

## PAPAL ART

Portrait of Benedict XVI, made of condoms, goes on display in Milwaukee.

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THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

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## Saving Sadie

*Left for dead, abused dog is reborn through acts of generosity and hope*

By **Stephanie Beecher**

*Contributing writer*

In the spring of 2012, Joal Derse-Dauer strolled into a Kenosha animal shelter to donate blankets. It was a regular stop for the avid animal lover, but this time an adorable dog caught her eye on the way out. There was just one caveat: The dog was a victim of a senseless shooting and was presumed to be on her deathbed.

Just a few weeks prior, Sadie the dog had been found wounded and suffering in the mountains of Kentucky with one bullet wedged between her spine and a second lodged between her eyes. She was driven to the no-kill shelter in Kenosha, but there was little hope for her survival. Sadie was fecal and urinary incontinent, moderately malnourished and paralyzed in her hind legs. It was unknown whether the dog could survive the extent of her injuries, but Derse-Dauer saw life in the dog's brown doe eyes.

"Her head was down a bit and she was different from

the other dogs, but I thought 'Oh she is so cute,'" Derse-Dauer, of Muskego, recalled. "I (thought) she deserved a chance."

She convinced the shelter to allow her to take the dog to a veterinarian for a professional opinion. But, the doctor wasn't so confident. Derse-Dauer said the first veterinarian asked her to "do the kind thing" and put Sadie out of her misery.

Derse-Dauer thought otherwise. She took Sadie to a holistic veterinarian in Muskego and together the pair agreed that Sadie deserved a second chance.

What followed has been a fantastic journey of faith and holistic medicine.

By last summer, Sadie had endured surgery to remove the bullet lodged in her forehead. Unfortunately, there was too much shrapnel in her back to remove the second projectile safely, Derse-Dauer said.

"At one time, we thought her left leg would have to be

**SADIE** page 12

## Extreme Wisconsin



## Warmer, wetter, weirder weather ahead

By **Lisa Neff**

*Staff writer*

American robins arrive earlier in the spring now than they did when Katie Thomas and her wife Paula Manning first picked up their binoculars 30 years ago.

That the robin, traditionally a harbinger of spring, is scouting earlier for worms

in southeastern Wisconsin may be a sunny side of climate change. But Thomas, who with Manning spends many Saturday mornings birding around Kenosha parks, is worried about the impact of global warming on other species.

"Habitat is changing. Migratory patterns are changing," Thomas said. "My

nonni winters in Fort Myers, Fla. A couple of years ago, she was seeing thousands of robins in the winter. This year she didn't see any. What might we not see some day?"

Scientists for the National Audubon Society, studying 40 years of data collected from birdwatchers like Thomas and Manning,

have concluded that climate change – specifically global warming – has led 60 percent of North America's 305 bird species to shift their ranges northward.

Although it might not seem like it this spring, scientists in Wisconsin, many of them involved in the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate

**CLIMATE** page 6

## 2013 HAIR AFFAIR

Hair stylists show off their skills and imagination in fundraiser for Madison Museum of Contemporary Art.

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# News with a twist

## WIGWAG

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg



PHOTO: L.A. LAKERS

### MAGIC'S PRIDE

Retired basketball superstar Magic Johnson said he's proud of his gay son after TMZ reported that Earvin "E.J." Johnson III was seen walking hand-in-hand with his boyfriend in Los Angeles. "Cookie and I love E.J. and support him in every way," Johnson said. "We're very proud of him." In 1991, Johnson retired from the Lakers after announcing he was living with HIV. He returned to the team in 1996, at age 36, and played 32 games before retiring for the final time. Since then, he's become a vocal advocate for HIV/AIDS prevention and funding.

### THE CONSERVATIVE 'SISTERHOOD'

Among all the remembrances and tributes following the death of Margaret Thatcher there was this second-hand story from right-wing personality Ann Coulter: Thatcher at one time saw political potential in Sarah Palin and suggested a meeting with her to teach the ex-governor "proper English." Palin didn't respond. A couple of years went by and Palin, while on a tour in England, decided she would meet with Thatcher. But Thatcher put out the word she wasn't available. Coulter says she knows this is true because, "I know people who know her."

### EVEN GUN OWNERS GET THE BLUES

A study found that residents of right-wing states with high rates of gun ownership are more likely to commit suicide than others.



The February issue of Social Psychiatry & Psychiatric

Epidemiology published the study, which was compiled by researchers at the University of California-Riverside. The study calculated the average number of firearms per household in a given state and then measured its political conservatism based on how it voted in the 2000 presidential election. Overall, the study found that gun suicides are higher in the South and West than the Northeast and Midwest.

### EVERYBODY GET YER GUN

Perhaps unaware of the above study, elected officials in Nelson, Ga. – population 1,300 – passed an ordinance requiring that citizens own guns. Backers of the measure said they wanted to make a point about guns and violence in the wake of the mass murders in Newton,

Conn. The ordinance was approved on April Fool's Day but apparently was not a joke.

### RAISING THE WHITE FLAG

More than a week after the U.S. Supreme Court arguments on marriage equality, right-wing personality Glenn Beck acknowledged that conservatives had lost on the issue. The reason? Because proponents of civil same-sex marriage made their campaign about equality and freedom. As opposed to what we don't know.

### BURN YOUR BRA

Feminists who burned their bras in the 1960s have finally been vindicated. New research suggests that bras are the healthy way to go. A 15-year French study published in early April found that bras provide no benefits to women and may actually be harmful to breasts over time. Women who don't wear bras develop more

muscle tissue to provide natural support. When bras are worn, the restrictive material prevents such tissue from growing, which may actually accelerate sagging, the study concluded.

### CHRIST ALMIGHTY

North Carolina Republicans advanced a resolution intended to allow the state to declare an official religion and provide protection for state and local governments, including school districts, to hold prayer sessions in defiance of federal court rulings upholding the separation of church and state. Days later, the measure was killed. Still, a survey for Huffington Post showed that about a third of Americans support declaring Christianity the nation's official religion and getting rid of the constitutional provision in their way.

### DEVIL'S IN THE DETAILS

A survey from Public Policy Polling found that more

people believe President Barack Obama is the anti-Christ than believe "shape-shifting reptilian people control our world by taking on human form and gaining political power to manipulate our societies." About 13 percent of Americans told PPP they think Obama is the anti-Christ, compared to just 4 percent who believe in the shape-shifters. Meanwhile, about 14 percent believe Bigfoot exists and 15 percent think the government has added mind-control technology to television signals. WiG wondered about the Bush administration's push to get rid of analog.

### HARVEY MILK STREET

Nearly a year after it was approved, two blocks in San Diego's Hillcrest district have officially become Harvey Milk Street in honor of the gay civil rights hero.

The cost of renaming the street was paid for with donations.

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EHO

# Demonstrators rally for citizenship, reform

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Tens of thousands of marchers – including contingents from Milwaukee, Racine and Madison – gathered at the U.S. Capitol on April 10 to rally for citizenship and comprehensive immigration reform.

NAACP president Benjamin Jealous delivered the keynote address as ralliers waved “Time is Now” posters. Immigration rights advocates, labor organizers, faith leaders and members of Congress working on immigration legislation also delivered speeches.

U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Chicago, surrounded by other Democrats in Congress, called on the ralliers to “work hard, push us, keep pushing us and together we will deliver immigration reform this year.” At stake, he said, are the 1,400 people deported each day from the United States and the children who are left behind.

The rally took place as eight U.S. senators – Republicans and Democrats – were working out the details on an overhaul bill that would deal with securing the border, allowing tens of thousands of foreign workers into the country and extending eventual citizenship to the estimated 11 million people living in the United States without legal permission.

Days before the rally, U.S. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., a member of that “Gang of Eight,” predicted “a great deal of unhappiness about this proposal because everybody didn’t get

**House Republicans and rank-and-file Republican Party members are now understanding that there has to be an earned pathway to citizenship.**

what they wanted. ... There are entrenched positions on both sides of this issue.” His assessment, when the bill was introduced on April 16, proved correct.

But the unshakable position held by many assembled outside the Capitol for the late-afternoon rally – that reform must include a path to citizenship – seems to be held by leaders in both parties. “The politics of self-deportation are behind us,” Republican U.S.



PHOTO: DAVID SACHS/SEIU

**A rallier at the “Time is Now” gathering for immigration reform held on April 10 at the U.S. Capitol.**

Sen. Lindsey Graham told The AP. “It was an impractical solution. Quite frankly, it’s offensive. Every corner of the Republican Party, from libertarians to the (Republican National Committee), House Republicans and the rank-and-file Republican Party member, is now understanding there has to be an earned pathway to citizenship.”

## LGBT INCLUSION SOUGHT

What has not taken root inside the Capitol is that reform must include protections for LGBT immigrants. The early version of the Senate bill is not LGBT inclusive.

“The immigration system is in desperate need of reform and that reform must include LGBT immigrants and families,” said Human Rights Campaign president Chad

Griffin. “Comprehensive immigration reform is about protecting those who are vulnerable and living in the shadows.”

While demonstrators were assembling in Washington, including a large group affiliated with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, several LGBT leaders were holding a press conference in Boston at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office.

There, Cathy Kristofferson of GetEQUAL Massachusetts said, “If comprehensive immigration reform is to truly be comprehensive, it is essential that the needs of the LGBTQ community not be left out of the legislation. In 2009, Sen. Chuck Schumer promised support for binational couples, yet that support

**IMMIGRATION** next page

## Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools 2013 Celebration of Leadership Youth Scholarship & Awards Banquet

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PHOTO: DAVID SACHS/SEIU

## Take the immigration reform pledge

Out4citizenship.org invites people to take a pledge: “I stand in support of immigration reform that puts 11 million Americans-in-waiting, including more than 267,000 LGBT people, on the road to citizenship. I believe Congress must act now to enable LGBT undocumented immigrants to become full and equal participants in our society.”

The site also contains videos of people talking about the challenges LGBT immigrants face.

### THE BASICS

Talk about comprehensive immigration reform generally centers on four main questions:

- What to do about the 11 million-plus undocumented immigrants living in the United States.
- How to tighten border security.

**At left, a cheer goes up at the “Time is Now” rally for immigration reform on April 10 at the U.S. Capitol.**

- How to keep businesses from employing people who lack the valid documents to work in the United States.
- How to improve the convoluted legal immigration system.

### BY THE NUMBERS

A record 40.4 million immigrants live in the U.S., representing 13 percent of the population. More than 18 million are naturalized citizens, 11 million are legal permanent or temporary residents and more than 11 million are in the country without legal permission, according to the Pew Hispanic Center, a private research organization.

Undocumented immigrants made up about 3.7 percent of the population in 2010. While overall immigration has steadily grown, the number of immigrants in the U.S. without legal permission peaked at 12 million in 2007.

– Lisa Neff

### IMMIGRATION from prior page

– along with a clear pathway to citizenship for the estimated 267,000 LGBT undocumented immigrants, asylum for victims of homophobia abroad and harsh detention conditions – still seems to be missing from the Gang of Eight’s offering.”

LGBT leaders, in a paper released by HRC, identified a series of proposals crucial to reform:

- Allow U.S. citizens or permanent residents to sponsor same-sex partners for family-based immigration.
- Prevent the removal of a same-sex spouse of a U.S. citizen to a place that would pose hardship for the citizen.
- Increase the number of visas available to those seeking to sponsor a relative under the family preference system.
- Create a pathway to citizenship for undocumented individuals living in the United States.
- Eliminate the one-year filing deadline that has had a disproportionately negative impact on LGBT asylum applicants.
- Provide access to health care for those in the process of legalizing their status, including those living with HIV/AIDS.
- Prevent employment verification systems from including personal information that is unnecessary to verify a person’s immigration status, such as gender markers or previous gender or name changes on an ID.
- Ensure that detainees have access to medical care and that humane forms of immigration detention are used.

“As a transgender woman who was detained by immigration authorities, I have first-hand experience with the inhumane treatment and abuse in detention facilities that for years have threatened the health, safety and even lives of millions of immigrants,” said Bamby Salcedo, president of the Trans-Latin@ Coalition. “I was sexually assaulted when I was forced to be housed in a dorm with about 100 men in a detention facility, and I was denied adequate access to HIV medication and hormone treatment. These are the harms countless transgender detainees face; we must put an end to these atrocities. We all deserve a chance to live with dignity, to pursue our dreams, and to work for a better future and better quality of life.”

Speaking at the Time is Now rally on April 10, Rea Carey, the executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, stressed, “LGBT people are immigrants and immigration is an LGBT issue.”



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# Severe heat, prolonged drought and intense storms will become more common

**CLIMATE** from page one



PHOTO: WILLIAM H. MAJOROS/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

**An American robin nesting. Bird-watchers in Wisconsin are seeing the birds return to the state about 13 days earlier in spring than they did 30 years ago.**

Change Impacts, have concluded that the state's climate is changing in ways that will impact weather, wildlife, habitat, industry, recreation, health and more.

About six years ago, experts came together in WICCI, which was co-organized by UW-Madison's Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, to investigate climate change and, in concert with environmental campaigns to conserve resources and reduce pollution, begin developing ways to adapt.

"Wisconsin is at the national forefront of understanding and forecasting climate change through the downscaling of global circulation models to the local level," said Carolyn Rumery Betz, a program manager associated with WICCI and the Nelson Institute.

"The No. 1 goal is to take away the mystery of where we are vulnerable to climate change, to assess the impact of climate change and then to push the state to adjust and do damage control," said John Young, director of the Wisconsin State Climatology Office.

## WARMER, WETTER, WILDER

The scientists agree that Wisconsinites can expect the state to experience more heat, severe weather events, prolonged droughts, intense storms and heavy rains.

Recent years already have seen exceptionally weird weather. In 2008, south and central

Wisconsin was drenched with 14 inches of rain in a two-week period that caused more than \$34 million in damages, but in the northern part of the state, a drought left some piers high and dry. In 2012, there were record-breaking warm temperatures in March, then an April cold snap, a summer heat wave with temperatures over 100 degrees, a mild fall and then a snow in late November, before the ground froze in the north.

Now WICCI, in its first report on climate change, projects:

- Precipitation is likely to continue increasing overall.
- Statewide, the amount of precipitation that falls as rain rather than snow in the winter is likely to increase, and freezing rain is more likely to occur.
- Large storm events are likely to increase in frequency in the spring and fall.
- Wisconsin's warming trend will continue and increase considerably in the decades ahead. By the middle of the century, the statewide annual average temperatures are likely to warm by 4-9 degrees.
- By mid-century, wintertime temperatures are likely to increase by 8 degrees.
- Summertime average temperatures are likely to rise 5-6 degrees.
- The number of summer days that exceed 90 degrees is projected to increase. By the end of the century, the state may see as many as 60 days over 90 degrees and more than 14 days over 100 degrees.
- Southern and western Wisconsin could see three-plus weeks of very hot days each year by mid-century.
- The number of winter nights below zero is expected to decrease about three weeks in northern Wisconsin and one week in southeastern Wisconsin, by mid-century.

The Union of Concerned Scientists, in its own analysis, concluded that Wisconsin's winters could someday be more like Missouri's winters are now.

These projections might sound bright for Wisconsinites struggling to thaw out from winter or for farmers who would welcome a longer growing season.

"Some people are very happy to have winters be less intense statistically," Young said.

But the consequences of climate change will be severe without mitigation and adaptation – and not just by the robin.

WICCI, in its analysis, finds that climate change will impact:

- The quality and quantity of water. Water levels may rise in some areas with heavier rainfall, but fall in others due to drought. Heavy rain may increase fertilizer runoff, resulting in algal blooms that harm wetlands and lakes.
- Natural habitats. Plant hardiness zones are shifting, pushing species' ranges northward. Earlier springs disrupt the cycle for pollinators and plants. Some wildlife species, such as the American marten, spruce grouse, snowshoe hare and native brook trout, and some plant species, such as the black spruce, balsam fir and paper birch, may disappear from the state.
- Health. Pollen production is increas-

ing. Increased precipitation can mean more waterborne diseases. From the Chicago area, occurrences of ground-level ozone exceeding air quality standards are expected to increase from two days a summer to 17 days a summer by the end of the century. Heat waves – which kill more people each year in the United States than hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and lightning combined – pose serious health threats, especially for older people.

• Agriculture. Warming temperatures in the spring and fall could extend the growing season across the state. But increased temperatures in the summer could reduce crop yields. Every warming of 2 degrees could decrease corn yields by 13 percent and soybean yields by 16 percent.

## 'LOSS OF WINTER' BRINGS HUGE IMPACT

Climate change also will impact other industries, especially construction, tourism and recreation.

"Some people don't like to shovel snow, so for them, increased temperatures can be a bonus," noted Betz. "However, for those people who like winter sports like ice fishing and skiing, the increased temperatures aren't positive. The loss of winter will have huge financial implications for our state."

In addition to furthering the understanding of climate change, Wisconsin scientists have been working with community leaders around the state, as well as city and county officials.

"It is hugely important that we do this," Young said. "We've got to have the entire continuum involved. Environmental problems are a concern of the whole community and, in America, people have been turning away from thinking as a community. That's the opposite of what should be happening. We've got to have unity."

About a dozen communities in the state have formed climate change task forces, including La Crosse, Green Bay, Superior and, most recently, Dane County.

"Images of parched farm fields, flooded homes, wind-damaged properties, and cars stranded in deep snow drifts are becoming too common to ignore the reality that super storms and other weather extremes are the new norm," Dane County Executive Joe Parisi said, announcing the task force earlier this spring.

**CLIMATE** on next page



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## GET OUT

The Friends of Wisconsin State Parks is sponsoring the fifth annual Work\*Play\*Earth Day celebration with events through May 4 at more than 20 state parks. Volunteers are planting trees, removing invasive species, repairing benches, painting picnic tables, cleaning up litter and sprucing up campgrounds. For more, go to [friendshiparks.blogspot.com](http://friendshiparks.blogspot.com).

**CLIMATE** from prior page

The group will recommend within six months any changes or additional resources the county might need to be better prepared to cope with the changing climate.

"Think global, act local," Galen McKinley, an associate professor in UW-Madison's Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, observed as she praised the local efforts. "This is an enormous challenge, and no one action will address it in full. Everyone must take part."

**ADAPTATION AND CONSERVATION**

This is where the experts tend to talk about "adaptation."

Consider WICCI's projections for heat waves. "We need to make sure," Betz said, "that vulnerable populations are taken care of. Lack of access to air conditioning can be fatal to large numbers of people in the summer, especially when hot weather is accompanied with high humidity."

Consider the climate and agriculture. Betz said, "Our growing season may be lengthened, and if farmers can adapt with new crops it will be positive. For example, maybe we'll be able to have a healthy peach tree crop in the state or grow vegetables that we don't grow today. So, some things may be positive and others not so much."

Adaptation in a community might also involve planting more shade trees or drought-tolerant trees for hotter summers. Or municipalities might upgrade their storm-water systems to build capacity by increasing

the dimensions of run-off pipes.

"Some of these things are 'no regrets' strategies," said Betz.

And, of course, along with adaptation comes the need for conservation.

"People are anxious to make a positive difference on the environment," Betz said. "One of the most important things people can do is assess their own carbon footprints and see where they might change their behaviors. For example, they might discover that taking the bus only a few times a week can make a big difference. ... Water consumption is another area where people can change their habits. Everyone can do something, and all these small actions add up."

Young, for his part, said he tries to consume less.

Thomas and Manning also have made a commitment to shrinking their footprints. "It really is relatively easy to do and it turns out to be a healthier, more economical way to live," Thomas said.

The Kenosha couple will be among the many taking action on Earth Day, the global holiday observed on and around April 22 with demonstrations, conferences, lectures, cleanup campaigns and outings.

"We're going to the Earth Day Celebration at the Gateway Technical College," Thomas said. "There's a plant sale and a compost giveaway."

Afterward, the women may spend some time bird-watching – and listening for the "cheerup" song of the robin.

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PHOTO: WWW.EARTHDAY.ORG/2013

**EarthDay.org encourages people to observe the holiday by sharing photographs of "the face of climate change."**

**PLANET PRIDE**

On April 22, 1970, an estimated 20 million Americans took to streets, parks and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment. Americans were familiar with protest at the time, but not for environmental causes.

The architect of Earth Day was U.S. Sen. Gaylord Nelson from Wisconsin, who took inspiration from the campus anti-war movement and called for a "national teach-in on the environment."

The Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at UW-Madison is named for the father of Earth Day and is a leader in climate change research.

The institute hosts one of the nation's most popular academic celebrations of Earth Day – the Nelson Institute Earth Day Conference, which took place April 15 and featured a talk by world-renowned primatologist and conservationist Dr. Jane Goodall.

– L.N.

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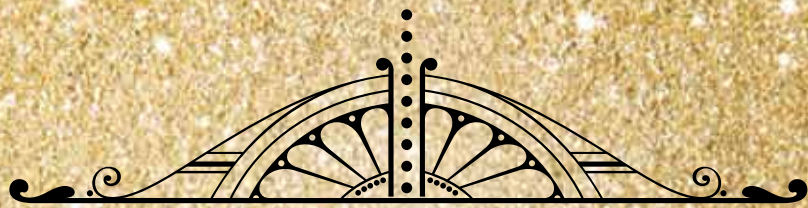
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## Environmentalists propose curbing WI highway spending

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Surveys and data show dramatic changes in transportation needs in Wisconsin, especially as environmentally conscious residents increasingly leave the cars in park to take a hike or ride a bike.

And this has environmentalists questioning Gov. Scott Walker's proposed spending plan for 2013-15, which would provide for an expansion of the state's highway system.

Wisconsin's transportation network is almost exclusively car-focused. Yet, a University of Massachusetts study found that bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects create 46 percent more jobs than roads built for cars. Also, bike lanes, on average, cost less than \$5,000 per mile to build, a tiny fraction of the cost to build and maintain an automobile lane.

1000 Friends of Wisconsin – a group that “promotes uses of land, water and air that shape healthy communities where people want to live, work and play” – offers this budget assessment: “In the 2013-15 biennium, the governor proposes to transfer \$23 million from the general fund to the transportation fund, making services like education, health care and corrections compete for funding from a smaller pool of money while continuing to fund unnecessary highway expansions.”

For 10 days in April, 1000 Friends rolled out the reasons the proposed budget, which would provide hundreds of millions of dollars to add capacity to the highway system, must change.

Some trends:

- Vehicle miles driven are falling but spending on highway expansion is up.
- Surveys show young people especially are driving less, less likely to own a car, more likely to bike, walk or take public transportation, and more likely to make a conscious choice to avoid driving.

1000 Friends encouraged adjustments in spending and priorities, including:

- Improved mass transit that is safe and efficient.
- High-speed rail networks.
- Bike and pedestrian facilities that



PHOTO: VISIT MILWAUKEE

**Studies show that promoting walking and bicycling boosts local economies and creates jobs. Bicycling also is a top recreational activity for tourists.**

improve neighborhoods and local economies.

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# Jamie Shiner is making political history

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

People take a shine to Jamie Shiner.

Perhaps it's her energy. Perhaps it's her enthusiasm. Perhaps it's her engaging opening joke – told with a thick accent – about being a “UPer.”

Shiner hopes the shine translates into votes. In early June, she's seeking to be elected second vice chair of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin. That would be a history-making win for the state's LGBT community and a milestone for Shiner, already the first out transgender person elected from Wisconsin to the Democratic National Convention.

Shiner is the second vice chair of the Democratic Party of Brown County, a member of the resolution and platform committee in the 8th Congressional District, vice chair of the state party's LGBT caucus and a member of Equality Wisconsin's endorsement board.

## First out transgender conventioneer seeks higher office.

She's also graduated from LGBT and party leadership training programs. A “lifelong Democrat,” she's worked to elect party candidates since 1984, most recently campaigning for U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin.

Other party volunteers and officials in Brown County say Shiner regularly opened the campaign headquarters in the weeks before the November 2012 election and that she's often the first to volunteer for a project.

Nancy Schleis, who has volunteered with Shiner in Brown County and attended the 2012 national convention with her in Charlotte, N.C., says, “Jamie has the

intelligence, the passion and the ethics to make a difference for many people in her fight for fairness, justice and equality for all.”

As she seeks support for the state office, Shiner is talking with lots of Democrats around the state.

And that's what she hopes to keep doing if elected to the post, which is an unpaid position that Shiner describes as “kind of like being the vice president – what you have is what you make of it.”

She'd like to make the second vice chair a “liaison between the state party and the county parties, attending as many meetings as possible, bringing the thoughts and concerns of all parts of our state into light.”

She'd also continue to be a voice in the party on LGBT issues.

Being a “good Democrat,” Shiner says, means “accepting all people, all your brothers and sisters. It means fairness. It means everyone deserves an equal shake. I want everyone to play on an equal playing field.”

Shiner's thinking about her immediate election, but like many political enthusiasts she's also looking ahead. She's thinking that by the 2016 national convention – or perhaps 2020 – she might be elected to serve on the Democratic National Committee.



PHOTO: LISA NEFF/WIG

Jamie Shiner shows off her buttons at the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte last September. Shiner hopes to serve someday on the Democratic National Committee.

### ON THE CALENDAR

The Democratic Party of Wisconsin's state convention is June 7–8 at the Olympia Resort & Conference Center in Oconomowoc. The convention is the state party's largest event of the year. A unity fair, caucus meetings, speeches and orientations take place on June 7. Platforms, resolutions and voting are the focus on June 8. For more, go to [www.wisdems.org](http://www.wisdems.org).






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# Cover-up alleged in Rutgers abuse scandal

From WIG and AP reports

Rutgers University is pledging to get to the bottom of how a basketball coach who kicked and shoved players and used gay slurs as he yelled at them was allowed to stay on the job.

Yet university president Robert Barchi, who made that pledge, already has revealed much about how coach Mike Rice almost escaped with only a fine and a suspension for abusing players during practices.

Barchi learned of the coach's abuse last fall, but didn't look at the video of Rice's tirades

until after an ESPN report went viral on the Web on April 2.

Rice was fired the next day. Athletic director Tim Perneti later resigned, as did an assistant basketball coach and the university's top in-house lawyer.

There's been widespread anger over the video, which was presented to university officials last year by a former basketball program employee who has now sued the university, claiming he was let go because he was a whistle-blower.

The video, in which Rice hurls gay slurs at players as he shoves them and throws balls at them, was taken just after the high-profile trial of a former Rutgers student accused of violating the privacy of his roommate, a gay student who committed suicide.

"The university still isn't taking responsibility for covering up – for months – a video and report that showed coach Rice using homophobic and misogynistic slurs and other hate speech, and physically harassing, intimidating and bullying his student-athletes – in direct violation of New Jersey's Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights," said Troy Stevenson, executive director of Garden State Equality, New Jersey's statewide LGBT civil rights group. "University officials knew about this in December and possibly as early as last June, when the first whistle-blower spoke out."

Last fall, after viewing the video, school officials suspended Rice for several games and



PHOTO: ESPN SCREENSHOT

**ESPN broke the story and broadcast the video of basketball coach Mike Rice abusing players – physically and verbally – during practices at Rutgers University.**

fining the coach \$75,000.

Now Rice, after being fired, has a buyout agreement that means he'll be paid \$1.25 million, as well as a \$100,000 bonus for finishing the season.

Garden State Equality has asked for a state investigation and also requested all the records from Rutgers' internal handling of the affair.

"We reiterate our call to Gov. Christie and his administration to initiate a state-led investigation that goes to the highest levels of university leadership, to find out who knew what when, and why they failed to act," Stevenson said.

The governor said at a news conference that Rice needed to be fired. He also called the former coach an "animal."

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# Pro-gay Illinois GOP party chair under fire

Illinois' GOP chairman emerged from another ouster attempt in mid-April and said his party must be more welcoming of diversity and inclusive of people who disagree if it's going to grow and win future elections.

More conservative members of Illinois' Republican Party have been trying to oust Pat Brady for months, largely because he took a position in favor of gay marriage as the Legislature took up an equality bill. About 50 party members attended a meeting of the GOP's State Central Committee to ask that Brady step down or that he be fired.

After a tense, hours-long session, Brady remained as the party's chairman. He said the committee did not take a vote on whether to fire him during a closed-door meeting.

Brady's detractors also point to Republican losses at the polls in November. Illinois Democrats won veto-proof majorities in both chambers of the Legislature and picked up seats in Congress.

"We need a leader people can rally around," said Mark Stern, a GOP township committeeman from DuPage County. "Pat Brady chose to focus on things that are divisive rather than the 80 percent of things we all agree on. That's not leadership."

Tensions mounted when the committee went into the closed-door session without first taking public comment. At one point, people gathered in a hallway outside the meeting began yelling and chanting, "Throw him out."

Brady said after the meeting that he does not plan to seek another term

after his expires next year and that the committee agreed to begin working on a succession plan. He said that plan was something the party needed to do and was not a compromise to appease committee members who wanted him gone.

Brady also survived an attempt last month by some committeemen to vote him out. That effort failed amid concerns that getting rid of Brady would reflect poorly on a party that's trying to appeal to young voters and minorities.

Brady has the support of the state's ranking Republican, U.S. Sen. Mark Kirk, who announced earlier this month he also supports same-sex marriage. Both men have said they don't believe government has a place in deciding who should marry.

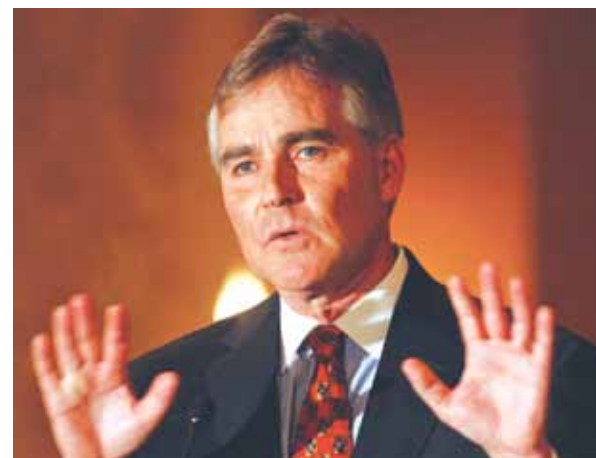


PHOTO: FACEBOOK

Illinois Republican Party Chairman Pat Brady.

-AP

## NATIONAL BRIEFS

### ACTIVISTS DEMAND 'EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK' ACTION

A coalition of more than 100 organizations called on President Barack Obama to issue an executive order banning retaliation against employees of federal contractors for disclosing or inquiring about wages.

The request was made on April 8, the eve of Equal Pay Day, and accompanied with renewed calls for equal pay for equal work. Data from the U.S. Census says that women still are paid, on average, 77 cents for every dollar that a man makes. Women of color take home even less.

"A half century after President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act of 1963, we have many more steps to take before his vision is fulfilled," said Deborah J. Vagins of the ACLU Washington legislative office.

The coalition said an executive order banning retaliation for wage inquiries would immediately protect 26 million Americans who work for federal contractors – roughly 20 percent of the American workforce.

### IN OTHER NEWS...

**A coalition of civil rights groups** published a study on April 9 showing that each year \$250-\$300 billion in federal contracts goes to businesses in states that do not protect LGBT workers from discrimination. The groups called on the president to issue an executive order banning federal contractors from discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation.

**Fifty-four.** That's the number of U.S. senators who have affirmed their support for marriage equality and opposition to the federal Defense of Marriage Act. All but two of that majority in the Senate are Democrats.

**The "morning-after" pill** must be made available to females 13 or over, without parental consent. U.S. District Court Judge Edward Korman said the contraceptive sold under the brand "Plan B" is among the safest drugs available over the counter.

**The Oklahoma House** earlier this month approved a resolution to reaffirm marriage as a union between a man and a woman and support the federal Defense of Marriage Act. More than a dozen Democrats, led by an openly gay state rep, walked out to protest the vote.

— from WIG and AP reports

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## 'How could someone say this is too much? They're like your children.'

**SADIE** from page one

amputated," she added. "She's a very stubborn dog – but that's what saved her life."

After placing Sadie on a raw food diet and giving her time to recuperate after surgery, Derse-Dauer opted for an "all-in approach," creating an intense regimen of rehabilitation therapies that included everything from daily exercises and swimming, to acupuncture, aqua puncture, pet massage, aromatherapy and electrical stimulation.

If the treatments sound a bit extreme, then the \$20,000 in estimated costs for the treatments in the year since she has owned Sadie may sound even more so. But, Derse-Dauer waves off any judgment.

"How could someone say this is too much? They're like your children," Derse-Dauer said. "I am plenty out of pocket. But, I think she is worth it."

So far, Derse-Dauer, who owns Luxe Homes Management, an in-home concierge service, has relied on her own wallet, as well as the generosity of volunteers and donors from across the country – and sometimes from around the world. Many people come across the dog on her website and social media pages, while others meet her in person through Derse-Dauer's frequent meet-and-greets at Pet World retail stores in southeastern Wisconsin.

And a year later, Sadie's health is improving and she is going strong. On April 20, Sadie celebrates her "re-



PHOTO: COURTESY

### MEET AND GREET

Sadie celebrates her "Re-Birthday Party" 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on April 20 at Milwaukee's Amtrak station.

birthday" with a party open to the public at the Amtrak station in Milwaukee.

I met Sadie at one of her donors' homes in Brown Deer. With her big brown eyes, and shiny black-and-brown coat, she's clearly well taken care of and happy. She sat loyally by Derse-Dauer's side, her tail wagging.

When Sadie stood up to walk, she pulled forward with her forefeet and used her right hind leg to hop across the living room. A customized leg wrap protects the dog's lame leg.

Sadie has a modified dog-

gie wheelchair, but Derse-Dauer said the dog doesn't like the device.

"My expectation is she may never walk normally, but she is mobile now," Derse-Dauer said.

For now, Derse-Dauer and the rest of Sadie's team are focused on nerve regeneration, rather than walking, said Sadie's pet therapist Jessica Dragan, who demonstrated some of Sadie's massage treatments. Sadie grumbled slightly, but lay still.

"She's paving the way for other dogs who've been through something similar,"

Dragan said. "She's defied the odds. But, we're not done."

In the weeks since my visit with Sadie, she's continued to improve, according to Dragan. A recent breakthrough occurred when her therapists noticed Sadie moving her left leg during a recent swim. Although the pooch isn't crazy about the water, it's proven tremendously beneficial to her recovery, Dragan said.

Since few veterinarians have had experience working with dogs like Sadie, her care team is "always tweaking the treatment, and we're finding

out new things every day," Dragan said.

In the future, Derse-Dauer would like to initiate conversations about federally funded pet therapies. She'll also continue to advocate for animal rights.

Sherry Ramsey, director of animal cruelty prosecution for the Humane Society of the United States, said that cases like Sadie's are not uncommon but often go unreported. Animal cruelty is so widespread – and perpetrators are so likely to target humans as well as animals – that a growing number of

jurisdictions, including Philadelphia and Los Angeles, have prosecutors who exclusively or partially handle animal abuse cases, Ramsey said.

"There are heroes out there who really want to save a creature that's been horribly abused and give them a second chance," Ramsey said. "Any time you use such a bad situation to educate the public, it will help to improve the condition of animals."

The publicity generated by situations such as Sadie's increases public awareness of abuse and encourages people to report it, Ramsey explained.

As for Derse-Dauer, she was only interested in saving the innocent dog that looked up with such hope and affection in her eyes. Despite the expense and effort, she's never regretted her decision to give Sadie a second chance.

"She's taught me a lot," Derse-Dauer said. "She taught me to savor everything ... that life has to offer."

**ON THE WEB ...**  
savingsadie.com



### GROUP RESCUES 100TH ANIMAL FROM MILWAUKEE ANIMAL CONTROL

On April 2, Milwaukee Pets Alive rescued its 100th animal – a 12-day-old kitten who was rescued along with her brother, sister and mother – from the Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control Commission. The feline family will stay with volunteers until they are ready for adoption.

MPA depends on foster homes to place rescued animals, where they remain until adoption. The number of animals MPA can rescue is entirely dependent on the number of available foster homes.

"Our wonderful fosters are some of our most important 'volunteers,'" says Lisa Grabowski, MPA executive director. "If not for them opening their hearts and homes, we couldn't have saved even one life, let alone more than 100."

To avoid duplicating the efforts of other shelters, MPA assesses animals that other rescue agencies have passed over. The organization takes in animals exclusively from MADACC, where more than 5,700 animals were killed last year.

**On the Web...**

[www.milwaukeepetsalive.org](http://www.milwaukeepetsalive.org)

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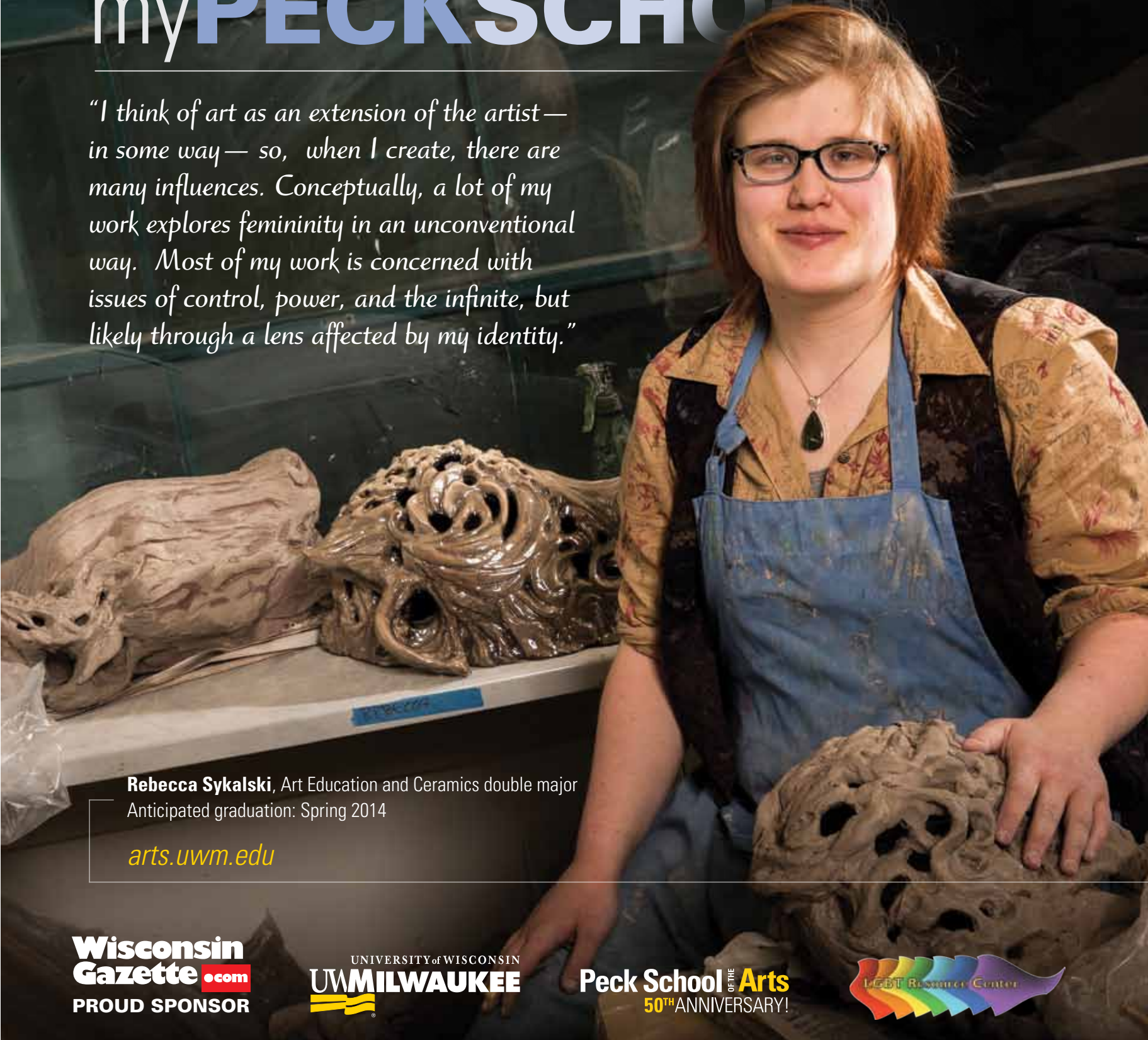
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**Rebecca Sykalski**, Art Education and Ceramics double major  
Anticipated graduation: Spring 2014

[arts.uwm.edu](http://arts.uwm.edu)



## { Editorial }

## Applebee's true values on display in Rice Lake

A homophobic diner visited the Applebee's in Rice Lake last month, where he was waited on by out gay server Tim Phares. After slinging derogatory anti-gay epithets at Phares behind his back all evening – slurs that were overheard and reported by diners at nearby tables – the culprit called the following day to say he would not eat at the restaurant again until it fired Phares.

Instead of telling the bigot that he was no longer welcome at Applebee's, the restaurant's manager wrote up Phares over the incident. In effect, he was punished for being victimized.

A couple of days later, one of Phares' co-workers drove up behind his parked car. Her husband leaped from the car, called Phares a "fucking faggot" and slammed him in the head with a 2x4 piece of wood. Phares was left unconscious on the pavement with multiple facial fractures that will require extensive surgery.

While her husband was charged in the attack, co-worker Shannon Hendricks was not. Neither was she fired.

Phares, on the other hand, was told not to return to work at the restaurant due to the negative publicity over the incident.

Phares did get his job back, but only after Apple American Group CEO Greg Flynn intervened, he says. The restaurant denies that claim but does acknowledge that Flynn became involved.

Applebee's corporate marketing chief says the company has a nondiscrimination policy that includes sexual orientation and gender identity. She also says Applebee's provides domestic partner benefits in states where same-sex marriage and civil unions are legal.

But at large corporations and bureaucracies, official policies seldom make it to the trenches – unless they boost profits. Many companies treat their diversity initiatives as window dressing. Sadly, that appears to be the case at Applebee's.

It was not until days after the story of Phares' bashing went viral that Applebee's offered a public statement on the incident. That statement failed to once mention the words "gay," "homophobia" – or even "sorry." It contained no concern or compassion for the victim. Instead, it stubbornly defended the company's refusal to fire or reprimand Hendrickson.

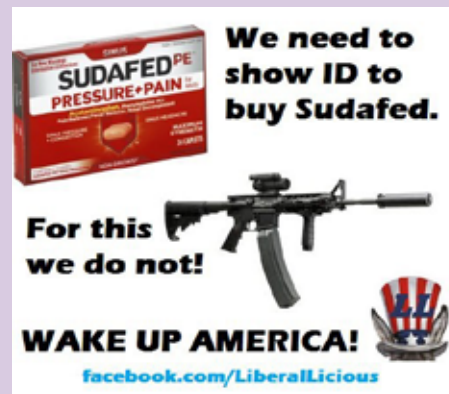
This should not be surprising. Applebee's is hardly a model corporate citizen. The company fails to meet even one of the five minimal guidelines tracked by the Diners' Guide to Ethical Eating, a consumer report on working conditions in American restaurants compiled by the Restaurant Opportunities Centers United.

The company's YouGov Brand Index, also known as the "Buzz," tumbled from a decent score of 35 down to 5 after Zane Terkel, CEO of one of the company's largest franchisees, announced that he would not build more restaurants or hire more workers due to Obamacare. He said that he should not be forced to provide health insurance to his workers.

With so many locally owned restaurants that treat workers fairly and even sponsor or host LGBT and other community groups and events, we urge you to think seriously about where you spend your money. The next time you're dining out, ask yourself whether you want to reward companies like Applebee's or support local eateries that put your dollars back in your community and share your values.

## WiG's WEB PICKS

Some of our favorite recent pictorials from cyberspace



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### CEO/PRINCIPAL

Leonard Sobczak

### PUBLISHER/ EDITOR IN CHIEF

Louis Weisberg  
[lweisberg@wisconsin-gazette.com](mailto:lweisberg@wisconsin-gazette.com)

### NATIONAL NEWS EDITOR

Lisa Neff  
[lmneff@wisconsin-gazette.com](mailto:lmneff@wisconsin-gazette.com)

### GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Laura Gronek, Maureen M. Kane

### SALES INFORMATION

E-mail [sales@wisconsin-gazette.com](mailto:sales@wisconsin-gazette.com)  
or call 414-961-3240

### MARKETING COORDINATOR

Kaitlyn Weisensel  
[kweisensel@wisconsin-gazette.com](mailto:kweisensel@wisconsin-gazette.com)

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### DISTRIBUTION

Robert Wright  
[rwright@wisconsin-gazette.com](mailto:rwright@wisconsin-gazette.com)

### OFFICE ASSISTANT

Anita Gielow

### CONTRIBUTORS

Stephanie Beecher, Debra Brehmer,  
Jason Burns, Linda Fausel, Jody  
Hirsh, Jamakaya, Mike Muckian,  
Anne Siegel, Gregg Shapiro

## ON THE RECORD



“This is shocking that TIME magazine would do this – basically publishing indecent photos, promoting perversion on the cover of their magazine, where on racks across the country children can see this. This is an in-your-face promotion of homosexual immorality, and I’m very upset that they would go to this length.”

– PETER LABARBERA of the anti-gay group Americans For Truth About Homosexuality, commenting on a TIME magazine cover featuring a gay kiss. LaBarbera is known as “Porno Pete” for his penchant of attending gay orgies and meticulously filming every detail of the action, which he claims disgusts him.

“It’s not incest between men, because incest is there to protect us from inbreeding, but men don’t breed.”

– Eccentric actor JEREMY IRONS telling the Huffington Post that legalizing same-sex marriage would inevitably lead to men marrying their sons, their dogs and almost everything else.

“So, if gay marriage was legalized in England, Jeremy Irons’ son Max – get ready to make your father the happiest man alive. I mean, after all you’ve been together for 27 years. It’s time to put a ring on it.”

– TV satirist STEPHEN COLBERT responding to Irons’ comment above.

“I don’t want to pay for a sex change operation. I’m not interested. I like being a boy.”

– U.S. Rep. PAUL BROUN, R-Ga., explaining that he opposes insurance coverage for the needs of transgender people because he likes his male parts.

“We don’t want a country where abortion is simply outlawed. We want a country where it isn’t even considered.”

– U.S. Rep. PAUL RYAN speaking to the Susan B. Anthony List about his goal of demonizing choice.

“You have to really want to have kids, and neither of us did. So it’s just going to be me and Ellen and no babies.”

– Actress PORTIA DE ROSSI, the wife of Ellen DeGeneres, telling Out magazine that the couple has no interest in having children.

“Truly inspiring to be able to come here. Anne was a great girl. Hopefully she would have been a believer.”

– JUSTIN BEIBER writing in the guestbook of the Amsterdam house-turned-museum where Holocaust victim Anne Frank hid with her family from the Nazis.

“A big part of it was really teaching me to make relationships with straight men because that would help me to kind of take on this straightness and so it really helped me actually learn how to talk with men. Looking back, I don’t regret it. The goal was to become straight, and it turns out what I took away from it was an increased confidence.”

– MATT R. SALMON, the out son of anti-gay U.S. Rep. Matt Salmon, R-Ariz., telling Anderson Cooper that the “reparative” therapy his parents forced him to undergo when he was 18 made him more comfortable with men.



# Rachel Carson’s enduring values



Fifty years ago this month, Rachel Carson’s ecological classic “Silent Spring” was in the midst of its 86-week run at the top of the bestseller lists. Just one year later, in April of 1964, Carson died of cancer at age 56.

It is one measure of the enduring value of Carson’s research and vision that corporate interests are still distorting the substance of her work and impugning her character. A greater measure is the impact Carson had in sparking environmental awareness, leading to the creation of advocacy groups, the Environmental Protection Agency and annual Earth Day celebrations. Anyone over age 2 who has seen Disney’s “The Lion King” knows about the venerable “Circle of Life,” and that too is largely due to Rachel Carson.

In the 1960s, chemical manufacturers implied Car-

son was a communist and an amateur who was unqualified to write about the dangers of DDT and other pesticides. Today, the Competitive Enterprise Institute and other corporate lobbies fund anti-Carson websites. They blame her for the “holocaust” of Africans who die of malaria due to the outlawing of DDT. These are lies.

Carson was no communist. Born near Pittsburgh, she was as American as apple pie. She loved the outdoors and earned degrees in biology and zoology. She conducted field research in marine biology and edited scientific publications for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She became a distinguished science and nature writer who won the National Book Award for Nonfiction for her stunning natural history, “The Sea Around Us,” in 1951.

In “Silent Spring,” Carson revealed the widespread, indiscriminate use of DDT and other pesticides. She found they were having disastrous impacts far beyond the

goal of ridding certain crops or areas of particular insects. Massive bird, fish and wildlife kills followed aerial spraying of DDT, Dieldrin, Chlordane and other chemicals. Carson showed that whole ecosystems were being disrupted and in some cases destroyed by the chemical onslaught. She believed that, given all the collateral damage they caused, pesticides should be called “biocides.”

Despite her carefully argued thesis, Carson never advocated banning DDT or other biocides. She called for more research into their effects on plant, animal and human life and for wiser, more focused use of them. She concluded, correctly, that intensive use of biocides bred resistance in the pests they were meant to kill. Because they were of only short-term value, stronger and more extensive chemicals – a boon

to manufacturers – would continually be required. She described the carcinogenic properties of many biocides and was especially concerned by their potential to alter the

genetics of future generations of life forms exposed to them.

Carson sought solutions. She detailed alternative, natural means of pest control. These included the importation of natural predators, targeted insect sterilizations and limited, non-aerosol forms of chemical delivery. She cited examples of successful eradication campaigns.

Carson led a life of integrity and sacrifice. She supported her mother and sister, who were chronically ill. In her 50s, while suffering from cancer, she adopted her nephew Roger, whose parents had died. In the final months of her terminal illness, which followed publication of “Silent Spring,” she literally used her last breaths to plead for the preservation of our natural environment.

Rachel Carson spoke truth to power. She spoke for all of us and for the voiceless life forms we so thoughtlessly dominate. This Earth Day, please read her books and defend her honor.

# Honoring local heroes: Ray Vahey



life when he and his partner of 50 years became actively involved in the movement to change this kind of hateful culture.

“I met Ray in 2005 at a Center Advocates fundraiser featuring Tony Kushner,” Kevin Flaherty told me. “We were raising money to try and defeat the marriage amendment banning same-sex marriage. He was then in his late 60s and had never been actively involved in the LGBT movement. That all changed and, in a matter of months, he gave a barn-burning speech at PrideFest. He made other appearances at churches and even the Legislature to speak out against the amendment.”

Ray went on to become the face of Equality Wisconsin. A generous donor to progressive causes, he’s also been a tireless grassroots organizer for LGBT equality and a vocal supporter of Milwaukee’s communities of

color. Voces de la Frontera awarded him for his leadership in working on behalf of social justice for Wisconsin’s Latino/a community.

Ray’s passion comes from the simple belief that equality cannot exist for anyone until it’s been achieved by everyone. “Ray’s single best attribute is his unrelenting optimism,” Flaherty said. “He is so generous both in spirit and with his resources.”

When I was packing to leave Florida after accepting the job as Equality Wisconsin’s executive director, Ray sent a package to my husband Nathan and me. Inside were all the things we’d need to find our way around Milwaukee, including a copy of WiG. It was the first of many acts of support and kindness that we would receive from Ray. Over the past 16 months, he has become the grandfather I never had, and I’ve grown to love him as such.

**Over the past 16 months, he’s become the grandfather I never had.**

Wisconsin and Milwaukee owe Ray a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid. He’s helped lead and shape Wisconsin’s progressive community, consistently demonstrating his commitment to social and economic justice for all. Our future, through the changes and victories that are to come, is more secure thanks to him and others like him.

On behalf of the many people you have touched and whose lives you have helped to make better, I thank you, Ray.

## REGIONAL BRIEFS

### CHICAGO HOME TO LGBT SPORTS HALL OF FAME

A new hall of fame – the first of its kind in the U.S. – has been established to honor sports achievements for the LGBT community. The National Gay & Lesbian Sports Hall of Fame will recognize those who have stood up to stereotypes and worked to bring people together for the good of sports, said executive director Bill Gubrud.

“Sports are an American pastime, and honorees inducted will have brought together fans from all walks of life, demonstrating that everyone, regardless of sexual orientation, deserves the right to play, watch and win,” Gubrud said. “I envision an induction to the hall of fame not only being a great honor, but a vehicle for the inductees to continue to make advances within our community.”

The organization will accept nominations this summer and induct its first honorees at a ceremony on Aug. 2 at the Center on Halsted



PHOTO: COURTESY

the day before Out at Wrigley, the nation’s largest gay day at a major league event.

### IN OTHER NEWS ...

**The anti-gay National Organization for Marriage** falsely claimed in an email to supporters that the Chicago Bears donated memorabilia that was auctioned at an anti-gay fundraiser. An email for the It Takes A Family conference encouraged followers to thank the team, but the Bears denied every making the donation.

**A Royal Oak, Mich., man** has submitted petitions to force a referendum to repeal a gay rights ordinance in the Detroit suburb. The city commission approved the ordinance banning discrimination based on sexual orientation in early March. It is on hold pending a review of the petitions and possible vote.

**Earvin “Magic” Johnson** teamed with OraQuick to encourage people to get tested for HIV. About 250,000 people in the U.S. are unaware they have HIV and they’re unknowingly responsible for up to 75 percent of new infections. The Ora-Quick In-Home HIV Test provides results in 20 minutes. It is available in retail outlets nationwide and online at OraQuick.com.

– Lisa Neff and Louis Weisberg



PHOTO: COURTESY

### KIND BACKS MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Wisconsin U.S. Rep. Ron Kind has become the latest congressman to jump aboard the fast-moving marriage equality bandwagon.

The Democrat from La Crosse announced his support for same-sex marriage on his Facebook page, saying that his own happy marriage influenced his decision:

“My 18-year marriage to Tawni has taught me that we’re both stronger because we love and support each other. I support marriage equality because if two people want to make a lifetime commitment to love and care for one another, then the government shouldn’t stand in the way.”

“As the Supreme Court deliberates the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act and Proposition 8, I’m reminded that throughout history, discrimination has never worked. I have never voted for discrimination, and I look forward to supporting legislation like the Respect for Marriage Act that will help committed same-sex couples gain the same rights as everyone else.”

Kind is often mentioned as a potential Democratic challenger to Gov. Scott Walker in 2014 or U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson in 2016. He has a rating of 95 percent from the Human Rights Campaign.

– L.W.



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# Bill would strengthen WI domestic violence laws

By Kevin Wang  
AP writer

Wisconsin's domestic violence laws would be strengthened under measures pushed by a bipartisan group of lawmakers after a mass shooting by the estranged husband of an abuse victim.

Police officers and judges can do more to bring perpetrators to justice and protect victims, said state Rep. Andre Jacque, a Republican from DePere who is sponsoring the bills. Jacque's three proposals would clarify the obligations of police officers in responding to domestic abuse cases, grant judges more power to keep suspects in check and allow more evidence to be used in investigations.

Wisconsin is among 21 states with a mandatory arrest law in domestic violence cases. Police must arrest domestic abusers even if an alleged victim doesn't consent. The state requires law enforcement officers to have written policies for responding to such calls.

But no one has authority to ensure police departments are responding to domestic abuse calls as they should.

The Brown Deer Police Department was under fire for not arresting Radcliffe Haughton following reports of abuse in January 2011 and again several weeks before he killed his 42-year-old wife, Zina, and two others at

a Brookfield spa last October. Haughton also killed himself.

"I think it was wrong," Zina Haughton's brother Elvin Daniel said of the police response. "They saw something suspicious at the house but didn't go find out what was wrong."

Twelve state lawmakers signed a letter last November and sent it to the Brown Deer Police Department, accusing the law enforcement agency of not upholding the state arrest law.

During a January 2011 standoff at Haughton's Brown Deer home, officers thought they saw Haughton with a rifle and set up a perimeter around the house. They ordered Haughton to surrender, but he refused. The police left after 90 minutes without arresting him, the letter said.

Brown Deer police said officers left because they weren't sure if Haughton had a gun and they did not believe he posed a danger. Police also said the victim refused to cooperate.

Jacque's proposal would require officers to document their responses to abuse calls, even if they don't arrest anyone. They would have to file a report to the district attorney's office to explain cases where they felt no abuse could be shown.

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# Condom portrait of Ex-Pope Benedict goes on display in the Third Ward

By Louis Weisberg  
Staff writer

A larger-than-life portrait of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, created using some 17,000 multi-colored condoms, sounds suspiciously like a gimmick.

But in the hands of Niki Johnson, a Shorewood artist of growing reputation, the piece that she titled "Eggs Benedict" is a commanding and thought-provoking work of serious art, according to critics. Johnson's combination of concept and skill has generated attention worldwide. Media from the United States to the United Kingdom, from London to Ghana have written about the piece.

On April 14, CNN aired a feature about Johnson and the work, which is on display at the Portrait Society Gallery, 207 E. Buffalo St., Milwaukee. A portion of the proceeds from the sale will be donated to AIDS groups.

Philanthropist Joseph Pabst has bid \$20,000 for the piece, which is encased in Plexiglass and displayed in a gold frame with an attached base. The portrait measures 83 x 60 x 12 inches overall.

Johnson says the piece was conceived in response to statements Benedict made during a 2009 papal trip to Africa. The pontiff warned believers on the conti-

nent, where HIV/AIDS has wreaked the most devastation, that the use of prophylactics contributes to spreading the disease rather than preventing it.

"I thought he was being irresponsible to public health," Johnson says.

A 35-year-old instructor at the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design with a master's degree in fine arts from UW-Madison, Johnson says "Eggs Benedict" is part of a long artistic tradition of "staging intervention."

"I think the reason it went viral is because ... it's engaging a subject matter that many people think needs to be talked about," she says.

Johnson says emphatically that it's not her role as an artist to explain the work, but rather to let others react to it however it moves them. "The piece needs to function on its own," she says. "I didn't make it to make a giant platform. My job is to instigate dialogue taking this conversation forward."

In addition to falling within the artistic tradition of stimulating debate, "Eggs Benedict" also fits within Johnson's personal artistic tradition. She's often used public figures as subject matter in ironic ways, and she's created numerous works using parallel techniques.

For instance, Johnson created a series of needlepoint works depicting women's breasts. The process of creation involved juxtaposing a medium associated with traditional femininity and subject matter considered taboo by traditional women. In a similar spirit, she created a series of cross-stitched portraits of celebrities such as Paris Hilton.

Johnson "painted" Amy Winehouse using plastic shopping bags wrapped around wire. She says the piece was inspired by the public's fascination with fallen celebrities, and she used the bags to symbolize supermarkets, where most people get the skinny on the rich and famous from tabloids displayed in check-out lines.

For "Eggs Benedict," Johnson wrapped condoms around a wire grid. There are two sides to the piece – the front presents a surprisingly realistic picture of the former pope "stitched" in latex, while the rear is a stunningly colorful abstract collage of dangling condoms.

Johnson says she was particularly pleased with the "festive" effect of the work. "It demystifies the condom," she says. "It re-imagines (condoms) as a material for color."

Portrait Society Gallery owner Deb Brehmer has

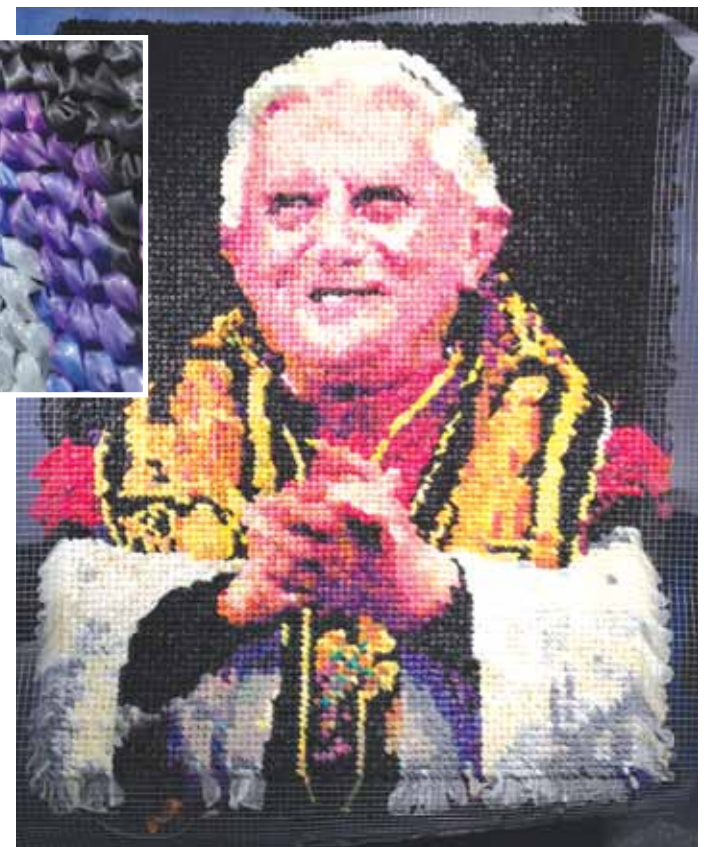


PHOTO: NIKI JOHNSON

"Eggs Benedict," above, is at Portrait Society Gallery in Milwaukee's Third Ward. Inset: The colorful back side of the piece also is on view.

shown Johnson's work in the past, including needlepoint images of the wives of presidential candidates. In a press statement announcing the exhibition of "Eggs Benedict," Brehmer explained that Johnson's work is representative of her gallery's mission.

"The gallery was founded five years ago to explore contemporary manifestations of the portrait by applying an expansive definition of what a portrait entails," Brehmer wrote. "Much of the work presented at Portrait Society is project-oriented and interested in how art engages with the world and, as a form of private and public communication, how it can engender relationships, conversations and new dimensions of 'community.'"

Brehmer says she expects "Eggs Benedict" to draw criticism from viewers who miss the point – which is that there is no point except the one they bring to it.

"Art tends not to be polemic, it tends to be an

open question," Brehmer says. "That's a great thing. I'm excited to have it, and if it's controversial, so be it. I think of the piece as respectful and coming from the right motive in the artist. So bring 'em on."

Brehmer, who plans to distribute condoms while "Eggs Benedict" is on display, says the piece helps to bring pro-


phylactics "out of hiding." As a parent of teenagers, she says the work has helped her initiate an important dialogue with her 14-year-old son and 16-year-old daughter about the subject.

*Editor's note: Debra Brehmer is a Wisconsin Gazette contributor.*


## ON VIEW


Niki Johnson's "Eggs Benedict" is on exhibit at Portrait Society Gallery, 207 E. Buffalo St., fifth floor, through May 10. Additional work by Johnson will be included in the gallery's upcoming show "Sourcebook: Martha Wilson and MKE New Feminist Makers."

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**COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

**'TRAILBLAZERS' CELEBRATES WISCONSIN'S LGBT HISTORY**

"Trailblazers: A Gay Rights Movement" celebrates pioneers in Wisconsin LGBT history at 4:30 p.m. on June 29 at Harmony Cafe – Fox Valley, 233 E. College Ave., Appleton.

Subjects include David Clarenbach, a gay state representative who wrote the first gay rights law in U.S. history. The law passed with bipartisan support in Wisconsin in 1982. Clarenbach was speaker pro tempore at the time. Later he was to serve as the executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund.

Harmony Cafe, Outreach and Positive Voice are inviting people to hear about this history – and more – from OutReach executive director Steve Starkey, Fay Ferington, Wayne Garthwright, Lloyd Schaefer and Mike Fitzpatrick.

For more information, go to "TRAIL BLAZERS! Gay Rights Movement" on Facebook.

**IN OTHER NEWS...**

**Milwaukee LGBT Community Center** hosts a screening of "Out of Respect: A Story of Five" at 6:30

p.m. on April 26 at the center, 1110 N. Market St. The documentary from Reel Life Films and J-Doc at UWM explores homelessness among LGBT young adults. For more, go to [www.mkelgbt.org](http://www.mkelgbt.org).

**U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin**, D-Wis., is set to keynote the Midwest Family Equality Conference in Minneapolis on April 20. The weekend is to include panel discussions, workshops and social activities focusing on LGBT people and their families.

**Milwaukee Film Festival** is accepting entries for the fifth annual festival, which takes place Sept. 26–Oct. 10. The deadline is June 24. For more, go to [mkefilm.org/call-for-entries](http://mkefilm.org/call-for-entries).

**GSAFE** holds its 17th annual Celebration of Leadership Youth Scholarship and Awards Dinner on May 11 at The Monona Terrace in Madison. For more, call 608-661-4141 or email [info@gsafewi.org](mailto:info@gsafewi.org).

**Cream City Foundation**, in partnership with FORGE and the Galano Club, presents the first annual LGBT Organizations Community Gathering at Serb Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave., Milwaukee. Reserve space

by April 26 by phoning 414-225-0244 or emailing [director@creamcityfoundation.org](mailto:director@creamcityfoundation.org).

**Outwards Books, Gifts & Coffee**, 2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee, hosts a literary reception for C.P. Rowlands, Anne Laughlin and Chris Paynter – three Lambda Literary Award-nominated lesbian novelists – at 2 p.m. on May 4. In addition to reading from their Lammy-nominated works, each will offer a sneak peek into upcoming novels. The event is free. For more, go to [www.outwardsbooks.com](http://www.outwardsbooks.com).

**PFLAG National** recently held its fifth annual Straight for Equality Awards Gala at the New York Marriott Marquis. Honors went to actor Patrick Stewart, author John Irving, NFL players Brendon Ayanbadejo and Chris Kluwe and Whirlpool Corporation. Former NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue also appeared.

– Lisa Neff and Louis Weisberg

Send community announcements to [lmneff@wisconsinazette.com](mailto:lmneff@wisconsinazette.com).



**WAIT WAIT... DON'T TELL ME!**

**WAIT WAIT...**  
Milwaukee Public Radio hosts a live simulcast screening of "Wait Wait ... Don't Tell Me" at 7 p.m. on May 2 at Marcus South Shore in Oak Creek, Marcus Majestic in Brookfield and Cinemark Tinseltown in Kenosha. Peter Sagal and Carl Kasell will lead the cinecast from New York University's Skirball Center for the Performing Arts with panelists Paula Poundstone, Mo Rocca and Tom Bodett. WUWM 89.7 FM airs "Wait Wait" Saturdays at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. For more, go to [www.fathomevents.com](http://www.fathomevents.com).

PHOTO: COURTESY WUWM 89.7

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# Madison benefit is a true hair-raiser



PHOTO: Tom McInville



PHOTO: Nick Bernard



PHOTO: Nick Bernard



PHOTO: Nick Bernard

## By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

How would hair designers interpret the theme of time travel into their work? Would they reach into the past for a powdered and piled-up Marie Antoinette-style stack? How about a 1960s retro-Jane Jetson bob? Or something totally new, maybe androgynous and more fitting for an uncertain future?

Ask any of the 16 designers and styling salons participating in "2013 Hair Affair: The Art of Hair," the biennial fundraiser for the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, and you may get those answers and many more. "Time Travel" is the theme of this year's event, and no doubt the models navigating the three-story runway on April 25 at Madison's Overture Center for the Arts will sport some of the most historically accurate and/or far-out designs ever to perch on a Midwestern pate.

Hair Affair is one of several fundraisers mounted by MMOCA to support the museum's free exhibitions and education programs, while showcasing the skill and creativity of premier salons and stylists from the Madison area. The event is held every other year and alternates with Design MMOCA, which invites designers of all types to create works that draw inspiration from the museum's permanent collection.

April's event is the third Hair Affair, according to Annik Dupaty, MMOCA's director of events. If it's anything like the 2009 and 2011

Hair Affairs, attendees can expect something unlike any other Madison fundraising event, she says.

"Hair Affair has a big-city feel, a throb and heartbeat that we don't normally see here in Madison," Dupaty says. "We tend to attract a younger crowd, and it's an exciting, fun night."

MMOCA is housed in the Overture Center, and the models' catwalk is the stunning, glass-enclosed, three-story staircase at the building's western end. Attendees can mingle with the models, sample seasonal hors d'oeuvres from Fresco Restaurant on Overture's third floor, sip cocktails, bid on silent auction items and listen to the sounds of DJ Nick Nice.

The idea for Hair Affair was brought forward several years ago by museum volunteer and member Annie Levihn, who was inspired by similar fundraisers in other cities. A call for stylists to participate went out early this year, and a team of judges composed of fashion industry and theatrical professionals evaluated their entry sketches and then offered suggestions for ways to improve and extend the designers' concepts.

The time travel theme brought a variety of both historical and futuristic responses from participants. As in the past, there are no limits on the nature, elements and sheer size of the hairstyle — other than the model's need to carry it safely on his or her head.

The designers from Alan Koa Salon Spa in downtown Madison, a second-time par-

ticipant, decided to present both ends of the spectrum.

"Our intention is to show the head-to-toe evolution of a queen from the past to the future by cohesively creating two different looks on one model," explains stylist Alison Drake, part of the salon's design team. "This allowed us to really use our strong inspiration found in the Elizabethan Era, as well as our imagination, for a sleek and constructed futuristic look."

We also really wanted to incorporate our interpretation of time travel through our hair structure, using everything from furnace filters, hot glue and spray adhesive to reconstructing a vintage dress with baroque and lace embellishments."

For the first time, this year's event incorporates male models, something Dupaty believes will add greater dimension and appeal to the show. Attendees should keep an eye out for designs that are "neo-native" and based on Native American inspiration, and "steampunk," that strange amalgam of Victoriana and science fiction that manifests in everything from dress to architecture to interior design. There will even be a "post-apocalyptic droid" strutting the catwalk with a look and 'do that can only be imagined.

Dupaty expects Hair Affair to sell out quickly. VIP tickets already have sold out. Wavelength tickets are still available, but they're going fast. In addition to being an exciting evening, the event also is a great

opportunity for Madison stylists to demonstrate their skills and concepts in an entertaining way, Drake says.

"We are a relatively new salon, so it's a great way to stay active in the community in an artistic and lively manner," Drake says. "It's one of the only events focusing directly on our industry in Madison and we love to see it staying alive and relevant!"

It also may be the only event of the season that allows a post-apocalyptic droid to make a fashion statement, and that is something not to be missed.

## ON THE CATWALK

The Madison Museum of Contemporary Art's "2013 Hair Affair: The Art of Hair" takes to the runway April 25 at 7:30 p.m. at MMOCA's home in Madison's Overture Center for the Arts. For more information, visit [www.mmoca.org/programs-events/events/hair-affair](http://www.mmoca.org/programs-events/events/hair-affair).

Photos from left: "Alice in Wonderland" (2011) by Ultimate Spa Salon; "Twisted Manta" (2011) by Hybrid Salon; "Mod Mary" (2011) by Cha Cha Beauty and Barber; "Spring Fantasies" (2009) by William Jon Salon.

# Dueling Mozarts

Two operas show contrasting sides of the master



PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

During his brief life, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart changed the very nature of symphonic and chamber music, as well as opera. In the next few weeks, Wisconsin fans will be treated to contrasting sides of the master's operatic style, as Wisconsin's premier opera companies mount two of his greatest works.

Madison Opera leads the way, closing its 2012-13 season with a production of "Don Giovanni" on April 26 and April 28. Next month, Milwaukee's Florentine Opera ends its season with May 10 and May 12 performances of "The Marriage of Figaro," the opera Mozart wrote immediately prior to "Don Giovanni."

The works show the composer in two different lights, according to Madison music writer Jacob Stockinger, author of the daily classical music blog "The Well-Tempered Ear." "Figaro" is lighter and the narrative more forgiving of its characters, while "Giovanni" has an undeniable darkness. Yet both works contain elements of the other, with music and emotions that run deeper than a first hearing might reveal.

"Figaro" was written in 1786, when Mozart was 30. The composer wrote "Giovanni" in 1787, four years before his death. The two operas share the same librettist, Lorenzo Da Ponte, who also supplied the libretto for Mozart's "Cosi fan tutti."

Do the two works mark an autobiographical progression in the composer's life? And if so, what do they tell us about him? Stockinger turned to Kathryn Smith, Madison Opera's general director, and William Florescu, Flo-

rentine Opera's general director, for answers to these and other questions.

**Jacob Stockinger:** "The Marriage of Figaro" and "Don Giovanni" share similarities, yet they represent very different sides of the composer. Is one opera superior to the other?

**William Florescu:** Well, of course, "Figaro" is superior! But, kidding aside, "Giovanni" feels more like it looks back to the Baroque era, whereas "Figaro" is more a look to the future. However, at the end of the day, they are both towering masterpieces that explore various facets of human existence through matchless music.

**Kathryn Smith:** Since I have frequently gone on record naming "Figaro" as my favorite opera, I can't now claim "Don Giovanni" is superior. However, there are people who think it is, and one or the other is always in any opera lover's top 10 list. I don't necessarily agree that "Giovanni" is a look back and "Figaro" a look forward – I think Mozart wrote music to suit the story – but I second the "towering masterpieces" statement.

**Listeners often are exposed to "music box Mozart" – that precise, delicate and memorable quality – without thinking about the artistry and depth of the greater works. How do the two operas expand the listeners' knowledge of Mozart as both an artist and a man?**

**WF:** Well put! Mozart is much meatier and richer than the music-box label allows. In "Giovanni," moments like Anna's "Non mi

dir" show a musical and dramatic depth that frankly have not been equaled. In "Figaro," the Count's final "Contessa perdono," where he begs for his wife's forgiveness, is both musically and dramatically poignant and ironic, since you know he'll be back at it the next day. These moments in Mozart are what make him immortal in my opinion.

**KS:** I've never heard the phrase "music box Mozart," and I don't particularly like it – even the piano pieces he wrote at age seven are more than that. But I would agree that his music in these two operas shows an emotional depth that those who only know his orchestral music may not know. The "Contessa perdono" moment is the definition of sublime.

**Based on what we know about Mozart, was he more like Figaro or Don Giovanni?**

**WF:** The knee-jerk answer here is Giovanni, though I would say in reality Figaro, because, like Figaro, he was always in the employ of those in power. Da Ponte the librettist, on the other hand, from what we read, was much more like Giovanni!

**KS:** I would say neither. The characters are so well written and three-dimensional, they reflect Mozart's character because they reflect parts of all of us.

**It's been said that "Figaro" and "Giovanni" were revolutionary and subversive in their time, each in its own way. Do you think this is true?**

**WF:** I suppose this is true musically. From a political standpoint, Mozart and Da Ponte

took much of the politics out of "Figaro." Dramatically, the pieces were subversive because in both cases nobles were shown in less-than-flattering light, and the character Figaro breaks the fourth wall and talks directly to the audience.

**KS:** I concur on "Figaro." The Pierre Beaumarchais play (on which the opera is based) is vastly more political than the opera, with some very specific speeches that Mozart and Da Ponte omitted. On the other hand, the play was banned in Vienna but the opera was not, so perhaps it was necessary editing to get even the minor points across.

**Mozart has been described as a "tipping point," after which classical music was never the same. Did he revolutionize music, and how is that represented in the two operas?**

**WF:** Like Bach, Mozart took the popular forms of the day and expanded them to their farthest point, which then opened the door to the Romantic era that followed. Mozart took the recitative form and made it orchestral at times throughout the score, which of course led to the concept of through-composed operas. From a dramatic standpoint, Mozart assured that the subject matter of operas in the future would be about real people rather than only the nobility, and that gods and goddesses as subject matter were pretty much a dead issue.

**KS:** I think Bill said it well, although I would add that Mozart was a working musician. Some of what he wrote, he wrote in order to get paid. That so much of his work is brilliant testifies to his genius, but he also composed to pay the bills.

**What is the most important aspect audiences will take away from your productions?**

**WF:** A simple answer here really – Mozart's humanity and his ability to express it musically and dramatically. This fits everything we've been talking about.

**KS:** Again, I agree. Mozart tells us more about who we are – the good and the bad – than any other composer has before or since. At the same time, the pieces are entertainment. If you don't want to spend the evening thinking deep thoughts – and sometimes we don't – then Mozart provides musical theater that one can simply enjoy.

**WF:** Mozart knew what classical composers in later times have sometimes forgotten – art and entertainment are not mutually exclusive.

## ON STAGE

Madison Opera ends its season with a production of Mozart's "Don Giovanni," on April 26 and 28, at Madison's Overture Center for the Arts. Go to [www.madisonopera.org](http://www.madisonopera.org).

The Florentine Opera ends its season with two performances of Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro" May 10 and May 12 in Uihlein Hall in Milwaukee's Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. Go to [www.florentineopera.org](http://www.florentineopera.org).

# This Tupperware party is not a drag

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Dixie Longate has two credos by which she lives: Never break character and never question the sanctity of re-sealable plastic food containers.

Both principles will be on display when "Dixie's Tupperware Party" takes the Vogel Hall stage in Milwaukee's Marcus Center for the Performing Arts for 16 performances.

This unique show truly is a Tupperware party. Audience members can purchase the plastic storage containers after the performance. It's also a drag show, featuring actor Kris Andersson in the title role.

It may be hard to see the man behind the big, fire engine-red 'do and the gauche collision of colors and patterns in his outfits, but that suits Andersson fine. When it comes to Tupperware, he is all Dixie all the time.

An evening centered around kiwi green and tangerine orange food containers – snap lids or none – may not be to everyone's taste. But Andersson – excuse me, Longate – stresses that while the products are central, they're secondary to the purpose of the performance.

"I mean it is a PARTY after all, so the focus for me is on having fun, getting raucous, and showing off the most creative food storage solutions for your home and office," says Andersson, in character as Longate. "I try to do that to the best of my ability and I definitely have a cocktail in my Tupperware sippy cup when I am doing it."

Before fully embracing his inner Dixie, Andersson appeared in such films as "Rapid Guy Movement," "The Gristle," "Subway Café" and as Zombie No. 5 in the television series "American Dreams." The Ohio native and out actor, who took on Tupperware parties on a dare in August 2001, soon found his emerging persona was becoming one of the company's top salespeople. In 2007, the show hit New York's Off-Broadway and was nominated for a Drama Desk award.

Andersson also was the 2010 Jubilee Star Search national winner after doing his Tupperware act sans persona on television. But these days, it's all about Dixie, for whom the actor has created a complete backstory, beginning with life in a Mobile, Ala., trailer park.

"Well, I got out of prison and my parole officer was the one who turned me on to the idea of Tupperware," Longate says. "I had a few parties and I was having so much fun drinking and partying with all these ladies, I thought 'This is the job for me!'"

Longate, a three-time divorcee, needed to have a job in order to regain custody of her three children – Wynonna, Dwayne and



PHOTO: COURTESY

**Kris Andersson as Miss Dixie Longate, one of the world's foremost Tupperware salespeople.**

Absorbine Jr.

"At first, I didn't want them, but the law makes you take 'em back," Longate says. "What a hassle."

In some ways, Dixie's Southern roots honor those of the product itself. Tupperware was developed in 1948 by Earl Silas Tupper, in Leominster, Mass. He even patented the famous "burping seal" that makes the product airtight. But it was saleswomen Brownie Wise who established the "party" approach in Orlando, Fla., in the early 1950s. The parties proved to be key to the product's success.

Today, Tupperware is sold in more than 100 countries worldwide. The company's website contains a link to "Dixie's Tupperware Party" and Kris Andersson, who truly is one of Tupperware's most successful salespeople.

"I have no idea how much Tupperware I have sold so far in my career, but I know it is well over \$1 million worth, which is amazing when you think about it," Longate says. "That is a LOT of bowl sets! Like more than 27."

If you attend Dixie's party, expect to receive a "Hi! My name is (blank)" sticker and a Tupperware catalogue on your seat. There are product demonstrations, giveaways and the chance to purchase the Tupperware of your dreams. And Dixie Longate is nothing if not dedicated to the product.

"Tupperware is the best crap on the planet," Longate enthuses. "It has been around for ages, lasts forever, and has a lifetime warranty. You buy it once, you never have to buy it again."

## ON STAGE

"Dixie's Tupperware Party" rolls into Vogel Hall at Milwaukee's Marcus Center for the Performing Arts on May 14. For more, visit [www.marcuscenter.org](http://www.marcuscenter.org).



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# Dis\*it Out!

## The great potato chip debate



By Michael and Jean Muckian

Contributing writers

Growing up in Milwaukee, we evaluated local brands of potato chips for their crispness, saltiness and other intrinsic characteristics. Admittedly, our judgments were guided by personal taste.

When in the mood for light crispiness, we'd go for the Geiser's chips, which were wafer-thin and heavy on the salt. When we needed something with more heft, we chose Mrs. Howe's, which was perhaps a millimeter thicker than Geiser's, a tad less salty and, in the years before the thick-cut, kettle-cooked varieties, the most satisfying chips for the money. (We think it was the fat content.)

The potato chip was first introduced, it's said, in 1853 at Moon's Lake House Resort in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. Chef George Crum

created the thin, deep-fried chip in sarcastic response to a customer who complained that his fried potatoes were too thick and greasy.

In 1895, potato chips arrived at dry goods stores in Cleveland, Ohio, where customers bought them by the pound. But bulk chips soon lost their crispness. It wasn't until 1926 that Laura Scudder, who owned a potato-chip company in Monterey Park, Calif., introduced the waxed paper bag and chip distribution began on a mass scale.

Potato-chip makers started showing up in Milwaukee business directories in 1924. Red Dot Foods, founded in Madison in 1938, made the popular Red Dot Potato Chips featuring the mascot Ta-To the Clown. That same year, a company called H.W. Lay's was established in Atlanta and, by 1961, Lay's had purchased Red Dot. The company went on to become the snack foods powerhouse we know today.

Why is this important? Because Frito-Lay has ignited a great potato chip debate on a national scale. Consumers are invited to try three new Lay's flavored chip brands and vote on which one will survive. Titled "Do Me a Flavor," the contest will award a quarter of a million dollars to the creator of the winning chip.

Lay's solicited suggestions for new flavors between July and October of 2012, and received 3.8 million submissions, from which three finalists were chosen.

As food writers, we felt it our duty to weigh in on the proceedings. (No, don't thank us.) Late one evening, with appropriate beverage in hand, we sampled the three finalists: Cheesy Garlic Bread, Sriracha and Chicken & Waffles. Here's our report:



PHOTO: COURTESY FRITO-LAY

Eva Longoria shows off the three finalists from "Do Me a Flavor."

**Cheesy Garlic Bread:** This suggestion was submitted by Karen Weber-Mendham of Land O' Lakes, Wis. Like the other two flavors, this one lists ingredients, including a complete list of "cheesy garlic bread seasonings" that's too long to reproduce for anyone but a food chemist. The chip delivers well on the cheese and salt flavors (something that chip manufacturers mastered long ago), but leans into the garlic profile a little too aggressively. The fragrant bulb's essence, derived from garlic powder, knocks the chips' flavor profile out of balance – and not in a positive way.

**Sriracha:** This chip draws its flavor from a hot sauce native to the coastal city of Si Racha in eastern Thailand's Chonburi Province. The sauce, a paste of chili peppers, vinegar, garlic, sugar and salt, is used extensively in Southeast Asian cooking and comes in at half the Scoville units – the measure used to rank the hotness of chile peppers – as the more familiar jalapeno peppers. These chips arrive with a smoky-peppery flavor that is distinct but not difficult to handle, with a hot-pepper snap at the back of throat upon swallowing. We liked this one.

**Chicken & Waffles:** Certainly the most

unusual of the three flavors, the combination of chicken served with waffles has a dual history. In soul food cooking, fried chicken is served with traditionally prepared waffles. There's also a Pennsylvania Dutch version in which stewed chicken meat is served atop a plain waffle, with the whole thing covered in gravy. We think the chip favors the former flavor approach, arriving with slight maple overtones on the palate. But the flavor then lapses into a neutrality that's neither sweet nor savory, leaving behind an unremarkable taste that didn't say chicken to us, despite the listing of "chicken flavoring" far down among the ingredients.

How did we vote? We agreed that Sriracha showed the most promise, but we were split on Cheesy Garlic Bread and Chicken & Waffles taking second. If only one flavor survives – and only one should – it's Sriracha.

### VOTE

There is still time to vote for the flavor of your choice in the great potato chip debate. Log on to [www.facebook.com/lays](http://www.facebook.com/lays) to let your taste buds be heard. The polls close May 4.

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# John McGivern visits 'Our Town'

Theater

GREGG SHAPIRO

Known for his folksy solo shows, many of them about life in Wisconsin, John McGivern is beloved for his ability to make audiences laugh and cry – sometimes simultaneously. A veteran character actor who's worked in multiple media, McGivern will be seen next in the role of Stage Manager in UW-Whitewater Theatre/Dance Department's production of Thornton Wilder's "Our Town." The production, which coincides with the classic play's 75th anniversary, is also part of Southeastern Wisconsin's fifth Big Read project. Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest, the Big Read encourages communities to read and discuss great books and writers.

I spoke with McGivern about his town (Milwaukee) and about "Our Town."

**Gregg Shapiro: As an actor who often performs original material, what do you like best about performing "Our Town"?**

John McGivern: I love the fact that the words are in a script. They come to me, and they say, "Here, memorize this, and you now get a chance to work with people." Because, as you know, I do a lot of solo work.

**Is it daunting or stimulating**



PHOTO: EMILY WEBB

**John McGivern, Adam O'Neil and Alycia Ruge in rehearsal for UW-Whitewater's production of "Our Town."**

**to perform a piece that's so well known?**

It's a little daunting. I think (audiences) all have a kind of perceived notion as to how it should be done. So it's a matter of trying to meet everybody's expectations. I kind of get stuck in all that.

**What do you think "Our Town" has to say to 21st century audiences?**

I think it says the same thing that it did 75 years ago, which is that we need to take a moment to look around and appreciate the simple things that happen to us every day. Whether that's sitting down to supper with our families or any of the other simple things in life. I think that the themes and thread that run through (the play) from 75 years ago are incredibly relevant and really important – even more so today.

**What do you bring to the narra-**

**tor role?**

I bring some age, and I bring life experiences that give me a better understanding of what the themes are. Doing this in a university, doing it with students, I think the themes are a little old for 20-year-olds. I think I bring the right amount of age to make these themes important to an audience.

**Is there any personal significance for you that, like you, Pulitzer Prize-winner Thornton Wilder was a Wisconsin native?**

I love the fact that he's a Madison guy! He places this in New Hampshire, when in fact it's got such Midwestern sensibilities. It feels really familiar to me.

**Maybe Wilder's generation thought New England was more settled and stable.**

Right, older – a place that had more history than the Midwest (laughs).

**What about the fact that Wilder was also gay and was involved with writer Samuel Steward? Does that have any significance for you?**

It doesn't. The director and I did talk about the fact that he was gay. But I had no idea about his relationships and what kind of life he lived. A gay man writing these themes that are so universal to humanity, speaks to what's important today, that we are all much more similar than we aren't.

**As an actor living and working in Wisconsin, what would you say to a young actor starting out now, who might be thinking of moving to New York?**

It's great that I'm working in Whitewater, because if you know the Milwaukee theater market right now, look at all these young actors in Milwaukee. The ones that are working most are these actors who graduated out of this program in Whitewater. We call them the Whitewater Mafia. It's all these

early- to mid-20s actors who are getting all of the roles in every theater in town. It's these kids who studied with Angela Iannone, who's a great actress in town and teaches (in Whitewater). I love these actors who are like, "I'm going to go to L.A." I hope they're not presuming to do theater, because L.A. isn't the place. If you want to do TV and film and you believe you're specific enough for that, then go. There's work in Milwaukee, and there's a lot of work in Chicago. You could stay close to home and make a living as a theater performer.

**And not have to share a studio apartment with five people.**

Exactly (laughs)! And a bathroom with the whole floor (laughs).

**In addition to being seen on stage as an actor and comedian, you also have an MPTV show called "Around The Corner," and you are a regular on the radio. Is there anything you haven't done yet that you want to do in your career?**

No. My real wish and hope is that I continue doing (what I do). I want to keep this TV show, which plays on all the PBS stations in the state of Wisconsin. We're looking into playing in Illinois and Minnesota right now. I hope that TV show continues for the next 10 years. I'd like to continue doing my solo work. I'm in the middle of writing a brand-new piece and working with a director named Ed Morgan. I just hope to continue and stay as close to home as I can.

## ON STAGE

UW-Whitewater's Theatre/Dance Department presents Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" at 2 p.m. on April 21, and 7:30 p.m. on April 22. For more information, go to [www.uww.edu/youngauditorium/season/1213ourtown](http://www.uww.edu/youngauditorium/season/1213ourtown).

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# Awakening Shorewood audiences about youth issues

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

The Milwaukee suburb of Shorewood is known as an exceptionally well-educated and progressive community, and next month Shorewood High School will test the limits of the area's progressive values when it stages "Spring Awakening."

The Broadway hit, based on German expressionist Franz Wedekind's 1891 play of the same name, deals with themes that are well outside the usual secondary school repertoire, including homosexuality, teen pregnancy, masturbation, child abuse, rape, abortion and suicide. The majority of the play's characters, however, are high-school-aged, and its mature themes are all too familiar to SHS students, says drama teacher Joe D. King.

"'Spring Awakening' deals with critical social issues," says King, who taught high school drama for 17 years in Indiana before moving to Milwaukee last August. "It isn't easy to talk about this stuff with teenagers, but the theatrical medium might be a springboard to having those difficult discussions."

The discussions began March 21, after the play was announced, when SHS hosted an open forum on the production for the school and local community. More than 150 students, parents and community members attended the forum, which was designed to introduce the play and answer questions about its content.

"The forum was so over-

whelmingly positive," says King. "Not one person spoke against the production the entire night. Not one."

Representatives also attended from various social service groups, including Alliance School, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, Pathfinders, Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin and Samaritan Family Well-

ness. these issues in an open, safe environment with peers or adults they trust."

King concurs, citing results of a recent student survey that will raise the eyebrows of students and parents alike. According to the drama teacher, 25 percent of SHS students have had sexual intercourse,

King says.

The open forum, which included small group discussions, generated some of the best responses, he says.

"At the end of the night, one mother rose and asked if we could have more difficult roundtable

discussions with our kids in the future," King said. "If there were dissenters at the meeting, and I am sure that there were, not one spoke against the production."

One woman did email King to say the police would show up at the production and arrest the staff on pornog-

raphy charges, but that's not likely to happen. Unlike the Broadway production, there will be no nudity in the SHS version, and scenes involving sex and masturbation will be presented, including those affecting LGBT youth, Hanley says.

"Obviously, the homosexuality theme in any production is important to the LGBT community. It's their story, or a story they likely relate to," he says. "But (the play's) focus on homosexuality in youth is poignant, because it is a subject rarely approached in theatrical productions."

"Spring Awakening" is a play about the ramifications,

**SPRING AWAKENING**  
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IMAGE CREDIT: PERFORMINGARTS.UFL.EDU

The outside organizations, whose representatives participated in the discussion, offered added dimensions to many of the topics covered by the play.

SHS gets high marks not only for inviting the groups, but also for staging the musical, says Tom Hanley, director of programs and operations for the LGBT center. A former principal of Golda Meir School, Hanley attended the discussion with the center's youth program coordinator Marquond Davis.

"Many young people are living through experiences that are too 'mature' for them," Hanley says. "Viewing, reacting to, and discussing realistic and relevant youth theater can provide students with opportunities to express their concerns and questions regarding

but only 20 percent of that number used protection during their last encounter; 30 percent of SHS students feel they don't belong at school; 35 percent report that they have no adults in the school that they can talk with about problems; and 7 percent identify as LGBT or questioning.

Alarming, 21 percent of SHS students have felt so sad or hopeless that they stopped doing usual activities, and 10 percent have made suicide plans. "Spring Awakening" may lead to conversations addressing these topics, King says.

The majority of adults who attended the forum, as well as those King has heard from since, strongly support the upcoming production.

"I've received lots of positive emails, handshakes and words of encouragement,"

## ON STAGE

Shorewood High School's production of "Spring Awakening" plays at 7 p.m. on May 10, 11, 12, 16 and 17 in the school's auditorium, 1701 E. Capitol Drive. Tickets are \$10 and available at the SHS box office. For more information, call 414-963-6940 or visit [www.shorewood-drama.org](http://www.shorewood-drama.org).

not the glorification, of its controversial themes. If theater is about life, then these are aspects of life that need to be discussed among generations, King says.

"Parents aren't so naive as to think that their kids aren't dealing with or engaging in sexual activity or thoughts – but usually out-of-sight, out-of-mind thinking prevails," he says. "This musical clearly points out the perils of parents being disassociated from their teenagers' struggles."



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# From mountain top to desert floor, three easy ways to enjoy Palm Springs

By Anne Siegel

Contributing writer

With spring so late in arriving this year, winter-weary Wisconsin residents can't be blamed for dreaming of a warm-weather getaway.

What better place than Palm Springs, Calif.? There's still a hip, Rat-Pack vibe to this celebrity-packed small town, located about 100 miles east of Los Angeles. While the original Rat Pack is long gone, the homes remain where Frank Sinatra, Bob Hope, Liberace and Elvis transformed Palm Springs into a swinging retreat.

And speaking of Liberace, Palm Springs has established itself as one of the most LGBT-friendly towns in America. In the past five years, there has been an explosion of gay businesses and gay residents, according to the Gay Palm Springs website. It estimates that gays comprise 40 percent of the year-round population.

Better yet, there are still plenty of nice days ahead before the scorching heat of desert summer arrives. April and May, while considered slightly "off-peak" months, feature bargain rates for lodging, airfare and rental cars.

Although there's nothing better than sitting back, soaking up the sun and gazing at the

towering palm trees, Palm Springs also offers plenty to do – not all of it involving golf or swimming.

## TOURING THE SAN ANDREAS FAULT

A number of tour companies will let you explore the area's desert wilderness from a Jeep or a Hummer. Desert Adventures can accommodate six to eight riders in its trademark open-air red Jeeps and more in its air-conditioned tour buses. The half-day trips take visitors to Indian Canyons, Joshua Tree National Park and other off-road attractions.

On my recent Jeep tour, Phil La Greca proved to be an incredibly entertaining, accommodating and informative guide. He told us that employees must pass a course in the area's history, culture and flora/fauna before becoming guides. Like many of the area's guides, Phil is supposedly "retired." But his energetic appeal is contagious, and his bright red Jeep tore along the bumpy back roads toward the San Andreas Fault. (This area proved its reputation as an "active earthquake zone" by producing a 4.7 quake the very next day.)

I doubt such an event would have caused fearless Phil to raise an eyebrow. Tanned, fit

and gregarious, he kept the group hopping on and off the Jeep as he explained the surprising attractions. One native bush he showed us served as a "grocery store" to the native Cahuilla Indians, he explained, while another he pointed out was considered the tribe's "drugstore." How amazing that such scrubby, ugly plants could provide so much sustenance to the first humans who lived here.

Desert Adventure Tours are available in the early morning, the afternoon and sometimes the evening. A 3- to 4-hour tour costs about \$150 and includes water and granola bars. It's an unforgettable ride. For more information, go to red-jeep.com.

## DOWNHILL BIKE TOURS

A 20-mile bike ride in the blazing sun might not sound appealing. But with Big Wheel Tours, the ride goes in only one direction – downhill. More properly called the "Earthquake Canyon Express," the tour transports riders, bicycles, helmets and water to the top of a cliff in the San Andreas Fault zone. The ride is all on paved road that sees very little traffic.

Somewhat disappointingly, the downhill glide is very gentle. There are no steep

drops and no sensation of careening down a mountainside cliff. That's probably a plus for the company's insurance liability. On the day of my ride, a stiff headwind required me to expend quite a bit of effort to keep my bike gliding.

The tour winds through several distinct areas of high- and low-elevation vegetation. At first, sections of steep, slanted rocks reflect the sliding of massive tectonic plates through the area. The effect is starkly dramatic. Eventually more open territory appears, with mountains in the distance. Near the end, riders are greeted by an overwhelming citrus scent at the valley floor. Rows and rows of trees and plants produce lemons, oranges, cauliflower, softball-size avocados and the area's renowned dates. Almost every date consumed in the U.S. begins here, in the desert's Coachella Valley.


"Bill," the guide for our group, is another active retiree. Lean and fit, Bill is a former professional bicycle racer who competed in 200-mile rides when he was a teenager. He still looks as though he could outride us all. He followed patiently behind our group in a van, equipped with spare chains and other

PALM SPRINGS next page

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**Top, taking in the view from the top of the mountain. Above, enjoying the famous Palm Springs sun during Dinah Shore Weekend, one of the nation's most popular lesbian events.**

**PALM SPRINGS** from prior page

bicycle parts. Most of his work during my trip involved swapping empty water bottles for full ones. The combination of fresh air, sun and exercise made for an exhilarating experience.

Big Wheel Tours offers a number of different bike tours, including off-road mountain bike tours. The "Earthquake Canyon" tour is \$95; prices for other tours vary. For more information, go to [bwbtours.com](http://bwbtours.com).

**MOUNTAIN CLIMBING**

The most comfortable and effortless way to scale the sheer cliffs of Chino Canyon is a ride on the Aerial Tramway. In about 10 minutes, the rotating tramcar (yes, it actually rotates slowly while in motion) ascends to San Jacinto State Park.

Two trams are in motion simultaneously – one beginning at the bottom, the other at the top. The ride is amazingly smooth, and the view at the top is well worth the trip. Outlooks provide breathtaking views of the

valley below, as do the large windows from the appropriately named Peak Restaurant, a full-service eatery at 8,500 feet. There's also a more casual lounge area and a cafeteria line for families with squirmy kids. Bring a parka and boots – it's not unusual for temperatures on the mountaintop to be 50 degrees cooler than in the valley.

A visit to Palm Springs almost isn't complete without a trip on the tram. For Wisconsin visitors, the best part is playing in the snow atop the mountain, and then waving goodbye to it while descending. Daytime visits offer plenty to do. Cross-country skis and snowshoes are available for rent.

Sunset at the top of the tram is magical. On clear nights, the lights of Palm Springs glitter below from their glamorous desert oasis.

The Palm Springs Aerial Tramway operates year-round (except for routine maintenance in August and September). Tickets are about \$24. For more information, go to [pstramway.com](http://pstramway.com).

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TOP: Anton Bruehl, *Harlem Number*, 1943 (detail). Anton Bruehl, Jr. Anton Bruehl Trust. Photo by John R. Glembin.  
BOTTOM: Russell Lee, *Faro and Doris Caudill, homesteaders, Pie Town, New Mexico*, October 1940 (detail). Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, FSA-OWI Collection, LC-USF35-317.

# EARTH DAY

## ACROSS

- 1. It's a wrap
- 6. \*A call to being green, acr.
- 9. Fog effect
- 13. Solo
- 14. Mother, sister or daughter
- 15. "\_\_\_\_\_ truly"
- 16. Teacher's pet, e.g.
- 17. Radio knob
- 18. Consume
- 19. Bungle
- 21. \*Biology branch
- 23. Long time
- 24. Niels Bohr's study object
- 25. Cleopatra's killer?
- 28. Christening acquisition
- 30. On which Romney and Obama were found

- 35. It must go on?
- 37. \*Like animal near extinction
- 39. Marilyn Munster to Herman Munster, e.g.
- 40. Delhi dress
- 41. Sends by posts
- 43. Imitator
- 44. Are not
- 46. Mosquito net fabric
- 47. End of the line
- 48. Noontime
- 50. Give certain impression
- 52. DNA transmitter
- 53. Boll weevil, e.g.
- 55. Car display

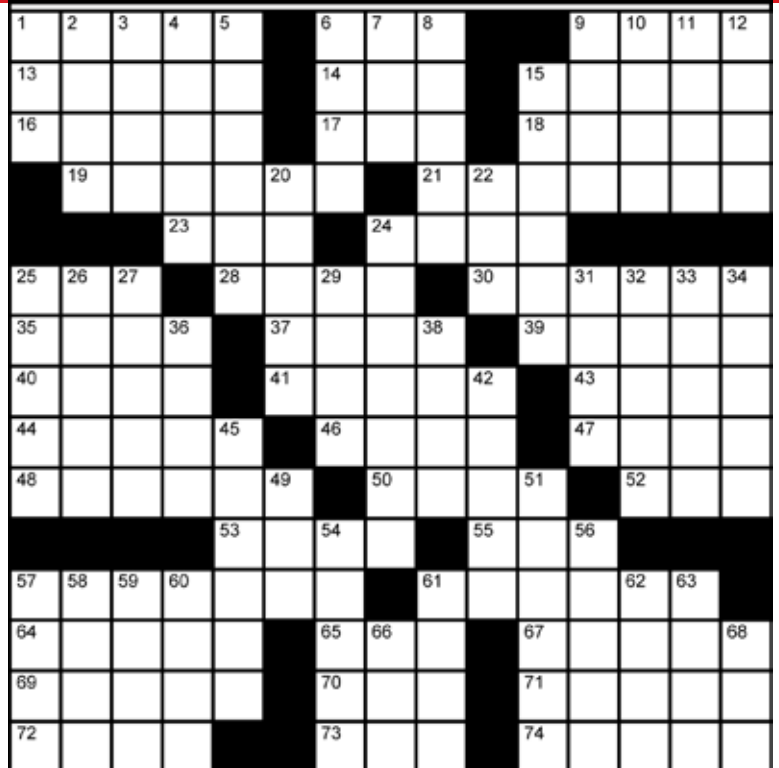
- 57. \*Garden helper
- 61. Iron Man's robotic nemesis
- 64. French farewell
- 65. Galley tool
- 67. Vociferously praises
- 69. Choral composition with sacred lyrics
- 70. Fix a game
- 71. He lives on Sesame Street
- 72. \*You do it to your garden's soil before planting
- 73. "... \_\_\_\_\_ he drove out of sight"
- 74. Homes are often tested for this

## DOWN

- 1. Maple syrup precursor
- 2. Reunion attendee
- 3. Lariat, e.g.
- 4. Used in some liquors
- 5. \*Earth Day founder
- 6. Please get back to me
- 7. 17th letter of Greek alphabet
- 8. Rent again
- 9. Delivered by a mare
- 10. \*Its emissions are regulated
- 11. Pharma product
- 12. Grammy of sports
- 15. Tower of London guard

- 20. Render harmless
- 22. \*Corn holder, often left behind to protect soil quality
- 24. Most aerial
- 25. Indian state
- 26. Harry Belafonte's daughter
- 27. Focused or riveted
- 29. "Yes, \_\_\_\_\_"
- 31. One who fabricates
- 32. \_\_\_\_\_ colony, middle ages
- 33. \*An earthly body
- 34. \*Earth to ancient Romans
- 36. \*Prop pusher
- 38. Do it "or \_\_\_\_\_!"
- 42. Beach souvenir
- 45. To give up or bow out
- 49. Up and down nod
- 51. \*\_\_\_\_\_ earth
- 54. Mercantile establishment
- 56. Kate Middleton's head gear
- 57. Barack's David
- 58. One wafting
- 59. Possible indoor allergy cause
- 60. Voyeur's glance
- 61. Impulse
- 62. "\_\_\_\_\_ your manners"
- 63. Assortment
- 66. \*Clean \_\_\_\_\_ Act
- 68. Congressional title

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DJ Grind



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