

"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



FANTASY FICTION ISSUE

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Cover: Photo by Jim Moss.

Opposite page: Illustration by Harry Bush.

You have in your hand what I presume to be the last issue of DRUMMER with yours truly as publisher. Alternate Publishing has announced the sale of DRUMMER, MACH and FQ magazines to Desmodus Publications, formerly of Chicago. Eleven years, going on twelve, is a long time for this experience that has certainly had its extreme joys and pleasure, triumphs and disappointments. At this point and time we have celebrated our anniversary in June, selected a new Mr. Drummer for the year and completed just about everything except putting out issue 100. That we will have to leave to the new publishers. It will be out in November.

What has been accomplished these past eleven, going on twelve, years? DRUMMER has become one of the most respected of gay publications, in spite of its subject matter.

DRUMMER has fostered the leather lifestyle nationally and internationally, somewhat unifying the leather community through the years. We like to feel it has brought humor and understanding to an area that was deemed humorless and misunderstood. It has been DRUMMER'S pleasure to present many hitherto unpublished writers, artists and photographers, being in its own way a patron of the arts, producing a showcase for a branch of creativity that had nowhere else to go.

It has had its imitators and detractors, many of which have been left by the wayside, lacking DRUMMER'S loyal following. On going back through many of the back issues, I never cease to be amazed at how really good parts of them can be. The standards have been high and our contributors have made them even higher.

An English art magazine has called us the best of the American gay slicks but the nicest things said about us in recent memory came from one of our favorite contributors, writing for the New York Connections:

"Of all the popular gay publications, DRUMMER is the only one with real balls; it's unafraid to take chances, to boldly go where no gay magazine has gone before.

"DRUMMER is also the most politically astute of the gay magazines...generally representative of the frontline of gay political thought, indeed, the entire magazine can be seen as an act of radical politics. DRUMMER gets to people in ways 'safe' gay magazines don't...this portrayal of gays as a strong, proud people, not the odd bits of leather and sexual paraphernalia in the photos is what's revolutionary about DRUMMER...a pleasure to read and a pleasure to write for."

And it has been a pleasure to have been around. I'll be reading DRUMMER as enthusiastically as I ever have in the time to come.

—John H. Embry