

"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



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Cover and opposite page: Your local neighborhood officer, off duty, waiting for his next assignment. Photo by Jim Wigler.

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## GETTING OFF

Leather men seem to be fascinated by police. If someone walks into a leather bar with an anywhere near accurate version of the uniform of one of the more militaristic police departments, half the studs are down on their knees, tongues hanging out, waiting to be dominated or "arrested" and loving it. When we were shooting "Down in the Basement of the Station House" sequence in the old Quarters setting this month, one of our friends (the 'fluffer') virtually had to be restrained to keep him from running up and joining the action. Finally we had the two 'cops' give him a strip-search to cool him off. Amazing.

Another, though less popular, turn-on for uniform lovers are the forty-some year old Nazi German outfits that created fear and loathing around the world during the Holocaust. The closer one was to the actual SS troops, the more the fear and loathing.

But there is a fascination with at least the trappings of these two bastions of macho arrogance, and we feel it is merely the trappings. Gays have suffered more at the hands of the police departments AND the Nazis than virtually any other group, with the exception of European Jews, of course, in the case of the Nazis.

Why emulate your persecutors? Who knows? Gays seem to be strong on military uniforms as well, although they, like their hetero brothers, are not particularly fond of servitude in the Army, Navy or Marines. And Lord knows the military is as archaically homophobic as any organization could be. But everyone owns pieces of those uniforms. Perhaps it is the soldiers, sailors and marines that attract. □

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