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by: Anne Bratskei

They are the ultimate keepers of the gate. Don't even think about trying to bust through the double doors of the tents at Bryant Park to crash a show. The 7th on Sixth Security crew has one main mission - to keep the uninvited out. (They're also charged with getting the front row celebs safely to their seats and back out again - an assignment for which they probably should receive hazardous-duty pay.)

The hired hands from Citadel Security, a Brooklyn-based company, are headed by Ty Yorio, a retired New York City police officer. The black-suited squad ranges from about 50 to more than 100, depending on the event, and when it comes to the city's hot ticket of the moment, suffice to say they've heard it all.

"We have people who impersonate the A-listers - celebrities, buyers and press all the time." But after 13 years, "we know who's who," says Yorio, the longest-standing fashion cop.

"We're accustomed to the line, 'Don't you know who I am?' or 'I don't wait on line.' " Too bad - if you don't have the credentials, don't bother. One of Yorio's favorite come-ons to date was the woman who claimed to be a Vogue editor, Andrea Leon Talley. For those of you who don't know it, it's Andre Leon Talley, and he's a very visible 6-foot, 7-inch man.

While, overall, Yorio says, the throng at the just-concluded shows was very well-behaved, he did see one totally forged set of credentials - complete with photograph and Olympus Fashion Week logo.

Unfortunately, the would-be crasher didn't know there's a tiny little secret on real credentials. Hence, he was out, and his fake ID is probably still in Yorio's pocket.