

Creating dialogue

Milwaukee Rep artistic director Mark Clements is provoking dialogue offstage — and filling seats in the process

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THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY



Having lost marriage battles, religious right targets restrooms

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Book meant to burnish governor's presidential cred is dismissed for its glaring omissions and embarrassing self-aggrandizing



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Same-sex couples are planning June weddings in the neighboring state



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On the heels of Illinois, Hawaii also approves same-sex marriage



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Marshall Mathers' latest disc looks back in shame at his homophobia and misogyny

FOURTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

News with a twist



RINGING IN THE SEASON OF SILLY

Yes, the season of stupid edits to "Deck the Halls" arrived earlier than usual this year. A full month before Black Friday and the onset of the frenzied holiday season, Hallmark debuted its "ugly sweater" ornament, which proclaimed, "Don we now our FUN apparel." Fa-la-la-ugh. The company said it replaced "gay" with "FUN" from the Christmas carol to avoid misinterpretation. So, now you know: Wearing ugly Christmas sweaters is so fun, not so gay.

TURNED THAT WAY

Actor, comedian and provocateur Russell Brand said during a recent podcast

that after performing oral sex on a man in a public toilet, he now thinks that the only reason he identifies as straight is "because of the environment I grew up in." Brand said he was persuaded to go to gay bars and gyms to pick up men for his UK show *RE:Brand*.

'BOOBIES' BRACELET

The court battle between two girls and their school over "I (heart) Boobies!" breast cancer awareness bracelets could be settled by the U.S. Supreme Court. School officials in Easton, Pa., plan to appeal a federal appeals court ruling rejecting their decision to ban the bracelets, distributed by the Keep A Breast Foundation and part of a breast cancer awareness campaign. The girls involved say they're concerned about free speech and saving lives. School officials say they're concerned about a "hypersexualized" environment. We're thinking we might actually hear from Clarence



WIGWAG

Thomas on this one.

SPINNING WHEELER

Nevada Assemblyman Jim Wheeler is complaining the media are "having a good time" spinning a comment he made at a town hall gathering into an extreme statement. So what did the freshman Republican say? He said, with no spin here, that he'd vote for the unacceptable if that's what his constituents wanted, even if that meant voting to allow slavery.

FRESH PRODUCE, BIG GUNS

Appleton Mayor Tim Hanna received a flurry of emails after two men showed up near the city's farmers market carrying AR-15 assault rifles. Police detained the men at gunpoint but eventually released them. A few emails contained messages of support for the men and

references to the Second Amendment, but most writers questioned the need for weapons at the family event. "If these idiots are this paranoid, perhaps they should stay home and protect their fortress and not wander around on the streets," Mary Rutten, of Appleton, wrote to Hanna.

AT THE Y-M-C-A

A 69-year-old man from Mason City, Iowa, has received probation and suspended jail time for indecent exposure at the local YMCA. The man was convicted on two counts for allegedly committing sex acts in the Y sauna in July 2012. Two other men also received probation. For the record, the Mason City Family YMCA is not the kind of place where "you can get yourself clean, you can have a good meal" or "you can do whatever you feel."

WEDDING MARCH

Two West Point graduates married recently in

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

the military academy's first wedding between two men. Larry Choate III, class of 2009, married Daniel Lennox, class of 2007, before about 20 guests. Choate and Lennox are out of the military and wore tuxedos for the ceremony but some of their guests wore uniforms. The couple did not know each other as cadets and met through a friend.

MARS BARS AND FETUS CARDS

Trick-or-treaters in Albuquerque got a shocking surprise. In addition to candy bars and lollipops, they were given graphic images of fetuses — one with the headline, "I am not a clump of cells" and another one touting, "53 million killed." Many parents complained. The city's far-right is pushing for a ban on abortions performed after 20 weeks.

GAGA IN SPACE

Lady Gaga will sing one of her hit songs from aboard a Virgin Galactic ship 62

miles above the Earth, becoming the first musician to perform in what is officially designated outer space. Gaga and her beauty team have booked seats on the spaceship and will broadcast the song as part of the Zero G Colony tech festival in New Mexico. Ashton Kutcher, Justin Bieber and Leonardo DiCaprio also signed up for the flight program, paying \$250,000 to secure their spots.

OUT ON THE STUMP

If successful in his bid to become Maine's next governor, U.S. Rep. Mike Michaud would become the first out candidate ever elected to serve as a state's chief executive. Michaud came out as gay in a column that he released to Maine's major news outlets. The six-term congressman and now seventh openly gay member of Congress, said that he acted in response to "whisper campaigns, insinuations and push-polls" about his personal life.

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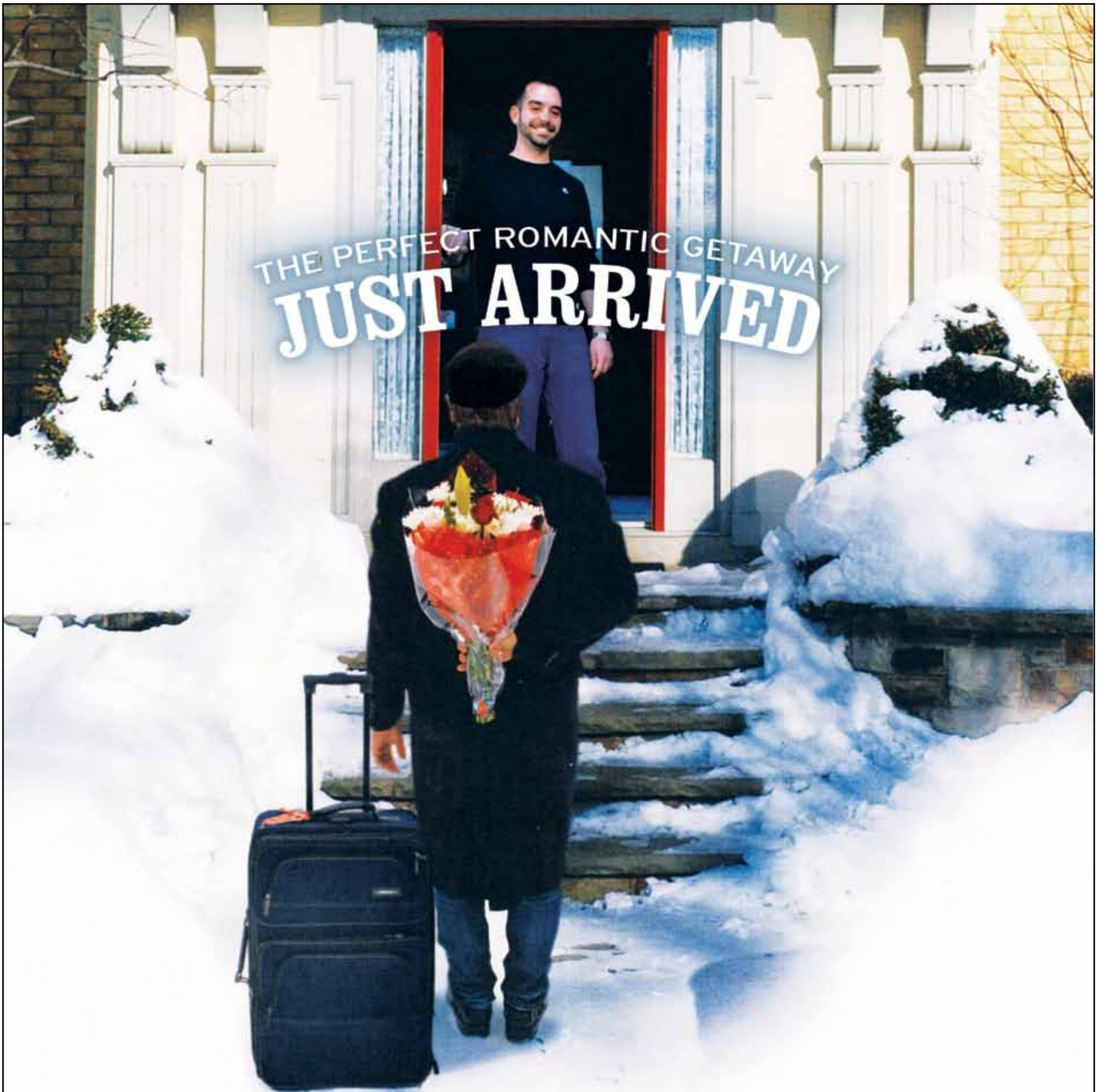
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Critics blast Scott Walker's 'tell-nothing' book as shoddy stunt

News Analysis

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Gov. Scott Walker's new book isn't exactly a tell-all. In fact, it glosses over or leaves out many of the most important parts of the story of his drive to destroy public unions and his subsequent recall battle.

"Unintimidated: A Governor's Story and a Nation's Challenge," which is scheduled for release on Nov. 19. According to those who've previewed the book, three of the book's most glaring omissions include:

Jobs promise: Walker promised in his 2010 elec-

tion campaign that after four years as governor the state would add 250,000 private-sector jobs. It was a lynchpin of his campaign, and Walker reiterated it during the recall two years later, even though numbers at that point showed he was on pace to only add half that many. Under his leadership, the state continually has rated near the bottom nationally in job creation.

Incredibly, Walker never even mentions the promise in his book. Instead, the book focuses on how many jobs the state lost prior to his taking office (a claim debunked by Politifact) and how Walker argued during the recall that monthly job-collection data being used against him was inaccurate.

John Doe: Six people, including three of Walker's former aides, an appointee

and a major campaign contributor, were convicted of criminal charges as part of a secret John Doe investigation of his gubernatorial campaign during the time he was serving as Milwaukee County executive and running for governor.

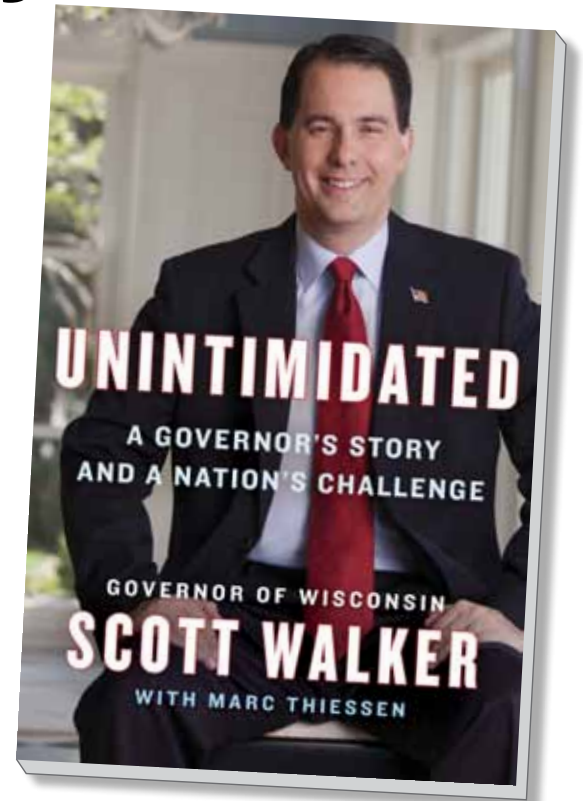
Amazingly, Walker's book doesn't say anything about his closest advisers being convicted or the fact that he was interviewed by investigators and spent \$650,000 on criminal defense attorneys.

Since the book was written, yet another John Doe investigation has gotten underway into possible criminal campaign violations tied to his recall race in 2011. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported that the investigation was launched by the Milwaukee County District Attorney's

office in response to a variety of leads uncovered from the earlier John Doe investigation.

Polarization: Walker uses the book to position himself as presidential material. He contrasts himself with 2012 GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney, suggesting that he'd be a stronger candidate due to his success at selling GOP policies. He fails to mention that Wisconsin became the most polarized state in the nation under his leadership, generating the largest and most intense protests the state has seen since the Vietnam War. Walker's habit of ramming legislation through the Assembly without debate or explanation continues to keep the state polarized and floundering.

WALKER next page



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WALKER from prior page

Nonetheless, his book points the finger at other Republicans for last year's election losses, saying they did a "lousy job of presenting a positive vision of free market solutions to our nation's problems in a way that is relevant to people's lives."

Walker's book does not, however, avoid the infamously embarrassing episode in which he took a phone call from a DJ pretending to be billionaire David Koch, who's helped to funnel millions of dollars into the governor's campaign coffers in exchange for enacting Koch's legislative and policy wish list. During the conversation, Walker told the man pretending to be Koch that he'd considered — but ultimately ruled out — planting agitators among the demonstrators swarming the Capitol to protest the governor's demolition of public unions.

In the book, Walker and Mark Thiessen, who's credited as the book's "co-author," claim that the governor had never actually considered the plant but "did not want to insult Mr. Koch by saying that we would never do something so stupid."

Walker also claims that the episode was one of several he describes as divine inspiration — instances in which God interfered in his life to teach him a lesson.

"Only later did I realize that God had a plan for me with that episode," Walker writes.

After holding a brief news conference during which Walker took only four questions from reporters about the prank, he picked up his daily devotional and saw that the title for the Feb. 23 reading was, "The power of humility, the burden of pride."

Walker writes: "I looked up and said, 'I hear you, Lord.' God was sending me a clear message to not do things for personal glory or fame. It was a turning point that helped me in future challenges, helped me stay focused on the people I was elected to serve, and reminded me of God's abundant grace and

the paramount need to stay humble."

PRESIDENTIAL?

In addition to taking down Romney, Walker's book also attempts to paint him as presidential material by condemning Washington politics and Barack Obama's presidency, saying Obama has laid out a second term agenda that "doubles down on the failures of his first." He says Wisconsin's Republican-led policies have shown a better way forward for the country.

"If we can do it in Wisconsin, we can do it anywhere — even in our nation's capital," Walker writes.

Democrats who fought Walker's agenda in the Legislature and who helped organize the recall attempt laughed at his ludicrous omissions and self-aggrandizing claims, dismissing his book as fictional fodder to fuel his delusions of becoming president.

"I've never met anyone who wants to be president more," said U.S. Rep. Mark Pocan, a Democrat from Madison who served in the state Assembly during the union fight. "We knew the book was coming. We know he's traveling all over the country. It would be nice if he put even a portion of that energy into creating jobs in Wisconsin."

Critics have even scoffed at the notion Walker could write a book. He had a 2.59 GPA when he left Marquette University under mysterious circumstances without receiving a degree. Before dropping out, Walker was disciplined over alleged campaign fraud during a run for student body president.

Although no reporter has been able to ascertain what's on his college record, many of his critics speculate that either he was kicked out of Marquette or accrued something on his record that was bad enough to prevent him from applying to another institution of higher learning.

After leaving Marquette, Walker worked in fundraising for the American Red Cross from 1990 to 1994,

'I looked up and said, "I hear you, Lord." God was sending me a clear message to not do things for personal glory or fame.'

ending in another sudden and unexplained departure. Except for those four years, he's never held a position in the private sector, which he claims to champion.

Wisconsin Democratic Party chairman Mike Tate said Walker's book shows that he would only cause more divisiveness.

"He's not the type of person who's going to bring people together and sit people down around a

table," Tate said.

The release of Walker's book comes roughly a year before he faces re-election in Wisconsin. One Democrat candidate, former Trek Bicycle Corp. executive and state Commerce Department Secretary Mary Burke, has announced she will challenge Walker. She's already been backed by EMILY's List, which put more than \$5 million into U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin's

successful 2012 campaign.

Burke, who had not announced her candidacy before Walker wrote the book, is not mentioned in it.

While belittling Romney, Walker is much kinder to Romney's running mate, U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin. He calls Ryan, who is a close friend, "one of the smartest and most decent people I know in or out of politics."

Walker says Ryan has the courage to tackle big issues and is a bold reformer. He trashes Romney for distancing himself from many of Ryan's fiscal proposals.

Perhaps signaling his willingness to be considered for a vice presidential slot,

Walker also offers praise to other Republicans who are considered potential 2016 presidential candidates, including New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal.

Ryan plans to publish a book titled "Where Do We Go from Here?" next summer. But low recent polling numbers in his own congressional district could diminish Ryan's presidential prospects and force him to spend time in Wisconsin.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

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Illinois lawmakers send marriage bill to Quinn

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

A long-awaited vote arrived on Nov. 5 in the Illinois House, with lawmakers approving a bill certain to legalize marriage for same-sex couples.

The House vote was 61-54 with two present for a measure that needed only a final OK from the Senate — which came later on Nov. 5 — and the governor's signature, which, as WiG went to press, was expected to be delivered at a big ceremony this month.

The Senate first approved the Illinois Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act on Valentine's Day, but the House changed the legislation, pushing back the effective date to June. That change meant the Senate needed to vote again before sending the bill to Democratic Gov. Pat Quinn.

The House had been expected to take up the legislation in the regular session. But on the last day of that session, on May 31, sponsor Greg Harris announced that there would be no vote, as his colleagues needed more time to discuss the issue with their constituents.

Harris, who is gay and represents a northside Chicago district, said he hoped the bill would be brought to a vote during the fall veto session.

And that's what happened on Nov. 5.

The debate began about mid-day on the third to last day of the fall veto session and after months of lobbying from Zion to Cairo.

"To treat all our citizens equally in the eyes of the law, we must change this," Harris said of the Illinois prohibition against same-sex couples marrying.

Openly lesbian Rep. Kelly Cassidy, in a floor speech, said the bill could not be more personal — "It goes directly to how my family is defined by this state."

She added, "Cast your vote for equality. For the right thing. Please, vote yes and join us on the right side of history."

Rep. Jay C. Hoffman said, "I've listened to both sides, looked at the research and read the constitution. It's clear: This is a matter of fairness."

Republican Rep. Ed Sullivan, who represents Mundelein, urged members of his party to support the bill. He spoke about the personal impact of the legislation — about the impact his mother-in-law, who is a lesbian, has had on his life.

Rep. Linda Chapa-Lavia, who was publicly undecided on the bill until Nov. 5, spoke on the floor, saying the measure would strengthen rather than intrude on religious freedoms.

Rep. Chris Welch, speaking in favor of the bill, said, "I love my wife. She loves me. We get that right. Why shouldn't two people of the same sex?"

He added, addressing his colleagues, "Speak up for love! Speak up for fairness! Speak up for equality and vote for SB10!"

And Chicago Democrat Sara Feigenholtz, long a leader on gay civil rights

in the state and one of the most popular politicians with Chicago's LGBT residents, urged colleagues to join her in voting for the bill: "Say yes for dignity. Yes for respect. Yes for families all across Illinois."

Opposing the measure, Republican Rep. Tom Morrison said same-sex marriage is unnatural and that "real marriage" between a man and a woman is "the building block of human civilization."

Other opponents argued against the equality bill because, they said, it didn't guarantee business owners the right to refuse to serve or sell products to same-sex couples.

Similar arguments were made against the equality bills that passed earlier this year in Minnesota, Rhode Island and Delaware.

'PRINCIPLED IMPATIENCE' TRIUMPHS

After the lengthy debate, at about 4 p.m., Harris returned to the microphone to close the arguments and bring the bill to a vote. "At the end of the day, this bill is about love. It's about family. It's about commitment," he said, with emotion in his voice.

At 4:01 p.m., Harris quietly said, "Ladies and gentlemen, please vote 'yes.'"

Sixty-one did vote "yes." Fifty-four voted "no." Two voted present.

To pass, the measure needed 60 votes. Had the effective date not been changed, the bill would have required a supermajority of



PHOTO: AP / SETH PERLMANS

A MATTER OF FAIRNESS: Pat Caley, center, joins other equality supporters during a marriage equality rally on Nov. 4 in Springfield, Ill. Illinois lawmakers sent the bill to the governor after a landmark vote in the House on Nov. 5.

71 votes to pass.

Bernard Cherkasov of Equality Illinois called the vote historic. "Just as we passed every single measure of LGBT equality in the Land of Lincoln, the marriage bill passed with bipartisan support in both chambers, with suburban and downstate, African American and Latino lawmakers all coming together to do what is right by our families. I could not be prouder," he said.

Kevin Cathcart, of Lambda Legal, which has sued the state for marriage equality, said, "History keeps moving forward — because we all keep pushing it in the direction of fairness."

Chad Griffin of the Human Rights Campaign said after the House vote, "Today the Land of Lincoln rededicated itself to the proposition that all are created equal. Thanks to principled impatience from state leaders in Springfield, the overwhelming momentum toward nationwide marriage equality continues to intensify."

Marriage equality advocates cheered as they left the chamber and entered the Capitol rotunda.

Advocates also rallied in cities across the state that night, including at several large parties in Chicago.

And some offered offered marriage proposals.

In Chicago, Peter Michakowski proposed marriage to his partner of 19 years beside one of the rainbow pylons on Halsted Street in Boystown.

"We were waiting for Illinois," he said. "We could have gone to another state a long time ago. But we wanted to get married where we are from and where we live, like everyone else."

Mahalia Campbell of Moline also proposed the night the House bill passed. She and her partner have been together 28 years.

"We're planning to become June brides," she said. "How traditional is that?"

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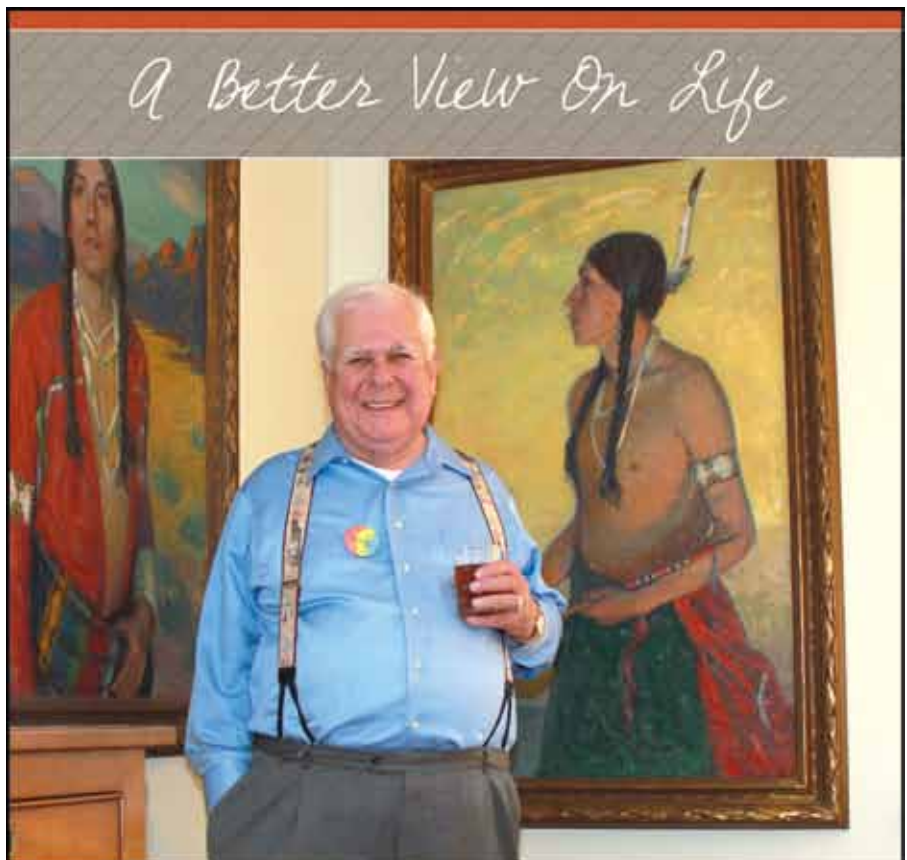
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Equality bill passes, wedding dates set in Hawaii

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Three same-sex couples asked the state of Hawaii for marriage licenses 23 years ago, giving rise to what would become a global drive for equality. The drive circled back to the Aloha state this fall, where Gov. Neil Abercrombie signed legislation allowing for same-sex couples to begin marrying on Dec. 2.

The governor signed the bill during an invitation-only ceremony on Nov. 13, as WiG went to press and following a Nov. 8 vote in the House and a final vote in the Senate on Nov. 12.

A joint committee in the House opened a hearing on the bill on Oct. 31, with about 5,000 people testifying — either in writing or before the committee — and lawmakers debating whether to delay the vote or amend the legislation or send the issue to voters in a ballot initiative.

The legislation's path in the heavily Democratic Senate, where the final vote was 19-4, went much smoother. On the first round, debate only lasted about an hour, with many senators talked about equality, love and Hawaii's historic role in the campaign for marriage



PHOTO: AP/OSKAR GARCIA

LONG JOURNEY TO EQUALITY: Pianist Angie Delight leads proponents of gay marriage in a song before a House floor session outside the Hawaii Capitol in Honolulu on Nov. 8. The marriage equality bill was sent to the governor on Nov. 12 and he signed it the next day, clearing the way for weddings to take place as early as Dec. 2.

equality.

The campaign began in Honolulu in December 1990, when three same-sex couples walked into the Health Department and asked for marriage licenses. The refusal of the marriage applications made headlines. So did the lawsuit and

the landmark court rulings for equality that followed.

In 1993, the Hawaii Supreme Court ruled there was a presumed violation of the plaintiffs' rights by denying them access to marriage. The Supreme Court remanded the case to the trial court, where the

state needed to provide a compelling reason for violating gays' constitutional rights.

Judge Kevin S.C. Chang ruled in December 1996 that the state had failed to make that compelling case, putting the dispute back on track to the state Supreme Court.

The legal successes in Hawaii caught the national gay rights community off-guard, but the Christian right was prepared, unleashing a massive national campaign against same-sex marriage heavily funded by Mormon and Catholic institutions. Anti-gay legislation and ballot initiatives succeeded in many states and Congress passed the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act in a period when legally recognizing same-sex relationships had little support in either party or among U.S. voters.

Before the legal case for marriage in Hawaii could be concluded, voters there approved a 1998 ballot measure that allowed the Legislature to define marriage as the union of a man and a woman.

But the equality campaign continued, gaining momentum this summer, after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act, clearing

the way for same-sex couples to access to more than 1,100 federal benefits associated with marriage.

Before summer's end, Abercrombie had called a special session for lawmakers to take up a marriage equality bill.

Marriage Equality USA legal and policy director John Lewis said, "The people of Hawaii never gave up and their long road to equality will make the wedding bells ring a bit louder and the wedding cake taste that much sweeter when the first marriages begin in Hawaii."

After the final vote, President Barack Obama released a statement: "I've always been proud to have been born in Hawaii, and today's vote makes me even prouder."

Opponents of the legislation have vowed a legal challenge, but Hawaii's attorney general says the measure will withstand any court scrutiny.

Same-sex couples can marry in 14 other states and the District of Columbia. In Illinois, the governor is expected to sign a marriage equality bill this month during a ceremony.

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Green movement grows in diversity

From AP and WiG reports

Thousands of young environmentalists from around the country headed to Pittsburgh in late October, hoping to strengthen the green movement by involving more people of different races and backgrounds.

The four-day Power Shift conference took on some traditional issues in a new way. Organizers are fighting coal mining, fracking for oil and gas, and climate change, but focused on the issues through sessions such as "Racism and the Climate Movement," "Sex and Sustainability," "Young Leaders from Puerto Rico's Frontlines" and "Lessons from Transgender Activism." The conference also included an LGBT caucus and a transgender caucus.

Power Shift, the Sierra Club and other groups are making a concentrated effort to reach working-class communities, LGBT communities, and also black, Asian and Latino communities — seeking to change the mostly white and upper-class membership of national environmental groups.

The meeting in Pittsburgh was the first Power Shift conference outside of Washington, D.C., where conference organizer Energy Action Coalition is based.

Phaedra Ellis-Lamkins, chief executive of Green For All, said the lack of diversity within the environmental movement is "shocking." She said it's important to note that "communities of color really have a strong environmental record, they just don't have a strong connection" to national groups.

"We just didn't call it environmentalism. We just did it to survive," she said of such practices as recycling.

Ellis-Lamkins said the challenge for the environmental movement is to get minority and working class people to expect and demand both good jobs and clean air and water.

About 8,000 people — including students from Wisconsin schools — attended the meeting, which included training ses-



PHOTO: FLICKR/MENTATMARK/MARK HALLER

A Power Shift rally takes place in Pittsburgh.

sions and evening concerts.

Conference spokesman Whit Jones said the group didn't ask attendees to list their race so a breakdown on those attending wasn't available. But hundreds of students came from historically black colleges and universities.

DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT

There's little debate that minority communities suffer disproportionately from pollution. A 2012 report from the NAACP found that in areas around the 12 most-polluting coal-fired power plants in the U.S., people of color were about 76 percent of the population.

Allison Chin, a past president of the Sierra Club, said environmentalists won't become a more diverse group "without us rolling up our sleeves." She said the club has launched programs to provide environmental training, scholarships and even jobs to people from minority communities, as well as a Spanish language website, Ecentro.

That kind of outreach helped attract Erica Thames,

a 23-year-old woman with a multi-racial background who lives in the Inland Empire region east of Los Angeles and now works for the Sierra Club.

"In the past, the environmental movement has been upper-middle class, white male. I'm really excited that it's getting more inclusive," said Thames, who's working on a project to bring rooftop solar panels to her heavily polluted, working-class community, which also suffers from high unemployment.

"When you start talking about health benefits and jobs, people become really intrigued," she said.

Bill McKibben, a leader in the national climate change group 350.org, said diversity among environmentalists is critical to the fight to limit damage from climate change.

"It's people on front-line communities who are crucial to leading this fight — and the hardest hit front-line communities, not surprisingly, are full of poor people and people of color," said McKibben.

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{ Editorial }

Amid an evolving print market, we gratefully ring in our fifth year

Just as we were preparing this fourth anniversary issue of Wisconsin Gazette for print, we learned that The Onion will cease publication in Milwaukee, Chicago and Providence, R.I., on Dec. 12. The satirical news weekly had already ended its print edition in Madison, where it began, so the news was not surprising.

The Onion will be missed. It lambasted the news culture, taking journalism to outlandish extremes that often illuminated society more than the most carefully processed legitimate news. The Onion's AV Club offered some of the most insightful cultural interviews and local performing arts content appearing in southeastern Wisconsin. Fortunately, that content will continue to appear online at avclub.com.

It would be wrong to dismiss The Onion's action as another nail in the coffin of the print industry. There are many factors behind the failure of any business, and some of them are invariably the result of issues unique to that particular business.

While advertising at The Onion had noticeably declined over the past several years, new publications, including this one, have launched locally during the same period — and some appear to be thriving. We've experienced steady annual growth in distribution, gross and net revenue and industry recognition for each of the past four years.

In fact, the print publication industry as a whole is well-positioned for growth, which is why Warren Buffet's Berkshire Hathaway has acquired 28 daily newspapers at a cost of \$344 million during past two years. Highly niched and hyper-local news sources serve informational purposes that nothing else can fulfill.

Print publications, with headlines that scream at you from boxes on the streets, racks in grocery stores and the hands of the patron seated next to you at a coffee shop, remain an integral part of the informational landscape. They're too convenient in format, intuitive in style and accessible to disappear.

But the most encouraging development for newspapers today is the variety of formats in which people access them. According to the Newspaper Association of America, 69 percent of Americans read newspaper media content in print or online in a typical week, or access it on mobile devices in a typical month. Mobile newspaper readership is growing fast — up 58 percent each month for 2012 over 2011.

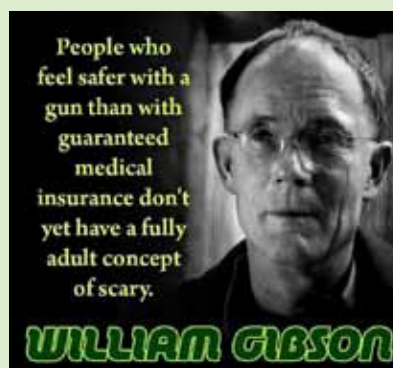
We're always searching for new ways to get WiG in the hands of the most readers possible, by offering features with broader appeal and expanding our accessibility through technology. We reached a print circulation high this year, distributing 20,000 copies of our May 31 Pride issue. We also launched an e-newsletter in the spring that's already drawn nearly 7,000 subscribers. Our social media engagement has leaped upward this year.

As we begin our fifth year, we invite you to become more involved with WiG by joining us on Twitter and Facebook — and by registering for our newsletter and .pdf versions. If there's a grocery store, restaurant or retail shop where you see the Shepherd Express but not the Gazette, the odds are good that we've tried but failed to convince the owners to join our distribution network. Let them know that you'd like to be able to pick up the Gazette at their establishment.

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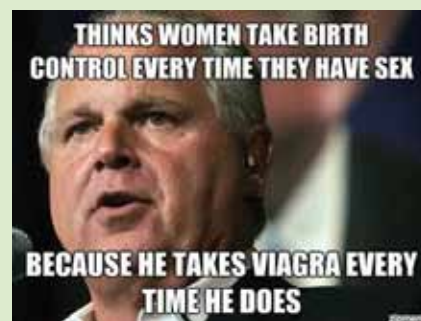
WiG's WEB PICKS

Some of our favorite recent pictorials from cyberspace

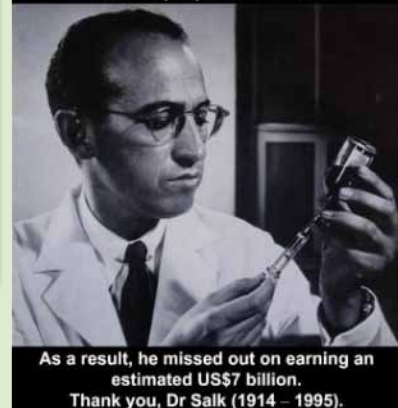


If raising the minimum wage increases prices, how come prices have continued to rise even though the minimum wage hasn't been raised in years?

It wouldn't have anything to do with corporate greed, would it?



Jonas Salk chose not to patent his 1955 polio vaccine, making it more affordable for the millions of people who needed it.



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The Wisconsin Gazette is published every other week and distributed throughout the Milwaukee area, Madison, Racine, Kenosha, and 40 other cities statewide. To have WiG delivered to your address, contact rwright@wisconsin-gazette.com or call 414-961-3240, ext. 101
WiG Publishing, LLC. © 2013

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ON THE RECORD

“

“Boycotting a movie made by 99 percent LGBT equality folks in an LGBT equality industry is a waste of our collective energy.”

— Out, Oscar-winning screenwriter DUSTIN LANCE BLACK, writing on his Facebook page in opposition to an LGBT boycott of the recently released feature film *Enders Game*. The movie is based on a popular Y/A book by homophobe Orson Scott Card. Black removed the Facebook post after he was deluged with criticism.

“I’m anti-gay. I know that’s not politically correct these days, but that’s the way I feel. I’m a Christian and in the eyes of God it’s an abomination.”

— BETTY SCOTT, an 80-year-old resident of Shannon, Miss., explaining why she lobbied to prevent a gay bar from opening in her town of 1,753. P.J. Newton, who applied for a license to open the establishment, was the subject of a 2006 documentary titled *Small Town Gay Bar*, about a previous bar she owned in the town.

“I just didn’t want to be a lesbian. I’d never met one for a start and I just thought they were strange and that they hated men and they were very serious and I had these ridiculous images in my head and there were no out celebrities or politicians or anybody that I could look to and go, ‘Oh, I could be like that.’ I just kind of thought I don’t want to live like this. I just shut down the emotional life.”

— PORTIA De ROSSI on “The Conversation With Amanda De Cadene” talking about the struggle she had accepting her sexual orientation. She’s currently married to lesbian superstar Ellen DeGeneres.

“At #lax Some s--tbag shot up the place.”

— JAMES FRANCO tweeting from his plane, which was landing at LAX amid the recent shooting that occurred there. His tweet included a self-portrait of him an airplane window seat.

“The Moscow authorities are becoming increasingly absurd, and the banning of the rally to denounce the crimes of Hitler and Nazism is more proof of this. The government is approving of Nazi Germany’s genocidal policies.”

— NIKOLAI ALEKSEEV, founder of Moscow Pride, condemning city leaders for banning a demonstration denouncing Hitler’s persecution of gays.

“A homosexual who can’t rent a room or get a job because of his orientation doesn’t make any sense to anybody. Why some of the politicians are not more sensitive than that — more sensible, I should say than that — beats me.”

— PHIL BATT, the former Republican governor of Idaho, in a speech thanking the Idaho Human Rights Commission for giving him its Lifetime Achievement Award. Batt, 86, endorsed Idaho’s “Add the Words” campaign, which aims to add sexual orientation and gender identity to the Idaho Human Rights Act.

“Tea partier goes down.”

— HUFFINGTON POST headline announcing Republican Ken Cuccinelli’s loss to Democrat Terry McAulliffe in the Nov. 4 Virginia gubernatorial race. The headline refers to Cuccinelli’s unsuccessful attempt to criminalize oral sex.

”

Marked forever by the 1960s

Opinion
JAMAKAYA

The 50th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy’s assassination brings back many memories. It reminds me how growing up in the 1960s was as traumatic as it was exhilarating.

I was 5 years old in 1960, when JFK was elected. I still remember the ditty that we kids from proud Democratic and Catholic families sang at the time: “Kennedy, Kennedy, he’s our man! Nixon belongs in the garbage can!”

I was 15 when the dramatic decade ended in 1970. Richard Nixon was president. His invasion of Cambodia in April of that year expanded the Vietnam War and led to the shooting of student protesters by National Guardsmen at Kent State in Ohio.

Those years were a kaleidoscope of wild events. From the Cuban missile crisis to Beatlemania to civil rights protests, it was all brought up close and per-

sonal through TV and AM radio.

I remember being scared out of my mind at age 7 in 1962 when I walked down the hall in my house to use the bathroom. I was sure that once I was in there alone that bad guy Castro, who my parents were talking about in alarmed whispers, was going to get me.

On Nov. 22, 1963, I was in my third-grade class at St. Mary’s when the principal came on the PA system to announce that President Kennedy had been killed. It was disturbing to see the teachers so distraught. We were marched to church to pray for the president. Then the buses came to take us home.

What followed were three days in front of the TV watching the national tragedy. I remember how sad everyone was. It seemed like everyone in my family and everything on TV moved in slow motion. The only thing that’s come close since were the days after 9/11, when we were all in a state of shock.

It was about the time of Kennedy’s assassination

that the Beatles invaded the United States, bringing us all a blessed distraction. I screamed along with everyone else, and all the kids on my block started garage bands. I recently listened to my Beatles records again and found, to my delight, that I haven’t forgotten a word.

By age 12, I had to think hard about the civil rights and anti-war protests. My working-class dad used racial slurs. My mom wasn’t a lot better, but she sometimes said, “Elmer!” in a chiding tone to curb his tongue. I knew it was wrong and I remember thinking how dumb it was to hate people you didn’t know and to call them names. I was a fat girl and I knew how hurtful name-calling was. It may seem like a shallow analogy, but it was the beginning of empathy.

Civil rights marches and our napalm attacks in Vietnam spurred my critical thinking. The parish priest grew impatient with my questions and demanded that I “believe and obey!” Then Martin Luther King

What followed were three days in front of the TV watching the national tragedy. I remember how sad everyone was.

Jr. was killed in Memphis and Bobby Kennedy was murdered on his way to the presidency. WBBM had just started 24/7 news radio, and I listened on my transistor for days.

What doesn’t crush you makes you stronger. What I gleaned from the 1960s was a profound cynicism tempered by the necessity for questioning authority. I always question authority and urge others to do the same. This one’s for President Kennedy and all the children of the ‘60s who grew up too fast.

Reflecting on transgender losses — and looking forward to a better future

Opinion
HELEN BOYD & WILLEM VAN ROOSENBECK

their own fears, law enforcement officers who think our lives aren’t important, and courts that think panic is a legitimate reason for murder.

What we’d like to see is a day when we can’t remember the violence committed against people who live their genders despite transphobia, who believe in their own dignity and right to exist. What we’d like is a day when the faces of those who were brutally murdered for being who they are don’t flip through our minds as reminders of the fear we need to live with.

We all have privileges! We may be white, we may be cisgender, we may be educated; we may have money and health insurance and the possibility of getting a job without questions about our genders. Most of

the transgender people we remember had few or none of those advantages. Too many of the people who are killed every year are people of color, people who do sex work, people who have to decide between horribly risky work and starving.

For some transgender people, it is just the human desire to have companionship that makes them vulnerable to attacks.

While we remember those murdered, we want to celebrate them too. We see a transgender community filled with beautiful, engaged and joyful people. We see people in love. We see people with careers and jobs and families and hopes. We see people with aspirations and confidence.

What we want to see when we look around the transgender community is a

The human desire for companionship makes some transgenders vulnerable.

great deal of joy. The kind of joy that comes with victory not just over the transphobic world we live in, but with the internalized transphobia all of us share — transgender and cisgender alike.

Helen Boyd and Willem Van Roosenbeek are board members of Fair Wisconsin Education Fund. This statement is adapted from another piece originally written to honor the 2011 Transgender Day of Remembrance.

Religious right targets transgender people's use of public bathrooms

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

The right-wing leaders behind the campaign to ban same-sex marriage in California now want to repeal legislation intended to protect the rights of transgender students to equal access to school facilities, such as bathrooms, and school programs, such as sports teams.

They've made repeated claims that boys will game the system and pretend to be transgender so they can invade girls' restrooms. They've dubbed the historic legislation that Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown signed into law as the "bathroom bill," making light of a basic human need and ignoring the consequences of continued discrimination behind the doors labeled for him or her.

"I think just about any-

body knows what it feels like to desperately need to use a bathroom," said transgender civil rights advocate Nancy McCormick of San Diego. "Now imagine living your whole life being afraid to use a public bathroom because you don't want to be assaulted or arrested or being barred from using a public bathroom because someone says it isn't for you."

Jody L. Herman, a researcher with the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law, has studied transgender people's experiences with gendered restrooms and found:

- 27 percent of the transgender people surveyed in Washington, D.C., experienced problems using restrooms at work. In some cases, the harassment was so severe that the person changed jobs.

- 54 percent of the transgender people surveyed experienced physical complications — dehydration, kidney infections, urinary tract infections — from trying to avoid public restrooms.

- 58 percent of the transgender people surveyed said they avoided going out due to a lack of safe public restroom facilities.

- 68 percent said they'd been verbally harassed while using a public restroom.

- 9 percent reported being physically assaulted while trying to use a public restroom.

Herman concluded, "Policies to protect transgender people's access to restrooms can be understood as policies that are connected to the health and well-being of transgender people."

FROM ANTI-GAY TO ANTI-TRANS

The Privacy For All Students coalition wants a referendum next year on the California legislation that guarantees K-12 students access to sex-segregated restrooms and other facilities, as well as programs and activities based on self-identification of gender instead of birth gender or transition status.

The name of the coalition is new, but the alliance of the members is not: Many of the same organizations, activists and strategists were behind Proposition 8, the 2008 ballot initiative that defined marriage as the union of a man and a woman and barred same-sex couples from marrying in California.

A U.S. Supreme Court ruling this summer led to the overturning of Prop 8 and left the Prop 8 defenders in search of a new cause to rally the far-right and raise cash. The National Organization for Marriage, for one, turned its focus to fighting marriage equality abroad. But NOM also committed to battling efforts to protect transgender Americans and safeguard their rights.

The most prominent battle is taking place in California, where NOM is working with the Capital Resource Institute and others in the Privacy For All Students coalition to repeal the

'Imagine living your whole life being afraid to use a public bathroom because you don't want to be assaulted.'

School Success and Opportunity Act or AB 1266, set to go into effect on Jan. 1, 2014.

On Nov. 8, the coalition filed petitions signed by voters who want a ballot initiative.

If the measure is certified, a veteran of the anti-gay marriage campaign, Frank Schubert, has been tapped to lead the repeal effort.

In October, repeal advocates rallied outside the headquarters of the Los Angeles Unified School District, which has had a policy similar to AB 1226 for a decade and reported no problems.

Repeal advocates also have rallied in rural northern parts of the state, including in Modoc and Siskiyou counties, where elected officials disenchanted with state politics have called for seceding from California and forming the new State of Jefferson. Their largely symbolic effort is over economics and agricultural regulations, but some, in challenging government's reach, have cited AB 1226 as an example of the state going too far.

John O'Connor of Equal-

ity California, a statewide LGBT group, said opposition to AB 1266 is "a predictable move by fringe groups that oppose all pro-equality measures."

BROAD SUPPORT

Other supporters of the legislation include gay lawmakers Tom Ammiano and Mark Leno of San Francisco, the ACLU of California, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the Gay-Straight Alliance Network, the Transgender Law Center and also statewide parent and teacher organizations, including the California Teachers Association and the California State PTA.

The CTA said it supports the law because "educators see, firsthand, the often humiliating experiences transgender students endure. Transgender students who are denied access to a restroom appropriate to their gender identity often report they avoid using school restrooms at all, which not only places students' health at risk, but also significantly interferes with their ability to learn."

POTTY next page

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POTTY from prior page

Before Brown signed AB 1226, a transgender student in California filed a complaint with the civil rights divisions of the U.S. Education and Justice departments. The student alleged that Arcadia Unified School District violated his rights by excluding him from using the boys' restroom and locker room and segregating him from his male peers on an overnight field trip. The complaint said the school rules caused the boy to be subjected to ridicule and

to be excluded from after-school activities.

The federal government, announcing a resolution of the complaint in July, said the district would revise its policies to ensure all students equal access and opportunity.

The student, who has remained unnamed throughout the legal process, said, "(Now) I can focus on learning and being a typical high school student, like my friends."

The student's attorney, Asaf Orr at the NCLR, added, "Hopefully school

districts will take this opportunity to proactively address the needs of transgender youth through districtwide policies and training."

Massachusetts and Colorado have statewide policies that offer protections similar to AB 1226, and Maine's human rights commission has ruled that state law requires schools to respect a student's gender identity. Communities and school districts across the country, including in Wisconsin, also have improved policies.

In some of those locations, right-wing groups are

challenging the reforms.

In Colorado, for example, three high school girls represented by the right-wing Pacific Justice Institute are alleging harassment because a transgender student is using the girl's bathroom. PJI attorney Matthew McReynolds says allowing a "biologically teenage boy" in a girl's bathroom "is inherently harassing."

Meanwhile, Wisconsin Family Action, the organization that is challenging the state's domestic partnership registry, is sounding alarms. In an "alert" to members

in late October, WFA president Julaine Appling said being transgender is a perversion and warned, "It's 'gender identity and expression' that has been at the forefront of the so-called 'bathroom laws' that have become more and more popular. These are the laws that say public bathrooms are to be re-identified as unisex rather than be what they have been since time immemorial — sex specific and sex exclusive."

Appling said it is time to "stop making it illegal for people to say 'no' to those

who are quite honestly perverting the image of God that has been stamped on each human being."

McCormick said fringe groups such as Wisconsin Family Action distort the facts and ignore the need for protections. "The problem is not with how God did or did not stamp us — which is for each and every one of us to know individually not for Wisconsin Family Action to decide," she said. "The problem is with those symbols stamped on bathroom doors and rigid rules about gender and segregation."

Vatican surveys parishes on social issues

From AP reports

The Vatican is taking the unusual step of conducting a worldwide survey on how parishes deal with issues such as birth control, divorce and gay marriage, seeking input ahead of a major meeting on the family that Pope Francis plans next year.

The poll was sent in mid-October to every national conference of bishops. Vatican coordinator Archbishop Lorenzo Baldisseri urged bishops to "share it immediately as widely as possible to deaneries and parishes so that input from local sources can be received."

The survey reflects the pope's pledges to move away from what he called a "Vatican-centric" approach toward one where local church leaders are more involved in decision-making.

Among the questions are whether gay marriage is recognized in their jurisdictions and how priests minister to same-sex couples, including how churches can respond when gays seek a religious education or Holy Communion for their children.

The poll also asks, "How is God's mercy proclaimed" to separated, divorced and remarried couples.

Additional information is sought on the pastoral care of men and women who live together outside of marriage.

The survey also asks parishes whether they believe married men and women tend to follow church teaching barring the use of artificial contraception.

The National Catholic Reporter, an independent news organization, was first to report that the survey will be conducted, and it posted a copy online.

Helen Osman, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, confirmed plans for the poll to The Associated Press.

"It will be up to each bishop to determine what would be the most useful way of gathering information to provide to Rome," Osman wrote in an email. In Milwaukee, the archdiocese has posted the survey online to be filled out by a wide range of Catholics, including lay people.

The poll findings will help set the agenda for an extraordinary synod, or meeting, of the presidents of national bishops conferences in October 2014.

The introduction to the survey lays out a broad list of concerns that the docu-

ment says "were unheard of until a few years ago," including single-parent families, polygamy, interfaith marriages and "forms of feminism hostile to the church." Surrogate motherhood is lamented in the document as "wombs for hire," and the survey cites as a new challenge "same-sex unions between persons who are, not infrequently, permitted to adopt children."

Francis has said the church needs to do a better job preparing young people for marriage, lamenting that newlyweds seem to think marriage isn't a lifelong commitment but just a "provisional" one. At the same time, he has said the church process for annulling marriages isn't working and must be reviewed.

Francis' emphasis on reforming the Vatican bureaucracy and boosting the participation of local church leaders and lay peo-

ple has prompted speculation about how far-reaching his changes could be.

The pope has urged pastors to focus on being merciful and welcoming rather than emphasizing only such

divisive issues as abortion, gay marriage and contraception. At the same time, he has made clear his support for traditional marriage and opposition to abortion.

The introduction to the

new survey extensively quotes former popes and the Catholic catechism on marriage being the union of a man and a woman for the purposes of having children.

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BRING YOUR NIGHT TO LIFE.

Senate approves ENDA, campaign turns to House

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

For session after session, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act has died in committee. That may not be the bill's fate in the 113th Congress.

On Nov. 4, the U.S. Senate voted 61-30 to move forward with debating ENDA, which would ban bias based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the workplace with exceptions for businesses with fewer than 15 employees, religious institutions and the Armed Forces.

Debate followed the procedural vote and, on Nov. 7, the Senate made history, voting 64-32 to pass ENDA.

Going into the big week, the bill had 54 Senate co-sponsors and at least 60 senators — including all the Democrats in the chamber — who were confirmed “yes” votes.

The civil rights legislation, in some form, has been introduced in every congressional session since 1994 except the 109th.

In the 113th Congress, Colorado Democrat Jared Polis is the chief sponsor in the House, where ENDA is before the Judiciary; Education and the Workforce; and House Administration, Oversight and Government Reform committees. The measure has 186 co-sponsors, including Wisconsin Reps. Ron Kind, Gwen Moore and Mark Pocan.

Oregon Democrat Jeff Merkley is the chief sponsor in the Senate, where ENDA gained approval from the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee in June. Three Republicans on that committee — Mark Kirk of Illinois, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Orrin Hatch of Utah — backed the bill. The bipartisan support led Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to say, in the midst of the summer's partisan feuds, that he would seek to bring ENDA to the floor in the fall.

Throughout the dog days of August, equality advocates lobbied for votes in key states where Democratic senators hadn't signed on to ENDA or where moderate Republicans were considering support.

In October, Americans for Workplace Opportunity, a coalition of civil rights and labor groups, brought citizens to the Capitol to press for ENDA, a campaign overshadowed by the partial government shutdown that began just days before the scheduled lobby day.

In a floor speech on ENDA, co-sponsor Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., said, “Every American deserves the freedom to work free of discrimination. And passing the Employment Non-Discrimination Act strengthens this freedom by recognizing the right to be judged based on your skills, talents, loyalty, character, integrity and work ethic.”

Merkley added, “I think back to Martin Luther King's commentary that the great arc of the universe bends toward justice and I feel that our notion of fairness about employment, how central that is to pursuit of happiness, how central it is to equality, how central it is to the golden rule means that we will accomplish this. But I do hope it's sooner rather than later.”

Kirk delivered his first floor speech since returning to the Senate after a stroke to encourage support for ENDA.

Though there were votes against the bill, there was no spoken opposition on the floor in the procedural vote on Nov. 4.

And in the vote that sent ENDA to the House, 54 Democrats and 10 Republicans backed the bill.

“All Americans deserve a fair opportunity to pursue the American dream,” said U.S. Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, a chief

ENDA next page

FOR THE RECORD

Twenty-nine states do not have a law banning workplace bias based on sexual orientation. Wisconsin passed the first ban.

Thirty-three states do not have a law banning workplace bias based on gender identity. Wisconsin is one of those states.

— L.N.

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ENDA from prior page

sponsor of the legislation.

President Barack Obama had praise for "common sense" and bipartisanship in the Senate.

Many others who cheered the Senate actions also stressed bipartisanship — and encouraged members of the House to take note of the GOP votes for the bill, as well as conservative support for equal opportunity at work. House Speaker John Boehner repeatedly has stated his opposition to ENDA, putting him at odds with a majority of Americans and a majority in his party.

"Most conservatives believe people in the workforce should be judged on their merits. They shouldn't be judged on characteristics that are irrelevant in a productive employee," said Jeff Cook-McCormac, a senior adviser to the GOP-focused American Unity Fund.

The fund is led by Republican Paul Singer, who has pledged \$250,000 to Americans for Workplace Opportunity to pass ENDA this year. Democrat Jonathan Lewis of Miami also has pledged \$250,000 to the campaign.

The funding commitment, said Americans for Workplace Oppor-

tunity campaign manager Matt McTighe, "is yet another indicator of the unusual partnerships — conservatives and liberals, Fortune 500 companies and labor unions — who are uniting behind this year's effort to pass ENDA."

Lewis and Singer "realize there is simply nothing partisan about protecting every American from discrimination on the job," said Chad Griffin, the president of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest LGBT civil rights group. "Each and every person in this country should be able to go to work without fear of being fired because of who they are or who they love. That's not a Democratic value or a Republican value, it's an American value."

A recent national survey by TargetPoint Consulting, where Republican pollster Alex Lundy is the chief data scientist, found that two-thirds of voters, including 56 percent of Republicans, support passing a federal law to ban workplace bias based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

And 86 percent of Republicans agreed with the statement, "We should all follow the Golden Rule and treat others as we'd like to be treated, including gay, lesbian and transgender Americans."

The percentage stayed about the same when Republicans were asked about equality in the workplace: 86 percent agreed that "everyone has a right to earn a living — including gay, lesbian and transgender Americans — and workers should be judged on the job they do, nothing more, nothing less."

Lundy said supporting ENDA is smart policy and smart politics. Lundy said GOP support for the bill "is a testament to the conservative values at the heart of the proposed law."

Workplace equality opponents tend to be on the far right of the political spectrum — such as the national Family Research Council and Traditional Values Coalition and regional Wisconsin Family Action, which before the Senate vote circulated the FRC's false claims that ENDA would give special status to LGBT employees and that it threatens "the free market, undermines employers' rights and violates the free exercise of religion."

Heritage Action for America also opposes the bill, claiming it would "severely undermine civil liberties ... and trample on religious liberty."



PHOTO: THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CONTEXT

Republican Paul Singer is working to build support for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, as well as marriage equality, in the GOP.

OUT FOR EQUAL

Thirty-four percent of LGBT adults who are closeted at work would become comfortable coming out if the Employment Non-Discrimination Act passed Congress, according to a Harris poll released in October and commissioned by Out & Equal Workplace Advocates. — L.N.



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BUSINESS EQUALITY LUNCHEON

Cream City Foundation's 2013 Business Equality Luncheon drew a record number of nearly 300 people to Milwaukee's Marcus Center for the Performing Arts on Nov. 4 for lunchtime business networking. Aurora Health Care president and CEO Nick W. Turkal, whose organization is the largest employer in the state offering employment benefits to the same-sex partners of workers, presented the keynote address at the event, which grossed \$43,000 for CCF.

"Cream City Foundation, along with its many partners, is creating a wave of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender inclusion across the business community in southeastern Wisconsin," said CCF president and CEO Paul Fairchild. "We are proud of the work we have done over the past year, and happy to bring everyone together today to celebrate the success of this movement."



PHOTO: DAVID LAUERSDORF

WAVE OF INCLUSION: Cream City Foundation president Paul R. Fairchild, from left, board chair Paul Milakovich, and board members Griselda Aldrete, Dan Sawall, Renee Kirnberger, Jose Milan, Syd Robinson, Terri Coughlin and Jim Schleif.



PHOTO: DAVID LAUERSDORF

Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele and Democratic gubernatorial candidate Mary Burke.

YOUTH ORGANIZING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

High school students will gather in Milwaukee on Nov. 18 to learn what they can do to further social justice causes — and how to carry out their missions. The 14th annual Youth Social Justice Forum takes place with the support of a number of organizations, including the ACLU of Wisconsin Foundation.

Students will attend programs on new media, public art, government and politics, bullying and violence, racial profiling, LGBT equality and other issues. They also will cast ballots in a mock election and create public service announcements.

Supporters and participants include Urban Underground, TRUE Skool, Running Rebels, Pathfinders, Overpass Light Brigade, Alliance High School, Amnesty International, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee Election Commission, Milwaukee Public Theatre, YWCA of Milwaukee, YES/Youth Empowered in the Struggle, the League of Young Voters, Peer Solutions, UW-M Peck School of the Arts and the NAACP.

For more, including registration infor-

mation, email Emilio De Torre, ACLU of Wisconsin youth and program director, at edetorre@aclu-wi.org.

OUT CANDIDATE SEEKS ASSEMBLY SEAT

Democrat Elizabeth Coppola is running in a special election on Nov. 19 to replace state Rep. Mark Honadel, R, who resigned after a decade to take a private-sector job.

The vacant seat in the state's 21st Assembly District (Oak Creek, Franklin, South Milwaukee) presents a unique opportunity to elect a strong out candidate, according to pro-equality activists.

Coppola graduated from Alverno College, where she was student government president. She also completed the seven-month Emerge training program for women interested in public service.

Coppola's professional background includes managing 50 employees for Target Corporation. She currently works for the United Way, where she acts as liaison between the nonprofit group and 40 businesses. She's volunteered for the Hunger Task Force, the Research Center for Women and Girls and the office of the



PHOTO: FACEBOOK

Elizabeth Coppola

Milwaukee County Public Defender.

"Given my passion for serving my community and my work in both the nonprofit and business sectors, I have the experience to best represent the people of the 21st District," Coppola says.

For more, go to votecoppola.com.

In other community news ...

- **The Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce** and the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce have partnered to advocate for a change to a federal Security and Exchange Commission rule with the goal of providing equal opportunity for LGBT investors to participate in startups. In a joint letter to U.S. Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Madison, the chambers asked for help urging the SEC to revise Rule 501 of Regulation D so individuals in civil unions, domestic partnerships and similar relationships can have the same right and opportunity to qualify for accredited investor status as do married people. For more, go to www.wislgbt-chamber.com.

- **The Transgender Day of Remembrance** is observed on Nov. 20. Activists around the world are planning observances in memory of the victims of anti-transgender violence. In Milwaukee, TDOR is to be held at 6:30 p.m. on Fri., Nov. 22, at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. The worldwide events honor Rita Hester, whose murder in 1998 inspired the Remembering Our Dead web project and a San Francisco candlelight vigil in 1999. Hester's murder has yet to be solved.

— L.N. and L.W.

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JOLLY HOLLY FOLLY

5 p.m. Tues., Nov. 26

Fabulous food tastings and an upbeat Broadway musical? What's not to love about Jolly Holly Folly, one of Milwaukee's most popular holiday events? This year's annual fundraiser for AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin features cocktails and small plates from 20 of the area's most popular restaurants, followed by a performance of *Irving*

Berlin's *White Christmas*, based on the ever-green movie classic. Tickets are \$120 — or \$100 if purchased in increments of four or more. Seating is limited and based on first come, first served. *Irving Berlin's White Christmas* continues through Dec. 1. At the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 N. Water St. For Jolly Holly Folly tickets, call Keri-Ayn Hough at 414-273-7121, ext. 213. For more about the musical, visit marcuscenter.org.

Featured pick



PHOTO: CARDER PHOTOGRAPHY

The cast of *Irving Berlin's White Christmas*, on stage at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, Nov. 26–Dec. 1

ABBAMANIA



ABBA MANIA 7 p.m., Fri., Nov. 15

Thirty years after they disbanded, Swedish pop legends ABBA still inspire devotion — and dancing. *Mamma Mia!*, the stage musical based on ABBA hits, is still packing audiences into theaters around the globe. Even the subsequent (and catastrophic) movie version starring Meryl Streep has gained a frenzied following. While the chances of ABBA ever reuniting for a concert tour are virtually non-existent, *ABBA Mania* promises to recreate the ABBA concert experience with faithful renditions of such classics as "Dancing Queen," "Winner Takes All," "Mamma Mia" (of course) and many others. At The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin in Milwaukee. Call 414-286-3663 or go to pabsttheater.org/show/abbamania2013.

PALLADE MUSICA

5 p.m., Sat., Nov. 16

Early Music Now presents Pallade Musica, a young ensemble that brings together four of Montreal's most promising early music performers. Grand Prize winners at the Early Music America Baroque Performance Competition in New York, the quartet performs a pro-

gram titled *Terreno e vago*, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 914 E. Knapp St. The concert is preceded by a 4 p.m. lecture and followed by a reception celebrating Early Music Now's 27th anniversary. Tickets are \$25–\$40 for adults and seniors; groups of 10 or more receive discounts of 20 percent. Call 414-225-3113 or go to earlymusicnow.org.

THIS MUST BE THE BAND

9 p.m., Sat., Nov. 16

Tribute bands come in all shapes and sizes. From Grateful Dead-head masters Dark Star Orchestra to Salford Lads Club (The Smiths/Morrissey tribute) to Tributosaurus (is there any band Tributosaurus can't recreate?), fans seem to love the "almost like being there experience" that tribute shows afford them. Talking Heads tribute band This Must Be the Band has earned a reputation for lengthy shows (three to four hours), alternating between "all-request" shows and the Stop Making Sense Re-creation, in which the band replicates the Talking Heads' groundbreaking 1984 concert film. At The Majestic Theatre, 115 King in Madison. Call 608-251-2582 or visit www.majesticmadison.com.



ALVERNO PRESENTS RUTH DOESN'T LIVE HERE ANYMORE

8 p.m., Sat., Nov. 16

Half-Jewish and half-Indian choreographer Lionel Popkin has created a program that's loosely based on the work of modern dance pioneer Ruth St. Denis, co-founder of the famed Denishawn

Company and innovator of "Orientalism" in Western dance. *Ruth Doesn't Live Here Anymore* features dance performed to an original score that evokes both Klezmer and Indian music. Tickets are \$35. At Alverno College's Pitman Theatre, 3431 S. 39th St., Milwaukee. Call 414-382-6044 or go to alvernopresents.alverno.edu.

Out on the town Nov. 15–Nov. 28

A curated calendar of upcoming events

Featured pick

FESTIVAL OF TREES & MUSIC

Thurs., Nov. 14, through Sun., Nov. 24

The Wisconsin Conservatory of Music hosts the 11-day Festival of Trees & Music, featuring artisan-decorated Christmas trees and dozens of live performances, including rock, blues, classical and jazz, as well as music from Central and South America, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and Africa. Featured talent includes Paul Ceban on solo guitar; popular French singer Robin Pluer; the jazz sextet We Six; jazz vocalist Adekola Adedapo; Lil' Rev, a ukulele and harmonica player known for his Yiddish music; psychedelic blues rock trio The Revelators; and Oumar Sagna of Sindoola African Band. Hours are 5–9 p.m., Mon. through Fri., 1–9 p.m. on Saturdays, and 2–7 p.m. Sundays. At the conservatory's elegantly decorated historic McIntosh-Goodrich Mansion, 1584 N. Prospect Ave. Admission is open, with a suggested donation at the door. For daily performance schedules and musical descriptions, call 414-276-5760 or visit www.wcmusic.org/festivalschedule.aspx.

JC BROOKS & THE UPTOWN SOUND

8 p.m., Mon., Nov. 18

What sets JC Brooks & The Uptown Sound apart from retro-soul-revivalists such as Sharon Jones & The Dap Kings and Fitz & The Tantrums? Out frontman JC Brooks, of course! You can hear it on the latest disc *Howl*. Brooks brings on the drama ("River," "Married for a Week" and the hot heartache of "Cold"). He can also throw a party like nobody's business, as he demonstrates on the aptly named title tune, the sexy "Security" and the funky floor-burner "Before You Die." But wait until the end for the album's best treat, when Brooks and the Uptown Sound venture into exciting sonic territory on "Control" and "These Things." At The Majestic Theatre, 115 King in Madison. Call 608-251-2582 or visit www.majesticmadison.com.



UNFORGETTABLE EVENING, UNFORGIVABLE CRIMES

6:30 p.m., Wed., Nov. 20

The Milwaukee Jewish Federation and Marcus Center for the Performing Arts present "An Unforgettable Evening," marking Kristallnacht, or the Night of Broken Glass. That shocking Nazi pogrom, carried out 75 years ago, involved 12 hours of attacks in Germany and Austria on nearly 7,500 shops owned by Jews and more than 1,000 synagogues. The Milwaukee remembrance of the horror includes a performance of *The Trial of FDR*, a one-act play about the fateful 1939 voyage of the MS St. Louis, the ocean liner carrying Jewish refugees that was denied entry to the United States. At the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 N. Water St. For tickets and details, go to www.holocaustcentermilwaukee.org.

The BOOK of MATT

HIDDEN TRUTHS ABOUT THE MURDER OF MATTHEW SHEPARD

STEPHEN JIMENEZ

STEPHEN JIMENEZ

7 p.m., Wed., Nov. 20

Award-winning journalist, writer and producer Stephen Jimenez is stirring up controversy with his new book *The Book of Matt: Hidden Truths About the Murder of Matt Shepard* (Steerforth). Fifteen years after Shepard's brutal killing, Jimenez's

long-researched book investigates a set of theories surrounding the murder that shook the nation. Jimenez posits that Shepard was involved in the drug culture and knew his killers intimately. Jimenez reads from his book at Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer. Call 414-332-1181.

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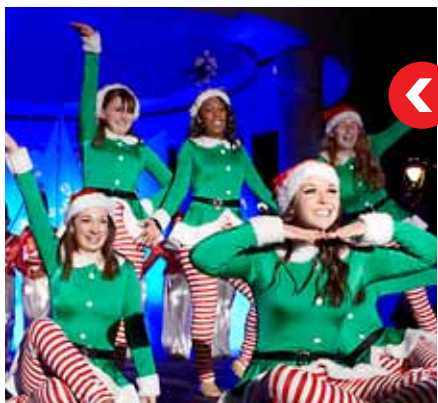
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THINGS BEING WHAT THEY ARE Nov. 20 through Dec. 15

Bill moves into a new condo, where he prepares for the arrival of his wayward wife. But his nosy neighbor Jack appears at the door, looking for some beer and sympathy and setting in motion a wistful exploration of the needs that bring people together and drive them apart. The Chamber Theatre presents the Milwaukee premiere of this bromantic comedy by Wendy MacLeod, featuring Dan Katula and Ryan Schabach. At the Broadway Theatre Center's Studio Theatre, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. Call 414-291-7811 or go to broadwaytheatrecenter.com.



JINGLE BELLS AND BLASTS 6 p.m., Thurs., Nov. 21

The annual Milwaukee Holiday Lights Festival kicks off with a downtown extravaganza that includes fireworks, entertainment, a visit from a jolly big elf in a red suit, free hot cocoa and cookies, ice sculpting, rides on the Jingle Bus and a ceremonial flipping of the switch to put some sparkle into the season. At Pere Marquette Park, 900 N. Plankinton Ave. For details, call 414-220-4700 or go online to www.milwaukee-downtown.com.

JFK 50TH TRIBUTE 8 p.m., Sat., Nov. 23

Poet Jeanie Dean hosts the *JFK 50th Tribute*, a commemorative with guest poets Joann Chang, Ellen C. Warren, Peter Blewitt and Phoenix Suvayas. Also performing are musicians Holly Haebig & Friends, Mark Mantel, Jahmes Finlayson, Mud River Lee, Desmond Bone, Dave Geisthardt, Lyle Holthaus, Joan McGovern & Spencer Matthews, and Ben Merens. At The Coffee House, 631 N. 19th in Milwaukee. Call 414-534-4612.



JERKS 7:30 p.m., Fri., Nov. 22 and Sat., Nov. 23

Broadminded Comedy present *Jerks*, a new sketch comedy celebrating the people you love to hate — the know-it-alls, mall girls and fine folks at the NSA who are reading your text messages at this very moment. At the Arcade Theatre in the Underground Collaborative, 161 W. Wisconsin Ave. (lower level of Grand Avenue Mall). Call 414-939-4464 or go to www.broadmindedcomedy.com.

SWEET AND SAVORY 10 a.m. Sat., Nov. 23

OK, you know the sweet side of chocolate — poured over French vanilla ice cream, stirred into whole milk, molded into bars and bonbons and kisses. Sous chef Shaun Abbott of the Mason Street Grill leads a tasteful lesson in the Celebrated Chefs series on "The Savory Side of Chocolate." Abbott will talk about how chocolate is used in savory dishes such as dark chocolate mole and chicken chile. At the Mason Street Grill, 425 E. Mason St. For details, call 414-935-5950.



PHOTO: ANDREW HINKLE

Polly Amour performs with Miltown Kings

MILTOWN KINGS 9 p.m., Sat., Nov. 23

This Best of Show event marks Miltown Kings' 10th anniversary as Milwaukee's premier drag king troupe, providing crazy drag antics mingled with political statements, gender fluidity, burlesque, and challenges to societal norms. Fans can bid on props, costumes and other artifacts from the troupe's history. The event is open to everyone 18 and older. Entry fee is \$8, or \$7 for guests wearing Miltown King gear. At the Miramar Theatre, 2844 N. Oakland. Call 414-967-0302 or go to miltownkings.com.

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Photo: Courtesy Capital Cities



THE BRIGHT FUTURES TOUR FEATURING FITZ & THE TANTRUMS AND CAPITAL CITIES 7:30 p.m., Sat., Nov. 23

In the 21st century, disco is no longer the sole domain of the gays. As straight folks have glommed on to the sound and the style by calling it EDM (electronic dance music), they've succeed in erasing any lingering gay traces. In Fitz & The Tantrums' sophomore album *More Than Just A Dream*, the group expands and updates its repertoire to move in a dance-oriented direction. Album opener "Out of My League" is a soul dance sensation, and the dance mood is maintained on the thumping "The Walker" and the vintage disco of "Last Raindrop" and "Break the Walls." Also, one listen to the infectious "Safe and Sound," which opens Capital Cities' full-length debut album *In a Tidal Wave of Mystery*, and there is no doubt that this group's sound is also rooted in disco. Other cuts on the disc — "I Sold My Bed, But Not My Stereo," "Center Stage," "Origami" and "Chasing You" — all bear the influence of vintage disco updated for modern ears. Hear both groups' updated spin on disco in The Bright Futures tour at The Rave/Eagles Club, 2401 W. Wisconsin Ave. Call 414-342-RAVE (7283).

FOLK FEST WITH FLAIR

Fri., Nov. 22, through Sun., Nov. 24

Holiday Folk Fair International, a program of the International Institute of Wisconsin, celebrates the cultural heritage of the people living in southeastern Wisconsin. Special attractions include an international arts exhibit, a United Nations human rights exhibit, music and dance, the World Cafe offering traditional dishes and an International Bazaar. At the Wisconsin Exposition Center at Milwaukee's State Fair Park, 640 S. 84th St., West Allis. For more, go to www.folkfair.org.



Franz Schubert

SCHUBERT'S MASS NO. 6 IN E-FLAT MAJOR

8 p.m. Fri., Nov. 22 and Sat., Nov. 23;
2:30 p.m., Sun., Nov. 24

Composed in Franz Schubert's final months and never heard during his lifetime, the *Mass in E-flat Major* is described as a "poignant and deeply affecting cry from the composer to his Creator." Guest conductor Hans Graf leads the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra in performances featuring the symphony's chorus. Also on the program is Mozart's *Symphony No. 39 in E-flat major*. At Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 N. Water St. Call 414-273-7206 or go to www.marcuscenter.org/show/schuberts-sixth.

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REGIONAL BRIEFS



PHOTO: COURTESY

Democrat Rob Zerban wants another shot at Republican Paul Ryan's congressional seat. He's running in the 2014 Democratic primary.

DEMOCRAT ROB ZERBAN SEEKS PAUL RYAN'S SEAT

Rob Zerban, the Democrat who lost to U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan in last year's election, is mounting a new challenge for 2014.

Zerban made his announcement official at a rally in Kenosha a week after Democrat Amar Kaleka, 35, announced his interest in seeking the seat.

The 45-year-old Zerban is a former Kenosha County Board supervisor who used to run two small businesses.

Zerban says he supports green technology, immigration reform and same-sex marriage.

"People in our neighborhoods don't care first about

being a Republican or Democrat," the candidate said. "We don't care about which party is up and which party is down. We care that our schools are strong, that we have access to quality, affordable health care, that our communities are safe and our drinking water is clean and our air is breathable. We care that people get treated fairly, no matter who they love, and we care that women and men get treated the same. Most importantly, we want to know that there are jobs out there for our kids when they finish high school or college or technical school — and that if someone in our family loses their job, that they can find another one."

MILWAUKEE COMMON COUNCIL ASKS TO LIMIT MONEY IN POLITICS

The Milwaukee Common Council on Nov. 5 unanimously approved a resolution to place on the Nov. 19 ballot a citizens' advisory referendum limiting money in politics. The referendum asks the public whether the U.S. Constitution should be amended to establish that money is not speech and therefore legislation may limit political contribution amounts and require the identification of contributors. Sixteen states have passed resolutions asking for such an amendment. A total of 34 are needed.

In other regional news ...

• **A Janesville, Wis., man** was arrested early Oct. 26 for allegedly assaulting two men speaking Hebrew in the 200 block of North Henry Street in Madison. A Madison Police Department report said 23-year-old Dylan T. Grall punched the men after cursing at them and demanding they speak English. Grall thought the men were speaking Spanish. He faces two charges of battery with a hate-crime enhancer. One victim, age 22, is from Skokie, Ill., and the other victim, age 23, is from Milwaukee.

• **More than \$1.9 billion in grants** were funded through the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program for fiscal 2013. About \$1.16

billion was awarded under Part B to be used for home and community-based services, AIDS Drug Assistance Program assistance and other direct services. Wisconsin received \$8,662,447 for Part B. Another \$178 million was awarded nationwide to provide core medical and support services to individuals living with HIV/AIDS under Part

C of the program. In Wisconsin, awards included: \$469,713 to Milwaukee Health Services; \$531,980 to University of Wisconsin System; \$485,624 to AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin; \$392,884 to 16th Street Community Health Center.

• **Two men** recently filed a complaint with the state of Illinois against a Chicago taxicab company. Ste-

ven White of West Hollywood, Calif., and Matthew McCrea of Chicago say they kissed during a ride in May. They claim the driver for Sun Taxi turned the interior lights on and off, telling them, "This is public transportation." The driver then ordered them out, they claimed.

— WiG and AP reports

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Center's new director seems born for the job

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

With a smile that lights up the room and a personality that makes you quickly feel as if you've known her for years, Colleen Carpenter could host a morning television show or be a star diplomat.

But, fortunately for the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, she's decided to become its new executive director — after being selected from a pool of candidates that numbered close to 60. The announcement of her hiring was the crowning achievement of a year that saw the struggling center come back from near death to firm financial footing, while at the same time attaining an unprecedented level of community engagement.

Carpenter's resume and her personal history create the portrait of someone who's not merely suited for her new position but fated for it.

"I had four different people send me the announcement (for the job) and say, 'You'd be perfect for this position,'" she said. "And I thought, 'What fun!'"

Carpenter's professional background mirrors many of the programs offered by the center.

Carpenter was married and had three children when she finally came out to herself and her family in 1986. She lived in Milwaukee at the time and worked for organizations serving victims of domestic violence.

In the late 1990s, Carpenter relocated to St. Louis, where she ran a YWCA community center and also worked for organizations that found housing for people living with AIDS and assisted homeless and run-away youth.

She moved back to Milwaukee to be near her grown children, and she's now single and living in the neighborhood she calls "Gay View."

Carpenter officially begins the job on Nov. 18. I sat down with her shortly after her hiring was announced, and we had a



PHOTO: DAVID LAUERSDORF

Colleen Carpenter

wide-ranging conversation.

Louis Weisberg: What attracted you to the job?

Colleen Carpenter: The board of directors is the first thing. When you're an executive director, you have not one boss but 12 or 14. This group has done such an amazing job of pulling in the same direction. I've never met more dedicated, intelligent and passionate people.

The second thing was the business structure. Most nonprofits are confined to a specific mission: sexual assault, domestic violence, homelessness, whatever it is. A community center is so different because whatever programming is there should be reflective of all the needs and interests of the community it's designed to serve. You have a chance to be creative with the programming in a way that you can't when you're working with a single issue.

What will be your first order of business?

It seems to me that my first couple of months here my stance should be to watch, listen and learn. It's really presumptuous when a new director comes in and her first week or first month comes says, 'This is what we're going to do.' I think it's disrespectful, and I don't really have an agenda.

To come in behind (interim executive director) Karen (Gotzler), whom I've idolized for 25 years, is humbling. I've known her since shortly after I first came out. She's brilliant and driven and entrepreneurial — and

it's just like, 'Wow.' If I can perform at half the level that Karen Gotzler performs at every day with one hand tied behind her back, I'll be doing good.

What's your vision for the center?

I'm really interested in hearing from the community. I really do believe that we should be reflecting the interests of our community. When our community says, 'Wow, wouldn't it be great if we could do this?' then our job is to make that happen.

"I describe the community center model as a big canvas. You've painted certain things in certain places on the canvas but there's still a lot of white space there. I want to see us painting on a larger surface of the canvas.

What's your approach to youth programming?

"When we talk about young people, we're always programming toward their deficits. We want to help them address safety, risk prevention and all of those things. They're absolutely essential. But you talk to any of our young people and they can tell you what their issues are, but they might not have a clue what their gifts are. In a broad sense I want us to figure out ways to help our young people to find their gifts and find things they can celebrate as opposed to just what their problem is this week or month.

Are you looking forward to this?

I think it's going to be a blast. I know you're not supposed to have fun at work because then it's not work — that's our puritan upbringing.

IN PERSON

The entire community is invited to attend a welcome reception for new executive director Colleen Carpenter at 6 p.m. on Thurs., Dec. 5, at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 1110 N. Market St., second floor.

Mark Clements is filling seats, creating dialogue

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

When Mark Clements signed a new, four-year contract with Milwaukee Repertory Theater earlier this year, civic leaders should have breathed a sigh of relief. Like the Milwaukee Art Museum's Calatrava addition, Clements has done wonders for the city's cultural profile.

Since taking the helm as The Rep's artistic director in 2010, Clements has steered the organization to new heights. His cinematic precision as a director, his international industry connections and his embrace of more diverse and intellectually challenging works have resulted in box-office records and unprecedented critical acclaim.

Clements' programming has drawn new audiences, including the younger and more diverse people crucial to the theater's future. Selecting works that have targeted demographic appeal but also conform to The Rep's emphasis on strong storytelling, Clements' has grown individual ticket sales, adding a new revenue stream to the traditional subscription-based model. During Clements' time at The Rep, ticket sales have grown overall by 12 percent and individual ticket sales have risen by 49 percent.

"A theater that is not growing and responding and changing with the times is not going to be in business for very long," Clements said.

In addition to presiding over all the group's programming, which includes 13 productions scheduled for the 2013-14 season, Clements has directed some of The Rep's highlights of the past four years. Those

include the production of *Ragtime* that opened the Rep's 60th anniversary season this fall and broke the standing box-office record held by *Cabaret*, his 2010 directorial debut at The Rep. (*Cabaret* was also the group's first musical production since 1986.)

MOVING FORWARD

Of course, the Rep was a highly regarded regional theater long before Clements came on board. But the company had been losing money since before the recession started. The Rep faced the challenges that all regional theaters today face — dependency on philanthropy and the risk of growing culturally irrelevant.

The Rep's board brought on Clements specifically to turn that situation around — to shake things up and move them forward. That's a risky assignment for an outsider coming into an institution — and a city — where the status quo often seems paradigmatic. It probably didn't make it easier for Clements that he has the physical bearing of a linebacker and is accustomed to speaking his mind — and with a British accent, no less.

"The city was a learning curve for me," Clements acknowledged. "I struggle with the Midwestern politeness still. I find it distracting and annoying, but I understand it now."

One of the first issues Clements had to address was that the company's creative choices were hamstrung by one its greatest assets, its brilliant resident acting company. The Rep's was one of the few remaining such companies in the nation.

"With a resident acting company, you're (limited to)

choosing your plays around the strengths and desires of those performers," Clements explained.

So he did some creative rearranging to create a company that's "production-driven rather than actor-driven," as he put it. He launched an associate artists program, modeled somewhat on the successful program of Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre. The 19 actors, directors, writ-

'One of the things that strikes me (about Milwaukee) is that I never see a gay couple holding hands.'

ers and technicians who are part of this core group form a pool of talent that Clements can call on for advice and employ to work on productions as the need for their specific expertise arises.

Another order of business for Clements was to upgrade the Rep's technical abilities so he could put on large-scale musicals. The Quadracci Powerhouse Theater — the largest of The Rep's three stages — got a \$120,000 sound upgrade to equip it with new speakers, a new sound playback operating system and wireless mics.

His ongoing tech improvements culminated in *Ragtime*, Clements said. Not only did it feature the Rep's largest cast ever (35),

but it also required 43 set changes through automated wagon moves — each one of them into a unique configuration.

But perhaps Clements' largest challenge has been to broaden and diversify the group's programming. The result has been some unpredictable choices, including the surprise hit musical *Back to Normal*, about a woman suffering from bipolar disorder.

HOMETOWN

Clements said he's driven not only by his artistic vision but also his commitment to Milwaukee. Despite his international background and resume, the city fits him like a leather glove in many respects. A big motocross fan, Clements appreciates living in Harley-Davidson's hometown. He's also an avid sports fan who once considered a career in professional soccer, despite growing up in a theatrical family.

Milwaukee became dearer to Clements when he truly settled down here, marrying longtime girlfriend Kelley Faulkner, a highly regarded actor who now appears frequently at The Rep (her next performance is in The Rep's upcoming production of the landmark farce *Noises Off*.) After initially living in Brewers Hill, the couple moved to Fox Point after the birth of their daughter two years ago. He loves it there.

"I grew up near water, so being near water has always been a very calming and restorative thing for me," said Clements, who drives along the lake into the city whenever he has the time, he said.

Clements, like many Brew City transplants, sees more in the city's poten-



tial than longtime residents sometimes do. Like a native, he finds himself becoming angry and defensive when outsiders unfamiliar with Milwaukee dismiss it as some sort of Rust Belt anachronism.

Clements said his role as a local cultural leader comes with the obligation to address some of the area's thornier social issues.

"It's not the most progressive city I've ever lived in," Clements said. "One of the things that strikes me working in the community is that I never wsee a gay couple holding hands in the street. That's still a shock to me. And the city is still segregated racially, unfortunately. There are two fundamental things I have a zero tolerance for — homophobia and racial prejudice. I don't understand them at all. It's the way that I was brought up. My parents were in the theater. I don't think my mother had a single male friend who wasn't gay. I think my mother was the only one who's son turned out not to be gay."

Clements added, "The other thing I don't get at

all — I don't understand the Americans' obsession with gun ownership." He explained that his confusion stems from the insistence among Americans that guns make them safer, while irrefutable data demonstrates exactly the opposite — a correlation between gun ownership and gun violence.

But Clements said the things that bother him are also a huge motivator. "They fuel me to find pieces of work so that I can be an influence," he said. "Like Arthur Miller, I just want my play to broaden people's horizons. People don't want to investigate or delve too deeply. Owing our own truth is possibly the hardest thing we have to do."

It's hard but Clements said he'll doggedly continue to use his theatrical influence to prod audiences in that direction, even though becoming a father has lightened his theatrical taste quite a bit.

"I used to be a real Neil LaBute freak," Clements confessed. "But now I struggle with his work. Now I prefer plays with redemptive qualities."

Thomas Sully painted with a dramatic flair

By Stephanie S. Beecher

Contributing writer

If you think that you're not familiar with the work of 19th century portrait artist Thomas Sully, just open your wallet: A reproduction of Sully's 1845 portrait of President Andrew Jackson adorns the \$20 bill.

That's one of many fascinating discoveries you'll make at the Milwaukee Art Museum's newest feature exhibit *Thomas Sully: Painted Performance*. The exhibit contains a respectable portion of the artist's oeuvre, including many works that had been lost or forgotten — until now.

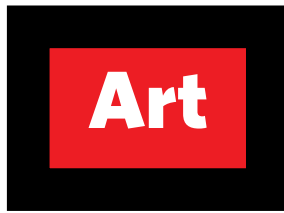
Co-curators William Keyse Rudolph and Carol Eaton Soltis spent eight years rescuing nearly 80 works by the old American master from obscurity to

create the exhibit. It's on display through Jan. 5, 2014, after which it's headed to San Antonio, Texas. Rudolph is MAM's director of exhibitions and Dudley J. Godfrey Jr. Curator of American Art and Decorative Art. Soltis is project associate curator of American art at Philadelphia Museum of Art.

During a members-only preview, Rudolph explained that Sully's work is noteworthy not just for his delicate brushstroke and knack for intricate detail, but also for the stories captured in his artistry. Sully's work has a dramatic quality that reflects his family's theatrical background.

Born in Britain, Sully (1783-1872) immigrated with his actor parents to Charleston, S.C., where they entertained the plantation-era South. Sully performed as a youngster, both as an acrobat and an actor.

Returning to England, Sully studied with Benjamin West and drew inspiration from other contemporary artists, including Sir Thomas Lawrence.



He later settled in Philadelphia, then a hub of U.S. culture that eclipsed New York City's artistic scene.

Sully's family connections in the theater world led to his early commissions, and his subjects eventually encompassed a broad cross-section of elites, including the Revolutionary War hero Marquis de Lafayette and the newly crowned Queen Victoria. He's perhaps best known for the dramatic masterpiece *The Passage of the Delaware*, which depicts then-Gen. George Washington seated on a white stallion on the snowy banks of the Delaware River following a disastrous military defeat in New York (this painting is not part of the MAM exhibit).

One of the more interesting Sully paintings greeting visitors in MAM's Baker/Rowland space is a nearly life-size portrait titled *George Frederick Cooke, in the role of Richard III* (1812). Sully shows the actor portraying Shakespeare's villainous king in full, exquisite costume. Its subject standing before shadows, a



PHOTO: COURTESY DALLAS MUSEUM OF ART/PAULINE ALLEN GILL FOUNDATION

LESBIAN DAUGHTER: Thomas Sully's daughter Rosalie posed for *Cinderella at the Kitchen Fire*. Rosalie Sully had an open lesbian relationship with theater star Charlotte Cushman, who was a frequent guest in Sully's home and referred to him as "Dad."

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ON EXHIBIT

Thomas Sully: Painted Performance is on display at the Milwaukee Art Museum through Jan. 5.

cascade of light illuminating Cooke's ornate velvet robe and sinister eyes, the painting makes it easy to imagine the impact Cooke had in the role.

A raucous playboy and a notorious drunkard, Cooke died shortly after the portrait was completed. When it was prominently displayed at the actor's memorial, Sully's career launched in earnest.

Sully's male subjects impart a sense of machismo, while his women are imbued with graceful Victorian notions of beauty. Flushed cheeks, doe eyes, ivory skin and relaxed décolletage are common touches in his portraits of females. Though Sully acknowledged modifying some of his subjects — elongating the legs of one magistrate's daughter, softening the laugh lines of another — his journal entries and letters of correspondence indicate he was quite spot on.

A true "working artist," Sully painted scenes from popular fiction in order to "play to the galleries," after his portrait commissions began to falter. Scenes

from Charles Dickens' novels and Shakespeare's plays appeared, as well as images drawn from the artist's imagination. Known as "subject" pictures or "fancy" pictures, these paintings include Gypsies, mermaids and children at play.

Cinderella at the Kitchen Fire (1843) exemplifies this subject matter. The massive painting reveals the kind heart of the drably dressed Cinderella as she plays with a kitten while her stepsisters stand vainly before a mirror.

An interesting aside to the painting is that Sully's daughter Rosalie Sully, who posed as Cinderella, had an open lesbian relationship with noted actor Charlotte Cushman. According to historical sources, Cushman was a frequent guest in Sully's home and referred to him as "Dad." She also claimed that she and Rosalie Sully were "married" on July 6, 1844.

Rosalie Sully died not long after Cushman moved to Europe, where she was involved in several tumultuous relationships with other women.

It is clear that Sully had an unusual fondness for children, but his later portraits of youths grew dark and somber. By that time, he'd lost six children of his own, and his heartbreak over the losses was visible on his canvases.

One disturbing "fancy" painting by Sully features a lost girl, half dressed and in a dark cave, with only a scraggly dog for a companion. Sully returned to this scene numerous times over a period of years, and his dissatisfaction with it is apparent in the layers of paint that nearly obscure any fine detail.

MAM has arranged the Sully exhibit thematically rather than chronologically. The artist's partiality to neutral tones — an array of browns, ivories, peaches and greys — lends a muted, hushed aura to the viewing experience.

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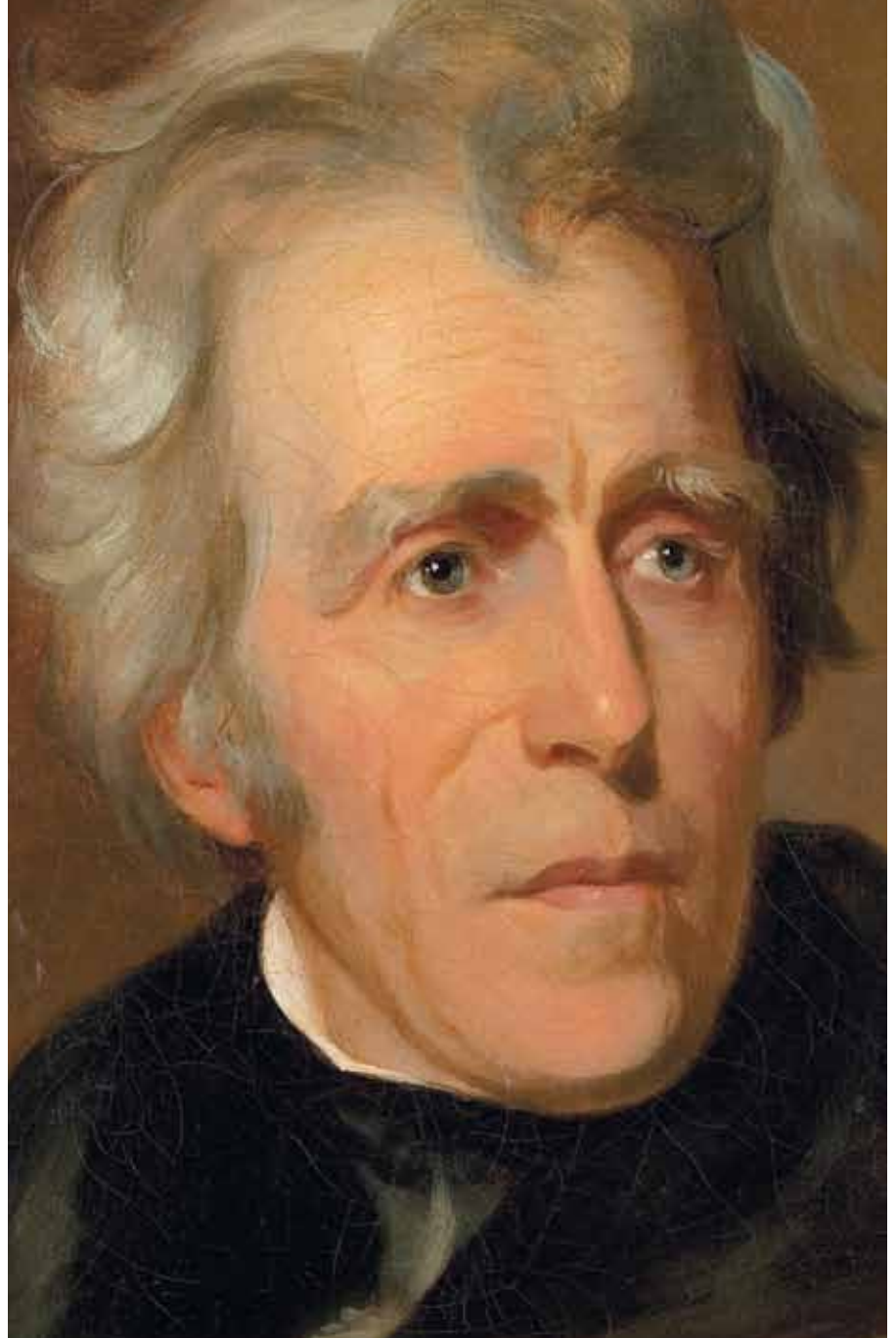


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Thomas Sully, *Andrew Jackson*, 1845 (detail). National Gallery of Art, Washington, Andrew W. Mellon Collection, 1942.8.34. Image courtesy of the National Gallery of Art, Washington.



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Next Act channels Marx Brothers in new show

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Ask Milwaukee actor Norman Moses about his current role as Julius "Groucho" Marx in Next Act Theatre's newly opened production of *Groucho: A Life in Revue*, and he is likely to wax comedic.

"I was born in a trunk at the Princess Theater in Pocatello, Idaho," quips Moses, who was actually born in Pennsylvania and moved to Milwaukee when he was 6 years old.

The musical and comedic revue, penned by Groucho's son Arthur Marx and Robert Fisher, not surprisingly is a love letter to the great comedic family. The show, which runs Nov. 14 - Dec. 8, contains some of Groucho's best work, as well as that of brothers Chico (Next Act producing artistic director David Cecsarini) and Harpo (Chris Klopatek).

The Marx Brothers were that rare breed of performers, successfully migrating from Vaudeville to Broadway to motion pictures to radio to nightclub acts and, in Groucho's case, to hosting the early television quiz show *You Bet Your Life*. The brothers' anarchic style of comedy still speaks to audiences more than a century after their comedic chaos first took the stage.

"I think that when my

9-year-old grandson watches *Duck Soup* and giggles uncontrollably, there is value in this kind of comedy for entertainment alone," says Pam Kriger, who is directing Next Act's production. "However, the creativity and invention of Groucho and his brothers has massively influenced all comedy, and it's fascinating to look at a life and see how all of that came to be."

For Moses, who is playing Groucho for the fifth time on Milwaukee stages, the acerbic son of 19th century Jewish immigrants is an original voice that first spoke to him as a teenager. He was introduced to the Marx Brothers during a film festival at Plymouth Church on Milwaukee's east side and immediately identified with Groucho.

"Wisecracking, irreverent, naughty — that was pretty much me," Moses remembers. "And were they hysterical!"

By that time, Moses was already involved in acting, performing with the now defunct North Shore Children's Theater under the direction of Dale Gutzman, who currently runs Milwaukee's Off the Wall Theatre. He then went on to study acting at UWM as part of Sanford Robbins' Professional Theatre Training Pro-

gram, which has since relocated to the University of Delaware.

"Since graduation, I have had a busy career as a professional actor and director in the theater, as well as an extensive career as a voice-over and on-camera actor," Moses says. "I also have a side business, The Art of the Business of Art, preparing tax returns for people in the arts. I'll replace your toilet if you need it. I also do windows."

Over the years the actor has done extensive research on Groucho and his brothers, which boils down to mostly watching old movies, he says.

"I try to capture as much of the timing as I can, absorb the essence of who he is and capture the voice in my head," Moses says. "I don't do an imitation of Groucho as much as an impression of him being channeled through me."

Groucho, who gained his nickname largely for having a grouchy demeanor that led to his trademark acerbic wit, was the undisputed leader of both the family's public persona and its comedic antics, even though it was clear that the inmates were running this particular asylum. But Moses discovered that, as a performer, Groucho's ongoing dialogue



PHOTO: COURTESY

Groucho: A Life in Revue features, from left, actors Chase Stoeger, Norman Moses, Jack Forbes Wilson, Alexandra Bonesho, Chris Klopatek and David Cecsarini.

also required a great deal of endurance, something that only gets more challenging for him over time.

"To be able to do the amount of verbal repartee he has to do, right after doing a big musical number, takes a lot of stamina," Moses said. "It gets a little tougher for me each time I do Groucho."

One of the most interesting things the actor discovered about his character during years of research was his preoccupation with money. Groucho's penny-pinching nature came about in response to his brother Leonard's predilection for gambling and chasing women. In fact, Leonard became known as Chico — originally pronounced

"Chick-o" — because he was a "chicken-chaser." Brother Arthur, who played the harp, gained his nickname for far more prosaic reasons.

"Money was a big bone of contention between Chico and Groucho, who was always the more serious brother," says Moses. "But I love the story of Groucho and his brothers."

Kruger agrees. "I have worked on four other Marx Brothers shows and I have come to love their work," she says. But it's Moses' performance in particular that makes this production a special one for her.

"Norman Moses brings his enormous talent and capacity for sharp delivery and deft movement ability," she says. "He captures the

ON STAGE

Groucho: A Life in Revue is at Next Act Theatre, 255 S. Water St., through Dec. 8. Call 414-278-7780 or visit www.nextact.org.

spirit and soul of Groucho and that's what shines through."

Moses believes audiences will have a good time during the current performances' run and gain a new appreciation for the Marx Brothers. Any other takeaways?

"Yes," Moses says. "How did he learn all those lines?"



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Author Mark Zubro brings mystery to Milwaukee

By Gregg Shapiro

Contributing writer

Next year marks the 25th anniversary of the publication of popular gay mystery writer Mark Zubro's award-winning first book — *A Simple Suburban Murder*. Since that time, the prolific author has written more than two dozen books, mostly in the mystery genre. This year, however, he's expanded his repertoire to include science fiction. He describes his new novel *Alien Quest* as "23 years in the making" and the first in a new series.

I spoke earlier this month with the Racine native and Chicago resident.

Gregg Shapiro: As a writer specializing in genre fiction, do you also read genre fiction?

Mark Zubro: The most influential mystery writer is Sir Arthur Conan Doyle with the Sherlock Holmes mysteries. His work taught me several important things: the absolutely vital notion that the sleuth involved must follow the logic of the evidence; that humanizing the sleuth was key; that the story is paramount; and that a clever twist at the end is always a plus.

How about science fiction writers?

Isaac Asimov's *Foundation Trilogy* is still my favorite science fiction epic. It's brilliant in its sweep and imaginative constructs.

Do you have an all-time favorite author?

J.R.R. Tolkien. I used to read the *Hobbit* and the entire *Lord of the Rings* trilogy at least once a year. Now it's every two or three years. It's just a masterful work of world creation and a triumph of imagination.

You have two ongoing mystery series — those featuring Tom Mason and Scott Carpenter and those involving Paul Turner. How do you decide which mysteries are a better fit for your characters?

The Tom Mason ones are the trickiest. They're in the "amateur sleuth" sub-genre of mysteries. The problem for them is always what I call the "Jessica Fletcher" syndrome. In all reality, if the police didn't show Jessica the door, the "too interested" person is always high on the suspect list. So, the key is figuring a way to get Tom and Scott involved without the story turning into a cliché or becoming unrealistic. They have to have some personal connection to the case or some plausible reason for getting involved. The Paul Turner books are easier in the sense that, since he's a police detective, he has a logical reason to be involved built in.

February marks the 25th anniversary of the publication of your award-winning mystery *A Simple Suburban Murder*. Do you have plans to do anything special to mark the occasion?

Mostly for special occasions, I indulge in as much chocolate I can get my hands on (laughs). For that anniversary I can see ordering Maine Whoopie Pies, picking up Haagen Dazs dark chocolate chip gelato and perhaps — for variety — a few confections from Taste of Heaven bakery up on Clark Street in Chicago — certainly their bread pudding — maybe a cupcake or two, and then maybe a chocolate chip cookie from the Ghirardelli shop across from the Water Tower — warmed up for 30 seconds in the microwave (the cookie not the Water Tower).

You regularly do readings at Outwords Books in Milwaukee. What's your connection to that bookstore and to Milwaukee?

Carl at Outwords has been fantastic all these years supporting me and my books. The patrons of his store have been some of my most loyal and kind readers. The readings are always great fun for me and, I hope, the audience — not counting the goodies and munchies Carl always provides. Besides a business acquaintance, Carl is a good friend who has been most generous with his time and wonderfully consistent in inviting me to read at his store. In addition to that I was born in Racine and lived there until we moved to California the summer I was 13. The first baseball game I went to was at the old Milwaukee County Stadium. I remember seeing Hank Aaron hit a homerun.

As an Illinois resident, what does the passage of marriage equality mean to you?

The feeling for me is that now I live in a "free state." What I mean by that is my dignity, our dignity, is no longer diminished in law in Illinois. It is a tremendous triumph for all gay people. I've been working for LGBT rights for many years. My books are tremendously political in that they never shy away from showing proud and open gay men and women dealing with prejudice and discrimination. Among other things, I was treasurer of the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force back in the early '80s. I used my position as president of the teachers' union, where I taught to advance the cause of LGBT rights at every opportunity. I've written to Illinois senators and reps. Stood in the rain with the thousands of others of us this October. All that marching and frustration, meetings and writing, being rebuffed or ignored and never giving up hope — all that work by each of us has paid off for us with this legislation.

ON THE SHELF

Mark Zubro reads from his books *Pawn of Satan* and *Alien Quest* at Milwaukee's Outwords Books, 2710 N. Murray Ave., at 7 p.m. on Nov. 23. Call 414-963-9089 or visit outwordsbooks.com.

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DisH*it Over!

Liquid locavores soaking up Wisconsin-distilled products

By Michael Muckian
Contributing writer

Move over, microbreweries! Back off, boutique wineries! Wisconsin's craft distillers are emerging with locally sourced products for drinkers who want to imbibe some Badger State spirits.

Like their beer- and wine-producing counterparts, craft distillers produce small-batch spirits tailored to their own tastes and designed to appeal to the liquid locavore. Some of these businesses are small one-distiller operations, others are offshoots of successful wineries — and all offer a unique signature spin.

Many produce vodka, the starter spirit for most craft distillers because it's the quickest route to profitability. Others specialize in unusual concoctions, including the once-banned absinthe, "white" whiskey and "crancello," a local version of the popu-

lar limoncello that features cranberries, one of the state's top crops.

The only limits on new products, it seems, are distillers' imaginations.

Until recently, the number of craft distilleries was very small. But a state law that passed in July 2009 allowing distillers to offer samples on premise has resulted

in more stops along Wisconsin's spirited beverage trail.

Here is a brief tour of the state's more seasoned spirits veterans and the products they are bringing to the local market. Cheers!

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Years ago vintner and distiller Charles

DISTILLERY next page



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DISTILLERY from prior page

McGonegal set out to cultivate more than 130 heirloom apple varieties, turning his passion into a profitable winery, cidery and now distillery. In addition to a full line of wines, he also produces Apple Brandy, Brown Dog Sorghum Whiskey, Honesty Pear Brandy and something he calls Wisconsin Immature Brandy, an elixir made from locally grown La Crescent grapes and aged — briefly — in charred oak barrels. The current batch is not 2 years old as state law demands, hence its “immature” designation.

CARLSVILLE**Door County Distillery**
5806 Highway 42

Door County Distillery, part of the Door Peninsula Winery complex, is one of the state's newest. The distillery has won awards for its Lighthouse Gin and its Luminous Vodka. Being located in Door County means access to a bountiful supply of cherries. Try the distillery's Lighthouse Cherry Vodka, Door County Cherry Brandy and Cherry Bluff Infusion Bitters, the last of which adds the perfect Door County spin to the traditional Old Fashioned.

COLEMAN**The North Woods Distillery**
135 W. Main St.

Distiller Curt Naegeli never liked the morning-after “sad” feeling that came from a night of alcoholic indulgence. So he set out to make a rum that eliminated the congeners (the sad-making alcohols) and kept the ethanol, which makes us happy. The result is Heath, a premium Wisconsin rum with natural toffee flavors. The flavor worked out so well that Naegeli began harvesting the chocolate mint growing on his property and now produces Chocolate Mint Rum, which he says makes the perfect mojito.

MADISON**Death's Door Distillery**
2220 Eagle Drive, Middleton

Take one of the state's most picturesque places — Washington Island off the tip of the Door County peninsula — and add a group of Madison-based developers keen on reviving the island's sagging economy. Mix in local organic wheat farmers Tom and Ken Noyen. The resulting cash crop, which is used to make Capital Brewery's popular Island Wheat Beer, has since become part of Death's Door's lines of vodka, gin and white whiskey. The brand's name is the English translation of *Porte des Morts*, the nautical passage between the island and the mainland.

Old Sugar Distillery
931 E. Main St.

Distiller Nathan Greenawalt produces an eclectic blend in one of the state's newer distilleries, one that specializes in brandy, grappa and marc (aged grappa). He also distills Americanaki Ouzo, Queen Jennie Sorghum Whiskey and Old Sugar Factory Honey Liqueur from beet sugar and Wisconsin honey. But he may be best known for his Cane & Abe Rum, the latest of which

was aged in medium toast brandy barrels. Supplies are limited.

Yahara Bay Distillery

3118 Kingsley Way

Of all Wisconsin distillers, Yahara Bay's Nick Quint may be the most active. He produces a dizzying array of products under his label and also does contract-distilling for other companies, including Death's Door. Seraphine Chai Tea Vodka, distilled with Wisconsin-grown Honeycrisp apples, is his latest creation. In addition to the usual spirits lineup, he produces Holz's Apple Crisp Liqueur, Cocoa Liqueur, Crancello and Birnenschnaps, a brandy made with locally grown pears. His tasting room is also an art gallery — and well worth a visit.

MILWAUKEE**Great Lakes Distillery**

616 W. Virginia St.

“Small batch” defines distiller Guy Rehorst, who produces one of the largest and most diverse selections of any state distiller. In addition to vodka and gin, there's Roaring Dan's Rum, Kinnickinnic Whiskey and the newly released Menomonee Valley Straight Rye Whiskey, aged almost five years. Only 544 bottles have been produced, so if you miss this one you can drown your sorrows in Rehorst's Amerique 1912 Absinthe Verte or Absinthe Rouge, both gold medal winners from the Beverage Tasting Institute.

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The pain and pleasure of 'Sons of the Prophet'

Theater Review

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Kahlil Gibran, the Eastern mystic poet, once said, "Pain is the breaking of the shell that encloses your under-

standing."

The Lebanese-American family in *Sons of the Prophet*, the season opener for Madison's Forward Theatre, occupies their own world of hurt. Out playwright Stephen Karam sends two brothers and an uncle of this family on a journey of self-discovery that has both tragic and darkly humorous dimensions.

Brothers Joseph (American Players Theatre's Mar-

cus Truschinski) and Charles (Jake Penner), both gay, are mourning the death of their father, who died as the result of prank played by high school quarterback Vin (Riley Faison). The latter is pardoned from serving any time until after football season ends. Disabled Uncle Bill (Michael Herold) lives with his nephews, his heart of gold hidden beneath a prejudiced Old World shell.

Joseph works for Gloria

(noted Milwaukee actor Angela Iannone), a survivor of spousal suicide and disgraced New York literary agent in search of a best-seller. Charles and his family are distant relatives of Kahlil Gibran, author of *The Prophet*, a seminal 1960s best-seller. Gloria wants Charles to write an autobiography of the family. She uses the health insurance she provides him as a part-time employee, needed to treat his unspecified ailments, as a bargaining chip.

Out of this morass of suffering set in and around Nazareth, Pa., unlikely bonds form and an undercurrent of love among the characters helps them cope as best they can. The play is deeply personal for Karam, who, in addition to being gay, is half-Lebanese and from Scranton, which is near Nazareth. His connection to the characters and material shows through the play's scars.

Director Jennifer Uphoff Gray, also Forward's artistic director, wields a careful and often deft hand in moving her actors through the thickets of personal sorrow. There are moments of confusion that are almost too realistic, resulting in an onstage clutter of sound and motion. But she manages the characters' struggles with unusual compassion and tenderness that is more often felt than seen by the audience.

Sons of the Prophet is really Joseph's story, and Truschinski seems to occupy his character's skin with the deliberate vagueness of someone unsure of his



PHOTO: ZANE WILLIAMS

Marcus Truschinski and Jake Penner in Forward Theater's production *Sons of the Prophet*.

direction, but with a firm knowledge that he is hurtling headlong toward the abyss.

He wheedles, whines and sometimes cries, nevertheless creating empathy among audience members for the suffering he represents for the entire family. Joseph's would-be seduction of Timothy (Nicholas Harazin), the television reporter who has come to cover Vin's trial, is as clumsy as it is unintended, and his eventual betrayal is part of the pain of his own self-discovery.

There are moments of inspired lunacy, from Iannone's frenetic book agent to the "off-camera" dialogue between school board members played by veteran actors Karen Moller and Deborah Clifton. Herold's Uncle Bill, a blend of bluster

and fragility, presents a gem of a performance.

Gray makes unusually effective use of Joseph Varga's flexible set design. Greg Hofman's lighting cues and Joe Cerqua's original score bring depth and dimension to The Playhouse in Madison's Overture Center for the Arts. The play's 100 uninterrupted minutes fly by.

One could say that about the Douaihy family as well: At the end, its members may be better off than where they started, but they're still breaking the shell of their own painful self-discovery.

Forward Theater's *Sons of the Prophet* runs Nov. 7-24 at The Playhouse in Madison's Overture Center for the Arts. For more information, visit www.forwardtheater.com.

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Opera on Tap blends Mozart and Manhattans

By Michael Muckian
Contributing writer

Interested in savoring a little Georges Bizet with your favorite brew? Some Hummerdinck with your hamburger?

Then you'll enjoy Opera on Tap, a new ensemble devoted to lowering the cultural highbrow with a little Miller High Life, bringing musical classics to the masses.

Started in 2005 in New York City, Opera on Tap performers now sing in 15 cities, including Milwaukee. VIA Downer, the gourmet pizza restaurant at 2625 N. Downer Ave., will host the Milwaukee chapter's first-ever performance at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 25.

As nonprofits, Opera on Tap chapters exist to give young singers the chance to perform live in a non-traditional environment. They also allow audiences who don't normally attend concerts to enjoy opera, vocal classics, jazz and folk song performances in a comfortable atmosphere, according to Kirstin Roble.

"We want to give people a chance to experience all kinds of music," says Roble, a mezzo-soprano who, with bass-baritone Henry Hammond, co-founded Opera on Tap's Milwaukee chapter earlier this fall. "As a performer, (Opera on Tap) gives me the chance to experience all types of music, too."

A typical Opera on Tap performance consists of singers performing five to six songs each during a two- to three-hour performance. While performances are free, the company encourages voluntary donations of at least \$5 per listener — to help keep the operation going. The singers, many of whom are students enrolled

in local music programs, get paid sporadically.

Each performance has a theme — the Nov. 25 theme is "A Very Operatic Thanksgiving." In addition to Roble and Hammond, the performance will feature sopranos Julianne Frey, Sarah Richardson and Ruth Brown; mezzo-soprano Brianne Sura; baritone Adam Qutaishat; and bass-baritone Wayne Tiggs.

Each singer selects material fitting the theme. Roble plans on performing "Pa pa pa" from Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* in a duet with Hammond, along with "Some Things are Meant to Be" from the musical *Little Women*, and "Faites a lui mes a veux" from Gounod's *Faust*.

Despite the seriousness of some of the selections, the mood of the show will be light, upbeat and fun, Roble says.

"It's like a show, but it's really chill because we know people are coming to eat more than they are to listen," she says.

Opera on Tap's inaugural performance is part of a regular Monday night music program at VIA Downer. Opera on Tap will return to the restaurant in January, when the theme will be "Vengeance."

"We don't know that there are a lot of songs that fit the theme other than maybe from Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, but we will choose to define the term liberally," Roble says.

Roble and Hammond are on the lookout for singers to audition for future slots with Opera on Tap.

Interested candidates can email a recording, resume and headshot to kirstin@operaontap.com or henry@operaontap.com.

A typical Opera on Tap performance consists of a variety of singers performing five to six songs each during a two- to three-hour performance. Donations of \$5 per listener are encouraged.

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Music

In 'The Marshall Mathers LP 2,' Eminem faces the music

"I've still got a lot of growing up to do . . .
But when it's all said and done I'll be 40
Before I know it . . ."
— Eminem, age 26, *The Marshall Mathers LP*, 2000

By **Andy Hoglund**

Contributing writer

In a year when some of rap's heavyweights pushed their craft either creatively (in the case of Kanye West's innovative *Yeezus*), or by breaking new marketing ground (such as Jay Z's *Magna Carta . . . Holy Grail*), the smaller ambitions of Eminem seem quaint. Eminem is frequently criticized for rarely exiting his comfort zone, constantly returning to familiar subject matter. The autobiographical and celebrity-baiting of his past few albums felt stale and juvenile.

Eminem's first comeback album, 2009's *Relapse*, was generally considered an artistic misfire for those reasons. Its follow-up, 2010's

Recovery, was a successful, if creatively timid, record that failed to do much beyond check off a series of commercial boxes, ensuring Eminem's status as a watered-down, mainstream force.

And really, in 2013, what place is there for a middle-age rapper who proudly boasts of not being able to use a computer, and seemingly still believes that gay-bashing is a clever way to generate publicity?

No wonder audiophiles were uneasy when *The Marshall Mathers LP 2* — obviously a sequel to one of the most acclaimed and successful albums of the early 2000s — was announced in late August. The hip-hop world and the American cultural landscape have shifted dramatically since then. Eminem's lyrical history of mocking women and gays seems, if not offensive, just tired and archaic.

As a 41-year-old rapper who once actively courted controversy, how does an artist like Eminem remain relevant and avoid descending into self-parody?

Remarkably, *The Marshall*

Mathers LP 2 succeeds not by trying to explicitly recreate the magic of its predecessor (which, one could argue, was the downfall of *Relapse*), or by playing it safe, as he did on *Recovery*. Instead, the new album revisits the original *Mathers LP*, offering a fresh thematic perspective both on the career of Eminem and the state of mind that enabled his career to become one of the biggest in the music history.

Of course, nostalgia is central to Eminem's current popularity. Eminem seems to have spent his first two albums being truly provocative, and has cruised along ever since, commenting on his early years in the crosshairs. There is some truth to that, especially here, although with a new, almost solemn flavor.

The fourth verse of the opening track, "Bad Guy," jumpstarts the album with righteous power. It is a searing call for accountability, not simply for Eminem's transgressions, but also our own. The song is essentially a sequel to Eminem's seminal "Stan," from the origi-

EMINEM next page



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EMINEM from prior page

nal Mathers LP.

By the end of the third verse, Eminem has been killed by Stan's brother, Matthew Mitchell (note the initials). This is when the themes of Mathers' LP 2 become evident. It is a feverishly honest verse taking the rapper to task for a life's work of profiting off groups that could not defend themselves. Matthew is killing the rapper not simply for a personal vendetta, but for a lifetime of perceived misogyny and homophobia:

I also represent anyone on the receiving end / of those jokes you offend

I'm your karma closing in with each stroke of a pen

After the track is demolished / I am your lack of a conscience

I'm the polyps on the back of your tonsils

Eating your vocal chords after your concerts

I'm the bullies you hate, that you became

With every faggot you slaughtered Coming back on you every woman you insult

I represent everything you take for granted.

Content-wise, the verse speaks to more than just Eminem's own sins. It's a powerful message from a rapper who once said,

as Matthew reminds him, that he was nothing but a "bad guy who makes fun of people that die."

The next track resumes a famous moment from the song "Criminal" on the original LP. It depicts the rapper, having robbed a bank, eventually being tracked down by police and surrounded. His time is up.

This is the crux of *The Marshall Mathers LP 2*, or why he bothered to concoct a sequel in the first place. He's taking stock of his career's impact and reconciling himself with the unintended consequences of his actions.

Youth is in the rearview mirror for him now, and throughout the album he confronts the boredom, isolation and overall shambles of his personal life. It is, in short, an album about regret.

Regret is a touchstone, sometimes an irreconcilable sensation many are overwhelmed by, while others learn to accept. While many of us have a kaleidoscope of quiet offenses we secretly wish to be absolved for, Eminem, always a larger-than-life figure, broadcast his on an international stage.

His controversial first album ignited a fierce battle over language and tolerance, dividing both ends of the political spectrum over what was fit to enter the public dialogue. Eminem was an inexplicable First Amendment activist. He was rapping about torturing gays, beating up women


and, context be damned, raping his own mother.

Since then, Eminem has been embraced by Elton John, won an Oscar and sold millions of records. Public opinion suggests he's achieved a kind of vindication over his critics.

The best moments of *Mathers LP 2* are raw catharsis, the results of years of gained perspective, slowly earned maturation and, presumably, therapy.


On "Headlights," he reexamines his infamous relationship with his mother and produces one of the most sentimental and heartfelt moments of his career. "Legacy" is yet another glance back at his troubled upbringing, but this time through the lens of a man who understands how those experiences shaped him. Even the more pop-oriented tracks are laced with pathos — the "Life's Been Good" sampling "So Far" features the rapper questioning whether karma has finally caught up to him, while his latest collaboration with Rihanna, "The Monster," focuses on depression.

Touching on one of his signature albums could have proven extremely problematic and, truly, much of *Mathers LP II* does not match the original's dark energy. Fortunately, Eminem's conflicted internal battles over his legacy and the consequences of his words make this an essential listen for the rapper's fans and casual pop-rap fans alike.



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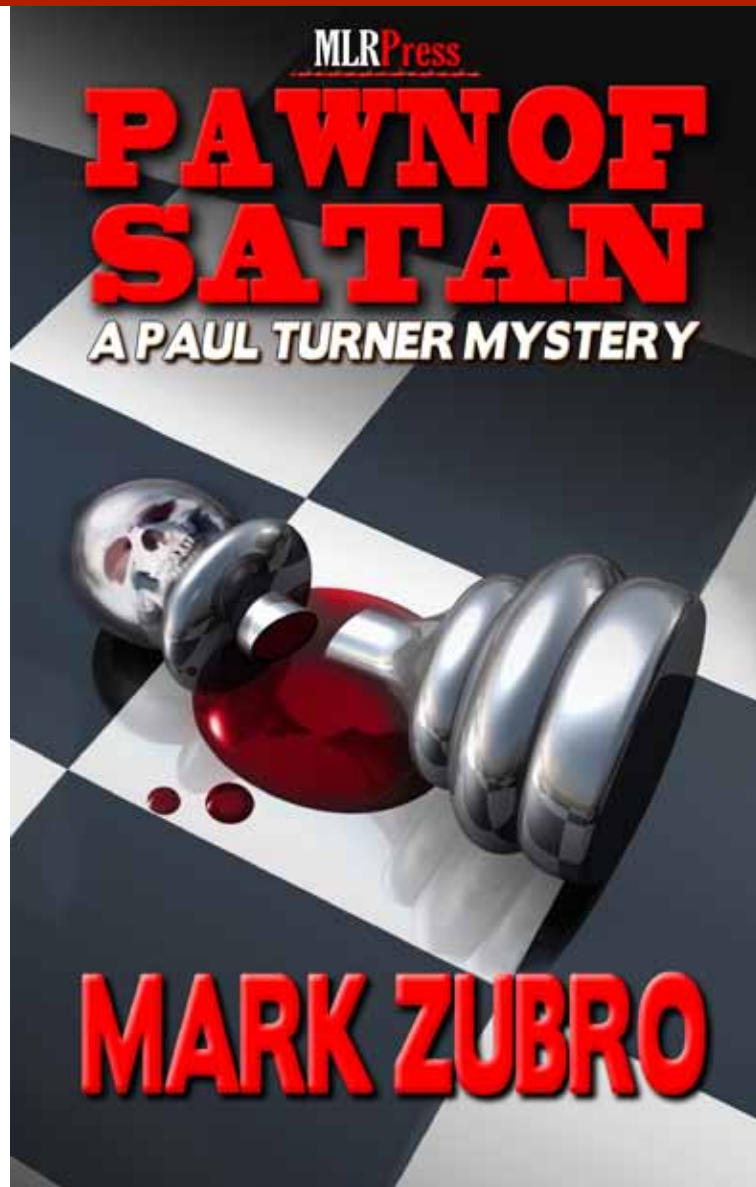
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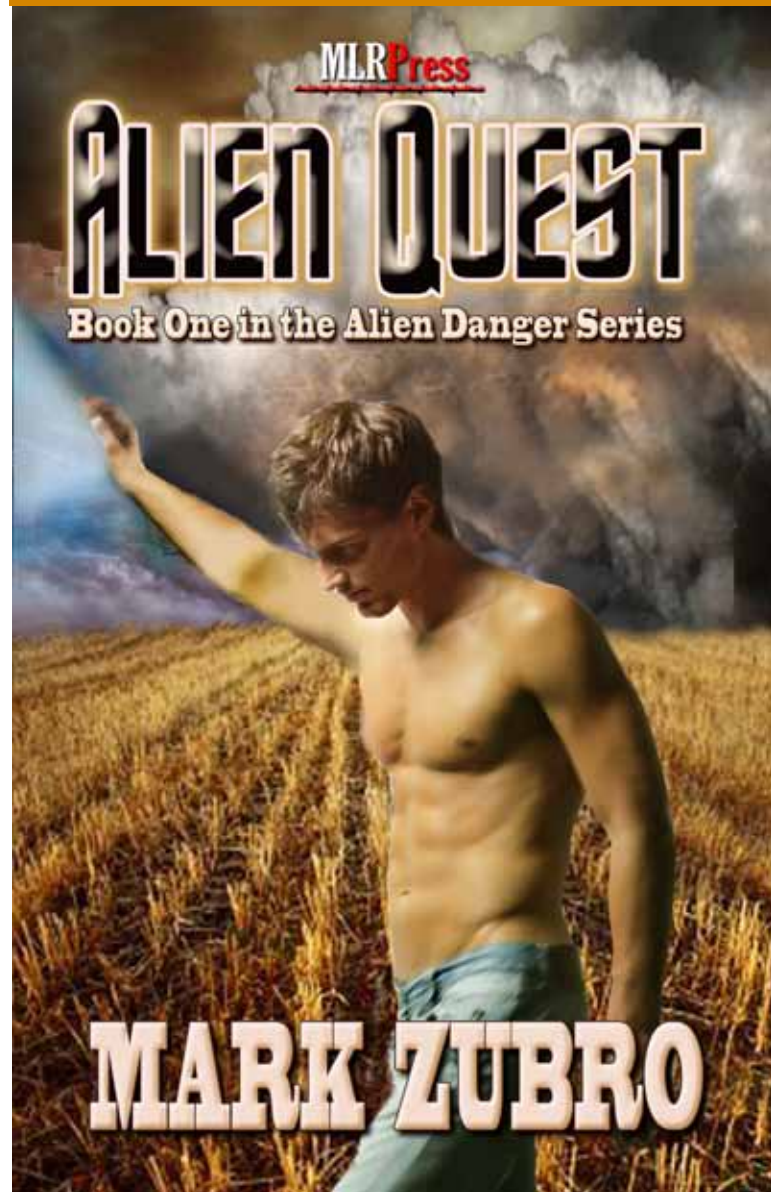
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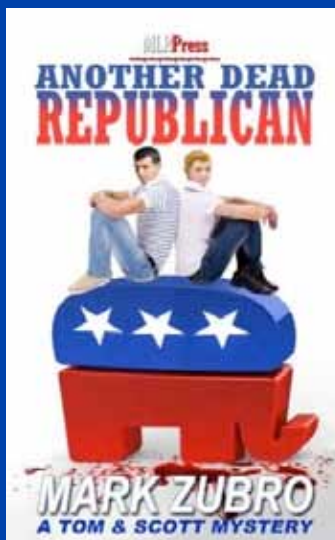


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