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DRUMMER (ISSN 1055-7415) May 1998, is published monthly in the U.S. for \$59 (\$120 outside of the U.S. with U.S. funds) per 12-issue subscription by Desmodus, Inc., 2354 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Periodical postage paid at San Francisco, CA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to DRUMMER, PO Box 410390, San Francisco, CA 94141-0390. Orders accepted by MasterCard, Visa, American Express at 415-252-1195.

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“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 that he hears, however measured and far away.”

— Henry David Thoreau

210



Contests

love 'em or hate 'em, are a part of the leather landscape. Do they really select leaders? Should they? Isn't a great party, meat-on-parade and getting laid enough?

At best, leather contests are an excuse to gather a bunch of hot men together, add some oiled muscles and let simmer. They can also be an opportunity to compare notes on training techniques, flogging skills or dungeon construction theory.

At their worst, leather contests can set up disappointing expectations for contestants, spectators and community.

Finally, what inspires a man to prance around in his underwear in front of hundreds, possibly thousands of strangers...all of whom are likely to have instruments of torture back in their hotel rooms?

COLUMNS

MaleCall	4
DrumMedia	10
Techniques	12
Sleaze.com	39

FEATURES

Mountain Pleasure	6
Backstage Pass	14
Cover Stories	19
Real Men, Real Meat	41

BOOK SECTION

Book Reviews	25
Drummer Fiction	27
West Ninth Street Bathhouse	27
THE Mr. Drummer	31
Tails Of The City:Folsom Version	34

DEPARTMENTS

DrumBeat News	45
Classifieds	49
Destinations	60
Calendar 210	64
Opinion	66

On the cover- International Mr. Drummer 1997 Jeffery Adler with Florida Drummerboy Steven Michael Photo by Jim Wigler for Drummer Magazine
Contents page photo- Mr. Great Lakes Drummer Contest 1997 Photo by Rimshot Photography for Drummer Magazine