



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

On their honor?

Scouts drag boots on anti-gay ban

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

On their honor, leaders of the Boy Scouts of America said they may replace an outright ban on gay scouts and troops with a policy allowing individual councils and troops to set their own membership rules.

A vote was hoped for on Feb. 6, the last day the BSA's national executive board was meeting in Irving, Texas.

But early on Feb. 6, after two weeks of frenzied lobbying on the issue, the BSA said the outpouring of opinion proves how deeply people care. And

that, along with the "complexity of this issue," led the board to delay a decision so leaders can collect additional perspectives and draft a resolution to be decided not by the board, but by a 1,400 member national council in May.

LGBT civil rights leaders still relishing a year of unprecedented victories heralded news that the iconic youth group might lift the ban, but showed disappointment with the delay.

"Every day that the Boy Scouts of America delay action is another day that discrimination prevails," said Chad Griffin, president of the Human Rights Campaign. "Now is the time for action. Young Ameri-

SCOUTS page 14

ROMANCE A LA CARTE

WiGOUT offers a guide to the food and drink of love, including romantic cocktails, the best local chocolates and, of course, oysters.

Dish It Out, page 19



THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

Hillary Clinton says goodbye to State Department, mulls next political move

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

When Hillary Rodham Clinton first came to national attention in 1992, she was 44 and joining husband Bill on a high-energy bus tour, with Fleetwood Mac's "Don't Stop (Thinking About Tomorrow)" playing at stop after stop on the presidential campaign trail.

When she left the State Department for the final time as secretary of state on Feb. 1, many of Clinton's supporters were thinking about tomorrow – as in the winter 2016 day when New Hampshire holds its presidential primary, or the winter 2016 night of the next Iowa Caucuses, or the January 2017 day when the next president takes the oath of office.

Clinton ended her term as the nation's top diplomat wanting some rest and relaxation, but her supporters and admirers – a sizable majority of Democrats and a surprising number of Republicans, according to recent polls – hope that R&R doesn't lead to a retirement from politics.

will redouble your efforts to do all that you can to demonstrate unequivocally why diplomacy and development are right up there with defense."

Diplomacy and development, for her, included delivery of a powerful United Nations speech for LGBT rights in December 2011 in Geneva that many compared to Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I have a dream" speech. In an address unprecedented for a world leader, Clinton, said, "Gay rights are human rights, and human rights are gay rights," and the landscape shifted.

With the declaration came reform – an extension of employment benefits to same-sex partners and spouses of State Department employees, changes to make it easier for transgender Americans to correct their passports, passage of the first-ever UN resolution affirming the human rights of LGBT people, a push to provide foreign aid to promote LGBT rights with the Global Equality Fund.

CLINTON'S STAR

Clinton was a woman of prominence – and minor celebrity – in 1969, when she delivered the commencement address at Wellesley College and Life magazine profiled her as a standout in the Class of '69. She campaigned for George McGovern, worked as staff attorney for the Children's Defense Fund, served on the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment inquiry staff during Watergate and was first lady of Arkansas from 1979-1981 and 1983-1992.

CLINTON page 16

LGBT RIGHTS

Serving as the 67th secretary of state, Clinton visited a record 112 countries and traveled 956,000 miles. She left the post with a favorability rating of 66 percent, but more importantly with a successful record of advocating worldwide for peace, liberty, democracy, justice and human rights.

In her farewell to employees Feb. 1, Clinton said, "Those of you who are staying, as many of you will, please know that I hope you

MINE PROPOSAL SLAMMED

After getting \$15M from interests that would benefit from an open-pit iron mine in the Penokee Hills, the GOP is pushing a measure that would lift environmental rules opposed by those interests. Page 6



News with a twist

WIGWAG

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

PRICE OF INNOCENCE

Gov. Scott Walker transferred \$40,000 in campaign donations into his legal defense fund, bringing the total deposited into the account to \$200,000. Walker, who says he's not suspected of any wrongdoing, reported the Dec. 31 transfer in his latest campaign finance report. A spokeswoman said the money was needed to cooperate with authorities in the John Doe investigation of the governor's years as Milwaukee County Executive.

NO MORE NAKED LUNCH

A federal judge has upheld San Fran's ban against public nudity, which took effect Feb. 1. The ordinance was challenged by free speech advocates and nudist enthusiasts. But Judge Edward Chen said, "Nudity in and of itself is not inherently expressive." The ordinance bars people

over the age of 5 from exposing their genitals on public streets, in parks or plazas or on public transit.

FRUIT JUICE

A right-wing radio host says the government is putting chemicals in processed foods to turn babies gay. InforWars radio host Alex Jones claims the government is "encouraging homosexuality with chemicals so that people don't have children." In a video, he cuts open a juice box he says is filled with feminizing chemicals and says, "After (little boys) are done drinking your juices, (they're) ready to go out and have a baby ... (they're) ready to put together a garden of roses ... (they're) ready to go put lipstick on."

SHAZAM

Well, bless his heart. Jim Nabors, the actor perhaps best known for his portrayal of Gomer Pyle on TV in the 1960s, married



his partner of 38 years in Seattle. Nabors told Hawaii News Now, "I'm 82 and he's in his 60s and so we've been together for 38 years and I'm not ashamed of people knowing, it's just that it was such a personal thing, I didn't tell anybody. I'm very happy that I've had a partner of 38 years and I feel very blessed."

HEY, EASY ON THAT SAUCE!

A former NFL player faces felony domestic violence charges for assaulting his ex-boyfriend last August. Kwame Harris, who played with the San Francisco 49ers from 2003 to 2007, has been charged with "felony counts of domestic violence causing great bodily injury and assault with force likely to produce great bodily injury." Prosecutors in San Mateo County, Calif., say the violence

erupted from an argument with ex-boyfriend Dimitri Geier over the use of soy sauce at a Chinese restaurant in Menlo Park.

HOW DO YOU SPELL RELIEF?

Bishop Thomas Paprocki, the anti-gay activist who heads the Diocese of Springfield, Ill., said a priest who recently called 911 for help in removing handcuffs and a gag was alone and was not engaged in sexual behavior at the time. Instead, the bishop said the Rev. Tom Donovan was merely using bondage as a therapy to release stress. Donovan is currently on a leave of absence from his stressful job.

NOT SO UNDERCOVER

Police in Salem, Ore., arrested a woman for solicitation in a not-so-undercover sting. The 20-year-old woman from Portland allegedly drove 50 miles to

meet with a client after being solicited for sex. She arrived for the transaction ... at the Salem Police Department. Authorities say the woman walked past the police department sign and into the station, where she attempted to locate her client.

BREAK-IN AT DEMOCRATIC HQ

Police in Des Moines, Iowa, had to break into the state Democratic Party headquarters in January – to rescue a woman trapped in the office bathroom for four hours. The Des Moines Register said the lock on the restroom door broke after the woman went in. She was in the office alone. So, no one heard her cries for help, and she wasn't found until her concerned husband called police.

RUSHED OUT

Rush Limbaugh was refused service at a Mexican restaurant in Florida

that he visited for lunch. The owners of Pablo's Taqueria in Palm Beach Gardens said they have a strict "no racists" policy and asked Limbaugh to leave the premises. He initially refused, spewing a racist, obscenity-filled rant, according to witnesses. But security guards escorted him out the front door.

COSTLY TIP

An Applebee's waitress was fired after posting a photo on Reddit of a diner's receipt. Instead of leaving the suggested 18 percent tip, the diner, claiming to be a pastor, wrote, "I give God 10%, why should you get 18?" The diner called Applebee's and complained after seeing the receipt online, costing the waitress her job.

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Milwaukee Quakers protest marriage inequality

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Quakers, also known as the Religious Society of Friends, have long been at the forefront of efforts to achieve social justice and peace. The movement played a major role in the abolition of slavery in the United States and the United Kingdom during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Quakers have been so strenuously involved in the anti-war movement over the years that the FBI and the Pentagon have kept various "meetings," the Quaker

equivalent of congregations, under surveillance. Under Donald Rumsfeld, the Pentagon had a lengthy file on an anti-war group associated with the Quaker Meeting House in Lake Worth, Fla.

Not surprisingly, Quaker groups also have been out front on the issue of marriage equality. Some meetings that perform wedding ceremonies refuse to sign civil marriage certificates, requiring the couples to have them completed by county officials.

The meetings involved in the

marriage protest consider their refusal to sign the documents as an act of protest against marriage inequality. They plan to resume signing members' marriage certificates when same-sex marriage is legalized.

Milwaukee Friends Meeting, 3224 N. Gordon Place, in the Riverwest neighborhood, recently joined the protest against marriage inequality, becoming perhaps the first Quaker group in the state to do so.

"We will not participate in the civil aspects of any marriage until such time as same-sex couples are

able to participate in it," said Roger Hansen, who's part of the meeting's marriage equality committee. He and his

husband John Payton became part of the meeting after retiring and moving from Evanston, Ill., to Milwaukee in 2002. The couple also is active in Equal-

ity Wisconsin, an LGBT advocacy organization.

Hansen estimates 10-15 percent of the meeting's approximately 200 affiliates are LGBT.

Although the marriage protest presents some inconvenience for members planning nuptials, they don't seem to mind, said Janet, the meeting's immediate past clerk. In fact, she said some members decided to take the action on their own before it became the Quaker equivalent of a policy, in order to show their solidarity with same-sex couples.

Hilliker said that the Quaker decision-making process involves reflection rather than debate. The proposal to join the marriage protest was brought up at two separate meetings, and no one expressed dissent at either.

"We don't take votes, so it requires a very strong sense of unity" for what is called a "minute" to pass, Hilliker said.

The meeting first began to address LGBT issues when anti-gay forces in Wisconsin began campaigning for what Hilliker calls the "awful" voter referendum to ban same-sex marriages and civil unions in 2006.

"The work against the amendment in 2006 mobilized a number of members, and we passed another minute at that time to reaffirm our commitment to gay and lesbian issues," Hilliker said.

Quakers first began welcoming LGBT people in the 1970s and expressed approval for same-sex marriage as far back as 1987, Hansen said. As with other faith groups, not all meetings are in the same place on the conservative-liberal spectrum.

There are four basic sects, and two of them have programmed worship services and follow an evangelical brand of theology, Hilliker said. The Riverwest meeting is casual and has no structured form of worship. Attendees speak when they feel called upon, Hilliker explained, using the old-fashioned forms of address "thee" and "thou," although they might be wearing jeans.

The Riverwest meeting place is located on a scenic land preserve on the west bank of the Milwaukee River.

ON THE WEB...

For more, go to www.milwaukeequakers.org/visitors/inv_to_worship.html?Op.

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New film raises old questions about Catholic Church

Opinion

DIANE ROOT

Something akin to a plague is affecting the once most highly-regarded institutions: universities, national associations, the Catholic Church and now the ultra-conservative Orthodox community in New York City. Lust involving the molestation of children, it seems, is a many-splintered thing.

William K., now 45, is a Roman Catholic and a child rape victim. He is gay, and he is angry. He appeared briefly in the documentary, "Mea Maxima Culpa," which debuted Feb. 4 on HBO. The film addresses the issue of rape and molestation of children by members of the Catholic clergy. William K. is passionate about justice, not only for those who victimized the young, but for those who covered it up.

The accessories to pedophilia are almost invariably

unpunished. Child victims are raped – mentally, physically, even morally. Few victims overcome their experience. Confessing to their past is just this side of mental and emotional crucifixion.

Paying out a monetary "settlement" in restitution is neither a real solution nor the real issue. How do you recompense bruised, battered, scarred and scared hearts, minds and bodies? To add insult to injury, pedophile priests are routinely paid to leave the church, which is tantamount to giving severance pay to the sex offenders among the defrocked – that is, if they are defrocked. The church was master of the two-step: first the priests would leave the parish discreetly and then they were shuffled off to some other district, usually without any mention of wrongdoing.

In the worst-case scenario, a diocese simply declares bankruptcy to avoid paying compensation to the victims of sexual abuse by mem-

The accessories to pedophilia are almost invariably unpunished. Milwaukee and other cities have suffered from what could be described as ecclesiastical malpractice.

bers of the church. This, of course, does not deal with the accessories; the ones who, with full knowledge of the facts, cover up egregious behavior. Since when are they above the law?

The pope, tinkering with tweets to followers in eight different languages, does not repair the tatters of those lives subjected to molestation and rape. His handle on Twitter is @pontifex, meaning "bridge builder." Burned bridges have to be rebuilt. As a result, the Vatican has gone viral.

The pope was once Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, a man "personally implicated in a case from the 1970s in

which three sets of parents reported that a priest in his diocese had sexually abused their children. In response, Ratzinger assigned the priest to therapy, without notifying law enforcement, and washed his hands of the matter. The priest was back on duty in a few short days and went on to molest more children," writes Adam Lee in "50 Reasons to Boycott the Catholic Church."

That was strike one for Ratzinger. Strike two came in 1981, when he ignored letters "from the diocese of Oakland to defrock a priest who acknowledged molesting two children." Four years later, he finally responded,

saying that for "the good of the Universal Church" they had to proceed "very slowly" to safeguard the church's good name.

Strike three came in 2001. The then-cardinal wrote a document entitled "De Delictis Gravioribus." Destined for all Catholic bishops, this pronouncement instructed how to handle sexual offenses by priests: Report them to the Vatican and no one else.

Milwaukee and other cities have suffered from what could be described as ecclesiastical malpractice. Reported offenders include Timothy Dolan, archbishop of Milwaukee 2002-2009 and now promoted to cardinal of New York City; Archbishop Rembert Weakland, who served for 25 years as archbishop of Milwaukee; Bishop Richard Sklba; Jerome Listekci, the current archbishop of Milwaukee; E. Michael McCann, district attorney of Milwaukee from 1968-2006; and the current District Attorney John Chi-



PHOTO: COURTESY

Diane Root is a writer, editor and artist based in New York City. Her work has appeared in The New York Times.

solm (both DAs are Catholics).

When do we mete out the punishment for clandestine co-conspirators – enablers of crimes against defenseless children? No one should be "too big to jail." And legislation addressing organizations hiding heinous sexual transgressions should not be "too big to fail."

That includes the pope. *Opinions to lweisberg@wisconsin Gazette.com.*

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Mining bill prompts battle to save 'greatest' lake

By Louis Weisberg

Staff Writer

Northern Wisconsin's Penokee Hills region is a place of rare natural beauty — a pristine wilderness of woodlands and wetlands crisscrossed with streams and waterfalls.

The water that flows from the hills is a primary source for Lake Superior. The cleanest of the Great Lakes, Superior contains 10 percent of all the planet's fresh surface water.

That water also feeds regional wild-rice beds that are a major food source and central to the spirituality of local Native Americans.

But under the Penokee Hills lies taconite, a low-grade iron ore that's used in steel production. Gogebic Taconite, a Florida-based company, wants to develop a massive open pit mine in an area that could span about 21,000 acres of the region.

Wisconsin Republicans, who've received \$15.6 million in contributions from

special interests that would benefit financially from the mine, are fast-tracking a bill through the Assembly that would loosen environmental regulations aimed at preventing groundwater contamination from the mine. Written by Gogebic Taconite, the new law would speed up the project and enhance its profitability by relieving it of environmental responsibilities.

Opponents, including tribes in the region, environmentalists and Ashland County communities whose water supply is threatened, are fighting to reinstate rules to protect the area's vital water supply.

THE GOP PUSH

The mining bill first surfaced last year, when the vote on it was almost entirely along party lines. Only one vote — that of independent Republican Sen. Dale Schultz of southwestern Wisconsin — prevented the bill from becoming law.

This session, however,

Republican redistricting netted the party a significant majority in the Assembly as well as a two-vote advantage in the Senate. Opponents of the mining bill claim the GOP has flaunted that advantage by sidestepping the usual public input process for the legislation. Only one listening session has been held, a 12-hour event that took place on Jan. 23 at the Capitol, far from the area that would be impacted by the mine.

Committees in Wisconsin's Senate and Assembly were meeting about the bill on Feb. 6, as WiG headed to press. Democrats have proposed their own measure, one that reinstates environmental protections. Under growing pressure and responding to persuasive arguments by the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters and other environmental groups, some Republicans have indicated they would incorporate elements of the Democrats' proposal into

theirs. Republicans might not have any choice if their bill fails to comply with federal regulations.

But with so many millions of dollars from the proposed mine's backers lining GOP pockets, the bill's opponents are wary. They've had to fight back a variety of dangerous proposals, including a Republican scheme promising to create new wetlands elsewhere in the state if the mine destroys the surrounding ones.

A RUSE

Republicans contend their only reason for trying to pass the bill so quickly and without more study is to help spur job creation. They say the fast-track schedule has been prompted by economic urgency rather than an effort to circumvent public input.

Gov. Scott Walker, who was voted into office on the promise of creating 250,000 jobs in Wisconsin, is expected to fall far short of that goal when he runs for reelection in 2014. In fact, his record is one of the worst in the nation. His supporters say his insistence on speeding up the mining approval process and relaxing groundwater, wetland, waste rock disposal and other environmental rules reflects his eagerness to bring good jobs to Wisconsin. They say his haste and enthusiasm have nothing to do with the \$11.34 million he's received from businesses that support mining deregulation, according to the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign.

But critics claim the job argument is a ruse.

The project's proponents claim the first mining phase will last 35 years and create 700 direct mining jobs.

However opponents contend most of the workers will come from Cline Resource and Development, Gogebic's parent company, owned by billionaire Chris Cline of Palm Beach, Fla. Opponents say the mine realistically has the potential to create fewer than 100 local jobs.

TOXIC WASTE

In addition to softening pollution protections, the Republicans' mining bill

would streamline the state's mining approval process in general, which could have a damaging effect on the state's environment for generations to come, according to its critics.

More than 20 perennial streams flow through the proposed mining area, according to a study published by Tom Fitz, associate professor of geoscience at Northland College in Ashland. Many of those streams have been designated as exceptional or outstanding resource waters by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Fitz and others are concerned about the potential impact the mine might have on the flow as well as the chemistry of the groundwater and surface water that spreads from the mining area. That area is full of pyrites and other sulfur-bearing minerals, which could send acid mine drainage down the Bad River, the Tyler Forks River, and other rivers that spill into Lake Superior.

"We're not opposed to mining, but our job is to look out for water in the state," says Mike McCabe, executive director of Wisconsin Democracy Campaign. "We want to make sure that when citizens go to the tap and pour out a glass of water, it's not going to be laced with arsenic and lead."

CUT OUT

McCabe and others are outraged by Republicans' efforts to exclude the people in the region, particularly the nearby Native American population, from the debate over mining regulation changes.

"They cut the people out of the process," McCabe says. "Two-thirds of the mine site will be in Ashland County, and all of the water will drain through Ashland County. The tribes are situated in Ashland County. But they've never had a hearing in Ashland County."

In fact, the proposed mining legislation was released on Jan. 16. Then, on Jan. 18, Republican leadership announced that a hearing would be held in Madison on Jan. 23.

Because the announce-

ment came at the beginning of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend, McCabe and others interested in addressing legislators about the bill were left with only Jan. 22 to organize a presence at the Capitol.

"We essentially had eight working hours for people to ask for a day off, to arrange for childcare and to get themselves to Madison from Ashland," he says. "Despite all the requests from the many citizens and papers editorializing up there around the bill, that was the only hearing scheduled."

A busload of people went from Ashland County to Madison for the chance to confront lawmakers. According to McCabe, about 100 of the people who showed up to speak were denied. Those who did address lawmakers complained that the time allotted for their questions was very limited.

About half the people on the bus were Ojibwes, members of the Bad River and Red Cliff bands of the Lake Superior Chippewa, says Matt Dannenberg, central Wisconsin organizer for the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters.

"The Bad River band is quite literally downstream from where the proposed mining operation would be," Dannenberg says.

The Bad River could transport toxic waste from the mining operation into the Kakagon-Bad River Sloughs, which was recognized last year as a "Wetland of International Importance." The sloughs are considered to be Wisconsin's version of the Florida Everglades.

WILD RICE

In addition to purifying the water that runs into Lake Superior, the wetlands are home to the wild rice that's part of the origin story and spirituality of the region's indigenous people. "It's like their communion," Dannenberg explains.

Wild rice is highly susceptible to changes in water level and composition. According to Dannenberg, taconite min-

MINE next page



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MINE from prior page

ing on Michigan's upper peninsula and in Minnesota has caused environmental damage that has destroyed wild rice beds.

"In Minnesota, it's caused a dead zone in the St. Louis River," he says. "Wild rice can no longer grow there. Federal agencies are trying to figure out how to reintroduce the wild rice and reclaim the damage that was done."

The Bureau of Indian Affairs is currently looking into whether the state violated treaties in drafting the mining rules without consulting with local tribes. A 1983 Supreme Court ruling known as the Voigt Decision upheld the rights of tribes to be included in decisions involving areas outside their reservation boundaries that affect their land and way of life.

In addition to opposition from Ashland County's indigenous people, nearby communities that rely on tourism are also opposed to the softening of mining regulations.

"I feel very strongly that anything that takes a risk in endangering Lake Superior is



PHOTO: TOM LYNN/AP

In this AP file photo, the sun rises over the Kakagon Sloughs on the Bad River Reservation in northern Wisconsin.

not the right bill," says Bayfield Mayor Larry MacDonald. Home of the popular Bayfield Apple Festival, the town depends on tourism for 90 percent of its eco-

notic activity, MacDonald estimates.

"The majority of people up here are in favor of anything that has to do with economic development," MacDonald

says. But after looking at the bill and listening to conservationists' concerns, he decided that regulations "need to be as restrictive as they can ... to make it as safe as possible

for the environment."

"People can be pro-mining and still be against this bill," he says. "If we lose Lake Superior and any form of fish, we've lost the economy

in this part of Wisconsin. ... This is the greatest of all the Great Lakes."

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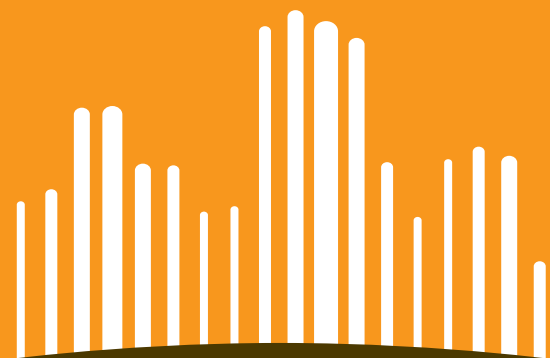
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Vigils honor slain transgender rapper Evon Young



PHOTO: PROVIDED

Five men are charged with first-degree homicide in the death of the 22-year-old transgender rapper, Evon Young.

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Evon Young was remembered as an up-and-coming rapper in the Milwaukee community in vigils that took place Jan. 29 near the Mil-

waukee residence where he likely died.

Memorials, organized by family and friends of the 22-year-old transgender man who performed as "Yung LT," took place at North 52nd

Street and West Custer Avenue — one vigil on a chilly morning and another on a rainy evening.

Meanwhile, the Milwaukee Police Department continued to use dogs in a methodical,

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation is following the case.

multi-day search for Young's body in an area landfill and worked with the Milwaukee District Attorney's office to ready the case against the five men charged with killing Young on Jan. 1-2.

Young's mother had reported her son missing on Jan. 2 after he failed to show up for work and a family dinner.

Police began to investigate and the family reached out, seeking information on Young's whereabouts.

Eventually, evidence, witness statements and at least two alleged confessions led police to arrest five men associated with a street gang for torturing and shooting Young and then covering up the crime.

Victor Stewart, 27; Ashanti

Mcalister, 19; Billy R. Griffin, 26; Ron Joseph Allen, 37; and Devin L. Seaberry, 23, are charged with first-degree homicide in the case.

Griffin, who was Young's roommate, and Stewart allegedly confessed, although their accounts of the killing differ.

Police have collected fingerprints, DNA, a chain and other physical evidence in the case against the men, who appeared in court on Jan. 31 for a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty.

If convicted, they could be sentenced to life in prison.

Several local LGBT groups released statements following the arrests and the national Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, now more commonly known

as GLAAD, is following the case.

Gary Hollander of Milwaukee's Diverse & Resilient said, "The death of Evon Young, apparently at the hands of several other Milwaukee youth and young adults, is shocking, deplorable and heart-breaking. Our deepest sympathy goes to his family, friends and those who enjoyed his poetry. We share in the grief over his death and in the outrage over its means."

Milwaukee's FORGE stated, "FORGE sends its condolences to Young's family and friends. We also recognize that when anyone is killed or harmed, those who share the victim's identity may react with intense grief, anger or fear. We ask our community to be caring, compassionate and supportive of each other as we acknowledge the pervasiveness of violence in our culture, and the accompanying sorrow many of us are feeling."



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Republicans grope for change they can win elections with



PHOTO: MITT ROMNEY FOR PRESIDENT

U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., talks with a crowd about the national debt during his vice presidential run last year.

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Republican leaders at a winter meeting in January focused on how to thaw icy relations with influential voting blocs offended by the anti-poor, anti-immigrant, anti-gay, anti-woman agenda the GOP has promoted in recent years.

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, in a keynote address at the RNC meeting in Charlotte, N.C., said the party must "stop being the stupid party."

Jindal, seen as a likely candidate for president in 2016, said, "It's time for a new Republican Party that talks like adults. We had a number of Republicans damage the brand this year with offensive and bizarre comments. I'm here to say we've had enough of that."

At the end of the meeting, the party re-elected Wisconsin's Reince Priebus to a two-year term as chairman. He too said the party must be transformed to build its ranks.

"We have to take our message of opportunity where it's not being heard," Priebus said in his acceptance speech. "We have to build better relationships in minority communities, urban centers and college towns. We need a permanent, growing presence."

After the meeting, in an op-ed for the San Francisco Chronicle, Priebus wrote, "In the next election, I don't know who will win – or even who will run. But I know this: Republicans will be a party people will want to join. We will be a party that says, 'Follow us to a brighter future.' We will make our principles relevant to our time and relatable to voters

as we champion prosperity, success and freedom for all."

But can that happen with party leaders, including Wisconsin Congressman Paul Ryan and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker – both seen as possible names on at the top of the ticket in 2016 – continuing to court the right?

After the GOP's winter meeting, where the official theme was "Renew, Grow, Win," many Republican leaders moved on to a summit in Washington, D.C., hosted by the National Review Institute.

Speakers included Walker, Ryan, Jindal, Jim DeMint of the Heritage Foundation, National Organization for Marriage former president Maggie Gallagher and Faith and Freedom Coalition founder Ralph Reed.

Ryan said in the next four years the president would seek to demonize Republicans but that conservatives must hold firm. At the end of his speech, he recounted how he recharged for the fight after the election.

"I needed to get into the woods," Ryan said. "That's where I recharge. So I took my daughter Liza hunting with me in Oklahoma. And she got her first deer. And I realized just how quickly she was growing up. That got me thinking. When I'm old and gray – and my grandkids ask me about this moment – I don't want to tell them how America lost its way. I don't want to say, 'Don't blame me. I didn't vote for any of it.' Instead, I want to tell them how America got back on track. I want to look at them and say, 'Yeah, it was tough. But it was worth it.'"

More news at wisconsin Gazette.com.

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NATIONAL BRIEFS



PHOTO: PETE SOUZA/WHITE HOUSE

President Barack Obama meets with members of Congress for a roundtable discussion about immigration reform.

OBAMA PROPOSES GAY-INCLUSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

President Barack Obama offered proposals for comprehensive immigration reform in an address in Las Vegas on Jan. 29. The plan includes protecting binational same-sex couples who do

not currently have the same marriage protections as heterosexual couples.

An effort to protect LGBT binational families was not mentioned in the bipartisan Senate proposal announced on Jan. 28. U.S. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., one of the eight senators involved with that "framework" for

comprehensive reform, told "CBS This Morning" that protections for LGBT families was not of "paramount importance at this time."

But the component of the president's plan for keeping families together states, "The proposal ... treats same-sex families as families by giving U.S. citizens and

lawful permanent residents the ability to seek a visa on the basis of a permanent relationship with a same-sex partner."

IN OTHER NEWS...

Congressional Democrats renewed their push to revive the key federal program that protects women against domestic violence. The Violence Against Women Act became law in 1994 and was extended in 2000 and 2005. But it expired in 2011 and, although both the House and Senate passed VAWA bills last year, the two chambers were unable to settle their differences. The main points of contention last year were provisions in the Senate-passed bill that increased protections for American Indians, gays and immigrants.

Civil rights advocates are pressing for Presi-

dent Barack Obama to sign an executive order banning federal contractors from discriminating based on sexual orientation or gender identity. The drive comes as the president included an unexpected declaration of support for equal rights in his inaugural address on Jan. 21. But a White House spokesman said the administration is not ready "at this time" to issue an executive order.

A woman married to a female Army officer at Fort Bragg and recently denied membership in its officers' spouses club said she's been invited to become a full member. Ashley Broadway received the invitation from the club in an email on Jan. 25. The invitation came the same day Broadway also learned she'd been named Fort Bragg's 2013 "Military Spouse of the Year" by Military Spouse magazine.

She is married to Lt. Col. Heather Mack, with whom she has two children.

The Rhode Island House of Representatives on Jan. 24 approved a bill to legalize same-sex marriage in the state. The bill has been introduced in every session since 1997. The challenge is the Senate, where President Teresa Paiva Weed is an opponent.

A bill that would have allowed same-sex couples in Wyoming to create domestic partnerships carrying most of the legal rights of conventional marriage cleared a committee vote in late January, a move that sent pro-gay legislation on to a full floor debate in the state Legislature for the first time. The measure failed on Jan. 30, the same week the lawmakers rejected an anti-discrimination bill.

— Lisa Neff

British House of Commons votes for gay marriage

Members of the British House of Commons on Feb. 5 voted 400 to 175 for a second reading of a bill to legalize civil marriage in England and Wales.

"As the last piece of the legislative jigsaw providing equality for lesbian, gay and bisexual people in Britain, this is a truly historic step forward. We're absolutely delighted that MPs have demonstrated so overwhelmingly that they're in touch with the 21st century," Ben Summerskill, chief executive of the UK's largest LGBT civil rights group, Stonewall, said.

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The Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) invites the public to help inform the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin (AHW) 2014-2018 Five-Year Plan. Please share your thoughts in a brief online survey at: <http://www.mcw.edu/ahw/fiveyearplan.htm>.

AHW funds partnerships between academics and community organizations for urban, rural and statewide health improvement projects in Wisconsin.

AHW also funds biomedical and population health research as well as new education initiatives that contribute to improving health in the state.

AHW was created as a result of the Blue Cross & Blue Shield United of Wisconsin's for-profit conversion.

Comments can also be submitted at any time via e-mail at healthierwisconsin@mcw.edu or by calling 414-955-8075.

Man convicted in killing of Milwaukee activist

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

A Milwaukee jury on Jan. 31 convicted a man of second-degree intentional homicide in the death of community activist Desiree Marie Harrell. Raymond Earl Baker will be sentenced March 14 for the killing that took place on Jan. 2, 2012.

Early that morning more than a year ago, Milwaukee

police responded to a call about gunshots fired in the 3800 block of North 24th Street. There, officers found Harrell, a popular 43-year-old activist in the LGBT community, slumped over in the front seat of her Buick Regal. She had been shot eight times.

On Jan. 4, 2012, 200 friends and family gathered at the crime scene in the North

Side neighborhood for a candlelight vigil and to share memories of the woman they described as a lover, big sister, mentor, protector and friend.

The next day, the homicide charge was filed against Baker, who initially went to Milwaukee Police Department district headquarters with two women to provide with an alibi for the time of the shooting.

Baker said he was concluding a drug deal when he observed Harrell, whom he said was involved with his now ex-wife. He approached Harrell and, after a brief conversation, shot her with a .40-caliber Glock that he then hid in a garbage can.

Baker initially pleaded not guilty and the lengthy process of preparing for a trial began. Last spring, Baker changed

his plea to guilty but the court refused the deal.

His trial began with jury selection on Jan. 28, followed by consideration of several motions, including one to dismiss the case, which was denied.

Several detectives with the Milwaukee Police Department testified on Jan. 29 and again on Jan. 30, the day that the state and defense rested

and jury began deliberations.

On Jan. 31, as deliberations continued, the jury had several questions and asked to review evidence. But just after noon, the jury returned and the foreperson said it had reached a verdict – that Baker was guilty of second-degree intentional homicide, a lesser charge than the first-degree homicide that the state sought.

CREATING CHANGE

Thousands of advocates for LGBT equality, including leaders of Fair Wisconsin and Equality Wisconsin, gathered in Atlanta in late January for the annual Creating Change conference sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. President Barack Obama delivered a message via video. NGLTF executive director Rea Carey delivered a State of the Movement address.

“As we look toward the next 40 years, if we are to succeed, we must stand up.

We must be a movement that is about possibility over privilege; expanding over narrowing; unity over separation; creating change over settling for what is. We are family and we will not leave any of you behind,” Carey said.

IN OTHER NEWS...

GSafe – the Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools – is seeking nominations for 2013 educator of the year and community activist awards. Nominations are due by March 15, with the awards presenta-

NATIONAL EVENTS

tion scheduled on May 11 at the Monona Terrace in downtown Madison. Applications can be found at www.gsafewi.org.

The PFLAG chapter in Manitowoc County is encouraging family and friends of LGBT people to attend its monthly meetings – held the first Thursdays at 7 p.m. at St. James Episcopal Church, 434 N. Eighth St., in

the city.

The Human Rights Campaign is working with U.S. businesses to campaign for the repeal of the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act. A business coalition for marriage equality includes Marriott International, AIX Armani Exchange, Aetna Inc., Biogen Idec, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Diageo North America, eBay Inc., Electronic Arts, Kimpton

Hotel & Restaurant Group LLC, Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company, Replacements, Ltd., Sun Life Financial U.S. and Thomson Reuters. Businesses interested in joining can find applications at <http://www.hrc.org/resources/entry/business-coalition-for-doma-repeal>.

Activists in Wilton Manors, Fla., have formed a nonprofit to open the World AIDS Museum & Educational Center in the city. For more about the effort, go to www.worldaidsmuseum.com.

Argyle Apartments, the nation's first LGBT-friendly affordable senior housing group, recently announced plans for its latest 40-unit development. The project will serve an LGBT senior population and be built at Hollywood and Western, a metro stop from Triangle Square, another LGBT-friendly housing community by the nonprofit Gay & Lesbian Elder Housing Los Angeles Corporation. For more, go to gleh.org.

– from WiG reports

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{ Editorial }

What a tangled Web

While the Internet has brought enormous benefits to society, it should be used with caution. The embarrassing hoax perpetrated on Notre Dame footballer Manti Te'o spotlighted the latest Internet scam of catfishing, one of the numerous hazards facing cybersurfers.

Catfishing refers to engaging people in online romantic relationships through fake Internet profiles. The practice is not illegal, but as the linebacker's experience demonstrates, it can be emotionally devastating.

Te'o thought he was having a love affair with a woman he met on the Internet. He spoke publicly about their relationship in a big way. But she didn't exist. A closeted gay man struggling with his sexual orientation was pretending to be her.

Catfishing is typical of the opportunities the Web presents for anti-social behavior. Trusting and naïve Internet users have been robbed, scammed of their life savings and murdered through contacts made online.

According to a 2011 survey conducted by Symantec in 24 countries, there are 50,000 casualties per hour of online crimes – that's 1 million victims daily. Men are more commonly tricked than women, largely because they're more prone to online activities that make them vulnerable, such as visiting porn, gambling and hook-up sites.

LGBT people are particularly at risk, since they are heavier Internet users. A unique risk they face is public exposure of their sexual orientation in a world that's still overwhelmingly homophobic. In the developing world, people outed online have been killed. In many states, LGBT people can be fired or evicted.

The Internet has facilitated what's been called an epidemic of sex and porn addiction among gay men. Internet sex and porn addicts lose their ability to have real relationships and sometimes lose their jobs over their addiction. Men who frequent hook-up sites such as Manhunt and the phone app Grindr have been traced to numerous local outbreaks of HIV and STD infections.

Older gay men are particularly vulnerable to scammers. People claiming to be young men looking for older lovers gain access to their bank accounts and credit cards with the promise of buying an airline ticket to visit them.

Online bullying and harassment are also major hazards on the Web, leading to an untold number of youth suicides. Cowards use the Internet to spread malicious lies and damage reputations. They torment business owners they dislike by posting negative reviews of their enterprises.

In an incident that gained notoriety in Door County some years ago, a gay couple was assaulted during a bar fight that they said was a hate-motivated attack. But a man who felt rejected by the couple posted Internet comments on news stories about the incident claiming that he witnessed the attack and insisting it was not hate-motivated. A police investigation tracked down the "witness," discovered that he was not even present at the incident and forced him to issue a public apology.

Te'o's case is a reminder that the Internet is a dangerous place. Be careful of what you reveal online and wary of what you read, unless it's connected to a reputable news source. Most blogs and "informational" sources on the Web make Fox News look like The New York Times. Often they're created by special interests pushing propaganda devoid of truth.

Sadly, the cybersphere is an environment where criminals, sociopaths, cowards and people with an agenda can wreak havoc under the cover of anonymity or a euphemistic name.

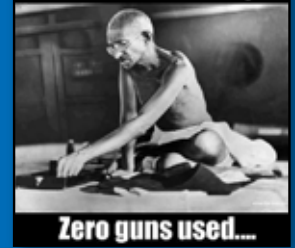
WiG's WEB PICKS

Some of our favorite recent pictorials from cyberspace

Sec. Of State Clinton Takes Questions From Republicans At Benghazi Hearing



Overthrows the British Empire



Mommy, why do the red states take more welfare, pay less taxes, and still bitch about "big government" ruining the country?



NO DRUG TEST



Republicans regularly demand that all welfare, food stamp, and unemployment recipients be drug tested.

How about if all gun purchasers be drug tested?

Then we can watch the Republicans jump up and scream that drug testing to buy guns is unconstitutional.

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ON THE RECORD



“With officers laid off and furloughed, simply calling 911 and waiting is no longer your best option. You could beg for mercy from a violent criminal, hide under the bed, or you can fight back.”

– Milwaukee County SHERIFF DAVID CLARKE calling for ordinary citizens to become vigilantes in the wake of personnel cuts in his office. Following the statement, Clarke, who claims he’s a Democrat, debated Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett on CNN’s “Piers Morgan Tonight” and became a subject of national ridicule.

“I don’t do the gay guys man. I don’t do that. No, we don’t got no gay people on the team, they gotta get up out of here if they do. Can’t be with that sweet stuff. Nah ... can’t be ... in the locker room man. Nah.”

– San Francisco 49ers cornerback CHRIS CULLIVER telling a radio interviewer on Super Bowl Media Day that an openly gay player would not be tolerated on his team.

“The San Francisco 49ers reject the comments that were made yesterday, and have addressed the matter with Chris. There is no place for discrimination within our organization at any level. We have and always will proudly support the LGBT community.”

– The official response by the SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS concerning Chris Culliver’s remarks.

“The derogatory comments I made yesterday were a reflection of thoughts in my head, but they are not how I feel.”

– San Francisco 49ers cornerback CHRIS CULLIVER apologizing the day after he made the remarks above.

“I can’t speak from personal experience, but being homosexual in and of itself is not deadly or dangerous. The act of homosexuality is very dangerous.”

– Tennessee state Sen. STACEY CAMPBELL warning against the perils of homosexuality as he introduced his latest version of the “Don’t Say Gay Bill” in the Legislature, which rejected it last session. Campbell went on to explain that AIDS originated with a gay airline pilot who had sexual relations with a monkey.

“It is no exaggeration to say that the institution of marriage was a direct response to the unique tendency of opposite-sex relationships to produce unplanned and unintended offspring.”

– One of the most pressing reasons for banning same-sex marriage, according to attorney PAUL CLEMENT, who presented the argument to Supreme Court justices on behalf of House Republicans defending the Defense of Marriage Act.



Fight to end violence against women

Opinion
JAMAKAYA

On Feb. 14, you can do something to end violence against women. Join the “One Billion Rising” protests scheduled throughout Badgerland and demand that Congress pass the Violence Against Women Act.

For 15 years, the Feb. 14 V-Day campaign has publicized the atrocious levels of violence against women worldwide. Playwright Eve Ensler founded V-Day to coincide with Valentine’s Day. Performances of her popular play “The Vagina Monologues” and other V-Day events have raised millions of dollars for direct services for abuse survivors and for schools and clinics in countries where girls and women are denied education and health care.

“Fifteen years ago,” Ensler says, “we started V-Day to end violence against women. Fifteen years on, we’ve had a lot of achievements, but the

violence is still going on.”

Reports from around the world are almost mind-numbing: 400,000 women raped annually in organized attacks in eastern Congo; 200,000 to 400,000 women trafficked into the single country of Spain (yes, Catholic Spain) for coerced prostitution; 125,000 Indian women murdered every year for issues related to dowries and family “honor”; girls terrorized by acid attacks and gunfire while trying to attend schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Abortion of female fetuses and female infanticide is so common that countries such as China and India now have wildly out-of-kilter sex ratios, with males far outnumbering females. Demographers and national security experts are predicting dire consequences from this imbalance, including increased violence.

The problem isn’t just “over there.” In Milwaukee County, 5,000 women apply for restraining orders at the courthouse every year. That’s almost 14 women per day. And that’s only a fraction of the women being abused,

those who are finally willing to risk all by saying, “Enough is enough.”

Frustrated with the lack of progress against gender violence, Ensler declared: “We can either keep picking up the scattered body parts of women all over the world, or we can escalate.”

Her media-savvy V-Day organization is aggressively promoting “One Billion Rising,” which involves thousands of locally based forums, readings, dances, and marches where men and women “refuse to accept violence against women and girls as a given” and demonstrate to women “the commonality of their struggles and their power in numbers.”

Many events are being held in Wisconsin at universities, churches, theaters and civic centers. Superior, Sturgeon Bay, Milwaukee, Madison, Spring Green, Baraboo, Wausau, Viroqua, Fond du Lac and other towns are hosting actions. Visit www.onebillionrising.org. Click on the map to find a “rising” near you and get involved.

Another practical step you

can take is urging your U.S. representative and U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson to vote for reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act – Sen. Tammy Baldwin is a sponsor.

Originally passed in 1994 and renewed twice with bipartisan support, this legislation provides essential funds for victim services at the local level. It also includes grants for abuse prevention programs, police training, legal services and research into domestic violence and sexual assault.

Some of the worst right-wing ideologues in Congress have been delaying this critical legislation and sabotaging it with amendments to diminish its scope. Among their objections are provisions that extend its services to LGBT people, Native Americans and immigrants. These are the same reactionaries who still haven’t gotten the message that exclusion puts them on the wrong side of history.

Please Google “VAWA,” read up, and contact lawmakers today.

Equality movement is diverse and broad

Opinion
JASON BURNS

waukee. Ours is one of the most segregated cities in America, and our organizations reflect that problem.

But I learned this is not unique to Milwaukee. Communities and organizations across the country are struggling with diversity. During the session, I remembered that every organization for which I’ve ever worked has tried to achieve diversity but has fallen short. By the end of the workshop, I had gained a better understanding of why that’s the case.

Organizations need to go beyond making a commitment on paper and change their cultures. It is only when there is true commitment to changing the organizational culture that true progress is made toward inclusivity.

The other key moment from Creating Change came when Rea Carey, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, gave her State of the Movement

address. While she eloquently touched on the marriage victories in Washington, Maine, Maryland and Minnesota, those were not the focus of her speech. Instead Carey spoke about how the LGBT equality movement is more than a single-issue movement, and how we must make sure we do not define ourselves as a marriage-only movement.

Of all of the minority groups working toward equality, the LGBT community is the most diverse. We are made up of people spanning all genders, races, religions, nationalities, etc. This means that all of the issues facing these individual groups also impact the LGBT community universally.

A large part of Carey’s speech focused on the immigrant community. To a standing ovation, she declared, “Immigration issues are LGBT issues.”

I couldn’t agree more, and

its time for the rest of the LGBT community to fully commit to justice for immigrants as well. Many members of our community identify themselves in terms of their heritage first and their sexual orientation second.

We are lucky to have a president who has demonstrated his commitment not only to the LGBT community, but also to the immigrant community with his comprehensive immigration reform proposal. An important part of the proposal is a provision that could bring an end to same-sex binational couples having to worry about deportation.

The equality movement is diverse and broad. We have a unique opportunity to use our commonalities to come together and create progressive change. Together we can face what is ahead and be better for the understanding we gain along the way.

Can a Scout be 'morally straight' and gay?

SCOUTS from page one

cans, gay and straight, are hurt by the inaction associated with (Feb. 6's) news."

Jennifer Tyrrell, the lesbian mother of a Cub Scout who launched a national petition drive after she was ousted as a troop leader, said, "A Scout is supposed to be brave, and the Boy Scouts failed to be brave today."

On the other side of the issue, ultra-conservatives said Scouting seemed to be caving into liberal bullies, and they seemed buoyed by the delay.

The BSA, in the past, has pointed to the Scout Oath and Scout Law in defense of its ban. With the oath, Scouts pledge, "On my honor I will do my best/To do my duty to God and my country/and to obey the Scout Law;/To help other people at all times;/To keep myself physically strong,/mentally awake, and morally straight." The organization has long interpreted "morally straight" to mean heterosexual.

Pressure to overturn the ban has come, in waves, for more than two decades.

In a landmark fight, Lambda Legal, on behalf of Eagle Scout James Dale, sued the BSA and a Scouting Council in New Jersey after the

Scouts barred Dale from serving as an assistant troop leader because he is gay. Lambda argued Dale's case all the way to the Supreme Court, which, in 2000, issued a 5-4 decision that the BSA is a private group with a constitutional right of expressive association that allows it to exclude gay people.

After the ruling, a number of public institutions and other organizations severed relations with the Scouts citing conflict with their non-discrimination policies.

In the past year, several petition drives on Change.org, including the one by Tyrrell, urged the Scouts to overturn the ban and called on political and corporate partners to withdraw support from the group. More than 1.4 million people petitioned the Boy Scouts in the past year.

Most recently, a drive collected more than 100,000 signatures protesting the National Geographic Channel's decision to proceed with a TV show done in partnership with the BSA. Petitioners asked how Scouting can be the in-thing with an antiquated, biased policy that 55 percent of Americans oppose.

In late January, the BSA said it was "discussing potentially

removing the national membership restriction regarding sexual orientation. This would mean there would no longer be any national policy regarding sexual orientation, and the chartered organizations that oversee and deliver Scouting would accept membership and select leaders consistent with each organization's mission, principles or religious beliefs. BSA members and parents would be able to choose a local unit that best meets the needs of their families."

With the board meeting set for early February, there was anticipation change would come quickly.

Proponents and opponents of the ban organized, bombarding the BSA's service desk and its social media accounts with calls, texts and posts.

The right-wing Family Research Council urged its members to protest, saying that the BSA, until now, has withstood the "constant bullying by those who work to bring down all that the millions of dedicated Scouts and Scout leaders stand for."

The American Family Association, in its call to action, said, "If the BSA departs from its policies on allowing homosexual scoutmasters and



PHOTO: WHITE HOUSE

President Barack Obama meets with a young Scout.

boys in the program, it will destroy the legitimacy and the security of this iconic institution."

Meanwhile, opponents of the ban predicted positives for the BSA with a policy change.

GLAAD president Herndon Graddick said, "Scouting is a valuable institution and this change will only strengthen its core principles of fairness and respect."

Zach Wahls, the Eagle Scout and founder of Scouts for Equality who is the keynote speaker at a Fair Wisconsin Education Fund event

Feb. 9, criticized the delay but also said lifting the ban would be "an incredible step forward in the right direction."

Others opposed to the ban noted that the Girl Scouts of America and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation.

"Our fight will continue," Tyrrell pledged, on her honor.

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"WE'LL COME TO YOU"

An open letter to Scott Walker from an Eagle Scout

Dear Gov. Walker,

As you no doubt are aware, the Boy Scouts of America is currently revisiting its policy banning gay men and women from participating in the organization. The BSA is under considerable pressure from both sides of this issue to define its position. No matter what the BSA decides, the positions of prominent Eagle Scouts like you will be just as important in the public eye.

I believe that you and the Boy Scouts of America have a clear direction to take: Gays should be given as much respect by the organization as heterosexuals. Boys should be allowed to join the Scouts regardless of their race, religion, sexual orientation or any other inherent characteristic that differs from the majority. Boys should not fear being punished or thrown out because they're gay.

Generations of families have trusted the Scouts to help guide their sons into becoming honorable men. Besides me, there are three Eagle Scouts in my family, and plenty more among my friends. I have witnessed the effect that the organization has on people, and I believe it's overwhelmingly positive. Except that, it's wrong on this issue.

Because something might seem uncomfortable or scary to many is not a good enough reason to maintain a position that discriminates against a few. Preventing sexual misconduct is absolutely a worthy goal, and the Boy Scouts have developed a strict and enforceable system of youth protection. As I'm sure you know, gay members will continue to follow the same moral code that straight people follow.

A number of my friends within and outside of the Scouts are gay. They are funny, decent, strange and thoughtful people. They are as petty, as impatient, as know-it-all as anyone else. They are as curious, determined and varied as any of my straight friends. They are thoroughly relatable. They are as capable of following the Scout law as they are of breaking it. And it's that sense of normalcy and commonality that comes to mind when I think about this issue.

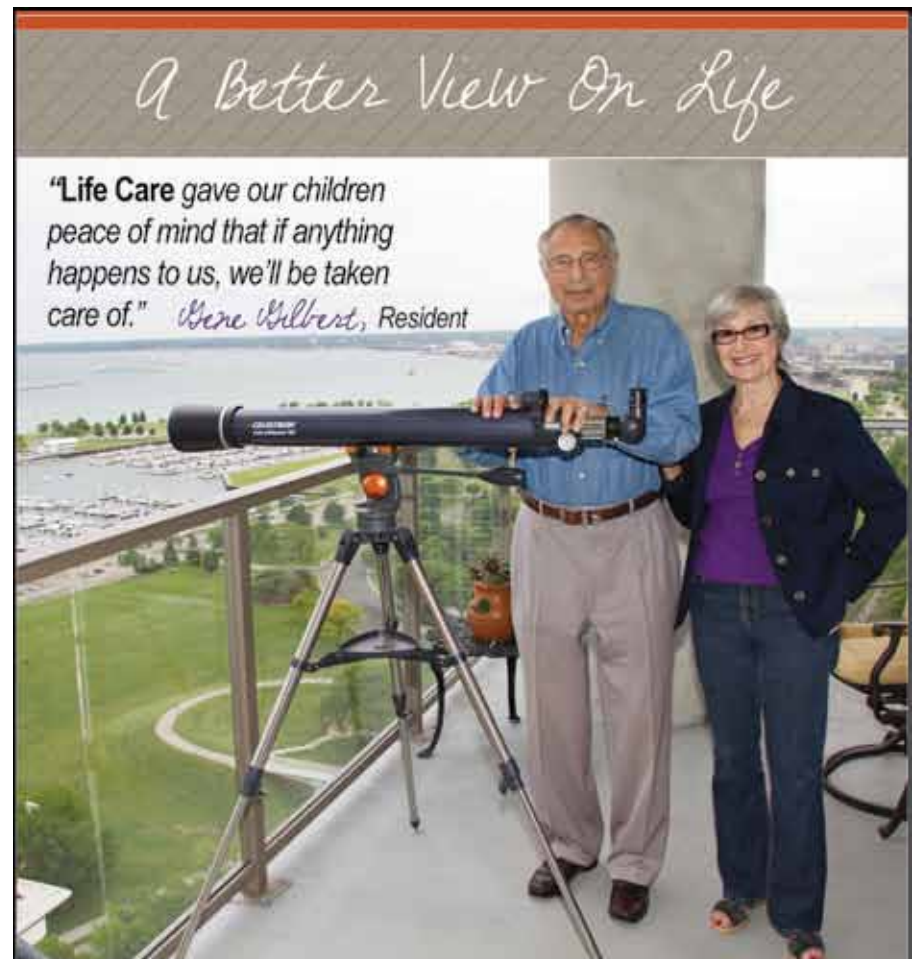
The only thing that prevents gays from being "morally straight" is the Boy Scout's insistence on embracing that particular reading of the phrase. The only thing keeping gays from being a normal part of the Boy Scout culture is the Boy Scouts.

I hope that you will stand publicly on the side of social justice and use your position as a governor and an Eagle Scout to promote the acceptance of gays within this honored institution.

Sincerely,
Teddy Monacelli, Milwaukee

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Clinton prevails in 2016 presidential polls



PHOTO: STATE DEPARTMENT

Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton addresses LGBT employees of the State Department in November.

CLINTON from page 1

But many were not introduced to Clinton until January 1992, the night of the Super Bowl, when she and Bill, at the start of his presidential campaign, appeared on “60 Minutes” to address rumors that he had been involved in a 12-year affair with a state employee. Hillary Clinton memorably defended her husband and herself: “You know, I’m not sitting here — some little woman standin’ by my man like Tammy Wynette. I’m sitting here because I love him, and I respect him, and I honor what he’s been through and what we’ve been through together. And you know, if that’s not enough for people, then heck, don’t vote for him.”

New Hampshire was a loss, but by Super Tuesday, the nomination seemed secure. And by January 1993, the Clintons were in the White House. There, as first lady, Hillary Clinton introduced many to the concept of universal health care — before there was Obamacare there was Hillarycare — as she campaigned for reform against an antagonistic Congress.

In 1995, Clinton went to Communist China, where she boldly, bravely declared, “If there is one message that echoes forth from this conference, let it be that human rights are women’s rights and women’s rights are human rights once and for all.”

In 1998, when Bill Clinton became embroiled in a public investigation over his private affairs, Hillary Clinton railed against a “vast right-wing conspiracy.” Some, especially some in the Republican Party, scoffed. But leaders in the campaign for LGBT civil rights certainly understood — there was and is a vast right wing and many in it are conspiratorial.

When Bill Clinton left the White House in 2000, he remained immensely popular among Democrats. And Hillary Clinton, when she left the White House, had a favorability rating approaching 70 percent. She leveraged that popularity into a successful U.S. Senate bid in New York, winning with 55 percent of the vote in 2000 and then winning re-election with 67 percent of the vote in 2006.

When she entered the race for the 2008 presidential nomination and began her historic drive to become the nation’s first female president, she seemed to have everything,

including an early win in New Hampshire. But the primary battle was neither quick nor bloodless and, in June that year, she ended her run and endorsed Barack Obama. “Although we weren’t able to shatter that highest, hardest glass ceiling this time, thanks to you, it’s got about 18 million cracks in it,” Clinton said. “And the light is shining through like never before, filling us all with the hope and the sure knowledge that the path will be a little easier next time.”

Now, after some 40 years in politics, will she rest on her record?

THINKING ABOUT TOMORROW

As Clinton was saying her goodbyes in government, pollsters were looking at her prospects for the presidency.

Surveys have consistently shown she’s a Democratic favorite in a primary contest. But polls also show Clinton — once a divisive figure in politics but now widely popular — as a powerful candidate in a general election, including in some Republican states.

A recent survey of voters by Public Policy Polling found that Clinton, if the election were held now, could defeat Marco Rubio or Chris Christie in Texas — and those two are currently the favorites for president among Republicans. In a race for president against Rick Perry, Texas’ governor, Clinton wins 50-42 percent in the Lone Star State.

“If Clinton is the 2016 nominee, she could conceivably expand the electoral map for Democrats in deep-red Texas,” said PPP president Dean Debnam.

Asked repeatedly as she was exiting the Obama administration about her ambitions, Clinton, who only last month retired her 2008 campaign debt, declined specifics beyond her vacation and probably a sequel to her memoir “Living History.”

She told The Associated Press, “I am making no decisions, but I would never give that advice to someone that I wouldn’t take myself,” she said. “If you believe you can make a difference, not just in politics, in public service, in advocacy around all these important issues, then you have to be prepared to accept that you are not going to get 100 percent approval.”



Center hosts Oscar viewing party

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center celebrates the Oscar nominations of Project Q alumnus Michael Raisler with an Academy Awards viewing party at 6 p.m. on Feb. 24. Raisler, a native of Wauwatosa, is executive producer of "Beasts of the Southern Wild," which earned four Oscar nods, including for best picture and best director.

The party, which includes appetizers and door prizes in addition to the Oscar broadcast, is at the center's community room at 1110 N. Market St. For \$10 advance admission or \$15 at the door, you'll get an Oscar ballot and two drinks.

For more information, call 414-271-2656.

The center also has announced that it will hold its annual meeting on Feb. 28, at 6 p.m. Members will have the opportunity to elect four board directors.

— L.W.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Meryl Streep and Jean Dujardin show off the Oscars they won for best actress and best actor last year.

Does Hollywood need his and hers Oscars?

By Lynn Elber

AP writer

Do Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway and Helen Mirren need affirmative action to snare one of Hollywood's favorite accessories, an Oscar, Emmy or Screen Actors Guild trophy?

In a society tilting steadily toward gender neutrality, the separate-but-equal awards that divide actors into one camp and actresses into another have the whiff of a moldy anachronism.

True, the Association for Women in Science gives honors to encourage female participation and suc-

cess in male-dominated fields. But to mark enduring achievements, would its members ever yearn for a Women's Nobel Prize in physics?

In contests of intellect or artistry, should gender ever matter?

"It's not like it's upper body strength," Gloria Steinem dryly observed of the requirements of acting.

The separate labeling of male and female performers is losing favor in the industry. Actresses often swat the distinction away by calling themselves "actors," standing shoulder to shoulder with their male counterparts.

Usherettes are long gone from movie theater lobbies, after all. And defense officials said last month that the Pentagon will be lifting its ban on women in combat.

SAG has edged toward neutrality with its trophy dubbed the Actor, although the guild gives separate honors to best performance by a male actor and by a female actor.

That cracks the door open, but only slightly. Fling it wide so that Daniel Day-Lewis' majestic performance in "Lincoln" and Jessica Chastain's steely turn in "Zero Dark Thirty" vie for the grand prize!

"That's a great idea," said Mark

Andrews, writer-director of the animated film "Brave." "At the end of the day, we're all storytellers, and I don't think when we're defining a character that the gender is the major defining factor."

In all other awards-eligible fields, including directing, writing or cinematography, everyone is "going for it," male and female alike, Andrews said.

That may be progress in theory for performers but not in practice, according to Sally Field, an Oscar nominee for best supporting actress in "Lincoln."

"If you do that you won't see any

actresses up there (on stage) at all," she said. "The percentage of roles is so weighted toward actors. That's the way it's always been."

Exactly, concurred Naomi Watts, "The Impossible" best actress Academy Award nominee.

"There's so much competition in life and I do think we are different," she said. "Yes, we should be able to have the same things as much as possible ... (but) life's a battle already and there's so many great roles written for men.

The challenge is that women get fewer substantive roles

OSCARS from page 17

Women are definitely at a disadvantage when it comes to volume."

Rapper Nicki Minaj, who's considering launching an acting career, has a pragmatic take on the issue.

"You see all those divas in the audience looking so pretty, and they all want to beat each other out," she said. "It's entertainment."

Hathaway, in the running for an Oscar supporting actress honor for "Les Misérables," considers the gender split "an awesome question worthy of an awesome debate."

"Can I conceive of a world where performance becomes a genderless concept? Absolutely. Do I think it's going to happen anytime soon? No," she said.

As Fields pointed out, the bedrock challenge is that women get fewer substantive roles than men. Ironically, that's obscured by the artificial parity on stage each year at awards shows. Five women compete, five men compete, two winners are crowned.

So what's the problem? A quick numbers check makes it clear: Females comprised about a third of the characters in the 100 top-grossing films in 2011, according to the Center for the Study of Women in Television and Film at San Diego State University.

This is despite the fact women make

Actresses should be in their own category because they ARE in their own category.

up slightly more than half of the U.S. population. And, according to the center's previous research, the finding isn't an anomaly.

In this context, feminist leader Steinem sees legitimate reason to retain separate acting awards. When two unequal groups are combined it's the less-powerful one that loses, she said.

Tom O'Neil, editor of the Gold Derby awards prediction site, said strong forces are arrayed against any such change in Hollywood.

Awards shows routinely try to add celebrity-driven categories, not drop them, to increase a show's "glamor and glitz" quotient, he said, as well as mask the industry's unequal treatment of women.

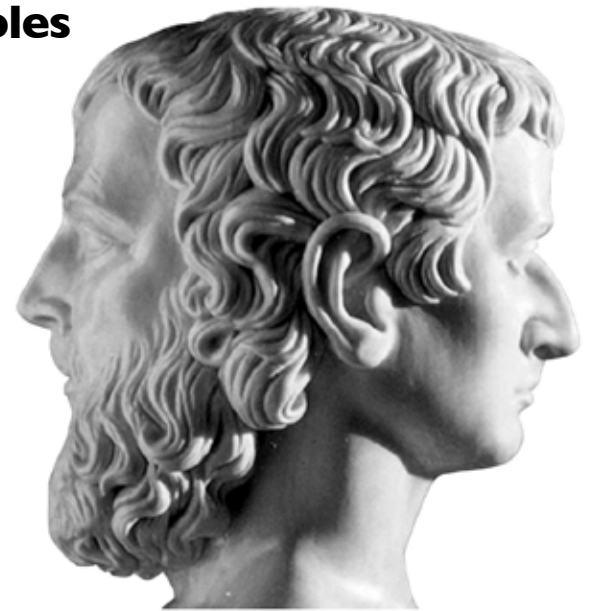
"It's criminal," he said, bluntly.

In the behind-the-scenes film and TV categories in which the sexes compete, women rarely make it on stage at awards ceremonies. The Oscars started

in 1929, but it wasn't until 2010 that the first woman, Kathryn Bigelow, was honored as best director (for "The Hurt Locker"). Statistics again provide clarity: Women made up a paltry 9 percent of the directors on 2012's top-grossing films, a new San Diego State University study found.

Let's give two-time Oscar winner Field the last word in this debate.

Actresses "should be in their own category because they ARE in their own category," she said. "They face their own specific kind of difficulties surviving in this business that actors, bless their hearts, don't face."



Streisand to perform at Oscars

Barbra Streisand will perform at the Oscars next month, the first time she's performed during an Academy Awards broadcast in 36 years.

Streisand won the Academy Award for best original song for "Evergreen" in 1977. She also sang the theme from "A Star Is Born" that night.

She won the Oscar for best actress for 1968's "Funny Girl."

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences also announced that British singer Adele will perform at the Oscars. She and producer Paul Epworth are nominated for best original song for the James Bond theme song, "Skyfall."

The 85th Academy Awards air live Feb. 24 on ABC.

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Dish it Out!

Romantic libations kindle hearts on Valentine's Day

By Michael Muckian

Contributing write

On Valentine's Day, nothing can help the proceedings with your significant other better than a shared cocktail.

The most romantic cocktails, of course, are those that have a special meaning for the two of you. But if you seek something that will open hearts as well as doors, then I recommend one of the following selections. They tend to the sweet and, dare we say, sensual side, which helps get the job done.

AGAVE KISS

With the sweet Agave Kiss, a little tequila provides an interesting dimension. A young tequila will help keep the drink's flavor bright and clean, while an añejo or reposado will impart a slight caramel sweetness to the cocktail. You'll need:

- 2 oz. your tequila of choice
- 1 oz. white crème de cacao
- 1 oz. double cream
- ½ oz. Chambord
- Garnishes of white chocolate flakes and fresh raspberries

Blend the tequila, crème de cacao, cream and Chambord in a cocktail shaker with ice and shake for 15 seconds. Pour into a chilled cocktail glass rimmed with chocolate flakes and garnish with raspberries on a spear.

HUMMINGBIRD

A romantic cocktail doesn't have to be complex, as proven by the Hummingbird, which will have your partner fluttering with its unusual mix of flavors. To create this simple concoction, you will need the following supplies:

- 1½ oz. St. Germain elderflower liqueur
- 2 oz. dry white sparkling wine
- 2 oz. club soda

Mix the ingredients into your favorite cocktail glass over ice, garnish with a lemon peel and serve.

BETWEEN THE SHEETS

Whether served as a suggestion at the evening's beginning or to commemorate a conquest at the evening's end, Between the Sheets is certain to straighten the fabric of your intentions. You'll need:

- 1 oz. brandy or cognac
- 1 oz. white rum
- 1 oz. Cointreau
- ½ oz. fresh lemon juice

Combine the ingredients in a cocktail shaker with ice, shake and strain into a chilled cocktail glass. Garnish with a fresh lemon peel.

BLUSHING GEISHA

The alcohol may be light, but the Blushing Geisha's ingredients are rare, its flavors are long and its aroma beguiling. Try it on your own geisha. To mix this cocktail, you'll need to have on hand:

- 2 oz. Ty Ku sake liqueur
- 1 oz. pomegranate juice
- 2 oz. rose nectar
- A lime wedge for garnish

Combine ingredients in a cocktail shaker or mixing glass and blend with ice. Strain or pour over ice in a chilled cocktail glass or rocks glass. White face paint is optional.

SINGAPORE SLING

Sometimes, a classic cocktail is as romantic as it comes, and the Singapore Sling can transport your paramour to another place at another time. Let the magic begin. You'll need:

- 1¼ oz. high quality gin
- ½ oz. Benedictine liqueur
- ½ oz. cherry brandy
- Club soda
- Lime wedge and maraschino cherry for garnish.

Combine gin, Benedictine and brandy in a sling or highball glass. Fill with ice and top with club soda. Add fruit to garnish.

START ME UP!

If your lover needs a little coaxing to get the blood flowing, nothing may be better than Start Me Up! Be ready for some sparks after a few sips of this one, and don't say I didn't warn you. You'll need:

- 2 oz. gin
- 1 oz. apple cider
- ½ oz. ginger liqueur
- 1 oz. pomegranate or cranberry juice.
- Ginger ale

Add gin, cider, liqueur and juice in a cocktail shaker with ice and shake well. Strain into a highball glass filled with fresh ice. Add ginger ale and garnish with a lemon wedge.

BANANA SPLIT MARTINI

Vary your ingredients, change up some flavors and you will find the Banana Split Martini as variable and delightful as its innocent dessert cousin. You'll need:

- 1½ oz. vodka
- ¾ oz. crème de banana or banana liqueur
- ¾ oz. crème de cacao
- Banana, cherry and/or pineapple slice for garnish

Pour the ingredients into a cocktail shaker filled with ice and shake thoroughly. Strain into a chilled cocktail glass, then garnish with your fruit of choice.



Your heart belongs to chocolate

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Ah, chocolate! That dark, sultry substance that kisses the taste buds, warms the heart and invites affection. It even comes with health benefits similar to those of red wine, and it's so much more romantic than a jar of wheat germ.

Eaten in moderate amounts, chocolate – primarily dark chocolate – is one of nature's most perfect foods. It's rich in flavonoids and antioxidants, much like blueberries and green tea, helping to promote cardiovascular health. Those who eat dark chocolate regularly report enhanced blood flow, lower cholesterol levels, mild anti-clotting effects and even reduced blood pressure.

Despite its sweet reputation, dark chocolate also has a low glycemic index, similar to that of oatmeal. That means your blood sugar will not spike and then crash like it does from eating other sugared sweets. In fact, the naturally occurring antioxidants in cocoa beans may aid in treating the unhealthy blood vessels and impaired circulation that sometimes precede the development of diabetes.

As a plant-based food, chocolate contributes vital minerals to your body, including dietary supplements of copper, magnesium, calcium, potassium and iron – each of which aids in fighting cardiovascular disease.

Finally, chocolate is a mild anti-depressant that can chase away migraines and serve as an aphrodisiac. With



so many benefits plus good taste, what could be better to give your Valentine?

Following are some of southern Wisconsin's best chocolatiers:

MILWAUKEE AREA

Burke Candy, 3840 N. Fratney St., 414-964-7327; www.burkecandy.com.

The small-batch gourmet candy producer is now in its third generation of family ownership. Ask for Grandmother Reilly's Chocolates – her descendants will appreciate it.

Indulgence Chocolatiers, 4525 N. Oakland Ave., Shorewood; 262-510-9980; www.indulgencechocolatiers.com.

Chocolatier Julie Waterman began Indulgence Chocolatiers in 2007 to create artisanal chocolates in unique flavor combinations. With a

retail outlet in Shorewood's Ravenna building, Indulgence was voted "Best Local Chocolatier" in M Magazine's 2012 Readers' Choice Awards. In addition to locally hand-crafted chocolates, Indulgence offers monthly tasting and pairing classes.

Kehr's Candies, 400 N. Water St., 414-223-4305; online at martinka.0catch.com/kehr.

Stop in at the Milwaukee Public Market for a box of hand-dipped and hand-packed chocolates, something the Kehr family has been making in Milwaukee since 1930. There's a sister location at 3533 W. Lisbon Ave.

Niemann's Candies, 7475 Harwood Ave., Wauwatosa, 888-261-2263; online at www.niemannscandies.com.

When it comes to almond butter crunch, Niemann's has no parallel in Milwaukee – or anywhere, for that matter. The family has been making this and other confections since 1919.

Anodyne Coffee Roasters, 2920 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., Bay View, 414-276-8081.

Omanhene Cocoa Bean Co. brings in the best of Ghana's cocoa crop and turns it into mouth-watering chocolate that's available at Anodyne's cafe. Check out Omanhene Cocoa Bean Co. (wholesale only) online at www.omanhene.com.

Red Elephant Chocolate, 333 N. Broadway St. in Milwaukee's Third Ward, 855-RED-ELPH, www.redelephantchocolate.com

In addition to offering a full line of fine chocolate confections, Red Elephant offers chocolate aromatherapy products, including bath salts, body lotion, candles and massage oil, as well as chocolate-themed books, games, décor and jewelry.

CHOCOLATE page 21

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MADISON

Candinas Chocolatier, 11 W. Main St., Madison, 608-845-1545; www.candinas.com.

Swiss-trained chocolatier Markus Candinas specializes in dark chocolate truffles with a classic spin produced in his small factory at 2435 Old Highway, PB in Verona.

DB Infusion Chocolates, 550 N. Midvale Blvd., Madison, 608-233-1600; www.infusionchocolates.com

Chocolates infused with flavors such as banana, apple cider, espresso and peppercorn highlight the offerings at this chocolate kitchen, located in the Hilldale Shopping Center.

Gail Ambrosius Chocolatier, 2086 Atwood Ave., Madison 608-249-

3500; gailambrosius.com.

A cartographer turned Paris-trained chocolate maker, Ambrosius uses everything from Cointreau and cognac to lavender buds and candied ginger to produce her award-winning chocolate truffles. Here the watchword is dark chocolate only, both for flavor and for health.

Maurie's Fine Chocolates of Madison, 1637 Monroe St., Madison 608-255-9092; www.mauriesfinechocolates.com.

As Madison's oldest chocolate shop, Maurie's has set the pace for fine artisanal confections since 1941. Maurie's daughter Cher Mandel Diamond has taken over the copper kettle and continues her father's exceptional work.

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Aphrodisiology 101

Oysters speak the language of love

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Credit English satirist Jonathan Swift for noting, "He was a bold man that first ate an oyster."

To some, no food looks less appealing than an oyster on the half shell. But few foods have become more closely associated with amorous feelings and sexual potency than the world's most bisexual bivalve.

When the mythological Greek goddess Aphrodite came forth from the sea, she arrived on an oyster shell. It's from her name that the word "aphrodisiac" is drawn. The famed lover Casanova was said to have consumed anywhere from 5 to 12 dozen oysters daily to support his "stamina," if you will.

The reputation of this little shellfish probably derives from its hermaphroditic nature. Oysters have both male and female sex organs. They change their sexuality at least once during each reproductive cycle.

Is it any wonder, then, that oyster sales spike during the days prior to Valentine's Day, when all the world thinks of love? Tim Collins, owner of St. Paul Fish Co., a wholesale seafood operation with a retail counter inside the Milwaukee Public Market, is bracing for the onslaught of oyster demand leading up to the occasion.

"We sell about 1,000 oysters per day year-around," Collins says of both his wholesale and retail operations. "Our best customers are the Hooters franchisees in southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois."

Collins sells oysters harvested along both the East and West coasts, but prefers oysters from the Northeast because the colder waters usually result in larger,



tastier mollusks. Oysters from the West Coast tend to be saltier because the Pacific Ocean has a higher salinity level. But Pacific oysters also have their own strong following.

It's not unusual for the Oyster Bar in the Public Market to offer five or more kinds of oysters daily, including Blue Points (Virginia), North Haven (Maine), Onset Bay (Massachusetts), Watch Hill (Rhode Island) and Cookes Cocktail (Prince Edward Island, Canada.) Prices range from \$1 to \$1.50 per oyster except on Thursdays, when the Oyster Bar offers two oysters for the price of one.

Onset Bay oysters, harvested from the head of Buzzards Bay near Onset, Mass., are among Collins' favorites. The hand-harvested mollusks are larger and

meatier, with an ample amount of their own "liquor," as the natural juices are called. St. Paul Fish Co. also sees a lot of interest in the Kumamoto variety, tiny oysters originating in Japan that, despite their small size, are plump and succulent.

"Actually, we see a spike in oyster sales no matter what the holiday," Collins says. "It's generally a social thing – its fun to eat oysters and drink beer."

But the romantic aspect is not to be denied. While oysters may be considered an aphrodisiac, the mollusks are rich in zinc, iron, calcium and selenium, with healthy levels of vitamins A and B as well. Oysters also are rich in amino acids that trigger increased levels of both testosterone and progesterone.

No matter what your intent, you and your love life can benefit from oysters in many different ways. They're healthiest when eaten raw on the half-shell, but there are countless recipes for cooked oysters. The best-known dish, Oysters Rockefeller, was created by Jules Alciatore, grandson of the founder of Antoine's, one of New Orleans' premier restaurants. The dish uses a lot of butter, which made it as rich as the Rockefeller's and led to its name – or so the story goes.

Oysters should be eaten or cooked at the peak of freshness for maximum flavor. Add a touch of lemon juice, shallot vinegar or cocktail sauce if you want to enhance the natural earthy, spicy and salty flavors. You may even try making your own Mignonette Sauce – a blend of chopped shallots, mixed peppercorns, lemon juice, and white wine or sherry vinegar.

As you spend time with your special someone this Valentine's Day, slurping your favorite variety of bivalve, its liquor running down your face, look deeply into his or her eyes and say, "Did we really just eat that?"

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GREGG SHAPIRO

A long engagement, a timely documentary

"Edie & Thea: A Very Long Engagement" is a beautifully rendered story of dancing and romancing that parallels a couple's coming-out story with that of the LGBT community. The romantic journey of Edie Windsor (from Philadelphia) and Thea Spyer (from Amsterdam) over the course of more than 40 years is uplifting and wondrous.

Now in her 80s, Edie gets the film started by recounting that in 1962 she "couldn't take it anymore" and called a friend to find out where the lesbians socialized. That night at Portofino's Restaurant, Edie and Thea met, danced together and, as Thea puts it, their "bodies fit." Eventually they became a couple.

Each woman's personal story combined with that of the couple's extended courtship make this 2010 film by Susan Muska and Gréta Ólafsdóttir utterly absorbing.

Thea's longtime battle with multiple sclerosis (she died in 2009) figures prominently in their shared tale. Edie and Thea's 2007 wedding in Toronto is the doc's emotional climax.

The timing for watching this remarkable film couldn't be better. Edie, now a widow



Edie Windsor and Thea Spyer

PHOTO: COURTESY

Edie Windsor is a plaintiff in a case before the High Court.

at 83, is the plaintiff in a case before the U.S. Supreme Court regarding more than \$300,000 she paid in estate taxes because her same-sex marriage is not recognized under federal law.

DVD bonus material includes Edie on the film festival circuit with directors Muska and Ólafsdóttir and a variety of featurettes.

'Jack & Diane' is a hopeless mess

From the first time that we see her onscreen, we know there's something not right about Diane (Juno Temple). Wandering the streets of Manhattan attempting to borrow the cell phones of passersby, she ends up in a shop where she meets young, butch Jack (Riley Keough), who takes her in.

For the next 90 minutes of Bradley Rust Grey's "Jack & Diane," we get a study in teen trauma involving two characters who are barely able to express themselves. Just as their awkward relationship is beginning to gel, Jack learns that Diane is soon leaving to attend school in France. Through special effects and bizarre animation, the girl's inner demons take shape. Their jealousy and rage is personified by hideous, flesh-eating



From "Jack & Diane."

PHOTO: COURTESY

beasts. The film toggles back and forth between the budding romance and the ugly monsters that threaten to destroy it.

"Jack & Diane" is an interesting premise that fails to materialize into anything more than gratuitous sex and brutal gore. The sum total is a hopeless mess. Neither the passion nor the horror provides the viewer with something with which to connect.

Blu-ray special features consist of featurettes, including one about the film's special effects.

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Whitney Houston's mother has choice words for Bobby Brown in new book

By Hillel Italie

AP writer

Cissy Houston has a few words, and a few more, for Bobby Brown.

In "Remembering Whitney," the mother of the late Whitney Houston writes that from the start she doubted whether Brown was right for her daughter. And she thinks Whitney might not have ended up so "deep" into drugs had they not stayed together.

"I do believe her life would have turned out differently," Houston writes. "It would have been easier for her to get sober and stay sober. Instead she was with someone who, like her, wanted to party. To me, he never seemed to be a help to her in the way she needed."

"Remembering Whitney" came out about two weeks short of the first anniversary of Houston's death. She drowned in a hotel bathtub in Beverly Hills, Calif., at age 48. Authorities said her death was complicated by cocaine use and heart disease.

During a recent telephone interview, Houston said she has no contact with Brown and didn't see any

reason to, not even concerning her granddaughter, Bobbi Kristina. She reaffirmed her comments in the book that Whitney Houston would have been better off without him. "How would you like it if he had anything to do with your daughter?" she asked.

Houston said she wanted the book published so the world would not believe the worst about her daughter. Cissy Houston, herself an accomplished soul and gospel singer who performed with Elvis Presley and Aretha Franklin, describes Whitney as a transcendent talent and vivacious and generous person known affectionately by her childhood nickname, "Nippy." But she acknowledges in the book that her daughter could be "mean" and "difficult" and questions at times how well she knew her.

"In my darkest moments, I wonder whether Nippy loved me," she writes. "She always told me she did. But you know, she didn't call me much. She didn't come see me as much as I hoped she would."

But, "almost always," Whitney Houston was "the sweetest, most

loving person in the room."

Brown is portrayed as childish and impulsive, hot tempered and jealous of his wife's success. Cissy Houston describes a 1997 incident when Whitney sustained a "deep cut" on her face while on a yacht with Brown in the Mediterranean. Whitney insisted it was an accident; Brown had slammed his hand on a table, breaking a plate. A piece of china flew up and hit Whitney, requiring surgery to cover any possible scar.

The injury was minor, the effects possibly fateful.

"She seemed sadder after that, like something had been taken away from her," Houston writes.

For years, Whitney's drug problems had been only a rumor to her mother, who writes that concerns expressed by record executive Clive Davis were kept from her by her daughter and others. But by 2005 she had seen the worst. Houston remembers a horrifying visit to the Atlanta home of Brown and Houston, where the walls and doors were spray-painted with "big glaring eyes and strange

faces." Whitney's face had been cut out from a framed family picture, an image Cissy Houston found "beyond disturbing." The next time Houston came to the house, she was joined by two sheriff's deputies who helped her take Whitney to the hospital.

"She was so angry at me, cursing me and up and down," she writes. "Eventually, after a good long while, Nippy did stop being angry at me. She realized that I did what I did to protect her, and she later told people that I had saved her life."

Brown and Whitney Houston divorced in 2007, after 15 years of marriage. When she learned that her daughter was leaving Brown, Cissy Houston was "extremely relieved" and "thanking God so much I'm sure nobody else could get a prayer in to Him."

Houston has no doubt that if Whitney were alive she would still be singing and making records. Houston said during her interview that she has seen "Sparkle," a remake of the 1970s movie that came out last summer and featured Whitney as the mother of a sing-

ing group struggling with addiction. Although Cissy Houston doesn't like movies about "drugs and all that kind of stuff," she was impressed by "Sparkle."

"I thought she was great in it and all the kids were great," says Houston, who adds that the "whole movie was hard to get through."

The book, too, was painful and her grief continues. She writes that sometimes she hears a doorbell ring and thinks it's Whitney, or sees a vase in a different place and wonders if her daughter is around. Some nights, Cissy Houston wakes up crying, not sure at first where she is.

"But then I get up out of bed, wipe my eyes, wash my face, and lie back down to my sleep. Because that is all I can do," she writes. "I am so grateful to God for giving me the gift of 48 years with my daughter. And I accept that He knew when it was time to take her."

Find more at wisconsin Gazette.com.

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PHOTO: EVAN AGOSTINI/AP

Singers Cissy Houston, left, and daughter Whitney Houston arrive in 2010 at the "Keep A Child Alive Black Ball" in New York.

Cissy Houston says she would not have accepted Whitney as a lesbian

Whitney Houston's mother, gospel singer Cissy Houston, told Oprah Winfrey that she would not have accepted her daughter if she had come out to her as a lesbian.

Cissy Houston made the statement during an interview on "Oprah's Next Chapter" that aired Jan. 28. Her appearance was timed to coincide with the release of her new memoir "Remembering Whitney," which arrives close to the anniversary of the fabled singer's death.

Whitney Houston accidentally drowned Feb. 11, 2012, in a bathtub at the Beverly Hilton hotel. Coroners said heart disease and drug abuse brought about the accident.

Cissy Houston told Winfrey that she was aware of the rumors surrounding her daughter's relationship with lifelong friend, assistant and creative director Robyn Crawford. In the book, Houston wrote: "I knew I didn't want Robyn around my daughter, and I told (Whitney) that. There wasn't much I could do though. (Whitney) liked Robyn. She was past the age when I could forbid her from seeing someone. Kids have a mind of their own when they get older. They want to experiment with all kinds of things. And I don't know if it was more than that."

After reading the passage, Winfrey pressed Houston on the matter.

"Would it have bothered you if your daughter, Whitney, was gay?" Whitney asked.

"Absolutely," Cissy said.

"You would not have liked that?"

"Not at all," Houston replied.

"You wouldn't have condoned it?" Winfrey asked.

"No," Houston said.

Houston went on to express her sadness about her daughter's relationship with husband Bobby Brown, whom she described as a bad influence. Brown has claimed Houston married him to "clean up her image" at a time when she was being dogged by rumors about her relationship with Crawford.

Whitney Houston's brother Michael Houston also appeared on Winfrey's program to talk about his sister. He acknowledged that he – not Bobby Brown – had introduced her to drugs.

"We played together – everything that you do together as you're growing up – and then when you get into drugs, you do that together too, and it just got out of hand," Michael Houston told Winfrey.

"That's something I've got to live with for the rest of my life," he added.

– AP and WiG reports

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St. Paul's hot in the coldest weather

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Residents of St. Paul still bridle over a New York reporter who once described Minnesota's capital as uninhabitable during the winter months. Hardy local residents well conditioned to the season chuckle over the apparently delicate natures of New York's residents — or at least its writers.

If anything, St. Paul has become a hot winter destination, with more outdoor activities than you can shake an icicle at. Yes, it's cold, but as all good Minnesotans know: There's no bad weather, just unprepared people who don't know how to dress for the weather.

St. Paul occupies the eastern bank of the Mississippi River that both separates and unites the community of nearly 300,000 with its sister city of Minneapolis. With an almost Old World charm, St. Paul is considered the last city of the East. It's the hometown of "Prairie Home Companion" creator Garrison Keillor.

On the river's opposite bank, the more modern city of Minneapolis, the hometown of rocker Prince, is considered the first city of the West.

During the 1930s, gangster John Dillinger and his cohort vacationed in St. Paul under the approving eye of Police Chief John J. O'Connor. Public Enemy No. 1 and his friends were safe to come and go as long as they registered upon arrival, paid O'Connor a bribe and

committed no crimes within the city limits. Such liberal thinking may have helped foster St. Paul's uniquely independent spirit and feed its slightly raucous character.

Editors at The Lonely Planet travel guide recently named the Twin Cities among the top 10 U.S. destinations for 2013. They may not have been thinking of the area as a winter destination, but — truth be told — that's when St. Paul really begins to shine.

CRASHED ICE CRAZINESS

St. Paul's energy and enthusiasm in the face of subzero temperatures are among the qualities that attracted the Red Bull Crashed Ice competition to the city for the second consecutive year. The relatively new international sport of ice cross-downhill racing involves a 400-meter raised track of glare ice that skaters rocket down singly and in team competition. This year's field began with 200 competitors from 14 countries, all of whom raced to become one of four finalists.

The event brought more than 115,000 spectators to the slopes of Cathedral Hill Jan. 24-26 to watch the finals. The St. Paul track, built in the shadow of the stately Cathedral of St. Paul, was the most technically challenging of the five worldwide Red Bull-sponsored competitions this season.

In the end, Minnesota skater

Cameron Naasz, the top U.S. competitor, grabbed third-place honors. Highlights from the event will be aired Feb. 16 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on most NBC affiliates.

ALL THAT OTHER WINTER JAZZ

Crashed Ice wasn't the only way St. Paul celebrated winter that weekend. The city also turned out in force for the Winter Carnival, an event originated in 1885, when the aforementioned New York reporter referred to the city as "another Siberia, unfit for human habitation." (Minnesotans have long memories.) Offended by the remark, the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce launched the carnival — a modest version of Mardi Gras held amid the snowdrifts, where it's too cold for flashing.

Like any such event, the winter carnival elects a king and queen who are attended by a royal court of be-sparkled noblepersons, many in long fur robes and ornate headgear. The

Vulcan Krewe, clad in red capes, attends to the court and carries torches.

The carnival features an ice sculpture competition and several parades. Some of the sculptures were very good, considering they were begun using chain saws. The parades drew mixed reviews, but everyone enjoyed the St. Paul Bouncing Team.

Think of the traditional blanket toss, with seven or eight men clutching a large piece of fabric and catapulting into the air a young woman who then twirls and spins her way down. The technique worked well with the trained team members. It worked less well with the well-dressed female members

ST. PAUL next page



PHOTO: ST. PAUL VISITORS BUREAU

Despite the frigid weather, St. Paul smolders with activity all winter. From above, clockwise: Snow sculptures at the 2011 St. Paul Winter Carnival, the city's famed Landmark Center, ice cross-downhill racers in the Red Bull Crashed Ice competition.

ST. PAUL from prior page
of the carnival royalty, one of whom landed squarely on her tiara. We hoped there were no puncture wounds to either the participant or, more importantly, the fabric.

DRINK UP!

For the heartiest of souls there also was the winter Beer Dabber, a chance for 7,500 thirsty imbibers to drink beer outdoors with the fervent hope that their lips would not stick to their commemorative glasses. More than 100 breweries each poured three to six of their most distinctive brews in a frenzy of froth and fun.

There was no way to keep up with the bounty of brew, but that didn't stop many of the participants from trying, especially as both darkness and the temperature fell. However, any fear of freezing was eased by the wall-to-wall bodies that shared the space with beer tables, music stages and food trucks, another fixture of the St. Paul winter scene.

No beer event has ever required this much stamina, we thought as we pushed our way to the front of the next beer line. What must these folks be like when the weather warms up?

We made a note to return in July for the summer edition of the Beer Dabber to find out.



PHOTO: ST PAUL VISITORS BUREAU

St. Paul has the perfect climate for ice sculpting.



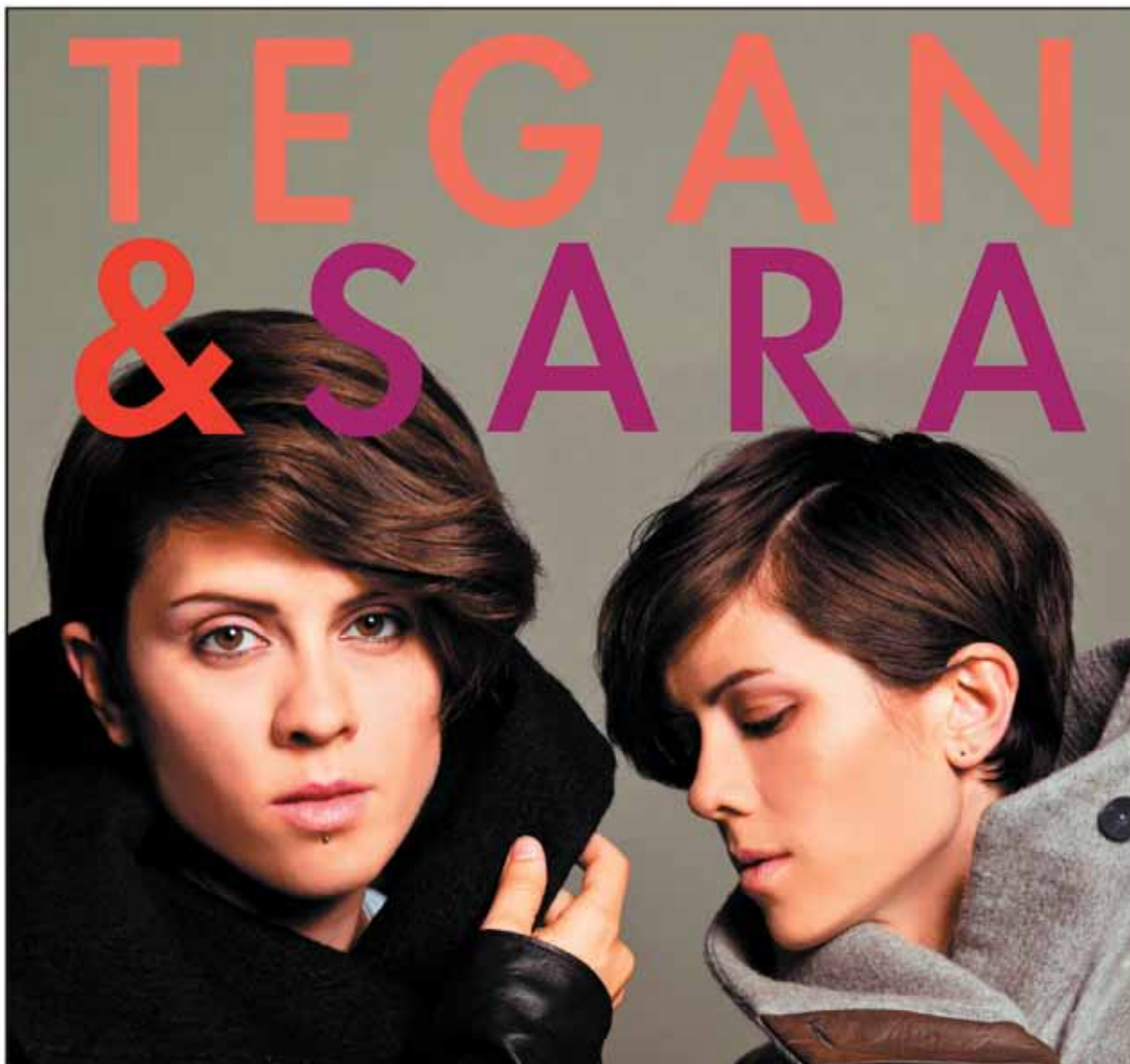
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Author/musician Peter Roller explains how Milwaukee rocks

By Gregg Shapiro

Contributing writer

Peter Roller, an associate professor of music at Alverno College, is the author of "Milwaukee Garage Bands: Generations of Grassroots Rock." Spanning more than 50 years of music in Milwaukee, the book features local rock heroes such as The Mustard Men (led by Warren Wiegatz), as well as bands who broke out on a national level, including Milwaukee's Violent Femmes. Written in a style that's appealing to both musical novices and aficionados, "Milwaukee Garage Bands" should inspire readers to track down recordings by the bands mentioned in the book – or even to start their own garage bands to perpetuate Milwaukee's contribution to the genre.

I spoke with Peter Roller prior to his book's publication.

Peter, as an East Coast native, what brought you to Milwaukee?

I grew up in the New Jersey suburb of Summit. My wife grew

up in Milwaukee, and even though we met in the Twin Cities and lived in various places, by the time we had our first kid we felt like coming back to her home ... in the mid-1980s.

How did "Milwaukee Garage Bands" come about?

I studied in the field of ethnomusicology, which is often called "world music." I went from a lot of knowledge about American music styles – my own origins, like a lot of Baby Boomers, (was) in a garage band – to learning about all these different world music styles. After years of that came time for my own Ph.D. dissertation, and I did what Dorothy did and I decided it was time to go back home to where I started. I was shocked to find that no one in rock writing had written about absolutely amateur groups. They'd always written about people who had one-hit-wonder records or star careers. I did an oral history of the Milwaukee area to basically prove that there have always been low-level beginning garage bands –

and not just in the '60s, which gets all the attention.

What was involved in the process of selecting and tracking down the bands you wrote about?

It was over many years. It was challenging. Rather than just take the 1960s and try to do every band I possibly could in the Milwaukee area from that time, I was doing samplings so I could represent different time periods and different areas in the region.

Something that really stands out in the book is the enthusiasm of your interview subjects.

Most definitely! They (were) excited about my basic thesis, which is being in garage bands is not a vain first step in trying to be a star. It's something that you do with your peers or even your closest buddies. It just feels good to be down in the basement, doing it, making those loud sounds together. Proving to yourself that you can make music when, really, people don't know any-



thing (about music) and they teach themselves in most cases.

Were you surprised about the intersection of garage bands and LGBT culture?

I was pleased and impressed by it, because it's just another dimension of teens making their own statement on various fronts and on their own turf. This basement show, like a number of them, was right in the basement space where Half Fare, Jake Cohen's band, would always practice. Basically it was a

space for teens, by teens and one dimension of it was he was collaborating with his younger sister Zoe Cohen, who is credited with helping me find some of the pictures in the book. ... Zoe was probably by the door with a little table with various things on it, including a flier in support of gay rights and National Coming Out Day.

Why didn't you cover well-known bands from outside of Madison, such as

BANDS next page

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BANDS from prior page

Violent Femmes, the BoDeans and FireTown (with Butch Vig) fitting into the garage rock spectrum?

I had to define my turf, because there are so many garage bands, and I did not include Waukesha. The two guys from the BoDeans are very much from Waukesha. It was just a turf matter. I would've covered them, probably, if they had been more from the east or south side of Milwaukee or something, but they weren't. Butch Vig is from the Madison area, and that wasn't going to be part of my Milwaukee turf. But I'll just say bands that are rooted in a place like Wisconsin and then sometimes ... go beyond their original area - (they) sometimes carry with them parts of their localness. I would say with the BoDeans, they made their band name when they were still amateurs, out of an inside joke about Jethro Bodean, a character on "The Beverly Hillbillies." My inference is that they were basically making fun of the fact that they were hicks from the hinterlands of Wisconsin, and they were being proud of that at the same time. With Butch Vig, and where he's gone with his career, I was very proud of the fact that he could run this whole recording studio scene and still play in bands before he went national out of Madison.

Warren Wiegratz, one of the performers you write about in the book, is performing on Valentine's Day in Milwaukee. What do you think that says about his staying power?

I tried to put as much as possible (in the

book) in people's words and he said probably the best statement about that. He said, "I formed my band with a bunch of guys from this particular neighborhood in Elm Grove, which was kind of the last working-class corner of what would be a much more wealthy Brookfield suburban area. In addition to us having this sort of common coming-from-the-wrong-side-of-the-tracks feeling when we went to high school together, we also were really into music and crossed both school music and being in a band with being into rock and soul music." Basically they set a really high bar trying to achieve a lot with their garage band. They were doing really complex Motown and soul songs as well as Beach Boys songs (which are pretty hard to sing), as well as simpler garage rock songs. At the time of the interview, (Warren) was the bandleader for the Milwaukee Bucks house band, playing everything from contemporary R&B to oldies. He was basically able to become who he is at age 16. I think he was really thankful for that. So when he goes into The Domes, he'll be playing an enjoyable variety repertoire, just like he started doing back in Elm Grove in the early '60s.

ON STAGE

Peter Roller will be at Boswell Book Company in Milwaukee on Feb. 19. Street Life, with Warren Wiegratz, performs during the Valentine Sweetheart Night at The Domes at Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory in Milwau-

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~ ONGOING ~

Milwaukee's own Golda Meir appears as a character in the world premiere of Jonathan Gillard Daly's play **"To the Promised Land,"** running through Feb. 10 in the Todd Wehr Theater at Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. Call 414-273-2787.

Renaissance Theaterworks presents **"Educating Rita"** through Feb. 10 in the Studio Theater at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Skylight Music Theatre presents **"Edith Piaf Onstage"** through Feb. 10 in the Cabot Theatre at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Milwaukee Art Museum, 700 N. Art Museum Dr., presents **"Western Union: Small Boats,"** an exhibition by queer filmmaker and video artist **Isaac Julien** ("Looking For Langston," "Young Soul Rebels") through Feb. 17. Visit mam.org.

Recipient of the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award, **"Clybourne Park"** by Bruce Norris runs through Feb. 24 in the Quadracci Powerhouse at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.

Making its Milwaukee premiere, Stephen Massicotte's **"The Clockmaker"** continues through Feb. 24 at Next Act Theatre, 255 S. Water. Call 414-278-7780 or visit www.nextact.org.

"Mind Over Milwaukee" with mentalist Marc Salem runs through Feb. 24 in the Stackner Cabaret at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.



Erin McKeown

FEB. 7, THURSDAY

In support of her new disc, "Manifestra," queer singer/songwriter **Erin McKeown** performs at 7:30 p.m. at High Noon Saloon, 701A E. Washington in Madison. Call 608-268-1122.

Milwaukee Ballet presents **"Genesis: International Choreographic Competition,"** through Feb. 10 at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells. Call 414-286-3663.

The 51st annual **Milwaukee/NARI Home Improvement Show**, featuring educational demonstrations, seminars by home improvement experts and media celebrities runs through Feb. 10 at the Wisconsin Exposition Center at State Fair Park, 8200 W. Greenfield in West Allis. Call 414-727-8840.

FEB. 8, FRIDAY

The Madison premiere of Dustin Lance Black's **"8: The Gay Marriage Play"** is presented as a free, one-night staged reading by OUT!Cast Theatre, Mercury Players Theatre and the New Harvest Foundation at the Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin in Madison at 8 p.m. Visit BartellTheatre.org.

Win Wells' **"Gertrude Stein and a Companion"** and Neil Bartram and Brian Hill's musical **"The Story of My Life"** run in repertory on the Evjue Stage at the Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin in Madison, through March 9. Visit stageq.com or call 608-661-9696, ext 3.

Adapted by Andrew Lipppa, from Joseph Moncure March's book-length poem, the musical **"The Wild Party"** runs through Feb. 10 in the UWM Peck School of the Arts' Helen Bader Concert Hall/Zelazo Center, 2419 E. Kenwood Boulevard. Call 414-229-4308.

German cellist **Alban Gerhardt** joins the Madison Symphony Orchestra to play Prokofiev's "Sinfonia Concertante" and more, through Feb. 10 at Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State in Madison. Call 608-258-4141.



The Milwaukee premiere of **"Dust,"** a comedy about a lottery ticket, poverty and fortune, by Hungarian playwright György Spiró, runs through Feb. 17 at Kenilworth Square East, Studio 508, 1925 E. Kenilworth Place. Call 414-229-4308.

Florentine Opera Studio Artists give audiences an early valentine with **"That's Amore"** in Vogel Hall at Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 N. Water, through Feb. 10. Call 414-273-2787.



Rob Thomas

FEB. 9, SATURDAY

Actor/comedian **Nick Offerman** (Ron on "Parks & Rec") is at the Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood in Madison, for two shows at 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. Call 608-241-2345.

The Peninsula Music Festival's February Fest features the **PMF Trio** performing a program that includes the music of Mozart, Rebecca Clarke and Bruch at 2 p.m. at Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church on Highway 42 at the top of Ellison Bay hill.

The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin, welcomes **Matchbox Twenty**, led by gay marriage supporter Rob Thomas, at 6:30 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

FEB. 10, SUNDAY

The Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood in Madison, presents **The 12th Annual United Way Bluegrass Benefit** featuring Off the Porch, Sparetime Bluegrass, Daylight in the Swamp, Oak Street Ramblers and Dave Landau, at 1 p.m. Call 608-241-2345.

FEB. 11, MONDAY

Prometheus Trio and guest narrator **Nathan Wesselowski** of the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music perform selections by queer composer Jennifer Higdon and others at 7:30 p.m. in the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music Bader Recital Hall, 1584 N. Prospect. Visit wcmusic.org/Concerts/Prometheus-Trio.aspx.

Linneman's, 1001 E. Locust, hosts **Poets Monday** beginning at 7:30 p.m. Call 414-263-9844.

Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State in Madison, presents the beloved musical **"West Side Story"** through Feb. 17. Call 608-258-4141.

FEB. 12, TUESDAY

Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, hosts the **88Nine Radio Milwaukee Mardi Gras Party** at 6:30 p.m. on Fat Tuesday. Call 414-286-3663.

FEB. 13, WEDNESDAY

Chamber Music Milwaukee presents the **Rembrandt Chamber Players** at 7:30 p.m. at the Helene Zelazo Center of the Performing Arts, 2419 E. Kenwood Blvd. Call 414-229-4308.

FEB. 14, THURSDAY

Distant Worlds Philharmonic and the Bel Canto Chorus perform music from **"Final Fantasy"** for the first time in Milwaukee, at 7:30 p.m. at the Milwaukee Theatre, 500 W. Kilbourn. Call 414-566-1375.

FEB. 15, FRIDAY

The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin, welcomes the **"America's Got Talent Live All-Stars Tour"** at 7 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

UWM's Peck School of the Arts presents a **Pierre Bensusan** concert at 7:30 p.m. in the UWM Recital Hall, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd. Call 414-229-4308.

Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra presents **"The American Songbook"** concert, including the works of Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern, Cole Porter, George Gershwin and Richard Rodgers at Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 N. Water, through Feb. 17. Call 414-273-2787.

FEB. 16, SATURDAY

The Peninsula Music Festival's February Fest marks the return of pianist **Andrew Armstrong** playing the music of Chopin, Debussy, Liszt and Rachmaninoff at 2 p.m. at Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church on Highway 42 at the top of Ellison Bay hill.

Contemporary music ensemble Present Music offers **"In the Chamber,"** including "Motion" by out composer Nico Muhly, at 7:30 p.m. at Schlitz Audubon Nature Center, 1111 E. Brown Deer. For tickets, call 414-271-0711 ext. 5.

The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin, welcomes the cast & creators of TV's **"Walking Dead"** at 7 and 10 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.



Sister Act

FEB. 19, TUESDAY

Broadway Across America presents **"Sister Act,"** based on the Whoopi Goldberg movie, through Feb. 24 at Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. Call 414-273-2787.

John Michael Kohler Arts Center, 608 New York Ave., Sheboygan, presents **Philadanco**, dance by African-American choreographers, at 6:30 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. the next night. Call 920-458-6144.

FEB. 20, WEDNESDAY

Charles Allis Art Museum, 1801 N. Prospect, presents a screening of the classic 1938 film **"Lost Horizon"** at 7:30 p.m. Call 414-278-8295.

FEB. 21, THURSDAY

Tony Rocker and the Comeback Special perform at the Elvis Tribute Night beginning at 6:30 p.m. at The Domes at Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory, 524 S. Layton. Call 414-649-9830.

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre presents **"Underneath The Lintel"** by Glen Berger, through March 17 at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

KODO Drummers of Japan hit the skins at 7 p.m. at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells. Call 414-286-3663.

Climb aboard the love train and catch **The O'Jays** at 8 p.m. at The Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal. Call 414-847-7922.



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