

"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away."
Henry David Thoreau



GETTING OFF

This is the beginning of the new look for DRUMMER. Issue 54 will celebrate our 7th Anniversary and it should be a whopper. Following that, our new editor takes over and we are expecting even greater things. The best keeps getting better in order to give our imitators something to shoot for and at.

A final word about the Mr. International Leather contest. We have been and are very supportive and objective. We said Chicago should be proud to have gotten it together ahead of everyone else. The contest and events were excellent and improving every year, with the contestants always top flight. We merely made a friendly suggestion. Anyone who read anything else into THE SEARCH FOR MR. LEATHER was looking for it.

After the umpteenth complaint from New Zealand that the customs was opening first class mail and sending, instead of its content, notices that it was holding "indecent" material. (DRUMMER, of course) and the New Zealander shouldn't be allowed to read it. Which, incidentally isn't too different, from England, Canada and Australia, just a little worse. So we sent the following letter to the head schmuck.

Collector of Customs
Auckland, New Zealand

We have been informed by subscribers in New Zealand that they occasionally have their first class mail from us seized and placed with a form letter from you saying that our publication DRUMMER is considered by you to be indecent.

Since New Zealand is one of the very few countries in the non-communist world that has such censorship, we are interested in finding what specifically makes DRUMMER indecent in your eyes.

We should appreciate having a copy of the Customs Act of 1966 or whatever you consider your guide to judging what your citizens can or cannot read.

Living in a more enlightened and developed society, we at times forget the less fortunate in other lands and certainly do not want to jeopardize any of our subscribers in their relationship with those in power.

Very truly yours,

If we get any kind of answer, we'll let you know.

John H. Embry

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Cover by Jim Patton and Rose de Castro

Contents page photo by Jim Patton

Page four photo of Mr. Southern California Drummer by Rose de Castro

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