

Wisconsin Gazette **com**

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PRIDEFEST

2013

Full festival schedule
and musical
previews.

page 30

THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY



Eye on Pride

*The first of three special issues
celebrating LGBT Pride Month*



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News with a twist

WIGWAG

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg



PHOTO: KRAFT

Zesty Italian?

SHIRTLESS MALE PITCHERS

According to USA Today, good-looking shirtless dudes are the new “big thing” in advertising. A number of new TV commercials are focusing on the male rather than the female body – for a change. Examples include a Diet Dr. Pepper ad featuring hunk Josh Button and a ripped, naked male chef in a video advertising Kraft Zesty Italian Dressing. The heterosexual analyst quoted by USA Today said the sexy men are designed to appeal to women, who do most of the household purchasing.

PEACE OUT

What can your country do for you? Work toward equality. What can you do for your country? Volunteer. On June 3, the Peace Corps,

which has been placing heterosexual married couples in volunteer posts since 1961, begins accepting applications from same-sex couples seeking to serve together. What would JFK say?

UMA AS ANITA

Actress Uma Thurman will star as Anita Bryant in “Anita,” a bio-pic about the first lady of anti-gay activism, who lost her job as a Florida citrus spokeswoman in the 1970s due to her homophobia. Directors Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman also worked together on a movie about Linda Lovelace, the first lady of pornography who later denounced her film career and became a spokeswoman for the anti-porn movement.

BYE-BYE BACHMANN, OR NOT

U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann says she’s not running again for Congress. In a rambling 8:39-minute video on her website, the notoriously anti-gay Republican says she’s not quitting Congress because she can’t win in 2014, even though she won by only 4,300 votes in 2012. And she says she’s not quitting Congress because her gaffe-prone 2012 presidential campaign is under investigation for campaign finance violations. So why leave? In



her message to “my good friends,”

Bachmann says if eight years is long enough in the White House, then eight years is long enough for her to be in Congress. Got it?

VIRGINITY – THE SERIES

Perhaps it was inevitable: a reality TV series about women and men losing their virginity. Australian filmmaker Justin Sisely began the project as a documentary film titled “Virgins Wanted,” in which a man and a woman auctioned off first rights to their privates. But now Sisely is promoting the concept as a series and has signed a contract with an undisclosed “leading global multinational distributor of television content,” according to The Huffington Post.

SATAN MADE THEM DO IT

A candidate who campaigned for mayor in North Miami, Fla., claiming she had an endorsement from Jesus Christ, failed to make the runoff in the May 14 election. Anna Pierre, who came to the United States from Haiti in 1981 and has devoted much of her life to working for the poor, concluded that Satan had something to do with her loss.

DUMBING DOWN

A new study found that Westerners have lost 14 IQ points on average since the Victorian Era. Study co-author Dr. Jan te Nijhuis, professor of work and organizational psychology at the University of Amsterdam, blames this on the fact that bright women tend to have fewer children these days.

MAKING LITTLE THINGS COUNT

King’s County Bar in Brooklyn, N.Y., is holding what it claims is the first-ever “smallest penis contest” on July 20. The bar put out a call for “less endowed men” on Craigslist to prove that “good things can come in small packages.” The contest will be “pageant style” and have talent, eveningwear and swimsuit competitions.

NOT LIVING IN BARBIE WORLD

Feminist protesters disrupted the opening of the Barbie “Dreamhouse Experience” in Berlin, saying that it objectified women. The giant pink dollhouse made by Mattel Inc. allows paying visitors to try on Barbie’s clothes, play in her kitchen and play her pink piano. On opening day, a topless protester with the group Femen set fire to a Barbie doll tied to a crucifix. Scrawled across her chest with a Sharpie was the slogan “Life in plastic is not fantastic.” A male protester in a wig, pink shirt and shimmering skirt held a poster reading: “Do you like me now?”

SNEAKY NUTS

Western Australia Minister for Education Peter Collier says he clicked “like”

for a photograph on Facebook but didn’t look closely enough, because he didn’t see that the teenage boy in the photo was exposing himself. This type of social media prank is so common Under that it actually has a name – “sneaky nuts.”

PEEPING ‘ARTIST’

From his second-floor apartment, photographer Arne Svenson pointed his camera across the street at the Tribeca, a luxury apartment building in New York, and secretly took candid photographs of people through their apartment windows. He is calling the results “art.” And so is the Julie Saul Gallery in Chelsea, where some of the photos are priced as high as \$7,500. But the New York Post says residents of the Tribeca are thinking of suing.



PHOTO: COURTESY

ON THE SURFACE

Iconic graffiti artist Keith Haring’s work has been placed on condom packages, subway tunnels, restroom stalls and museum halls. Now Blik, maker of self-adhesive surface graphics, has turned Haring’s work into coffee table art. Blik’s new Surface Skins feature designs by the renowned 1980s street artist who was an activist for gay civil rights and HIV/AIDS prevention.

The skins – easy to apply and easy to remove – bring art off the walls and onto cabinets, tabletops and other surfaces.

They come in three diameters – 30-inch, 36-inch and 42-inch. And they come in six designs. Haring, who died in 1990 of AIDS-related complications, didn’t title the designs, but they are known as “Twisting Man,” “Dancers,” “Rainbow Dancers,” “Radiant Baby,” “Flying Cock” and “Dancing Dog.”

“We love the fact that the Haring tabletop graphics were originally designed for other circular products like buttons, watches, CDs and a painting,” said proud Blik co-founder Scott Flora.

On the Web... www.whatisblik.com.

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Thousands protest marriage equality in Paris



An anti-gay-marriage demonstrator lifts a flare during a protest in Paris, France, May 26. Thousands of people have protested in central Paris against France's new same-sex marriage law.

PHOTO: LAURENT CIPRIANI/AP

By The Associated Press

On May 26, tens of thousands of people protested against France's new same-sex marriage law in central Paris, where police clashed with violent right-wing demonstrators.

French President Francois Hollande signed a marriage equality bill into law on May 18, a day after France's Constitutional Council ruled the measure was constitutional. The ruling turned back a challenge from conservative opponents of the legislation and the president's Socialist party.

But despite the court's ruling, organizers decided to go ahead with a long-planned demonstration on May 26 to show their continued opposition as well as their frustration with Hollande, who had made legalizing same-sex marriage one of his keynote campaign pledges in last year's election.

Marchers set off from three separate points across Paris, and by early evening they filled the Invalides esplanade just across the Seine River from the Champs Elysees.

As night fell, several hundred protesters clashed with police, throwing bottles and chasing journalists.

Interior Minister Manuel Valls said police arrested around 100 far-right protesters who refused to leave following the end of the demonstration.

Police estimated around 150,000 people took part in the demonstration in Paris, but march organizers claimed on their Twitter account that more than a million people did.

A March protest drew 300,000.

LGBT civil rights advocates said there was a rise in violent attacks against gays on Paris streets during the debate over marriage equality in the nation's parliament. One fervent anti-gay activist killed himself in Notre Dame Cathedral on May 21 to protest marriage equality.

Meanwhile, in southern France, the 66th Cannes Film Festival gave the Palm d'Or, its top honor, to "Blue is the Warmest Color: The Life of Adele," a French film about a tender, sensual lesbian romance.

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Anti-violence efforts ramp up amid spate of hate attacks against gays in Manhattan

The New York City Anti-Violence Project has launched Friday Safety Night and Community Wellness/Speak Out events following a spate of hate-fueled attacks on gay men in New York, including a killing in the heart of one of its most gay-friendly neighborhoods.

The attacks stirred up anxiety, disbelief and outrage heading into gay Pride Month.

The latest victim as of press time was an LGBT activist and member of

the group Queer Rising. A group of as many as 10 men attacked Eugene Lovendusky on May 24 in Hell's Kitchen, shouting anti-gay slurs and punching Lovendusky in the jaw.

Lovendusky spoke at the vigil for Mark Carson, who was shot in the face at point-blank range in Greenwich Village after being heckled with anti-gay taunts.

New York officials said that police would increase their presence in the Village

and nearby neighborhoods through the end of June.

The Anti-Violence Project planned to fan out to various areas on Friday nights through June to talk to people about safety. Public schools are being asked to hold assemblies or other discussions of hate crimes and bullying before summer break.

City officials, gay-rights advocates and others marched to the shooting scene in late May to

denounce a rise in hate crime reports in a city that generally sees itself as a capital of diversity and tolerance.

"I don't know why it feels like we have taken a step backward, but that is the case, and what we're going to do with that is push forward," said City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, the first openly gay person to hold the post.

Officials and advocates can't pinpoint a reason for the recent rash of attacks,

or even whether it reflects more violence or more reporting of it.

In announcing plans for additional police attention, Quinn said that anti-gay crime "got to a level of violence I thought was behind us."

The city and especially the Village have long been seen as beacons for gay people. The gay rights movement crystallized in the Village in June 1969, when a police raid at the Stonewall Inn touched off a riot and demonstrations that came to symbolize gays' resistance to being relegated to society's shadows.

Yet gay-bashing has continued to flare up in New York at times in recent years. In one particularly sinister case, three men connected with a 28-year-old man online in 2006, lured him to a rest stop off a Brooklyn highway with a promise of a date and mugged him, chasing him into traffic; he was hit and killed.

In 2010, authorities said Bronx gang members beat and tortured four people in an anti-gay rage. Two men were accused of a gay-bashing beating at the Stonewall Inn and a man spewed homophobic insults while throwing a punch at another Village bar — all assaults that happened within little more than a week.

Police say there has been a rise in bias-related crimes overall so far this year, to 22 from 13 during the same period last year. The AVP, a nonprofit group that tracks police and other reports of hate attacks against LGBT people, says the number of attacks rose 13 percent in 2011 and 11 percent the previous year. The 2012 figures were not yet available.

Advocates see the incidents in the context of a culture that has grown more accepting of gays in some ways — 12 states have now legalized gay marriage — but doesn't universally ban dis-

crimination based on sexual orientation; some jurisdictions do, but others don't.

"We have to ground this in the fact that, first, LGBT people still are without full equality in this country," said Sharon Stapel, the Anti-Violence Project's executive director.

Carson, 32, was followed and taunted before being shot in the face on a street blocks from the Stonewall Inn on May 18, police said. Carson had been walking with a companion. Suspect Elliot Morales was being held without bail on charges in Carson's death.

The shooting came after other attacks fueled by anti-gay animus in recent weeks, authorities say. Those include a report last month of a man making anti-gay remarks and attacking a woman with a ketchup bottle at a Village diner; a man told police he and a friend were victims of a gay bashing outside a subway station in Midtown Manhattan this month; and two men walking arm-in-arm near Madison Square Garden report being jumped by a group of men on May 5, police said.

"This happened in Midtown, during the day, with a ton of people around," one of the victims, Nick Porto, wrote in a Facebook posting. "When are we safe?"

It's a question the Anti-Violence Project hopes to help answer by sending staffers and volunteers out to various neighborhoods on Friday nights, starting this week, to engage gay people and others in conversation. The message: Stay safe, but also stay proud.

"We want to give people tools that can de-escalate situations but also say, 'You need to be yourself,'" Stapel said. "We're not telling people, 'Take your rainbow sticker off.'"

—AP and staff reports

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Illinois awaits marriage equality vote

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Illinois lawmakers are famous for working into the final minutes of their sessions, and even going into overtime to wrap up their legislative business.

Still, as WiG went to press, LGBT activists were concerned about the clock running out on the marriage equality bill pending in the House.

The session officially ends on May 31 and, at press time, a House vote of at least 60 was still needed to send the bill to Gov. Patrick Quinn for a signature that would make Illinois the 13th state to legalize same-sex marriage. The proposed Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act already passed in the state Senate.

The measure would allow for same-sex couples to marry in Illinois and also provide protections for religious institutions not want-

ing to recognize or celebrate such marriages.

Unless the House agrees to an extension, the vote must occur by the end of the session, according to Bernard Cherkasov of Equality Illinois, the state's largest LGBT civil rights group.

"It's time for the House to stand up and finish its work," he said. "Illinois should have marriage equality, and we share your frustration that it is not already the law of the Land of Lincoln."

Cherkasov said House Speaker Michael Madigan was working to build the 60-vote majority needed to pass the bill.

Meanwhile, the Illinois Unites coalition encouraged citizens who support the legislation to send messages to their representatives.

"In just a matter of days, we have seen

three more states – Minnesota, Delaware and Rhode Island – vote for equality and fairness for all their citizens," said openly gay state Rep. Greg Harris, a Democrat from Chicago who is sponsoring the bill in the House. "We have seen that embracing equality strengthens families, strengthens community and strengthens our nation."

Harris added, "We have seen the promise of equal treatment under the law play out with none of the supposed ill effects that our opponents fear. The direction of our country is clear, and the judgment of history will be even clearer. Now is the time for Illinois to act."

Others also pressed for action in Illinois, including Bill Clinton.

Through the national Freedom to Marry campaign, the former president stated, "Our nation's permanent mission is to form a 'more perfect union' – deepening the meaning of freedom, broadening the reach of opportunity, strengthening the bonds of community. That mission has inspired and empowered us to extend rights to people previously denied them. Every time we have done that, it has strengthened our nation. Now we should do it again, in Illinois, with marriage equality."



PHOTO: COURTESY

Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn has been waiting to sign a marriage equality bill since Valentine's Day.

For breaking news, go to www.wisconsin Gazette.com.

REGIONAL BRIEFS

ILLINOIS SENATE PASSES MEDICAL MARIJUANA BILL

The Illinois Senate has passed a bill to legalize medical marijuana. The measure already has passed the Illinois House and awaits the signature of Democratic Gov. Pat Quinn.

The Illinois law would allow for 60 retail establishments to sell medical marijuana to patients living with cancer, AIDS and other serious illnesses.

Advocates for the bill say they've heard Quinn make some positive comments about the legislation but he has not committed to signing the bill.

IN OTHER NEWS ...



PHOTO: AP

Chris Kluwe in his Viking purple and gold. He'll be wearing silver and black this fall.

• **NFL punter Chris Kluwe** has departed the Midwest for the Pacific Coast. The Minnesota Vikings released the punter – one of the most outspoken supporters of LGBT equality in pro sports – earlier this spring, but he quickly signed a one-year contract with the Oakland Raiders.

• **Minnesota LGBT activists** are organizing to protect legislators who voted for the state's marriage equality bill from primary attacks. The anti-gay National Organization for Marriage has pledged to spend \$500,000 to defeat Minnesota Republicans who voted for the measure. So, the Minnesotans United PAC is raising money for a fight.

– from WiG and AP reports

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 PRIDE
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Scouts vote: gay kids OK; gay adults, no way

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

The Boy Scouts of America, after a season of calculating, conversing and controversy, lifted its decades-old ban against gay youth but retained prohibitions against gay adults.

The nonprofit's national council cast the vote on May 23 in suburban Dallas, where the BSA is headquartered.

For some, the compromise felt like a win, the kind of victory that brings tears and cheers.

For others – both proponents and some opponents of the ban against gays – the compromise felt like defeat, the kind of loss that brings demonstrations and boycotts.

THE BAN AND THE BLOWBACK

The Boy Scouts of America – which has about 2.6 million members and thousands of leaders – has long banned gay scouts, gay volun-

teers and even gay staffers, despite employment non-discrimination laws covering sexual orientation in 31 states.

The organization clarified any question on the issue in 1991, when it issued a position statement saying, “We believe that homosexual conduct is inconsistent with the requirement in the Scout Oath that a Scout be morally straight and in the Scout Law that a Scout be clean in word and deed, and that homosexuals do not provide a desirable role model for Scouts.”

The BSA concluded, “A known or avowed homosexual is not an appropriate role model of the Scout Oath and Law.”

Additional policy statements were issued in the years after, including a statement in 2000 that read, “Boy Scouting makes no effort to discover the sexual orientation of any person.”

So regional councils and local troops through the years have

applied a “don’t ask, don’t tell” rule – gays were barred if they were out, ousted if they were found out.

Civil rights advocates pursued many challenges to the ban over the years, including a lawsuit that in 2000 reached the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled that the BSA, as a private organization with the right to freedom of association, can exclude gays.

Still, civil rights campaigns led some local governments, schools and philanthropic organizations with anti-discrimination policies to sever ties with the Scouts.

In the past year, the BSA has seen mass opposition to the ban. Much of the protest has taken place online, with petitions promoted by GLAAD and aimed at Scout leaders, but also at sponsors, partners and Scouting’s honorary president, Barack Obama, who has repeatedly said he didn’t support the ban.

In the past year – in a relatively short period considering the BSA’s

103-year history – Scouting officials have issued a strong affirmation of the ban, announced plans to review it, indicated local organizations could set their own rules on gays and then proposed and passed the new resolution.

“The change to the Boy Scouts of America’s membership policy is not the result of pressure from outside; it is the result of extensive dialogue within the Scouting family. Parents, adults in the Scouting community and teens alike tend to agree that youth should not be denied the benefits of Scouting. The resolution is not about adults; it is about what is best for young people,” stated BSA president Wayne Perry, in a May 23 op-ed for USA Today.

IRRATIONAL COMPROMISE

The BSA executive committee proposed the policy change in April, stating, “This proposal acknowledges changes in society while remain-

ing true to Scouting’s mission and is reflective of how our major religious chartered organizations operate. Our vision is to serve every eligible youth in America, and this policy would allow us to serve more kids.”

The Scouts said research throughout the spring, described as the most comprehensive listening exercise in BSA history, found:

- Attitudes toward lesbian and gay relationships have changed rapidly in three years.
- Younger parents and teens tend to oppose the current policy.
- Parents in three out of four BSA regions oppose the membership policy.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, a major sponsor of California’s Prop 8, issued a statement that the proposal was acceptable. But leaders in other conservative religious institutions and in right-wing politics objected. About

SCOUTS on next page



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Leonard Sobczak
WiG Publishing President/CEO

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SCOUTS from prior page
70 percent of Scouting units are chartered by religious institutions.

Meanwhile, many working in LGBT civil rights also objected.

Both sides questioned the irrationality in the policy, which implies that a gay individual can be involved in Scouting until his 18th birthday. Does that mean he suddenly becomes immoral and unclean?

As the 1,400 members of the BSA council began their work at a resort in Grapevine, Texas, on May 22, Scouts, parents, educators and activists arrived, many of them carrying petitions or holding signs, some of them in uniforms.

The reaction, after the vote of the national council was announced on May 23, was swift.

"Today's vote is a significant victory for gay youth across the nation and a clear indication that the Boy Scouts' ban on gay adult leaders will also inevitably end," said Rich Ferraro of GLAAD. "The Boy Scouts of America heard from religious leaders, corporate sponsors and so many Scouting families who want an end to discrimination against gay

people, and GLAAD will continue this work with those committed to equality in Scouting until gay parents and adults are able to participate."

At the Family Equality Council, which represents millions of LGBT families, Steve Majors said, "Every Boy Scout, on their honor, first pledges to do their best. This is a step in the right direction, but it's not the best the Boy Scouts can do. The Boy Scouts of America have sent a hurtful message to Scouts with LGBT parents that their moms and dads are not welcome as leaders alongside other parents. As a father of two girl scouts and the proud partner of an Eagle Scout, I know that Scouting has a long tradition of being a family activity and the Boy Scouts should be open to all our families."

Majors and others vowed to continue pressing the BSA.

"Our work isn't over until we honor the Scout Law by making this American institution open and affirming to all," said Zach Wahls, the executive director of Scouts for Equality and an Eagle Scout.

CALLING OUT SCOUTING SPONSORS

Gay Eagle Scout Will Oliver delivers petitions to the National Geographic Channel headquarters in response to the channel's partnership with the Boy Scouts of America.



PHOTO: GLAAD/GLAAD.ORG ON FLICKR

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calling ms. candidate

Emerge Wisconsin seeks to close gender gap in politics

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Emerge Wisconsin is training runners – female runners who will sprint to a seat on the school board, dash to city hall, finish the marathon to the Capitol.

EW is an affiliate of EmERGE America, which is dedicated to encouraging and preparing Democratic women to run for elected office and, in the course of that work, helping to close the gender gap in U.S. politics.

“We need all women’s voices, all women represented,” said Wendy Strout, executive director of EmERGE Wisconsin, which is headquartered in Madison but has a presence in Milwaukee and throughout the state. “We need you, and EmERGE Wisconsin wants to train you.”

On May 30, the Wisconsin group planned a celebration at the Milwaukee County War Memorial Center to honor U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin with its first Woman of the Year award. “She inspired so many of our women to run,” said Strout, who has been involved in Democratic politics since 1992. “They see Sen. Baldwin and say, ‘I’m going to step up.’”

Later this year, EW will hold a graduation for its class of 2013.

Then the cycle begins again: Enrolling women, training women, graduating women.

The cycle likely will be repeated year after year in Wisconsin and beyond, because encouraging women to run is a long-distance effort. Consider: At the current pace of change, it will take until 2085 for women to reach parity with men in leadership roles in government/politics, business, entrepreneurship and nonprofits, according to the Women’s Media Center, a nonprofit founded by Jane Fonda, Robin Morgan and Gloria Steinem.

PICKING UP THE PACE

“We can’t create change until people make time for and commit to championing women as leaders,” stated Jennifer Siebel Newsom, founder of MissRepresentation.org, the nonprofit behind a documentary exposing how media contributes to the under-representation of women in positions of power and influence in America. “Our political leadership should reflect the goals and aspirations of 100 percent of the population – not just a select few – and that’s what we’re working



PHOTO: AP/ANDY MANIS

Tammy Baldwin waves to supporters as she takes the stage on Nov. 6 to make her victory speech. EmERGE Wisconsin has honored Baldwin with its first Woman of the Year award.

to ensure.”

Last year, MissRepresentation.org partnered with the Rutgers Center for American Women and Politics, a research and education organization that also trains women to run for office, on “Elect Women 2012: Vote. Support. Run.” Organizers saw opportunity in the number of offices up for election in the United States, as well as open seats created by redistricting.

On Election Day in November 2012, a record number of women were elected to Congress.

However, in 2013, women, who are about 51 percent of the population, still hold only 18 percent of the seats in Congress. Women hold 78 of the 435 seats in the U.S. House and 20 of the 100 seats in the Senate.

Some other stats from the CAVWP:

- Seventy-five women hold statewide office in the U.S. – that’s about 23 percent of 320 offices.
- Of the 7,383 state legislators in the U.S., 1,781, or 24 percent, are women.
- The United States is 90th in the world in terms of women in national legislatures and is behind Mexico, China and Pakistan.

• The percentage of women in Congress has climbed from 3 percent in 1979 to 18 percent in 2013, but the percentage has stayed in the range of 16-18 percent since 2007. The most significant jump was 20 years ago, after the 1992 elections. Female candidates were inspired to run that year after watching the Senate confirmation hearings for conservative Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. In 1991, there were two women senators. In 1993, there were five. And the Senate Judiciary Committee has not been all-male since then.

• In Wisconsin, women hold 322 of the 1,455 city council seats, 308 of the 1,680 county board seats, 1,069 of the 2,827

school board seats. Also, 74 percent of town boards and 24 percent of village boards have no women representatives, according to www.emergewi.org.

The statistics are significant.

But assuming the numbers prove voters won’t elect women candidates or that women lack access to ballot positions would be a mistake, based on studies from think tanks on the left and right and in the political middle.

Studies show that when women run for office, they perform just as well as men. They can raise the money, get the votes and take the oaths of office.

NOT IN THE RACE

The “fundamental reason for women’s under-representation is that they do not run for office,” wrote the researchers in “Girls Just Wanna Not Run” from the School of Public Affairs at American University.

“For the last few decades, researchers have provided compelling evidence that when women run for office – regardless of the position they seek – they are just as likely as men to win their races,” said study authors Jennifer Lawless, a member of the EmERGE America advisory board, and Richard Fox. “The large gender disparities in U.S. political institutions, therefore, do not result from systematic discrimination against female candidates. Rather ... there is a substantial and persistent gender gap in political ambition.”

Women, according to the Lawless/Fox study, are more likely to perceive the electoral environment as biased against female candidates. The study shows that women also are twice as likely as men to think they are not qualified to run for office and to react more negatively to many aspects of modern campaigns.

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GENDER from prior page

The way that women candidates – Democrats and Republicans – are portrayed and treated by the media also leaves some women reluctant to run and leaves girls confused about politics.

“In mainstream news, you might read in a policy article an aside regarding what Hillary Clinton was wearing or how Sarah Palin is doing up her hair,” said media expert Kathy Frank. “You aren’t going to read in The Washington Post what John McCain is wearing unless it’s a dress. And in the left or right media circles, you will see it get more cruel than ‘Project Runway.’ You will see images and read copy that treats some of the most influential politicians in the country as sexual jokes.”

Organizations such as MissRepresentation.org and the Women’s Media Center are working to address this concern, while groups such as Emerge Wisconsin are working to increase the number of women seeking elected office. “Emerge gives women the confidence to run,” as well as the tools, Strout said.

IN TRAINING

Emerge Wisconsin conducts an intensive seven-month training for Democratic women. The national Emerge network also includes organizations in Arizona, California, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Mexico and Oregon.

In Wisconsin, the expertise in the program comes in large part from the group’s advisory board, which includes Baldwin, U.S. Rep. Gwen Moore, former Lt. Gov. Barbara

Lawton, former state Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager, former state Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster, former gubernatorial candidate Kathleen Falk, and others.

Support and advice also comes from Emerge Sisters – women who already have graduated from the program.

Emerge is seeing success. The program launched in the U.S. in 2002 and nationally has trained about 900 Democratic women. Forty-three percent of the graduates have run for office or been appointed to a post – and 60 percent of Emerge candidates have won.

Since 2007, Emerge Wisconsin has trained 126 women from throughout the state. In 2012, nearly 40 Emerge Wisconsin graduates ran for office.

Strout said this year’s class had two more sessions before graduation, when trainees receive a certificate and a pin. They emerge ready to run.

The students attend one training session a month for the seven months. Strout described a typical training – arrival on Friday night, dinner and a workshop, then regrouping on Saturday for a full day of workshops.

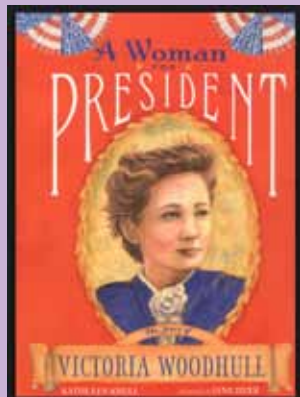
Admission involves filing an application and completing an interview. There’s tuition for the program, but Strout stressed there are scholarships. “Money should not be a factor,” she said. “We make sure this is accessible for everyone.”

Trainees may have an idea what office they’ll seek when they apply and, through the course of the program, they connect with the people who can help the runners take their marks.

HIGHEST OFFICE

A look at female candidates for the White House:

- 1872:** Victoria Claflin Woodhull, Equal Rights Party, against Republican Ulysses S. Grant and Democrat Horace Greeley.
- 1884/1888:** Belva Ann Bennett Lockwood, Equal Rights Party, against Democrat Grover Cleveland and Republican James G. Blaine in '84 and Cleveland and Republican Benjamin Harrison in '88.
- 1964:** Margaret Chase Smith in the GOP primary.
- 1972:** Shirley Anita Chisholm and Patsy Takemoto Mink in the Democratic primary.
- 1976/1980:** Ellen McCormack in the Democratic primary in 1976 and as the Right to Life Party candidate in 1980.
- 1984:** Sonia Johnson for the Citizens Party against Republican Ronald Reagan and Democrat Walter Mondale.
- 1988/1992:** Lenora Fulani for the New Alliance Party against Republican George Bush and Democrat Michael Dukakis in 1988 and Bush and Democrat Bill Clinton in 1992.
- 2004:** Carol Moseley Braun for the Democratic Party nomination.
- 2008:** Hillary Rodham Clinton for the Democratic Party nomination.
- 2012:** Michele Bachmann for the Republican Party nomination.



Vice presidential candidates: Frances “Sissy” Farenthold and Tonie Nathan in 1972, Geraldine Anne Ferraro in 1984, Winona LaDuke in 1996 and 2000, Sarah Palin in 2008.

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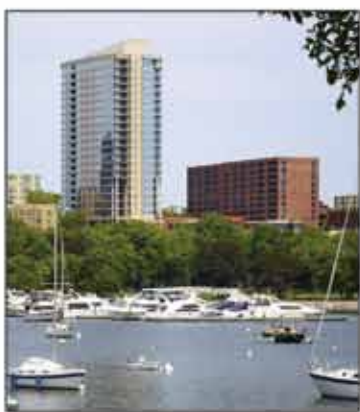
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Ignore PrideFest protesters

PrideFest inevitably brings out the haters – the infamous protesters who stand at the gate of the Summerfest grounds wielding signs warning of damnation and eternal hellfire.

But also standing at the gate – with positive, welcoming messages and supportive hugs – you will find a contingent of volunteers with Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays and several church groups.

Over the years, we counter-protesters have learned a few things that will help make your PrideFest experience positive. First of all, don't engage with the protesters. Speaking with them only opens the door for them to badger you with their talking points about how they

love you and want to save you. Trust me: You don't need to be saved by them.

Secondly, do not make eye contact with the protesters. Doing this invites them to engage with you as well.

If protesters hand you literature about God's condemnation, feel free to dispose of it in the garbage bags that church volunteers bring to PrideFest for that purpose. Please tear the literature in half and then deposit it in one of the garbage receptacles. We have seen the protesters retrieve their handouts and brochures from the garbage and re-distribute them. Printed materials are expensive, and tearing them in half not only prevents them from foisting the handouts on someone

Opinion

GEORGIA HENRY
 PRESIDENT OF PFLAG
 MILWAUKEE

else, but frustrates them as well. Please don't drop the handouts on the ground. We don't want to litter.

Navigating the protesters is easier when you know there are people waiting to welcome you with hugs and kind words. We at PFLAG hope our presence helps you have a positive PrideFest experience that encourages you to come back year after year.

So watch for our signs of welcome and have a great time!

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 PRIDE
2013

As marriage equality sweeps the Midwest, Republican domination holds back Wisconsin

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Wisconsin's neighbor Minnesota became the 12th state in the country to legalize

same-sex unions, and Illinois might not be far behind. In Iowa, marriage equality has been law since 2009.

But although Gov. Scott Walker has had

out gay associates, including two who've been convicted of crimes committed while serving as part of his Milwaukee County Executive staff, he strongly opposes marriage equality. As a result, marriage equality is not on the legislative agenda in Wisconsin, and that situation is not expected to change in the near future.

"I just don't think it's very likely in this state anytime soon," said Joe Heim, a University of Wisconsin-La Crosse political scientist, told Post-Crescent Media. "It's pretty clear that public opinion in the United States is leaning toward gay marriage (but) I just don't see Wisconsin joining that (group) anytime soon."

Wisconsin's constitution, unlike Minnesota's, bans same-sex marriage.

In November 2006, nearly 60 percent of Wisconsin voters supported an amendment banning marriage equality. The effort to pass the amendment was spearheaded by Julaine Appling, director of the right-wing group Wisconsin Family Action.

Ironically, Appling is a never-married woman who has lived for decades with another never-married woman in a home the two own jointly in Watertown. Appling is currently challenging the state's domestic partner registry in court, claiming it violates the amendment she shepherded to passage. Because Walker and Wisconsin Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen have refused to defend the registry law in courts, the group Fair Wisconsin has assumed the task – and the expense.

To enact marriage equality in Wisconsin, voters would have to pass an amendment undoing the 2006 amendment language before lawmakers could even consider a bill to legalize same-sex marriage. But even before that, the Legislature would have to pass the repeal amendment in two consecu-



PHOTO: COURTESY

State Senate Minority Leader Chris Larson, D-Milwaukee.

tive sessions.

There are more immediate obstacles to gay marriage than constitutional procedures, however. Republicans have complete control of all facets of state government in Wisconsin, including the state Supreme Court. By redrawing political boundaries following the 2010 Census to favor their party, they won a big majority in the Assembly despite garnering 200,000 fewer votes than Democrats.

In other words, Republicans will continue to rule the state Legislature at least until 2020. And the Republican Party's 2012 national platform stated that "the union of one man and one woman must be upheld as the national standard, a goal to stand for, encourage, and promote through laws governing marriage."

Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, R-Burlington, said there's no way his party is shifting that stance.

"The Wisconsin Constitution states that marriage is between one man and one woman," Vos said in a statement. "Two consecutive legislatures passed this resolution and the people of Wisconsin voted to amend the constitution to provide the definition of marriage in 2006."

Heim thinks Wisconsin and Minnesota have historically similar progressive pasts, but that has changed.

MARRIAGE on next page



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NATURAL BEHAVIOR

H o m o s e x u a l behavior has been observed in 1,500 animal species and is most widespread among animals with a complex herd life. The entire species of the dwarf chimpanzee is bisexual.

Source: Science Daily

MARRIAGE from prior page

“But they started going one direction, we started going another,” Heim said. “Politics here have become much more extreme left and right. The result of that is, the probability of us following Minnesota on this is pretty low.”

State Senate Minority Leader Chris Larson, D-Milwaukee, thinks momentum is changing on gay marriage.

“It’s obvious that this is a civil rights question of our time and I think even those Republicans who were pushing to define mar-

riage in a very divisive way are questioning that now,” he said. “That push will come back to haunt them, as the state and the rest of the country moves forward on this topic.”

But Heim said that given Republicans’ redistricting advantage, they don’t have to pay attention to the public’s will on the issue. And, Heim said, Republicans would be unlikely to cross their party on the issue because it would provoke Appling and other far-right Christians to run a primary opponent against them.

“It could generate opposition in your own party,” he said.

Four common questions about same-sex marriage

By The Associated Press

Q: What countries have legalized gay marriage?

A: The Netherlands (2001); Belgium (2003); Spain, Canada (2005); South Africa (2006); Norway (2008); Sweden (2009); Argentina, Iceland, Portugal (2010); Denmark (2012); Uruguay, New Zealand and France (2013).

Q: Where else is gay marriage allowed?

A: In the United States, a law prevents the federal government from recognizing gay marriage, but 12 states have legalized it – Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont, Washington, Rhode Island, Delaware and Minnesota, as have the District of Columbia and two Native American tribal jurisdictions. Most other states, including Wisconsin, have approved constitutional amendments barring same-sex marriage. Mexico City recognizes marriage equality, although Mexico as a whole doesn’t.

Q: What about adoption for gay couples?

A: Gay couples can legally adopt in all of the countries that have legalized gay marriage, plus Brazil and the United Kingdom.

Q: What countries criminalize homosexuality?

A: According to a 2011 United Nations report on the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, same-sex conduct is illegal in 76 countries and punishable by death in at least five of them: Iran, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen.

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{ Editorial }

A time for gratitude

The Wisconsin Gazette is yours. Our mission is to empower you, our LGBT brothers, sisters and allies, to be your best. Our goal is to inspire you to look beyond what you might think is a limited reality and discover what is possible for you as an individual and us as a community.

It is from the deepest recesses of my heart that I welcome Pride month. Is there someone you've been thinking of coming out to? This is the month to do it. Is there a career choice you've been hesitant to make? This is the month to make it.

I commend our staff, which works tirelessly to bring to you quality journalism that informs and empowers you. Thanks to our staff, we've been honored with nine Milwaukee Press Club Awards in the past two years, won in competition against the largest and best-funded print and electronic publications in the state.

I especially commend publisher/editor in chief Louis Weisberg, whose passionate truth seeking and commitment to professional journalism without compromise helps deliver you information and insight that's not to be found anywhere else. Editor Lisa Neff devotes every waking hour to bringing you the latest developments in the LGBT and progressive world. Lisa's enormous breadth of journalistic experience and the remarkable synergy between her and Louis creates a whole that is greater than the sum of the parts. Our editorial contributors and opinion writers lend additional depth and perspective. Copy editor and proofreader Stephen DeLeers adds sheen to our polish.

Many thanks to Kaity Weisensel, our marketing coordinator, for her hard work and innovative thinking in organizing the limitless details of advertising, social networking and e-communications. Bobby Wright, our distribution manager, is ultimately responsible for ensuring the paper is everywhere you find it.

Samantha Luper, our sales executive, establishes new relationships and raises our profile every day. For the past three years. Graphic designers Maureen Kane and Laura Gronek dispense amazing concepts through their fingertips.

I also commend our friends at Gravity Marketing and BD Pros, who are thinking and rethinking ways to get the message of the Gazette to as many readers and advertisers as possible.

Please remember that behind every ad, there is someone who has made a personal decision to embrace our community. Every word you read is made possible because of their recognition of your rights as well as your market power. We hope you give them the support they have given you. We're all in this together.

I am proud to be the force behind this paper you hold in your hands. It's an expression of my deep commitment to creating positive change in the world. The Gazette is my way of establishing that we – the LGBT and allied progressive community – are not only a part of Wisconsin, but the part that makes Wisconsin the extraordinary state that it has always been and always will be.

Here's to Pride and to creating the world we'd like to see.



Leonard Sobczak
WIG Publishing President/CEO

WiG's WEB PICKS

Some of our favorite recent pictorials from cyberspace



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ON THE RECORD

“

“Redefining marriage serves no one's rights, least of all those of children.”

– New York CARDINAL TIMOTHY DOLAN exhorting parishioners to fight marriage equality. The

statement is in a handout to be distributed in every Catholic parish in America. Dolan has yet to utter a word of condemnation about a spate of recent gay bashings in Manhattan, including the slaying of a gay man by an assailant screaming anti-gay slurs.

“We are against the propaganda of homosexuality. If we need to allow parades like this in order to become a member of the European Union ... then I'm against joining.”

– NIKOLAI KILADZE, a 21-year-old student in Tbilisi, Georgia, speaking to reporters after protesters broke up a gay rights rally there. Orthodox Christian priests led the violent backlash.

“I believe it is necessary to sacrifice myself to break with the lethargy that is overwhelming us. I am killing myself to awaken slumbering consciences.”

– Anti-gay French activist DOMINIQUE VENNER explaining in a suicide note that he killed himself over his nation's approval of same-sex marriage. His body was at the altar of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.

“I know Scott Walker was really trying to win over the Iowa caucus voters when he was there campaigning for president, but he didn't have to take a bunch of Wisconsin jobs with him to make his case.”

– Democratic Party of Wisconsin chair MIKE TATE commenting on the news that Data Dimensions, a Janesville-based company, broke ground on a \$6 million operations facility in Iowa while Walker was there campaigning for president in late May. The most recent federal jobs numbers show Wisconsin ranks 44th in job creation, 45th in wage growth and last in short-term job growth.

“BSA now stands for Boy Sodomizers of America, because that's what will happen. Mark my words.”

– BRYAN FISCHER, of the anti-gay American Family Association, reacting to the Boy Scouts of America's decision to allow gays under 18 to join the group.

“I was a little scared to put myself back in that situation, but after the first few days I was like, ‘Wow, I miss this, I love this.’ Once I got on the field, I felt really normal. More normal than I ever did in the past.”

– Footballer ROBBIE ROGERS, who retired from professional soccer earlier this year after coming out as gay, describing his joy on returning to the sport as an out player with the Los Angeles Galaxy.

“The president has proclaimed June as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Pride Month. Well that just makes me feel ikky all over. Yuk!”

– BISHOP E.W. JACKSON, the Republican nominee for Virginia lieutenant governor, tweeting his response to President Barack Obama's proclamation of June as LGBT Pride Month.

“Well, of course the IRS scandal is much worse than Watergate. Watergate was just an ordinary little break-in to an office.”

– PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY telling a reporter that the president should be impeached over the IRS scandal.

”

Opinion

JAMAKAYA

Like most queer folk, I shift into partying mode when LGBT Pride season rolls around in June. Our Pride festivals offer tons of music, laughter and mischief-making, alongside reunions with old friends and connections with new ones. They are joyful and rewarding, and the last few years we've had many things to celebrate.

This year, I've been thinking about how truly far we've advanced since I came out in the 1970s. The LGBT movement has logged many accomplishments since the dawn of gay and women's liberation. It's worth looking back at how we secured those victories and to renew our pride in the years ahead.

Like many lesbians my age, I came out in the context of the feminist movement of the 1970s. The women's movement created a multitude of organizations beyond the bar scene around which les-

bian culture flourished. Study groups, clinics, music festivals, bookstores, self-defense centers, writers' and artists' collectives and political action groups emerged to meet the needs of this newly activated “women's community.”

Lesbians at that time played a big role in the development of many social services and reforms that benefitted all women: the Women's Crisis Line, battered women's shelters, women's studies programs, the Sexual Assault Treatment Center, the Take Back the Night movement and more. Organizing skills honed in these groups were later applied to Pride festivals, AIDS service organizations and passage of Wisconsin's gay civil rights law.

The 1980s and '90s were a time of maturation and institution-building. In Milwaukee, the Cream City Foundation, the Milwaukee AIDS Project (later the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin), the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee, PrideFest and the LGBT Community Center were all established.

As a reporter, I covered the early, contentious meetings of the Milwaukee Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee (the pre-PrideFest planning entity). I also covered the initial, sparsely attended Pride events. To experience the three-day PrideFest with national headliners and the variety of programming that we enjoy today – I'm tempted to call it a miracle but that discounts the tremendous amount of hard work that hundreds of volunteers have contributed to build its success.

While creating institutions, our community was active on the political front, electing openly gay candidates to office on the local, state and national levels (recently including U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin). Domestic partner registries have been set up and alliances forged with social and political organizations on a range of LGBT and progressive issues. These statewide advances coincided with the incredible progress of marriage equality elsewhere.

Although we have much to celebrate, we must remain vigilant. If the Supreme Court rules against the Defense of Marriage Act in June, it will be tempting to assume the fight is won and we can let down our guard. On the contrary, we need to protect what we've achieved so far and continually expand public understanding of our lives and culture.

In Wisconsin, we have a particularly reactionary Legislature that is not just anti-gay, anti-woman and anti-labor, but also anti-education, anti-environment, anti-public transit and absolutely punitive when it comes to the welfare of poor people. Only renewed political activism, which includes working hard for LGBT-supportive candidates and strengthening alliances with other progressive groups, can crack this sorry status quo and begin to move us forward.

While celebrating Pride season, please make a commitment beyond it to fight for the rights and dignity of all Wisconsinites.

Surviving and thriving

Opinion

JANICE THOM

to die.

On May 20, thousands of queer people and our allies marched through the streets of the village to make it clear that this is our city, these are our streets and we won't be pushed back in the closet.

When I spoke on behalf of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force at the end of the march, I told the crowd on Eighth Street that I believe this rash of hate-fueled violence is because we're winning.

We can just about taste equality.

And the haters, the murderers who took Mark Carson's life and who've bashed, intimidated and murdered our people here in New York, last week in Russia, maybe next week in Minneapolis, they believe that if we win, they'll lose.

They are so deluded and so fearful that they actually believe there's only so much

justice and joy to go around. If we begin to get what we've deserved forever, their lives will be less. They're wrong. But they're going to take it out on our bodies.

Twenty-some years ago, my girlfriend and I were chased into a store not half a block from where we rallied on May 20 by some idiot who took exception to our public display of affection. And now it no longer seems like it's been 20 years.

Now?

Now it was only yesterday. So – in Mark Carson's name, in the names of the countless members of our community, especially in the names of those who don't make the news because they're not white, they're transgender, they're poor, their family threw them out and they're homeless, they're sex workers – it's so clearly time for us to take our queer bodies to the streets.

We'll survive and we'll thrive. And the haters? They'll be part of the losing side of history.

Never, ever forget how special, how spectacular we all are.

We'll survive and we'll thrive.

And the haters? They'll be part of the losing side of history.

Janice Thom is the director of operations for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in Washington, D.C.



**PRIDE
2013**

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

HARMONY HOSTS GAY RIGHTS PIONEERS FOR PRIDE PANEL

Pride month in Appleton will feature a panel discussion with pioneers in the Wisconsin campaign for LGBT equality.

The June 29 "Trailblazers" event at the Harmony Cafe, 233 E. College Ave., Appleton, is being coordinated by Bradley Lambie of Positive Voice and OutReach LGBT Community Center executive director Steve Starkey.

Panelists include Lloyd Schaefer, Mike Fitzpatrick, Steve Starkey, Fay Ferington, Wayne Gathright and former state Rep. David Clarenbach, who wrote Wisconsin's gay rights law, which was the first such state law enacted in the United States. With help from other politicians, organizations and Republican Gov. Lee Dreyfus, the bill became law in 1982.

The panelists will explore decades of struggles and achievements in the state, as well as goals.

Lambie said, "Through this discussion, I will be happy to learn about the panelists' history. This will give me more pride in myself and also in the Fox Valley."

"It is important for young LGBT people to know what society was like for LGBT people before the Stonewall rebellion and during the early days of the gay rights movement," Starkey said. "A lot of struggle and sacrifice was made so that this important civil rights issue could progress, and we could begin to make progress on the long march to equality."

The Trailblazers event begins at 4 p.m. at the cafe. Organizers are suggesting a \$5 donation.

For more, email Lambie at bjlambie@gmail.com.

IN OTHER NEWS ...

• **Nearly 600 people** attended the Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools' annual Celebration of Leadership on May 11 at the Monona Terrace in Madison, where four high school seniors – Camden Goetz of Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln High School, Vicente Lezama of Fond du Lac High School, Christian Real Merino of Madison Memorial High School and Kassondra White of South Milwaukee High School – received scholarships. GSAFE also recognized Lisa Koenecke, a counselor at River Bluff Middle School in Stoughton, as Educator of the Year. The Judi Devereux Community Activist Award went to The TransParent Group and Youth Empowered in the Struggle.

• **The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center** is celebrating the summer with Little Night Out social events. On one night each month, center supporters will get together at an outdoor concert in the city. The first outing will be at 6 p.m. on June 18 at the Chill on the Hill concert in Humboldt Park in BayView. For more, go to www.mkelgbt.org/concerts.

– from WiG reports

Send community announcements to lmneff@wisconsin Gazette.com.



PHOTO: COURTESY

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is coordinating Little Night Out social events at outdoor concerts in Milwaukee this summer. Organizers suggest bringing snacks and beverages. Look for the crowd gathered by the rainbow balloons.

Got tested at Pride last year? It's that time again!

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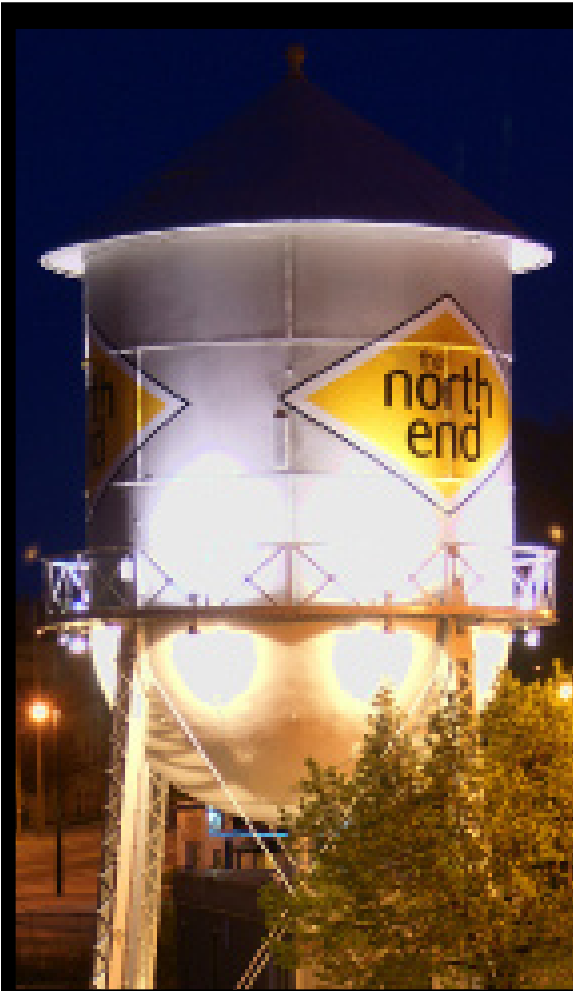
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How do Wisconsin LGBT families protect their children?

I am constantly amazed by how many folks don't know that Wisconsin prohibits same-sex couples from jointly adopting children – or adopting each other's children. Not being able to adopt children as co-parents prevents same-sex couples from insuring their children together as legal dependents.

In Wisconsin, two adults of the same gender identity can foster a child, but once the child is offered for permanent placement, only one parent can be the official adoptive parent.

In light of Wisconsin's adoption laws, there are three steps that same-sex parents should consider.

GUARDIANSHIP

My partner and I went to children's court and had her name added as our son's second legal, permanent guardian. I did not have to give up my legal guardianship – she was simply added. This can be done for biological or adopted children. However, the Social Security Administration does not recognize guardianship status. If our child's other mother died, he probably would not receive benefits.

We have often benefited from him having two legal guardians during trips to the emergency room at Children's Hospital, where we must declare that we are both legal guardians. We also have shown our guardianship papers when applying for a passport for our son.

My partner insures our whole family on her health insurance, and by being our son's legal guardian, she doesn't have to pay extra federal tax on his insurance.

Other parents leave the child with just one legal guardian. That is the best decision for some families.

But if something happens to the legal parent, the child may end up being awarded

Same-sex parenting

FUCHSIA WOODS

'When two adults are parents, they and the child deserve the serenity that comes with legal recognition.'

to a blood relative rather than to the partner who has acted as a second parent to that child.

CHOOSING NAMES FOR BIRTH CERTIFICATES

In Wisconsin, you are only allowed to list opposite-sex married people as a child's parents.

If we had named our sperm donor on any document, we would not have been able to obtain rights for my partner in any state. Many people think they can name the known donor at the beginning of the child's life and change it later, but that is difficult. In effect, you are saying that the child had a father in the past but now doesn't. To get his name off the paperwork, he'll have to declare in court that he doesn't want to know or support the child.

Courts frown on a parent giving up parental rights. You will probably have to prove that the biological father is unfit, which is complicated, difficult and expensive.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Having living wills, trusts and power of attorney documents drawn up as soon as possible can prevent your child from being raised by someone you didn't select. There are cases of religious right groups trying to claim rights to a child when one parent dies. Prior to our son's birth, my partner obtained power of attorney over both of us.

HOPING FOR CHANGE

None of the concerns above would be necessary if Wisconsin had fair laws protecting us all. "Children deserve to know that their relationships with both of their parents are stable and legally recognized. This applies to all children, whether their parents are of the same or opposite sex. When two adults participate in parenting a child, they and the child deserve the serenity that comes with legal recognition," according to an American Academy of Pediatrics Policy statement in 2002.

I dream of the day when Wisconsin lawmakers follow AAP's advice. In March, the academy came out in support of same-sex marriage, stating that pediatricians advocate for public policies that help all children and their parents, regardless of sexual orientation, build and maintain strong, stable, and healthy families that are able to meet the needs of their children.

NOTE: This is my interpretation of what I have experienced. Please seek your own legal council.



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

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THE NUMBERS

Scientists estimate about 5 percent of the total human population worldwide has a homosexual orientation. The number of gays and lesbians in the United States is estimated to be about 8.8 million.

SOURCE: VARIOUS

SPEAKING OF PRIDE



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 PRIDE
2013

Priceless artifacts and contemporary performers at Milwaukee Masonic Center

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Performer Prince Poppycock may have felt right at home when he brought his act as a roguish operatic dandy to Milwaukee's Humphrey Scottish Rite Masonic Center on April 20. The character, played by out performer John Andrew Quale, harkens to an earlier time, but repurposed for a 21st-century audience.

One could say the same about the center.

Poppycock was the first of up to seven public concerts the center plans to host this year. It's part of an attempt by the center to reinvent itself as a concert venue and generate new revenue by catering to a more contemporary crowd, says Mike Reindl, executive director of the Wisconsin Scottish Rite Foundation, which owns the building. Current and future concerts are designed to create a new revenue stream in the face of a declining number of Freemasons, Reindl says.

But booking an act like Poppycock is a bold step forward for one of Milwaukee's most historic buildings, he adds.

Since theatrics play a big role in Masonic ritual, the auditorium is the heart of the 76,000-square-foot, three-story center. The 450-seat auditorium has recently been fitted with new sound and lighting equipment. The size perfectly suits more intimate performances like Poppycock's.

Pabst Theater officials used the center when singer Sara Bareilles requested a more intimate venue than the Pabst or either of its sister properties – The Riverside and Turner Hall Ballroom – for her May 3 performance. Bareilles sold out the house.

Built in 1889 to house Plymouth Congregational Church, the center has long been a popular wedding destination, both for ceremonies and receptions. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the building has been the Humphrey Scottish Rite Masonic Center since 1912, when the church relocated further north. Designed in a Romanesque style of brick trimmed with rock-faced limestone, the edifice is crowned

MASONIC on next page

MILWAUKEE PRIDE

PHOTO: COURTESY

Milwaukee's Humphrey
Scottish Rite Masonic
Center.



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MASONIC from prior page

with a massive corner tower capped with a conical slate-covered roof.

The original building underwent expansions at the time of purchase and again in 1936.

As may be expected, the Masonic Center is home to historical artifacts related to Freemasonry. It's also home to a significant inventory of wigs, helmets, headgear costumes and props used in Masonic ceremonies.

What may not be expected, however, is the center's wealth of historic backdrops used to stage various performances and rituals. Many Masonic Centers, citing space concerns, have discarded or destroyed their old drops. Collections like Milwaukee's are growing rare as more Masonic groups move to computer-projected backdrops for their rituals. As a result, the Milwaukee collection's 50 backdrops are priceless artistic and historic artifacts to students of stagecraft, despite their fair to poor condition. The rigors of time and the effect of fireproofing chemicals have taken a toll on the fabric.

Twin Cities scenic designer Wendy Waszut-Barrett, who owns the scenic design and restoration firm Bella Scena LLC, was visiting Milwaukee in March for the annual conference of the U.S. Institute of Theatrical Technicians when she heard about the center's drops. Waszut-Barrett and University of Minnesota theater professor C. Lance Brockman held a special breakout session at the

center entitled, "Theater of the Fraternity: Creating the World of Freemasonry."

"Masonic scenery is crucial to the understanding of American scene-painting techniques and design for the theatre," Waszut-Barrett wrote on the Bella Scena website. "Scottish Rite theaters should be considered fine art depositories that define an exciting moment in theatre history."

The historic significance of collections like the one in Milwaukee, many of whose pieces were painted with dry pigments that are no longer available in the United States, may give them financial value.

"Many collections in Scottish Rite facilities are valued at over \$1 million," Waszut-Barrett says. "The collections should be considered large-scale fine art and not solely theatre scenery."

In addition to their historic and economic value, the drops are still used for many of the Freemason activities at the Humphrey Scottish Rite Masonic Center. Chances are Prince Poppycock may have had the chance to use them for his performance too — assuming he was able to find some that didn't clash with his poofy magenta wig.

SPEAKING OF PRIDE



WINNING

Five percent of the electorate in 2012 identified as lesbian, gay or bisexual in exit polls. President Barack Obama garnered 76 percent of their vote, which was a key factor in his win the national popular vote and the very close election in Florida.

SOURCE: THE NEW YORK TIMES 538 BLOG



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High school and college athletes are coming out

By Martha Irvine

AP national writer

You've probably never heard of Holly Peterson or Jonathan Jean-Pierre. One came out as a lesbian at age 15, when she was playing high school basketball. The other, a college rower, told his teammates last year that he's gay.

There was little fanfare for either. There were no headlines as there were when NBA player Jason Collins declared that he is gay, making him the first in a major U.S. men's professional sport to come out.

Some are calling Collins a role model for this up-and-coming generation of gay and lesbian athletes. But in some ways, those young athletes and their supporters also have helped pave the way for pros like Collins.

"Change is coming from the top down, but it's also coming from the bottom up," says Ellen Staurowsky, a professor of sport management at Drexel University in Philadelphia.

"It is a movement that's taken place quietly," she adds, "on teams, in athletic departments with some coaches and athletes standing up when they needed to. ... It's an accumulated movement over many, many decades."

Awareness of homosexuality in athletics started to grow, slowly, Staurowsky says, in the 1970s on college campuses. Then in the early 1980s, tennis star Billie Jean King was outed, and Martina Navratilova also came out as a lesbian.

As a small number of high-profile athletes followed suit in years to come, Gene Smith, the athletic director at Ohio State University, says he and others began to notice a shift in momentum on college campuses by the mid-1990s. More young athletes were feeling empowered to be open about their sexuality, he says, and the trend has only grown.

"I think it was easier on certain teams, and it kind of evolved over time," says Smith, who was the athletic director at Eastern Michigan University and Iowa State University before going to Ohio State.

For some, like Holly Peterson, an athlete who grew up outside Sacramento, Calif., coming out happened even earlier in life. She made the decision to tell her family and friends that she's a lesbian 14 years ago, when she was a sophomore in high school.

"I was ready," says Peterson, who's now 29. "I needed to tell someone."

Her team and coach responded well, she says, though her parents removed her from her traveling basketball team and, instead, used the money they'd spent on that for therapy.

Eventually, though, her parents came to terms with her sexual orientation — and she went on to play college basketball at the University of California-Riverside, where she also lived her life openly.



PHOTO: RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP

Holly Peterson, who plays professional women's tackle football for the Sacramento Sirens, holds a basketball in Elk Grove, Calif. Peterson, who played college basketball at the University of California-Riverside, came out as a lesbian at age 15, when she was playing high school basketball.

ATHLETES on next page

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ATHLETES from prior page

While there, she recalls speaking on a panel with other gay and lesbian athletes – and how other women athletes on her campus told her that she'd given them the courage to come out, too.

"That was huge for me," says Peterson, who now plays women's professional tackle football. "That was really the first step in my looking at myself as a role model and someone who could make a difference."

Several campuses – among them Princeton, the University of Michigan and the University of California-Berkeley – now have groups for gay and lesbian athletes.

There are groups, too, for straight allies, including Athlete Ally, an organization for straight athletes who publicly back their lesbian and gay peers.

The website for another organization, the You Can Play Project, includes videos of support from athletic directors, coaches and athletes from colleges and universities across the country.

"If you can play, you can play," is the tagline repeated over and over in those videos.

If you come out, you also might get an endorsement deal.

Just days after Brittney Griner came out as a lesbian, sportswear company Nike Inc. announced a deal with her. The WNBA's No. 1 draft pick, she recently graduated from Baylor University.

Not that it's always easy for gay and lesbian athletes.

Jonathan Jean-Pierre, a member of the rowing team at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania, says his teammates have never given him any trouble about being gay.

"But sometimes I still feel like I have to work twice as hard to prove myself," says the 19-year-old athlete, who plans to discuss these and other issues as a participant in a summit about gay and lesbian athletes that Nike will host next month for the athletes, coaches and college athletic directors.

While more gay and lesbian athletes are coming out, Smith at Ohio State also notes that his school remains among those where a gay athlete has yet to come out on the football, men's basketball, hockey or wrestling teams.

That, he and others say, is where pro athletes like Collins may have particular influence, especially if Collins, who is a free agent, signs with a team next season.

"There are certainly other closeted athletes who are looking to Jason Collins to see what will happen with him," says Hudson Taylor, a former collegiate wrestler who, as a straight supporter of his gay and lesbian peers, founded Athlete Ally.

Either way, many – including skater Johnny Weir, who announced he was gay after the last winter Olympics – expect that Collins' revelation will have a positive impact on young gay and lesbian athletes, partly because so many people are aware of it.

"I'm envious of it," the 28-year-old Weir says, because there wasn't "as much craze" when he came out. "But I do really respect it."

Smith at Ohio State says he, too, has great respect for the athletes at his school who continue to come out. He recalls, for instance, how a member of the university's track team named Derrick Anderson recently announced that he's gay at a school forum.

That said, he hopes that, one day, coming out in such a public way won't be necessary – that gay and straight athletes and other students can simply coexist.

"That's a long ways away," Smith says. "But I think we're making good progress."



PHOTO: TUMBLR

SPORTS BRIEFS

his last name.

The 26-year-old former U.S. national team player had retired in February, on the same day he publicly came out in a blog post. He thought coming-out meant the end of his career.

But he told The Associated Press that his fears about returning to soccer were eased by the strong support he received from family, fans and players, including Galaxy star Landon Donovan. Now Rogers is ready to accept his role as the league's first openly gay player.

"I don't know what I was so afraid of," Rogers said. "It's been such a positive experience for me. The one thing I've learned from all of this is being gay is not that big of a deal to people."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL STAR COMES OUT

A former college football star and National Football League hopeful has come out as gay. Former University of Richmond wide

receiver Kevin Grayson told Virginia CBS affiliate WTVR-Channel 6 that he'd kept his sexual orientation secret to avoid the attention that coming out brings.

"You don't want to be the focus in that way," Grayson said. "Not to say that it's a negative, but when you have people just asking questions about your sexuality and how teammates are taking it, it takes away from the importance of the preseason. If you are an athlete, you want to be an athlete ... (not) that person who it's always 'the gay athlete.'"

Although a torn ligament interrupted Grayson's NFL dreams in 2011, he helped his university team win its college division's football national title in 2008, according to Outsports.com.

In 2012, he played professionally in Italy with the Parma Panthers, earning the Italian Football League's title of MVP after helping his team win the league's title.

Grayson acknowledged during the interview that he has witnessed homophobia in the locker room throughout his career. He also said that he knows currently active gay football players – but added that he's not naming any names.



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Gender issues present new challenge for schools

By Martha Irvine

AP national writer

From the time they are born, we put our boys in blue beanies and our girls in pink ones. It's a societal norm, an expectation even, that you just are what you are born — a boy or a girl. We divide toys and activities by very distinct gender lines, with superheroes and trucks on one side and dolls and all things frilly on the other.

Many children land, enthusiastically, on the expected side. Others dabble in both "girl" and "boy" things. But what happens when kids, even from an early age, mostly show interest in doing opposite-gender things? More importantly, what if they want to BE the opposite gender — or a less-defined mix of both?

More kids are challenging the boundaries of traditional gender, and going public at younger ages. And they are doing so with the guidance of a growing faction of medical experts who no longer see this as something to be fixed. Last year, the American Psychiatric Association removed "gender identity disorder" from its list of mental health ailments.

Some experts predict that views

on gender will evolve in much the same way they have for sexual orientation, since homosexuality was removed as a mental illness nearly four decades ago. Today, the gender spectrum includes those who are transgender, who see themselves as the opposite gender, and those who are gender variant, or gender nonconforming, whose gender is more "fluid." For kids, it means they identify part of themselves as boy and part as girl.

"Now these kids are beginning to have a voice and I think that's what's been making things interesting and challenging — and difficult, sometimes — depending on the family, the kid, or the school," says Dr. Robert Garofalo, director of the Center for Gender, Sexuality and HIV Prevention at Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.

While the numbers of these children are relatively small, it means that, increasingly, schools are having to figure out how to accommodate them. The questions often start with the basics: Which bathroom do they use? Where do they change for gym class? What if teachers or students don't want to use the pronoun, "he" or "she," or a new name the student prefers?

It can be difficult, and uncomfortable. In Colorado, for instance, the parents of a 6-year-old transgender girl are suing their school district for trying to make her use a separate bathroom.

The center at Lurie opened recently, in part, to meet the demand from parents seeking guidance for children who are questioning their gender identity and to provide support to older transgender youth who sometimes struggle more in adolescence, even facing a greater suicide risk, especially if they have no backing from family and others around them.

The center also serves as a resource for schools with transgender and gender variant students.

Increasingly, those students are making the transition as early as elementary school, if not before.

Ryan, a fourth-grader in suburban Chicago, is one of those kids. Most people, upon seeing her big blue eyes, long lashes and flowing blond hair, would never know she's anything but a girl. But underneath, she is still physically a boy.

Doctors call that gender variant, though Ryan prefers to call herself a "tomgirl."

"I feel that I'm a girl in my heart,"

she says, "and a boy in my brain."

Her parents allowed her to be interviewed and also agreed to speak to The Associated Press on the condition that the family's last name, the name of the town where they live and the school Ryan attends not be used in the story.

Though the decision to publicly present as a girl happened at the end of kindergarten, Ryan had slowly been becoming "she" at home for a long time, even when she still had a crew cut.

Six months after her second birthday, her parents say Ryan was drawn to all things pink and sparkly. Ryan, the boy, wore pajama pants on his head, pretending it was long hair, or acted out girl roles from movies.

By kindergarten, Ryan would bolt through the door of the family's suburban Chicago home, leaving a trail of boy clothes up the stairway — then quickly changing into a skirt and matching T-shirt.

Ryan's parents, initially told that Ryan had gender identity disorder, tried to get their child more interested in traditional boy things. But Ryan preferred chasing butterflies instead of footballs. Her dad scheduled extra "father-son" time, thinking that might have an influence. But

nothing changed.

They decided to stop resisting and allowed Ryan to start taking small steps into the outside world, at a nearby park, for instance, where she wore her girl clothes.

For her kindergarten Halloween party, Ryan dressed as a princess and, shortly after, asked her parents to refer to her as "she," a request to which they agreed, though it took a few months to adjust. Ryan's parents first received support from a pediatrician who specializes in gender, as well as from other parents with children like theirs. They met many parents through an online listerv. They are, as they call themselves, "affirming parents."

Eventually, Ryan began living and attending school as a girl.

"There's a realization that it's not a phase or something that's ending when the preschooler gets to kindergarten," says Kevin Gogin, the program manager for school health programs at the San Francisco Unified School District, which recently added a transgender category in student health surveys. The survey found that 1.6 percent of high school students and one percent of middle school students identified as transgender or gender variant.



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ALL COLORS OF THE RAINBOW

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SOURCE: THE WILLIAMS INSTITUTE

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Fitness Professionals

Andy Bell shares his Pride with Milwaukee

Interview

GREGG SHAPIRO

Andy Bell headlines Milwaukee PrideFest on June 7 at 11 p.m.

Out and HIV-positive pop star Andy Bell has logged more than a quarter of a century as the charismatic vocalist of Erasure, one of electronic music's most enduring and groundbreaking duos. Notorious for his dance moves as well as his penchant for eye-catching costumes – ranging from elaborate to skimpy – Bell has recently released a couple of solo discs and made a name on the DJ circuit.

He is currently at work in a London recording studio making his 15th album with Vince Clarke, Erasure's other half. I spoke with him in May.

Gregg Shapiro: Erasure marked its 25th anniversary a couple of years ago. Looking back at the early days, did you ever imagine that you and Vince would ever celebrate such a milestone?

Andy Bell: I knew that I was a massive fan of Vince Clarke, and it is a massive pleasure to work with him. Every day that we are all here is a blessing! I never imagined we'd still be here 25 years later, because I tend to take each day as it comes.

Do you have favorite Erasure memories?

There are so many and too numerous to mention, but I loved the fact that we were part of the True Colors tour with the amazing Cyndi Lauper. Her voice and personality are phenomenal, and of

course the ultra glamorous Miss (Debbie) Harry. Also being part of a South American Tour with David Bowie and No Doubt.

I'm so glad that you mentioned Cyndi, because I recently read her memoir and she mentions Erasure in writing about the True Colors tour. Do you have any interest in writing a memoir?

My only fear is that I'd have to be brutally honest, and I don't think I'd like people to know about my warts and all (laughs). But who knows, perhaps it could be semi-autobiographical (laughs).

This is probably like asking a parent to pick a favorite child, but out of the more than a dozen Erasure recordings, is there one album that's your favorite?

"Erasure," the album, and "Chorus," because they are sonically very beautiful.

You are currently in London recording the new Erasure disc. How is that process going?

It's going amazingly. Vince and I are very inspired at the moment. My voice is stronger than ever. Also, it's great to be working with Gareth Jones at the Strongroom, once again.

What will the title be and how many songs are on the disc?

Secret title (laughs). There'll be, in all, about 16 tracks.

When will the disc be released?
The run-up to Christmas.

Erasure has a reputation for putting on great live shows. Is there a tour in the works for the new record?

Not as such, but I have my finger in a few pies, so we'll be popping up here and there.

Amid all the Erasure activities, you found time to release a couple of solo albums. What did you like the best about that experience?

I think the difference is it's nice sometimes just to work outside of the parameters of Erasure, because when we record an album there's generally a tour and heaps of promotion. Your life is pretty much planned out at least for a couple of years.

You have also gained a reputation as a DJ. What do you like best about that?

I like the randomness of DJing. You never really know what it's going to be like or the crowd. I love getting to play all of my favorite tracks from the '80s up to the present day. Sometimes it goes horribly wrong (laughs) and other times it's spot on.

You have a strong presence on Facebook and Twitter. How do you utilize social media?

To be honest, I just like the one-on-one interaction. In some ways I hope that it doesn't get too big, because you kind of lose the personal touch.

I saw you in March at the South Florida AIDS Walk in Fort Lauderdale. How often do you take part in such events?

Every now and then it's good to do a few Prides and HIV-related events. It's good to have a general picture of what's going on at a local level and how people are getting on!

The last time we spoke you were headlining Atlanta Pride. On June 7 you are headlining Pridefest Milwaukee. What do you like about playing Pride events?

I think it's a bit of a tradition, to be honest, from London in the '80s through to the present day. I love meeting people and I suppose it keeps me in with the kids. Most of the young ones won't have a clue who I am (laughs)!

While you are in Milwaukee, will you have time to sample any of the city's delicacies or take in any of the local sites?

I sure hope so. Cocktails at dusk (laughs)!

Amanda Palmer brings musical theatrics to PrideFest

Versatile, prolific performer Amanda Palmer made history by raising a ton of money through a Kickstarter campaign to finance her latest project – “Theater Is Evil by Amanda Palmer & The Grand Theft Orchestra.” Solo, leading the Grand Theft Orchestra or as one half of The Dresden Dolls or Evelyn Evelyn, Palmer is always riveting.

As PrideFestgoers will see when Palmer headlines the evening of June 9, she commands attention the moment she walks out on stage.

I spoke with Amanda in early May.

Interview

GREGG SHAPIRO

Gregg Shapiro: As someone who has sung in duos, released a solo disc with an array of guest artists and currently is the front person in Amanda Palmer & the Grand Theft Orchestra, would it be fair to say that you play well with others?

Amanda Palmer: I really do love creating with other people. As a songwriter, I've grown and learned a lot from my work with other people. It's always more difficult to collaborate than to lock yourself up in a room. But I believe it's my path as an artist to grow and change and learn what I can learn from collaborating. In the case of this last record, it wasn't even a case of sitting myself down and saying, “OK, I want to collaborate with a bunch of dudes.” I wrote these songs, and these songs necessitated a band. That's an interesting place to get to as an artist, where you start taking dictation from your own art. As I was writing these songs, I knew I was going to need a drummer. I was going to need a bassist, and someone who plays synthesizer. I was blessed. My band was fantastic.

Do you think your extensive background in theater is what makes you such a good collaborator?

Yes. Theater was what I was originally drawn to in high school and so forth, because I'm passionate about the group experience. I was definitely an introverted teenager, but in my introverted spells I fantasized about parties (laughs). I fantasized about the ultimate circus, about putting on

my own street fair down the road and nightclubs in the kind of spaces where everybody would get together and be together. I'm known to never want to be alone in the house. I would much rather take my computer to a noisy café and be alone among a huge cacophony of people. It's where I feel the most comfortable. I've done a lot of theater projects. I starred in “Cabaret” with a giant theater a couple of years ago. I've written and helped produce original pieces of theater over my adult career. I can't stay away from the theater. It feels like home to me. Broadway does not feel like home. I don't know if it would necessarily be the venue for the kinds of people that I want to connect with (laughs).

But look at “The Book of Mormon” and the broad audience to which it appeals.

In defense of Broadway, it has produced some incredible, really beautiful original work and a lot of really terrible stuff. But then again, name a format ... turn on the radio, turn on the TV, you get a little bit of everything.

“The Bed Song” (from “Theater Is Evil”) is one of the most beautiful and emotionally stirring songs I've ever heard. Do you think that being part of a couple had an influence on the composition?

I know it did because my husband (Neil Gaiman) gave me the idea for the song (laughs). He said something that sparked the inspiration for the song. I owe him that one. I helped him with his last book, so we're kind of even.

You and Neil currently live in Cambridge, Mass., but Neil lived in Wisconsin for a long time. How much time, if any, did you spend there?

I did hang out at his place in Wisconsin before we moved here. When we got married, he was still liv-

ing out there. I spent a fair amount of time at his house. His house is near Eau Claire. I played a show in Milwaukee not that long ago. I really loved it. Milwaukee is a great city and my band and I had a fantastic time there. We felt very loved.

In 2007, the Dresden Dolls performed as part of Cyndi Lauper's True Colors tour and this year you will be headlining at Milwaukee PrideFest. What do your LGBT fans mean to you?

One of the things I get thanked for often, particularly by my LGBT fans, is that they feel like my voice and my willingness to tell the truth ... empowers them and makes them feel a little safer about speaking with their own authentic voices. I know I needed

that really badly as a teenager, confused about everything from sexuality and sex and femininity and power – the whole complication of being a human being. The majority of people that I looked to were musicians. The big, brave, outspoken men and women in my life who I listened to and looked to gave me cosmic permission to not be so afraid myself. It still happens to this day. I read Margaret Cho's Twitter feed or her writing for salon.com and I find myself thinking, “Fuck, if Margaret can be that brave and say that, I need to say more.” She inspires me to be more authentic with people.



**PRIDE
2013**

PrideFest Milwaukee 2013 Schedule

Friday, June 7 - Sunday, June 9 at Henry Maier Festival Park



FRIDAY, JUNE 7

- 3:30 P.M.**
A B.J. Daniels as Emcee
B Conversations
J This Is It Jukebox
- 4:00 P.M.**
A Wisconsin Royalty Drag Show
B Kris Szallai
B Karen Muehlbauer
C DJ NMF
C DJ Kimberly Ann
- 4:30 P.M.**
C Windy City Beauties
- 5:00 P.M.**
B Esh
B Lions Mouth Music
F DJ Boobah & Dancing
- 5:45 P.M.**
C DJ Chomper
- 6:00 P.M.**
J T.G.I.Pride
G Astor St. Dance Studio Presents
- 6:15 P.M.**
A Pridefest 2013 Opening Ceremonies
- 6:30 P.M.**
D Interfaith Prayer Service
B Sook Music
B Summer Osborne
- 6:45 P.M.**
C DJ-FLO
- 7:00 P.M.**
G Brody Hess
- 7:15 P.M.**
A Abba Salute
- 7:30 P.M.**
J Laugh @ The Loft Ft. Tanya Atkinson
- 7:45 P.M.**
C Scarlet Bar Chicago

- 8:00 P.M.**
G The Way She
B Big Bad Gina (Acoustic)
B Jennifer Cintron Cuevas
- 8:30 P.M.**
G Mallori Reichenberger's Acoustic Orchard
- 8:45 P.M.**
J Charlene Orfeo
- 9:15 P.M.**
A Sophie B Hawkins
- 10:00 P.M.**
G Dora Diamond's Gay Cabaret
B Brew City Brotherhood
B Conversations
J This Is It Jukebox Dance Party
C DJ Wizz Kid (Til Midnight)
- 11:00 P.M.**
A Headliner Andy Bell

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

- Pridefest Open Grass Volleyball Tournament Takes Place ALL DAY Both Inside/Outside Lawns
- 12:00 P.M.**
H Pridefest History Exhibit ALL DAY
A Beverly McClellan
C Dj Wizz Kid Experience
H Arts & Crafts Activities, Games
G Family Day Wisconsin Rainbow Families
G Pocket Lady™
J This Is It Jukebox
- 12:15 P.M.**
I Eye.\$Ee.You
- 1:00 P.M.**
B Conversations
B Conversations
G Magic Of Brian Holt
D Quick and Easy Desserts

- 1:15 P.M.**
E Zumba
I DJ Tan Smooth
A Corky Morgan
- 2:00 P.M.**
C Lady Gia's Milwaukee Review
D AARP, Real Possibilities
- 2:15 P.M.**
E Fair Wisconsin Presentation
- 2:30 P.M.**
A City Of Festivals Men's Chorus
- 3:00 P.M.**
B Rocket Paloma
B Betsy Ade
G Figureheads
D Drag Makeover W/Miltown Kings
F Mix & Mingle Activity
- 3:15 P.M.**
E LGBT Dance Milwaukee
- 4:00 P.M.**
A Something To Do
- 4:15 P.M.**
E Tamarind Tribal Belly Dance
- 4:30 P.M.**
C DJ Terri Bristol & Psycho Bitch
- 5:00 P.M.**
F DJ Boobah, Dance & Costume Contest - Judging at 7 p.m. Youth Area
J Dixie Kuppe's Tupperware Party
B Leanna Eden
B Jayme Dawicki
- 5:15 P.M.**
E Sheba: HIV Prevention, Skits
- 5:30 P.M.**
C Yes Sir! Leather Show
A Annie B & The Vagabond Company
- 6:00 P.M.**
G Astor St. Dance Studio Presents
I DJ Rocboi Of Unyon Entertainment
J T.G.I.Pride
C Trannika Rex - Evening Host

- 6:30 P.M.**
B Sweet Music
B Katie Beth
D Funkin Wassels
C DJ Terri Bristol & Psycho Bitch
- 7:00 P.M.**
G Brody Hess
A Big Bad Gina
- 7:30 P.M.**
C DJ NMF
J Corky Morgan
- 8:00 P.M.**
G The Way She
B Roxie Beane
B Mandy Cappleman
A Dear Ruthie
- 8:30 P.M.**
A B.J. Daniels Revue
J Laugh @ The Loft
C Bad Romance
G Mallori Reichenberger's Acoustic Orchard
D Stonewall Veterans Meet & Greet
- 9:30 P.M.**
A Headliner Indigo Girls
- Fireworks
- 10:00 P.M.**
C DJ Reid Stefan - Til Midnight
G Dora Diamond's Gay Cabaret
J This Is It Jukebox
B Miltown Kings
B Conversations
- 10:30 P.M.**
A Headliner Indigo Girls

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

- Pridefest Open Grass Volleyball Tournament Takes Place ALL DAY Both Inside/Outside Lawns
- 12:00 P.M.**
H Pridefest History Exhibit ALL DAY
A Dianna Jones Band
C Tea Dance
F Arts & Crafts Activities, Games
J This Is It Jukebox
- 12:15 P.M.**
E Pilates: Life Adventures
- 12:30 P.M.**
D Alliance School Graduation
- 1:00 P.M.**
C Leather Show
F Trans Masculine Presentation (Tool Shed)
- 1:15 P.M.**
E Ballroom Dance
- 1:30 P.M.**
A Vic & Gab
- 2:00 P.M.**
C Furrlesque
- 2:15 P.M.**
C TBA
- 2:30 P.M.**
D Tell Me My Story
- 2:45 P.M.**
C Windy City Beauties
A Womens Voices Milwaukee
- 3:00 P.M.**
B Victims of Symmetry
B Nashon Holloway
J Senior Social - Sponsored by St. John's on the Lake
- 3:15 P.M.**
C Brew City Sisters
E Tamarind Tribal Belly Dance
- 3:30 P.M.**
D Folding For Fun: The History and Practice of Origami
- 3:45 P.M.**
C TBD
- 4:00 P.M.**
F Youth Talent Show
- 4:15 P.M.**
A Ronnie Nyles & Tallulah Who
E LGBT Dance Milwaukee
- 5:00 P.M.**
I Lanueva Ritmo 1460AM Javi Gomez & Alex Preciado
C Underwear Show
B V-Squared
B Jenna Lynne
C Trannika Rex - Evening Host
J Sweet Music
- 6:00 P.M.**
G Astor St. Dance Studio Presents
I JC Munguia
A Pride Parade Awards
J T.G.I.Pride
C DJ Wildflower
A God-Des & She
- 6:30 P.M.**
B Lisa Ridgely
B Annie B.
- 7:00 P.M.**
G Brody Hess
C DJ Grind
- 7:15 P.M.**
I Bachata414
- 7:30 P.M.**
J Dixie Kuppe's Kamp & Kurlers Review
A Dangerous Muse
- 8:00 P.M.**
G Mallori Reichenberger's Acoustic Orchard
B The Dots
B Lezy Dezy
- 8:30 P.M.**
J This Is It Jukebox Dance Party
- 8:45 P.M.**
I Mateo Y Los Bachateros
A Headliner Amanda Palmer

TICKETS:

General Admission: \$16 Gate (\$13 Advance)
3-Day Weekend Pass: \$30
One-Day VIP: \$100
Three-Day VIP: \$225

EDITOR'S NOTE: Acts, times and venues are subject to change with little notice. Check at the Info Desk or visit www.pridefest.com.

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Preview the fest

*Recent releases from
some of PrideFest's
most interesting acts*

By **Gregg Shapiro**, *Contributing writer*

SUMMER OSBORNE PERFORMS JUNE 7 AT 6:30 P.M.

What's not to love about a song titled "Happy" that incorporates a child's laughter and a message about finding one's bliss? That's how St. Louis lesbian singer/songwriter Summer Osborne chose to open her 2012 album "The Scenic Route" (summerosborne.com). Osborne is at her best on similarly upbeat original numbers, such as the rousing "Love Looks Good on Me" and "I Love Your Shine." A singer of great power and confidence, Osborne presents a subtly shaded cover of "True Colors," which is bracketed by the disc's dramatic centerpiece "Don't Leave Me Here" and the roof-raising "The Reason I Sing." If you want more of Osborne, her next disc, "As I Am," is due out in June.

BIG BAD GINA PERFORMS JUNE 7 AT 8 P.M. AND JUNE 8 AT 7 P.M.

The members of queer, all-female trio Big Bad Gina (Renee Janski, Melodie Griggis and Jori Costello) describe themselves as "genre hoppin', folkin' rockin' with a driving girl-groove edge." And that sums them up pretty well. Their latest disc "Lake of Dreams" (bigbadgina.com) is awash in musical styles. From the blue bluegrass of "Canoe Built for Two," which is sure to make listeners hot under the collar, to the spellbinding "Butch Wytch," which is pure Womyn's Music Festival jazz/pop (complete with a rap break), Big Bad Gina makes good on their description's promise. The torchy "You Don't Love Me Anymore" is a top-notch tearjerker, while "Set Me Free" is a bluesy boogie-woogie number. Big Bad Gina also shows respectable taste in cover tunes, with their smooth interpretation of Janis Ian's "Hunger," and the group finds the grind in the gears of Melissa Ferrick's "Drive."

SOPHIE B. HAWKINS PERFORMS JUNE 7 AT 9 P.M.

On "The Crossing" (Inakustik/Trumpet Swan), her first album in a number of years, omnisexual singer/songwriter Sophie B. Hawkins sounds so excited to be back that she wants to get as much on the record as she possibly can. Hawkins unleashes an edgier rock side on "Betchya Got a Cure for Me." She updates her trademark pop sound on tunes such as "Georgia" and "Missing" and belts out a respectable rendi-

PREVIEW on next page

Big Bad Gina



Summer Osborne

PRIDE
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Sophie B. Hawkins

**PREVIEW** from prior page

tion of the spiritual "Sinner Man." The disc also has some unexpected surprises, including acoustic versions of Hawkins' biggest hits "Damn I Wish I Was Your Lover" and "As I Lay Me Down."

**ROCKET PALOMA
PERFORMS JUNE 8 AT 3 P.M.**

"Great" is a pretty good description of the four-song debut disc by Milwaukee's very own Rocket Paloma aka Joanna Kerner. A twangy acoustic folk project buoyed by fiddles, banjos, "gee-tars" and such, Rocket Paloma features local musicians John Blohm, Dustin Christian and Joey Runte. This group would be right at home performing at the upcoming Country Thunder fest. Rocket Paloma soars on the delightful "Staring at Polaris" while the bouncy "Mr. True Love" is a song that anyone who's experienced a broken heart can appreciate. However, it's on the EP's closer "Haterstown" that Rocket Paloma achieves greatness. Directed at "haters who just want to get in your face for no real reason," "Haterstown" allows Kerner to show off her vocal versatility. It's the acoustic folk equivalent of a rap track.

**JAYME DAWICKI
PERFORMS JUNE 8 AT 5 P.M.**

Milwaukee favorite Jayme Dawicki (who returns to PrideFest for the second time) sounds like she's spent some time listening to Aimee Mann. Her "72 1/2 Toyota Truck," from her most recent full-length release "Love Love" (jaymedawicki.com) would fit right in on any of Mann's albums. But there's so much more to keyboard queen Dawicki. Not content to come off like another Tori Amos or Regina Spektor clone, Dawicki writes and performs unique, refreshing songs. "Take My Heart" is as emotional as its title suggest. It's the kind of song that gets your eyes watery as you sing along. The same is true of the beautiful "Battle." Dawicki crafts memorably upbeat tunes, too, including "Happy New Year" and "One More Year." But balladry is her forte, and she shines on "Shout Out Loud" and "Save Me." (Be sure to hang on for the "Cricket Symphony" hidden track.)

**GOD-DES & SHE
PERFORMS JUNE 9 AT 6 P.M.**

Wisconsin's world-famous homegrown queer hip-hop duo God-Des & She has been perfecting rhymes and beats since the dawn of the 21st century. Not known for shying away from such provocative subjects as sex and politics (sometimes in the same song), the duo still proudly waves a freak flag on "United States of God-Des and She" (god-desandshe.com). The sizzling, take-no-prisoners title track kicks things off like a boot to the teeth. Suggestive nose-wrinkler "Ew She Said That" is sure to tickle more than a few fancies, and "Between the Sheets" will leave you hot and bothered. "You Know My Name (YKNM)" slides in on a retro groove and "I'm a Bitch" has anthem potential. The generic modern soul of "Don't Look Back" slows things up, and "God, I Know You Love Me" is surprisingly awkward. But those are minor complaints about a mostly solid effort.

**DANGEROUS MUSE
PERFORMS JUNE 9 AT 7:30 P.M.**

Formerly a duo and now a one-man operation, queer electro act Dangerous Muse (not to be confused with producer/musician Danger Mouse) continues to embrace the EDM (electronic dance music) esthetic on the new five-song disc "Red" (dangerousmuse.com). Dangerous Muse plays with some of the newfangled recording toys on "Homewrecker," doing techno tricks with the vocals. "I Can't Help It" sounds a bit like Ministry in that group's pre-heavy industrial period, and fans of that era won't be able to help but like it. The album's centerpiece, "Fame Kills," goes on a bit too long at almost seven minutes, but it gets points for recalling the mood and energy of vintage 12-inch disco singles.

God-Des & She



Rocket Paloma



Jayme Dawicki




 PRIDE
2013


Debbie Gibson headlining Madison's Fruitfest

By Jay Rath

Contributing writer

Madison's annual FruitFest, held this year on June 22, celebrates fruit of all varieties. Eighties pop idol Debbie Gibson is set to headline the capital city's most colorful and fruity summer event.

"FruitFest is a festival that celebrates music, diversity and art," says Rico Sabatini, who's organizing the festival along with Corey Gresen and Liz Tymus. "It features all ages, from kids all the way up to seniors."

The event takes over the 900 block of Williamson Street, known to locals as "Willy

Street."

"There's no real 'gayborhood' in Madison," says Sabatini, "but if there were one, it would be the East Side of Madison, and the Willy Street area specifically. The Williamson Street area has always been a progressive, diverse community, and embraced those qualities that we as LGBT members treasure."

Gresen agrees. "The East Side of Madison is definitely a special center of liberal, progressive, down-to-earth residents," he says. "Some people call them 'crunchy' or 'granola,' but we just call them neighbors."

Gresen and Sabatini own Madison's gay bar and dance club Plan B, located in the heart of Willy Street. Tymus, the bar's DJ, serves as festival promoter.

FruitFest began modestly. The first celebration was in the club's parking lot.

Now the event features food, karaoke competitions, a kiddie pool, face painting, art and craft vendors, games, a dunk tank and "Summer Camp Bingo," a fundraiser for the Madison-based AIDS Network. Last year, about 2,000 people attended.

"It's not only a festival for the LGBT community, but it's also a neighborhood festival," Sabatini says. "We get a lot of the neighborhood businesses supporting it – nonprofit organizations and just community members in general – so it's all of the pride allies as well."

One of FruitFest's more whimsical attractions is the Fruit Loop, a 5K run through the adjoining Marquette neighborhood.

"We get people dressing up as all different kinds of fruits and running, with costumes and teams," says Sabatini, laughing. "We get close to 150 runners each year. It's great way to kick off the event, get our presence out there to the entire neighborhood, and also raise

money for a good cause. We're hoping to get close to 200 runners this year."

Fruit Loop participants receive T-shirts and goodie bags.

For Gresen, though, the highlight of this year's event will be Debbie Gibson. "I have been a fan of hers since my youth," he says. "I have not spoken with her yet, but oh, my God, I'm totally looking forward to pictures and talking with her."

Gibson was once the youngest artist to write, produce and perform a No. 1 single – "Foolish Beat" in 1988. But younger fans will likely know Gibson from her appearance in Katy Perry's 2011 music video, "Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.)"

Gibson has become a popular performer at Pride celebrations. Sabatini predicts she'll have the same appeal for FruitFest fans as previous headliner Tiffany, also a 1980s pop star.

"She's been a longtime supporter of the LGBT community," says Sabatini, "and we had pretty good success with Tiffany when we hosted her, in getting that wide range of folks to come down. You get people that grew up with her, and there's also the nostalgic interest in the 1980s in general. The '80s have an appeal to a very broad market and that's what we want – for all people to come out, have a good time, and celebrate the LGBT community."

ON THE STREET

FruitFest is free and open to the public. For more information visit its Facebook page or www.fruitfestmadison.org.





Getting down at last year's Fruitfest.

PHOTO: PATRICK FARABAUGH

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PROFILES IN PRIDE

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Michael Gaffney's friends thought he was a little crazy when he wanted to stay in New York after visiting the city for only a few days. Gaffney was on a University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee field trip at the time. He got off the bus with his fellow UWM students, but he never got back on.

"I had a duffel bag, \$200 in my pocket and I didn't know a soul," says Gaffney, a West Allis native. "I thought I had landed in Oz."

The year was 1980. Gaffney has gone on to make a big name for himself in the world of floral arrangement. Today he's considered one of the country's pre-eminent floral designers and teachers. His New York School of Floral Design at 131 W. 28th St. is one of eight schools that he runs nationwide.

Gaffney has appeared on national television, including "The Today Show," to demonstrate his celebrated skills. His designs were featured in the film "The Black Swan," and he's one of the authors of "Design Star: Lessons from the New York School of Flower Design."

Gaffney will soon begin a regular column on design and wedding planning for The Huffington

BLOOM on next page

In full bloom

For native Milwaukee floral designer Michael Gaffney, life is just a bed of hydrangeas

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- + "The Loft" lounge & bar
- + This Is It jukebox
- + T.G.I.Pride nightly mixer
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- + Prizes & stage entertainment
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BLOOM from prior page Post. In July, he's providing \$8,000 in floral arrangements and bouquets for a Midtown wedding in a Fifth Avenue penthouse across the street from St. Patrick's Cathedral. The blushing bride, he says, is a "Milwaukee girl."

But Gaffney's initial move to Oz was hardly a stroll through Central Park. He landed in the cubicle of a Wall Street commodities broker where he made daily calls to banks around the country, prodding them to wire money to cover their daily trades. He quickly found that even Oz has its share of drudgery.

After a few years, he returned to Milwaukee intent on finishing college at UWM, a process he'd begun in 1976. The plan was to obtain a degree in finance, then return to the Big Apple to continue his Wall Street career. But fate intervened.

As a part time job, Gaffney drove a delivery van for Baumgarten Krueger, one of Milwaukee's premier florists. When he went to turn in his keys the day before leaving for New York, his employer presented him with a request that changed his course in life.

"They said, 'OK, but help us with this floral design first,'" Gaffney says. "I said, 'I'm not a floral

designer,' and they said, 'You are now.'"

It only took a short time for Gaffney to realize how prescient the florist's comment was. He stayed one extra day, then another six days. In the short space of that time, he became hooked on the career that has occupied him for the past 23 years.

"I realized that flower arranging was something that had a craft aspect, a learned technique and patterns," Gaffney says. "It was something I could do and I didn't have to be the most artistic person because it's all technique."

In fact, the majority of successful floral designs are based on one of 24 repetitive design patterns that occur again and again, no matter what the flowers, the design or the occasion, Gaffney says. Master those patterns and instant design expertise follows.

"There is very little creativity involved in our jobs," Gaffney says. "Anyone can do this. That's why my students never fail."

The schools, which began in Milwaukee in 2003, grew out of repeated requests by garden clubs and other groups for lessons in floral design. His very first class, boosted by a full-page advance article in a local newspaper, was an immediate success.

"I had a sold-out crowd," he says. "My only problem was that I didn't have enough chairs. My friend said that was a nice problem to have."

Schools were added in different cities at the rate of one per year. Gaffney's biggest surprise was the kind of students who crowded his classes.

"I thought I was going to have groups of bored housewives wanting to make floral arrangements for dinner parties," he says. "But I routinely got professionals who were tired of their jobs and said, 'Now it's time to do something I really want to do.'"

Gaffney, whose home base is his school at 1718 N. First St., travels regularly to teach at each of his schools, including locations in Chicago, Minneapolis, San Francisco, San Diego, Los Angeles and Miami, as well as New York and Milwaukee. In June, he'll appear at two different Hallmark Home & Garden Shows in L.A. to share the tricks of his trade.

Gaffney gets a thrill out of watching his students' careers blossom. "My mother was a teacher and I have developed a real appreciation for it through what I do," he says. "Teaching is an art form, a skill, a delicate walk in the park and a balancing act."

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 PRIDE
2013


Grace and Thunder of "The Outsiders," a DC Comic.

IMAGE: COURTESY

Out crusaders

LGBT comic book characters save the day, savor the 1st kiss

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Generations have grown up knowing of the love between Superman and Lois Lane, one of America's apple-pie and Chevrolet power couples. There's been the impURRfect relationship between Batman and Catwoman and the so-square affair between Invisible Woman and Mr. Fantastic.

Even villains need a little love – think the Joker and Harley Quinn.

Readers, through the years, have followed interracial romances, binational romances and intergalactic romances in their comic books. In the comics, humans love humans, humans love aliens, aliens love mutants and mutants love androids.

But GADZOOKS! What a splash it creates when LGBT characters get added to those color-saturated strips. Here's a look at the rainbow themes and LGBT characters in mainstream comic books.

A RAINBOW-COLORED COMICS TIMELINE

- 1940:** In "Crack Comics," Madame Fatal is a crime-fighting guy who dresses as an elderly dame.
- 1954:** Comic book publishers, under pressure from government censors and early prototypes of groups like One Million Moms, adopt the Comics Code Authority, which contains criteria that strictly forbids "sex perversion or any inference to same."
- 1960:** Newspaper photographer Jimmy Olsen dons drag in "Superman's Pal Jimmy Olsen," and not for the last time.
- 1971:** The Comics Code Authority is revised. Changes include allowing the "suggestion but not portrayal of seduction" and the depiction of some horror monsters, but not zombies.
- 1976:** Garry Trudeau introduces Andy Lippincott, who is gay and later dies of AIDS, in his "Doonesbury" strip.
- 1982:** Marvel's Captain America comes to the rescue of childhood friend Arnie Roth and Roth's "roommate" Michael.
- 1983:** Marvel's "Fantastic Four No. 251" contains "gay," believed to be the first use of the term in mainstream comics.
- 1984:** In Marvel's "Defenders" series, the character Cloud is revealed to be transgender – but later is revealed to be not human.
- 1988:** In DC Comics' "Superman" series, Maggie Sawyer, a captain in the Metropolis Special Crimes Unit, is identified as a lesbian, becoming the first gay parent in mass-market comics. She also appears in other comic book series, as well as in the TV shows "Smallville" and "Gotham Central."
- 1989:** The Comics Code Authority's provision on homosexuality is revised to allow non-stereotypical portrayals of gays and lesbians and derogatory references to gays are banned. By now, the CCA's influence is on the wane.
- 1991:** The Pied Piper – sometimes a supervillain, sometimes a reformed supervillain – comes out as gay in DC Comics' "The Flash." The Flash says he's not bothered, but the Piper suspects otherwise.
- 1992:** In "Alpha Flight No. 106," Northstar becomes Marvel's first gay superhero and makes headlines – in the real world.
- 1995:** Native American Rainmaker comes out as bisexual in "Gen 13" from DC. Later the super-PC superheroine is identified as a lesbian.
- 1996:** Superheroine Icemaiden says she prefers women in DC Comics' "Justice League of America No. 110."
- 1997:** DC Comics writer-artist Phil Jimenez comes out as gay on the text page of "Tempest No. 4." Also, young superhero Hero comes out as gay in "Superboy and The Ravers No. 13" from DC.
- 1999:** Superheroes Apollo and Midnighter become the first gay couple in "The Authority No. 7" from DC. Later, in July 2002, they marry. Shortly after the wedding, they adopt a baby girl – now superhero Jenny Quantum.
- 2001:** In the "Green Lantern" series, young intern Terry Berg comes out as gay and reveals his crush on boss Kyle Rayner, aka the Green Lantern.
- 2003:** In DC's "Gotham Central," the villain Two-Face outs Gotham City Police Commissioner Renee Montoya to co-workers and family and frames her for murder. Montoya later becomes the superhero The Question and gets involved with Batwoman.
- 2006:** DC announces plans for a "Batwoman" series, and also announces that Batwoman, aka Kathy Kane, is a lesbian.
- 2009:** In "X-Factor No. 45" from Marvel, it's revealed that superheroes Rictor and Shatterstar are gay and romantically involved. They share a kiss after a

COMICS on next page



PRIDE
2013



IMAGE: COURTESY



IMAGE: COURTESY

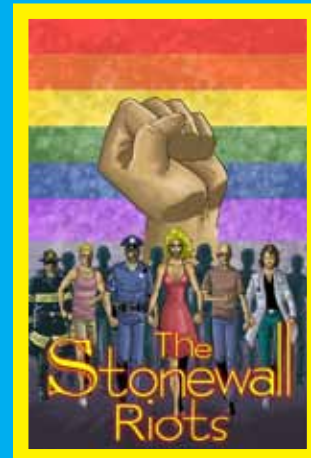


IMAGE: Bluewater

STONEWALL'S SUPERHEROES

Bluewater Productions' "The Stonewall Riots," scheduled for release on the 44th anniversary of the New York City riots in June, focuses on the rebellion and its historical significance as the genesis of the gay Pride

movement. Bluewater also has published comics about RuPaul, Ellen DeGeneres and Rosie O'Donnell and such villains as Rush Limbaugh. A crowd-funding campaign at indiegogo helped pay to publish the Stonewall comic.

COMICS from prior page

terrific battle and end all the questions about their sexual orientation.

- 2010:** Kevin Keller, who is openly gay, joins Archie and the rest of the Riverdale gang in "Veronica No. 202." Keller later marries Clay Walker.
- 2011:** DC offers the "Batwoman" series and the superheroine becomes the highest profile openly gay character in comics. Also, Miguel Jose Barragan, aka Bunker, is identified as a gay member of the Teen Titans in another DC series.
- 2012:** Jean-Paul Beaubier aka Northstar proposes to Kyle Jinadu in "Astonishing X-Men No. 50." They get married in the next issue. Also, Alan Scott, aka the Green Lantern, is reimagined – as gay.
- 2013:** Batwoman, aka Kathy Kane, proposes marriage to Capt. Maggie Sawyer. She says, "Marry me, Mags." Also, in DC Comics' "Batgirl No. 19," Alysia Yeoh comes out as a bisexual transgender woman to her roommate Barbara Gordon, aka Batgirl.

Editor's note: There are many resources on the Web for fans to learn about LGBT comic book characters. Especially useful for this timeline was www.gayleague.com. Also, there are many types of comics. For this flashback, WiG focused on mass-market comic books and the superhero realm.



IMAGE: COURTESY



IMAGE: COURTESY

Top, left to right: In the "Batwoman" series, Batwoman, aka Kathy Kane, is a lesbian; the Comics Code Authority seal; Scandal Savage and Knockout. Above: Northstar and Kyle Jinadu wed in "Astonishing X-Men No. 51," left; one of the few openly lesbian anti-heroes – Scandal Savage.

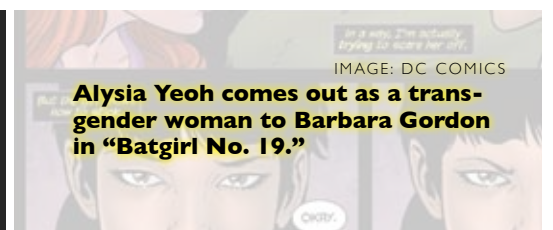


IMAGE: DC COMICS

Alysia Yeoh comes out as a transgender woman to Barbara Gordon in "Batgirl No. 19."

Out radio star Elvis Duran now on air in Madison, Milwaukee

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

At the age of 48, out radio host Elvis Duran already has been on the air for 34 years. And with his morning drive-time show being aggressively introduced into new markets by Clear Channel Communications, Duran's career trajectory has never looked more promising. The communications giant owns 1,200 radio stations and Duran currently airs on 70 of them, including, as of this year, Madison and Milwaukee.

That leaves 1,130 stations to go.

Although he grew up a Southern Baptist in suburban Texas, years of living as an openly gay man in New York City have shaped Duran's mind and his interests to encompass an almost universal appeal. An innate sense of humor, of course, is one of the most essential assets for the host of a successful live broadcast, and during our 40-minute interview, he shows off an instinctive funny bone.

"It's so beautiful," Duran says in response to my question about his impression of Wisconsin. Then he deadpans, "But not a good place if you're lactose intolerant."

Duran says it's precisely the spontaneous, improvisational nature of what he does that makes his show a success. "We sound very unprepared, because we are," he says. "As my grandfather used to say, 'If it's crawling across the front yard, I'm going to pick it up and cook it for dinner.'"

Listeners who call in to the program determine the on-air patter, which is overwhelmingly about relationships. Not just relationships among people, but also relationships between people and "things," Duran says.

"It can be relationships with food, money, parents or the way we interact with other people, things and life," Duran explains. "If it's a relationship with an ATM that won't work or a mother who's a pain in the ass, our listenership takes us there."

Duran defers credit for the show's success to his listeners and his staff, especially, which numbers about 20 people in New York as well as several local producers. He says that's a number that's "unheard of in this business."

"The only thing I can credit myself for is surrounding myself with the right people," he says. "I'm like Dorothy skipping down the yellow brick road."

The extent of the show's success might be surprising to Wisconsinites, who are just getting to know Duran. But in New York City, his program is No. 1 during morning drive

time among both men and women ages 18 to 49. But he's by far the most popular radio broadcast in his slot among women of all ages, with females constituting 70 percent of his listenership.

"We're very sensitive to women's issues," he says.

LIFE ON THE AIR

Perhaps as a result of the isolation that many gay youth experience, particularly in places like Texas, Duran found companionship in the radio from an early age. "I was a loner growing up, and I just loved the connection between music and radio personalities and me," he says. "I liked the ticket giveaways, and I just became a student of radio."

He landed his first on-air gig at 14, and moved to New York City in 1988.

Although radio has changed since he first fell in love with it, he's rolled with the punches. He describes himself as an "old-schooler who has embraced the digital age."

"I've watched radio evolve from all-music into a content machine," he says. In addition to the "terrestrial stations" that broadcast "Elvis Duran and the Morning Show," he can be heard on SiriusXM and is available on smartphones and iPads through the iheartradio.com app.

"New technology adds extra layers of texture to what we do," Duran says. "There's more interactivity. To be able to have immediate connection to your favorite content is really a new field. Radio is still that one loud, live machine you can actually interact with immediately. And it's still the number one place people turn to be exposed to new music."

But, he adds whimsically, "I sort of miss the days of being anonymous and sounding like I'm 6' 3" and blond."

Surprisingly, given his devotion to old-school radio and women listeners, Duran says his on-air hero is Howard Stern.

"(Stern) has changed what people expect to hear on the radio," Duran says. "He paved the way for us to be what we want to be on the radio. He injects his personal views into an interview to make it feel more like a conversation, and it really is quite an art form. He's found a way to cut through and get answers that other interviewers can't."

But Duran isn't inclined toward Stern's shocking brand of humor. You'll never hear jokes about wet T-shirt contests on his show, he promises.

"I just sort of stay true to myself ... (and) I definitely look at life from more of a female point of view than a lot of my male counterparts," he says. "Radio has always been an old boys' school, (but) we are more sensitive when it comes to female issues."

OUT AND PROUD

Duran never came out officially as gay to his listenership.

PROFILES IN PRIDE



PHOTO: COURTESY

Radio host Elvis Duran says he's an old-school broadcaster who's embraced digital technology. But, "I sort of miss the days of being anonymous and sounding like I'm 6' 3" and blond," he says.

He explains that about five years ago, he was exiting a long-term relationship and he thought, "If I'm asking my callers and staff to talk about their personal lives ... (it's) only fair to share my story about how I was out and about in the dating world. When I first started being very open about being gay on the air, people were like, 'whatever.' I've never made it a focus of my show. I never wanted to turn the show into the 'Elvis Duran is gay show.' I want to be accepted as a person who's great at radio and happens to be gay."

A little more than two and a half years ago, Duran began a new relationship "with someone who's not in the business," he says. He identifies his other half as Alex.

Duran and Alex are "both huge, huge supporters of the cause," he says. He's a supporter of both The Trevor Project and GLAAD.

"We are so thrilled to be present in this stage of the evolution - it really is an exciting time for us," he says. "The most exciting thing for us is seeing people who are not overwhelmed by it."

"I have a lot of older friends in New York City who were bartenders at Stonewall. They were loaded up and put in paddy wagons every night of the week," Duran adds. "The night New York passed marriage equality, we were all at Stonewall Square (celebrating). It's good to be there at those events."

ON THE AIR

"Elvis Duran and the Morning Show" airs 5-9 a.m., Monday through Friday, on Madison's WZEE-FM104.1 and Milwaukee's WRNW-FM97.3. You can listen 24/7 at www.elvisduran.com.



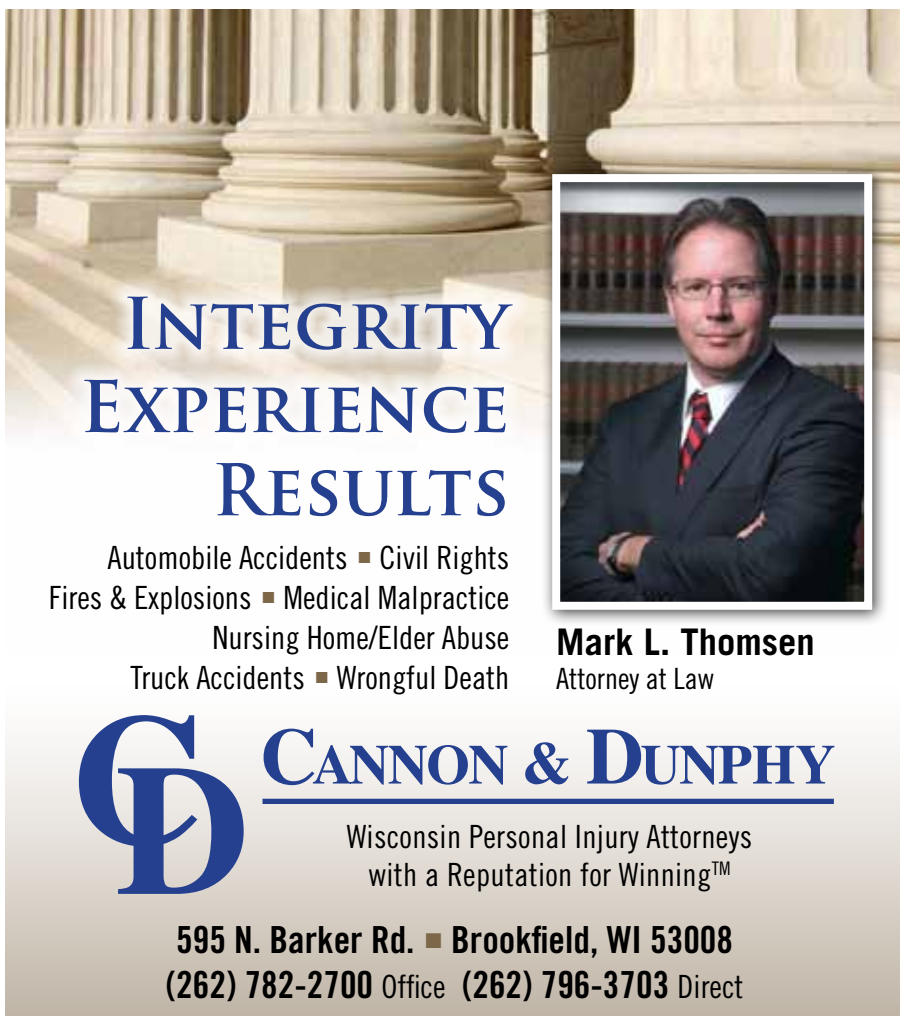
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**PRIDE
2013**



PHOTO: SAN FRANCISCO TRAVEL ASSOCIATION/SCOTT CHERNIS

An estimated 500,000 spectators line the route down Market Street of the annual Pride Celebration and Parade held on the final weekend in June in San Francisco.

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

The rainbow flags are flying to commemorate LGBT Pride in dozens of cities in 2013, with many of the celebrations taking place in June to mark the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in New York City in 1969.

Each celebration is unique to its community. The parade is the main event in some locations, while, in other cities, the main draw may be a rally, a concert, a market, a night at the ballpark, a picnic, a dance or a drag show.

In Providence, R.I., organizers expect more than a few tributes to marriage equality in the second largest Pride celebration in New England, which takes place June 14-15. The same weekend, the community in Nashville, Tenn., celebrates on the riverfront with a march for equality. And Portlanders gather for a waterfront festival.

Some of the largest Pride events in the United States take place June 28-30, with festivals and parades drawing hundreds of thousands of people to the streets of San Francisco, New York City, Chicago, Seattle and Minneapolis.

Pridegoers in Seattle and Minneapolis – and possibly Chicago – will be commemorating marriage equality advances, as will Pride celebrations in Paris.

See worldwide Pride calendar, next page.

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PRIDE
2013

A LOOK AT THE PRIDE CALENDAR WORLDWIDE:

The 2013 Milwaukee Pride Parade steps off at 2 p.m. on June 9 on Second Street between Lapham and Greenfield. Among this year's participants is U.S. Rep. Gwen Moore, D-Milwaukee.

Capitol Pride returns to Madison Aug. 17-18.
Pride Alive takes place in Green Bay on June 13.

May 29-June 9, Washington, D.C.
May 30-June 3, Sao Paulo, Brazil
June 1, Honolulu
May 31-June 9, Boston
June 1-7, Shanghai, China
June 1-9, Zurich
June 2-7, Tel Aviv
June 2, Asbury Park, N.J.
June 5-9, Key West, Fla.
June 7-10, Des Moines
June 8, Indianapolis; Spokane, Wash.; Long Island, N.Y.; Brooklyn, N.Y.
June 8-9, Ferndale, Mich.
June 8-16, Anchorage
June 9, Philadelphia

June 14-16, Bisbee, Ariz.
June 15, Pittsburgh; Providence, R.I.; Flagstaff, Ariz.; Nashville, Tenn.
June 15-16, Berlin; Portland, Ore.; Denver
June 20, Iowa City, Iowa.
June 21-22, Columbus, Ohio.
June 21-30, Barcelona, Oslo, Houston, Toronto.
June 22, Palermo, Italy; Santa Fe, N.M.
June 24-30, Helsinki.
June 23-30, San Francisco.
June 28-30, Chicago, New York City
June 29, St. Petersburg, Fla.; Albuquerque, N.M.; Paris; Seattle.

Celebrations in July take place in Los Angeles, Madrid, Cologne, San Diego, Stockholm and Montreal.

In August, Pride celebrations take place in Amsterdam, Antwerp, Vancouver, Montreal, Annapolis, Md.; Eugene, Ore.; and Reno, Nev.

Fall celebrations take place in Las Vegas, Dallas, Memphis, Atlanta and Palm Springs, among other cities.



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The percentage of adults in the United States who identify as LGBT ranges from 1.7 percent in North Dakota to 5.1 percent in Hawaii to 10 percent in the District of Columbia.

SOURCE: GALLUP

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Passion and preservation

Play chronicles gay couple's efforts to save Mineral Point

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Mineral Point residents are familiar with the story of how Bob Neal and Edgar Hellum coordinated an effort 80 years ago to save what is now one of Wisconsin's most significant historical sites. Now a pair of Chicago-area authors is taking the story of the closeted gay couple and their preservation work to the stage and, perhaps, the silver screen.

In "The Bachelors," authors Rick Kinnebrew and Martha Meyer chronicle the efforts by Neal and Hellum during the 1930s and '40s to preserve the historic stone cottages of Cornish lead miners who settled the Iowa County community of Mineral Point a century earlier. Carried out over decades – and at a time when there was little area interest in historic preservation – Neal and Hellum's efforts to save the cottages from the wrecking ball eventually resulted in the creation of Pendarvis, a "neighborhood," now owned by the Wisconsin Historical Society. Pendarvis is listed on the U.S. National Register of

Historic Places.

The authors, both of whom work for the Evanston Public Library system, first tackled the story as a screenplay, which was a semi-finalist in Pride Films and Plays' Great Gay Screenplay Competition. Now, in a reversal of the usual process, Kinnebrew and Meyer are reworking their screenplay into a stage work.

"The Bachelors," which has received several dramatic readings, arrives June 2 in the town where it all began, in a sense. Alley Stage, Mineral Point's local theatrical troupe, is performing the work at the beautifully restored Mineral Point Opera House – one of the many buildings that have benefited from Neal and Hellum's preservationist vision. Their vision has helped turn Mineral Point into the thriving artists colony and tourist destination that it is today.

Kinnebrew and Meyer first visited Mineral Point during their honeymoon in the area. The couple's discovery of Pendarvis and, especially, the lives of the two men behind its restoration, led them to

write the screenplay, Meyer says.

"(Neal and Hellum) demonstrate what a good working marriage can do – not just for the couple, but for the whole community in which they live," says Meyer. "Right now, we are all hungry for stories of healthy, long-term LGBT partnerships. Bob and Edgar's contribution to Mineral Point continues to this day."

Neal, a Mineral Point native who worked as a designer in both London and New York, met Hellum, originally from Stoughton, Wis., when the two attended the Art Institute of Chicago. In 1934, the couple moved back to Neal's hometown and began what became a lifetime of preservation work.

To survive, the two men ran Pendarvis House, a restaurant serving Cornish pasties, or meat pies. Although not terribly popular among locals, the restaurant was the favorite of another area resident, architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Mineral Point residents viewed Neal and Hellum as "eccentric" and thought their efforts were "pixilated," a Cornish term for "crazy."

"The Bachelors" chronicles not only their restoration work, but especially the men's relationship. Kinnebrew and Meyer did much of their research in the Mineral Point Public Library and also heavily tapped "A Passion to Preserve: Gay Men as Keepers of Culture" by Milwaukee author Will Fellows. The book was especially useful because of its perspective on restoration and Fellows' 1997 interview with Hellum, who was then 91 years old.

"As far as I know, my interview with Hellum was the only time he sat down with an interviewer who asked him about being gay and his life with Bob as his life partner," Fellows says. "It was evident from how he engaged with me on the topic that he wanted to talk about it, but his many years of mask-wearing in a small town made it difficult for him to do so comfortably."

The pair's relationship is what made the story of Neal and Hellum a good candidate for drama in the first place, Meyer says.

"This is a love story, one of a cosmopolitan man who is savvy in

WISCONSIN PRIDE



PHOTOS: COURTESY

Bob Neal and Edgar Hellum.

the gay world miraculously finding a way to hold on to someone who has mostly lived in small rural towns and had to leave town every time a relationship developed," Meyer says. "One partner is emotionally intelligent, the other learned only in the history of British tea cups. It is the stuff of which movies are made!"

The first Chicago reading of "The Bachelors" in January raised \$540, which Kinnebrew and Meyer donated to the Mineral Point Public Library in Neal's name. A second Chicago reading was scheduled for May 29 at Stage 773. The June 2 Mineral Point reading is being made possible with the help of Alley Stage officials, who are enthusiastic about the production.

"As a Mineral Point resident and a history-lover, Pendarvis is a point of pride," says Ainsley Anderson, Alley Stage's general manager. "The story about Bob and Edgar's relationship deserves to be told. Their relationship – their legacy – is more than just the buildings they saved."

Fellows agrees: "The Bachelors" is a fine work, notable for many reasons, not least of which is that it is, to my knowledge, the first dramatic work to focus on a chapter from Wisconsin's gay history. And it took a non-gay couple to see the dramatic potential of the Pendarvis story and tell it."

ON STAGE

For more information on the May 2 dramatic reading of "The Bachelors" at the Mineral Point Opera House, call 608-987-3292 or visit www.shakeragalley.com/alley-stage.

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Here comes the sun: Summer's festival lineup

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

The skies are bluer. The grass is greener. And the mercury is rising. It's festival season, and Wisconsin takes pride in providing an outdoor offering for just about every day of summer. A look at the lineup and some highlights on the calendar:

IN MILWAUKEE

- Chill on the Hill, June 4–Aug. 27 (Tuesdays), www.bayviewneighborhood.org.
- Jazz in the Park, June 6–Sept. 5 (Thursdays), www.easttown.com.
- PrideFest, June 7–9. www.pridefest.com.
- River Rhythms, June 12–Aug. 18 (Wednesdays), www.westtown.org.
- Milwaukee IndyFest, June 14–15. www.milwaukeeindymfest.com.
- Polish Fest, June 14–16. www.polishfest.org.
- Greek Fest, June 21–23. www.annunciationwi.org.
- Malibu Open Festival, June 21–22. www.malibuopenfestival.com.
- Lakefront Festival of the Arts, June 21–23. foa.mam.org.

Summerfest, June 26–30; July 2–7.

The world's largest music festival – 11 days, 11 stages, 1,000 performances, 900,000 people and the best wine coolers anywhere. www.summerfest.com.

- Bastille Days, July 11–14. www.easttown.com.
- Festa Italiana, July 19–21. www.festaitaliana.com.
- Milwaukee Firkin Craft Beer Festival, July 20. milwaukeefirkin.com.
- German Fest, July 25–28. www.germanfest.com.
- Brady Street Festival, July 27. bradystreet.org.
- African World Festival, Aug. 3–4. www.awfmke.com.
- Milwaukee Air & Water Show, Aug. 3–4. www.milwaukeeairshow.com.

- Irish Fest, Aug. 15–18. www.irishfest.com.
- Mexican Fiesta, Aug. 23–25. www.mexicanfiesta.org.

Harley-Davidson 110th Anniversary, Aug. 29–Sept. 1.

Rumble, rumble – a custom bike show, motorcycle display, concerts and the world's largest bike night. www.harleydavidson.com.

- Indian Summer Festival, Milwaukee, Sept. 6–8. www.indiansummer.org.

AROUND THE STATE

Outta Sight Kite Flight, Kenosha, June 1–2.

A grand launch of 500 kites. Kite-flying, kite-making, kite-selling, kite-watching. kenoshaevents.com.

- Butterfest, Sparta, June 6–9. www.spartabutterfest.com.
- Walleye Weekend Festival, Fond du Lac, June 7–9. www.fdlfest.com.
- Prairie Villa Rendezvous, Prairie du Chien, June 13–16. www.prairieduchien.org.
- Monroe Balloon Rally, Monroe, June 14–15. www.monroeballoonrally.com.

Beer, Bacon and Cheese, New Glarus, June 15. Craft beers, artisan cheeses, cured meats. And the promise of a bacon-maple ice cream sundae. www.swisstown.com.

- Great River Road Festival, Cassville, June 15. www.stonefield.wisconsinhistory.org.

Door County Beer Festival, Baileys Harbor, June 15. Baileys Harbor is transformed into a beer mecca. www.doorcountybeer.com.

- June Dairy Days, Gilman, June 15–16. www.gilmanwi.com/junedairydays.
- Cranberry Blossom Festival, Wisconsin Rapids, June 20–23. www.blossomfest.com.

- Strawberry Festival, Cedarburg, June 22–23. www.cedarburgfestivals.org.

National Women's Music Festival, Madison, July 4–7.

Music, comedy, film workshops, a marketplace and sisters. www.wiaonline.org.

- Art Fair on the Square, Madison, July 13–14. www.mmoca.org.
- Salmon-A-Rama, Racine, July 13–21. www.salmon-a-rama.com.
- Country Jam USA Festival, Eau Claire, July 18–20. www.countryjam.com.

Rock Fest, Cadott, July 18–20. Time is short to grow out your hair. Kiss, Whitesnake, Warrant, Megadeth. www.rock-fest.com.

- Midsummer Festival of the Arts, Sheboygan, July 20–21. www.jmkac.org.

Lumberjack World Championships, Hayward, July 25–27. Lumberjacks chop, climb, run and roll through more than 21 events at the "Olympics of the Forest." www.lumberjackworldchampionships.com.

- Baraboo Circus Celebration Day, Baraboo, July 27. www.downtownbaraboo.com.
- EAA Air-Venture, Oshkosh, July 29–Aug. 4. www.airventure.org.
- Wisconsin State Fair, West Allis, Aug. 1–11. www.wistatefair.com.

National Mustard Day, Middleton, Aug. 3. Celebrating the "king of condiments." www.mustardmuseum.com.

- U.S. Open Chainsaw Sculpture Championships, Eau Claire, Aug. 8–11. www.uschainsawchamps.com.
- Hamburger Fest and Balloon Rally, Seymour, Aug. 9–11. www.homeofthehamburger.org.

Summer Set Music Festival, Somerset, Aug. 9–11.

Camping, tubing and lots of tunes, including by the Wailers. summersetfestival.com/2013/.

- Cranes of the World Festival, Baraboo, Aug. 10. www.savingcranes.org.

Sweet Corn Festival, Sun Prairie, Aug. 15–18.

Serving 70 tons of sweet corn, as well as delivering a carnival and parade. www.sunprairiechamber.com.

- Baylake Bank Tall Ship Festival, Green Bay, Aug. 16–18. www.tallship-greenbay.com.
- Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival, Superior, Aug. 23–24. www.lakesuperiordragons.com.
- Kenosha Grill Games, Kenosha, Aug. 23–24. www.grill-games.org.
- Artstreet, Green Bay, Aug. 23–25. www.artstreetinc.com.

Wisconsin State Cow Chip Throw, Prairie du Sac, Aug. 30–31.

About 800 people will attempt to throw cat patties as far as they can. About 40,000 will watch. www.wiscowchip.com.

- Wilhelm Tell Festival, New Glarus, Aug. 30–Sept. 1. www.swisstown.com.

Dairyland Surf Classic, Sheboygan, Aug. 31–Sept. 1.

Fresh-water surfing in the Malibu of the Midwest. www.visitsheboygan.com.

- Taste of Madison, Madison, Aug. 31–Sept. 1. www.madisonfestivals.com.

BEYOND STATE LINES

- **Illinois:** Chicago Blues Festival,



PHOTO: WWW.VISITMILWAUKEE.ORG/VISIT MILWAUKEE

Bastille Days is July 11–14.

Chicago, June 6–9, www.cityofchicago.org; Taste of Chicago, Chicago, July 10–14, www.cityofchicago.org; Lollapalooza 2013, Chicago, Aug. 2–4, www.lollapalooza.com.

- **Iowa:** America's River Festival, Dubuque, June 14–16, www.americasriverfestival.com; 80/35 Music Fest, Des Moines, July 5–6, 2013.80–35.com.
- **Michigan:** Coast West Music Fest, Muskegon, July 1–6, www.coastwestfestival.com; Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, The Land, Aug. 6–11, www.michfest.com.
- **Minnesota:** Moondance Jam, Walker, July 18–20, www.moon-dancejam.com.

ON TOUR

Adam Ant, Barenaked Ladies, Beach Boys, Black Sabbath, Bon Jovi, Boyz II Men, Jimmy Buffett, Kenny Chesney, Dave Matthews Band, Celine Dion, Eagles, Melissa Etheridge, Fleetwood Mac, fun, Jay-Z, Elton John, Jonas Brothers, B.B. King, John Mayer, Matchbox 20, Paul McCartney, Tim McGraw, Pearl Jam, Tom Petty, P!nk, Sugar Ray, Diana Ross, Rush, Leon Russell, Bob Seger, Smashing Pumpkins, Stink, They Might Be Giants, Justin Timberlake, Carrie Underwood, Violent Femmes.

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Group combines humor with classical music

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

The founders of Madison's Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society see their role of bringing classical chamber music to the masses as, ahem, an annual mission of mirth. Their sense of playfulness extends to the name that Jeffrey Sykes and Stephanie Jutt chose for their 22nd series of summer concerts: "Deuces Are Wild."

"Studies have shown that people moved to laugh are also open to more fully experiencing other emotions," says Sykes, a pianist who serves on the music faculty of the University of California-Berkeley, and California State University-East Bay. "When our audiences laugh at something we do or say, we feel their energy and engagement change for the better, and that engagement often remains in place when we've moved on to some serious music."

BDDS' six concerts are performed in three locations

over three June weekends. This year the musical program embraces a gambling theme, with titles such as "Follow Suit," "Lost in the Shuffle," "Stacked Deck" and "Poker Face."

But there is nothing funny about the music, which includes works ranging from Brahms, Beethoven and Mozart to Kenji Bunch, Erich Wolfgang Korngold and out composer Ned Rorem.

"We look to balance works that are new and old, familiar and unfamiliar, short and long," Sykes says. "One of the great things about BDDS concerts is that if you hear something you don't like, just hang on for a minute. Something different will be coming your way soon."

In addition to presenting programs peppered with door prizes, standup comedy and even origami lessons, BDDS employs a cadre of top-shelf performers. Like Sykes, Jutt has ties to academia as well as a serious performance history. She's a

professor of flute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Music and principal flute with the Madison Symphony Orchestra.

This year's roster of 13 revolving guest performers includes Jean-Michel Fontenau, cellist with the San Francisco Conservatory of Music; Emily Birsan, soprano with the Chicago Lyric Opera; Carmit Zori, violinist and artistic director with the Brooklyn (N.Y.) Chamber Music Society; Axel Strauss, professor of violin with the Schulich School of Music at Montreal's McGill University; and John DeMain, pianist and maestro of the Madison Symphony Orchestra.

"Stephanie and I both play with a lot of different musicians, and when we find people we enjoy working with, we consider inviting them to BDDS," Sykes says. "We have a list of about 1,000 musicians we'd love to have."

This year's performance venues include the Playhouse at Madison's Overture Cen-

ter for the Arts, 201 State St. The setting provides the group with a thrust stage and support for shows requiring more theatrical effects, Sykes says. The Stoughton Opera House, 381 E. Main St. in Stoughton, is also on the bill. That venue offers a beautifully restored period opera house with a traditional proscenium stage.

The Hillside School Theater at Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin, CHY 23 just south of Spring Green, may provide the most historically significant setting. Wright designed and built the structure in 1902 for his aunts who wanted to run a boarding school. It became the first of what is now the Taliesin campus of historic Wright buildings.

"The audience is so close that sometimes we can reach out and touch them!" Sykes says of Hillside. "The acoustics are wonderful, but it's tricky to do anything special with lighting or staging there."

Still, on a warm summer



PHOTO: COURTESY

Stephanie Jutt and Jeffrey Sykes.

night sparkling with fireflies, there is something magical about a BDDS performance. Maybe that's because the concerts are a labor of love.

"Stephanie, Samantha (Crownover) and I do all this hard work because there is nothing we find more fun and satisfying than this summer chamber music festival," Sykes says. "It is our passion, it is our calling."

ON STAGE


Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society's "Deuces Are Wild" 2013 season runs June 14-16, June 21-23 and June 28-30 at various venues in and around Madison. For more information and tickets, visit www.bachdancinganddynamite.org.



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Door County takes pride in its artists

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

For some artists, it's the rustic solitude that has drawn them to Door County. For others, it's the vibrant tourist trade that keeps them in business.

For our artist Ed Fenendael, it's both — along with a lifelong love of the scenery.

"I knew Door County from my childhood," says Fenendael, a watercolorist who describes himself as a rural Wisconsin native. "I always wanted to live there."

Fenendael's studio in Baileys Harbor is part of a century-old Dutch farmstead that he and partner Frank Villigan have turned into a "true European bed-and-breakfast," he says. The tranquil, idyllic setting is conducive to his artistic style.

"I paint in a loose, wet Impressionist style that doesn't always tell the whole story," says Fenendael, whose work is featured at the Atelier Galerie Letoliacha in Giverny, France, the home of French Impressionist Claude Monet. "Watercolor has always been one of Door County's most loved forms of painting."

Fenendael's brand of watercolors also makes him one of Door County's most popular artists. Last year he was one of nine artists from three countries to participate in the 10th International Plein Air Paint Days, which celebrates painting outdoors in natural light. The Door County artist spent three days painting in Monet's famed Giverny garden.

"The invitation was totally unexpected," says Fenendael. In 2008, the Door County Art League named him Master Artist of the Year.

"The best thing about Door County is the local native individuals who embrace the arts and the artists, as well as the transplanted souls who call this part of the world home," he says.

Fenendael is not alone. The same qualities that attract as many as 250,000 tourists to the peninsula every summer also draw a large number of potters, glass artists, muralists, sculptors and other artists. Door County's rugged, pastoral beauty and a large number of tourists who appreciate the arts have spawned a vibrant local creative community that includes nearly 100 artists and galleries.

It's said that the only thing more plentiful in Door County than the artists are the cherry trees for which the area is famous.

"The best part of living in Door County is the beauty of our surroundings," says potter Jeanne Aurelius who, with her husband David owns Clay Bay Pottery and Gallery in Ellison Bay. "This atmosphere is conducive to creativity."

The peninsula's scenery provides the subject matter for a lot of artists. Often referred to as the "Cape Cod of the Midwest," Door County boasts 298 miles of shoreline. The peninsula's western coastline along Green Bay is lined with limestone cliffs that are part of the Niagara Escarpment. The eastern,

Lake Michigan side of the peninsula features sandy beaches and dunes. In between the two coasts, the county's 483 square miles provide artists with a variety of inspirational natural environments.

Door County takes its name from what early settlers considered the treacherous waters between the tip of the main land mass and nearby Washington Island, a nautical passage that French explorers christened "Porte des Morts," or "Death's Door."

Door County appeals to artists who work in a variety of media. Local galleries offer an abundance of art forms, from painting and photography to jewelry and sculpture. There is art for every taste and in every price range, and tourists can find a unique souvenir of their visit or significant art acquisitions that become family heirlooms.

"Door County is a good place to be a self-sustaining artist," says painter Stephanie Trenchard who, along with husband and glass artist Jeremy Popelka, owns Popelka Trenchard Glass Studio in Sturgeon Bay. "There are quite a few families living off of their art, which is pretty rare."

Trenchard and Popelka met when the two Illinois natives attended Illinois State Univer-



Door County artist Ed Fenendael.

PHOTO: JOHN CHRISTENSEN

sity. The couple lived in California for 12 years before moving to Door County in 1997 to be closer to their families. Their art glass business has done well in the area, and their work also is featured in galleries in Santa Fe, Aspen, Vail, Phoenix, Cleveland, New York, Dallas and other cities.

But having collectors and visitors come to their studio in Door County is a special thrill, Trenchard says.

"More and more people are coming not only for relaxation and recreation, but also to visit and enjoy the community of artists and galleries Door County is known for," says Aurelius, a Wauwatosa native.

For more information, visit www.door-county.com/arts/visualarts.

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Each month, the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center hosts a TGIF social gathering at a different restaurant/bar around the greater Milwaukee area on the second Friday of every month. Our TGIFs are social events that are open to everyone—so bring a friend!!

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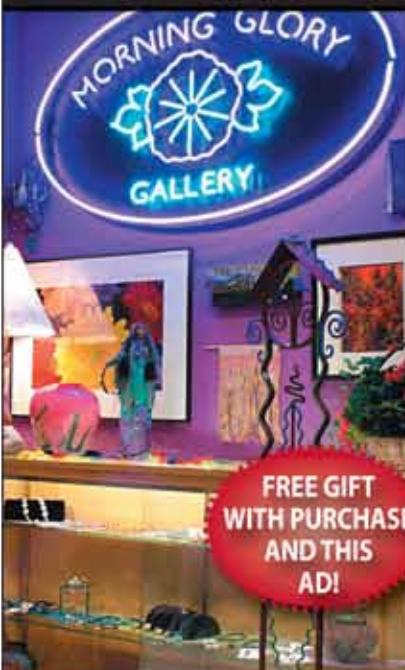
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 PRIDE
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Diners, drive-ins and dives – the Wisconsin edition

The rise in popularity of diners, drive-ins and dives can be attributed at least partially to the Food Network's popular television show "Diners, Drive-ins and Dives." But in Wisconsin, these earthy, quirky establishments have always enjoyed broad appeal. The state has dozens of eclectic and fun local eateries, some of which have actually been featured on the TV show.

Ranging from places that have been around for 70 years to newbies that capture the dive vibe, here are a few hot spots (in alphabetical order) that are the perfect place to grab a burger and a chocolate malt. Yes, a malt! They still exist.

DINERS

Comet Café, Milwaukee

We have to give a nod to this diner, which was featured on the Food Network's show. Located on Milwaukee's trendy East Side, The Comet impressed Guy Fieri with its made-from-scratch entrées and ability to use bacon (including a vegan version) as an ingredient in just about everything. Comet features fresh ingredients, homemade soups and sandwiches, and some pretty mean cupcakes.

Delta Diner, Iron River

It's 1940. You're driving along the forested roads of northern Wisconsin in your classic Chevrolet, longing for a bite to eat. And suddenly there appears a shiny, retro diner car beside the road. A decade ago, Delta

Diner in Iron River recreated that experience with a completely rebuilt and restored 1940s-style diner. With a recent expansion and brand new outdoor deck, Delta Diner now allows you to enjoy your meal al fresco. The outdoor patio will host a new dinner series this summer on topics from Midwestern wine to eating "oryoki," a style of Zen Monastery eating.

Kroll's, Green Bay

You can't go to a Green Bay Packer game without stopping at Kroll's before or after. What started as a local burger joint in 1931, when Kroll's began serving butter-soaked burgers, continues to serve Green Bay families and visitors, as well as Packer legends. Today there are two Kroll's locations.

Kroll's East, the older location, is a designated historic site. Kroll's West is located right across the street from Lambeau Field and has become a Green Bay landmark. The secret to success? Charcoal grilled burgers and a big slab of butter. Yum.

Monty's Blue Plate Diner, Madison

Monty's Blue Plate Diner stays busy all day. The real deal here is where the food comes from. Chef Matt strives to purchase all ingredients from local producers in order to support the local economy and offer the freshest ingredients possible – fitting for a Madison restaurant. For vegetarians, this is the place for you. They offer a surprising array of meatless options, including meatless meatloaf.

Frank's Diner, Kenosha

Frank's Diner is no stranger to prime-time TV. It was featured on the show "Diners, Drive-ins and Dives" and more recently on "The United States of Bacon." Frank's is the oldest operating railcar diner in the United States. Its most famous dish is called a "garbage plate." Five eggs (three for the half portion) are mixed with hashbrowns, peppers, onions, and your



Frank's Diner, Kenosha

choice of up to five – yes, five – meats and five cheeses. Add a side of toast and a cholesterol-lowering drug.

DRIVE-INS

The following are old-school eateries – the kind where you park your car and a roller-skating car-hop takes your order. Cruise on over in your pink Cadillac and check out these '50s throwbacks.

Ardy & Ed's Drive-In, Oshkosh


Ardy and Ed's is a real blast from the past and a truly authentic 1950s drive-in. It opened as a A&W back in 1948. To celebrate its 65th anniversary, enjoy various specials throughout the year, like 65-cent fries. Roller-skat-

ing waitresses still take your order, and we recommend, well, everything on the menu. Don't miss the monthly classic car cruise nights.

Flat Pennies Ice Cream, Bay City

This unique drive-in on Wisconsin's Great River Road is located right next to a SooLine railroad car. It's also considered one of the best pet rest stops in the state with "hitching posts" for your pet to sit right near your table. With hot dogs, brats, and famous soft-serve ice-cream made with real Wisconsin milk, it's the perfect stop after a summer day exploring the Mississippi River and surrounding towns.

DINERS on next page



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Flat Pennies Ice Cream, Bay City

PHOTO: COURTESY

PRIDE 2013

DINERS from prior page

In fact, train engineers agree. Due to its close proximity to the railroad, they make frequent stops at Flat Pennies.

Gus's Drive-In, East Troy

With traditional drive-in fare, Gus's is a great stop in a prime location, close to Alpine Valley Resort and minutes from Lake Geneva. Getting to this drive-in is an easy and scenic drive through the Kettle Moraine State Forest. On Saturdays, just follow the sound of rumbling and thundering engines to Gus's on cruise nights. Antique car aficionados love the display of classics, hot-rods and rad-rods every weekend.

LaGrander's, Chippewa Falls

LaGrander's is an old-fashioned car-hop located right across from Lake Wissota beach in Chippewa Falls. You

could say it's a family business – Bob LaGrander and his wife opened shop in 1978, and LaGrander's famous house-battered cheese curds come from LaGrander's Dairy, owned by Bob's brother. But the real deal at LaGrander's is the ice cream. Made on site, the most popular flavor is called "Sinful" – real honey with a wave of chocolate and chocolate-covered peanuts folded in. It's devilishly good.

Milty-Wilty, Wautoma

This drive-in has been serving custard for more than six decades. Just look for the giant neon sign with an ice-cream cone, and you'll find the real-deal, iconic drive-in experience. Milty-Wilty is open through September.

DIVES

It's always fun to feel "in" on a best-kept secret, and you know it's a best-kept secret if it's where all the locals go to hang out. The

following Wisconsin dives are unique and downright fun.

Anchor Bar, Superior

This bar is the go-to dive in northern Wisconsin. Featured on "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives," Anchor Bar serves up the most outrageous burgers ever. It also has a crazy nautical theme and even a life preserver from the famed Edmund Fitzgerald. Family-owned and a favorite local haunt, people from all over come to Superior to check out Anchor Bar.

Bayside Tavern, Fish Creek

Bayside Tavern is generally recognized as the social center of the Egg Harbor/Fish Creek area. It's a must-see when you're visiting Door County – a place where locals mix with visitors for an all-around fun atmosphere. The tavern offers a variety of beers and spirits and great home-cooked

food, served until 1 a.m.

Koz's Mini Bowl, Milwaukee

Milwaukee is a city with a large brewing history where "dive bars" are standard, and Koz's Mini Bowl not only fits the bill but takes it one step further. Koz's is the last duckpin bowling venue in Wisconsin. Think mini bowling alley, with mini lanes (four total), mini pins (with human pin setters) and mini bowling balls the size of grapefruits. This historic landmark hidden in Milwaukee's South Side is a guaranteed fun time. Koz's also has a pool table, darts and an old-school jukebox.

Moccasin Bar, Hayward

Where else can you get a drink and stare down the world-record muskie hanging on the wall? Located less than half a mile from the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame, Moccasin Bar is a true "dive" in the heart

of northern Wisconsin. In addition to the numerous award-winning fish mounted on the walls, there's a "wildlife museum" of other stuffed animal dioramas. The décor alone makes for a unique Saturday night.

Wolski's, Milwaukee

Opened in 1908, Wolski's has been serving beer for over a century. In the 1970s, faithful Wolski's customers who remained at the bar until closing hour asked to be rewarded for their patronage. It was then that the famous "I Closed Wolski's" bumper sticker was created.

Thirty-five years later, the bumper sticker can be found all over the world. Wolski's has a new beer garden that



Monty's Blue Plate Diner, Madison

PHOTO: COURTESY

will open this summer, so enjoy a drink or two outside.

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Look to the stars . . . or not

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Kurt Shepard of Waukesha will say, without much prodding, that Hollywood's liberal celebrities ought to keep out of politics.

And Susie Rodgers of Green Bay will say, needing no encouragement, that conservative country artists ought to quit the tea party circuit.

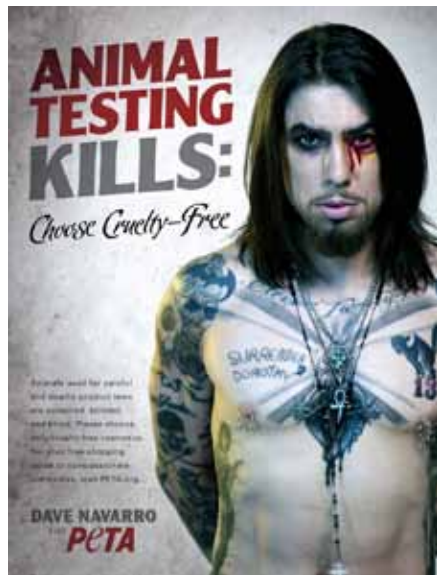
Polls show Americans are divided on whether celebrities should engage in politics or causes. Democrats and liberals tend to be more encouraging of celebrity activism, while more than two-thirds of Republicans say stars should stick to entertaining.

"Actors should act," says Shepard, an auto mechanic and a conservative Republican.

But keep asking, because answers change when the cause is personally important or someone is smitten with a star.

Shepard thinks George Clooney is a jerk for protesting at the Sudanese Embassy in Washington, but the late Charlton Heston, who was president of the National Rifle Association and famously invited Al Gore to pry a rifle "from my cold, dead hands!" – well, Shepard thinks Heston's a god.

Meanwhile, Rodgers, an office administrator and longtime Democrat, won't listen to Kid Rock, who performed outside the 2012 Republican National Convention in Tampa. But she's a fan of the Dixie Chicks, because



they took a stand against George W. Bush's war-mongering.

"I like some of his music," she says, "but no, I change the station when Kid Rock comes on – which is less and less anyway."

The website looktothestars.org, which tracks celebrities and causes, says nearly 2,000 celebrities are involved in children's charities, 1,800 are involved in health charities, 1,000 are working against poverty, 959

are involved in education causes, 981 are working on human rights issues, 843 are involved with at-risk youth programs, 706 are associated with environmental campaigns and 636 are associated with 138 animal welfare and rights charities.

What sway does a celebrity have with voters or donors or ticket-buyers or petition signers?

Various polls show that 10-14 percent of Americans say they might be influenced by a celebrity endorsement or statement.

One exception? When the pitch comes from Oprah Winfrey. A 2009 CBS poll found 31 percent of voters said they were more likely to support Barack Obama because of Winfrey's endorsement.

Another exception? When the pitch comes from a cultural icon like Clint Eastwood or Willie Nelson, who support marriage equality, despite being on opposite ends of the political spectrum.

The LGBT community takes pride in its star power and hails its celebrity supporters – those who've marched on Washington, raised money for HIV/AIDS research and treatment, generated funds for candidates



and political parties, hosted auctions, rallied at demonstrations, or lent their fame to campaigns such as the No H8 protest against California's anti-gay Proposition 8.

"Here's what I believe ... no shame, no blame, no guilt," says Liza Minnelli, the latest celebrity to join the No H8 campaign. "Be happy. And be who you are. I love you."

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Care to check your celebrity-and-cause IQ in WiG's annual Pride quiz?

1. What celebrity started the Make It Right Foundation to promote green housing projects, including the construction of 150 homes in New Orleans' 9th Ward, which was devastated by Hurricane Katrina?
2. True or false: Actor Roger Moore narrates an undercover PETA video exposing animal abuse on a foie gras farm.
3. Advocating marriage equality, one celebrity said that gay people "should be just as miserable as the rest of us." Was it Queen Latifah, Willie Nelson or Roseanne Barr?
4. The Give a Damn Campaign raises awareness about the struggles of LGBT youth. Who launched the organization?
5. Which director and his actress wife donated \$100,000 to the campaign against California's anti-gay Proposition 8?
6. True or False: Lindsey Lohan tattooed an equal sign on her middle finger.
7. Spurred by the death of her friend and acting coach Roy London, Sharon Stone became the global fundraising chair of what HIV/AIDS organization in 1995?
8. Which actress was arrested in 2006 after chaining herself to a tree to protest the bulldozing of the country's largest urban farm in Los Angeles?
9. True or False: Basketball player Karl Malone, Tom Selleck and Ted Nugent are members of the NRA board.
10. What concert raised \$250 million to fight famine in Ethiopia?

Answers: 1. Brad Pitt, who also contributed \$100,000 to fight Prop 8; 2. True; 3. Willie Nelson; 4. Gynai Luper; 5. Steven Spielberg and Kate Capshaw; 6. False; Miley Cyrus did; 7. Amy Poehler, the Foundation for AIDS Research; 8. Darryl Hannah; 9. True; 10. Live Aid in London and Philadelphia in 1985, still the top-grossing benefit concert.

the **Cat Doctor** S.C.

Kathryn Christensen, DVM

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Acceptance Journeys

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Imagine
 IMAGINE MORE
More

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Ashley and Erin



Tim and Jeremy

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

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Acceptance Journeys is a project of Diverse and Resilient, Inc. The end of anti-gay and anti-transgender oppression is key to our health and well-being. Imagine more.

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