

QUEST

MAGAZINE Vol. 21, # 8, August 2014



**MICHAEL JOHNSTON INTERVIEWS
THE WINNING TEAM FOR
AIDS WALK WISCONSIN:
RAISE THE BAR
D.I.X. MILWAUKEE**

**ALSO: PAUL MASTERSON INTERVIEWS
BRIAN REINKOBER
WHO HAS JUST BEEN INDUCTED
INTO THE NAGAAA HALL OF FAME**

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SSBL COMMISSIONER BRIAN REINKOBER INDUCTED INTO THE NAGAAA HALL OF FAME

Interview by Paul Masteron

"Our next honoree for the "Class of 2014" Hall of Fame comes to us from Milwaukee, WI, is none other than.....Brian Reinkober." With that introduction the North American Gay Amateur Athlete Alliance (NAGAAA) announced the induction of Milwaukee Saturday Softball Beer League commissioner Brian Reinkober into the exclusive ranks of national LGBT athletic leadership.

The NAGAAA announcement cites Reinkober's 17 years in NAGAAA and his 12 years as SSBL commissioner. In addition to mentioning his participation as a player and manager on various SSBL teams, it also lists a litany of local league accomplishments including its expansion from six to sixteen teams, his role as co-director of SSBL's annual Dairyland Classic Tournament and the 2009 Gay Softball World Series (GSWS), as well as his work in developing SSBL Madison (it became an independent NAGAAA league in 2012). Reinkober established a relationship with the Milwaukee Brewer organization raising \$50,000 annually through SSBL volunteers concession staffing at Miller Park. This fund raising activity provided the financial resources for the league's expenses and significantly contributed to the 2009 Gay Softball World Series budget in 2009. He is also an inductee in SSBL's Hall of Fame.

Nationally, Reinkober has been a NAGAAA Milwaukee delegate since 2002, participated in numerous GSWS tournaments, and served as its Membership Chairman cultivating interest in gay softball throughout the country. He is currently Co-Chair of its Annual Giving Committee.

QUEST spoke with Brian Reinkober about NAGAAA, SSBL, and his own personal history with gay softball in Milwaukee.

QUEST: For our readers who are unfamiliar with LGBT sports what exactly is the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA) and what is the NAGAAA Hall of Fame?

Brian Reinkober: NAGAAA was formed in 1977 as the governing body of gay softball in the United States and Canada. It consists of 45 leagues. Milwaukee was one of its five original founding cities along with New York, Los Angeles, Toronto, and

San Francisco. NAGAAA created the Hall of Fame in 1997 as a means to acknowledge the achievements of individuals who have made an impact within the whole NAGAAA organization.

QUEST: How many people, nationwide, are inducted to the Hall of Fame each year? And, are you the first from Milwaukee?

BR: It varies depending on the nominations, provided those meet the criteria by a 2/3 peer vote. In 2004, for example, there were only 2. This year there are about a dozen new inductees. I'm the fifth from Milwaukee. The others are Tommy Salzsieder and Tom Theis, in 1998; Arturo Olazabal, 2007, and Mike Hughs in 2010..

QUEST: SSBL has existed since 1977. Along with PrideFest and most other local LGBT organizations, it is run entirely by volunteers. Your list of NAGAAA accomplishments omits that fact. Yet volunteers are the reason for SSBL's longevity and success. What motivates that degree of community engagement?

BR: Well, first and foremost, the reason why I got involved was Tommy Salzsieder. I saw what he gave to Milwaukee gay softball. At the time SSBL was not in the best shape and on the verge of collapsing. I couldn't let that happen. I can remember sitting in the Ball Game with Tommy recounting stories of the fun they had back when they played at the Mitchell Domes. I knew that could happen again. Kurt Baldwin was my first assistant commissioner and we set out to revive SSBL. There were 6 teams at the time. We just wanted to play and keep the tradition going and have fun.

QUEST: Has gay softball changed since you first played for a gay team 17 years ago?

BR: A lot has changed. In 2003 social media didn't exist. It's now an added complexity. We used to send out letter to announce a meeting. But, in general the motivation is the same. From a Milwaukee standpoint everybody has always looked forward to playing. It's always in every one's head, even outside the season. But now there's a lot more interest in our league. We got incredible exposure locally and nationally when we volunteered at Miller Park. 2005-2011. SSBL worked over 390 games at a concession right behind home plate.



We raised money but also awareness for our league and our city. That lead to the national recognition from NAGAAA and the other 45 leagues. That's why we were awarded the Gay Softball World Series in 2009. It was third time Milwaukee was privileged to host. There were 126 teams. We proved that a little city like Milwaukee could put on the largest single sporting even in gay athletics. We surpassed all expectations not only from Milwaukee but from everybody in the NAGAAA organization. I should mention my co-director Mona Garcia and a fantastic support staff, and hundreds of volunteers... and our very own Ruthie and Veltetta.

QUEST: Currently, aside from the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center's and Hamburger Mary's, the bars sponsor teams. How is NAGAAA, and SSBL in particular, developing non-bar participation in a time when gay bars are in decline?

BR: Truthfully, Milwaukee is in a very unique situation. Two out of 14 teams this year are non-bar. In many other cities it's not just bars that sponsor. Nationally speaking, medical offices, restaurants, law offices, and even individuals sponsor teams. So that's probably another big change in the character of the sport. As for Milwaukee, I hope other groups will sponsor teams in the future.

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QUEST: Why do you think other local LGBT organizations have been reluctant to form teams?

BR: I don't know. Our whole SSBL history as a sports activity came out of the bar setting. Back in the 70's that's where you met gay people. It allowed people to have a safe and protected place to play softball. The winner of the game would go to the other team's bar and buy a keg. That's where it's roots are. Our bars are our history...and a Milwaukee tradition.

QUEST: NAGAAA rules allow teams to have up to 3 non-LGBT players on the field. SSBL has increased that ratio to 50/50. Is that a strategy to forward the political cause of LGBT equality through integration or a just practical way of recruiting team members?

BR: SSBL changed the gay/straight ratio 10 years ago. We felt it was more inclusive. It was not meant as a political statement or strategy. We had several teams with straight friends and this allowed them to play. It was the natural thing to do. Over the years we've had non-bars and non-LGBT entities sponsor teams.

QUEST: What motivates straight men and women to play in a gay softball league?

BR: I think they just like the league and what it stands for. They like our organization. We're fun and it's all about having a good time in the summer. It's not about anything else.

QUEST: Your NAGAAA Hall of Fame citation mentions the Dairyland Classic? Can you tell us about that event.

BR: We've held the Dairyland Classic an annual national tournament since 1978. It used to be on Memorial Day weekend. In 2003 we moved the event to Labor Day in hopes of better weather. Since then, we've only had one day of bad weather when we were actually rained out. This year we expect between 30 and 40 teams. Wirth park in Brookfield is one of our venues and, depending on how many teams register, we may play at other fields.

QUEST: And, what about the future of Milwaukee gay softball?

BR: SSBL is always growing. This year we have 230 registered players. It's full of good young people who are new to the league. This year and last we have a lot of 20-somethings join. I hope there are individuals waiting in the weeds to take over this organization. I'm confident those people exist in SSBL today.

QUEST: And yours?

BR: I'm in it for two more years, maybe longer. I'm very lucky and fortunate in that Milwaukee is very well represented in the sport. I'm completely honored to be part of it. I love Milwaukee and plan to stay here. But, change is good. I'd love to see somebody new come forward with fresh ideas and the energy that it takes to run a league such as SSBL. It's a lot of work but that is how an organization will grow.

Brian Reinkober's induction into the NAGAAA Hall of Fame takes place at the upcoming Gay Softball World Series in Dallas, TX, September 22-27, 2014.

HANNAH THOMAS MAKES SOLO RETURN GIG IN MILWAUKEE AUGUST 15 AT WALKER'S PINT.

Hannah recently opened for Indigo Girls at the Pabst Theater in June and will just be done playing with them the night before in Ohio. Hannah was voted the 2013 Best Singer Songwriter by Jezebel Magazine in Atlanta and has been touring non stop for the past 2 years.

In the days of AM radio music only had one genre, today there are la-

bel for all different kinds of music, but Hannah Thomas has never liked labels, or playing just one kind of music. Amy Ray (of the Indigo Girls) describes Hannah's music best. (Hannah has) "the soul of old country, and that will always be there, but she's also a diehard rocker with some punk thrown in the mix" (Spring 2013 issue Georgia Music Magazine) If you didn't catch Hannah in June with Indigo Girls at the Pabst Theater make sure to make it out to Walker's Pint on August 15 to catch this rising star!

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THIS MONTH'S COVER FFEATURE AT D.I.X. RAISING THE BAR FOR RAISE THE BAR JUST COMES NATURALLY: AN INTERVIEW WITH A WINNING TEAM

Recently I had the pleasure to sit down with the core crew that provides a lot of the fun and mischief that takes place at D.I.X. Besides the before mention mayhem, the denizen of D.I.X. also do much good for our Community. Case in point, AIDS Walk Wisconsin: every fall for the past couple of years they have formed a team, planned highly anticipated fund raisers and all of sudden something wonderful came out of friends just coming together helping other friends. For the past two years D.I.X. has won the friendly competition of "Raising the Bar". The "Raise the Bar" concept was an idea of local philanthropist Joe Pabst, who with ARCW (the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, producer of AIDS Walk Wisconsin) brainstormed in how to re-engage the bars – primarily gay bars (and LGBT-friendly bars) into participating in the annual AIDS Walk Wisconsin. D.I.X. stands for where the North meets the South. Elizabeth the dedicated proprietress and Corey her brother who runs a bar in New Orleans keep the corner of 1st Street and East National Avenue buzzing now in their fourth successful year of business. The 25th annual AIDS Walk Wisconsin will be taking place on Sunday, October 12th, with fashion maven, "Project Runway" host Tim Gunn serving as Honorary Chair.

We're here at D.I.X. with Chopper DJ spinning music for our listening pleasure while J.J. bartends, Anna, Marie, Eric, and Darren join in to share with me the following responses. Please enjoy and consider lacing up your walking shoes and taking part in the Silver Anniversary of this life saving and enhancing Walk.

Why are you so committed to The AIDS Walk?

It all started with Eric and his sister wanting to walk in memory of their uncle. The first year maybe ten people and they raised \$2,000. Not bad for a first attempt. Then the bar got involved and ten walkers turned into 50 walkers! A major increase and added interest and tal-

ent came with this. It started growing – fund raisers, events, the neighborhood got involved – Fat Daddies is their biggest ally. The straight bar next door opened their volley ball court up to them. D.I.X. is really a "Family Bar" everyone belongs here. We really are as diverse as the Community – a true rainbow! Everyone is welcome. Straights still come in here and enjoy the bar for what it is and what it was.

Is your dedicated commitment to the AIDS Walk, due in part for being an LGBT Bar?

It's nice to support something that affects our Community. In the Community, doing fund raising, breaking down the stigma of HIV/AIDS - after all HIV/AIDS infects everyone – it doesn't discriminate. This virus knows no age, ethnicity, economic differences – it's just there. And while people are living longer and better with HIV/AIDS they are still out there and still have needs – different from the past, but needs just the same. We don't think of this bar as a "Gay Bar" our intention is to be open and welcoming to all and everyone. And everyone is effected by HIV/AIDS whether they realize it or not.

What motivates you to participate in the AIDS Walk?

All the activities involved to make this contribution to ARCW. We don't just get together the morning of the Walk and do it... this is a commitment we enjoy all year long. We have fundraisers, auctions – silent auctions and date auctions, volley ball tournaments, carnival, soft ball, 50/50 Raffles, Cook Outs and "To the Top Tuesday Due on Wednesday" - all money is due in to ARCW the Wednesday before the Walk so the Tuesday before we go all out to make and break what we've done in the past. These are just some of the things we do to remind people, to get people involved. For

instance we go all around Walker's Point and get businesses to donate gift certificates and we put together a date auction – someone "volunteers" to be the date and they come with an envelope that has cocktails at a bar and dinner at a local restaurant – the auction starts and bids and bills fly! People give of their time and talents from Klement's Sausage to Carnivore! The Peddle Tavern, our neighbors Seth and Ryan of Fat Daddies, beer vendors provide Brewer tickets, the Green Bay Packers gave us an autographed football – it's just a beautiful thing!

Can you share any tips on being a successful Team Captain?

Have fun with it! Make it exciting, build on the excitement! Having fun with bringing people together for a cause, involvement -- reminding people they can make a difference! We see our accomplishments and we want to do more! How do you top last time? Proactive! The results are so overwhelming people want to feel the high with us.

What is the name of your team and how many members do you have?

Team D.I.X. in four short years we've gone from 10 to 50 – not everyone actually does the Walk, but they do sign up and contribute, last year we had 35 Walkers and raised \$28,105.55! Our goal this year is to beat our record-breaking success of last year.

How do you motivate your team?

We don't have to - - they (the team) motivate us. Everyone is full of suggestions, ideas, they have contacts, and having new members to our team brings new, fresh insight. We're game to try anything. Our regulars know the Walk is coming up and they're looking forward



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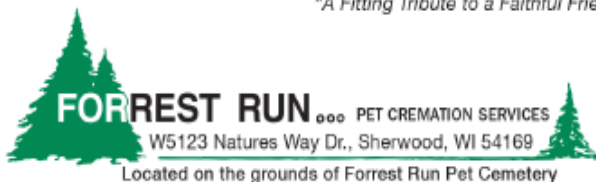
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to it! And of course "Drink Specials" don't hurt! LOL

What is your favorite memory from last year's AIDS Walk Wisconsin?

We did the world famous "Drag in the Bag", what a hot mess! Very fun, lots of laughs – a hoot! The Date Auction always goes over really well. In fact, so well we had two uninvited guests of the Milwaukee Police Department! They reminded us we didn't have a Burlesques License because our contenders stand on the pool table for all to see. When Milwaukee's Finest found out it was a charity auction they laughed and encouraged us on – so it is all good! The Paddles for the Auction became very popular with our patrons too! We used the Paper Paddles for the Auction – sold them for a dollar and they were repurposed in other manners as well! LOL The uber-festive auction brought a top bid of \$600 for two to enjoy cocktails and dinner on the town -- the man in demand one of the co-owners of Fat Daddies! So you see everyone does get involved! For Eric on a more serious note, he was really touched when two years ago D.I.X. won the competition and he had the honor to stand alongside Elizabeth, the owner of D.I.X. and receive the great news that they had won! "It was very humbling" -- and hearing our team mates chant D.I.X. -- feeling the elation and knowing you got something done and done right! The Summerfest Grounds all united to beat HIV/AIDS appreciating us and what we did, we are Milwaukee!

Do you have a message you would like to share to get people up and out to take part in this year's Walk?

Why not do it? It only takes a couple of hours out of your day. It's fun! Your presence even if you can't afford to give is important, you're standing in solidarity. Give what you can afford, volunteer, get involved. Take the time and take a tour of ARCW. It's an amazing place, we have so much to be proud of here in Milwaukee -- and statewide, including all the satellite agencies.

This is just a sampling of what a group of friends have done, from a simple very grass roots base and it's taken a life of its own. Want to take part and celebrate with D.I.X. ? The infamous Date Auction referred to numerous through this article, it is slated for Saturday, August 9 – come early, it gets crowded and don't forget your wallet! Thursday, August 21 will be a fashion show -- "Fashion Forward" held at Montage of La Cage – again partnering with neighbors. Saturday, September 6 The Volleyball Tournament at Fat Daddies and of course the cherry on the sundae of why this is all being done – The 25th Annual AIDS Walk Wisconsin Sunday, October 12th with honorary chair Tim Gunn all taking place on Milwaukee's Lakefront.

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GAMMA LAUNCHES MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Milwaukee GAMMA, one of southeast Wisconsin's first LGBT social organizations, has recently launched its summer membership drive. Founded in 1978, GAMMA began as an athletic association focused volleyball and running. Over the years, it evolved into a social outlet for men in the greater Milwaukee suburban area and beyond. Beyond athletics, the group held annual parties and other group activities for its membership. The organization currently boasts well over 100 members.

Voted Best Gay Association in Milwaukee by Wisconsin Gazette, today's GAMMA offers an ever expanding spectrum of social activities. These include organized sports like Volleyball and Monday Night Irregulars Bowling as well as bicycling, sheep's head, cribbage and board games. Some of its members meet and run with Frontrunners each Saturday morning. There is also a GAMMA Cooking Group that holds monthly communal cooking-in events. These feature an ethnic cuisine with participants providing a dish. GAMMA Out goes out

on the town for fine dining, theater, and a monthly Happy Hour held at one of the city's popular watering holes. Its signature event is a monthly party at a member's home. A December Holiday Party and a summer cook-out are held annually.

Upcoming events include a night at the Milwaukee Chamber Theatre's August 14 Out reception and performance of *Master Class* and a day trip to the Bristol Renaissance Faire on August 22.

According to board president Bim Florek, GAMMA membership offers some great perks. "We are a large organization. But, our activities feature so many different things that everyone can find something to do with like minded members. Anyone can set up an event, post it on Facebook or list it in our monthly newsletter and invite members to participate. It can be just a game of cards or a camping trip," Florek said. The membership year is from July 1 to June 30, but new members may join any time. Annual dues are \$36 for individuals, \$57 for two per-

sons receiving one newsletter, or \$16 for out-of-state members. Dues are pro-rated based on the date of membership and are not tax deductible. For more information, call Bim Florek at (414) 418-9198. GAMMA also maintains a web site with event information as well as digital copies of its newsletter.

Please visit GAMMA on-line at www.milwaukeegamma.com.

And, don't forget to Like GAMMA on its Facebook page [GAMMAMKE](https://www.facebook.com/GAMMAMKE) for up to date postings on events and activities!



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NEW ON DVD **The Last Match (La Partida) & Floating Skyscrapers (Płynące Wieżowce)** By Glenn Bishop

Glenn's recent cinema night foray was, well, challenging. Glenn might well dub the double feature of **The Last Match (La Partida)** and **Floating Skyscrapers (Płynące Wieżowce)** as "*The further revenge of Brokeback Mountain*."

Can it be almost ten years since Ang Lee's spectacular adaptation of Annie Proulx's acclaimed short story screened at Milwaukee's fabulous Oriental Theatre, Heath Ledger mumbling his way into the collective hearts of middle-America? - Indeed it can.

Some months back, loyal **Quest** readers might remember, Glenn quite favorably reviewed Stephan Lacant's **Free Fall (Freier Fall)**, a film touted as "Germany's answer to **Brokeback Mountain**." Many thanks to the lovely folks at Wolfe Video, by the way; had they not thoughtfully decided to emblazon the claim on the DVD box, poor Glenn might never have been able to correctly connect the dots.

Much like **Free Fall** and indeed the Ang Lee original, Wasilewski's **Floating Skyscrapers** boasts two attractive, fit young men as protagonists. Kuba (Mateusz Banasiuk) is a talented swimmer in his mid-20s; his home life consisting of a demanding live-in girlfriend Sylwia (Nieradkiewicz) as well as a rather creepy, incestuous relationship with his domineering mother. When Sylwia drags a reluctant Kuba to an art gallery opening, Kuba quickly knocks back a couple of cocktails and then chats up lantern-jawed Michal (Bartosz Gelner). Thanks to the alcohol, some weed and a healthy dose of mutual pent-up desire, the two soon become inseparable.

Even as their fledgling relationship begins to blossom, director Tomasz Wasilewski's spare screenplay and Jakub Kijowski elegantly austere cinematography quickly and effectively casts a decided pall over the proceedings.

In scene after scene, Kuba is forever striding purposefully down long, uninhabited corridors or silently swimming clearly delineated lanes, his sense of isolation proving almost palpable. One particular scene of a lone Kuba jogging a solitary path left Glenn momentarily disconcerted; had Glenn briefly nodded off giving a mischievous guest the opportunity to slip **Free Fall** into the DVD player. Nope, just another similar scene highlighting Kuba's increasingly oppressive isolation.

Rounding the turn and heading into the home-stretch, poor Michal is only briefly introduced al-

though he's on time and evidently all in for the now obligatory lube-less butt-fuck scene.

At the very least visually, **The Last Match** and **Floating Skyscrapers** could not offer a starker contrast. **Floating Skyscrapers** is all cool, muted colors; grey dominates, with an assortment of expansive urban spaces invariably devoid of any life. If Ang Lee (or more rightfully Annie Proulx) provided the narrative inspiration, then perhaps it is Tom Ford's stunning, heavily stylized **A Single Man** influencing director Tomasz Wasilewski and cinematographer Jakub Kijowski.

Alternatively, **The Last Match** is alive with bright colors with scene after scene almost radiating heat and humidity. Streets are shown filled with people and bustling with activity.

The two toothsome, shirtless lads from the DVD box cover are Reinier (Reinier Diaz) and Yosvani (Milton Garcia), two friends living in the slums of Havana. Most days are spent playing pick-up games of soccer with other similarly unemployed local lads. In fact, Yosvani is employed although hopelessly miscast as a strong-arm man for his soon to be father-in-law Silvano (Luis Alberto Garcia, suitably menacing), a dodgy pawnbroker and black marketeer.

Theirs is a community best characterized as one of hopeless dreams, staggering poverty and inevitable desperation. Reinier dreams of buying a motorcycle, not a wimpy one like Yosvani's but a powerful Suzuki which would allow him to outrace even the cops. Alternatively, Yosvani imagines a time when he and Rei might be together.

Reinier boasts a wife, an infant son and a shrew of a mother-in-law but no job. When really broke, Reinier takes to a bit of "out and around" or in plainer terms, prostitution. Somehow, he's not a "fag" despite his nocturnal activities presumably because he's getting paid and, of course, by refusing to bottom.

Juan (Toni Cantó), an amiable tourist from Barcelona becomes something more than a simple hook up. Indeed, Rei even thinks to take Juan home to meet the family.

"Yikes!" exclaimed Glenn.

The way Teresa (Mirta Ibarra) dotes on Juan is truly grotesque, first plying Juan with her "delicious croquettes" and later flattering him shamelessly, "You remind me if some count or marquis." In fact, Teresa is merely pimping her son-in-law out, hoping the middle-aged tourist will take Rei back home with him to Spain, to first marry him and then sending for the rest of them.

Right from the start it is clear that Yosvani's heart isn't in having sex with fiancé Gema

Watch it, DVR it, or forget it...

Even as many of those in Glenn's familiar cinematic circle increasingly grumble about films with subtitles, there is the reward here of an intriguing double feature of films which explore parts of the world where there remains deep-seated homophobia and religious oppression which continue to make it difficult for gay youth to be honest with themselves and with their families.

Cuba is the setting for **The Last Match**, where notions of masculinity further complicate the emerging relationship between Rei and Yosvani. The conservatism of Poland is rendered in **Floating Skyscrapers** with such a somber palette that tragedy will surely be unavoidable.

Indeed, both **The Last Match** and **Floating Skyscrapers**, offer highly authentic portrayals of love affairs between two young men. Unfortunately, once brought together, the taunt narratives which characterize both films hastily spiral into a melodrama that is as unsatisfying as it is unexpected.

Not, perhaps a double feature for all LGBT moviegoers and occasions, Tomasz Wasilewski's **Floating Skyscrapers** and Antonio Hens' **The Last Match** are definitely worthy dramas and both well worth the price of admission.

Just the facts...

The Last Match clocks in at 94 minutes and is in Spanish with English subtitles

The Last Match is available on DVD, SRP: \$24.99 A TLA Releasing title which offers no DVD extras.

Toni Cantó, who plays Juan, lists amongst his credits Pedro Pedro Almodóvar's **All About My Mother** in which he played the transvestite Lola.

Floating Skyscrapers clocks in at 94 minutes and is in Polish with English subtitles **Floating Skyscrapers** is due out in September; SRP of \$24.99

If Bartosz Gelner (Michal) looks familiar, it might be from playing the role of Aleksander in the cult film,

@Suicideroom



(Beatriz Méndez), that his real interest is in Reinier. Following a night spent at the disco, thanks to too much alcohol and a bit of ecstasy, they finally shed their inhibitions. A drunken, furtive kiss in a back alley is just the beginning.

JASON WALKER'S TAYLOR DAYNE COVER CONTINUES CLIMB UP THE DANCE CHARTS

Out Music Award winner Jason Walker mixes soul, disco and a generous dose of electro savvy to create his explosive re-imagining of Taylor Dayne's pop classic, Tell It To My Heart. Walker's impressive vocal range, set against the expertly fine-tuned production track by Lee Dagger and Marc JB of the internationally acclaimed U.K. production team Bimbo Jones, redefines the 80's staple for the modern dance floor. It combines Hi-NRG, freestyle and EDM elements, resulting in a fresh approach that has the potential to do just as the original version did in 1987: forge a new path in club music. Jason Walker's Tell It To My Heart featuring Bimbo Jones – sporting remixes by Toy Armada and DJ Grind, Shay E, Dany Cohiba, Fran Guzman, SplashFunk, Hadjas and Quentin Harris plus a light-hearted video clip lensed by Patti Nieto – are available on iTunes now from Peace Bisquit /Citrusonic Flavor.

"I have never been this excited about a record," explains an enthusiastic Jason Walker from his home in New York City. "Taylor Dayne is one of my favorite singers of all time and Tell It To My Heart is a classic. There isn't a person on the planet that doesn't know and love the song. When Bill Coleman suggested I cover it, I was all for it."

"Jason Walker's diva vocals are among the best in NYC," says Bill Coleman, president of the dance music label, Peace Bisquit. "We have talked about collaborating on something for years and when this project came about, I knew the time was now."

Jason Walker grew up in Pittsburgh, singing in blues bands and his church choir. He hit the national spotlight with a winning performance on TV's It's Show

Time at the Apollo. Soon afterward, he was signed to JVM Records, a label headed by dance music icon Junior Vasquez. Over the next five years, Walker released two albums, "This Is My Life" and "Flexible". From them, he garnered three Top 10 Billboard Club Play hits ("My Life", "No More", and "Movin' On"), two Billboard #1s ("Foolish Mind Games" and "Set It Free") and a nomination for Best Breakthrough Dance Artist at the prestigious International Dance Music Awards.

In 2010, he released his third album "Leave It All Behind", a song that climbed to #15 on the Billboard chart. It was followed by "Live and Unplugged, the 6th Ave. Sessions", and in 2012, he collaborated with C-Rod on the club single "Raise Your Hands". The song became Jason Walker's eighth charting Billboard Dance record, reaching #17. In July of 2012, he was awarded an Out Music Award for Best Inspirational Song. Walker followed the win with another C-Rod collaboration in 2013, "Beat Don't Stop". It peaked at #5 on Billboard.

Tell It To My Heart is Jason Walker's first collaboration with Bimbo Jones. "I'm a big fan of Bimbo Jones," he says. "They take their craft to the next level. So when they got involved, I was quite excited and when I heard the finished versions of the song, I was over the moon and couldn't stop listening. Those synth

parts during the chorus just take you there."

Peace Bisquit includes a mix of Jason Walker's Tell It To My Heart featuring Bimbo Jones on its Love/Sexo compilation, also available on iTunes. The label is co-releasing the single and remixes with their long time West Coast collaborator Citrusonic (Carmen Electra, Cher, Madonna).

Initial dance floor response has been extraordinary. "I played the song on new years in Australia and the crowd went nuts," exclaims Dagger. "It's a pure sing along anthem!"

His partner, Marc JB agrees, "It gets the dance floor goin' crazy. We love Jason Walker. It was a pleasure working on his amazing vocal."

DJ Grind, one of the most sought-after up-and-coming DJs on the gay circuit, is also praising the track. He premiered his mix at White Party in Miami and at his Mardi Gras New Orleans event, as well as on his podcast show.

"Sometimes the stars just align on a project and everything works out," says Coleman. "We couldn't be more pleased than with Jason and Bimbo's inspired take of Tell It To My Heart. The timeless song gets a modern update by the only guy on the planet who could not only sing it, but do it justice by making it all his own."

Says Walker, "It's been a pleasure working with everyone involved! I've always wanted to work with Bill Coleman, Peace Bisquit, and Bimbo Jones so this was an incredible opportunity." Visit JasonWalkermusic.com





Pride Alive Green Bay

Photos
courtesy of
Jennifer Meyer
Jennifer Dins
Mark Mariucci





BOUND MAGAZINE

Volume 13 #8 August 2014



SSBL Baseball

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Welcome to Ruthie's Bitchin' Kitchen

I don't give a damn what the naysayers might suggest...summer is not over yet! Not that I'm the world's biggest optimist, but I'm no pessimist either. Some say the glass is half empty. Others say the glass is half full. I say, "Are you gonna drink that vodka or what?!"

I think it's safe to say we have at least two months of warm-weather fun ahead, so let's all shut the hell up about summer being almost over and just try to enjoy it while it's here, okay? You want to know how I'm going to enjoy it? To start, I'm visiting the crazy kids in Madison when I emcee Club Five's Mr and Miss Pride pageant on August 1. Stop by the club for this fun 9:00 pm contest where tips collected decide the winners. You'll also find me hosting my own show at Hamburger Mary's in Bay View on Friday, August 29. Come for the first show (8:00 pm), my second and more adult show (9:30 pm) or stay for both! Just be sure to call (414-988-9324) for reservations as spots fill up fast!

How else will I salute summer? By celebrating with my friends at the Rusty Nail Trailer Park, and sharing some great food! Take a look at these no-stress party pleasers and use them to make the most of you summer. Then, eat good and shut up!

PRETTY-GIRL SHRIMP SPREAD

I got this recipe from one of Wisconsin's prettiest girls...my friend Tod of Bay View. Like Tod, the appetizer easy and cheap but wonderfully yummy once you give it a try!

1 pound cooked shrimp, peeled and chopped
1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened
1/2 cup mayonnaise
1 green onion, chopped
2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
Dash of hot pepper sauce
Dash black pepper
Crackers

Set the shrimp in a food processor and pulse until just mealy. Add the next six ingredients and pulse until well combined. Cover and refrigerate at least 1 hour before serving. Serve with crackers. Refrigerate leftovers.

Ruthie's Culinary Clues

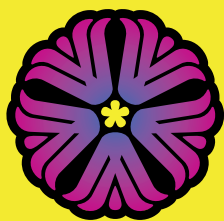
If you want to be fancy, take a tip from Tod. (Dear God...not THAT kind of tip!) Once Tod mixes up the spread, he lines a small bowl with cling wrap, leaving plenty of the wrap hanging over the edges of the bowl. He set the bowl in the fridge for an hour as directed. Before serving, he simply uses the edges of the cling wrap to lift the entire spread out of the bowl, and invert it on a serving platter. Peel away the wrap, and you have a nice domed-shaped spread to serve guests. Ooo-la-la! So fancy, Tod!

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SILENT ART AUCTION: To benefit Artists Working in Education (AWE) on Saturday.

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"Celebration"
Sarena Mann

BARBARA Q BBQ CHICKEN DIP

Thank you Miss Barbara for emailing me this finger-licking dip! What a great way to use leftover chicken and the slow cooker! Your free Bitchin' Kitchen T-shirt is on the way to your Brookfield home.

- 2 cups chopped/shredded cooked chicken
- 2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, cubed
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 cup ranch salad dressing
- 1/4 cup chopped cilantro
- 1/4 cup chopped green onion
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- 1/2 cup prepared barbecue sauce
- Crackers, celery sticks or pita bread wedges

Spritz a slow cooker with nonstick cooking spray. In a large bowl, combine the first eight ingredients; pour into slow cooker. Cover and cook on high for 2 to 3 hours or until cheeses are melted and ingredients are well combined. Stir mixture before serving warm with crackers. Refrigerate leftovers.

Ruthie's Culinary Clues

Don't have any cooked chicken on hand? Pick up a rotisserie chicken from the grocery store and remove the skin and bones. Mix in additional barbecue sauce if you want to punch up this dip's flavor a bit. Top the spread with extra cheese before serving, and keep it warm by serving it out of the slow cooker (set to low).

VANILLA-ALMOND FRUIT SALAD

Are you a summer fruit fiend? If so, have I got a dish for you! Mix this colorful salad up and enjoy it on a warm summer day.

- 1 kiwifruit, peeled and diced
- 1-1/2 cups sliced strawberries
- 1/2 cup blueberries
- 1 cup cubed pineapple
- 1 cup seedless grapes
- 1 tablespoon instant vanilla pudding mix
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract

Set fruit in a large bowl. Sprinkle with pudding mix and stir. Stir in lemon juice and extracts. (If pudding mix powder is still visible stir in water, a teaspoon at a time, until powder is absorbed.) Cover and refrigerate at least 1 hour before serving.

Ruthie's Culinary Clues

You want about four cups of fruit for this recipe, but feel free to use whatever fruits you like! Sliced peaches, raspberries and melon make great options. Swap out the lemon juice with lime juice for a little tropical flair. (And really...who doesn't like a little tropical flair?) Make this dish a day early and save time the day of your party.

Have a recipe for Ruthie? Email

DearMsRuthie@yahoo.com. If she publishes your recipe, you'll receive a free Bitchin' Kitchen T-shirt. Check out Ruthie's cooking show at Ruthies-BitchinKitchen.com.

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Cordially Yours

by Michael Johnston

Happy August! I hope you all enjoyed my profile on Timothy Westbrook in last month's edition. Friday, August 1 is his one man show "The Origin of the Unicorn" opening at The Charles Allis Art Museum 1801 North Prospect Avenue (414)278-8295 running through Sunday, September 28. Timothy is a wonderful man, great aura and just as genuine as can be! We are so fortunate to have in our midst. Timothy is a "Project Runway" alumnus which reminds me that Tim Gunn the host of this fashionable reality show will be this year's Honorary Chair of the very special 25th AIDS Walk Wisconsin. To think this is the silver anniversary of the Walk/Run... Please participate in this as a form of honoring all the clients past and present of this worthwhile agency, if it doesn't work for your schedule maybe sending in a gift of \$25 marking the many years this annual event has enriched our community? The Walk takes place on Saturday, October 12. While the Walk/Run is a quarter of century old, ARCW (AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin) has been around for 30 years! Blossoming out of the grass rooted MAP (Milwaukee AIDS Project). In a salute to their big 3-0, local artists will be presenting "Live Performance: Acts Against AIDS" Friday, August 22 7:00 PM Gay-la Concert at the Sharon Lynn Wilson Center for the Arts Brookfield. For more information on what promises to be a memorable evening, please e-mail: ARCWChoir@SBCGlobal.net By the by, Taylor's will once again be hosting Art Pop on Sunday, September 28th – always the most fun art auction and a great way to benefit and support AIDS Walk Wisconsin, now in its 25th year!

Following that thought -- The Milwaukee Domes Art Festival 2014 – the cultural event of the summer -with over 60 juried fine artists in and around The Domes takes place August 15 – 17th. This fabulous art sale takes place on the grounds of The Domes, providing you the opportunity to tour as

well as shop. 524 South Layton Boulevard. Include in this wonderful weekend of art will be: a Silent Auction, Plein Air Competition, Children's Activities Live Music and Entertainment.

The Milwaukee Chamber Theatre is celebrating 40 years of engaging, enlightening and entertaining work. What a marvelous legacy Montgomery Davis and Ruth Shudson have gifted us with. This special season opens with: "Master Class" by Terrence McNally Friday, August 7 – Sunday, August 24 in the Cabot Theatre of The Broadway Theatre Center in my opinion, the most stunning theatre in the state.

Starring as the diva of all divas Maria Callas, the divine Angela Iannone, I've only seen "Master Class" once and Ms. Iannone was in the lead role -- to me she owned the part, her brand was all over it, I can't fathom any other actress in the part though many have interpreted it. Angela is "The Queen of the Night" – to enroll in her "Master Class" you need to call (414)291-7800 – I'm sure this will take you to the head of the class! Currently Mike Nichols (Mr. Diane Sawyer of ABC News) is directing Ms. Meryl Streep as Ms. Callas, in "Master Class" for HBO TV. It will be interesting to see both Legends – Local and otherwise take on the first lady of Grand Opera.

Kandinsky is headlining at The Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM) through Sunday, September 1. I can't urge you enough to take the time to take in this extraordinary exhibit. It's amazing how futuristic his vision was -- work that was completed in the 1930's, being celebrated this summer, looks like it was designed yesterday. So contemporary! We are so fortunate to have this body of work here to appreciate. Take a moment out of the sun and shine on this, you won't be disappointed!

The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts has a sensational season for outdoor series "Live at the Peck Pavilion" Tuesdays at 7:30 PM this summer.

The new River's Edge Patio will be open with food/beverages available for purchase from Sazama's Fine Catering. August 5 The Stooges Brass Band will perform – come enjoy the New Orleans Big Band Sound! August 12 Alian – world class Irish music celebrated to bring a bit of the Irish out in all of us, and it's not even St. Patrick's Day! August 19 The Florentine Opera Company graces the pavilion el fresco in celebration of their 80th season. August 26 Desert Noises electrifies the night with the sounds of: Tom Petty, Fleetwood Mac and Tame Impala come give this adventurous group from Utah Valley, UT a listen, you'll be hooked! For more details dial - 414-273-7206.

It's very rare for me to take space to report on my own comings and goings, but in this instance, I have to make an exception. I've dubbed this year, "my year of good byes" – people leaving town, passing away, things ending etc... I have one more to share. After eight highly successful years of putting the va voom in The Room of Boom -- I've had a very quiet "Last Call". It was a great gig, providing libations and show tunes every Friday for the Community. I thank each and every one of you dear friends, fans, family-by-choice who may have started as patrons and through the years, the laughs, loyalty, lively conversations grew and became so much more. My only regret, if I'm allowed, no chance to say Good Bye and more importantly Thank You! I'm not sure where, when, or how – but, I hope we will all be together again – real soon! My gratitude to David, Lance, Shawn, Burt, Huck, Dan, Clint, Rona, Tim, Brandon and all the other fun Bartenders of Boom/The Room I had the pleasure to work with and/or drink with. My auxiliary of friends who made my shift sing – Tony Rafenstien and Mark (Trixie) Luko on piano, Princess Charlotte Lorraine – Bar-Back-Extraordinaire, Baby Jane Hudson's priceless videos and all the others who helped make KV's Friday Show

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In the meanwhile I'll be popping in at Club Charlies in The Historic Third Ward as a guest of Dawn's & Craig's adding a little glamor to their Sunday fun day Show Tunes 2 – 6 PM with Brian Reinkober spinning his best of Broadway and the alike. Thank You Always Happy Hour's Brian & Andy for the publicity and Social Media assistance.

I've also had the pleasure of appearing at the Red Star Cocktail Club 2nd floor of The Trocadero 1758 North Water Street (414)272-0205 "Guest Star Bartending" on a Friday 5 – 8 PM sharing my Show Tunes once again and enjoyed a reunion of sorts. Lance the Bar Manager offers a dynamic nite spot Thursdays – Sundays 8:00 PM – Close - I encourage you to visit the latest and greatest LGBT offering, a bit of Heaven on the second floor. Lance offers a lot, including Happy Hour(s) Thu – Sat 8 - 10 PM \$5 Timeless Classics: Brandy Old Fashioned – The official cocktail of Badgerland, Tom Collins-A fresher spin on the seasonal Gin&Tonic, Bourbon Manhattan, French75-oui, oui, Cosmopolitan-Not just for reading any more. \$2 House Infused Shots Blueberry & Basil Rum, Cinnamon, Vanilla & Maple Bourbon, Chamomile, Lemon & Honey Vodka – Tchin, Tchin!

After over 13 years (over five years at Switch and eight at The Room) – it's kind of odd being free on a Friday night... anyone for a fish fry?

I must acknowledge my thanks and gratitude to Cream City Rickshaw 414-272-RIDE (7433). Perfect for tours, weddings, special events, Pride parades, getting around town during Festival season - - they do offer a 1-hour Pedicab Tour! www.creamcityrickshaw.com, www.facebook.com/creamcityrickshaw, Twitter@ccrickshaw - -Vlad is my favorite driver, please request him - - he'll take you everywhere!

Recently The Boy from New York City – Lance came to town for a wonderful (all too short) weekend that included taking in the Soulstice Theatre's "Follies"! Jillian Smith interrupted Stephen Sondheim's classic making for a terrific night of theatre - - and to hear the haunting musical score live – what a treat. Laura Monagle (soon to be seen in Off The Wall's "Cabaret") and Liz Norton headed the powerhouse cast of aging show girls trying to

look to their future, having one last, brief look at their past. The cast was made up of a Who's Who of Milwaukee's Favorites: Parker Cristan, Tamara Martinsek, Marcee Doherty-Elst, Thomas Jacobson and Jeffrey Krueger all adding to the galaxy of talent. This month Soulstice will offer up "A Lady in Waiting" a world premiere play by Liz Shipe August 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16 and 21, 22, 23.

In September "The Pillow Man" by Martin McDonagh September 12 – 27, "Moon Over Buffalo" November 7 – 22, "Wasp & Other Plays" February 12 – 28/15, "Copenhagen" April 17 – May 02/15, "Eurydice" June 05 – 20/15 and "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" all taking place at the Keith Tamsett Theater – St. Francis www.soulsticetheatre.org

Optimist Theater provided valiantly this summer's Shakespeare in the Park – now in their celebrated fifth year "The Winter's Tale". The biggest challenge this season the weather, doing it outdoors (rain, fog, wet – saturated ground) ironic after the winter we just experienced –choosing "A Winter's Tale". Fans turned out non-the-less, a sell out every night - - it doesn't hurt that there is no charge, but gifts and donations are greatly appreciated to keep this cultural movement in motion. It was divine having live theater in my back yard!

Since last we talked I was "Bronze-d"! Bronze Optical 1568 North Farwell Avenue (414)221-7055 info@BronzeOptical.com is where I got not one, but two snappy pairs of specs. Seeing clearer and far more fashionably, fabulous and affordable eyewear and customer service that is totally incomparable! Bronze Quinton, Optician and his dedicated staff: Shari, Georgia (AKA PFLAG Den Mother) and Justine all rallied to help me select options to enhance my vision and stylishly so! Feel free to visit and See for yourself! Very LGBT Friendly and again one-on-one attention, service that made you feel as though you were the only one in the room! In the neighborhood on a stroll looking for interesting boutiques - Little Monsters jumped out at me - Clothing, Toys & Accessories located at 2445 N. Farwell Ave. (414)964-2323 LittleMonstersMilwaukee@gmail.com.

Andie Zacher has it all for the GaGa in our lives – great displays and presentations! De'ja' Vu on

Downer 2567 North Downer Avenue (414)755-2262 offer a variety of treasures that looks like they came from Grandma's attic - - but in pristine condition! Jody & Steen Mikkelsen's shop has many selections to enhance your household.

Looking for a fun, one day, get-a-way? Be a tourist in your own town - - Roger RamJet and I went to the Cave of the Mounds in Blue Mounds, WI, near Madison where you can take a tour of a National Natural Landmark since 1939 – 75 years in the making. Touring a cave that is a natural phenomenon is odd, fascinating, and spooky all at the same time! www.caveofthemounds.com. The House on the Rock, as opposed to a piece of the rock, in Spring Green also impressed. Alex Jordan had a dream of building his home on this rock, and filling the domicile with a selection of museum quality collections. While I can't imagine living there; it was a kick touring the compound. Of course all that touring led to an unquenchable thirst, so to Madison with us and a visit to Woof's – where Tom and Louis greeted us and The Shamrock Bar & Grille was once again up and running and offering a fun Saturday night in our state capitol.

Jack Eigel one of Milwaukee's legendary bon vivants hosted an incredible Independence Day Celebration that included fireworks worthy of this fashion maven! How does he do it? Great catching up with Jack & LeeAnn Lake, Brian Doebereiner, Mike, Dan Taylor and meeting transplants from Texas Stephen & Mike - -what a holiday!

Scott Coleman & Jeff Gadberry escaped the glorious dessert known as Palm Springs to make a pilgrimage back to their Midwest roots. While here they hosted a tasteful brunch at The Pfister, featuring fellow "Springers" Jack Balzer & Greg Gowdy back in the Dairyland for the summer and enjoying their lake country oasis and Robert Parrish & Richard Steele who also are in town to visit with daughter Heather and their dear friend Nita Soref. Richard & Robert entertained while in Brewtown with an extraordinary cocktail party of over 65 guests in the Library of The University Club. Trust me no one was reading! Who could with such luminaries as: Rosemary Gemette, Anne Catalane, Fred Stewart, Patrick Farrell, Tom Ewart, Jan &



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Leon, Colleen Henry, Matt Flynn and that was just the over flow in the foyer outside the library!

So sad to report the death of dear friend, Allan Kohl, cruel ALS took his life – he is the second ALS Warrior this year alone in my world to succumb to this dreadful disease. Allan was shy, quiet, and had a fun sense of humor and adventure. He also was the first man to ask me to dance back in 1979 at The Factory! A memory I shall always cherish -- and yes, I could have danced all night, could that boy fox trot! Sweet dreams...

The Cream City Foundation had their Annual Celebration in thanking all their Donors. The Renaissance Place on Prospect Avenue made for an ideal venue for their sweet soiree. Scott Munoz and Liz as our bartender welcomed us all royally. The Board of Directors of CCF: Paul Milakovich, Jose Milan, Don Sawall, Jim Schleif, Renee Kimberger, Terry Coughlin made us all feel so special, in the mix: Will Radler, Joe Pabst, Dr. Robert Starshak & Ross Draeger, Tony Rhodes, Patrick Farrell, Paul Mueller, Brian Buchberger & Andy Schaidler, Polly Daeger, Craig Bodoh & Mark Travis Ranum, among many other staunch supporters of the Foundation. Will Radler shined as he shared, he would be gifting the UWM Golda Meier Library's LGBT Archives a major gift as well as a \$25,000 challenge to raise funds for CCF. Mr. Radler's endowment to the LGBT Archives was made In Honor of Joe Pabst – who has been an inspiration to him. Mr. Pabst also continues to gift our community continually and now others are as well. You got to love it when contributing becomes

contagious!

Joe Pabst hosted, so far, the best party of the summer, one I was thrilled to be invited to, a farewell to Paul Fairchild. While I wasn't thrilled to say farewell to dear Paul, (I wore black) I was thrilled to be included. What a lovely, touching tribute to the former CEO/President of the Cream City Foundation. Everyone that was invited attended! That is unheard of especially in June! Joe hosted and put the task of whom to include on Paul's broad shoulders. Eyeing up the room(s) I would guess-estimate 50 or so. Bidding a fond adieu were: Tanya Atkinson – Planned Parenthood Advocate, Dr. Gary Hollander – Diverse & Resilient, John Smallwood – Fair Wisconsin, Mike Gifford – ARCW, Dr. Robert Starshak & Ross Draeger, Will Radler, Hannah Rosenthal – CEO Jewish Federation, Anne Summers – E.D., The Bracco Fund, Lynde Uihlein, Carl Bogner – LGBT Film Festival, Julie McKenna – LGBT Center S.E., Jason Rae – WI. LGBT Chamber of Commerce, Paul Williams – ACLU Board, LGBT Community Center, Linda Honald Brico – Former Director of Wisconsin Voices, Chris Abele, Ed Seaberg & Patrick Smith, Jim Bennett, Brian Buchberger & Andy Schaidler, Craig Bodoh & Mark Trevor Ranum -- among many more. Red Headed Chef Tiffany out did herself, what a feast, to sample her delicious offerings please call 414-502-5320

tiffanytheredheadedchef@gmail.com.

Following Tiffany's mouthwatering morsels of joys -- once again it's Food Time, this month out, how about Bosley's on Brady? 815 East Brady Street

(414) 727-7975 this is the place to be! Get a bit of Key West right here in the Midwest. Michele & Jeff Green are your Hosts, with Nels on hand to manage everything. Monday – Saturday all starting at 4 PM. One of the best Cocktail Hours in the entire Midwest, by the time you leave, you too will feel like your 90 miles from Cuba!

Remember it's the glamor, not the grammar – Happy Summer – so thrilled it has finally arrived as I remain Still Cordially yours.,

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WELL, we are finally back. That's right if you noticed the last 2 months there hasn't been a skin and steel and if you didn't notice, for shame! You should be paying more attention to your friendly neighborhood body piercer! If your looking for the reason there was no column I was instructed to throw my editor under the bus and blame him. Something about him being too busy to fit my column in as he was busy being massaged by Cuban cabana boys, while sipping mimosas in the Easter islands.... **editor's note: well it could have been Italy, in fact it was :-)**

Since we have been gone for so long it almost feels weird to be writing a column again, so much so that I have drawn a blank on what I should write about. Well that and the cocktail I'm having as I write this from the beautiful Lake Michigan.

So much of summer has passed as well. We

had pride, Summerfest, and now state fair. I just wanted to take a sec to thank ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS from PrideFest and the Pride Parade. They are truly the heroes of pride weekend and without them there would be no pride weekend at all. Summerfest came and went with so much fog I don't even want to think about it. And now State Fair is here, hopefully the cream puffs don't win out in your food battles. Why? Cause if you don't eat them there is more for me!

This brings us to our topic, piercings and tattoos. This month I wanted to talk about tattooing. We don't talk about it enough here and I really want to try and change that. Specifically in tattooing I wanted to talk about some of the new art I have been seeing come into the shop and around the city.

To start off, I want to say their are artists and then there are tattoo artists. One can create beautiful works of art, the other makes beautiful

art in skin that will last decades. The issue at hand is artists thinking they are tattoo artists.

Tattooing is different from other art forms, and the medium (skin) of the art must be taken into account. Currently there are many tattooists who think they can put thousands of details into a tattoo. The fact of life is this, you can't. Art in skin needs to be somewhat rudimentary to prevent color bleed and increase the longevity of the tattoo. So much detail gets lost in the healing process and the ravages of time.

Basically what I'm saying is this. All those tattoos you are seeing that look almost like a photo? They will never last unless they are really big pieces. All those artists showing how small and intricate they can make their tattoos, in 5 years it will probably look like a blob. All this artists whose colors look so bright it's almost like they were drawn on, usually they are enhanced with a photo program from the App Store for \$1.99.

So make sure you investigate your artist thoroughly, look at HEALED versions of their work, check everything you can about them! Tattoos are after all permanent!

Well it seems I'm out of room again. And even though I could probably work in another rip on my editor, I'm pretty sure he is ripped enough on all the miller lite he drinks.

Until next month have a great august and get pierced and tattooed!

KRUZ


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