

QUEST

MAGAZINE Volume 21, Issue 5, May 2014

**IS IT
SPRING
YET?**

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MILWAUKEE
LGBT FILM/VIDEO
FESTIVAL

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PRIDE FLAGS RETURN TO PARADE ROUTE THANKS TO WELLS FARGO

The Milwaukee Pride Parade is thrilled the 2nd street flags will return to the 2014 Milwaukee Pride Parade route (2nd street from Greenfield Ave to Oregon Ave) thanks to a very generous donation by Wells Fargo. This year the installation as well as the Permit of over 30 LGBT Pride Banners will come to at least \$2700.00. The banners will hang along the parade route from June 1st to June 31st, subject to city approval of course.

Last year the parade organization made the difficult decision to forego the popular flags due to cost and money available. A major sponsor was unable to support the parade for that year which also contributed to the lack of funds. This sent the parade into a frenzy of fundraising attempting to fill the void and somehow raise the needed monies. Unfortunately not enough was raised and the Parade was forced to make the call that the flags would not happen in 2013.

Earlier this year the Parade was contacted by a representative of Wells Fargo expressing his interest to help. Over the following months Wells Fargo agreed to support the 2014 parade and joined Miller Lite and Avant-Garde as Corporate Sponsors of the Parade.

Wells Fargo is not the only organization to have stepped up and supported the parade so far this year. Currently: Wells Fargo, Miller Lite and Avant-Garde have all pledged support at a corporate level. In addition; Fluid and the Eldon Murray

Foundation Fund have each pledged support at a "Gold level". This is not to be outshined by the support also offered to us by the G/L Community Fund and the Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church. The Milwaukee Pride Parade is also supported by its Media Sponsors Quest / Outbound Magazine and the Wisconsin Gazette.

The 2014 Milwaukee Pride Parade will be held on Sunday June 8th, 2014 with step off happening at 2:00pm sharp from 2nd and Greenfield. The 2014 Parade will terminate at 2nd and Oregon.

Unit spaces are still available for the 2014 Parade. And discounted entries are available until May 15th (5-15-14). For profit organizations are just \$65.00 and a Non-Profit organization is just \$10.00 for entry! We accept Units all the way up to the day of the parade but the prices do increase so please do get your applications in ASAP! Applications can be downloaded from www.prideparademke.org or contact Paradecoordinator@prideparademke.org to have one email or postal mailed to you.

Judges for the 2014 Milwaukee Pride Parade have been selected as well!

This year's judges are

- Michael Goertz – Michael returns for a third time around as a judge of the Milwaukee Pride Parade. While he currently works in the healthcare field(s) he has worked for ARCW and Pridefest serving as Parade Coordinator and Board Member during his tenure.

ing his tenure.

- Michelle Kremski – Michelle is the owner of M's Salon. That's the unit responsible for the 3 vehicle Epic "Road Warrior" themed entry from 2013 which won Best Float. With a background in style and a longtime support of the LGBT Community Michelle was an obvious choice for 2014.

- Dan Seaver – Dan is deeply involved in the newly founded Kenosha Pride Committee. Last year he and a few friends put together an impressive Pride March in just 3 weeks! His impressive dedication to LGBT Pride made him, and his organization, a "must have" in our 2014 celebration.

The Grand Marshals for 2014 are still be finalized. But we can tell you that in honor of our ten years of existence we are reaching out across the state to bring together those who have supported us from Green Bay to Kenosha and everywhere else in between. Look for more information soon on our Facebook page, website, and future press releases.

The Milwaukee Pride Parade is also, as always, looking for volunteers! The Milwaukee Pride Parade is an all-volunteer run organization and without people the parade truly does grind to a halt. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Volunteercoordinator@prideparademke.org.

There is a theme for the 2014 Pride Parade. The Theme is "A Decade on Second St."

CORRECTION

It is generally the policy of this magazine to credit a photographer when we use an image in a story. At press time we had not been provided information on the photographer who took this image used for a story about Brian Firkus who was also featured on our April Cover. The photographer is Ernie Reyy and is our guest photographer for this issue. Check him out at: www.erniereyyphotography.com



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Interview with Skylight Music Theatre's Ray Jivoff by Paul Masterson

The 2013-14 Skylight Music Theatre's season presented the theme of revolution. It began with Beethoven's opera *Fidelio* and, most recently, rendered an incredible production of the Allen Ginsburg- Phillip Glass collaboration, the staged song cycle *Hydrogen Jukebox*. It concludes now with *HAIR*, a 1967 musical about hippies and counter-culture. The Skylight's Ray Jivoff directs the production. Jivoff and his life partner C. Michael Wright, currently artistic director of the Milwaukee Chamber Theatre have long been icons of the Milwaukee scene.

QUEST spoke with Jivoff about his Skylight career and his role in the upcoming production of *HAIR*.

QUEST: Before we get to *HAIR*, tell us how you came to the Skylight?

Ray Jivoff: My partner Michael and I lived in New York City. In the late 1980's Michael got a role at the Milwaukee Rep. After several years of his being at the Milwaukee Rep we moved here from New York. I was a freelance actor, teacher, and director. I ran a summer theater arts program that evolved into Next Actors that still exists as part of Next Act Theatre. Skylight hired me in 1999 as its education director and I built its education program.

QUEST: You mentioned your partner is C. Michael Wright., who is currently the Chamber Theatre's artistic director. Do you collaborate? Are you working together on *HAIR*?

RJ: We don't collaborate much aside from bouncing ideas off each other. I'm directing a piece at Chamber next season. We're reviving the *Beyond the Fringe* cast - the "Whitewater Mafia", a group of actors who all went to Whitewater together. I've gathered them together to do *The Complete Works of Shakespeare*.

QUEST: The Skylight is one of very few Milwaukee theatres that actually provides the audience with a program that includes an in-depth discussion of the whys and hows of any given production. Is that your doing?

RJ: Yes, the Audience Guide is mine. It evolved out of the education program's student guides. I thought they should be universally available for all our audi-

ences. It improves the understanding and enjoyment of a show when the audience has access to background and other useful information.

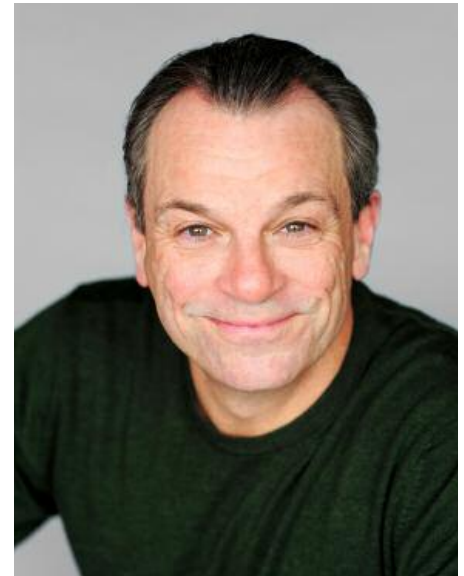
QUEST: So let's talk about *HAIR*. *HAIR* has been often revived. Just in the last decade or so there have been several local productions. You directed it at Caroll College and at Sunset Playhouse. Beyond its baby boomer nostalgia and the popularity of the musical numbers, what gives it such longevity?

RJ: *HAIR* has a universal message and topic. It's anti-war. Unfortunately, we're still engaged in wars. I certainly think it captures the spirit of the 1960's youth movement when power shifted from the adults to the young. We're still seeing that. Today, pop culture is dominated by youth. *HAIR* was a major influence in that shift. In *HAIR* that movement is represented by the cast who are members of the "Tribe." The Tribe is a collective representation of the counterculture. Act I spills out a variety of issues...sexual revolution, drugs, and war. Act II focuses specifically on the Vietnam war and the draft. The lead character, Claude, faces a Hamlet-like choice...in this case, to be drafted or resist. It's a bigger question for the Tribe and ultimately for all of us.

In that way, *HAIR* fits the season's revolutionary theme on many levels. It changed the Broadway musical. It brought rock and pop music to a Broadway stage. The the issues of race along with a racially mixed cast, the language, the depicting of a part of our culture that was happening right then gave it an immediacy. The revolution is against the status quo and the rules. And then there's the statement about the senselessness of war and a criticism of American values. That message remains timely.

QUEST: And for whom?

RJ: I think it appeals to young people. The excitement of the cast is an indication of that. It's young people speaking. My generation was a part of the '60's revolution when it first happened. Today there's a reiteration of those themes. We're still talking about drugs and racial issues. Hud, a black members of the Tribe, introduces himself as "The Imperial Wizard of the KKK." There was just a hate crime in the news,



when a KKK man attacked a Jewish Community Center. These things are not passe. In fact, they are sadly current.

QUEST: Still, over time, a musicals with a message lose their political edge so that only the catchy tunes remain. There's a persisting anecdote about your production of *HAIR* at the Sunset Playhouse in Brookfield. A patron made a remark during intermission. It was a stunning quote I'll never forget. That audience member said "I don't remember there being so many black people in *HAIR*." It sounds like that person missed the revolution. How do you, as a director, keep the audience entertained but also keep them engaged?

RJ: I'm not sure what one can do with that attitude. The show presents that. The audience is empowered to be part of the ensemble. One of the powers of the show is that sense of community and our mutual, loving connection. The cast shares that with the audience. One can only hope they get it.

As for audience engagement, with the resources we have I'm exploring the idea of political street theater. I want to empower the cast, the Tribe, to engage the audience. The Tribe is



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putting on a show and directly interacts with the audience. Compared to other productions, even the ones I've done in the past, we've expanded the theatrical paraphernalia. The anti-war demo with the song "Ain't got No Grass" is usually done with protest signs. We've expanded that to two-story high street puppets – a blind-folded Statue of Liberty and a big Uncle Sam... and there's more.

QUEST: Is there a consideration of the Milwaukee audience's sensitivity?

RJ: I haven't really thought about it. I'm not tailoring the show to a notion of what the audience will accept or not. The nudity is a first for me. It's part of the draft card burning demo that ends the first act. In the original Broadway production a parachute came down and the cast stripped under it. The nudity was essentially disguised. But I want the nudity to be political not gratuitous. It's part of the protest. It's a physical bearing of the souls. The discussion is how people get upset by nudity but not the idea of killing and destruction.

QUEST: What about LGBT community? Can we identify with HAIR?

It's interesting. A sense of sexual liberation is part of Tribe's general identity. *HAIR* was written when sexual barriers were breaking down. The gay revolution was just starting. Still, in the show there's a reservation about that certain sexual barrier. One character talks of his attraction to Mick Jagger, the lead singer of the Rolling Stones. But he denies being gay. There's also real sexual energy between the

male leads. The bigger picture is the issues are being openly discussed. However, *HAIR* opens in 1967, nearly two years before Stonewall. People were still tentative about gay sexuality. LGBT liberation was a point when the door was just opening – when the process first started. It got us where we are today. But the very core of the show is the theme of acceptance. So *HAIR* is historic in that sense and has LGBT relevancy as part of our narrative.

QUEST: Is it a local production?

RJ: Basically, there are 20 cast members, all Wisconsin natives. It's a young cast, of course, One is still a student. Everyone else has graduated, many from the UW system. The staging and choreography with a cast of 20 is a challenge on our stage. We're rehearsing earlier on the stage than usual. It's very much a Skylight built production. Viswa Subbaraman conducts the orchestra. The set design, costumes, choreography are done by our people. The textures and layers are wonderful. It's truly done in Skylight style.

QUEST: Can you elaborate on "Skylight style"?

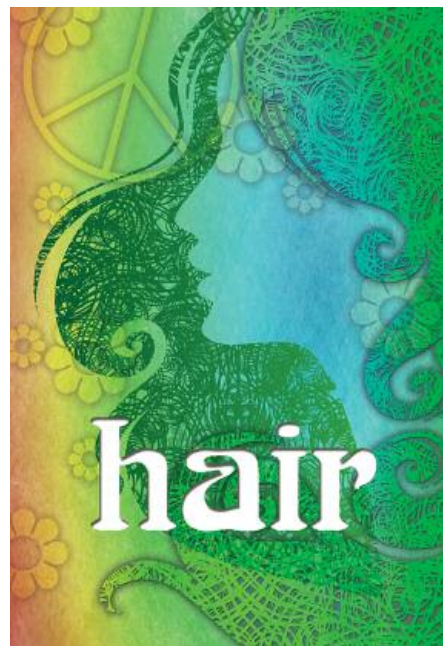
RJ: Skylight style means we're really concentrated on the story and text as opposed to just riding the music as a focus. Our attack in general is to make the story accessible and to make a connection to the audience. The theater itself gives us an intimacy that allows the audience members to connect, just through their proximity to the per-

formance. Beyond that our process focuses on that goal of creating the "piece" rather than making it a platform for personalities.

HAIR opens May 16 and runs through June 8.

For ticket info: www.skylightmusictheatre.org

A special LGBT outreach event, "Be Out at the Skylight", takes place before the Thursday, May 22 performance. Information is available through the Skylight website or through participating LGBT organizations.



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GET WET in Timoteo Swim!

By Richie Allen

Timoteo Ocampo is the creative director and co-owner of the west coast fashion house, **TIMOTEO**, specializing in men's denim, dress shirts, fashion tees, briefs and swimwear. He studied design at California State University and worked at Richard Tyler, Moda Cad, XOXO and Baby Phat. In 2001, he opened his own men's retail store in West Hollywood, where he began designing clothes for personal clients. Within two years, the label we know today as Timoteo was born.

This month, he presents his new collections for summer. We decided to take the opportunity to find out why, for guys, it's all about design, fit, and fabrication when it comes to swimwear. Dive in.

What are guys looking for when buying swimwear?

Guys like swimsuits that have great fashion design and a perfect fit for their body.

Where do guys go wrong in choosing their swimwear?

Not picking the most complementary color for their complexion. Also, not picking the style of suit that frames their body in the best way possible.

How is a guy to know what style is best for him?

Look in the mirror and see what kind of body you have. If you have a larger upper body that tapers to a tight trim waist and you're rocking some serious abs, you may go for a bikini cut or short swim short. If you have a bigger build, go for the square cut suit. If you're a little modest, do a sexy board short. Guys that carry a little more weight should wear a mid length board short. No matter what you wear, make sure it is proportional.

Do trunks need to have a tight fit?

Not necessarily. However, certain styles demand it. It's all about comfort. If you want to go up a size, that's fine.

How is Timoteo responding to guys changing swim needs?

We respond to changing swim needs by adding new styles each year. Guys swim gear shouldn't be boring. We are constantly bringing new life to gear through exciting, fun prints.

What do you enjoy most about designing men's swimwear?

I love making a guy look great. I also love finding new prints and designs that I know will make certain complexions look stunning.

When designing a new piece, what do you draw inspiration from?

I always draw inspiration from the beach communities I have been to. I love going to the beach. I love seeing the new colors that are trending. I work those into the print selections I choose.

What's your favorite swim cut for men?

I have two favorites: the square cut and the low rise bikini.

Besides a great suit, what's something every guy should remember to bring with him to the beach this summer?

I am so glad you asked. Bring a back up suit. Every guy should make a scene change at some point in the day. Also, don't leave home without sunscreen.

Photos by Tom Cullis. Visit Timoteo.net





On Second Thought...

about those handouts...

Opinion by Paul Masterson

Recently, while minding my own business waiting for a bus, a stranger began a conversation. Quite out of the blue he announced he was a "patriot" and wanted the old America back. He complained about people living on government handouts. "Oh, you mean corporations?" I asked. "No, the people who take from us and don't do anything for it." Then, as we looked into the distance in anticipation of our government subsidized transportation, he went on about our impending fall into socialism. Mercifully, my bus arrived and whisked me away to ponder his words of street wisdom. Considering another conversation I had, it didn't take me long to realize, he's right.

In March, an acquaintance of mine married his partner. The loving couple traveled to Iowa for a low-keyed, no frills ceremony. They are now a happy husband and husband. Of course, it's a sad statement for Wisconsin that its committed same-sex couples need to run off to neighboring states to exercise a nuptial right denied in our own state. The irony in this case is my acquaintance is a staunch Republican and a regular donor to those very Republican candidates who vehemently oppose marriage equality. I congratulated him, of course. But, I couldn't help myself. I asked if he didn't see the irony of his actions. I asked, if he

benefited from the efforts of Democratic politicians and activists, why he couldn't be a fiscally responsible Democrat rather than a Republican. He just smirked.

I went off on a tangent. I told the story about a friend who was hit on by a Catholic priest while having a drink at one of our local gay watering holes. He fended off the reverend's advances not because he didn't find him attractive – in fact, he confessed, the guy was very much his bearded "daddy" type. The rejection was based on more practical concerns: the other priest he sees might have found out. It's a small gay world and even smaller in busy gay clerical circles. In fact, I explained, my friend had just gotten back from yet another junket with his sugar Monseigneur. It seems Lenten acts of penitential self-denial, like giving up chocolate, apply only to the flock. For the pious shepherd, it merely means going to a Friday fish fry.

I tried to put it all in context. I mentioned the Milwaukee Archdiocese attempt to buy off the claimants of decades of sexual abuse at that hands of its priests with a financial settlement amounting to \$6000 per victim. Although perhaps an unfair comparison, that figure is less than the annual tithe of pastoral "benefits" paid to an ec-

clesiastical escort.

My Republican acquaintance, also a practicing Catholic, seemed genuinely appalled. I thought I had made a breakthrough. "Do you have something against priests?" he asked. "No," I sighed. "I just have something against hypocrites."

So, that patriot guy at the bus stop had it right. "Handouts," however, are relative. Those LGBT people who benefit from the sacrifices of others while publicly espousing political or religious convictions that deny our rights are, quite literally, the welfare queens of Republican lore. I get the penchant for pricy gold-plated bling, colorful voluminous brocade vestments, wafting clouds of incense, organ fanfares, smart hats and red shoes. But, servicing the needy, for all its Robin Hood rationale, has its boundaries, especially when a vow of celibacy is involved. I also get the addiction to wealth, white privilege, and the abhorrence of taxes. But, don't generously donate your dollars to some GOP hack who would rather you, and all the rest of us, didn't exist much less be granted the right to marry. I hope my friend at least had the decency to donate something to the two Iowa Supreme Court judges who were ousted from bench by Republicans for having decided for marriage equality. But somehow, I doubt he did.

OMG! Filibusters State Tour coming to Green Bay

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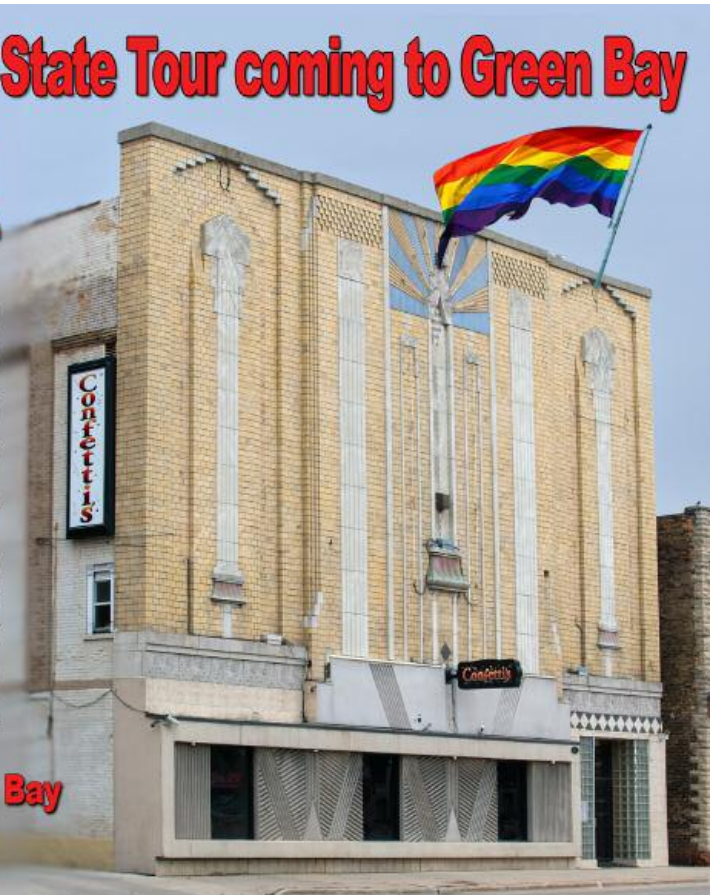
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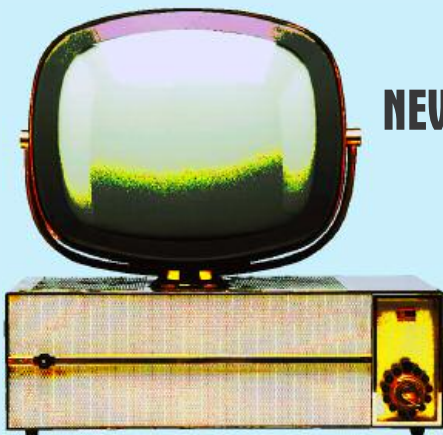
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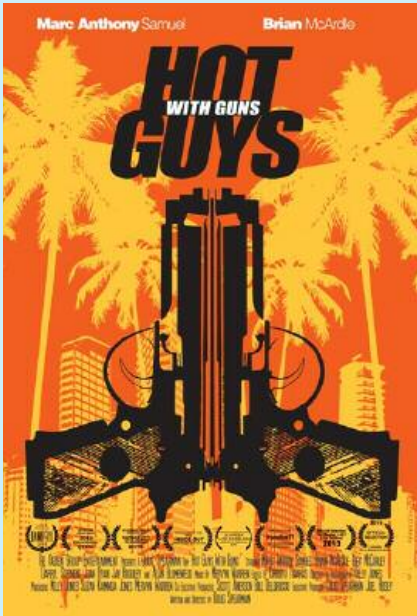
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NEW ON DVD By Glenn Bishop



Doug Spearman's **Hot Guys With Guns** brought Glenn (not to mention Wolfe Video's marketing department) in mind of the 1980s and the **Lethal Weapon** franchise starring Mel Gibson and Danny Glover.

Glenn well remembers the 1980s, a decade ushered in with Ronald Reagan's Inauguration and ending with Bush's "a thousand points of light." Surely still a time when Glenn might admire Mel's shapely, not to mention often bare, bum without even a twinge of guilt. Back before Mel Gibson's increasing difficulty with oral diarrhea left his anti-Semitic, homophobic, racist and misogynist rants laid open for all to see.

Not that the moviegoing public seems to have been particularly bothered; still, in retrospect poor Helen Hunt must absolutely wince when **What Women Want**, her 2000 rom-com with Gibson, turns up on the late, late show.

Hot Guys With Guns opens innocently enough with assorted nefarious goings-on taking place in a darkened bedroom. Catching Glenn's razor sharp eyesight are several naked men artistically strewn around the room. One rather more animated naked man goes to answer the front door to a man, his face covered with a fright mask. They kiss. The masked man proceeds to find easily

portable treasures while his naked cohort join the many other, slumbering naked men. "Some very strange goings-on," mused Glenn.

Following a delightful James Bond-esque animated opening credits sequence replete with a suitably soulful song, Doug Spearman's screenplay introduces Danny (Marc Anthony Samuel). A would-be actor, Danny is taking a course in private investigation taught by veteran P.I. Jimmy (Alan Blumenfeld) in the hopes of landing a possible starring TV role as macho African-American detective.

The subject of much of his undercover research is his ex Patrick (Brian McArdle), aka Pip. Pip is a deliciously chiseled WeHo trust fund baby who evidently spends his time working on his abs, spending Mom's money and just lately, in replacing Danny with hot new boyfriend Robin (Trey McCurley).

Pip's charmed existence is put to the test after he and Robin wake up after having been drugged and robbed at a gay sex party hosted and attended by LA's wealthy (and totally white) 'A' list gays. No surprise that the police aren't called. None of these gay A-listers would want their famous faces and names to become known and Pip is no exception.

Still, with his car gone as well as his prized Rolex, his father's, Pip soon becomes obsessed and starts asking questions. When Pip learns that this is the third time that the "sex-party bandits" have struck, he decides something must be done and naturally enlists Danny's help. After plenty of bickering, suitable references to **Charlie's Angels**, **Nancy Drew** and **Barnaby Jones**, our pair of gay amateur sleuths along with their gruff, heterosexual sidekick, are on the case.

The whys and wherefores of the mystery of the sex-party bandits, despite some surprisingly serious consequences, take a decidedly secondary role in favor of humor and plenty of it. After a rooftop escape, for example, from an armed gunman, admittedly one who is a completely hopeless shot, Pip tries to calm a hysterical Danny, and then playfully asks, "Are you getting a woody?"

Can Danny, Pip and Jimmy discover the sex-party bandits and make West Hollywood safe again for 'A' list gays without managing to get themselves

Buy it, Rent it, or forget it...

Glenn has spent literally decades watching murder mysteries, beginning with those wonderful old Sherlock Holmes films from the 1940s starring Basil Rathbone, especially those where Sherlock jumped several decades and matched wits with the Nazis. From Sherlock, it was on to the incomparable Margaret Rutherford's Miss Marple and continuing to Angela Lansbury's intrepid Jessica Fletcher. Never, ever could Glenn correctly guess the villain – until **Hot Guys With Guns**.

Okay, pretty much everyone at the screening guessed correctly and not just the more sober of those in attendance.

Which isn't to say that **Hot Guys With Guns** isn't an enjoyable romp. There's plenty of humor, plenty of scantily-clad man-flesh and plenty of chemistry between Marc Anthony Samuel's Danny and Brian McArdle's Pip. Alan Blumenfeld's Jimmy is a perfect foil for all the gay banter and helps keep the proceedings reasonably grounded. And it was nice seeing Doug Spearman's old **Noah's Arc** colleague, Darryl Stephens.

Spearman's only real misstep is in casting Joan Ryan as Pip's meddlesome mother, her role a handful of painfully unfunny scenes each more cringeworthy than the previous.

Still, Glenn rates **Hot Guys With Guns** a "Buy it" and extends the hope that screenwriter/director Spearman might be induced to venture a follow-up.

Just the facts...

Hot Guys With Guns runs 105 minutes and is in English **Hot Guys With Guns** is available on DVD with an SRP of \$24.95

Marc Anthony Samuel had a small role in Peter Paige's sadly ill-conceived, **Say Uncle**.

Hot Guys With Guns won Best LGBT FILM – Beloit Int'l Film Festival

The usual meager DVD extras as usual with Wolfe titles: trailer and blooper reel



killed? Will Danny and Pip stop bickering long enough to see how perfect they are together?

OUT BOUND MAGAZINE

Volume 13 #5 May 2014



Club ICON in Kenosha (above & left) celebrated 8 years and for LaCage in Milwaukee (below) it was their 30th! WOW!

More pics from these are inside this magazine and also online at www.quest-online.com

These Photos by Will Sharkey



3.4.1 FRIDAYS

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Welcome to Ruthie's Bitchin' Kitchen

Welcome to my Bitchin' Kitchen, amigos. What's cooking, you ask? I've got a lot in the oven this month! On Saturday, May 24, I'd love for you to visit the booth of my charity Ruthie's Kennel Club. We'll be selling cookbooks at Mary's Market Days in the parking lot of Hamburger Mary's. Check out the fun where dozens of vendors sell their art pieces, homemade treats and more all afternoon.

Then, on Sunday, May 25, you'll find me at the Bay View Pub Crawl. The theme is Prom, so grab your taffeta dress or baby blue tux and come join the fun. For more info and tickets, check out "Bay View Prom Pub Crawl" on Facebook.

I'm hosting another installment of my "Three-Girls-Three" show at Hamburger Mary's on Friday, May 30. My gal-pals, Trixie Mattel and Jaymes Mansfield, and I have a laugh-out-loud party in store with two shows (8:00 and 9:30 pm). Seats for the Dining with the Divas shows sell fast, so call 414-988-9324 for reservations.

The other day, I felt like getting creative in the kitchen, so I cracked open a bottle of Rum Chata and unleashed my culinary creativity. After several glasses of Rum Chata, it hit me! Why not create some recipes with...tequila? My friend Pearl polished off my last four bottles of Jose Cuervo, so I thought I'd cook up something with what was left of the Rum Chata.

Rum Chata is quite possibly the greatest thing to come outta Wisconsin since Brett Favre. And I'm talking about the cool, Super-Bowl-winning Brett Favre...not the can't-make-up-his-mind, Crocs-wearing, penis-flashing Brett Favre. The heavenly beverage is great on its own, but it's also pretty damn tasty in recipes, too. Don't believe me? Try these easy dishes and see for yourself. Let's pop open some Rum Chata, have a bite, and eat good and shut up!

RUM CHATA FRENCY FRENCH TOAST

What's that? Rum Chata for breakfast? Why the hell not?! The perfect Sunday morning treat, this fast and easy recipe is sure to become one of your rise-and-shine favorites. Surprise your trick this weekend with golden slices of this comforting specialty.

3 eggs • 1/2 cup milk
1/4 cup Rum Chata
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 tablespoon butter
8 slices white bread • Syrup

Using a whisk or fork, beat the eggs, milk, Rum Chata and cinnamon in a medium bowl. Melt butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Dip slices of bread into egg mixture. Grill bread in skillet until golden brown, roughly 3 to 4 minutes per side or until golden. Serve with syrup.

Ruthie's Culinary Clues

You may need to add extra butter to the skillet between batches when preparing this recipe. The toast is great made with thick slices of bread, but if you only have a loaf of sliced white bread on hand, feel free to use it.

RUTHIE'S RUM CHATA MOUSSE

I love a good mousse as much as a good man. Best of all, this sweet treat won't leave you because you accidentally slept with his best friend as well as the guy at the doughnut shop. Uhm...forget I said that. Let's just enjoy this creamy chocolaty dessert, shall we?

1 (3.9 ounce) package chocolate fudge instant pudding mix
1/2 cup Rum Chata • 1/2 cup milk
1 (8 ounce) container frozen whipped topping, thawed

Combine first three ingredients in a large bowl. Beat with a wire whisk for 1 to 2 minutes or until combined and smooth. Gently fold in whipped top-



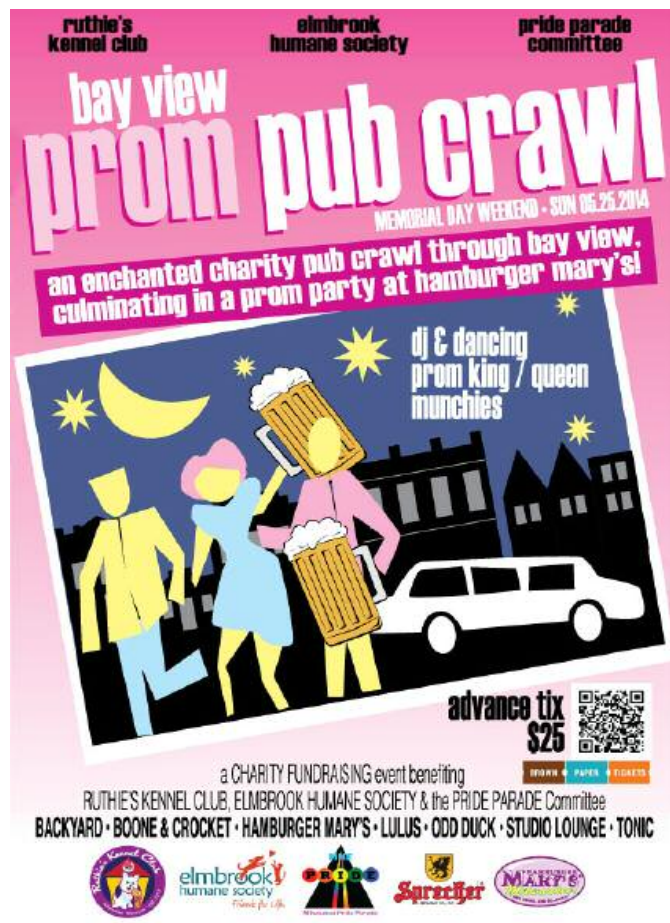
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ping until well combined. Cover and refrigerate for three hours before serving.

Ruthie's Culinary Clues

This mousse offers quite a kick. If you're not sure you want that much alcohol in your dessert (what the what?!), then take the Rum Chata down to 1/4 cup and increase the milk by 1/4 cup.

FROSTY RUM CHATA-TOFFEE PIE

Just in time for warm-weather get-togethers, this no-bake dessert relies on Rum Chata for extra flair. Bits of crunchy toffee really make the sweet sensation one for the books!

4 ounces cream cheese, softened
(from an 8-ounce bar)

2 tablespoons sugar

1/2 cup Rum Chata

1 (8 ounce) carton frozen
whipped topping, thawed

1 (8 ounce) bag English toffee bits

1 (9-inch) graham cracker crust

Caramel ice cream topping, optional

Using a handheld mixer, beat the cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Beat in the Rum Chata until mixture is smooth. Fold in the whipped topping and 1 cup of the toffee bits.

Carefully spoon mixture into crust and garnish with additional toffee bits. Cover pie and freeze overnight. Top individual servings with a drizzle of caramel ice cream topping if you'd like.

Ruthie's Culinary Clues

Keep the plastic lid from the pie crust in tact. When it's time to set the dessert in the freezer, just invert the lid for a perfect cover. Look for English toffee bits in the baking aisle, near the chocolate chips. The bits are also available covered in chocolate if you want to get fancy.

Have a recipe to share with Ruthie? Email her at dearmsruthie@yahoo.com. If she publishes your recipe, you'll receive a FREE Dear Ruthie Bitchin' Kitchen T-shirt!

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Cordially Yours

by Michael Johnston

May Day, May Day is finally here – saving us all from the winter Hell –and we survived!

Be inspired, be empowered, be brave – Brave Hearts: Heroes Among Us that is the theme of The American Red Cross as they salute Joseph R. Pabst for his dedication and concern of Animal Welfare. Thursday, May 1, all will gather at The Pfister Hotel and salute our very favorite Brew Town Benefactor.

May 6 The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center holds their monthly "Coming Out" discussion group, the first Tuesday of every month 6 – 7:30 p.m. For more info on this and all things Community Center related, please call: 414-292-3072. The Community Center also has some great social outlets to share - Thursday, May 22 "Be OUT at Skylight – Hair" – a show and social gathering all for \$30! What a sweet deal! Use Code Be OUT 30 online or call: 414-291-7800. Reception at 6p performance at 7:30p.

The Florentine Opera Company closes out their historic 80th season with Puccini's "La Boheme" Friday, May 9 and Sunday, May 11. If you're a fan of today's "Rent", give a listen to the old school version and be enriched. Tickets are available at: 414-299-5700 # 224. Sunday, May 4 The Camerata – Opera Party will be taking place once again

at 7:00 p.m. in The Room of Boom. Come down and get a crash course in Grand Opera. It's totally free. The program includes songs presented by the very talented Florentine Interns, a Q&A with a lead in the show, a welcome from the Florentine, a delicious buffet to tempt from Miss Katie's Diner, arias from operatic masterpieces playing in the background, a cash bar and a perfect opportunity to get familiar with an Old World art form and mix with new friends. A workshop of a new opera "Sister Carrie" will be conducted on Friday, May 23 and Sunday, May 24 showtime 7:30 p for all details please consult www.florentineopera.org. Would you like to celebrate The Florentine's special birthday? Purchase a birthday candle(s) via The Florentine Opera Camerata 2013 – 2014 from \$20 – white candle all the way to \$2,500 for a sparkler! Light up the Florentine birthday cake and commemorate 80 years of joyous art, let them call out the fire trucks to put this inferno out! Bravo, to 80 more years! The Florentine has just announced their 2014-15 Season – one not to disappoint: A Season of Original Florentine Productions (that means The Florentine creates all the costumes and sets locally) "The Flying Dutchman" opens the 81st season, followed by the romantic classic "Wuthering Heights", over Valentine's day "From

Vienna to the Great White Way" with the extraordinary Florentine Interns, the return of "Elmer Gantry" and the season concludes with "The Elixir of Love". For your seating, please call 1-800-32-OPERA # 224 or visit www.florentineopera.org

The first Wednesday of every month Studio Lounge 2296 South Kinnickinnic Avenue is the place to be for "Art Carnival" – talk about fun under the big top... Bring sketchbooks, play games, see a show – Burlesque meets Boy-lesque! Drag Queens, Drag Kings, Gypsy Rose Lee –stled strippers all for \$5. This month May 7 is the day and next month it's June 4 this is A Rockabilly Girl Production – such fun and inventiveness! You can even meet Mr. Mellow of Mister Mellow's Cartooning & Mustachery, H. Melo and his stick-on 'staches make a statement. Face Book like us www.facebook.com/mistermellowart

Another option of the unusual – "Dead man's Carnival" step right up to The Miramar Theatre 2844 North Oakland Avenue 8 pm, the first Friday of every month – through November! Live music, variety show, featuring the dashing Dobbs – a local magician proving the hand is quicker than the eye! I know; you all know how fun Ryan the bartender is at Kruz. One night while sipping I was introduced to his older, "twin brother" Aaron. Aaron is equally attractive and fun -- he was telling everyone about "Cocaine & Ethel Merman" – a show that was playing at The Boulevard Theatre on K.K. I was shocked Aaron even knew ever so slightly who Ethel was!

Well I've adored Mark Bucher for an eternity, so

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I knew it was a must-see if at The Boulevard. I started the adventure at LuLu Café & Bar (Happy 13th Birthday) give my regards to David "BB" Rogers-Kotke, Gus and Liz two of the best bartenders in the biz, and of course Sarah & Scott and Cammie. Always above par! Turns out "Cocaine & Ethel Merman – The New Homo Guide" is a one-man, coming to terms opus written and performed by L. Robert Westeen of Texas, by way of Wisconsin, where he went to high school with Aaron. This production was brought home to Wisconsin by Proud Theater, an award winning, exciting, and innovative youth theater program designed to foster self-expression and self-employment for youths. Open to ages 13- 19 who are interested in changing the world through the power of theater. Proud Theater started in Minona and has currently established a home base here. Their troop opened this fascinating theater experience with skits, monologues and poetry -- in a word impressive! Brian Wild is the national artistic director, their mission statement: To change the world through the power of theater and the theater arts, and to make a positive difference in the lives of LGBTQ and allied youth through the tenants of art, heart and activism! www.proudtheater.org Visit their website and see if you can help them out – volunteering, attending, and/or financially... Mr. Westeen was flawless, very raw, and identifiable. Yet with humor and a dash of sass to make him the unsinkable man he is today. While this show wasn't a Boulevard production, it was of their quality. Come September, I hear tell, The Boulevard

will be doing Rodgers' & Hart's celebration in song "Pal Joey". I'm sure it will bewitch, bother and bewilder you ... rarely done, but a multi-million dollar score – don't pass this one up.

The Skylight Music Theatre offers "I Hear America Singing" in the Studio Theatre at The Broadway Theatre Complex May 9 – 25 just in time for Memorial Day Weekend – written, directed, and featuring music of various composers arranged by Daron Hagen. In the Cabot Theatre May 16 – June 8 ushering in the summer of 2014, let the sun shine in, for it's the dawning of the age of Aquarius with "Hair". For reservations, please call: 414-291-7800.

The Milwaukee Ballet invites us to experience the 2013-2014 season with their flawless finale "Mirror, Mirror" May 15-18, the fairest ballet of them all... this reflection is being cast at The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. For more details visit milwaukeeballet.org or call 414-902-2103.

Ten Chimneys, your home away from home is once again open now through November 30. Come see not only the Broadway legends' manor, but the beautiful gardens of their lush estate. 262-968-4110 W31575 Depot Road Genesee Depot Alfred Lunt & Lynn Fontanne await you.

This month concludes the Uncommon Folk display at The Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM) I also got to take in Art In Bloom taking place a few weeks ago. The creative talents of Greg Leyba of Gregory & Company, Nicholas Carl of Nicholas Carl Interior & Event Design – watch for his work in the Symphony Showcase House – he gets the

master bedroom - there is a pun in there somewhere, find it and enjoy it, David Marsteller and his stellar designs of all things flora and so many other floral tributes to coordinate and compliment the astounding collections we are so fortunate to have here in our town. Stewart Dempsey of Samara Gardens and Home on North Avenue had a booth as well as Timothy Hawley of Aesthetic Metals (www.aestheticmetals.com/about/) and his metal artisan work that was utilized in tables guests relaxed at and a decorative wall browsers were photographed in front of. What a great combination art, flowers and our majestic museum!

Catey Ott of Dance Collective performed to the music of her grand cousin, The "Incomparable Hildegard" in a modern dance recital that was simply incomparable! "Living It Up (and dOWN)" is a great merger of two polar opposites. Modern, interruptive dance and the American songbook - sung and accompanied on the piano from 1930's and 40's recordings of Hildegard. For those of you too young to be familiar with this chanteuse, she predates Liberace and actually served as his mentor. This songbird from a farm in New Holstein would play concert piano recitals, but to give her gig a splash of show – she would wear couture fashions and long gloves! While everyone else wore concert black. Well of course her career took off and from the Plankinton Arcade in downtown Milwaukee, she ended up in the Big Apple and touring Europe being the toast of Kings and Presidents and Café Society. Her career and glamor continued through the rest of the 20th cen-

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tury. I was fortunate enough to see her entered in the PAC – Performing Arts Center, now The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts – Hall of Fame! She did a 90 minute concert at 95, ending with a rousing “It’s Not Where You Start, It’s Where You Finish”. What a lady, what a legend - -Lady GaGa, Madonna, Cindy Lauper and their daring fashion statements all started with our very own Hildegard. Her fashions are part of Mount Mary’s Fashion Museum. DanceWorks hosted this marvelous tour de force – so marvelous that Catey will be taking her show to the Big Apple as well – so history does repeat itself.

To celebrate a dear friend’s birthday, I accepted an invitation to “Legacy” a Timothy Westbrook Studio Presentation. While I love fashion, fashion shows, and I was aware by reputation of who Westbrook is, I was totally blown away at what awaited us at The Pfister Hotel. The ballroom had an ice runway, with U.S. figure skaters! What a combo, and a highly inventive way to present Westbrook’s summer line. The audience was as colorful as the models, in the mix: Craig Bodoh & Mark Trevor Ranum, Thom Ertl of Thom J. Ertl Designs & Scott, Bjorn Nasett of Beauty, nee B.J. Daniels, Dixie Kuppe & Shannon, Ophelia Bone, Jeff Gosseck, Roger RamJet, Jerry Gin&Tonic, Kryg Piatek, Stephanie Schultz of Silversark’s - face book.com/silversarkwi, I was fortunate enough to wear a mod retro vest from her Grand Avenue Mall boutique. So many compliments, I received - -thank you Stephanie! The Grand Avenue Mall also houses The Timothy Westbrook Studio - - I got to meet the “Halston of the new century” he is too divine and I also was able to secure an interview with him, that we’ll do this summer! I can’t wait for all of you to get to know this creative genius in our midst!

Clinton Street Antiques 1110 South First Street is quite the emporium of splendor! For 22 years Douglas & Curt have designed Walker’s Point ever so tastefully with their boutique. Stop in and enjoy its museum-like quality and all for sale, a pop culture mecca.

Happy # 5 Club Charlies! Long may you reign as the Gayest Straight Bar or is that the Straightest Gay Bar! Craig & Dawn always make The Historic Third Ward worth visiting! If you’re looking for the latest in scents and the art of picking out

the best cologne, you must check out James at Macy’s – Mayfair Mall and his offerings. He always has the knack to pick out what best complements your body chemistry. It is an art form!

The power of a smile and a friendly hello... I’ve heard tell Oprah’s latest campaign is to help stamp out loneliness by simply sharing a random smile and hello as you go about your day. A while back I was doing my grocery shopping – a task, I don’t necessarily revel in, at the Pick-n Save, East Lyon Street. I do enjoy the adorable Nicholas at the deli counter, otherwise not a highpoint of the day. As I was selecting my yogurt, Cream City’s “Prince of Comedy” John McGivern spotted me, stopped, smiled and said hello to me by name! What a difference it made in my day and completing this chore. First off that John would remember me and take the time out of his busy schedule to acknowledge me, what a class act!

Church Lady has left the building. Actually she has left town, heading to Minneapolis and the land

munity, Tom Reed & Jon Martin have gone west young man to the land of Palm Springs. This is where they legally married at the end of last year and mapped out their dynamic future in this dynamic desert. You will be missed! Speaking of California and golden times, Bobby Patrick had the time of his life attending his idol Miss Doris Day’s 90th birthday at her complex in Carmel by the Sea. And Doris was on hand to accept all the great birthday wishes – Que Sera, Sera! Nothing like celebrating an idol’s iconic birthday, if I live to be 90 years old, I’ll never forget going to NYC with Guy S. Little, Jr. to commemorate Kitty Carlisle Hart’s 95th at her cabaret show at Feinstein’s - - unfortunately neither Kitty, nor Feinstein’s are still operating.

Barbara Walters signs off of national television this month after 50 years of continuous broadcasting. Something tells me Today, The View, will not be so 20/20.

Yet another farewell of another nature, Chris Knutson has been taken from us due to ALS. A move to a warmer climate and all good works and wishes couldn’t keep this Angel here on Earth. It wasn’t that long ago I was guest at his and John Kushik’s wedding. Sweet dreams...

RIP Mark Anthony (Smukalla) of Mark Anthony Presents Treats on Humboldt Boulevard. Without a doubt Treats had the most diverse clientele I’ve ever seen in any drinking establishment. Everyone was welcome and had a wild time. I can’t think of a better salute to a business owner/host than this. Mark and his extravagant wardrobe will be missed.

Food time at The Marriott Hotel –Downtown 823 East Wisconsin Avenue they have a great dining option called – Millioke – Meat, Cheese, Beer – talk about what made Milwaukee famous! Please visit www.milliorerestaurant.com Jeffrey Coyle, the manager offers the best of Milwaukee and The Marriott making for a magnificent marriage. For reservations, please call 414-278-5999, Saturday and Sunday Brunch 6:30 a.m. – Noon, it is the month of Mother’s Day and Graduations here is just a brand new option for you to explore.

Happy May, celebrate Moms, Graduates, those May flowers and even the Mayflower if you wish, just remember it’s the glamor, not the grammar as I remain, Still Cordially yours..



Timothy Westbrook with Michael Johnsnton
Photo by Kryg Photography

of a lot of lakes and Mary, Rhoda, and Phyllis. Quite a sensational soiree was held in his honor at Kruz, where friends turned out, a delectable buffet was shared, and many spirits imbibed. Speaking of Kruz thanks Bobby, Nicky and Ryan for finding my missing tail! I’d explain, but you would never believe it!

Another fond farewell, two giants in the Com-



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Well as I sit here staring out of my office window I can't help but think, and hope that winter is now behind us and summer is here to stay. With those summer hopes and dreams I want to, once again, remind you that Pridefest and the Pride Parade are fast approaching. Just a little over one month and they will both be here! Pridefest will happen once again at Milwaukee's lakefront at Henry Maier Festival park (Summerfest grounds) June 6-8, for more info visit their website at www.pridefest.com. The parade is also coming! It will take place on Sunday June 8th at 2:00pm; the route is still from Greenfield Ave to Oregon Ave along 2nd street. FMI check out their website at www.prideparademke.org.

Alright now that that's done let's get on with it shall we? This month with summer fast approaching I thought it would be good to talk about tattoos.

While avid readers of my column will recall that I am a strong believer in getting tattooed and pierced in the winter most people don't listen and will get their work done in the summer. With the summer coming a few precautions and things to know about will help you in the care of your new tattoo in the harsh days of summer.

First off, let's review how to heal your tattoo. Wait a min, we did this before and if I remember correctly that took a whole damn column to explain!! So, let's just go over a quick review. 1. Don't ever pick the scabs!! (Pick your nose and not your tattoo okay!) 2. Keep the tattoo out of water, with exception to when you wash it every day with mild antibacterial soap. 3. Moisturize your skin according to what your tattooist recommends. If they don't recommend it then don't do it. 4. Listen to your tattooist!! (The most important thing I think) Well that about wraps up how to take care of them, I wonder why the last time we

did this it took a column? (That's right it's called "fill" in the industry)

Second of all, you absolutely need to make sure to protect your tattoo from the sun. This means using clothing to cover it or using sun block, not sun screen, on your tattoo. The sun destroys your skin cells (which is what makes you tan along with a bunch of medical stuff that will put anyone to sleep) which allows the ink from the tattoo to spread out in your skin. Overtime this will make your tattoo look fuzzy and almost out of focus. The only cure for this is to have the tattoo redone, a very costly position as you are now paying for the same tattoo twice! This is even more important if your tattoo is fresh as the skin has yet to heal from the initial injury, by putting it in the sun you are just hurting it more.

Lastly, make sure you protect your tattoo while you are out enjoying that wonderful weather. By this type of protection I of course mean against physical damage. (i.e. dirt, concrete, your drunk friend hitting it) A fresh tattoo is very sensitive and delicate, even a small cut or scrap on the tattoo could cause major damage to the artwork below. So be wary of this fact when getting your tattoo if you are going to be doing anything at the beach or participating in a sporting event, as both of those things can easily damage a tattoo beyond repair in some cases.

And this all I have to say about that. This month the mail bag was kind of dry and about all that was in there was a couple pieces of hair, two letters from my personal stalker, and a small man who I think is attempting to smuggle something into the country. (I think I'll just leave him tied up in the bag for right now and open that one later)

So without reader mail I am once again forced to plug away the upcoming pride events. Pridefest has announced their entertainers for the year and I have to say that it is a great line-up. The festival is really shaping up to be a great one for the record books. Don't forget June 6-8 at Henry Maier Festival Park, mark your calendar. For more info visit www.pridefest.com or their Facebook page @Pridefest Milwaukee.

The Pride Parade is also in full swing with announcements like the return of the 2nd street pride flags thanks to a generous donation from Wells Fargo, joint fundraisers at Hamburger Mary's and much more. The parade is on Sunday June 8th at 2:00pm. Be there or be square. It is down a drag some many of us have walked (and seen too much drag along) south 2nd street from Greenfield Ave to Oregon Ave. Stand in front of your favorite 2nd street bar and watch, enjoy, and drink. FMI visit www.prideparademke.org or their Facebook page @Milwaukee Pride Parade.

Well I am all done for this month. I guess I'll go see what the guy in the mail-bag wants . . . or has!! Until next time have a great May and enjoy the great weather (hopefully) and show off your tattoos and piercings at Pride in June!

If you have a question, or would like a topic covered, email Brent at avantgarde@voyager.net.

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