8, which ended same-sex marriages in the state with the largest LGBT population in the country.

And, just last May, voters in North Carolina overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment – similar to the proposed federal amendment endorsed by Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan and the Republican National Party – banning recognition of same-sex marriage and defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman.

Soon after that vote, Biden and then Obama spoke out in favor of same-sex marriage – for the president this was a reversal of prior positions after "evolving" on the issue.

The tide then was turning. By the end of the summer, multiple state Democratic Party chapters, including Wisconsin's, had endorsed same-sex marriage and, at the Democratic National Convention in September, delegates adopted a marriage equality plank.

Meanwhile, the coalition working for marriage equality – especially in states facing ballot measures on Election Day – expanded and strengthened. Longtime supporters in the black and Latino civil rights communities

## Romney doesn't support a single LGBT initiative but he had one gay GOP group's endorsement and another's 'qualified' endorsement.

became more visible in the campaigns and more vocal in support.

On Nov. 6, voters in Minnesota rejected the kind of anti-gay amendments that has passed in 30 other states and that the U.S. Supreme Court could decide this month to review in its 2013 term.

Richard Carlborn of Minnesotans United for all Families said, "Minnesota proved that love is bigger than government. Minnesota has become the first state in the nation to beat back a freedom-limiting amendment like this."

Voters in Maine, Maryland and Washington voted for questions affirming the legalization of gay marriage.

Same-sex couples can begin marrying on or about Dec. 6 in Maine, on Jan. 1, 2013, in Maryland and on Dec. 6 in Washington.

In Maryland and Washington, voters affirmed legislation passed and signed earlier this year.

In Maine, voters showed a change of heart from just a few years ago, when they vetoed a same-sex marriage measure.

"We proved that voters can change their hearts and minds if we tell our stories and give our fellow citizens a personal connection to the countless families whose lives are impacted by this debate," said Matt McTighe, manager of Yes on 1, Mainers United for Marriage.

On other ballot questions, voters:

- Legalized recreational marijuana in Washington and Colorado and medical marijuana in Massachusetts.
- Approved a measure in Maryland intended to guarantee Dreamers, the children of undocumented immigrants, the same in-

state tuition costs other Maryland students pay.

- Rejected a voter ID proposal in Minnesota.
- Defeated anti-abortion measures proposed in Florida and Montana.

There were progressive losses on several questions – including a proposal to amend the constitution to protect collective bargaining rights in Michigan and to abolish the death penalty in California.

The "vote against ending the death penalty is greatly disappointing and a strike against our common humanity," said Rea Carey of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, which contributed to the campaign. "We have long known that innocent people die under the death penalty, that it does not deter crime, and that it is disproportionately applied to people of color and poor people. These are among the many reasons to oppose the death penalty, which is also considered a fundamental human rights violation under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

Still, after Election Day, Carey said, "We've turned a corner and we're not going back."

## CHANGING FACE OF CONGRESS

Looking at the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, there was no shift in party power – Republicans held onto the House and Democrats kept the Senate.

The majority in the Senate is not filibuster proof, but Democrats gained a couple seats and a record number of women – 20 – will serve in the next Senate.

"This is a welcome development given how many direct attacks on women we've witnessed during the



PHOTO: JAY BAKER/MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

**Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, D, attends an event to encourage support for legalizing same-sex marriage in his state.**

campaign season," Carey noted, with specific references to Republican Todd Akin, who lost his Senate race in Missouri to incumbent Claire McCaskill, and Republican Richard Mourdock, who lost his Senate race in Indiana. "The war on women is clearly losing."

Set to serve in the new Senate is Democrat Tammy Baldwin, a U.S. representative who defeated former Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson. Baldwin is the first female senator from Wisconsin, as well as the first openly gay person elected to the upper chamber.

Wisconsin state Rep. Mark Pocan, who is openly gay, was elected to Baldwin's congressional seat. He'll serve in the House along with openly gay incumbents Jared Polis from Colorado and David Cicilline from Rhode Island, as well Kyrsten Sinema from Arizona, who is openly bisexual, and Mark Takano from California and Sean Patrick Maloney of New York, who are openly gay.

Out candidates Nicole LeFavour in Idaho and Richard Tisei in Massachusetts lost their congressional bids. Tisei, the lone openly gay Republican for Congress, said in a statement, "It's been the experience of a lifetime."

"There is no substitute for citizen involvement in building a better country. I encourage every American to get involved, stay involved and make a difference," he added.

## FORWARD IN THE WHITE HOUSE

Richard Tisei's sentiment was shared by Mitt Romney, who, in his concession speech in Boston, urged peo-

ple to get beyond "partisan bickering and political posturing" and work for a better America.

Romney, who doesn't publicly support a single LGBT civil rights initiative, had the full endorsement of one gay GOP group and the "qualified" endorsement of another, the Log Cabin Republicans. But polling showed the candidate had relatively little support among LGBT voters. One survey found that Obama enjoyed about 77 percent of the LGBT vote in the general election – up seven points from 2008. Another showed the support among LGBT voters at 90 percent for the president.

So, on election night, when major news media said the president had won the electoral votes in Ohio and was certain to be re-elected, rejoicing took place in public squares, plazas and circles and in LGBT neighborhoods in New York City, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Chicago and Los Angeles.

"The LGBT community is particularly elated to return the most pro-equality president ever to a second term," said Griffin. "There is no doubt that we will continue to see tremendous strides forward like we've made during his first four years with our ally-in-chief back in office."

Early on Nov. 7, delivering his victory speech in Chicago, the "ally-in-chief" urged a united United States. "I believe," he said, "we can keep the promise of our founding – the idea that if you're willing to work hard, it doesn't matter who you are, or where you come from, or what you look like, or who you love."

## ON THE CALENDAR

**Dec. 6 (maybe):** In Maine, gay marriage becomes legal 30 days after the governor affirms the election results, which comes about 10 days after their certification by the secretary of state. That sets the date, at the earliest, as Dec. 6.

**Dec. 6:** Gay marriage becomes legal in Washington.

**Jan. 1:** Gay marriage becomes legal in Maryland.

**Jan. 2:** 113th Congress is sworn into office.

**Jan. 6 (tentative):** Joint session of Congress to count Electoral College votes.

**Jan. 20:** Official presidential Inauguration Day.

**Jan. 21:** Public presidential Inauguration Day ceremony

– L.N.



# Acceptance Journeys

# Imagine More

**What if** you weren't afraid to come out to your family?

**What if** your family loved you unconditionally?

**What if** your family and friends didn't refer to your partner as your friend?

**What if** your gender or your partner's had no bearing on your right to be parents?

**What if** you felt comfortable with who you are all of the time?

**Imagine even more.**



Adam, Fran, and their 3 moms

Discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people contributes to our different levels of physical and mental health problems. The stress of social exclusion hurts us as a community and as individuals.

Things can get better for each of us. **But we must imagine more.**

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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Maria and family

## Multi-year campaign aims to encourage one player to come in each league

**ATHLETES** from page one

Neither is the “last closet” a reference to the women’s pro leagues, where there have been a number of out athletes, including Sheryl Swoopes, the first player to join the WNBA and a three-time MVP sometimes referred to as “the female Michael Jordan.”

The “last closet” is a reference to the barriers keeping gay men from coming out in professional team sports, the three-lettered powerhouse leagues – the NBA, NFL, MLB, NHL and MLS. The Last Closet campaign that launched earlier this fall estimates that more than 50,000 athletes have played on pro U.S. teams since the days of the Chicago White Stockings. The number who have come out publicly while still playing? Zero.

The campaign, headquartered in San Francisco, developed out of a documentary project by Woman Vision. The filmmakers were curious to know why no male player in the top five major sports leagues had come out publicly while still in the game. As they searched for answers, they found reluctance in the sports world to even discuss the question.

So, the Women Vision/The Last Closet production team launched an activist campaign to help bring a gay sports hero out of the closet and, along the way, educate against homophobia in sports. The campaign is as planned out as a sports season when contract negotiations don’t cause disruptions.

Each phase of the effort “targets entities that can effect change at their unique level,” says Fawn Yacker, The Last Closet project director.

Through December, The Last Closet is urging fans to write letters to NBA commissioner David Stern, NFL commissioner Roger Goodell, MLB commissioner Bud Selig, NHL commissioner Gary Bettman and MLS commissioner Don Garber. All five men refused interviews for the documentary.

As WiG went to press, about 1,100 people had emailed, faxed or tweeted the commissioners to ask them to endorse the campaign, talk about homophobia, invite gay players to come out and think about creating a support system for those athletes.

“We want to have this as public record, on camera,” Yacker says.

“When leaders speak up on record, it alters the culture within the sport,” she adds. “They set the tone. Commissioners have in many cases levied fines for homophobic verbal abuse. This is a great step forward. When athletes know the consequences of their actions, it may begin to alter habitual behavior. What is needed, however, are commitments from these leaders to continue to move forward.”

In addition to encouraging fans to write, The Last Closet is encouraging elected officials to join the effort. The first result of that push was a resolution from the San Francisco Board of Supervisors asking commissioners “to take part in The Last Closet campaign.”

The next stage in the campaign, January to March 2013, involves lobbying team owners. They “have great power within their teams to effect change,” Yacker says.

The campaigners have an ally in at least one former owner and influential newspaperman. Kevin McClatchy, a prior owner of the Pittsburgh Pirates and current chairman of the McClatchy Company board, came out as gay earlier this year, saying he didn’t want to continue living a dual life at 50. He told The New York Times that homophobic remarks he heard in sports had convinced him to stay in the closet for years. “I don’t think they equate breaking the color barrier with Jackie Robinson to, ‘Hey, by the way, we’ve never had one player announce they’re gay while playing baseball.’”

From April to June, The Last Closet campaigners will focus on reaching sportswriters and broadcasters. The campaign roster already includes Outsports.com co-founder Jim Buzinsky, former San Francisco Chronicle sports writer Gwen Knapp, former Times columnist Robert Lipsyte, and ESPN writer LZ Granderson.

Through the summer and beyond, The Last Closet will focus on lobbying players, followed by sponsors, coaches, managers, agents, retired stars, public relations staff and front office personnel. In this push, the activists already have allies in Rick Welts, the former CEO of the Phoenix Suns who came out as gay in 2011; Patrick Burke, the president of the You Can Play project and a scout for the Philadelphia Flyers; and Howard Bragman, the world-renowned publicist who helped Swoopes, Esera Tuaolo and John Amaechi

**‘When leaders speak up on the record, it alters the culture within the sport.’**

come out.

The Last Closet’s timetable ends in June 2015. Might there be an out gay athlete on a pro team by then?

“Did the Giants sweep the Tigers for the World Series,” asks Hanson Merriwether of Detroit, a baseball enthusiast and gay rights activist. “Same answer.”

Merriwether and a legion of other gay sports fans have been petitioning professional sports teams to make “It Gets Better” videos against anti-LGBT bullying and to host LGBT fan nights, as well as encouraging prompt penalties for athletes who make hate remarks or take anti-gay actions.

“The response, in my opinion, has really been very good. The leagues are changing,” says Merriwether. “Of course there are homophobes playing and watching sports, but there are also racists and anti-Semites and just plain idiots. There always will be. They are everywhere. But you know, ‘It Gets Better’ applies to professional sports. I think there’s an athlete out there right now who is probably seriously thinking about coming out. I really believe that.”

Some of the progress has to do with pros coming out in their retirement to talk about the homophobia they endured as players, including football player Tualo, baseball player Billy Bean and umpire Dave Pallone. All three are promoting The Last Closet campaign.

### STRAIGHT ALLIES

Progress also has to do with the explosion of straight athletes who have joined the national push for LGBT equality, including Ravens linebacker Brendon Ayanbadejo, retired New York Ranger Sean Avery, NFL Hall of Famer Michael Irvin, NBA Hall of Famer Charles Barkley, NBA all-star Steve Nash, retired New York Giant Michael Strahan, Cleveland Brown Scott Fujita, former NBA star Isiah Thomas, and, perhaps most famously, Vikings punter Chris Kluwe.

Kluwe became a poster athlete for the NOH8 campaign promoting marriage equality and was a big opponent of the anti-gay marriage amendment on the Minnesota ballot, which went down to defeat on Nov. 6.

Kluwe has heard the arguments that a “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy is best for pro sports because openly gay men could hurt morale and threaten locker room security. Asked about that, he’s scoffed. “Isn’t that the shallowest kind of thinking: that all of a sudden if a gay comes out, he’s going to be staring at you?” he recently told The New York Times.

Kluwe says he welcomes an openly gay teammate, as does Tampa Bay Buccaneers rookie Doug Martin – the new fantasy foot-



PHOTO: ADAM BOUSKA/COURTESY NOH8 CAMPAIGN

**Rick Welts, former Phoenix Suns CEO, came out as gay in 2011.**

ball favorite who recently told Outsports.com that if a teammate came out, he would “accept it and just go along with our business.”

Much has changed in sports since 1979, when outfielder Glenn Burke, who was out to teammates, retired from the show. Burke played for the Los Angeles Dodgers, where general manager Al Campanis offered to pay for a honeymoon if Burke married a woman, and for the Oakland Athletics, where manager Billy Martin often called him a “faggot.”

Earlier this year, Oakland fans honored the ballplayer, who died in 1995 of AIDS-related illness, with a plaque in the Oakland Coliseum. The Green Stampede, a group that promotes baseball, celebrates the A’s and tutors youth, hosted the event that featured lots of high-fives – the hand-slap that Burke is credited with innovating.

“Glenn Burke was 30 years too early,” says Bay Area gay rights activist and Oakland fan Freddie Parsons. “His life ended sadly, but I think a gay player who came out now would make it, would make history too. It won’t be easy, but it wasn’t easy for Jackie Robinson or Monte Irvin or even Hank Aaron six years after them. And it hasn’t been easy for gay actors or politicians or soldiers.”

Activist/fan Merriwether says, “It’s going to take bravery, no doubt. But that’s what the best athletes are. The greatest are the bravest, the boldest. Personally, that’s why I think we’re going to see the first to come out in baseball.”

Take that as a major league challenge to the NFL, NBA, NHL and MSL.

Yacker says she wants to see an out gay athlete in each of the big leagues.

“Over 85 percent of the population considers themselves sports fans,” she says. “One athlete saying the words ‘I’m a pro athlete and I’m gay’ would make a world of difference to LGBT youth who are struggling with their self-acceptance. It would also do what Jackie Robinson did for race in pro sports – it would change perceptions of gay people.”

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## World AIDS Day



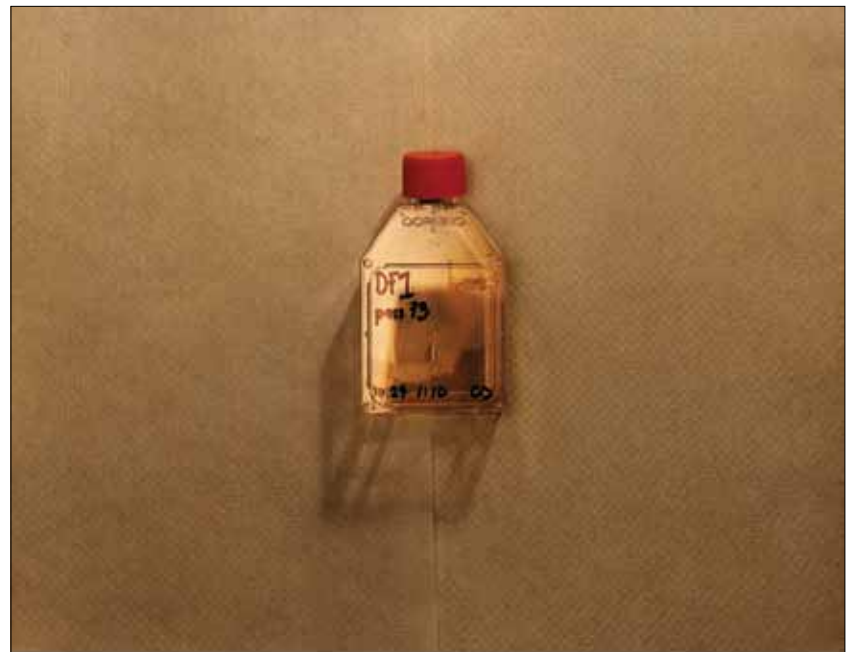
HIV in 2012: Hidden and Unfamiliar

**Saturday, December 1, 2 PM**

The Milwaukee Art Museum, AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, and Joseph Pabst present a special panel discussion on HIV and AIDS, featuring Ronald S. Johnson, Vice President of Policy and Advocacy of AIDS United. *The event is free and open to the public.*

*Taryn Simon: Live HIV*

**On view December 1-9**



TARYN SIMON

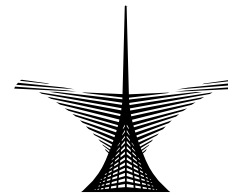
*Live HIV, HIV Research Laboratory, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts*

*This flask contains Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) that is infecting human peripheral blood mononuclear cells and replicating. It will be used to study the neutralizing potential of antibodies against HIV, in both individuals infected with the virus and participants in vaccine studies. The HIV Vaccine Trials Network was formed when the federal government reorganized its HIV vaccine research program in 1999. It is a division of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.*

*There are no documented cases of anyone infected with HIV developing sterilizing immunity. More than 42 million people worldwide are infected with HIV. At the current rate of infection, experts predict that 90 million people will be HIV carriers by 2010. A new infection occurs approximately every 10 seconds.*

2006/2007

Chromogenic color print, 37-1/4 x 44-1/2 inches framed (94.6 x 113cm), Ed. of 7



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*Taryn Simon, Live HIV, HIV Research Laboratory, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, 2007. Purchase, with funds from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Johnson and Pabst LGBT Humanity Fund given in memory of Robert Johnson. Photo © Taryn Simon. Courtesy Gagosian Gallery.*

## REGIONAL BRIEFS



Tom Hanley

PHOTO: COURTESY/MILWAUKEE  
LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER

### CENTER NAMES TOM HANLEY DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING, OPERATIONS

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center named Tom Hanley as director of programming and operations. The former principal of Golda Meir School, Hanley is a familiar face at local LGBT events and a contributor to community nonprofits and causes.

"Tom has a reputation as a strong leader and facilitator of excellent teams," said Karen Gotzler, the center's interim executive director. "He brings great ideas and enthusiasm to the position."

Hanley's responsibilities encompass oversight of the center's daily operations, including supervision of paid staff and volunteers.

"I am very excited for the opportunity to help develop an organization that operates effectively, efficiently and with

unmatched accountability, in order to provide additional program offerings that are of high interest and importance to a broader LGBT community," Hanley said in a statement to the press.

The center, which was teetering on the brink of financial collapse a year ago, is undergoing a dramatic turnaround under new leadership.

Other recently announced new staffers include Syd Robinson and Carmen Barnes.

Robinson serves in the new position of communications coordinator. He comes to the center as a member of AmeriCorps, a program run by the national group Public Allies. The program selects aspiring community leaders to develop their professional skills at nonprofit organizations.

"Identifying as a transgender man has not always been easy, especially at the workplace," Robinson said in a press statement. "Now that I feel totally comfortable in my surroundings, with my co-workers, and with my fellow Allies, the sophistication of my productivity has increased by being free to be my whole self. This positive change has shown through my work and I've already jumped into some new developments that are happening at the center. This is a very exciting time for me."

Carmen Barnes has joined the center's staff as a youth program coordinator. Barnes has 15 years of experience providing support to both adults and children struggling with addictions.

### JANESVILLE CITY COUNCIL APPROVES PARTNERSHIP MEASURE

The Janesville City Council on Nov. 12 approved a measure extending domestic partnership benefits to city and library employees and their partners.

The vote, according to Fair Wisconsin, was 6-1.

Janesville is the hometown of U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan, the GOP's vice presidential candidate on the Nov. 6 ballot.

Katie Belanger of Fair Wisconsin issued a statement shortly after the vote. She said, "This decision marks an important victory for fairness. Janesville's vision for creating an inclusive and welcoming workplace makes them a leader in our efforts to build a more fair and just state for all Wisconsinites."

Belanger thanked the city council, specifically Councilmembers Sam Liebert and Russ Steeber, who co-sponsored the measure.

"We are very proud to have worked with the Janesville City Councilmembers over the last year to support their efforts to make Janesville a fairer place to live and work," she said.

"Providing domestic partner benefits and creating a more inclusive workplace is a critical step toward building a stronger, more diverse workforce that will lead Janesville and Wisconsin in the years ahead."

Other governments providing partnership coverage to their employees include the State of Wisconsin, the



PHOTO: DAVID LAUERSDORF

### NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL

A crowd packed Milwaukee's Jackalope Lounj, 345 N. Broadway, on Nov. 8 to celebrate the launch of the Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce. Pictured at the event are Jay Williams, deputy director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs; Jason Rae, executive director of the Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce; Paul Fairchild, president and CEO of Cream City Foundation; Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele; and Cream City Foundation board members Jason Plowman, Terry Coughlin, Susan Davis and Jose Milan.

cities of Appleton, Racine, Eau Claire and Manitowoc, city and county of Milwaukee, and Marquette University.

### WISCONSIN GROUP CHALLENGES CHURCH'S TAX- EXEMPT STATUS

A Madison-based group that advocates the separation of church and state is taking on the bishops of the Catholic dioceses of Green Bay and Madison.

The Freedom From Religion Foundation is challenging the Green Bay diocese's

tax-exempt status after Bishop David Ricken urged parishioners to vote against candidates who support abortion or gay marriage.

Ricken, in October, wrote on diocesan letterhead that abortion rights and gay marriage are "areas that are 'intrinsically evil' and cannot be supported by anyone who is a believer in God. ... A well-informed Christian conscience does not permit one to vote for a political program that contradicts fundamental contents of faith and morals."

He continued, "But what

does this have to do with the election? Some candidates and one party have even chosen some of these as their party's or their personal political platform" and to vote for such a candidate or party "means that you could be morally 'complicit' with these choices which are intrinsically evil. This could put your own soul in jeopardy."

Madison Bishop Robert Morlino wrote a statement titled "Official guidelines for forming a Catholic conscience in the Diocese of Madison."

An attorney for the Freedom From Religion Foundation has written to the Internal Revenue Service, saying the letters were attempts to influence the outcome of the vote and constitutes illegal electioneering from a tax-exempt group.

The Green Bay diocese issued a statement saying the bishop "wrote his letter out of his love and concern for the people."

— From WiG reports

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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY PLANS THANKSGIVING POTLUCK

The Milwaukee LGBT community's annual Thanksgiving potluck takes place at 5 p.m. on Nov. 24 at Plymouth Church, 2717 E. Hampshire St., Milwaukee.

Sponsoring organizations will provide turkey, ham and vegetarian lasagna. Guests are asked to bring a dish to share.

Sponsors include Black & White Men Together, Equality Wisconsin, Galano Club, Lesbian Alliance, Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church, Plymouth United Church of Christ and SAGE Milwaukee.

### UWM HOSTS SEX AND GENDER SPECTRA PROGRAM

The UW-Milwaukee LGBT Studies Program hosts the "Sex and Gender Spectra" conference Nov. 28-Dec. 1.

The event includes discussions, presentations, exhibits and film screenings that "address a variety of topics related to sexuality and gender variance, including intersexuality, androgyny, gender transition, the multiplicity of sexes and sexualities in world cultures, gender policing, Milwaukee's LGBT history, gender-variant youth and education, DIY queer media and anti-discrimination laws protecting trans gender people."

For more, email [sexandgenderspectra@gmail.com](mailto:sexandgenderspectra@gmail.com).

### GIRLS ON THE RUN OF GREATER MILWAUKEE SPONSORS 5K

Girls on the Run of Greater Milwaukee holds its first outdoor 5K Turkey Trot at 11 a.m. Nov. 18, at Greenfield Park, 2028 S. 124 St., West Allis.

Scholarships provide support for girls to participate in GOTR's youth development program, which "combines an interactive curriculum and running to inspire self-respect and healthy lifestyles in pre-teen girls."

The race begins at 11 a.m. at Greenfield Park and a Kids Fun Run starts at noon.

For more, go to [gotr-milwaukee.org](http://gotr-milwaukee.org).

### KENOSHA MUSEUM CELEBRATES SUSTAINABLE SHELTER

The Kenosha Public Museum, 5500 First Ave., Kenosha, hosts the "Sustainable Shelter: Dwelling Within the Forces of Nature" exhibit through Dec. 30.

The exhibit offers the chance to explore "the amazing diversity of animal and human houses and discover the impact of our homes on the environment."

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

### GSAGE PLANS HOLIDAY PARTY

The Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools/GSAFE holds a holiday party on Dec. 5 begin-

ning at 5:30 p.m. The party takes place at the home of a board chair in Madison.

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

### MILWAUKEE NOMINATED FOR BLOOMBERG PRIZE

Mayor Tom Barrett announced in early November that Milwaukee is a finalist for the Bloomberg Philanthropies' Mayors Challenge to create model programs to improve city life.

Milwaukee was selected for its HOME GROWN plan to transform foreclosed properties into community assets that improve public health and spark economic opportunity. The city owns nearly 4,000 vacant lots and foreclosed homes that will be designated for urban agriculture, urban homesteading and other uses.

Milwaukee is competing against 19 other cities for a \$5 million grand prize or one of four \$1 million prizes.

### MILWAUKEE ARTISTS GROUP RESTRUCTURING

In early November, the Milwaukee Artist Resource Network Board announced plans to restructure to "increase efficiency and further the MARN mission."

Changes include the elimination of the executive director post and reassigning the ED duties to board president Pamela Anderson and other board members.

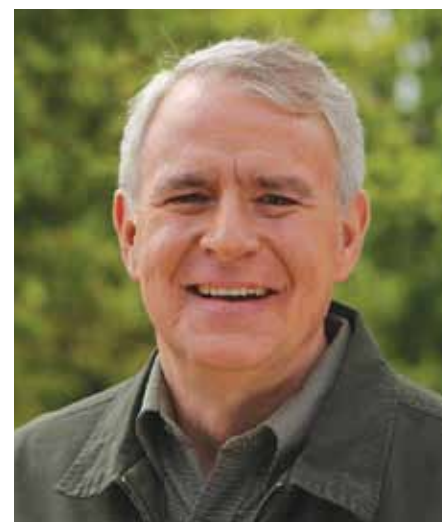


PHOTO: COURTESY

### Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett.

Outreach manager Liz Carr will oversee day-to-day operations.

Anderson said, "We are excited to embark on a new chapter of MARN's history and restructure in a way that allows us to better adapt to changes in arts funding and feedback from members and partner organizations."

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

- LN.

Send community briefs to [lmneff@wisconsin-gazette.com](mailto:lmneff@wisconsin-gazette.com).

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The exhibition is organized by the American Federation of Arts and English Heritage. It is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities, with additional funding from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. In-kind support is provided by Barbara and Richard S. Lane.

Milwaukee Presenting Sponsor: **BMO** **Harris Bank**

Thomas Gainsborough, *Mary, Countess Howe*, ca. 1764 (detail), Kenwood House, English Heritage; Iveagh Bequest. Photo courtesy American Federation of Arts.



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# WIGOUT!

WISCONSIN GAZETTE ENTERTAINMENT



## The best of Wine & Dine Wisconsin 2012

**By Michael Muckian**

*Contributing writer*

Did you know that duck fat is healthier for you than other animal fats? That 36 percent of the state of Washington is composed of basalt, a mineral base formed from cooling volcanic lava? That mold is a desirable part of salami production?

Those were just a few of the things we learned at the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's Wine & Dine Wisconsin 2012, the two-day food and libations celebration presented Nov. 10-11 at the Delta Center in downtown Milwaukee. The fourth annual gustatory festival was designed to entertain, educate and satiate foodies, oenophiles and hopheads of all stripes. And there was no shortage of opportunities to eat, drink and learn.

Wine & Dine by the numbers included 7,000 participants over the two days; 200 wines poured from more than 30 wineries; 175 craft beers; and 40 different food vendors, of which 14 were cheesemongers. Here are some of the highlights of our visit.

### WHY A DUCK?

When it comes to fall seasonal foods, few offer more potential than duck, according to chef Sami Fgaier, owner of Le Personal Chef in Madison and opening presenter on the Chef's Stage. Fgaier, one of 29 chefs to appear on the show's four presentation stages, prepared roasted duck breast and celery root puree served with a champagne beurre blanc.

Place your freshly cut meat on a towel before transferring it to the plate in order to absorb excess juices, Fgaier advised. Then grate orange zest into the beurre blanc and champagne mix right before drizzling it over the duck to make your own variation on duck à l'orange. The results were well worth the effort.

### NOW ABOUT THAT BASALT

Wines from Washington state are making their mark and have become especially

popular in Wisconsin, according to Wausau native Cory Braunel, who with his brother-in-law and their wives, all former Badgers, started Dusted Valley Vineyards a decade ago in Walla Walla, Wash. Braunel led a panel of fellow Evergreen State vintners at a separate-fee seminar to introduce participants to their wares.

Basalt, which comprises 42,000-square miles of the state, adds a distinct minerality to Washington wines, which are lighter in body but with no less sophistication than their California counterparts. Washington produces fruit-forward wines in an Old World style, Braunel said, with wines from the Walla Walla Valley rapidly approaching the production capacity and popularity of those from the Columbia Valley, where the state's wine movement began.

### THE BEST COSTS MORE

At \$45 each, Wine & Dine Wisconsin tickets provided attendees with a wine glass, chances to enter numerous raffle drawings, and the opportunity to consume their relative weights in food and drink. But for \$19 more, one could enter Critic's Choice, a curtained-off area that provided an even larger wine glass and samples from Milwaukee's top restaurants. As you might expect, this is where the chefs' talent really shone.

Our favorites included the foccacia with Golden Bear pork belly and green garlic jam from Braise; the roasted parsnip soup with wild Portobello mushrooms, white truffles, brown butter, thyme and chives from Sanford; lamb meatballs served with savory orzo salad from Bacchus; the black bean and mushroom burger from Café Manna; and the Amaebi and Nantucket scallops ceviche with pickled serrano peppers, citrus and radish from Harbor House.

Critic's Choice had an ample selection of high quality beers, but when we visited wines were in short supply. Missing vendors are something we noticed throughout the show.

### THE CHEESE ISLANDS

We're not called Cheeseheads for nothing, and a good cross-section of Wisconsin's 115 cheesemakers were represented in the Cheese Islands, three circular displays where talented artisans could have their "whey" with the state's favorite milk by-product. It takes 10 pounds of milk to make one pound of cheese, we learned, and many of the selections proved to be cow juice well spent.

Once again, we had our favorites: The Moody Blue is a small-batch cheese smoked over fruit wood fires. Vintage Van Gogh, an aged Gouda, showed that Roth Kase USA is one of the state's – if not the country's – best cheesemakers. Fourth-generation, family-owned Sartori from Plymouth included its award-winning SarVecchio Parmesan among the many finely aged cheeses it presented.

Sugar Brook Farms from Verona offered two spreads – cranberry almond and pumpkin spice – that will raise the level of any holiday celebration. Clock Shadow Creamery, Milwaukee's only cheesemaker (located in Walker's Point in the "shadow" of the Allen Bradley clock tower), offered fresh, succulent cheese curds. And Renard's Cheese from Algoma served one of the show's most compelling choices, a mild cheddar that snapped with the spicy flavor of cracked black pepper.

### COUSINS IN FERMENTATION

Despite rumors to the contrary, beer is a better match to cheese than wine. The same holds true for cured meats. All three draw on different strains of yeast to achieve perfection, something we leaned in "Three's a Pair," the best of the extra-fee seminars and one of the show's highlights.

Representatives from the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board and beer distributor Great Brewers joined Scott Buer, owner of Milwaukee-based Bolzano Meats, to pair some of the world's best beers and the state's best cheeses with Bolzano's artisan salami. The results, in many cases, were remarkable.

Of the six trios two stood out: New Holland Imperial Hatter IPA, a hoppy Michigan beer, paired with Roelli Dunbarton Blue, a Stilton style produced in Shullsburg, Wis. These were offered with Bolzano Pamplona Runner, a Spanish-style salami noted for its "bloom" of mold during the production process. All three demonstrated strong, piquant characteristics that performed collaboratively rather than confrontationally on the palate.

The other exceptional trio included North Coast Old Rasputin Imperial Stout from California, the Sartori Espresso Bellavittano and Bolzano Figgy Pudding, a salami containing bits of dried figs. The coffee notes in the cheese and beer provided a strong undercurrent for the sweet-and-salty salami.

Our favorite individual components from other pairings included Timmerman's Strawberry Lambic, one of the few true Belgian fruit beers fermented with wild yeast and boasting flavors both sweet and tart, and North Coast Brother Thelonious, a strong abbey-style ale redolent of figs and raisins. Among the cheeses we favored Marieke aged Gouda from Holland Family Farms in Thorp.

We liked all of the Balzano salamis, but were partial to Pig Red, a spice-free salami made from the rare Red Wattle heirloom breed, known for its pure flavor. And we especially liked the RaunchZweibel, made from the Hereford pig, another heirloom breed, and cured with smoked sea salt.

### LESSONS LEARNED

We learned survival skills for next year:

- Sunday's crowd was smaller and better behaved than Saturday's. But there also was a drop-off among vendors.
- Plan your visit in advance. There is much to see and do, taste and sip.
- You can accumulate an ample supply of glassware. We accumulated a set of 12 mixed varieties, and that was without trying to slip any glasses past the guards at the Stella Artois "Best of Belgium Café."



# A meatless Thanksgiving to say grace over



**By Michael and Jean Muckian**

*Contributing writers*

For most people, Thanksgiving is a gustatory romp that revolves around a plump, steaming turkey with all the trimmings. But we've found that side dishes are bountiful in and of themselves. Add a touch of creativity and you will never even miss the overgrown Butterball.

If you're one of the growing number of health-conscious and merciful people crying "fowl!" over factory-farmed turkeys, there are many meatless alternatives for your feast.

Thanksgiving was first celebrated in fall of 1621 by the English settlers of Plymouth

Colony in what is now Massachusetts and the neighboring Wampanoag Indians as a way to celebrate the harvest before the cold winter set in. A three-day affair, that first Thanksgiving did not list turkey as the main attraction. Instead, the menu included deer, seal, swan and lobster – all of which were locally available.

Like today's celebrations, however, the meal also featured bushels of produce, the bounty of a successful harvest season. Bright yellow squash, deep green Brussels sprouts, nutty wild rice, a diversity of tomato and potato varieties, orange pumpkins, crimson cranberries and much more passed across

the table between the Pilgrims and their new Native American friends. That's the part of the menu we tapped for our meatless Thanksgiving meal.

We started with a black bean and pumpkin soup – a slight variation on a traditional recipe. We puréed the beans with chopped tomatoes and onions, minced garlic, pumpkin, vegetable broth and a host of spices, including salt, pepper and ground cumin. A tablespoon of butter can be added to this mixture or dropped for vegans. The soup is vibrantly rich with a satiny smooth texture.

Since we made the side dishes the central focus of our dinner, we chose several that were both substantive and complementary. Our selections included a mushroom and caramelized shallot strudel, vegetarian stuffing with cranberries and, as our "entrée," baked squash stuffed with wild rice and cranberries.

The strudels, wrapped in phyllo dough, were a delightful mix of mushrooms, shallots, breadcrumbs and fresh and dried herbs, including parsley, salt, black pepper and thyme. We sautéed the filling in olive oil, and we included a little sugar, sour cream and sweet Marsala wine in the mix. We wrapped it all in phyllo dough and baked for 20 minutes, creating a dish both sweet and savory.

The vegetarian stuffing with cranberries followed much the same flavor profile. We sautéed diced red onion and celery and whole cranberries in butter and oil, poured in vegetable broth and brought the mixture to a boil. Then we added it to a bowl of breadcrumbs and wild rice, stirred in two eggs and added salt, pepper, kidney beans and freshly minced sage and thyme.

In the past we've made stuffing with pork sausage and chorizo, but the meat was never

missed in this year's mix, which was a more interesting and satisfying collection of flavors and textures.

The stuffed squash, the most ambitious of the dishes, was next.

We found several recipes, but tapped the highlights from two of them (see next page). We also substituted larger festival squash for the acorn variety, making the dish much more substantial.

The squash was rich and flavorful and the stuffing mix added significant character and texture. We used fresh Wisconsin cranberries rather than dried ones, which added a tart sweetness to a mix made crunchy by the black, long-grained Minnesota wild rice. We chose walnuts over the pecans largely due to their woody flavor, which stood out boldly from the stuffing.

Over the past few years, we've sampled several heritage turkeys, heirloom varieties that are organically raised, free-range birds of infinitely better flavor than today's varieties.

Americans will consume upwards of 46 million turkeys on Nov. 22. Ninety-nine percent of them will be factory farm-raised birds who are a year old or less when slaughtered. Each will have lived in an average 3.5 square feet of space and never have experienced the sun or the outdoors.

The cramped, filthy conditions under which these turkeys are raised requires massive dosing with antibiotics to keep them free of infection. They're fattened artificially using growth hormones. You ingest the drugs and the hormones along with the stuffing.

But after our meatless Thanksgiving dinner, we may never go back to the bird again.

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## R E C I P E S

## Stuffed squash with wild rice and cranberries

(from *The Boston Globe*)

Serves 6

### Ingredients

3 acorn or festival squash (about 1 1/2 lbs. each), halved lengthwise and seeds removed  
 2 tablespoons olive oil  
 salt and pepper  
 1 cup wild rice blend (wild and long-grain white rice)  
 2 cups water  
 1 cup dried cranberries  
 One-half cup walnuts, toasted  
 2 tablespoons fresh chopped sage  
 6 tablespoons maple syrup  
 2 tablespoons butter



### Instructions

Set oven at 400 degrees. Brush the cut sides of the squash with 1 tablespoon of olive oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Place cut sides down on a rimmed baking sheet. Roast for 25 minutes, or until soft. Leave the oven on.

In a medium saucepan combine rice, water and the remaining 1 tablespoon of olive oil. Bring to a boil, lower the heat, and simmer for 10 minutes, or until the water is absorbed and the grains are tender. Remove from the heat.

Stir in cranberries and set aside for 5 minutes. Stir in the walnuts and sage.

Brush the cut sides of the cooked squash with maple syrup. Divide the stuffing among the halves. Top each squash with some butter.

Roast for 10 minutes or until the filling is hot.

## Roasted acorn squash with wild rice stuffing

(from [www.chow.com](http://www.chow.com))

### Ingredients

3 medium acorn squash (about 1 1/2 lbs. each), halved lengthwise and seeds removed  
 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted  
 1 tablespoon packed dark brown sugar  
 1/2 medium yellow onion, finely chopped  
 2 medium shallots, finely chopped  
 4 celery stalks, finely chopped  
 1 tablespoon minced fresh thyme leaves  
 2 cups cooked wild rice mix  
 2/3 cup pecans, toasted and finely chopped  
 1/4 cup dried cranberries, finely chopped  
 1 teaspoon kosher salt, plus more as needed  
 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, plus more as needed



### Instructions

Heat the oven to 450 degrees and place a rack in the middle.

Place the squash cut-side up on a baking sheet, brush 1 tablespoon of the melted butter over the tops and insides of the squash halves, sprinkle with the brown sugar, and season with salt and pepper. Roast in the oven until just fork tender, about 25 to 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, place 1 tablespoon of the melted butter in a large frying pan over medium heat. When it foams, add the onion, shallots, and celery, season with salt and pepper, and stir to coat. Cook, stirring occasionally, until just softened, about 6 minutes. Stir in the thyme and cook until just fragrant, about 1 minute.

Remove from the heat and stir in the rice, pecans, cranberries, and measured salt and pepper.

Divide the rice filling among the roasted squash halves (about 1/2 cup for each) and drizzle the remaining tablespoon of butter over top. Continue roasting until the squash is completely fork tender, the edges have started to brown, and the filling is heated through, about 20 to 25 minutes.

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# Steven Spielberg's 'Lincoln' is as monumental as it gets

Film

DAVID GERMAIN  
AP MOVIE WRITER

The task of encapsulating the essence of Abraham Lincoln in a single film took Steven Spielberg roughly three times as long as it took the 16th president to win the Civil War, abolish slavery and put the country on the course to recovery.

Creating such a historical epic may not compare to the colossal task of saving a bloodily divided nation. But by Hollywood standards, "Lincoln" is as monumental as it gets, even for a couple of multiple Academy Award winners as Spielberg and the man he chose to play the president, Daniel Day-Lewis.

Born in Britain, Day-Lewis had to think about Lincoln not only as a towering historical figure, but also as a foreign statesman whose portrayal would be a sensitive matter for U.S. audiences that revere the president.

"Because of the nature of the iconography surrounding his life and the extent to which he is mythologized and carved in stone, it's very difficult to imagine that one could ever approach him, to get close enough," Day-Lewis said in a recent interview alongside Spielberg.

"I was very shy about the idea of taking on this. Plus, I like working here. I've been tremendously privileged in being able to work in this country over the years. The idea of desecrating the memory of the most-beloved president this country has ever known was just

**An early draft of the screenplay, written by out playwright Tony Kushner, was 550 pages and dealt with a divided house not too dissimilar from today.**

kind of a fearful thing to me," said Day-Lewis, who earned best-actor Oscars for "My Left Foot" and "There Will Be Blood."

Spielberg had long considered a film about Lincoln. He did not want to tell the whole life story, from Lincoln's rail-splitting days as a youth to his assassination right after the war ended.

He also did not want to make a Civil War film loaded with grand battles or tell the story of a war through one man's eyes. Spielberg already had done similar stories set in World War II with "Schindler's List," the Holocaust saga that won him best-picture and director Oscars, and "Saving Private Ryan," the combat epic that brought him his second directing trophy.

His approach began to coalesce in 1999 when he met with historian Doris Kearns Goodwin, who was



PHOTO: COURTESY

Daniel Day-Lewis as Abraham Lincoln.

in the early stages of writing her mammoth book "Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln," a detailed chronicle of the unlikely alliances Lincoln formed with political opponents who initially considered him an unqualified upstart.

Her book traced the careers of Lincoln and his three competitors for the 1860 Republican presidential nomination and followed his White House years during the war through his assassination five years later. The notion of a politician turning bitter rivals into supporters and facilitators struck Spielberg as the ideal way to present the spirit of Lincoln.

Spielberg acquired film rights to Goodwin's book when only a few chapters had been written. As Goodwin labored away on the writing, Spielberg had to condense what would become a 950-page account into a story that could play out on the screen in two and a half hours.

An early draft of the screenplay by out playwright Tony Kushner ("Angels in America") ran to 550 pages.

"It was a miniseries, not a motion picture," Spielberg said. "Brilliant pages, but certainly not a single motion picture or any practical motion picture. But from all of those pages, what stood out to me and really was shockingly apparent was almost the nexus of his entire existence as the president, which was abolishing slavery by a constitutional amendment, the 13th Amendment.

"And that to me became the

focus that I wanted to put all of our efforts into, telling that story. Because to see Lincoln at work, with his sleeves rolled up, with all the murky machinations of legislating a bill with a divided house not too dissimilar with what's happening today, and not too dissimilar to what was happening when we first sat down to tackle Doris' book."

So "Lincoln" takes its cue from the last couple of chapters in Goodwin's book, playing out from January to April 1865, as Lincoln marshals his allies in the seemingly impossible task of passing the amendment while negotiating peace — without letting one jeopardize the other.

"Lincoln" co-stars Sally Field as the president's forceful, high-strung wife, Mary Todd Lincoln; Joseph Gordon-Levitt as their oldest son, eager to enlist in the Union Army; David Strathairn as Secretary of State William Seward; and Tommy Lee Jones as firebrand abolitionist congressman Thaddeus Stevens.

Political veteran Seward had been the Republican front-runner in 1860, but the nomination went to dark horse Lincoln — a backwoods lawyer who had served just a single term in the U.S. House and lost two campaigns for U.S. Senate. Lincoln brought many opponents into his presidential fold, including Seward, whom he chose as secretary of state, "not unlike Barack Obama did with Hillary Clinton now as our secretary of state," Spielberg said.

Goodwin's study of the unlikely alliances Lincoln formed was critical to Day-Lewis' approach to capturing the character of a leader who

used his soft-spoken gifts as storyteller and raconteur to disarm critics and coax them toward his way of thinking.

"The central premise of that book is terribly important in the clue that it gives you to the temperament of that man, who could set aside what for all of us might be a sense of wounded pride or a sense of dignity that's been bruised in some way," Day-Lewis said. "He knew that he was regarded with almost complete contempt by most of those people that he appointed, and yet he could see beyond that, and it wasn't with the rather petty-minded platitude of 'keep your enemies close.'

"It was more to do with a generous understanding of what the value of those individuals was at a vital time."

"Lincoln" opened in limited release Nov. 9 and opens nationwide Nov. 16.

Spielberg knew he would be doing interviews leading up the election and that the story of Lincoln's "house divided" would draw comparisons to the gridlock in federal government today.

"But we all made the conscious decision to come out after the election for no other reason than Lincoln has his place," Spielberg said. "Lincoln is relevant to all of us today, but he had his place and he had his time, and we wanted Lincoln to have his place and his time outside or just after the election cycle."

On the Web: [thelincolnmovie.com](http://thelincolnmovie.com)



# Sykes-style: Out to celebrate 4 more years

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Out actor, comedian and Emmy Award-winning writer Wanda Sykes was feeling "quite relieved," following President Barack Obama's re-election.

"It's nice to know that we have a president in the White House and not the robot (Mitt Romney)," she joked. "I was a little nervous."

Sykes said she was concerned, in the event of a Romney victory, how America would maintain "the robot."

"Are we going to oil the robot, does the robot have to power down, how long does it take you to wind the robot up if there's a crisis?" she asked.

The 48-year-old Sykes is famous for such trenchant humor. She sparked controversy for her hilariously scathing performance at the 2009 White House Correspondents' Dinner. Right-wing pundits were outraged by her joke that Rush Limbaugh could have been the 20th hijacker on 9/11, but he was too strung out on Oxycontin to make his flight.

"People on the right think I'm some loud-mouthed black dyke," Sykes said.

But the remarks at the dinner "definitely put me on a bigger platform," she added. "People around the world watched the correspondents' dinner, so now more people are aware of who I am."

For many people, particularly LGBT people, Sykes has become a household name. She was a performer as well as a member of the Emmy-winning writing team on "The Chris Rock Show." She's starred in specials on HBO and Comedy Central, enjoyed a successful career in films and had recurring roles in "The New Adventures of Old Christine" and "Curb Your Enthusiasm."

She also authored the 2004 book "Yeah, I Said It."

In addition to entertaining, politics comes naturally to Sykes, who grew up in a political household in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C. Her father was a corporal in the Army who served at the Pentagon.

"Politics was just part of our life," Sykes said.

Sykes said she was inspired by Tammy Baldwin's historic U.S. Senate victory in Wisconsin.

"How beautiful is that? I'm so proud of you guys. That says a lot to me," she said. "We're gaining ground here. Were putting race, gender, sexuality aside and just going with the person, and you can't ask for more than that. It's a beautiful thing."

Although she's a staunch Obama supporter, Sykes described herself as an independent voter who has "voted across the board in some local elections."

Sykes did not focus solely on political humor when her current stand-up tour stopped at The Riverside in Milwaukee on Nov. 10 for one night only. Her unusual life has provided her with lots of other material, she said.



PHOTO: COURTESY

**Wanda Sykes appeared on Nov. 10 at The Riverside in Milwaukee.**

"I'm married to a French woman, I have white babies, I have plenty to talk about," she explained. "(In my home) we've got a clash of culture, language, everything — even age. My wife is 10 years younger. We have a really good time over here. And we drink a lot."

In 2008, Sykes married Alex Sykes, who was introduced to her by a friend two years earlier on Fire Island. Their wedding was held in California, before voters there passed a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

An outspoken equality advocate, Sykes appears frequently at Pride events and LGBT fundraisers throughout the country. Her June 11, 2008, performance at Milwaukee PrideFest was a love fest, with droves of fans standing in the rain to laugh and shout, "I love you, Wanda."

Prior to the Nov. 6 election, Sykes warmed up the nation's LGBT electorate with a couple of political specials for LOGO television titled "NewNowNext." In the second broadcast, which aired the night before Election Day, she issued a Sykes-style challenge to women voters who failed to support Obama: "Don't bitch and whine later when a villain in a black mustache is tying you down to an ultrasound table," she threatened.

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# Written during the Depression, 'The Cradle Will Rock' resonates with today's struggles

## Theater

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

In January 1964, openly gay composer Marc Blitzstein was enjoying a much-needed vacation on Martinique when he made a decision that would cost him his life.

Blitzstein, then 58, decided to winter on the Caribbean island in order to escape the strain of several years of persecution by the House Un-American Activities Committee over his one-time Communist Party membership and the pressure to complete several one-act operas.

After a night of heavy drinking, Blitzstein picked up three Portuguese sailors. Traveling between bars, he coaxed one sailor into an alley for a sexual tryst. The other two followed, and the three sailors severely beat and robbed Blitzstein, leaving him with only his shirt and socks.

Police found the crying composer and took him to a local hospital, but physicians failed to diagnose massive internal injuries. Blitzstein bled to death internally the next night.

Although long past being a household name when he died, Blitzstein had a celebrated career as a classical composer and music commentator. He made his musical debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra at age 21 performing one of Franz Liszt's piano concertos. But it was "The Cradle Will Rock,"

### ON STAGE

"The Cradle Will Rock" runs 11 performances Nov. 16-Dec. 8 at the Mitchell Theatre on the UW campus.

Blitzstein's first and only political "opera," that forged his legacy.

The "play with music," as the composer called it, is the next production of the UW-Madison Department of Theatre and Drama/University Theatre. "The Cradle Will Rock" will run for 11 performances Nov. 16-Dec. 8 at the Mitchell Theatre on the UW campus.

Reminiscent of Bertolt Brecht's work, the musical's tale of corruption, corporate greed and class struggle is as relevant today as it was when it was written in 1937, according to director Norma Saldivar.

"The Cradle will Rock" is an allegory, and there are sentiments in the play that are part of the current political discourse," says Saldivar, director of the UW-M Department of Theater's graduate directing program. "The play asks very hard questions and challenges us."

The narrative revolves around efforts to unionize workers in the fictitious "Steeltown, U.S.A." and to combat the influence of the greedy Mr. Mister, a character who owns just about everything in the community. The dialogue is recitative, meaning it is sung throughout the pro-



COURTESY: UNIVERSITY THEATER

Chris Fachtelketter as Larry Foreman and Stuart Mott as Editor Daily in UW Madison University Theatre's production of "The Cradle Will Rock," running Nov. 16 through Dec. 8 in the Mitchell Theatre.

duction, and the music blends pop and jazz with more complex styles.

"I think of this as a period piece from a time when the world and our country were quite troubled," Saldivar says. "(But) iconic characters like Moll and Mr. Mister are representative of types of people who are still present in our society."

The work was originally created as part of the WPA Theater Project. It nearly

didn't happen, because its themes were considered incendiary and a little too close to home. Produced by John Houseman and directed by Kenosha native Orson Welles, "The Cradle Will Rock" was scheduled to begin previews at the Maxine Elliott Theater on June 16, 1937.

However, WPA shut down the production and padlocked the theater four days before previews were scheduled. The government agency cited budget cuts as the reason, but many felt the show was censored due to its radical content.

Not to be deterred, Houseman, Wells and Blitzstein rented the Venice Theater for June 16, then walked the entire audience 21 blocks from the Elliott to see the performance.

The contracted musicians refused to play unless they received their full salaries, something Houseman could no longer afford, so Blitzstein performed the entire score on an upright piano.

The Actors Equity Association would not allow the cast to perform on stage without approval of the producer, which was the federal government. So many of them performed from seats in the audience.

The work received critical acclaim, and Houseman eventually overcame the legal hurdles and staged the show as it was originally intended. "The Cradle Will Rock" ran for 108 performances. The experience is credited with leading Welles and Houseman to form the Mercury Theater.

"Our production isn't attempting to top that amazing experience of perseverance and determination, but we are using it as inspiration," Saldivar says. "We have a wonderful scenic design that brings the audience closer to the story's action, and we keep the production in the original period because no time is more rooted in struggle."

Despite Blitzstein's sexual orientation, Saldivar sees no

gay subtext in the play. But the director says the struggle of the play's disenfranchised characters to be heard perhaps echoes the composer's experiences as a gay man.

"For me, the heart of the play are the people who are innocent and have no voice or ability to be heard," she says. "I think this can apply to any group seeking to be acknowledged."

The medical needs of Blitzstein clearly were not acknowledged on the night that he died in January 1964. Close friend Leonard Bernstein, who had directed a production of "The Cradle Will Rock" while a student at Harvard, learned of Blitzstein's death in his dressing room as he was preparing to conduct a performance of Beethoven's Symphony No. 3, known as the "Eroica." He dedicated the evening's performance to his late friend.

Blitzstein's personal papers are housed in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin in Madison. For more information, call 608-264-6534.

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## 'Any Day Now' chronicles gay adoption ordeal

PHOTO: COURTESY

Garrett Dillahunt, Isaac Leyva and Alan Cumming in Travis Fine's "Any Day Now."

With films such as Ira Sachs' "Keep the Lights On" and David France's "How To Survive a Plague" drawing solid audiences, 2012 has turned out to be another banner year for LGBT films. The year ends on an especially high note with "Any Day Now," starring out actor Alan Cumming as Rudy, a gay West Hollywood man who must deal with a prejudicial and antiquated court system as he attempts to adopt a boy with Down syndrome in 1979.

Cumming gives the performance of his career and even has the opportunity to sing a couple of numbers in the movie. Written and directed by straight filmmaker Travis Fine, "Any Day Now," which has won several awards at film festivals, has crossover appeal and the potential to be remembered fondly at Oscar time. It's scheduled for general release in December.

I spoke recently with Fine.

**Gregg Shapiro: What drew you to "Any Day Now"?**

Travis Fine: I respond to char-

acters and situations. There was something that drew me to this notion of this outsider trying to raise this child, trying to save this child - the Rudy character and the young boy being outsiders. There was also something in the situation that moved me as a parent.

**Do you know same-sex couples who have adopted or given birth to their own children?**

Absolutely. It's a cliché to say some of my best friends are gay, but I have some very close, dear friends in the LGBT community (and) some of (them) are married, in partnerships, have children.

**The original screenplay that you adapted yours from was set in 1979. Why did you keep that setting?**

First of all, (the original) script was inspired by a real person who lived in Brooklyn in the late 1970s. I felt that to honor this person and this story, it made the most

sense. Also, I'm a huge fan of '70s cinema - the gritty, character-driven dramas of the '70s. I wanted to explore that as a filmmaker, visually and stylistically. From a political point of view, the story would be different in Los Angeles in 2009 or 2012. But as we all know, there are still certain places, even within this country, where the story wouldn't be that much different. There would be some of the same challenges and hurdles and obstacles.

**How important was it for you to have gay actors, such as Alan Cumming, Douglas Spearman and Randy Roberts, in the movie?**

Personally, particularly with the Rudy character, with Alan, I thought it was very important. As a straight filmmaker who had the honor of telling an important, profound and moving story about a chapter in the late '70s of the LGBT movement, it was incredibly important to have Alan take on that role. Not only is Alan a sensational actor, an incred-

Film

GREGG SHAPIRO

ible talent and a wonderful human being, but he's an OBE, an Order of the British Empire, knighted by the Queen for his work on LGBT rights and equality. He is not just giving lip service to equality, he has fought that fight and been a vocal champion and proponent. Could the film work with a straight actor? Of course it could. Just as a gay actor can play a straight character. At times, I would turn to Alan and ask him what his thoughts were and he brought a certain part of his own personal experience to the role.

**Alan's character Rudy sings in "Any Day Now." Is that something from the original screenplay or was it added when Cumming was cast as Rudy?**

It was actually in between the two. It was not in the original screenplay. Rudy was an unem-

ployed hairdresser. When I updated (the) script, there were a number of elements that I changed significantly. The element of singing came out of my desire as a filmmaker to explore it visually. It was a visual thing. I was watching "The French Connection," and there's that great scene in the bar where a woman is singing this song and Popeye Doyle and his partner are looking across the bar at the two bad guys. Those images in those movies stayed with me.

**"Any Day Now" won the Audience Choice Award at the mainstream Chicago International Film Festival. Congratulations.**

(They told me that) I shared the honor with another film. At first, I went, "What you mean we have to share the award? We didn't win it outright?" They said we received the exact same percentage as another film. I asked, "Who's the other filmmaker?" They said, "Dustin Hoffman." I said, "I'll take it" (laughs)!

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# The even NEWER normal

*'The Paternity Test' explores the desires of gays and lesbians to create families – the 'gayby' phenomenon*

## Books

TIM MILLER

Gaybies are popping up all over. Not only do we have our own TV show, but this fall we were lucky to have a new novel from Michael Lowenthal exploring gay male parenting and surrogacy: "The Paternity Test." Amid the familiar stereotypes and slapstick comedy of NBC's hit series "The New Normal," Lowenthal's new novel is a thrilling, funny, sexy and psychologically complex look at a gay male couple and the effort to have a baby to meet their deep yearning for a child and, perhaps, as a way to recommit to their relationship.

Pat is a wavering romantic and, 10 years into his relationship with Stu, he fears they are losing one another in their open relationship. They find a surrogate: Debora, a charismatic Brazilian immigrant married to Danny, an American carpenter, and sparks begin to fly in the most surprising ways. "The Paternity Test" explores how our drive to create new families can complicate the ones we already have.

"The Paternity Test" achieves a generous and capacious take on human hearts, hopes and the many ways we can give birth. I caught up with Lowenthal to talk about my favorite subjects: semen, gay love and what comes next!

**Michael, you are truly hooked up to the Fall 2012 Zeitgeist of the Gayby Boom and surrogacy on primetime TV! What led you to this subject matter?**

I have to say, it feels so odd to be in synch with the zeitgeist. All my life till now I've had my finger right on the pulse of "unpop culture." I've consoled myself with the idea that my work was not really unpopular; it was just – let's say unconventional. But how much more conventional can you get than having an NBC primetime sitcom with the same basic set-up as your novel?

I was drawn to the subject of surrogacy partly from personal experience – seeing friends of mine go through the process, and watching the intense, tricky relationships involved – and partly from a desire to tackle some larger questions about the shifts in gay culture. The gay culture into which I came out was rooted in radical politics; it was about rethinking societal norms, questioning the status quo. And so I've been astonished to see how quickly the gay world has shifted its focus to the most quintessentially mainstream issues, like fighting in the military and getting married, having kids.

Of course I support people's right to do those things, and it enrages me that our government still so flagrantly discriminates



PHOTO: JOHN GRANSKY

### Author Michael Lowenthal.

against gay people. But I'm interested in how gay men especially make the transition. If you've been socialized into a gay world that's about open relationships and no-strings-attached sex, about being defiant outsiders, how does that affect you when you suddenly feel pressure – both internal and external – to settle down and conform to some version of "family values"?

**One of the strongest things in the novel is how deeply you explore the varied calls to parenting that the characters feel. How has parenting moved your own life and relationship?**

I come from a small family. I have one sister (who doesn't have kids) and only two first cousins. My boyfriend is also from a small family where nobody's been procreating. So until quite recently I was never around chil-

dren, and it didn't occur to me to think about being a parent. It just wasn't on my radar screen – not even when I started writing the novel, to be honest.

The first draft of the book was somewhat shallow and bitter, I think, because I didn't take the desire to be a parent seriously enough. Then I started spending more time with my peers' kids, and I also suddenly started getting parental pangs myself. Call it a midlife crisis? And so when I rewrote the novel, I think I was able to imbue it with much more genuine emotion about the desire to be a parent.

**There are so many surprises in "The Paternity Test," so many ways it is opposite from the primetime stereotyping gay minstrelsy of a certain television sitcom. This is especially true in the novel's really**

**charged exploration of sex. There have been very few novels exploring this. Did you feel pressure to be a LGBT parenting advocate?**

"Primetime stereotyping gay minstrelsy" — oh, I love that! I'm going to get that printed on a T-shirt. But no, I most definitely did not feel pressure to be an advocate for LGBT parents, or for anyone. If folks are looking for advocacy or affirmation, they can go to support groups or read Aesop's fables or – well, they can tune in to stereotyping gay minstrelsy. But I don't see that as the role of novels.

**In a strange way, I felt beautifully "tested" myself at the end of the novel to acknowledge my own material around parenting. What do you hope readers will take away from "The Paternity Test"?**

Tim, I hereby anoint you My Ideal Reader, because your response is exactly what I hoped for. Wherever on the spectrum a reader is with regard to questions of parenting, especially gay parenting, I hope to prod that reader into testing his or her position. If you're a defiantly childless gay liberationist who is annoyed by all the conservative-seeming recent emphasis on gay marriage and gay families, I hope you might be led to empathize more with people who've made the choice to start families. If you're a parent who thinks that we'd all be better off if everyone in the gay movement "grew up" and settled down and showed that we're "just like straight folks," I hope you might think more deeply about the genuine differences among people and about what may be lost in this cultural shift. To be honest, what I hope for most is that a reader be left at the end of the novel asking his or her own questions, not mine.

*Tim Miller is a performer and author of the books "Shirts & Skin," "Body Blows" and "1001 Beds." Contact him at [www.TimMillerPerformer.com](http://www.TimMillerPerformer.com).*

### ON THE SHELF

"The Paternity Test," written by Michael Lowenthal and published by Terrace Books/University of Wisconsin Press.

### ON THE WEB

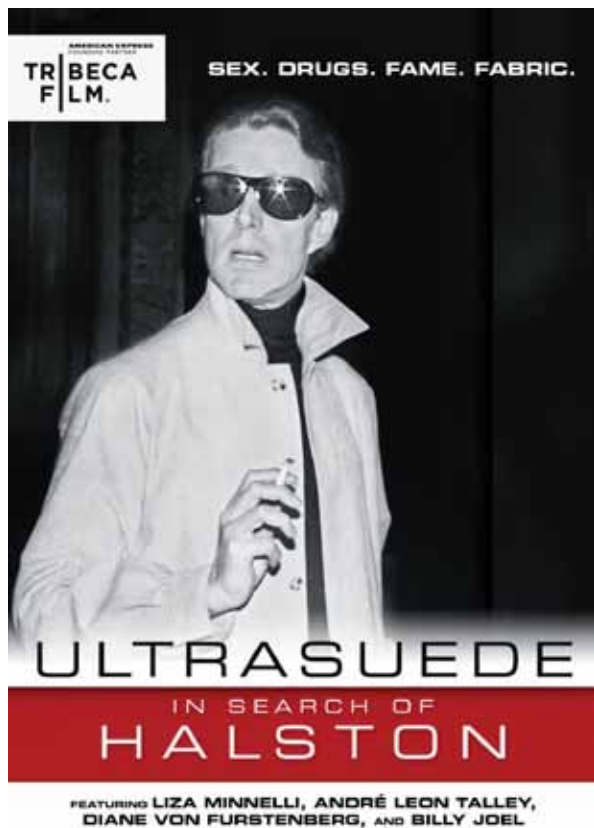
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# Documenting the hedonism of two gay icons

## Screen Savor

GREGG SHAPIRO



### 'ULTRASUEDE: IN SEARCH OF HALSTON'

If you can overlook writer/director Whitney Sudler-Smith's unnecessary and self-indulgent intrusiveness, his doc "Ultrasuede: In Search of Halston" is informative, enjoyable and respectful of its topic. Smith's search includes marvelous period film footage. His interviews with such high profile subjects as (Halston muse) Liza Minnelli, right-wing socialite and impresario Georgette Mosbacher, designers Diane Von Furstenberg, Anjelica Huston, Billy Joel and others provide the fabric as well as the stitching.

The legendary Halston (born Roy Halston Frowick) was one of the greatest fashion designers of the fashion-frenzied 1970s, and his legacy continues. With matinee idol looks and glamour and influence to spare, Halston lived large. He was the kid from the Midwest with whom celebrities wanted to hang out.

A celebrated representative of the excesses of

the '70s and '80s, visionary Halston is credited with many fashion innovations. Ultrasuede, for instance, was a polyester fiber made in Japan that allowed him to marry practicality with luxury. He developed ready-to-wear lines at both Bergdorf-Goodman and JC Penney and opened the first modern couture establishment in America. He is credited with bringing minimalism to fashion. He was a pioneer for (and also a victim of) licensing, as well as a trendsetter in the field of fragrances.

Equally as legendary as his design sense was Halston's love of nightlife. A regular habitué of Studio 54, Halston could count himself among Andy Warhol's entourage. The dinner parties he threw in his stunning Manhattan home also are the stuff of legends. Halston was the king of New York when hedonism was chic.

Unfortunately, Halston was also the king of bad decisions. High on that list was his relationship with artist Victor Hugo. Considered key in Halston's downfall, Hugo

ranks with Minnelli as one of the more colorful personalities in the late designer's life.

Even though Halston died of AIDS complications at 57, his signature lives on. Anyone interested in learning more about the designer and his contributions to culture will enjoy "Ultrasuede." DVD bonus features include a deleted scene, an interview with Smith and more.

### 'FREDDIE MERCURY: THE GREAT PRETENDER'

Rhys Thomas' doc "Freddie Mercury: The Great Pretender" captures the essence of the late Queen front man and music legend Freddie Mercury. An honorable portrait of a talented man who died too soon, the film is packed with a vast array of footage, ranging from live performances to in-studio sessions to interviews from a multitude of sources.

Mercury, a man with the motto "the bigger the better ... in everything," describes himself as "not a John Lennon or a Stevie Wonder," meaning that he wrote about feelings and shied away from politics. Born Farrokh Balsara in Zanzibar in 1946, Mercury had "an upheaval of an upbringing." At art college he realized that he wanted to make his living as musician.

"The Great Pretender" focuses mainly on Mercury's 1985 solo album and its 1988 follow-up — a collaboration with opera singer Montserrat Caballé. The first solo record, released on CBS (Columbia) or "cock, bollocks and satisfaction," as Mercury puts it, was a costly commercial failure. The album was a reflection of Mercury residing in New York at the time and traveling in gay circles.

Mercury lived it up, adopting the clone look, complete with mustache, short hair and tight jeans. He could be anonymously hedonistic in NYC in ways he couldn't be in London. Influences — good (such as disco) and bad (such as his subversive personal assistant and "partner in crime" Paul Prenter) — came into play during this time.

Despite the failure of the first solo disc, good things

were happening for Mercury at the time. Queen's 1985 performance at Live Aid was a rousing success. Mercury celebrated his 39th birthday with a bash in Munich. And during that time, he met his partner Jim Hutton.

But the celebration was to be short-lived. Mercury's HIV diagnosis was, at that time, a death sentence. His public betrayal in the British tabloids also took a toll on him. In typical Mercury fashion, however, he rose to the occasion with an enormous creative burst at the end of his life, including the Caballé recording and the reunion with Queen.

An incredible force of nature and presence, Mercury was, in the end, a shy person who lived with the protection of his persona and overcame everything to become a rock god. DVD bonus features include extended interviews and more.



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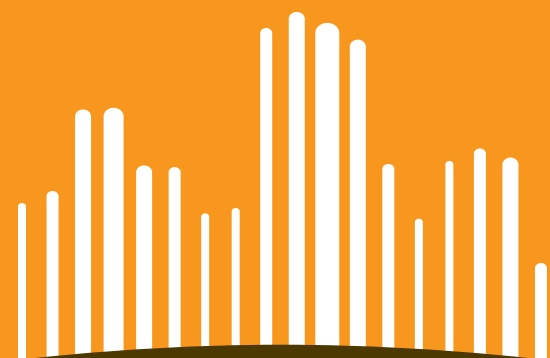
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Al-Anon
- Narcotics Anonymous
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The Galano Club is a 12-step recovery club that provides meeting space for 12-step groups and a place to socialize and enjoy the fellowship of others in recovery. While our membership is made up of primarily gay and lesbian people, everyone is welcome.

(414) 276-6936  
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## ~ ONGOING ~

Soulstice Theatre, 3770 S. Pennsylvania in St. Francis, presents Noel Coward's classic comedy **"Blithe Spirit,"** through Nov. 17. Call 414-481-2800.

Based on the hit 2003 movie, **"Elf the Musical"** runs through Nov. 18 at Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave. in Appleton. Call 920-730-3760.

**"Rock Of Ages"** runs through Nov. 18 at Milwaukee's Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. Call 414-273-2787.

Dennis Krausnick reprises his role as the aging titular monarch in Shakespeare's **"The Tragedy of King Lear"** through Nov. 18 at the UWM Mainstage Theatre, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd. Call 414-229-4308.

Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State in Madison, presents the award-winning musical **"Jersey Boys"** through Nov. 25. Call 608-258-4141.

**"The Diary of Anne Frank"** runs through Dec. 2 in the Quadracci Powerhouse at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.

Boulevard Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic, presents a rare staging of George Bernard Shaw's **"Don Juan in Hell"** through Dec. 2. Call 414-744-5747 or visit boulevardtheatre.com.

**The Pointer Sisters****NOV. 15, THURSDAY**

Still so excited after all these years, **The Pointer Sisters** play **The Northern Lights Theater** at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal, at 8 p.m. Call 414-847-7922.

**Luna Negra Dance Theater** performs Latin-inspired dance at 7:30 p.m. at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center, 608 New York Ave. in Sheboygan. Call 920-458-6144.

The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin, presents the public radio game show **"Wait Wait ... Don't Tell Me"** at 6:30 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Singer/songwriter **Kris Delmhorst** performs at 8 p.m. at High Noon Saloon, 701A E. Washington in Madison. Call 608-268-1122.

A live radio show version of **"It's a Wonderful Life"** runs through Dec. 9 at Next Act Theatre, 255 S. Water. Call 414-278-7780 or visit www.nextact.org.

**NOV. 16, FRIDAY**

Writer/performer Charles Ross' **"One Man Star Wars Trilogy"** lands in Vogel Hall, tonight and tomorrow night at 8 p.m. at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. Call 414-273-2787.

**John Fricke**, a Judy Garland expert of renown, speaks at 7 p.m. in advance of the 8 p.m. screening of the 1944 musical **"Meet Me in St. Louis."** He also leads a Q&A following the movie at the Genesee Theatre, 203 N. Genesee in Waukegan, Ill. Call 847-782-2366.

Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood in Madison, presents musical comedian **Stephen Lynch**, known for singing an ode to "queer tattoos," among other ditties, at 8 p.m. Call 608-241-2345.

Skylight Music Theatre presents Rodgers and Hammerstein's



beloved musical **"The Sound Of Music"** through Dec. 23 in the Cabot Theatre at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

UW Madison's University Theatre presents Marc Blitzstein's path-breaking political musical **"The Cradle Will Rock"** through Dec. 8, in Mitchell Theatre in Vilas Hall, 821 University in Madison.

The Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, 19805 W. Capitol Drive in Brookfield, presents the internationally renowned contemporary dance company **Parsons Dance** at 8 p.m. Call 262-781-9520.

Today through Sunday, the Wisconsin Exposition Center at State Fair Park, 8200 W. Greenfield in West Allis, presents the 69th annual **Holiday Folk Fair International**, featuring ethnic music and dance, global cuisine and an international bazaar. Call 414-727-8840.

Ensemble Theatre presents the **"Are We Delicious?: Bartell Benefit"** at the Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin in Madison. Call 608-661-9696, ext. 1 or visit growingshows.com/reservations.

**NOV. 17, SATURDAY**

Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State in Madison, presents the holiday musical comedy **"Away in the Basement: A Church Basement Ladies Christmas,"** tonight and tomorrow night in the Capitol Theater. Call 608-258-4141.

**Lindsey Buckingham** of Fleetwood Mac fame performs at 8 p.m. at the South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center, 901 15th in South Milwaukee. Call 414-766-5049.

**NOV. 18, SUNDAY**

**Present Music** performs its annual Thanksgiving concert with **Milwaukee Choral Artists, Vocal Arts Academy of Milwaukee** and the **Bucks Native American Singing and Drumming Group** at 4 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint John the Evangelist, 812 N. Jackson. Call 414-276-9814.

**NOV. 21, WEDNESDAY**

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, in collaboration with Madison's Forward Theater Company, presents **"Collected Stories"** by playwright Donald Margulies, through Dec. 16 at the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Linneman's, 1001 E. Locust, presents the 14th annual **"Nod to Bob"** Bob Dylan tribute, a benefit for the Hunger Task Force. Call 414-263-9844.

**NOV. 23, FRIDAY**

Ring in the holiday season with First Stage's production of **"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,"** adapted from the 1964

animated television special and directed by Jeff Frank, through Dec. 30 in the Todd Wehr Theater at Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. Call 414-273-2787.

Still going strong six centuries after it was founded, **Vienna Boys Choir** performs at 7:30 p.m. at the South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center, 901 15th in South Milwaukee. Call 414-766-5049.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the iconic film **"West Side Story,"** the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra performs Leonard Bernstein's score as a newly re-mastered print of the film is shown on the big screen, tonight and tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. Call 414-273-2787.

An eighth season of Comedy Tonight, a four-part series of professional comedy, gets underway Nov. 23-25 with **John McGivern** appearing in **"A Kodachrome Christmas"** at the Racine Theatre Guild, 2519 Northwestern Avenue (Highway 38). Show times are Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m. Call 262-633-4218 or visit www.racinetheatre.org.

**NOV. 24, SATURDAY**

Boldt Arts Alive! series presents **Mannheim Steamroller Christmas** by Chip Davis at 7:30 p.m. at Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave. in Appleton. Call 920-730-3760.

**NOV. 25, SUNDAY**

**The Irish Tenors** bring their Irish holiday celebration tour to Uihlein Hall in the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, at 6 p.m. Call 414-273-2787.

**NOV. 26, MONDAY**

Politically-minded rap act **The Coup** performs at 8:30 p.m. at the Majestic, 115 King in Madison. Call 608-251-2582.

**NOV. 27, TUESDAY**

Hang 10 with surfer Kelly Slater in the IMAX movie **"The Ultimate Wave Tahiti,"** showing at Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 W. Wells. Call 414-278-2702.

**NOV. 29, THURSDAY**

StageQ presents **"The Holiday Stops"** on the Evjue Stage at the Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin in Madison, through Dec. 15. Call 608-204-0280.

Marriage equality advocates Macklemore & Ryan Lewis bring **"The Heist"** World Tour to the Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood in Madison, at 9 p.m. Call 608-241-2345.

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