

COMEDY QUEEN

En route to Milwaukee, the record-breaking Kathy Griffin talks to WiG about her Midwestern roots.

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THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

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Message in a bottle

Bars dump Stolli as boycott against Putin's anti-gay Russia grows



PHOTO: AP/RINGO H.W. CHIU

West Hollywood bar owners joined city officials Aug. 1 to empty Russian vodka into a gutter. The action was part of a nationwide boycott of Russian vodka to oppose new anti-gay laws enacted by President Vladimir Putin



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4 Homicide

1st homicide in 20 years shocks Shorewood.



6 Free speech?

Private militias, Capitol arrests spark outrage.



29 Tattoo as art

Milwaukee Art Museum explores the tattoo art of Amund Dietzel.

News with a twist



SEXY SHIRLEY

Shirley Jones, in her new autobiography "Shirley Jones," invites readers to "bring out the smelling salts, hang on to your hats, and get ready for the surprise of your lives." In her tell-all, the Oscar-winning actress and songstress writes about her marriage with "sexual Svengali" Jack Cassidy, including a three-way with Cassidy and a woman. She also tattles about a sexual encounter between Cassidy and Cole Porter.

HANDS OFF

A gay couple reportedly is considering legal action against a bus company whose driver forced them to sit in the back of a shuttle bus in New Mexico simply for holding hands. Ron McCoy and his partner

Chris Bowers said they flew into Albuquerque on June 28 for the city's PrideFest and boarded a Standard Parking shuttle bus, where they sat in the front holding hands. "OK, if you're going to do that, you're going to the back of the bus," the driver said to the couple, according to McCoy.

NOT SUITABLE FOR ICE CREAM

Ben & Jerry's has settled a lawsuit against the porn production company Caballero. According to the suit, 10 titles in Caballero's "Ben & Jerry's" series damaged the ice cream maker's brand and infringed on its trademark. Not only were the names similar to real Ben & Jerry's products, but the films' packaging also mimicked Ben & Jerry's clouds-and-cows logo.

ALL AT THE MALL

The Chapel of Love at the Mall of America performed its first same-sex wedding



WIGWAG

the minute gay marriage became legal in Minnesota. Holli Bartelt and Amy Petrich of Wykoff, who have been together for two years, became engaged in a photo booth at the Bloomington mall. So they wed in the mall's chapel at 12:01 a.m. on Aug. 1.

COMPASSIONATE BUCKEYES

The Buckeye Firearms Foundation in Ohio raised more than \$12,000 in July for former neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman to buy guns or a security system. Seems the pro-gun group was outraged that Zimmerman hasn't been able to get back the gun he used to fatally shoot unarmed teenager Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Fla., in February 2012.

NEW DOG TREAT?

A Dominican man told a local TV station that he

passed out drunk and woke up with no penis.

The 45-year-old from Santiago says he has no clue where his penis went, but neighbors told the station that Ramos was attacked by a dog when he was drunk. The alleged dog has not been found – nor the penis.

ELLEN'S OSCAR COMEBACK

Ellen DeGeneres will host the Academy Awards for the second time. The movie awards show airs on ABC on March 2, 2014. DeGeneres announced the gig on Twitter, posting: "It's official: I'm hosting the #Oscars! I'd like to thank @TheAcademy, my wife Portia and, oh dear, there goes the orchestra."

PRICED TO SELL

The Ocean Drive mansion that Gianni Versace owned in South Beach, Fla., is for sale at auction. Real estate agents are talking up the 24-karat gold tiles in the pool, the gold-plated bath-

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

room fixtures, the ocean view, the custom-made murals, the glamorous visitors who've visited over the years and the discounted price – \$25 million – down from the original \$125 million. Agents are downplaying the fact that Versace was murdered outside the mansion in 1997 by spree-killer Andrew Cunanan.

BEG PARDON

Forbes financial news recently apologized to Ireland's president, Michael D. Higgins, for identifying him as gay. A blog on a Forbes site referred to Higgins as an "acknowledged homosexual." The thing is, Higgins can't acknowledge that – because he isn't gay. Blogger David Monagan was probably thinking of Higgins' opponent in 2011, David Norris, who's said to be a famously "acknowledged homosexual."

OFF TRACK

The Saratoga Race Course in Saratoga Springs,

N.Y., has banned a food truck that sells barbecue sandwiches because of complaints about the business' name and menu items. The truck is called the "Wandering Dago," and menu items include the Dago, the Polack and a dish called Mick & Cheese. The truck owners, who say they are of Italian descent, say "dago" was meant to be a tribute to their immigrant ancestors.

SAGGY SAGA

A growing number of men are getting butt implants, according to a story that appeared in The New York Times. Men lose fat in their rears as they age, but plastic surgeons are correcting time's mistakes by removing fat from patients' growing middle-aged guts and injecting it into their sagging butts. Men represented over 6 percent of butt implants in 2012, up from 2 percent 15 years ago.

Find more WigWag at wisconsin Gazette.com.



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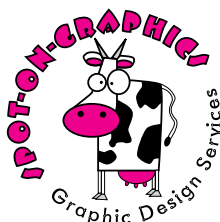
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Milwaukee man charged in Shorewood homicide

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

A Milwaukee man is being held on \$5 million bond for allegedly stabbing a Shorewood man 13 times in what police say he described as a lover's quarrel.

Homer D. Washington, who lives at Apt. 4, 9307 W. Silver Spring Drive, Milwaukee, was charged with first-degree intentional homicide and use of a dangerous weapon in the death of Clarence Charles, 57. Washington, 21, also has been charged with taking and driving Charles' vehicle without consent.

The killing took place in Charles' apartment at 4460 N. Oakland Ave. in Shorewood. It was the first homicide recorded in Shorewood in 20 years.

Coincidentally, the last homicide in Shorewood also involved an apparently gay man and occurred in the same building, two floors above where Charles lived, said Shorewood Police Chief David Banaszynski.

Responding to a missing person's report filed by Charles' mother and sister, a Shorewood police officer entered his apartment on the night of July 16. The officer found Charles' body lying on the bedroom floor. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office determined that Charles had been stabbed 13 times, including six times in the abdomen, six in the throat and one

in the neck.

A witness placed Washington at Charles' apartment about noon on July 15, according to a criminal complaint filed in Milwaukee County Circuit Court. Derric Hudson told police that he observed Charles making a pizza for Washington and the two were arguing.

But Washington told police the argument began after Hudson left, when Charles accused him of having an affair with Hudson. Later, when Charles and Washington attempted to engage in intimacy, Washington was not responsive, which angered Charles further, Washington told police.

According to Washington's statement to police, Charles went to the kitchen to get the pizza and returned to the bedroom with a knife while Washington was getting dressed. Charles punched him in the back of the head, setting off a struggle between the two for the knife, Washington said. In the course of the struggle, Charles stabbed himself in the neck and told Washington, "Your life is over," Washington said.

Washington acknowledged that he choked and stabbed Charles to stop him from screaming. After becoming frightened by the sound of a neighbor outside the apartment, Washington said he fled through a window and drove away in Charles' 2002 Chevy Blazer, which he later sold for \$250.

Washington also took Charles' cellphone,

which he smashed and left on the street. He did not notify police or call for help for Charles, who bled to death, according to the autopsy report.

Washington, if convicted, faces a possible sentence of life in prison. He was charged twice earlier this year with violating restraining orders for harassment that were filed by his grandmother. He was charged last November with battery and disorderly conduct, but prosecutors dismissed those charges after the victim proved unreliable.

Charles was employed by Roundy's, which released the following statement to "Today's TMJ4" following his death: "We are deeply saddened by the loss of our employee, Clarence Charles. Above all else, our thoughts and condolences are with his family during this difficult time. During this grieving process, we are doing everything we can to assist our employees who have been affected in any way, by providing counseling and support."

Banaszynski said he was a detective with the Shorewood Police Department when the village's last homicide occurred 20 years ago. He said the victim in that case, 65-year-old Harold Miller, worked for the Village Pub, which was owned by a member of his family.

Lee M. Williams, 37, was charged with first-degree intentional homicide in that killing. But he was convicted of the less-

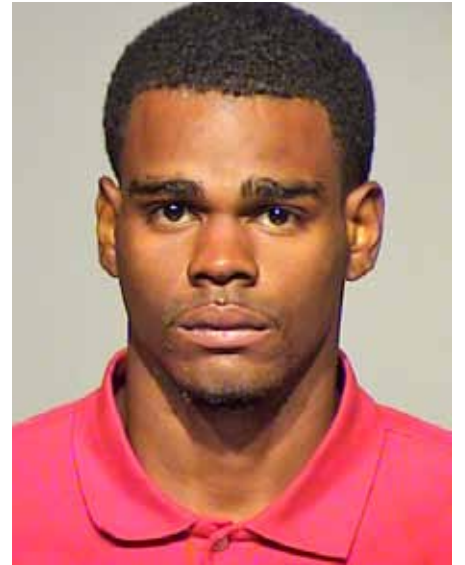


PHOTO: MILWAUKEE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Homer D. Washington.

er charge of second-degree manslaughter after claiming Miller made unwanted sexual advances toward him while the two were drinking in Miller's apartment.

Banaszynski said he was "shocked" by the verdict and believed that bias had prevented justice from being served.

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Illinois governor signs medical marijuana into law

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn on Aug. 1 signed the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Act into law.

Illinois is now the 20th state to enact such legislation.

"Over the years, I've been moved by the brave patients and veterans who are fighting terrible illnesses. They need and deserve pain relief," Quinn said in a news release.

State Rep. Lou Lang, a Democrat from Skokie, and Sen. William Haine, a Democrat from Alton, sponsored the bill, which the governor said contained the nation's strongest restrictions regarding the use of medical marijuana.

"Patients afflicted by the most unbearable conditions finally have a compassionate answer to their cries for help," said Haine, a former prosecutor. "This program alleviates suffering and provides strong safeguards against abuse. We are ensuring only those suffering from the most serious diseases receive this treatment."

Before signing the bill, Quinn consulted with Illinois citizens, including Jim Champion of Somonauk, a veteran of the 101st Airborne who is living with multiple sclerosis.

"I use medical cannabis because it's the most effective medicine in treating my muscle spasticity with few side effects," Champion said. "My wife shouldn't have to go to drug dealers for my medicine. Neither of us deserves to be criminals."

At the Marijuana Policy Project, Karen O'Keefe had praise for Illinois lawmakers and advocates.

"We put nearly 10 years of hard work into passing this bill," she said.

She noted that earlier this year, New Hampshire and Vermont also enacted marijuana reform bills and now about 40 percent of the U.S. population lives in states with medical marijuana laws. Seventeen states have decriminalized or legalized marijuana possession.

A CBS poll in 2012 found

'Patients ... finally have a compassionate answer to their cries for help.'

83 percent of Americans support legalizing medical cannabis.

The legislation should create some jobs – each of the 22 cultivation centers likely will hire 5 to 10 staff members and each of the 60 dispensaries will employ 10 to 20 staff and hundreds of new jobs in related industries will be created.

"This is a huge feat, but we cannot rest yet," O'Keefe said.

RESTRICTIONS

The Illinois law enacts significant restrictions, however.

There are 22 cultivation centers, one for each state police district, and they must comply with local zoning ordinances, be located at least 2,500 feet from day care centers and schools, and ensure professional licensing, 24-hour surveillance and inventory control.

Under the law, Illinois will not permit patients or caregivers to cultivate cannabis.

But eligible patients can purchase up to 2.5 ounces of cannabis every 14 days. There will be no more than 60 licensed dispensaries, which must comply with rules established by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.

The law specifies 35 medical conditions for eligibility, including muscular dystrophy, cancer, multiple sclerosis and HIV/AIDS.

And the prescribing physician and patient must have an established relationship.

Minors and people with felony drug convictions or psychiatric conditions do not qualify.

Patients may not be police officers, firefighters, probation officers or school bus drivers.

And patients who drive while impaired by medical cannabis face the same penalties as those who drive

while impaired by prescription drugs.

The law also provides for taxing medical cannabis at the same rate – 1 percent – as pharmaceuticals. And a 7 percent "privilege tax" will be imposed on the cultivation centers and dispensaries.

The law takes effect on Jan. 1, 2014, and is a four-year pilot program.



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Private militias, Capitol arrests spur outrage

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Owners of a proposed open-pit mine in the Penokee Hills engaged a paramilitary force to guard the area after Native American tribal leaders established an "education center" nearby.

The camp has drawn numerous environmentalists and protesters to the scene of the hotly contested project.

The Iron County Board recently postponed voting on a recommendation to pursue criminal or civil action against the campers. But county supervisors did agree to ask their forestry committee to take another look at the Penokee Harvest and Education Camp set up by the Lac Courte Oreilles band of Lake Superior Chippewa near the site of Gogebic Taconite's proposed mine.

Republican Gov. Scott Walker, over the objection of Wisconsin's 11 tribes and many citizens in the region, eased the way for the mining operation earlier this year by signing legislation that relaxed pollution and other regulations.

A website for the tribe describes the off-reservation camp on Iron County forest land as a place to "educate visitors and locals about geology, ecology, traditional lifeways and Anishinaabe treaty rights."

In late May, after the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources approved a permit for Gogebic to conduct exploratory drilling in the area, the camp population began

to grow. Environmentalists responded to the tribe's invitation to "come relax in the woods while giving your vacation a purpose."

In July, the Iron County Board forestry committee recommended that supervisors take legal action against the camp. The county forest administrator complained that the camp violates a county ordinance requiring a permit to occupy the land for more than two weeks.

However, District Attorney Marty Lipske cautioned that under treaty rights – treaties of 1837 and 1842 – the tribe has special privileges on the forest land.

And representatives from the camp say they are staying, even if they received an eviction notice from the county.

Meanwhile, the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services opened an investigation after receiving complaints related to Gogebic Taconite's hiring of an Arizona firm, Bulletproof Securities, to police the area. The armed guards were assigned to protect the mining operations after conflicts with protesters that resulted in the arrest of one demonstrator said to be associated with Earth First.

On its website, Bulletproof Securities promotes its "strong record of accurately assessing risk and providing a security solution to control the risk rather than react to it" and promises experience in personal security detail, dealing with eco-terrorism and economic sabotage, border security, de-bugging,



PHOTO: AP / SCOTT BAUER

SOLIDARITY BUST: Jeremy Ryan, of Madison, is led away by Capitol police in late July as part of a crackdown on people who gather daily in the Capitol without a permit to sing protest songs.

and armored vehicles services.

Gogebic defended employing the guards, but suspended their work after it was revealed that Bulletproof lacked a license to work in Wisconsin. Then, on Aug. 5, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Safety and Professional Services announced the firm is now licensed and the guards would soon return to the site.

Several Democratic lawmakers objected to the paramilitary-style guards, who were photographed in camouflage uniforms and masks, carrying semi-automatic weapons on public land.

Democratic state Sen. Bob Jauch called any aggression by protesters "idiotic," but said nothing justified the hiring of a security force armed with assault weapons.

"The majority party in Wisconsin has a track record of not following the law, so it's no surprise that their special interest friends were found acting in an illegal manner," said state Rep. Melissa Sargent, D-Madison, referring to Bulletproof as "an out-of-state heavily armed, private paramilitary militia."

REPRESSIVE DICTATORSHIP

Sargent also took issue with the repeated arrests of peaceful protesters assembling daily at the state Capitol for the Solidarity Sing Along.

"I am appalled that the Walker Administration has decided to forcibly silence the voices of those who wish to peaceably assemble—www in our state capitol," Sargent said. "Time and again, Scott Walker has pushed policies that have inspired the people of our state to speak out. Whether it's 20 people or 100,000, the right to free speech is not up for debate. It is enshrined in our state constitution."

The Solidarity Sing Along dates to March 2011 and the massive protests against Walk-

er's push to limit collective bargaining and the rights of state workers, along with other items on the tea party agenda. Every weekday since, there has been a sing along at the Capitol at noon.

In late July, authorities began arresting the singers, citing them for demonstrating in the Rotunda without a permit. The arrests came five months after the American Civil Liberties Union filed a federal lawsuit seeking to block the Walker administration from requiring permits for demonstrations inside the Capitol for groups as small as four people.

On July 8, the judge in the case granted a preliminary injunction allowing groups of up to 20 people to gather without a permit inside the Capitol and a trial date on the merits of the ACLU case was set for Jan. 13, 2014.

ACLU of Wisconsin legal director Larry Dupuis cheered the judge's action as a "huge victory for free speech."

But soon after the judge issued the temporary injunction, Capitol police began arresting protesters, whose songbook includes variations on "We Shall Overcome," "This Land is Your Land" and "If I Had a Hammer," along with some relatively new folk tunes, including "The Koch Song" and "Scotty, We're Comin' for You."

The demonstrators, whose numbers have exceeded 20 people, refuse to get permits, maintaining they have a right to protest under the Wisconsin Constitution. Article 1, Section 4 of the document states, "The right of the people peaceably to assemble, to consult for the common good, and to petition the government, or any department thereof, shall never be abridged."

After witnessing arrests on July 24, Sargent said, "What I saw today was something I would expect out of a repressive dictatorship, not the state I love to call home."



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PHOTO: AP/STACY BENGIS

MARRIAGE ON MOVE IN MIDWEST: Margaret Miles, right, celebrates with wife Cathy ten Broeke after marrying Aug. 1 at Minneapolis City Hall.

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Same-sex couples shared wedding vows in midnight ceremonies on Aug. 1 in Minnesota, the second Midwestern state to legalize marriage equality.

Gay couples also exchanged vows in Rhode Island, the last state in New England to legalize same-sex marriage.

Minnesota lawmakers passed the marriage equality bill in May and same-sex couples began applying for marriage licenses in June, where there is a waiting period before couples can wed.

On the eve of a wedding day for dozens of couples in the state, Minnesotans United PAC, the coalition that led the campaign for marriage equality, celebrated with Married at Midnight and a countdown to the sharing of vows.

At Minneapolis City Hall, Cathy ten Broeke and Margaret Miles, after spending 12 years together, became the first same-sex couple to wed, with Mayor R.T. Rybak officiating. After exchanging their vows, they shared a Betty Crocker wedding cake made by master bakers at General Mills, where Miles' parents once worked.

"I didn't expect to cry quite that hard," said a beaming ten Broeke.

In a joint statement before the ceremony, the couple said, "We have been 100 percent committed as a family for 12 years. The legal recognition of our commitment by our beloved Minnesota means that our family will have the legal support and protection that every family wants. We are deeply grateful that our son's generation will grow up knowing not only that they are held in the arms of a loving community, but are also embraced by the protections and privileges that this legal recognition gives."

Rybak married about three dozen same-sex couples during the celebration, which included a reception at Hotel Minneapolis, wedding photos courtesy of students at the Institute of Arts and a performance by the Twin Cities Gay Chorus.

The mayor said Aug. 1 was a day "for freedom and equal rights in the history of Minneapolis. ... Aug. 2, and every day after it, will be just like every day should be: one where everyone has the freedom to marry and com-

mit for life to the person that they love."

Celebrating the marriages, Gov. Mark Dayton stated, "This is an extraordinary victory for love and commitment. As I said, when I signed the Freedom to Marry bill into law: Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness should certainly include the right to marry the person you love. Now it unquestionably does."

In Rhode Island, government offices opened Aug. 1 at regular business hours — 8:30 a.m. — to begin issuing marriage licenses to couples.

Same-sex couples also can marry in California, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Washington and Vermont.

One of any number of states, including Illinois, could become the next to legalize same-sex marriage. A marriage equality bill has passed the Illinois Senate and has the support of Gov. Pat Quinn, but still needs votes in the Illinois House.

In Michigan, activists and Democratic lawmakers are exploring routes to overturning an anti-gay marriage amendment and a federal judge is expected to hear a demand for marriage equality later this year.

Drives also are underway for marriage equality in:

- Ohio, where a judge recently recognized the out-of-state marriage of a gay couple.

- Pennsylvania, where a county official outside Philadelphia has begun issuing licenses to gay couples in defiance of state law.

- Florida, where the state's largest LGBT civil rights group is seeking plaintiffs for a legal challenge.

- New Mexico, where the state attorney general has sided with the ACLU and same-sex couples seeking the freedom to marry.

- Oregon, where activists are gathering signatures for a ballot initiative in 2014.

- New Jersey, where lawmakers are working to override Gov. Chris Christie's veto of a marriage bill but also pursuing a ballot initiative and a legal challenge.

Meanwhile, support for same-sex marriage continues to climb. A Princeton poll shows 52 percent of voters would support a law making same-sex marriage legal in all 50 states.

AP contributed to this report.

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Boycott of Russian products surges globally

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Bartenders dumped hundreds of gallons of Stolichnaya vodka into the streets of Manhattan and West Hollywood on July 31 to protest Russia's human rights violations against its LGBT citizens.

The Dump Stoli campaign, supported by both gay and allied bars, is only the first major volley in what Western activists hope will grow into a massive boycott against all things Russian — a boycott that could affect the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi (see p. 10).

Although anti-gay fervor has been brewing in Russia for years alongside the rise in popularity of the Russian Orthodox Church, the issue became urgent at the end of June with the passage of new laws that made the nation one of the most anti-gay nations on Earth.

Last year, a Moscow court ruled the city would not grant permission to hold gay Pride parades for the next century. Also in 2012, St. Petersburg passed a law banning pro-gay speech. City authorities threatened to arrest — and attempted to sue — Madonna for violating that law during a concert there, prompting international protest and ridicule.

But on June 30, Russian President Vladimir Putin ratcheted up the nation's attack on LGBT people by signing a law that imposes fines and jail time on individuals for spreading "propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations" to minors and also providing penalties

for those who express these views online or in the news media. Gay Pride rallies also are banned.

Putin, who's cultivated a strong, politically beneficial relationship with the anti-gay Russian Orthodox Church, also signed a companion bill that calls for jail terms and fines on people who offend religious believers.

Putin followed up on those laws with another measure banning the adoption of Russian children by foreign same-sex couples.

Political observers say Putin's strategy is to unite Russians in a spirit of nationalism by demonizing "Western" ideas — a strategy also used heavily by his Soviet predecessors. The iron-fisted Russian leader, a former KGB agent who is now a dictator in everything but name, is widely accused of trying to distract Russian citizens from his nation's dismal standard of living, repression of political dissent, and widespread corruption and violence.

Coinciding with the anti-gay laws there's been an escalating outbreak of violence in Russia against LGBT people. Young Neo-Nazi nationalists have launched a campaign to lure young gay men into encounters through Internet social networking sites. They then kidnap and torture their victims, capturing the abuse on videotapes that are posted online as a warning to other gay people.

Apparently law-enforcement agencies in the country have done nothing to put an end to the highly public atrocities.

British LGBT activist Peter Tatchell, who's been arrested four times for participating in Moscow Pride parades, said Russia's new "propaganda" law "is one of the harshest laws against gay freedom of expression anywhere in the world."

"It is a blanket censorship of any public expression of same-sex love or gay human rights," he said in a statement. "This is likely to result in the purging of many books, films and plays from libraries, schools, theatres and cinemas, including many classic works of art and literature. In practice, gay marches, festivals, posters, magazines, books, welfare advice and safer sex education will be at risk of criminal prosecution."

DUMP STOLI!

Several gay bars in Milwaukee and Madison have joined the growing Dump Stoli boycott, which started with Chicago mega-bar Sidetrack and got a big boost after author Dan Savage and actor/playwright Harvey Fierstein endorsed it. Bars in Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Miami, San Diego, Columbus, Vancouver, Toronto, Great Britain and Australia are among those removing Russian vodka from their shelves — and the list is growing daily.

The gay bar Fluid in Milwaukee's Walkers Point neighborhood is participating in the boycott. Madison's Plan B preceded Sidetrack in taking action by getting rid of Stoli in June, said co-owner Corey Gresen.

Although Stoli is Russia's flagship brand — made from Russian ingredients — it's marketed internationally by SPI, a Luxembourg-based company owned and managed by expatriates, with facilities in Russia and Latvia. SPI is not allowed to market its Stoli products inside Russia, and the Russian government has been trying for years to regain complete ownership of the brand through international courts. Boycott advocates say the courts are likely to return control of the product to the Russian government next year.

Gresen ended his relationship with Stolichnaya over rumors in June "that Russia was trying to take back control of the company," he said.

But not all gay bar owners and LGBT community members believe boycotting Stoli-

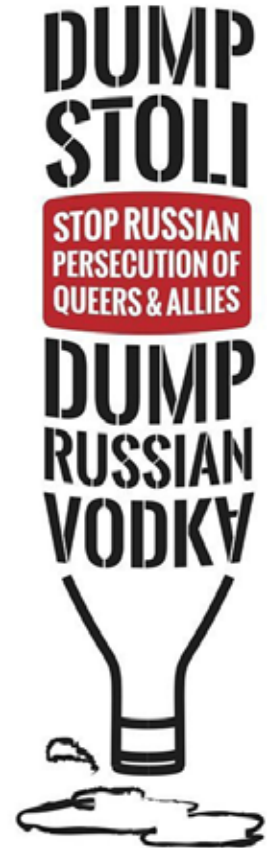
chnaya is an effective way to protest Russia's anti-gay policies. SPI has marketed heavily to the LGBT community, sponsoring numerous community events.

Gregg Fitzpatrick, owner of The Harbor Room in Milwaukee, said his bar doesn't carry a lot of Stoli products "because they're overpriced." But he said that he's not convinced boycotting the company is useful.

"I've read both sides of the story and I don't know what to think," he said. "The company has supported gay people all this time. I'm really torn. There's a lot of lives at stake. People go to work and depend on a paycheck. Everybody loves jumping on a bandwagon. But I don't think it's the right thing to do until all the facts are in."

"I'm willing to do whatever the community

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DUMPED from prior page

feels is right," said George Schneider, owner of the Milwaukee bar This Is It and a former PrideFest board member.

"But my experience is that Stoli has never done anything directly to harm the gay community. We would like to see the direct benefit of boycotting a product that is currently made outside of the Russian federation and how it's going to directly affect the LGBT community. My understanding is that the company is in opposition to any acts of discrimination or violence toward the LGBT community within the Russian federation."

In a dramatic show of how torn the LGBT community is about the boycott, activists associated with ACT UP/NY were forcibly thrown out of Splash Bar in New York's Chelsea neighborhood on July 30 when they disrupted a Stoli Vodka "Most Original Stoli Guy" event. Their signs, which read, "Russia Kills Gays," "Boycott Russia" and "Dump Stoli" were shredded.

Stoli CEO Val Mendelev published an open letter condemning what's happening in his native country.

"I want to stress that Stoli firmly opposes such attitude and actions," he wrote. "Indeed, as a company that encourages transparency and fairness, we are upset and angry. Stolichnaya Vodka has always been, and continues to be, a fervent supporter and friend to the LGBT community. We also thank the community for having adopted Stoli as their vodka of preference."

STOLI 'DOING SQUAT'

Boycott supporters responded that the company has done nothing in the past to oppose Russia's growing anti-gay campaign. Comments posted in response to a pro-gay message on Stoli's Facebook page indicate that consumers are not buying the company's spin.

Savage wrote in response to Mendelev's letter: "Has Stoli said anything to the Russian authorities? ... Did the SPI Group speak the fuck up before the Russian government passed a law that made it a crime to be openly gay and a crime to publicly support someone who is openly gay? Frankly I'm not interested in Stoli's marketing efforts in the West. I'm interested in what this Russian-owned company is doing in Russia. And from this letter it's clear they've done and they only plan on doing squat."

The activist group Queer Nation also wrote an open response that concluded, "Mr. Mendelev, marketing will not save LGBT lives."

But some political observers have agreed with the boycott's critics, saying it might make things worse for the nation's LGBT community by facilitating Putin's divide-and-conquer political tactic. Russia's Center for Democracy and Human Rights Helix Project director Grigory Golosov told The Washington Post that attacks against Russia's LGBT community are "part of a concentrated effort by the Russian authorities to create a new political cleavage between the conservative, pro-Putin majority and the more liberal, pro-Western minority."



DOWN THE DRAIN: Bartenders with New York's Boxers Bars dump Stolichnaya July 31 in the street in front of Manhattan's Russian consulate.

PHOTO: GAY CITY NEWS

FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL

Despite the mixed feelings, the boycott shows no sign of evaporating. Rather, it is growing daily in scope and outrage. All Russian products are now on the table, including all brands of Russian vodka and caviar along with tourism.

On the local level, Milwaukee Ald. Tony Zielinski has drafted a resolution that he plans to introduce at the next Common Council meeting calling on "President Putin and other Russian leaders to enact policies that treat all people with the respect, dignity and equality that are their human rights, and to repeal this reprehensible anti-gay legislation."

"This kind of hate-fueled intolerance has no place in the modern world, let alone a world power that should serve as a model for other freedom-loving people worldwide," Zielinski's resolution states.

Milwaukee has a large population of native Russians but the local Russian community appears unaware of their homeland's crack-down on LGBT rights, judging from random calls WiG made to local Russian-owned businesses. Leon Shteynbuk, the publisher of a Russian-language newspaper based in Mequon, declined to speak with WiG about the issue.

On the national level, Sen. Edward J. Markey, D-Mass., a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, sent a letter to the Russian ambassador to the United States expressing outrage and deep concern that the country's new "propaganda" law will imperil athletes and visitors to the Olympic Games in Sochi. The law allows for detention of foreign citizens and legal permanent residents for up to 15 days before being expelled from the country.

"Under the new law, the mere act of publicly acknowledging one's sexuality or displaying rainbow flags could be deemed punishable offenses under the statute," Markey wrote. "Such a law is clearly inconsistent with, and contradictory to, the International Olympic Committee's Charter. Many members of international athletic delegations, their families, spectators, and support staff proudly identify as members of the LGBT community. I believe it is essential for them to both feel

and be safe from arrest, detention, and other forms of discrimination while in Russia."

And on the international level, cities throughout the world are severing sister-city ties with Russian cities. Venice broke off its cultural partnership with St. Petersburg last year over its ground-breaking anti-gay law. More recently, the mayor of Reykjavik, Iceland's capital city, said he plans to cut both cultural and political ties between his city and Moscow.

"Homophobia is not a phobia," said Reykjavic Mayor Jon Gnarr. "They are not scared. They are just a bunch of assholes."

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What effect will anti-gay laws have on Olympics?

From AP and WiG reports

Russia's sports minister said Aug. 1 that the nation's law banning the public expression of anything related to "non-traditional sexual relations" would be enforced during the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi. The statement by Vitaly Mutko directly contradicted assurances to gay athletes and tourists made by the International Olympic Committee just days prior.

Responding to the mixed signals, Richard Carrion, a candidate for president of the International Olympic Committee, called on IOC officials to use "all the avenues possible" with the Russian government to ensure that the law doesn't affect athletes competing at the Winter Games.

Carrion also said it should be a condition in the future that any city seeking to host the Olympics does not have laws that "discriminate against people in any way, consistent with the Olympic Charter."

"One of the deepest core values of the Olympic movement is 'sports as a human right.' Nothing should ever stand in the way of that," Carrion said.

Under the law, punishment for foreign citizens includes fines of up to 100,000 rubles (\$3,000), time in prison for up to 15 days, deportation and denial of re-entry into Russia. Four Dutch citizens working on a documentary film in the northern Russian town of Murmansk were the first foreigners to be detained under the law, although their

case did not make it to court, according to RIA Novosti.

Mutko said athletes and visitors to the games would be punished only for propaganda, a word that remains ambiguous under the new law. It could apply to everything from publicly stating one's sexual orientation to holding a same-sex partner's hand to just uttering the word "gay" in front of other people.

While activists and organizations supportive of gay rights have called for a ban on Russian products like Stolichnaya vodka in bars across North America, they have yet to find a unified response to the Sochi games.

So far, there have been only scattered calls for a full-fledged boycott of the games, but there is active discussion of how to convey gay-rights messages once the competitions begin — including gestures by individual athletes, a Pride parade and television scrutiny.

TAKING A STAND

"History has proven that the only people negatively affected by boycotts are the athletes who have trained their whole lives to compete," said Patrick Sandusky of the U.S. Olympic Committee. "Past boycotts have not worked, and the USOC is not planning on boycotting these games."

Patrick Burke of the You Can Play Project, which seeks to combat anti-gay prejudice in major sports, is urging outspoken



participation at Sochi by gay athletes and straight athletes who support them.

"Maybe some of the individuals who go will feel compelled to take a stand — for themselves, for their family, for their friends, for the Russian people," Burke wrote in a column.

Gay U.S. figure skater Johnny Weir, who hopes to compete at Sochi, has depicted the repression in Russia as "heartbreaking" but says he opposes a boycott.

"There isn't a police officer or a government that, should I qualify, could keep me from competing," he wrote in an op-ed in the Falls Church (Va.) News-Press.

Another gay athlete, New Zealand speed skater Blake Skjellerup, says he will be wearing a rainbow pin at the Olympics, and "if that gets me in trouble, then so be it."

Charley Sullivan, associate men's rowing coach at the University of Michigan and one of the first openly gay coaches of a major college sports team, suggested other athletes could adopt similar tactics, wearing gay Pride pins and carrying rainbow flags to the closing ceremonies.

The athletes, Sullivan said, have "a moral imperative not to let their efforts, their body, the images of what they do, their

names, to be hooked to legitimizing of the host country without their consent."

Two gay-rights groups, All Out and Athlete Ally, announced the launch of a "speak out, not sit out" campaign that would oppose a boycott of Sochi while encouraging gay-rights activism before and during the games.

Yelena Goltsman, the founder of RUSA LGBT, a New York-based gay-rights group for immigrants from the former Soviet Union, is encouraging international corporations to withdraw their sponsorship of the Olympics or to flout the Russian law by including statements supporting gay rights in their commercials.

Activists also are calling on NBC, which is airing the Winter Games in the United States, to oppose Russia's anti-gay oppression. The network was the subject of an open letter from the Human Rights Campaign saying it would be wrong to televise Sochi's opening ceremonies without reporting on the anti-gay legislation.

"We will address it if it becomes an issue," said Mark Lazarus, chairman of NBC Sports Group, told The Associated Press.

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Pocan offers bill to help discharged gay vets clear their records

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Democratic U.S. Reps. Mark Pocan of Wisconsin and Charlie Rangel of New York introduced legislation in late July that's intended to help discharged gay veterans clear their military records and access benefits.

The proposed Restore Honor to Service Members Act has 102 co-sponsors.

Pocan, who is openly gay, said passing the measure would help to close a dark chapter for the U.S. government on the discriminatory treatment of tens of thousands of gays and lesbians over the years.

Since Colonial times, some type of ban against gay servicemembers has existed – the most recent being the “don't ask, don't tell” policy enacted during Bill Clinton's first term. With the repeal of DADT in 2011, gays can serve openly in the Armed Forces. But between World War II and the repeal, Pocan's office says about 114,000 servicemembers were discharged because of their sexual orientation.

The Wisconsin congressman said the old discharges tarnish the records of men and women who “selflessly risked their lives for our country.”

Discharged gay veterans can be denied access to health, education, military burial and other benefits. In some states, a dishonorable discharge is classified as a felony. Jobs some-

times are denied to veterans with general discharges. And some discharged veterans may have lost voting rights.

Pocan and Rangel, a Korean War veteran and recipient of the Purple Heart, said their bill would establish a process for gay veterans to get a timely review of requests to upgrade their discharge and clean up their records.

“Now is the time to finish the job and ensure that all those who served honorably are recognized for their honorable service regardless of their sexual orientation,” Rangel said.

To discuss the bill, Pocan and Rangel joined two gay veterans, Danny Ingram and David Hall, in a phone-based news conference on July 25.

Ingram is the national president of American Veterans for Equal Rights, and he was one of the first soldiers discharged under DADT. He had stated his support in 1992 for Clinton's promise to end the ban against gays in the military. Then the ban wasn't eliminated but instead codified with “don't ask, don't tell,” which barred gays from serving openly and was supposed to prohibit military officials from inquiring about sexual orientation.

In April 1994, Ingram was discharged.

Sixteen years later, he went to the White House to watch President Barack Obama sign the measure repealing DADT.

Hall, who comes from a military family,



PHOTOS: COURTESY

RESTORING HONOR: U.S. Reps. Mark Pocan, left, and Charlie Rangel, right, introduced legislation to help discharged gay military veterans recover benefits and clear up their records.

joined the Air Force in March 1996. He was accepted into the Air Force ROTC in May 2001 and assigned to train to become a pilot in March 2002.

But six months later, Hall was outed to his commander and subsequently discharged under DADT.

Afterward, he joined OutServe-SLDN, which advocates for gay servicemembers and veterans. He also served as a citizen co-chair for Obama's second inauguration.

Ingram said passage of the Restore Honor Act is a top priority for AVER: “Many thousands of LGBT service members were dishonorably discharged from WWII to 1994,

prior to DADT, and thousands more under the DADT policy. Many elderly veterans urgently need access to the VA care which they are currently denied due to their discharges for being gay. The current process of discharge upgrades is extremely cumbersome and bureaucratic and can take over a decade in many cases.”

Hall said discharged gay veterans can't get back lost time and service but, if the bill becomes law, they could claim the benefits and honor they deserve.

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Fighting faith-based discrimination

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

When Robert Ingersoll asked Barronelle Stutzman of Arlene's Flowers and Gifts in Richland, Wash., to provide the flowers for his September wedding with Curt Freed, the florist gave him a no and a hug.

Stutzman has told the media she took Ingersoll's hand and told him, "I am sorry. I can't do your wedding because of my relationship with Jesus Christ."

In the 1950s and 1960s, one of the arguments against integration and outlawing racial discrimination was that such legislation violated religious freedoms of business owners who claimed God purposely separated the races. There were echoes of this argument as lawmakers raised faith-based objections to marriage equality bills that passed this year in Minnesota, Rhode Island and Delaware.

The equality bills that passed contain provisions allowing religious institutions to refuse to recognize or celebrate same-sex marriages but do not exempt businesses from complying with nondiscrimination laws.

Despite reports of sizable economic gains in marriage equality states, not all businesses are eager to serve gay grooms or lesbian brides.

The American Civil Liberties Union says individuals and institutions, with increasing frequency, are refusing to provide services to LGBT people and women based on religious objections. The ACLU has dealt with:

- Faith-based schools firing unmarried women who become pregnant.
- Business owners refusing to provide insurance coverage for contraception.
- Graduate students refusing to counsel gays.
- Pharmacies turning away female customers seeking to fill birth control prescriptions.
- Bridal salons, photographers, reception halls, inns and florists closing doors to same-sex couples planning their weddings.

But discrimination based

on sexual orientation is prohibited in the District of Columbia and 21 states, including all of the jurisdictions where same-sex couples can marry or enter into civil unions or domestic partnerships.

IN THE COURTS

Washington residents Freed and Ingersoll met while hiking in Yakima in September 2004. After becoming a couple, they relied on Arlene's to mark life's special occasions — birthdays, anniversaries, Valentine's Days.

When they began planning a wedding for this September, they didn't even consider going to another florist.

But their florist told them to go somewhere else.

Stutzman has said she doesn't have a problem with gay employees or gay customers, unless they want flowers for their wedding.

The gay couple, represented by the ACLU of Washington, has sued, and Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson has filed a consumer protection lawsuit against Arlene's.

"As attorney general, it is my job to enforce the laws of the state of Washington," Ferguson said. "Under the Consumer Protection Act, it is unlawful to discriminate against customers on the basis of sexual orientation. If a business provides a product or service to opposite-sex couples for their weddings, then it must provide same-sex couples the same product or service."

Stutzman has countersued, with representation from the Alliance Defending Freedom, which says the state is trying to force the florist to act contrary to her faith.

"Everyone knows that plenty of florists are willing to assist in same-sex ceremonies, so the state has no legal reason to force Barronelle to violate her deeply held beliefs," said ADF legal counsel Dale Schowengerdt.

"In America, the government is supposed to protect freedom, not use its intolerance for certain viewpoints to intimidate citizens into



Photo: AP/Missy Moo Studio

HAD TO MAKE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS: Rob Ingersoll, left, and Curt Freed pose with their dogs in Kennewick, Wash. The ACLU of Washington state filed a lawsuit on behalf of the couple, which was denied service at a flower shop for their wedding.

acting contrary to their faith convictions. Family business owners are constitutionally guaranteed the freedom to live and work according to their beliefs."

ADF also filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court arguing against overturning Proposition 8. In that brief, the ADF said compelling business owners to serve same-sex couples was involuntary servitude.

After the filing of lawsuits in the Arlene's case, several Washington state Republicans introduced Senate Bill 5927 — now in committee limbo — to give business owners "the right to act or refuse to act in a manner motivated by a sincerely held religious belief, philosophical belief or matter of conscience."

The Seattle Human Rights Commission said the bill is "a poorly disguised tactic to allow individuals to discriminate against members of our LGBT community."

Another closely watched case is pending in **Colorado**, where a gay couple, also represented by the ACLU, is suing the Masterpiece Cakeshop. The bakery refused to sell a wedding cake to

David Mullins and Charlie Craig, who married in Massachusetts.

"Religious freedom is a fundamental right in America and it's something that we champion at the ACLU," said Mark Silverstein, legal director of the state chapter. "We are all entitled to our religious beliefs and we fight for that. But someone's personal beliefs don't justify breaking the law by discriminating against others in the public sphere."

The Colorado Attorney General's office also has filed a complaint against the bakery, with a hearing before the state civil rights commission expected next month.

The bakery's attorney, Nicolle Martin, told The Associated Press that the case is about conscience, not commerce.

Conscience, as well as artistic expression, also are cited by the defense for Elane Photography, a **New Mexico** business that refused to photograph a lesbian couple's commitment ceremony because its owners are Christians.

In that case, a district court and an appeals court

have found that Elane Photography is a public accommodation and thus cannot discriminate based on sexual orientation and that enforcing the state human rights act doesn't violate Elane Photography's First Amendment rights.

Both courts also rejected Elane Photography's argument that the court wouldn't force an African-American photographer to shoot a Ku Klux Klan rally so it shouldn't require a Christian to photograph a lesbian commitment ceremony. The district court said, "Once one offers a service publicly, they must do so without impermissible exception. Therefore, (Elane Photography) could refuse to photograph animals or even small children, just as an architect could design only commercial buildings and not private residences."

"What Elane Photography's hypothetical fails to address is the fact that, like animals, small children, and private residences, the Ku Klux Klan is not a protected class. Sexual orientation, however, is protected," added the appeals court in the case, which is now with

the New Mexico Supreme Court.

CONSCIENCE OR COMMERCE

A recent poll from the conservative-leaning Rasmussen Reports found 85 percent of American adults think a Christian business such as Arlene's or Elane Photography should be able to refuse service to a same-sex couple getting married. Majorities in the poll also said business owners should be able to set their own rules for customers — appropriate attire for a restaurant, drinking ages in a bar, age limits for a housing community and discounts based on gender.

But other polls find growing support for requiring equal treatment for gays and same-sex couples in the marketplace.

A recent survey by the First Amendment Center found that 52 percent of Americans think businesses providing wedding services to the public must provide those services to same-sex couples, even if the owner has religious objections to same-sex marriage.

Support for nondiscrimination was highest among people under 30 and liberals and lowest among conservatives. But the survey found that 61 percent of Catholics and 39 percent of Protestants think businesses should treat same-sex couples the same as other couples.

Another poll, released on Aug. 1 by Third Way and the Human Rights Campaign, found that 56 percent of Americans think it is illegal for business owners in their state to refuse service to a gay person; 30 percent of those people are wrong because they live in states that lack a law banning bias based on sexual orientation.

The HRC survey, conducted in June, also found that 69 percent of Americans think businesses should not be able to refuse service to gay couples and 57 percent think a business providing flowers, cakes or photography for same-sex weddings are fulfilling contracts, not endorsing gay marriage.

Federal judge extends hold on Wisconsin abortion law

The Associated Press

A federal judge on Aug. 2 extended his hold on a portion of a new Wisconsin law that requires abortion providers to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals, issuing an injunction blocking the mandate for another four months.

U.S. District Judge William Conley's order stems from a lawsuit filed in July by Planned Parenthood and Affiliated Medical Services. The organizations say the law would force a Planned Parenthood clinic in Appleton and an AMS clinic in Milwaukee to close because abortion providers at both facilities lack admitting privileges.

Conley issued a temporary hold on the provisions on July 8. The organizations asked him to issue a preliminary injunction that would block the requirement through a trial set to begin Nov. 25.

The judge justified the injunction by finding state attorneys aren't likely to prove the admitting privileges requirement is reasonably related to a woman's health and the organizations probably can show the mandate poses a substantial obstacle to obtaining abortions.

"Given the substantial likelihood of success

on the merits and of irreparable harm, the public's interest is best serviced by imposing a preliminary injunction on enforcement of the admitting privileges requirement until this court can address its merits after trial," Conley wrote.

Lester Pines, one of the organizations' attorneys, said he was pleased. "The judge has evaluated it and said in no uncertain terms there's no medical basis for this requirement," Pines said. "What you take from that is the purpose ... is to put barriers in the way of women getting abortions."

Republican Gov. Scott Walker signed the GOP-authored law on July 5, making Wisconsin one of several states where hospital admitting privileges are required for abortion providers. A similar mandate was included in sweeping legislation that Texas lawmakers approved in July after weeks of protests. Meanwhile, the only abortion clinic still operating in Mississippi is fighting in federal court to stay open after a 2012 state law imposed admitting privilege requirements on it.

Planned Parenthood and AMS filed their lawsuit the day Walker signed the bill. The groups argued women would have to travel hundreds of miles farther to obtain abortions

at Planned Parenthood facilities in Madison and Milwaukee, where providers have admitting privileges. They also say the law unconstitutionally restricts the availability of abortions in Wisconsin, violates the U.S. Constitution's due process guarantee and unconstitutionally treats abortion providers differently from other doctors.

They've also argued that losing the Appleton Planned Parenthood clinic and the AMS facility would create scheduling delays at the state's remaining clinics as they cope with more demand. They contend, too, that closing the AMS clinic would effectively end abortions after 19 weeks in Wisconsin because no other facility offers them after that point.

DOJ attorneys defending the law have countered the requirement is meant to ensure continuity of care if a woman develops complications following an abortion. They maintain driving longer distances to obtain an abortion from a provider with admitting privileges isn't an undue burden and providers at the Appleton and AMS Milwaukee clinics should apply for privileges. The organizations' attorneys counter the application process can take months.

But Conley wrote in his order that DOJ

'The purpose ... is to put barriers in the way of women getting abortions.'

has so far failed to prove quality of care is linked to admitting privileges.

He went on to say women would have to travel further for abortions if the Appleton and Milwaukee clinics closed, forcing them to pay more for gas and creating more stress and worry. With the state short two clinics, women would face longer waits at the remaining facilities, he said. More women might consider unregulated, illegal abortions as an option, he added.

Providers at the Appleton and AMS clinics will probably need months to secure admitting privileges, if they can get them at all, Conley concluded.

REGIONAL BRIEFS



PHOTO: MOVE TO AMEND

WISCONSIN REFERENDUM SOUGHT ON CITIZENS UNITED

A joint resolution introduced in the Wisconsin Legislature on July 24 calls for a referendum on Citizens United v. FEC, the 2010 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that said corporations are people for the purposes of political speech. The ruling has allowed companies to invest unlimited amounts in political campaigns.

The resolution is supported by Wisconsin Democracy Campaign and other progressive groups that want an advisory referendum on the ballot in November 2014.

WDC director Mike McCabe said, "The ruling not only has put the campaign arms race on steroids, but also has rendered our disclosure laws obsolete and led to dramatic growth in the amount of dark money making its way into our elections."

IN OTHER NEWS...

U.S. Justice Department officials secured a settlement with Barix Clinics under the U.S. Americans with Disabilities Act ending two HIV discrimination complaints. One complaint involved a canceled surgery for a man living with HIV in Ypsilanti, Mich., and another complaint was filed over a refusal to perform a surgery in Langhorne, Pa.

Deb Mehl is the newest member of the Chicago City Council and the first openly lesbian member of the council. Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced her appointment. She succeeds her father in the 33rd Ward seat.

One Iowa is accusing the state Department of Public Health of needlessly delaying listing both mothers on their children's birth certificates, despite an Iowa Supreme Court ruling earlier this year that it must do so.



PHOTO: COURTESY

QUINN TO WALKER: Gov. Pat Quinn of Illinois called on Scott Walker to legalize same-sex marriage in Wisconsin at the recent governors conference held in Milwaukee.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- **Outreach**, south-central Wisconsin's LGBT community center, holds an awards banquet on Sept. 20 at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison. For more, go to lgbtoutreach.org.

- **Fair Wisconsin** is hiring a regional program manager to work from Milwaukee. The organization – a newly merged Equality Wis-

consin and Fair Wisconsin – also is seeking interns for the fall semester.

- **U.S. Rep. Mark Pocan**, D-Madison, is joining the Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce for a happy hour at 5:30 p.m. on Aug. 26 at Argus Bar & Grill in Madison. For more, email info@wislgbtchamber.com.

- **GSAFE** aims to raise \$6,000 to send young campers to the 14th annual

Leadership Training Institute, where students learn leadership skills and how to organize for safer schools.

- **Veterans for Peace's** 28th annual convention, Power to the Peaceful, was getting started as WiG went to press. The conference was set for Aug. 7-11 at the Madison Concourse Hotel & Governor's Club.

– L.N.

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{ Editorial }

Boycott spotlights a truly evil empire

Thirty years have passed since Ronald Reagan delivered his famous "Evil Empire" speech about the Soviet Union. Sadly, decades after the Iron Curtain lifted, the Russian bloc remains as evil as ever.

A former KGB agent, Russian President Vladimir Putin maintains power the old-fashioned Soviet way, by torturing and killing dissenters and by sharing the wealth gained through corruption with his cronies. He's also remilitarized the nation and cozied up to America's enemies – the most brutal dictatorships and anti-democratic nations on Earth.

The underground black-market economy that thrived under Soviet deprivation has come under the control of a ruthless mafia that operates with impunity by plying the government with bribes. As a result, drug addiction, prostitution and violence permeate the former Soviet bloc, which also is a major trafficker of child prostitutes.

Alcoholism and suicide are so rampant in Russia that the average life expectancy is 69 years – and only 64 for males.

Amid this bleak scenario, the Russian government's smackdown of LGBT rights and the growing neo-Nazi violence against LGBT people has drawn attention from the West in a way that the nation's many other atrocities have failed to generate. These days, only the American Christian right is cheering on the evil empire. For most of the rest of the Western world, the open persecution of gays has inspired condemnation, including a massive and growing worldwide boycott against Stolichnaya vodka, as well as other Russian products and tourism.

Critics complain that Stoli is the wrong company to target, because it has supported the gay market and really isn't a de facto Russian company. It's true that Stoli's COO lives in Luxembourg and its owner in London. But as Russia's flagship export, it's a great symbol. Also, it appears likely that international courts will return ownership of the brand to the Russian government next year. Even now, the product uses all-Russian ingredients and maintains considerable operations in its native land. It's produced in Latvia – another bastion of homophobia.

While the company now says that it condemns Russia's anti-gay oppression, there's no evidence that it's ever taken any formal action against it. Stoli's support of gays has been clearly motivated by marketing and not by human rights. That represents exploitation, not support. We believe that the way Stoli has pandered for gay dollars without standing up for our basic human rights makes the company a great target.

Critics also argue that the boycott can't possibly make a dent in Russia's massive economy. That's true. But the boycott is drawing global attention to what's happening in Russia, and it's illuminating consumers so they can make informed purchasing decisions.

The International Olympic Committee made a terrible mistake in selecting Sochi for next year's Winter Games. In doing so, the IOC lent an aura of respectability to one of the most wretched governments on Earth – a country that is clearly at war with democracy and individual freedom.

Supporters of the boycott are countering this misperception and helping to undermine the legitimacy that Russia hoped to gain in the world's eyes from hosting the games. While boycotters will not bring the Russian economy to its knees, they're shining a spotlight on an empire that stubbornly remains both evil and medieval.

WiG's WEB PICKS

Some of our favorite recent pictorials from cyberspace

I'd very much like to anally probe Governor Walker each time he needs to make an "informed decision"



"America does not have a *money* problem — it has a *priorities* problem... We give tax cuts to the wealthy, and budget cuts to the poor."
Todd Huffman

Why isn't the NRA calling on young Black men to arm themselves in the aftermath of the Trayvon Martin tragedy?

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ON THE RECORD



“Mary is more important than the apostles. One must think about women in the church. We have not done enough theology on this.”

– POPE FRANCIS speaking to reporters on the return flight from his trip to Brazil. During his visit there, Francis refused to address issues such as same-sex marriage and abortion, saying he wanted his trip to be positive. Church watchers say his remarks signaled a change in direction for the Vatican on women and gays.

“While Pope Francis’s words do not reflect a shift in church policy, they represent a significant change in tone. Like his namesake, Francis’s humility and respect for human dignity are showing through and the widespread positive response his words have received around the world reveals that Catholics everywhere are thirsty for change.”

– Human Rights Campaign president CHAD GRIF-FIN responding to the pope’s statement, “Who am I to judge” gay people?

“I think there are men who are in a woman’s body. It’s very rare. But it’s true. ... It’s a radical procedure. I don’t think there’s any sin associated with that. I don’t condemn somebody for doing that.”

– Televangelist PAT ROBERTSON telling listeners of the “Bring It Online” advice portion of his Christian Broadcasting Network show “The 700 Club” that transgender people aren’t sinful.

“The happiest day of his life has turned into a nightmare. He’s sick about it because he has such an affinity for the school. His lifelong efforts have been disrupted. The humiliation hurts him very much.”

– Attorney PATRICK MCGARRIGLE telling the press how his client feels about being fired from a teaching position at a Catholic school because he married his partner. Ken Bencomo taught for 17 years at St. Lucy’s Priory High School in Glendora, Calif.

“The Olympic Games are for the athletes, not for political or religious figures. Athletes come in all shapes and sizes, colors and orientations. I truly believe that the IOC should really start thinking about the athletes before they select the host cities.”

– DAVE PALLONE, a former umpire in Major League Baseball and a member of the first class of inductees into the National Gay and Lesbian Sports Hall of Fame, commenting on the IOC’s decision to hold the Winter Games in Russia.

“The admitting privileges requirement is a solution in search of a problem.”

– U.S. District JUDGE WILLIAM CONLEY issuing a preliminary injunction on Act 37, a new Wisconsin law requiring physicians who perform abortions in the state to have admitting privileges at a local hospital. No other outpatient procedure in Wisconsin requires doctors to have hospital admitting privileges.

“I decided to come down on the right side of history and the law.”

– D. BRUCE HANES, the register of wills in Montgomery County, Pa., explaining why he began issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples in late July, despite a state law that defines marriage as only between a man and a woman.



Three summer must-reads

JAMAKAYA

I thought I’d avoid contentious issues this time and share some book recommendations.

I thoroughly enjoyed “Home,” the heartfelt, engaging memoir by Julie Andrews that focuses on her childhood and early career. Andrews is a wonderful writer and a splendid reader. The audiobook makes you feel she’s sitting nearby sharing her thoughts directly with you. She discusses her troubled family life and her transformation from itinerant vaudeville performer to the star of “Cinderella,” “My Fair Lady” and “Camelot” in the late 1950s and early ’60s.

Andrews shares what she learned along the way, and her sincerity is winning. To a greater extent than other “star” memoirs, she writes seriously about the continuous work involved in

developing her vocal skill and performing talent. She is gracious in her assessments of the many artists she worked with. There are delightful anecdotes about Rex Harrison, Richard Burton, Moss Hart, composers Richard Rodgers and Frederick Loewe, Noel Coward, her dear friend Carol Burnett and many others.

In one of my favorite passages, Andrews expresses what it’s like on those evenings during live performances when you totally connect with the audience and they with you. It gave me goosebumps. Alas, “Home” stops just as Walt Disney has given Andrews the lead role in “Mary Poppins.” I can’t wait for the second volume.

In “Anne Frank: The Book, The Life, The Afterlife,” Francine Prose reveals Anne Frank to be more than just a girl who, under extraordinary circumstances, wrote a diary. She takes Anne seriously as a writer, a conscious literary artist who was editing and rewriting her work in

the weeks before her arrest by the Nazis. Prose analyzes key scenes in the diary. She reminds us of the full, more sobering context of Anne’s oft-quoted remark that despite everything, “people are really good at heart.”

Prose explains how Anne’s work was de-Judaized and “universalized” for the stage and film versions. She discusses the writers involved, the lawsuits, the directors’ points of view and the critical reception of the play and movie. Like Prose, I’ve always disliked the movie but felt guilty saying so. Prose articulates the many ways the movie failed Anne and misrepresented the real story and characters. She faults the writing and the acting by Millie Perkins for making Anne come off as a “nitwit” rather than as the intense and thoughtful girl she was.

The ultimate value of this book is that it sent me back to the source material to appreciate once more the power of Frank’s “The Diary of a Young Girl.”

“The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism” by Naomi Klein is a depressing catalog of the dastardly deeds the U.S. military-industrial-capitalist complex commits worldwide. I thought I was hardened to the reality of our nefarious influence around the world but this book offered many new things to be appalled about.

Klein cites an impressive number and variety of sources. They include government cables, military orders, U.S. torture manuals and corporate correspondence, all of which provide vivid evidence of American collusion in brutality, deceit and injustice.

Reading again about the malicious steps our government took to overthrow Chile’s democratically elected president in 1973, ushering in decades of dictatorship, renewed my fury and shame. Chile’s tragedy is just one tale in this long, sordid history. Read it and weep. Better yet, make a commitment to resist.

Building strength through unity

KATIE BELANGER

I never expected Salt Lake City to be so welcoming. But when 150-plus queer conference-goers came to town, the city and its people opened their arms to us.

The Equality Federation builds a strong movement for equality by partnering with organizations that are working on the ground to advance policies that improve the lives of LGBT people. As Wisconsin’s representative, Fair Wisconsin attends the annual summer meeting, which was held July 24-27.

John Smallwood, our advocacy and organizing director, Megin McDonell, our external relations director, and I joined other state and national LGBT movement leaders for the meeting. We spent time together celebrating our partner’s victories, strategizing about the next steps for local communities and re-energizing.

The summer meeting is

a core part of our work. Through it, the federation provides opportunities for learning, skills building, connection, collaboration, etc. – all of which strengthens groups, builds leaders and advances priorities while providing a space for camaraderie to develop. It’s a place where important conversations happen, including discussions about the post-DOMA marriage movement and advancing fully inclusive nondiscrimination laws.

From every corner of the country and representing groups of every size, we worked together on an array of issues important to the full LGBT community, including health needs and immigration issues.

We met with our national partners at Freedom to Marry, Lambda Legal, the National Center for Transgender Equality, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the Human Rights Campaign and the Center for American Progress to deepen our strategic collaborations and ensure that we’re bringing best practices, resources and

national attention to Wisconsin.

We celebrated the marriage victory of our neighbors in Minnesota with leaders from OutFront Minnesota and Project 515, and we cheered our friends at Equality Illinois who’ve redoubled their efforts to achieve marriage equality this year.

John presented at the first FEDTalks about our groundbreaking research and electoral work in support of Tammy Baldwin’s election to the U.S. Senate.

Everywhere we went, people had heard about our recent merger with Equality Wisconsin. We shared how our boards and the community worked to bring our organizations together to build a unified movement – an achievement that many organizations have only dreamed of creating. We hope they’ll take our example home and share it with their partners and with organizations they hope to strengthen ties with.

Together, we really are stronger – whether that’s through mergers that unite organizations and move-

ments or by joining with organizations across the country to share, learn and support each other.

I also was pleased to be re-elected as co-chair of the Equality Federation board of directors. This year, I will share this honor with Brandie Balken, the executive director of Equality Utah. Not only was she an amazing host, but she’s a brilliant leader who has revolutionized the LGBT community’s relationships with the Republican-led legislature.

A tour of the Utah Capitol was conducted by Republican Speaker of the State Assembly Becky Lockhart, the lead sponsor of Utah’s nondiscrimination bill. Later in the week, GOP leaders joined Republican state Sen. Stephen Urquhart on a panel to discuss their relationships with Equality Utah and reasons for supporting nondiscrimination legislation.

It was an inspirational week and we’ve come home fresh with ideas and hope that if Utah can build bipartisan support, so can Wisconsin.



Studies showing the intelligence of farm animals fuel new campaign of reform and awareness

The Associated Press

There's extensive evidence that pigs are as smart and sociable as dogs. Yet one species is afforded affection and respect; the other faces mass slaughter en route to becoming bacon, ham and pork chops.

Seeking to capitalize on that discrepancy, animal-welfare advocates are launching a campaign called The Someone Project, which aims to highlight research depicting pigs, chickens, cows and other farm animals as more intelligent and emotionally complex than commonly believed. The hope is that more people might view these animals with

the same empathy that they view dogs, cats, elephants, great apes and dolphins.

"When you ask people why they eat chickens but not cats, the only thing they can come up with is that they sense cats and dogs are more cognitively sophisticated than the species we eat – and we know this isn't true," said Bruce Friedrich of Farm Sanctuary, the animal-protection and vegan-advocacy organization that is coordinating the new project.

"What it boils down to is people don't know farm animals the way they know dogs or cats," Friedrich said. "We're a nation of animal lovers, and yet the animals we encour-

ter most frequently are the animals we pay people to kill so we can eat them."

The lead scientist for the project is Lori Marino, a lecturer in psychology at Emory University who has conducted extensive research on the intelligence of whales, dolphins and primates. She plans to review existing scientific literature on farm animals' intelligence, identify areas warranting new research and prepare reports on her findings that would be circulated worldwide via social media, videos and her personal attendance at scientific conferences.

"I want to make sure this is all taken seriously," Marino said. "The point is not to rank these animals but to re-educate people about who they are. They are very sophisticated animals."

For Marino and Friedrich, who are both vegans, the goals of the project are twofold – to build broader public support for humane treatment of farm animals and to boost the ranks of Americans who choose not to eat meat.

"This project is not a way to strong-arm people into going vegan overnight but giving them a fresh perspective and maybe making them a little uncomfortable," Marino said.

"Maybe they'll be thinking, 'Hmm, I didn't know cows and pigs could recognize each other and have special friends,'" she said. "That might make them squirm a little, but that's OK."

The major associations representing chicken and pork producers are not pleased with the project.

"While animals raised for food do have a certain degree of intelligence, Farm Sanctuary is seeking to humanize them to advance its vegan agenda – an end to meat consumption," said David Warner of the National Pork Producers Council. "While vegans have a right to express their opinion – and we respect that right – they should not force their lifestyle on others."

A PIG'S LIFE

Some researchers say pigs' cognitive abilities are superior to 3-year-old children, as well as to dogs and cats.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals has a section on its website entitled "The Hidden Lives of Pigs," which depicts them as social, playful and protective animals with a vocabulary of more than 20 different oinks, grunts and squeaks.

"Pigs are known to dream, recognize their own names, learn tricks like sitting for a treat and lead social lives of a complexity previously observed only in primates," the website says. "Like humans, pigs enjoy listening to music, playing with soccer balls and getting massages."

The website recounts news stories of pigs saving the lives of imperiled humans

ANIMALS next page

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ANIMALS from prior page and saving themselves by jumping off trucks bound for slaughterhouses.

Treatment of pigs has been a political issue in several states due to efforts to pass laws banning the confinement of breeding pigs in gestation crates. In fact, the treatment of factory-farmed animals is so cruel and brutal that industrial farming corporations in some states actually have pressured lawmakers into passing laws making it illegal for activists to videotape abuse. Opponents say these "ag-gag" laws violate free speech, food safety and animal and worker rights.

For instance, a law in Iowa makes it illegal for investigative journalists and activists to take jobs at animal facilities for the purpose of recording undercover footage. The laws were enacted after videos were posted on the Web showing such horrors as workers kicking, beating and electrically torturing "down cows" – cows that are weakened from sickness and starvation or crippled from their long, overcrowded ride to the slaughterhouse.

"(Legislators) would recoil in horror if dogs and cats were subjected to the same conditions," Friedrich said.

Bob Martin, a food systems expert at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, said he developed an appreciation of pigs' emotional complexity while serving recently as executive director of the Pew Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production.

'This project is not going to strong arm people into going vegan, but it might give them a fresh perspective.'

"Pigs in gestation crates show a lot of signs of depression," he said. "When I went to a farm operation in Iowa where pigs were not confined, they came running up to greet the farmer like they were dogs. They wanted to interact with him."

Bernard Rollin, a Colorado State University professor who teaches both philosophy and animal science, said he expected increasing numbers of meat-eaters to join the ranks of those demanding changes in the way pigs are housed at many large facilities.

"You have to have ideological blindness to think these animals are not intelligent," Rollin said. "I hope we go back to an agriculture that works more with the animals' biological and psychological needs and nature rather than against them."

"The trouble is, we're used to seeing them as herds," he said. "You see 1,000 cows or

pigs and think, 'Oh, they're all the same.' But there are actually huge individual differences."

According to Farm Sanctuary, cows become excited over intellectual challenges, chickens can navigate mazes and sheep can remember the faces of dozens of individual humans and other sheep for more than two years.

There is existing research suggesting that campaigns such as The Someone Project may make headway in influencing consumers.

In one recent study examining doubts that people might have about eating meat, University of British Columbia psychologists Matthew Ruby and Steven Heine concluded that the animal's level of intelligence was the foremost concern.

Another recent study by university researchers from Australia and Britain concluded that many meat-eaters experience moral conflict if reminded of the intelligence of the animals they are consuming.

"Although most people do not mind eating meat, they do not like thinking of animals they eat as having possessed minds," the researchers wrote in *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*.

Dena Jones, manager of the Animal Welfare Institute's farm animal program, predicted that public awareness of farm animals' intelligence would steadily increase, leading to more pressure on the farm industry from food retailers and restaurant chains.

"It's the retailers who are going to force the industry to bring their practices into line with consumer expectations," she said.

Louis Weisberg contributed to this article.

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WISCONSIN GAZETTE ENTERTAINMENT

Kathy Griffin still dishing the dirt

Interview

GREGG SHAPIRO

What is it about female comedians and their gays? There's comedy godmother Joan Rivers and queer comic Margaret Cho, both of whom make a point of speaking directly to their beloved and adoring gay audiences. And then there's comedy diva

Kathy Griffin. Combining her love for the (hello, gays Anderson Cooper) and gossip, Griffin has created a brand of comedy that is both an homage to Rivers and outrageously original. She's easily the most irreverent comic onstage, male or female.

One of the hardest-working women in show business, Griffin is busy setting and breaking her own records, keeping us in stitches all the while. I spoke with Griffin earlier this month.

Gregg Shapiro: Kathy, you headlined Milwaukee PrideFest a few years ago and you have an upcoming date in Milwaukee at The Riverside. Being a Great Lakes region native, do you have a special affinity for Wisconsin?

Kathy Griffin: Uh ... yes! And let's not forget that Liberace is also from there. I watched "Behind The Candelabra" three times in one day. I do feel a connection. Also, you should know that when I played Milwaukee Pride, it was outdoors, it was hot as balls, and I will never forget the dancing, gay gentleman (who) passed out in front of the stage. None of the gays around him gave a shit. They just kept dancing and waited for him to come to.

That's Midwestern hospitality.

Exactly. They were just waiting him out. "Oh, he'll be fine, girl!"

Growing up in the Chicago area, did you visit any of Wisconsin's tourist attractions?

Don't insult me. What, you think I'm gonna not go to the Dells? First of all, the Dells were for rich people. We went one time, and we had to save up for it. I think my 93-year-old alcoholic mother is still complaining about (in Maggie Griffin's voice) "all the goddamn money it cost to take you goddamn

kids to the Wisconsin Dells and all you did was bitch about it the whole goddamn time."

Since Milwaukee is the Dairy State, do you have a favorite dairy product?

I just enjoy all the bad stuff. Real ice cream made with cream. Remember ice milk? That was such BS! We want real old timey ice cream and I don't care if I die for it.

In June, you took part in Joan Rivers' 80th birthday festivities. As the rightful heir to Rivers' comedy crown, what does it mean to have a relationship with the grand dame of comedy?

I'm so glad you said that because I was also in her brilliantly done documentary, "Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work." I saw her last weekend in Montréal. We performed two days apart, so we stayed to hang out with each other. I can't go on enough about her. She really is an inspiration. I think a lot of people don't quite understand the significance of her contributions to women in comedy. Besides just being a sweet gal and really uncensored - I'm telling you, I'm like a nun compared to her. We have fun together, and she's a true friend and I really love and appreciate her. Her act just goes there. The reason she's an inspiration is at 80 years old is she just doesn't

give a blank. That's what I think is freeing and inspiring about her act, and that's what I try to do. Just go out there, balls out, yeah, I'm going to offend people, maybe have walkouts, but I feel like if you go to a night of comedy you want to see someone just let it loose.

Would you like to still be doing comedy at 80?

Absolutely! No doubt about it! I was watching Joan - not only did she do a kick-ass act, but she does it in heels. I'm down to flats at 52. Yes, I'm going to die onstage. Although, I probably will be killed

by someone from the tea party.

I understand congratulations are also in order for you.

Thank you! I recently shattered the record for the most standup comedy specials recorded of any kind - TV, CD - of any comedian, male or female, in history. I'm gearing up in Milwaukee for my next one, which I'm going to tape in November. So I will shatter my own record. I just love doing standup. It's my favorite thing in the world.

We do get the sense from watching you that you are enjoying it. It's not work for you.

Especially the live shows, because there's no censorship. As much as I love Bravo, or whoever broadcasts my specials, live you can really go places you can't go on TV. I think that's why people who've seen me before will come see me again, because they know I'm going to give them a completely new

show, even if you just saw me a year ago.

Is Anthony Weiner a gift to comics everywhere?

I am pro-Weiner. First of all, I am pro-penis. I'm going to be honest, I hate men, except for gays. I don't know if you've met one (straight men), but they're just terrible. Then I see the penis and this glaze comes over me. I can't think straight. I'm the worst. I'm like a gay guy. I really am. But I actually liked Anthony Weiner as a congressman. I thought that he was very passionate. I was watching that CNN special "Our Nixon." When you think about Watergate, and I know I'm dating myself, and you think about the president of United States OK'ing a break-in of Daniel Ellsberg's shrink's office, who gives a shit about one sext to some girl going to school in Seattle?

If you had a sexting handle, like Weiner's Carlos Danger, what would it be?

Mine would be Hello Anderson. Anderson Cooper is the only person that I sext. Number one, the obvious reason being that he doesn't care. Number two, I like to sext him when he's on the air doing a serious news story. That's when I feel it's the most appropriate. I actually just did it this week. You can tweet him and ask him.

Who do you think will be the next politician to implode?

I'm hoping for someone from the tea party. They seem to be doing it themselves. I think Rand and Ron Paul are getting a free ride I'm not enjoying. I'd like to see them go down. I'm an old-school, dyed-in-the-wool liberal, so I probably just lost a bunch of ticket sales because of that. God forbid you should have your own opinion in this country.

ON STAGE

Kathy Griffin performs at The Riverside in Milwaukee on September 13.

Music

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

After 25 years, Token Creek festival remains serious about serious music

When it comes to classical music, summer is a time generally given over to lighter programmatic fare, from witty Gilbert and Sullivan ditties to thumping "1812 Overture" cannonades.

John and Rose Mary Harbison have a different vision. Since 1989, the Pulitzer Prize-winning classical composer and his violinist wife have treated their musical friends and a limited number of fans to the annual Token Creek Chamber Music Festival, which features the kind of serious music they enjoy hearing.

Token Creek got its start when the Harbisons and several musician colleagues were attending a chamber festival on the West Coast in the 1980s.

"We'd been to lots similar festivals and began wondering how we might do one," John Harbison says. "We started designing a festival of our own, but on a different scale."

Held on Labor Day weekend in a refurbished barn near the tiny community of Token Creek (northeast of Madison), the festival brings together accomplished local and nationally known classical performers to present music that rarely graces other summer festivals' playlists.

"One year we performed the complete piano works of Arnold Schoenberg, which may give you an idea of where we're coming

from," says John Harbison, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and composer of the opera "The Great Gatsby." The work, based on the F. Scott Fitzgerald novel, was commissioned in 1999 by the Metropolitan Opera in honor of conductor James Levine's 25th anniversary with the New York company.

Token Creek's "concert barn" is actually just that, a former dairy barn located on property Rose Mary Harbison's family had farmed since the 1920s. The venue only seats about 100 people, but attracting a paying crowd isn't the festival's primary purpose, John Harbison says.

"Starting out, our idea was to work on a small scale and perform only the music that interested us," says Harbison, who won a 1987 Pulitzer Prize for his oratorio "The Flight to Egypt." "Bach cantatas and Haydn trios are not big summer draws."

Token Creek, which marks 25 years (including a few years off) since its first festival, offers four separate two-night programs this year Aug. 21–Sept. 1. The music of Bach, Mozart and Purcell are among the selections, including Mozart's infrequently heard and strangely scored "Horn Quintet in E-flat Major (K. 407)" and his unfinished "Sonata in C (K. 403)," for which Harbison has composed a conclusion.



PHOTO: TOKENCREEKFESTIVAL.ORG

MAKING MUSIC TOGETHER: Violinist Rose Mary Harbison, left, and her husband Pulitzer Prize-winning composer John Harbison, right.

One evening's program, "Shakespeare: The Bard in Songs and Scenes," presents incidental music by Schubert, Haydn and other composers that was created to accompany scenes written by the Bard. Researching this program proved a significant undertaking, Harbison says.

"Shakespeare is the writer whose works are most often put to music," says Harbison, whose Token Creek Shakespeare program dovetails with similar work he's done as an instructor at the Tanglewood Music Center outside of Boston.

"There are five published volumes just of the listings of the music composed to accompany his works, which made the program quite a puzzle, but an interesting one," Harbison says.

Specifically for that program, Harbison composed "Invention on a Theme of Shakespeare," which derives from a passage in "Love's Labor Lost."

The festival this year also will host the world premiere of Harbison's "Violin Sonata

No. 2."

"I was writing a violin sonata several years ago on a commission for two players in The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center when I was its composer in residence," Harbison says. "I was working with material that didn't fit into that piece, so I wrote a second sonata. I composed this one for Rose Mary and myself to perform."

For the past 10 years, the festival also has featured an evening of classical jazz, an offshoot of the work Harbison now does coaching jazz vocal groups at MIT. This year's jazz program focuses on the work of songwriter Harry Warren, a three-time Oscar winner and composer of "Lullaby of Broadway," "The Gold Diggers' Song (We're in the Money)" and "I Only Have Eyes for You." The MIT a cappella group VocalJazz will appear with a five-piece combo that includes John and Rose Mary Harbison on piano and violin, respectively.

For more, visit www.tokencreekfestival.org.

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'Art' challenges the meaning of friendship



PHOTO: MILWAUKEE CHAMBER THEATRE

Keith Pitts' stage design for Milwaukee Chamber Theatre's production of "Art" reflects the abstract painting that sets off the play's conflict.

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

A piece of art can be as expensive as the marketplace allows, but is it worth the price of a friendship? That question drives Yasmina Reza's Tony Award-winning play "Art," which opens Milwaukee Chamber Theatre's 2013-14 season.

The 1994 comedy, originally written in French, concerns the relationship among three friends, one of whom purchases a very expensive piece of minimalist modern art by Dutch painter Piet Mondrian. Serge (played by MCT producing artistic director C. Michael Wright) is proud of his acquisition, an all-white canvas with three lines. However, Marc (Brian Mani) is horrified – and the ensuing conflict about what constitutes art strains the pair's relationship. Yvan (Tom Klubertanz), beset by his own challenges, is caught in the middle, trying to act as peacemaker.

Despite its central thesis, "Art" is less about art and more about the nature of friendship, says director Tyler Marchant. Art is a metaphor that drives the narrative.

"The play boils down to a story of friendship for me," says Marchant, a Ripon native who teaches at UW-Stevens Point and is associate artistic director of the off-Broadway theater Primary Stages. "These men have to rediscover and redefine themselves as friends, and this is not an easy thing for people to do. I like the play because it talks about male friendships in a smart and very

ONSTAGE

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, 158 N. Broadway, presents "Art" Aug. 8–25. For more, call 414-276-8842 or visit www.chamber-theatre.com.

funny way."

Still, the question "what is art?" reverberates throughout the work, and it's an aspect of the play that first attracted Marchant to it.

Scenic designer Keith Pitts has incorporated Mondrian's motifs into the production's scenic design. A Dutch painter who moved to Paris in 1911, Mondrian is credited with developing a non-representational style of art he termed "Neo-Plasticism." The style presents a grid of horizontal and vertical black lines and bold primary colors against a white background. According to Marchant's vision, the colors reflect the three characters and the lines convey their distinct points of view.

"Art," which won the 1998 Tony Award for best play, offers a lot for art aficionados to think about. But everyone can appreciate the play's observations about human relationships, Marchant says.

Great art, like great friendships and even great plays, is sometimes a matter of interpretation, he adds.

MCT'S 2013-14 SEASON

In addition to "Art," Milwaukee Chamber Theatre offers a variety of plays this season suited to all tastes, including:

- "The Detective's Wife," a ghost story, Sept. 18 – Oct. 13.
- "Things Being What They Are," a "bro-mantic" comedy, Nov. 20 – Dec. 15.
- "October, Before I Was Born," the Midwest premier of a work by Wisconsin playwright Lori Matthews, Feb. 19 – March 9.
- "Lend Me a Tenor," Ken Ludwig's classic farce, April 10 – 17.

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Music

GREGG SHAPIRO

Blue skies ahead for Wisconsin's Skylar Grey

Skylar Grey is making the most of her second chance. In 2006, Grey made her first stab as a recording artist as Holly Brook (she was born Holly Brook Hafermann). Her timing was off, however, and "Like Blood Like Honey," her album of Sarah McLachlan-style songs, didn't fare well.

But the resilient Wisconsin native reinvented herself. Drawing on influential professional connections, including relationships with Duncan Sheik and Eminem, she was soon back on track. In fact, not just back on track but riding high after Eminem had his way with her song "Love the Way You Lie."

Grey finally gets to have her day and her say with "Don't Look Down," her full-length debut album that charted at number eight on the Billboard 200 in July.

I spoke recently with her about her new disc and her resurgent career.

Gregg Shapiro: On the YouTube page for your "White Suburban" video, someone asked, "Anyone else been listening to Skylar Grey since her Holly Brook days?" Are you being followed by fans from that period of your career?

Skylar Grey: I think there are some people who have followed me from the Holly Brook days, because I'm doing these shows on the tour and they have a meet-and-greet after the show. And every night there's been a few people who come up to me and say, "I've been a fan of yours since you were Holly Brook." It's kind of cool to see people being loyal and hanging on. I'm also seeing a totally different crowd that wouldn't have been into Holly Brook, necessarily. It's cool to have those die-hard, older fans from the past and to see all these new people

coming on.

Do you have a following in the LGBT community, either as Skylar Grey or Holly Brook – or both?

Yes, definitely. I think more for Skylar Grey.

How did the name Skylar Grey come to be?

Skylar Grey is a name that, to me, says gray skies, which is my favorite weather. I love it when it rains and storms. I feel like it electrifies me and makes me feel really inspired. I came up with the name while I was living in a cabin in the woods. I was basically finding myself again. I felt really lost for a while in the music industry. I decided to escape. It was an empowering experience for me. I came out of it feeling kind of like a superhero. I felt like it needed to change my name, so Skylar Grey is my superhero name

(laughs).

Speaking of cabins in the woods, are the crossed axes, rifles and grizzly bear imagery in your songs nods to your Wisconsin roots?

Yeah, they're nods to my Wisconsin roots and just my love of the woods and nature. Also, my experience in the cabin in the woods in Oregon, where I went through my transformation. Nature really centers me, and it probably does have something to do with growing up in the woods in Wisconsin.

How does being from Wisconsin affect you creatively?

I set the scene for a lot of my songs in rural Wisconsin or rural parts of the country. That's where I've had most of my major life-learning experiences. I write a lot about my childhood. A song such as "Tower" is about leaving somebody in a small town to go follow your dreams, which is what I did. The song "Wear Me Out" was inspired by being a rebellious teenager. I used to sneak out of the house and go camping with my friends. I'm inspired lyrically by where I came from.

The track "Final Warning" could be a women's empowerment anthem, from physically abused women to the women of Texas living in the aftermath of the state's sweeping abortion legislation.

I would be honored if the song became an anthem. I do think that sometimes, especially young women can feel, at least I did – I felt a lot of pressure from people around me. And it took me a while to feel confident and feel like I could stand up for myself. That's another thing that (differentiates) Skylar Grey versus Holly Brook. Holly Brook is, to me, kind of weak and malleable and gave into other people's opinions and everything. Skylar Grey stands up for herself. "Final Warning"



PHOTO: COURTESY

Skylar Grey, formerly Holly Brook.

is a song that comes from that personality, being independent and strong and not taking any shit from anyone (laughs).

"C'Mon Let Me Ride," featuring Eminem, includes a reference to Queen's "Bicycle Race." How did that classic number find its way into the song?

We had this bicycle song, and Em and I were going back and forth on it in the studio. When he added his verse, he also added that Queen sample – but it's not a sample. Em's actually singing that part. I heard it and I thought it was great because it was an added hook to the song and it was a throwback. I thought it was the perfect place to use that. It was Em's idea.

Speaking of influences, "Pulse" sounds like a 21st-century update of Alanis Morissette's "You Oughta Know." Is she an influence?

Absolutely! Alanis Moris-

sette is a great songwriter. Basically, the '90s in general is where most of my influence comes from. Fiona Apple, Sarah McLachlan, Nirvana, Garbage. There's a lot more storytelling in the lyrics in the '90s. The women of the '90s were more powerful and angsty a little bit and I like that. I like the feistiness.

Have you evolved from your Holly Brook days to the present as Skylar Grey?

One of the problems I had in Holly Brook when I performed was that I always was stuck behind an instrument and therefore couldn't perform the way I wanted to. I always wanted to stand up and get in the audience's face, but I was unable to because of the kind of music I was doing and because I couldn't afford a band, so I had to play the instruments. Now I'm in a position where I can afford a band and play instruments on some songs and just sing on other ones. I just have a lot more fun performing.



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Music

BRANDON MILLER

A festival for making noise



Certain to make a disquieting impression amid Milwaukee's music fest-filled summer is the abrasive Milwaukee Noise Fest. In its eighth iteration, this year's fest brings its experimental sounds to The Miramar Theatre, along with a bigger (and louder) bill of noise artists than in the past.

The fest offers three days of cacophony Aug. 22–24. Mad musical scientists are sure to push the limits of sound and listen-ability, taking the audience through atmospheric soundscapes as well loud waves of feedback. Peter J. Woods, a math teacher by day and an experimental Milwaukee art guru by night, is the fest's coordinator. As he puts it, noise music is an acquired taste but one that can be found in unsuspecting places.

"What I like to tell people who have never heard noise music before is to think about those parts in Pink Floyd songs where they stop playing music and just start making weird sounds," he says. "Noise music is like those parts but sometimes with more distortion pedals."

Noise music, Woods continues, "redefines melody and rhythm by getting rid of it entirely or by structuring them differently ... in varying degrees."

The genre characteristically incorporates audio feedback, fuzz, static and other technological burps, as well as atmospheric, conceptual sounds teased from ordinary to not-so-ordinary objects. For instance, there's Dr. Rhomboid Goatcabin from Toledo, Ohio.

"The last time I saw him he had a ladder with a bowling ball attached by a spring and all these other things that were screwed into the ladder," Woods says. "He played that – for 20 minutes."

At the heart of noise art is a philosophical exploration of sound. Much like the Dadaist art movement of the '20s, noise music disregards musical conventions, creating sounds that seem unpleasantly (or pleasantly to some) unsettling.

ONSTAGE

The eighth annual Milwaukee Noise Fest runs Aug. 22–24 at The Miramar Theatre https://www.facebook.com/events/641750259184172/?ref=br_tf.

There's a spectrum in terms of instruments used and the resulting listen-ability. "At the fest you will see homemade instruments, laptops, module synthesizers, traditional rock instruments and even things found around the house used in a way to produce sounds," Woods explains.

He adds, "You'll even see devices that were and weren't created specifically to make noise. This is where the creativity lies: within finding a sound source and exploring how you can use it."

This year's fest will be the biggest and most diverse.

"On one side of the spectrum you have The Rita, who is just going to be blasting harsh loud aural assaults for 20 minutes straight. It's such an attack on the senses. A newcomer may come in and that may be off-putting to them."

On the other end of the spectrum, there will be artists like Hal Rammel and Jim Schoenecker, who are going to do more "free improv textual stuff. It's going to be quieter, more drone-oriented," he says.

So if you have the urge for non-traditional sounds, Milwaukee Noise Fest awaits with some intriguing aural aesthetics. In addition to the performances at The Miramar Theatre, the fest features additional artists at the Borg Ward – the fest's former home – along with film screenings.

Woods has some guidance for newcomers: "There are certainly going to be artists who are easier to listen to and some that are more difficult. Both of which ... will be an extremely enriching experience."

30 AMERICANS

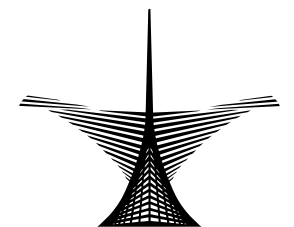
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Kehinde Wiley, *Equestrian Portrait of the Court-Duke Olivares*, 2005 (detail). Image courtesy Rubell Family Collection, Miami. Photo by Chi Lam.

Dish it Out!

Dishing trash

Chefs are reeling in a sustainable trend in seafood

From AP and WIG Reports

Most people have never seen a scorpion fish outside an aquarium – unless they dine at Carolina Crossroads Restaurant in Chapel Hill, N.C., where they can find the spiny, venomous creature on the plate.

It's called trash fish dining, and it's catching on with chefs around the country searching for fresh ways to fill their menus with sustainable seafood.

"The fishermen would be like, 'This is all trash, junk,' but I said, 'I'll pay fair price for it if you'll bring it back to the dock,'" says James Clark, the restaurant's executive chef. "Eat some butter-poached scorpion fish and you'll swear it's lobster."

Chefs such as Clark go beyond the usual recommendation to eat small, lower-food-chain fish such as sardines, and instead delve

full force into catches that many anglers regard as nuisance or "trash" fish. Clark's menu also offers triggerfish, drum, white grunt and other obscure species.

Meanwhile, New Haven, Conn., sushi restaurant Miya's features invasive species such as shore crabs and moon snails. At San Francisco's Incanto, chef Chris Cosentino serves sea slug, tuna spines and roasted fish heads.

And at Arrows restaurant in Ogunquit, Maine, award-winning chefs Mark Gaier and Clark Frasier built a "Trash Fish Dinner" around whiting, mackerel and other less desirable species.

In Wisconsin, trash fish might include freshwater drum and burbot, which can be served as a mock crab; bowfin and garfish, which can be served as fishcakes; alewife, which can be smoked; gizzard shad, which

in Japan is pickled and served as sushi; rainbow smelt, which can be fried in butter; and common carp, which is one of a widely eaten and esteemed fish outside of the United States.

Asian carp species, which are invading Lake Michigan's tributary rivers, are a serious concern, according to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. They can aggressively compete with native commercial and sport fish for food and could potentially disrupt the lake's entire ecosystem. Developing a consumer market for them is one strategy some experts have proposed for dealing with a carp invasion.

Trash fish diners have been enthusiastic, chefs say. Sales of fish at Carolina Crossroads have increased 45 percent, Clark says. At Incanto, customers can't get enough

'One man's trash fish another man's new taste sensation.'

of Cosentino's unusual offerings, including steaks of Humboldt squid, an often 85-pound creature that is 90 percent edible, and fish heads.

"If I had salmon heads on the menu they'd be gone every day," he says. "People get it. They're not afraid. It's all about making people comfortable with what they've never had before."

Many chefs and conservationists say they appreciate the term "trash fish" for its

FISH next page

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PHOTO: TERESA KASPRZYCKA

Whole carp baked with flaked almonds and served with sauerkraut (bigos) and bread is a popular Polish Christmas dish.

FISH from prior page

sensationalism, which might grab people's attention. But they bristle at the idea that healthy, abundant animals capable of feeding the world's growing population – and keeping fishermen in business – would be thought of as disposable.

"There's a long tradition of big famous chefs generating excitement around a new dish that people haven't previously eaten, and having that become a high status thing," Sharpless says. "One man's trash fish another

man's new taste sensation."

SUSTAINABLE

Besides introducing the public to lesser-known fish, some top chefs are promoting a broader concept of how to eat sustainably from the ocean, a concept that conservation experts say could help secure the world's seafood supply. Just three fish – shrimp, canned tuna and salmon – account for more than half of all U.S. seafood consumption, according to the trade association the

National Fisheries Institute.

"We have created a system based on demand, rather than on what the oceans supply," says Barton Seaver, a former chef who is now director of Harvard University's Healthy and Sustainable Food Program. "We're so busy trying to make salmon sustainable that we forget to ask what's available."

Better management of the world's fisheries also is part of the equation. Two-thirds of the world's wild fish come from the coastal waters of just nine countries and the European Union, says Andy Sharpless, author of "The Perfect Protein" and head of the ocean conservation organization Oceana.

These countries have the legal authority to manage the fisheries off their shores without the hassle of international agreements that govern the high seas and the fish that swim in them – the tuna and other large, popular species. The United States, Chile and the European Union already have viable plans to protect nurseries and manage catch limits, Sharpless says. Getting the remaining seven countries on board, he says, would double the world's available seafood by 2050.

"The oceans can play a very big part in making sure people have healthy and good food to eat between now and 2050," Sharpless says. "The goal of restoring those oceans to abundance is more achievable than people have generally understood."



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The Kinsey Sicks brings dragapella humor to Madison



Formed 20 years ago in San Francisco, The Kinsey Sicks, a “dragapella beauty shop quartet,” has traveled the globe presenting political satire set to music. In addition to releasing eight albums since 1997 and performing off-Broadway, Winnie (Irwin Keller), Rachel (Ben Schatz), Trixie (Jeff Manabat) and Trampolina (Spencer Brown) are the subject of a documentary (“The Kinsey Sicks: Almost Infamous”) and stars of the feature film “Kinsey Sicks: I Wanna Be a Republican.”

The group’s most recent disc “Electile Dysfunction” (kinseysicks.com), arrived in time to get us through the 2012 presidential election and still has the power to make us laugh (and cheer) today. Combining hilarious originals, such as “South of the Border” and “Sell the Poor,” with provocative parodies such as “T’aint It Love?” (a spin on “Tainted Love”), “Yahweh” (“My Way”) and “Sikh to Sheikh” (“Cheek to Cheek”), The Kinsey Sicks keeps the laughs coming while giving listeners plenty to think about.

I spoke with Winnie (Irwin Keller) about the group’s history and upcoming Madison appearance.

Gregg Shapiro: How did the group’s name originate?

Winnie/Irwin Keller: Ah, the name. Now that might have been a terrible mistake. It’s a riff off the famous Kinsey Scale, of course, with a nod to our sick sense of humor. So it’s a slight chuckle for those who get it, and an enormous “huh?” for those who don’t.

How many Kinseys have been in the group since 1993?

We have very low turnover in The Kinsey Sicks, except in bed. We have to turn over Trampolina every couple of hours because of her snoring. As for staffing, Ben Schatz and I are originals. Jeff Manabat, who plays Trixie, has been with The Kinsey Sicks for nine years. Spencer Brown, who plays Trampolina, (has been with us) for four.

Have the members always been gay – and is that a requirement?

What? The members of the group are GAY??? (laughs).

The Kinsey Sicks are performing

in Madison, which seems like a good match in terms of progressive politics. Have you been following the events taking place in Wisconsin – and what do you think about them?

I’m sorry to point out that Wisconsin is a shambles. First, redistricting has turned our lives upside down. Trampolina could barely figure out how to vote even back when her vote actually counted! And now, with no new private sector jobs, Trixie has had to resort to BadgerCare to cover her routine beaver care. The only ray of sunshine in our lives is having Scott Walker as our sex slave, although it has made my relationship with Tammy a little rocky to say the least.

Why do you think Republicans are so obsessed with LGBT people?

Are they? I hadn’t noticed. Although when we were in Tampa during the Republican National Convention, Grindr was looking awfully busy.

The Kinsey Sicks has a grueling tour schedule. How many days of

Interview

GREGG SHAPIRO

the year is the group on the road?

We’re on the road maybe 100 or 120 days year. It is indeed quite grueling, although we have it down to a science. Makeup, costumes, wigs, sound equipment, merchandise, all folded just so and packed right in our Mary Poppins carpet bags.

“Electile Dysfunction” is a clever title. How did you come up with it?

We have a process we call “brainstorming” in which someone comes up with an idea and everyone else instantly and heartlessly shoots it down. Finally, we run out of time and pick the first thing that comes to mind.

As on other Kinsey Sicks discs, “Electile Dysfunction” makes good use of parody lyrics in several songs.

Ben Schatz is our primary parody maven. His parodies are so successful because he’s so demanding of himself in the process. He won’t settle for anything that doesn’t parallel the original as closely as possible. It must have the same rhyme scheme, including internal rhymes. In fact, the parodies that we think are the best are the ones that are so close to the original – but with a huge change in meaning – that people are stunned they never thought of it themselves.

The Kinsey Sicks have been singing in a style that predates TV shows such as “Glee,” “The Sing Off” and others. What you think about the sudden fascination with a cappella singing?

Yeah, a cappella is a big deal now thanks to reality TV. So is drag, thanks to reality TV. So, why the fuck aren’t we famous?

That’s the title of the new Kinsey Sicks song and music video – “Why the F@#k Aren’t We Famous?” What would make you more famous?


Leak important government secrets or have Kanye West’s baby. Oh wait, we already tried those.

Growing up in Chicago, with Wisconsin being our friendly neighbor to the north, do you have any memories of visits to the Dairy State from your youth?

Well, as your readers undoubtedly know, Gregg, I grew up as a balletic water skier at the Wisconsin Dells, and had quite a career there until the unfortunate buoy incident. Which, come to think of it, is probably why I’m a lesbian today.

ONSTAGE







The Kinsey Sicks performs “America’s Next Top Bachelor Housewife Celebrity Hoarder Gone Wild” at 8 p.m. on Aug. 17 in Madison’s Overture Center for the Performing Arts, 201 State St. For more, go to overturecenter.com.



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Poetry

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

Wisconsin's poet laureate delivers letters of the heart

Max Garland discovered that he'd been named Wisconsin's Poet Laureate for 2013-14 while sharing a beer and cheese curds with a friend at a rural Wisconsin tavern. The setting couldn't have been more appropriate for the former western Kentucky native and current University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire literature professor.

Before entering academia, Garland worked numerous odd jobs, including 10 years as a rural letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service, following the same route served by his grandfather. The experience gave him both a love of the land and an appreciation for the geography of the soul, sensibilities he tapped in writing "The Postal Confessions" (University of Massachusetts Press, 1994), his first poetry collection. The collection won the prestigious Juniper Prize for Poetry.

As poet laureate, Garland travels the state to give readings, including an upcoming appearance at the Aug. 12 Rural Musicians' Forum in Spring Green.

WiG: What is poetry?

Max Garland: Shelves of books have been written in answer to this, but the definition falls short of the experience. When we read the Dylan Thomas lines -

Now as I was young and easy under the apple boughs

About the lilting house and happy as the grass was green

- we recognize that language is doing more than simply conveying information. And when we read the end of that same poem -

Oh, as I was young and easy in the mercy of his means,

Time held me green and dying

Though I sang in my chains like the sea

- we also realize that the poet is not just talking about his own experience, but the shared experience of time, of human mortality. There's a kind of music to the language, and you can't separate the meaning from the music. We come across such language in literature, in Bibles, in novels, in songs and sometimes in conversation. When we do, we refer to it as poetry. It's easier to show examples than settle on an abstract definition.

When did you know you were a poet?

A LAUREATE ALMOST LOST

In 2011, Gov. Scott Walker eliminated state support for the \$2,000-per-year position of state poet laureate.

Fortunately, in May of that year, the Madison-based Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters assumed stewardship of the Wisconsin Poet Laureate program to ensure its continued survival.

Created by former Gov. Tommy Thompson in July 2000, the Wisconsin Poet Laureate Commission's purpose was to conduct the poet laureate selection process, assign responsibilities to the elected poet and assist that individual in performing official duties. The poet laureate receives an annual stipend of \$2,000 to help offset the costs of attending readings and conferences.

For more, visit www.wisconsinacademy.org/content/wisconsin-poet-laureate.

It's rare to find someone who doesn't occasionally get lucky with language, say something surprisingly lovely or moving. A poet is just someone who develops that impulse over time. At some point I realized that much of what I thought and felt, much of who I was, was not expressed in my ordinary speech and daily interactions. There was something else important and internal, and the only way to say it was through poetry.

You speak of poetry as a "mapping" of the heart and soul. What does that mean?

Our current miraculous mapping technology allows us to bounce signals from satellites 12,000 miles above the Earth to determine what road we're on, but we still don't know "where" we are. We don't know the nature of the place, the way people live, what they think, feel, believe, fear, hope and imagine. GPS technology is wonderful science, but it takes art to express the flesh and blood experience of a place.

How has personal experience and understanding of people and surroundings affected your work as a poet?

I've had a lot of different jobs, working-class jobs, and the years outside the academic world, including the years as a rural mail carrier, are important to me. I still feel like I'm delivering mail, just a different kind of mail. I'm interested in the lives of people who drive trucks, farm, teach kids, repair things and want a fair share of the fruits of their labor. They're the kind of people I grew up with, delivered mail to. I don't admire

tycoons or captains of industry any more than I admire the people who clean their hotel rooms. Having cleaned hotel rooms myself, I remember who does the hard work of the world. For a poet, that's a useful thing.

Is all subject matter fair game for poets?

It's difficult to think of a subject-matter barrier that hasn't been broken time and again. It's not really the subject, but the depth and compassion of the poetry that matters.

How do you go about writing a poem?

I write every morning, and although most of what I write is just warming up, sort of talking to myself, occasionally some words or phrases seem more interesting or promising. I follow up on them and begin to wonder if they might eventually be meaningful to others. But it always starts from the habit of writing. The obstacle is always the same - it's hard to put experience into words, and particularly words that represent the shared human experience. You never quite wind up with what you'd hoped for, but occasionally you decide a poem might be worth the attention of someone else.

Tell me about your upcoming performance with the Rural Musicians' Forum.

As I understand it, there will be original music inspired by places in Wisconsin and poetry interspersed with the music. I look forward to hearing the compositions, and hopefully initiating some conversation about the ancient and ongoing relationship between

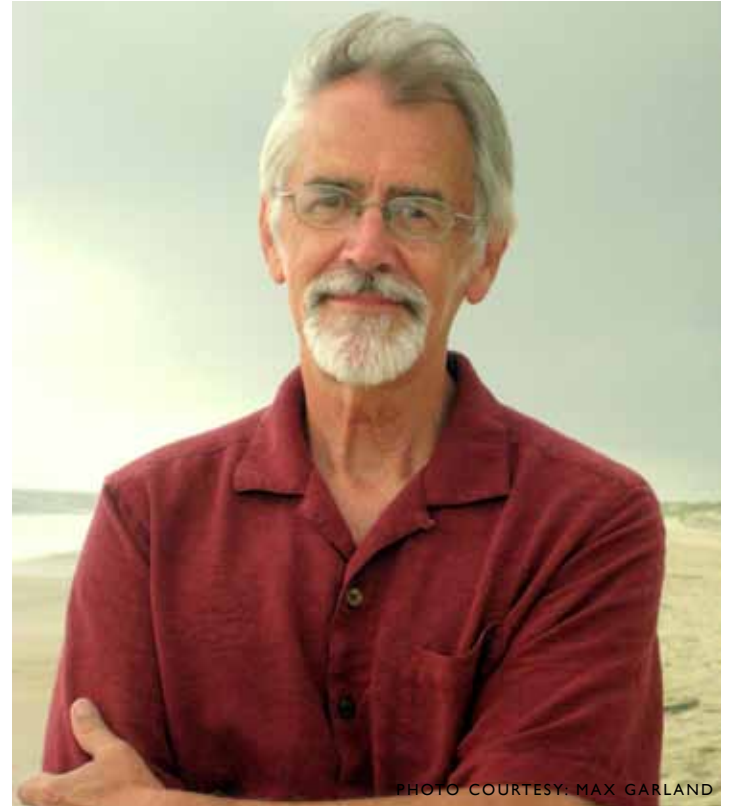


PHOTO COURTESY: MAX GARLAND

music, poetry and place.

What counsel would you give to people who want to become poets?

Reading is important. A good musician listens to a lot of music and the same holds true for poetry. But the most important thing is the habit of paying attention. Poetry

is a common human impulse, the desire to express human experience in words that ring true. It's rare to find a person who doesn't feel that impulse. Poetry, like singing in the shower, is fairly cheap, easy to try and you don't need permission to start. You just need to feel something you wish you knew how to say, and then say it.

UPCOMING APPEARANCES

- July 22 - 6:30 p.m., Rhinelander School of the Arts, Rhinelander.
- July 25 - 7 p.m., McMillan Memorial Library, Wisconsin Rapids.
- Aug. 12 - Rural Musicians Forum, Hillside School Theatre, Taliesin, Spring Green.
- Aug. 14, 21, 28 - 10:15-11:45 a.m. Phillips Memorial Library, "Poetry of Place," Eau Claire.
- Sept. 14 - Southwest Wisconsin Book Festival, Mineral Point.
- Sept. 17 - 7 p.m., Chief Oshkosh Amphitheater, Egg Harbor Book Festival, Egg Harbor.
- Sept. 26 - 6:30 p.m., Whitefish Bay Public Library, Whitefish Bay.
- Sept. 27 - Schiocton Public Library, Schiocton.
- Sept. 28 - 100 Thousand Poets for Change, Sheboygan.
- Oct. 5 - Fermentation Fest, Reedsburg
- Oct. 5 - 7 p.m. Reedsburg Public Library, Reedsburg
- Oct. 6 - 10 a.m.-noon, "Poetry and Place" Writing Workshop, Fermentation Fest, Reedsburg.
- Oct. 12 - Lorine Niedecker Poetry Festival, Fort Atkinson.
- Oct. 18 - Chippewa Valley Book Festival, Eau Claire Country Club, Eau Claire.
- Oct. 19, 20 - Wisconsin Book Festival, Madison.
- Nov. 9 - WORD Festival, Stockholm.
- Dec. 5 - 6:30 p.m., Marshfield Public Library, Marshfield.

MAM debuts first-ever tattoo exhibit

By **Brandon Miller**

Contributing writer

In an intimate section of the Milwaukee Art Museum, you'll find an exhibit that resembles a local tattoo parlor. Its walls are covered with "flash art" – designs typically displayed on tattoo parlor walls to give customers ideas for their own tattoos. But you won't hear the trademark parlor buzz of a tattoo gun.

Synchronized with Harley-Davidson's 110th Anniversary, "Tattoo: Flash Art of Amund Dietzel" offers a unique history on the artist who was famously nicknamed the "Master in Milwaukee." During a time when tattoos were a rite of passage for sailors and soldiers, Dietzel's mastery of traditional tattooing made Milwaukee a sought-after destination to get inked between World War I and the Korean War.

Jon Reiter, a tattoo artist at Solid State Tattoo in Bay View and collector of Dietzel's flash art, has loaned his collection to the public. It's the museum's first-ever tattoo exhibit.

Reiter is a longtime admirer of Dietzel. In addition to collecting his work, he has also published two volumes of an extensive biography titled "These Old Blue Arms: The Life and Work of Amund Dietzel."

Today Milwaukee has more than 60 tattoo parlors scattered among its various neighborhoods. But back when Dietzel, a Norwegian sailor, first decided to open a parlor in 1913 near Brady Street, he practically had a local monopoly on the profession. His business strategy allowed him to avoid the fierce competition of Chicago, but as his fame grew, tattoo aficionados made the trip north just to be marked by the master.

He also mentored other tattoo artists, including Samuel Steward, a gay professor of literature in Chicago who went on to become Dietzel's successor in many ways. Steward's amazing life was the subject of "Secret Historian: The Life and Times of Samuel Steward, Professor, Tattoo Artist, and Sexual Renegade," which was a 2010 finalist for the National Book Award.

Dietzel first learned the art of tattooing aboard a merchant ship. He literally turned his body into a canvas, covering it from neck to toe with tattoos. When shipwrecked near Quebec, he and other crewmembers joined a traveling circus as the "tattooed men."

Dietzel went on to take various art

classes, including at what is now MIAD, where he improved not only his tattooing designs but also his painting skills. His paintings are surprisingly gentle, depicting subjects such as birds perched on branches. The paintings demonstrate his versatility as an artist and contrast the rough, rowdy world of his tattoo parlor patrons.

But Dietzel was himself a contrast to the sailors and bikers who were his canvases. A respectable, straight-laced workaholic, he worked an average of 70 hours per week, according to Reiter. In 1943, Dietzel was said to have tattooed at least 20,000 people – both men and women.

In the exhibit, there are arm-stamping images of hearts, flags, eagles, sparrows, skulls, women, daggers and other patriotic symbols. The exhibit shows Dietzel's interest in Oriental art, reflected in dragon and snake motifs.

Dietzel's success as a tattoo artist ended suddenly, when Milwaukee banned the practice in 1967. The ban was an attempt to clean up the city and get rid of the riffraff. Dietzel was famously quoted as saying, "At least it took the city 51 years to find out that it doesn't want me."

The ban was lifted in 1998, but it was too late for Dietzel to resume his practice. He died in 1974 at the age of 82.



PHOTO: COURTESY
Amund Dietzel, circa 1914.



PHOTO: COURTESY
Flash art of Amund Dietzel: Dragon, 1950s



PHOTO: COURTESY
Flash art of Amund Dietzel: Girl and Snake, 1916



PHOTO: COURTESY
Flash art of Amund Dietzel: Eagle

SUMMER FUN

ACROSS

1. Website visitors
6. Had a meal
9. You, archaic
13. 1995 thriller starring Brad Pitt
14. Used in some salons
15. Some can be slippery
16. Naked protozoa
17. *Picnic crasher
18. Cliffside dwelling
19. *It lights the air
21. *Where many long to be in summer
23. Prompter's line
24. "The Sun ___ Rises"
25. U.K. broadcaster
28. Delhi wrap
30. Large sea ducks
35. Place of origin
37. *It's up?
39. Red Cross supply
40. Beige
41. High fidelity sound systems
43. As opposed to stereo
44. Tart
46. Poet Ogden _____
47. Skunk's defense
48. Edible corn part
50. Actress _____ Perlman
52. Compass reading
53. Sherlock Holmes' assignment
55. Big time
57. *Summer nap spot

61. *Auto entertainment
65. Self-evident truth
66. *In high demand when heat hits
68. Ile de la Cité locale
69. Twisted cotton thread
70. *Heat reliever
71. Unwelcome computer message
72. 90 degrees from norte
73. *Eggs do it on sidewalks in summer?
74. Dictation taker

DOWN

1. Colorado Springs military school
2. Rig or truck
3. "_____ and anon"
4. Renaissance instrument resembling a violin
5. Blunders or bloopers
6. Like a game not at home
7. *Many covet this look
8. Glorify
9. _____ off or started playing, as in golf
10. *Most blockbusters feature at least one
11. Assortment
12. Singular of #1 Across
15. Regional dialect of a language
20. Keep on a short _____
22. Don't waste
24. Price of flight

25. *Most students are on this in summer
26. Italian bowling
27. Core remover
29. The Colosseum, e.g.
31. Audition tape
32. Eat away
33. Kind of sentence
34. *Roasting treat
36. Change direction
38. *Drop a line
42. See-through curtain
45. Enter or assume a certain state
49. Lake to Louis XIV
51. Rebels
54. Small boat
56. Deflect
57. Fit
58. Around which something rotates
59. Atomizer output
60. Marilyn Monroe distinction
61. Say you didn't do it
62. Dublin's home
63. One who's _____ a secret
64. Adopted son of Claudius
67. *You put its top down in summer

CROSSWORD

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