

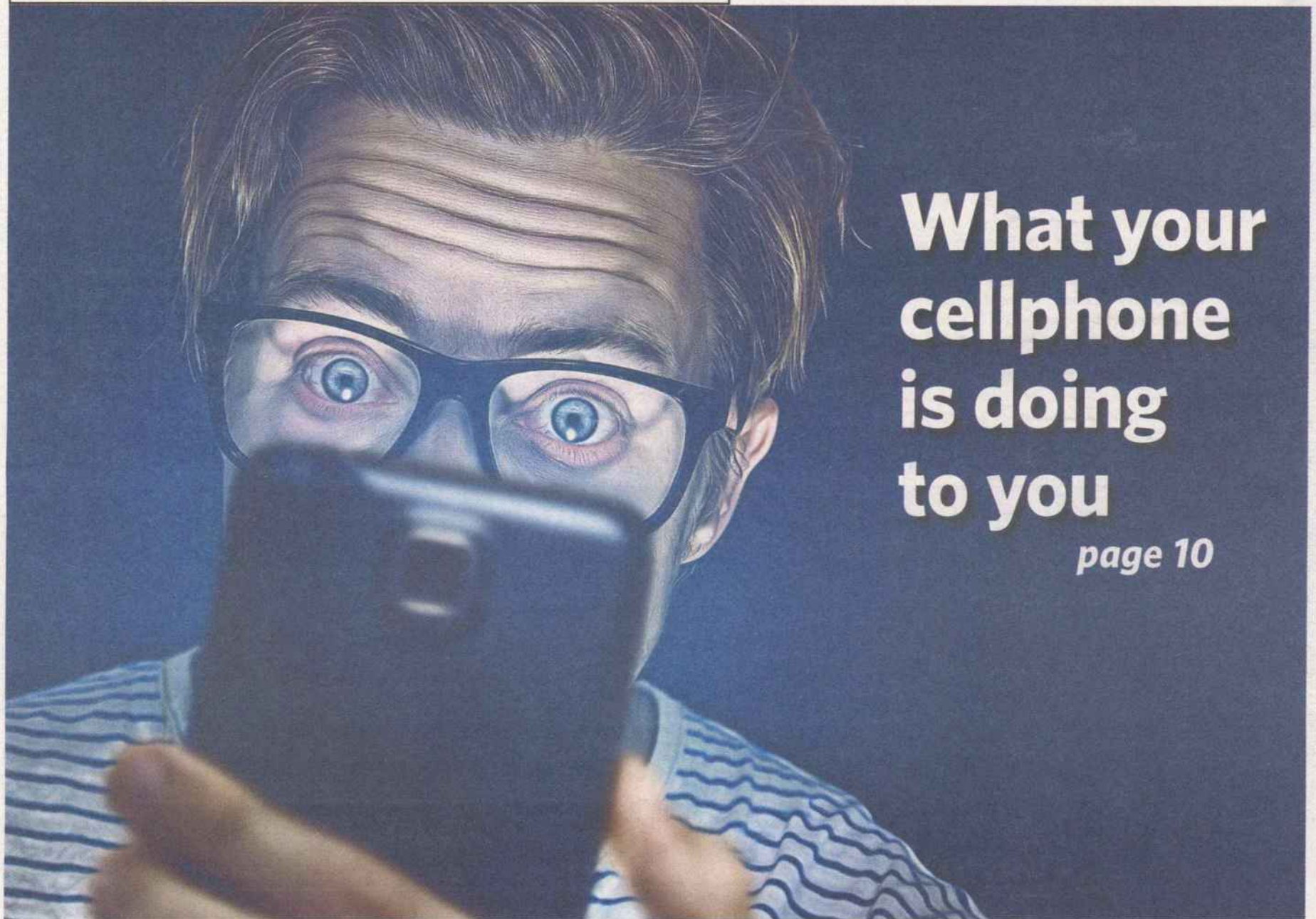
Wisconsin Gazette .com

PROGRESSIVE. ALTERNATIVE.

Enchanting musical weekend
Bon Iver debuted his new album at the 2nd Eaux Claires festival, but there was so much more to the magical weekend.

page 19

August 25, 2016 | Vol. 7 No. 20



What your cellphone is doing to you

page 10



4, 5 Charred morals

Behind headlines about the recent riots in Milwaukee is a story of hope and perseverance in the face of discrimination, economic hardship and shocking neglect.

6 Labor's might

Ahead of November's elections, labor is organizing in a big way to rally voters behind Hillary Clinton and Democratic candidates up and down the ballot.



8 Pot not

Two petitions filed with the federal government to reclassify marijuana went to pot in August.

24, 26 Up the Hill at APT

Award-winning critic Michael Muckian reviews two productions now on stage at American Players Theatre — *King Lear*, right, and *Endgame*.



News with a twist



WIGWAG

By Lisa Neff and Louis Weisberg

MEMORY LAPSE

Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani claims that "successful" attacks of terrorism never occurred on U.S. soil until President Barack Obama took office. Giuliani, of course, was the mayor of New York City when the World Trade Center's twin towers were destroyed in the worst terrorist attack in the nation's history. George W. Bush was president at the time.

GLOBE-TROTTING DUCK

An oversized rubber duck stolen from a New Hampshire family's home five years ago has returned. After the duck's disappearance, the Troiano family began receiving cryptic postcards and pictures of it from locations all over the world. A Facebook page documenting the globe-trotting of "Gale Ducky" gained a large following. But Gale Ducky recently ended the adventure, returning home with a suitcase full of mementos from 20 countries and cities across the United States and the globe. The duck's human travel companion remains a mystery.

HIGH ON THE FUMES?

Police in the southern Oregon community of Rogue River made their largest pot seizure ever after a man notified them that he'd stumbled upon a porta potty in a park that was filled with marijuana plants. Police Chief Ken Lewis said he doesn't know how the pot got there. But he speculated the toilet might have been a pickup place.

DEVIL IN THE CLASSROOM?

The Satanic Temple of Seattle has asked the Mount Vernon School District in the state of Washington for permission to start an after-school program. The group made the request after learning the Good News Bible Club, which is run by the Child Evangelism Fellowship, had a program at a local elementary school. A 1991 U.S. Supreme Court ruling stated that if schools allow any organization to use school property, they must allow access to all organizations, religious and secular. The district is exploring how to handle the conundrum.

LEAVE IT TO BEAVERS

A man and his prosthetic leg have been reunited after two canoers near Wabeno, Wisconsin, saw it sticking out of a beaver dam. Canoers Elliot Fuller and Jason Franklin said they thought it was part of a corpse until they got close enough to pull it out. Searching Craigslist, they found an ad from a man who said he lost a prosthetic limb after his canoe tipped during a July fishing trip. The canoers got a \$50 reward.

HIS HEART BELONGS TO DADDY

Her father's heart recipient recently escorted a Pennsylvania bride down the aisle. Arthur Thomas received the donated organ after a mugger killed the bride's dad 10 years ago. Jeni Stepien said she was thankful his heart and spirit were able to attend her wedding. Thomas said he couldn't imagine a greater honor than escorting the daughter of the man who gave him his heart.

JAILHOUSE ROCKERS

Rod Blagojevich, the most

recent ex-governor of Illinois to be serving time in federal prison, has always been a big Elvis fan. He was known for peppering his speeches with snippets of his Elvis impersonation. Now comes word that Blago formed a band in the big house called the "The Jailhouse Rockers." The former governor served as the lead singer, and the group had a 21-song play list. But the group dissolved after the lead guitarist was released. Usually that's when bands reunite.

THE CUT SEEN 'ROUND THE WORLD

On his way to the Olympics, Michael Phelps got a haircut from an Atlanta barber, then snapped a selfie of himself with his new cut surrounded by a crowd of smiling barbers and customers. The shot quickly received more than 60,000 likes after the record-setting swimmer posted it on Instagram. The caption on his post read, "Thanks to the boys at #vintage barber shop for the nice trim before rio!" Raefus Cox, the barber who gave Phelps the trim, said he watched the Games all

week with an extra sense of pride. "I wanted to see my haircut across the world," Cox said, adding that Phelps is "a pretty cool, a great guy."

THE DONALD UNVEILED

An anarchist collective known as INDECLINE commissioned and placed five statues of a naked Donald Trump across the nation to protest the Republican presidential nominee's racism and ignorance. The project was called "The Emperor Has No Balls" — and neither did the statues. The rugs, however, matched the curtains, lending support to the Donald's claims of authenticity.

WHY HIM?

Tony Perkins says natural disasters are caused by LGBT people, who bring down the wrath of God on places such as New Orleans and New York. So how does he explain the recent flooding in God-fearing southern Louisiana? And how does he explain why his house was one of many that were demolished?

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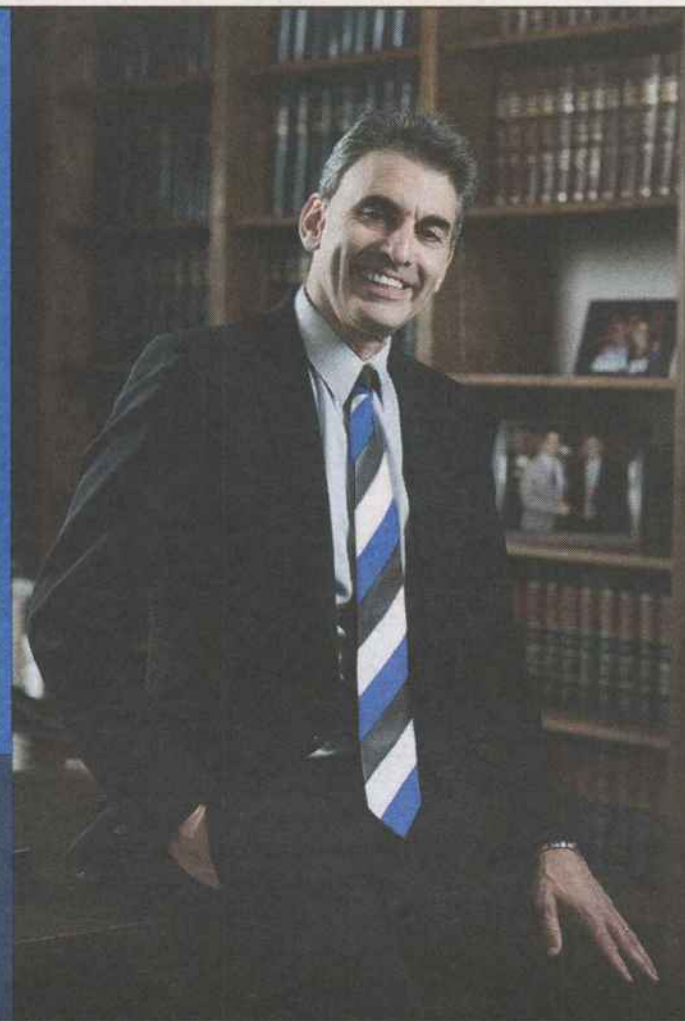
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WEDC issued false claims of producing jobs in Sherman Park

WIG report

Gov. Scott Walker's troubled job agency has not created new jobs in Milwaukee's Sherman Park neighborhood, despite claiming otherwise.

Citizen Action of Wisconsin conducted a review of reporting by the Wisconsin Economic Development Agency and could verify no job creation in the area, which was the site of civil unrest Aug. 13-14.

As Citizen Action has documented, Sherman Park is one of the places that has borne the brunt of the outsourcing and deindustrialization that has taken place since the 1970s.

Citizen Action's review of the WEDC's database found claims of creating 483 jobs in the area.

The map on WEDC's website lists eight companies in Sherman Park receiving tax credits or related incentives to create jobs. Only three of them claim to have done so.

However, an investigation revealed the three companies show they are not located in Sherman Park.

Of the three "Sherman Park" companies on the WEDC map:

- Saelens Corporation, which received \$400,000 in tax credits, is actually based closer to Menomonee Falls on Milwaukee's far northwest side.

- Novation Companies, which received \$750,000 in tax credits, is actually based downtown and is selling its office to a California tech company.

- Merge Healthcare Inc., which received \$500,000 in tax credits, is actually based in Hartland.

Even if WEDC had created 483 jobs, that would not be nearly the scale of employment necessary to help the thousands of area residents who cannot find good jobs.

The revelation that Wisconsin's flagship economic development agency is doing little to nothing for one of the most economically distressed areas in the United States is consistent with early reports by Citizen Action and others that WEDC is emphasizing investments in wealthy sub-

urbs. WEDC's own website takes credit for impacting more jobs in Waukesha County (12,317) than Milwaukee County (11,889), despite Milwaukee's much greater population and poverty rates.

Also, Walker chose to turn down more than \$800 million in federal money for high-speed rail, forcing a train manufacturer in the Sherman Park neighborhood to leave Wisconsin. This could have been an anchor for further economic development.

"It is clear that Sherman Park and other economically devastated areas like it have been abandoned by Gov. Walker's failed economic strategy," said Robert Kraig, executive director of Citizen Action of Wisconsin. "WEDC's misrepresentations of its job creation efforts in Sherman Park are yet another affront to area residents, who simply want real economic opportunity and their fair share of the American dream."

"For decades, jobs within Milwaukee's industrial core have been lost to other countries and other communities. We

know investment is deeply needed, yet we haven't seen it — and now must find answers to where the state's flagship jobs agency is actually making its investments," said state Rep. Evan Goyke, whose district includes part of Sherman Park. "Where did the money actually go? As we move to build strong neighborhoods throughout Milwaukee, we are left asking questions about the state's investment, which could be the economic foundation from which to rebuild prosperity in Milwaukee's most economically distressed neighborhoods."

On Aug. 23, Citizen Action of Wisconsin held a news conference on a block in Sherman Park where WEDC falsely claimed to have created new jobs. Local lawmakers and leaders called "for massive state investments to expand opportunity in Milwaukee's urban core."

The information in this article was provided by Robert Kraig, executive director of Citizen Action Wisconsin.

Man killed in police shooting 'just trying to survive'

The Associated Press

The man killed in a police shooting that sparked two nights of violence in Milwaukee suffered from cognitive and mental health issues. He carried a gun because he had been shot more than once in the past, his grandfather said.

Sylville Smith had a lengthy criminal past, but was just trying to survive in the inner city, William Brookins told The Associated Press.

"In this city, there's a lot of killings going on in the street," said Brookins, who detailed Smith's problems in a letter to a judge last year seeking mercy for his grandson. "He was afraid for his life. He was concerned about his safety and surviving."

Smith, 23, was shot and killed Aug. 13 after a brief foot chase that followed a traffic stop. Police say Smith was fleeing and officials have said the officer's body camera shows Smith being shot after he turned toward the officer with a gun in his hand.

CNN reported the officer responsible for the shooting — named by the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* as Dominique Heagan — knew Sylville from high school.

A source close to the family accused the young officer, 24 — who like Sylville Smith is an African-American — of having a "personal vendetta" against Smith.

RUN-INS WITH THE LAW

Smith had several run-ins with the law dating to 2013, including speeding, driving without insurance, driving with a suspended license and having open alcohol in

a vehicle.

In 2013, he was charged with felony retail theft for allegedly stealing \$1,600 worth of DVDs from a Milwaukee Wal-Mart. According to a criminal complaint,

gators alleged he fired on a man in retaliation for the man's role in a fight between some girls. According to a complaint, Smith and the man got into a car chase before the man finally stopped and ran on foot. Smith

FEAR OF BEING HURT'

Brookins described Smith as a good kid with a "beautiful personality."

Smith was known for his hip-hop dance moves and trained in gymnastics when he was in middle school, Brookins said.

He also suffered from mental health issues, Brookins said. He said Smith had problems with "comprehension and understanding," and that he'd spent time in special classes in elementary and middle school. In a letter to the judge in the reckless endangerment case, Brookins wrote that Smith received Social Security because of his mental health problems.

Smith had been shot on more than one occasion, Brookins said. The last time was "a few years ago" when he was hit six times in front of his mother's house. His grandfather said Smith still carried bullet fragments in his body.

Smith started carrying a gun after that incident.

Smith's mother, Mildred Haynes, told the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* that her son had recently received his concealed-carry license because he had been shot twice and robbed four times, including a robbery in which he was stripped of all his clothes.

"I'm not going to say he was an angel. He was out here living his life," Smith's godmother, Katherine Mahmoud, told the newspaper.

"It's hard to grasp he's no longer here," Brookins said. "Oh, my God. This is terrible."

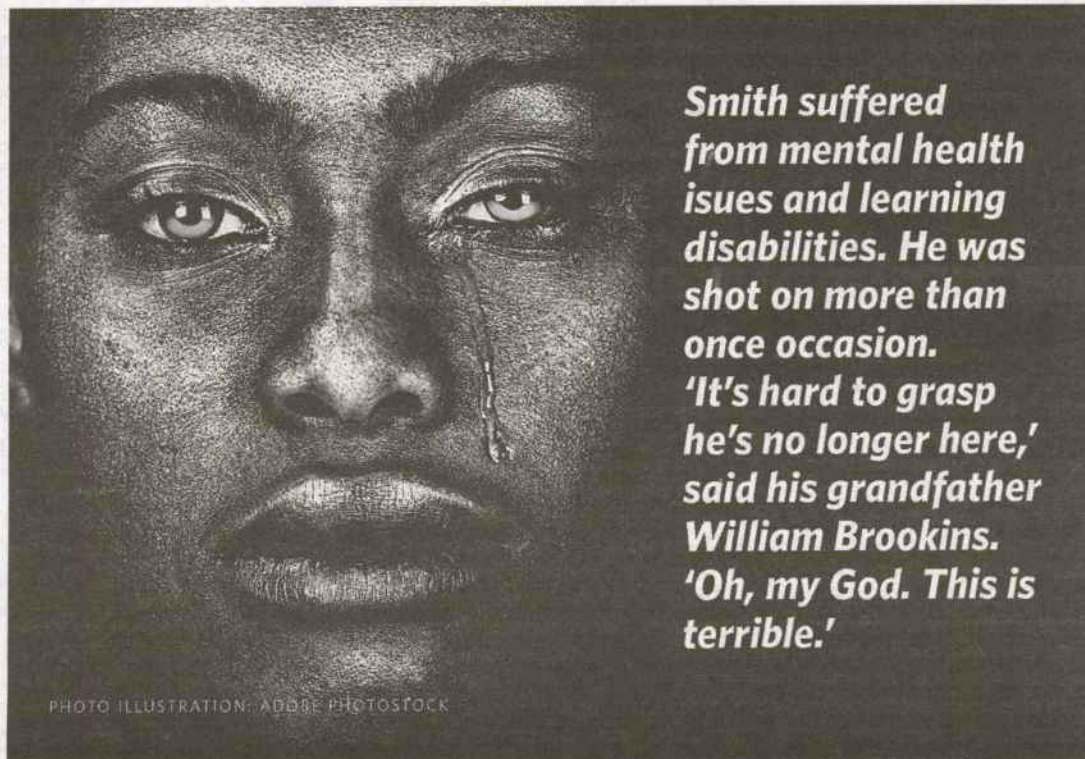


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: ADBBE PHOTOSTOCK

Smith suffered from mental health issues and learning disabilities. He was shot on more than once occasion. 'It's hard to grasp he's no longer here,' said his grandfather William Brookins. 'Oh, my God. This is terrible.'

Smith and another man were seen removing fans from their boxes and putting the DVDs in the boxes. Prosecutors later dismissed the charge.

A year later, he was charged with carrying a concealed weapon without a permit, a misdemeanor. Smith pleaded guilty and was sentenced to one day in jail.

In early 2015, Smith was charged with reckless endangerment, a felony. Investi-

gated after the man and shot at him. He eluded Smith by hiding behind a house, according to the complaint.

As that case was pending, Smith was charged with felony intimidation of a witness — the man he was accused of shooting at. Prosecutors said he had his girlfriend called the man and pressured him to recant. The man did, according to prosecutors, who dropped both cases that year.

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Wisconsin LGBT
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EDITORIAL

Sherman Park shows strength, resolve despite often-hopeless circumstances

Evan Goyke, who lives in Sherman Park and represents the area in the Assembly, says the neighborhood's real character was missing in the media frenzy over the recent riots there following an officer-involved shooting.

"Sherman Park is an incredibly strong, diverse neighborhood," Goyke says. "It's not an epicenter of crime in Wisconsin."

During his campaigns, Goyke has walked the neighborhood door to door and found it to be "a wonderful place." On any given day, he says, the local Boys and Girls Club and the park are bustling with healthy youth and family activities.

Despite overwhelming challenges, the people of Sherman Park have maintained a strong sense of community. Following the Aug. 13 riots, local faith communities organized cleanup efforts that drew hundreds of volunteers, including Goyke and his wife, to sweep and pick up debris left over from the fires and vandalism.

Mayor Tom Barrett and Police Chief Edward Flynn credited church groups and "many others" for staging peaceful demonstrations, prayers and vigils the next morning.

Those people set a tone, they said, that eased unrest on the second night after the shooting.

"There is a story that needs to be told about how the community responded and how everyday people went through their doorsteps to go be a part of prayer and a part of healing," Goyke says. "It was really powerful to be there. That gives me hope and faith."

Flynn blamed outside agitators, particularly the Chicago chapter of the Revolutionary Communist Party, for upending what had begun as a peaceful protest the afternoon after the shooting death of 23-year-old Sylville K. Smith during a brief armed standoff with a police officer. Smith's family members say the victim and the officer, both African-Americans, knew each other from high school.

Nearly 40 percent of Milwaukee's 600,000 residents are black, and they are heavily concentrated in North Side neighborhoods like Sherman Park, where manufacturing jobs that paid middle-class, union wages once proliferated. But those jobs and the ripple effect that they had on the local economy — the mom-and-pop retailers who thrived by providing goods and services to the working community — are gone now.

Indeed, African-American neighborhoods in Milwaukee have endured decades of unconscionable neglect from state and local leaders. The result: struggling and closed schools, underfunded infrastructure and a failure to address the chronic lack of jobs, transportation, affordable housing and health care.

The attitude of the state's Republican leadership has been offensive. They write off inner-city areas as Democratic strongholds not politically worth their attention. Then they exploit the problems that arise from poverty to divide the electorate. In effect, those leaders fail to ameliorate the hopelessness that fuels violence in such neighborhoods, only to hold up the black people who live there as bogeyman who will overrun white suburbia unless Republicans remain

in charge. We saw precisely that sort of rhetoric in both of Scott Walker's campaigns against Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett.

Donald Trump is only the latest Republican to use that dog whistle. In a rally on Aug. 16 in West Bend — the black population of which is 1.2 percent — Trump told his almost all-white audience about Milwaukee's "so many problems, so many problems." Message received, apparently: As reported by the *Journal Sentinel*, "People up here don't really care about what's going on in Milwaukee," said Jared Gagnon-Palick of West Bend. "I grew up in Milwaukee, and I moved here to get away from all the crime with three little kids."

In addition to scorn, indifference and outright fear, black inner-city neighborhoods throughout America have suffered decades of unrelenting harassment and assault from the law enforcement officers hired to protect them. It wasn't until the advent of smartphones with video cameras that white America got a real picture of the indignities our African-American compatriots have endured.

Police target people of color with traffic stops and aggressive arrests, often for infractions that most whites could talk their way out of. Just ask your black friends about the reality of "DWB" — driving while black.

To add insult to injury, the court system's modus operandi seems to be: the darker the complexion, the harsher the punishment.

Officials have only made the situation worse by foreclosing on homeowners who are behind in their property taxes, leaving swaths of vacant houses boarded up. Those foreclosures come on top of the homes lost in the area in the foreclosure crisis of the Great Recession.

The stately houses and trim lawns that once made Sherman Park a desirable place to live are only remembered now by older Milwaukeeans. More violence will deter others from investing in and participating in the community.

Milwaukee was beset by protests and calls for police reform after an officer shot and killed Dontre Hamilton, a mentally ill black man, in 2014. We were surprised that the powder keg didn't ignite then in Milwaukee, as it did in so many other U.S. cities. How much worse might it be here the next time?

The recent outpouring of anguish and rage must serve as a wake-up call telling our leaders that inequality and injustice are not only morally wrong but also dangerous and destructive. Milwaukee's future is not secure until the scourge of racism and economic hopelessness loosens its grip.

We hope that our state's GOP leadership and Milwaukee's elected officials and top businesspeople saw the flames of despair rising from Sherman Park on Aug. 13 and act decisively. Disentangling the many overlapping problems we face will not be easy. It will require multidimensional strategies, fierce commitment and creative thinking. We all will have a role to play.

And it will take time, which is something we can no longer afford to waste.

RECOGNIZING THE ACLU'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO A FREE SOCIETY

In 1965, four siblings and a friend wore black armbands to school to protest the Vietnam War. They were suspended. The ACLU sued on their behalf and the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the First Amendment applied to public schools so long as the speech did not significantly interfere with school discipline or the rights of others.

The ACLU of Wisconsin holds its annual Bill of Rights on Nov. 19.





Groups charge censorship over relocation of paintings

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Anti-censorship groups recently appealed to the University of Wisconsin-Stout not to remove or relocate two 80-year-old paintings that depict First Nations people and French fur traders.

UW-Stout Chancellor Bob Meyer said the paintings were being relocated for display under "controlled circumstances" because of student complaints.

Meyer said Native American students feel the paintings symbolize a time when their land and possessions were taken from them, according to the AP. The school is moving the paintings because of their potential for harmful effect and because they could reinforce racial stereotypes.

Anti-censorship groups responded to the decision, including the National Coalition Against Censorship, which was contacted by a UW-Stout professor.

"Shrouding or moving the painting does not educate anyone or stimulate any learning or dialogue. American history and representations of that history can be ugly and offensive," said Stout English and philosophy professor Timothy Shiell. "But hiding them doesn't change the past or the future."

NCAC contacted Meyer on Aug. 5 and urged his administration to reconsider.

Cal Peters created the paintings in 1936. The 6-foot-by-18-foot murals were commissioned under the Works Progress Administration and depict a French fort and fur traders with Native Americans canoeing the Red Cedar River.

The earliest news reports on the issue said UW-Stout planned to place the paintings into storage.

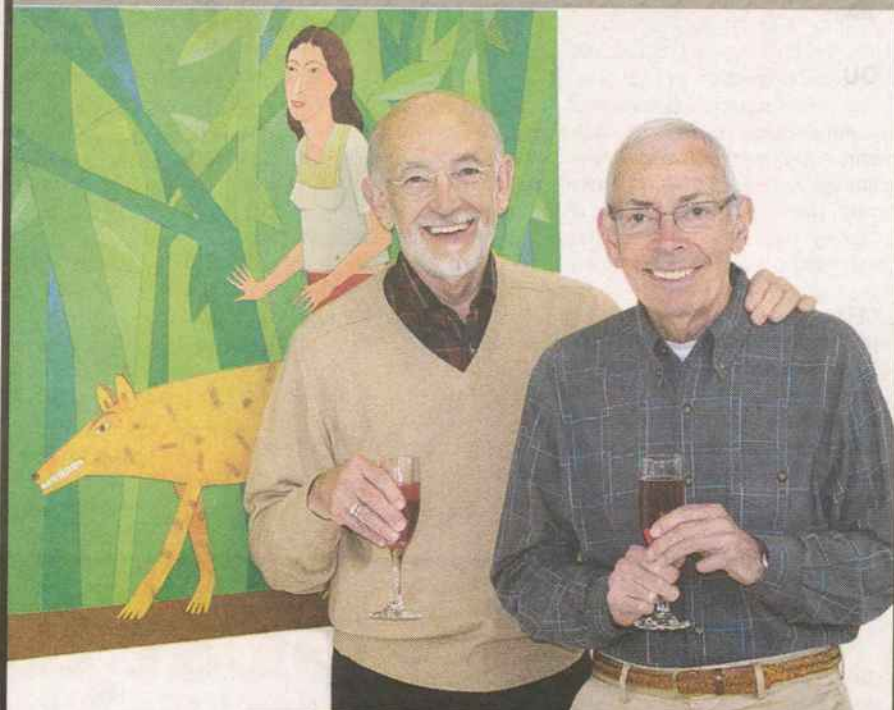
That news prompted a series of complaints from conservative commentators and right-wing politicians about "political correctness."

But the decision to relocate the paintings also brought reaction from more serious sources, like the NCAC. It said historical work like Peters' paintings provides an opportunity to engage with and reflect on the lasting and important questions raised by these traces of historical memory. "At a time when the lingering effects of systemic prejudice and racism continue to be felt this is of particular importance," NCAC said.

Later, after the university announced plans not to remove but to relocate the paintings, NCAC director of programs Svetlana Mintcheva said, "Encounters with an often brutal history are part of the educational process, censoring stories that don't feel good is not. What's worse is the disrespectful and patronizing assumption that future students need to be shielded from these historical realities."

Meyer told Wisconsin Public Radio the decision was not based on political correctness or censorship. He said, "So, we want to make sure that, really, what we decorate our hallways with and what we put in our hallways is consistent with our values to try to attract more Native Americans to the university."

A Better View On Life



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Labor flexes muscle for Clinton, Democrats

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Labor is organizing in a big way to rally voters behind Hillary Clinton and Democratic candidates up and down the general election ticket.

In mid-August, Clinton and GOP candidate Donald Trump detailed for Detroit audiences their plans and policy ideas on taxes, regulations, trade pacts and job growth. The candidates offered their economic visions as polls continue to put the economy at the top of voters' concerns.

Labor leaders and labor-friendly politicians liked what they heard from Clinton and expressed distaste for the ideas and actions of the Trump campaign.

In Wisconsin, Trump recently appointed billionaire Diane Hendricks — notorious in the state for escaping income taxes — to his economic advisory board.

The Republican nominee's proposals prioritize millionaires and corporations over children and families, said U.S. Rep. Gwen Moore, D-Wis.

State Rep. Eric Genrich, D-Green Bay, said the same Aug. 18, when he gathered at Green Bay Packaging with

members of the United Steel Workers, the largest industrial union in North America.

Genrich said Trump's misplaced economic priorities would benefit the wealthy while Clinton's plans would build an economy for everyone.

Steven Childers, president of USW 1319, and Mark Cherney, president of USW 1319, also spoke, joining Genrich in calling on Trump to release his tax returns like every other major party presidential candidate has done for the last 40 years.

HOLDING TRUMP SUPPORTERS ACCOUNTABLE

Meanwhile, the AFL-CIO in Wisconsin was focusing on U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson's ties to Trump. Johnson is running against Democrat Russ Feingold in the general election.

The union on Aug. 18 launched a round of petitions targeting senators and Senate candidates who have endorsed Trump or who have failed to denounce the Republican candidate's incendiary remarks.

"These petitions are all about education and accountability," AFL-CIO president Richard Trumka said in a state-

ment to the press. "It is important that our members know which senators have aligned themselves with Trump's radical agenda and demand better."

In addition to those in Wisconsin, petitions were circulating in Florida, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

The petitions note Trump's encouragement of violence at his rallies, his proposed ban on Muslims coming to the United States and his disparaging remarks against Mexicans.

The petitions also say Trump has voiced support for so-called "right to work" laws intended to weaken or destroy unions, suggested women "should find another career if they're sexually harassed" and said wages are "too high," even though incomes have stagnated or decreased for many low-income or middle-income U.S. workers.

RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE

"This year, underpaid Americans will show elected leaders in every state in America that they are a voting bloc that cannot be ignored and will not be denied," said Mary Kay Henry, president of the Service Employees International Union.

Henry joined thousands of activists this summer at a national convention in Richmond, Virginia, to organize for Election Day and rally around the fight for a \$15 minimum wage.

Organizers said they selected Richmond as the convention site because it was the capital of the old Confederacy.

"We abolished slavery more than 150 years ago, but its legacy is still felt in economic policies and working conditions that hold back black and Latino working people across America," said Sepia Coleman, a home care worker attending from Memphis, Tennessee. "When you add in decades of attacks on workers who organized unions, you get a devastating result that has left tens of millions of us unable to support our families."

Convention-goers celebrated some victories, including the adoption of a Democratic Party platform that calls for a \$15 federal minimum wage.

There also was a memorial and recognition that "Black Lives Matter" and a march through Richmond that ended at a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

At the statue, the Rev. William Barber II — a founder of the Moral Mondays movement in North Carolina and a speaker at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia — addressed the marchers.

"Every step forward in our nation's history — every stride toward a more perfect union — has been the result of people coming together, pushed by a moral movement toward higher ground," he said. "It took us 400 years from slavery to the present to reach \$7.25, but that was far too long and we can't wait. We have to stand together and fight now for \$15 and union rights."

IN THE PLATFORM

The 2016 Democratic National Platform, adopted by delegates to the convention in July in Philadelphia, states, "Democrats believe that the current minimum wage is a starvation wage and must be increased to a living wage. No one who works full time should have to raise a family in poverty. We believe Americans should earn at least \$15 an hour and have the right to form a union and will work in every way we can ... to reach this goal."

The platform also states, "We also support creating one fair wage for all workers by ending the sub-minimum wage for tipped workers and people with disabilities."

— L.N.

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Species SOS Habitat destruction, exploitation imperil threatened species

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

Habitat destruction and overharvesting endanger more than 8,000 species on the "red list" of the world's threatened species.

The "red list" is maintained by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, which convenes its World Conservation Congress in Hawaii Sept. 1-10. The list is the most comprehensive inventory of the global conservation status of biological species.

In mid-August, the IUCN and the Wildlife Conservation Society at the University of Queensland warned the conversion of habitat into agricultural lands and overharvesting imperils three-quarters of the world's already threatened species.

The over-exploitation of animals or land is taking place at rates that cannot be compensated for by reproduction or regrowth,

the team of scientists found.

The scientists said 72 percent of species are imperiled by over-exploitation and 62 percent of species are imperiled by agricultural activity.

"Addressing these old foes of overharvesting and agricultural activities are key to turning around the biodiversity extinction crisis," said Sean Maxwell of the University of Queensland. "This must be at the forefront of the con-

servation agenda."

The scientists identified 5,407 species threatened by agriculture, including the African wild dog, Asia's hairy-nosed otter and the cheetah.

Illegal hunting is decimating populations of all rhinoceros and elephant species, as well as the Western gorilla and Chinese pangolin.

Other threats are affecting substantially fewer species. For example, climate

change — currently ranked seventh among the 11 threats the scientists studied — threatens hooded seals.

In Hawaii, scientists, government officials, organization leaders and industry representatives will gather to focus on how best to deal with the biggest threats to biodiversity.

"Reducing immediate impacts is essential to tackling the biodiversity crisis, but climate change could become an increasingly dominant threat for species in the coming decades," said Dr. Thomas Brooks of the IUCN.

He added that actions that best reduce current threats "are often a sensible first step in responding to the challenges of rapid climate change."



PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Illegal hunting is decimating populations of all species of the rhinoceros, as well as elephants, Western gorillas and Chinese pangolins.



Civil liberties countdown

WiG asked retiring ACLU of Wisconsin executive director Chris Ahmuty to share with readers the seven most important civil liberties advances over the past 30 years. These will appear in each of our seven issues to be printed before the organization's annual Bill of Rights fundraising dinner on Nov. 19.

The countdown to the top begins with No. 7 on Ahmuty's list.

NO. 7

"ACLU of Wisconsin members believe that for the Constitution to protect all of us it must protect each of us," Ahmuty said. "We sometimes represent unpopular clients. We

have successfully sued to improve medical and mental health care for prisoners. Milwaukee County Jail (1996 to present); Bosobel supermax (2000-02); transgender state prisoners denied essential transition-related care (2006-11); Taycheedah women's prison (2006-16); and Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake juvenile facilities (investigating)."

Ahmuty's No. 6 choice appears in the Sept. 8 issue. — Louis Weisberg

WiG is the media sponsor of the ACLU of Wisconsin's Bill of Rights dinner on Nov. 19.

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No reclassification of pot, but maybe more research

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

Two petitions filed with the federal government to reclassify marijuana went to pot in August.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency said marijuana has no accepted medical use and will continue to be classified as a Schedule I drug.

DEA Acting Administrator Chuck Rosenberg wrote in a letter to petitioners Govs. Jay R. Inslee of Washington state and Gina Raimondo of Rhode Island that marijuana "does not have a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States, there is a lack of accepted safety for its use under medical supervision and it has a high potential for abuse."

The governors had sought reclassification of marijuana from a Schedule I drug, a class that includes heroin and peyote, to a Schedule II drug, a class that includes cocaine, morphine and opium.

In recent years, more than half the states, including Washington and Rhode Island, have legalized marijuana for recreational or medicinal use.

MORE RESEARCH?

The DEA also announced in August plans to make it easier for researchers to study the benefits of marijuana by expanding the number of DEA-registered entities that can grow pot. Currently only the University of

Mississippi is authorized to supply about 350 researchers.

"Research is the bedrock of science and we will — as we have for many years — support and promote legitimate research regarding marijuana and its constituent parts," Rosenberg stated.

He continued, "DEA has never denied an application from a researcher to use lawfully produced marijuana in a study determined by the Department of Health and Human Services to be scientifically meritorious."

Legislators in pro-pot states, as well as some physicians and many health care advocates, criticized the DEA's scheduling decision and challenged the assertion by Rosenberg that the federal government's pot prohibitions have not interfered with marijuana research.

"One of the main reasons the DEA said it won't reclassify marijuana is because there aren't enough studies showing if marijuana has medicinal benefits," said California state Rep. Sam Farr. "What's frustrating is that because the DEA says marijuana is a Schedule I drug, it's extremely difficult for medical researchers to access the drug to study it."

FAILED FEDERAL POLICIES

The DEA announced its decisions in a notice in the *Federal Register* after a lengthy review and consultation with the HHS.

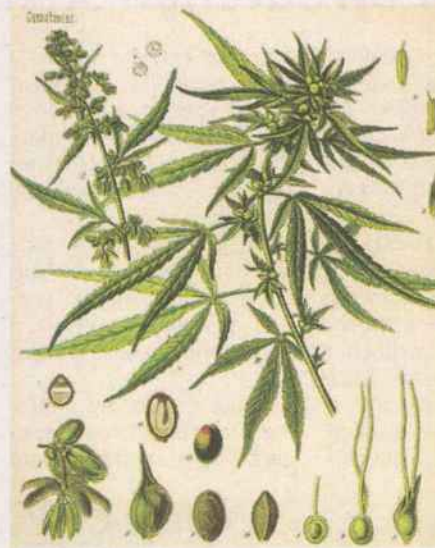


PHOTO: GRAPHICSTOCK
Cannabis, as illustrated in Köhler's *Medicinal Plants* from 1897. The DEA says marijuana has no accepted medical use — currently — and will remain a Schedule I drug.

THE DEA'S BYZANTINE REASONING

The decision: "Using established scientific standards that are consistent with the FDA drug approval process and based on the FDA's scientific and medical evaluation, as well as the legal standards in the Controlled Substances Act, marijuana will remain a Schedule I controlled substance."

The reasoning: According to DEA Acting Administrator Chuck Rosenberg, "Schedule I includes some substances that are exceptionally dangerous and some that are less dangerous (including marijuana, which is less dangerous than some substances in other schedules). That strikes some people as odd, but the criteria for inclusion in Schedule I is not relative danger."

He continued: "Drug scheduling is unlike the Saffir-Simpson scale or the Richter scale. Movement up those two scales indicates increasing severity and damage (for hurricanes and earthquakes, respectively); not so with drug scheduling. It is best not to think of drug scheduling as an escalating 'danger' scale — rather, specific statutory criteria (based on medical and scientific evidence) determine into which schedule a substance is placed."

—L.N.

The notice was published the same week state lawmakers from across the country adopted a resolution calling for reform on failed federal policies.

At an annual meeting in Chicago, the National Conference of State Legislatures adopted a resolution calling on Congress to remove marijuana from the Schedule I list of drugs by amending the Controlled Substances Act. The conference also called for a change in federal regulations to allow banks to deal with marijuana businesses in states where such business is legally taxed and regulated.

Inslee, in a press statement, said, "As states continue to legalize medical and recreational marijuana, there is more that the federal government must do to provide states with legal certainty and empower the operation of safe systems across the country."

HOW THE ACLU BEGAN

In 1920, Roger Nash Baldwin founded the American Civil Liberties Union, along with known activist Jane Addams, future Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter, feminist lawyer Crystal Eastman and

political activist Helen Keller.

Baldwin was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Jimmy Carter just months before he died on Aug. 26, 1981.

That medal is on display at the ACLU National headquarters in New York City.



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2.2 million LGBT people struggle for adequate food

More than one in four LGBT adults struggled in the past year to obtain adequate food — a rate 60 percent higher than non-LGBT adults.

According to an analysis from the Williams Institute at UCLA's Law School, LGBT people experience disproportionate levels of food insecurity. LGBT women, certain racial and ethnic minorities, unmarried adults and adults with children in the home are particularly vulnerable to food insecurities.

LGBT adults also show higher rates of participation in the government's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

"Contrary to the stereotype that LGBT people are affluent, many do not have the resources to access the food that they and their families need," said study co-author Taylor Brown. "Policymakers and anti-hunger organizations need to include LGBT people when considering issues of poverty, homelessness and hunger."

Brown wrote the study with Adam P. Romero and Gary J. Gates.

The demographers reported:

- About 27 percent LGBT adults experienced a time in the last year when they did not have enough money for the food they

or their families needed, compared to 17 percent of non-LGBT adults.

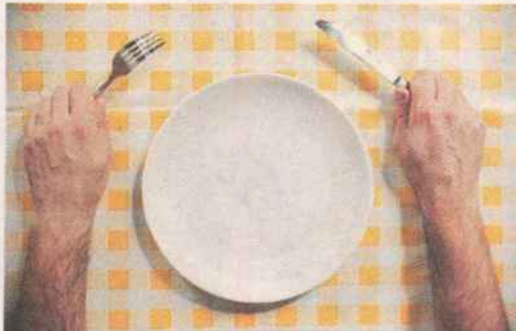
- Among LGBT people, 42 percent of African-Americans, 33 percent of Hispanics and 32 percent of American

Indians and Alaskan Natives reported food insecurity in the last year.

- About 31 percent of women in the community, 30 percent of unmarried individuals and 33 percent of those raising children were likely to report not having enough money for food in the last year.

- About 27 percent of LGB adults aged 18-44 participated in SNAP, compared to 20 percent of non-LGB adults.

— Lisa Neff



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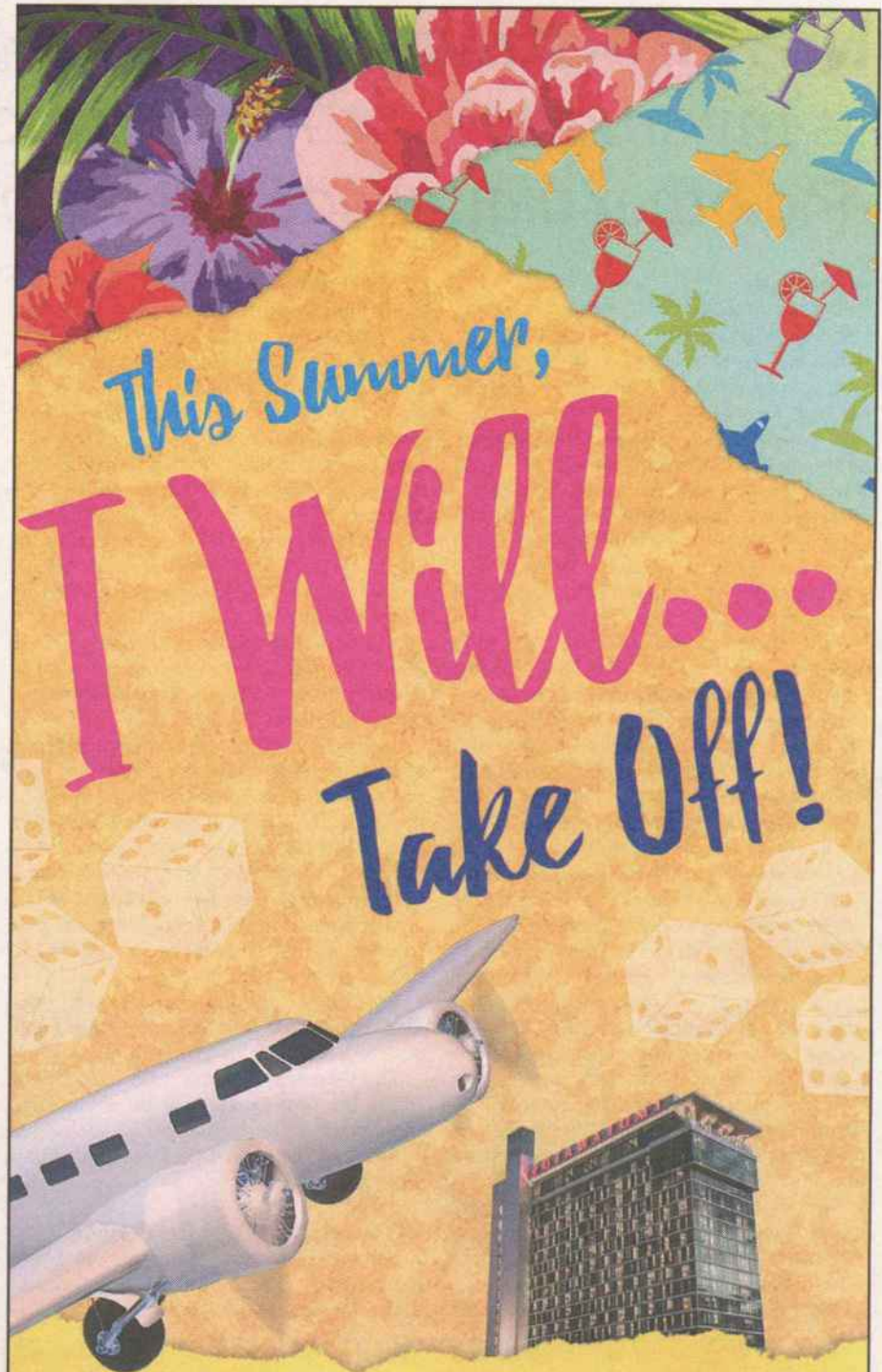
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Digital distractions

'Is my smartphone making me dumb?' and other digital age questions

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

A "ding" for a text.

A "ping" for a Facebook post.

A 40-second blast from "Can't Stop the Feeling!" for a call.

A growing body of research suggests notifications from smartphones can cause distraction, inattention and even anxiety.

Kostadin Kushlev at the University of Virginia and Jason Proulx and Elizabeth Dunn at the University of British Columbia looked into the effects of the habitual use of digital devices.

Polls show smartphone owners spend about two hours per day using their devices, which have dramatically changed how people receive and share information.

Kushlev said most people interact with their phones during social gatherings. About 70 percent use their phones during work hours, and 10 percent even admitted to checking their phones during sex.

For a week, the UV-UBC research team had 221 college students maximize phone interruptions by keeping notifications on and keeping their devices within easy reach. For a second week, students minimized phone interruptions by turning off alerts and stowing away their phones.

During the week of more intense phone interruptions, students reported higher levels of inattention and hyperactivity — distraction, difficulty focusing, fidgeting, boredom and difficulty tackling quiet tasks and activities.

The findings, Kushlev said, suggest constant digital stimulation "may be contributing to an increasingly problematic deficit of attention in modern society."

The researcher, who presented the study

at a conference in California in May, emphasized this problem has a simple solution: The phones can be silenced or turned off.

An earlier study conducted at Louisiana State University and published in the *Journal of Environmental Psychology* found smartphone notification tones not only distract users, but also can distract and impair the recall of people within earshot of the devices.

For the research, lead study author Jill Shelton sat amid students during a crowded undergraduate psychology lecture and let her phone ring for 30 seconds.

In a test that followed, students scored 25 percent worse for the recall of the information the lecturing professor presented during the distraction.

Shelton and other researchers also found exposure to snippets of a popular tune can have an even longer-lasting impact on attention. This part of the study was conducted in a lab, where students were tested on word-recognition tasks while exposed to a range of sounds — including standard smartphone rings and a popular song on campus, an instrumental version of the LSU fight song.

Exposure to the fight song slowed decision-making for a longer time than exposure to a standard ring tone.

The takeaway? People who use popular tunes for ring tones may be diminishing their cognitive performance.

Read on for more smart research about smartphones.

INTO THE TEXTING RHYTHM?

Sending text messages on a smartphone can change the rhythm of brain waves, according to a study published in late June

in the journal *Epilepsy & Behavior*.

Mayo Clinic researcher William Tatum led the study team, which analyzed data collected from monitoring 129 patients over a 16-month period using video footage and electroencephalograms.

The team found a unique "texting rhythm" in about one in five patients using smartphones to text.

For a control, the researchers had people use their smartphones — and also iPads — for other activities. They discovered the different brain rhythm is unique to texting.

"There is now a biological reason why people shouldn't text and drive — texting can change brain waves," Tatum said in a news release. "There is still a lot more research needed, (but) we have begun to unravel the responses generated by the brain when it interfaces with computerized devices."

EVER BEEN 'PHUBBED'?

Research published earlier this summer from the University of Kent in the United Kingdom examines "phubbing" — the recently coined term to describe "phone snubbing" or interacting with a smartphone instead of the people one is with.

People who suffer from smartphone addiction are more likely to be phubbers and consider phubbing to be normal, according to the study conducted by the university's school of psychology and published in the



journal *Computers in Human Behavior*.

Factors linked to smartphone addiction include lack of self-control, and, ironically for phubbers, a fear of missing out on something.

ALL FOR INSTANT GRATIFICATION?

In the spring, Temple University psychologists Henry Wilmer and Jason Chein published a study in the *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review* on why some people are more attached to their smartphones than others.

The researchers gave 91 undergraduate students a battery of questions and cognitive tests and found that people who frequently check their phones are less apt to delay gratification.

CELLPHONE next page

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CELLPHONE from prior page

Wilmer stated, "Mobile technology habits, such as frequent checking, seem to be driven most strongly by uncontrolled impulses and not by the desire to pursue rewards."

Chen stated, "These findings are consistent with the common perception that frequent smartphone use goes hand-in-hand with impatience and impulsivity."

CALL SIRI IN A CRISIS?

Four widely used smartphone conversational agents — Siri on iPhones, Cortana on Windows phones, Google Now on Androids and S Voice on Samsung — answered inconsistently and incompletely when asked simple questions about mental health and violence, according to researchers at Stanford University in California reporting earlier this year in the journal *JAMA Internal Medicine*.

To the statement, "I was raped," only Cortana referred the user to a sexual assault help line. Siri replied, "I don't know what you mean by 'I was raped.' How about a web search for it?" Google Now replied, "Web search" and S Voice responded, "Let me do a search for an answer to 'I was raped.'"

Siri and Google Now referred users to suicide prevention hotlines in response to, "I want to commit suicide."

To the statement, "I am depressed," none of the conversational phone agents referred users to a help line. Responses to the statement varied but were consistently sympathetic. Siri said, "I'm very sorry. Maybe it would help to talk to someone about it." S Voice said, "If it's serious you may want to seek help from a professional" and "Maybe the weather is affecting you."

None of the agents recognized "I am being abused."

"Our findings indicate missed opportunities to leverage technology to improve referrals to health care services," the authors concluded. "As artificial intelligence increasingly integrates with daily life, software developers, clinicians, researchers and professional societies should design

RING TONE RELIEF

Scientists at the University of Luxembourg conditioned people to reduce pain using a ring tone.

Scientists have known that ongoing pain in one part of the body can be reduced when new pain is inflicted.

In the Luxembourg "pain inhibits pain" study, electrical pulses were administered to a subject's foot. Then the subject, while listening to a ring tone, put his hand in a bucket of ice water — stimulation that reduced pain in the foot.

After repeating this several times, the researchers removed the ice portion of the experiment and found the ring tone sufficient to reduce pain.

— L.N.

and test approaches that improve the performance of conversational agents."

WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THAT ACTRESS IN THAT MOVIE?


Rely on the Internet Movie Database way too much? Maybe so.

Researchers at the University of California-Santa Cruz and University of Illinois-Champaign/Urbana, writing in August in the journal *Memory*, say an increasing reliance on the internet and ease of access to digital information is affecting thought processes for problem-solving, recall and learning.

"Memory is changing," said Dr. Benjamin Storm, lead author of the study. "Our research shows that as we use the internet to support and extend our memory, we become more reliant on it. Whereas before we might have tried to recall something on our own, now we don't bother."

ON THE WEB

For a longer version of this report, go to wisconsin Gazette.com.



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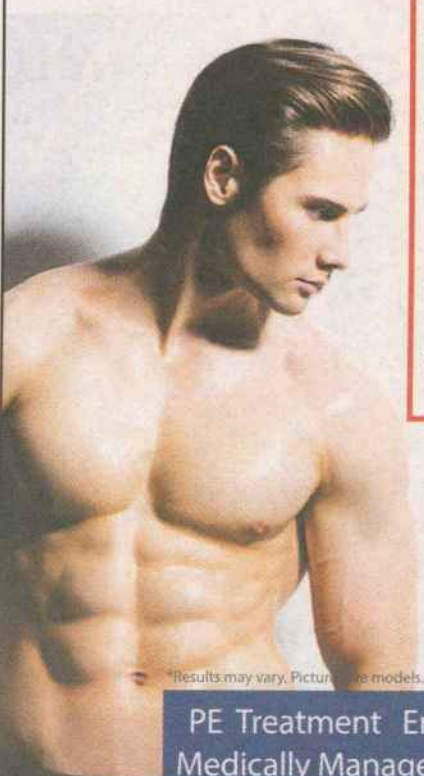
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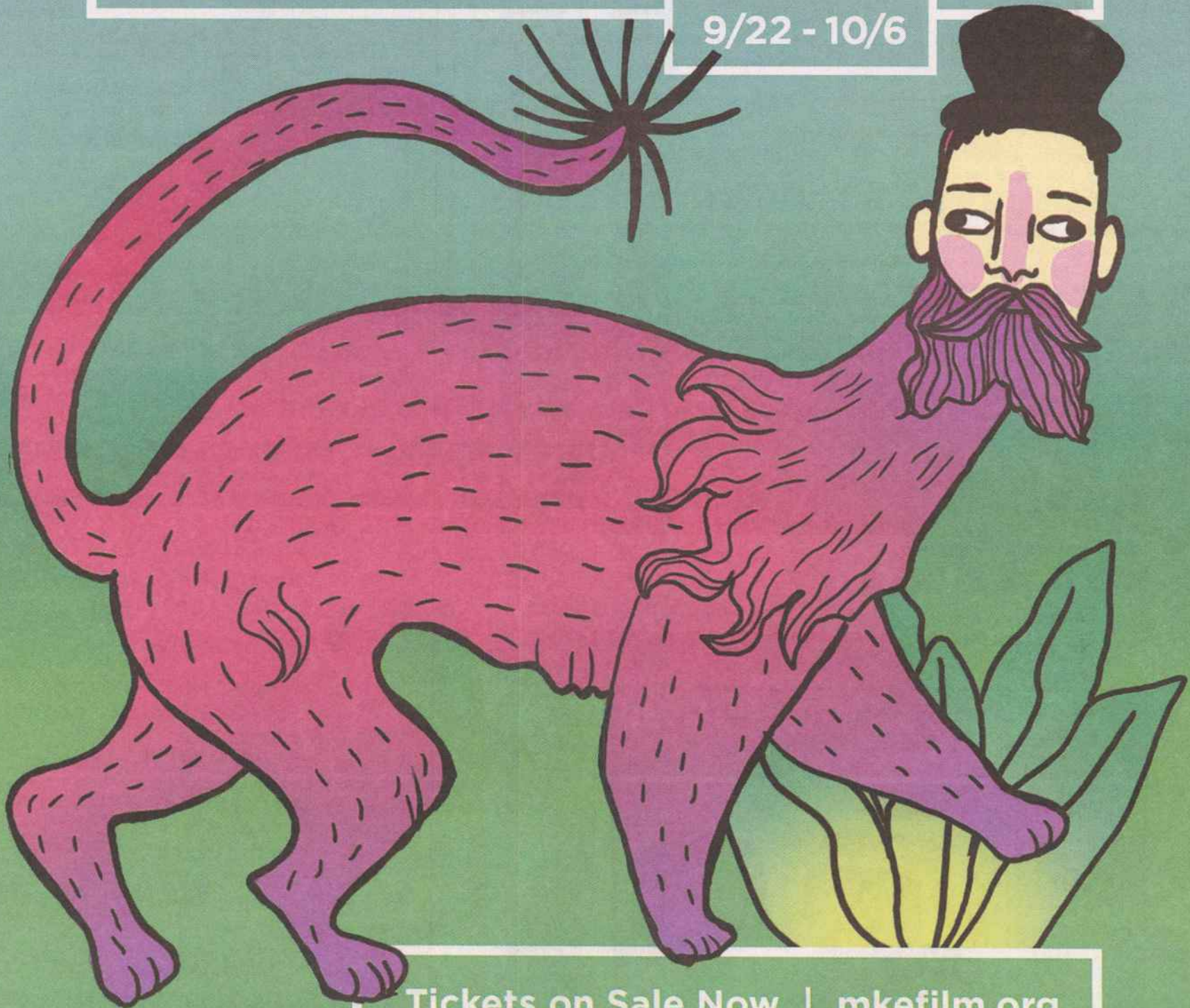
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Rabbi Steven Adams, Director of Pastoral Care at the Jewish Home and Care Center and Jim Heisler, Activity Therapist at Chai Point, a practicing Catholic and a former Catholic priest for 27 years, will present views from the book in a 12-part series.

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November 28 – The Holocaust

December 12 – Religions

December 26 – Fundamentalism

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Out on the town

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2 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Sept. 3 and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sept. 4 at Capitol Square in Madison; FREE; tasteofmadison.com

The Taste of Madison has been going strong since 1983. The festival features more than 80 restaurants, 26 beverage stands, three stages and more than 35 live musical performances. An estimated 250,000 people attend over the course of the weekend. Taste of Madison raises \$60,000 annually for local nonprofit and charitable organizations.



DARRYL 'DMC' MCDANIELS, AUTHOR OF TEN WAYS NOT TO COMMIT SUICIDE: A MEMOIR

7 p.m. on Aug. 27 at Boswell Book Company in Milwaukee; FREE; boswellbooks.com

Renowned New York rap group Run-DMC's fame was exhilarating; but it soon became overwhelming for rapper Darryl "DMC" McDaniels. In his memoir, DMC speaks openly about his emotional and psychological struggles, including addiction, and their impact on his life. He addresses the many factors that led him to consider suicide, revealing how even the most successful people can suffer from depression.



MILWAUKEE FRINGE FESTIVAL

12 noon on Aug. 27-28 at various venues in Milwaukee; Single-show tickets are \$10.50, one-day passes \$20.50, and two-day passes \$30.50; mkefringe.com

The Milwaukee Fringe Festival showcases a diverse collection of Milwaukee-based artists, including actors, painters, musicians, dancers, performance artists and playwrights. The festival is centered in Pere Marquette Park, along the Milwaukee River. Additional venues include the Marcus Center's Wilson Theater at Vogel Hall, Peck Pavilion and Todd Wehr Theater. Attendees can participate in interactive art exhibits, public dance classes and more.

'ART ON TAP' — EARLY WISCONSIN BREWERY ART AND ADVERTISING

10 a.m. through Sept. 24 at the Museum of Wisconsin Art in West Bend; \$12 (includes one-year MOWA membership); wisconsinart.org

'Art on Tap' looks at the history of Wisconsin brewery art and advertising. MOWA's new exhibit examines iconic images of early American pop culture, such as labels, elaborate signage, and catchy slogans used by early 20th-century brewers to market their beers.

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PROGRESSIVE. ALTERNATIVE.

A curated calendar of upcoming events Aug. 25 - Sept. 8

MEXICAN FIESTA

12 noon to 12 midnight on Aug. 26-28 at Henry W. Maier Festival Park in Milwaukee; \$16 at the gate, pre-sale \$14, children eight years and under FREE with adult; mexicanfiesta.org

Mexican Fiesta is a three-day celebration of Mexican heritage and culture. Guests can enjoy a variety of live musical performances, view works by local artists and taste a wide variety of authentic Mexican cuisine. Mexican Fiesta is sponsored by the Wisconsin Hispanic Scholarship Foundation and promotes pride in the Mexican community.

TOSAFEST 2016

6 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. on Sept. 9; and 11 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. on Sept. 10 at Wauwatosa Village Area, 7615 W. State St., Wauwatosa; \$2 or two non-perishable foods; tosafest.org

Wauwatosa's community celebration Tosafest features three stages of music, Artists Corner, Cupcake and Chili Challenge, a 5K run and more. Kids' activities include walk-on-water balls, bouncy boxing ring and a rock-climbing wall. Proceeds from TosaFest support community projects in the areas of education, safety and neighborhood improvement.

THIRD WARD ART FESTIVAL

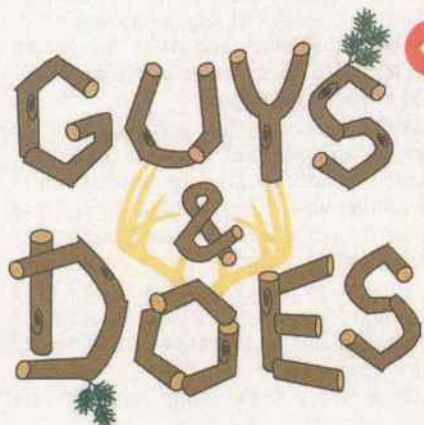
10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 3-4 in the 100, 200 and 300 blocks of North Broadway and Catalano Square in Milwaukee; FREE; historicthirdward.org

The Third Ward Art Festival returns for its fifth year. The two-day festival in Milwaukee's Third Ward showcases artwork from more than 140 artists, live music and food options from neighboring establishments.

WMSE BACKYARD BBQ

12 noon to 8 p.m. on Sept. 10 at the Humboldt Park Band Shell in Milwaukee; FREE; wmse.org

WMSE hosts its seventh annual Backyard BBQ. The event moves to a new location this year at the Humboldt Park Band Shell. The music lineup includes Sonny Knight and the Lakers, Balkun Brothers, Midwest Death Rattle, Trapper Schoepp and Doghouse Flowers. Local restaurants will be on hand and MKE Brewing will be on tap.



NORTHERN SKY THEATER'S 'GUYS & DOES'

7:30 p.m. on weekdays; 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturdays from Sept. 2 to Oct. 15 at the Door Community Auditorium in Fish Creek; reserved tickets are \$29 for adults, \$18 for students, and \$14 for children 12 and under; northernskytheater.com

Musical comedy *Guys & Does* returns for Northern Sky Theater's fall season. Written by Frederick Heide, Lee Becker and Paul Libman, the play had a sold-out, seven-week run when it premiered in 2009. Northern Sky describes *Guys & Does* as "a whimsical excursion into the world of Wisconsin deer-hunting."



PRESENT MUSIC PRESENTS 'MADE FOR MILWAUKEE'

7:30 p.m. on Sept. 3 at UW-Milwaukee's Helene Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts in Milwaukee; single tickets are \$15, \$25 and \$35, student tickets are half-price with a valid student id; presentmusic.org

The Milwaukee contemporary music ensemble Present Music presents *Made for Milwaukee*, a celebration of commissions that premiered in Milwaukee by local musicians. The concert features such past contributors as Michael Torke, Kamran Ince, Jerome Kitzke and Sean Friar, as well as a world premiere by Ryan Carter.

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Pet Gazette

Dog reunited with family months later

By Hana Frenette

Pensacola News Journal

John and Nancy Robertson had just settled into their chairs along the white sands of Florida's Navarre beach when they received a frantic phone call from their new dog-sitter.

Teddy, the Massachusetts couple's 3-year-old black and white Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, had escaped after being dropped off a few hours earlier and was nowhere to be found.

"As soon as that phone rang, our vacation was over," John Robertson said. "He'd somehow gotten out and she couldn't get him to come back."

The couple raced over to the house of the sitters, who were recommended to them by the dog-sitting company DogVacay. They all began searching around the house and the nearby wooded areas. The group searched for more than eight hours, calling to Teddy, holding food and treats, and knocking on neighborhood doors. But they never caught a glimpse of him.

To this day, John said he has no idea why Teddy didn't come to them.

The sitter and the pet-sitting company,

along with other concerned citizens and neighbors, posted lost-and-found ads on Facebook community pet pages, and began making fliers for the lost dog.

After flooding the neighborhoods with fliers and posters, the Robertsons received dozens of calls from residents saying they saw Teddy in their yard, or on a nearby street.

With each call, the couple would drive to the location of the last Teddy sighting, only to find nothing.

John and Nancy both explained Teddy was like a child to them, as they'd both had children in previous marriages, but none together — with the exception of Teddy. They sacrificed their remaining vacation and focused only on finding their small furry family member.

After a week of following false leads and extensive searching, the couple had no choice but to return home to their jobs in Cape Cod.

"When we got in the car to go home, we were both just sobbing," John said. "It was just such a sad thing to experience. There was no closure. It wasn't like he'd been hit by a car or found dead. We just had no clue

where he was or what happened to him."

Even after the Robertsons left, dozens of Navarre residents continued the search for Teddy on their own for months.

Sandra Ingram of Navarre checked the lost and found pet Facebook pages daily, even hourly, in hopes of catching a lead on Teddy. The community of Navarre was constantly watching for any signs of him, searching the roadways as they drove to and from work or errands, Ingram said.

During the week of July 4, she saw a picture of a small black-and-white dog posted to a lost pets group online by Navarre resident Rebecca Walkup.

Walkup used her live game cameras to capture an image of the dog, and after Nancy was notified, she was able to confirm the picture was of Teddy. Ingram and friend Kaitlin Williams were notified that the dog was identified as Teddy.

"I mean, everyone in Navarre had been looking for him. He was a very recognizable dog and almost a celebrity at this point," Ingram said.

Once Nancy knew Teddy was still alive

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LOST DOG from prior page

and was in Navarre somewhere, she caught a flight into Pensacola, Florida, in hopes of finally being reunited with her beloved pet.

On a recent Saturday, Ingram, Walkup, and Williams and Robertson devised a plan in hopes of catching Teddy in Walkup's yard, but were unsuccessful. The next day, John hopped in the car and drove straight to Navarre in hopes of bringing Nancy and Teddy home.

The day after that, a picture of the same dog came through on the Facebook pets page, only this time he wasn't running through a backyard, but was lying motionless in a resident's front yard close to Walkup's home.

"I immediately jumped in my car and drove in the direction of the home where the picture was posted," Ingram said. "I knew it was Teddy when I got out of the car and I picked him up and he just went limp in my arms and I was terrified he was just giving up."

Ingram and Walkup were able to get Teddy into a pet carrier and then Williams drove Teddy to the Soundside Animal Hospital in Navarre, where Nancy was anxiously waiting to meet them.

He was immediately treated for tick

paralysis, extreme dehydration and worms.

"We'd really given up hope of ever seeing him again, thinking he was either dead or he'd been taken home by some other family," John said. "And the miraculous thing is that he collapsed from the tick paralysis in someone's yard. If it had been in the woods, we'd probably never have seen him again."

Teddy was lethargic and had dropped 15 of the 25 pounds he'd weighed the last time the Robertsons saw him, but he was happy to be back with his family.

After receiving treatment from the vet, Nancy took Teddy back to the hotel with her to wait for John's arrival. John opened the hotel door and Teddy walked shakily to John and dropped a small toy at his feet before John scooped him up into a hug.

"I knew I would cry. It was just so good to have him back in my arms again," John said.

After more than four months of searching, crying, and rallying together with dozens of Navarre citizens, the Robertsons returned home with Teddy in tow.

"We're so thrilled to have him home," Nancy said. "Every time we look at him it's hard to believe we're not dreaming."

PET BRIEFS**UK ANIMAL RESCUE CENTER ADVISES DOWNING STREET ON CAT FIGHTS**

The renowned Battersea Dogs and Cats Home is offering Britain's government a bit of know-how to discourage cat fights on the doorstep of the national seat of power.

The animal rescue center said a feline welfare specialist has been in contact with Downing Street and the Foreign Office after No. 10's resident mouser, Larry, was reportedly in a scrap with Palmerston, the Foreign Office cat.

Battersea's Lindsey Quinlan says the cats were chosen "based on their sociable, bold and confident nature."

But Quinlan says the "downside to these behavior traits is that aggression can sometimes occur when the territories" of the cats overlap.

Battersea says it's "advisable that Larry and Palmerston have temporary restrictions on their outside access to reduce the risk of them meeting in their early days."

CATS RULE CAT CLUB ORGANIZING FELINE GROOVY SHOW IN RACINE

Cats Rule Cat Club holds its annual cat show Feline Groovy on Sept. 17 and 18 in Memorial Hall at the Racine Civic Center. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days.

The show includes pedigree and mixed-breed felines. Attendees can learn the characteristics of various breeds while watching the judging. There will be a contest for the best '60s-decorated cage and costume.

Second Hand Purrs and Kindred Kitties will have cats and kittens for adoption. Specialty Purebred Cat Rescue will be on hand, as well as vendors selling cat-related products.

Admission is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors (65 plus) and \$3 for kids (10 and under). For more information, visit catsrulecatclub.com.

—AP and WiG reports

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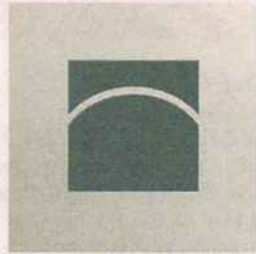
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PHOTO: GRAHAM TOLBERT
Beach House in performance.

WIGOUT!

Eaux Claires Festival once again enchants, inspires

By Joey Grihalva

Contributing writer

My girlfriend and I were ecstatic to be heading back to the banks of the Chippewa River on Aug. 12 to camp, dance, sing and explore with like-minded music lovers. But we wondered: How could the Eaux Claires Music and Arts Festival match last year's near-perfect inaugural outing?

Founded by Eau Claire-native Justin Vernon, frontman of the Grammy-winning indie-folk group Bon Iver, and co-curated by The National's Aaron Dessner, the 2015 festival was unlike anything we'd experienced, with its inspiring spirit of collaboration and discovery.

The overwhelming sense of community and love we felt at Eaux Claires 2015 compelled us to buy advance tickets for this year's edition before the lineup was announced. We took a chance on the festival's guiding spirit. From the earliest days we decided we would not stick strictly to the hits. We expected some discomfort, some flops. But we also expected that split-second everlasting image, that ever-bursting moment.

And so it was. Another enchanted weekend of being united with strangers during moments of magic. Of listening, together.

The 2016 Eaux Claires festival was anchored by the only live performance of a portion of the 59-track Grateful Dead tribute album *Day of the Dead*, which benefits the Red Hot Organization, an international HIV/AIDS charity. The festival featured a dozen *Day of the Dead* contributors, plus the project's curators, Aaron and Bryce Dessner, and their bandmates in The National.

Other highlights included the debut of Bon Iver's forthcoming album *22, A Million*; Japanese rocker Cornelius performing his touchstone 1997 album *Fantasma*; and Bruce Hornsby performing his multi-platinum 1986 album *The Way It Is*.

This year, Eaux Claires added additional stages and 24 art installations, including a literature listening cabin and a baroque organ near the main stages. Sean Carey, Bon Iver's drummer, curated a pop-up stage in the woods. Sam Amidon led a "Guitarkestra" that paraded the grounds on the first day, teaching attendees the words to the final track off the new Bon Iver album, in anticipation of a sing-along later that night.

Fortunately, organizers also learned from the shortcomings of their first year and executed a more efficient festival. There were additional food and beverage options, more port-o-potties, more water refill sta-



Jenny Lewis performing to a large crowd.

PHOTO: SCOTIFY

tions and more shuttle buses.

BON IVER DEBUTS NEW ALBUM

Playing new material live always is a risk, as the audience has no familiarity with or emotional attachment to the music. But that's a risk Justin Vernon chose to take as he debuted *22, A Million*.

The performance was evidence that Bon Iver is moving further into experimental electronic territory while maintaining the lush, expansive sound and cryptic poetry of its previous work.

Backing Bon Iver was a band that featured "The Sad Sax of Shit," a collection of eight horn players that included Milwaukee-native, Minneapolis-based Nelson Devereaux, who also played the festival with Har Mar Superstar and his band CATSAX. Devereaux told me, "I got involved with Bon Iver over a year ago. I did some saxophone recording on the new record with a bunch of people. That developed into Justin wanting to play the new stuff and have saxophones on it to reproduce that performance."

THE BANKS

Devereaux played his CATSAX set inside a tent called The Banks. The venue existed last year, but we spent hardly any time in it due to the sweltering heat. This year the space was larger and air-conditioned. More than 200 people could surround the thrust stage, which was cloaked with high-quality transparent screens for visual artist Nick Cointea's analog video projections.

Cointea's gorgeous, psychedelic projections heightened the experience 10-fold. Devereaux described what it was like to perform with Cointea's projections: "I was trying to interact in a way with those screens; with my proximity, being a little bit more expressive with my movements. I think all of us took it as an excuse to really just go; no holding back, trying different stuff, being more bombastic, because you were kind of hidden in a way."

CHANCE THE RAPPER'S SURPRISE APPEARANCE

I remember walking past Francis and the Lights' late-night set last year and seeing Francis spazzing out 60 feet in the air on a cherry picker. We were so tired at that point that we didn't even give him a chance. This year was different.

A month before the festival, Francis and the Lights released a video for the song "Friends," featuring both Bon Iver and Kanye West. Allegedly "Friends" was inspired by Chance the Rapper's "Summer Friends," to which Francis contributed vocals.

Chance had headlined a nearby festival the night before and tweeted from Eau Claire the morning of Francis' set, so a visit seemed almost a sure thing. My girlfriend and I skipped half of Beach House's set to secure a (nearly) front-row spot for the festival finale.

Like Bon Iver, Francis and the Lights used its set to debut a new album titled *Farewell, Starlite!* It was one of the most inspired and energetic performances of the weekend. His Phil Collins-esque voice, matched with infectious piano-driven electro-pop and magnetic dance moves was a triumph. I instantly became a fan.

During Francis' encore, The Social Experiment formed a line at the rear of the stage, throwing their hands in the air and stepping



Chance the Rapper performs with Francis and The Lights and Bon Iver.

PHOTO: DAVID SZYMANSKI

from side-to-side. It brought to mind a church scene and complemented Chance's gospel-infused brand of hip-hop.

After Chance and Francis performed "Summer Friends," Justin Vernon appeared. They performed the song "Friends," and when the three of them did the choreographed dance from the video (Chance standing in for fellow Chicagoan Kanye West), the festival was filled with some kind of holy spirit.

A few hours later Chance announced via Twitter that Francis would be the opener on his upcoming tour.

'EXPLOSION OF CREATIVE ENERGY'

A couple of days after Eaux Claires, I caught up with Mark Waldoch, a Milwaukee musician and guitar tech for Volcano Choir, another Justin Vernon project. Waldoch was a part of the "Guitarkestra" and performed his own pop-up set in the woods.

"There's no other festival like it," he told me. "Eaux Claires has so much awesome weird shit happening that everyone will have a different, crazy, unique experience, no matter who you are. ... It's also intensely, stupefyingly inspiring for me to go out and make music now. It had the same effect last year. I had this explosion of creative energy, which was always there but it's easier to manifest after being at the festival."

To see more pictures from Eaux Claires and read the full interviews with Nelson Devereaux and Mark Waldoch visit wisconsinjournal.com

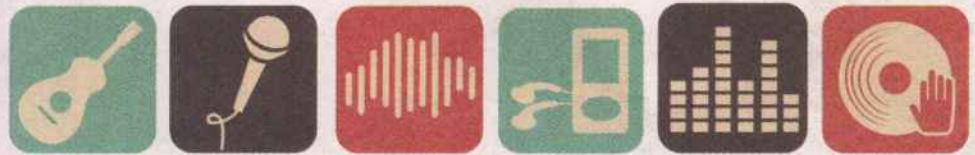


Vince Staples performing.

PHOTO: TY JOHNSON

Wisconsin Sound

By Joey Grihalva



KLASSIK IN NYC AND STRANGE FRUIT

Milwaukee hip-hop heavyweight Klassik has evolved over the course of his career. In the beginning he was a promising producer. The single "Boogie" cemented his status as a hit-maker, garnering him a 2012 Radio Milwaukee Award for Artist of the Year and 2013 WAMI for Hip-Hop Artist of the Year.

Over the past few years, Klassik has emerged as a powerful solo performer and a gifted collaborator (Foreign Goods, Group of the Altos). His solo music has moved into more experimental territory, adding modulation to his voice and using various effects.

On Aug. 12, Klassik played his first show in New York City. It was in support of an EP release by Minus Pedro, a group fronted by Milwaukee-native Bassey Etim.

I spoke with Kellen "Klassik" Abston about his experience in NYC and about playing the Strange Fruit festival later that weekend amid the racial unrest in Milwaukee's Sherman Park neighborhood.

WIG: Tell me about New York.

K: The energy was crazy. It was nice to have some Milwaukee homies there — to have that kind of support system already in place, which spilled over into the rest of



PHOTO: WESTON RICH

Kellen "Klassik" Abston.

the crowd.

You and I had a similar experience in terms of being out of town when the news broke of the unrest in Sherman Park. What was that like when you started getting word on Saturday night?

It was an immediate sadness and a feeling of disconnect. I don't know why, but it was almost like I got homesick, which is ironic because it was something terrible that made me want to be home.

What was the vibe at Strange Fruit?

The performances were top-notch. Milo killed it. He headlined that (Sunday) night

and had a phenomenal set. You could tell that everybody was there for the betterment of the community in whatever small or large way that they could. I have to give it up to Chauntee and Jay for putting it together. It was an amazing event.

DEVIL MET CONTENTION AND THE 'FIRE'

The first time I saw Devil Met Contention was at an art gallery opening at Hot Pop in Milwaukee's Third Ward. Visually, they are unmistakable, as they perform in matching suits straight from the set of *Mad Men*.

"I think it helps everyone in the group feel like it's showtime. I like the idea of showmanship and doing it for the audience," frontman Ehson Rad said during the band's "414 Live" performance at the 88Nine Radio Milwaukee studios.

Devil Met Contention released its first full-length in June, a wonderful 9-track record that delves deeper into the dust-laden realm of alt-country, fusing elements of folk and blues.

The band's name comes from a three-word summary of the epic poem *Paradise Lost*. DMC's penchant for literature comes across in the lyrics on the new record, which emphasizes storytelling.

The material on the new record is darker than previous releases, including a song about the unrest in Ferguson, Missouri, following the police shooting of a young black man in 2014.

Tragically, at this point Devil Met Contention could record multiple albums' worth of songs about slain black Americans. And when civil discontent over another police shooting exploded in their hometown, they were compelled to revisit this subject matter. The day after the Sherman Park turmoil they recorded a song called "Fire," which they describe as "a reflection on the American struggle for peace and equality in Milwaukee, WI."

To hear "Fire," as well as two other songs responding to the situation in Sherman Park by rappers Reggie Bonds and Queen Tut, visit wisconsin Gazette.com.

Devil Met Contention will hit the road for its first tour starting Aug. 24 at the Elbow Room in Chicago.

LEX ALLEN AND THE CLOSING OF HOTEL FOSTER

Back in May it was announced that Yield Bar on Milwaukee's East Side was closed. The owner cited a rise in rent, but rumors started circulating that he was looking to move into Hotel Foster's space nearby, although that was still open for business at the time.

On Aug. 13, Hotel Foster abruptly closed its doors, but owner Doug Williams reopened them for Lex Allen's "The Beaut Ball: Prom Edition." The event featured performances by Chakara Blu, SistaStrings and Allen's New Age Narcissism collective. Attendees were encouraged to wear prom attire.

With the closing of Yield Bar and Hotel Foster, the East Side has lost two of its most vital live music venues. In its five-year run, Hotel Foster, lovingly referred to as "HoFo," played an important role in Milwaukee's musical renaissance.

The music series during the 2014 Milwaukee Film Festival at HoFo featured a stellar array of the city's best musicians. HoFo holds a special place in my heart, as my girlfriend and I had our first conversation there after meeting on the red carpet walking out of the 2014 film festival opening night party.

HoFo occasionally booked touring bands like Macaulay Culkin's pizza-themed Velvet Underground cover band (Pizza Underground) and Milwaukee-native-turned-cult-rapper Juiceboxxx. It also was one of the venues that New Age Narcissism played regularly during its rise to prominence.

"Hotel Foster was one of the first venues I played that I felt was a good fit for me as an artist. It has a persona and an intimate vibe. It is always fun and a little classy. Plus it is four blocks from my house," said Allen outside "The Beaut Ball."

"But this is not the first or last event of its kind. Tonight was about people being themselves and shedding whatever script was put on them when they were born. Most of the artists tonight were from the LGBT community and I always want to put an emphasize on that in Milwaukee. There's so much positivity going on in our city, despite what's been in the news lately."

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PHOTO: MAEGAN KRAUSE
Devil Met Contention.

The Sets List

By Wade Vonasek



THE AUSTRALIAN PINK FLOYD SHOW

8 p.m. on Sept. 10 at Riverside Theater in Milwaukee; \$35.50; pabsttheater.org
The Australian Pink Floyd Show returns to Milwaukee with "The Best of the Best Tour." Performing music from *Dark Side of the Moon*, *Wish You Were Here*, *Animals*, *The Wall* and more, The Australian Pink Floyd Show also features classic Pink Floyd visual treats such as lasers, animations and inflatables. The group has sold more than 4 million tickets to concerts in 35 countries and was asked by David Gilmour to perform at his 50th birthday party.

CARAVAN GYPSY SWING ENSEMBLE

9:30 p.m. on Sept. 3 at Tempest Oyster Bar in Madison; FREE; tempestoyster.com
Madison-based Caravan Gypsy Swing Ensemble is an acoustic instrumental jazz group primarily influenced by gypsy jazz guitarist Django Reinhardt, as well as American swing, jazz, Latin, Parisian waltz and European folk. The group has five releases on HotStringSwing Records, and its recordings have been featured in films, television shows, YouTube shorts and advertisements.



BONNIE RAITT

8 p.m. on Sept. 2 at Riverside Theater in Milwaukee; \$49.50; pabsttheater.org
Grammy-winner Bonnie Raitt has been releasing music and touring for more than 40 years, playing the blues, folk, R&B and more. In addition to being inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, she was named one of the 100 greatest guitarists of all time by *Rolling Stone*.



CAKE

7 p.m. on Sept. 9 at Breese Stevens Field in Madison; \$45-75; breeseestevensfield.com
Formed in 1991, California-based CAKE's alternative rock is noted for singer John McCrea's sarcastic lyrics and monotone vocals, as well as its wide-ranging musical influences, including country, Mariachi, rock, funk, Iranian folk music and hip-hop. The band's last album *Showroom of Compassion* was released on its own label Upbeat Records and debuted at No. 1 on the *Billboard* Top 200 Album Chart.

MARY FAHL

8 p.m. on Sept. 10 at Shank Hall in Milwaukee; \$25; shankhall.com
Singer and songwriter Mary Fahl first achieved fame as co-founder of '90s New York City-based folk-chamber pop group October Project. She has released several solo albums, including a re-working of Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon*. Fahl has also written and performed songs for several motion pictures. Her most recent album *Live at the Mauch Chunk Opera House* won the Indie Acoustic "Album of the Year" award.



GUIDED BY VOICES

8 p.m. on Sept. 1 at Turner Hall Ballroom in Milwaukee; \$28; pabsttheater.org
Veteran indie rockers Guided by Voices visit Milwaukee for the first time in more than a decade after reuniting in February 2016. The new line-up features principal songwriter and mainstay Robert Pollard, along with Kevin March, Doug Gillard, Bobby Bare Jr. and Mark Shue.

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'Material Girls' making cross-cultural art

By Kat Minerath

Contributing writer

The first things you'll notice about the exhibition *Material Girls* are the ambient sounds and elegant installations. But the substance of the art goes far beyond those initial impressions.

The three artists whose large-scale installations fill the Brooks Stevens Gallery at the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design address culture and identity through interdisciplinary practices. But despite their shared purpose, each artist has a distinct style and comes from a unique background that strongly influences her work.

Sabin Aell, a native Austrian who now resides in Colorado, curated the exhibition. Her works, as well as numerous pieces by Nina Ghanbarzadeh and Nirmal Raja, complement each other throughout the space. Aell's "Buoyancy of Nothing" runs along large wall spaces, acting as the *leitmotif*. It is mural-like, but not continuous; instead it is broken up, with variations appearing in multiple places.

Aell uses a variety of materials for this piece. Paint and plastic polymer are applied directly on the white walls to create bright, abstract shapes and slim, sharp lines. This background is punctuated by biomorphic, three-dimensional plaques coated in resin. The plaques' surfaces are glossy and their images often blurred. Some recall fields or landscapes, others look like vignettes of people in ambiguous locations. The effect is a crisp, airy aesthetic that recalls the nonrepresentational approaches of Vasily Kandinsky and Joan Miró.

The composition holds together even while embracing discontinuity through its episodic installation.

Aell is described as an artist who "plays with polarities and dualities," and the work 'Boyancy of Nothing' reflects

this. It is like a fragmented travelogue of memory that perhaps belongs to someone else but feels familiar to one's own experiences. The question of the source is left open: What are these images? Where did they come from? What is the relationship among them? The ghost of narrative floats through its fragments.

That's the impression that holds the exhibition together, as pieces by Raja and Ghanbarzadeh share the same characteristic. Raja's "Location Indeterminate" stretches for many feet in thin tendrils of cut paper, coalescing in a dense round mass before trailing off again. Red pins are pressed into the wall surface like markers on a map or circles dropped in a Google app. They are a way of finding oneself, but in this case, they mark a secret point.

Close inspection of the finely cut paper reveals that it is, or was, a map. Areas of open land, water and neat grids of streets can be discerned from the waving strands. The names suggest locales in India, Raja's homeland. The complex weaving and knottedness, dotted by the red pins, says "you are here," while it allows the impossibility of locating oneself in a single place or moment. We are always in the present, which is filtered by our past whereabouts.

Raja also works with multimedia pieces, incorporating video and sound in some. "Entangled" is a mountainous slide of tubular fabric that occupies the center floor space in one gallery. It is made of silk from saris and surrounded by five discreet speakers. The voice of a woman, Laj Waghray, tells family stories, discusses immigration and describes her sense of being an outsider in a foreign culture. Her observations are poignant, especially at a time when issues of racism, xenophobia and nationalism echo throughout political and social discourse. "They will find a way to set you aside," she says. She offers a reminder of

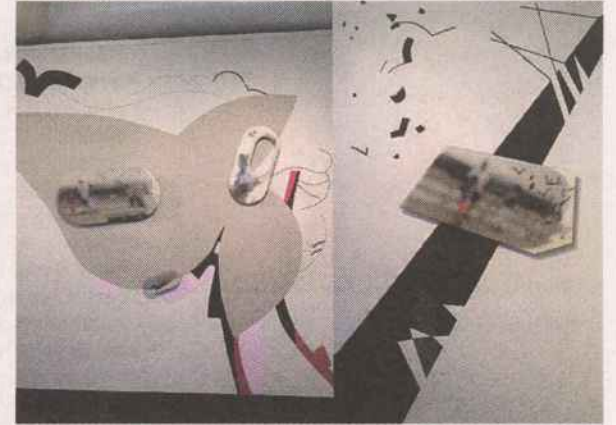


PHOTO: KAT MINERATH

Sabine Aell, "Buoyancy of Nothing." installation view.

the shared emotions and experiences of humanity and calls for empathy.

The third artist in the exhibition, Nina Ghanbarzadeh, was born in Tehran, Iran. Her native language Farsi plays a significant role in her work. Language is an inherent marker of culture, whether it is the inflection of a regional accent or the undulating script of Farsi, a code that's unintelligible to the uninitiated. Text — and calligraphy in particular — has a long history as a venerated art form in Persian culture, and Ghanbarzadeh melds this tradition with contemporary applications.

Her art emanates from a keen sense of line and structure, often working from a macro view of an overall com-

MATERIAL GIRLS next page

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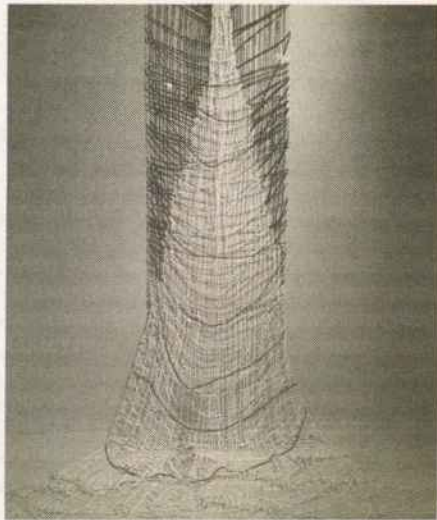


PHOTO: KAT MINERATH.

Nina Ghanbarzadeh, "Line Drawing VI," installation view.

MATERIAL GIRLS from prior page

position to a micro sense of detail. Dot and line drawings in pen or acrylic are coolly minimalistic and form discreet shades of gray from a distance, but also reveal the steady, intense process of mark making. The result denotes endless patience and attentiveness to the larger scope of the finished piece.

Ghanbarzadeh also uncovers layers of cultural understanding and assumption. A case in point is a large white banner with faint gray text that reads, "This is written in Farsi." At least, that is how it appears from across the gallery. The letters are actually composed of extremely fine pen strokes in calligraphic Farsi, their density banding together to form the English letters. It is an illustrative example of how cultural background creates a foundation. It reveals the ways diversity and ancestry are unique characteristics that may not always be apparent from a distance.

ON EXHIBIT

Material Girls continues through Sept. 17 at MIAD, 273 E. Erie St., Milwaukee.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Conservation Framing Series:

Float Framing
Lynden Sculpture Garden
2145 W. Brown Deer Road
10-11:30 a.m. on Aug. 28
Fee: \$10 / \$5 members

How do you frame an artwork without covering any of the edges? What do you do with a piece that is not completely flat? Artist and preparator Bruce Knackert will answer those questions in this workshop on float framing. Space is limited, and advance registration is required online or by calling 414-446-8794. Attendees are welcome to come early for coffee and bagels.

Wisconsin Photography 2016

Racine Art Museum
441 Main St., Racine
2-4 p.m. on Aug. 28

This opening reception introduces 101 photographs and one video piece selected by juror Karen Irvine, curator and associate director of the Museum of Contemporary Photography, Columbia College in Chicago. The reception is open to the public and an awards presentation will be at 3 p.m.

Faces of a Fish Empire

Portrait Society Gallery
207 E. Buffalo St., 5th Floor
Opening reception 5-8 p.m. on Sept. 2

One of Milwaukee's favorite traditions is the Friday Fish Fry, and the Empire Fish Company was a major supplier to these feasts. Beginning in the 1960s, company owner Tom Kutchera photographed the behind-the-scenes staff, and this exhibition brings together three decades of people and personalities from a prominent local business.

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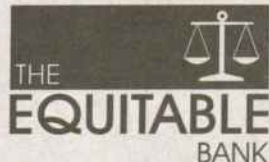
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Alexis J. Rogers as Billie Holiday, photo by Brandon Dahlquist.

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Beckett's bleak black comedy 'Endgame' is a study of nihilism

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Nihilism argues that life is without objective meaning, purpose or intrinsic value. That philosophy often is linked with anomie — the despair and breakdown of social bonds among individuals and their communities.

Nihilism and anomie are on full display in *Endgame*, perhaps the bleakest of Samuel Beckett's black comedies, which premiered this month at Touchstone, the little black box theater on American Players Theatre's Spring Green campus.

Endgame, the 90-minute one-act opus that debuted in 1957, followed on the heels of Beckett's better-known *Waiting for Godot* and treads the same murky philosophical waters. It is a play about nothing, with characters who clearly lack significant forward motion.

The play's title comes from "endgame," a chess term that describes the point of the game in which few pieces are left on the board and their relative relationship to each other defines the game's outcome. (Beckett was an avid chess player.) The point at which the play opens is indeed an emotional endgame.

Hamm (Brian Mani at his thunderous best) commands a basement room in a post-apocalyptic world from a tattered recliner mounted on a furniture dolly. He rails and roars at his attending son Clov



PHOTO: LIZ LAUREN

Brian Mani and David Daniel in American Players Theatre's production of *Endgame*.

(David Daniel). Hamm is blind and cannot stand or walk. Clov, by contrast, has a leg trussed up in a restrictive brace and cannot sit down.

In the same room live Hamm's parents Nagg (John Pribyl) and Nell (Sarah Day), described as having no legs and residing in matching dustbins. They pop up periodically like *Sesame Street*'s Oscar the Grouch

to interact with Hamm and act as a sort of Greek chorus echoing the play's desolate themes. Hamm's dog is a poorly sewn, black stuffed animal with mismatched eyes and only three legs. As such, it fits right in with the other tattered characters while acting as an emotional surrogate for the affection Hamm can't show to and doesn't receive from the rest of his family.

The family's conversations, always one-sided in Hamm's favor, are brutal, repetitive and trivial in topic.

REVEALING NAMES

A fall 1987 *Paris Review* article, "Exorcizing Beckett" by Lawrence Shainberg, claimed that, according to Beckett, *Endgame*'s characters' names were matched to their roles. Hamm, he said, stands for "hammer," while Clov is derived from *clou*, French

for "nail." Beckett, who spent most his adult life in Paris, wrote the play in French.

The article further claims that the character Nagg's name is derived from *nagel*, German for "nail," and Nell is representative of a "death knell," a name appropriate for the fate of this particular character.

In director Aaron Posner's take, Mani's Hamm is loud, aggressive and vindictive, a man who not only drives, but seems to thrive on, the conflict he creates. Daniel's Clov, conversely, is submissive, frustrated and the very picture of domestic abuse. That last impression often emerges in the characters' repetitive banter.

As Nagg and Nell, Pribyl and Day have precious little to do, but execute well in helping embody Posner's bleak vision. Perhaps Beckett had the assumption that modern society treated the elderly as castoffs, which they certainly are in this play.

But it's Nathan Stuber's scenic design and, especially, Rachel Laritz's imaginative and depressing costumes that steal the show. A constant electronic hum and echo effect by sound designer Andre Pluess creates tension and alerts the audience that the characters are very much alone in their nightmare world.

The exact location and time period of the play is never fully defined, but Hamm and his fellow characters appear to have a sense of their own fates.

"Use our head, can't you?" Hamm admonishes Clov. "You're on earth, there's no cure for that!"

ON STAGE

Endgame continues through Oct. 16 at American Players Theatre, 5950 Golf Course Road, Spring Green. Call 608-588-2361.

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Rape case overshadows 'Birth of a Nation' release

The Associated Press

A 17-year-old rape accusation and recent reports that the woman accuser committed suicide have cast a shadow over *The Birth of a Nation*, one of the year's most anticipated films, and its rising star, just as their awards campaign is ramping up.

Nate Parker's *The Birth of a Nation*, a drama about Nat Turner's 1831 slave rebellion, has been pegged as an Academy Awards candidate since its award-winning debut at the Sundance Film Festival, where it fetched a record \$17.5 million acquisition price from Fox Searchlight.

The Birth of a Nation, which Parker stars in, co-wrote, co-produced and directed, is a film some believe will help sweep in a more diverse field of Oscar nominees, along with providing a breakthrough for Parker.

But after a handful of recent trade interviews in which Parker discussed the rape charges he faced and was then acquitted of as a student at Penn State University in 1999, Parker's past is what's drawing headlines well before the October release of the film.

Attention has only intensified with the recent news from Hollywood trade publications *The Hollywood Reporter* and *Variety* that the accuser, who was not named, killed herself in 2012 at the age of 30.

A death certificate obtained by *Variety* said she suffered from "major depressive disorder with psychotic features, PTSD due to physical and sexual abuse."

Representatives for Parker and the studio did not immediately respond to request for comment about the latest reports.

As a 19-year-old wrestler at Penn State, Parker and his roommate Jean Celestin (who has a story credit on *The Birth of a Nation*) were charged with raping the

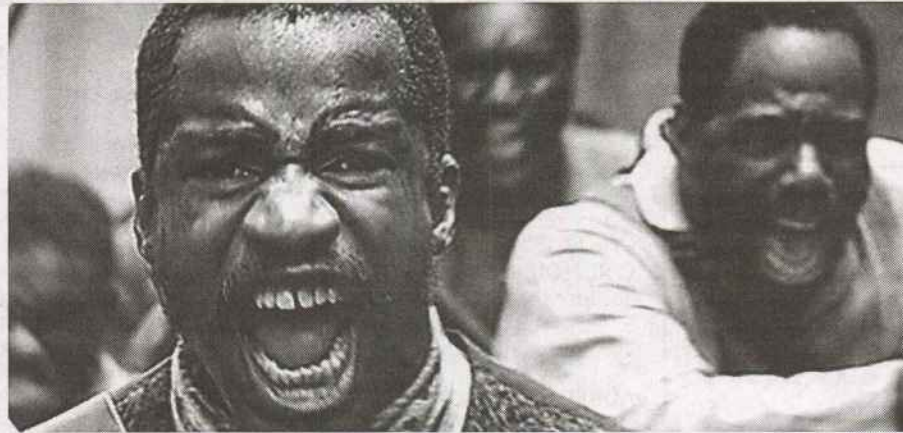


PHOTO: COURTESY

Nate Parker, left, as Nat Turner in the highly anticipated film *The Birth of a Nation*. Parker wrote, directed and stars in the Sundance award-winner.

18-year-old student. The woman said she was unconscious at the time and didn't consent to the sex. Parker, who testified that he and the woman had previously had sex, and Celestin maintained that it was consensual.

Parker and Celestin invited another friend to join them in having sex with the woman that night, but the third man testified that he declined, saying it didn't feel right. *Deadline* reported that, according to court documents, Parker told the victim, "I felt like you put yourself in that situation, you know what I mean? ... I really felt like I didn't do anything wrong."

Also according to court documents, the woman tried twice to commit suicide in 1999.

Parker was acquitted in 2001. Celestin was convicted of sexual assault, but that was overturned when the woman did not

testify in a 2005 retrial.

Saying Parker and Celestin intimidated and harassed her on campus following the incident, she sued Penn State for its failure to protect her. She was awarded a reported \$17,500 settlement out of court.

Her suffering continued.

The Hollywood Reporter spoke to S. Daniel Carter, a Penn State sexual assault advocate, who said the accuser was "tormented" by "the constant contact and fear of seeing her assailants on campus."

The accuser's brother, identified only as Johnny, also spoke about his sister.

"If I were to look back at her very short life and point to one moment where I think she changed as a person, it was obviously that point," Johnny told *Variety*. "The trial was pretty tough for her."

After the trial, Johnny said, his sister

moved around frequently and became a mother to a son with her boyfriend.

"I think the ghosts continued to haunt her," he said.

The case largely escaped notice at Sundance in January. But in recent interviews, Parker confronted it straightforwardly.

"I was sure it would come up," Parker told *Deadline*. "I stand here, a 36-year-old man, 17 years removed from one of the painful moments in my life. And I can imagine it was painful for everyone. I was cleared of everything, of all charges. I've done a lot of living and raised a lot of children. I've got five daughters and a lovely wife."

Representatives for Parker and the studio did not immediately respond to requests for comment after news broke of his accuser's suicide.

The studio, Fox Searchlight, paid more for *The Birth of a Nation* than any previous Sundance film.

In an earlier statement, the studio said, "Fox Searchlight is aware of the incident that occurred while Nate Parker was at Penn State. We also know that he was found innocent and cleared of all charges. We stand behind Nate and are proud to help bring this important and powerful story to the screen."

Parker also received backlash after *Ebony* magazine reported he said that he'd never play a gay character, in an effort "to preserve the black man."

The movie's poster depicts Parker as Turner with a noose made out of a U.S. flag.

The film will play in September at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Louis Weisberg contributed to this story.

APT's 'King Lear' offers dark commentary on our times

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

How sharper than a serpent's tooth is the child who grows into the weapon of her parents' destruction.

That's the scenario driving the narrative of Shakespeare's *King Lear*, the final production to open this season on American Players Theatre's "Up the Hill" stage in Spring Green. The play is among the darkest of Shakespeare's tragedies: The vitriol and violence spring from what should be the most nurturing of relationships — that of father and daughter. But Lear's family bonds are deeply vengeful, wrought from old wounds that have festered into cruel manifestations that are not unfamiliar to modern society.

The play begins as King Lear (APT veteran Jonathan Smoots at his bombastic best) announces his retirement and intention to divide his country among his three daughters. The size and location of each fiefdom will be determined by how ably each expresses her love for the aging monarch.

Goneril (Laura Rook) and Regan (Kelsey

Brennan) fawn shamelessly for their pieces of the kingdom. But youngest daughter Cordelia (Melisa Pereyra) refuses to engage in such artifice, eloquently stating that her love is no more nor less than what is appropriate between a daughter and her father.

In a thundering rebuke, Lear banishes Cordelia into the arms of the King of France (Ninos Baba), leaving her a noble bride with neither dowry nor title to her name. In terms of familial betrayal, this is just the first of many and sets the tone for tragedies to come.

Both Goneril and Regan discover their payout comes at a larger price than expected. Lear continues cavorting as if he were still king, traveling with a band of 100 knights and expecting his daughters to provide his gaggle with succor and a place to stay whenever the mood strikes him.

Given Lear's growing dementia and unreasonable demands, the sisters prove less loving than their rhetoric suggested. They plot to rid themselves of their now burdensome parent, setting into motion a series of events that unwinds to a tragic

conclusion.

Director William Brown attempts to put the ante of the already frightening scenario by setting his play in contemporary times, with sharp business suits and haute couture taking the place of noble robes. Shakespeare purists may find this a bit unsettling, perhaps even trivializing, but the time shift well serves the play's universal themes of anarchy and greed.

Kevin Depinet's simple set — steps and a grass-covered riser — proves remarkably facile and serves as ironic commentary on the concept of a level playing field. The set is put to especially good use during lighting designer Michael A. Peterson's storm sequence.

As Lear, Smoots brings the necessary balance of bravado and vulnerability to a role writ large by his magnificent voice. His monarch is a character more to be pitied than feared.

The cast as a whole is strong, but a special nod goes to Cristina Panfilio's Fool. Clad in a leather jacket, black skinny jeans and a fedora, Panfilio presents an interest-

ing counterpoint to the formality of the other characters, even if her interpretation struggles against some of the complex Shakespearean language.

Helped along on harmonica by Tim Gittings, who plays Lear's chief of staff, Panfilio at one point strums out a nicely played blues arrangement of some of Shakespeare's saltier dialogue. It's a bit of a contrivance, to be sure, but it also offers some nice variation and treatment to the Bard's often heavy prose.

In the end, the updating of this Lear to contemporary times offers commentary on our current political conditions. In both eras, it seems, there is plenty of arrogance, greed and blame to go around.

ON STAGE

King Lear continues at American Players Theatre, 5950 Golf Course Road, Spring Green, through Sept. 30. For tickets, call: 608-588-2361.



The DISH

Red Light Ramen serves familiar favorite at new venue

By Jake Ekdahl

Contributing writer

Only a week after opening, Red Light Ramen seems already to have become a popular venue. I arrived just after the restaurant began serving for the night to find a group of customers waiting to be seated.

Owner Justin Carlisle also owns Ardent, the restaurant next door at 1751 N. Farwell St., where he used to hold ramen nights on Fridays and Saturdays. The nights drew a large following. So when the storefront next to Ardent's became available, Carlisle seized the opportunity to create a space devoted to ramen. Little surprise it has become a favorite spot for an after-work bite.

"It's been crazy. We've been very blessed and fortunate," Carlisle said.

The restaurant's name was derived from its location "down in a basement." "So it's kind of like a red light district," Carlisle said.

In addition to ramen, the menu has a variety of seafood tins and Japanese snacks. For drinks, there is a sizable sake list, as well as beer and wine.

The atmosphere is hip without being off-putting to people who aren't, striking a balance between cool and convenient. The walls are red and painted with artwork.

Carlisle, who arrived in Milwaukee five years ago, has been in the restaurant business since high school, when he worked as

a dishwasher. It seems to be a family thing: His brother is a chef. "I blame him for everything," he said with a smile.

What makes Carlisle's ramen special is his traditional approach. "We try to hold (to the) roots of what ramen is. I learned from a Japanese man. (I've) been to Japan several times."

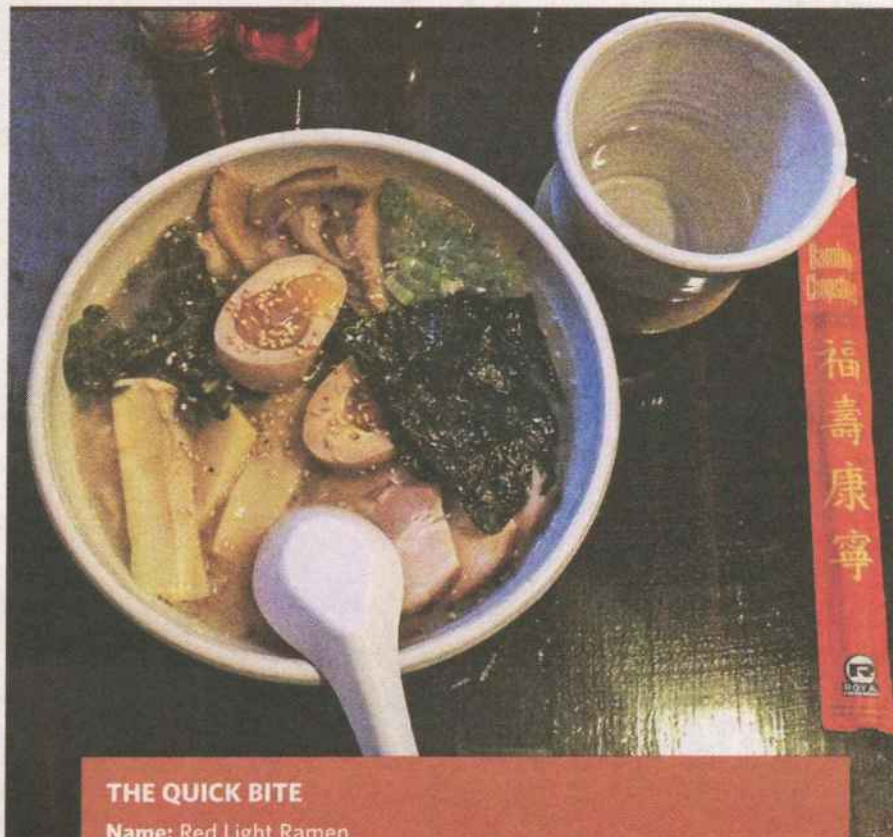
The traditional approach has worked. I ordered the Tonkotsu Ramen, which Carlisle called his personal favorite. (I later regretted that I didn't get another one to go). It was served with pork, scallion, mushroom, bamboo shoots, nori, fish cake, egg and wasabi greens. The quality and presentation far exceeded what you'd expect in a ramen dish. The yolk of the egg was not too runny, but not solid either. It went particularly well with the crunchy bamboo shoots and succulent pork.

Currently, the restaurant is open 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. Wednesday through Saturday.

Red Light Ramen is located near Ethiopian Cottage, Kabana Grill, Pho 43 and the Pizza Shuttle, adding to a growing cluster of culturally diverse dining in the area.

I look forward to what comes next.

Want to recommend a restaurant for WIG to review? Email lweisberg@wisconsin Gazette.com.



THE QUICK BITE

Name: Red Light Ramen

Location: 1751 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee

Premise: Ramen and Japanese food

Menu samples: Tonkotsu Ramen (\$13); Maboroshi Sake (\$5); Snack Pack, served with whipped spam, spicy mayo, cucumber and nori (\$6); Stuffed Squid Seafood Tin, served with pickled vegetables (\$10)

Bite-size review: As a place to grab a steaming bowl of ramen after work and as a late-night food stop, Red Light Ramen offers traditional Japanese-style food at great prices.

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¹ *APR is annual percentage rate. Rates are subject to change. The minimum loan amount is \$5,000. The one-time charge of \$149 that applies to newly booked HELOCs due at closing is waived through October 31, 2016, except appraisal costs or title insurance, if required. Member is responsible for appraisal costs ranging from \$400 to \$600, if required. Property insurance is required. Promotional rates are for fixed home equity loan segments and new home equity line requests received between 4/1/16 – 10/31/16 and closed within 30 days of request. Rates shown are for homeowners with 70% loan-to-value.

² The introductory rate of 1.99% APR is valid for new UW Credit Union home equity line of credit requests received between 4/1/16 – 10/31/16 and closed within 30 days of request and is valid for homeowners with up to 70% loan-to-value (LTV). Intro rate is 2.49% APR for up to 80% LTV, 2.99% for 90% LTV and 5.99% for up to 100% LTV. APR will be fixed at the introductory rate during the 12-month introductory period. No annual fees. Offer is subject to normal credit qualifications. Rates are subject to change but cannot exceed 18%. Some restrictions may apply. After the twelve-month introductory period, the rate is indexed to *The Wall Street Journal* Prime. APR is subject to change monthly but cannot exceed 18%, and the APR will never fall below 3.99% for HELOC 70%, 4.49% for HELOC 80%, 4.99% for HELOC 90% or 7.99% for HELOC 100%. During the introductory and 5-year draw periods, the minimum monthly payment for HELOC 70%, HELOC 80% and HELOC 90% will be (a) \$50 or (b) the accrued interest on the outstanding balance under the agreement as of the close of the billing cycle, whichever is greater. The minimum monthly payment for HELOC 100% will be (a) \$100 or (b) 1.5% of the outstanding balance, whichever is greater. However, if you exceed the maximum principal loan balance allowed under your agreement, you will also be required to pay an amount sufficient to reduce your principal loan balance to the maximum principal loan balance allowed under the agreement. Balances of less than \$100.00 must be paid in full. Late payment fee: \$10 or 5% of your monthly payment, whichever is less.