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THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

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## Prominent marriage allies petition court

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Dozens of friend-of-the-court briefs from prominent and popular allies have been submitted in advance of the U.S. Supreme Court oral arguments in two same-sex marriage cases.

The arguments take place March 26-27.

One case involves a challenge to Proposition 8, the California constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. The other involves a challenge to the federal Defense of Marriage Act that defines marriage as the union of a man and a woman. The court is expected to release opinions in late June, with Justice Anthony Kennedy expected to be the key vote in both cases.

The first filings came from opponents of marriage equality, including the National Association of Evangelicals, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Westboro Baptist Church, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Family Research Council, the Eagle Forum, a group of Republican senators and a coalition of attorneys general from states that ban gay marriage.

But in the final week of the submission storm, amicus briefs calling on the court to overturn Proposition 8 and the federal marriage ban came from varied parties – the president, Democrats, Republicans, NFL players, Hollywood celebrities, corporate America and civil rights leaders.

The Obama administration filed as an LGBT friend in both cases – the brief against DOMA was expected, the

brief against Prop 8 was wished for and arrived at the court on deadline Feb. 28.

“The government seeks to vindicate the defining constitutional ideal of equal treatment under the law,” said U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder. “Throughout history, we have seen the unjust consequences of decisions and policies rooted in discrimination. The issues before the Supreme Court in this case and the Defense of Marriage Act case are not just important to the tens of thousands of Americans who are being denied equal benefits and rights under our laws, but to our nation as a whole.”

Other friends on marriage equality include:

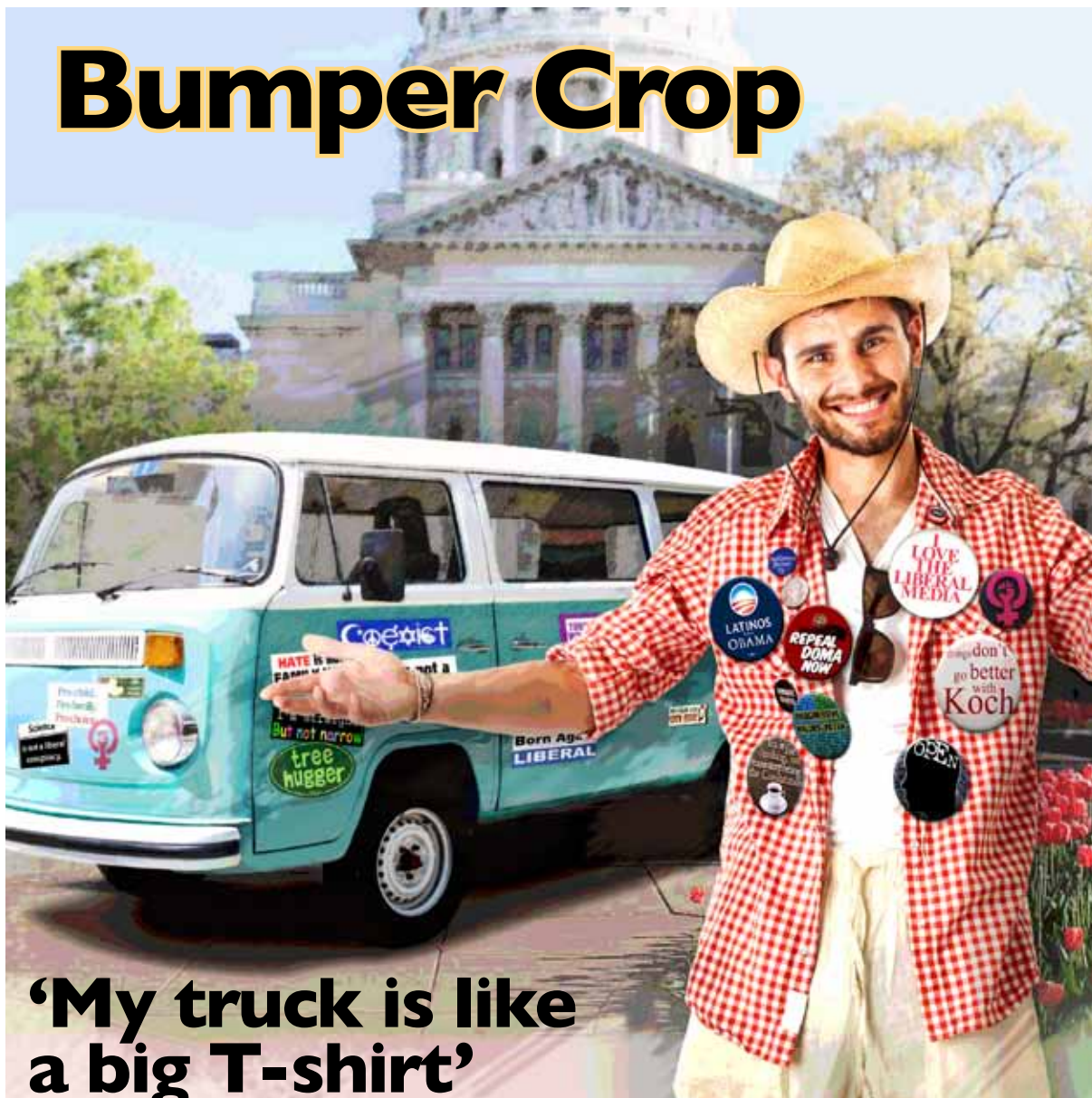
- More than 200 members of Congress who signed a brief against DOMA. Among the signatories is openly gay U.S. Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Wis., who said, “Having been happily married for more than five years, I look forward to a time when my partner and I will be treated equally to every American in a ‘traditional’ marriage by our government. The march toward full equality is unending, but I am confident we will be able to put this discriminatory relic behind us in the near future.”

- More than 130 Republican leaders who signed a brief against Prop 8, including Mary Bono Mack, Alex Castellanos, James B. Comey, Gary Johnson, Stephen Hadley, Jon Huntsman, James Kolbe, Ken Mehlman, Steve Schmidt, William F. Weld, Christine Todd Whitman, Meg Whitman and Clint Eastwood.

- More than 300 companies signed onto briefs

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## Bumper Crop



## ‘My truck is like a big T-shirt’

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

The lyric “Saw a Deadhead sticker on a Cadillac” went through Paul Cone’s mind when he affixed the black-and-white bumper sticker to his 2010 Lexus RX350.

The Lexus is a sweet car – pearl white with leather seats and wood interior trim. Cone, of Milwaukee, has been known to pet, talk to and boast about the vehicle. Now, stuck prominently on its rear bumper is a black sticker with white text that reads, “HOW MANY ARMED PSYCHOPATHS DOES IT TAKE TO CHANGE A GUN LAW?”

Cone decided to adorn his Lexus with the sticker after the mass shooting of children and teachers at Sandy Hook Elementary School in December.

“I had to respond to the idiots in the NRA. I feel that strongly about the need for gun control reform, and I knew she wouldn’t mind,” Cone said as he leaned against the freshly washed SUV, which stood out among the salty, dusty autos in the parking lot of Beans & Barley, 1901 E. North Ave.

Nearby, Melissa Wilson, of Milwaukee, hauled two bags of groceries to a 1998 Saturn S that someday might be held together by its stickers: “What a long strange trip it’s been,” “Was

Columbus an illegal alien?” “Occupy Milwaukee,” “Earth First,” “Coexist” and more.

“First car. First bumper stickers,” she said, describing the rite-of-passage that comes with leaving for college and being liberated from borrowing the family cruiser. “I had to drive my dad’s car with the George Bush sticker for years. Hope he needs to borrow mine someday.”

Citizens have any number of ways to express themselves publicly these days, but people use bumper stickers to label themselves and express their identification with causes and communities in a physical way that tweets and

BUMPER page 10



# News with a twist

## WIGWAG

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg



PHOTO: DC COMICS

**Batwoman proposes to her girlfriend in the current issue of the DC Comic.**

### GOTHAM GIRLS

In the latest DC Comics' "Batwoman," the crime-fighter also known as Kathy Kane proposes marriage to Capt. Maggie Sawyer, her secret girlfriend. The comic also contains what DC described as "the massive conclusion to the current storyline as Batwoman and Wonder Woman struggle to defeat Medusa and a horde of villains!"

### PARTISAN DINING

Public Policy Polling, a Democratic polling firm, surveyed U.S. voters in late February on the critical question of who they'd vote for in a presidential race between Ronald McDonald and the Burger King. Seems royalty can't win – McD beat the BK. On other questions, Dems like bagels and KFC while Republicans like doughnuts and Chick-fil-A. Dems are cool with vegans, Republicans have a negative opinion of them. And Dems prefer regular pop while Republicans favor diet soft drinks.

### .45 CALIBER COOKER

A St. Petersburg, Fla. woman was injured when at least one round of .45 caliber ammunition exploded in her friend's oven. A police report said the visiting woman was hungry and decided to cook waffles in the oven. The stove was



pre-heating when the women heard an explosion.

### EX-POPE SHOCKED AT VATICAN GAYS

An Italian newspaper reported that Pope Benedict XVI's decision to retire was prompted in part by the exposure of a clandestine gay "network" operating inside the Vatican. The paper reported that some gay insiders were being blackmailed. The pope allegedly learned about the gay network from the cardinals who investigated last year's so-called "Vatileaks" scandal. The Vatican issued a generic denial and attacked the press.

### IN AND OUT

Former first lady Laura Bush asked to be removed from a marriage equality ad that's part of a \$1 million national ad campaign

highlighting influential support, including among conservative leaders in the U.S. The ad featured a clip of Bush endorsing equality in an old CNN interview. Her spokesperson said Bush wasn't asked to join the campaign and wanted out of the ad. The Respect for Marriage Coalition obliged.

### LIFE IMITATES ART

"Nude Men from 1800 to Today" – an exhibit of 300 paintings, photographs, drawings and sculptures focused on the bare male at Vienna's Leopold museum – gave many goosebumps. More than 60 people attended a special after-hours showing of the exhibit in the nude. The Associated Press reported a mostly male crowd.

### NO 'BARE' ON BARRIER ISLAND

Sunbathers on Fire Island, N.Y., will be going home with tan lines this summer.

Fire Island chief ranger Lena Koschmann said officials responding to complaints about public sexual activity will start enforcing a nudity ban on the barrier island. Koschmann observed that Superstorm Sandy severely eroded the beach dunes, which means a more wide-open view.

### OUTTA INSIDE

Inside Out, a religiously based nonprofit in Ohio, allegedly fired a single mother because she was pregnant. The ACLU is representing the woman in a federal Equal Employment Opportunity complaint that said the organization was hostile toward her and other pregnant women – married and unmarried – creating a "culture of fear." The organization, which has a focus on youth, says its mission is to create "positive change from the Inside Out – through Jesus Christ."

### DOE DONE

A secret investigation into illegal campaign activity by former aides and associates of Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, R, closed at the end of February without any charges against Walker, the Republican darling of the national conservative movement and a possible contender for the 2016 GOP nomination. Why is WiGWag in the mood for "All the President's Men"?

### COTTON OR NYLON?

Austin, Texas, has implemented a policy intended to reduce the number of bags littering the land and waterways and promote a Bring Your Own Bag campaign. It isn't the first anti-plastic bag ordinance. San Fran has been discouraging the bags since 2007. Seattle and Los Angeles ban them and D.C. attaches a fee. Still, retailers, with the encouragement of right-wing groups, are suing to overturn the ordinance.

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**Reviving the Dream Celebration** will include the presentation of Diverse and Resilient Leadership Awards honoring individuals and organizations for their leadership in, and on behalf of, Wisconsin's LGBT community.



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## 'Q Program' turns 20

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

TV viewers 20 years ago were tuning into "Murphy Brown," "Northern Exposure" and "Law & Order." And, in Milwaukee that year, there was a new program gaining fans, a cable show called "The Queer Program."

"Murphy Brown" ended its run in 1998, "Northern Exposure" in 1995 and "Law & Order" in 2010, but "The Q Program" is still on the air, with Michael Lisowski and "D" as hosts. The program, which viewers can see on cable TV or the Web, live or taped, provides a forum for local news and commentary, interviews and call-in conversations about LGBT life and issues. Funders include the Gay People's Union, The G/L Community Fund and the Cream City Foundation.

A 20th anniversary party for the show takes place 7:30-10 p.m. on March 15 at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second St.

WiG connected recently with Lisowski to look at two decades of "The QP."

**"The Queer Program" turns 20. How many of those years have you been with the program?**

I came up with the idea in 1991 with Dan Fons. I was working with Mark Behar and Bryce Clark on the first LGBT bi-weekly cable series. During the ongoing Jeffrey Dahmer investigation ... it was like six degrees of separation in the gay community. Everyone knew someone who knew someone who knew one of the victims. There were rumors, gossip and uncertainty. I thought it would be great if we could have a weekly live call-in TV show. Then Milwaukee Access Telecommunications Authority developed MPact, whereby people could produce live weekly – or whenever – TV programs in a much simpler format. It wasn't until late 1992 that MPact live programming got off the ground. We aired a few pilots and then the Dahmer trial took over public access programming. Our first live weekly series show premiered Nov. 4, 1992.



PHOTO: COURTESY MIKE LISOWSKI/KATE SHERRY  
**Michael Lisowski in a photograph circa 2007, which was taken just before the show, featuring an interview with Aiden Bay, went on the air.**

**What has been the biggest change?**

At first, many of our shows were replays of taped Queer Nation and ACT-UP protest segments here in Milwaukee. Dan was an active member – instigator – in both.

Technically, it still is the simplest format for TV programming – DVDs instead of VHS tapes now. And we still promote organizational and community events, have guests both LGBT and not, and celebrities – some in their own minds..

Aside from the changes in co-hosts, the real change has been the positive growth and development of our queer communities that we try to bring to our viewers on a weekly basis. Our queer communities have blossomed in many fantastic ways, and "The Queer Program" has covered this transformational process over the past 20 years.

**We hear "queer" less and less. Do you think it is important to keep that identity, that term in play?**

It's funny, I've rarely been asked that – actually more years ago than now. I used to wear a T-shirt on the show that I got at the 1993 D.C. March on Washington: "Incite Queerness" – black T-shirt with big bright-orange letters. Back then "queer" was an in-your-face approach we used to force an issue or get attention. In 1992, I'm sure it turned a few viewers' heads. Now I wear a burgundy-ish polo shirt on the program with "Queer Life" and "Q" logo with a rainbow

flag backdrop in upper left corner. Queer still says it all!

**Two decades ago, if people were on the Internet, they were on dialup. Now you're streaming the program on the Web.**

It's great! Now our faithful viewers who don't have cable can catch us. I just thought about that: How can they be faithful viewers if they haven't had cable?

**What can people expect at the anniversary party?**

I literally just got a confirmation from John McGivern that he and his partner will be there. John and I go way back to seminary days together. I plan to honor all the queer public access cable pioneers in our community who will – hopefully – be there: Tri-Cable Tonite, BESTD Clinic, Gay By God's Will and Boys of Desire. Also any former co-hosts, sponsors, program guests. Don't worry, no long speeches. I'm working on a compilation of vintage "Queer Program" segments to view. And, of course, food. A mingling of the past and present. It will be fun.

#### ON THE 'AIR'...

"The Queer Program" broadcasts 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Mondays on Time Warner channel 96 and AT&T Uverse channel 99. The show also streams on [milwaukeecommunitymedia.com](http://milwaukeecommunitymedia.com).



# Milwaukee LGBT Center rebounds

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

At their annual meeting Feb. 28, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center board members and staff sounded like collaborators on prototypical purple prose: "It was a dark time." They were "dark days."

Such were their descriptions of the center a year ago, when it seemed everything was anything but centered.

But the board members and staff who welcomed a crowd to the membership meeting stressed that in one year the center has moved beyond crisis to bright times.

"It's a big deal," said board co-president Paul Williams.

Co-president Jennifer Morales added, "This past year has meant a year of enormous change."

The two welcomed dozens who gathered in the community room for a 90-minute program that included a review of 2012, a forecast of 2013, award presentations, call outs, commentary and the election of members to

the board, which now consists of 13 people.

Board directors Martin Palicki, Peter Larson and Anne Perry Curley detailed the changes of the past year with a PowerPoint presentation. One slide summed up the situation a year ago: Deep in debt. Leadership in turmoil. Many feeling alienated. Bankruptcy looming. But, referring to a town hall meeting last winter that attracted more than 200 people and a surge in volunteer commitments, the next slide proclaimed, "The community came back."

In the past year, the center established an advisory council, expanded its board, signed on new managers, cut costs, renegotiated and reduced its debt, adopted new bylaws, developed a donor campaign, boosted its membership, extended its outreach and marketing, secured a clean audit report, added to its events and programs and strategically planned.

The directors also reviewed goals, which include continuing to grow member-



David Lauersdorf, who volunteers his photography skills at the center, documents the annual meeting held on Feb. 28.



Paul Williams, co-president of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center board.

PHOTOS: LISA NEFF

ship and programs, to retire the debt and to bring back the annual gala.

Next, the center's Tom Hanley and Karen Gotzler presented awards to volunteers, with praise for all and plaques for several – Amy Lepke, Katie Obbink, Jeremy Hanson and Stan Palkowitz.

Williams and Morales then presented leadership

awards to the Cream City Foundation for its support of the center and motivating donors and to the Wisconsin Gazette for its coverage of the center's struggle and encouraging its resurgence.

Morales described the newspaper as a critical friend that "called the center out on the bad news." Sales rep Dan Dashner accepted the

award for WiG on behalf of publisher Louis Weisberg and CEO Leonard Sobczak.

Paul Fairchild, CCF executive director, accepted the award for the foundation, observing that a vibrant LGBT community can't exist without the center.

He called the center's rebound extraordinary: "This doesn't happen anywhere

else, I can assure you."

The meeting closed with the election of new members to the board of directors – Jason Laha, William Martin, Andy Petroll and Britt Wegner – and the ratification of current members Denise Cawley, Kaas Hume, Valery Meyer, Warren Scherer, Tina Owen, as well as Palicki, Curley, Larson and Williams.

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## University drag



About 800 people – not including 100 in an overflow room – attended the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Annual Drag Show on Feb. 23 in the student union, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., to worship their favorite drag personalities and raise \$1,500 for Project Q, a “for youth, by youth” program of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.

Attendees saw 17 performances at the event emceed by Isis, who told the crowd, “If you don’t know the storied history of drag in the LGBT-plus community, go read a book!”

UWM students, UWM alumni and staff made up about 90 percent of the performers. One drag duo joined in the show from UW-Whitewater. —Angela C. McManaman



PHOTO: ALAN MAGAYNE-ROSHAK

**TOP: Getting campy on campus with the UWM Annual Drag Show. TOP RIGHT: A crowd arrives for the show on Feb. 23 in the union. LEFT: Isis emcees the celebration of drag at UWM to benefit Project Q, a youth program at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.**

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS



PHOTO: MICHAEL GOELZER

### REVIVING THE DREAM

Diverse & Resilient CEO Gary Hollander joins Milwaukee Health Commissioner Bevan Baker, Bayard Rustin Leadership Award recipient Denise Crumble and Diverse & Resilient board chair Sarah Morgan in preparing for the inaugural Reviving the Dream Celebration. The event takes place on March 22 at the Harley-Davidson Museum, 401 W. Canal St., Milwaukee. For details go to [www.diverseandresilient.org/give](http://www.diverseandresilient.org/give).

### D&R PROMOTES HIV TESTING AT ALL PEOPLES CHURCH

Diverse & Resilient, continuing to encourage testing to reduce rates of HIV, went to church on Sunday.

The Milwaukee-based group joined pastor Steve Jerbi at All Peoples Church, 2600 N. Second St., on March 3, when Jerbi underwent an HIV test at the 11 a.m. service.

“Churches need to be raising the epidemic issue of HIV/AIDS,” Jerbi said. “And part of that happens by taking away the stigma of testing. If the only message people are hearing from churches is abstinence and sex within marriage, we are failing to deal with the realities facing our community. We need to also talk prevention and protection. We need to encourage testing.”

For more about D&R’s work, visit [www.journey2accept.org](http://www.journey2accept.org). For more about All Peoples, visit [allpeoplesgathering.org](http://allpeoplesgathering.org).

### IN OTHER NEWS...

The **ACLU of Wisconsin Foundation** holds its annual Bill of Rights Celebra-

tion 6-9 p.m. March 23 to cheer champions of “freedom of expression in the arts, a hero for public schools and an emerging civil liberties youth leader.” Honorees include David Cessarini and Next Act Theatre, Barbara J. Miner and Michael Freytes. The celebration takes place at The Hamilton, 823 E. Hamilton St., Milwaukee. For more, visit [www.aclu-wi.org](http://www.aclu-wi.org).

The **Milwaukee LGBT Community Center** hosts its first LGBT family potluck picnic 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on March 10 at the center, 1110 N. Market St., Milwaukee. A \$5 donation is requested, as well as a dish to share. The center is providing soft drinks, hamburgers, veggie burgers and hot dogs, and promising fun and games for everyone from toddlers to adults. Call 414-271-2656.

**LGBT Dreamers** are benefiting from a fund established by three dozen LGBT groups. The goal is to help young people get the \$465 needed to apply for relief. To date, the LGBT Dreamers Fund has raised more than \$100,000 to help 200 young people. For more, visit [lgbtdreamersstories.com](http://lgbtdreamersstories.com).

—Lisa Neff

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# Wisconsin Senate passes controversial mining bill

By Lisa Neff  
Staff writer

The Wisconsin Senate on Feb. 27 voted 17-16 – along party lines – for a controversial mining bill that critics say weakens environmental standards, won't generate many jobs and threatens air and water in the pristine Penokee Hills.

As WiG went to press, the Republican-controlled Assembly was expected to pass the bill, sending it on to a supportive Gov. Scott Walker to be signed into law.

In the Senate, one Republican, Dale Schultz of Richland Center, voted against the bill, which was introduced to open the way for Gogebic Taconite to build an open pit iron-ore mine in northern Wisconsin. He also voted against a similar bill last year.

Senate passage of the measure was hailed by the right-wing, anti-gay Wisconsin Family Action. The group's president, Julaine Appling,

claimed the legislation "legitimately and responsibly promotes independent Wisconsin families" and provides "environmentally responsible mining in our state."

The state GOP also cheered the vote, with executive director Joe Fadness saying, "The state Senate has worked diligently to ensure that environmentally safe and fiscally sound mining legislation will become a reality here in Wisconsin."

But the Senate's action had plenty of critics who work at the Capitol and who serve as Capitol watchdogs.

State Sen. Dave Hansen, a Democrat from Green Bay, said, "Taconite processing from mining is the largest source of mercury in the Lake Superior basin. We all know the problems this creates for infants, children and adults. Lead and arsenic, two other contaminants from mining, are both harmful to humans. And thanks to this

bill, it is much more likely that these types of chemicals will show up in our lakes and streams and in the drinking water of families up north."

State Sen. Bob Jauch, a Democrat from Poplar, said the state was playing Santa Claus to Gogebic Taconite.

The Sierra Club refers to the mining bill as the "Bad River Watershed Destruction Act."

Shahla Werner, director of the club's John Muir Chapter in Madison, said state lawmakers were putting their hopes for job creation in the 21st century on 19th century technology while ignoring the opportunities with today's clean energy technologies.

"Wisconsin has a real opportunity to create hundreds of thousands of clean energy jobs that protect clean air and water while employing local Wisconsinites," she said.

wisconsin Gazette.com

## REGIONAL BRIEFS

### WALKER'S PROPOSED TAX CUT BENEFITS WEALTHY

Scott Walker's proposed state income tax cut would give more money back to the rich than the poor, despite the governor billing it as a boon to the middle class, a new analysis shows.

Experts add that the cuts are so small that they will do little, if anything, to stimulate the state's lagging economy.

A family of four making \$80,000 would save \$106 a year under the tax cut, while those earning \$374,000 or more a year would save \$285 annually, according to a Wisconsin State Journal report Feb. 22.

The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy conducted the analysis for the Wisconsin Budget Project.

Meanwhile, a new Public Policy Polling survey of state voters showed that Walker's approval rating is on the decline. Last fall, he had an approval rating of 51 percent and a disapproval rating of 46 percent. In the most recent survey, the Republican governor had an approval rating of 48 percent. Disapproval was at 49 percent.

### IN OTHER NEWS...

**Democratic activist Jamie Shiner**, who made history in 2012 as a transgender Democratic National Convention delegate, is running for second vice-chair of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin. She announced

her candidacy Feb. 24 and began circulating nominating petitions on March 7. The election takes place in Oconomowoc in June. Shiner says, "If elected I will be the first LGBT to be elected to any chair position of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin. This could be a big moment in LGBT history for this state."

The **Humane Society of the United States** and Dr. Jana Kohl, granddaughter of the founder of the Wisconsin-based Kohl's, want the department store to go fur-free. The proposal has been filed in the form of a proposed shareholder resolution that asks Kohl's to adopt a policy stating that the company plans to ban animal fur sales.

The **National Organization for Marriage** says it will spend \$500,000 to defeat Republican lawmakers in Minnesota who vote to legalize same-sex marriage. The group contributed more than \$2 million to last fall's failed campaign to ban gay marriage in Minnesota constitution.

**Chicago sports enthusiast Bill Gubrud** recently announced the founding of the National Gay and Lesbian Sports Hall of Fame and plans for a first induction ceremony in September. Gubrud, years ago, founded Out at the Ballgame at Wrigley Field and enticed the Chicago Cubs to advertise in the LGBT press.

— from WiG reports






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## Opinion

CLAIRE VAN FOSSEN

It seems Marquette University is waging anew the war on women and sexual diversity.

In January, the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center at Marquette agreed to sponsor a student-led, student-facilitated 12-week workshop, which engages participants in an exploration of social forces through the lens of female sexuality. The mission of FemSex at Marquette is: "To provide a safe space for exploration, encourage honest dialogue, facilitate collective learning, engage and grapple with the social forces that inform individual experiences, and build allyship."

Four weeks later, motivated by a letter from former Marquette Republican president Ethan Hollenberger, President Rev. Scott R. Pilarz and Provost John Pauly have demanded that the GSRC officially withdraw support from the workshop. The GSRC is a space founded for "the pursuit of dialogue, growth, and empowerment around issues of gender, sex, and sexuality." Implicit in the demand is the university's message to its students that dialogue about gender, sex and sexuality is not welcome among students at the university.

The Marquette administration acted on the belief that FemSex is anti-Catholic because it deals with topics such as sexuality, pleasure and masturbation. In fact, the workshop in no way conflicts with Catholic theology, unless creating a safe space in which

# Marquette axes FemSex

## The administration reaffirmed bigoted ideals.

to discuss these topics is anti-Catholic. Let me be clear: FemSex is a space dedicated to collective discussion based on student experiences and does not teach any curriculum, push any agenda, condone any behavior or act as therapy.

The syllabus for FemSex says the workshop "encourages exploration of identities" and "fosters introspection and encourages participants to develop empowered, informed relationships with themselves and others." Thus, at its core, FemSex is about introspection, discussion, exploration and self-empowerment – are those anti-Catholic now?

The administration at Marquette betrayed student trust by failing to do its due diligence regarding the claims that had been made about FemSex and by refusing to engage with students and advocate for their interests in the matter before pulling sponsorship.

If the administration truly cares about Marquette University being safe for diverse students, it must affirm those students in the form of support. The GSRC serves as a safe space on campus only nominally, since any programming dedicated to honest dialogue of gender and sexuality is quickly crushed by the administration. If students are not safe to discuss sexuality in the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center, where are they safe?

As a Marquette student, I am outraged

that Marquette has rescinded its sponsorship of FemSex, for reasons much larger than the workshop alone. I see the act as indicative of cultural, systemic oppression that thrives at Marquette, perpetuated and maintained by the university's administration. It is an attack on women and sexually diverse students and represents a refusal to advocate for their right to safe space for discussion on campus.

The administration needs to accept and affirm that gender and sexually diverse students deserve the same privileges as every other student on campus.

By rescinding sponsorship of FemSex, Marquette not only reaffirmed bigoted and oppressive ideals, it also shamed and silenced the identities and experiences of its students. Marquette cannot continue to assert itself as a valuable, progressive member of the Milwaukee community while denouncing the identities and experiences of its own students, condoning homophobia and sexism and failing to advocate on students' behalf.

Claire Van Fossen is a student at Marquette University. She is studying nonprofit management as she pursues a master's degree.

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# LGBT-inclusive Violence Against Women Act passes Congress

**Lisa Neff**

Staff writer

The U.S. House on Feb. 28 passed the already Senate-approved Violence Against Women Act, which contains the first federal non-discrimination protections for LGBT people.

Anti-violence advocates hailed the 286-138 House vote as an example of what Republicans and Democrats can accomplish when they work together. Eighty-seven House Republicans voted for the bill.

"There need not be a partisan divide on LGBT issues, and this vote shows that we can come together to find common sense solutions to issues facing our community," observed Chad Griffin, president of the Human Rights Campaign.

The act, first introduced in 1994, helps survivors of domestic violence by providing funding for shelters, investigation and prosecution

of crime, and increased education for the courts and law enforcement.

The reauthorization also prohibits any program or activity funded by the bill from discriminating based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity and includes LGBT victims in two key grant programs. LGBT people experience domestic violence at roughly the same rate as others, yet a 2011 study by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs found more than 61 percent of LGBT victims are turned away from shelters. The NCAVP policy committee, which includes Milwaukee-based FORGE, lobbied for the legislation.

The president, in a statement on Feb. 28, said the new legislation would do more "by continuing to reduce domestic violence, improving how we treat victims of rape and extending protections to Native American women and

members of the LGBT community. The bill also reauthorizes the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, providing critical support for both international and domestic victims of trafficking and helping ensure traffickers are brought to justice."

The president, who was preparing to sign the legislation as WIG went to press, thanked three people who led the efforts to pass the legislation – U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy and U.S. Reps. Nancy Pelosi of California and Gwen Moore of Milwaukee.

Moore, along with Democrats John Conyers and Louise Slaughter, introduced the Senate version of the VAWA on Feb. 27 to provide an alternative to the House Republicans' proposal, which Democrats said was written behind closed doors and contained watered-down protections.

Moore, before passage of the bill, said, "I guess they



PHOTO: COURTESY

**U.S. Rep. Gwen Moore, D-Milwaukee, led the campaign in the House for an LGBT-inclusive Violence Against Women Act.**

thought no one would notice their bill fails to adequately protect LGBT, Native American, campus and sex trafficking victims and actually weakens current law."

wisconsinazette.com

## NATIONAL BRIEFS

### AP STYLEBOOK: HUSBAND, WIFE, REGARDLESS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION

The AP Stylebook – the guide most U.S. news organizations use for writing and editing copy – has made clear its position on the use of "husband" and "wife."

A new stylebook entry says, "Regardless of sexual orientation, husband or wife is acceptable in all references to individuals in any legally recognized marriage. Spouse or partner may be used if requested."

For about a week, there had been some confusion and controversy over the style for "husband, wife" after the release of a memo explaining AP generally uses partners or couples to describe people in same-sex marriages or civil unions.

### IN OTHER NEWS...

**Thirty-seven U.S. senators** urged the president to issue an executive order banning anti-LGBT discrimination by federal contractors. The order is seen as a way to provide protections pending passage of a bill by Congress.

An **Indiana school district** suspended a teacher who said she believes gays have no purpose in life. The superintendent said the teacher was put on leave out of concern "for the safety and security of everyone in our buildings."

The **Kansas Supreme Court** ruled that the non-biological mother of children in a same-sex relationship has the same parental rights as the biological mother. The case involved women who separated after having two children.

The **Montana Senate** backed a bill to strike an obsolete state law that criminalizes gay sex. The State Supreme court ruled the law unconstitutional in 1997.

**Lambda Legal** sued a Florida school that punished a teen for participating in a National Day of Silence by wearing a T-shirt with the message "DOS April 20, 2012: Shhhhh." She also refrained from talking in class. – Lisa Neff

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## Seen and read: 'Ordain Women or Stop Dressing Like Them'

**BUMPER** from page one

posts cannot match.

"It's a message that has value because it has permanence and a physical presence," Cone said. "The Internet stuff is forgotten in a day, or an hour."

The bumper sticker, according to histories on the Web, developed with the debut of the Model A Ford in 1927 – the earlier Model T lacked a bumper. The first bumper stickers were made of aluminum or cardboard and attached to the auto with wire. Forest P. Gill, a silk-screen printer in Kansas City, Mo., is credited with first using adhesive in the 1930s so the motoring messages could become practical and widespread.

On March 1, after the late February snow had fallen from many bumpers, WiG found stickers on about one in every four vehicles parked on the streets of a half-dozen Milwaukee neighborhoods. Around Marquette University and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the



PHOTO: LISA NEFF

**A clear message on a cloudy, snowy day on the East Side in Milwaukee.**

ratio was more like one in three, and those bumpers tended to be more crowded.

A Subaru parked on North Cramer Street on the East Side sported bumper stickers proclaiming: "Ordain Women

or Stop Dressing Like Them," "My comedy channel: Fox News. My news source: Comedy Central," "Dance Local," "Love my teachers" and "Recall Walker," one of the more common stickers

on cars in Milwaukee.

A bumper in Avenues West displayed a Mickey Mouse decal, "Wall Drug of South Dakota" and two sets of the Grateful Dead's Dancing Bears.

In the Historic Third Ward, a minivan with two car seats displayed a collection of badges – "Mom on Board," "Be good, be green" and "Choose Choice."

In Walker's Point, many compacts and coupes, trucks and SUVs, sported blue-and-yellow equal signs and rainbow Pride decals, as well as a variety of Barack Obama re-election stickers, including a crayon-like one on a Ford pickup that said "Dogs against Romney."

"I did that with Seamus in mind," the truck's driver, Shelli Anderson, of Racine, said, referring to the dog that Romney placed in a carrier on top of the family wagon for a 12-hour vacation drive in 1983.

Anderson makes her own stickers on CafePress.com and changes the slogans and sayings on her truck several times a year.

"My truck is like a big T-shirt," she said. "I love bumper stickers, always have. I like to have them and read them. I see a really good one, that gets the driver a toot on the horn. I see one I don't like. So, OK, I've flipped the finger to a few."

**'For those ... without wealth or power, a bumper sticker may be one of the few means available to convey a message to a public audience.'**

legal skirmishes over bumper stickers, specifically First Amendment defenses of motorists arrested on obscenity charges.

A Florida woman, for example, was arrested in 1999 for a bumper sticker that stated, "Fuck you, you fucking fuck." The charge against her was dropped, but a Georgia man, James Daniel Cunningham, had to go to his state Supreme Court to appeal his conviction for driving with the bumper sticker "Shit Happens." The court sided with Cunningham, finding that "the peace of society is not endangered by the profane or lewd word which is not directed at a particular audience."

A federal court also ruled in favor of truck-driver Wayne Baker, who was stopped by an Alabama public safety officer and ordered to remove offending language on a bumper sticker that said, "How's My Driving? Call 1-800-2-EAT SHIT!"

Baker scratched out the sticker and then filed a federal lawsuit. U.S. District Judge Myron H. Thompson, in his decision, said the sticker wasn't offensive and "is also protected speech under the First Amendment because it has serious literary and political value. Although surely not a likely candidate for a literary prize, Baker's bumper sticker has serious literary value as a parody of stickers such as 'How's My Driving? Call 1-800-2 ADVISE!'"

Thompson also observed, "For those citizens without wealth or power, a bumper sticker may be one of the few means available to convey a message to a public audience."

That's something Wilson thought about when she donated a dollar for the "Occupy Milwaukee" sticker that she added to an older-model car. "Free speech that's almost free," she said.

The bumper-watcher said she's noticed fewer stickers in the past decade.

So have sticker manufacturers, used car dealers and car wash attendants, who speculated there are several reasons for a possible decline. For one thing, a lot of auto models no longer have distinctive bumpers; for another, people who lease cars want to avoid penalties for damage caused by stickers. And some motorists have concerns that stickers might provoke vandalism.

Also apparently on the decline are sales of specialty license plates that provide, for a price, an opportunity to drive a message. Surveys show a decline in specialty plate sales in recent years in Oklahoma, Tennessee and Florida, possibly due to the economy, too many plates on the market or drivers deciding they don't want government interfering with their messages.

Legal battles have erupted in recent years in Oklahoma, North Carolina, Virginia and Indiana over what groups can participate in specialty plate programs and what messages the plates can convey. Indiana lawmakers are considering a bill to limit the number of specialty plates following controversy over a plate for the Indiana Youth Group, a support group for gay teens. There also have been



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## Dozens of amicus briefs filed



PHOTO: PETE SOUZA/WHITE HOUSE

**President Barack Obama, outgoing Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Attorney General Eric Holder after the State of the Union address.**

### COURT from page one

against DOMA and Prop 8. Companies in the Prop 8 brief include Apple, Facebook, Xerox, Verizon, Cisco and Levi Strauss. Employers calling on the court to overturn the federal ban include Google, Starbucks, Amazon and Citigroup.

• NFL players Brendan Ayanbadejo and Chris Kluwe, two high-profile advocates for equality. They wrote, "When we advance the idea that some people should be treated differently because of who they are, demeaned in public as lesser beings, not worthy of the same rights and benefits as others despite their actions as good citizens and neighbors, then we deny them equal protection under the laws. America has walked this path before, and courageous people and the court brought us to the right result. We urge the court to repeat those actions here."

In anticipation of the historic hearings, activists on both sides are planning demonstrations.

For March 26, the anti-gay National Organization for Marriage is planning a Marriage March. A NOM poster asks, "Do you believe that every child deserves a mom and a dad?" and invites opponents of gay marriage to "be

heard. Protect marriage."

In late February, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops sent American dioceses a letter urging priests to encourage parishioners to attend or show solidarity for the anti-gay effort.

Meanwhile, longtime gay rights activists David Mixner and Cleve Jones have encouraged a "National Equality Action" outside the court on March 26-27. The activists aren't proposing a national march, but they are endorsing a gathering. "If you can be in Washington, D.C., there will be peaceful and civil demonstrations of support for the cases at the Supreme Court on March 26 and 27," they wrote in a joint statement. "While there you can also visit your members of Congress to lobby for the Employment Non-

**'Our opponents will also be marching – ignore them.'**

Discrimination Act and Uniting American Families Act as well as marriage equality. Our opponents will also be marching – ignore them."

The activists also encouraged "peaceful demonstrations for LGBT equality in every city and town across our country at sunset" on March 25.

### ON THE DOCKET

The U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in *Hollingsworth v. Perry* – the Proposition 8 case – on March 26. The question presented: "Whether the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment prohibits the state of California from defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman."

The court will hear arguments in *U.S. v. Windsor* on March 27. The question presented: "Whether Section 3 of DOMA violates the Fifth Amendment's guarantee of equal protection of the laws as applied to persons of the same sex who are legally married under the laws of their state."

– L.N.

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# { Editorial }

## False promises, faux surplus

During his campaign for governor, Scott Walker made many promises that he promptly abandoned after taking office. We can't fault him for that – empty promises are part and parcel of our political process.

The centerpiece of Walker's campaign, however, was the vow to create 250,000 jobs by November 2014. Given the miniscule role governors actually play in the economy, that was an audacious boast. But a surprising number of voters took him at his word. Meanwhile, Walker was clearly betting that the nation's economic crisis had bottomed out, and he was positioning himself to take credit for a recovery that seemed inevitable at the time.

Obviously, things didn't work out the way Walker had planned. So while his party focused the Capitol on everything but legislation to bolster the economy – laws to bust unions, restrict access to abortion, allow guns anywhere and everywhere, eliminate pay equity protection for women, cut funding for health care and education, eliminate alternative energy projects, etc. – he moved his goal post from creating jobs to eliminating the state's debt.

Walker claims not only to have achieved that goal, but also to have amassed a surplus from which he plans to provide tax breaks to stimulate the economy. This, like the promise to create 250,000 jobs, makes a wonderful sound bite, but it's equally disingenuous.

First of all, the notion that a tax cut averaging \$83 annually per household could stimulate economic growth is laughable. Apparently the millions they've hauled in from out-of-state billionaires have removed Wisconsin Republicans so far from financial reality that they don't know what things cost. Here's a hint: The cuts are not enough to have any impact on the economy, according to the experts, particularly at a time when federal payroll taxes have risen significantly.

But even more upsetting than the governor's hollow economic-growth strategy is the fact that there is no real budget surplus.

During his campaign, Walker insisted that he'd use generally accepted accounting principles "to balance every state budget, just as we require every local government and school district to do."

But Walker's vaunted budget surplus is not based on GAAP accounting but rather on gimmicky cash accounting procedures.

According to cash accounting procedures, there was money left over in state accounts after all the bills for 2011-13 were paid. But that method of accounting does not take into consideration the GAAP debt increase of at least \$320 million that has accrued since Walker took office. By taking the last budget's operational surplus and giving it back to taxpayers in meaningless increments, Walker is increasing that debt level.

Walker should have used the excess operational money to reduce some of the harmful cuts he made to education and health care in his draconian prior budget. Or he could have paid down the state's debt.

Instead he chose to use the money in a reckless manner that gives him a sound bite for his next campaign but provides no benefit to the people of Wisconsin.

Even worse, in addition to implementing minimal tax cuts, Walker says he'll use some of his "surplus" to fund unnecessary road-building projects, thus spreading the faux wealth to political backers who will return some portion of it to his own campaign trough.

That's just the sort of self-serving trickery that's characterized every move of Walker's political career. Wisconsin deserves much better.

## WiG's WEB PICKS

Some of our favorite recent pictorials from cyberspace



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## ON THE RECORD



“Can demonic spirits attach themselves to inanimate objects, the answer is yes.”

– Televangelist PAT ROBERTSON responding on the “700 Club” to a viewer questioning her mom’s advice to pray over secondhand sweaters.

“We don’t celebrate our dependence on the government, we celebrate our independence from the tyranny of the government.”

– Wisconsin Gov. SCOTT WALKER, speaking at the Reagan Dinner in Milwaukee in late February.

“They establish homes and lives together, support each other financially, share the joys and burdens of raising children, and provide care through illness and comfort at the moment of death.”

– The OBAMA ADMINISTRATION arguing that gay relationships bear the same hallmarks as straight relationships in its brief against California Prop 8.

“Due to new information that has been brought to my attention, I have decided to cancel my... upcoming appearance.”

– NFL player TIM TEBOW’s tweet announcing that he was canceling an appearance at Robert Jeffress’ Dallas mega-church. For his condemnation of gays and Jews, Jeffress has been likened to the Rev. Fred Phelps of Westboro Baptist Church.

“These school administrators, you know I mean you think of them as what the Nazi concentration camp guards must have been like where they are doing this horrible evil and they are just taking orders or something, they believe in it. People need to rise up because it is only going to get worse.”

– BRIAN CAMENKER of MassResistance talking about efforts to protect transgender students.

“It was the best beach we had for New Yorkers, and it’s not easy to be a nudist in New York.”

– FELICITY JONES, co-founder of Young Naturists and Nudists America, referring to the decision to enforce laws against nude sunbathing on Fire Island.

“Here’s the elephant in the room for the teams and it shouldn’t matter, but we have to step aside from the rest of reality and walk into the unique industry that is the NFL. Teams want to know whether Manti Te’o is gay... They want to know because in an NFL locker room, it’s a different world. It shouldn’t be that way.”

– MIKE FLORIO of NBC Sports referring to NFL recruiting.

“I think we’ll be the first league to definitely accept it. I think it will come and go a lot easier than people think.”

– Seattle Sounders defender MARC BURCH, speculating that the Major League Soccer will beat the NFL, the MLB, the NHL or the NBA in welcoming an openly gay player.

“Thanks for the kind words, everyone. It feels a bit odd to ‘come out’ as a straight guy.”

– “Shameless” star CAMERON MONAGHAN on Twitter.



## Opinion

JAMAKAYA

With the outrageous amounts of media attention over the “election” of a new pope to head the Roman Catholic Church, I have been suffering from what Elizabeth Cady Stanton used to call a “woman’s rights convulsion.”

Actually, it’s broader than that, more like a “human rights convulsion,” and it’s inspiring my annual anti-Catholic diatribe. Hell hath no fury like an ex-Catholic.

It is beyond me how anyone in 2013 can support an institution so saturated by misogyny that it threatens with excommunication anyone who even discusses the possibility of women priests; a church so twisted in its conception of sexuality that it forbids women to use birth control while willfully enabling thousands of priests to commit sex crimes; a church that muzzles its most effective good shepherds – nuns – while allowing its criminal brotherhood to

## No hope for new pope

go scot-free.

Despite all its hymns of praise to Mary, the Catholic Church is a corrupt and woman-hating boys club that exists to accrete wealth, oppress women and perpetuate ignorance. It is an archaic, reactionary remnant of the Dark Ages, when sin caused disease, torture compelled “devotion” and bribes secured salvation. The church is, in the words of its own classic libel against gay people, “intrinsically disordered.”

The Roman Catholic Church has a long history of organized torture and alliances with the most repressive regimes in the world. I’ve written about the horrors of the Inquisition and the church’s suppression of science. How about its alliances with Benito Mussolini and Francisco Franco?

The Vatican obtained its position of international statehood via the Lateran Treaty with Mussolini in 1929. The deal was for the church to give a free hand to the dictator in exchange for

its little piece of sovereign territory and loads of lucre. The church had no problem turning its back on democratic values as it has never practiced them. The Italians finally had the good sense to shoot and then hang Mussolini, but his cronies still rule from the Vatican.

In Spain in the 1930s, the Catholic Church joined Franco’s militarists and wealthy landowners to crush progressive Spaniards loyal to the new democratic government. These very Catholic fascists embarked on an organized campaign of rape against the women in loyalist areas of Spain. Like fascists everywhere, they reveled in cruelty. After beating and raping them, they force-fed women huge quantities of castor oil and marched them through the streets where they stumbled and soiled themselves while their right-wing Catholic countrymen cheered.

After murdering their democratic opponents, the victorious fascists, with the

aid of the Catholic Church, stole their victims’ children and placed them with Francoist families where they were purged of liberal sentiments and raised to be good fascists. A generation of elderly Spaniards learned only recently that the “parents” who raised them were actually the killers of their real parents. Family values have always been a relative concept to the Catholic Church.

Now the church’s sex crimes, involving tens of thousands of victims worldwide, have been revealed. Voluminous documents and billions of dollars in legal settlements prove that Catholic leaders covered up the crimes and blamed the victims. Yet the Vatican adamantly denies that its male exclusiveness, its celibacy rules or its hermetic, hierarchical culture have anything to do with the crimes.

“Good” Catholics who think that they or a new pope can somehow reform this evil institution are delusional.

## Opinion

JASON BURNS

I recently read an article by Shannon Bream that was posted on the Fox News website. I know that reading such a site is bound to give a progressive heartburn, but about once a week I do it anyhow. The article was about the recent decision of outgoing Defense Secretary Leon Panetta to extend certain benefits to same-sex military couples. While I applaud the secretary for his commitment to equality for those who choose to serve in our volunteer military, Bream should be embarrassed by her article.

The article uses pejorative language, which in no way serves to educate the broader community. Instead, it furthers dangerous stereotypes about the LGBT community and repeatedly cites as the “topic expert” Peter Sprigg of the Family Research Council, identified as a hate group by the Southern Pov-

## Fox pans military equality

erty Law Center. For those of you who are not familiar with Sprigg, he believes in deporting LGBT people and wants reinstatement of laws punishing homosexual behavior.

In Bream’s article, Sprigg is quoted saying, “I think this (extending some military benefits to same-sex couples) does qualify as discrimination against opposite sex couples who are essentially in the same position, unmarried but living together.” Sprigg’s comment is misguided and blatantly ignorant, as straight unmarried couples who are living together have the option of getting married. Meanwhile committed same-sex couples, at the federal level and in many states, do not. What Panetta wants is to extend equal benefits to all who volunteer to risk their lives for the nation’s protection, regardless of who they love.

Sprigg goes on to assert, “This administration is using the military for social engineering. I think it’s significant

that they’re actually going beyond even what they said they’d do at the time that ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ was repealed.” He seems to believe that progress should be restricted to just the repeal of written discrimination in the Uniform Code of Justice.

However, even after repeal, we still have a long way to go. Transgender people still are prohibited from military service. That situation must be corrected – and I’m confident that will happen in time. No person should be disqualified from serving their nation because of their gender identity or expression.

In her article, Bream also cites a Department of Defense report from 2010, before the repeal of DADT, that said offering benefits to same-sex military couples would be in “stark contrast to the military’s ethic of fair and equal treatment.” If I could ask one question of Bream it would be: Where was this ethic of fair and

**Reading such a site is bound to give a progressive heartburn.**

equal treatment for the nearly 14,000 individuals discharged under DADT?

The U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on the federal Defense of Marriage Act on March 27, and a favorable ruling later this year could nullify this debate.

Meanwhile, I’m sick and tired of Faux News skewing the facts, fostering fear and encouraging people to stand against the core American value of equality.







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# Man charged in death of gay mayoral candidate

A 22-year-old man was charged with murder on Feb. 28 in the death of an openly gay mayoral candidate, whose body was found near a river levee in the Mississippi Delta this week.

The Coahoma County Sheriff's Department said Lawrence Reed of Shelby was charged in the death of Marco McMillian, 34, a candidate for mayor of Clarksdale.

Campaign spokesman Jarod Keith says McMillian's bid was noteworthy because he may have been the first openly gay man to be a viable candidate for public office in Mississippi.

An investigation began when McMillian's SUV slammed head-on into another car on U.S. Highway 49 near the Coahoma and Tallahatchie county lines.

Reed was driving the car, but McMillian was not

in it, according to sheriff's department spokesman Will Rooker.

McMillian's body was found the next day near the Mississippi River levee between Sherard and Rena Lara, Coahoma County Coroner Scotty Meredith has said.

Warren Strain, a spokesman with the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, said the autopsy was completed but toxicology and other test results are pending, and no cause of death will be released until the report is completed. McMillian's family said the man's body had been beaten and burned.

The sheriff's department has not released a possible motive for the crime.

Little is known about Reed or how he was acquainted with McMillian.

- AP



PHOTO: PROVIDED

**Marco McMillian, an openly gay candidate for mayor in Clarksdale, Miss. His body was found on Feb. 27 by a Mississippi River levee.**



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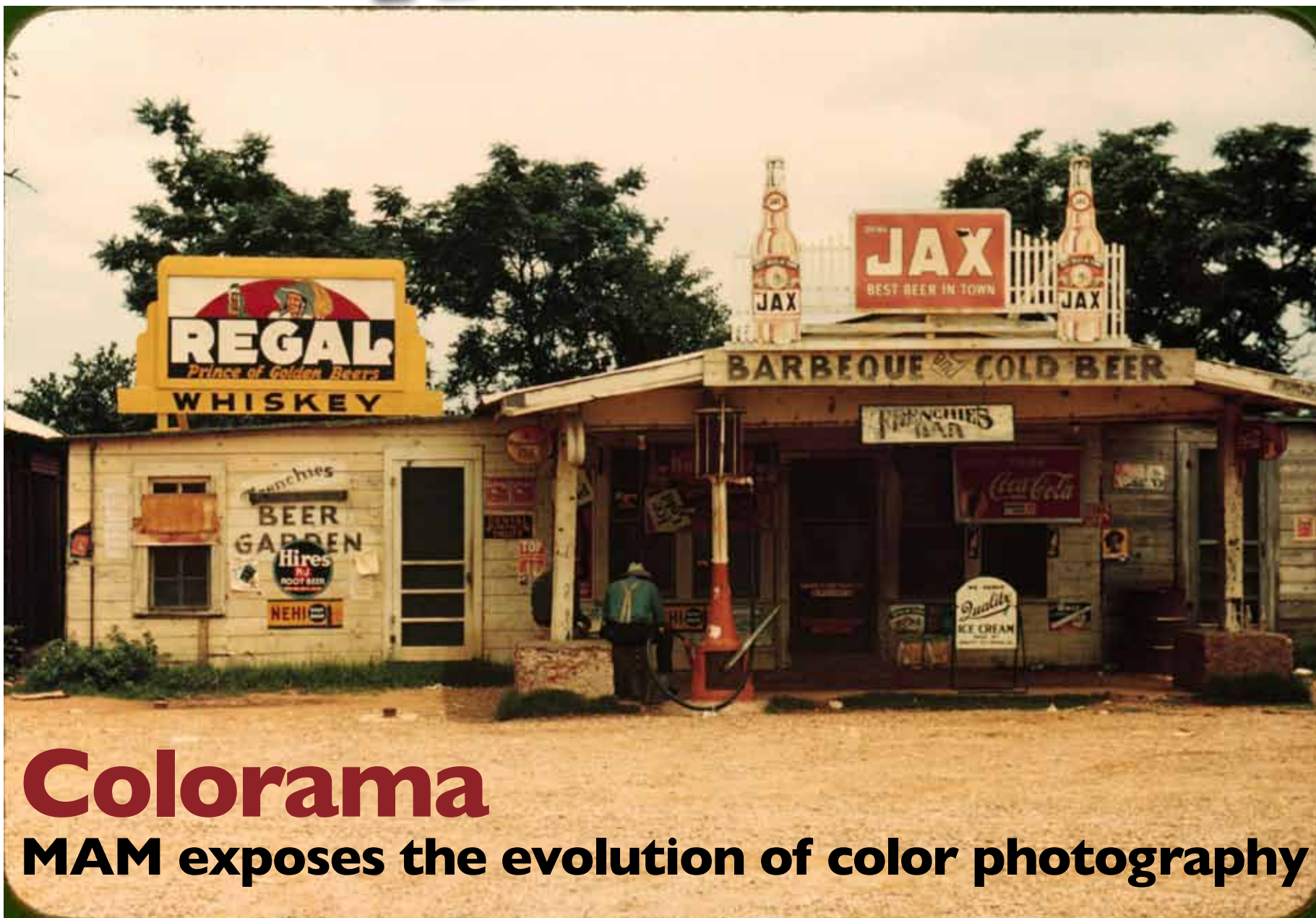
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# WIGOUT!

WISCONSIN GAZETTE ENTERTAINMENT



## Colorama MAM exposes the evolution of color photography

By Peggy Sue Dunigan  
Contributing writer

In William Eggleston's photograph "Greenwood, Mississippi, 1973," white electric cords travel to a dismal power source and a lone light bulb hangs from the ceiling – a decadent red ceiling.

Eggleston's avant garde print is included in the Milwaukee Art Museum's sensuous "Color Rush: 75 Years of Color Photography in America." The exhibition, which covers the period 1907-1981, explores the once experimental medium as fine art instead of merely new technology.

Lisa Hostetler, former MAM curator of photography, and Katherine Bussard, assistant curator of photography at the Art Institute of Chicago, collaborated on the exhibition of more than 200 objects. Featured are framed photographs, slide shows and commercial photos created by renowned photographers, including Ansel Adams, Walker Evans, Jan Groover, Barbara Kasten, Saul Leiter and Nickolas Murray.

In an exhibition gallery talk, Hostetler observed, "There are so many applications that it's harder for the public to understand

we all use photography to document personal history." Every day, millions of images are transmitted from tablets and smartphones.

The world has been clicking out color prints since 1907, with introduction of the autochrome. The invention transformed the course of American culture because life and love in the home and workplace could finally be captured in blooming color. National Geographic was one of the first major publications to document the world in color. In 1916, the magazine embraced autochrome, publishing color

Marion Post Wolcott's "A crossroads store, bar, juke joint and gas station in the cotton plantation area, June 1940."

spreads that brought vivid images of distant places to a domestic audience. Two National Geographic photos in MAM's exhibit, "A Striking Pose in the East Indian Dance" and "Poetry of Motion and Charm of Color" portray exotic costumes and culture by posing Indian dancers.

Fashion magazines, most notably Condé Nast publications, began to embrace the color process after Vogue, on July 20, 1932, featured its first color cover – a picture of a

slim woman clad in a one-piece red suit and a tight, white cap holding a red-and-white beach ball above her head. Edward Steichen, one of the first photographers to experiment with color photography, took the picture.

After those initial introductions, fashion and home magazines continued the color trend. Louise Dahl-Wolfe photographed an elegant model in a red-green dress against a sandy desert for Harper's Bazaar in 1938. Then, in 1941, Dahl-Wolfe

shot a cover photograph of a woman with an open turban around her hair peering into a mirror while applying lipstick. The muted palettes in those fashion spreads challenged the brighter hues typically used for advertising in commercial magazines.

Anton Bruehl expanded the trend with photographs for Vanity Fair, while Life Magazine published patriotic color spreads during World War II. Life's multi-



## Fine art photographers began to see color's promise

**COLOR** from page 17

ple-page, colored photo essays entranced the public throughout the 1950s.

Also in the 1950s, Walker Evans, known for images documenting the Depression, submitted color photographic stories for Fortune Magazine. His subtle rusty reds and dusty earth brown shades of rural American landscapes contrasted with the vibrant colors of movie publicity shots that reflected the "Golden Age of Technicolor."

Early on, many fine art photographers dismissed incorporating color as "too amateur, experimental and commercial," but they eventually began to see color's promise, following in the footsteps of Steichen, Stieglitz and László Moholy-Nagy. Moholy-Nagy, a Hungarian working in America with color (and featured in the MAM exhibition) believed there would come a "time when color would be understood for its own sake not as a symbol or object, ... a

new way of looking at the world ... through a window of abstraction by manipulating the color."

Two "Color Rush" prints by Harry Callahan celebrate the diversity in fine art photography. Callahan's silver dye print "Abstraction, 1943-1947" evokes emotion by weaving waves and ribbons of pink and red hues without any representational images. Alongside Callahan's "Abstraction" hangs his "Detroit, 1951," which portrays a Ragsdale Beauty Shop window adorned with a neon pink sign advertising poodle cuts and cold wave permanents for \$2.95.

After the rise of Abstract Expressionism in the 1940s, the Pop Art movement arrived in full-blown, living color in the next decade. Color photographers were being criticized for using abstraction or, on the other extreme, for shooting realism and "being too literal" to be considered fine art.

"Projects: Helen Levitt in Color" features 40 slide

prints that examines America's burgeoning metropolises by catching unique personalities eating snow cones, looking out of broken windows and sitting in isolation on steps. Stephen Shore also focused on isolation when he photographed America on his iconic 1970s road trip. His example in "Color Rush" is the work "Presidio, Texas, 1975," which depicts a solitary landscape.

Color photography grew in popularity with the use of Kodachrome, a film Americans could easily purchase to record their holidays and vacations to view at home. Nan Goldin upends the domestic slide show in her not-to-be-missed, seminal installation that was featured at a 2010 Museum of Modern Art exhibition - "The Ballad of Sexual Dependency" (the title was taken from a Bertolt Brecht song in "The Threepenny Opera"). At MAM, Goldin's 720 slides, which require 42 minutes to view, loop continuously on a screen. Hidden in a dark

room behind a curtain, the installation carries a warning due to Goldin's raw, uncensored vision.

Goldin's provocative images portray life, love and loss on the edge in New York City's debased environments, overflowing with cigarettes, drinking and drugs. Intertwined relationships of every sexual age and orientation come to the screen. Unmade beds covered with empty, white sheets and artfully placed pillows reflect the loving or unloving acts committed in these ordinary places. A soundtrack accompanies the installation. "Memories are Made of This" plays as the viewer sees headstones and gravesites, including a tiny marker that reads "BABY."

Directly across from the exhibition, two women photographers display their individual take on changing culture. Susan Meiselas exposes the color of war in her poignant photographs, taken from her book "Nicaragua, June 1978 to 1979." Another renowned contem-



PHOTO: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS/PRINTS & PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION  
"At the Vermont State Fair, Rutland, September 1941," by Jack Delano, is in "Color Rush."

porary photographer, Cindy Sherman, presents "Untitled #77," a print from her "Rear Screen Projections" series, in which her transformed self-portraits explore stereotyped female roles underscored in the movie industry.

While the world always has existed in color, photography has only presented life in color for 100 years. Photography defined as an art form has struggled to gain

acceptance since its inception and incorporating color contributed to the confusion. As Hostetler explained, "Color was too literal to be real, too close to reality to have expressive potential."

But "Color Rush" proves that assertion to be false.

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# Dish it Out!

## Smoke gets in your rye Creativity marks over-the-top whiskey dinner

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Restaurants go to great lengths to successfully pair food with wine and, increasingly, with the budding number of craft beers. But cocktails are meant to be sipped as aperitifs to stimulate the taste buds for the meal to come, right?

We found out otherwise during a recent dinner at Merchant, a farm-to-table restaurant and retail establishment just off Madison's Capitol Square. There, the bartending team of J.R. Mocanu and Samuel Gauthier blended Wild Turkey bourbons with multiple ingredients into a swirl of cocktails paired with creative courses by Chef Michael Liotta.

What we drank was as complex as what we ate – a credit to the relatively new mixology movement that's every bit as concerned with the ingredients as is any good chef.

In both cases, at Merchant, the results were impressive.

Wild Turkey was the spirit of choice owing to the dinner's guest of honor, Eddie Russell, master distiller at the Lawrenceburg, Ky., facility. Russell, a self-described bourbon ambassador, guided diners through the Wild Turkey brands as we sipped and supped.

A group of about 60 attended the Sunday night affair. "It used to be just Kentucky girls who drank bourbon," said Russell, obviously pleased with the number of women attending. "Now it looks like that applies to everyone."

The evening's esthetic was country cooking with a touch of game food, Merchant co-owner and host Joshua Berkson told the crowd. There was, however, no actual wild turkey on the menu.

The evening kicked off with an appetizer course featuring Wild Turkey-glazed meatballs, buttermilk hush puppies and pimento cheese toast. The trio was paired with a cocktail featuring Wild Turkey American Honey Liqueur blended with apple-cranberry syrup, Bittercube blackstrap bitters, the wine-based French aperitif Byrrh and Champagne.

The meatballs were plump and their glaze semi-sweet, and the hush puppies large and flavorful. The crostini that formed the cheese toast's foundation were a little hard, but the pimento was ripe and luscious under a thin cap of melted cheese. The cocktail with the bourbon-honey underscore was alluringly sweet and strong, the Champagne's effervescence serving as an excellent palate cleanser.

"Potted rabbit" was the next course, with a dark leporide shank shredded and served beside a dressing of whipped mustard and sour cream with crostini and several slices of

fresh Beauty Heart radish. The accompanying cocktail blended its base of Russell's Reserve bourbon with an orange-thyme claret, fresh lemon and orange juices and Cocchi Americano Italian aperitif.

This cocktail came on quite a bit stronger, with pronounced citrus flavors. It proved a fine match for the tender, woodsy-tasting rabbit and bright splash of the radish.

The next course proved to be one of the evening's favorites. The Salad Paysanne – country salad – was a wonderful blend of shredded frisee, braised golden beets and a house-cured ham hock and wild boar crepinette astride a bed of warm, black baby lentils. It all worked very well together, including the frisee, something I tend to remove from my salads.

The accompanying cocktail began with the dangerously strong Wild Turkey 101, adding fresh lemon juice, Lillet Blanc, what we assume was a homemade beet-tangerine cordial and absinthe. The licorice notes, so prevalent on the nose, disappeared altogether on the palate, and the cocktail's complexity, with as many ingredients as the salad, strengthened a course that was a symphony of flavor and texture.

But it was during the next course that things got really interesting, at least on the cocktail side.

Liotta served a large shank of buttermilk-fried pheasant nestled in cider and pancetta-braised collard greens



PHOTOS: PETER WYNN THOMPSON PHOTOGRAPHY



with smoked honey and "crushed" potatoes. The meat was succulent, while the greens retained a smoky character that would come into play in a big way with the accompanying beverage.

Our attention was drawn to the bar, where one of the staff was blowing what we thought may have been nitrogen "smoke" onto the cocktail glasses. They're chilling the glassware, we thought. We were wrong.

The cocktail that arrived included "bacon-fat-washed" Wild Turkey Rye blended with sherry, hickory-smoked spiced demerara and Bittercube orange bitters. Gauthier said he took leftover bacon fat from the kitchen and rendered it down to liquid form. He next whisked it with the rye whiskey. He chilled the mix until the fat congealed, then removed and discarded the solid fat, leaving the rye with significant flavor overtones from the pork.

And the smoke? It was real smoke, which gave the cocktail a campfire aroma. The drink was heavily smoky on the palate, with the sweetness of the rye, sherry and sugar coming through. You either loved the drink or found it unpalatable. We found it fascinating, especially in the way it complimented the dish.

Our remarkable evening finished with butter pecan semifreddo – frozen mousse – served with Snickerdoodle cookies for dipping. Also, shots of Wild Turkey Rare Breed barrel proof whiskey and Kentucky Single Spirit Barrel 101 were served neat.

Serving bourbon neat or on the rocks is Russell's preferred method of consuming the spirit he distills, he said. At one time, we would have agreed, but at dinner at Merchant, our minds were opened to cocktail possibilities the likes of which we had never dreamed.







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## Instant Irish

By Michael  
Muckian (formerly  
O'Mochaidhean)

Contributing writer

Fans of true Irish cuisine – and, yes, there are a few – often turn up their noses at people who celebrate St. Patrick's Day with corned beef and cabbage. Not authentic, they sneer, in the same way chop suey is an unnecessary American nod to traditional Chinese food.

They're right, but they're also wrong. The corned beef we know today probably never appeared on Irish menus before gaining favor on this side of the Atlantic. But it does have its roots in the Auld Sod, which makes sneering a wee bit daft.

Corned beef has nothing to do with corn, either. Rather, it describes meat that has been cured with "corns" of salt. There are several styles of salt-cured beef, but the one associated with Ireland's most famous holiday is made from brisket or round steak "wet-cured" in a brine of salt and spices. In the minds of many,

brisket boiled with cabbage, carrots and potatoes equals instant Irish-ness.

The Irish were one of many groups that salt-cured meats before refrigeration was invented in order to have staples to last them over the long, wet winters. Cabbage and root vegetables were plentiful, of course, and the dish we know today most likely began as traditional Irish bacon and cabbage.

A salt-cured slab of unsliced back bacon, usually cut from an Irish family's own hog, was boiled with cabbage, potatoes and sometimes carrots, onions and turnips grown in the family garden. The bacon was then sliced and the dish served with some of its own boil and, occasionally, a white sauce made of flour, milk, butter and parsley. To most Irish families, this was high living.

Second only to bacon and cabbage in popularity comes Irish soda bread. The "soda" is baking soda, not a soft drink, blended with flour, salt and buttermilk to make one of the



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

### Irish soda bread.

country's most popular hearth-side breads. Baked loaves are "cakes," while flattened wedges baked on the stovetop are called "farl."

There are variations, including "wheaten bread" (made with whole wheat), "treacle bread" (made with molasses or treacle and sugar), "damper" (an Australian derivative prepared outdoors over an open flame), "seedy bread" (add caraway seeds to the basic ingredients) and "spotted dick" (soda bread made with raisins that's also the name of an English pudding with dried fruit).

We've already referenced the ever-popular Irish

staple – the potato. Introduced to Ireland in the 16th century, the lowly spud became a popular food among the poor. As a complex carbohydrate, the potato is high in minerals and vitamins, including Vitamin C, as well as in the amount of energy produced per unit acre of crop. The failure of the potato crops in the 18th and 19th centuries led to famines in which a million people died and an equal amount emigrated to other countries, but the potato remains central to Ireland's cuisine today.

Other traditional dishes you may want to try: the appropriate  
**IRISH** page 21



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## Try traditional with boxty

**IRISH** from page 1

ately named “blaa” (Ireland’s equivalent of a Parker House dinner roll), “boxty” (Irish potato pancakes), “cru-beens” (also known as “pig’s trotters” or boiled pigs feet, most often served as bar food), “colcannon” (potatoes mashed with cabbage or kale) and “disheen” (a “black pudding” of milk, salt, fat and breadcrumbs boiled with animal blood).

If you want to get really authentic, you might think about making fulacht fiadh, a term that refers both to an archeological site and a dish prepared at such sites. Traced back to the Bronze Age, a fulacht fiadh was generally a hole in the ground in which venison and other wild game were boiled in water heated by hot stones. If you’re planning on hosting an Irish dinner, please note that this one takes a while to prepare, even after you dig the hole.

### IRISH BOXTY

Ingredients

- 1 9-ounce russet potato, peeled, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1-¼ cups grated peeled russet potato (about one 9-ounce potato), squeezed dry in kitchen towel
- ¾ cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup (about) buttermilk
- Vegetable oil

Preparation:

Preheat oven to 300°F. Cook cut potato in saucepan of boiling salted water until tender, about 15 minutes. Drain. Return to saucepan and mash. Transfer mashed potato to large bowl; reserve any remaining mashed potato for another use. Mix grated potato, flour, baking soda and salt



into 1 cup mashed potatoes. Gradually mix in enough buttermilk to form texture of firm mashed potatoes.

Heat a heavy large skillet over medium-high heat until hot. Brush with oil. Drop 1 heaping tablespoon potato mixture into skillet. Using back of spoon, flatten mixture into 2-inch round. Repeat, forming four more rounds. Cook over medium-low heat for about 3 minutes until boxty is golden brown on bottom and slightly puffed. Turn and cook another 3 minutes until second side is brown. Transfer to baking sheet; keep warm in oven. Repeat with remaining potato mixture in batches, brushing skillet with more oil as necessary.

– Recipe courtesy epicurious.com.

### CRUBEENS (PIG’S TROTTERS)

Ingredients

- 6 pigs trotters (from the hind legs)
- 1 onion stuck with 6 cloves
- 1 carrot
- 1 bay leaf
- 12 peppercorns
- Salt
- 1 bunch parsley
- 1 sprig thyme

Preparation

Combine pig’s feet, onion, carrot, bay leaf, peppercorns, salt, parsley and thyme in a heavy pot or Dutch oven and pour in water to barely cover. Gently bring contents to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for at least 3 hours. Crubeens may be eaten hot or cold.

– Recipe courtesy of [www.homecooking.about.com](http://www.homecooking.about.com).

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## DVD Savor

GREGG SHAPIRO

Jenn (Jenn Harris), a straight, NYC yoga instructor and Matt (Matthew Wilkas), her gorgeous, geeky, gay, comic bookstore-employed BFF have been talking about having a baby together since they were in college. With romantic prospects looking bleak for both of them, they begin making plans for how to have a kid. Jenn prefers the old-fashioned way. And, since they have only officially – and disastrously – had sex once, while in college, they agree to give it a try. That, in a nutshell, is the premise of writer/director/

## Of babies and bears

actor Jonathan Lisecki's funny and sweet rom-com "Gayby."

Naturally, there are more complications than you can shake a pregnancy test stick at. Matt moons over ex-boyfriend Tom (Zach Shaffer), who works for a comic book publisher. Jenn's relationship with fiercely competitive sister Kelly (Anna Margaret Hollyman) is dysfunctional, to say the least. Matt loves his job, where he gets to hang out with pal Neil (Adam Driver of "Girls") and ultimately meets potential boyfriend Scott (Mike Doyle), a recently divorced gay dad. But the work barely pays the rent.

Jenn's job has its good and bad points. On the plus side is spending time with her other best gay buddy, Jamie (Jack Ferver). On the negative side is disrespect from co-worker Valerie (Joanne Tucker) and boss Linda (Alycia Delmore). As Matt and Jenn get to the business of baby-making, Matt is inspired to begin work on a graphic novel about "a gayby who's a baby by day and a superhero by night." Of course the company where Tom works would be a perfect publisher, but Matt's afraid to approach him. Meanwhile, Jenn is hoping to make a love connection via online dating while working on her procreation skills. She's blind-sided by what happens when she meets Linda's housepainter/visual artist brother Louis (Louis Cancelmi).

With drama to spare, "Gayby" is a pleasant surprise. The acting scores higher than most

## More complications than you can shake a pregnancy test stick at.

of what you see in your average gay flick. "Gayby" also is unselfconsciously hip, from its subject matter to its setting. Ultimately, the film delivers.

DVD bonus features the original "Gayby" short, commentary and deleted scenes.

If Web series are the future of entertainment, then there must be major improvement. Case in point, "Where The Bears Are" (wherethebearsare.tv), now available on DVD in a double-disc set. "WTBA" wants to be campy, wacky, sexy and suggestive, but it looks like something a high school A/V club might put together as a final project. Attempts to blend catty humor, homoeroticism and murder mystery intrigue fall flat – repeatedly.

There's no shortage of eye candy – especially in the case of Det. Chad Winters (Chad Sanders), Hot Toddy (Ian Parks) and Dickie (Tuc Watkins). But you want more than that, don't you? If so, you'll find the plot convoluted but predictable and the series seriously lacking humor. The second of the two discs, stocked like a bear's



PHOTO: WOLFE

The poster for "Gayby," now on DVD.

fridge, contains special features, including a new Christmas episode, deleted scenes, bloopers and outtakes, commentary, interviews and a full-length uncensored version containing nudity.

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## Dance

## Earthy, ethereal dance at Overture

MICHAEL MUCKIAN



PHOTO: OVERTURE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and San Francisco-based LINES Ballet have collaborated for a performance at Madison's Overture Center for the Arts on March 20.

Sam Cooke had 29 Top 40 hits including "Cupid", "You Send Me", "Twistin' the Night Away", "Wonderful World" and "A Change is Gonna Come".

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Collaboration in the arts often yields surprising results, in the best cases creating a whole greater than the sum of its parts. This season's collaboration between Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and San Francisco-based LINES Ballet offers a blend of the former's earthy athleticism with the latter's ethereal neo-classicism that well proves the thesis.

"Azimuth," a new collaborative work by LINES choreographer Alonzo King, is the focal point of the performance, which opened to rave reviews in Berkeley, Calif., in February. The combined troupe performed the work again in Chicago and will bring its third performance to Madison's Overture Center for the Arts on March 20.

"Azimuth" will share the stage with "Rasa," a dance conceived by King, and "Little Mortal Jump," created by Hubbard Street resident choreographer Alejandro Cerrudo. The performance, which will mark Hubbard Street's 15th visit to Madison, is a true collaborative effort that stresses the similarities rather than the differences between companies, according to Glenn Edgerton, Hubbard Street's artistic director.

"What has resulted from the collaboration is a juxtaposition of dancers," says Edgerton, a former dancer with the Joffrey Ballet who joined Hubbard Street in 2008. "Hubbard Street has a more modern esthetic and LINES a linear, neo-classical esthetic. Some of the LINES dancers are elongated and look like Alberto Giacometti sculptures to me, but mostly you can't tell the difference between the two troupes when they are together on stage."

Azimuth is a word that describes an angle that exists within a sphere, something Edgerton says characterizes the nine-movement work. King capitalizes on the strengths of both companies to create what reviewers for Berkeleyside, an online news site, described as "a physical pilgrimage, anthropological in its suggestion of heavenly bodies and an evolutionary culture."

"Azimuth" has a real sense of spirituality, of dancers

coming together and merging," Edgerton says. "You can't define that spirituality. It's something you feel when you're watching. It's the unspoken energy in a live performance."

Hubbard Street and LINES first got together three years ago, after Edgerton saw a rehearsal by the ballet troupe in San Francisco.

"I watched Alonzo challenge and push his dancers," Edgerton says. "I wondered what he could do with Hubbard Street's dancers."

"Following the Subtle Current Upstream," the first collaborative effort between the two troupes, enabled Edgerton to get to know King's style and methodology. The two troupes met this past summer at the University of California-Irvine, where former Edgerton dance partner Jodie Gates runs the dance program, to begin the process that would result in "Azimuth."

"There is a need for dance to be open and share work for collaborative impact," Edgerton says. "It's the wave of the future and, so far, audiences have loved it."

Edgerton anticipates that the other two works on the program also will draw a strong reaction. While he admits to not knowing enough to comment on King's "Rasa," he feels strongly about the power and grace of Cerrudo's "Little Mortal Jump."

"Jump" takes you on a journey from the lighthearted and playful to a dance duet that's more substantial and with greater depth of emotion," Edgerton says.

The stage is set with four large boxes that become part of the dance, he explains. Through movement and creative lighting, the boxes evolve from opportunities to obstacles, alternately strengthening and depleting the dancers.

"The boxes and their lighting add a sense of drama even at the end of the work, which is quite powerful," says Edgerton. "Audiences love it and it's been a wonderful piece to showcase the company."

Audiences in Madison have been especially responsive to Hubbard Street's brand

**'I watched Alonzo challenge and push his dancers. I wondered what he could do with Hubbard Street's dancers.'**

of dance, which has fueled a continuing number of engagements, first at the former Civic Center and now at the Overture Center. The university's influence and its student body bring the necessary education and energy to dance appreciation, Edgerton says.

"People seem to have gained awareness in what to look for and how to approach dance," he observes.

In fact, the proper approach to dance may be critical in developing the necessary appreciation for the esthetic, he explains. The worst way to approach modern dance is intellectually and in search of a story, because that's not the art form's purpose.

"Approach dance like you would the symphony, and allow your imagination to be swept away in the moment," Edgerton says. "You have to embrace dance in an emotional state to appreciate the spirituality, the beauty and the drama. That is what you should take away from a performance."

**ON STAGE**

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and LINES Ballet unite in a single performance March 20 at Madison's Overture Center for the Arts. For more, visit [www.overturecenter.com](http://www.overturecenter.com).



## Theater

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

## Chronicling Cash

Richard Maltby Jr. has a lot to say about Broadway musical revues, and not all of it is positive. He has composed multiple revues and won the only Tony Awards ever given to musical revues for two of them – “Ain’t Misbehavin’” in 1978 and “Fosse” in 1999. By his own estimation, he is the king of musical revues.

“The reason that I am the king of musical revues is that I hate musical revues,” says the Broadway director, producer, lyricist and screenwriter. “The standard revue consists of disconnected songs and comedy sketches, and I don’t find them interesting.”

What Maltby does find interesting are the characters and stories behind the songs. “I look for the kind of emotional content that a book musical has and embed it into a series of songs,” he says.

That’s the secret to the Milwaukee Rep’s production of “Ring of Fire: The Music of Johnny Cash,” which opened March 1 at the Stackner Cabaret. Maltby created the show in 2006 and is directing

the Milwaukee production, which closes May 5.

Maltby’s background reads much like those of his subjects. The son of well-known orchestra leader Richard Maltby Sr., he was born in Ripon, Wis., his mother’s hometown, but spent his first two years in the back of a Plymouth touring with his parents. He attended Yale University and worked with classmate David Shire on musical theater productions. Their 1968 song “The Girl of the Minute” landed them on Broadway, where Maltby has prospered ever since.

The lead character’s biographical background also plays an important role in “Ring of Fire.”

“This is, if not Cash’s life, then the life that Cash lived,” Maltby says. “In this show, unlike “Ain’t Misbehavin’” and “Fosse,” I have included some dialogue and spoken material, just to make this clearer, and to lead people to listen to the words of the songs.”

The Man in Black, born in Kingsland, Ark., in 1932, emerged as part of the Memphis rockabilly movement that included Elvis Presley and Jerry Lee Lewis. Cash went on to make his mark in rock

‘n’ roll, country and gospel. As the author of more 1,000 songs and dozens of recordings, he is considered one of the most influential musicians of the 20th century. He died in Nashville in 2003, less than four months after the death of wife June Carter Cash.

Like the previous subjects of Maltby’s revues, Cash is a character of legendary status, which sometimes masks the truths about his life. The show’s narrative is designed to educate even the musician’s greatest fans.

“I like to have people hear songs they think they know and realize that they contain much more than they first thought,” Maltby explains. “With the Cash songs, what struck me was his sense of basic American values, the ones we cherish in our mythology.”

The singer’s rocky life – multiple marriages, seven arrests for misdemeanor infractions, drug and alcohol abuse – is an almost textbook example of the musician’s life on the road. In Cash’s case, strong personal values and a religious faith to which he was devoted paved a real-life road to redemption that strikes a chord with listeners.

“Cash in his biography asks whether this life (or traditional values) still exists anymore,” Maltby says. “I don’t know if it does, but it surely lives in our American psyche. I found in the songs a vision of America that was surprising and touchingly real.”

It’s that understanding that informs the narrative elements of “Ring of Fire.” The Rep version features a cast paired down from 10 to five, and no single performer plays Johnny Cash. The narrator (Jason Edwards) is the one chosen to speak some of Cash’s words. But the story, like its character, looms too large to be entrusted to a single performer.

“What surprised me most is that Johnny Cash’s life, taken as a whole, was a kind of spiritual journey,” Maltby says. “He was, in his way, always searching for his soul, and I think he found it.”



PHOTO: MICHAEL BROSILOW

Eddie Clendening is in “Ring of Fire: The Music of Johnny Cash.”

## ON STAGE

The Milwaukee Rep’s production of “Ring of Fire: The Music of Johnny Cash” runs through May 5 at the Stackner Cabaret. For more information, visit [www.milwaukee.com](http://www.milwaukee.com).

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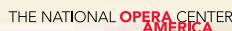
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## Talkin' 'bout his generation

Writer John Basil grew up in New Jersey, but Milwaukee is in his DNA. “My father graduated from Marquette and growing up in our house, you’d think it was the only school that ever existed,” the Whitefish Bay resident says. “I had Marquette tunnel vision after they won the national championship in basketball in ’77. Marquette was the only school I wanted to attend; the only one I even applied to.”

Basil’s first novel, “Let Me Wear Your Coat,” is a tale taking on racism, homosexuality, bullying and sports during the 1970s. “I went through a number of re-writes to ensure that I got it right,” the author says. “It may have taken longer to produce, but it was worth it. I was pleased with the end result.”

I recently spoke with Basil about his novel, which is available in paperback and as an e-book.

**John, what inspired you to write “Let Me Wear Your Coat”?**

I had the seed of an idea in my head for years, and it finally came together enough where I could commit fingers to keyboard and not stare at a blank computer screen for hours on end. Inspiration came from my experience freshman year of high school – feeling like an outsider at a school whose student body largely consisted of privileged, entitled rich kids. Marc, the main character Neil’s adopted African-American brother, is a composite character, mainly inspired by a boy from the inner city who our family hosted for a few summers in the ’70s.

**Do you consider “LMWYC” to be in the Young Adult genre of fiction?**

I don’t believe “LMWYC” can be pigeonholed into one genre. Because the book is set in the late 1970s/early 1980s, I originally considered adults who grew up in that era – who would appreciate the pop culture references of that period that I included in the narrative – to be my

target audience. However, as the three main characters are teenagers, dealing with timeless teen problems – and then some – I also thought that the book had crossover potential to the YA genre.

**As a father, do you give out advice the way that Neil’s father Al does?**

Yes, but not as well as Al. While not always patient, Al oftentimes allows Neil to make mistakes and gives his son just enough cues to allow him to solve his own problems.

**Bullying is one of the subjects of the book. In some cases, bullies are being bullied themselves. How do you think that that cycle can be broken?**

I think it starts with society producing more well adjusted people, who are accepting of others with differences and don’t feel threatened by them. Sadly, I don’t know if that cycle can ever truly be broken.

**You write about baseball and basketball in detail. Do you have a preference?**

Baseball was the only sport I played competitively through high school, but now that I have a family and less time on my hands, my rooting interests in sports have been distilled to solely Marquette men’s basketball.

**Neil is a fan of The Who and the title of the book comes from a Who song. Do you feel the same way as Neil about The Who?**

I do. Like those who recall where they were when JFK was assassinated, I remember where I was the moment I heard that the Who’s iconic drummer Keith Moon died. He inspired me to want to play the drums. But because his style was so original and unorthodox it was like try-

Books

GREGG SHAPIRO



PHOTO: COURTESY

The cover of John Basil’s new novel.

ing to learn calculus before you knew basic math skills. Ultimately, I decided that guitar was more my speed – although I haven’t done Pete Townshend justice either as the source for my inspiration on that instrument. I’ve seen them in concert a few times and without being too blasphemous, each one was like a religious experience.

**Bobby Thorne, the bully figure in the book, is the proverbial thorn in Neil’s side. Did you intentionally name him Thorne?**

Yes. At the risk of being too transparent, that was intentional.

**Have you started working on your next book?**

Yes. Set in 2000-01, the narrative revolves around a recent college graduate, who is having a difficult time adjusting to life after school – jobless, living away from his friends and back with his parents. I liken it to the paroled characters in “Shawshank Redemption” and the culture shock they experienced upon re-entry into society. The plot will also draw from my 9-11 experience.

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## Under the Big M

### Ann Arbor thrives as Madison's unofficial sister city



PHOTO: VISITANNARBOR.ORG

The Ark, 316 S. Main St., is an acoustic music venue carved from the lingerie department of a former department store.

## Travel

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

It doesn't take the giant M on the outside of Michigan Stadium — dubbed The Big House for its capacity to seat more than 111,000 screaming football fans — to understand in what shadow the Michigan city of Ann Arbor sits.

Home to the University of Michigan, one of the University of Wisconsin's Big 10 sports rivals, Ann Arbor is as close as it comes to being Madison's unofficial sister city. Although not the seat of state government and smaller than Madison, Ann Arbor also hosts a world-class university with a student population roughly the same size as the UW.

And Ann Arbor, like Madison, was a volatile hotbed of anti-war activity during the Vietnam era — home to the radical Students for a Democratic Society and rock bands The Stooges and The MC5.

And today in Ann Arbor, those familiar with Madison will recognize kindred spirits among its performing arts companies, quirky retail stores, delightful neighbor-

hoods and classy restaurants.

### FIRST, SOME FINE DINING

The hallmark of any city's sophistication is its dining scene, and Ann Arbor does not disappoint in terms of its restaurants' variety, scope and depth of talent.

There is the expected cross-section of ethnic eateries, such as the Blue Nile Ethiopian Restaurant and Ayse's Turkish Café, but that's just the beginning.

Lena, 226 Main St., offers a pan-Latin American approach to nouvelle dining, with Chef Gabriel Vera drawing primarily on the cuisines of Venezuela, Peru and his native Ecuador for inspiration. A blend of French and Italian country cooking dominates the menu at The Earle, 121 W. Washington St., under the seasoned hand of Chef Shelley Caughey Adams. Chef Brandon Johns' farm-to-table esthetic guides the creative, sustainable cuisine at Grange Kitchen and Bar, 118 W. Liberty St.

Most interesting of all may be Frita Batidos, 117 W. Washington St., with Chef Eve Aronoff's nod to Cuban street food. Aronoff's earlier restaurant, Eve, was a white-tablecloth establish-

**Those familiar with Madison will recognize kindred spirits in Ann Arbor.**

ment that helped the Lansing native earn a place on the "Top Chef" TV show. With its noisy ambience and family-style dining, Frita Batidos offers some of the best culinary fun you can have, especially if you enjoy plantains prepared many ways.

### EVEN BETTER MICROBREWERIES

Wisconsin is justifiably proud of its craft-brewing scene, but it doesn't hold a tap handle to Michigan, the self-described "Great Beer State."

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Best known, perhaps, is Jolly Pumpkin Artisan Ales, which brews beer in nearby



## Delightful neighborhoods to explore

**TRAVEL** from page 28

Dexter to serve at its restaurant at 311 S. Main St. Brewmaster Ron Jeffries is known for his creative cask-conditioned and Belgian-style beers.

At Grizzly Peak Brewing Co., 120 W. Washington Ave., brewmaster Duncan Williams' beers run the gamut from Steelhead Red to Pure Michigan IPA to Six Tap, a seasonal beer brewed with 25 pounds of candy corn added to the boil.

At Wolverine State Brewing, located near The Big House, brewers Oliver Roberts and Karl Hinbern specialize in lagers, which demand a longer process that they believe results in lighter, more refreshing beer.

At Arbor Brewing Co., 114 E. Washington St., owners Rene and Matt Greff see brewing as an art and an educational opportunity they share with thirsty Michiganders. A UM student from India was so taken with his lessons that upon returning home he convinced his family to bankroll what is thought to be the first Indian microbrewery. This past fall the Greffs helped establish an Arbor Brewing outpost in Bangalore, adapting recipes to local tastes, including what

may be the world's first and only "Chai PA."

### **CULTURE THAT IS NON-CONSUMABLE**

Did you know that southern Michigan and northern Indiana were once the center of America's mastodon population? You would if you visited UM's Museum of Natural History, 1109 Geddes Ave., where director Amy Harris shares her insights at what is known locally as "the dinosaur museum."

Not far from there, the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, 434 S. State St., houses a collection of 100,000 objects from ancient Mediterranean cultures. Highlights include a replica room from ancient Pompeii and what is thought to be the only surviving examples of leather tunics worn as armor by the ancient Roman warriors.

Music plays an important role in any college social scene, and Ann Arbor's best-known spot is The Ark, 316 S. Main St., an acoustic music venue carved from the lingerie department of a former department store. Described by management as "a listening room," The Ark has hosted John Hiatt, Leo Kottke, Taj Mahal, Lucinda Williams and

## **More than 125 breweries and brewpubs dot The Mitten.**

The Band.

When an artist is too big for The Ark, there is the acoustically perfect Hill Auditorium on the UM campus. With a seating capacity of more than 3,500, it is Michigan's largest indoor performance venue and host to the UM symphony, choirs and philharmonic orchestra.

And when all else fails, there are the unique stores typical to a university town, including Ten Thousand Villages, 303 S. Main St., a fair trade store featuring arts and crafts from the developing world; and The Vault of Midnight, 219 S. Main St., a comic book store with a whole lot more. But that's a sentiment that also describes all of Ann Arbor.

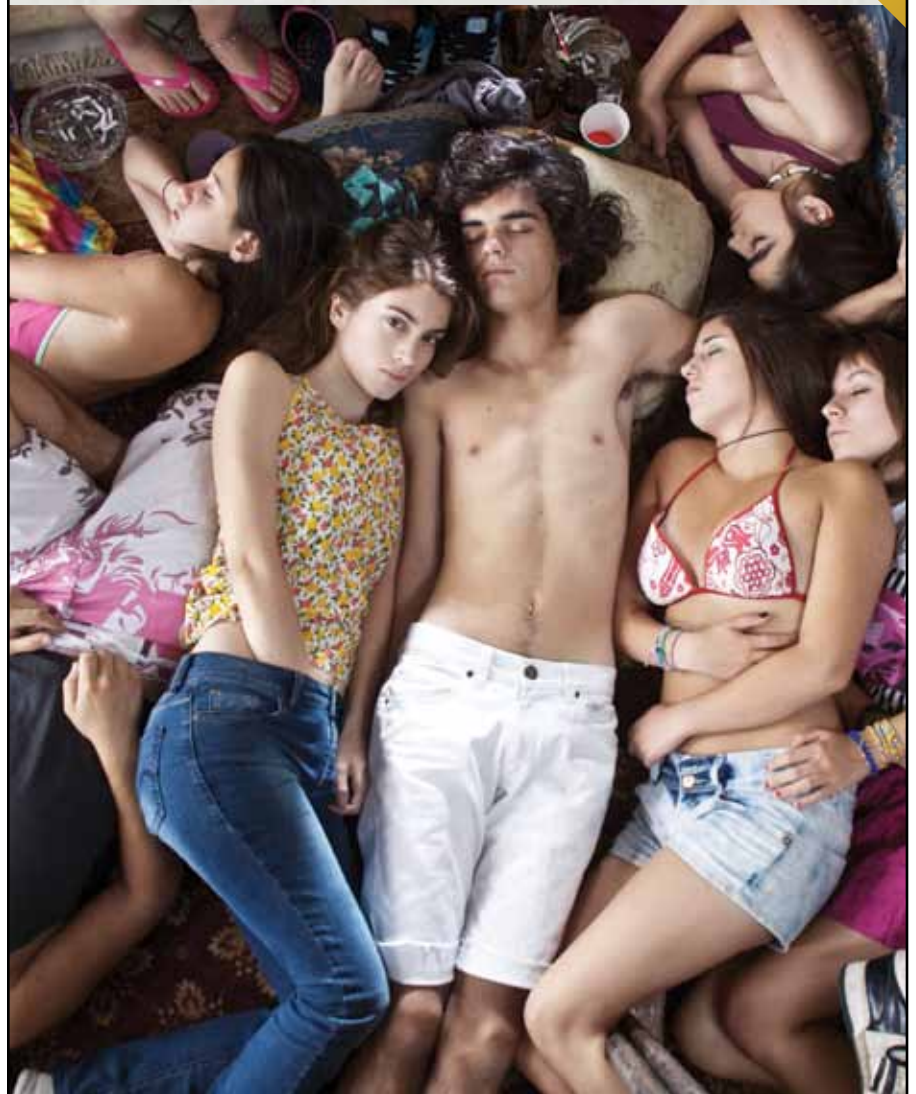


PHOTO: VISITANNARBOR.ORG

**The Big M at Michigan Stadium, home of the Wolverines, in Ann Arbor.**

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## ONGOING

Win Wells' **"Gertrude Stein and a Companion"** and Brian Hill's musical **"The Story of My Life"** run in repertory on the Evjue Stage, Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin, Madison, through March 9. Visit [stageq.com](http://stageq.com).

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

Ken Ludwig's comedy **"Be My Baby,"** runs through March 17 at The Racine Theatre Guild, 2519 Northwestern/Highway 38, Racine. Call 262-633-4218.

In Tandem Theatre presents the Milwaukee-set **"Beast on the Moon"** by Wisconsin playwright Richard Kalinoski through March 24 at Tenth Street Theatre, 628 N. 10th. Visit [intandemtheatre.org](http://intandemtheatre.org).

**"Pinkalicious the Musical"** runs through March 24 in the Todd Wehr Theater, Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 N. Water. Call 414-273-2787.

**"Ring of Fire: The Songs of Johnny Cash"** runs through May 5 in the Stackner Cabaret, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.

Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 W. Wells, presents **"Real Pirates,"** through May 27. Call 414-278-2702.



Young and Wild

## MARCH 7, THURSDAY

Queer twin sister singer/songwriters **Tegan and Sara** come to Milwaukee at 7 p.m. at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells. Call 414-286-3663.

The Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival Monthly Screening presents **"Young and Wild"** at 7 p.m. in the UWM Union Theatre, UWM Student Union, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. Call 414-229-4070.

Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood, Madison, welcomes comedian and actor **Bill Burr** at 8 p.m. Call 608-241-2345.

## MARCH 8, FRIDAY

**Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus** presents its annual fundraiser, **Keep Calm and Cabaret On**, at 6:30 p.m., at West Side Club of Madison, 437 S. Junction Road, Madison. Call 608-271-5599.

Skylight Music Theatre presents **"Pump Boys and Dinettes"** through March 24 in the Cabot Theatre at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 N. Water, presents Jack Hanna's **"Into The Wild LIVE"** at 7 p.m. Call 414-273-2787.

## MARCH 9, SATURDAY

Ensemble Musical Offering presents **"The Art of the Countertenor"** at 8 p.m. at Cathedral Church of All Saints, 818 E. Juneau.

Comedian **Amy Schumer** is at The Pabst Theater, 144 E. Wells, at 7 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Comedy Café, 615 E. Brady, welcomes comedian **Rondell Sheridan** at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Call 414-271-JOKE.

## MARCH 10, SUNDAY

The Jewish Community Ticket for Milwaukee Chamber Theatre's presentation of **"Underneath the Lintel"** by Glen Berger, features a 2 p.m. talkback with JCC Jewish Educator Jody Hirsh at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.



Florentine Opera presents gay composer Benjamin Britten's **"Albert Herring"** through March 17 in Vogel Hall, Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 N. Water. Call 414-273-2787.

Bel Canto Chorus presents Sergei Rachmaninoff's **"All-Night Vigil"** and the world premiere of its newly commissioned work, **"At All Times and at Every Hour (Morning Prayers)"** by Alexander Levine, at 3 p.m. in St. Joseph Center Chapel, 1501 S. Layton.

## MARCH 11, MONDAY

**Envisioning The Seen**, hosted by Historic Milwaukee, is at 5 p.m. at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells. Call 414-286-3663.

EDM/hip-hop violinist **Lindsey Stirling** strings listeners along at 7 p.m. at Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth. Call 414-286-3663.

A free screening of **"Penelope: A Theatrical Odyssey,"** a documentary about The Penelope Project, begins at 7 p.m. in the UWM Union Theatre, UWM Student Union, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. Call 414-229-4070.



Mary Poppins

## MARCH 12, TUESDAY

Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood, Madison, hosts a screening of the documentary **"Girl Rising"** at 7:30 p.m. Call 608-241-2345.

Fox Cities Performing Arts Center and Celebrating Abilities presents **Justin Hines** at 7 p.m. at Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave., Appleton. Call 920-730-3760.

Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells, presents **"A Raisin in the Sun"** through April 14 in the Quadracci Powerhouse. Call 414-224-9490.

The stage musical version of Disney's **"Mary Poppins"** runs through March 17 at Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State, Madison. Call 608-258-4141.

## MARCH 13, WEDNESDAY

LaCage 801 S. Second, hosts the **Entertainer Spotlight Show**, featuring female impersonators, at 11 p.m. Call 414-383-8330.

**Jamie Brewick Group** performs at 5:30 p.m. at Mason Street Grill in The Pfister Hotel, 425 E. Mason. Call 414-298-3131.

## MARCH 14, THURSDAY

Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College, Appleton, presents **"Monty Python's Spamalot"** at 7:30 p.m. Call 920-730-3760.

New Orleans pianist **Davell Crawford** presents "The Genius of Ray Charles" at 7:30 p.m. at South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center, 901 15th, South Milwaukee. Call 414-766-5049.



Leonard Cohen

## MARCH 15, FRIDAY

**Leonard Cohen** brings his Old Ideas World Tour to the Milwaukee Theatre, 500 W. Kilbourn, at 8 p.m. Call 414-566-1375.

The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, welcomes singer/songwriter **Kat Edmonson** at 7:30 p.m. Call 608-819-8777.

Milwaukee Ale House, 233 N. Water, presents **Rocky Mountain Oysters Band** at 9:30 p.m. Visit [ale-house.com](http://ale-house.com).

## MARCH 16, SATURDAY

**Sara Watkins** performs at 6:30 p.m. at the Majestic, 115 King, Madison. Call 608-251-2582.

**Ed Asner** stars as "FDR" in the one-man show at the Milwaukee Theatre, 500 W. Kilbourn, at 8 p.m. Call 414-566-1375.

Celtic quartet **Craicmore** performs at 7:30 p.m. at the Schauer Arts & Activities Center, 147 N. Rural, Hartford. Call 262-670-0560.

## MARCH 17, SUNDAY

Festival City Symphony presents **Not an Irish Concert** at 3 p.m. at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells. Call 414-286-3663.

## MARCH 18, MONDAY

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

## MARCH 19, TUESDAY

Majestic, 115 King in Madison, welcomes **Angel Haze** and **Major Lazer** at 9 p.m. Call 608-251-2582.

The "electric trio" – **Emmylou Harris, Rodney Crowell** and **Richard Thompson** – play The Pabst, 144 E. Wells, at 7 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Hang ten with surfer Kelly Slater in the movie **"Ultimate Wave Tahiti"** in the Dome Theater, Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 W. Wells. Call 414-278-2702.

## MARCH 20, WEDNESDAY

Boldt Arts Alive! series presents **ScrapArtsMusic** at 7:30 p.m. at Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave., Appleton. Call 920-730-3760.

Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State in Madison, welcomes **Hubbard Street Dance Chicago & LINES Ballet Unite**, at 7:30 p.m. Call 608-258-4141.

**Starfucker (aka STRFKR)** plays Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, at 7 p.m.

The Blueburg Café in the Cedarburg Cultural Center, W62 N546 Washington Ave., Cedarburg, hosts a **Plug and Play Open Mic** night at 7 p.m. Call 262-375-3676.

Grab the mic and set your inner diva free at 10 p.m. when Safe House, 779 N. Front, hosts its **clandestine karaoke night**. Call 414-271-2007.



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