

QUEST

MAGAZINE
Volume 24, #4
JUNE 2017

Kevin Ott

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ON OUR COVER: Kevin Gets Fit without the expense of a gym membership. You can too!



Model: Kevin Ott

*Photography:
Mark Mariucci
Hair: Joe Host*

Quest discovered this month's cover model, Kevin Ott through a friend. Kevin is very active on social media and one look at where he was taking his body and we were interested in a photoshoot. A second photoshoot was scheduled and in the meantime, Quest publisher Mark Mariucci became more acquainted with this highly motivated young man. We asked Kevin to put down in words his reasons for changing his life and becoming committed to improving his body.

Kevin traces the roots to this journey all the way back to high school. "I was always that guy who wasn't 'sexy' in shape but I was in shape enough

to be called... fit I guess," said our cover model. Kevin like a lot of youth today went down the wrong path; drugs, alcohol, smoking, being that kid who was a wannabe gangbanger. This landed him in jail several times within the course of a year. "I completely ruined my life and hit rock bottom," he says.

"One day, I looked at my younger brother and noticed he was in better shape than I was! I took a selfie shirtless next to him and was ashamed with myself. How could my YOUNGER BROTHER be in better shape than I am? I stood in front of a mirror the next day and said to myself this needs to change! So I got down there on the spot and did

as many pushups as I could and as many sit-ups as I could without stopping. It was only 30 push-ups and maybe 50 sit-ups," he said. Kevin then decided to make a plan including quitting smoking, 20 pushups and 20 sit-ups every day for 2 weeks. He planned to move up to 30 and do that for 2 weeks and move up another 10, etc. "I did this for almost 2 and a half months and I was up to 90 pushups and 90 sit-ups every day! After just 1 week I was seeing results. My muscles were starting to tighten up and I felt more energized!"

Browsing Facebook one day he came across a "click bait" story of a "kid who got bullied everyday and "what he did next would amaze you". He dealt with all the ads to give it a read. It was about a kid named David Laid who used to be literally skin and bones, how everyone used to call him chicken legs. Even his hockey coach picked on him. He discovered he had Scoliosis and would need to go through physical therapy to maintain a naturally curved spine. The boy took working out a whole new level dedicating his entire life to it. He quit sports, started eating right, and dedicated all his free time to personal fitness. From 14 years old to 17 years old he completely transformed his body. He has a **Youtube** video called **David Laid 3 year body transformation** a collage of videos/photos of his body transformation over the 3 years.

Kevin copied what David did; just going on **Youtube** looking up home chest workouts and home ab workouts doing basic calisthenics. "After

1 video I was feeling more pumped and more physically exerted than I ever had in my entire time of doing the push-ups and sit-ups. But there was still a word in that article that caught my eye that I wasn't familiar with. What was calisthenics?, Kevin said. His research online came across a video of a 1 year transformation of a guy who transformed his life and his body with calisthenics after 1 year. Like David he was a twig. Nothing too special to his body, but after 1 year it was incredible. "He was defying gravity hanging from poles, doing muscle ups like they were nothing and doing workouts that most people would see and would be absolutely astonished with what they were watching. This was all after just 1 year!, an amazed Kevin states.

He decided this was what he wanted. To have that full body control and be shredded. To be the most he could be. "I searched calisthenics on **Youtube** and came across Brenden Meyers. Before I continue, I do not recommend any of his calisthenics workouts for beginners because the stuff he puts out there is insane, however look him up as he gives some amazing tips to people just getting started in calisthenics."

There are 2 types of main workouts when people think of working out. Aesthetics is weight lifting, curling, benching, squatting, anything to do with weights. Calisthenics is complicated body movements which is nothing but bodyweight training. You are training with nothing but your own body weight. Pullups, pushups, situps, and everything in



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between and various styles of each.

"I started doing calisthenics every day and after the first workout I was mind blown. I was struggling and barely finished the workout! I was sore the next few days but I loved it! I pushed myself harder and harder every day! I posted all over my social media about my progress, my snapchat, facebook, and my instagram. I couldn't believe it. People were following me and loving what I was doing with my life! From rock bottom to a superstar!"

People messaged Kevin and snapchatted telling him how much of an inspiration he was to them and how in the last few weeks/months that they've been losing weight or building muscle. Kevin got his cousin into it and he's had a complete body transformation and they are continuing to rise up together.

"Working out is also the biggest and healthiest stress reliever out there. You will never hear a story of a guy/girl walking out of a gym depressed. They always feel refreshed and invigorated!"

Kevin was able to quit smoking because this was his stress outlet. He also sobered up completely while transforming his body!

Motivate by feedback posting progress over social media he decided this is what he wants do with his life.

"I want to help people change their lives just like I did. I hope to become a personal trainer, for now, I help anyone who wants to get started for free! I customize workouts for them to do and keep in touch! I hope to start a worldwide fitness movement so people with common interests and goals can come together to unite and find camaraderie and companionship amongst others with similar goals and interests as them. It all comes with time and patience. You will not see results overnight. You just have to push yourself past the limits that you think are possible."

To get some inspiration from Kevin:

Snapchat: [kevin.ott1](https://www.snapchat.com/add/kevin.ott1)

Instagram: [kokoolflow](https://www.instagram.com/kokoolflow)

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Booty and the Beach: Swimwear to Accentuate Your Assets

Shake what your mama gave you in a kaleidoscope of prints and patterns prepped to get soaking wet

by Mikey Rox

Step onto any gay beach – from Miami's Haulover to Asbury Park's 5th Ave. to Will Rogers Beach in Los Angeles – and you'll bear witness to a veritable catwalk of loosey-goosey board shorts, fitted trunks, and skintight Speedo-like swimwear. While anything goes on the summer's sandy shores – especially if the area is clothing optional (better pack those dark lenses!) – this year's styles continue last year's thighs-the-limit trend with a twist: Button-closure shorts with waist-specific sizing. Here we cultivate some of the more stimulating designs for 2017 with a smattering of tradition tossed in for good measure.

The King of the Jungles

You won't have to cast a wide net to bring all the bottoms to your beach towel in Original Penguin's lion photo-print snap-togethers that are anything but cowardly. Mesh briefs on the inside help keep your animal in its cage. \$79, originalpenguin.com



The DSLs

Loose lips sink ships but the all-over open-mouth print on Andrew Christian's Kiss Me bikinis – featuring a snuggle pocket to hug your goodies just right – will have the Navy's finest bellowing "Land Ho!" But how'd they know your name? \$41, andrewchristian.com



The Aloha-You-Doins



Hawaii-based designer Reyn Spooner emphasizes "Mai iolo mai" – which translates to "That which is within matters" – in his island-inspired, above-the-knee board shorts constructed with four-way stretch, a drawstring tie with Velcro closure, and UPF 50 protection, available in colors like ink, smoke, and seafoam. \$75-\$85, reynspooneer.com

The Royal Tenenbums

While England likely doesn't top your list of must-plan summer getaways, Craghoppers' Northbeach shorts, photo-printed with a breezy British seascape, are fortified with SolarShield Zinc Oxide UPF 40+ protection and an anti-chlorine finish to prevent fading so you can turn up at the hotel pool on this side of the pond. \$60, craghoppers.com



The Top-to-Bottoms

Versatility best describes the multi-purpose, bold-hued floral mid-thighs from Descendant of Thieves

– they're just as legit on the beach as they are in a bar – that you'll wish your one-way boy toy would take a cue. \$89, descendantofthieves.com



The Polly Wanna Party

Fans of ABC's *Shark Tank* will feel fully vested in the Caribbean-influenced parrot-print trunks from Tipsy Elves – shark Robert Herjavec made a deal in 2013 with founders Evan Mendelson and Nick Morton, providing a \$100,000 investment for 10% of the company – but your pair will only set you back a couple-a Jacksons. \$40, tipsyelves.com



The Schools

Frat-tastic Chubbies continues its foray into snap-shut shorts – it's 'sky's out, thighs out' elastic waists have dominated its swim collection for the past few years – with a few new additions for summer '17. Seven designs in all, from mono-colored to wild prints – like this salt-water fish style – feature four-way stretch fabric and a zipper-close back pocket for all the important documents you'll need to take a dip. Anything can happen these days. \$70, chubbiesshorts.com

Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and LGBT lifestyle expert whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world. He splits his time between homes in New York City and the Jersey Shore with his dog Jaxon. Connect with Mikey on Twitter @mikeyrox.

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It's About Our Bars

By Gay-Sandra

I couldn't believe the chatter over a pic someone posted of the "FOR SALE" sign hanging on La Cage. I mean, just a month ago or so, they announced the place was up for auction and then not. Before that there was another scare of it closing... and then it was closed after Christmas, but only for 10 days. Anyway, sooner or later, it's going to be sold off and who's knows...

Of course, people were going on about social media wrecking the bar scene. And then there were the complaints of bachelorette parties and other sundry straight folks tainting the atmosphere. I know the drag shows pull in a mixed crowd, but sometimes I feel like we're still just the entertainment for those outside elements charging in and thinking how cool they are to be partyin' wit' the gays.

But someone mentioned another issue... the elephant in the room issue. Namely, the bars are losing their edge. And it's not just a sign of the times. I mean, I get TITS – it's nostalgia. I liked the little bankette seating but George took them out to accommodate more customers and figured out how to make an old bar work. Some of the other places haven't gotten the memo. I mean, modernize a bit... really. Create some character, already! Woody's had those peanuts at least. I suppose they got tired of picking up the shells or maybe the Health Department put a stop to it, but at least it was something. Admittedly, you can still buy a little bag of chips. The bartender passes a cardboard box and you make your selection. It's *tres elegante*. Last time I went in there, the poor bartender, working solo, was totally overwhelmed by all the 2-fer customers. We escaped to the relative calm of Walker's Pint.

And what's with the radio thing? We've gone into a couple of places for a chill after work adult beverage and got blasted out by some obnoxious radio jock yelling adverts and playing an occasional straight rock number to be followed by an equally loudmouthed woman screaming the weather report. I felt like I was at my deaf barber's. Of course, I politely asked the bartender if he could, perhaps, play some music and he suggested the juke box. Fine, I get it...revenue stream. Drive your clients insane with Milwaukee's worst radio station and blackmail them into feeding coin into the CD player.

Let's talk about bar dice. There was a time we went to a bar where nobody was there aside from

me and a buddy and some dude at the far far end of the bar who is playing bar dice with himself... and I guess he really wanted to win because he was slamming the cup as hard as he could. I have to say, I respect TITS for its no bar dice rule and appreciate Kruz for its little bar dice tray, lined with muffling felt.

TITS, meanwhile, has a new logo by the way. Back in March it held a contest with a slew of potential candidates vying to be the bar's new emblem. Designed by James Harless, the winning logo features a leaning martini glass pouring out a rainbow. I'd love to see it in pulsating action neon with the glass tipping and the colors pouring out, one by one until the rainbow appears and flashes, like those old vintage signs of neon's heyday.

Anyway, speaking of Kruz, the place is smart. It's always exploding with decor for whatever holiday or occasion. The bartenders are attentive (and they're cute!). The music isn't overwhelming and there's a vibe. Granted, it's a mature crowd but it certainly has its particular charm.

Mercifully, taking up the slack, are all those gay friendly places. There's Club Charlie's in the Third Ward just around the corner from the former Factory (currently another site of continued high drama, the Broadway Theatre Center). Anyway, Charlie's hosts Karen Valentine on certain Sundays, who, with cohort Brian Reinkober of SSBL fame, presents themed Showtune Sunday Funday sing-alongs. Speaking of SSBL, Charlie's also has sponsored softball teams over recent years.

Another new venue in Bay View is Victoria's On Potter. It now sponsors the SSBL's *Nemesis* softball team and even has a familiar face, DJ John, spinning for karaoke. Discovered by GAMMA members back in winter, it's become their go-to bar. Also on the roster, the Art Bar now sponsors the Gay Arts Center's former softballers.

Then there's the Redbar on East St. Francis, just over the far southern edge of the city off Kinnickinnic in Saint Francis. We stopped in for a Packer game last season and discovered the back room full of woman (and, suspiciously, no men) in green and gold. The LGBT Community Center periodically holds a TGIF there as well.

So, despite the doom and gloom of our shrinking bar scene, there are options and hopefully some of the same ol' places will hang in there.

SENATOR FRANKEN COMES TO MILWAUKEE ON PRIDE WEEKEND...BUT NOT TO PRIDEFEST OR THE PRIDE PARADE

By Paul Masterson

Who was the wit who scheduled firebrand Senator Al Franken (D-MN) at Boswell books on PrideFest and Pride Parade Sunday, June 11 at 1 pm? According to the blurb, it's a book signing, no talk, "no posed photos" allowed and is limited to 500 attendees. The cost is \$30 and includes a copy of his memoir "Al Franken, Genius of the Senate", fees and taxes.

It would seem a proverbial "no brainer" to somehow take advantage of the occasion and bring Senator Franken to PrideFest or, even better, in solidarity with the Washington D.C. Equality March, to the Pride Parade. In fact, as an iconic

ally for LGBT rights, he should have been its Grand Marshall. Franken was, after all, a leader in the fight against "Don't Ask Don't Tell" and for marriage equality among many other causes. He introduced legislation to protect LGBT students from bullying. He voted against Education Secretary Betsy DeVos in part due to her opposition to protections for those same LGBT students. He also specifically called her out for her funding of organizations that support gay conversion therapy.

Yet seemingly, his visit, aside from the bookstore's announcement, is happening completely under the gaydar. Granted, Senator Franken's



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schedule may not have permitted a longer stay. He may be flying in and out in the course of the day. But, especially now in these perilous times of ever increasing threats to LGBT rights and to those of other minorities, it would seem incumbent upon our leadership to pay attention. One can

easily imagine the positive impact of such a celebrity visit on Milwaukee PrideFest or the Pride Parade, or, better yet, both. Somehow, with some effort and forethought, it could have been a coup for the city's LGBT community and perhaps sharpened our dulled political senses. Oh well...

CREAM CITY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES NEW PRESIDENT & CEO

The Cream City Foundation board of directors announced its selection of Brett Blomme to serve as its next President & CEO. Blomme's role includes all day-to-day operations of the Foundation, as well as convening, grant-making and philanthropic initiatives. He assumes his duties June 5.

In an official statement, Eric Peterson, Chair of the Cream City Foundation Board of Directors welcomed the organization's new leader. "His passion for philanthropy is contagious. Brett believes that philanthropy has the power to bring people together, transform lives and make meaningful, positive change within communities. I am pleased to welcome Brett to Cream City as we continue the 35 year legacy of gathering and leveraging the philanthropy of Milwaukee for the improvement of the LGBTQ+ community!", Peterson said.

Blomme's credentials include nearly 15 years of experience in philanthropy, community organizing and law and nonprofit management. He previously served as the Director of Major Gifts for the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW).

Prior to ARCw, he worked for Fair Wisconsin and on campaigns for Congresswoman Gwen Moore and Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett.



Blomme has a B.A. in Political Science from Marquette University and a J.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Outside of the office, Blomme enjoys spending time with his family, his husband Chris and their two young children. He enjoys a variety of outdoor activities and sports and his family is active with Milwaukee's Miltown LGBT Families.

CONVERSATION WITH ELLEN KOZEL OF VETERANS FOR DIVERSITY

By Paul Masterson

A Milwaukee based organization, Veterans for Diversity, was founded prior to the rescinding of Don't Ask Don't Tell as a means to support LGBT veterans and their families. Today it's known for its Ceremonial Color Guard at PrideFest . Its members staff an information booth at that event's Health and Wellness Area. But the group is actually responsible for a much greater impact beyond its own community.

QUEST spoke with Ellen Kozel, one of the founding members of VfD, about its current mission and the need for LGBTQ+ services for our veterans.

QUEST: Veterans for Diversity was founded well before 2011 when President Obama rescinded the infamous "Don't Ask Don't Tell" program in the US military that allowed LGBT individuals to serve in the armed forces provided they remained closeted. In fact, your organization was originally called "Veterans Do Ask Do Tell. What did VfD accomplish in those early years?

Ellen Kozel: We began our outreach to the underserved LGBT veterans in a number of ways. We recognized them for one thing. We also taught the Veterans' Administration (VA) about the exis-

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tence of LGBT veterans and their specific needs. That helped opened the door for the VA to show they are LGBT friendly.

QUEST: And, with the increasing needs of veterans, especially of the ongoing Iraq and Afghanistan wars, how does VfD continue its mission now that gays can serve?

EK: The organization continues to expand its reach to all former service members. No veteran is ever turned away. We now work within the community and beyond. In the next weeks and months we will participate in several upcoming retreats and other events where VfD is collaborating with a broad spectrum of partners. For example, on June 16, the 2017 VA Mental Health Summit On the Holistic Care of LGBTQ+ Veterans takes place. The VA is working in conjunction with the Military & Veterans Resource Center at UWM with various service and social organizations like VfD to provide LGBTQ+ veterans with resources and access to information about programs available to them. We'll have a booth at the VA's 150th Anniversary celebration on Saturday, June 23 and on June 25th, the Center for Creative Learning hosts *Healing Warrior Hearts* with our support. There's also a Healing Retreat from August 18-20 and all LGBT veterans are welcomed to attend. Its program is specifically designed to address the health issues of LGBT veterans who served under "Don't Ask Don't Tell". They still experience problems. The retreat will also address the continued discrimination against active LGBT military and veterans.

The retreats are not held in a classroom environment. There's a lot of interaction between the veterans and facilitators who lead the retreat. I've been doing retreats since 2008. They've help me with me with my own issues.

QUEST: What are the main concerns of LGBTQ+ veterans?

EK: There's a full spectrum from mental and physical health issues and access to treatment to employment issues like job training, as well as family matters. Today there are also concerns about the current political environment that is not friendly to any minority. Everyone is concerned not only about the future of the country but the military, especially. The Republican proposed health care plan is a perfect example. That plan, if passed, will cause the loss of health care benefits to thousands of veterans, if we don't start responding now.

QUEST: It sounds like VfD has been successful in pursuing its mission.

EK: We have but there is so much left to accomplish. We began here in Milwaukee and are the national headquarters. We now also have a branch in Dallas, Texas. Interestingly, they are much more organized than we are here. The organization in Texas is also more diverse. Forming a group that is diverse is a means to attract members. For whatever reason, we have not been as successful in that aspect. But we are working on it. We're a member of the LGBT Chamber of Commerce, for example. And, we are looking to create an advisory board to look out for the needs of millennium veterans and to develop members programs for Iraq and Afghanistan wars veterans. All in all we have accomplished a lot for our veterans and will continue to do fight for them. They deserve our thanks and support.

Information about the upcoming events mentioned may be found through social media.



**HAPPY
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June is Pride Month

What better way to show your pride than choosing to patronize the restaurants, bars, bookstores and other LGBT owned/operated businesses in our community.



GEARS UP TO CELEBRATE 5TH ANNUAL PRIDE CELEBRATION

Kenosha Pride will celebrate the 5th annual Pride celebration on July 16th, 2017 at Veteran's Memorial Park. Come show your Pride and support your local LGBTQ+ community! The march begins at noon stepping off from Library Park. The celebration is from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and includes fun for the whole family.

Entertainment will include stage perform-

ances by local artists and, for the first time in our rally's history, a beer garden for guests of at least 21 years of age (Valid ID required). In addition, children can join in on the festivities by enjoying the bounce house, face painting, crafts, and more in our Kid's Corner. For your canine friends, they will be able to socialize at our new dog corner. You won't want to miss all the excitement!

A photograph showing two men in an office setting. The man on the left, wearing a red and blue plaid shirt, is holding a white prescription bottle and looking at it while speaking. The man on the right, wearing a blue shirt, is looking towards the man on the left. On the wooden table between them are several other prescription bottles of different colors (white, orange, black) and a small white box with a green ribbon on it. The background shows a green wall and a framed picture.

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"Handsome Devil"

By
Glenn
Bishop



For many of the gentlemen who compose the monthly cinema circle, their "Wonder Years" and beyond were often a time spent buried in the closet, feeling every bit the outsider. Even after the distance of decades, many continue feel a void; stories offering a narrative which includes the out & proud youthful protagonist going the Prom with their boyfriend, perhaps with the oh-so handsome quarterback of the football team, prove irresistible.

If he's being honest, loyal *Quest* readers, Glenn rarely finds such stories irresistible, seldom reading any of the now nearly endless variation of the gay coming-of-age novels which seem to have exploded on the shelves of Glenn's local LGBT Bookstore.

Gay cinema, too, has been similarly dominated by coming-of-age stories, from such classic offerings as *Beautiful Thing* and André Téchiné's enchanting *Wild Reeds* to such recent releases as *Akron* and *Henry Gamble's Birthday Party*. Another title to add to the list is writer/director John Butler's charming Irish coming-of-age film, **Handsome Devil**.

As *Handsome Devil* opens, Ned (Fionn O'Shea) is on his way back to boarding school; try as he might, he is unable to talk his recently widowed father (Ardel O'Hanlon) and his new, totally disinterested stepmother (Amy Huberman) out of dumping him at a school where the game of rugby not education, is held most high.

Anxious to head back to their comfortable lives in faraway Dubai, Ned's parents merely preach to Ned the virtues of conformity and off they go; nary a fatherly handshake or even the drop of a single

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

John Butler doesn't break new ground in **Handsome Devil** but that doesn't make this sweet, often very funny coming-of-age film any less enjoyable.

At the very heart of **Handsome Devil** are charming performances from Fionn O'Shea and Nicholas Galitzine. Glenn particularly liked the fact that O'Shea's Ned is not only strong enough to hold his own with the school's bullies, he's willing to stand up for himself. Indeed, Nicholas Galitzine's Conor here proves to be the sensitive one, the pain of the long buried secret is plain on his face as he seeks but doesn't find any answers when he reaches out to the closeted English teacher.

Andrew Scott is sensational as Dan Sherry, the unconventional English teacher. Determined to impart the message that everyone must learn to be true to themselves, Scott's English teacher recalls one of Glenn's favorite films, **Dead Poet's Society**. How effective that Butler's screenplay finds Dan also taking the message to heart, as he takes the chance of introducing his fellah to the Headmaster.

Rare for the gentlemen of the monthly cinema circle, but writer/director John Butler's fun and familiar **Handsome Devil** received unanimous high marks from all. **Handsome Devil** is a definite keeper!

Just the facts...

Handsome Devil is in English and runs 95 minutes. It is out DVD with a SRP of \$24.99. Andrew Scott (Dan Sherry) played Gethin, the gay bookstore owner in the excellent film, **Pride**. Extras include Behind the Scenes footage, audio commentary, Close Captioning.

maternal tear.

With his shock of flaming dyed red hair, Ned is definitely an outsider, a fact that John Butler's screenplay effectively underscores with Ned's arrival at the school, where he is set against a sea of taller and broader classmates all already attired in the school uniform.

Ned is something of a variation of the familiar sensitive gay geek, rather more Ferris Bueller perhaps than *Glee*'s Chris Colfer. His nemesis, indeed Ned's "tormentor in chief," is a weedy lad named (nicknamed, surely) Weasel (Ruairí O'Connor). Perhaps because Ned outwardly seems content in his solitary

existence as well as Ned's unwillingness to show any signs of vulnerability, the other lads pretty much leave Ned alone, other than a few taunts of "faggot" here and there.

Ned's well-defined existence goes pear-shaped with the arrival of Ned's new roommate, Conor (Nicholas Galitzine), a star rugby player who has fled from another school under a dark cloud. Spying the shirtless, pouty-lipped hunk doing press-ups in what had been "his" room and certain that he is just another dumb jock, Ned wastes no time at all in heading down to the Headmaster's office to request a change but to no avail. Conor's request for a different, more compatible roommate likewise falls on deaf ears.

And what is Ned's solution? Quite simply, Ned divides the room in two by moving to the center, the dorm room's furniture, desks, bureaus and the like; very much a "Berlin Wall" in miniature. "All that's missing is the barbed wire," quipped one gentleman.

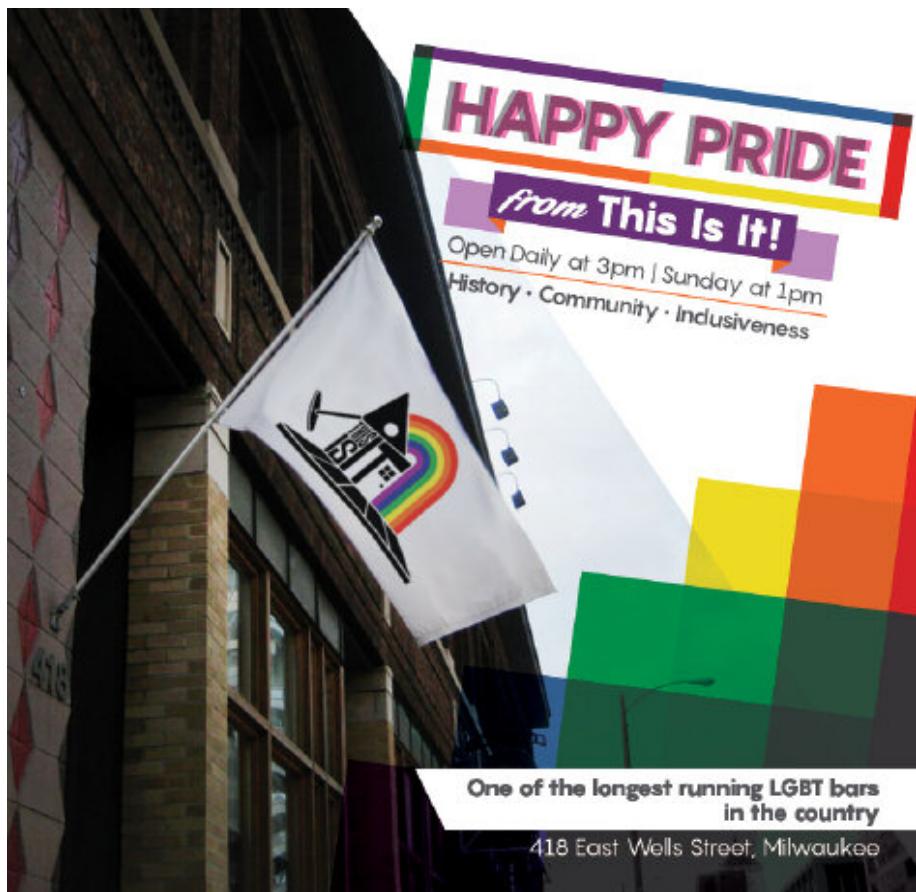
If Conor's arrival in Ned's room is initially quite ten-

uous, his appearance on the rugby pitch quickly becomes a huge success. Thanks to Conor's prowess on the field, the team has gone undefeated and is poised for a run to the championship finals.

Already becoming a hero to the student body rank and file, Berlin Wall or no, Conor tentatively reaches out to Ned. With a little encouragement from maverick English teacher Dan Sherry (Andrew Scott), Ned and Conor come to realize they just might have more in common than they first thought; a budding friendship slowly emerging.

Yet hero or no, there are those who disapprove of Conor's fraternizing with Ned. With the encouragement of Pascal (Moe Dunford), the homophobic rugby coach, Weasel and some of Conor's other load-mouthed teammates take it upon themselves to first tease him about his relationship with Ned and later give him an ultimatum.

Burdened by a secret which just keeps getting heavier and heavier, Conor disappears on the very day of the big game...



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Milwaukee LGBT Center Annual Meeting

photos courtesy Michael Lisowski/Queer Program



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Wishing you a happy PrideFest Weekend!
See you at the Milwaukee LGBT Pride Parade.

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Pre-Pride Weekend!

Friday, July 14th

2017 Mr. & Miss

Kenosha Pride Pageant

Saturday, July 15th

PRIDE DANCE PARTY!

Sunday, July 16th

Join in the
Kenosha Pride March
at Library Park!



Cordially Yours

by Michael Johnston

PRIDE is the word of the month – and here we are once again with Cordially Yours,. Can you believe the year is half in? It is time to celebrate with a PrideFest weekend! Wishing you all a “Gay olde time” ...

Once again PrideFest has outdone themselves with entertainment to entice you to the Lakefront – as if you need enticement... To me PrideFest is a “Family Reunion” – I may not remember your name – but I know your face and probably your drink order!

Betty Who the Australian “Barbie Doll” will open the extravaganza on Friday night. I had the true pleasure of hearing her concert and meeting her at The Pabst a few years back. She is 6 feet of talent.

Saturday night brings 10,000 Maniacs – and by a strange coincidence, the band by the same name. At this point Sunday’s headliner has not been announced, but a highly respected source told me if you like RuPaul – you’ll love Sunday at PrideFest.

Milwaukee’s answer to RuPaul – but prettier and kinder BJ Daniels will be hosting her show for two nights at The Dance Tent. Working with her, as Co-Hostess, the stunning Chanel D’Vine – two beautiful blondes – see they really do have more fun!

Have no fear – Maple Veneer – the skyscraper of Drag-dom and Karen Valentine will once again add their unique perspectives and color commentating for the Leather Fetish Fashion Show 3 pm Dance Tent on Saturday! Thank You Leather Fetish Fashion Show host, producer, director and man about town Eddie Candelaria.

Also self-indulgent plug – Karen Valentine will be once again in the PRIDE Parade as opposed to commentating the parade. Apologies to you out there that miss the banter... Club Charlies has a float for me! I always have a yen to be on floats – so please watch for KV. Also take note on her ensemble – after all she is what she is! Afterwards please join Karen and her music making cohort Brian Reinkober at Club Charlies for a Special Edition PRIDE Sunday Fun Day Show Tunes, immediately after the parade until 7:00 pm.



This is the most important time to support your Gay bars – it’s a long lovely weekend – stop in to your favorite tap before or after PrideFest and have a beverage or two! We have to keep the Gay bars alive and kicking – where do we go the other 51 weekends of the year?

Please come on down and cheer our athletes as they all take part in the Big Gay 5 K, the Lakefront, the Thursday of PrideFest – June 8th 6 pm! You can Walk, Run, Watch, Cheer and Support as The Gay Sports Network as they help in raising awareness and Funds for AIDS Walk 2017! All proceeds to ARCW (AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin).

To quote the Gershwin’s and shouldn’t we all – “summertime and the living is easy” – so get out and enjoy the sun, the fun, the heat, the sights, the farmer markets – who knows you may end up taking a farmer home with you – they are in season...

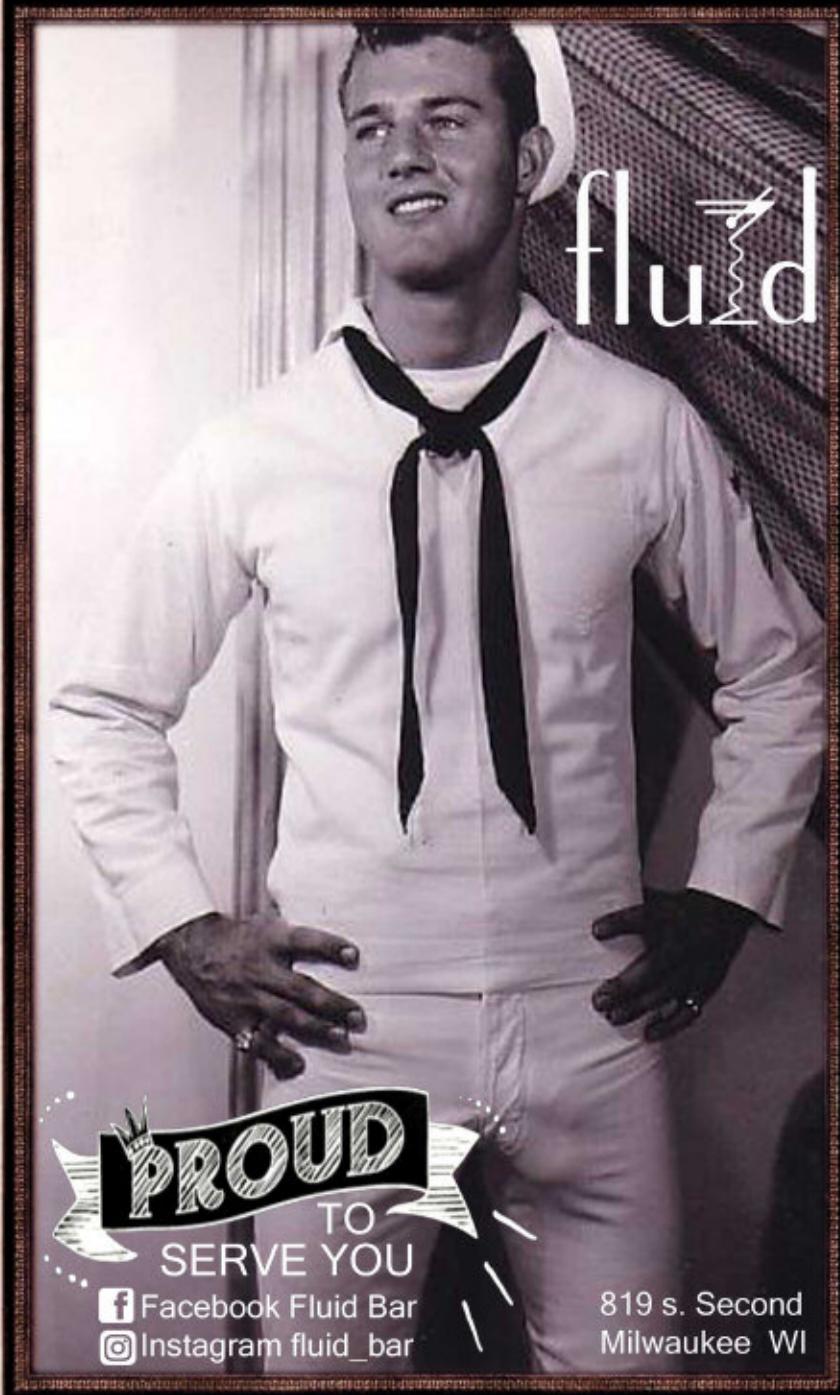
Besides PrideFest – June 9 – 11

PolishFest – June 16 -18

**LakeFront Festival of the Arts – June 16 – 18
(2 Festivals – same weekend!)**

Cedarburg Strawberry Festival – June 24 – 25

2017 USA Gymnastics Championship –



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SummerFest (Golden Anniversary – Happy 50th) – June 28 – July 2 and July 4 – July 9.

There are things to do indoors too – to protect your alabaster complexions...

Skylight Music Theatre has the scary, gothic, grand "Sweeney Todd" by Sondheim closing out their season. It is running through Pride Sunday, June 11. Come see theater and the grand Cabot Theatre in the Broadway Theatre Complex – The Historic Third Ward.

On the west end as it were Elm Grove has "And Then There Were None" shining at The Sunset Playhouse – Thursday, June 1 – Sunday, June 18. Keep in mind – Sunday, June 18th is Father's Day!

Waukesha Civic Theatre is offering up Neil Simon's "Barefoot in the Park" starring Donna Lobacz get that barefoot feeling from Friday, June 2 through Father's Day – June 18.

And not to be outdid Dale Gutzman's Off The Wall Theatre is staging "Titus Andronicus" Wednesday, June 14 – Sunday, June 25. Two of my treasured thespians lead a rather large and young cast – Laura Monagle and James Strange nee Maple Veneer (the new century's version of Lunt & Fontanne)

The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts presents a beautiful climax to a beautiful season with "Beautiful – The Music of Carole King". Uihlein Hall Tuesday, June 20 – Sunday, June 25. I personally am so looking forward to this show. While not a true fan of "Jukebox Musicals" – the sounds of Ms. King's opuses – really are a "Tapestry" of our lives – and the shear poetry of her lyrics and music – positively ageless. A great way to get us into the summer season – the first day of summer is Wednesday, June 21.

Like the Gay bars – please support Theater! Local, Community, Touring

— we are the fourth wall and it provides such great escape and stimulation for all mankind.

The Cream City Foundation is planning "A Summer Social" in place of their highly popular "Best Friend is Straight" summer affair. This year it will be inside (air-conditioned) at The Pritzlaff 333 North Plankinton Avenue! This occasion will also mark the 35th anniversary of CCF Thursday, July 26.

Please call Emmett Liston at 414-225-0244 for more details.

Speaking of grand balls – and who doesn't enjoy them? I had a most marvelous time at ARCW's "Make A Promise" the 31st Annual – "Strike A Pose". This benefit for ARCW – included Madonna's top dancers from the Strike A Pose Tour – Carlton Wilborn and Salim Gauwoos and they were presented The Courage Award. Both have been living, and dancing and proving you can and must go on – even after a tragic diagnosis. Maple Veneer – my "Vera Charles" engaged a table and I was fortunate to sit with her and her lair of legends: Rick Derksen & Bradley Fell, Brian Reinkober & Michael Ulatowski, Andy Reid & Jamie Beauchamp, Craig Bloomfield and Miss Mona Garcia – what a terrific and generous table!

We had a ball at the ball! Over \$280,000 was raised 60% more than last year! I love Make A Promise and call it my "Gay Prom"! Seeing so many dear friends – before, during and after – we post-partied at This Is It – where a percentage of the till

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was donated to ARCW – a win – win situation! A special thank you to The Skylight Music Theatre and Chris March for the fabulous frock I donned in honor of Madonna and Strike a Pose. I “modeled” les Cagelles opening ensemble from La Cage Aux Folles – head dress and all! I was easy to spot all over – look out Hedda Hopper! Speaking of La Cage I understand our premiere disco is up for sale! Someone buy it before it turns into a CVS! My birthday is this month. I think it will fit ...

Happy 22nd Birthday to Taylor's kiddy corner from This Is It! I can't believe you're 22 – the fun I've had there for 22 years – Thank You Jimmy and Dan Taylor! You too Sharon and I miss you Carolyn!

The Domes Art Show – “Art in the Green” was flawless – was great work and affordable prices! Three bags full! My favorite part was being re-united with two Brewtown pals – Jim (Beulah) Hunnicut and his love Kevin Ylvisaker. Both are accomplished artist – Jim with brush, water colors and Kevin with glass. Kevin was a fantastic florist back in the day – but now his creations have a lot longer life!

Check them out: plankroadart@gmail.com p.s. Jim AKA Beulah was an outstanding softball player with SSBL, when we first met and The YP

was a Saturday afternoon mecca – what a gorgeous courtyard they had.

Old friends/New friends – I'm over the moon for This Is It colleague and dear friend JD Claas, he proposed to his reason for living Brandon Herr and there was no other answer than Yes! JD is a first rate bartender with 3 years under his belt and Brandon a top notch event Coordinator for The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. Both deserve the best – and that is exactly what they've found – in each other!

Congratulations to Craig Thelen & Joe Karpfinge - so happy for you both, so proud to be a small part of your love story.

Whenever you are experiencing a boring Sunday – get out and join your pals for a sip at one of Cream City's fine taverns – This Is It has Show Tunes every Sunday and bottomless Mimosas – now if some of the bartenders... Hamburger Mary's does Brunch – both Buffet and Menu – with a Mini Show starring an array of Beauties – Dita Von, Harmony Breeze, Dixie Kuppe, Dear Ruthie. There is always something popping at DIX! Bill Wardlow provides a cordial sip and plenty of fluids at Fluid – had a grand time of it at their recent Post Office Party – hostess-ed by the Post Office General of Humor – Dear Ruthie, and you can always run across the street to greet friendly Bet-z and



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the crew at Walker's Point.

Jerry & Serge always leave a light on for you at Kruz – where you can run into everyone! Hi Nicky and Bobby! Toby's Woody's is legendary as his woody... love Wes' 2-4-1's on Thursdays – get painted and paint the town! Roman my favorite Russian is also there for fun and games. And of course The Harbor Room who will be celebrating birthday number 17 this summer – Glen, Stacey, Huck, Brian, Ricky – I know them all and always put them on the spot to make the "dirtiest" vodka martini! How they do it I'll never know – or want to know... but it is good to the last drop!

Farewell to television character that I grew up with and will miss tremendously... The tantalizing Tracy Quartermaine left fictitious Port Charles, NY after almost four decades of duplicity. Jane Elliot the acclaimed, Emmy winning actress is hanging up her false eyelashes and retiring at 70. "General Hospital" will never be the same – but they did give

her a first class sendoff ...

Don't forget MAN Camp, the best four days of summer! FMI go to their website – man-camp.org all taking place in Black River Falls, WI!

Food time – a spot I like on east North Avenue – affordable, good quality, good quantity is the Buddha Lounge, located at 1504 East North Avenue, open daily 11:00 am – 2:00 am. Lots of great after work specials – food and drink! While the menu is an assortment of palate pleasers from the Orient -- it is varied enough for you to make multiple visits and not have the same old, same old. An assortment of east siders and lots of UWM student make up the fun casual environment – with tasteful Asian accessories.

And so ends another column, welcome summer and PRIDE! My very best wishes for a warm and worthwhile month - reminding you it's the glamor, not the grammar as I remain Still Cordially yours.,



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Skin & STEEL

By Brent

It's here! Pride is here! That's right boys and girls the fruits of PrideFest and the Milwaukee Pride Parade has come to bare on June 9-11 on the Festival grounds and on Sunday June 11th on South 2nd Street respectively. Make sure to mark your calendars so you can partake in all the fun they both have to offer.



The Parade will take place as always on South Second street stepping off from Greenfield avenues and head North to Oregon Avenue at 2:00pm on Sunday June 11th. Stop down and enjoy! PrideFest will be of course, and always, be located at the Henry Meir Festival Grounds from Friday afternoon through Sunday evening. And while your at both of those great events make sure to always thank a volunteer because without them and their hard work these events truly would never exist.

But lets get on with it. Your here to talk about body art....Let's talk about it. This month we are going to talk about tattoos!!



Tattoos have grown steadily in popularity as they have grown in acceptance in both social circles and the business world. Even in the counter culture world areas of the body once considered to be reserved for the "heavily tattooed" such as the face and hands have become much more common place in today's world.

Pride, and activism tattoos have become very popular incorporating rainbows into small tattoos

that traditionally had no color or other activism awareness colors. Semicolons have also become increasingly popular to bring awareness to depression, suicide, addiction and self-injury.

Tattoos can even identify hierarchy in sub groups, such as the case in the leather community where tattoos can identify Dominants and submissive and even what particular fetishes a person may be proficient in or seeking. For instance a slave might have a handcuff tattooed on his right side butt cheek to identify that he/she is owned while a Master might opt to have a set of keys tattooed on or ensure to only have tattooing performed on their left side to "flag" as a Dominant.

The caring for tattoos is very simple, after the tattoo is performed your tattooist will direct you to keep it bandaged for any where from 1-4 hours and then may or may not have you perform a general cleaning. From there aftercare techniques vary greatly from tattooist to tattooist. These styles can include using ointments such as A&D to lotions like Lubriderm, industry specific balms and lotions and even simply leaving the tattoo to "dry herbal" on its own. In any case always listen to the provided aftercare and contact your tattooist at the first sign of concerns.



In general tattoos can, and are, everything to everyone just like pride. Pride is what you make it.

Do you have a topic you would like me to cover? Email it to me at info@agpiercing.com! And don't forget to go support the Milwaukee Pride Parade on Sunday June 11th at 2:00pm and Pridefest on June 9th, 10th and 11th! HAPPY PRIDE!

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Players 300 4th St, La Crosse (608)784-4200
Chances R 417 Jay St, La Crosse (608)782-5105
Club 5 Bar/Restaurant 5 Applegate Ct Madison, (608)277-9700
Plan B 924 Williamson Street, Madison
Shamrock 117 W Main Madison (608)255-5029
SOTTO 303 N Henry St Madison
WOOF'S 114 King Street, Madison (608)204-6222
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NORTHEASTERN WI (920)

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Hideout (Gay friendly) 2828 N Ballard Rd, Appleton 920-830-2137
Napalese 1351 Cedar Green Bay (920)432-9646
No Limits 500 N. Baird St Green Bay (920)-544-4963
Rascals Bar & Grill 702 E. Wisconsin, Appleton (920)954-9262
Remixx 8386 State Rd 76 Neenah 54956 (920)725-6483
Round A Bout 1264 Main Green Bay, WI 54302 920-544-9544
XS Niteclub 1106 Main Street, Green Bay
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The Flame 1612 Tower Ave Superior, WI (715)395-0101
The Lounge 2823 London Rd, Eau Claire, (715) 952-3456
The Main 1217 Tower Ave Superior, WI (715)392-1756
OZ 320 Washington St, Wausau www.totheoz.com (715)842-3225
Scooters 411 Galloway Eau Claire (715)835-9959

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Dorsia (LGBTQ friendly) 1307 E Brady 414-539-6826
Fluid 819 South 2nd (414)643-5843
Hamburger Mary's 730-734 South 5th Street 414-488-2555
Harbor Room 117 E Greenfield (414)672-7988
KRUZ 354 E.National (414)272-KRUZ
LaCage 801S 2nd, (414)383-8330
Riverwest Public House (LGBTQ friendly) 815 E Locust St. 53212
Studio 200 (mixed) 200 E Washington St
This Is It 418 E Wells (414)278-9192
Two (mixed) 718 E. Burleigh St.
Walker's Pint 818 S 2nd St (414)643-7468
Woody's 1579 S 2nd (414) 672-0806

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Fluid, Mon. 5th, 9:30-11:30

**Milwaukee LGBT Center,
Tues 6th, 5:30-8**

Woodys, Thurs. 15th, 9-11

LaCage, Wed. 21st, 10-12

**Club Icon, 23rd, 9:30-12:30
(Kenosha)**

D.I.X, Thurs. 29th, 9-12

<http://www.holtonstreetclinic.org/ourreach-testing>

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Davis Mallory • Jaimie Wilson • Jason Maek & Zaena
Dixie Lynn Cartwright • B-Free • DJ Rozz • Debbie Holiday
Avi Sic • Zed Kenzo • Miltown Kings • Chomper
Well-Known Strangers • Scotty T • Party Anthem • ShayKenn
• Alyce Hart CMK • Ian and the Dream • Redeye • DJ Shawna
• Chanel D'Vine Marcus Angel • Faux Fiction • DJ X-Tasy
Dina Nina Martinez Rocket Paloma • Annalog • The Zimmer Effect
The Bang Bang The Upside • Dumpster Doves • The Dots • Synymata
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AKO • DJ Tim Walters • Heather Jean Maywood • DJ NMF • JMAE
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Cappleman Carly Malison • Deolinda Abstrac • Erin Krebs Duo
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