

"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



6 MALECALL/DEAR SIR

8 THE TRUCKER & THE CYCLIST

Robert Payne tells us about the day an old friend called to ask a favor. You see, there was this trucker...

14 MR. DRUMMER '83: THEY'RE AT THE GATE

As we go to press, the hottest studs in the country are converging on San Francisco to compete in America's most coveted leather title, Mr. Drummer 1983. One final preview before the main event.

16 FORESKIN UPDATE

The Sarge shares his mail on voluntary circumcision, and we look for some more famous overhang.

18 SPECIAL REPORT:

SOME OF US ARE DYING BY JOHN PRESTON

The noted novelist looks at the national panic in a rare examination of things too many of us would rather ignore. Followed by Drummer's guide to grassroots action.

24 DRUMBEATS Our resident puzzler offers an anacrostic of a slightly different persuasion.

25 FOUR BY FOUR: SPECIAL NEW FICTION COLLECTION

Four new writers take on four variations on familiar themes in this summer one-hand reader; from the everyday to the close encounter.

41 TONY BRONTE: ZEUS BEEF TRUST From the studio that spends more time looking at biceps than the Mr. Olympia judges comes a tower of physical power named Tony. Pure beef, no filler.

49 DRUMBEATS Drummer's consumer guide to top quality, lean men. Squeeze these charmers, if you dare.

65 DRUM Hot time in the city and Bill Ward's creature of sensual habits looks for a cool place to dip his... wick.

73 DRUMMER DADDIES More macho men to make a bad boy behave.

73 DRUMMEDIA VIDEO A triple feature: Clones with thunder thighs, elegant English dinosaurs, something to warm the backside.

75 LEATHER BULLETIN BOARD News from the farthest outposts of leather and SM.

77 DRUMMEDIA FILM Arthur J. Bressan's most controversial project: a gay youth and the man who saved his life.

80 SWEDEN FOR LEATHERMEN Robert Nichols tell you all: where to go, what to expect, how to make a trip to Sweden well worth considering.

84 DRUMMEDIA BOOKS John Preston and Daniel Curzon, two giants waiting at your bookstore.

86 IN PASSING

Cover: Another hunk from the 1983 Mr. Southern California Drummer Contest (and this isn't even the winner!). Photo by Rose de Castro.

Opposite page: We don't know why Tony Bronte isn't in our Mr. Drummer Contest. We may have to create a category just for him! Photo by Zeus.

GETTING OFF

We want to draw your attention to the article that starts on page 18 of this issue, "Some of Us Are Dying," by John Preston. We'll wait for the mail to come in on this one; we already know that, unfortunately, a number of people are going to get on our case for printing anything that could infringe on the intense sexual communication that *Drummer* strives to bring you each issue. But Mr. Preston's perspective of the holocaust that threatens us all is one that needs to be in this magazine at this time. You can't arm yourself by simply closing your eyes.

Some updating is in order. Since Mr. Preston spoke these words—this is a transcript of a speech he gave to the Maine State Gay Association—there have been developments. Foremost, more people have died than indicated. That's important. Secondly, the President has made a big deal out of the fact that he allocated \$12 million for AIDS research. That's odious and despicable; especially when this piddling amount is spread over 1½ years. It's less than a crumb. Billions are to be spent on such 'worthwhile' projects as the MX missile and military aid to puppet dictatorships in other countries. The government's response to the AIDS crisis is one that can not be tolerated. And no one is going to change that response except us. That is our obligation, to ourselves, to the gay men who have already been killed by AIDS, and to the still-living AIDS victims. Research and cure is not our obligation, and we don't think that can be stressed strongly enough—it is clearly the duty of the federal government and all the means at its disposal.

Following Mr. Preston's article is a small file of information and suggestions. We urge you to read and consider it carefully. There is always more that can be known and more that can be done. We just want you to start somewhere... for your own sake.

—John W. Rowberry

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