

DANIEL CRAIG IS NOT JAMES BOND

In a probing interview with the latest – and many say best – 007, Daniel Craig stresses that he's nothing like the iconic spy. For one thing, he's getting older.

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THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

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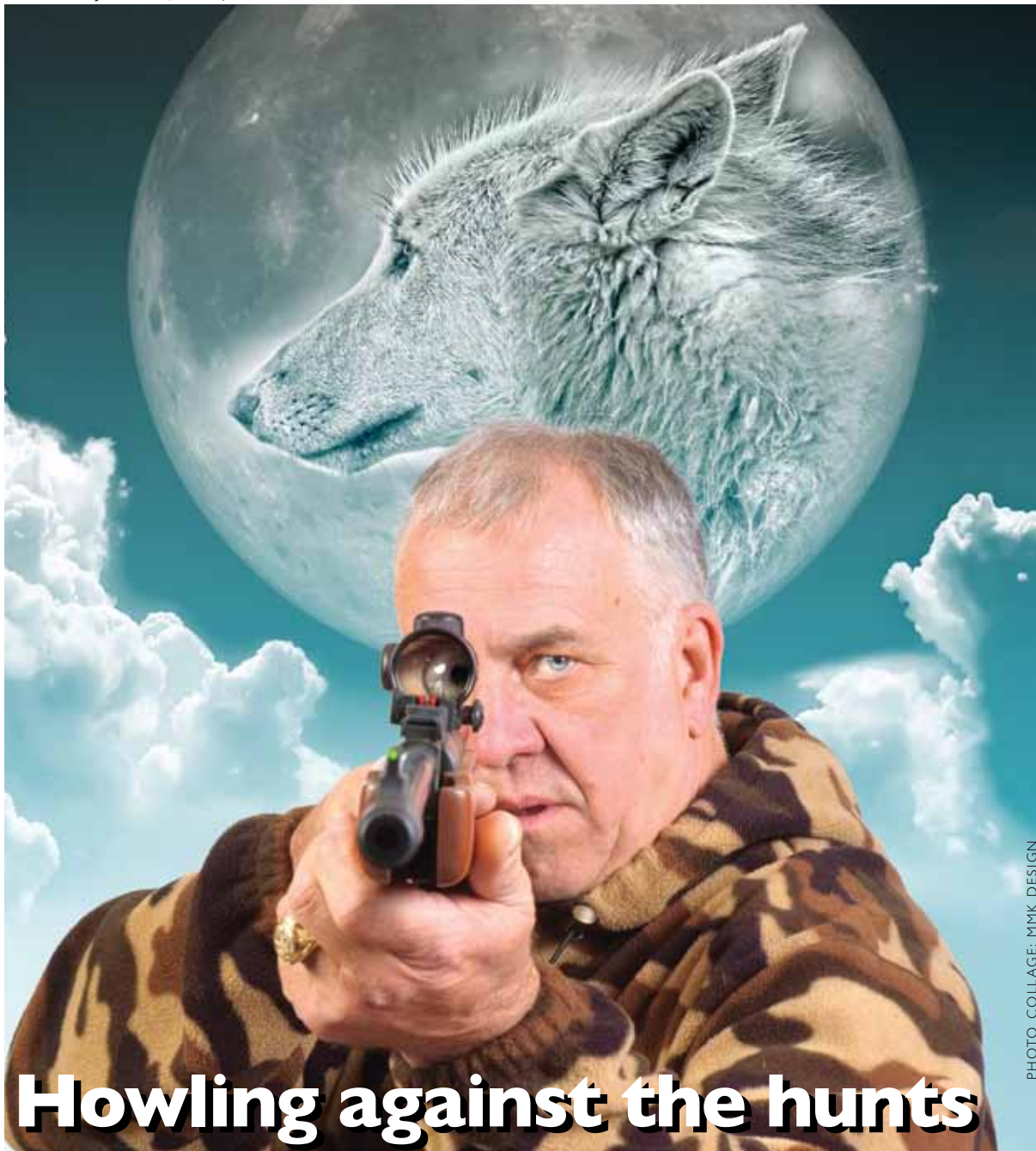


PHOTO COLLAGE: MMK DESIGN

Howling against the hunts

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

After nearly 40 years on the endangered species list, the gray wolf made a comeback in Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin – and now the animals are back in hunters' sites.

Animal rights activists are howling in protest.

The Obama administration in December 2011 de-

listed the wolves in the Great Lakes Region, removing federal protections for the animals and ceding management of the species to the states.

"Once again, the Endangered Species Act has proved to be an effective tool for bringing species back from the brink of extinction," Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said in an announcement of the federal decision. "Thanks

to the work of our scientists, wildlife managers and our state, tribal and stakeholder partners, gray wolves in the western Great Lakes region are now fully recovered and healthy."

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service director Dan Ashe enthused, "Gray wolves are thriving in the Great Lakes Region, and their successful recovery is a testament to

the hard work of the Service and our state and local partners. We are confident state and tribal wildlife managers in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin will effectively manage healthy wolf populations now that federal protection is no longer needed."

But animal rights advocates say they lack Ashe's confidence.

HUNTS page 14

Joe Pabst and MAM refine the art of AIDS awareness

By Debra Brehmer

Contributing writer

Focusing attention on serious issues is a challenge in a culture that seems intent on distracting people from them.

One way that issue advocates fight back is to designate special events, commemorative days and fundraisers that highlight what might go unnoticed: Al's Run, Breast Cancer Awareness Week, World Kidney Day.

It was in this spirit that World AIDS Day was established in 1988 and is honored each year on Dec. 1. Globally, an estimated 42 million people carry HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. In Wisconsin, about 6,500 individuals are living with HIV or AIDS.

The intent of World AIDS Day is to support those living with HIV, remind the public that the virus has not gone away and remember those who have died. But how do we use this vast global initiative to generate

reflection within our local community?

Philanthropist Joseph R. Pabst, an LGBT funder and activist, regularly thinks about that question and has come up with a gently innovative means of marking World AIDS Day in Milwaukee this year.

As Pabst tells it, he was inspired by the work of the internationally known photographer Taryn Simon after seeing her exhibitions at the Milwaukee Art Museum in 2011. The three Simon projects presented by MAM included "An American Index of the Hidden and Unfamiliar" (2007), which documented significant places and objects to which the public normally does not have "the privilege of access," as she puts it. Those ranged from the CIA's art collection to quarantine sites, nuclear disposal sites and prison death rows.

One photograph particularly struck Pabst. It was

AIDS page 7



HOLIDAY STAGES

The holiday season has arrived on Wisconsin stages, with nine versions of "The Nutcracker," eight "A Christmas Carol" productions and an assortment of other fare to make the season gay.

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News with a twist

WIGWAG

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg



STRANDED BY BIGOTRY

Passengers in England were left stranded on a bus when the replacement driver refused to board the vehicle because it brandished a pro-gay ad. The ad, a billboard by the United Kingdom's gay advocacy group Stonewall, contained the words, "Some people are gay. Get over it." The driver said that being associated with a message promoting tolerance for people with same-sex attractions violated the core of his Christian faith.

CONDOM CONUNDRUM

Los Angeles County voters approved a ballot measure on Nov. 6 requiring porn actors to wear condoms while performing. The industry immediately filed a legal challenge to block the measure. But the industry also is preparing to depart the U.S. porn capital

for Nevada or Florida if latex remains the law. Or porn-makers may just move down the freeway to Long Beach or Pasadena. "People forget that porn people are people too," concerned actress Kylie Ireland told AP. "They forget that we have families and we are married and we have kids and we have lives and jobs and hobbies just like everybody else."

NO RITE

The family of a Minnesota teenager says the boy was denied a Catholic confirmation because he posted on Facebook a photograph of him with a sign backing same-sex marriage. Minnesotans recently defeated a ballot measure to add an anti-gay marriage amendment to their Constitution. A priest at the family's now-former church denies the teen was refused confirmation but he can't elaborate because it's an "internal and pastoral" matter.

POLITICAL CASUALTY

A gay Key West businessman, distraught over the re-election of President Barack Obama, took his own life by overdosing on pills. Sixty-four-year-old Henry Smith Hamilton Jr., who owned a tanning parlor, told his partner, "If Barack gets re-elected, I'm not going to be around." Hamilton's business was struggling and he apparently believed the dire warnings from the right that an Obama victory would be devastating for small business owners.

WRONG CARD

A witness in a criminal case against former Republican Party of Florida chairman Jim Greer says prostitutes were at a 2009 fundraiser in the Bahamas attended by Greer, lead-

ing GOP donors and then-Gov. Charlie Crist. Greer has pleaded not guilty to charges of fraud, theft and money laundering in the case, which is likely to go to trial in February. He resigned following revelations that he and his second-in-command charged \$1.5 million on party credit cards, much of it on luxurious hotels, restaurants, chauffeured sedans and entertaining. Then-House Speaker Marco Rubio, now a U.S. senator and rising tea party star, spent more than \$100,000 on a party credit card. Rubio has said he sometimes pulled the wrong card out of his wallet.

PRO-CHOICE WHEN IT'S HIS CHOICE

"Pro-family," anti-choice Republican Congressman Scott Desjarlais of Tennessee, a medical doctor, encouraged his ex-wife to have at least two abortions before their mar-

riage, according to records released in his divorce trial. The trial transcript, obtained by the Chattanooga Times Free Press, also confirms that Desjarlais had a number of unethical extra-marital sexual relationships while serving in a position of medical authority, including having sex with at least two patients, three coworkers and a drug representative. Desjarlais apologized, sort of, saying that he's not perfect.

MARIJ ... WHAT NOW?

Seattle police know their community – and thus were prepared for passage of a ballot measure legalizing marijuana for adults effective Dec. 6. The PD hired an alternative newspaper journalist to write a Web-based guide, "Marijwhatnow? A Guide to Legal Marijuana Use In Seattle." The guide has a question-and-answer structure. For instance, Q: SPD seized a bunch of

my marijuana before I-502 passed. Can I have it back? A: No. Another passage – Q: Dec. 6 seems like a really long ways away. What happens if I get caught with marijuana before then? A: Hold your breath. Your case will be processed under current state law. However, there is already a city ordinance making marijuana enforcement the lowest law enforcement priority.

WESTBORO BAPTIST TAKES ON THE BOSS

The Westboro Baptist Church clan protested Bruce Springsteen's concert in Kansas City, Mo., on Nov. 17 because The Boss supports marriage equality and stumped for Barack Obama's re-election. An announcement for the protest said the entertainment "industry is a microcosm of the people of this doomed nation; hard-hearted, Hell-bound & hedonistic to the max."

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Walker criticized for decision on state health exchange

By Louis Weisberg
Staff writer

Gov. Scott Walker announced on Nov. 16 that Wisconsin will not set up a virtual marketplace connecting consumers with private health insurance plans, joining other Republican governors in ceding control of their states' health plans to the federal government.

Walker's decision was not a surprise given his and the GOP's long opposition to the Affordable Care Act. But a wide array of groups that have supported Walker, including the state's influential chamber of commerce and manufacturers' association, had urged him to have Wisconsin establish its own exchange rather than turning over control to Washington.

Walker said in his letter to the Obama administration that the risks to Wisconsin taxpayers once federal funding dries up were too great.

"In Wisconsin, we have been successful in providing health insurance coverage to

over 90 percent of state residents without the creation of an exchange and absent federal regulation," Walker wrote in the letter to U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius.

In a separate letter explaining his decision, Walker said no matter who sets up the exchange, the federal government will make all the decisions and the product will be the same. He also said the law does not allow for a "uniquely Wisconsin option."

"As a result of our decision, Wisconsin taxpayers and consumers will have access to the same products without the risk of having an extra burden placed on them at a time when they can least afford it," Walker said.

By not setting up its own exchange, however, Wisconsin will lose control over several key decisions on how consumers will be able to compare insurance plans, what plans can be sold through the exchange, what the plans must cover and

their cost.

Additionally, the exchanges will offer coverage to people buying in the individual and small business markets, and those are areas that states have traditionally regulated. Without a state-run exchange, states would undercut the role of their own regulators in an important new market – an ironic path to choose for Republicans, who say they believe in states' rights over federal jurisdiction.

Walker stopped implementation of the law last year on the hopes it would be overturned either by the U.S. Supreme Court or Republicans following the November election. But the court upheld the law in June and President Barack Obama's victory earlier this month ensured the law's survival.

WALKER OPPOSES HIS SUPPORTERS

A broad coalition of groups that are rarely on the same side of an issue urged

Walker to have Wisconsin set up the exchange so it had more control over how it would function. Those groups include Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce, the state chapter of the National Federation of Independent Businesses, health care advocacy groups that support universal health care and the insurance industry.

Among those who disagreed with Walker's decision is Rick Abrams, CEO of the Wisconsin Medical Society.

"We absolutely believe that the state exchange is the way to go, primarily because every state, particularly Wisconsin, is unique," he said. "Having the exchange be uniquely Wisconsin puts us in the best position to try to further reduce the number of uninsured in the state while meeting the specific care needs of the people in the state."

"If it is a federally run system, it is one-size-fits-all," Abrams warned. "I've been in long-term health care representing physicians for over 30 years, and I've learned how localized, how special local health care delivery is. We know how to deliver efficient and effective care in Ashland, Wis. We would think that it's highly doubtful that a federal exchange can be tailored to address such specific needs."

Abrams said Wisconsin has about a dozen "domestically grown" health plans that could have been used to create a state-run exchange. He expressed concerns about the accessibility of health

records among various local providers under a federally run plan.

But Abrams did not criticize Walker's decision, saying "it's clear to us that Gov. Walker's people did their due diligence over the position."

"The governor's concern is that while he recognized in the initial years the federal government would be funding the creation of the exchange, he was concerned what would happen after that – if the federal government would walk away from its commitment," Abrams said.

But Sen.-elect Tammy Baldwin condemned Walker for making what she characterized as a political decision rather than one in the best interests of Wisconsinites.

"The people of Wisconsin sent a clear message that they wanted to move Wisconsin and our country forward by having both parties put progress ahead of politics," Baldwin said in a statement. "I joined others in reaching out to Gov. Walker and made it clear I was committed to working with him to advance health care reforms that work for Wisconsin. Instead of leading and working together to move a 'made in Wisconsin' health insurance marketplace forward, Gov. Walker chose to pass the buck and reject the opportunity to take ownership of this issue."

"I will not let politics stand in the way of progress; that is not what I was elected to do. I remain committed to bringing people together to make health care reform work for Wisconsin. I will work to ensure Wisconsin families

It's an ironic move for a states' rights Republican.

and businesses get what they deserve: a health insurance marketplace that provides affordable and accessible choices, strengthens Wisconsin's economic security, and moves our state forward."

Tea party groups and conservative Republicans in the Legislature had pressured Walker not to move forward with the exchange. Nine Republican lawmakers went so far as to tell the tea party group Campaign for Liberty that they would back legislation to arrest federal officials who took steps to implement the Affordable Care Act in Wisconsin.

Walker announced the state's intent even though the Obama administration had agreed to a request by Republican governors for a month's extension to make a decision.


The Affordable Care Act is expected to provide coverage to more than 30 million people nationwide through the exchanges and expanded Medicaid programs. The Medicaid expansion is voluntary, and Walker has indicated reticence to moving forward with it in Wisconsin.

Abrams expressed hope that Walker's decision is not cast in stone. "It's my feeling that this issue and discussion has not ended," he said.

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Advocates say Illinois on cusp of marriage equality

By Sara Burnett

AP writer

Emboldened by recent victories at the polls and what they see as rapidly shifting attitudes in favor of gay rights, supporters say Illinois is ready to become the next state to allow same-sex marriage.

Voters in four states either supported gay marriage or opposed a ban on it on Election Day — a sweep that Illinois state Rep. Greg Harris, the prime sponsor of a marriage equality bill, said represents “a sea change” in public opinion. Those results have Harris and other advocates counting votes and trying to determine when legislation will pass, not if.

The earliest anything could happen is in the waning days of the post-election lame duck session in early January. Or, supporters could wait until after the new session starts Jan. 9, when Democrats will have supermajorities in the House and the Senate and a governor who has said he would sign the

bill into law.

“We want to do it whenever we have the votes,” said Rick Garcia, director of the Equal Marriage Illinois Project.

But the political realities in Springfield mean ending Illinois’ 16-year-old law banning same-sex marriage isn’t a slam dunk.

In 2010, the state’s civil union bill passed the House by just two votes and the Senate by just one, though Democrats had larger majorities in the House and Senate than they do now.

Lawmakers have a slate of urgent issues competing for their time and political capital, from fixing the nation’s worst pension shortfall to a major budget crisis. Legislative leaders have to weigh how moving gay marriage to the floor will affect those issues, and when the timing might be best.

And as they did with civil unions, opponents will be actively fighting any effort to change the law.

The Catholic Conference

of Illinois, which opposes same-sex civil unions or marriage, is distributing a toolkit to churches and schools that outlines the church’s position that recognition of same-sex relations undermines society.

In 2011, the organization created a new Defense of Marriage Department to lead the charge against changing state laws, and they are lobbying lawmakers.

Supporters say allowing gay marriage would provide practical benefits that same-sex couples don’t get from civil unions, and that marriage is a much more commonly understood term than civil union. It’s also a matter of principle.

“There should be one set of rules for everybody,” Garcia said.

Peter Breen is an attorney for the Thomas More Society, who is representing two downstate county clerks who are defending the state’s gay marriage ban against a lawsuit filed by 25 gay couples. Breen believes same-sex marriage propo-

‘There should be one set of rules for everybody.’

ponents are over-stating the significance of the Nov. 6 ballot measures, which he says were in left-leaning states — Maine, Maryland, Minnesota and Washington — and where gay rights advocates outspent opponents on political advertising.

But advocates hope to prove him wrong.

They note that President Barack Obama came out in support of gay marriage earlier this year — a position that didn’t seem to hurt his re-election bid — and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel recently said it should be one of the state’s top legislative priorities.

In September, a poll for Southern Illinois University’s Paul Simon Public Policy Institute found 44 per-



PHOTO: SETH PERLMAN/AP

Ill. state Rep. Greg Harris, D-Chicago, on the Illinois House floor on Nov. 17.

cent of those polled said they believe gay and lesbian couples “should be allowed to legally marry.” That’s a 10-point increase from 2010, when only 34 percent backed gay marriage in a poll by the same institute.

On Election Day, voters in Lake County elected the state’s fourth openly gay lawmaker, Democrat Sam Yingling, over Rep. Sandy Cole, R-Grayslake — who voted against the civil unions bill. And in exit polls conducted

for the Associated Press a majority of voters in Illinois said the state should legally recognize same-sex marriages.

“A lot of folks were saying, ‘Wait to see how the election turns out,’” Harris said. “Elections do matter, and they show trends, and they can’t be ignored.”

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Grow Great Women nurtures leaders

By Lisa Neff

Kim Loper's roots are in Milwaukee, but she spent her college years as a transplant in Minneapolis. So when she returned to her hometown, she needed to reestablish herself.

Loper found Diverse & Resilient's Grow Great Women to be an organic program to identify, teach and nurture lesbian and bisexual leaders in the Milwaukee community.

Some participants use gardening jargon to describe the program – think of GGW as Miracle-Gro for leaders.

Others, with the project's reproductive justice origins in mind, say Grow Great Women is a prescription for better living – for the individual and the community.

Already a volunteer with

D&R, Loper began participating in GGW in February. "I wanted to get connected to what was happening in Milwaukee," she says.

In GGW, "strong and smart women come together in this space. The thing I most love about it is the sense of mentorship," says the 25-year-old artist and educator. "I feel like I have mentors that I can look up to."

Two such mentors are Brenda Coley and Cathy Arney, co-facilitators of the GGW meetings that take place monthly at Diverse & Resilient, 2439 N. Holton St., Milwaukee, after socializing over a take-out dinner.

Coley is director of special programs at D&R, including GGW, which developed under a grant to address reproductive justice in the

LGBT community and has a major ally in The Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee.

Coley says Diverse & Resilient was looking for ways to engage lesbian and bisexual women in Milwaukee, and the initial grant allowed the nonprofit to do just that. While dealing with the broad issue of reproductive justice, which is about choice, the group is also concerned with economics, homophobia, racism, marriage equality, adoption rights and access to fertility treatments.

Coley says from the start a goal was to have diversity in GGW participation. Many LGBT organizations and institutions have struggled with this goal, but D&R has longstanding and deep connections in the communities that make up the larger

LGBT population.

"From the start we had a diverse group of women," Coley says.

Arney, a vice president at Pathfinders, became involved in GGW as one of those early members. "What drew me to the project was the fact I was going to be in a room with true diversity – in age, in race," she remembers.

Also, Arney says, the invitation to GGW, a pitch from Coley, helped her to realize that she needed to take a leadership role in the LGBT community.

"I had taken a long break," she says. "And I realized I need to be involved in the group. ... It's really important for us to be out there, voicing what we think, voicing what our needs are, being leaders."

GGW participants recognize that visibility is a prerequisite for invincibility. They also recognize that follow the leader is just a kid's game. GGW is an adult program about growing and identifying women leaders.

Women develop goals and a mission as they come into GGW. "They look at the ladder of opportunity in the community. They decide where they want to be on it and how they are going to get there," Arney says.

Coley and Arney prepare an agenda and co-facilitate each GGW meeting, which begins with socializing and dinner and then transitions into discussions and activities. Discussions among the 20 or so women who regularly attend have focused on current events, political affairs, health matters, rac-



PHOTO: COURTESY

Two attendees at the fourth annual Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Health Forum, hosted in October by Grow Great Women, a program of Diverse & Resilient. The forum attracted a diverse group of women to discuss lesbian and bisexual women's health disparities, social determinants of health, reproductive justice and leadership development.

ism, oppression, homophobia, crime, violence and media coverage.

"It's an incredible think tank," Arney says.

Activities can focus on effecting change and improvements.

"Everybody leaves re-energized," says Loper.

Coley emphatically says GGW is not a "support group." Rather, one might describe GGW as an action group.

"It's about turning contemplation of leadership into action," she says. "A leader sees a situation and makes a decision to do something. To lead you have to make a decision ... and a commitment for the long haul."

Arney adds, "Being a leader is having a clear understanding of your own opinion and being willing to voice it in a

public way. It really involves action."

Action comes at the individual level – some GGW participants decide to take leadership roles in other campaigns in the LGBT community, in the women's community and in the broader Milwaukee community.

Action also comes at the group level – GGW has conducted a survey to collect data on intimate-partner violence, sponsors a women of color retreat each year and an annual Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Health Forum, which took place on Oct. 20.

The forum provided an educational opportunity, but also a chance to recruit more regular participants in GGW.

"We want more and more women to engage in the activities we conduct. I see us building a cadre of leaders," Coley says. "Sort of continuing to populate the community. The LGBT community needs women leaders, and the larger community needs women leaders."

Loper says she's working to be among those women and to mentor others. She says Grow Great Women, to return to the garden jargon, is about sustainability and cultivating new generations of leaders.

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Pabst's giving challenges and unites

AIDS from page one

the image of a small flask of live HIV virus, photographed at the HIV Research Laboratory at Harvard Medical School in 2007. Pabst said his initial reaction was, "I want it." But then he realized that he could not only purchase the photograph but also "activate" it within the community. He gifted the 37 1/4 x 44 1/2 inch color print to the art museum with the stipulation that it be put on view every World AIDS Day.

The photograph will be on view Dec. 1-9. A panel discussion with Ronald S. Johnson, AIDS International's vice president of policy and advocacy, takes place at 2 p.m. on Dec. 1.

"HIV is always evolving, mutating. It is constantly on the move," Pabst said. "It is a constant challenge to keep up with it. In this photograph, for one brief moment, it is stopped and you have absolute control of it. It's not running rampant so people can think about it in a differ-

ent way than the molecular view."

The image is meditative. The small, generic flask with its handwritten serial numbers and date seems both insignificant and ominous. It is photographed against a plain background, seen head-on.

The vial casts a slight shadow that propels it into the third dimension, pushing it outward. There are no distractions in the picture. We stand face to face with the clear golden container sealed by a red cap.

The image triggers both caution and allure, the two sides of danger. Mostly, the image speaks of the paradox that something so small can be both containable and unmanageable. Projecting power in the same way as a medieval religious icon, the photograph arrests the viewer in its stark reality and stubborn presentness.

Pabst's brand of philanthropy almost always emerges from a combination of personal, emotional and civic

engagement. He thinks more like an artist or curator than a wealthy check writer. Pabst, who has degrees in art history and design, is able to apply his understanding of art's connective force throughout history to unpack broad issues and unite seemingly disparate communities. In his hands, philanthropy is a creative vehicle for social activism.

A perfect example of Pabst's engaged style of giving is another project that he initiated in 2010 when the Milwaukee Art Museum presented a major quilt show from the Winterthur Collection. The traditional quilts that were displayed spoke of life in the early American Republic through the intimacy of the home. Pabst saw an opportunity to pair that show with nine panels from the Names Project AIDS Quilt.

Both shows used quilting to anchor stories, create community and memorialize people or events. The pairing of these exhibitions

challenged viewers to think beyond the specifics of either show and consider human similarities rather than differences.

"Productive civic work should share more than one purpose," Pabst says. "It should bring things together to create a richer, denser tapestry. Two generations ago, our grandparents simply gave to big organizations like Red Cross or American Lung Association."

Julia Taylor, president of the Greater Milwaukee Committee, says charitable giving has become more "transactional": Today's donors want to know the impact of their giving and be more actively involved in the mission of their causes.

"Joe often sees innovative correlations between things and then brings them together to create more depth and impact," Taylor said. "The beauty of what Joe does is that he takes fairly disparate ideas and sees a new nucleus. He creates a whole new synergy. Also, he creates a way



PHOTO: JOHN R. GLEMBIN

Taryn Simon's "Live HIV."

for everyone to be involved, to share the stage."

Pabst credits his great-great-grandfather as inspiration. The beer baron patriarch would give food baskets to needy families during holiday seasons. But beyond the basic foodstuffs, he also included nuts and chocolates, things that fed the soul as well as the stomach.

The insertion of Taryn Simon's Live HIV photograph into the public eye on World AIDS Day requires nothing in return. It does not ask us to run or walk, solicit dona-

tions or proselytize. This particular act of "activist philanthropy," as Taylor describes it, only asks for a moment of reflection or wonder.

It empowers by staging a context for viewers to think their own thoughts in response to one succinct truth presented by one succinct photograph: 1.8 million people died of HIV in 2010 alone.

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{ Editorial }

Talk of secession reveals lingering rift

Coming so closely after President Barack Obama's re-election, Steven Spielberg's magnificent movie "Lincoln" invites comparisons between the political struggles of the Great Emancipator and those of America's first black president.

Focusing on the 16th president's efforts to abolish slavery via passage of the 13th Amendment, the film details Lincoln's efforts to corral a bitterly divided, amoral and impolitic Congress. The parallels between Lincoln's times and ours surface subtly in out gay writer Tony Kushner' screenplay, which glistens with nuggets of irony.

The political rhetoric of 1865 was every bit as vitriolic as today's – even without the help of Fox News and right-wing hate radio. Then as now, the Bible was used to justify institutionalized prejudice. Bigots repeatedly invoked the "natural order" as evidence that all humans are not created equal and therefore have no right to equal treatment under the law.

During the 2012 presidential election, old, white, straight conservatives aimed their spurious reasoning at the same people targeted in 1865 – those who defy their backward social traditions and their interpretation of God's will. Like today's political right, they fought the creation of an inclusive society that offers equal opportunity to all, and they strove to disenfranchise the dark-skinned and the economically disadvantaged.

The Democrats represented the far right in Lincoln's time. Other than that, little has changed. The former Confederate states remain among the nation's poorest, unhealthiest and worst educated. Religiously inspired bigotry still spews from the pulpits of those states, now known collectively as the "Bible Belt."

The most haunting parallel with Lincoln's times can be seen in looking at a map of the former slave states, which is almost identical to an electoral map of the 2012 presidential election. Perhaps it is no surprise that a number of the former Confederate states have collected hundreds of thousands of signatures petitioning to secede from the United States. Apparently missing the irony, many of the states that collected the most signatures receive a hugely disproportionate amount of money from the federal government compared with what they contribute.

The Civil War was the deadliest conflict in our nation's history. An estimated 620,000 soldiers died from combat, accident, starvation and disease. But significant numbers of people in the former Confederate states would gladly take up arms again to fight against supporters of the nation's first black president, whom they've spent the last four years demonizing as everything from a Hitler to a communist dictator.

The movie "Lincoln" reminds us how far our nation has come in a relatively short time – from the institutionalized slavery of black people to a government led by a black president.

But leaving the theater is a depressing return to reality, to the realization that the political contours of the nation hardly have changed and white rage continues to smolder – now against an even broader array of people.

WiG's WEB PICKS

Some of our favorite recent humor, editorial and otherwise, from the Web.



I can't wait until all the old, white men in Congress inevitably die.



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ON THE RECORD



“It is no secret we had a number of Republicans damage our brand this year with offensive, bizarre comments – enough of that.”

– BOBBY JINDAL, the Republican governor of Louisiana who was once considered a rising star in his party, giving Politico his assessment of the 2012 election.

“The man’s off in a foreign land and he’s lonely and here’s a good looking lady throwing herself at him. I mean, he’s a man.”

– Televangelist PAT ROBERTSON defending Gen. David Petraeus for his high-profile extra-marital affair. Robertson is less compassionate and more scripturally strict when it comes to same-sex relationships.

“Men with low levels of ‘erotic capital’ are systematically marginalized, which can take a real toll both physically and psychologically.”

– ADAM ISAIAH GREEN, assistant professor of sociology at the University of Toronto, reporting the findings of a study investigating the effect that feeling sexually undesirable has on gay men.

“I’m not a prude at all. I shot a very, very graphic scene two days ago with a man. I am from Sweden, and it’s different there. If it makes sense, I’ll just do it. And to me, so far, it’s made sense every single time I’ve got naked or made out on the show.”

– ALEX SKARSGARD telling People magazine about the lack of inhibition he displays in HBO’s acclaimed and frequently homoerotic series “True Blood.”

“The president should get credit for achieving record-breaking turnout numbers from urban areas for the most part, and that did win the election for him.”

– US. Rep. and former GOP vice presidential candidate PAUL RYAN, telling WISC-TV why he thinks Republicans lost the presidential race. The Romney-Ryan ticket also lost in mostly white rural states, including Iowa, New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont and his home state of Wisconsin.

“I don’t fit into the traditional Republican box that the wingnuts who have hijacked my party think all Republicans should. I also don’t believe it’s the government’s role to tell gays and lesbians that they can’t be given the same opportunities in American just because of who they love.”

– MEGHAN MCCAIN, daughter of former GOP presidential candidate John McCain, writing in an op/ed piece for The Daily Beast that she’s considering leaving the Republican Party.

“When I eventually looked in the mirror, I just thought I looked like my gay brother.”

– Actress ANNE HATHAWAY telling the audience at the first preview screening of “Les Misérables” how she felt after having her hair shorn to play Fantine. Her performance is already generating Oscar buzz, even though the film isn’t set for general release until Christmas Day.



PBS has enormous value



Among the many stupid ideas that helped sink Mitt Romney’s presidential bid was his casual proposal to cut funding for PBS.

PBS and children’s advocates jumped in to defend Big Bird, the beloved character from PBS’s long-running “Sesame Street,” and a “Million Muppet March” on Washington was organized. Only a few thousand people showed up for the march, but the battle had clearly been joined.

Republican attacks on PBS, and the shoddy, stupefying quality of supposedly educational programming on commercial networks like History, reinforce my passionate support for public broadcasting. The budget-cutters so anxious to destroy PBS are examples of those who know the price of everything but the value of nothing.

Although outstanding children’s programming would be a big casualty of such

mindless budget-cutting, so would a broader array of intelligent programming in public affairs, science and nature, history, investigative reporting, drama and culture.

Almost all of the most entertaining and informative programming I’ve watched on TV in the past year (except maybe for the Tony Awards and Latin Grammys) has been on PBS.

The most recent PBS triumph was Ken Burns’ new documentary on “The Dust Bowl.” Peter Coyote’s stirring narration over startling still and motion pictures, along with heart-rending testimonies of people who survived the massive dust storms of the 1930s, created a chilling rendering of this man-made catastrophe on the Southern Plains. History does not get any better than this – except for virtually every episode of PBS’ “American Experience!” Tune in to “The Abolitionists” on Jan. 8.

In the past year, “Nova” broadcast two fascinating series called “Fabric of the Cosmos” and “The Elegant Universe,” which explored physics theories that had

this science idiot rushing to look up more info about quarks and parallel universes. Among the many recent delights telecast on the “Nature” series were “An Original DUCKumentary,” “Animal Odd Couples” and “Raccoon Nation.” “Nova” and “Nature” boast imaginative computer graphics and beautiful nature photography. They are visually dazzling, intellectually stimulating and utterly entertaining.

“American Masters” aired wonderful documentaries on writers Harper Lee, Margaret Mitchell and Carl Sandburg, on jazzman Cab Calloway, Johnny Carson, Woody Allen and choreographer Bill T. Jones. My favorite was “Troubadours.” It traced the careers of Carole King and James Taylor and included many memorable performances.

“Frontline” consistently airs hard-hitting exposés about social and political issues, such as “Poor Kids,” a damning portrait of child poverty in America, and “Climate of Doubt,” about corporate forces trying to debunk the reality of climate

warming. I still get the creeps thinking about the horrors presented in “The Meth Epidemic” run by “Frontline” a few years ago.

For 40 years every Sunday night, “Masterpiece” has brought classic novels and contemporary dramas to these shores, treating American viewers to intricate stories and amazing performances by two generations of great British actors.

All of these programs consistently win critical acclaim and industry awards. Viewership for programs like “Sesame Street,” “Masterpiece” “Frontline” and “Antiques Roadshow” is at record levels. The half billion per year that currently funds PBS is equivalent to what we blow in Afghanistan in one week.

I know times are tough, but what we don’t need right now is a further dumbing down of our viewing standards and the elimination of our only option for quality non-commercial TV.

Please tell your representatives that you support PBS, and back that up with a donation to your local affiliate during this season of giving.

A thankful season for Equality Wisconsin



Last week we celebrated one of my favorite holidays – Thanksgiving. For me it’s a simple holiday, with family and friends and lots of food. It’s hard to believe that the sun is setting on 2012, and when I reflect on the past year I realize how blessed we are as a community and how thankful we should all be.

As the executive director of Equality Wisconsin, I am thankful for two people in particular. Kevin Flaherty and his twin brother, Patrick, founded Equality Wisconsin in 2001 and have worked tirelessly as part of the equality movement ever since.

After 11 years, Kevin recently informed the board that he is retiring. As an orga-

nization, we’ve begun the process of preparing for a life after Kevin. But we felt the need to find a special way to say thank you for his service.

At Equality Wisconsin’s annual meeting, we presented Kevin with the 2012 Equality Wisconsin Volunteer of the Year Award. And in honor of all the work that both he and Patrick have put into Equality Wisconsin, the award has been renamed the “Flaherty Volunteer of Year Award.”

Kevin was more than just my board president. He has been and will continue to be a great source of advice, friendship and guidance. His wisdom has gone well beyond his role as president.

With Kevin’s departure many people have asked what’s next for Equality Wisconsin. During our October board meeting, we elected three outstanding individuals to serve on the executive

committee. Brittany Rosales, our new president, brings a wealth of board experience and an energetic attitude that will help continue the unprecedented growth we experienced throughout 2012.

David Marsteller will serve as our board secretary. Since joining the board in April, David and his partner have opened their home for events, attended anything and everything Equality Wisconsin has been a part of, and been cheerful additions to a great team.

Filling out the executive committee is Dan Manning as treasurer. Dan recently moved to Fond du Lac from Kansas, where in 2010 he ran as an out candidate for the Kansas Assembly. In addition to serving our community, Dan served our country in the Army after graduating from West Point.

A special way to say thank you to Kevin and Patrick Flaherty.

I couldn’t be more thankful to Kevin and the rest of the board for believing in me and giving me the opportunity to lead this organization. To the board members new and old: I am in constant awe of your dedication to equality and look forward to working to achieve great things in the future. To the community as a whole, Nathan and I are humbled and honored at the way you have opened your arms and welcomed us to Milwaukee.

It is for these things that I am especially thankful this year.

Violence spurs Transgender Day of Remembrance

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

A report showing an increase of 20 percent in transgender killings in the past 12 months arrived with the international Transgender Day of Remembrance.

The report from the Trans Murder Monitoring Project documented 265 deaths in 2012. Since January 2008, TMP has documented more than 1,000 deaths associated with anti-transgender violence.

Released Nov. 19, the report showed 126 deaths occurred in Brazil. There were 48 known killings in Mexico, 15 in the United States, nine in Venezuela, eight in Honduras, six in Colombia, six in Uruguay and five in Guatemala. TMM reported six deaths in India, five in Pakistan, five in Turkey and four in the Philippines.

The names of those killed were read in many communities in many countries on Nov. 20, the 14th international Transgender Day of

Remembrance.

The annual observance began in honor of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who died on Nov. 28, 1998, in Boston after being stabbed 20 times. Hester's death, still not solved, inspired a series of memorials, including a candlelight vigil on the first anniversary, a web-based program to document violence against transgender people and ultimately the Transgender Day of Remembrance.

"The Transgender Day of Remembrance seeks to highlight the losses we face due to anti-transgender bigotry and violence," said TDOR founder Gwendolyn Ann Smith. "I am no stranger to the need to fight for our rights, and the right to simply exist is first and foremost. With so many seeking to erase transgender people — sometimes in the most brutal ways possible — it is vitally important that those we lose are remembered, and that we continue to fight for justice."

In Wisconsin, a candlelight

vigil took place at Beloit College in Beloit. Programs also took place at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and at Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ in Madison.

Milwaukee's event took place on the eve of TDOR, with support from FORGE, Milwaukee MCC, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, UW-M LGBT Resource Center, SHEBA, Equality Wisconsin, Fair Wisconsin and SAGE Milwaukee.

"While we remember those murdered, we want to celebrate them too," said Fair Wisconsin board members Helen Boyd and Willem Van Roosenbeek in a prepared statement. "We see a transgender community filled with beautiful, engaged and joyful people. We see people in love; we see people with careers and jobs and families and hopes. We see people with aspirations and confidence. What we see when we look around the transgender community is a great deal of

joy. A kind of joy few people have really experienced, this is the kind of joy that comes with relief and with victory not just over the transphobic world we live in, but with the internalized transphobia all of us share, transgender and cisgender alike."

TDOR was observed elsewhere with lectures, workshops, marches, prayer services and readings of the names of the many who have died in the years since Rita Hester's murder.

"With anti-transgender violence on the rise, we remember our colleagues, friends and family whose lives were taken simply because of who they are," said Haddon Graddick, president of GLAAD, which compiled a comprehensive list of TDOR events, as well as published resources on anti-transgender violence. "We must stand together to end the violence, working every day to spread awareness and acceptance of transgender people."

In Washington, D.C., lead-

ing LGBT civil rights advocates met with White House staff to discuss ways to ensure dignity, equality and justice for all people, according to a release from the White House.

The White House statement said, "Throughout America and around the world, many transgender people face bullying, harassment, discrimination, and violence. Far too often, we hear shocking and tragic stories about transgender people who have been assaulted and even killed because of their gender identity or expression. The Obama administration is committed to preventing violence against all people, including all members of the LGBT community, and this meeting was an important opportunity to explore ways to make our communities and neighborhoods safer."

At the meeting, community leaders highlighted a range of issues and concerns of importance to transgender

people.

"In the months and years ahead, we look forward to working to ensure the safety and well-being of all transgender people," said Gautam Raghavan, associate director of the White House Office of Public Engagement. "As we mark Transgender Day of Remembrance and reflect upon the lives that have been lost to violence and injustice, let us all recommit ourselves to ensuring dignity, equality, and justice for all people."



PHOTO: COURTESY

Vigils took place around the world on Nov. 20, which is International Transgender Day of Remembrance.

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Workplace protections are rising dramatically

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

The nation's largest LGBT civil rights group says workplace discrimination protections are the "new normal in the business world."

The assessment comes from the Human Rights Campaign in the newly published Corporate Equality Index, an annual guide to the corporations with the best policies for LGBT workers and their families.

For the most part, the guide examines the policies of larger companies, not small-businesses.

HRC noted a record 252 businesses that completed its survey received a rating of 100 percent and earned a "Best Places to Work for LGBT Equality" distinction. Eleven years ago, when HRC created the index, 13 businesses scored 100 percent.

Wisconsin companies with perfect scores include Foley and Lardner LLP and Rockwell Automation in Milwaukee, as well as S.C. Johnson & Son Inc. in Racine.

The index found that 74 major businesses and law firms publicly supported pro-equality legislation at the state and federal levels, including those that took an active role in the marriage campaigns this fall. That is another record.

Also, 54 new businesses participated, bringing the total to 688. In 2002, the index looked at the policies of 319 companies.

A majority of Fortune 500 companies have non-discrimination policies that cover gender identity, and 84 percent of companies participating HRC's index protect employees from discrimination on the basis of gender expression.

Plus, the number of companies providing transgender-inclusive health care is on the rise – 42 percent of participants compared with 19 percent last year.

With the release of the index came a flurry

of press releases from companies celebrating their scores of 100 percent – from A.T. Kearney to Yahoo.

The law industry earned the most perfect scores, followed by banking and financial services. Two industries, publishing and printing and mail and freight delivery received no perfect scores.

Criteria for the rating includes: providing equal benefits for same-sex partners and spouses; ending benefits discrimination for transgender employees and dependents; demonstrating an organizational competency on LGBT issues; and demonstrating a public commitment to the LGBT community.

Wisconsin companies ranked in the Human Rights Campaign Corporate Equality Index

Foley and Lardner LLP	100%
Rockwell Automation Inc.	100
S.C. Johnson & Son Inc.	100
Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance	90
Robert W. Baird & Co. Inc.	90
Quarles & Brady LLP	85
Manpower Group	60
Wisconsin Energy Corp.	45
Alliant Energy Corp.	50
CUNA Mutual Insurance Group	30
Johnson Controls Inc.	30
Bemis Co. Inc.	15
Harley-Davidson Inc.	15
Kohl's Corp.	15
Oshkosh Corp.	15

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Justices to decide how to handle marriage cases

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

U.S. Supreme Court justices meet privately Nov. 30 to decide how to handle a series of lawsuits on a federal and a state law barring gays and lesbians from accessing marriage rights and benefits available to heterosexual couples.

Proponents and opponents of gay marriage have delivered the High Court seven petitions – one involves a state constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman; the others involve constitutional challenges to the U.S. Defense of Marriage Act, which bars the federal government from recognizing gay marriages now legal in nine states and the District of Columbia.

Perhaps the highest profile case before the court is the challenge to Proposition 8, the ballot measure approved by voters in 2008 that amended the California

Constitution and brought gay marriages to a halt in that state.

The American Foundation for Equal Rights, working with two same-sex couples and a team of conservative and liberal lawyers, has led the legal challenge to Prop 8, which a U.S. district court judge and a federal appeals court declared unconstitutional.

After those rulings and with one last resort, Prop 8 supporters turned to the Supreme Court. If the court does not take the case – *Hollingsworth v. Perry* – gay marriages could resume in California this winter.

If the court takes the case, oral arguments likely would take place this winter or in the early spring, followed by a ruling in early summer. The question the court would consider in *Hollingsworth* is: Does the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment prohibit California from banning marriage equality?

“The updated timeline suggests that we will likely find out if our case will be heard by the nation’s highest court, or if marriages can resume in California, by ... Dec. 3,” said AFER executive director Adam D. Umhoefer. “However, there is no deadline by which the court must act, and the justices could hold the case for consideration at a future conference.”

The other gay marriage cases set for consideration at the Nov. 30 conference include:

- *U.S. v. Windsor*. The Supreme Court, if it hears this case, would decide whether Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act violates the Fifth Amendment’s guarantee of equal protection of the laws as applied to people of the same sex who are legally married under the laws of their state. Section 3 bars federal recognition of same-sex marriages, which means gay and lesbian couples are

denied access to more than 1,000 benefits associated with marriage.

- *Office of Personnel Management v. Golinski*. Section 3 of DOMA again is the focus, with arguments over whether it violates the Fifth Amendment’s guarantee of equal protection.

- *Massachusetts v. Dept. of Health and Human Services*. This case asks whether Section 3 of DOMA violates the 10th Amendment and the spending clause in the U.S. Constitution.

- *Office of Personnel Management v. Pedersen*. This case also raises the question of whether Section 3 of DOMA violates the Fifth Amendment.

- *Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group of the U.S. House of Representatives v. Gill*. The petition was filed on behalf of Republicans in Congress seeking to defend Section 3 of DOMA because the U.S. Justice Department, while it enforces the law, is



PHOTO: AFER

Paul Katami and Jeff Zarrillo are among the couples awaiting word on whether the Supreme Court will hear arguments or let stand an appeals court ruling overturning California’s gay marriage ban. The court was expected to decide how to handle the case after WiG went to press.

not defending it in court. The question before the court would be whether a lower court erred, applying to DOMA a previously unknown standard of equal protection review.

A related but separate question that the court may consider Nov. 30 is in the case *Brewer v. Diaz*. Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer wants the

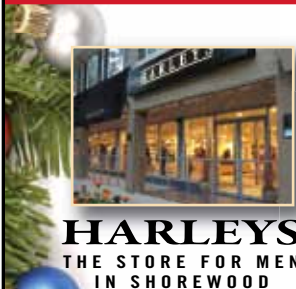
court to consider the argument that an appeals court erred when it said the state violated the equal protection clause by withholding equal benefits to gay and lesbian state employees.

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Storm-wrecked NYC gay youth shelter gets help

From AP and WIG reports

It took only hours for Superstorm Sandy's surging waters to destroy an emergency drop-in center for homeless gay youths. Four feet of water swamped the hallways and rooms, buckling the linoleum floors and caking the electrical outlets with sea salt.

But almost as quickly, a social media outpouring helped raise money for a new, bigger Ali Forney Center to keep helping dozens of young people a day with medical care, counseling and a safe place to sleep.

"I wish every day thousands of people would help get homeless kids off the

street," said Carl Siciliano, executive director of the last-ditch refuge for homeless lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youths. "Too bad it takes a storm to get people to see how bad they have it."

Siciliano founded the drop-in center in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood 10 years ago, naming it after Ali Forney, a gay 22-year-old who was shot to death on a Harlem street in 1997. He had been homeless since age 13, when his mother threw him out.

City officials estimate LGBT youths represent about half the city's nearly 4,000 homeless young people, who sleep outdoors or in city subways, abandoned

houses and even on rooftops. More than 100 would arrive at the center daily looking for support. The city reserves about 250 shelter beds for them, and Ali Forney offers 77 in various places, about 30 of them city-funded.

Even before Sandy, the center had planned to relocate to the 8,600-square-foot Harlem space, which is six times bigger than the original one and will be open 24 hours a day. Paying for the move and renovation was a big challenge – until Sandy came along.

The center, which was evacuated ahead of the Oct. 29 storm, was hit by the same surge of water along the Hudson River that

swamped a power substation and flooded commuter tunnels.

A blogger picked up Siciliano's Facebook posting about damage to the center, and it quickly went viral, tweeted to hundreds of thousands of followers by actors Pam Grier and Joseph Gordon-Levitt.

In the first three days, the center received almost 1,000 donations totaling more than \$100,000. That total

has grown to more than \$250,000 – and counting – with contributions coming from around the world, including England, France, Sweden, Canada and Mexico.

"This shows the power of social media, when prominent people link digitally with a healthy network of people who connect emotionally," said Ryan Davis, a pioneer in using social media in politics and activism who is on Ali

Forney's board.

About \$400,000 is needed to replace what the center lost and prepare the Harlem site, which Siciliano hopes will be up and running by Christmas.

In the meantime, Ali Forney services have been temporarily set up at a nearby community center.

On the Web

Ali Forney Center: <http://www.aliforneycenter.org>

NATIONAL BRIEFS

US BISHOP: WE WON'T GIVE IN ON BIRTH CONTROL

A top American bishop says the Roman Catholic Church will not comply with the Obama administration requirement that most employers provide insurance covering birth control.

New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said church leaders are open to working toward a resolution with U.S. officials, but will meanwhile press ahead with challenges to the mandate in legislatures and in court.

The bishops have fought the regulation since President Obama announced it early this year. Houses of worship are exempt, but religiously affiliated hospitals, charities and colleges are not.

Dozens of Catholic dioceses and charities have sued over the mandate, along with colleges, including the University of Notre Dame.

Meanwhile, the United Nations has declared that access to contraception and family planning services is a universal human right.

PRESIDENT NOMINATES GAY JUDGE TO U.S. COURT

President Barack Obama has nominated William L.

Thomas, an African-American gay man, for the U.S. District Court, along with six others.

"These individuals have demonstrated the talent, expertise, and fair-mindedness Americans expect and deserve from their judicial system," the president said in a statement issued Nov. 14.

Thomas is the nominee for the Southern District of Florida. He has served in Florida's 11th Judicial Circuit since 2005, where he has presided over both civil and criminal matters.

STEAK HOUSE TO PAY FOR SAME-SEX HARASSMENT

New York City's Sparks Steak House will pay \$600,000 and take other steps to settle a same-sex

sexual harassment and retaliation lawsuit filed by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

According to a news release from the White House, the EEOC filed the lawsuit in the Southern District of New York after 22 male waiters were subjected to harassment based on their sex, chiefly by one male manager, over nearly eight years.

The misconduct included the manager groping the buttocks of the male waiters, making lewd sexual comments and attempting to touch their genitals.

Many of the waiters complained to other managers and Sparks' owners, but the harassment did not stop.

— L.N.

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'These are magnificent animals'

HUNTS from page one

"The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service put faith in the state wildlife agencies to responsibly manage wolf populations, but their overzealous and extreme plans to allow for trophy hunting and recreational trapping immediately after de-listing demonstrate that such confidence was unwarranted," said Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of the Humane Society of the United States. "Between Minnesota's broken promise to wait five years before hunting wolves and Wisconsin's reckless plan to trap and shoot hundreds of wolves in the first year, it is painfully clear that federal protection must be reasserted. The states have allowed the most extreme voices to grab hold of wolf management, and the result could be devastating for this species."

For a time, after a long history of attempted annihilation with guns, traps and poison, a forested northeastern corner of Minnesota sheltered the last of the wild wolves in the lower 48 states – about 600 animals. Under endangered species protections and management plans, the animals still occupy less than 5 percent of their historical range.

But protections did allow wolves to repopulate in Minnesota, northern Wisconsin and the upper Michigan peninsula. There are an estimated 4,000 wild gray wolves in the Great Lakes Region – 700 in

Michigan, 850 in Wisconsin and 3,000 in Minnesota.

Less than a year after celebrating the wolf's comeback, a hunt has been under consideration in Michigan and hunts are under way in Minnesota and Wisconsin, where sportsmen, sportswomen and sportschildren are using rifles, bows and arrows, steel leg traps and snares to go after their big game trophy – a regal, wilderness icon integral to a Native American creation story and symbolic of a wild, howling America.

"These are magnificent animals. No one can look at them – in person or in a photo – and say otherwise. Now we've brought them back so that we could start killing them again," said animal rights activist Tracey Baxter, who joined in anti-hunt demonstrations in Madison this fall. "What's next? Spraying DDT on pelicans and bald eagles?"

Despite lawsuits, protests and overwhelming public opinion opposing the recreational activity, hunting is under way with the support of Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton and under the supervision of the departments of natural resources.

"This is a landmark day in Wisconsin," Walker said when he opened the inaugural wolf hunt on Oct. 15. "Thanks to the conservation efforts of wildlife officials and the Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin's wolf

population grow from just a few animals migrating back from Minnesota and Michigan, to healthy and thriving."

In the Badger state, the DNR issued 1,160 licenses to recreational hunters to kill 116 wolves through Feb. 28. Government press releases refer to quotas, harvests and pelts. As of Nov. 24, 95 wolves had been killed.

In Minnesota, the DNR has offered 6,000 licenses to kill 400 wolves – 200 during deer-hunting season, which ended Nov. 18, and another 200 in the season that runs through Jan. 31. During the late season, hunters are using wire snares that loop and tighten around a wolf's neck and steel leg-traps that are baited and can be left unattended for a day or more.

Professional trappers with the U.S. Agriculture Department also are taking wolves outside of the state quotas in an effort to control wolf attacks on livestock.

JUSTIFICATION?

Such attacks, as well as concerns that a rising wolf population will deplete the whitetail deer population, are two arguments said to justify the hunts. There is general agreement on all sides that wolves are not being hunted to protect people.

"We have now reached the point where this public harvest is necessary to maintain a safe balance," Walker stated. "This hunt will ease the burden on state residents, farmers and visitors who have been faced with the loss of livestock and pets. I want to thank all of the hunters and trappers who are participating in this challenging, historic event."

Advocating the hunt, Wisconsin state Rep. Erik Severson, R-Osceola, said, "Farmers and landowners throughout the state want to make sure their livestock, crops and pets are properly protected by having a responsibly managed wolf population."

But opponents say wolves are not significant threats to livestock and recreational hunts actually may weaken wolf packs and increase livestock losses.



PHOTO: COURTESY HOWLING FOR WOLVES

A "Stop DNR Torture" billboard from Howling for Wolves at stopthewolfhunt.org.

"Claims of wolf depredation on livestock are often sensationalized," said the Humane Society's Pacelle.

In Wisconsin in 2011, wolf depredations occurred on 47 out of 7,000 farms, with 63 cattle and six sheep killed.

In Minnesota in 2011, there were 88 wolf attacks on livestock on 80 farms.

"Political leaders in these states are all too ready to bow to the pressure and to buy in to the rhetoric and false framing, and it's the wolves who suffer," Pacelle said. "It's yet another example of adverse policy actions by this administration on animal welfare and conservation. It talks a good game of science-based decision-making and sound policy, but in the end kowtows to traditional special interests."

Hunt opponents argue that the state management plans fail to address the disproportionate effect the death of an alpha female or an alpha male can have on a pack or clan. They also say the plans don't include other kills in the totals and ignore the impact of potential over-killing in other states.

LEGAL CHALLENGES

Legal opposition to the hunts comes from the Humane Society and its chapters, the Center for Biological Diversity, The Fund for Animals and Howling for Wolves, which also stages daily protests outside the governor's mansion in St. Paul, Minn., and is erecting striking billboards urging "Stop The Hunt."

"Minnesotans benefit economically, culturally and ecologically by having wolves in the wild," said Howling for Wolves founder Maureen Hackett. "As a state, we have

so much to gain by keeping wolves undisturbed."

The Center for Biological Diversity and Howling for Wolves sued to block this year's hunts in Minnesota while a broader complaint brought by the Humane Society and The Fund for Animals seeks to return the gray wolf to the federal endangered species list.

Meanwhile, a Wisconsin case filed by a coalition of humane society chapters seeks to at least block the use of domestic dogs in stalking the wolves. A Dane County judge is set to hold a hearing Dec. 20 on the DNR's request to train and use dogs to track wolves. Opponents of the proposal say the state would be in violation of animal cruelty laws and sanctioning bloody battles between wolves and their canine kin.

In a Native American creation story, the wolf also is kin to people. In Minnesota, after the state authorized the hunts, some tribal councils established wolf sanctuaries on reservations, where tribal law trumps federal and state laws.

A proclamation from the White Earth Reservation Tribal Executive Committee, the governing body of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, said the sanctuaries were needed because "the state of Minnesota has not engaged in any meaningful management plan before abruptly declaring a wolf hunt season in Minnesota."

The proclamation told of the special relationship between the wolf and the Ojibwe or Anishinaabe: The wolf – Ma'iingan – is a brother to Original man. The two traveled together on Earth, naming everything. When they finished, they went their

separate ways but remained brothers, bound by a belief that what happens to one, happens to the other.

"Over time, both the Ma'iingan and Anishinaabe have shared a similar fate," the proclamation stated. "Both have lost lands, both have been mistreated, both have been misunderstood and both have been hunted. Yet, both have also survived."

In July, Ojibwe tribal elder Joe Rose told the Ma'iingan story to Wisconsin DNR officials in Stevens Point during a public hearing on the proposed wolf hunt.

"Our destiny is related to the destiny of the ma'iingan," Rose said. "That's part of our teachings."

In November, hunt opponents from the tribal councils and a coalition of nonprofits demonstrated outside the capitols in Madison and St. Paul, urging legislators to reconsider, to examine the environmental and economic impact of protecting wolves rather than killing them for pelts.

"The number of people who want to view wildlife, who travel for ecotourism, is bigger than the number of people who hunt wildlife," said Wisconsin wolf advocate Melissa Rolf. "Politicians should understand that the wolves are worth more alive than dead."

Responding, the U.S. Interior Department notes that wolf populations in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan will be monitored for at least the next four years. And, if it appears the gray wolf cannot sustain itself without the protections of the Endangered Species Act, the government can initiate the listing process, including emergency listing.



PHOTO: COURTESY HOWLING FOR WOLVES

A Minnesota gray wolf.

State capitols bulge with Republican majorities



By David A. Lieb

AP writer

There's a new superpower growing in the Great Plains and the South, where bulging Republican majorities in state capitols could dramatically cut taxes and change public education with only futile resistance from Democrats.

Contrast that with California, where voters have given Democrats a new dominance that could allow them to raise taxes and embrace same-sex marriage without regard to Republican objections.

If you thought the presidential election revealed the nation's political rifts, consider the outcomes in state legislatures. The vote also created a broader tier of powerful one-party governments that can act with no need for compromise. Half of state legislatures now have veto-proof majorities, up from 13 only four years ago, according to figures compiled for The Associated Press by the National Conference of State Legislatures.

All but three states — Iowa, Kentucky and New Hampshire — have one-party control of their legislatures, the highest mark since 1928. In Wisconsin, Republicans recaptured the Senate to regain one-party control, but their Senate majority is thin and they failed to gain a super-majority in the Assembly.

The effects of one-party control in so many states could lead to stark differences in how people live and work.

"Usually, a partisan tide helps the same party across the country, but what we saw in this past election was the opposite of that — some states getting bluer and some states getting redder," said Thad Kousser, an associate political science professor at the University of California-San Diego who focuses on state politics. As a result, "we'll see increasing policy divergence across the states."

Democrats in California gained their first supermajorities since 1883 in both the Assembly and Senate. Republicans captured total control of the North Carolina Capitol for the first time in more than a century. The GOP set a 147-year high mark in the Tennessee statehouse and won two-thirds majorities in the Missouri Legislature for the first time since the Civil War.

Republicans also gained or expanded

supermajorities in places such as Indiana, Oklahoma and — if one independent caucuses with the GOP — Georgia. Democrats gained a supermajority in Illinois and built upon their dominance in places such as Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

If the parties make full use of their enlarged majorities, residents of similar-sized cities in different parts of the country could soon experience a virtual continental divide in their way of life.

In one state, businesses could pay little to no taxes, the result of policies intended to spur hiring. Public schools might function at a basics-only level, with parents free to use public money to send their children to private schools. Only the poorest of the poor adults could expect medical care from the government.

In another state, residents would pay higher taxes, and the government would inject billions of dollars into public education with the goal of creating a highly skilled workforce to attract businesses. A social safety net would exist for the poor, including working adults not even considered to be in poverty.

States already have different approaches to taxes, the economy and care for the poor, but they have been tempered by compromise. Now the middle ground may begin to disappear in favor of stark extremes.

Supermajorities can allow lawmakers to override governors' vetoes, change tax rates, put constitutional amendments on the ballot, rewrite legislative rules and establish a quorum for business — all without any participation by the opposing party.

In Indiana, the new Republican supermajority can now pass bills even if House Democrats repeat the walkouts they've held the past two years to protest the consideration of so-called right-to-work laws limiting union powers. In Oklahoma, Republicans are expected to use their huge majorities to move to slash state income taxes after efforts last year fell short.

Indiana Democrats acknowledge there is little they can do.

"It's deeply troubling that my party has fallen in this position and left our state, in my view, so ill-represented," said Rep. Ed Delaney, D-Indianapolis. "It's a huge challenge."

It the parties make full use of their enlarged majorities, residents of similar-sized cities in different parts of the country could experience a continental divide in their way of life.

Republican supermajorities in both North Carolina chambers are likely to push for income tax cuts and sweeping education changes, including broader use of merit pay for public school teachers and expanded tax credits for parents who send their children to private schools. Also on the agenda: a photo identification requirement for voting that was vetoed in 2011 by Democratic Gov. Beverly Perdue.

Deflated Democrats, who haven't been so shut out of control in more than a century, hope new Republican Gov. Pat McCrory will at least consider their concerns.

"We'll go forward. We have no choice," said minority whip Rep. Deborah Ross.

In Missouri, House Speaker Tim Jones wants to advance an agenda that includes tax cuts, business incentives and education reform. The new GOP supermajority could trump any objections by Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon, who vetoed some previous business-backed bills.

"The governor will need to understand the importance of true, actual negotiation during the legislative process," Jones said.

Yet a supermajority is not a guarantee of success. With larger numbers can come more individual agendas and internal tensions.

"A very large majority ends up becoming factionalized," said Charles S. Bullock III, a longtime political science professor at the University of Georgia who teaches legislative politics. There are "people who are vying with each other, looking down the road to the next election."

Kansas is a good example of that. Republicans there gained a supermajority in both chambers in the 2010 elections but remained divided in conservative and moderate camps. They took their battle to the ballot box this year and conservatives prevailed — giving them a likely hold on 27 of 40 Kansas Senate seats and as many as 75 of 125 House seats.

After enacting massive tax cuts in 2012, some Kansas conservatives now are looking forward to trimming government and possibly pursuing more tax cuts.

"What we know from history is we can expect some overreaching of lawmakers using their newfound political might to shove things down the throat of the minority — to pass laws that are more extreme than they

would have passed in the old days," Kousser said.

In California, Democrats are looking forward to having things their way. Republican Assemblyman Jim Nielsen predicts an "unprecedented spending and taxing binge" as the new Democratic supermajority attempts to reduce some of the state's recent deep budget cuts.

California Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg outlined an agenda that includes changing the tax code and ballot initiative process and perhaps asking voters to legalize same-sex marriage. "We will exercise this new power with strength, but also with humility and with reason," Steinberg said.

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PHOTO: TRAVELWISCONSIN

FLURRY OF FUN

The Wisconsin Department of Tourism/Travel Wisconsin has released a winter schedule of events for the state – from cozy dinner theater and holiday fairs to candlelight skiing and snowshoeing. For more, go to www.travelwisconsin.com.

FAIR WISCONSIN SEEKS LEADERSHIP AWARD NOMINAIONS

The Fair Wisconsin Education Fund is accepting nominations for leadership awards until Dec. 1.

The nonprofit presents the awards at a gala dinner on Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee.

An announcement said each year Fair Wisconsin “gathers members of the LGBT community, allies, activists and policy makers to recognize those who have made significant contributions to the advancement of LGBT equality in Wisconsin.”

Past winners include former Gov. Jim Doyle, U.S. Sen.-elect Tammy Baldwin, U.S. Rep.-elect Mark Pocan, Lambda Legal, Madison Gay Hockey Association, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center and Diverse & Resilient.

For a nomination form, go to surveymonkey.com

SAGE MILWAUKEE MAKES HOLIDAY PLANS

Sage Milwaukee plans to celebrate the holiday season with a luncheon at 1:30 p.m. Dec. 9 at DoubleTree Hotel, 611 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Reservations are required by Dec. 4.

For more, call 262-241-9881.

MEN'S CHORUS PRESENTS HOLIDAY CONCERT

The City of Festivals Men's Chorus presents Caroling, Caroling: A Holiday Concert Nov. 30 and Dec. 1st at 7 p.m. at Plymouth Church, 2717 E. Hampshire Street.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door.

For more, email cofmcad@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S VOICES PERFORMS HOLIDAY CONCERT DEC. 7-8

Women's Voices Milwaukee presents “All I Want For Christmas,” a concert of holiday favorites, Dec. 7 and Dec. 8.

A seasonal tradition, the concert takes place at 7:30 p.m. both nights at the Washington Park Senior Center, 4420 W. Vliet St. Tickets are \$15 and can be reserved by contacting Liz Doan at 414-364-4154 or womensvoicesmilwaukee@gmail.com. Tickets also are available at the door.

GSAFE PLANS HOLIDAY PARTY

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

DANE COUNTY FARMERS MARKET TAKES SHELTER

The Dane County Farmers Market has moved indoors for the winter.

The market is taking place Saturdays through Dec. 22 from 7:30 a.m. to noon at Monona Terrace, 1 John Nolen Drive, Madison.

The market takes a holiday on Dec. 29 and then resumes on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon, Jan. 5-April 13 at the Madison Senior Center, 330 W. Mifflin St., Madison.

On April 20, 2013, the market returns to the square.

For more, go to www.dcfm.org.

WOMEN'S NETWORKING CHAPTER CELEBRATES 1 YEAR

FemCity Milwaukee, which launched in January, now has 95 members and is the fastest growing chapter in the Femprofessionals network.

The group reported that it has raised thousands of dollars for local nonprofits serving women in the community.

“It's been an amazing first year. So many positive, energetic, and savvy women

have joined FemCity Milwaukee,” stated Michelle Marie Bertholf, chapter president. “What makes us so successful is offering women what they value most. Our members are able to build their professional networks, develop social relationships and friendships and support charities serving women. Many other organizations focus on one or two of these aspects. We are proud to combine all three.”

ACLU HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

The ACLU of Wisconsin holds its annual meeting on Dec. 15 at the Historic Pabst Brewery.

The program begins at 2 p.m. with a tour, followed by a 3 p.m. update on the organization's work.

Also, on Nov. 28, the ACLU of Wisconsin Foundation and other groups host a daylong Youth Social Justice Forum at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

For more, go to aclu-wi.org.

CENTER SEEKS ART FOR EXHIBIT

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center invites artists to submit work for a new gallery show by Dec. 1.

The work should retail for \$200 or less.

Artists can email jpegsjhanson@mkelgibt.org.

— L.N.

Send community briefs to lmneff@wisconsinngazette.com.

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'Tis the season on Wisconsin stages

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Don your gay apparel and get ready to “ho, ho, ho.” The holiday season is fast upon us – and with it comes a wealth of theatrical fare designed to make your yuletide gayer than ever. Local theatrical companies are doing their best to put you in the holiday spirit and, God bless them everyone, the entertainment is as rich as the holiday meals that you’ll vow to work off in January.

Here’s a sample of what lies under your entertainment tree over the next month.

NINE ‘NUTCRACKERS’

Nothing says the holidays quite like the mysterious Uncle Drosselmeyer and an army of mice facing an animated wooden soldier who cracks nuts for a living. “The Nutcracker Ballet” is Tchaikovsky’s ode to holiday magic – performed en pointe. No matter where you live, there’s a production coming to your area.

✿ **The Central Wisconsin School of Ballet** offers its version of “The Nutcracker” for three performances Dec. 3–4 at the Grand Theater on Arts Block in Wausau (www.cwschoolofballet.com/nutcracker).

✿ **The Markoff Youth Ballet** presents its version Dec. 8–9 at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center in Appleton (www.foxcitiespac.org).

✿ **The Milwaukee Ballet** mounts “Michael Pink’s The Nutcracker” Dec. 8–26 at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts (www.milwaukeeballet.org).

✿ **The Madison Ballet** offers its performance Dec. 15–24 at Overture Center for the Arts (www.madisonballet.org).

✿ **Mainstage Academy of Dance** is putting on three performances Dec. 14–16 at the Oconomowoc Arts Center (www.wedancemainstage.com).

✿ **The Dance Factory** presents its take on the Tchaikovsky classic for two performances at the UW-Whitewater’s Young Auditorium (www.uww.edu/youngauditorium/season).

✿ **The Jean Wolfmeyer Dance Company** presents “The Nutcracker” for three performances Dec. 21–23 at the Capitol Civic Center in Manitowoc (www.cccshows.org).

✿ **Madison’s Dance Wisconsin** offers a different take on the classic ballet with the “Nutcracker Fantasy” Dec. 7–9 at the Mitby Theater on the Madison College (formerly MATC) campus.

✿ And finally, the **Paine Art Center** in Oshkosh is offering “Nutcracker in the Castle,” a performance interpretation of different scenes from the ballet in the art center’s various rooms now through Jan. 7 (www.thepaine.org).

EIGHT ‘A CHRISTMAS CAROLS’

If any holiday production is as ubiquitous as “The Nutcracker,” it’s “A Christmas Carol.” Charles Dickens’ treacly tale of Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim and a panoply of holiday spirits can bring a tear to the eye,

joy to the heart, or “Bah! Humbug” to the lips, depending on your viewpoint. Here are some options for those who want to indulge.

✿ The grandfather of all productions is the **Milwaukee Rep’s** month-long Scrooge-a-thon at the Pabst Theater, which opens Nov. 29 and runs through Dec. 24 (www.milwaukeeep.com/season/carol).

✿ **The Patio Players** will once again offer a musical version of the show Dec. 1–2 at the Menomonee Falls Middle School Auditorium (www.fallspatioplayers.com).

✿ **The West Bend Masonic Lodge** presents its production Dec. 6–16 (www.westbendchristmascarol.com).

✿ **Children’s Theater of Madison** mounts its version Dec. 14–23 at Overture Center for the Arts (www.overturecenter.com/production/a-christmas-carol).

✿ **The Wausau Community Theatre** serves up Dickens Dec. 14–16 at its theater in Schofield (www.wausaucommunitytheatre.org).

✿ **Old World Wisconsin** offers a themed dinner coupled with author Mark Brown’s “The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge” Nov. 30–Dec. 16 on its historic grounds in Eagle (www.oldworldwisconsin.wisconsinhistory.org).

✿ **The Fireside Theater** in Fort Atkinson is performing “Scrooge The Musical” through Dec. 23 (www.firesidetheatre.com).

✿ And finally, **Lewis Station Winery** in Lake Mills offers the “Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen’s Guild Dramatic Society’s production of ‘A Christmas Carol’ by David McGillivay and Walter Zerlin Jr.” The production promises laughs, songs, audience participation and perhaps a visit from attorneys representing the Charles Dickens Estate. The show runs at various times Dec. 8–15. We’re not sure about this one, but at least there will be wine (www.wiswine.com/christmas-carol).

AND EVERYTHING ELSE

Had enough of the old-fashioned holiday fare? Too many dancing mice and sonorous spirits? Here are some other options to consider.

✿ Milwaukee’s **In Tandem Theatre Co.** once again is offering “A Cudahy Carolers Christmas” Nov. 30–Jan. 5. Join Stasch and the gang as they warble their way through “O, Bowling Night,” “We Three Guys from Cudahy Are” and other, ahem, seasonal

HOLIDAY page 18

9 'The Nutcrackers,' 8 'A Christmas Carols' – no partridges in pear trees

Holiday from 17

favorites at the Tenth Street Theater (www.intandemtheatre.org).

✿ Milwaukee's **Marcus Center for the Performing Arts** presents Second City's Dysfunctional Holiday Revue Dec. 6–16. It's the perfect antidote for eggnog overload (www.marcuscenter.com).

✿ Milwaukee's **Turner Hall Ballroom** hosts a variety of unusual holiday performances. El Vez, considered the gay "Mexican Elvis," will present "MEX-mas" on Dec. 10, a show of holiday cheer and eye-popping showmanship done to a Latin beat.

✿ On Dec. 13 rocker Suf-john Stevens performs "The Surfjohn Stevens Christmas Sing-A-Long Seasonal Affective Disorder Yuletide Disaster Pageant On Ice." Fortunately or unfortunately, that show is already sold out.

✿ Finally, Dec. 20 brings "A Holiday in the Heartland," featuring American Idol final-

ists Kimberley Locke, Adam Brock and Naima Adedapo to The Pabst (<http://www.pabsttheater.org>).

✿ The **Fox Cities Performing Arts Center** hosts a musical version of "Miracle on 34th Street," with a script and score by Meredith ("The Music Man") Wilson Dec. 11 (www.foxcitiespac.org).

✿ Out Milwaukee actor John McGivern reprises his role as Earline Hoople in "A Kodachrome Christmas" at **Next Act Theatre**. The show runs Dec. 12–31 (www.johnmcgivern.com). Next Act also presents "It's a Wonderful Life Live Radio Show," a staged "radio performance" of the Frank Capra holiday tearjerker now through Dec. 9 (www.netxact.org).

✿ **American Players Theatre** brings back "The Gift of the Magi," O. Henry's charming holiday tale of a young couple in early 20th century America who had



PHOTO: JAY WESTHAUSER

Jonathan Smoots, Jenny Wanasek, Paul Hurley and the cast of the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre's "A Christmas Carol."

nothing but gave each other everything for Christmas. James DeVita's musical adaptation runs through Dec. 22 on APT's Spring Green campus (www.americanplayers.org).

✿ Ever want to be one of Santa's helpers? David Sedaris' wickedly funny "The Santaland Diaries," about the author's experiences as an elf at Macy's, graces the **Alley Stage** in Mineral

Point for four performances Nov. 28–29 and Dec. 1. The performances coincide with the town's annual candlelight shopping event (www.shakeragalley.com/alley-stage).

✿ Madison's **Stage Q** once again welcomes the ladies of the North American Lady Organists Guild to the Bartell Theatre for "The Holiday Stops," a sassy drag production that celebrates the season, or something like it



PHOTO: COURTESY

The cast of "Second City's Dysfunctional Holiday Revue."

(www.stageq.com).

✿ Modern dance and classical music mix in acclaimed dancer Li Chiao-Ping's "The Knotcracker," a liberal spin on the old tale that features a variety of composers' music, Russian hats, swim fins and some amazing moves by UW-Madison's dance professors' troupe. The show runs for four performances

Nov. 30–Dec. 2 at **The Playhouse** in Madison's Overture Center for the Arts (www.overturecenter.com).

✿ "Who Killed Santa?," the hit Milwaukee holiday puppet musical, returns to Carte Blanche Studios Dec. 14–30. Call 702-539-8987.

Had enough? Never fear, 2013 is just around the corner.



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MICHAEL MUCKIAN

Wild women don't have the blues, or so composer Ida Cox wrote in 1924. But the Milwaukee Rep's staging of Sheldon Epps' "Blues in the Night," now playing at the Stackner Cabaret, suggests otherwise.

Epps' work is essentially a showcase for 25 torch and blues songs from the 1920s and '30s — in addition to Cox's anthem. The music is anchored in the thinnest of plots, set in a rundown Chicago hotel in 1938. Three female characters, dubbed The Lady (Zonya Love), The Woman (Lili Thomas) and The Girl (Halle Morse) sing, dance and, in Thomas' case, play a bandstand full of instruments.

The characters wail about lost love, broken hearts and better days amid interactions with The Man (Carl Clemons-Hopkins), who provides the characters with ample blues to sing about in the night. The titular Harold Arlen/Johnny Mercer number opens the play's second act.

If this all sounds a bit thin — well, it is. Creating a story out of song lyrics that's strong enough to drive an absorbing narrative isn't easy and, in this case, isn't always done well. The Tony-nominated play, which opened off Broadway in 1982, received reviews that were lukewarm.

With virtually no dialogue that isn't sung, the challenge of the show is to build a compelling relationship among the women, who have almost no interaction when not singing together. The show's saving grace, beside the considerable talents of the four performers, is Megan Nicole O'Brien's deft direction. Her solution to the work's cen-



PHOTO: MICHAEL BROSILOW.

Lili Thomas, Zonya Love and Halle Morse in the Milwaukee Repertory Theater's "Blues in the Night," playing in the Stackner Cabaret.

tral problem is as effective as the source material allows, and then some.

The interaction is subtle at first, with one woman mirroring the motions of another as she solos through numbers like Benny Goodman's "Stompin' at the Savoy" and Bessie Smith's "It Makes My Love Come Down." There is a physical as well as musical give-and-take that builds a relationship but also, more importantly, creates a depth among the characters that allows them to become different facets of the same dramatic self.

Thomas's The Woman is haughty, almost cold — a woman who takes no nonsense from her man, yet has moments as vulnerable as those of the other characters. Morse is young and easily fooled, mixing youthful naiveté and enthusiasm with tears and bitterness.

The Lady is the most careworn and road-weary of the three, hopeful but not overly optimistic. As the lead character, Love carries the show's emotional burden, experiencing its highest and lowest moments.

Each of the three performers has standout solo moments that help make the performances memorable. Thomas provides an emotional, yet austere treatment to out composer Billy Strayhorn's "Lush Life," while Morse lends credibility and depth to Anne Ronell's "Willow Weep for Me," a familiar song that's too often poorly

performed.

Love has the play's showcase numbers, and the best veer away from the almost incessant tear-fest. With Clemons-Hopkins she does a riotous turn on Leola and Wesley Wilson's "Take Me for a Buggy Ride," which shows clearly who's in the driver's seat of the relationship. Her sexually charged take on Andy Razaf and Wesley Wilson's "Kitchen Man" illustrates just why the blues were originally banned from polite society, and does so with both humorous and lascivious effect.

Clemons-Hopkins does a fine job playing the fall guy for the three females, and he plays a mean standup bass. Musical director Dan Kazemi doubles on piano, clarinet and harmonica. Patrick Morrow mans his drum kit and other instruments with quiet authority throughout the nearly two-hour show.

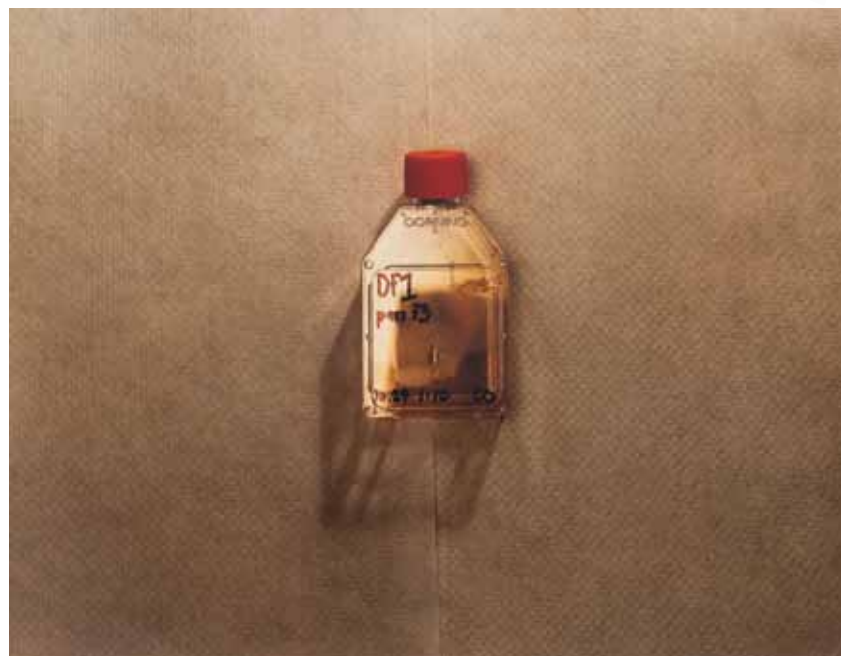
Wild women may not have the blues in Ida Cox's mind, but it's very much a part of the lives of these three women. How they choose to tell us about it is what makes "Blues in the Night" an appealing and continuing hit for the Milwaukee Rep, which knows when it's stumbled on to a very good thing.

ON STAGE

"Blues in the Night" is at The Milwaukee Repertory Theater's Stackner Cabaret through Dec. 23.

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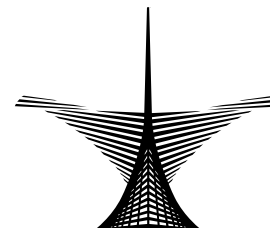
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Daniel Craig: 'I'm not James Bond'

From The Interview Feed

Special to WiG

The blockbuster hit "Skyfall" is actor Daniel Craig's third – and critics say his best – turn as Agent 007. Just two weeks into its release, the latest installment in the James Bond franchise had already amassed nearly \$700 million in box office receipts and was still going strong.

In addition to bringing back Craig as the iconic spy, "Skyfall" also features such regulars as Dame Judi Dench and introduces an evil and amusing new villain, played by Javier Bardem. In one widely talked about scene, Bardem's character caresses a tied-up Bond in a homoerotic way.

The Interview Feed spoke with Craig in New York shortly before the film's early November release. Wearing a light gray cashmere sweater over a white shirt and dark gray tie, teamed with a pair of dark trousers, Craig, 44, is ruggedly handsome and obviously incredibly fit.

Married to actress Rachel Weisz since June 2011, Craig has homes in New York City, and London. Like Weisz, he's tight-lipped about his personal life and doesn't discuss his daughter from a previous marriage, nor Weisz' son Henry, whom she is co-parenting with her ex-fiance Darren Aronofsky.

When was the first time that you ever heard about James Bond?

I don't remember. I think I've always known about (him), it feels like that anyway. I remember seeing him at the cinema from when I was six years old – five years old even.

Have you ever met any of the other Bonds?

I know Roger and I know Pierce. I have never met any of the others.

Could there be a time that we could get then all together in the same place?

I don't know why.

Well, to celebrate the 50th anniversary.

It would be a bit embarrassing.

Why?

We are all very separate people, and different people. I don't think we have any desire to be in each other's company more (than) to sort of say, "Hello." But to have it paraded out in front of people, I think would just be slightly embarrassing and awkward.

What about a private poker game?

No, I'm not James Bond. (Laughs.)

That guy is somebody else.

Ask.com just selected James Bond as the most influential man, over Obama and real people. What do you make of that?

Well, I hope not. I hope Obama becomes a little more influential. (Laughs.) Maybe that's because the movie is coming out, so I'm everywhere.

So what is it that you like the most about James Bonds' lifestyle?

I'm not James Bond. The thing is, I am really, genuinely not him, so therefore, I don't need any of his lifestyle. I have mine. Really, I mean it's not something I aspire to be.

There's nothing?

No. I love cars, I love the things that everybody else likes, but I don't want to be James Bond.

This Bond was different because it's looking back at his roots and how he grew up. Was that the attraction?

I think in a way. I mean, it wasn't really a conscious decision, but because it's 50 years, it really ties in nicely to it. And what I love is also that we go back and he

destroys it. So that we kind of move it out of the way and we deal with it. And he was orphaned very young so that the love of his parents is something in the past and he's moved on and the idea that he is kind of, he is satisfied with his life.

Apparently it was your idea to get Javier Bardem?

I am one of Javier's biggest fans. I'm a bit of a stalker in fact, because I actually did stalk him to get this part, because I went to a party where he was so I could ask him to do it. And he said, "yes," so it was great. So I love working with him. And he makes me laugh, so it's a joy.

So why do you think women like James Bond so much?

He's dangerous. It's as simple as that.

I think one of the themes of this movie is getting older. How long can you play James Bond?

I don't know. I don't think about it. I mean, I am contracted to do another two movies, so I am not holding my breath, I will see how this one goes, and then we will see after that.

Film

THE INTERVIEW FEED

Are you afraid of aging?

No. I mean, like everybody else, you kind of go, "Hmm," and then it's like, "What do you do?" You've just got to get over it. You've got to kind of enjoy life while you are living it.

The Bond here seems less polished than in "Casino Royale," the good-looking guy who gets the girl. There's a bit more roughness about it. Is that something that you were looking into?

It's just me.

Getting older you mean?

I'm six years older. It's just the way it is. There's nothing I can do about it. It's just, that's me. I certainly didn't think about "Casino Royale" while shooting this movie at all.

Is it getting more difficult for you to do the stunts?

No, it's getting easier because I'm doing less. Yeah, the stunts are just an incredible part of the movie, and I am kind of involved with them, obviously, as much as I possibly can be. It's more to do with geography than it is anything else, if I'm not doing the stunt. And then, of course, the very dangerous ones I am not doing, but the way things are now, it's so much easier and I've got so many good doubles. Robbie, who did all the bike stuff, who is world renowned, we just got to make it good and as real as possible.

With all the physical stuff and this being the third Bond, have you found any skills that you are able to apply in real life?

Nothing. (Laughs.) It's all make believe, and there it stays. That's true. I mean, it's just not anything to do with real life. The skills that I am learning, you don't see on camera. They are to do with working with people and how you interact with people and how are you going to get a job done. It's nothing to do with me jumping out of an aircraft. I mean, people spend a lifetime doing those things and getting good at them.

CRAIG next page



Hunts page 14

How do you deal with the massive fan base of Bond and the accompanying expectations?

I mean, look, the movies wouldn't get made unless people liked them, so the most important people in the process are the people who go and see it, and we make the movies for those people. But you can't think about the expectations, you just have to get on with doing as good a job as you can.

Even though you said that you're doing fewer stunts, obviously you were still working out a lot and there's a lot of training involved. Was that more or less true on this one?

I think it was about the same. It was probably a little bit more different. I had to do a lot of running in this one, so I just ran a little bit more.

Do you enjoy that kind of thing?

No. It's like really fucking boring.

So what do you think about when you are doing all those boring hours of running?

The weird thing is actually you can switch off. So I suppose I can get away to doing something mindless so I can get away from what I am doing and actually kind of relax a bit, so that it's actually ... it's not unpleasant, but it is boring.

Were you at the gym every day?

No, it's kind of impossible every day. I mean, I'd just wear myself out. So what I have to do is I have to train, to keep my level of fitness high enough, and if I do get injured, I can carry on. It's kind of a weird place to be, because there's no blueprint for how you stay fit. You kind of get physically down and you have to pick yourself up, cause it's a six-day week for six months and there's no really downtime, so you have to learn to pace yourself and you eat properly.

Like Bond, you are also very stylish. Do you enjoy fashion?

I like beautiful clothes. One of the perks of this gig is that I get sent nice clothes, but I've always liked tailoring. My grandfather was a tailor, so that's always run in the family. I like nicely designed men's clothes.

Watching you on "SNL," I wondered why you haven't done more comedy? Is that something that you would like to do more of?

Not especially, no. There are comedians who make films today and they have a process and most of it is to do with improvisation. There isn't a script. I don't know how to work like that. There's very few writers out there who write great comedy, and if there is, they get snapped up very quickly. I need a funny script. I can't just yuck it up and make it up. It's not where I come from.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Daniel Craig is not James Bond.

In what ways are you different from James Bond?

Every way. I hear that man has nothing to do with

me at all.

This Bond wasn't just about huge set pieces but great dialogue and

story.

I just think you can combine the two, I think you can have everything. Why not?



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Dining

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

The "triskele," a symbol from ancient Greece, utilizes three interlocking spirals, three bent human legs, or any other three-fold element to convey rotating motion. The symbol is especially popular in Celtic culture.

Former River Lane Inn head chef JoLinda Klopp and her partner Lynn Winter chose the name Triskele's for their quaint South Side Milwaukee neighborhood restaurant. The eatery has been on a continual path toward success, celebrating its fifth anniversary on Oct. 31. The small corner location at Third and Maple streets, formerly home to Nina's Horsefeathers, has become popular for its casual, comfortable atmosphere and exceptional food.

We stopped at the restaurant one recent Saturday night and found the atmosphere buzzing and the tables more or less full for the entire night. The menu is brief, concentrating on what was once called American Nouveau cuisine. But there is pretty much something for everyone – and at a reason-

able price.

The prices are so reasonable, in fact, that we ordered the most expensive wine on the menu, a 2010 Irony Pinot Noir (\$40), a nicely turned-out red from Monterey County, Calif. It was the first bottle of that particular wine our waitress had ever served. As she struggled to open it, we reminded her of the unwritten rule that if she couldn't uncork our wine with one pull, it must be free.

Despite the uncorking challenge, the wine, blended with 5 percent Petite Sirah and 5 percent Cabernet Sauvignon grapes, was an excellent value for the price.

We chose the wine because it is light, elegant and complimentary to the mixed bag of appetizers and entrées we planned to order. We began by sharing an order of sweet potato fries, dressed with fresh cilantro and served with a soy and honey dipping sauce (\$7). The natural sweetness of the potato was enhanced by the cilantro and offset by the salty soy sauce tempered with sweet honey.

We split on our next course – a cup of cream of cauliflower and Brussels sprout soup (\$4.25) and a small Caesar salad with "crispy" capers (7.50). The soup, laced with chunks of potato and Chardonnay, avoided the sometimes-unpleasant smell of cooked

cauliflower, delivering a smooth, savory flavor.

The Caesar, served with a creamy Parmesan/Reggiano dressing and large croutons, was standard-issue except for the capers, which had been fried to a crispy, cracked texture. Edible flower buds made the salad uniquely appealing.

Entrées arrived in short order. Different as they were, neither was a disappointment.

The butternut squash ravioli (\$13.75) was definitely the more appealing of the two. Pasta pockets, stuffed with squash, were poached in apple cider and brown butter, seasoned with fresh rosemary and dusted with amaretto cookie crumbs to bring out the sweetness of the dish. The flavors complemented each other well, resulting in a very satisfying dish.

The beef short ribs (\$18) arrived bone-free and fork-tender in rich, brown gravy with roasted shallots. Three pieces of meat, creamy-smooth mashed potatoes and a crisp watercress salad, combined to offer a variety of satisfying tastes and textures. Klopp's preparation shows why the River Lane Inn rose to prominence under her culinary leadership. Triskele's allows her to make an even more personal statement, to create menus that are even more special.

Klopp's special touch should propel Triskele's forward for another five years.

TRISKELE'S

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MSO adds symphonic richness to Queen's music

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

When members of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra take on the rock group Queen at the Riverside Theater on Dec. 8, they will stretch the music of Freddie Mercury and company in new directions.

The performance will be anything but a staid classical music event, according to Brent Havens, the guest conductor/arranger who has adapted Queen's music for a fuller symphonic sound.

"This will be a rock concert and not an orchestral concert – with a band, singer and even rock lighting," Havens says. "There will be most of the big hits and even some tunes we've dug deep in the catalogue to find that not everyone will recognize (except) for those super fans."

Queen isn't the only group whose music Havens has adapted for symphonic structure. He also has taken on the songbooks for groups like Led Zeppelin, The Who, The Doors, Pink Floyd and The Eagles. In many cases, the original numbers were never written down, requiring Havens to commit songs like "Whole Lotta Love," "Baba Yaga" and "Light My Fire" to sheet music and orchestrate it for various instruments.

"Since Queen's catalog is relatively expansive and the band's material is very rich in harmonic structures and melody, it was one show that was very simple to write," Havens says. "The music itself dictated the arrangements."

Havens has worked with numerous symphony orchestras around the world putting on such shows, including London's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. But Havens most significant experience has been with MSO, starting with adapting the music of the Doobie Brothers for Harley-Davidson's 100th anniversary celebration several years ago.

Havens believes his adaptation of Queen's music will please fans of the original work, as well as those who can appreciate the richer, fuller sound that an orchestra can bring to familiar songs.

"We aren't running roughshod over the original material. We are leaving it as close to the original interpretation as possible and augmenting the experience with a full orchestra," he says. "It's a wonderful combination that works quite well and the original music certainly doesn't need 'legitimizing' by any stretch of the imagination."

To help maintain the energy and vitality of Queen's music, Havens is employing a five-piece rock band that includes vocalist Brody Dolyniuk, whose band Yellow Brick Road is the most popular cover band in Las Vegas. A talented musical mimic, Dolyniuk began by covering Elton John songs, then grew his band's performance catalog as opportunities arose.

Dolyniuk, 42, is a Wichita, Kan., native who can't read a note of music. But the singer's

natural talent allows him to embody Mercury, John and other singers, including Robert Plant, Stevie Wonder and Peter Gabriel, both vocally and in mannerisms. Don't expect Dolyniuk to don Spandex jump suits or a dental prosthesis to portray Mercury, however.

"I've done shows where we did the look and mannerisms of the performers, but those days are behind me, I think," Dolyniuk says. "For this show, I'm concentrating on the music and vocal performance, although I do try to make it fun, high energy and audience interactive."

In addition to Dolyniuk, the faux Queen on Dec. 8 will include guitarist George Cintron, bassist Daniel Clemens, keyboard player Bart Kuebler and drummer Powell Randolph. All four musicians will also contribute vocally.

The blend of orchestral and rock sounds brings new life to Queen's music and should win new fans on both sides of the aisle, Havens says. If nothing else, it's a great way to introduce rock fans to the classical music approach.

"As with our other similar shows, I'm sure there are people who are going to come out who have never seen their city's symphony orchestra," Havens explains. "This



PHOTO: FREDDIEMERCURYRECALL.BLOGSPOT.COM

Queen in the 1980s, featuring Roger Taylor, Brian May, Freddie Mercury and John Deacon.

allows them to experience something new along with the music that they already love."

ON STAGE

The Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra performs the music of Queen on Dec. 8 at Milwaukee's Riverside Theater. For details, go to www.pabsttheater.org.

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A hodgepodge of stocking stuffers for all your various kinds of buds

By Gregg Shapiro
Contributing writer

FOR YOUR BEST (TASTE) BUDS

"Inspired by the original" is the tagline for **Candy Sunshine**, a confectionery homage to the old Wisconsin favorite Candy Raisins. Milwaukee went into mourning several years ago when candy-maker Stark's ceased producing the golden nuggets. Over 10,000 people signed a petition at Save-theCandyRaisins.com calling on Stark to bring back the goodies. Milwaukee's Osmanium Candy Company has responded by recreating the recipe as closely as possible and marketing it under the Candy Sunshine name. Available in 2.5 and 8 oz. bags, it's the perfect stocking stuffer for the sentimental sweet tooth on your list. Visit candysunshine.com.

If you only know Laura Ann Masura from her time in the queer rock band Evil Beaver, then you don't know Laura Ann. She's now the proprietor of **Laura Ann's Jams**, which the company describes as "artisan small batch jams lovingly made in Los Angeles." Masura's line includes unexpected natural flavor combos such as raspberry habañero, maple pumpkin butter, blackberry bay leaf, Hollywood marmalade (Valencia oranges with cinnamon and cardamom) and blueberry basil, just to name a few. Visit lauraannsams.com.

FOR YOUR BEST (EAR) BUDS

There's no doubt about it, Kelly Hogan, the grand dame of insurgent country music, released the best album of 2012 – **"I Like To Keep Myself in Pain."** Backed by an amazing band (Booker T. Jones, James Gadson, Gabriel Roth and Scott Ligon), Hogan wails and whips her way through a set of astonishing compositions by such notables as gay singer/songwriter Stephin Merrit, Andrew Bird, John Wesley Harding, Robyn Hitchcock, M. Ward and Jon Langford. The recording is available in multiple formats, including vinyl (with a free CD inside). Hogan hurts so good.

There are many ways to keep your ears warm during the holiday season. Wearing earmuffs or hats with flaps are just a couple. Another is by listening to the sunny surf tunes of The Beach Boys. **"50 Big Ones: Greatest Hits"** is a colorfully boxed set commemorat-

ing the Beach Boys' 50 years in music. The two discs contain 25 tracks each, featuring songs about surfing, cars, girls and, of course, fun, fun, fun. The boys also had a serious side ("God Only Knows" and "I Just Wasn't Made for These Times"), but it's mostly vibrations of the good kind. You can feel the California sun.

FOR YOUR BEST (F*CK) BUDS

Victoria's secret is out! Now everyone knows that sexy underthings are not exclusive to women. Jack Adams' colorful and revealing line includes the **Body Mesh Jockstrap**, available in an array of color combos, including black with red piping. It should do the trick when it comes to making sure the goods are presented in the best light. Visit jackadamsusa.com.

Know someone who is a pig between the sheets? How about someone who is drunk with love? **J&D's Baconlube** and **Epic Meal Time's Whiskey Dick-Old No. 69** are lubricants flavored like bacon and bourbon, respectively. Baconlube promises to keep it sizzlin' while Whiskey Dick offers "gold medal taste." Visit jdfoods.net and epicmealtime.com.

Bedol's H2O Clock doesn't need batteries, just water. Fill it up, set the time, set the alarm – and there are no more excuses for oversleeping after a busy night. Available in blue, green or charcoal, the clocks have digital readouts and remember when it's time to change the water. Visit bedol.com.

FOR YOUR BEST (FUNNY) BUDS

The six-DVD collector's edition of **"The Carol Burnett Show: Carol's Favorites"** highlights 16 episodes from 1972 to 1978. Featured are some of the funniest and most unforgettable moments from one of the last of the great variety shows. Memorable skits include the "Gone With the Wind" parody "Went With the Wind," and the stunning list of gay guest stars includes Rock Hudson, Roddy McDowall and Jim Nabors, as well as Dinah Shore, Joan Rivers, Shirley MacLaine and Betty White.

Burnett is not the only funny redhead. **"Red, White + Raw:**

The Kathy Griffin Collection" boasts more than five hours of Emmy Award-winner Griffin's uncensored Bravo TV specials. The double-DVD set includes the shows "Balls of Steel," "Does the Bible Belt," "Whores on Crutches," "50 & Not Pregnant," "Gurrl Down" and "Tired Hooker," as well as previously unaired bonus material.

Nowhere near as despairing as any of the "Real Housewives," Marc Cherry's **"Desperate Housewives"** – Lynette (Felicity Huffman), Gaby (Eva Longoria), Susan (Teri Hatcher) and Bree (Marcia Cross) – have provided viewers with their share of laughs, loves and losses over the course of eight seasons. "Desperate Housewives: The Complete Eighth and Final Season" features five DVDs and includes previously unseen bonus footage.

Before Steve Martin was a big time movie star, the original wild and crazy guy made his name as a comedian on TV. **"The Television Stuff,"** a triple-DVD package, covers a 36-year period over the course of more than six hours. Stand-up and NBC specials, combined with an assortment of TV guest appearances and more, capture Martin at his peak.

The popular sitcoms

"2 Broke Girls" and **"Happy Endings"** bring comic relief with a gay twist. Now the two shows have made it to DVD. Michael Patrick King, the gay man behind "Sex and the City," created **"2 Broke Girls,"** the suggestive and potty-mouthed CBS prime-time sitcom. The three-DVD set contains the complete first season of the show, starring Kat Dennings and Beth Behrs as the desperate waitresses/roommates. The complete second season of ABC's **"Happy Endings"** features openly gay Max (Adam Pally), one of a set of friends living and loving in Chicago.



Remembering Milwaukee's Shuster's & Gimbels

Books

GREGG SHAPIRO

Author Paul Geenen has a fondness for writing about Milwaukee. His first book, "Milwaukee's Bronzeville: 1900-1950," was published in 2006. In his second and third books, "Schuster's & Gimbels: Milwaukee's Beloved Department Stores" and "Sherman Park: A Legacy of Diversity in Milwaukee," both published in 2012, Geenen continues to regale readers with fascinating facts from Milwaukee's history.

I spoke with Geenen about "Schuster's & Gimbels," a book lined with alluring anecdotes about how the city's history of growth and expansion was tied to that of the stores, the connection between Gimbels and Saks Fifth Avenue, and how escalators found their way from the New York World's Fair to Gimbels.

Gregg Shapiro: How long did it take to write the book?

Paul Geenen: It took me eight months total. My research methods were two-fold. I interviewed employees and got their personal stories. Also, the Milwaukee County Historical Society has a wonderful collection of Gimbels and Schuster's artifacts. Both companies' newsletters are archived there. I went through each monthly newsletter from the beginning to the end.

Did the closing of your family's dry goods store to make way for the Gimbels/Schuster's store contribute to your interest?

It is a personal link. Because I spent so much of my childhood and high school years and college years in that store and they tore it down and built this new store. I worked for Gimbels. My dad worked there too, in his retirement years. It was a neat link.

What was the most surprising thing you learned in researching the book?

What a vibrant and innovative company Schuster's was. Gimbels expanded very quickly, so they were more corporate, hierarchical. Schuster's had all kinds of innovative merchandising. They had their Schuster's weekly, they had a flier that they distributed to everybody in the whole metropolitan area with the Schuster Boys. They had Schuster Stamps and they had their own charge plate. They had promotions tied to charities. They experimented with the central checkout counter concept. Of the two, they were the first to install an IBM mainframe. But the biggest innovation that Schuster's had was (the holiday character) Billie the Brownie.

What do you think (store founders) Adam Gimbel and Edward Schuster would think

about the current state of department stores?

They would be shocked at the scope, the size of the chains. It's called rollup, where small companies are bought and made into large companies. In the years that I wrote about in the book, department stores were run by families. Ken Dayton gave out boxed chocolates on Christmas Eve at Dayton's when all the employees left. Those days are gone, baby (laughs). I challenge you to go into any Macy's store in this whole country and tell me what city you're in. They all look alike.

The Milwaukee department store legacy lives on in Kohl's. How, if at all, do you think that reflects on the groundwork laid down by Schuster's and Gimbels?

That's a very good question. The one thing that everybody I talked to agrees on is that when Gimbels closed, Kohl's picked up a



PHOTO: DEPARTMENTSTOREMUSEUM.BLOGSPOT.COM

Gimbels 1924 building faced the Milwaukee River.

lot of very valuable product lines. Think Carter's or Oshkosh B'Gosh - kids' clothes. That was very important to the business they developed. Kohl's was started because Max and Herb Kohl figured out that if they put a department store next to their grocery store that the grocery store did 30 percent better business. I don't want in any way to take anything away from what Kohl's has done with growing their department store chain from 18 stores in Milwaukee to 1,000 stores in the whole country.

What about the tradition of department store holiday windows? Is it a lost art?

Where you see that displayed today is in signage. I saw some cool-looking signs at Target, also in the graphics that these big box stores are using to spiff up their stores. There are very few display windows left.

More information about Geenen's books can be found on his website, paulgeenen.com.

"Is a revelation not to be missed"

—The New York Times

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The Treasures of Kenwood House, London

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ENGLISH HERITAGE

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

Rembrandt van Rijn, *Portrait of the Artist*, ca. 1665 (detail). Kenwood House, English Heritage; Iveagh Bequest. Photo courtesy American Federation of Arts.

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~ ONGOING ~

Boulevard Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic, stages George Bernard Shaw's "**Don Juan In Hell**" through Dec. 2. Call 414-744-5747 or visit boulevardtheatre.com.

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

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.

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.

Skylight Music Theatre presents Rodgers and Hammerstein's "**The Sound Of Music**" through Dec. 23 in the Cabot Theatre at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Based on the popular holiday musical movie starring Albert Finney, "**Scrooge The Musical**" runs through Dec. 23 at The Fireside Theatre, 1131 Janesville (Business HWY 26 South) in Fort Atkinson. Call 800-477-9505.

NOV. 29, THURSDAY

Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival's monthly screening presents "**Mohammed to Maya**," a documentary about Maya Jafer's gender transformation, with director Jeff Roy and Maya Jafer in attendance, at 7 p.m. in the UWM Union Theatre, UWM Student Union, 2nd level, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. Call 414-229-4070.

Equality supporters Macklemore and Ryan Lewis bring "**The Heist**" world tour to the Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood in Madison, at 9 p.m. Call 608-241-2345.

Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State in Madison, presents songs of the season with **3Girls3** at 7 p.m. in the Capitol Theater. Call 608-258-4141.



Meshell Ndegeocello

NOV. 30, FRIDAY

Out singer/songwriter and bassist extraordinaire **Meshell Ndegeocello** performs at 7:30 p.m. at the Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood in Madison. Call 608-241-2345.

"**Uncommon Women and Others**" by the late Wendy Wasserstein, runs through Dec. 9 at Kenilworth Square East, Studio 508, 1925 E. Kenilworth Place. Call 414-229-4308.

Set in chaotic Toon Town, Steve Yockey's adult-oriented "**Cartoon**," runs through Dec. 15 at The Milwaukee Fortress, 100 A E. Pleasant. Visit youngbloodtheatre.com.

DEC. 1, SATURDAY

Country diva Martina McBride brings "The Joy of Christmas" to the Milwaukee Theatre, 500 W. Kilbourn, at 8 p.m. Call 414-908-6000.

DEC. 2, SUNDAY

The **Hartford Community Chorus** performs a Christmas concert



at 3 p.m. at Schauer Arts & Activities Center, 147 N. Rural in Hartford. Call 262-670-0560.

Trey Songz brings his **Chapter V Tour** to the Milwaukee Theatre, 500 W. Kilbourn, at 7:30 p.m. Call 414-908-6000.

DEC. 3, MONDAY

Wisconsin Conservatory of Music Bader Recital Hall, 1584 N. Prospect, presents the **Prometheus Trio**, with guest artist Matthew Michelic, tonight and tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. Visit wcmusic.org.

DEC. 4, TUESDAY

"**Rock Of Ages**" runs through Dec. 9 at The Overture Center for The Arts, 201 State in Madison. Call 608-258-4141.

Country-pop goddess **Crystal Gayle** performs a Christmas concert tonight and tomorrow night at 8 p.m. at the Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal. Call 414-847-7922.

DEC. 5, WEDNESDAY

Jazz vocalist **Jenny Thiel** performs a holiday concert at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, 19805 W. Capitol Drive in Brookfield. Call 262-781-9520.

DEC. 6, THURSDAY

The 7:30 p.m. performance of Milwaukee Chamber Theatre's presentation of "**Collected Stories**" by playwright Donald Margulies features a talkback with the Jewish Community Center's Jody Hirsh, at the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Milwaukee chanteuse **Robin Pluer** performs tonight and tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music Bader Recital Hall, 1584 N. Prospect. Visit wcmusic.org.

DEC. 7, FRIDAY

Catering to the after-work lesbian crowd who "still love to party but don't want to wait until 10 to get started," **Ladies Night Out** at Hot Water Night Club, 818 S. Water, starts with a piano bar at 5:30 p.m., followed by dance music 7:30-10:30 p.m. Call 414-383-7593.

Jazz vocalist **Petra van Nuis** and guitarist **Andy Brown** play holiday tunes from the Great American Songbook at 8 p.m. at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, 19805 W. Capitol Drive in Brookfield. Call 262-781-9520.

Oconomowoc Arts Center, 641 E. Forest in Oconomowoc, presents "**I've Got Yule, Babe**," Joel Kopischke's irreverent holiday revue, tonight and tomorrow night at 7 p.m. Call 262-560-3109.

The tasty musical "**Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka**," based on the book and classic film, runs through Dec. 16 at The Racine Theatre Guild, 2519 Northwestern (Highway 38) in Racine. Call 262-633-4218.

DEC. 8, SATURDAY

Bel Canto Chorus of Milwaukee presents **Christmas in the Basilica** with Bel Canto Boy Choir at 7:30 p.m. at the Basilica of St. Joseph, 2333 S. Sixth. Call 414-645-5623.

Milwaukee Symphony performs **The Music of Queen** at 7 p.m. at The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin. Call 414-286-3663.

Early Music Now presents Boston Camerata with Milwaukee Choral Artists performing **A Medieval Christmas** at 5 p.m. at St. Joseph Center Chapel, 1501 S. Layton. Visit earlymusicnow.org.

Combining musicianship, vocals and step dancing, Cherish The Ladies presents traditional Irish culture in their **Celtic Christmas Concert** at 8 p.m. at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, 19805 W. Capitol Drive in Brookfield. Call 262-781-9520.

DEC. 9, SUNDAY

Celebrating the season with traditional carols and sing-alongs, the Yuletide sounds of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra continues its tradition with **Holiday Pops**, at 2 p.m. at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, 19805 W. Capitol Drive in Brookfield. Call 262-781-9520.



El Vez, the gay "Mexican Elvis"

DEC. 10, MONDAY

El Vez, the gay "Mexican Elvis" impersonator, presents "**Mex-Mas!**" at 7 p.m. at Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth. Call 414-286-3663.

UW-M Peck School of the Arts presents **New Dancemakers: In The Loop**, through Dec. 12 in Mitchell Studio 254, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd. Call 414-229-4308.

DEC. 11, TUESDAY

Boldt Arts Alive! series presents Troupe America's "**Miracle on 34th Street**," at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave. in Appleton, at 7:30 p.m. Call 920-730-3760.

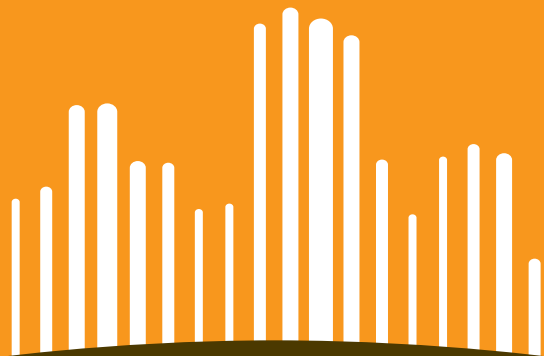
Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells, presents Jane Austen's "**Sense and Sensibility**" in the Quadracci Powerhouse, through Jan. 13. Call 414-224-9490.

DEC. 12, WEDNESDAY

John McGivern stars as Earlene Hoople in Pat Hazell's "**A Kodachrome Christmas**," through Dec. 31 at Next Act Theatre, 255 S. Water. Call 414-278-7780 or visit www.nextact.org.



John McGivern



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World AIDS Day, December 1st



We are Diverse and Resilient

Diverse and Resilient is committed to the healthy development of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in Wisconsin.

We envision a state where we thrive and live satisfying lives.

We believe that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are good.

In the past three decades our community has been compromised by HIV disease. Our losses of beloved brothers and transgender sisters have been heartbreaking. The toll of HIV on our resources, leadership, and celebration of life cannot be calculated. But our efforts to manage and end this disease have been legendary. Scores of lesbian and bisexual women came to aid of those in need of care and support. LGBT people took the lead to educate one another and the broader community. And, we did this initially with incredibly inadequate resources.

We know that LGBT people are powerful.

We have contributed to the well-being of Wisconsin by advocating for public health, medical care, mental health, employment, education, religion, and freedom from religious constraints. We have taken the lead in clinical trials for life saving drugs.

We believe that LGBT people have developed the goodwill of tens of thousands of people in Wisconsin.

Our humanity shows. It is evident that we share reasonable expectations to experience love and acceptance from our families, friends, colleagues and neighbors. Our lives have changed because of the love we received. The lives of others have changed because of our love. Our love is good.

At Diverse and Resilient, we work for you.

We commemorate World AIDS Day on December 1st, honoring those we have lost, those living with AIDS/HIV, physicians and nurses, administrators, caregivers, prevention workers, donors, and volunteers.

To make a year end contribution to Diverse and Resilient, go to diverseandresilient.org/give.

New gifts up to \$500 will be matched through a generous gift from three gay donors.

Honoring our past and present on December 1st, World AIDS Day.

