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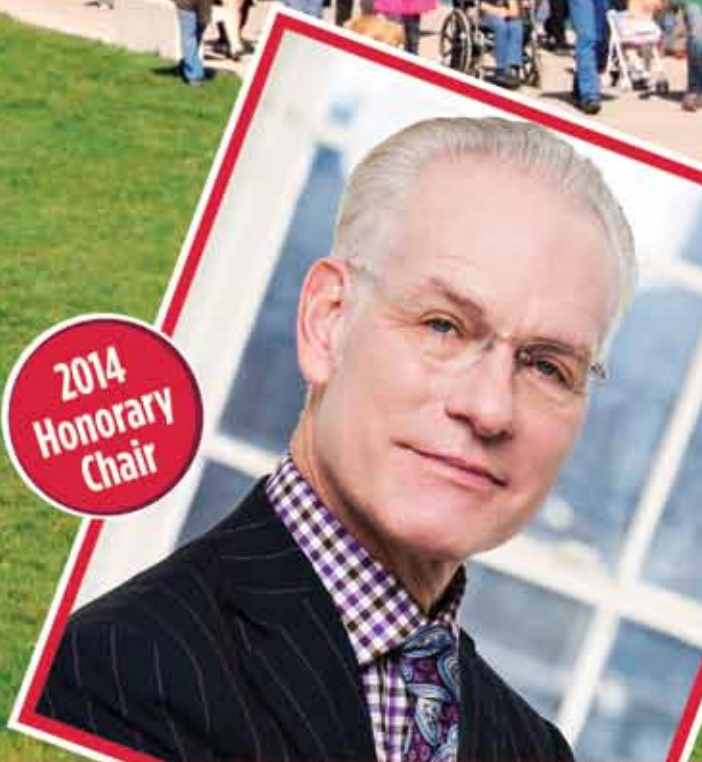


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News with a twist

WiGWAG

By Lisa Neff, Matthew Reddin, Louis Weisberg



PHOTO: EVA AIR

"Jasmine Tridevil" shows off her alleged third breast.

TRIKINI SEASON?

In mid-September, photos began circulating online of a woman, identified as Jasmine Tridevil of Tampa, Florida, who said she had surgically added a third breast to discourage unwanted male advances. Certain "news" sites prioritizing clicks over facts ran the story, but cyber-sleuths alleged a

hoax, noting that the now defunct jasminetridevil.com was managed by an Alisha Hessler, owner of "Alisha's Golden Touch," a "provider of Internet hoaxes since 2014" and "specialist in massage for three breasted women."

PENALTY PLAY

Authorities in Temperance, Michigan, have accused a 50-year-old woman and two teenagers of using grass-killer to burn a 100-yard penis symbol into the turf at the Bedford High School Kicking Mules football stadium. Police say the three caused about \$15,000 in damages, which elevated the incident from a misdemeanor prank to a felony.

CUDDL COMFORT

Think the brave new digital world is too cold, too uncaring? A new app — Cuddlr — is available for iPhone users who want to comfort strangers and for strangers who want a cuddle. Cuddlr's rules state: "Unlike some other apps, Cuddlr is strictly about PG-rated

experiences. Keep the cuddle a cuddle!" Cuddlr users have about 15 minutes to reply to a cuddle request.

MOURNING ON-THE-GO

A funeral home in Saginaw, Michigan, is offering a drive-thru window for mourners. At the Paradise Funeral Chapel, mourners can pull up to the drive-thru window, where music plays and curtains open automatically to reveal the loved one for 3-minute intervals. The company president explained that some people are afraid of funeral parlors. But as we consider this final disrespect of the deceased, we can't help but think about health and wellness — more action, less drive-thru.

FAKEAGRAMS

A judge recommended a six-month suspension for a California attorney who doctored photographs on her website to show her hanging with Barack Obama, Hillary Rodham Clinton, George Clooney, Leonardo diCaprio and others. The judge said Svitlana Sangary failed to

respond to a warning from the state bar and committed false advertising. Sangary has told the AP the photos are genuine.

BRAND-NEW BREW

Are coffee and beer the next chocolate and peanut butter? Starbucks thinks so. The ubiquitous coffee shop is launching a new "Dark Barrel Latte" in select Ohio and Florida stores, a mix of coffee and chocolate flavors that is reportedly topped with whipped cream and dark caramel drizzle and features a chocolate and stout flavored sauce. Allegedly, the new flavor best resembles a pint of Guinness.

SHOT IN THE BACK

Last year, Arkansas senior Sen. Mark Pryor earned the dubious distinction of being one of only four Democrats to vote against a popular proposal to require background checks for people who purchase firearms online or at gun shows, which ultimately failed to receive the necessary 60-40 supermajority. Turns out that didn't win him any friends with the National

Rifle Association. Last month, they announced a \$1.3 million ad buy supporting Pryor's Republican opponent, Rep. Tom Cotton, in the upcoming re-election race this fall. The kicker? A poll taken a month after Pryor's vote found that 60 percent of Arkansans actually support background checks.

UNHOLY RECOMMENDATION

The marketing department for the *Left Behind* reboot starring Nicholas Cage certainly isn't afraid to ask anyone for an endorsement. The right-wing evangelical thriller about believers in the wake of the Rapture, opening this month, recently posted a promotional image on its Facebook page with a blurb from none other than Satan himself. The Prince of Darkness is quoted as saying, "Please do not bring unbelievers to this movie," over an image of panicked civilians. Who knew evil incarnate would mind his P's and Q's?

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Groups urge feds to recognize Wisconsin gay marriages

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

A coalition of civil rights groups has urged the U.S. Justice Department to ensure that the federal government will respect and recognize the thousands of marriages that same-sex couples entered in Wisconsin, Indiana and Arkansas.

Nearly 2,000 same-sex couples married in the three states in the past five months — before marriage equality rulings in each of the states were placed on hold pending appeal.

State officials say they won't honor the marriages. So civil rights leaders want U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, who announced on Sept. 25 that he was stepping down, to confirm federal recognition of the unions and guarantee federal benefits associated with marriage.

More than 50 groups involved in the coalition signed a letter to Holder, who has been a vocal supporter of marriage equality in the public sphere and an ardent advocate in legal processes.

"There is no legal reason to question the validity of these marriages," said Human Rights Campaign president Chad Griffin. "Each was legally performed by a clerk representing the states, in accordance with each state's statutes and constitution."

Evan Wolfson, president of the Freedom to Marry, added, "Until the Supreme Court ends the current patchwork of discrimination and affirms the freedom to marry nationwide, lawfully married couples in states still discriminating will continue to need the kind of leadership we've seen from the attorney general and the Obama administration in assuring equal treatment by the federal government."

Meanwhile, the U.S. Supreme Court held a private conference on Sept. 29 and the agenda included marriage equality cases from five states, including the ACLU lawsuit from Wisconsin. The justices did not release any information about the conference but the court could issue an order list on Oct. 6.

The high court is not required to take up any case, but many civil rights experts think the justices will hear at least one but probably several marriage equality cases in the next term.

During a recent forum in Minnesota, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg offered a clue to the court's timing. She suggested people pay attention to the outcome of cases in the Sixth Circuit, which includes Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee. In each of those states, a federal judge has ruled in favor of marriage for same-sex couples. The individual court decisions were slightly different and all the rulings were appealed. The appeals court heard oral arguments in six Sixth Circuit cases on Aug. 6.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan on Sept. 21 officiated at the wedding of her former law clerk and his husband. The ceremony for Mitchell Reich and Patrick Pearsall, which took place in Maryland, was the first same-sex wedding at which Kagan officiated. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has officiated at same-sex weddings, as has retired Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

— L.N.



PHOTO: AP PHOTO/THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE, TRENT NELSON

Opponents of marriage equality gather in the rotunda at the Utah Capitol on Sept. 18. The anti-gay audience in Salt Lake City held a "sit-in" of sorts. A new survey from Pew Research Center puts public support for same-sex marriage at about 49 percent, down 5 percentage points from February.

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Glenn Grothman, perhaps state's most extremist elected official, vies with Mark Harris for open congressional seat

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Are women less money conscious than men, and is that why they earn less? Are sex-education classes designed to turn students gay? Do people on food stamps eat better than grocery store owners?

State Sen. Glenn Grothman says "yes" to all of the above. But the larger question is whether voters in Wisconsin's Sixth Congressional District will send someone with such controversial views to Washington.

On Aug. 12, Grothman prevailed by a mere 214 votes in a hotly contested, four-way Republican primary race in the district, which includes Fond du Lac, Oshkosh, Sheboygan and Manitowoc. That means more Republicans voted against Grothman than for him.

State Sen. Joe Leibham, a more appealing candidate in every way than the disheveled, misinformed and inarticulate Grothman, was runner-up in the primary. Wisconsin Democrats were all but celebrating Leibham's loss. They believe Grothman's candidacy gives them a come-from-behind chance in a district that's rated as safe for the GOP by The Rothenberg Political Report/Roll Call.

All of the GOP primary contenders expressed radical views. They all vowed to impeach President Barack Obama, who constitutional scholars on both sides of the political divide have stressed has

not committed any impeachable offenses. All four also promised to eliminate the U.S. Department of Education.

But none of the others could match Grothman for bizarre statements that have been widely disseminated. Grothman, for instance, not only wants to eliminate the U.S. Education Department but also wants to eliminate all pre-kindergarten programs, because, he says, children under 9 years old are incapable of learning.

Grothman, 59, obviously has not had a lot of experience with children. A lifelong bachelor, he lives with his mother.

With the primary behind him, Grothman now faces popular Winnebago County Executive Mark Harris and Libertarian Gus Fahrenndorf in the Nov. 4 general election. The Sixth District seat is open due to the retirement of Thomas Petri, who's served in Congress since 1979. Once considered a moderate, Petri has been pushed to the right by the growing extremism among GOP primary voters. Political insiders speculate that Petri might have grown embarrassed by the votes he had to take in order to meet their demands.

The race has strong implications for the rest of Wisconsin due to the reputational damage that Grothman could do. He's already been an object of so much national ridicule that the *Daily Kos* website recently ran a piece about him titled, "Could there be another



PHOTO: COURTESY

Democratic congressional candidate Mark Harris.

America's dumbest congressman? Meet Wisconsin's Glenn Grothman."

Apparently aware of his own shortcomings, Grothman's strategy is to run as if he were an incumbent, avoiding as many debates as he plausibly can in order to avoid headline-making gaffes. Harris has challenged Grothman to a debate in every county in the district, but Harris' campaign spokesman doesn't expect the Republican to participate in more than three. He says Grothman has been all but invisible on the campaign trail.

Responding to Grothman's Sept. 19 announcement that his campaign was hiring a new communication director, Harris' campaign issued a statement that said, "No debates, no media engagement and limited contact with voters. Barely any website, Twitter or Facebook activity since the primary. That is Grothman's rose garden strategy.

"Now, he has gone so far as to hire a handler whose goal will be to continue to insulate the Republican nominee from voters and the media."

CEO OF WAR ON WOMEN

As a state senator, Grothman has seen his margins of victories large but steadily eroding. In 2004, when he had no opponent, Grothman won 99 percent of the vote; in 2012, he took 68 percent of the vote against a Democratic rival.

Although the district leans more Republican than the national average by 5 percentage points, Barack Obama won it in 2008 with 49.91 percent of the vote.

Grothman has never before faced the quality of opponent he does in Harris. A fiscally conserva-



PHOTO: JOHN EHLKE/AP

Wisconsin State Sen. Glenn Grothman, left, announces his support for Republican presidential candidate and former U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum at a campaign stop in Hartford on March 27, 2012.

tive, socially moderate and uncontroversial Democrat with a superb record of management, Harris has balanced Winnebago County's budgets, controlled spending, maintained services and reduced county debt. He's focusing his campaign on fiscal responsibility, bipartisanship, the welfare of seniors, college affordability and getting full-time workers out of poverty.

"The guy on the factory floor should not pay more taxes than the factory owner," Harris says on his website.

"We feel that Mark is exactly the kind of guy that the district needs," said his campaign spokesman. "He's working on matters that are of interest to the district. This district is not an extreme district, and Glenn Grothman is extreme."

Grothman is mostly known for his advocacy of the extremist social agenda championed by U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann and former U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum, whom he supported for president.

"We think Glenn Grothman is the CEO of the war on women in Wisconsin," said Wisconsin Democratic Party spokeswoman Melissa Bauldauf. "We think that's going to be rejected by voters."

Harris has said he views the race as a choice between "a pragmatist who will fight for fair policies that benefit the average worker and family (and) an extreme ideologue who wants to turn the clock back to the 1950s."

"There's an awful lot of thought-

ful Republican and independent voters who are up for grabs," Harris says. "There's a base that probably likes (Grothman's) extreme right-wing positions, but I don't think that represents the view of the majority of the people in the district."

Harris says he plans to run on his record rather than Grothman's personality problems. He plans to visit each county in the district three times to meet voters face-to-face and tout his accomplishments, which include cutting county spending by 4 percent and reducing Winnebago's debt by more than 30 percent. When speaking with voters, he contrasts those achievements with Grothman's legislative record, which includes serving during a period when the state's debt tripled.

"State debt has reached an all-time high and state spending is at an all-time high" during the time Grothman has been in the Legislature, Harris says.

Bauldauf agrees that Harris' record is strong enough to sway voters who are put off by Grothman's embarrassing extremism. "His ability to balance the budget and demonstrate responsible fiscal leadership while maintaining progressive values is going to resonate," she predicts.

GROTHMAN SAYS

Glenn Grothman's extremism is evident in his legislative record as well as his public statements. Among other things, Grothman:

- Insulted single mothers by promoting legislation calling single parenthood a contributing factor toward child abuse.
- Sponsored legislation to repeal the state Equal Pay Act, saying the reason women earn less than men is that men "are a little bit more money conscious."
- Contended that sex education in schools is designed to make "more kids become homosexuals."
- Asserted, "If people adhere to the tenets of Christianity, the acceptance of (homosexuality) will not be the norm. How society deals with it is going to determine to a certain extent how much that lifestyle flourishes, and it should not flourish."
- Dismissed Kwanzaa as a fictional holiday created by white people and rejected by blacks. "Of course, almost no black people today care about Kwanzaa," he told Jack Craver of *The Cap Times*. "Just white left-wingers who try to shove this down black people's throats in an effort to divide Americans." He told Craver his opinion was based on random conversations that he had with African Americans at an airport.

— L.W.

On the Web

To learn more about Mark Harris, go to harrisforwisconsin.com.

Glenn Grothman's website is glenngrothman.com.

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F---ing sand *Frac sand mining threatens health, welfare in Wisconsin*

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Victoria Trinko hasn't opened the windows in her Wisconsin farmhouse in two years. And when she goes outdoors on the farm her family has operated in Chippewa County since 1936, she often wears a mask.

Trinko lives less than a mile from a frac sand mining operation — and that's nothing like living less than a mile from a sandy beach.

There has been a lot of attention to the harms associated with the hydraulic fracturing method of gas and oil extraction, but much less focus on related industries. Fracking involves intensive use of chemicals, water and fuel at drilling sites, as well as extensive build-out of pipelines and the heavy use of transportation fuel for trucks, barges and train engines. It produces huge volumes of liquid waste. And fracking requires enormous volumes of fine-particle sand found in certain regions of the country, including Wisconsin and Minnesota.

A frac sand mining operation began in 2011 near Trinko's farm. Throughout the summer and fall of that year, Trinko, a town clerk for Cooks Valley, raised concerns at local meetings. The "dust" from the mining clung to her clothes. Grit coated her teeth. Whatever she was breathing, it irritated her throat and damaged her respiratory system.

In a raspy voice, Trinko recently described life near a frac sand mine. She was par-

ticipating in a Sept. 25 news conference call prompted by the release of a report on the proliferation of such operations in Wisconsin and Minnesota and the medical, environmental, economic consequences.

"The billowing of silica sand has not abated since the mine was constructed in 2011," she said.

Trinko now suffers from asthma and lives with the daily use of an inhaler and nasal spray. People don't like to visit the farmhouse, which her daughter said smells like someone "just swept the garage." Trucks rumble past the farm every few minutes, five or six days a week.

Her home, Trinko said, "is not a healthy place to live."

Her daughter "worries that my life expectancy is going to be shortened," she added.

COMMUNITIES AT RISK

A new report, *Communities at Risk: Frac Sand Mining in the Upper Midwest*, warns that thousands face threats from the 164 frac sand mining facilities concentrated in Wisconsin and Minnesota. They operate with little or no government oversight for the impacts on air and water.

Researchers examined permitting and monitoring, water and air quality, impacts of silica dust on human health, projected declines in property values and the expense of building and rebuilding infrastructure.

In fracking, the sand holds open the frac-

tures created by the water, sand and chemicals pumped into the earth to allow for the extraction of natural gas and oil. The more frac sand used per well, the higher the yield. Frackers will use about 95 billion pounds of frac sand this year.

Researchers have identified 164 active frac sand facilities and proposals for another 20 in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Their report said Wisconsin was "overrun by the industry prior to any understanding of the scale and impacts of the industry," while Minnesota has been more cautious. The number of operations in Wisconsin increased from seven in 2010, the year Scott Walker was elected governor, to 145.

MIDWEST MINING

A frac sand operation involves:

- Removing the plants, soil or rock above a sand deposit.
- Excavating the sand, which includes blasting and crushing.
- Processing the sand, including rinsing it with water and chemicals.
- Piling and storing the sand.
- Transporting the sand.

Eventually the mined-out property is reclaimed, which may or may not include an effort to restore any vegetation. Opponents liken frac sand mining to mountaintop removal.

"Rural communities are becoming industrialized. ... Eliminating the bluffs facilitates groundwater contamination. Runoff into streams, wetlands and lakes threatens habitats and fisheries," the report stated.

LIVING DOWNWIND AND ON THE ROUTE

The mining is concentrated in southwest Wisconsin and southeast Minnesota in what is known as the Driftless Area, 23,000 square miles famous for its sandstone bluffs. It's an area with protected and unique species and scenery that draws many tourists.

Mapping by the Environmental Working Group found mining sites "in close proximity to schools, hospitals and clinics, where children and patients may be exposed to airborne silica," said EWG executive director Heather White. Data indicated that

in a 33-county area there are about 58,000 people living within a half mile of an existing or proposed frac sand mine or processing site. The number of people living within a mile is 162,000.

"None of the states at the center of the current frac sand mining boom have adopted air quality standards for silica that will adequately protect the tens of thousands of people living or working near the scores of recently opened or proposed mining sites," said White.

"Citizens living near frac sand mining in Wisconsin are witnessing a massive destruction of their rural landscape," said Kimberlee Wright, executive director of Midwest Environmental Advocates. "Elected officials and our states' natural resources protection agency have largely dismissed local citizens' concerns about their health, the health of their environment and their quality of life. Without a clearer view of the big picture of frac sand mining's impact, laws that protect our communities' air and water aren't being developed or enforced."

Less than 10 percent of Wisconsin's frac sand facilities are required to monitor air emissions, prompting MEA to circulate a petition asking the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board to conduct a health and environmental study.

The report states that it was written "in an attempt to fill the vacuum of government leadership and regulatory authority" and the researchers are raising questions that "should have been posed long ago."

Those involved in the report recommended "a step back" in the process and more review and regulation.

Report co-author Grant Smith said, "It is essential that local and state governments assess and take action based on the impacts of the full cycle of shale oil and gas drilling, including frac sand mining. Health, water and ... economic concerns should be addressed comprehensively, rather than being ignored or dismissed. Protecting public health and safety is the first responsibility of government."

White added, "We need strong state action to protect the public health from yet another troubling

SAND next page

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SAND from prior page side effect of the unprecedented wave of shale gas development.”

The urgency is that frac sand mining grew 30 percent from 2013, 50 percent more than projected, and it could spread to other states with untapped or largely untapped frac sand deposits, including Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Vermont and Virginia.

SERIOUS CONCERNS

White and Trinko detailed the concerns for mining in the area, along with Wright; Dr. Peter W. Holm of Chippewa Falls; Civil Society Institute energy policy adviser Smith; and Crispin Pierce, of the Environmental Public Health Program at University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

The issues:

- A mining operation daily withdraws up to 2 million gallons of water that is mixed with a compound called polyacrylamide flocculent to treat the sand. That compound itself is non-toxic. But its production method may leave minute traces of a neurotoxin. As piled sand dries, acrylamide-laden water can seep into groundwater. Also, there can be acid runoff from mines.

- The primary air pollutant is silica dust. The most dangerous type of particle mentioned in the report is fine particulate matter, dust smaller than 2.5 micrometers, less than one-seventh the width of a human hair. These particles are associated



PHOTOS: AP/STEVE KARNOWSKI AND 350.ORG

Frac sand destined for oil and gas fields piles up at the EOG Resources Inc. processing plant in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. Largely overlooked in the national debate over fracking is the emerging fight in Wisconsin and Minnesota over mining frac sand. Mining companies say the work provides jobs in rural areas, but residents fear the mining harms human health and the environment. Above right, environmental advocates protest in New York City on Sept. 28 at the People’s Climate March.

with asthma, lung disease, cardiovascular disease, birth defects and premature death. Silica particles — they aren’t weatherworn like beach sand but instead have sharp, jagged edges — are produced in mining and dispersed in the processing and hauling of the sand.

- Crystalline silica, created when silica is crushed or exploded, occurs in the

operations. The tiny particles can be ingested and become lodged in the lungs. Intense exposure can cause disease in a year, but it can take 10-15 years for symptoms to appear. Exposure has been linked to tuberculosis, emphysema, bronchitis, lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, anemia, chronic thyroiditis and kidney-related diseases.

- Before-and-after satellite images at mining sites show devastating impacts on the landscape.

- Frac sand mining can result in substantial declines in property value, local tax revenues, business revenue, decreased life span of roads, increased health care costs and negative impacts on school funding.



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State of the Birds: 230 species face serious threats

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

In 40 years time, the population of wild passenger pigeons went from 2-3 billion to none. Today, hundreds of species, with their habitats disappearing and their climate changing, face critical threats and need conservation help.

This week, 100 years after the extinction of the passenger pigeon, a team of scientists involved with the U.S. Committee of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative released the expansive 2014 *State of the Birds Report*. The document is based on extensive reviews of population data from long-term monitoring of species.

The report's authors identified aridlands of the West as the habitat with the steep-



PHOTO: WWW.BAJAWHALE.COM

The black-footed albatross.

est population declines in the nation. The report shows a 46 percent decline since 1968 for birds in Utah, Arizona and New Mexico, places where desert, sagebrush and chaparral habitats that have been destroyed or fragmented by development.

The report also emphasizes a significant threat to species that breed in the nation's grasslands, birds such as the eastern meadowlark and the bobolink.

"This report," says Wayne Clough, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, "highlights the threats that birds face, but it also offers hope for their future if we act together."

Habitat loss and fragmentation are at the top of the threat list, but invasive species also are seriously impacting birds, especially on the islands of Hawaii. One-third of U.S. federally endangered birds are Hawaiian species, according to the report's authors.

Meanwhile, shorebirds along the U.S. coasts are being "squeezed into shrinking strips of habitat due to development."

The report's authors created a watch list, which names 233 species that are endangered or at risk of becoming endangered without significant conservation, and a list of 32 common birds in steep decline.

The watch list includes 42 open ocean

species, including the Laysan albatross and the black-footed albatross, both threatened by increased levels of oil contamination, plastic pollution and reduced prey fish due to commercial fishing operations.

The watch list includes half of the shorebird species found in the United States, including the red knot, piping plover and long-billed curlew.

Thirty neotropical migrants — birds that breed in North America and migrate south of the border in the winter — are on the watch list.

The positive emphasized in the *State of the Birds Report*: Targeted conservation efforts directly benefit birds. The scientists observed a steady rise in populations among 49 coastal species that have access to national wildlife refuges and national seashores.

And in the Appalachian Mountains and the Northwest, land conservation has helped declining species such as the golden-winged warbler and the oak titmouse.

In a news release issued with the report, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "Because the 'state of the birds' mirrors the state of their habitats, our national wildlife refuges, national parks, national seashores and other public lands are critical safe havens for many of these species — especially in

the face of climate change — one of the biggest challenges to habitat conservation for all species in the 21st century."

'The state of the birds mirrors the state of their habitats, our national wildlife refuges, national parks, national seashores and other public lands are critical safe havens for many of these species — especially in the face of climate change — one of the biggest challenges to habitat conservation for all species in the 21st century.'

WITHDRAWING FROM ALEC

In the face of climate-change denialism, mega-tech company Google disclosed on Sept. 22 that it will withdraw funding from the American Legislative Exchange Council, which seeks to enact conservative legislation and advance anti-regulatory policies in the states.

During an interview with NPR's Diane Rehm, Google executive chairman Eric Schmidt said ALEC is "literally lying" in its denial of climate change.

— L.N.



PHOTO: DICK DANIELS/WIKICOMMONS

A Laysan albatross.



PHOTO: COURTESY

The oak titmouse.

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FLOODING WALL STREET

On Sept. 22, a day after 400,000 people marched in New York City in the People's Climate March, another 1,000 demonstrators flooded Wall Street, demanding environmental reform from corporate America and U.S. economic institutions. Some demonstrators joined in a sit-in near Broadway and Wall Street, resulting in the arrest of about 100 people, including one activist costumed as a polar bear.

— L.N.



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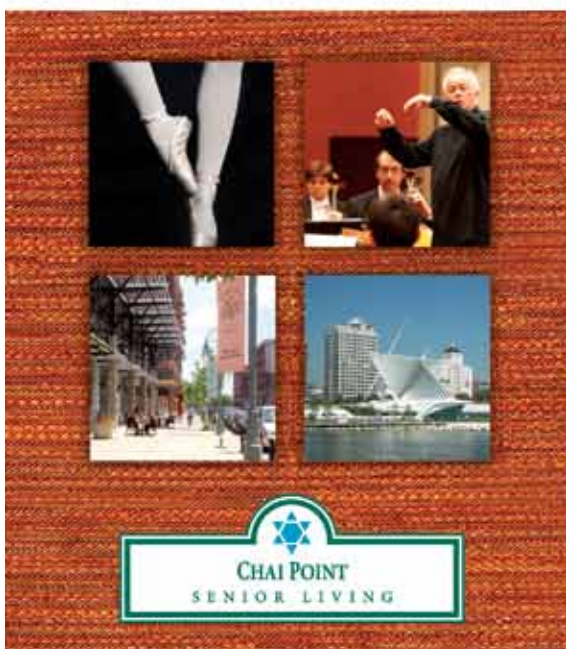
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State taxpayers on the hook for \$1 billion in useless highway projects due to faulty data

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation will waste up to \$1 billion on unneeded highway expansions if it continues to rely on inaccurate, outdated highway-use projections, concluded a comprehensive traffic study by a nonpartisan watchdog group.

WisDOT's traffic projections are one of the most salient factors considered in approving construction projects and obtaining matching federal dollars. But they are calculated years in advance, and the state is currently experiencing zero growth in the number of vehicle miles driven, according to the group 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, which monitors land use in the state.

The group's study found that much of the data WisDOT used as the basis for more than \$3 billion worth of projects contained in the state's current biennial budget was collected a decade ago.

The group's researchers compared traffic projections on which 11 upcoming major highway projects are based with today's vehicle use of those highways. They found that recent traffic counts on all of the projects are unlikely to come close to the projections offered by WisDOT.

In fact, vehicle use on highways earmarked for multimillion-dollar expansion projects has actually fallen in some cases, according to the study.

"For example, WisDOT is projecting a 23-percent increase in traffic on I-94 near (Miller's Park) by 2040," Steve Hiniker, executive director of 1000 Friends, said in a prepared statement. "However, actual traffic counts show that traffic has actually decreased by 8 percent along that stretch of highway. Present trends show that the DOT projections will never be achieved."

The situation is much the same on the I-43 corridor between Milwaukee and Ozaukee counties and I-94 in Milwaukee County, where expansion work has already caused horrendous traffic delays. WisDOT projected annual traffic growth of 1.4 percent on I-43 and 0.75 percent on I-94. But the two corridors have experienced declining traffic use — a reduction of 1.5 percent annually on I-43 and 0.88 percent annually on I-94.

Those declines in highway use reflect a statewide pattern of declining vehicle miles driven. Following the creation of the Interstate Highway System in the 1960s, traffic skyrocketed. But in recent years, vehicle

miles driven have flattened out.

Between 1981 and 1991, miles driven in Wisconsin grew by a rate of 35 percent. In contrast, the growth rate from 2003 to 2013 was zero.

Hiniker said his group is not calling for a moratorium in highway construction, but rather a method of planning that's based on current usage and updated projections. In some cases, he said, the state is planning projects based on data that projects volumes that are 100 times greater than actual traffic usage.

"Once a project is approved based on traffic projections, (WisDOT) never revisits (the numbers)," Hiniker said. "(WisDOT) says, 'It was authorized, we have to build it.' We're saying, 'If you know trends have changed, go back and reevaluate it.' We're asking WisDOT to change the way they plan projects. We want to make sure they're not wasting money."

Relative to the previous trends, Wisconsin has experienced a 27 percent decline in miles driven over the past decade, according to 1000 Friends. If the growth rate of previous decades had continued, Wisconsinites would currently drive an average of 11,300 miles annually instead of the current

average of 9,400.

The difference between previous growth rates in highway usages and actual highway use over the past decade is stark: If previous rates of increase had continued, Wisconsinites would have driven 16 billion more miles than they did in 2013. That's because the average Wisconsinite drives 500 fewer miles per year today than in 2004.

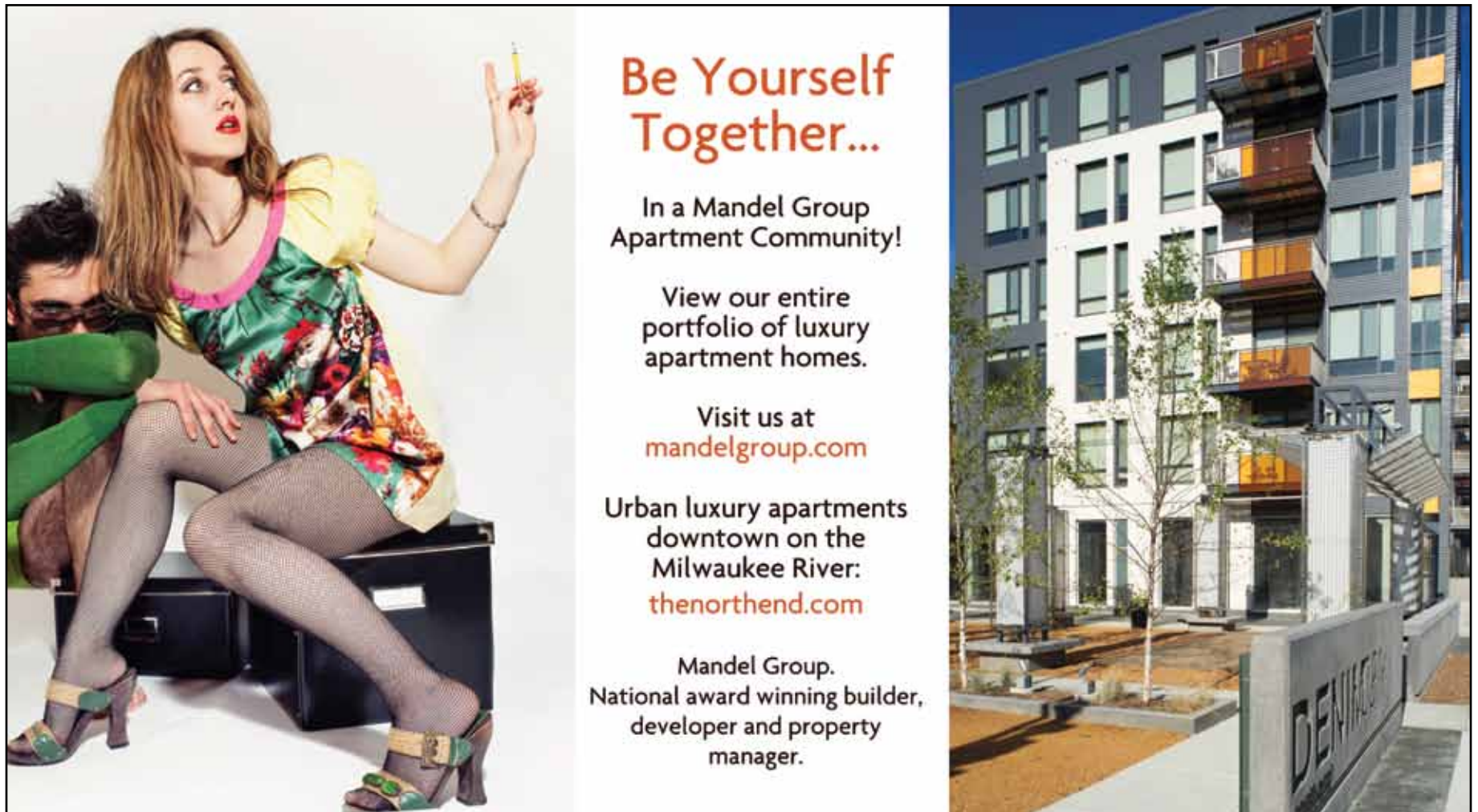
DIVERTED FUNDS

Critics such as 1000 Friends and conservationists say lawmakers must stop wasting money on unneeded highway expansions at a time when the state faces a budget deficit, an inadequate workforce due to massive cuts in education (the most of any state in the nation) and underfunded police and fire departments.

Perhaps most troubling to Wisconsin's cities, WisDOT diverts money that would otherwise go to maintaining heavily trafficked city roads to build and expand underutilized highways.

While conservative Wisconsin voters are furious over paying taxes that support government spending on food stamps, they're unaware of the taxpayer money that's wast-

HIGHWAY next page



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HIGHWAY from prior page

ed on needless highway spending — most of which goes to politically connected roadbuilders who contribute large sums to both Republican and Democratic officeholders.

In the fiscal year 2011, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program provided about \$1.1 billion in food benefits to a monthly average of 801,073 people in Wisconsin. That's only slightly more than the amount of money Wisconsin will waste on unneeded highway projects over the next two years if WisDOT continues to use inaccurate highway use projections.

Drivers assume that various automobile fees and taxes they pay at the pump cover the cost of local road repairs. But by the time that money winds its way through the labyrinthine process of transportation funding, there's very little left to fix the neighborhood pothole that threw your car out of alignment in April.

Last year, TRIP, a nonprofit organization that researches surface transportation issues, released a report estimating that "unacceptably rough" roads cost a total of \$80 billion nationwide, with the average urban driver faced with \$377 a year in repairs.

The only way Milwaukee and other Wisconsin cities can obtain increased funding for road repairs is by raising property taxes. But politics and the state's lagging economy make that option a non-starter. Instead, cities must choose between filling in van-eating sinkholes and maintaining adequate police and fire departments, according to city halls across the state.

During the 1980s, local municipalities asked the Legislature for permission to raise their own money to pay for road resurfacing and other such infrastructure repairs, according to Hiniker. But lawmakers at the time said no, instead promising to reimburse cities and towns for 85 percent of such costs through the state's segregated Transportation Fund.

That percentage of reimbursement has steadily declined over the past decade. Now it's only about 12 percent, Hiniker estimated. It's hard to tease out the actual figure, because WisDOT categorizes work involved in many new construction projects as repairs, even if the "repairs" are made to roads in good condition.

For instance, the expansion of I-94 from Milwaukee to Kenosha cost \$2.2 billion, but only \$200 million of that traffic nightmare of a project was classified as new construction. All the rest of the cost fell into the category of repair and maintenance, because it was used for such work as widening existing overpasses in order to widen the road.

SLIGHTING CITIES

WisDOT uses a shared-revenue formula that's almost impenetrably complicated and gives sprawling rural areas a funding advantage over heavily trafficked urban locations, according to Hiniker. Dennis Yaccarino, a budget analyst for the City of Milwaukee, told WIG last spring that the formula slights Wisconsin cities, particularly Milwaukee, Madison and Green Bay.

Transit analysts believe huge political contributions made by road builders play a central role in maintaining a planning process that favors large, expensive highway projects over small ones. But it's nearly impossible to figure out how much the state's two dozen or so road builders, each of whom is said to have an unofficial "turf," give to lawmakers in each election cycle. That's partly due to rules that allow for unlimited anonymous donations to third-party campaign activity and partly due to the time-honored practice of bundling donations or making them under the names of friends or family members.

Hiniker hopes that shedding light on WisDOT's faulty, politically motivated method of planning highway projects will bring about change. This is more important now than ever, he said, due to dwindling revenue and rapidly changing demographics. Many young people favor mass transit, he said, while seniors lose their ability to drive safely.

Wisconsin is one of the nation's grayest states, and it's projected to become much grayer.

"There are new projection numbers that show the population increase in 2040 is going to be about 800,000 people in Wisconsin — and almost 95 percent of them will be over 65," Hiniker said. "The working-age population is not projected to change at all. So where are all the drivers who are projected to be driving?"



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Scandals won't go away for Walker, GOP governors

From WiG and AP reports

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker suffered a defeat six weeks before Election Day.

On Sept. 24, a three-member panel of the Seventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that a federal judge erred when he halted a second "John Doe" investigation into possible illegal coordination between Walker's recall campaign and more than two dozen conservative groups.

The unanimous ruling meant the Republican incumbent headed into the final month of campaigning against Democrat Mary Burke with the possibility that the investigation into possible campaign finance violations might resume.

In overturning the injunction that halted the probe, the appeals court said the federal court system is the wrong venue for the case. The questions in the case belong before the state courts, according to the ruling.

In fact, there is a case in the state courts. A state judge stopped the investigation in January, denying requested subpoenas. That order is on appeal before the Wisconsin Supreme Court, which hasn't decided whether to take it.

Walker said the federal ruling didn't matter because the investigation remains blocked in state courts. "The Friends of Scott Walker campaign was not party to the federal lawsuit, but today's ruling has no impact on the fact that Judge Peterson shut down this investigation in January," a statement said.

Burke, in a press statement, said Wisconsinites "deserve answers to the questions raised by this investigation, which at minimum are very disappointing, and are potentially criminal."

An attorney for the prosecutors investigating the case, Douglas S. Knott, said the appeals court decision "confirms that the rich and powerful are not above the law."

The ruling from the appeals court came as Walker was named to the list of "Crooked

Chiefs" from American Bridge 21st Century. In late September, the progressive group that researches GOP candidates, released "Crooked Chiefs: An Overview of the Scandals Facing Nearly Half of GOP Governors."

Republican governors nationwide are facing corruption charges or

Report explores scandals tied to 12 sitting GOP governors, including Scott Walker.

other scandals that involve allegations of investigation cover-ups, accepting illegal gifts, cronyism and pay-to-play schemes.

The report explored scandals tied to Govs. Rick Scott in Florida, Nathan Deal in Georgia, Terry Branstad in Iowa, Sam Brownback in Kansas, Paul LePage in Maine, Rick Snyder in Michigan, Brian Sandoval in Nevada, Susan Martinez in New Mexico, John Kasich in Ohio, Tom Corbett in Pennsylvania, Rick Perry in Texas, Chris Christie

in New Jersey and Walker, who saw six close associates charged under the first secret John Doe investigation. That probe focused on Walker's time as Milwaukee County Executive and found that Walk-

er employees were engaging in campaign activities while working at taxpayer-funded jobs.

The investigation revealed a secret email system used by the Walker administration and also embezzlement from a veterans' charity.

The second John Doe investigation, the one bounced out of the federal courts and pending before the Wisconsin Supreme Court, is focused on Walker's recall campaign and spending by outside, conservative groups on the governor's behalf.

ILLUSTRATION: AMERICAN BRIDGE 21ST CENTURY



AP PHOTO/ANN HEISENFELT
New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, right, bonds with Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker as they tour Empire Bucket in Hudson on Sept. 2. Christie campaigned with Walker in Hudson.

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Need to know about 'John Doe'

A federal appeals court on Sept. 24 overturned a ruling halting an investigation into Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's campaign and more than two dozen conservative groups for alleged illegal coordination of Walker campaign activity with third-party "dark money" groups.

Some questions and answers about the case:

Q. What's the gist of this investigation?

A. Walker was the subject of recall elections in 2012 over the measure he pushed in 2011 to effectively end collective bargaining for most public workers. Prosecutors are looking into whether several conservative groups improperly coordinated with the Walker campaign during recalls, which also targeted Republican state senators, in both 2011 and 2012.

Q. What do the two sides say?

A. Prosecutors say the coordination was illegal. Walker and the conservative groups say it wasn't, and they've portrayed the investigation as politically motivated. Besides being locked in a tough race to win a second term this year against Democrat Mary Burke, Walker's a decent bet to run for president in 2016.

Q. So what happened Sept. 24?

A. The federal appeals court said the issue belongs in state court, and the court chastised the Republican-appointed federal judge in Wisconsin, Rudolph Randa, who sent it their way. The court said Randa abused his discretion. The court

said uncertainty over the legality of what occurred is a "powerful reason to leave this litigation in state court, where it may meet its end as a matter of state law without any need to resolve these constitutional questions."

Q. OK, so now what?

A. Nothing just yet. The case is blocked at the state level because a judge had quashed subpoenas back in January on the grounds that there wasn't enough evidence of wrongdoing. There's a request in for the Wisconsin Supreme Court to resolve the matter.

The appeals court decision removes an important barrier to the case restarting.

It also is a defeat for Walker and his allies, who had used Randa's ruling as fodder to argue the whole thing was political.

Q. What's the reaction?

A. Walker says the ruling's impact is limited, given that the investigation remains halted.

An attorney for the lead investigator said the decision adopts their argument in its entirety.

The attorney for Wisconsin Club for Growth, a corporate activist group founded by the Koch brothers, the tobacco industry and other large corporate interests seeking deregulation of the environment, said the ruling is "simply wrong" and the group will ask the full Seventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to hear the case.

— Associated Press

Out for genius grants

Cartoonist Alison Bechdel is the recipient of a 2014 MacArthur Fellowship from the foundation committed "to building a more just, verdant and peaceful world."

Bechdel, 54, of Bolton, Vermont, is among three members of the LGBT community this year to receive the prestigious award that is commonly referred to as the "genius grant."

She is the author of the long-running "Dykes to Watch Out For" comic strip, as well as graphic memoirs, including *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic* and *Are You My Mother: A Comic Drama*.

Playwright Samuel Hunter also received

an award. The 33-year-old New York writer is the author of *A Bright New Boise*, *The Whale, The Few, The Rest*, and *A Great Wilderness*.

Mary Bonauto, the civil rights lawyer and strategist at the forefront of the long campaign for marriage equality, also is a grant recipient.

Bonauto, 53, is director of the civil rights project at the Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders in New England. She helped win marriage rights for same-sex couples in New England and advances marriage equality across the nation.

— Lisa Neff



PHOTO: COURTESY

Alison Bechdel at home in Bolton, Vermont.

THE CLASS OF 2014 ALSO INCLUDES:

- Danielle Bassett, a physicist at the University of Pennsylvania.
- Environmental engineer Tami Bond at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- Jazz composer Steve Coleman of Pennsylvania.
- Public artist Rick Lowe of Houston.
- Mathematician Jacob Lurie of Harvard.
- Poet Khaled Mattawa of University of Michigan.
- Documentarian Joshua Oppenheimer.
- Labor organizer Ai-jen Poo.



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Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce

{ EDITORIAL }

It's up to us to fight sexual assault

Just weeks into the fall semester and the headlines hint at the violence women continue to face on college campuses:

- 2nd assault in 4 days reported on college campus
- Student held, 2nd suspect sought in campus rape
- University investigating armed sexual assault
- Sexual assaults under scrutiny on campus
- Armed sexual assault reported.

Statistics tell us that one in five women will be sexually assaulted in their four years away at school. Of those assaults, only 12 percent get reported. And of those reported assaults, only a fraction of the offenders get punished.

But this fall, another story is making headlines:

- College women start a revolution against sexual assault
- Greek system pledges to address rape on campus
- Campuses to bolster sexual assault prevention efforts.

In April 2011, the U.S. Education Department issued guidelines to inform colleges and universities of their obligations under federal law to prevent and respond to sexual assault. Administra-

tors were reminded that sexual violence is a crime, and also a civil rights violation.

Earlier this year, the administration established the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault, which in April produced a public service campaign, 1is2many, and issued a series of best practices intended to encourage campus surveys on sexual assault, create safe spaces for survivors and train officials to deal with trauma.

At the same time, progressive lawmakers continued to press for legislative reform and new penalties for schools that ignore or mishandle cases of sexual assault. Most notably, California lawmakers passed "yes means yes" legislation that could lead to a dramatic shift in how campus assaults get handled. The measure requires California schools receiving financial aid to agree that in rape investigations, silence or the lack of resistance does not mean consent.

So we have survivors carrying out this campaign against violence on college campuses. We have colleges and universities pledging to do better. We have lawmakers committed to the cause.

But we all must do our part. It's on us,

all of us, to work to create an environment where sexual assault is dealt with as a crime. It's incumbent on all of us to change the culture.

"The fact is that from sports leagues to pop culture to politics, our society still does not sufficiently value women," President Barack Obama said in mid-September, introducing the "It's On Us" campaign against sexual violence on campus during a ceremony at the White House. "We still don't condemn sexual assault as loudly as we should. We make excuses. We look the other way. The message that sends can have a chilling effect on our young women."

The "It's On Us" campaign encourages us to not be bystanders, but instead to teach people to respect one another, to confront rather than look away when we see something amiss in a bar or overhear troubling talk at a party, to stop a friend from taking advantage of someone or to protect a friend when she or he is unable to do so. Looking away or ignoring what's unacceptable is not a matter of minding one's own business. It is tolerance of violence against women.

So at WiG, we're taking the pledge.

And we hope you take the pledge — ItsOnUs.org — as well.

WiG's WEB PICKS

Some of our favorite recent pictorials from cyberspace

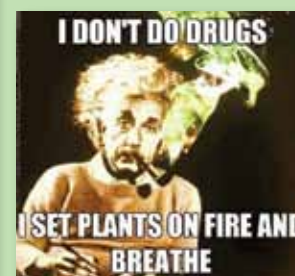
Today, the richest 85 people on earth own more wealth than the bottom half of humanity, some 3.5 billion people.

As author Naomi Klein writes: "We are witnessing a transfer of wealth of unfathomable size. It is a transfer of wealth from public hands, from the hands of government collected from regular people in the form of taxes, into the hands of the wealthiest corporations and individuals in the world."



"I don't condone cheating. But I would sometimes spread misinformation. This is a great tactic. Misinformation can be very important."

*Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) Oct. 27, 2013



ON THE RECORD



“It’s all about ‘we the people’ standing up against big money.”

— SISTER SIMONE CAMPBELL, who heads the Catholic social justice lobby NETWORK, which is

known for its “Nuns on the Bus” tours. Her group plans to hold 75 events in 36 cities in Senate battleground states this month to illuminate the corrupting influence of “dark” money in politics.

“I could read that (scientific literature) but I don’t believe it.”

— U.S. REP. LARRY BUCSHON, R-Ind., saying that he refuses to look at the scientific data on climate change, preferring to base his opinions on public comments. Bucshon is a member of the House Science Committee.

“Women hold nearly three-quarters of the jobs that are reliant on tips. And in fact, they don’t get the minimum wage with the tips on top of it. (They’re) at the mercy not only of customers who can decide or not to tip. They’re at the mercy of their employers who may collect the tips and not turn them back.”

— Presumed 2016 presidential candidate HILLARY CLINTON speaking at the Center for American Progress on Sept. 19.

“To be clear, this is not about just telling people to change their light bulbs or to buy a hybrid car. This disaster has grown beyond the choices that individuals make. This is now about our industries, and governments around the world taking decisive, large-scale action.”

— Actor LEONARDO DICAPRIO testifying before the United Nations on climate change. DiCaprio was part of a 400,000-person march in Manhattan calling for action on the problem.

“Of all people in the parking lot, why did you pick a pregnant chick? I guess he didn’t think I’d fight back. He was wrong.”

— KRISTEN THOMPSON, a pregnant Flint woman who helped fight off a purse snatcher one day before giving birth, recounting the incident for the *Flint Journal*. Thompson’s brother and another man eventually found the thief, then knocked him out and held him for 25 minutes until police arrived. No firearms were used in the incident.

“I am from Britain and think it is right that as a woman I am paid the same as my male counterparts. I think it is right that I should be able to make decisions about my own body. I think it is right that women be involved on my behalf in the policies and decision-making of my country. I think it is right that socially I am afforded the same respect as men. But sadly I can say that there is no one country in the world where all women can expect to receive these rights.”

— Actor EMMA WATSON, the new UN Women Goodwill Ambassador, announcing the launch of a campaign called HeForShe that aims to involve more men in the movement for women’s equality.



Scott Walker: Incompetent ideologue

Opinion

JAMAKAYA

I’m pumped about electing Mary Burke Wisconsin’s governor and ending Scott Walker’s divisive policies and incompetent administration.

Walker built his rep on standing firmly in support of Act 10, the GOP law that repealed the right to collective bargaining by public sector unions. This corporate-backed effort was sold as a means of government-streamlining and tax reduction. It intentionally targeted organized labor, the only force able to vie against the power and influence of private interest groups in the political arena.

So how did that work? Well, besides dividing the state and nearly starting a civil war, tens of thousands of middle-class people with family-supporting jobs — teachers, nurses, office workers, custodians — lost their job security, some their jobs.

With the loss of seniority rights and other job protections won through their unions, several friends who have been teachers for 25-plus years have been forced into retirement by budget-cutting school districts who can hire new college grads at half the pay and without any responsibility for health benefits, pensions or even continuing education. In the midst of a crisis in American education, Walker has trashed veteran teachers and slashed our investment in new teachers in a crazy race to the bottom.

And the budget savings from Act 10 promised by Walker are a no-show. Recent reports predict a state budget deficit of \$1.8 billion. Walker’s solution calls for more tax cuts, always a popular sell at elections that makes no sense whatsoever in practice.

These aren’t Walker’s only irresponsible economic decisions. In 2011, he rejected \$800 million in federal funding for the development of high-speed rail. That project could have been an economic

engine for the state. Instead, the Spanish train-building firm Talgo closed its manufacturing plant in Milwaukee. While the world speeds ahead with new rail technology, Wisconsin will remain a backwoods region.

Walker also is foolishly forfeiting over \$500 million in federal funds for more low-income people to get health care through BadgerCare. The reason: Nothing more than ideological opposition to the Affordable Care Act. Poor people in Wisconsin will suffer, just so Walker can make a political point.

If Walker is so keen on saving money, maybe he could dismantle the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp., an entity he created in 2011 to replace the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. An audit found that WEDC failed to maintain financial controls over millions of dollars in contracts and incentives given to businesses to create jobs. WEDC’s management has been in turmoil since its founding, with a dizzying number of incompetent

boobs from the private sector who have failed to keep track of the huge handouts or even document whether any jobs were created.

Walker also deserves the boot for officiating over a long string of anti-woman legislation — cutting public funding to Planned Parenthood; requiring waiting periods, lectures and unnecessary ultrasounds for women seeking abortions; and repealing a law that allowed women to seek redress for job discrimination through state courts, to name just a few.

Walker and his GOP cronies approved voter ID restrictions despite the fact that violations of voting laws are almost non-existent. A brainchild of right-wing operatives, voter ID requirements are intended to suppress the votes of poor people, students, the elderly and disabled. This is a skunky law that must be overturned.

Please get involved in Mary Burke’s campaign for governor and work for candidates in your district who will change the reactionary tide of the Legislature.

Don’t let voter suppression win

Please don’t sit out the election because the state has erected barriers to you exercising your right to vote. Clear the hurdles. Cast your ballot in the Nov. 4 election and support civil rights advocates fighting to overturn voter suppression laws.

WiG has compiled details about the voter ID law and the Nov. 4 election.

PRESENT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING KINDS OF PHOTO ID TO CAST A BALLOT

- **Wisconsin driver’s license** (current or expired after Nov. 6, 2012).
- **Wisconsin photo ID card** from the Department of Motor Vehicles (current or expired after Nov. 6, 2012).
- **Receipt from the DMV** showing application for an ID within 45 days.
- **U.S. Passport** (current or expired since Nov. 6, 2012).
- **Naturalization certificate** (from Nov. 6, 2012 to present).
- **Military ID** (current or expired since Nov. 6, 2012).
- **Photo ID from a federally recognized Indian tribe** in Wisconsin.
- **Student ID from a Wisconsin college or university**, but only if the ID contains a name, photo, signature, issuance date and expiration date and the student has proof of enrollment.

The photo ID does not need to include a current address to be valid for voting. Poll workers are supposed to look at the name and the photo.

TO APPLY FOR A FREE VOTER ID AT THE DMV, YOU MUST

- **Present proof of identity**, such as a Social Security Card, pay stub with a SS number, W-2 form, discharge papers, court order, federal ID card, driver’s license, marriage certificate or college photo ID.
 - **Present proof of residence**, such as a utility bill, mobile phone bill, bank statement, current insurance policies, original lease agreements or deeds.
 - **Present a birth certificate or follow the “document process verification”** at the DMV to obtain proof of name and date of birth. You’ll need to state that you do not have a birth certificate and that it would require a fee to obtain one.
- The ACLU of Wisconsin advises those who seek to obtain a photo ID without a birth certificate to bring any available proof of name and date of birth, including records from a baptismal, hospital birth, early school, family Bible and U.S. Census account, as well as a doctor’s record of post-natal care or a delayed birth certificate.

HASSLES AT THE DMV

The ACLU of Wisconsin asks people who encounter problems obtaining photo IDs without birth certificates to call 414-272-4032. The nonprofit also has a survey form on its website at aclu-wi.org.

Military and overseas voters do not need a photo ID to cast ballots.

Voters who are elderly or disabled and considered “indefinitely confined” to home can vote absentee by mail without a photo ID, but they must mark that on the ballot application form.

GETTING REGISTERED, STAYING REGISTERED

Wisconsin law requires voters to maintain current registrations. A person must complete a voter registration application if he or she is a new Wisconsin voter, has changed a name or residential address or not voted in the past four years.

Voter registrations can be updated by mail, at city halls and at polling places on Election Day.

ON THE WEB

Wondering if your registration is up-to-date? Where to vote? What’s on the ballot? Or the status of your absentee ballot? Go to myvote.wi.gov.

Study: 40 percent of LGBT youth identify as bisexual

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

About 40 percent of more than 10,000 LGBT youth surveyed for a new study identify as bisexual, and many of them say they face more challenges coming out and gaining acceptance than their lesbian and gay peers.

The *Supporting and Caring for Our Bisexual Youth* report released in late September by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation in partnership with the Bisexual Resource Center, BiNet USA and the Bisexual Organizing Project also reveals a chasm between the experiences of bisexual youth in America and their straight identified peers.

The survey of young people ages 13 to 17 reveals that bisexual youth remain deeply disconnected from the larger LGBT community and its services. They are less optimistic about their futures than their straight counterparts, less engaged in their communities and schools and highly susceptible to sexual harassment.

The findings, released on the 15th annual Celebrate Bisexuality

Day and just weeks before National Coming Out Day on Oct. 11, also show that bisexual youth in America are overwhelmingly female, and these girls confront broad skepticism and misunderstanding about their sexual identities.

"Bisexual teen girls provided troubling descriptions of sexual harassment, an unfortunate early indicator of just how dangerous stereotyping is to our safety," said Faith Cheltenham, president of BiNet USA. "Statistics show that these threats continue for adult bi women, who, during their lifetimes, report alarmingly high rates of rape, physical violence and stalking by an intimate partner."

Specifically, the survey shows:

- Only 5 percent of bisexual youth report being "very happy," compared to 21 percent of straight youth surveyed separately.
- Nearly one-third of bisexual young people say they have been "frequently or often" harassed or called names at school compared to 9 percent of straight youth.
- When asked if they have an adult family member they can turn to, only 44 percent of bisexual

youth said they do compared to 79 percent of non-LGBT youth.

Many of the young people express the potential to be attracted to more than one gender, but reject the term "bisexual" when describing their sexual orientation. Instead, they use "queer" and "pansexual."

Biphobia, the report found, remains a serious problem in the LGBT community and compounds the challenges faced by bisexual youth.

"It hurts deeply when young people are told they are not legitimate, and, unfortunately, that is what many bisexual youth are hearing from their family and friends," said Ellen Kahn, director of the HRC Foundation's Children, Youth & Families Program. "This report will help bust the myths and misunderstandings associated with bisexuality and create a space for young people to be more open, and to find the support they deserve."

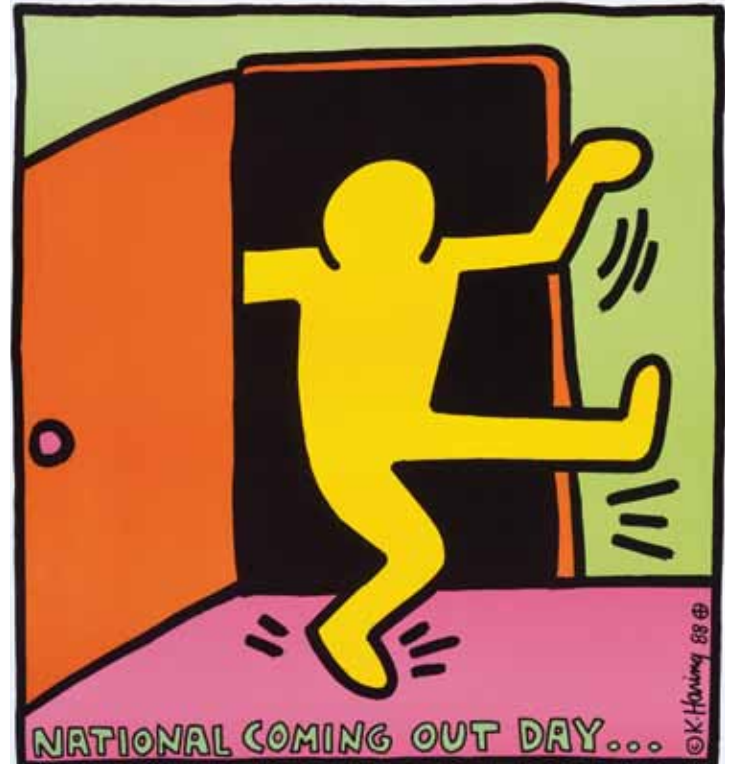


PHOTO: COURTESY NCOD/HARING FOUNDATION

OUT IN OCTOBER: Keith Haring contributed the image for the earliest National Coming Out Day, which is observed each year on Oct. 11. Advocates of NCOD stress the power of coming out: People who know someone who is LGBT are far more likely to support equality under the law.

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NATIONAL BRIEFS



PHOTOS: ALAMY/HSUS GRZYBOWSKI

BUYER BEWARE: For the second time in less than a year, The Humane Society of the United States has discovered Kohl's selling real animal fur as "faux." An online listing for a men's parka described the jacket trim as "faux" but an HSUS investigator learned that the jacket's trim was made of raccoon dog.

USDA APPROVES NEW GMO CROPS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture issued final approval for new genetically engineered crops despite the objections of hundreds of thousands of consumers and 50 members of Congress.

The USDA approved Dow AgroSciences Enlist-brand corn and soybeans, genetically engineered to resist massive doses of a

combination of 2,4-D — one of the active ingredients in Agent Orange — and glyphosate — the key ingredient in Monsanto's Roundup herbicide.

"The USDA's approval of these crops is proof that today's destructive, industrial agriculture model, based on a system of GMO mono-crops, is a failure," said Ronnie Cummins of the Organic Consumers Association.

Cummins added, "For consumers, the USDA's approval of Dow's new GMO crops increases the urgency with which we must fight for mandatory labeling of GMO foods in order to obtain the basic right to know what's in our food."

In other national news ...

- **Lambda Legal** has asked a U.S. District judge for summary judgment and an immediate end to Puerto Rico's ban on same-sex marriage. The motion filed in September is part of a lawsuit filed in March.
- **Burlington**, Vermont's largest city, has transitioned to relying 100 percent on renewable sources for its energy. Also, the state has declared a goal of having renewable resources provide 90 percent of the energy by 2050.
- **Whistleblower Chelsea Manning** sued U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, the

DOD and the Department of the Army for failure to provide necessary medical treatment for her gender dysphoria, a condition Army doctors diagnosed for her more than four years ago. The ACLU represents Manning in the federal complaint.

- **Wells Fargo Bank** agreed to pay \$290,000 to four tellers in Nevada to settle a same-sex sexual harassment case brought by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The lawsuit accused a female manager and female teller of subjecting the four women to a sexually hostile work environment, including being told to wear provocative clothing to attract customers.
- **Thirty-five House members**, led by U.S. Rep. David Cicilline, D-R.I., urged the Obama administration to ban children from working on tobacco farms, citing concerns about ill health effects. A Human Rights Watch report this year said that nearly three-quarters of the children it interviewed reported vomiting, nausea and headaches while working on tobacco farms.
- **Wolves** have some federal protections again in Wyoming. A federal judge struck down a 2012 decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to remove Endangered Species Protections for wolves in the state. The order came just two weeks after Michigan officials canceled this year's wolf



PHOTO: AP

Mo'ne Davis pitches at the Little League Baseball World Series earlier this year. In September, she went to the Baseball Hall of Fame and donated her uniform.

hunt. As WiG went to press, Wyoming hunting groups were seeking a way around the court order.

- **Philadelphia Little Leaguer Mo'ne Davis**, the first girl to win a game at the Little League Baseball World Series, donated the jersey she wore during the game to the Baseball Hall of Fame. Mo'ne was the fourth American girl to appear in the Little League tournament. In her first game, she shut out a team from Nashville 4-0 over six full innings while hurling a fastball clocked at 70 mph.

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'HOME OF GOLF' LIFTS BARRIER TO WOMEN

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club at St. Andrews is no longer just for men. The spiritual "Home of Golf" became the latest club to end years of male-only exclusivity in mid-September, when its members voted overwhelmingly in favor of inviting women to join.

The vote was effective immediately.

The voting was far more predictable than Scotland voting for independence on the same day. Even so, it was hailed as an important step by golf organizations, public officials, sponsors and even a prominent golfer.

"I am thrilled the R&A has voted overwhelmingly to allow female members. This is a great day for golf and a historic one for women in golf," tweeted Annika Sorenstam.

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PHOTO: NHLT/BRANT ERICKSON

The national Heritage Land Trust has acquired a portion of the original John Muir family farm in Marquette County.

CONSERVATIONISTS PURCHASE PART OF MUIR FAMILY FARM

The National Heritage Land Trust has purchased part of the original John Muir family farm in Marquette County between Montello and Portage.

Muir founded the Sierra Club and is widely regarded as the father of the National Park System, which turns 100 years old in 2016.

The 198-acre acquisition includes 38 acres of the original 320-acre farm settled by Daniel Muir in 1849. About 60 acres of the farm are protected by the John Muir Memorial Park/Muir Park State Natural Area.

The trust acquired the property thanks to the late Bessie McGwin Eggleston, her surviving niece and nephews and its conservation partners. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, USFWS Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council, The Conservation Fund, Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust, Wisconsin Land Fund of the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation, and many generous members of Natural Heritage Land Trust, Wisconsin Friends of John Muir, and John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club and individual donors provided funding.

An announcement said the property will become part of the 1,400-acre protected landscape that includes the park. For more, go online to nhlt.org.

INDIANA GROWING SOLAR FARMS

WE Energies and Madison Gas and Electric are trying to discourage the use of solar and wind energy in Wisconsin through high fees, but Indiana is planning to build two solar farms, including one on the grounds of Indianapolis International Airport.

A developer will lease about 76 acres along the airport's main entrance road off Interstate 70 to erect about 37,500 panels.

An electric utility is planning a smaller solar farm near the northern Indiana city of Peru.

Meanwhile, the Indiana Municipal Power Association is planning its fourth solar farm in the state.

MADISON TOPS 'BEST PLACES TO LIVE' LIST

Madison came in at No. 1 on a list of "Top 100 Best Places to Live" in the United States. The second annual list from

REGIONAL BRIEFS

livability.com is based on eight factors: health care, education, social and civic capital, demographics, amenities, housing, economics and infrastructure.

The site said, "Whether you drill down into our quality-of-life statistics or analyze the city's array of amenities, Madison stands out as livability.com's 2015 Best Place to Live. Both a capital city and a hip college town, Madison provides residents with affordable housing, great schools, excellent health care and a wide range of recreational activities and entertainment options."

The top 10 included the other Midwestern communities of Rochester, Minnesota, at No. 2 and Iowa City, Iowa, at No. 10.

In other regional news...

- A University of Wisconsin-Madison zoologist's study is among the first to demonstrate the way "global stilling" may alter predator-prey relationships. Researcher Brandon Barton is studying the impact of diminishing wind speeds for plants and animals. The Earth's poles are warming faster than the equator, robbing the atmosphere of some of the temperature differential that creates wind. And the trend across the American landscape is to put up barriers to the wind.

- The Wisconsin Professional Police Association, the state's largest police union, has endorsed Democrat Mary Burke for governor and Republican Brad Schimel for attorney general. WPPA executive director Jim Palmer said the group is backing Burke because Republican Gov. Scott Walker cut local government aid and that hurt police departments' ability to fight crime, but is backing Schimel over Democrat Susan Happ because his experience and leadership is "second to none."

- Wisconsin ranked 33rd in private-sector job creation for the 12-month period ending in March, based on federal data released in mid-September. Gov. Scott Walker has claimed the addition of 100,000 jobs since he took office, but Democrat Mary Burke points out that Walker has failed to meet his 2010 campaign promise to add 250,000 private-sector jobs.

- U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin is among a group of lawmakers urging the Obama administration to oppose a Canadian proposal to bury radioactive waste less than a mile from Lake Huron. Ontario Power Generation wants to store waste from nuclear plants in rock chambers located about 140 miles from Detroit. A resolution from Baldwin and other senators from the region states, "more than 40 million people in Canada and the United States depend on the fresh water from the Great Lakes for drinking water" and "a spill of nuclear waste into the Great Lakes could have lasting and severely adverse environmental,



PHOTO: JOHN MANIACI/COURTESY MADISON CVB

The Dane County Farmers' Market in Madison. The capital city recently earned a No. 1 ranking on livability.com's "Top 100 Best Places to Live" survey.

health and economic impacts on the Great Lakes and the people that depend on them for their livelihood."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- **The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center** is selling tickets to the Big Night Out Cabaret, which takes place at the Potawatomi Hotel & Casino Expo Center, beginning at 5:30 p.m. October 11. For more, go to mkelgbt.org.

- **National LGBT History Month** activities take place throughout October. Various national groups celebrate the month, including the Philadelphia-based Equality Forum, which is revealing an LGBT icon each day in October at lgbthistorymonth.com.

- **Whole food advocates** invite diners to participate in October Unprocessed, a monthlong campaign in which people give up processed foods. Participants generally use "the kitchen test" to determine a processed food: If you pick up something with a label and find an ingredient you'd never use in your kitchen and couldn't possibly make from the whole form, it's processed. For more, go online to eatingrules.com.

- **Guest House of Milwaukee** held its Campaign for Hope and Dignity groundbreaking and fourth annual Fall Harvest Celebration earlier this fall. The campaign involves raising \$2.6 million to remodel the current Guest House and build an 8,000 square-foot addition to expand on-site mental health and substance abuse counseling programs. For more, go to guesthouseofmilwaukee.org.

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Ce pu

Mon-
ty's Blue
Plate Diner
opened its
doors in 1990.

Food Fight first
started in response to
a neighborhood's need for
a comfortable, high-quality res-
taurant within walking distance. Local
developers purchased an abandoned gas sta-
tion in Schenk's Corners on Madison's east side,
across the street from the Barrymore Theater,
and converted it into a restaurant.

They also brought restaurateur Monty Schiro
into their organization. Well-known for his col-
lection of Fiestaware, as well as the time he
rode a bicycle from Los Angeles to Savannah,
Schiro had worked in restaurants in Chicago
and his native Madison. The chef was given
rein to do whatever he wanted, as long as the
restaurant was a success. With the backing of
his partners, the 1950s-themed Monty's was
not only successful but also became the corner-
stone for what grew into a restaurant empire.

Schiro knew that no matter how much diners
liked a restaurant, they wouldn't return to the
same one night after night. So he and Food Fight
set out to create unique dining experiences
linked by high-quality preparation, a polished
feel and individual styles.

Cento and Fresco have a sleek, contemporary
ambience, while Monty's diner motif is similar
in look and feel to the company's Market Street
Diner in Sun Prairie and Hubbard Avenue Diner
in Middleton. The latter is also replicated at the
company's relatively new Bassett Street Brunch
Club, which offers brunch as well as a full menu
all day. It even boasts drive-up doughnut ser-
vice.

Different Food Fight venues offer more
unique options. Johnny Delmonico's Steak-
house embraces the dark-paneled, mid-century
look of a place Frank Sinatra might have fre-
quented, while Tex Tubb's Taco Palace is a clas-

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Like a fighter circling an opponent, Madison's
Food Fight Inc. knows when and where to strike.
With the June opening of Cento Ristorante
across the street from Overture Center for the
Arts, the 24-year-old restaurant development
company has scored another knockout.

Cento — pronounced "chento" — is Italian
for 100. Diners might be inclined to give chef
Michael Pruet's stylish take on Italian cuisine
a score of 100, if his performance is always as
perfect as it was the night we visited.

Located in the newly built, rehabilitated block
designed to provide Overture Center with a
more elegant neighborhood ambience, Cento is
all clean lines, wood floors and an open kitchen
— from which Pruet seems to almost endlessly
wander. But whatever is going on behind the
scenes in his absence seems to work well.

We first ran into Pruet's work at Steenbock's
on Orchard, another one of Food Fight's 19
restaurants — this one located in the lobby of
the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery on the
UW-Madison campus. The name is part wry
homage to Harry Steenbock, a UW biochemis-
try professor who found a way to add vitamin
D to milk in 1923, and part a cross-reference to
the restaurant's Orchard Street location.

Cento is nothing like Steenbock's. It's not
much like its nearest Food Fight neighbor either:
Fresco, Madison's only rooftop eatery, atop
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t Out!



ento adds another knockout punch to Food Fight's legacy

sic West Texas tacqueria. Madison's best gourmet burgers can be found at D Lux, and Food Fight now owns the venerable Avenue Bar, a city dining tradition since 1970.

But back to our dinner at Cento.

We started with a duo of appetizers. A foot-long trough of warm olives marinated in rosemary, garlic, citrus and oil (\$5) teased and tempered our taste buds for greater things yet to come, including an appetizer of bacon-wrapped dates stuffed with spicy sausage and doused with a piquillo pepper sauce (\$9). The combination of sweet, savory, spicy and salty was a perfect balance that left us wanting more.

For the main course, our vegetarian went for gnocchi with foraged mushrooms, mustard greens, breadcrumbs and chive oil (\$19 for an entrée.) We also ordered cedar-roasted arctic char with roasted vegetables, lemon and tarragon oil (\$26). The servings were appropriately sized, trading unnecessary volume for flavor and finesse.

The gnocchi, easily the best we've ever had, were creamy and rich. The dish's vegetable blend provided a nice counterpoint in color and texture. The char was sweet and succulent, its moisture and flavor enhanced by the oil. The dish was augmented with fresh green beans, potato, carrot and small purple broccoli.

We splurged on our wine — a Tenuta Rapitala "Grand Cru" chardonnay from Sicily (\$65). Lighter and less oaky than many chards, it had a silky mouthfeel and abundant fruit that paired perfectly with the entrées.

The wine also complemented our dessert, a vanilla panna cotta with strawberries (\$7). We were celebrating a wedding anniversary, so our wine steward waved the cost of the dessert as a gift from the restaurant.

After our meal, we realized that it had been too long since we'd been to a Food Fight restaurant. We won't make that mistake again.



PHOTOS: COURTESY FOOD FIGHT

Left and above, some of the many creative dishes served up at Cento, the newest culinary offering from Madison's growing Food Fight group of restaurants.

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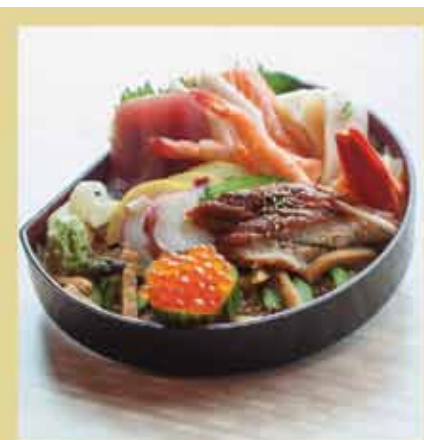
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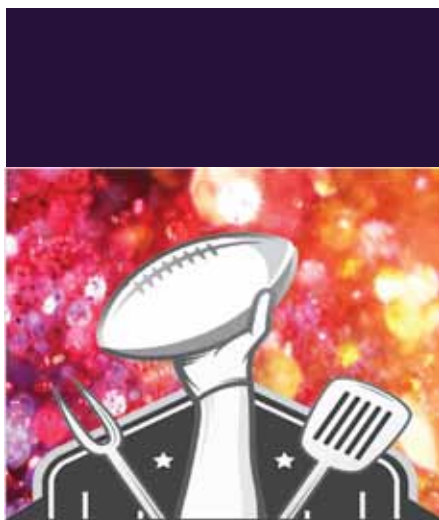
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Good gourd almighty! Pumpkin beers proliferate

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Autumn arrives with abundance — the fall harvest, colorful foliage and pumpkin beer, for instance. And with each passing season, the pumpkin beer patch continues to grow.

With all the major brands, craft brewers and brewpubs to consider, there's no shortage of varieties. Beeradvocate.com recently

cool fall night. But if you want some, you'd better hurry! The first brands began hitting the shelves in late August and some popular varieties already are out of stock.

Here are some brews that might be new to Wisconsin drinkers.

Milwaukee's Lakefront Brewery consistently receives high marks for its **Pumpkin Lager**, which is based on one of Thomas Jefferson's original recipes. Joining this year's lineup is **Lakefront Pumpkin Imperial**, a high-octane beer brewed with spices and vanilla and aged in oak brandy barrels. At 9.5 percent alcohol by volume, Imperial is potent. The high alcohol level dominates the flavor profile, obscuring some of the beer's subtler elements. With that much alcohol, subtle is not what this beer is about.

Milwaukee Brewing Co. has joined the party this year with **Sasquash Pumpkin Porter**, a darkly spiced beer that combines specialty malts with 400 pounds of pumpkin and 300 pounds of sweet potatoes per batch. Pouring an almost black-brown with a caramel head at 5 percent ABV, the beer offers essences of cocoa and dark chocolate with light carbonation and an earthy quality from the root vegetables.

Speaking of porters, Alaskan Brewing Co. in Juneau, Alaska, offers its first **Alaskan Pumpkin Porter** this year. At 7 percent ABV, the beer is brewed with pumpkin, brown sugar and spices. It pours a dark brown with a strong pumpkin-and-spice nose. Expect nutmeg, cloves and pumpkin on the palate, with a slightly dry character and pleasant mouthfeel.

Red Hook Brewery in Woodinville, Washington, this year introduced **Out of Your Gourd Pumpkin Porter**, a 5.8 percent ABV brew made with pumpkin, spice and maple syrup. None of those elements lead; rather, they combine in a brewhouse gestalt of balance and finesse in which the whole is truly better than the sum of its parts.

It stands to reason that the **Lexington Brewing and Distilling Co.** would produce very powerful beers, and **Kentucky Pumpkin Barrel Ale** is no exception. At 10 percent ABV, this little darling pours with an orange-ish hue and flavor profile that's long on cinnamon, along with hints of cloves and nutmeg. The pumpkin flavor comes through, but so does the alcohol in this not-for-the-faint-of-palate libation.

One of our favorites this season has been **Wasatch Black o' Lantern**, a pumpkin stout produced by the Utah Brewers Cooperative in Salt Lake City. A blend of Wasatch Pumpkin Ale and Polygamy Porter (we are talking Utah, after all), the 6.5 percent ABV beer pours dark and spicy with an emphasis on nutmeg. Expect a medium-bodied beer with flavors of roasted malt and chocolate blended with pumpkin pie.

BEER next page



PHOTO: COURTESY

Milwaukee Brewing Co.'s new autumn
entry Sasquash Pumpkin Porter.

published its list of the top 50 pumpkin beers, a clear indicator that the seasonal pints are multiplying at an impressive pace.

Skeptics who believe pumpkin beer is simply a seasonal novelty could use a history lesson. Brewers have been making pumpkin beer since Colonial times, when the native North American gourd was thought to have medicinal qualities and was often more plentiful than the grain required to brew more traditional varieties of beer. Some early beer recipes replaced the grain entirely with the meat of the pumpkin.

An early American folk song, written in 1643, contains the following lyrics:

*If barley be wanting to make into malt,
For we can make liquor to sweeten our lips,
Of pumpkins and parsnips and walnut-tree chips.*

For those who enjoy variety, character and a little exotic seasoning in their brews, pumpkin beer is the perfect libation for a



BEER from prior page

A lighter stout and an imperial that's a little lower in alcohol, the Millstream Brewing Co.'s **Great Pumpkin Imperial Stout**, brewed in Amana, Iowa, is available only at Brennan's Market (19000 W. Bluemound Road, Brookfield). At 7.6 percent ABV, it's not quite imperial strength, and its dry stout character seems to be overbalanced by spices that give it an almost artificial sweetness. But the beer has earthy and roasty malt qualities that come to its rescue, turning it into a nice starter beer for those new to pumpkin brews.

Epic Brewing Co., another Salt Lake City brewer, has combined forces with DC Brau in Washington, D.C., to produce **Fermentation Without Representation Imperial Pumpkin Porter**.



Brewed with 200 pounds of pumpkin, five spices and whole Madagascar vanilla beans, the rich, chocolaty porter weighs in at 8.6 percent ABV. Think chocolate pumpkin pie with whipped topping and an alcoholic bite.

Last year we took a real liking to Pumking, the imperial pumpkin ale from Southern Tier Brewing Co. in Lakewood, New York. This year we found a real friend in **Southern Tier Warlock Pumpkin Imperial Stout**. At 8.1 percent ABV, Warlock comes on strong, with its "stoutness" playing a supporting role to its roasty malt, pumpkin-forward profile. The huge pumpkin spice aroma, with notes of vanilla and gingerbread, follows through on the palate. If you have ever wondered what roasted pumpkin pie tastes like, this would be about as close as it comes.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Top, Black o'Lantern, a spicy pumpkin stout from Utah. Below, pumpkins and beer.



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Christine Mill at Patry Cline. Photo by Maria Lyle. Provided by FSI.

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WiGOUT!



PHOTO: SCOTT MCDERMOTT
Project Runway's Tim Gunn is honorary chair at AIDS Walk Wisconsin.

Off the runway, honorary AIDS Walk chair Tim Gunn is a teacher and activist

about his time on *Project Runway* and his lifelong activism against HIV/AIDS.

How did you get involved with AIDS Walk Wisconsin? I've been very active in the AIDS Walk New York and AIDS causes, and they knew that. I'm very passionate about this cause, and I'm so proud to participate in the Wisconsin AIDS Walk, because Wisconsin has been so successful working with AIDS and with spreading the word and helping people get treatment. It's wonderful. And very inspiring.

How long have you been involved with AIDS-related campaigns? Oh, boy. Well, I'm trying to think of how long it's been in New York. I've been there since the beginning; I can't even remember. And I've only missed one, since it's been happening in New York, because of business travel.

Why are events like the AIDS Walk still important? Well, it's about awareness. So many people think, "Oh, AIDS, there's cures. I can be sexually irresponsible, and it's not going to come back and bite me." And in fact AIDS still kills people, and it can be very debilitating. If I sound preachy, I talk to young people about this all the time and they roll their eyes. And I say to them, "Wake up! You need to understand this. This is very serious, and it's so easily avoided."

Is that a way in which the purpose of these walks has changed over time? Oh, yes. Every year I see an erosion of concern about AIDS. And it troubles me tremendously.

You've been a mentor on Project Runway for 13 seasons. What's it been like? It's a phenomenon, and

I love every second of it. Season 13 for me is just as fresh, if not fresher, because we've reinvented so many things. I'd say it's fresher than Season 1. And the opportunity to be able to work with these phenomenal designers — of whom I'm in total awe, to be completely honest — it's a joy and an honor, and I consider it to be a privilege that I don't take for granted.

I'll also say one of the things I'm proudest of about *Project Runway* is that it's demystified for so many people what the fashion industry is. Prior to *Project Runway*, it was covered in this veil of mystery, and to be honest, the industry liked it. They liked that people thought it was so glamorous and so exotic and so elite. And we ripped the veil off and said: "Look at it. It's dirty, it's gritty, it's daunting and unless you have an unconditional love for this industry, don't go into it."

Did you expect the show to run this long? I never dreamed there'd be a Season 2! You know, I was never intended to be on camera; I was a consultant. The designers arrived, and the producers were, I deduced, terrified that no one would speak in the workroom. So they sort of shoved me in there and said, "Go ask them questions about what they're doing."

This year, you hosted Under the Gunn, a different sort of reality fashion competition in which new designers worked on teams with Project Runway alumni. How did that come about? Heidi and I have a pinky pact, and the pact is: We will not do a season of *Project Runway* without the other. And Lifetime came to us and said, "We want to do another season of the show (in early 2014)." Heidi said, "I can't," and they came to me and I said, "Well, I won't. ... I'm able to, but I have a pact with Heidi and

I won't do it." So they fell back and regrouped, and went to our fabulous *Project Runway* showrunner Sara Rea, and came up with this new concept. Which I loved. I loved it.

Do you think you'll be asked to produce another season? To be honest, I don't think so. Lifetime was disappointed in the ratings. All of us who worked on it loved it, but ratings rule these days. Unless you have something substantial, it's just not going to come back. I'm disappointed, but I'm also used to this world. I get it.

Is there anything else you've been working on off-camera? I have a new book that's about my career as an educator. It'll come out in late March. And I'm the very proud voice of Baileywick the butler on Disney's *Sofia the First*. And that's been a huge amount of fun. I'm a lucky guy. I say that every day.

Did you ever anticipate an on-camera career like this for yourself? Oh, never. Never, never, never. I thought I would retire at Parsons (The New School for Design, where he taught). I never dreamed of leaving. I didn't leave because of *Project Runway*. I left because another opportunity presented itself, but I was there for 24 years. That's my world, academia. I'm still on an academic calendar. For me, the year starts the day after Labor Day. I never dreamed of it. And as I said, when the *Project Runway* producers contacted me, it was never to be on camera, it was to be their consultant. And I was, for a good eight months.

So no, this is a phenomenon. And it happened after I turned 50! I pinch myself every day. It's surreal.

AIDS WALK WISCONSIN

The 25th annual AIDS Walk Wisconsin and 5K Run is on Oct. 12 at the Summerfest grounds in Milwaukee. The 5K Run begins at 10:15 a.m., while the walk begins at 12:30 p.m. Run registration is \$30, \$35 day-of; the walk is free with pledges encouraged. For more, visit aidswalkwis.org.

By Matthew Reddin

Staff writer

For the 25th year of AIDS Walk Wisconsin, the state's largest HIV/AIDS fundraiser has invited *Project Runway* mentor and co-host Tim Gunn to serve as the event's honorary chair. Gunn will meet with LGBT youth in Milwaukee, join an auction winner for a private dinner and, of course, walk the walk, on Oct. 12.

In advance of his appearance in Milwaukee, *WiG* spoke to Gunn

**Wisconsin
Gazette** .com

Advance reviews for the Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival



'Blackbird' a busy but bold tale

Blackbird, Patrik-Ian Polk's ambitious film adaptation of Larry Duplechan's same-named novel, is a deep-South high school tale that hits below the Bible Belt.

Choirboy Randy (Julian Walker) tries to pray the gay away every chance he gets. His crazy mama Claire (Oscar winner Mo'Nique) is on a first-name basis with the son of God, and hasn't been the same since Randy's sister Chrissie disappeared six years ago. Absentee dad Lance (Isaiah Washington) isn't faring well either, but he's making an effort.

Randy's social life is just as messy. He struggles to hide his attraction to the hot football star and looks at gay hook-up sites on the sly. He's plagued by frightening premonitions involving the local pastor's daughter. And after scoring a role in a local college's student film, he gets involved with a co-actor, Marshall (Kevin Allessee).

Blackbird's jam-packed plot doesn't



stop there. The film squeezes in trips to a gay lover's lane, a same-sex production of *Romeo and Juliet* ("Romeo and Julius"), many maternal meltdowns from Claire, and even an abortion subplot.

Blackbird's a very different film than Polk's prior work (see interview, page 30). It's a solid movie, but also the kind a filmmaker needs to get out of his system before returning to the task at hand.

— Gregg Shapiro

'Out in the Night' dissects a miscarriage of justice

Out in the Night tells a story of truth harder to believe than fiction: A group of African-American lesbians in NYC's West Village end up imprisoned and charged with felony gang assault after they defend themselves from street harassment turned violent. Worse, the "New Jersey Four," as they're later known, are convicted both by public opinion and the unjust court system.

If only as an opportunity to expose those unaware, *Out in the Night* is an excellent film, chronologically taking viewers through the 2006 assault before exploring the ways in which prosecutors and judges mishandled the case.

But director Blair Dorosh-Walther does one better by reminding us that the "New Jersey Four" aren't just a cause celebre. They're real women — Terrain Dandridge, Venice Brown, Renata Hill, Patreese Johnson — and this film depicts them as such, interviewing them and their families about their lives and the case that put them behind bars.

All four women have left prison since the film's completion, with the documentary's last shots depicting that final release. Yet their story remains is a chilling reminder that the very biases and practices that put them in prison initially remain in our judicial and political system.

— Matthew Reddin



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'Lilting' floats through loss and missed connections



Lilting is the perfect title for this loosely structured, dream-like meditation on loss and connections that are lost in translation, both linguistic and emotional.

At the center of this delicate story, told mostly in flashbacks, is Chinese-Cambodian widow Junn, who moved with her husband to England to provide a better life for their only son. Exquisitely portrayed with alternating resentment and longing by Chinese actress Pei-pei Cheng (*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*), Junn refuses to adapt

to Western culture. The only thing she can say in English is, "Fuck you very much," which, of course, reveals a lot about her in a few words.

Friendless in a strange land, Junn clings to her son Kai (Andrew Leung). She wants to move in with him, but Kai places her in a public seniors' home to keep secret his relationship with live-in boyfriend Richard (Ben Whishaw, *Skyfall*). Sensing that Richard is standing between her and Kai, Junn

LILTING next page

LILTING from prior page

loathes him, despite his earnest and extraordinary efforts to help her after Kai's unexpected death.

Writer-director Hong Khaou sets his first feature film in wintry London. Skeletal trees, frosty mornings and dim sunlight add to a profound moodiness that at times overwhelms what is otherwise a very stylish, sometimes spell-binding work.

The cast is uniformly excellent. Wishaw's grief is moving, but it's his controlled frustration with Junn and the visceral glimpses he provides of the anger simmering beneath his grief that elevate his performance into the top ranks. Junn, whose face is still loved by the camera in her late 60s, is gripping to watch even in stillness.

The day finally comes when Junn and Richard must have it out over the kitchen table. While a translator has facilitated their prior conversations, each speaks in his or her native tongue during the climactic scene. Without understanding what they're saying, they finally seem to get each other.

Outfest, Los Angeles' LGBT film festival, awarded *Lilting* a special jury award, and it's easy to see why. Go with a friend and be prepared for some coffee and deep conversation afterward.

— Louis Weisberg

'52 Tuesdays': One year, two journeys

52 Tuesdays opens with a surprising discovery for its young protagonist: With the quick swing of a door, her mother reveals he is transgender and preparing to transition from female to male. But Billie (Tilda Cobham-Hervey) could take this in stride were it not for the follow-up request — to move out and live with her father, in order to give her mother time to transition in her absence. The two will still see each other, but only on Tuesday afternoons.

It's just the first zigzag in a story that slowly reveals how that decision — the separation, not the transition — threatens disastrous results despite good intentions.

52 Tuesdays immediately draws comparison to Richard Linklater's *Boyhood*. True to its name, the film depicts 52 Tuesdays in the lives of Billie and her mother James (Del Herbert-Jane) and was itself filmed Tuesday-by-Tuesday. But where *Boyhood* tricks its audience into forgetting the calendar, *52 Tuesdays* pays attention to every tick of the second hand, flashing each date on the screen and often fixating on noisy clocks or watches.

At first, it's an irritation, a reminder of how far off Billie is from returning home to live with James. But week by week, their physical separation fuels an emotional separation, and those ticks start to carry the gravity of a time bomb.

The initial pitch of *52 Tuesdays* makes it feel like James' story, but Cobham-Hervey steals

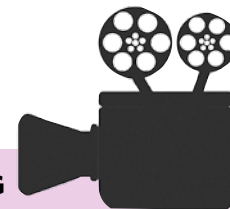


the narrative as Billie begins to drift aimlessly week by week, befriend a sexually adventurous boy and girl and filming their sexual exploits at school and at an abandoned space her uncle procures for her. It's a clever move by director Sophie Hyde, punctuating Billie's unspoken resentment for her mother keeping her at arm's length by physically pulling the viewer away from him.

Not that we don't see James' journey as well, a coming-of-age story in its own right. He has as many secrets and struggles as Billie — a new girlfriend, setbacks to his physical transition, and most poignantly, mixed feelings about being Billie's mother altogether — and the film's exploration of them never feels subordinate to Billie's journey, even as the latter takes center stage in the film's gripping, tense final third.

— Matthew Reddin

PHOTOS: MILWAUKEE LGBT FILM/VIDEO FESTIVAL



SCREENING

The Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival runs Oct. 16-26, with an opening night screening at the Oriental Theater (2230 N. Farwell Ave.) and all other films at the UW Union Theatre (2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., 2nd Floor).

Tickets for opening night are \$15, \$10 for students and seniors, and other paid screenings are \$9, \$7 for students, seniors and UWM community members.

For details, call 414-229-4308 or visit uwm.edu/psoa/film/lgbtfilm-festival.

Selected film schedules:

Blackbird

Thursday, Oct. 16, 7:30 p.m., Oriental

Lilting

Sunday, Oct. 19, 7 p.m., UW Union

Out in the Night

Saturday, Oct. 25, 1 p.m., UW Union

52 Tuesdays

Sunday, Oct. 26, 7 p.m., UW Union

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Patrik-Ian Polk flies in new directions with 'Blackbird'

By Gregg Shapiro

Contributing writer

If you've ever seen any of director Patrik-Ian Polk's work, you know one thing for certain: Polk is a master of the ensemble cast. Beginning with *Punks* and continuing through *Noah's Arc* (both the movie and

the TV series), as well as *The Skinny*, Polk has a knack for creating characters who are smart, sincere and sensitive.

With *Blackbird*, Polk steps out of his comfort zone as a screenwriter and adapts (with the aid of Rikki Beadle Blair) the titular Larry Duplechan gay lit classic for the big screen.

Depicting high school student Randy as he struggles to come to terms with his sexuality, *Blackbird* touches on topics ranging from coming out to religious fanaticism, from manhood to madness, and from blood relations to the families we choose, all guided by Polk's deft hand.

WiG spoke to Polk about the film in advance of its opening the Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival, at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 16, at the Oriental Theater.

Why did you choose Larry Duplechan's gay lit classic *Blackbird* for your first film?

It was the first contemporary gay coming-of-age novel told from a black character's perspective, so I related to it. I think I wrote my first draft of the script back in 1991, in film school. Twenty-five years later, here we are, and the story is still just as relevant. We've seen gay white coming-out stories told every possible way. I thought it was about time we saw that story told from a black gay man's perspective.

Has Larry seen the film, and if so, what does he think of it?

He was at our world premiere this February at Los Angeles' Pan African Film Festival, where we won the Founder's Award for best feature. He liked it. He was aware that I'd made a bit of a departure from the book — par for the course when you're adapting a novel into a film — but he seemed genuinely excited. And I'm just glad the film's release will strike up more interest in his books.

How did you end up collaborating with Rikki Beadle Blair on the screenplay?

After living with my screenplay adaptation for several years, I decided it needed an injection of something different. Rikki and I had become friends and collaborated on my series *Noah's Arc*. I asked him to take a stab at rewriting the script, and he did a fantastic job. I told him I wanted Claire, the lead character's mother, to be the kind of meaty part that attracts Oscar-caliber actresses. Little did I expect that we would end up getting an Oscar winner (Mo'Nique).

What was the experience of working with Mo'Nique like for you?

Mo'Nique is a consummate professional. We don't get a lot of rehearsal time on independent films, but Mo'Nique didn't need any. She came to set ready to play, and she made magic with every take. That Oscar was no fluke.

At the opposite end of the experience spectrum is newcomer Julian Walker, who plays lead character Randy. Why was he chosen for the role?

As usual when casting, I encountered difficulties when approaching Hollywood actors. There's always silly trepidation about playing gay black characters. But I just trusted that the universe would send me who I was supposed to have in that role. And then young Julian Walker sent in an audition tape. He's a sophomore at the University of Southern Mississippi, where we filmed the movie. I saw a natural talent,

an X factor that told me he was the one, and after a few in-person auditions and coaching sessions, he nailed it. It didn't hurt that he sings like an angel as well. Music plays a big part in *Blackbird*, as the lead character is a star of his church choir. And I love the fact that Julian is openly gay. It's so refreshing and indicative of how much farther the next generation is going in terms of fearless expression of their sexuality.

In some ways, *Blackbird* feels like a non-traditional movie musical. How do you incorporate music in the film?

This takes place in a small town in Mississippi. It was important to me that the music reflects all these characteristics: traditional Southern gospel, Mississippi roots music, bluegrass, country, soul. So I picked an array of traditional gospel hymns, which I reworked to reflect a teenager in 2014. I wrote some country-pop songs for him to sing as well. I even sang a couple of songs on the soundtrack. And we found an amazing local band, the Rooster Blues, who provided all the great country/bluegrass tunes. It's a nicely eclectic mix of music, but perfectly fits the movie and its locale.

***Blackbird* also makes comments about religion as well as other hot button social topics including being gay, coming out, teen pregnancy and abortion. What can you say about the social commentary in your work?**

As far as I think we've come in my home state, Mississippi is still very conservative when it comes to politics. It's one of the leading states in terms of abortion restrictions and recently signed a bill into law allowing businesses to discriminate or refuse services based on religious beliefs. Meanwhile, the state is last on many key issues in terms of education, health care, teen pregnancy, poverty rates. Since we have a teen pregnancy in the film, it was the perfect opportunity to reflect the struggles we are having there with access to abortion and keeping it safe and legal and accessible. There's only one clinic in the entire state, and many women are having to travel across state lines to access these services. It's shameful.

***Blackbird* is currently making the rounds on the film festival circuit. How has that experience been for you?**

The film festivals have always been an invaluable resource for independent filmmakers, but especially for a filmmaker like me. There's no one out there doing gay black films right now. I'm the only one. Mainstream Hollywood still largely ignores us as a demographic and as a subject matter. If it were not for these film festivals, both gay and straight, my work would not have reached half the people it has. It would be very difficult to do what I do without the existence of the film festival circuit.



PHOTO: COURTESY MILWAUKEE LGBT FILM/VIDEO FESTIVAL

Patrik-Ian Polk never expected to snag Oscar-winner Mo'Nique for the role of Claire.

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At Devil's Lake, vintage rustic architecture adds to the autumn landscape

By Jay Rath

Contributing writer

This time of year, there's no better public art than our autumn leaves, and one of the best places to see them in Wisconsin is Devil's Lake State Park. That park's packed with other sorts of art, too, albeit art that's a little out of the ordinary. And some of it is at risk.

One of its most appealing art forms is "parkitecture," formally known as "National Park Service Rustic." It's a real architectural style that was developed in the 1900s, during the Arts and Crafts movement. Among its features are local materials, designed to harmonize with the landscape.

Devil's Lake has some excellent examples, including the Chateau, a pavilion on the North Shore constructed in 1925. Many of the scattered, open-sided shelter buildings, as well as the park headquarters, were built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps, using native quartzite stone.

The park's often-overlooked Nature Center holds more unorthodox gems. Incredibly, taxidermy is reported to be the latest hipster art fad and, if so, the Nature Center could be a mecca. It contains mounted songbirds, ospreys, otters, foxes, at least three kinds of hawks and seven kinds of

owls, as well as living examples of aquatic residents.

Joining them are art photos from the 1910s, original paintings that show the park's archaeological development and a bas relief topographic map sculpted by Mark Almerlie. Another of his works is in the Visitor Center.

The park also has several Indian mounds, examples of the state's oldest art form, created around 1,000 years ago. Near the south shore shelter, four 1989 sculptures by Alan Tollakson, collectively titled "Indigenous Reminder," mimic Native American themes.

The neighboring south shore store is a puzzle and a problem. It features native stone, but when was it built? "I'm guessing it was around the same time when the other stone buildings were built in the park by the CCC," says Steve Schmelzer, park superintendent with the Department of Natural Resources.

Kevin Flock is general manager and CEO of the Devil's Lake Concession Corp., which offers souvenirs, refreshments and food at the Chateau and south shore store. He doesn't know how old the building is, either.

But it's what's inside the building that most charms visitors: vintage Art Moderne



PHOTO: COURTESY DEVIL'S LAKE

Members of the CCC, who built Devil's Lake's "parkitecture" in the 1930s.

furniture. Diners and campers can enjoy rose Formica and tubular-chrome chairs and tables that harken to an earlier time while blending perfectly with the general National Park Rustic style.

The Chateau also featured the décor, but in 2011 it was remodeled to make Devil's

Lake appear, ironically, more like a traditional national park.

If you enjoy the décor while looking at autumn leaves, you better take a picture. "It is possible the furniture could be replaced, and a decision should be made no later than May," Flock says.



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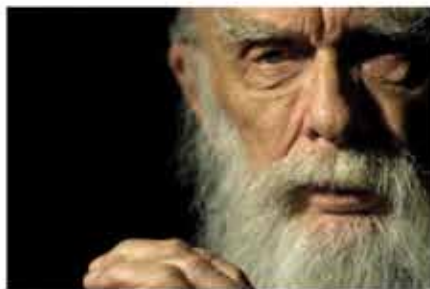
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ART GAZE — MILWAUKEE

Artists explore Lynden's gardens, inside and out

By Kat Murrell

Contributing writer

The trees are starting to change, trading their lush summer green for the sparkling colors of autumn. While the sun still provides warmth, it is an opportune time to enjoy nature and art during the waning weeks of the latest incarnation of the *Inside/Outside* project at the Lynden Sculpture Garden.

This ongoing series presents works by contemporary artists responding to the exhibition space offered in the former home of Harry and Peg Bradley, as well as the estate's grounds. While a living room is reimagined as a conventional gallery space, the grounds open up plenty of room for site-specific statements.

The sprawling nature of the Lynden's 40 acres can at times overwhelm installations of temporary art. The picturesque pond, rolling lawns, and 50 permanent monumental sculptures by 20th-century luminaries such as Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth, and Mark di Suvero are commanding presences. The current *Inside/Outside* installations by Nancy Popp and Paul Druecke are comparatively quiet pieces, requiring attentiveness to appreciate their subtleties.

Los Angeles-based Popp made a series of visits to the Lynden in preparation for her



PHOTO: COURTESY KAT MURRELL

Nancy Popp uses mason line for her installations at the Lynden Sculpture Garden.

work, which involves photography, weaving and orange mason line. The last material is more typically used by bricklayers to ensure straight-line construction.

Popp runs the line in the air, between

trees, in a bright orange tracing against the deep blue sky. The gesture is fragile, sometimes appearing and disappearing depending on light conditions and the vantage point of the viewer. This illustrates a path on a journey of infinite possibilities that visitors may follow when strolling from one place to another. Popp's use of mason line also extends to a woven hammock, which was formed by the artist and her assistants during public performances. Inside the gallery, Popp's photographs of cracked glass from the swimming pavilion connect with the ravages of time on the physical structure and the passing of endless days.

Time and history are integral to Druecke's work. His gallery photographs catch the changing atmosphere of locations at the Lynden, as well as his home in Riverwest.

The distinctions between the dense neighborhood of Riverwest and the expansive lots of River Hills are illustrated through woven rugs. Historical topography is marked by lot lines following the Milwaukee River — lines that demonstrate the contrast between nature and the socioeconomic structures drawn over the land.

Druecke's physical trail, called "Garden Path," leads outside from the patio to a formal garden, and in a more hidden place from the parking lot to the perimeter fence. This installation is punctuated by stone markers and ground stencils. An inscription on one marker reads in part, "The Garden Path commemorates the individuals past, present and future, named and unnamed, who tend Lynden's sculptures and grounds."

While the Lynden is most closely associated with the Bradleys, Druecke's marker acknowledges efforts by the many people who've been instrumental in the creation of what is seen today.

Druecke's art delves into private undercurrents of life, as referenced in the extensive mural "Laundry Day," painted on the outside portion of the Lynden's enclosing fence. As though rippling in the wind, painted sheets billow like sails, hung out for all to see as traffic speeds down Brown Deer Road.

The manners and forms of ordinary life and the places around us are built upon things unseen. These include the historical resonance of people who have come before us, along with abstract structures of community, economics and nature. These can be weighty concepts to consider, but Popp and Druecke explore them through unexpected materials, subtle gestures and nuanced aesthetics.

Inside/Outside: Nancy Popp + Paul Druecke continues through Oct. 26 at the Lynden Sculpture Garden, 2145 W. Brown Deer Road.

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'OF HEAVEN AND EARTH: 500 YEARS OF ITALIAN PAINTING FROM GLASGOW MUSEUMS'

While the Milwaukee Art Museum begins the year-long transformation of gallery space for its permanent collections, it welcomes a slate of new temporary exhibitions. The first opens on Oct. 2 with the arrival of Italian art from the holdings of Glasgow Museums. *Of Heaven and Earth* spans the Renaissance to the present day, offering the viewer a visual history of the ways artists responded to evolving styles and subject matter. Some of the most accomplished artists in the history of painting are represented, with highlights sure to come from revered figures such as Titian and Botticelli. At the Milwaukee Art Museum, 700 N. Art Museum Dr.

—K.M.



PHOTO: COURTESY AMERICAN FEDERATION OF ARTS

Antonio Balestra, "Justice and Peace Embracing," ca. 1700. Bequeathed by Archibald McLellan, 1856 (266).CSG CIC Glasgow Museums Collection.

ART GAZE — MADISON

Alec Soth finds the extraordinary in the ordinary

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Alec Soth has a rare gift for transforming glimpses of ordinary life into extraordinary images — and now we have a chance to see some of his finest work.

The Madison Museum of Contemporary Art showcases the Minneapolis photographer's work in *From Here to There: Alec Soth's America*. On display through Jan. 4 in Madison's Overture Center for the Arts, the exhibit offers 100 images from the artist's first major traveling survey of the United States.

Organized by the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, Soth's exhibition is a very different kind of road trip.

"I just try to follow my curiosity and intuition," says Soth, a graduate of Sarah Lawrence College. "My work shifts in tone from one project to the next, from documentary work to my personally expressive approaches."

Utilizing a cumbersome 8" x 10" camera, Soth recorded the images in the current show during multiple trips across America over the past decade. He follows in the footsteps of narrative photographers like Robert Frank and William Eggleston.

However, Soth's approach and his process of wandering are singular. He carefully chooses random subjects and settings that are singularly subtle in their content.

"If I see something that turns my head, I try to follow up on that," Soth says. "But a good picture is a magical thing. I equate it to pop music. Just about anybody can write a pop song, but a great pop song is rare and almost impossible to define."

In addition to the MMoCA exhibit, Soth and frequent collaborator and writer Brad Zeller will serve as artists-in-residence at UW-Madison for the fall semester. The resi-



PHOTO: COURTESY ALEC SOTH

"Charles, Vasa, Minnesota," 2002. Chromogenic print, 50 x 40 inches.

dency will include several public talks and a course for both undergraduate and graduate students on the intersection of writing and photography.

Although *From Here to There* consists of photographs taken throughout the United States, the exhibition includes several special features. *Sleeping by the Mississippi*, Soth's breakthrough series, chronicles five years the photographer spent traveling up and down the Mississippi River capturing images of overlooked settings.

The series' most famous piece, "Charles, Vasa, Minnesota," shows a jump-suited worker wearing a balaclava and goggles

ON EXHIBIT

The photographic exhibition *From Here to There: Alec Soth's America* runs through Jan. 4, 2015, at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, 227 State St., Madison. For information visit www.mmoa.org or call 608-257-0158.

against a bleak winter landscape. The subject also has two model airplanes in his hands, offering a sense of incongruity and mirth to the image.

Niagara, another of Soth's series featured in the exhibition, chronicles the aging tourist amenities that surround the mighty waterfall, inadvertently commenting on the decay and despair surrounding what was once a symbol of romance and love. One piece in the series is Soth's favorite in the exhibition.

"Perhaps my favorite image is of Melissa, the bride in Niagara Falls," Soth says. "She is photographed just after her wedding. But with this picture, I decided to depict her without the groom. By doing so, the picture becomes less about the specifics of her wedding than of her dreams and aspirations."

The exhibition also features *Broken Manual*, Soth's most recent body of work. In this series, the photographer explores the edges of society, the places people go to escape civilization. His subjects include monks and hermits, outlaws and survivalists.

Other parts of the exhibition include some early, rarely seen black-and-white photographs of Minnesota and a series on repurposed movie theaters in Texas.

Unique to the Madison exhibition is Soth's *Lothlorien* series, photography com-

missioned by MMoCA in 2006 that focuses on the city's 23 housing cooperatives. Among them is Lothlorien, a Tudor-style cooperative on Lake Mendota's southern shore that burned to the ground in 2013.

Soth anticipates a lot of commentary on the Madison exhibition.

"Some people see it as a critique of America, others as a celebration of looking and just about everything in between," he says. "I don't have a specific agenda with the work that I'm trying to express. I'm happy for just about all interpretations."



PHOTO: COURTESY ALEC SOTH

"Melissa, Flamingo Inn," 2005. Chromogenic print, 50 x 40 inches.

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Rachel Sage's 'Blue Roses' blends the old and the new

By Bill Lamb

Contributing writer

Through a connection made via Facebook, New York-based singer-songwriter Rachael Sage is collaborating with a visual artist from Jordan. Young art student Majd Alomari sent samples of her work to the singer, who was so impressed by the anime and graphic novel influences in the art that she invited Alomari to create pieces inspired by the song "Happiness."

Soon the two were working on what became the first lyric video for either of them.

"I had actually intended to do drawings myself for this video, but when she approached me with some of her drawings of me, based on some of my press photos, I was so impressed and immediately knew we needed to collaborate somehow," Sage said. She added that the best part of the project is the connection that was forged "with a kindred spirit" so far away.

The situation reflects the emphases on interpersonal connections that are key to Sage's work.

In advance of her Oct. 6 appearance in Milwaukee, Sage spoke with me about her upcoming 11th studio album *Blue Roses*, on which "Happiness" appears. We also talked about the unexpected television publicity she received earlier this year and her continuing collaboration with legendary vocalist Judy Collins.

Since her first album *Morbid Romantic* in 1996, Sage has received acclaim for her songwriting, her uniquely engaging live performances and the pioneering spirit that led to the creation of her own label — MPress Records. In addition to recording, Sage continues to perform more than 100 live shows a year with her band The Sequins.

During her Oct. 6 visit to Anodyne Coffee in Milwaukee's Walker's Point neighborhood, Sage will celebrate the release of *Blue Roses*, but her fans will have to wait until Nov. 4 for its actual release. Milwaukee-based artist Claudia Johnson also will appear on the bill.

Blue Roses is driven by Sage's efforts to "channel evidence of compassion" into her music, she said. It's a collection of mostly melancholy songs about the impact a single person can have on another's destiny.

The song "Happiness," however, shines through with luminous hope. It is a song that was many years in the making, but ultimately was completed with inspiration from TV exposure that came to Sage from an unexpected direction.

She first found out that her music was going to appear on the hit Lifetime reality show *Dance Moms* through a leaked video. In December 2013, "A fan emailed me a link to something that had leaked on YouTube," she said. "It was so unofficial I didn't know if I could actually believe it."

But it turned out to be true, and ultimately the show used eight Sage songs during its most recent season.



PHOTO: COURTESY SHERMAN LAINEZ

Folk singer-songwriter Rachel Sage releases her 11th studio album, *Blue Roses*, in early November.

Sage said the connection with the show was "particularly exciting for me because I had been a serious ballet student myself." The collaboration ultimately resulted in the song "Happiness," subtitled "Maddie's Song" in a reference to Maddie Ziegler, the show's 11-year-old star.

Blue Roses will also feature another Sage connection — this one a long-term artistic relationship.

Sage said her relationship with Judy Collins began after the folk music legend's manager saw her perform at a showcase in France five or six years ago. A friendship between the artists ultimately blossomed and led to many shared concert stages. On *Blue Roses*, the friends collaborate on a cover of Neil Young's classic song "Helpless."

While Sage said she doesn't disclose a lot of her personal and social life in her music, on stage her bisexuality "certainly comes up just like I would be chatting with anyone." That candor has inspired fans for two decades.

"I've just been doing my small part to try and be as open and honest as I could be all along," she said.

I asked Sage what people who've never seen her perform live should expect Oct. 6: "A hybrid of pop, folk, classical, and my own wacky sense of humor," she responded.

Milwaukee holds a special place in her heart, she added, due to memories of a show with Marc Cohn at the Pabst Theater.

"Every time I cross the city border I get a warm, fuzzy feeling," she admitted.

ON STAGE

Rachael Sage appears in support of her upcoming album *Blue Roses* at 8 p.m. on Oct. 6 at Anodyne Coffee Roasting Co., 2920 S. Kinnickinnic Ave. Call 414-489-0765.

Milwaukee Rep keeps mum about its 'unforgivable' world premiere

By Matthew Reddin

Staff writer

A. Rey Pamatmat doesn't want to tell me anything about his new play, *after all the terrible things I do*.

But he has a good excuse: It's a world premiere production — the first in several years for the Milwaukee Rep — and this is the only time it's going to be staged before an audience that has no idea what to expect.

"There's a purpose for remaining a little cagey," he says. "We're really hoping to preserve our one chance to surprise people."

What little he will reveal is enticing. The play features two characters — a young gay author-in-the-making named Daniel and a Filipino émigré named Linda, who owns the bookstore where Daniel goes to work. The play is set in the Midwestern town where Daniel grew up and where Linda has lived much of her life.

And the two characters share a tragic connection, buried so deep that neither initially knows it exists.

The play comes to Milwaukee almost by chance. Pamatmat met JC Clementz, now a Rep artistic associate, when they were both working at a play festival in Colorado. When Clementz joined the Rep, he asked Pamatmat if he had any plays in process. Pamatmat sent over an early draft of *after all the terrible things I do*, which Clementz shared with Rep artistic director Mark Clements. When Clements learned that Pamatmat was a frequent collaborator with Rep associate artist May Adrales (on plays like *Edith Can Shoot Things and Hit Them*, which premiered at the 2011 Humana Festival), the deal was sealed.

In the course of its development, the play has

changed quite a bit, Pamatmat says. While the overall narrative has remained the same, working with actors has helped him to restructure individual moments. "The emotional lives of the characters are so large and complex that the way things happen has changed dramatically," he says.

The play's origins spring largely from Pamatmat's response to articles about the "It Gets Better" campaign, launched in 2010. "I noticed when reading those articles that a lot of the anti-bullying initiatives focused on victims and not on bullies," he says, "and so I was curious about why we weren't trying to solve that half of the problem."

Pamatmat says writing the play gave him an opportunity to step out of his comfort zone, working with just two characters in a confined space. The challenge with that sort of construction, he says, is that in real life, if a two-person conversation isn't going the way you want it to, you can just leave. In a two-person play, you have to figure out what makes them stay.

His solution, which he found while working with Adrales, hinges on a rejection of contemporary society's tendency toward polarized opinions. We expect people to adopt a staunch position and attack or defend it without ever considering our counterpart's views, he explains.

"I hope people come away from this play understanding the value of empathy for people they don't understand," Pamatmat says.



PHOTO: COURTESY MILWAUKEE REP

A. Rey Pamatmat, author of *after all the terrible things I do*, which will make its world premiere at the Milwaukee Rep.

"Because I don't think that's necessarily about divesting your own principles or giving up your points of view, to recognize the validity of other people's points of view."

I push one more time for a little more detail about the plot, and Pamatmat thinks for a minute. "What the play is asking the audience to do or contemplate is: Is there such a thing as a truly unforgivable act?" he offers. "And is it possible, if you are the person who has performed that unforgivable act, is there any chance that you can come back from it?"

STIEMKE STUDIO SEASON

Pamatmat's *after all the terrible things I do* is the only world premiere play coming to the Stiemke this year, but it's far from the only exciting production in the theater's season lineup:

The Amish Project (Feb. 11–March 22): In the spring, the Stiemke will provide the platform for this powerful one-woman show. Inspired by a school shooting in an Amish community, the play explores grief and forgiveness in the wake of an unimaginable tragedy.

Rep Lab (April 10–13): Every year as its season comes to a close, the Rep's interns unite to produce this short play festival showing off their talents to the city of Milwaukee for a single weekend.

ON STAGE

The Milwaukee Rep's world premiere production of *after all the terrible things I do* opens on Oct. 3 at the Stiemke Studio and runs through Nov. 9. Tickets start at \$30 and can be purchased at 414-224-9490 or milwaukeeerp.org.

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PHOTO: COURTESY THEATRICAL TENDENCIES

Next Fall tells a gay couple's story through both waiting room scenes and flashbacks.

By Matthew Reddin

Staff writer

Faith is a hard subject to tackle onstage without exposing a bias either for it or against it. But with its opening play of the season, *Next Fall*, Theatrical Tendencies believes it's found a show that evenhandedly explores faith by approaching it through love — the love shared by friends and family as well as the lovers at the center of the script.

Written by Geoffrey Nauffts, *Next Fall* opens in the most ominous of settings, a hospital waiting room. That's where Adam (Mark Neufang) sits anxiously hoping his critically injured boyfriend Luke (Raymond Sartler) wakes up from a coma caused by a car accident. By his side are his partner's parents (Donna Lobacz and James Santelle), born-again Christians who are unaware that the two have spent five years as a couple. The audience sees moments from those years in flashbacks throughout the play.

Adam and Luke's relationship has been complicated by the clash between Luke's devout Christian beliefs and Adam's steadfast atheism, as well as the 15-year age difference that separates them. Director Mark Schuster says *Next Fall* examines not only the tensions resulting from those differences but also the relationships each character has with his family and friends. "It's all about people loving people in their lives," he explains.

Schuster first read the play on the recommendation of friends who'd seen the Broadway production a few years ago. He's wanted to stage it ever since, and the Theatrical Tendencies production marks the play's Milwaukee premiere.

In rehearsals, the dialogue comes across so casually that eventually audience members will feel as though they're eavesdropping, Schuster says. The minimalist setup, which can easily transition into various locations, enhances the feeling of intimacy.

Next Fall is the type of play that could

become Lifetime-movie-level maudlin, a direction Neufang says the playwright deftly avoided. "There's a lot of heavy themes," the actor says, "but what's so cool about this script is there's some moments where you laugh right out loud. ...If they're played right, they're really heartwarming and funny."

Take for example Adam and Luke's meet-cute scene: Luke saves Adam by giving him the Heimlich maneuver, and their subsequent one-night stand turns into something more. Even the waiting-room scenes have lighter moments.

The humor helps give the play leeway to explore the nature of faith without becoming unbearably weighty or preachy. Neufang says one of his original concerns was that the play would come off as too critical of either the unbelieving Adam or the evangelical characters, but he was surprised to find that both sides are credibly realized.

Nowhere is that seen more vividly, he says, than with Adam and Luke's relationship itself, able to last for five years despite their radically different stances on faith. "I think there's something with Luke that intrigues Adam," Neufang says. "Even though he's very argumentative with him a lot of times, when it comes to faith, I think he stays with him because there's something about Luke that really intrigues him and keeps him holding on."

With a cast that includes a number of Theatrical Tendencies regulars — also including Amanda Carson and Kevin Gadzalski — the play presents a story that the company has faith will resonate with Milwaukeeans of all religious perspectives.

ON STAGE

Theatrical Tendencies presents *Next Fall* Oct. 10-25 at Soulstice Theatre, 3770 S. Pennsylvania Ave., St. Francis. Tickets are \$20. To order, go to theatricaltendencies.com.



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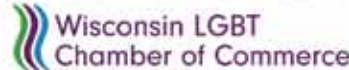
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'Carrie' throws a blood-red light on bullying's horrors



PHOTO: COURTESY THEATRE UNCHAINED

In Theatre Unchained's production of *Carrie: The Musical*, director Thomas Jacobsen is sticking to the traditions that made the book and film infamous, including the gallon of pig's blood that drenches its antiheroine at her prom queen coronation.

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Whether in reference to Stephen King's 1974 novel or either of the two film versions, the name "Carrie" instantly conjures images of a homely high school outcast covered in pig's blood terrorizing her tormentors with telekinetic powers. Soon fans will be able to add singing and dancing to that visceral image.

Theatre Unchained's production of *Carrie: The Musical* opens Oct. 10, just in time for the Halloween season's horror binge. But the musical also offers a strong anti-bullying message, according to director Thomas Jacobsen.

"Bullying is a serious issue that, as uncomfortable as it is to discuss, demands our attention," he says. "I think that is why *Carrie* is such a chilling piece of literature."

In the play, Carrie White (Anna Pfefferkorn) is the only daughter of an abandoned mother (Liz Norton), whose fundamentalist fervor has flowered into full-blown psychosis. Her high school classmates endlessly abuse Carrie. When she experiences her first period in the shower after gym, the abuse ratchets to a fever pitch. At the story's climax, she's mockingly crowned as prom queen, then bathed in blood poured from the gym rafters.

Unfortunately for the bullies, Carrie has destructive telekinetic powers. With a few blinks of the eye, she conjures the ultimate revenge.

"You look at Carrie and see someone that could've been you, and that connection stimulates a lot of the terror in this piece," Jacobsen says. "In lieu of horror fiction that attempts to scare audiences with shock and gore, this Halloween season we are hoping to haunt audiences with something far more harrowing — a story that reflects the realistic horror of bullying."

That's not to say *Carrie: The Musical* doesn't provide some fun along the way to making its points, including a pop score by composer Michael Gore and lyricist Dean Pitchford, who are best known for their collaboration on the musical *Fame*. Lawrence D. Cohen, who adapted King's novel for the 1976 Brian DePalma film starring Sissy Spacek, wrote the show's libretto.

Despite its artistic pedigree, the original 1988 version of the musical opened to bad reviews and a very short run. The show was reimagined, and a new version opened in 2012 to a much better response, Jacobsen says.

"The 2012 version maintains some of the material from the (original) show, but it has also seen a number of improvements, including new songs and re-worked scenes that improve the show and make it more accessible to modern-day audiences," the director says. "Furthermore, much of the

ON STAGE

Theatre Unchained's production of *Carrie: The Musical* runs Oct. 10-26 at 1024 S. Fifth St., Milwaukee. For more information, visit theatreunchained.com or call 414-391-7145.

camp humor that made the show infamous was removed from the book."

The music runs the gamut from rock opera to pop ballads, depending upon whether Carrie is confronting her high school tormentors or her mother, who torments Carrie in a different way.

"*Carrie* is a more realistic portrayal of horror than *Sweeney Todd*, which obscures some of its darker elements with humor," Jacobsen says.

Carrie's telekinetic powers will be on full display in Theatre Unchained's production, complete with books opening, chairs moving and doors slamming shut.

"The prom scene will also incorporate a variety of effects, including moving objects, sparks and dry ice," says Jacobsen. "Making these special effects appear realistic onstage is a challenge, but one that we are excited to undertake."

There also is, of course, the blood, and lots of it. Unlike the recent touring production of *Evil Dead: The Musical*, which played in Madison in September, there is no "splatter zone" to enable audience members to share viscerally in the production. Jacobsen plans to keep his audiences clean while fully saturating his actors.

"After quite a bit of research, the production team decided to move forward with making our own stage blood in two different varieties," Jacobsen says. "As an homage to the 1976 film, we will be dumping a gallon of blood on Carrie each night, using the original formula of corn syrup and red food dye."

The crew has concocted a washable mixture of laundry detergent and red children's paint to use on costumes the director can't afford to permanently stain. And, the director says, the bloodletting will be blocked so no audience members take home unwanted red souvenirs.

The musical stays surprisingly close to the book rather than the film versions, with some obvious exceptions. Onstage, Carrie doesn't set the town on fire and cause stones to rain down from the sky. The play's close association with the novel is what Jacobsen likes most about the show.

"As a Stephen King fan myself, I have taken most of my inspiration for characters and costumes from the original novel, as opposed to the films," he says. "There is a reason the novel is considered a horror classic, and I wanted to use it as a reference point to stage the best show possible."

'You can look at Carrie and see someone that could've been you.'

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'Life Partners' brings producer Jordana Mollick back to her hometown

By Matthew Reddin

Staff writer

As with every film, there's a story behind the story of *Life Partners*, which the Milwaukee Film Festival screens at 7:15 p.m. on Oct. 5 at Milwaukee's Oriental Theatre. That story begins the day producer Jordana Mollick asked her friends Susanna Fogel and Joni Lefkowitz for a contribution to the annual play festival she started in 2011.

For that festival, designed for film and TV writers who wanted to put a project together faster than their usual mediums allowed, Fogel and Lefkowitz "wrote the seed of what became *Life Partners*," Mollick says.

The finished project was wrapped around a clever concept: While structured similarly to a romantic comedy, the movie's central relationship is not between straight couple Paige (Gillian Jacobs) and Tim (Adam Brody), but between Paige and her lesbian best friend Sasha (Leighton Meester). It's a dynamic not often explored in mainstream cinema, and the two women (directed by Fogel, in her directorial debut) do an exemplary job of portraying both the friends' unity as the film opens and their response as Paige's new partner forces them to change or drift apart.

Mollick, a Milwaukee native now living in Los Angeles, says seeing *Life Partners* on movie screens across the United States is the culmination of a dream she, Fogel and Lefkowitz have shared since the curtain came down on that play festival three years ago. "We were really determined to make it, no matter what came in the way," she says.

They were especially lucky to have the film go from stage to screen so



PHOTO: COURTESY HAVEN ENTERTAINMENT

Milwaukee native Jordana Mollick first encountered *Life Partners* as an entry in a play festival for screenwriters.

quickly. Taking it to the Sundance Lab in 2012 kickstarted the process.

The film underwent significant changes in translation. Mollick says original drafts included a marriage pact between Paige and Sasha that the former wouldn't get married before it was legal for the latter to do the same; it was the breaking of that pact that formed the rift in their friendship.

But that political angle was ultimately excised. One reason, Mollick says, is that Fogel and Lefkowitz realized leaving such a pact in would make the film feel quickly dated as marriage equality progressed.

But more importantly, they realized the pact wasn't necessary — the mere fact of Paige progressing toward romantic instead of platonic partnership while Sasha remained in singledom would force their relationship to change on its own.

Mollick says she and Fogel knew the play wouldn't work on screen if their actors didn't have the same connection as their characters, and they all feel that they hit the jackpot with Meester and Jacobs. "The two of them have a natural rapport," Mollick says, particu-

larly in their shared goofy sides. "It made filming like summer camp."

The film also benefits from a supporting cast of strong female characters, many of whom pass through the revolving door of Sasha's dating life.

Abby Elliott plays Vanessa, a deranged girlfriend Sasha clings to romantically as she starts feeling left out by Paige. But an early appearance by Kate McKinnon as a brash blind date nearly upstages her, as does Simone Bailly, who portrays a lawyer Paige tries to set up with Sasha.

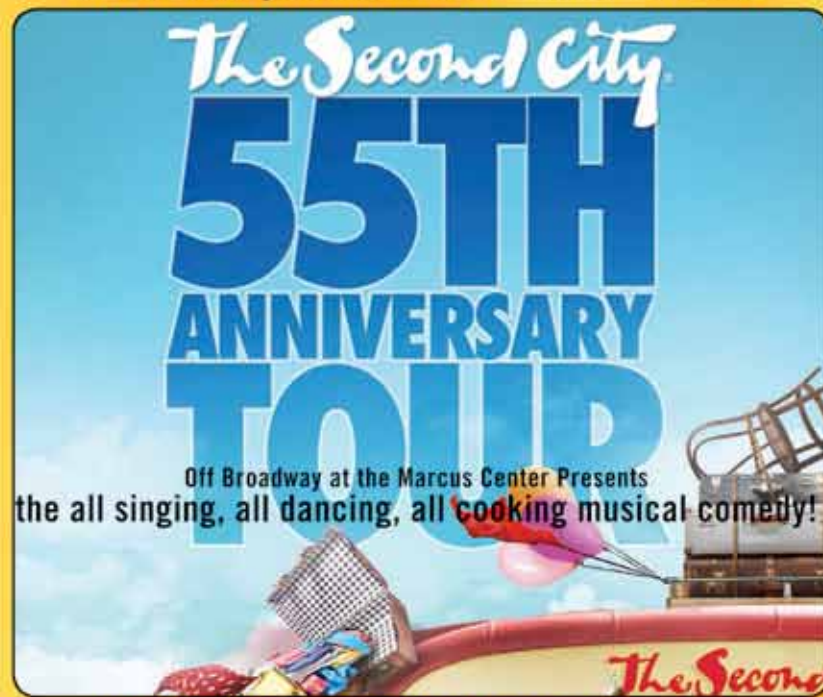
For Mollick, having the film play at the Oriental Theater is a nostalgic tribute to her youth in the city. She attended Nicolet High School and interned at the Skylight Music Theatre before migrating from the stage to the film industry.

Mollick initially studied acting at the University of Minnesota and transitioned into film after graduation. The arts have always been in her blood. "There was no time in my life living in Milwaukee when I didn't think I would be working in the arts," she says.

ON SCREEN

WiG is proud to sponsor the Milwaukee Film Festival's screening of *Life Partners* at 7:15 p.m. on Oct. 5, at the Oriental Theatre, 2230 N. Farwell Ave. Tickets for most of the festival's screenings are \$10, \$9 for seniors and students, \$8 for Milwaukee Film members and \$6 for children 12 and under. To purchase, visit any MFF box office, call 414-727-8468 or go to mkfilm.org.

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ACROSS

- Sir Toby of *Twelfth Night*
- Mosquito enemy
- Wide river valley
- Part of soft palate
- Grassland
- Hamelin's child abductor
- Awful smell
- Banned insecticide
- City in Belgium
- "One, two, _____' _ coming for you..."
- The People Under the _____*, 1991
- Seek damages
- It's more commonly called a pika
- Onomatopoeia for collision
- Young salmon
- Maneuver for attaining particular goal
- Show horse type
- Fireplace smudge
- Famous march composer
- Yugoslavian leader during World War II
- Chef's headgear
- It will
- To impede
- Lowest brass
- Not made up
- _____ *Margery Daw*
- "Like a lot of horror movie scenes"
- First responders
- Metal enemy
- Face twitch, e.g.
- *1976 prom night thriller
- *Movie about a cursed videotape
- Antique shop item
- Federal procurement org.
- Was dishonest with
- DVD player button
- *Don't take one if you star in a Krueger flick
- Fourth letter in Greek alphabet
- Fancy-schmancy
- Be in the red
- Winter driving hazard

DOWN

- In the _____, like a skinny-dipper
- **What _____ Happened to Baby Jane?*
- Stringed instrument with pear-shaped body
- Oafs
- Desperate or badly-off
- Another name for an Oldsmobile
- Nourished
- String bean's opposite
- IV+IV
- Imitator
- 1983 ZZ Top hit
- "... _____ he drove out of sight"
- Mexican beaches
- Brewer's staple
- Big bang maker
- Lawn pastime
- *Norman _____
- Get off the chair
- Opposite of glossy
- Place of origin
- Coconut fiber
- One who is tutored
- Muhammad's religion
- **When a Stranger _____*
- Fans reactions
- London subway
- **Hellraiser III: Hell on _____*
- **Scary Movie 2* bird
- Writing under influence, in text
- Bears or cedes
- Dal _____, in music
- Angler's basket
- *Rabid St. Bernard
- Aphrodite's lover
- Lifestyles of the _____ and Famous*
- Measuring roll
- Doing nothing
- Post-it _____
- Buzzing pest
- Large edible mushroom
- *Movie with same name as certain tool

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

7PM

THE CIRCLE (Der Kreis)

(Stefan Haupt, Switzerland, in Swiss German and German with English subtitles, 102min., 2014)



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

7PM

THE FOXY MERKINS

(Madeline Olnek, US, 82min., 2013)

Star and co-screenwriter Lisa Haas in attendance!



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

7PM

THE WAY HE LOOKS

(Hoje Eu Quero Voltar Sozinho)

(Daniel Ribeiro, Brazil, in Portuguese with English subtitles, 95min., 2014)

Complete schedule and ticket information can be found at arts.uwm.edu/lgbtfilm



Out on the town *October 2 - 16*

A curated calendar of upcoming events



OLD CROW MEDICINE SHOW *8 p.m. on Fri., Oct. 3*

It's been a good year for Old Crow Medicine Show. The Americana string band became the most recent inductee into the Grand Ole Opry last fall and released *Remedy*, its fifth studio album, in July. The band's current tour, which appears Oct. 3 at Madison's Overture Center, will bring with it some of the celebratory spirit attached to those achievements. Opening for the band is the New Orleans-based country-soul band The Deslondes. At 201 State St. Tickets are \$34.75 and can be purchased at 608-258-4141 or overturecenter.org.

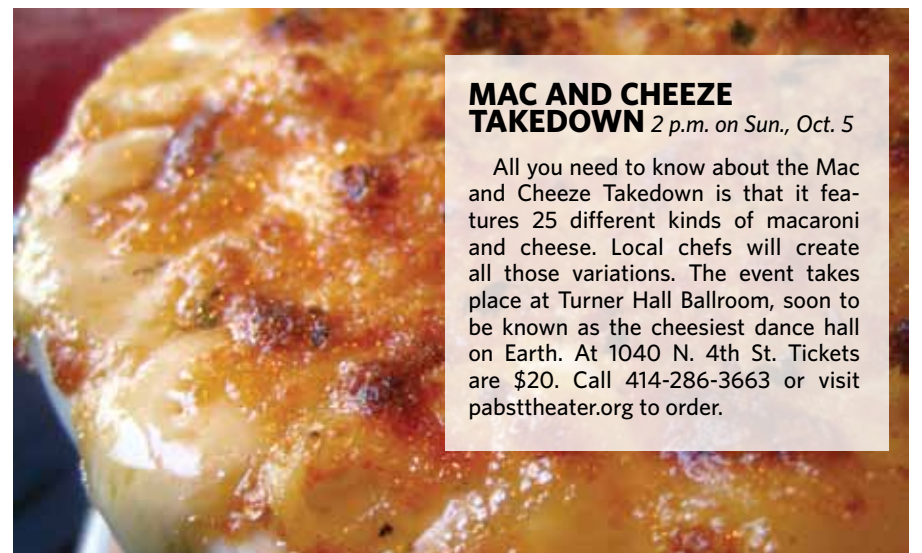


'OF HEAVEN AND EARTH' *Through Jan. 4*

Italy has been a leading artistic hub for so many centuries that it's challenging for a single exhibit to reflect the massive extent of the nation's artistic output. *Of Heaven and Earth* does just that, thanks to the monumental amount of Italian art collected by Scotland's Glasgow Museums and now being presented in this international exhibition. The Milwaukee Art Museum marks the only Midwestern stop for the show, which spans 500 years — from religious paintings of the late Middle Ages and the naturalist masterpieces of the High Renaissance to secular paintings from the 18th century and contemporary avant-garde works. If you want to take in both this exhibit and MAM's personal holdings, you'd better hurry: The main galleries are closing Oct. 20 as part of the museum's restoration project. They won't be open again until 2015. At 700 N. Art Museum Drive. Tickets to *Of Heaven and Earth* are included with admission, \$14 for adults or \$12 for students, seniors and active military. Visit mam.org to learn more.

'AFTER ALL THE TERRIBLE THINGS I DO' *Oct. 3 to Nov. 9*

The Milwaukee Rep opens its Stackner Cabaret season with this world premiere work — a drama about two people forced to acknowledge a shared past that still haunts them. The Rep is keeping most of the details mum — surprise is the name of the game in this sort of play. The protagonists are a young gay writer returning to his Midwestern hometown and a Filipino immigrant who runs the bookstore where he takes a job. At 108 E. Wells St. Tickets start at \$30. Call 414-224-9490 or visit milwaukeeep.com to order.



MAC AND CHEESE TAKEDOWN *2 p.m. on Sun., Oct. 5*

All you need to know about the Mac and Cheese Takedown is that it features 25 different kinds of macaroni and cheese. Local chefs will create all those variations. The event takes place at Turner Hall Ballroom, soon to be known as the cheesiest dance hall on Earth. At 1040 N. 4th St. Tickets are \$20. Call 414-286-3663 or visit pabsttheater.org to order.

Out on the town October 2 - 16



OK GO 8 p.m. on Fri., Oct. 10

OK Go has done such a good job of making elaborate viral music videos, including, arguably, one of the first — the iconic 2006 treadmill dance to “Here It Goes Again” — that it’s possible to forget they’re a power pop band first and filmmakers second. Luckily, they’re coming to Turner Hall this month to promote their new album, *Hungry Ghosts*, so you can get the chance to experience them in their original, YouTube-less format. At 1040 N. 4th St. Tickets are \$17.50 in advance, \$20 day-of-show. Visit pabst-theater.org or call 414-286-3663.

‘LINCOLN AVENUE: CHICAGO STORIES’ READING

7 p.m. on Mon., Oct. 6

Chicago-born writer Gregg Shapiro (also a contributor to *Wisconsin Gazette*) appears at Outwards to tell tales of his time in the Windy City. Shapiro will read from his new book of short stories *Lincoln Avenue: Chicago Stories*, all about growing up gay in Chicago in the ‘70s and ‘80s. Stories include “Lunch with a Porn Star” and “Marilyn, My Mother, Myself.” At 2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee. The reading is free. Visit outwardsbooks.com for more information.

‘WHEN WE GO UPON THE SEA’

7:30 p.m. on Tues., Oct. 7

Next Act Theater is producing this political fantasy about George W. Bush as a one-night-only staged reading by Jonathan Gillard Daly, Steven Koehler and Deborah Staples. Set at the Hague as Bush prepares to appear before the World Court, the play is a musing dissection of the dynamic between our country’s leadership and its citizens. It addresses how years of operating on autopilot led Americans to support a war we’d never considered. The reading will be followed by a talkback. At 255 S. Water St., Milwaukee. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at 414-278-0765 or nextact.org.



‘SHEAR MADNESS’ Oct. 9 to Nov. 15

Milwaukee actor John McGivern returns to one of his most famous roles: the over-the-top hairdresser in the campy, ground-breaking, interactive murder mystery *Shear Madness*. One of the longest-running nonmusical productions of all time, *Shear Madness* opens in a hair salon that quickly becomes a crime scene when it’s discovered that the landlady, who lives upstairs, has been murdered. One of the cast members (salon employees and customers alike) is responsible. Audience members are enlisted to help solve the mystery, and the final suspect is determined by audience vote, which means the production’s conclusion varies from performance to performance. At Potawatomi’s Northern Lights Theater, 1721 W. Canal St., Milwaukee. Tickets are \$49, \$45 or \$40 and can be purchased at 414-847-7922 or paysbig.com.

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A curated calendar of upcoming events



THE SECOND CITY 55TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR

8 p.m. on Oct. 10 and 11

The Second City's touring company has featured some of the biggest names in comedy today, including Tina Fey, Stephen Colbert, Amy Poehler, Key & Peele's Keegan-Michael Key and SNL's Cecily Strong. The troupe coming through the Marcus Center this month doesn't have that level of name recognition yet, but who knows — you might just catch the next big star. At 929 N. Water St., Milwaukee. Tickets are \$35.50 and can be purchased at marcuscenter.org or by calling 414-273-7206.

'ALCESTIS' Oct. 10 to Nov. 9

American Players Theatre's producing artistic director, David Frank, takes his last bow for the company with *Alcestis*. The Greek play, written by Euripedes and translated here by Ted Hughes, tells the story of a king who barter an extension on his life from the gods, a queen who offers herself as the sacrifice and a Heracles who bumbles into the story with a mix of comic bravado and admirable courage. It's a production designed to spellbind, and assuming it does, it'll be a fitting farewell to a 23-season career with the company. At APT's Touchstone Theatre, 5950 Golf Course Rd., Spring Green. Tickets range from \$44 to \$84, and can be purchased at americanplayers.org or 608-588-2361.



GLADYS KNIGHT

8 p.m. on Sat., Oct. 11

Gladys Knight is known as the "Empress of Soul," and it's a title well-earned by years of success as the lead singer of Gladys Knight & the Pips. The R&B legends were responsible for such soul standards as "Midnight Train to Georgia" and "Neither One of Us (Wants to Be the First to Say Goodbye)." Knight later scored solo hits, including the title song from *License to Kill*. She recently released the gospel album *Another Journey*, from which she'll perform at the Riverside Theater, 116 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee. Tickets are \$45, \$55 or \$85, and can be ordered at 414-286-3663 or pabsttheater.org.



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Out on the town October 2 - 16

A curated calendar of upcoming events

RYAN ADAMS 8 p.m. on Tues., Oct. 14

He's found success as the lead singer for alt-country bands like Whiskeytown and The Cardinals, but Ryan Adams has always done his best work as a solo artist. Early '00s albums like *Heartbreaker* and *Gold* earned him widespread critical acclaim, and while he dropped off the radar as the decade progressed, he recently made a triumphant recovery. In addition to acting as the guiding force behind his rising record label PAX AM, he released a new eponymously titled album that marks a return to form. Adams will be joined for the evening by fellow rocker and producer Butch Walker. At Milwaukee's Riverside Theatre, 116 W. Wisconsin Ave. Tickets are \$35 or \$45. Call 414-286-3663 or visit pabsttheater.org to purchase.

'VENUS IN FUR' 7 p.m. on Wed., Oct. 15

Roman Polanski's latest film adapts the acclaimed David Ives play of the same name. It's a sexually charged work about a director stymied in his efforts to find an actress who can embody the domineering woman at the heart of his new play and the actress who suddenly whirls into his audition room and reveals herself perfect for the role — maybe too perfect. Polanski's adaptation takes the action to Paris and the language to French, but the power of the play remains as magnetic as the original. The film screens at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, 227 State St. Tickets are \$7 (free for MMoCA members). Visit mmooca.org for more information.



Sampler
FLAVORS OF FALL

The weather is getting chilly so we're warming up the kitchen with simple-to-prepare fall foods. Stop by and try our homemade squash and apple soup, savory cheeses plus delicious foods and beverages from a bevy of local vendors.

Complementary recipes will also be provided. And, it's our Owner Appreciation Day! Outpost owners will receive a free gift while supplies last.

Saturday
OCT. 11
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