

"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



4 SPECIAL SECTION: A SERIOUS LOOK AT SM

In 1985, SM is more out of the closet—and more controversial—than ever. It's time for some straight talk. Starting on page 4 are excerpts from **Sadomasochism: True Confessions**, a work-in-progress by photographer Bill Bowers and interviewer Tim Barrus—a raw, provocative look into private lives. Beginning on page 14 is **SM: A View of Sadomasochism** by Don Miesen of the Society of Janus, one of the most clear-headed and authentic introductions to the subject we've yet discovered.

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You'll cream when you see it!

Cover: Mickey Squires abusing his uniform with a little self-abuse (from the video Joys of Self-Abuse); photo by Patrick Nunn. Opposite Page: SM—the ties that bind. Drummerfoto.

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GETTING OFF

We are indebted to the New York Native for the following:

"Apparently, Jerry Falwell is familiar with the New York Native, which Ted Koppel mentioned on his (ABC) edition of *Nightline*. Koppel quoted from a letter signed by Falwell that was sent to the Moral Majority flock; the Native printed the letter. Falwell denied that he had sent out the letter, which must have come as a surprise to the thousands of people who received it on his stationery. Falwell is one of the more dishonest and dangerous demagogues on the American scene today, and we wonder why he was brought in to debate an issue like AIDS. Falwell belongs in such a position as much as a member of the Ku Klux Klan. And someone should teach him how to pronounce Friedman-Kien. It's the kind of name his crowd always had trouble pronouncing."

GOODBYE POPPERS!

"Studies show that 96% (at least) of the gay men with AIDS used poppers, usually quite heavily. Three different studies found that exposure to amyl or isobutyl nitrite, either through injection or inhalation, caused immunological deficiency in mice. In a fourth study, mice exposed to isobutyl nitrite vapors developed thymic atrophy. Autopsies of AIDS victims show the thymus gland to be destroyed. No thymus gland, no immune system. A fifth mice study could not be carried through to completion. Regardless of whether the isobutyl nitrite was ingested, inhaled or injected, all of the mice died.

"Aside from that, poppers are known to cause Heinz body cell anemia, methemoglobinemia, serious skin burns, death or brain damage from cardiovascular collapse or stroke, dizziness, headaches and lung problems. Poppers have been used to commit suicide and murder.

"Poppers became a fad among gay men in 1972, just seven years before the first cases of AIDS began to be diagnosed."

John Lauritsen

MARGE ANDERSON was no stranger to gay journalism. Years ago she helped set up *Data Boy* in Southern California and did all its typesetting. She typeset *Drummer* as well when we were there, then moved up to San Francisco with us in '78. Her only reaction to our purple prose was to tell me once that "typing this stuff makes me horny as hell and, dammit, there is nothing in the building except gay guys," and she would laugh her hearty laugh. Her cooking was legend and we all tried to keep on her good side along about Christmas cookie time when they would deliver the ingredients by the truckload. But Marge really never had any other side than a good one.

Then she moved to Alaska to be near her son and daughter. The news arrived just before our press time that during an operation her great and generous heart finally gave out.

The multitude of friends in the gay community will miss her along with her friends at *Drummer*. —30—, Marge.

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