

GUARD post

EXTENDED
ISSUE!

The Newsletter of the TWILIGHT GUARD

SPRING 2008 Vol. 10

TWILIGHT GUARD
A Gay Men's Club for
the Leather-Bear-Gear
Communities of south-
western Connecticut and
the Hudson Valley region
of New York

Spring 2008 Contents ▼

Q&A WITH JACK	PG. 1
FYI	PG. 2
SEIZE THE DAY	PG. 8
PARAGRAPH 175	PG. 9
TRAVELING BEAR	PG. 10
OPHIUCHUS BRIEF	PG. 12
BACK PAGE	PG. 18

The Guard Post is published quarterly by Twilight Guard. Its contents are written by members of Twilight Guard and other persons within the leather - levi - bear - uniform - gear community.

Submissions are always welcome. Send any comments, suggestions, or submissions to:

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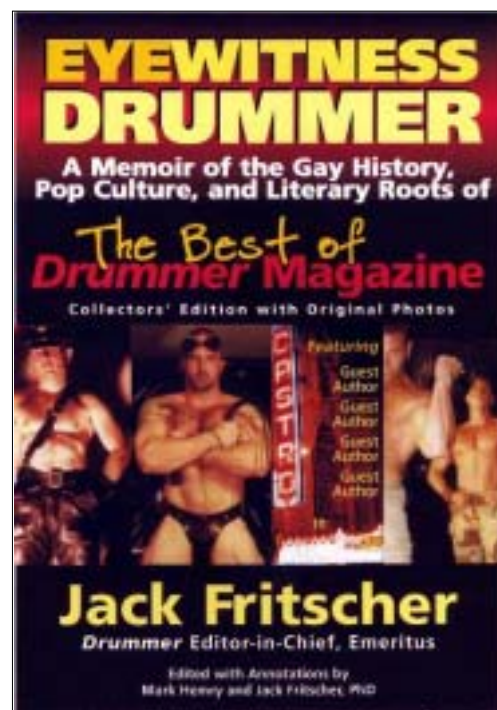
To The Beat of a Different Drummer

PALM DRIVE PUBLISHING (<http://www.palmdrivepublishing.com>) is a two-man "micro-press" which has been carving out a gay man's publishing niche in the area of sexually oriented material considered too controversial for mainstream press. It was started by Mark Henry, owner of the legendary video production and distribution company, Palm Drive Video, whose initial offerings were works by his partner, Jack Fritscher. In March of 2008, Palm Drive publishing will release a four-volume "Best of" Drummer Magazine.

For those not familler with Jack Fritscher's work, Fritscher was the editor-in-chief of Drummer for thirty-two intense and seminal months: March 1977 to December 31, 1979. During this formative time, he edited Drummer issue 19 through 30 as well as his hybrid issues Drummer 18, 31, 32, 33 plus his special extra issue Son of Drummer (September 1978). He kept steady through the comings and goings of all three owner-publishers: John Embry, Anthony F. DeBlase, and Martijn Bakker.

Over 24 years, he oversaw Drummer for twice as long as John Embry, the founding owner and publisher who worked with Drummer for only 11 years, and DeBlase who owned Drummer for 6 years, and Bakker, who owned it for 6 years. Fritscher was Drummer's most frequent contributing writer and photographer for 65 of the 214 issues.

Fritscher's work is now being re-



Exhibiting how a publishing project grows, this lusty cover is an early original of the proposed front cover for **Gay San Francisco: Eyewitness Drummer**.

released for readers who were not old enough (or even alive) to remember the early years of the modern gay experience, and for those who were and wish to explore once again days not so long past.

In a prerelease announcement and sale by Amazon.com of the forthcoming series of books, the Guard Post contacted Jack Fritscher in hopes of getting a press release of the forthcoming volumes. Instead we got something much more. An excelsive

Continued on page 13

2008 Turning Out To Be a Tough Year for Drag

IN JANUARY, Westport (CT) police described a Asian male, in his 30s, about 5-foot-9, and said he was wearing a woman's wig, white coat, and black gloves, and bluejeans, a brown or maroon hat, and carrying a black leather bag.

The man handed the Commerce Bank teller a note saying he had a bomb, according to a police statement. The man escape with unknown amount of money, but left the bag on the counter, which was found to contain a can of soda.

IN Los Angeles, 26-year-old Jimmy Maurice Lewis, described as a pre-operative transvestite, was arrested January 18 at the LAX Airport after getting off a flight.

Lewis is accused of robbing the Alabama Credit Union in Decatur on November 9th. He also is a suspect in bank heists in Cleveland, Tennessee, and Plano, Texas.

Police said in each robbery, a teller was handed a note demanding money by a male suspect who was dress in women's clothing.

In Las Vegas, a woman who reportedly tried to rob a local bank dressed as a man is now in custody. Joe Beth Cassell dressed in a men's suit and wore dark

glasses, then handed a teller a note demanding cash from the Bank of America. But police say she ran off and fled in a black BMW when an armed security guard entered the bank. Officers used surveillance video to track down and arrest Cassell.

An unshaven man wearing a black evening gown, fishnet stockings, calf-high boots and a black wig robbed a USA Gas station in Monterey, CA.

About 35 minutes after the robbery, a police officer spotted a black Saab with fishnet pantyhose hanging from the front driver's side door, dragging on the ground. The car

was pulled over and Michael Leslie Clouse, 26, was arrested and booked for armed robbery.

All so in January, authorities discribe a white male in his 30's dress like "Robin Williams in Mrs. Doubtfire" robbed a bank in Somerset, MA.

The man slid a note to a Citizens Union Bank teller and demanded money. A gun was mentioned in the note. After recieving the cash, the robber fled on foot and then possibly drove off in a dark green convertible. The getaway drive was discribed as a woman in her early 20's woman according to police. At this time, nobody is in custody for the crime. ▼



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 Bar Nights in sizes s-m-l-xl-xxl

Arthor J. K. Rowling Outs Hogwarts Character

Harry Potter fans, the rumors are true: Albus Dumbledore, master wizard and Headmaster of Hogwarts, is gay. Author J.K. Rowling of the mega-selling fantasy series that ended this past summer, outed the beloved character while appearing before a sold-out crowd at Carnegie Hall in NYC.

After reading briefly from the final book, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, she took questions from audience members.

She was asked by one young fan whether Dumbledore finds "true love."

"Dumbledore is gay," the author responded to gasps and applause.

Rowling then explained that Dumbledore was smitten with rival Gellert Grindelwald, whom he defeated long ago in a battle between wizards. "Falling in love can blind us to an extent," Rowling said of Dumbledore's feelings, adding that Dumbledore was "horribly, terribly let down."

Dumbledore's love, she observed, was his "great tragedy."

"Oh, my god," Rowling concluded with a laugh, "the fan fiction."

Potter readers on fan sites and elsewhere on the Internet have speculated on the sexuality of Dumbledore, noting that he has no close relationships with women and a mysterious, troubled past.



Author J.K. Rowling

And explicit scenes with Dumbledore already have appeared in fan fiction.

Rowling told the audience that while working on the planned sixth Potter film, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," she spotted a reference in the script to a girl

who once was of interest to Dumbledore. A note was duly passed to director David Yates, revealing the truth about her character.

Rowling, finishing a brief "Open Book Tour" of the United States, her first tour here since 2000, also said that she regarded her Potter books as a "prolonged argument for tolerance" and urged her fans to "question authority."

Not everyone likes her work, Rowling said, likely referring to Christian groups that have alleged the books promote witchcraft. Her revelation about Dumbledore's sexual orientation, she said, will give them one more reason. ▼

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20 Men Charged in Bedford Rest-Stop Sting

AS REPORTED in the Journal News (owned by the Gannett Co., also owners of USA Today), a sting aimed at men who cruise a rest area in the Bedford Hills area of New York Interstate 684 resulted in charges against 20 men in October, including a Catholic priest and a registered sex offender.

The sting, which also netted a local Rotary Club president and a 72-year-old man, was prompted by a complaint from a man who stopped to use the rest area with his 10-year-old son.

Most of the men were charged with either loitering or trespass violations or both. One was charged with forcible touching, a misdemeanor. Four were charged with exposing themselves and two with public lewdness.



Among those arrested was Shawn M. Cromwell, 29, of Pleasant Valley, a Level 2 sex offender. He was charged with public lewdness, loitering and trespassing. He was convicted in 1997 of first-degree sexual abuse in Dutchess County involving a 9-year-old boy.

With the exception of the Catholic priest, all of those charged are married, police said. State police have filed charges against men at the Bedford Hills rest stop in the past. In April 2006, a 76-year-old Mount Kisco man was charged with public lewdness there and, three years ago, 18 men were charged in a sting operation similar to this one.

The undercover operation comes after the issue of men cruising for gay sex made national headlines with allegations against Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho. He pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct after his arrest in June by an undercover officer at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport who said Craig came on to him in a men's room. Craig is seeking to overturn his guilty plea.

Regrettably, The Journal News' reporter and editorial staff found it necessary to print in its October 29th publication the name, age, residence, and what charges each man was arrested for, during the undercover sting operation by Westchester County state police at the Bedford Hills rest stop. ▼



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Midtown SM Club Patron Choking Accident

A **SUBMISSIVE MALE** was clinging to life after a freak accident at a Midtown NYCbondage club cut off oxygen to his brain, said law-enforcement agents.

A dominatrix at The Nutcracker Suite on East 33rd Street called 911 at about 1:30 a.m. on February 9 after finding the hooded man turning blue in a dungeon room as he hung by his arms.

He was also wearing nipple clamps, a dog collar and women's high-heeled shoes, and his hands were cuffed behind his back.

The man was rushed to St. Vincent's Hospital, where he was put on a respirator. It was believed he had suffered brain damage due to lack of oxygen.

In keeping with the secretive nature of the heterosexual S&M scene, the man was carrying no identification and only signed the name "Roger" in the pain palace's guest registry. But it was said he was a regular at the club.

His particular fetish was to have himself trussed up and left alone. The mistress he was working with, Taki Noriko, 30, of Williamsburg, told police that she elevated him just enough to cause discomfort but that his feet were still on the floor.

"It was an accident," Tahi stated.

She said that she checked on him every 20 minutes. At first, he was fine, but when she went in a

second time, she found that his foot had slipped out of the shoe and was turning blue.

Police took Noriko, several other whip-toting mistresses and the club's manager in for questioning, but no charges were filed. One woman was arrested on an outstanding and unrelated warrant.

While S&M activities are not illegal, the state penal code seems to leave open the possibility that those involved could be charged with assault - or even manslaughter if the man were to die - if a grand jury were to rule they acted recklessly.

The club, which is tucked away in a suite in a nondescript Midtown office building near the Empire State Building, has operated for more than a decade and is a well-known masochist mecca among devotees of the bondage scene.

The erotic emporium was once featured in a 15-minute documentary called "Paradise Bound," which screened at the Sundance Festival in 1996.

On its Web site, the club lists candle-wax dripping, electrostimulation, bondage, role play and flogging among its services. Sessions cost \$185 dollars an hour and are by appointment only. ▼





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VERMONT

BRATTLEBORO - The tone has changed in e-mails this Vermont town has been receiving on its proposal to issue warrants for the arrests of President Bush and Vice President Cheney. Now, more people are supporting the resolution.

Brattleboro's town offices have been flooded with 7,000 e-mails since its select board voted January 25 to include the item on its Town Meeting Day agenda.

The town petition would make President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney subject to arrest for crimes against the Constitution.

The petition has no legal standing, since the town attorney has no authority to write an indictment and the police have no authority to arrest Bush or Cheney if either visits Brattleboro.

Anger at the Bush administration is hardly new in Vermont. The state Senate voted last year to support impeaching the president.

Some of the earliest messages received were so full of vitriol that town officials said they were worried for their safety. Some writers called Brattleboro a bastion of "liberal appeaser wimps" and "wackjobs" for even considering the warrants.

Town Manager Barbara Sondag said any threatening emails are passed along to the police, although she said that the nasty messages have subsided, replaced by ones supportive of the resolution. ▼

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE - A grieving father won a nearly \$11 million verdict against a fundamentalist Kansas church that pickets military funerals out of a belief that the war in Iraq is a punishment for the nation's tolerance of homosexuality.

Albert Snyder of York, Pa., sued the Westboro Baptist Church for damages after members demonstrated at the March 2006 funeral of his son, Lance Cpl. Matthew Snyder, who was killed in Iraq.

The jury first awarded \$2.9 million in compensatory damages. It returned in the afternoon with its decision to award \$6 million in punitive damages for invasion of privacy and \$2 million for causing emotional distress.

Church members routinely picket funerals of military personnel killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, carrying signs such as "Thank God for dead soldiers" and "God hates fags."

A number of states have passed laws regarding funeral protests, and Congress has passed a law prohibiting such protests at federal cemeteries. But the Maryland lawsuit is believed to be the first filed by the family of a fallen serviceman.

The church and its leaders--the Rev. Fred Phelps and his two daughters, Shirley Phelps-Roper and Rebecca Phelps-Davis--were found liable for invasion of privacy and intent to inflict emotional distress. ▼

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GERMANY

BERLIN - The 75th anniversary of Adolf Hitler's elevation to German chancellor is one the country would prefer to forget, but the ignominious event remains part of the weighted history that drives past and future generations to remember the victims of the Nazi regime and ensure their crimes cannot happen again.

Few public events are planned to mark the anniversary on January 30, the lessons of the date are not lost on those not even born.

The rise of Hitler, and the Nazis, is viewed with national shame and horror, in accepting responsibility for the Nazi Holocaust, in which six million people, primarily Jews, were killed, Germany has established scores of memorials and museums across the country.

Two new memorials are planned for the capital near the Reichstag building: one commemorating Roma and Sinti, or Gypsy, victims of the Nazis and another remembering homosexual victims.

The Reichstag building — which again became the seat of the lower house of parliament after reunification — already hosts a memorial to political victims of the Nazis. The much bigger Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe — 2,711 concrete slabs in undulating rows that opened in 2005 — sits nearby on the other side of the landmark Brandenburg Gate. ▼

NEW YORK

BEDFORD - Sandra Chemero, 46, accused of running a dominatrix business out of a farmhouse, was arrested in February 2007 after police said she offered an undercover officer sex for \$275 an hour.

The sting came after authorities received a tip last year asserting that Chemero was behind a website that advertised dominatrix services at a white Victorian farmhouse in Bedford Hills.

Chemero had pleaded not guilty in 2007 to misdemeanor prostitution and weapons charges. The latter charge involves a stun gun police said they seized from the house.

A plea deal was struck with authorities in Late January of 2008. Prostitution and weapon charges were dropped.

Chemero agreed to plead guilty to disorderly conduct for operating a business out of her home without a permit. She was charged with a violation and fined \$350. She was also ordered to spend 30 days of community service working at a local hospital. ▼



Seize the Day

MARCH 2008



TWILIGHT GUARD

March 8,
Triangles Café,
Club Bar Night,
9:30pm – 2am



† L.I. RAVENS MC

March 28-30,
16th Anniversary,
Long Island, NY

HARTFORD EAGLE

March 29, Chez Est,
Hartford, CT

APRIL 2008



TWILIGHT GUARD

April 12,
Triangles Café,
Club Bar Night,
9:30pm – 2am



READING RAILMEN HOST

April 5, AMCC All
Club Bar night,
Red Star Saloon,
Reading PA



ENTRE NOUS, BAY STATE MARAUDERS

April 19, Codes of
Color, Boston, MA



† NE PA LEATHERMEN

April 25-27, Electric
City Run, Scranton,
PA

MAY 2008



TWILIGHT GUARD

May 10,
Triangles Café,
Club Bar Night,
9:30pm – 2am



† *EXCELSIOR MC

May 16-18, 33rd
Anniversary &
AMCC Meeting,
Fire Island, NY

HARFORD EAGLE

May 24, Chez est Hartford, CT

JUNE 2008



TWILIGHT GUARD

June 14,
Triangles Café,
Club Bar Night,
9:30pm – 2am



† KNIGHT HAWKS

June 6-8, Weekend
Run, Norfolk, VA



† PENNSMEN

June 13-15,
Weekend Camping
Run, PA



TWILIGHT GUARD

June 21,
Quarterly
Membership
Meeting, Location
TBA



† SPARTAN MC

June 20-27, 40th
Anniversary &
Marathon Run,
Washington DC/SW
Virginia

Gay Pride March, NYC, Sunday,
June 29

JULY 2008



TWILIGHT GUARD

Summer Vacation,
see you September

Fourth of July, Friday, July 4



† TBLC

July 125-27,
Weekend Camping
Run, Virginia

AUGUST 2008



TWILIGHT GUARD

Summer Vacation,
see you September



† POCONO WARRIORS

August 1-3, 100
Men in the Woods,
NE PA



† DC BEAR CLUB

August 8-10, Bear
Invasion,
Washington, DC



† CENTAUR MC

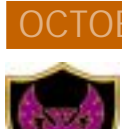
August 29-
September 2,
Olympia, Oxford,
PA

SEPTEMBER 2008



TWILIGHT GUARD

September 13,
Triangles Café,
Club Bar Night,
9:30pm – 2am



TWILIGHT GUARD

October 11,
Triangles Café,
Club Bar Night,
9:30pm – 2am



† * READING RAILMEN

October 10-12,
30th Anniversary,
Reading, PA



† ENTRE NOUS

October 24-26,
P'Town Pilgrimage,
Province Town, MA

Halloween, Friday, October 31

INFORMATION

Calendar as of March 1, 2008.
Twilight Guard scheduled bar night's
are held on the 2nd Saturday of the
month at Triangles Café, 66 Sugar
Hollow Rd. [rt.7], Danbury, CT.
Between 9:30 PM – 2 AM.

* Starred items are
AMCC meetings.

† Daggered items are AMCC
sanctioned events.

Paragraph ▼ 175

Matthew Shepard Hate Crime Measure Passes Senate

New Hampshire's civil unions law went into effect on New Year's Day and was marked by a mass ceremony for 37 couples on the plaza of the New Hampshire Statehouse. Another 56 were united the same day in towns across the state. Additional unions have taken place since.

Although the law went into effect on New Year's Day couples could begin filling out applications on December 10. Since then 183 civil

unions licenses had been issued.

That would mean about half the couples who have applied for licenses have so far been united. LGBT activists in the state say many couples are waiting for the hoopla to die down and speculate many of those holding off on their ceremonies will be united on Valentine's Day.

State records show that the vast majority of couples who applied for licenses are from New

Hampshire, although they are available to couples from outside the state.

Gov. John Lynch signed the legislation last May making New Hampshire the state fourth to grant civil unions after New Jersey, Connecticut and Vermont. Neighboring Massachusetts in 2004 became the only state to allow gay marriage.

MASS GAY THEME BOOK CASE

Two sets of parents whose lawsuit over the use of a gay-themed book by a Lexington, Mass. public school was dismissed by a federal appeals court say they will take the case to the US Supreme Court.

A teacher read the book *King and King* to second-graders at the Estabrook elementary school in April 2006 as part of a lesson about weddings.

Following the reading the teacher noted that same-sex marriage is legal in Massachusetts and some children have two mommies and others have two daddies.

King and King is aimed at elementary school children and helps teach diversity.

The parents said the school was attempting to indoctrinate their children about an "immoral lifestyle".

The lawsuit said that school officials bypassed their parental rights to raise their children how they wish and in doing so violated their civil rights.

Last year U.S. District Judge Mark Wolf ruled that federal courts have decided in other cases that the constitutional right of parents to raise their children does not include the right to restrict what a public school may teach them.

A three-judge, 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston upheld the dismissal. ▼

NY Court Rules Gay Benefits Legal

An Albany court has dismissed a challenge to a decision by New York State's Comptroller that treats out-of-state marriages of same-sex couples the same as any other legal marriage in terms of benefits afforded to state employees through the New York State Retirement System.

In 2004 in response to an inquiry by a gay state employee wanting to know if his retirement benefits would cover his family if he went to Canada to legally marry his partner, New York State Comptroller at the time, Alan Hevesi, stated that, "Based on current law, the retirement system will recognize a same-sex Canadian marriage in the same manner as an opposite-sex New York marriage under the principle of comity. That principle has been legal practice pursuant to New York Court of Appeals rulings for many years."

The NY State Comptroller is the sole trustee of the retirement system - the biggest state plan in the country - which includes 334,000 retirees and 648,000 current employees.

Hevesi's interpretation of the

law matched that of then Attorney General, now Gov. Eliot Spitzer, who also said that, under the state's current laws, same-sex couples who legally marry in other jurisdictions should be treated as any other married couple in New York State.

The Alliance Defend Fund, an Arizona-based organization that regularly fights LGBT issues, filed the suit, citing the July 2006 ruling by the Court of Appeals - the state's highest court - that upheld New York's ban on same-sex marriage.

In dismissing the suit judge Thomas J. McNamara said that case did not apply to the question raised by the ADF since the issue before the Court of Appeals had only addressed whether same-sex couples could marry in the state, not whether marriages performed outside of New York State should be considered legal.

The policy of the Comptroller to recognize same-sex Canadian marriages in the same manner as opposite-sex New York marriages...is legal and not contrary to law," McNamara said in his written ruling. ▼

TRAVELING BEHR

A New England Migration: Sailing Away to a New Port of Call

The end of October and the start of November can be a beautiful time of year for a road trip in New England, with warm weather lasting into this period. The blazing transformation of autumn's foliage was at its peak by the turn of November. And the weather cooperated for most of the Friday travelers to the Vacation State to celebrate the Harbor Master's 25th Anniversary, "Sailing Away."

Unfortunately, some were detained for for several hours in Connecticut due to an accident on the I-95. Thankfully, only a few were affected by the delay and the accident didn't set a trend for the weekend.

Those fortunate enough not to be trapped on the Interstate had time for some sightseeing in Portland, a city whose revival has given it the feel of a Soho art gallery overlaid on its history as a major port.

For many travelers' delight, shopping was the major opportunity. Just inside Maine's borders is a cornucopia of outlet stores, which make some of the New Jersey malls Jersey look inadequate and minuscule.

For Friday night dinner, most made their way over to the Blackstone, Portland's local leather bar, just a stone's throw away from the host hotel, for an open buffet in a classic New England bar with plenty of polished wood and a tin ceiling. If you haven't been to Blackstones, make it point to drop in when you visit the state.

Some latecomers went down the hill to Becky's, a real, unfashionable old-time diner replete with linoleum floors, counters and seats right in the Old Port section of the city. Ambience may not get Becky's any points in the food guides, but the diner was packed from booth to booth, as well as some counter spots. The food was excellent Maine faire with plenty of seafood options on the menu, served in tradition dinner style, no nouvelle cuisine for Becky's. A tip: Becky's cocktail sauce is a must have, with a great bite to it.

Time came soon enough for the Twilight Guard to host our cocktail party for the evening.

Hindsight is always 20/20. Had we thought about it and done what the other clubs did and tossed everybody out of the hospitality suite to set up, it would have made things much easier. But that's hindsight for you. So we worked around the bystanders while setting up. Note to self for next time: kick people out of the hospitality suite.

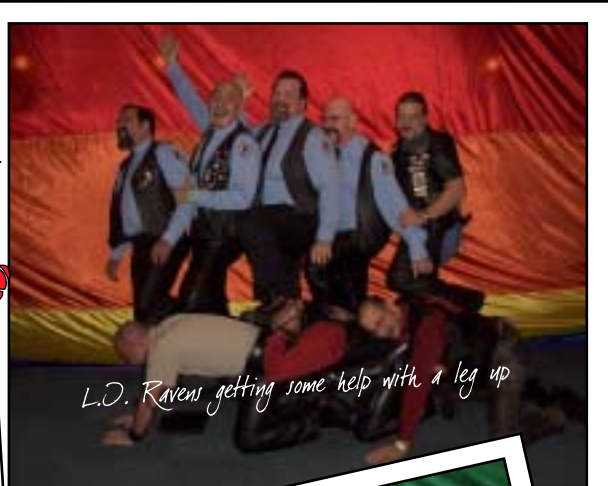
The Harbor Master's traditional theme for their runs

is Sailing Away, with a tag theme for each year (this year's was their Twenty-Fifth Anniversary). Accordingly, the Guard mounted a cocktail party with an appropriately nautical theme — Twilight Parlor: Tattoos, Piercings and Body Waxing. This set the stage for an excellent party with banners and posters along with appropriately labeled piercing chart. (Yes, we can be educational as well.) We provided tattoos of all AMCC member clubs' back patches in tribal designs, and slogans such as "Beware of Pushy Bottoms," "Drunk Seaman" and "Loose Harbor Masters." A grand spread was put out on the long table with the Guard's signature punch and two wax heating machines (get it? body waxing) used for making a white chocolate fondue. For dipping, pretzels, pound cake and bananas were available.

The Guard was appropriately decked out in sailors' caps, white t-shirts and jocks, making their way through the crowd, and tattooing any exposed flesh with a temporary tattoo of the Guard's back patch. And if the flesh wasn't exposed to start with, it soon was. One gentleman from Entre Nous even got his forehead tattooed. Guests seemed to enjoy themselves as the party went on twice as long as scheduled.

Following the Guard's cocktail party and continuing with the nautical theme of the weekend were the Centurars MC, who invaded en masse from the nation's capital. And what invasion would be complete without appropriate attire for the occasion? They appeared dressed to the nines in various articles of Viking apparel, helmets with horns, fur bikini bottoms and fur capes. Too bad they couldn't get those spears passed airport security. Not to forget the distaff side (or was it the drag impulse coming out), one Centaur went so far as to dress as Brunhilde (for once it wasn't





Skip) with a Madonna-inspired red pierced metal braizer and long blonde pigtails.

Completing the Viking invasion was a set of seven-foot nylon eerie trees with spooky glowing lights (Halloween store sale, you just have to love it) which was overhead. We heard that it would be reused the following week for a stage production of the Wizard of Oz. (Wasn't that a cocktail party at the Philadelphians Tri-Cen this past January? Wasn't that a party given by none other then the Centaurs? Could this be a preview of the Olympia 2008 run's theme?)

Saturday morning came, and so did the remains of Hurricane Noel, which by the time it reached Maine was a minor Nor'easter. Nonetheless, you gotta love a news report predicting that the power would go out during the storm.

Some made their way down to Port for a cruise around the harbor; others beat a path for coffee and a brisk walk around the city. For those who did make the cruise, it was a slow start, since the starter in the engine had to be replaced, turning a two-hour tour into an hour-long tour. Better than being lost at sea.

Lunch was held at another gay bar in Portland, STYX, a multi-room video dance bar. Great space, interesting "Jungle" room which some made use of the dancers' cages.

The afternoon was basically free to catch up on some sleep and get ready for dinner. Now if you have ever been to a Holiday Inn for an event, you know how their banquets can be. But this time the Inn did very well, especially since they were serving the state mascot, lobster. It was a hit: when they announced they had eleven left for second helpings, there was a stampede. Some guys made moves that you wouldn't believe they could make in other circumstances.

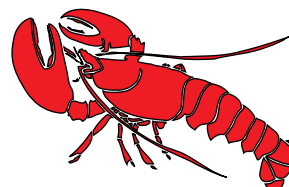
One highlight of the dinner was the Harbor Masters' honoring Ralph and Butch for all their work and leadership over the years, as both were promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral.

Another highlight was the backdrop for dinner, a rainbow flag as long as a NYC block. It made a wonderful back drop for photos (see left).

The Long Island Ravens had the honor of after-dinner cocktails, which consisted of some very interesting and amazing mixes of desert spirits and ice cream. The Ravens also riffed off of some blue law in Portland whereby if you pass a certain area twice, you will get a court summons!?!

More laughs and fun were had later in the evening when two Guardsmen won the "Wheel of Pleasure and Pain" game. They proved particularly adept at showing off their skills in giving voice to fake organism. Good show boys.

Clear blue skies moved in for Sunday morning, good weather for the trip back home. After brunch, well wishing, congratulations, good byes and another tour of the LA&M traveling exit, it was time to make the way back home, planning the return visit. ▼





PHIUCHUS BRIEF



QUESTIONS RAISED ABOUT UNPROTECTED SEX

Geneva – Swiss AIDS experts said in January that some people with HIV who meet strict conditions and are under treatment can safely have unprotected sex with non-infected partners.

The proposal astonished AIDS researchers in Europe and North America who have long argued that safe sex with a condom is the single most effective way of preventing the spread of the disease - apart from abstinence.

The Swiss National AIDS Commission said patients who can satisfy strict conditions, including successful antiretroviral treatment to suppress the virus and who do not have any other sexually transmitted diseases, do not pose a danger to others. The proposal was published in the Bulletin of Swiss Medicine.

The Swiss scientists took as their starting point a 1999 study by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which showed that transmission depends strongly on the viral load in the blood.

The other studies had also found that patients on regular AIDS treatment did not pass on the virus, and that HIV could not be detected in their genital fluids.

The studies cited by the Swiss commission did not themselves definitively conclude whether people with HIV and on antiretroviral treatment could safely have unprotected sex without passing on the virus.

The World Health Organization said Switzerland would be the first country in the world to try this approach.

In any case, of the 2 million people worldwide now receiving HIV treatment, only a very small number receive medical care comparable to that in Switzerland.

TROUBLING NEW QUESTIONS ABOUT FAILED HIV VACCINE

New Jersey – New data on an experimental AIDS vaccine that failed to work shows volunteers who got the shots were far more likely to get infected with the virus through sex or other risky behavior than those who got dummy shots.

The new details, released by drugmaker Merck & Co., don't answer the crucial question of whether failure of the vaccine also spells doom for many similar AIDS vaccines now in testing.

And researchers weren't sure why more of the vaccinated volunteers wound up getting HIV than those who got dummy shots.

Merck, based in Whitehouse Station, N.J., announced on Sept. 21 that it was stopping the study because the vaccine didn't work. It was a stunning setback in the push to develop an AIDS vaccine.



"FOSSIL DNA" IN CELLS POSSIBLE KEY TO VACCINE

Toronto — Canadian and United States scientists have identified a potential new "Trojan Horse" method for creating a vaccine against AIDS.

Instead of trying to directly target the rapidly mutating human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the scientists suggest a vaccine could take aim at what's known as fossil DNA — genetic material from ancient viruses that has inserted itself into every human cell over our evolutionary history.

In a study published in the journal Public Library of Science Pathogens, the researchers say it appears that HIV reactivates this usually dormant DNA, called human endogenous retroviruses, or HERVs - by disrupting the normal controls that keep them in check.

The study found that in some HIV-positive individuals, infection-fighting T cells are able to target HERV-enabled cells.

A stumbling block for scientists and drug companies seeking an effective vaccine is that HIV is like a moving target - it exists in many variations and constantly mutates.

Traditional vaccines work by stimulating a response by key immune system cells to seek out and destroy foreign invaders. But because HIV is an extremely adaptable retrovirus, it seems able to foil attempts by the immune system to shut it down.

But because HERVs are already part of our genetic makeup, they are virtually unable to mutate.

That's where the Trojan Horse idea comes in. HIV activates HERVs within the cell it enters, so a vaccine that takes aim to destroy HERVs will incidentally kill HIV and stop it from jumping to other cells. ▼

Q&A session with the man that Planetout.com defined as “the groundbreaking editor of Drummer magazine.”

Guard Post: *Thanks for agreeing to talk to us about making the lore of Drummer available to a new generation and new audiences.*

Jack Fritscher: I’ll give you my stream-of-consciousness answers.

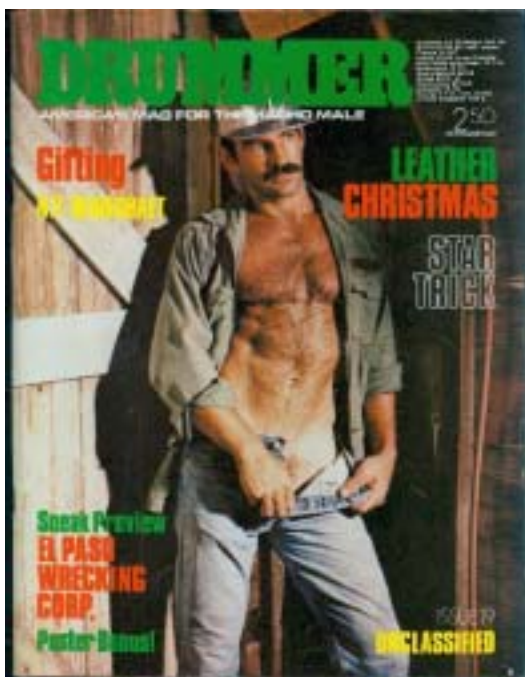
Guard Post: *What is the full title of your new leather heritage book?*

Jack Fritscher: It’s a tongue twister. The easy title is “*Gay San Francisco: Eyewitness Drummer*.” The subtitle clarifies the book so the reader knows immediately what is about: Sex, Art, Gay History, Popular Culture, and the Salon around Drummer Magazine from the Titanic 1970s to 1999.

Mark Hemry is the editor. And this is volume one of the four-volume series which will be coming out through 2008. This first book is 700 pages, has illustrations and a wonderful index, and is \$24.95, from Palm Drive Publishing.

Guard Post: *What criteria did you use in choosing selections for these four volumes? What are some of your personal favorites?*

Jack Fritscher: “*Gay San Francisco: Eyewitness Drummer*” is meant for fun, entertainment, and leather history of the kind told by adventurers who have been there and done that. In the way eyewitness survivors of the sinking of Titanic testified,



Drummer 19 (December 1977) was the first issue with Jack Fritscher listed as editor in chief; in fact, he began editing Drummer in March 1977 and produced and ghost-edited features in issues 14-18. Graphic from the book *Gay San Francisco: Eyewitness Drummer* (2008)



Author Jack Fritscher, with his Border Collie Guenevere, is the author of *Gay San Francisco: Eyewitness Drummer*.

Eyewitness Drummer tells the inside story of the Titanic 70s which partied on innocent of the iceberg of HIV that lay ahead. The 1970s was the first decade of liberation after Stonewall and shaped 1980s and 1990s leather culture. My sex writing begins in the head and works its way down; so, in a kind of triple-lutz reverse spin, my intellectual criteria for selection of articles, stories, photographs, and drawings are based on how much each entry reveals about the way we were. Because I respect other people’s intellectual property, I also paid particular attention to who owns the copyright allowing permission for reprints.

As a credential for shouldering this task, I was lucky enough to have the pivotal desk at Drummer when I was its founding San Francisco editor-in-chief in 1977 and continued on as its most frequent contributor until its last issue in 1999. You may know that I gave Robert Mapplethorpe his first magazine cover with Drummer 24 (1978) and he and I became a wild pair of bi-coastal lovers. The book reflects that sometimes it’s weird that some puritan gays who missed the Titanic 70s are a bit uptight about people who partied at Studio 54 and the Mineshaft with Mapplethorpe and Minnelli. As if the 1970s caused plague! Because vanilla gay history largely ignores leather culture, particularly leather magazine culture, I have aimed to write a narrative of leatherfolk that in my selections of writing and illustrations keeps hundreds of leather writers, photographers, artists, and personalities from falling through the cracks of GLBT history.

Somehow as a participant in the Titanic 70s I have survived and evolved into an eyewitness historian analyzing what we did. Drummer was gay popular culture. On its masthead, I added to the Thoreau tag

the line: "The American Journal of Gay Popular Culture." As an anal-retentive archivist, I have saved thousands of original manuscripts, photographs, drawings, and other memorabilia that tell a story if I take the time at this end of my life to connect all the dots together, which has also been my longtime objective at my free research site for leather history: www.JackFritscher.com.

Because of some latter-day revisionists who make up stuff to fit their politically correct agenda about leather and Drummer, I have tried to give a kind of written "oral history" of what happened even as I offer up internal evidence as absolute proof of our leather history from the artifacts I've saved and from the pages of Drummer itself. Actually, I'm probably the first queer historian to study the biblical pages, chapter and verse, of Drummer itself. Having earned my doctorate—can I say that and not lose street cred?—in literary criticism at Loyola University in 1967, I'll be the first to admit that history is like the Japanese classic film, (Akira Kurosawa's) Rashomon, which tells the same story four times from a different view each time.

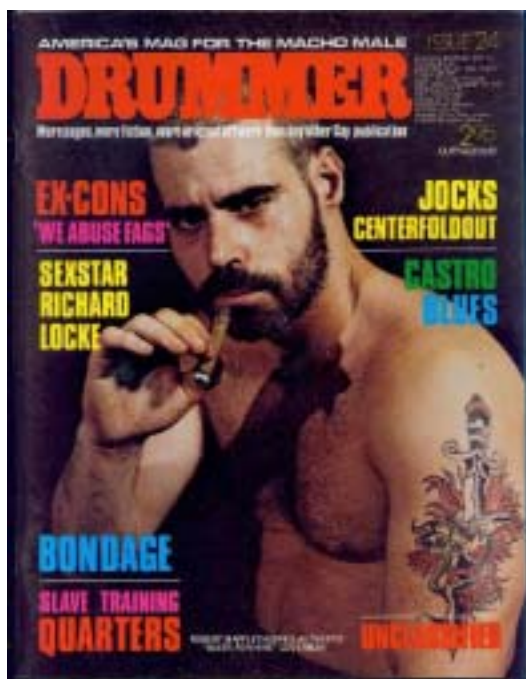
Actually, I have been working on collecting this book and writing its historical eyewitness thumbnails for nearly thirty years, not because I wanted to so much, but more because so many people told me I ought to because I'd been there and done that. Because I'm nearly seventy, I'm glad to be finishing this huge lifelong task I think I've been tricked into doing because it needed to be done and no one else wanted to do it. I seem to be the only farmer tend-

ing this field.

You asked about my personal favorites. Everything I wrote in Drummer was designed to help the reader beat off both his brain and his dick, and while I like Drummer fantasy fiction like "Corporal in Charge of Taking Care of Captain O'Malley," I prefer the hot true articles of erotic adventure a man could actually participate in such as "Cigar Blues," "Prison Blues," "Grand National Rodeo Blues," and "The Academy Training Center." All those "men's adventure" titles appear in Gay San Francisco: Eyewitness Drummer.



The infamous "Skulls of Akron" S&M group at the Mineshaft, from the Gay San Francisco: Eyewitness Drummer interview of Mineshaft founder Wally Wallace by Jack Fritscher; photo from the Wallace Collection printed with permission. From the book Gay San Francisco: Eyewitness Drummer (2008)



Cover, "Biker for Hire," photograph by Robert Mapplethorpe, Drummer 24 (September 1978). Years before photographer Robert Mapplethorpe became controversial and infamous and condemned by the US Senate for his shocking photographs of leather culture, he came to Jack Fritscher's desk at Drummer with portfolio in hand; Fritscher commissioned and cast Mapplethorpe's photograph for Drummer 24 (September 1978) which was Mapplethorpe's first cover.

Guard Post: *Drummer took its name from the famous aphorism of Henry David Thoreau. In what ways do you think various Drummer editors, say, yourself and Tony DeBlase, developed the philosophy encapsulated in that quote: "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."*

Jack Fritscher: My depth perception about Thoreau's line of marching to "a different drummer" is that two little mags preceded Drummer; and both were political in the revolutionary 1960s and the gay liberation 1970s. When Drummer debuted in 1975, Thoreau's tag was a natural anchor, especially after Drummer was busted by the LAPD and ridden out of LA on a rail. Here's a leather trivia bit: the Thoreau quote with its marching orders did not appear in Drummer 4 through Drummer 12.

Funny, you should mention "philosophy." The first publisher John Embry wanted to have a Drummer "Philosophy" because he envied Hugh Hefner's Playboy "Philosophy." Thoreau's take worked politically, but the real Drummer philosophy was the lifestyle we were all living in terms of sex, leather, S&M, and masculinity. Nevertheless, when the first anti-gay neocons appeared with Florida orange-juice-queen Anita Bryant and Jerry Falwell's Moral

Majority, Drummer fought them. Our editorial policy was occasionally militant, but first and foremost always erotic. Our Mr. Drummer contest was a staged "Drummer Philosophy" device that was invented to allow masculine leathermen to enjoy proud exhibition of their kind and then become centerfolds. As leather women emerged in the 1980s, they were also included in the pages and on stage. This is a typical revealing tidbit from the book: In October 1976, Drummer readers trashed the publisher and threatened to cancel their subscriptions because of the reviled gender-fuck cover of Drummer 9 which featured the LA "Cycle Sluts."

By the mid-70s it was an evident fact of 1960s gay liberation that a group few Americans suspected even existed had come out of the Stonewall closet: masculine-identified gay men. Shoulder to shoulder, they marched en masse to Drummer and as editor-in-chief, I tried to reflect their Thoreauvian independence, truth, and faces in stories and pictures that expressed their homomale identity. Don't take my word for it. For proof, check the Drummer personals where the most used word is masculine as in "Masculine seeking masculine." Masculine gay men began an alternative drum beat of self-fashioning identity, and stole a march on the exclusionary drag-queen-and-sissy culture that dominated GLBT culture. Investigation and widening of the concept of homomale identity made Drummer a grass-roots hit because Drummer did two things very well: its "sexual verite" reflected the readers and, synthesizing their tastes, invented and outlined all that the



Satanic leather photographer Robert Mapplethorpe tangled in a pas de deux with Fritscher at an early San Francisco gallery opening starring Mapplethorpe. The photographer Mapplethorpe and the writer Fritscher were bi-coastal lovers for nearly three years. The photo, by San Francisco paparazzo Rink, appeared on the back cover of Fritscher's 1994 memoir of their life together, Mapplethorpe: Assault with a Deadly Camera.



Cover, "Keith Ardent: Rubberotica," photograph by Jack Fritscher, Drummer 118 (December 1993). While Fritscher was filming sex-actor Keith Ardent in the video Pec Stud in Black Rubber, the robust but positive Ardent mentioned that one of his life goals was to be on the cover of Drummer. Fritscher said, "Together we can do that." The lovely fetish shot of "Keith Ardent," Fritscher's homage to the recently deceased Mapplethorpe, became one of the most artfully designed and popular covers of Drummer.

leather lifestyle might be. For instance, leather men—swear to God!—did not smoke cigars until after the "Cigar Blues" article in Drummer 22 (May 1978).

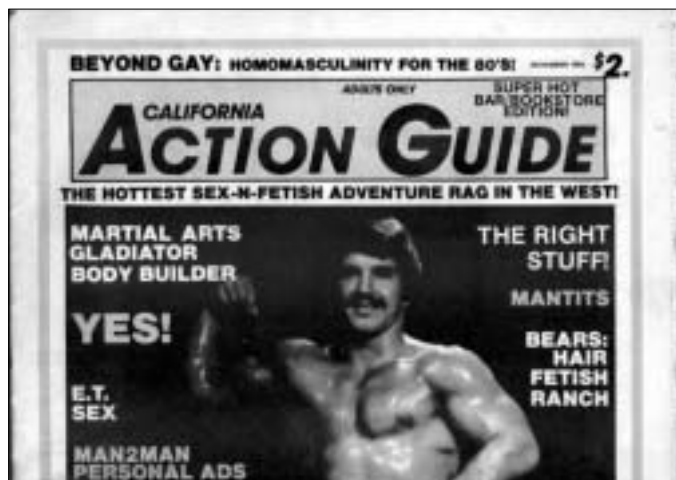
The magic of Drummer was that, in a perfect sex-helix, Drummer created the lifestyle it also reported. Owner-publisher, Tony DeBlase wrote nostalgically about the glory days of 1970s Drummer, and he so wanted them back that he hired me as a continuing editorial consultant to work on his version of Drummer from 1986 to 1991. He had me do my usual bit thinking up themes, writing articles, and shooting covers and centerfolds.

DeBlase thought that gay masculinity or homomale identity was the essence of leather that defined Drummer and separated it from the rest of the gay press. Drummer was famous for turning over staff—and not in a good way! Frankly, in among several great editors of Drummer some of the lesser in the Drummer food chain—like WeHo Ramada Inn night porter John Rowberry—were basically glorified clerks who were less than pro-active in driving Drummer.

One of the gossip joys of Gay San Francisco: Eyewitness Drummer is seeing where the bodies are buried because of office politics that—even at a homomale magazine—made All About Eve seem like a comedy. For me, one of the most aggressively creative and defining editors of Drummer was Joseph W. Bean who (full disclosure) has written an

introduction to Gay San Francisco. Actually, it was Joseph Bean who propped up the image, the writing, and the vision of the second Drummer owner, Tony DeBlase, whose gravitas and avoirdupois was kept afloat by Bean before and after the Drummer office was destroyed by the 1989 earthquake.

If Thoreau's marching aphorism meant anything, it threw down the gauntlet to effeminate gay culture that rather scoffs at and dismisses masculine men as not gay enough! That's something both Drummer and I have been accused of. Gee, we were just marching to a different drummer virilizing Drummer—which was a novelty for the gay, Gay, GAY press.



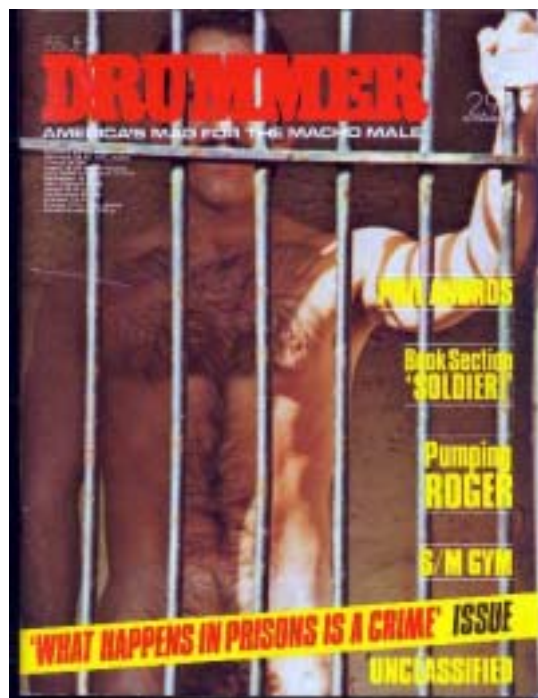
The California Action Guide tabloid was a "Virtual Drummer" handling sex and ideas like homomascularity that boiled over from Drummer as the Titanic 1970s party crashed into the iceberg of HIV in the 1980s.

Guard Post: *With the advent of such diverse (and diluting) movements as queer theory, metrosexuality, and androphilia, do you believe that the masculine ideals embodied in the Drummer man remain important as a focus for uniting the leather community?*

Jack Fritscher: Queer theory does not yet know what to do with homomascularity, because no queer academician has come along with a mind open and free enough of feminism to encompass the concept. Homomascularity exists in reciprocity to feminism; each needs the other to curb the potential gender fascism excesses of each. Masculine ideals are very important as a focus around which the leather community can unite as well as it can around the best of all the genderisms that abound today on the Kinsey "six" scale. Even from a safety issue, masculinity is important because as long as straights act on the mistaken idea that gay men want to be women, they will continue to bash and abuse us the way they do women because deep down they think it's okay to whip us into shape the way they have traditionally beat down females. Think of the Marine Corps putting down new recruits by calling them "Ladies." The threatening existence of homomascularity (among straights who understand its authentic implications) is the reason why gays are

not allowed in the military where masculinity is the bottom line. I mean, it would blow the circuits of a USMC platoon if its butchest soldier was a cock-smoker who could take them down or show them up because homomascularity deconstructs straight masculine stereotypes. As a vaccination against such real homophobic fear of fags, think of the ancient Greeks and Alexander and Hephaestion. Regarding uniting the leather community with its diverse genders, one must be careful so that no gender lifestyle becomes fascistic to another; masculinity per se is no better than femininity any more than patriarchy is any more acceptable than patriarchy. Eyewitness Drummer is for all leatherfolk. When I was fourteen, my Latin professor taught us tolerance in the Roman aphorism: "De gustibus non disputandum est." That means, "You can't argue about a person's taste or preference."

Metrosexuality was coined by author Mark Simpson in Britain in 1994 in the same way that I as author coined homomascularity in 1978 for Drummer. Metrosexuality is not a psychological gender state. Metrosexuality is a nice grooming concept that Madison Avenue loves because it sells commercial products to a new consumer who appreciates the appeal of its avatars like David Beckham. Androphilia is a useful word meaning "love of males," and it could apply literally to straight women. Truth be told: author Jack Malabranche, who is a pal, sent me the uncorrected



Cover, "John Trowbridge: Behind Bars," shot by Jack Fritscher and his ten-year domestic partner, David Sparrow, Drummer 21 (March 1978). Drummer ran 214 issues from June 20, 1975, to its end, December 31, 1999. Drummer 21, featuring the classic true-life article, "Prison Blues," may have been the "Most Perfect Issue of Drummer" in terms of content, writing, photography, layout design, and especially, attitude, because with issue 21, Drummer hit the stride that began to build its legend.

galley proofs of his book, *Androphilia*, and, admire Malabranche as I do, I nevertheless found it to be rather anti-woman, and so I asked him not to include my name or my coinage, homomascularity, in his book because I am neither separatist nor anti-female. I like the introverted concept of homomascularity because it defines a non-exclusionary “way of being” between two men based on their Platonic Ideal of virility. It also does not exclude gay women and lesbians, because my companion coinage is homofemininity. Homomascularity is an inclusive concept that respects alternative sexuality even as it expects to be respected. Like: “Okay, you can be a sissy, so let me be a gay man. What’s good for you is good for me.” Unfortunately, as any analyst can prove, the gay press is as anti-homomascularity as it is heterophobic! What an effing shame! It’s that ghetto myopia that limits gay vision to the horizon of WeHo and Chelsea, and Christopher, Folsom, and Castro streets.

Guard Post: What do you feel the Drummer legacy is for leather and the larger gay communities?

Jack Fritscher: *Drummer* is the Rosetta Stone of leather. And attention, as Arthur Miller wrote, must be paid. *Drummer* itself, and its very pages, are altogether a wonderful key legacy for the leather community, because *Drummer* is a time capsule of our species of GLBT history. Even the *Drummer* ads, personal and display, tell us about our desires, fantasies, and sexuality. *Drummer* was an identity document and it deserves both appreciation and study. It was the dominant document of leather in the last twenty-five years of the twentieth century. It’s that kind of scope that the reader will find in *Gay San Francisco: Eyewitness Drummer* which picks up and continues the leather-heritage investigations that former *Advocate* editor Mark Thompson began so perfectly in his anthology book, *Leatherfolk: Radical Sex, People, Politics, and Practice* (1991).

Guard Post: What will buyers find between the covers of the four-volume collection?

Jack Fritscher: What will readers find between the covers? What everyone climbing into someone else’s bed discovers between the covers: sex, lies, greed, history, legendary endowments, humor, depravity, gossip, perversion, murder, deceit, infidelity, drugs, scatology, ambition, equivocation, character assassination, slander, blasphemy, aspersion, betrayal, distortion, racism, ungodliness, sodomy—and that’s just the politically correct critics of *Drummer*!

This four-volume series has lots of illustrations—photos and drawings—and totals nearly 2,000 pages, so a person can begin reading anywhere, or can check Mark Hemry’s Google-worthy index in order to dive in any place at their own point of interest. Read around in it on a plane. Keep it on your coffee table, or next to your bed. Just don’t try to insert it into your DVD player.



Cover, “Donnie Russo: Russomania,” photograph by Jack Fritscher, *Drummer* 170 (December 1993). Working both page and screen, Fritscher spiked up the edgy contents of *Drummer* with the even edgier contents of the 150 homomacho features he cast, directed, and filmed for his company Palm Drive Video.

Guard Post: Is there anything else you would like our readers to know about this Gay San Francisco collection?

Jack Fritscher: What I would wish the readers to know is that this book is a true autobiography of us—of all of us leatherfolk. I hope they find that it’s meant to be fun and useful, that it is a work in progress, and that it is, in my mind, a community document which I have dared start. It takes a village to raise a child; so, I guess, it will take the Village People to complete this living book written in human blood on human skin.

If someone has new information to add, or a correction to make, or feels I gave someone short shrift or a dirty deal, I wish to encourage them to email me jack@jackfritscher.com so I can consider adding their point of view to my point of view. After all, my writing about *Drummer* is a lot like a film director’s commentary about his movie on a DVD track. It’s mostly subjective, plus I’m a Gemini, so everything is subject to change.

IN CLOSING

Once again, all of us at *Guard Post* would like to thank Mr. Fritscher for taking the time to talk with us about *Best of Drummer* and providing all of the images (and caption information) from *Drummer*’s past and forthcoming *Eyewitness* volumes. For more information about Jack Fritscher and Palm Drive please visit www.JackFritscher.com. We would like to wish Jack all the best with the new collection series, and hope everyone will take the opportunity to read and view the modern leather community’s birth and golden years. ▼

BEAR BEER EDITORIAL

... That Was Then and This is Now

SOMETIMES it's best to break with tradition and make a change. Our readers and patrons will have noticed that the Guard did just that in past year when we departed our previous venue. The details of the move are unimportant; what matters is that it was time for change. With the change of venue has come a new opportunity, a chance to build stronger relations within the community and with our new venue partners.

DOUBLE TIME

Once again change has presented us with opportunity. At the start January, the Guard teamed up with the Northeast Ursamen, at our new home the Triangles Cafe. The Ursamen, is one of the largest bear organizations on the East Coast, and just like the Guard, the Ursamen like to provide opportunities to meet and enjoy time together in a variety of safe and fun social environments.

Another team-up that's been a long time coming also happened in January, when the Guard traveled up to Hartford to hook up with long-time associate The Hartford Eagle for a joint bar night.

For those not familiar with The Hartford Eagle, it began in 1994 as an occasional party to promote social and service-oriented events within the Gay Community throughout

Connecticut, as well as to raise money for the Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective. The Guard enjoyed these joint ventures with our fellow CT institutions and hope that they will be the building blocks for further joint activities and events in the future.



for sale, patrons bring in their old leather goods to be sold at set and reasonable prices at the gathering. Think e-bay without the shipping costs.

CARPE DIEM, BABY!

The Guard is definitely seizing the opportunity to change and grow. The events in the upcoming months are just a few of those already planned. Several more unusual events are on the drafting table which we hope will build momentum, not only for ourselves, but for the leather community in Connecticut at large. Stay tuned! ▼

READY TO SWAP?

In May 2008, the Guard is resurrecting an old leather practice which hasn't been seen in Connecticut since the days of the Thunderbolts MC some 20 years ago.

Before the days of e-bay, there were small leather flea markets called Swap & Shops. They differ from the vendor markets at larger events; instead of having new items

RUMOR HAS IT

Well more than a rumor. The once famous Sunday afternoon bear beer blast bar is trying to make a come back. After so few years losing patrons, and reputation for being the place to be on Sunday afternoons, The Dugout, located on the corner of Christopher and Weehawken, is now trying to make a comeback as the West Village's leather and bear bar.

At the moment The once great gay sports bar courting the leather and bear community, has not become the hotspot for NYC leather & bear crowd. But, then it will take some time for former patrons to forget and forgive the managements decision to change to a chi chi dance club not so long ago. ▼

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