

QUEST

MAGAZINE
Volume 23, #7
July 2016



We Stand with Orlando

Stanley Almodovar III, 23 years old
Amanda Alvear, 25 years old
Oscar A Aracena-Montero, 26 years old
Rodolfo Ayala-Ayala, 33 years old
Antonio Davon Brown, 29 years old
Daryl Roman Burt II, 29 years old
Angel L. Candelario-Padro, 28 years old
Juan Chevez-Martinez, 25 years old
Luis Daniel Conde, 39 years old
Cory James Connell, 21 years old
Tevin Eugene Crosby, 25 years old
Deonka Deidra Drayton, 32 years old
Simon Adrian Carrillo Fernandez, 31 years old
Leroy Valentin Fernandez, 25 years old
Mercedez Marisol Flores, 26 years old
Peter O. Gonzalez-Cruz, 22 years old
Juan Ramon Guerrero, 22 years old
Paul Terrell Henry, 41 years old
Frank Hernandez, 27 years old
Miguel Angel Honorato, 30 years old
Javier Jorge-Reyes, 40 years old
Jason Benjamin Josaphat, 19 years old
Eddie Jamoldroy Justice, 30 years old
Anthony Luis LaureanoDisla, 25 years old
Christopher Andrew Leinonen, 32 years old
Alejandro Barrios Martinez, 21 years old
Brenda Lee Marquez McCool, 49 years old
Gilberto Ramon Silva Menendez, 25 years old
Kimberly Morris, 37 years old
Akyra Monet Murray, 18 years old
Luis Omar Ocasio-Capo, 20 years old
Geraldo A. Ortiz-Jimenez, 25 years old
Eric Ivan Ortiz-Rivera, 36 years old
Joel Rayon Paniagua, 32 years old
Jean Carlos Mendez Perez, 35 years old
Enrique L. Rios, Jr., 25 years old
Jean C. Nives Rodriguez, 27 years old
Xavier Emmanuel Serrano Rosado, 35 years old
Christopher Joseph Sanfeliz, 24 years old
Yilmary Rodriguez Solivan, 24 years old
Edward Sotomayor Jr., 34 years old
Shane Evan Tomlinson, 33 years old
Martin Benitez Torres, 33 years old
Jonathan Antonio Camuy Vega, 24 years old
Juan P. Rivera Velazquez, 37 years old
Luis S. Vielma, 22 years old
Franky Jimmy Dejesus Velazquez, 50 years old
Luis Daniel Wilson-Leon, 37 years old
Jerald Arthur Wright, 31 years old

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JIM AND RON GET MARRIED

by Paul Masterson

A friend of mine recently stood up as best man at a same sex wedding of his good gay friends, Jim Lewis and Ron Herget. Nowadays, that's not really news. Same sex marriages take place all the time. But, this couple has been together 46 years. Still, as newsworthy as that may be, many same sex relationships have lasted even longer. But there is something unique about this couple: it's interracial. Jim is black and Ron is white.

They first met back in 1968 at a party in Chicago. It was New Year's Day. Jim, at the time, was 21 and about to end a relationship. Ron was 25 and suddenly single. It was just a few years after the 1964 Civil Rights Act; Milwaukee's race riots had taken place just months before and segregationist George Wallace was running for president. In fact, Milwaukee was considered the most segregated city in the country (sadly, it still is).

Jim was raised in Mississippi where racial hatred is a simple fact of life. He recalls being pelted with eggs and tomatoes when he walked to school. He worked picking cotton. Then, in 1963, he moved to Chicago. There he found a job with as a computer operator. "Life was so different in Chicago. People treated each other differently. I thought I was in Paradise", Jim recalls. Ron was from a Milwaukee family in the tavern business. He studied medicine at Marquette and became a successful pediatric surgeon.

Jim would eventually be transferred to Milwaukee and, needing a place to stay, he moved in with Ron. Their relationship developed over the years but it was not without its ups and downs. More ups, the two agree but, aside from the usual joys and pains of a growing relationship, they also dealt with issues of racism and homophobia that could easily have torn them apart.

On a family level, tensions developed almost immediately. Ron's brothers, all military men, they did not approve of the two living together or of their relationship in general. They would make remarks about blacks using the "N" word, and Ron tried hard had to negotiate the circumstances, not ignoring them but wanting to break from his family. Still, although his mother eventually came around, after a few failed attempts at hosting family holiday gatherings, communication with his brothers ceased. "The beginning relationship with Jim was the beginning of the end of the relationship with my family. I think my family resented Jim more because he was black than because he was gay," Ron admits. However, on Jim's family side, acceptance was immediate, taking Ron right away...except for Jim's step-father who hated both whites and gays. According to Jim, his step-father once pulled out a gun and went nose to nose with Ron. Jim's mother intervened and threw the man out of the house. The man was never to be seen again. Ron admits he regards Jim's mother as his second mother and has always enjoyed her support. Still, it was a learning experience for Ron who suddenly found himself the only white person among his second family. He learned to appreciate how Jim, or any black person, for that matter, felt when in a crowd of whites.

However, professionally, Ron can't recall any issues. For one thing, the only people who knew about Ron and Jim were Ron's gay colleagues in the medical field. They carefully observed a code of silence because most were in the closet and feared outing themselves if they made too much of their



colleague's situation.

Socially, Ron remained a home body. His family's history of running taverns had left him with little interest in bar life. Jim, on the other hand, admits was a social butterfly. In fact, he became known in the Milwaukee scene as his drag persona, *Hot Fudge* (he began as *Flossie* but explains his friends didn't think he looked like a *Flossie* so he changed his drag name accordingly).

Then, in 1978, Ron and Jim moved to a village in Washington County. But there, rather than welcoming the couple, the locals greeted them with vandalism and harassment. Their property lights were shot out, broken glass was left on their driveway, and their mailbox destroyed. The village itself immediately doubled their tax assessment. It would require the state to intervene before the taxes were rolled back. Ron explains that since then, the village would find anything they could do to encourage them to move out. Sadly, the pair admits, they've experienced more racism and homophobia there than they ever did in Milwaukee. "It's a race war," they say.

Despite those conflicts, and perhaps in part because of them, love has conquered all and they've remained together. "We've equalized our love for each other and found our equilibrium. That's why we are still together. When my brother got married, he asked my mother if she thought his bride would be the right wife for him. She said 'you should be asking if you'll be the right husband.' That's what I've learned from her," Ron says

Jim adds, "People asked how I could date a white guy. But I just thought it was the just way it was."

Now, both retired, Jim and Ron shared vowed and were married in a civil ceremony at the Milwaukee Court House. Jim's relatives were in attendance. It was finally time. They had discussed a wedding for years but when same sex marriage was passed, Jim proposed.

Ron created a Top Ten List for Saying "Yes". The highlights include "After 46 years, there's a low risk of divorce", "It's now or never," and, perhaps the most romantic, "It's the right thing to do."

JAZZ IN THE PARK!

JOIN US EVERY THURSDAY THIS SUMMER

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KENOSHA PRIDE ANNOUNCED FOR JULY 17

The Kenosha Pride Board of Directors has announced the 4th Annual Kenosha Pride events to take place this year on Sunday, July 17, 2016. Preparations for the Pride March will begin at 11:00am at Library Park, the starting point for the last 3 years.

Kenosha Pride started in mid-June 2013. The 1st Kenosha Pride March was held in July, 2013. Since the creation of Kenosha Pride the committee members have worked to ensure the success and growth of this event. Each year the crowd and the activities increase to make the event more enjoyable and family friendly.

At approximately 12:00pm (Noon) the festivities will begin with a welcome and introduction of guests and acknowledgement of donors. After the welcome, the march will step off with an escort by the Kenosha Police Department traveling on the sidewalks of 6th Ave. The march will then move east on 56th St and around Ring Rd, passing the historic Kenosha Lighthouse. The march will continue west on 54th St, coming to an

end at Harbor Park Parcel A at the intersection of 54th St and 6th Ave.

At approximately 1:00pm the Kenosha Pride Party will begin at Harbor Park Parcel A, the green space across from Trolley Dogs Restaurant. Kenosha Pride will have a stage for entertainment including a family friendly Drag Show, comedians, a DJ, and other entertainment. A children's area will be set up with a Bouncy House and other activities for younger children. Other events and activities are being planned but not yet confirmed.

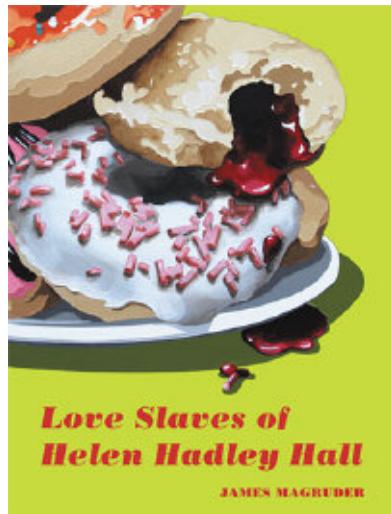
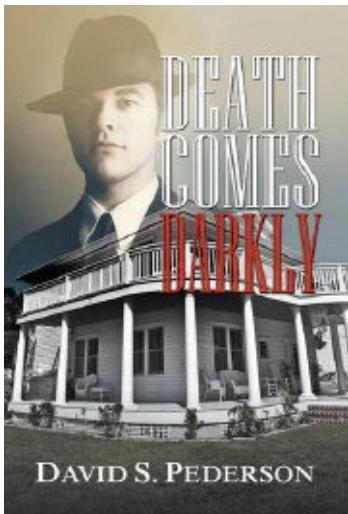
The day will come to a close at 9:00pm. This free family event is made possible with donations from local residents and businesses, such as Educator's Credit Union, The Brat Stop, Club ICON, Trolley Dogs, The LGBT Center of SE WI, Lou Perrine's Gas and Groceries, and others. Any person, business or organization wishing to donate to Kenosha Pride should contact Kenosha Pride at kenoshapride@gmail.com or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kenoshapride.



Tony Gonzales Memorial

A traditional Native American Ceremony will be held to mark the one year anniversary of the death of Antonio (Tony) Gonzales on Saturday July 16th, 3:00 pm, at his grave site located at Good Hope Cemetery (West side); 4141 S. 43rd St. Greenfield, Wisconsin

OUTWORDS BOOKS WELCOMES TWO WRITERS THIS JULY.



Outwords will welcome local writer David S. Pederson for a reading/signing of his debut murder mystery, **Death Comes Darkly** as a part of their 24th Anniversary weekend festivities.

Already a firm favorite amongst Outwords Books many murder mystery aficionados, Pederson's **Death Comes Darkly** transports readers to the Lake Geneva of the 1940s.

Heath Barrington is an attractive big city detective, confident, strong, and crazy about police officer Alan Keyes. Down-to-earth, noble, and naive, Alan struggles with his desires for Heath versus 1940s America and his guilty conscience. Heath's skills of deduction and reasoning are challenged as he and Alan work together to solve the murder of an eccentric millionaire in his mysterious, isolated estate. They search for clues and uncover long buried secrets of the weekend guests while keeping secrets of their own. It's up to Heath to solve the mystery and convince Alan that some secrets aren't worth keeping, and lust can lead to love.

David S. Pederson was born in Leadville, Colorado, where his father was a miner. Soon after, the family relocated to Wisconsin. After majoring in business and creative writing, David landed a job in retail, found himself relocating to New York, Massachusetts, and even-

tually returning to Wisconsin, where he currently lives with his longtime partner, and works in the furniture and decorating business.

David S. Pederson will read from **"Death Comes Darkly"** beginning at 7:00pm on Friday July 8, 2016 at Outwords Books.

Saturday, July 30th @ 2:00pm, Outwords Books welcomes acclaimed novelist James Magruder for a reading/signing of latest and most compelling novel as of yet, **Love Slaves of Helen Hadley Hall**.

Every September since 1958 a fresh batch of residents arrives at the Yale graduate dormitory that bears the name of one Miss Helen Hadley, a nineteenth-century ectoplasmic emanation still residing at 420 Temple Street, New Haven, Connecticut. Every year she selects her favorites, follows their adventures, cheers on their romantic shifts, and picks up their lingo. With the university presently threatening to bulldoze her home, she has decided to chronicle her favorite year, the nine months in 1983-84 when Silas Huth, Becky Engelking, Nixie Bolger, Carolann Chudek, and Randall Flinn took up the manacles of erotic attachment. In **Love Slaves of Helen Hadley Hall**, Miss Hadley promises her readers carnal congress, a near-homicide, and a wedding finale, for her tale of communal bondage is one of love surprised, love confessed, betrayed, renounced, repelled, of suspect leanings and trembling declarations, of hymens under siege and innumerable searching looks in the mirror.

James Magruder is a fiction writer, playwright, and translator. He was born in Washington, D.C., and moved with his family five times before settling down in Wheaton, Illinois. He went off to Cornell University, spent his junior year in Paris, served time as a grad student in the Yale French department, then defected to the Yale School of Drama, where he received his doctorate in dramaturgy and dramatic criticism. After fifteen years in show business as a playwright and dramaturg, he turned to fiction in 2002. His stories have appeared in *New England Review* and the anthologies **Boy Crazy** and **New Stories from the Midwest, among others**. His debut novel, **Sugarless**, was a Lambda Literary Award finalist. His first story collection, **Let Me See It**, came out in 2014.

He lives in Baltimore with his partner Stephen Bolton.

James Magruder will read from **Love Slaves of Helen Hadley Hall** beginning at 2:00pm on Saturday July 30, 2016 at Outwords Books.

These are both free events and all are welcome. Please arrive early since seating is limited.

Outwords Books is located at 2710 N. Murray Ave. in Milwaukee. For further information, please call (414) 963-9089 or go to www.outwordsbooks.com.

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MILWAUKEE METROPOLITAN CHURCH WELCOMES NEW PASTOR

The Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) welcomed Rev. Tory V. Topjian as its new senior pastor on June 5th at its 11AM morning service. He replaces Rev. Wendy Woodruff who served as MCC pastor since 2007. Rev. Topjian comes to Milwaukee MCC as the former associate pastor at Founders Metropolitan Community Church, in Los Angeles, CA, the founding church of the MCC denomination. Rev. Topjian brings twenty-five years of sharing a charismatic and passionate heart with a vibrant spiritual theology in which God's unconditional and all-inclusive love is identified and celebrated for all people. Ordained as clergy with MCC in early 2015, Rev. Tory holds a Master of Divinity from Claremont School of Theology, with emphasis in Inter-Religious studies as well as trends in worship within Inter-Faith Communities. Rev. Tory recently served on the board for the Los Angeles Interfaith Advisory Council. He has also served on various panels pertaining to Multi-Cultural and Inter-Faith Worship within and outside the LGBT+ community. The Milwaukee MCC is located at 1239 West Mineral Street, Milwaukee, WI.. For information on the Milwaukee MCC go to <http://milmcc.org> or contact Rev. Tory directly at revtory@milmcc.org.



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2. Enjoy Your Experience – Crank up the fun because it will help you exercise longer, even when you dread it. Try something new, do something adventurous, anything to keep it fun.

3. Make the World Your Gym – Take the stair. Squeeze your abs in traffic. Walk to the store. All those little things add up to big things.

4. Motivate Yourself – Positive self-talk can boost your motivation exponentially. Check yourself out in the mirror every now & then, and then give yourself props for making improvements.

5. Break Up Your Workouts – If a long workout stops you from getting it in, break it into smaller chunks. 10min here, 5min there, another 10 here, etc. An easy routine to take is 10min of stretching when you wake up, 20-30min of activity at lunch, and another 20min around dinner.

6. Stretch – It will make you more flexible, relieves tension, improves posture, and helps with aches & pains. It's so easy you can even do it in bed or while watching TV.

7. No Sports Drinks – Unless you're a pro athlete or mid marathon, you do not need all that sugar. All those extra calories will ruin all the hard work you put in in the gym.

8. Cardio + Weight = Success – For anyone looking for the quickest results possible, pair these two and you will be surprised how quickly you get fit.

9. Embrace the Next Step – Don't shy away from a super challenging workout, they are tough for a reason. THEY WORK. Plus they are a great way to see where you stand vs. yourself when you started.

10. Challenge Yourself – Step it up. Workout 5 minutes longer. Raise the incline level on your treadmill. Get those few extra reps in. It makes a whole world of a difference.

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Looming large over Glenn's rather fragile psyche has been director Andrew Nackman's genial brom-com, **4th Man Out**.

Time and again Glenn was thwarted in his attempts at accessing an online screener of this firm Outfest favorite whilst writing up last year's last year's always fabulous Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival. Glenn would be thwarted again when, thanks to an Outlook.com Calendar glitch, Glenn with several members of monthly cinema circle missed **4th Man Out** in its festival screening slot.

Still, all was not lost; Glenn and company were early enough for each to score an ODORAMA Scratch N' Sniff card for the screening of John Waters' divine film, **Polyester**.

And after all, Glenn's day would come, that much was certain; **4th Man Out** would surely have to be released on DVD eventually, would it not?

Adam (Evan Todd, **Grumpy Cat's Worst Christmas Ever**) plays a closeted gay auto mechanic who has kept his terrible secret from his bestest blue collar beer buddies his whole life. But all that is about to change when his buddies Chris (Parker Young, **Arrow**), Ortú (Jon Gabrus) and Nick (Chord Overstreet, **Glee**) take Adam out to celebrate his 24th birthday.

Adam's ready; he's spent hours practicing his prepared speech in front of a mirror. It is clear that Adam wants to tackle Chris first, on the drive over. Chris is after all his best friend and the one with whom he's had a lifelong crush, of that all in the cinema circle were indeed quite certain. Sadly, poor Chris is so intent on breaking Adam's "cold streak" and getting him laid that Adam has to let the opportunity pass.

Imagine, then, Adam's reaction when upon joining up with Nick and Ortú, Chris turns to Adam and asks, "You wanna get gay?" It is a deer-in-the-headlights moment as Adam looks for the entire world like he's just wet himself. Chris eventually explains that he's just offering to pour everybody a shot, whereupon both Nick and Ortú gleefully express their willingness to "get gay."

Amongst all of the alcohol-fueled festivities, the time never proves right for Adam's declaration; so why not wait until the next morning and whisper the fact you are gay to your half-conscious BFF?

"4th Man Out" By Glenn Bishop

It is yet another awkward moment in a screenplay positively bursting with awkward moments. Chris' reaction is to run to the nearest bin and toss up an undigested cookie or two.

An embarrassed quiet descended upon the gentlemen of the monthly cinema circle.

After a few more hilarious/awkward wobbles, Chris and the gang are soon on board, helping Adam explore Grindr and other assorted gay social media apps with which these oh-so straight dudes are surprisingly familiar.

Cue the hilarious/awkward segment of Aaron Dancik's screenplay when, in proper sit-com fashion, Adam goes on a series of disastrous first-dates. There's the painfully closeted young man paranoid that everyone in the restaurant is staring. Later there's the ballsy dude who is happiest whilst reenacting scenes from his favorite movie, **Scarface**.

By far the creepiest is Brad aka Bradstar (Doug Moe) who blithely admits to using someone else's photo for his profile picture. Brad even chides Adam for being shallow before attempting to lure Adam into his "totally pimped out basement" which features both an Xbox 360 and Huey Lewis and the News on vinyl. Sometime later, Brad invites Adam over for the 4th of July, enticing him with promises of some of his wife's "most amazing" potato salad.

Glenn couldn't help but wonder if that's how it all started with Jerry Sandusky.

Even as Adam continues his journey in search of Mr. Right, Aaron Dancik's screenplay still has a few boxes to tick. Come out to the family. Check. Win over the homophobe next door. Check. What about Chris and the gang, don't they deserve some happiness?

Glenn is comfortable in the knowledge that by the time the last firework has been set off and the last spare rib has been gobbled right down to the bone, all who deserve will live a long and happy life!

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

Buy it, rent it or forget it...

Watching **4th Man Out**, Glenn found himself recalling **Big Eden**, a gay cinema essential in which this entire small town seemingly conspirers to bring two gay characters together.

Plenty of differences abound, certainly but in **4th Man Out** both friends and family are quickly on board. Chris, Nick and Ortú, as previous noted, do their gosh-darn best to learn the lingo and help their friend find a boyfriend. Even the homophobe next door goes from baking a Virgin Mary cake to baking cookies for Adam and his gay lovers.

Glenn would be remiss not to describe **4th Man Out** as a perfect date night flick. The only problem is that Glenn's not certain who for. Both mainstream and LGBT moviegoers are likely to be won over by Evan Todd's Adam, a genuinely appealing character; one who is blessedly free of the litany of gay stereotypes Adam spends the film dating. That said, most of the cinema circle found Parker Young's Chris the more artfully drawn and compelling character as he struggles with his BFF Adam's bombshell.

By the rolling of the final credits, this earnest, well-intentioned feel-good brom-com had won over not only the gentlemen of the monthly cinema circle but Glenn as well!

Just the facts...

4th Man Out is in English and has a running time of 89 minutes. **4th Man Out** is out DVD with a SRP of \$24.99.

Brooke Dillman, who plays the homophobic Martha plays Honey Garrett on **Where the Bears Are** (Web Series) Chord Overstreet (Nick) played heartthrob Sam Evans on **Glee**.

Extras include close captioning and extended out-takes.





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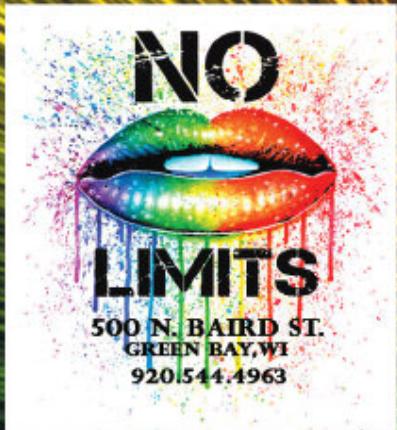
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2pm - 6pm: Pints of BEER - \$2

6pm - 10pm: Mini Pitchers - \$7 (includes rail mixers)

10pm - Close: Lights Out Dance Party

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Outwords is Milwaukee's and Wisconsin's LGBT Bookstore

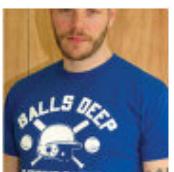
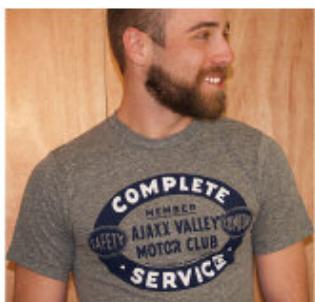
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OUT'N'BOUND MAGAZINE

Volume 15 #7 July 2016



SSBL's 40th Season! Photos by Paul Masterson

This year Milwaukee's Saturday Softball Beer League (SSBL) celebrates its 40th season of play. Founded in 1977 to organize local gay softball, SSBL's name reflects the tone that endures to this day – it's all about fun with friends around that ubiquitous Milwaukee beverage: beer. In the days of its founding, the losing team would supply the beer for the post play partying. The league's fame, however, lies in its historical role as one of five founding cities of NAGAAA, the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance. Over the years, in addition to its annual Dairyland Classic Softball Tournament, SSBL has hosted three gay softball world series, the last in 2009 when over 50 teams from throughout the United States and Canada came to Milwaukee. SSBL also boasts six members of the NAGAAA Hall of Fame. The most recent inductee is Mona Garcia, the first straight woman to be so honored. Long the treasurer of SSBL she now serves on the NAGAAA Board of Directors as its executive assistant. Congratulations to SSBL! Play Ball!



Cordially Yours

by Michael Johnston

Welcome to the month of Independence Day – the heart of the summer. As I pen this, I am warmed by the memories of PrideFest, 2016 and haunted by the tragedy in Orlando... What a wonderful weekend we had in spite of the world that surrounds us. Greater minds than mine are still examining the details and will we ever get answers to such puzzles?

Welcome home – even as briefly as it will be Robert Parrish & Richard Steele! The toasts of Palm Springs are making their annual summer visit to the Midwest to cool off... Oh the joys of living in the desert! But we go on – we have to!

Dale Gutzman's Off The Wall Theatre (127 East Wells Street) is offering up Thornton Wilder's "Skin of Our Teeth" July 1, 2, and 3, all seats are \$25. To make a reservation, please call Donna at 414-484-8874 or visit www.offthewalltheatre.com. During these difficult times – you should feed the soul too! Patrick McCann of OTWT has been accepted or "casted" as they say in the Theater world to study at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School in England. The same school Kevin Spacey worked with. There is a "Go Fund" page - help Patrick and the Arts by investing in this talented young man, and to think, we can say we knew him when ...

Keep in mind one of the world's largest Music Festivals is going on right here in our front yards Milwaukee. Yes, Summerfest 2016! Running July 1 – 3, off July 4 – like everyone else, and resuming July 5 – 10. Come hear the latest, the most revered, and the most exciting music going on today!

Another option in enjoying music throughout our community – Summer at the Domes presents "Music in the Park" Summer concerts in Mitchell Park (524 South Layton Boulevard) Thursdays in July 6 – 8:30 pm. Bring blankets, lawn chairs, and picnic suppers, sponsored generously by Clark Square Neighborhood Initiative. July 7 – Abraxas – with A.W.E. Truck Studio, July 14 – Eddie Butts Band, July 21 – UIC Latin Orchestra, and the final concert July 28 – The Differentials.

Come storm the Bastille – Thursday, July 14 Cathedral Square is the site for the best city run of the year. This also launches the best street fair Cream City has. Playing through Sunday, July 17th East Town is THE Town! Make sure to stop in This Is It to get re-hydrated!

Looking to get away this month and commune with nature? "Bare in the Woods" maybe just what you are looking for. The weekend of the 15, 16, and 17 (Friday – Sunday) The Castaways Motorcycle Club host their yearly retreat that will include free beer, soda, nightly shows, leather vendors and of course play time! www.castawaysmc.org \$125 Register today – and yes it is "clothing optional".

Wednesday, July 20 The Cream City Foundation (CCF) is hosting their sensational summer soiree – "My Best Friend is Straight". The grounds of The

Marcus Center for the Performing Arts (929 North Water Street) will be the place to gather with Honorary Community Co-Chairs: Brian Buchberger & Andy Schaidler, Paul Matthews & Colleen Fitzgerald, and Angie & Kim Harris. CCF supports Gay and Gay Allied programs, funds, and projects throughout the state of Wisconsin. This major fund raiser enables them to do this. Please consider attending, and if your calendar doesn't allow – consider sending in a gift, it is tax deductible! I had a ball co-hosting this last year with good friend, Elaine Maly. This year, CCF has the Peck Pavilion on the south lawn, with a stage and shade! 5:30 – 8:30 pm – Milwaukee's favorite valentine – Karen, (KV) will be the f-emcee.

Craving the pasta? Stroll down to Festa Italiana July 22 – 24 The Summerfest Grounds and celebrate the Italian contribution to our world.

Gregg & Eddie of The Harbor Room have an exciting month ahead! Besides our nation celebrating its birthday, Summerfest, and all the joy the warm weather brings they will be getting married! Long may they love! Also July is the Harbor Room's (116 East Greenfield Avenue) anniversary month – number 16! The HR always celebrates all weekend long and this year is no different. Their Sweet 16th will be July 22 - 24 (Friday, Saturday and Sunday). Friday is the "Meet and Greet for Judges and Contestants 8 pm – midnight. Saturday is the "Mr. Harbor Room Contest" 11 pm – If you have ever wanted to be a contender this is your year – sign up now! DJ Jeff Shaffer will be providing the music as Hamburger Mary's Shannon Dupree and Karen Valentine from Club Charlies fame co-host the extravaganza! Sunday 3 – 7 pm a celebratory Cook Out and Beer Bust on the patio! All these events are open to the public and everyone is invited and welcomed to take part. DJ, the current Mr. Harbor Room stepping down made quite the impression. Not only handsome, but very nice to work with, he deserves to be applauded, remembered and thanked!

The sounds of the 1980's return to the Brew City for one night only as Culture Club Starring Boy George come to town on Saturday, July 23 8:00 pm The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts (929 North Water Street). For tickets please call: 414-273-7206.

Milwaukee Jobs.com proudly presents Free Entertainment at the Marcus Center's Peck Pavilion July 24 – August 27. Bringing the summer of 2016 alive! Sunday Afternoon Concerts – Kids from Wisconsin 07/24, Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Concert Band 07/31, Milwaukee Festival Brass 08/04, West End Conservatory 08/24, and the Milwaukee Police Band 08/21. Tuesday Lunch Concerts – Noon Performances Sista Strings 08/02, Shonn Hinton & Shotgun 08/09, Whiskey Bells 08/16, and Pat McCurdy 08/23. Tuesday Evenings

Dance MKE Peck Flicks – All Free! "Angels in the Outfields" 08/05 "Jumanji" 08/11 "Willy Wonka at the Chocolate Factory" 08/19 "Princess and the Frog" 08/26

Is that a polka I hear playing? It must be German Fest once again on The Summerfest Grounds July 29 – 31.

Congratulations to the worthy winners of "The Second Annual Shephard Express LGBT Progress Awards"! I am thrilled to say I concur 100%, I know all these marvelous individuals and count many as dear, treasured friends. These people have made a difference in Milwaukee and continue to make our lives and the world better... Karen Gotzler - LGBT Progress in Activism, Jeff Kelly - LGBT Progress in Health and HIV/AIDS Awareness, Joe Pabst - LGBT Progress in Philanthropy, Dear Ruthie Keester - LGBT Progress in Arts & Culture, Eric Peterson - LGBT Progress in Equality (Organization), Bob Schmidt - LGBT Progress in Business Development, Si Smits - LGBT Progress in Struggle for Equality. All Leaders, all originals, all dedicated we are so fortunate to have them here!

Speaking of accomplishments – Bravo to the 2016 PrideFest! And this year even the weather was on our side! I had a kick, kicking off PrideFest 2016 – our 20th year on the Lakefront grounds, host-ess-ing the Big Gay 5 K. This Race/Walk is brought to us by Milwaukee Gay Sports Network (MGSN) spear-headed by Peter Nys and the capable talents of Cindy Olsheske, David Burney & Mark Klemme and many others. Sponsorship from CCF and the hard work Peter Holbrook and his staff Eddie Lupella and Emmett Liston, and many other local businesses makes this happen! All to benefit ARCW's AIDS Walk Wisconsin, representing ARCW was Mary Hartwig and Nick Giebel. Please remember, this year's AIDS Walk is Saturday, October 1 Noon The Lakerfront with Honorary Chair Taye Diggs.

Marcus Angel popular DJ from La Cage, kept the beat going with terrific tune-age. And there were six top runners that were awarded for their impressive achievements: Robert Williams, Grant Heffelfinger, Gary Spath, Alice Ambrowiak, Heather Behringer, and Mary Volkers thank you for your outstanding athletic prowess. Other dedicated athletes took part running, walking, or viewing – I participated in the latter and had a ball! This Event is really a fun way to launch the Lavender weekend and quite a time! Hoping to see You all next year!

Saturday, my Sister-in-Sin and Leather – Maple Veneer and I as KV had the pleasure of co-host-ess-ing the Leather Gear Show once again. It is the quickest hour of my year! We get to work with about 30 hot, hot models. And if you remember the temperature – hot was an understatement. The models strip down to next to nothing... Props to Eddie Candelaria for producing, directing, casting – and all the behind the scenes work. Thanks also to Craig Bodoh and his beloved Mark Travis Ranum for returning to make sure everything was spiffy perfect! Lots of dogs, lots of furies – in the intense heat – not sure how they lasted! Applause to You! Great audience – as always! The Nuns (Brew

City Sisters) turned out at finale time – always an added enhancement, as well as Dear Ruthie – whose charity (Ruthie's Kennel Club) benefitted from the contributions made from the audience. Instead of tipping the models and showing appreciation for their leather gear, the monies raised go to a local charity. When we completed our chore, we got the pleasure of sitting back and taking in the glamor of the BJ Daniel Revue, what a visual treat!

I always look at PrideFest as a "Family Reunion" and that it was – so good seeing so many friends, familiar faces, and everyone beaming and soaking in the moment.

The next day we all awoke to the devastation in Orlando. So much was just being reported, learned, pieced together – hopefully by now much needed answers are of some comfort – if possible.

But the show has to go on – so to Goldie's I went to have a smile painted on. It's always fun on Pride Parade day to visit Woodys – while everyone is out and about and hustling with last minute details. I played with Stewie & Mo, Larry and who ever came in and out. Toby, Matthew, Craig and Lance, our bartenders, saw to our every need and want – the Woody's way. Miss Maple trotted in and from her vantage point she can see everything, collected me and off to find our place in the Parade. I hadn't ridden in years, commentating the Parade was my station for the past several years with CCF, but this year to honor Dawn Bloomfield and Club Charlies, I rode in her beloved memory. What fun, I had forgotten! Thank You Rick Derksen & Brad Fell for your stunning chariot, Michael Bucholz, Brian Reinkober &

Michael Ulatwoski who rounded out our parade car, we may not have won any acknowledgment – but we felt the love of all of You – what a phenomenal turn out! A special shout out to my new best friend – Super 18's Carole Caine (formerly of 'KLH). First off Carole – is just one fun, loving, accepting lady – she wanted to connect with all of you who were wondering where she was and also made history – representing the first time a television station was in the Milwaukee PRIDE Parade.

Even with all the festivities going – I had to work so off to Club Charlies with Brian Reinkober to do our labor of love – Sunday Fun Day Show Tunes! Thank You all who turned out – post Parade, post PrideFest, pre PrideFest... We had a ball! Thank You De, Eric, Collin, Matt, Tara, Craig and the Kitchen Staff of Charlies and again all of you who came to tap a toe, whistle, sing, dance and most importantly have fun! Also thanks each and every one of you for celebrating my birthday with me...

Blondie closed PrideFest 2016 and lots of people went and lots of people were impressed – she still has it at 70! I ended my evening at This Is It with George, JD and Gary – as well as the stunning Chanel D'Vine, Mathew, Marwill Santiago & James Drakulich of Shorewest Realty. A great way to close out any evening lounging at the lounge, then the throngs from the Blondie Concert at PrideFest came in testifying to Debbie Harry's continued value and the party took off.

To close out our weekend of Celebration – we had to stop and remember Orlando. And that is what we did on Monday. I am terrible with numbers, but I'll

speculate that over 500 people turned out – a diverse group – young, old, male, female, gay, straight – the one thing we all had in common human beings – and all seemed to have a blank look – a look I have not seen since September 11, 2001. Doug Clemons and John Stumpff closed the Vigil with John Lennon's iconic "Imagine". They sang acapella and it was brilliant and so moving. Ironic, Lennon, a man who too stood for peace was gunned down – and his poetry will never be silenced. Our Mayor Tom Barrett, Karen Gotzler from Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, The Gay Men's Chorus (City of Festivals Men's Chorus).

The Media, Jim Stringl from The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. All the faces, all the American and Rainbow flags – the most dramatic one, the huge rainbow flag hanging down in front of the City Hall. I understand Paul Williams arranged this – I'm not surprised this man's good works are done silently and appreciated greatly. Now hoping for healing...

Once again I have to share a couple of farewells – John Erickson AKA Joan Kennedy, has left us after a long courageous battle. May he rest in peace. Another loss, the unforgettable Dicky Foncannon – Dicky was a dear friend and the life of any and all parties. Always "Sergeant Sweet Lips" due to stories I will not share here! He was a fixture at The Ball Game, The YP and The M&M Club when in town – and he was notorious for enjoying cocktail, time and time again. In recent years retirement took him to his Heaven on Earth – Acapulco, Mexico where he made a home and enjoyed the climate, culture, ocean and people. I saw him two years ago, my last



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visit to his oasis, where he was dubbed the "Mayor". He was so very happy there – I can only hope the happiness continues for him.

Looking for a Dentist to give you that million dollar smile? Have I got one for you – Michael Laska is there for you! Let him make your smile more dazzling. Dr. Laska is gentle, confident and charming. 414-529-2288 call for an appointment now he is located at 5717 South 108th Street in Hales Corners. This man will get You smiling again!

Food time – Once again there is a reason to dine downtown, in the heart of the city is a jewel of a restaurant named Amilinda 315 East Wisconsin Avenue 414-369-3683 5-10 pm Dinner.

This is the place to feast on delicious Portuguese cuisine; your host Gregory and Orry Leon welcome you into their dining room as if it were a palace. This summer when you have guests coming in to enjoy all our city has to offer – put Amilinda on the top of your list for din-din – you will not be disappointed! Look for the huge painted chicken in the east window!

And it's a wrap – time to return to my life at play! For it is summertime and the living is easy! Please remember it's the glamor, not the grammar as I remain still Cordially Yours.,



July 2016 Bucket List

July 1 – 3 and 5 – 10

Summerfest 2016 The Lakefront

July 1, 2, 3 "The Skin of Our Teeth"

Off The Wall Theatre 127 East Wells Street

Monday, July 4 Independence Day

Happy 240th Birthday America

Thursday, July 7 "Abraxes – with A.W.E. Truck Studio" Mitchell Park Domes

524 South Layton Boulevard

July 14 – 17 Bastille Days

East Town (Cathedral Square area)

Thursday, July 14 "Eddie Butts Band"

Mitchell Park Domes

524 South Layton Boulevard

July 15 – 17 "Bare in the Woods"

Castaways MC Weekend

Wednesday, July 20

Cream City Foundation's "My Best Friend Is Straight" Peck Pavilion at The Marcus Center
929 North Water Street

Thursday, July 21 "UIC Latin Orchestra"

Mitchell Park Domes

524 South Layton Boulevard

July 22 – 24 Festa Itialana

The Lakefront

Friday, July 22 The Harbor Room "16th

Anniversary Weekend Party"

116 East Greenfield Avenue Meet & Greet

Judges & Contestants for Mr. Harbor Room

Saturday, July 23 "Culture Club Starring Boy

George" The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts 929 North Water Street

Saturday, July 23 The Harbor Room "16th

Anniversary Weekend Party"

116 East Greenfield Avenue

"Mr. Harbor Room Contest" 11:00 pm

Sunday, July 24 The Harbor Room "16th Anniversary Weekend Party"

116 East Greenfield Avenue

"Cook Out & Beer Bust" 3:00 pm

Sunday, July 24 "The Kids from Wisconsin In Concert" Peck Pavilion at The Marcus Center
929 North Water Street

Sunday, July 31 "Milwaukee Festival Brass In Concert" Peck Pavilion at The Marcus Center
929 North Water Street

Thursday, July 28 "The Differentials"

Mitchell Park Domes

524 South Layton Boulevard

July 29 – 31 German Fest

The Lakefront

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Kruz, Fri. 8th 7-9 • Harbor Room, Fri. 8th 10-12
Fluid, Mon. 11th, 9:30-11:30
Woody's, Thurs. 21st, 9-11 • LaCage, Wed. 27th, 10-12
Club Icon, Fri. 29th, 9:30-12:30 (Kenosha)



Skin & STEEL

By Brent

Well here we are again, in the wonderful month of July. And yes, for those of you who remember this is my birthday month. And no, I won't tell when it is or how old I am, you are going to have to get me pretty drunk to tell you any of it! Well having said that I just want to say that I hope you all had a great time at Pridefest and at the Pride parade last month. Please also keep in mind all the hard work that went in to making those two events such a success. So if you get a chance let the Pride Parade and Pridefest know how much you care by telling them through their websites, www.prideparademke.com and www.pridefest.com respectively. Now that we have all of that out of the way let's get on with the purpose of this column.

I figured this month I should talk about some of the extremes of piercing, especially since now we are starting to get into the extreme temperatures of summer. So without any further babble from me let's get on with it.

The most common extreme piercing you will see is the surface to surface piercing. These are the piercings you see on the back of people's necks and on their arms, and pretty much anywhere else you can think of. These piercings are fairly new to the piercing industry and because of this everyone has their own ideas about the way they should be done. I could get into the reasons for why you should get this and why you shouldn't get that, but that would make for a pretty piss poor and boring column. So I am going to tell

you this, check your shop out and be very comfortable with them before you think about getting this type of piercing. Also remember that just because you know the piercer and they are cool this does not make them a great piercer and hell they may have never have done a surface piercing in their life. So ask and be thorough, and also remember that there is no reason not to shop around.

Surface piercings take quite a while to heal, they can take as long as 6 to 9 months before they are healed enough to even change the jewelry. They are irritated very easily, so make sure that you take good care of your piercing and don't monkey with it or play with it! Always remember to keep your piercing clean and don't let it get sunburned!

One of the other more extreme piercings that are beginning to be seen are implants. That's right I said implants, and I don't mean boob jobs or dick jobs! Implants go under the skin and create a design that looks three dimensional once they are healed. As with surface piercings these are not to be taken lightly as major problem can arise if the procedure is not done correctly.

That is about all I really have to babble about this month, so having said that lets get on with some reader mail.

Dear Brent,

I have been reading your column for a long time and there is one thing I have to ask. How do you come up with the ideas for your column and why do you have such an attitude about it? —John

Well thanks for writing in John. As far as how I come up with the idea's that is easy. I just sit down and think of something good to write about. As far as my attitude, I really don't think I have an attitude. I like to think of it as my writing style, and it's not my fault that I do it in my own little crass way. I also have the attitude I do because this is something very important to me, and I will never step down to anyone when it comes to things that are important to me.

Well it seems I have run out of room again, I want to thank you all for reading and don't forget if you have any questions that you want answer email me at avantgarde@voyager.net. Until next month, have a great time in July and enjoy the fireworks! (Whether they are in your pants or in the air!)

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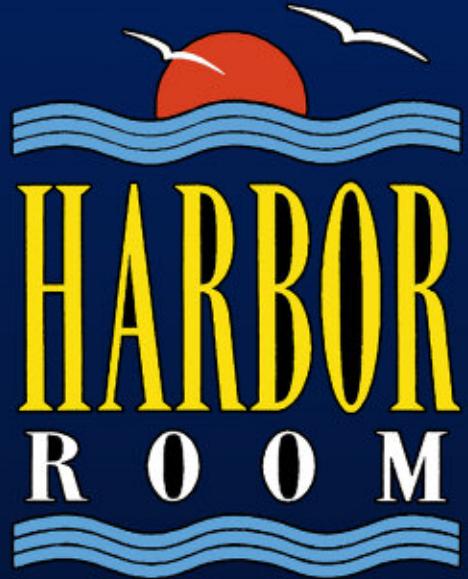
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