

"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: Mr. Southern California Drummer 1985, Rydar Hanson, from Marathon Films' Chain Reactions. Opposite page: The Search for Mr. Drummer heats up. Photo by Rose de Castro.

GETTING OFF

As you damned well know, DRUMMER is an international magazine reflecting, for lack of a better term, the Leather Phenomenon these past ten years. In many areas, leather and its mystique are evolving; there are a few spots in which some seem to have gone on to other things. We are becoming aware of huge areas where they are just now discovering it. In Europe, it seems to be at an all-time high. In many metropolitan centers, it is undergoing some transition due to the AIDS scare. In most places it is being newly discovered as an alternative to fluid-exchanging vanilla sex. Not only with gays, but with heterosexuals as well. After all, the "straights" have been led to much of their fashions, their recreation and entertainment by gays. Why should leathersex be anything different?

The premise that it is possible to have sexual enjoyment without risking infection makes all those fetishes which don't involve body fluid exchanges all the more desirable. Particularly if they turn you on. And leathersex does have that tendency, heaven knows.

One of the mysteries of the immensely popular International Mr. Leather contest held each May in Chicago is their absence of follow-up. Very little is heard concerning the winner by any publication outside of the Chicago area. Getting photographic coverage out of its promoters is like pulling teeth—eventually, there is a standard banner-over-the-shoulder-holding-roses shot. The best way to get any decent shots of the beef, especially anything offstage, is to send your own photographer. The resulting International Mr. Leather is essentially on his own during his reigning year. Although promoter Chuck Renslow is extremely generous with his prizes, hospitality and transportation to the winner, his between-the-contests promotion is zilch. This year seems to be not in the least different.

Fortunately for us, we have large files of the winner, Patrick Toner. We had the distinction of discovering him and he has graced our pages and covers. He was an entry in our last year's Mr. Northern California Drummer contest and has performed at others, his most recent appearance being at the Mr. Southern California Drummer show at Probe in Los Angeles in May. His win is well-deserved

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