

"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: Brutus, Master of the Compound. Drummerfoto.

Opposite page: Heavy bondage, Zeus-style. Photo by Mikal Bales.

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## GETTING OFF

### ALL THE SAD YOUNG MEN

One of the surest ways of keeping you from reading this column, even if you are so inclined, is to mention AIDS. There has been a mountain of information and misinformation on this terrible plague. The newspapers have exploited it, but not nearly so maliciously as have Jerry Falwell and his ilk. Their feeding off the ignorance and fear surrounding the dreaded ailment borders on criminal.

To its credit, the gay community has gathered round and held fund raisers big and small with varying success, to speed research on the cause and cure. This, I firmly believe, is government's job, and if the administration had any kind of soul it would have gotten on it a long time ago. Right now it should drop the obscene costs of an obsolete tank or two and really get to work. It can't be too long before this plague spreads to the general population. Right now we are sure that it is far more prevalent in the armed forces than the Pentagon would have us believe.

But go ahead with your fund raisers. However, be sure where the money is going and what it is to be used for. There are groups who do beautiful, unselfish service to the guys who already have been diagnosed with AIDS. They provide them with many things their government doesn't, and in many cases, can't. Let them know somehow you care, that you are with them, that they are not alone.

The expression, "There but for the grace of God, go I" could never be more true. It isn't you, thank God. So what are you doing for those brothers who are not so fortunate? Avoid them, disassociate yourself from them?

Many are desperately ill, many are dying. Unless they live in a more enlightened area, they are treated like pariahs even by medical personnel who sure as hell should know better. My dentist told me of treating a patient (not his) who had been turned down by a half dozen other dentists because the guy had been diagnosed as having AIDS. Sounds like the dark ages.

We have probably all been exposed at one time or another. Guard your health with the best you've got. And do something personally for someone who needs your comfort and your love.

John H. Embry

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