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MANDATE

COVER



Man alive! He's all man, and he's rivetingly alive. Clint Lockner's the name, and he's the newest hot honcho from Colt Studios, who lensed this month's hot cover feature.



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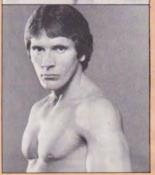
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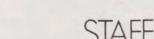
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DISTRIBUTION: Circulation Director—Ed Dakota
MANDATE IS DISTRIBUTED EXCLUSIVELY BY PUBLISHERS DISTRIBUTING CORPORATION,
PDC, 2 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016.

Mandate is published monthly by Modernismo Publications Ltd. Editorial and production offices are located at 155 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013. Phone: (212) 691-7700. Mandate is distributed nationally and in Canada by Publishers Distributing Corp. Mandate is registered with the U.S. Patent Office, the entire contents is copyrighted by Modernismo and the Library of Congress. Reproduction of editorial or advertising contents in any way whatsoever without the written permission of the publisher is strictly prohibited. The publisher assumes no responsibility for the claims of advertisers and has the right to reject any advertising. The inclusion of an individual's name or photograph in this publication implies nothing whatsoever about that individual's sexual orientation. Artwork and manuscripts may be submitted to Mandate at 155 Avenue of Americas, New York 10013. Publisher assumes no responsibility for loss or damage of materials submitted. Subscription rate: \$29.00 for 12 issues. (NOTE: Subscriber lists are never rented or sold.)



FABULOUSLY FUTURISTIC: This issue spotlights Star Warsy obsessions, from fashion to an absolutely extraterrestrial centerfold. The outfit above, which wouldn't be inappropriate on Buck Rogers in the 25th century or on Luke Skywalker, is actually contemporary clothing designed by Larry Le Gaspi, whose silver lame Labelle costumes provided them with an instantly sensational image. To check out today's very tomorrow designs by Le Gaspi, check out "Outer Limits" on page 24. For an icy interstellar art work, see "Darker Demons" on page 57. And our special centerfold feature, "1980: Space Oddity," melds male nudity and a galaxy far, far away. Happy black holes, everyone.

THROW ANOTHER FAGGOT ON THE FIRE

Did you know that female arsonists tend to be lesbians? And that a male arsonist who happens to be gay sets fires-and will probably continue to do so -because these acts are "...initiated by hatred, jealousy or other uncontrolled emotions..."? These choice titbits of homophobic nonsense might have been laughable had they not appeared in the National Fire Academy's arson manual. Given the general anti-gay sentiments of America's uniformed public safety organizations, this type of "scapegoatism" perpetuates and promotes yet another myth aimed at justifying heterosexual harassment of gays. Rising to the occasion, co-executive directors of the National Gay Task Force Charles F. Brydon and Lucia F. Valeska filed a complaint and, after being reviewed by White House officials, the offending material was deleted from the fire manual. Said Gordon Vickery, U.S. Fire Administration Administrator: "While those materials assert that arson is in part associated with homosexuality, they are not sufficiently documented to objectively support the assertion. Consequently, I have instructed the Superintendent of the National Fire Academy to take those steps necessary

to delete...statements which might directly or by inference tend to unfairly discriminate against any group or otherwise give academic credibility to conventional prejudices."

GAY ARTS

The first Gay American Arts Festival was held in New York City this past May and June. The festival, which we hope will become an annual event, featured the best from gay men and women in all areas of the arts. To get an idea of the scope of the festival one only had to read the program that included such diversified events as productions of Robert Patrick's play, "T-Shirts" starring skin star Jack Wrangler; Doric Wilson's new play, "Forever After"; and Theatre Rhinoceros' "Richmond Jim," discussed opposite; readings and discussions featuring Edmund White, John Rechy, Ned Rorem, and Pulitzer Prize winning poet Richard Howard; performances by the New York Gay Community Marching Band, comedy by Robin Tyler and Pat Bodn (the outspoken WAC from the film "Word is Out"), dance performances by Mischief Mime and Two Men Dancing; a gay graphic arts exhibition, drawing and photography exhibits. One of the main events was a benefit for The Glines, a sponsor of the whole festival, which featured Marsha Malamet. Michael Pace and David MacDaniel from the group "Gotham" and very special guest star Eartha Kitt. There was also a series of motion pictures by and about gay men and women, including Shirley Clarke's legendary "Portrait of Jason." And this is only a taste of what happened during the festival! Events were rounded off by the Gay Pride Day march. It was an exhilarating experience for everyone and we at Mandate would like to take this opportunity to say "Thanks" for a job well done. Significantly, the National Council for the Arts and the New York State Arts Council contributed \$10,000 toward the festival's cost. Times do change.

ERRATUM

When excerpts from Edmund White's book States of Desire: Travels in Gay America appeared (April 1980), the layout should have included the following information: "Excerpted from the book States of Desire: Travels in Gay America by Edmund White, by permission of the publisher E.P. Dutton. Copyright © 1980 by Edmund White." We regret the omission.

Cal Yeoman's play Richmond Jim moved from San Francisco to New York.

LEATHER ONSTAGE

Heavy Leather is not just a way of life; it's the subject of Cal Yeoman's play, Richmond Jim, which premiered in 1979 at San Francisco's Theatre Rhinoceros. Pictured above are Randy Bennett,

Charlie Hufford and Joe Cappetta who recreated their original roles in a recent Theatre Rhinoceros revival of the play. After playing San Francisco on a double bill with Robert Chesley's, Hell, I Love You, the troup moved on to The Glines in New York City for a limited run. Richmond Jim is the story of a young

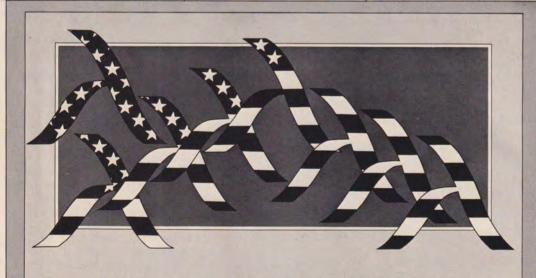
DATA

WHO'S WHO AND WHAT'S WHAT

man from Virginia who moves to New York to find life, love...and leather.

FUN COUPLES

News has leaked out that gay men really aren't woman-haters. In their recently published book, The New Couple, Rebecca Nahas and Myra Turley explore the intricacies of straight women/gay men relationships. The two sociologists interviewed 110 subjects as the basis for their study, which concludes that gay men and non-gay women can complement each other emotionally and, at times, sexually. The study shows that quite often these friendships are stronger and more open to each partner's needs than if a heterosexual man were involved. While this subject may not be to everyone's taste, in the light of both gay and women's liberation, it is certainly worth more attention than a passing nod. For those interested, The New Couple is published hardbound at \$9.95 by Seaview Books, And, for those who find that friendship with a woman does naturally lead to bed, a second book might help iron out some of the kinks this adds to a relationship-especially if marriage is considered. Barry and Alice, Portrait of a Bisexual Marriage is an upfront account of a loving marriage that also allows each partner gay sexual freedom. Authors Barry Kohn and Alice Matusow advocate sexual honesty in this type of marriage and they include suggestions about dealing effectively with the problems facing a bisexual couple.



GAY FREEDOM IN AMERICA

GAY RIGHTS ADVOCATES-SAN FRANCISCO

PRODUCED FOR GAY RIGHTS ADVOCATES BY LANGLEY-TACKES, REAL ESTATE, SF, AND DESIGNED BY ON SIGHT, SF 1980

Political gay poster art reaches a high artistic plane with this current one from Gay Rights Advocates.



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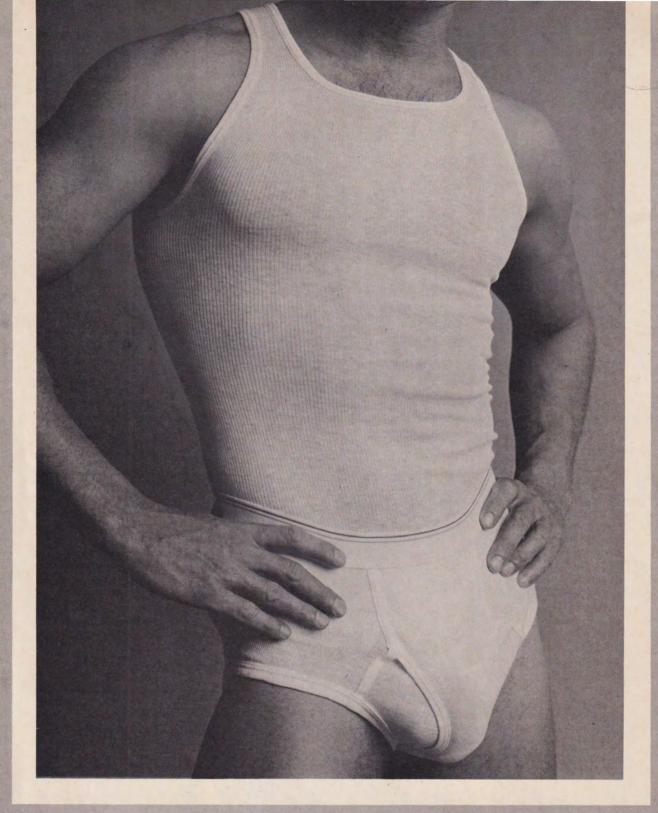
Reviews by Michael Llewellyn

GAY THEATRE ALLIANCE DIRECTORY OF GAY PLAYS, Compiled and Edited with an Introduction by Terry Helbing. 122 pages. JH Press. Paper. \$5.95.

A much needed reference book is this well-researched compendium of plays with gay themes and/or major gay characters. Mr. Helbing has compiled a listing of over 400 works by famous, infamous and obscure playwrights, and the reading is fascinating whether the reader's interest comes from being onstage, backstage or offstage. They're all there from Edward Albee, Mart Crowley, and Noel Coward to Doric Wilson, John Herbert and Albert Innaurato. And even Mae West. The play listings are alphabetized by title with information on the author, type (musical, drama, etc.), number of acts, characters and sets, a synopsis and much more. There is also an Appendix of lost plays, an alphabetical index of playwrights and an interesting introduction by Helbing. This is the first book of its type and is a very practical, well-organized guide for anyone concerned with gay theatre, a valuable addition to any library of important homosexual works.

OLIVER BUTTON IS A SISSY. Story and Pictures by Tomie de Paolo. A Voyager/HBJ Book. \$2.45. It has never been Mandate's policy to review children's books, but we decided to make an exception in the case of Oliver. It deserves mention for several reasons, having an unusual sensitivity toward a special problem: being different. It can be related to on a number of levels (most gay men and women will doubtless see something of themselves in Oliver's story), and children, whether or not they share Oliver's dilemma, will be better little people having read the book. It should especially be considered by gay parents who simply want to acquaint their son or daughter with what it means to be set apart from the crowd, for whatever reason, and manages to be influential without being preachy. Poignantly presented by gifted writer and illustrator, Tomie de Paolo, Oliver will leave you with a warm feeling, adult and child alike, letting you know you're not alone in just wanting to be

yourself.

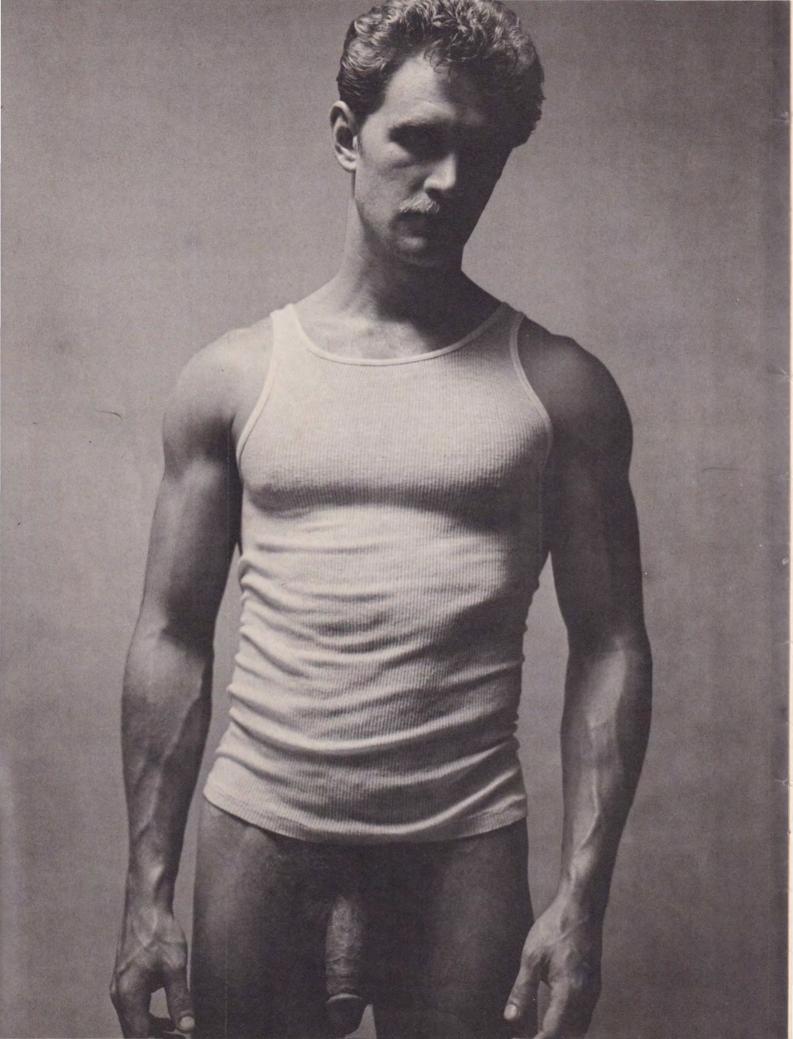


U.S. MALE

Sometimes what you don't see can be more provocative than what you do see. An athletic tee shirt and a pair of jockey shorts on the right man often gives a tantalizing preview of what might be hidden underneath. If this photograph makes you wonder, turn the page to see if you were right!

Photograph by U.S. Studio

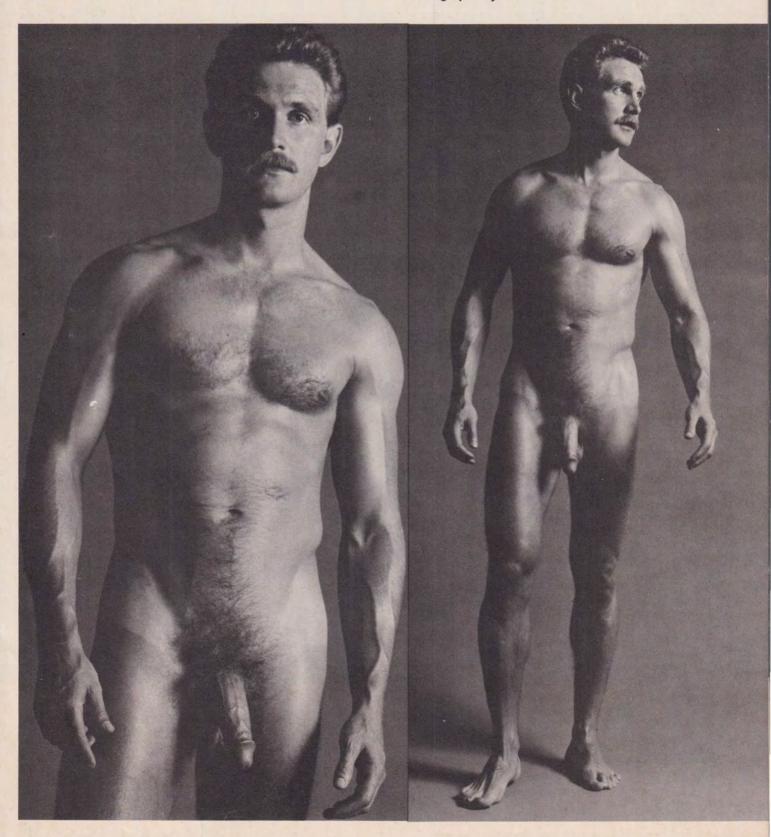
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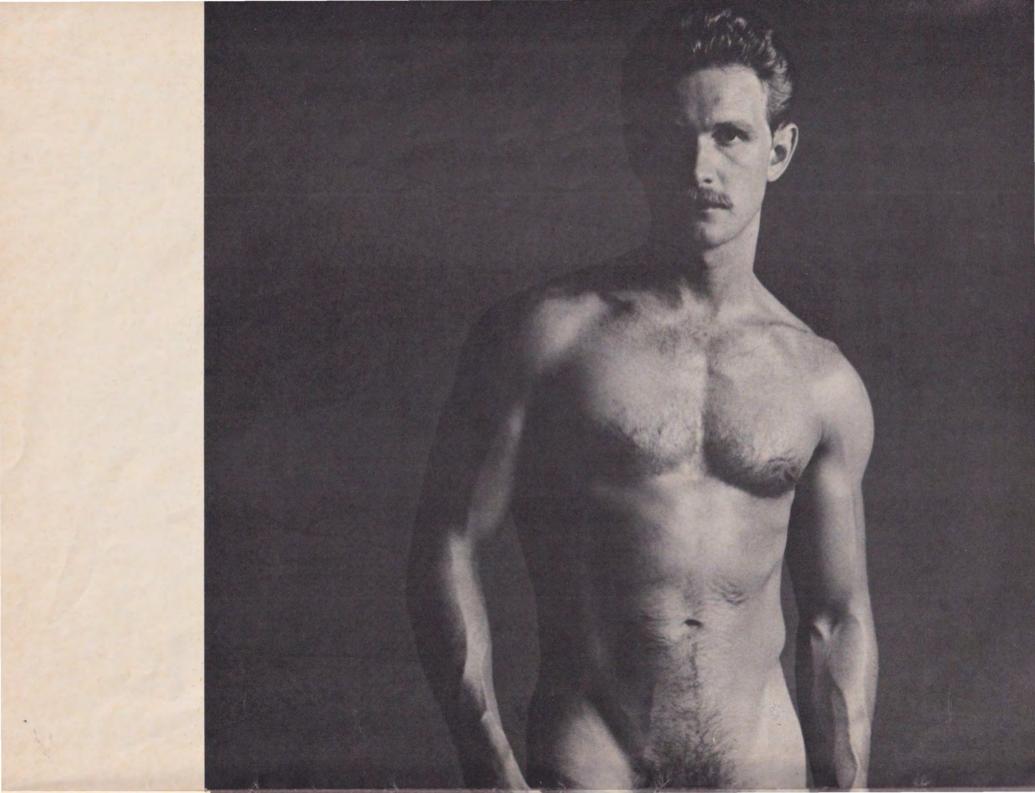


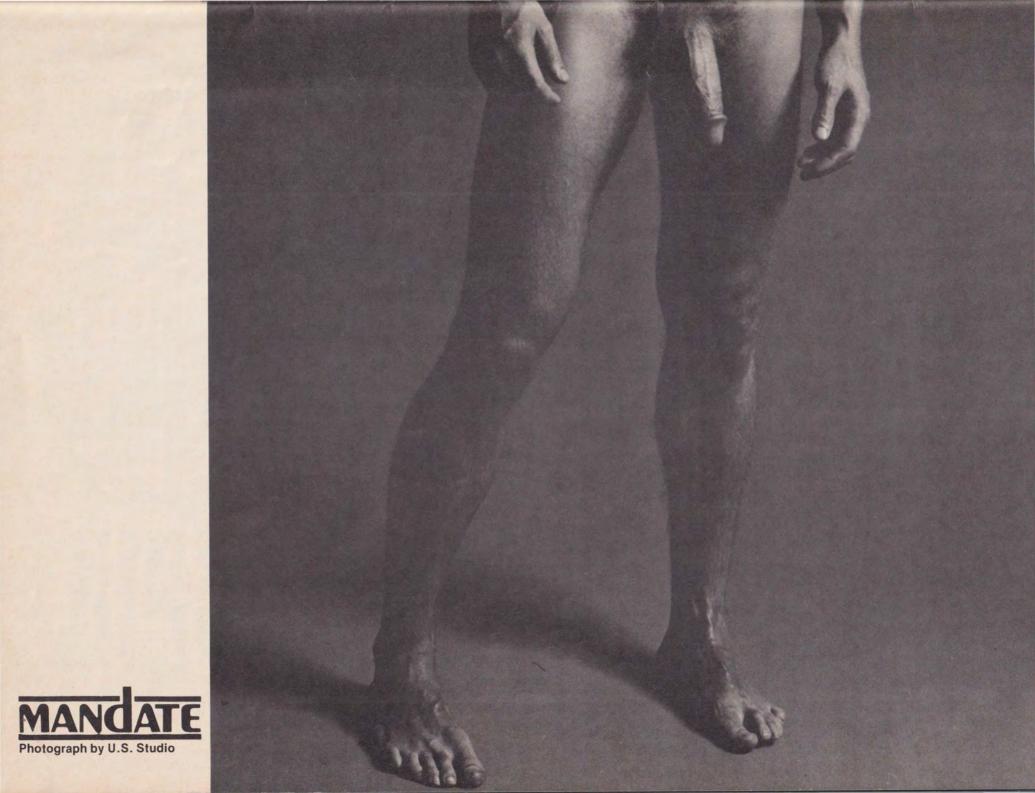
U.S. MALE

In or out of clothing, the combination of handsome innocence and rugged masculinity make this U.S. male from U.S. Studio's Book of James a winner in anyone's book.

Photographs by U.S. Studio







SUDERSIAD: ITHEN

Merle Oberon

By George Haddad-Garcia



Merle Oberon played George Sand in A Song to Remember, above, after her Cathy opposite Laurence Olivier's Heathcliffe in Wuthering heights launched her career.

In what was perhaps her last interview, Merle Oberon discussed Hollywood's legendary denizens.

"I was very, very lucky in my career," said the always beautiful and still beautiful Merle Oberon, in what may have been her last interview, in Santa Barbara, California, where she was being honored by the American Film Institute during a gala evening.

The exotic brunette was born in Tasmania, journeyed to England, married super-producer Sir Alexander Korda and became a top star in movies like Wuthering Heights, The Dark Angel, The Private Life of Henry VIII, These Three (the first screen version of The Children's Hour), Desiree and Hotel.

The day after Thanksgiving, 1979, she passed away unexpectedly, having spent the previous afternoon alone, strolling on the beach at Malibu, where her beach house neighbored that of old friend and co-star Laurence Olivier. During the exclusive interview, she joked, "Yes, it's still possible to see Cathy and Heathcliffe on the beach together."

Not too long before, Ms. Oberon had undergone open-heart surgery, but she recovered nicely and was planning to move to Montecito, a Santa Barbara suburb, where her neighbor would have been tired sex symbol Jane Russell (TV's "full-figured girl"). Oberon left behind a handsome 40ish widower, her fourth husband, Dutch actor Robert Wolders, who co-starred in her last film, the made-in-Yucatan Interval, about a May-December romance amid the Mayan pyramids. She also is survived by a son and daughter, who shared her legendary home in Acapulco, where she was hostess to international VIPs, often commuting to other mansions in Mexico City and

Recalled the still-beautiful actress of 70, "I'd always wanted to be a star. Naturally, I started at the bottom, and when they gave me the role of Anne Boleyn in *The Private Life of Henry VIII*, I was thrilled. After all, she was the mother of Elizabeth I. But although that was my first big break, I had a tiny part, and if you blinked twice, you could see the film and miss me. I was furious, I protested. The producer, of course, was Korda, but he was wrapped up with Charles Laughton at the time.

"Laughton was concerned with Elsa Lanchester and also with another young English actress, Binnie Barnes. So no one paid me much attention. I determined I would try and steal a scene, but I was a beginner, and that was hopeless...."

What about Laughton's homosexuality? Was it privately known at the time?

She revealed, "I had guessed at it, and I noticed how extremely cordial and attentive he was to younger, more attractive men. But he seemed torn between their company and being with Lanchester and also doing his best, because he wasn't a huge star at the time. So he was rather testy on the set, and he was good at getting his own way. He was always a large man, and rather intimidating. He knew, I think, that he had huge talent."

Merle later worked with Laughton again in the aborted von Stroheim movie version of *I*, *Claudius*. She played Messalina and the Englishman was the stuttering, lame emperor. "By comparison," she smiled, "he was a pussycat when we did *Henry VIII*. He was better known, and he was intimidated by the role of Claudius. There was an inner turmoil in him, and it had nothing to do with his homosexuality. He was a very private man, and friends and co-stars couldn't get inside his mind easily."

It was while making I, Claudius in London that the actress was involved



in a terrible taxi accident which sent her through the windshield and badly mangled her face, so that Korda thought she would have to give up acting for good. Fortunately, extensive plastic surgery restored her unique looks, and she went on to greater triumphs in America, where producer Sam Goldwyn took her under his wing—and wanted to give her a part in his personal life, as well.

"He chose everything I did, at the time," Merle explained. "He had such high quality standards and I was lucky to be his protegee. But I nearly didn't get into my most famous film, Wuthering Heights, because they originally wanted Bette Davis for the part, although she and Goldwyn never got along. Larry (Olivier) was also a second thought for the role of Heathcliffe."

She remembered fondly, "Larry had been brought to Hollywood to co-star with Garbo in *Queen Christina*, but she favored John Gilbert, her old friend and leading man, who had fallen on hard times after talkies, because of his high voice. So Larry went back to London and the stage, which he much preferred. Larry kept turning down the Americans' offers, but he eventually agreed to do *Wuthering Heights*. I never did find out how they persuaded him, either.

"In the first days of shooting, he was made up for the Old Vic, and he overacted badly, perhaps as a prank. Larry has a huge sense of humor, and it was even greater in those days. He also had a bad case of athlete's foot and he looked at me. I didn't know if he liked me or not, if I was good or not. At one point in the death scene, he said, 'A little more tears in the left eye.' I said, 'Thank you very much. The first bit of direction you have given me in six weeks is a little more tears!' Thank heavens everything was worth it, in the end.

"It's the one film everyone always asks me about. They all want to know what Larry was really like. They keep saying he was so beautiful, and he really was. I used to be afraid that they would only look at him; he was practically the handsomest man I'd ever seen, and yet we were only friends. But very good friends."

The actress was vague about her early life in Tasmania or in England, and she never succumbed to the temptation to write an autobiography. Her first husband was Korda; then she married Lucien Ballard, a French cameraman and a painter. Her third and longest union was with multi-millionaire Bruno Pagliai, who built her dream house in Acapulco, later sold to the Shah of Iran. The world was shocked when Merle left him for a much younger man, the ash blond Wolders, with whom she moved to California

Of their marriage, she would only say, "Love can come at any age, and if one doesn't seize love and return it, one is likely to feel the loss for the rest of one's days. I love Bob and he loves me. Age doesn't even enter into our relationship. I couldn't help falling in love with him."

Sadly, their lushly romantic film In-

do unworthwhile things. After all, I don't need to work."

Ms. Oberon, though reluctant to discuss her private life or family, was fond of looking back at her career and co-stars, though she emphasized that she seldom saw her old movies and didn't dwell in the past. In 1954, she starred in Desiree, playing the Empress Josephine opposite Marlon Brando's mumbly Napoleon. She remembered, "Brando was ill at ease and I got the impression he didn't even want to do the film. He said the Napoleon outfit was too tight and ridiculous, and he kept scratching himself. He was very funny and he could be charming, but he also had a very blue vocabulary and he preferred the company of men to women.

"While we were shooting, he occasionally would do things like wink at me or smile strangely, trying to get me to laugh. He was a very un-serious young man, but the sort one could forgive almost anything. He could be difficult on the director and technicians, but he was always nice to the other actors, and I'm sorry we didn't have more scenes together. Like Larry, he was extremely handsome, but in a more down to earth kind of way. I don't think we had nearly as much in common as Larry and I did, however."

Merle Oberon was nominated once for an Academy Award, for The Dark Angel, a part she said was closest to her own personality. She mused, "Oscar and I were never close. Wuthering Heights came towards the beginning of my career, and it was so famous that I was never able to top myself. Maybe that kept me from ever getting an Oscar, I'm not sure. It would have been nice to have it, as a seal of approval, but the main thing was to keep working, and I did. I made the films I wanted, and then when everything changed, I stopped, for the most part.

She also co-starred in These Three in 1936, which followed on the heels of Lillian Hellman's success as a playwright with The Children's Hour. But because of the Hays Office (of censorship), lesbianism-the theme of the play-was entirely omitted from the celluloid version, and the film became a typical heterosexual triangle. Merle stated, "I thought that was rather a cheat. It changed everything, so why, I asked some studio executives, did they bother to buy the play for a film? They said, 'Because it was a hit.' But they didn't even keep the same title, because they feared audiences would

Continued to page 36

"I have several friends who are homosexual men, but it must be their decision if they wish to reveal that aspect of their lives."

hobbled around on crutches, though you can't notice the limp in the picture. Goldwyn was appalled, and he decided not to use the first days' rushes. He would moan, 'Thees actor is the ogliest actor in peectures.' He thought Larry would ruin the film.

"So the make-up was removed and he downplayed his gestures. His foot improved, too.

"I also suffered," she laughed.
"Goldwyn ordered take after take. In
the end, Willie Wyler, the director,
was cutting little pieces of film together. He was so busy he never

terval flopped in the U.S., though it did fair business in Mexico and Europe. The lady lamented, "There is so little romance in films today, and looks now count for more than genuine talent. It's a pity when actresses like Katharine Hepburn and Bette Davis can't get financing for a new picture." She added, "I haven't made many movies lately because I fought hard to become a star, and I want to remain one. I don't want to play grandmothers and old ladies. That's not what I am, and I'd rather leave behind memories of beautiful pictures than

SUPERSIAD: NOW

Faye Dundway By George Haddad-Garcia

"I do not think of myself as awfully remarkable or terribly attractive. But if I'm going to put everything I have into an acting job, whatever it may be—unusual, challenging or commercial—then it has to be worthwhile for me and for the audience. In other words, remarkable. One way or another."

Faye Dunaway just finished filming The First Deadly Sin with Frank Sinatra, a project shrouded in secrecy. Her other recent films, very varied—The Champ, Eyes of Laura Mars, Voyage of the Damned, Network, for which she won an Oscar, Chinatown, Three Days of the Condor and Three/Four Musketeers—all demonstrate the care with which she chooses her roles. In one way or another, they are all remarkable.

Dunaway is one of the few genuine female superstars in American cinema, yet she works less often than hardly any other superstar, except perhaps Warren Beatty, her co-star in Bonnie and Clyde. For the past few years, she has struggled in a relationship with rock musician Peter Wolff of the J. Geile Band: rumors of divorce started almost from the first, and though she said, shortly after the wedding, that she wanted a baby soon, she is still childless, which suits her fine. She has had an alleged romance with a handsome British photographer, and there were rumors of an affair with Omar Sharif (Fave likes her men foreign or distinguished or both). Currently, she is co-owner of a southern California boutique/art gallery.

Faye's other romances have included a long, passionate one with Marcello Mastroianni—who said he loved the American more than any other woman, including his wife Flora and Catherine Deneuve, mother of his daughter Chiara. She had a reported fling with Warren Beatty—who hasn't?

—and also romanced the late comic Lenny Bruce, director Jerry Schatzberg and actor Harris Yulin. On the set of *Three Days of the Condor* there was talk of an attraction between her and Redford—probably untrue—but Lola Redford nevertheless sent her two children to stay with daddy for the duration of the shooting.

In Florida, long ago, young Faye admitted to having a thing for football players and nearly married one. For



Outspoken Faye Dunaway's next film, The First Deadly Sin, teams her with Frank Sinatra.

such a big star, she is surprisingly frank and cooperative in discussing her personal life and attitudes:

"It's no secret that I also lived with a number of men before I met Peter. I'm a firm believer that you learn from experience and your cumulative mistakes. These former relationships helped me; I learned how to avoid certain precarious situations. My previous relationships were mainly with actors. Perhaps I felt a special attraction to them, or simply they were at hand.

"But a more plausible explanation is that actors are a darned sight more attractive than your average doctor or lawyer. To say nothing of singers they're really divine!"

She admits that her liaison with Mastroianni was, before Wolff, her most affecting romance. "When we were filming A Place for Lovers together, I suppose I was merely fulfilling that old cliche about the actress falling for her handsome leading man. Sure, I'd had crushes before on some of the actors with whom I'd worked—and vice versa, let me tell you—but they were nothing compared to this. I was convinced that Marcello and I were on the same wavelength right after we first met, but events were to prove me wrong.

"It was my longest relationship with any man up to that point in my life. But I had a premonition that it wouldn't last. Our natures and temperaments were too different. Shall we simply say that I am very American and Marcello is too Italian." The time came when the actress wanted more than a liaison, but the Italian was unwilling to divorce, for the wife is still sacred in Italian culture, although a man may play around with other women, or men, for that matter.

Faye made a clean break and soon found another man. "Harris (Yulin) is a dear, good person. The trouble was that I fell in love with him on the rebound from Marcello. That often happens in life, even though people refuse to realize it. Eventually, we both came to the conclusion that this sort of a relationship wasn't fair to either of us."

"I don't just look for sex or love in a man; I also want comprehension, someone who understands my fears and dreams and longings, my moods."

Faye Dunaway

But what about her once-undiscussed relationship with the late Lenny Bruce?

"I knew my relationship with Lenny would never last," she states very soberly, which isn't her typical manner, despite her ice-cold screen image. "He was too self-destructive. When we met, I was just a struggling actress working with the Lincoln Center company. I found his immensely attractive personality irresistible. He was perhaps the wittiest man I'd ever met, funny in the most ironic sense of the word.

"To be with Lenny in his good mo-



During her career, Dunaway has starred opposite Redford, above, in Three Days of the Condor, and with Steve McQueen, George C. Scott and Marcello Mastrojanni.

ments was like being with a half-dozen ordinary men. What was nice about our relationship was that we accepted each other for what we were, without asking for any changes. We both knew it couldn't last, so we weren't heart-broken when it was over. But there was, on my part, more than just a touch of regret."

She continues with the saga of her many loves, "I met Jerry Schatzberg on my first film. It was for Sam Spiegel and called The Happening. It was not a good movie, but one cannot always choose the initial opportunity. But I have nice feelings about the picture for no other reason than because it provided the occasion for meeting Jerry. He was a photographer at the time, assigned to do special work on the film. We hit it off immediately. What more can I say?" Did she again feel the relationship could not last? She shrugs and joes, "I've always been inclined to Semitic-looking men with handlebar moustaches.

"We were together two years, which was then my average tenancy with a man. Jerry was still married at the time. It was a very exciting period in both our lives. I landed Bonnie and Clyde and The Thomas Crown Affair; Jerry decided that he was through with photography and he directed his first movie, Panic in Needle Park, with Al Pacino. Unfortunately, our individual work was so intense and demanding and it put a strain on our relationship, and before we realized it, we'd gone from being lovers to being good friends."

On the topic of specific men, Ms. Dunaway is either very open or very close-mouthed. When asked about Jon Peters—he told the world that Faye accepted the lead in Eyes of Laura Mars after his former client



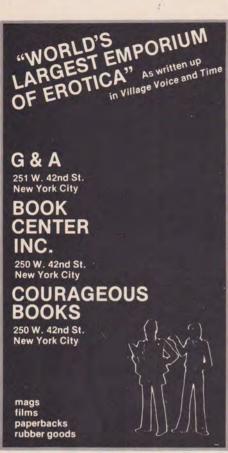


Streisand rejected it—she only grimaces; reports from that set had her scrapping almost daily with her producer, who was sometimes accompanied by his frizzle-haired girlfriend. Nor will she comment for publication on George C. Scott, with whom she did the expensive flop Oklahoma Crude. Queried about current leading man Frank Sinatra, she waves her hand negatively, not saying a word, although her eyes are alive and expressive.

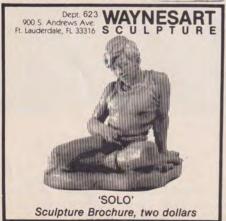
"I've said some things I shouldn't have, in the past, and I'm trying lately to be more discreet. At least about controversial men, or men I haven't had the best experiences with." One anonymous co-star called her a lunatic, and her press often paints her as semi-hysterical and difficult to work with. When she starred for TV in Sister Aimee with Bette Davis, the two women had only sarcastic comments about each other, ending up by not speaking to each other, except through intermediaries—and despite the younger star's regard for the living



Bonnie and Clyde, left, catapulted Dunaway to stardom; she won an Oscar for Network, above.







legend

What about the rumor that John Huston and she didn't get along on Chinatown, and that in the final slapping scenes, he insisted on several retakes, smacking her too hard on the kisser, over and over? "I don't talk about rumors. Totally useless. It's a no-win situation."

But the talkative star will discuss her past, with or without men. She recalls, "I was an army brat. My father was a sergeant, a 30-year-man, and the family drifted from base to base. I can see how this itinerant life affected my younger brother; for years he has hardly budged from Washington, where he's a lawyer. Anyway, my mother and father decided to divorce. The court awarded us to her. I was terribly hurt, even offended, because my father was leaving us.

"I loved my father very much, and I took the divorce very personally. Any amateur psychologist can tell you what a daddy means to a girl." Has the rest of her life, in her opinion, been a search for a handsome surrogate father? She shrugs. "I wouldn't say it, but you might—that I was looking for a strong male image, possibly a father figure, in each of the men I met. There was no physical resemblance, however, between my father and any of my boyfriends."

Of Peter Wolff, she notes, "Peter is strong within, strong enough for both of us, if need be. I need a man to lean on, unfashionable though that may be. People don't believe that, due to my image from motion pictures. I don't just look for sex and love in a man; I also want comprehension, someone who understands my fears and dreams and longings, my moods."

Even if she and Wolff part for good, she's convinced they will remain friends—which wasn't always the case with Faye and her men. "Peter helped me to discover and fully realize myself. He brought me face to face with my problems." Such as? "It would be boring to go into that...I had refused to consider them objectively, before, but we discussed and analyzed them and sought ways of resolving them. That's why I simply couldn't let him go.

"Well...for example, a suicidal impulse that occurred several years ago still remained in my mind. I find it difficult now to believe that I could have ever been tempted by the idea of suicide, the willful destruction of my life. But it was during a very low point

in my life. I was in New York at the time. I learned that a young man whom I respected and loved had killed himself. Maybe that's how the idea crept into my mind. I remember being awfully depressed. Anyhow, the knife slipped, thankfully, and fell on my leg, cutting it. I still have a scar, but it's difficult to find, now."

Somehow, that leads to the subject of children: "I think every individual, no matter what their background or preference, thinks about what it would be like to have a child someday. And women have to naturally think about it most, because we can actually conceive and carry and deliver it. But I've always wanted to be ready, meaning psychologically prepared.

"I don't know if I could devote so much of my time and life to another being, to a child. There are so many claims made upon a mother, including complete devotion and patience, that it's almost obsessive. Don't forget, it's only been within the past few years that I've learned how to live with myself and look after myself. Then came Peter. And I would not want a child to detract from my relationship. I know this may sound selfish but it's not. really. One has to work hard at building what one has-like love, faith and comprehension. I wouldn't ever want anything to hamper that."

In the '60s and early '70s Dunaway made movies almost non-stop, here and abroad, many of them flops. But since her marriage in 1974, she has worked less, sometimes to the point of ignoring her career and turning down very choice roles taken by Fonda, Welch, Redgrave and other top actresses. Why does she work so little lately? "I work just enough-for me," she says almost mysteriously. "I needed to work more before, but now I don't." For one thing, she is more selective now, and as a top-billed female star, she has a smaller selection of roles and projects.

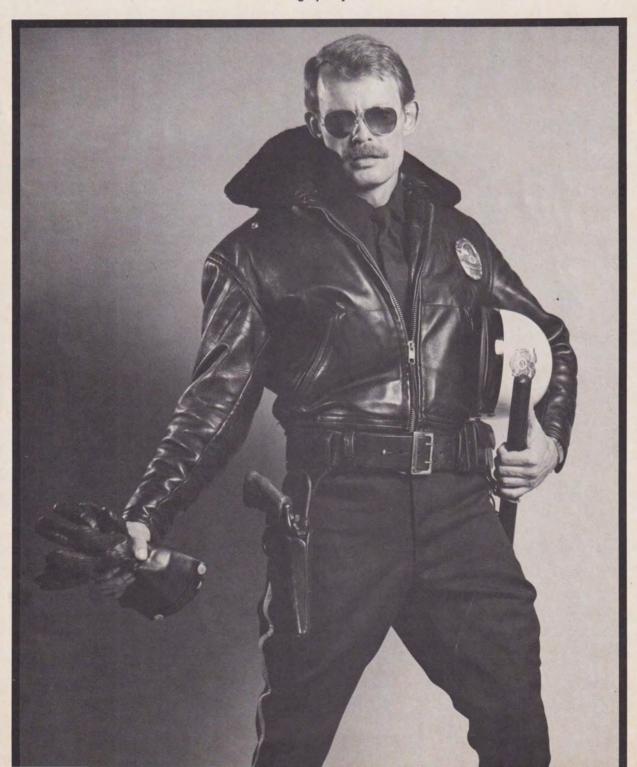
"I still think the movies are magic, even with all the reality," she explains. "Glamour is something the public expects from actresses, and I, for one, am still very fashion-conscious. At least outside of the home. One of the attractions of Laura Mars was the clothes I wore, the fashion ambience and the beautiful shoes I wore." What will she not do in a film role? "Nudity. Not that I did it before, but at this stage of things, I don't think a director has the right to ask me to strip. Nor will I."

On the set, Faye is known to be de-Continued to page 36

MOVING VIOLATION

You're driving alone down a deserted street one night when suddenly you see a flashing red light behind you. You pull over to let the police car pass, but instead it stops. The cop gets out and asks to see your license. While he reads it you look at him, mesmerized, wondering just exactly what that uniform is hiding. If only you knew....

Photograph by Colt



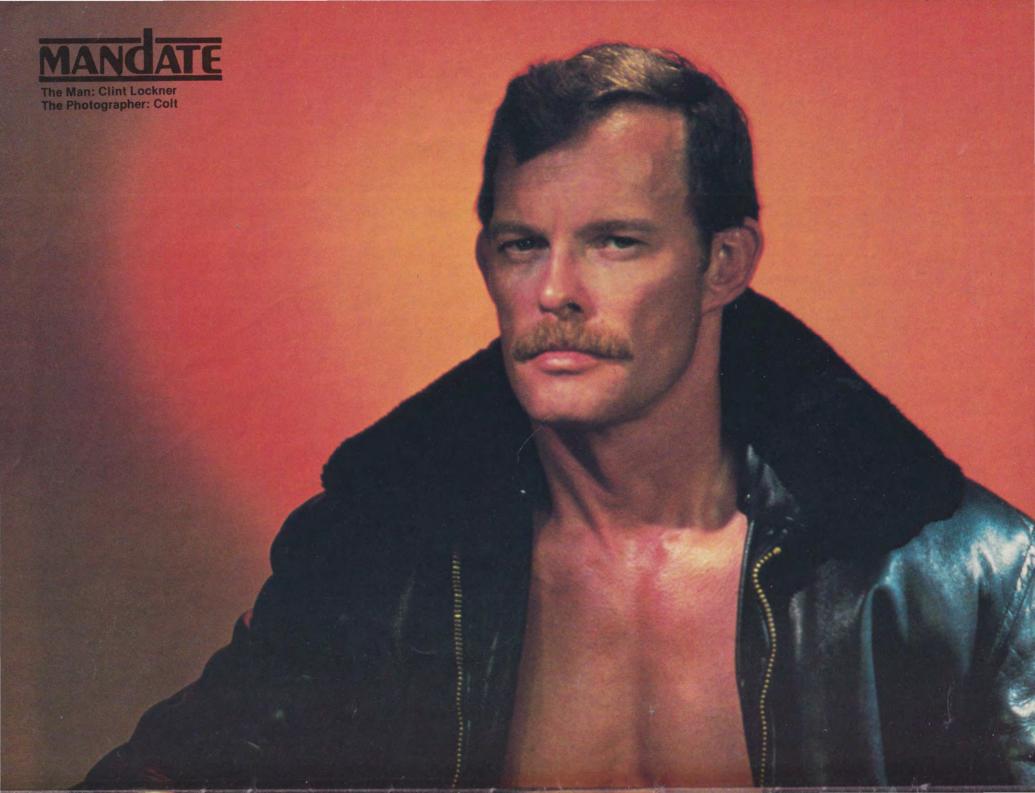




MOVING VIOLATION

He finishes reading the license and asks you to get out of the car. You're trembling now...from excitement not fear...as he frisks you, running his hands up and down your body leaving you with no secrets. But that's not all. He wants one more thing from you and the sound of his pants' zipper tells you exactly what that one thing is. It's something you're definitely ready to give. The cop's name is Clint Lockner and he's one of Colt's hot men. You can see a lot more of Clint, alone and with other Colt studs, by sending \$4.00 to Colt Studio, Box 1608J1, Studio City, California 91604. Ask for Folio 5 and, because Colt is for adult audiences, please state you are 21 or over.

Photograph by Colt
MANDATE/October 1980





FASHON TER LIMINIS

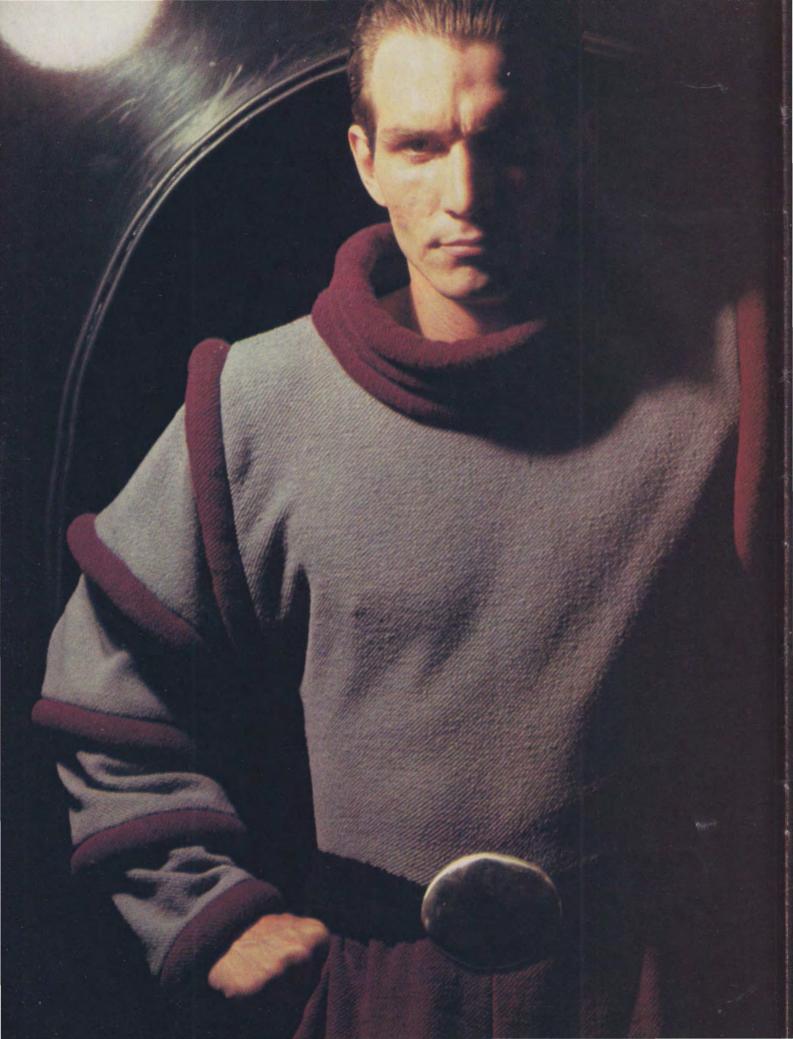
NO, THESE ARE NOT COSTUMES FROM KUBRICK'S OR LUCAS' LATEST SPACE EPIC; THEY ARE THE LATEST HIGH-FLYING FASH-IONS FROM LARRY LeGASPI. LeGASPI, A MULTI-TALENTED DE-SIGNER WHOSE SPACED-OUT COSTUMES FOR THE SINGING GROUP, LABELLE, PUSHED FASHION INTO THE 21ST CEN-TURY, HAS EFFECTIVELY COM-BINED FUTURISTIC DETAIL WITH PRACTICAL COMFORT. THE RE-SULT: MILE-HIGH DESIGNS THAT MIGHT APTLY BE DESCRIBED AS ASTRONAUT CHIC. IN THE PHO-TOGRAPH BELOW THE DESIGNER HIMSELF MIGHT SEEM TO BE TAKING HIS SUCCESS LYING DOWN, BUT HIS CLOTHING IS DEFINITELY FOR PEOPLE FOR WHOM THE SKY'S THE LIMIT.

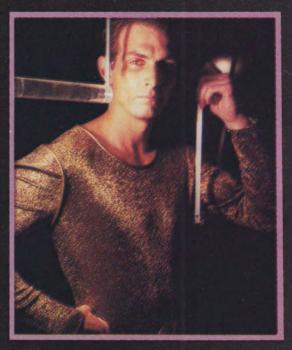


PHOTOGRAPHS BY VICTOR ARIMONDI



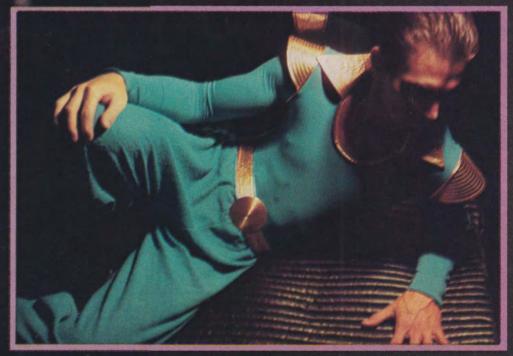






SOFT, TRADITIONAL MATERIALS ARE STRIKINGLY CONTRASTED WITH BOLD COLORS, SPACE AGE DETAILING AND ACCESSORIES TO PRODUCE THE LEGASPI LOOK. IT MAY NOT FIT IN WITH THE WALL STREET CROWD, BUT IT'S SURE TO BE A CROWD PLEASER WITH LUKE SKYWALKER.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY VICTOR ARIMONDI

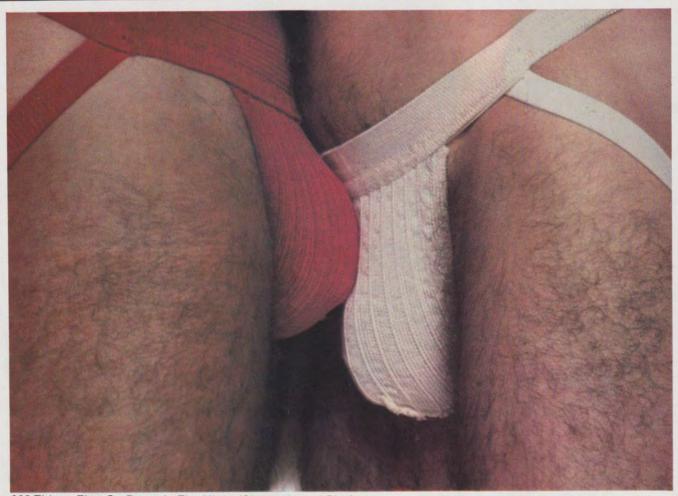


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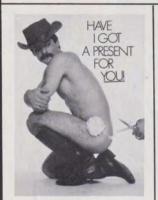
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607 Rough



2007







2023



2008



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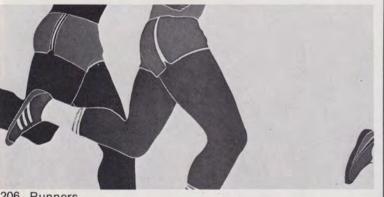
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FILM

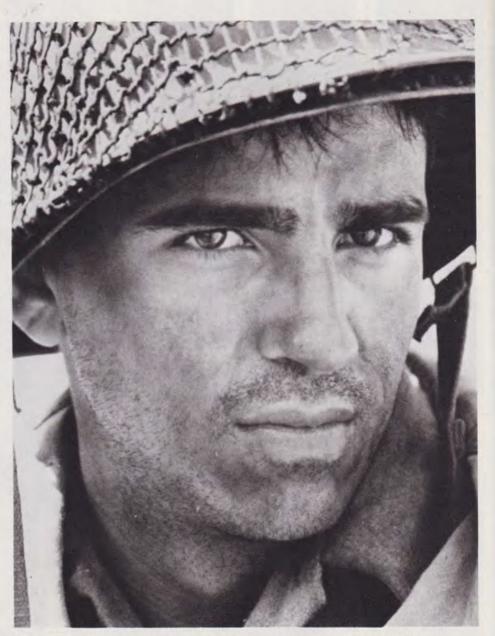
Reviews by John Devere

Onto a body-strewn battlefield, where a battered crucifix stands silhouetted against a grim grey sky, charges a berserk, shell-shocked horse. Whinnying, rearing, its hoofs beating a deadly tattoo, it attacks the only living thing, one surviving soldier. The image of this one horse of the apocalypse, without horseman, opens Samuel Fuller's magnificent war film *The Big Red One*, and its erratic, insane behavior becomes a symbol for bestial irrationality, the absurdity of war, a universe running rampantly wild.

Add Fuller's scathing scrutiny of men at war to that handful of classic war films-All Quiet on the Western Front, The Red Badge of Courage, Apocalypse Now-which go far beyond mere documentation to suggest the anxiety in men's minds, the moral ambiguity of wartime action, the sheer horror of apocalyptic destruction. Wisely, Fuller's camera sticks with a combat leader, Lee Marvin, and four young men who follow him through North Africa, Sicily, the invasion of Normandy, Belgium, and Czechoslovakia. The war is seen exclusively through their eyes, never zooming back for an overview. This is battle on the nitty-gritty level, the do-or-die, moment-by-moment level, and Fuller, who both wrote and directed the film, has captured the ambiguities with searing intensity.

Every episode-French troops killing their leader rather than fire on Americans in North Africa, Sicilian women taking their scythes to overcome occupying Nazis when they see help is near, a woman feigning madness (Stephane Audran) in order to cover up that she's part of the underground awaiting liberation-is so feelingly realized that Fuller has managed, in every instance, to penetrate beyond the mere surface of what's happening to suggest complex motives, moral unrest, resignation to the inevitability of killing. There is tragedy here, and grandeur.

The film's two closing episodes are, simply, film-making at its greatest, at



Bobby Dicicco plays an initially naive soldier in Samuel Fuller's war film, The Big Red One, along with, from top, opposite, Mark Hamill, Robert Carradine and Kelly Ward. Lee Marvin stars as their leader. Photographs: United Artists.

its most harrowing and most meaningful. The audience realizes, at the same time the soldiers do, that their final task is the liberation of a Czech concentration camp. Mark Hamill's eyes as he opens a skeleton-strewn oven express the horror, the horror almost unbearably. And Lee Marvin's final attachment to a young boy whose eyes mirror that horror is one of the most grippingly emotional confrontations in the entire history of film.

Marvin has usually been cast in unfeelingly macho roles, but here he is magnificent. His craggy bone structure becomes some sort of moral icon, his creviced crows-feet the fissures eked by experience, his haunted eyes knowing, yet always capable of outrage at injustice. And as the four young men who follow him, Mark Hamill, Robert Carradine, Bobby Di Cicco and Kelly Ward emerge as fully nuanced individuals.

Dana Kaproff's music belongs among the great film scores, creating a sense of moment here, a hint of grandeur there, rising to peaks of sheer majesty, all the while suggesting undercurrents of instability. This is great movie music.

The Big Red One is so magnificently







conceived and so fully realized that it should be seen by every movie-goer who cares about movies, whether or not he's interested in war films per se. Samuel Fuller has made a bombs-bursting-in-air masterpiece, both epic and intensely personal, fleshing out men's valiance and vulnerabilities. The film is a major document of humanism.

'ROUGH CUT'

Rough Cut, contrary to what the title might suggest, is not a film about a sloppy circumcision; instead, it's a tongue-in-chic caper film showcasing the most effortlessly charming man in the movies, Burt Reynolds; lusciously lovely Leslie Anne Down; still-dapper David Niven; and a convoluted jewel heist plot that will have you gnashing your teeth by the end. The whole thing is elegantly charming, one of those slickly entertaining films that's about as memorable, yet as coolly refreshing, as last night's dinner mint. You'll remember it for about five minutes. but during its running time you'll be delightfully entertained.

A word about Reynolds. The man is unbelievably charming. He is the closest thing to a contemporary Cary Grant; he is the only possible Rhett Butler in that Gone With The Wind, Part II that Zanuck-Brown is planning; his genuinely humane concern about people somehow shows in everything he does. Few of his films require him to reach a fuller potential as an actor. but that potential is there. He's very visual, capable of suggesting precisely the contrary of what his lines are saying. Why doesn't he play the coach in The Front Runner? His reputation is so secure it would do him no professional harm, and he'd be fabulous. Now, that might win him an

'CAN'T STOPTHE MUSIC'

Where are the cartoon balloons above her head? Every time Valerie Perrine reacts to a Village People number in Can't Stop the Music, you expect a big white balloon saying "Wow!" to appear, and the movie would be complete if one did. For Allan Carr's musical phantasmagoria is a Pop Art artifact. The script has the profundity of bubble gum, the Village People have the acting ability of Shelley Hack (perhaps they collectively could play Charley's third angel), and

yet. And yet.

Can't Stop the Music is dynamite entertainment, if you check your mind at the theatre door and just let it happen. It's gaudy, vulgar, snazzy and razz-ma-tazzy. You may not be able to resist it.

And it's uncannily canny in being one of the most double-edged films in the history of movies, gay-wise. In fact, it's perhaps the gayest film ever made, yet never explicitly so. When Valerie Perrine mentions "two snowballs and a ding-dong," you'll get the balls and dong, but the kids in the audience won't. And that "YMCA" number. My God. Homoeroticism runs rampant, yet it's all so fucking healthy that they should add genitals to the Oscar and give one to Allan Carr for sheer ballsiness! David Hodo's solo "Love You to Death," with those slinky women in red, may fool everybody but gay men; the women don't make it straight, they in fact make it gaygayer-gayest. The only surprise is that the stylized, white-on-white "Milk Shake" number somehow doesn't have spurting cream at the climax.

The big surprise, by the way, is Bruce Jenner, whose comic timing, whether naturally his or the result of Nancy Walker's direction, is wonderfully right. He can act. Perrine and Steve Guttenberg are perfectly cast. Gee, wow, gosh. Paul Sand, Tammy Grimes, Barbara Rush, June Havoc are right for their roles. Only Marilyn Sokol, who mugs so relentlessly that she tires your face muscles, seems to have strolled into the wrong movie.

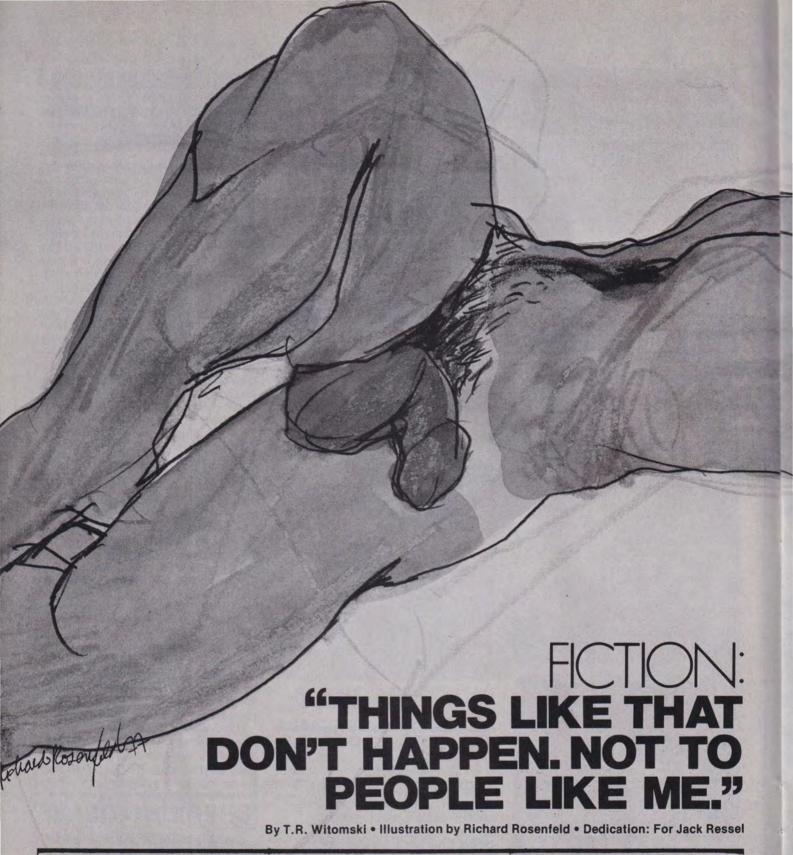
Actually, Arlene Phillips' choreography isn't very exciting (sort of like that glitzy Jordache jeans commercial, where they all bump and grind dully, dully). The "YMCA" pushups, dives, etc., really aren't coordinated with the music very well, but you probably won't notice.

The overall effect is overwhelming. Can't Stop the Music is a glitzy bombardment, Zap-Pop-Bam, that succeeds on precisely the level it's trying to, as Pop Corn, gaily, gaily.

'BREAKING GLASS'

Breaking Glass, a British import about making it in the rock music business, has all the seriousness Music lacks, as singer Hazel O'Connor and her group fight their way to the top, neurosis by neurosis, song by song. For the first hour, an on-target intensity makes Breaking Glass mes-

Continued to page 62



Melvin and Robbie were having their two hundred and thirty-third Sunday brunch together. The waiter at the Eagle brought them their Bloody Marys without their asking.

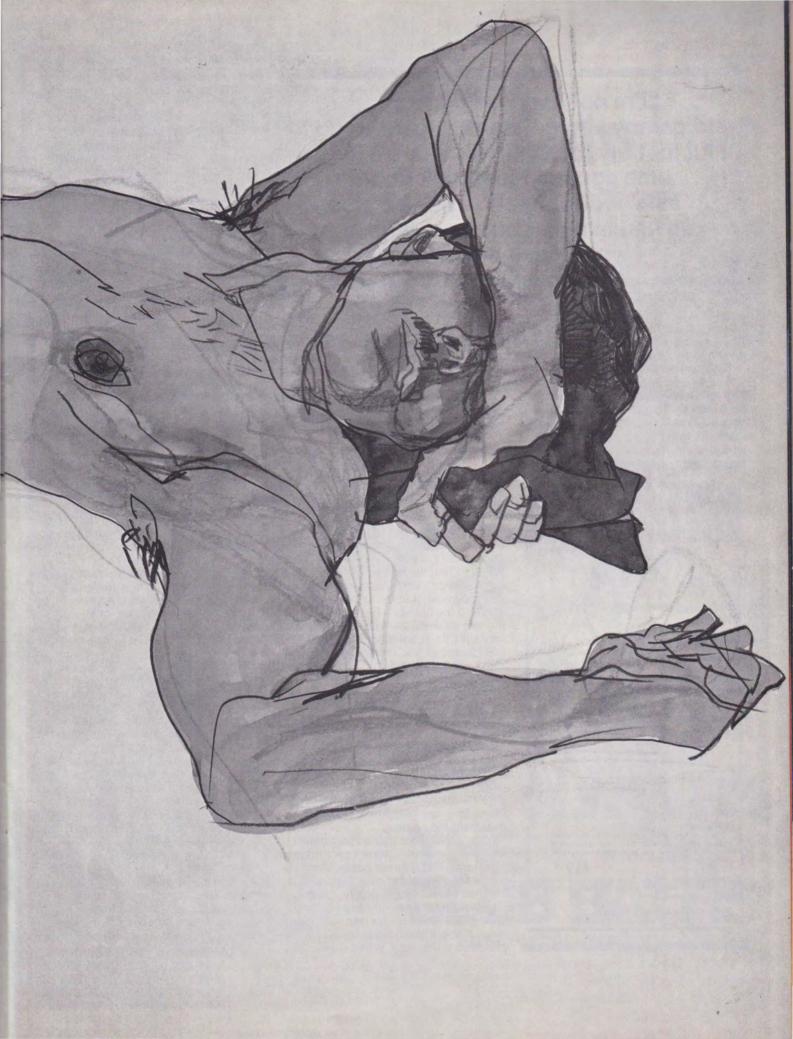
"Looks like we're well known," Melvin said.

"We're part of the fuckin' furnish-

ings. Whenever we walk in, I swear I can hear them thinking, 'Are those two still alive?'"

Their brunches were a ritual. At about noon each Sunday, one would call the other and they would decide where to go. It was almost always The Eagle. In the summer they shared a

house on Fire Island so they didn't need to phone, but simply rendez-voused at The Monster, fresh from a trick. Sometimes a Saturday night partner accompanied one or both of them to Sunday's service. But generally it was just the two of them. "It seems," Robbie said once, "that what



"I'm not expecting the affair to go anywhere. I don't expect things. I lost my romantic illusions a long time ago, so I just look on this as a good time. It's the best sex I've had in ages, but it can end here. I won't push either way."

looks good at 3 a.m. doesn't look good at noon. It's that damn light."

"How was last night?" Melvin asked. "I stayed home. Got mildly ripped by

myself."
"That's different."

"I just couldn't get myself together. Thought I'd give my leather jacket a rest. Why do these Bloodies taste so good on Sundays when I can't stand them any other time? Anyway, guess what strange thing I did this week?"

"I shudder to think. Just tell me. You know I hate fuckin' guessing games."

"You're no fun today. So I'll tell you. You know those ads in the dirty papers, those infamous personal ads? Well, I took one out."

"Why?"

"To meet people."

"Robbie, you know more people than anyone."

"Well, to meet new people."

"There aren't any. You know them all."

"No, seriously, my tricks are not what they used to be. So I thought I'd advertise."

"What did you say?"

"Well, I was going to be really far out and say I wanted only very large cocks, hairy chests, and real men, but I figured that wouldn't include anyone. And I couldn't say, like some of them do, you know, 'Let me drink your piss' of 'Whip me bloody.' Truth in advertising and all that. So I just wrote that I was a thirtiesh tall blonde looking for friends and good times. I didn't add that I was jaded and going to see. What's to lose?"

Robbie's Charles Street apartment was the designer image of Village faggot chic. Bookcases built into most of the walls, quality modern art prints, the obligatory signed *Playbills*, and plants for days. Leather couch, director's chairs, lots of glass and chrome. Well stocked bar, silver container for grass. And a waterbed left over from the sixties.

Robbie had lived in the apartment since he'd moved to New York thirteen years ago. The flaming queen of a rental agent who'd shown the place to him had stated emphatically, "And it's big enough for two—in case you find a 'friend.'" But except for one year, one lover, Robbie had lived there alone. He preferred it that way. When Gerald had

left, when Robbie had thrown him out. Robbie swore, typically, "Never again." But he managed never to weaken, never to admit anyone into his life so deeply that living together became inevitable. There were frequent night mates of varying descriptions-tricks, fuck buddies, semi-serious "things." but since Gerald's exit, no one had shared Robbie's apartment. Robbie used to joke about his "quiet desperation." But that had just been a phase Robbie had already gone through. He had survived the bleak loneliness that came after Gerald, made it through years of compulsive tricking, passed through "quiet desperation" and was resigned that his comfortable, but solitary, life was the way it was always going to be. All things considered, it wasn't a bad life. It lacked any real emotional highs, but also, thank God, those emotional lows as well.

Melvin and Robbie were friends. As in just good. No innuendo. No complications. Way back when, Robbie thought, maybe we should have been lovers. But that was in another world. Now we know each other's history too well.

"Any results from your ad?"

"You wouldn't believe it. I used to wonder who in their right mind would answer those stupid ads."

"Or who would place them."

"Yes, bitch. Anyway, some of the cases who wrote to me shouldn't be allowed on the streets. I had two requests for my underwear, one for a dirty jock, and one gem who wanted to buy used wing-tip shoes. Who owns wing-tip shoes?"

"A guy in Des Moines told me to drop in if I was ever in the area. Of course that made me want to call the airlines immediately. Three other New Yorkers, as bored as me, wanted to get together. To compare anxieties, I guess. But one turned into a fun trick. Oh yes, I got a letter from this Marine. My fantasies worked overtime on that one. He's stationed in Memphis. What the fuck are the Marines doing in Memphis? Shouldn't they be out invading some god-forsaken country?"

An article in a gay magazine advised that to "overcome the crisis of being past thirty, you should stand naked in front of a full-length mirror and list your assets and your liabilities. This way you'll get a complete picture of yourself." Robbie's accounting found himself great from the tits up, with a

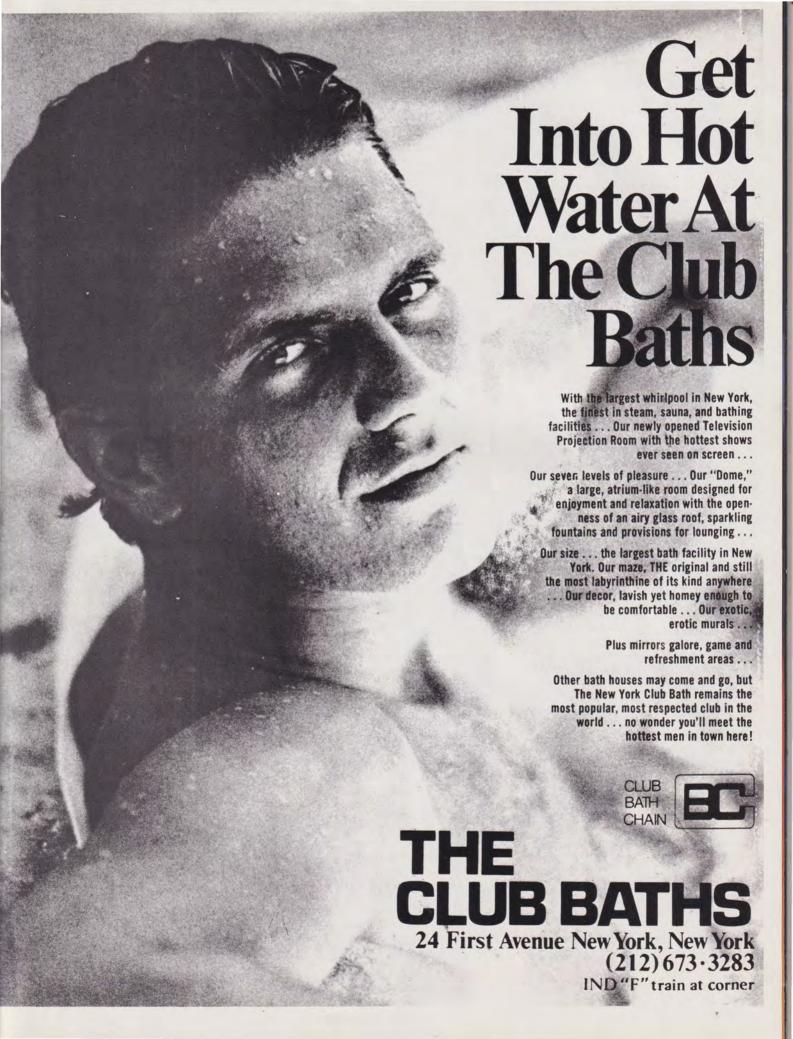
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MERLE OBERON

Continued from page 14

be misled.

"Yes, I did see the more recent film, with Audrey Hepburn and Shirley MacLaine. I thought it was outstanding, very dramatic but not sensationalized. However, the ending was unrealistic-with one woman hanging herself because of her feelings. Apparently, the cinema hadn't come that far ahead. I never met Miss Hellman. so I don't know what her opinion was."

Another actor with whom Merle Oberon became close friends was David Niven, who she married in Wuthering Heights. "He and Larry went in totally different directions, but I think David wanted to originally be a serious actor. When we were shooting the film, we kept discussing the interpretations of our characters, but Larry never did, and yet he turned out to be the classical actor. David always puts on a cheerful, amusing face, but he has a serious side to him, too, and he has had his personal and professional disappointments. I was so glad for him when his two books-The Moon's a Balloon, Bring on the Empty Horses -became huge best-sellers.

Besides movie stars, Merle knew many of the world's leaders, including several American presidents, who stayed at her home while visiting Acapulco. She was loath to tell intimate details about any of her celebrated guests, but when questioned about the Shah, she said in a grim tone, "He can be charming, but he has an extremely dark side. His wife (Empress Farah) is a woman of courage and patience. We got along well, but she would never ever talk about her husband, as though she were afraid of him.'

The hostess was more protective of other quests, although she noted that LBJ "had his eye on every female in the house who was under 40." Of her relationship with ex-husband Pagliai, she said softly, "We are still friends. He understood that I did what I had to do. I considered all my husbands my friends, both before and after marriage. If you've loved someone, you don't stop loving them because you're no longer bound together."

What about early Hollywood; was it as golden and idyllic as one pictures it today?

She shook her head vigorously. "It was wildly competitive, and I didn't have to go through that, thanks heavens, because I had established

myself in England, Sam Goldwyn also looked after me, and so nobody tried to cross me, although I don't think I ever threw my weight around.

"I was spared the casting couch route in Hollywood, which was very, very active. A majority of famous actresses had to compromise themselves at one point or another, and the studio chiefs and the great producers had very large sexual appetites. It was unfair, really, because a girl had to do some unsavory things, simply to get a man to even consider her for a small role. Remember, those girls didn't want to do those things; it wasn't like today, and the men were often brutal about forcing them. They were ruthless, more so in sex than in business, because the profits weren't quite as essential as today, for some reason."

What of gay Hollywood, and specifically male homosexual stars and bisexuals like Tyrone Power? She paused for a while, then continued delicately. "During his lifetime, Laughton never announced he was homosexual, and that fact has only come out because of Miss Lanchester. Remember, there was a tremendous stigma to that in those days-today, you can't begin to imagine. I think who a man sleeps with is his own business: the one thing I'm against is cheating and promiscuity.

"But it's rather pathetic to me that these men who hid their real sexuality so carefully are now being raked up for public consumption, as dirty gossip. They write today about dead actors who were bisexual or homosexual, but there are even more nowadays. Today no one hides it, at least not among themselves. I have several friends who are homosexual men, famous men. I'm not going to tell you their names because it must be their decision if they want to reveal that aspect of their lives. They deserve dignity, not whispers and commercial exploitation.'

As for the infamous Hollywood orgies and night life, Merle Oberon said, "I was sheltered, all of my life. Until I met Bob and then married him, which was one of the few things / initiated and chose to do. I was very young, I had a husband or protector all of the time, and all I was really interested in was working and doing lovely pictures. I wanted to know what made my leading men tick, not to jump into bed with them.

"I didn't want to write a book, because I think if you add up all my movie roles, there you have my autobiography, and those films say it much better than I could have '

FAYE DUNAWAY

Continued from page 18

tached, less than warm, very professional and a perfectionist who can antagonize co-workers with her detailed suggestions and requirements. Her ego is known to be healthy-sized, and she is supposed not to get along with other actresses, although she has been mentioned in conjunction with a possible remake of the all-female classic The Women. A former co-worker anonymously notes, "It was my experience on two pictures that Fave shows up happy as a puppy, bubbling with enthusiasm and relatively friendly.

"But by the end of a picture's shooting schedule, she had withdrawn almost totally into herself. She seemed not to be the happiest person, nor the most patient woman I've ever met. Her work is stunning, even when it's a virtual walk-through, but I don't happen to think making movies is the most important or satisfying thing in

her life."

Just how important is film-making to Ms. Dunaway? She shrugs once more. "When I do something now, I want it to be good, to be notable and to be worth my getting up that early each morning and putting myself through such an emotionally draining experience. This is my profession, but there's no denying I'm not a workaholic; I think if you do a film and then another and then another, it gets less enjoyable. Maybe I do stay away longer than some people feel is wise, but I've achieved most of my goals.

"The Oscar was a beautiful affirmation of my worth in my chosen profession, and beyond that, beyond different and remarkable roles in things lik Network, there isn't terribly much more to reach for. I don't want to repeat myself or just play girlfriends. I considered playing the title role in Vicky, about the first woman candidate for President, but it didn't materialize. The things that materialize are often the more commercial things, and I'm not necessarily interested.

"I guess the next stage will be moving into older, character-type roles. The sad thing is that costume pictures and historical dramas are just not getting made nowadays, largely because of the cost. Science fiction isn't my bag, nor disaster films. I like to play outstanding women, not wallflowers. If I have to have a trademark, I want to be known for remarkable women."

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Mandate focuses on something that continues to fascinate and to beguile mankind.

The Empire may strike back from here to eternity, but here's our erotic look into the icy reaches of that nebulous territory, outer space, our sensual salute to Star Wars,

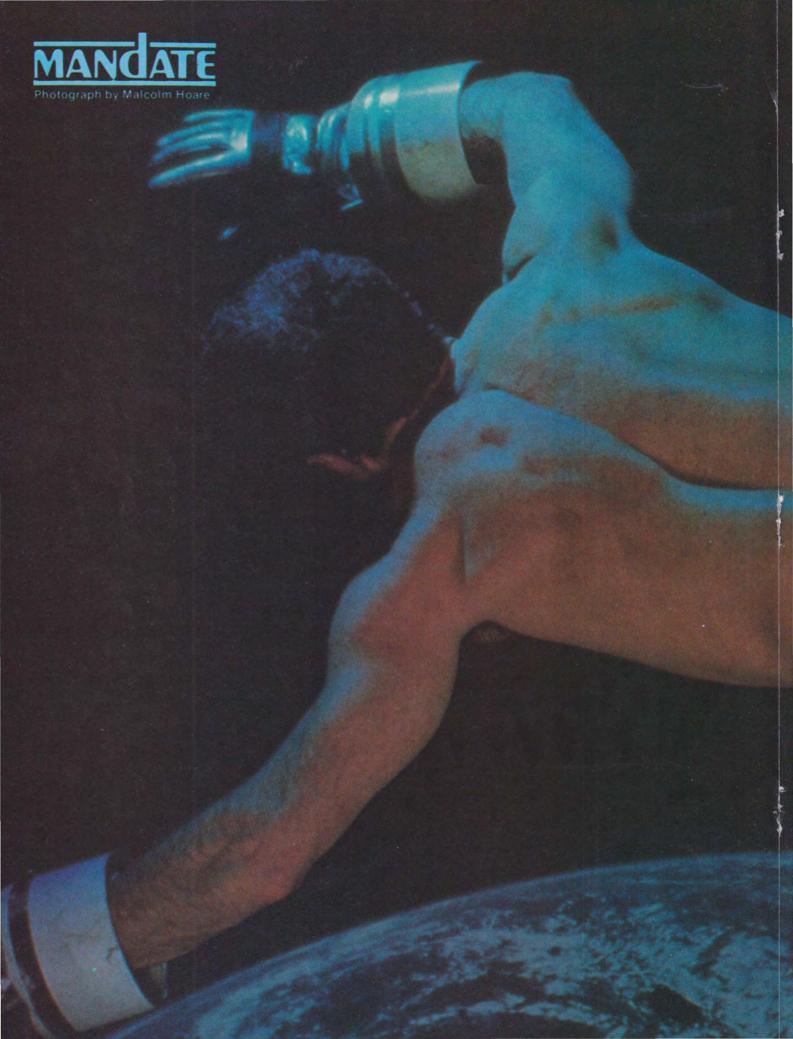
a sensual skywalk without Luke.

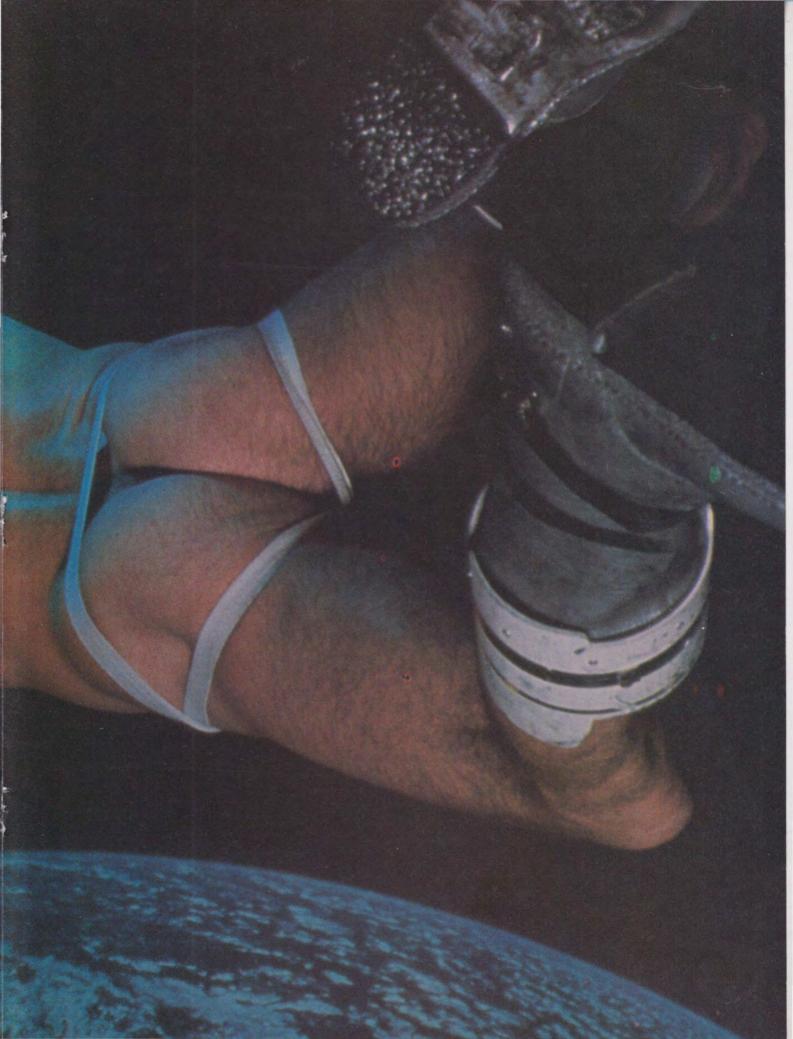
Photograph by Malcolm Hoare

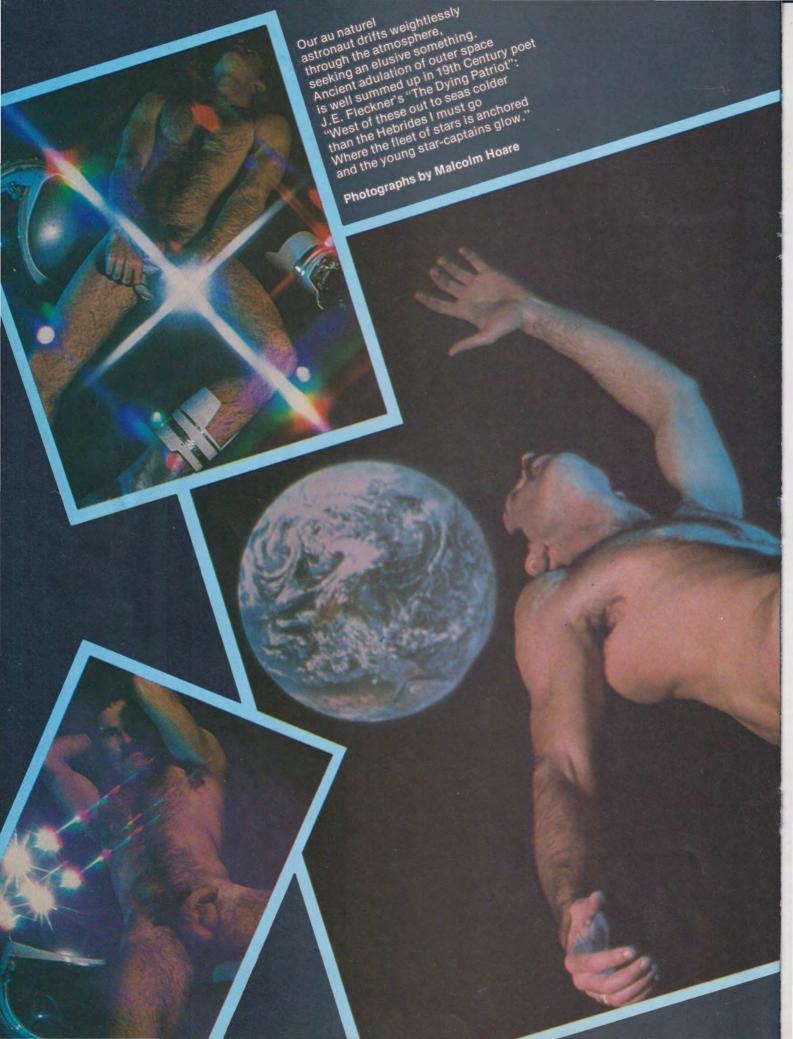
MANDATE/October 1980

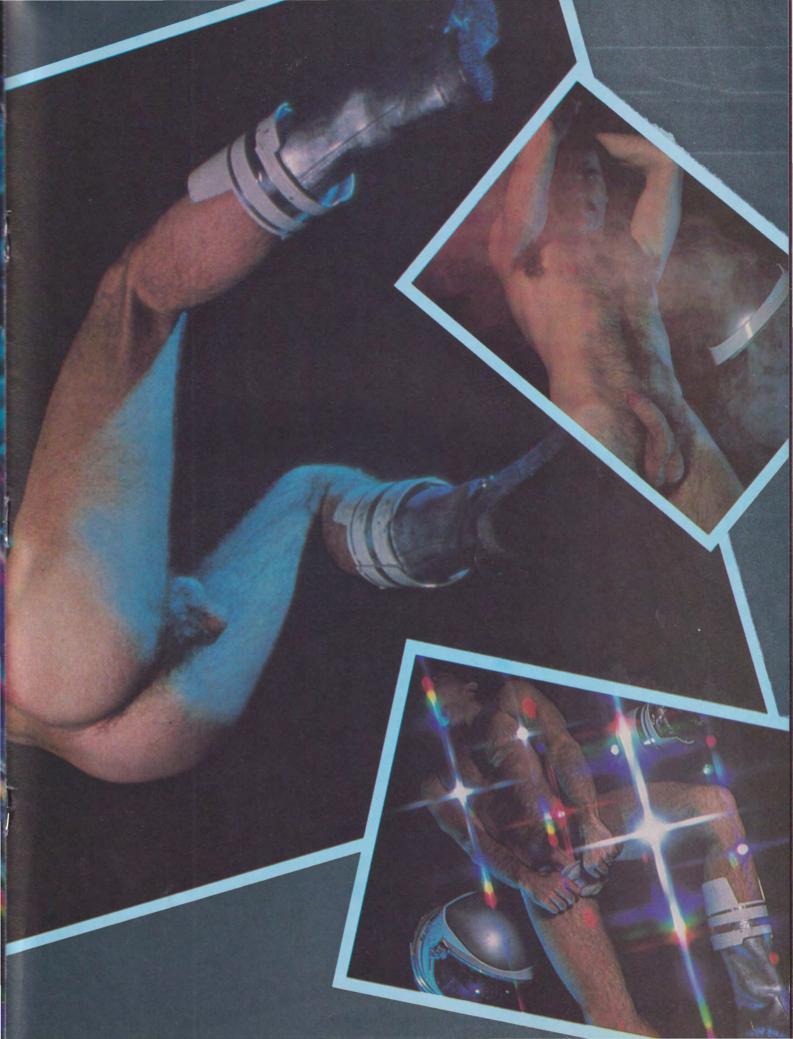














FICTION

Continued from page 34

nice ass and dynamite legs, but the stomach was showing the effects of the years of beer. And, Lord knows, his cock wasn't big enough. Nobody's is. I look like I'm thirty-seven, he thought, because I am thirty-seven. Why can't fags just grow old like straight people? Why do we worry so much about how we look? All the worrying does is make us look older. Why is each birthday such a fuckin' trauma? Why is it that when Melvin found his first gray hair, both of us went into mourning?

"Remember my Marine?"

"The number you were cruising last

night at Ty's?"

"No, that was an ersatz Marine. I mean my real Marine. The one who answered my dirty ad a couple of months ago."

"And?"

"Well, we've been writing to each other and he's coming to see me next week. Going to stay a week. He's never been to New York so I can play tourist guide. You know. The usual—the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building, Chinatown, the Mine Shaft."

"You seem to like this guy."

"Yeah. I guess. Well, I'm just going to show him a nice time. Be a real New York queen."

"How old?"

"What?"

"Robbie, how old is he?"

"Oh. Keep this a secret, will you? Twenty."

"Jesus H. Christ."

"What kind of language is that for a nice Jewish boy?"

"I didn't know you'd become a chicken hawk. Next you'll be taking up residence at The Ninth Circle."

"Twenty isn't *that* young. I was fucking around when I was twenty. And so were you. This is not the seduction of the innocent virgin."

"When's he arriving?"

"Thursday."

"You bringing him to brunch Sunday?"
"Let's all have dinner Friday. Just in case I cause him to panic and leave before Sunday."

"Melvin, I swear to God, it was a 'zipless fuck.' It was just as Erica Jong said it would be. Should I write her a thank you note? He got here about ten and I'd been going frantic for hours. It was tension city. I'm burning incense and playing Mozart and making onion

and caviar dip and rehearsing what to say and he gets here and, holy shit, bells and fireworks. We really got it on. This one is a real stud. It was fuck, fuck, fuck. Loved it."

"Is dinner still on tonight?"

"I'm having sexual raptures and all you think about is food. Yes, dinner's on. Eight o'clock at Uncle Charlie's. Formal leather optional. Oh get this: he saw the marks on my ass and asked what they were from. When I told him they were from some S/M games, he asked why I let someone do that to me. Do you love it?"

Brunch #247, the first one after Steven's visit, the first chance for Robbie and Melvin to really trash over the visit that had been so successful.

"I was impressed. You did connect with a live one. I was surprised he was so smart. I guess I had pictured him as a dumb number with a big cock."

"Well, his cock was rather nice."

"And what's next?"

"What?"

"Where do you think you'll go from here?"

"I'm not expecting to go anywhere. You know I don't expect things. I've lost my romantic illusions. I look on this as a past good time. It was marvelous, exciting, the best sex I've had in ages. But it can end here. Perhaps we will see each other again. I'd like to. But I won't push for it."

"You know when you were with him, you glowed."

"I have never glowed."

"You did last week. You were happy. It showed."

"I always look like that after a good fuck. Fucks. But it would be foolish of me to think that last week was some sort of major event. I look on it as an award. You know, after putting up with so much shit, once in a while the good fairy smiles on you and you get to have a nice week. But then the evil queen announces, O.K., fun's over, back with your head in shit."

Steven's letters to Robbie after the New York week were the only letters that Robbie had ever received that could possibly be typed love letterse. They were written with obvious sincerity, with all of Steven's longing and innocence and feeling. And they deeply moved Robbie. You must be tough, he told himself. You must not reply in kind. You must not encourage this boy. Instead of writing what he felt, Robbie wrote what he did. The tricks he'd had, the funny things that

happened in bars, the plays he'd seen, what Melvin said about Renata Scotto's recital. Robbie didn't allow himself many emotions. He didn't want to fuck himself up.

"He's coming in for a weekend. I am going to end it. I am going to tell him that he's taking it too seriously, that we should only be friends. He has got to stop writing those letters."

"He got to you. A young, hunky Marine got to Robbie Marshall. Remember your nickname? What Gerald used to call you. The Ice Queen."

"Fuck you, Melvin. You want Steven. I'll give him to you. I'll tell him to fuck your mind up. Let him put you through thoughts that you never thought you could have anymore. Anyway, what brought Gerald up?"

"Steven reminded me of Gerald. A lost country boy in the big city who encounters a prototypical fag and

finds true love."

"You're cute today. Who pissed in your Bloody?"

"I don't buy your stoic I-can't-loveand-I-can't-feel posture. It's all bullshit."

"You don't have to tell me it's bullshit. I know it's bullshit. But it's bullshit I can live with."

Robbie didn't end it. He couldn't. Instead he did what was unthinkable. Maybe he was a little drunk when he did it, but he knew what he was saying. After Robbie and Steven had had sex, they were sitting up, in yoga positions facing each other and rocking on the waterbed. Robbie touched Steven's face, bowed his head, closed his eyes, and said, "I think I'm in love with you." And Robbie even cried a little.

Robbie would see Steven whenever he could. There were many times when Robbie would fly to Memphis to spend a night, a weekend, with Steven. And Robbie had never done anything like that before. Going to the East Side for a trick was even sometimes too much traveling. On the plane to Memphis, he'd think, these things don't happen. Not to people like me. This is all so silly.

"He gets out of the Marines this week. He's going to move in with me. We're going to try to make a go of it." "I hope it works."

"Christ, Melvin, it's so fuckin' impossible. In real life these things don't happen. So of course it's going to work." A sudden surge of absolutely professional gay plays, perhaps destined to penetrate beyond the ghetto, heralds a breakthrough for

UNCLOSETED THEATER

By Joseph Arsenault

Openly gay artists who address themselves to homosexual reality are alive and thriving, no longer needing to subvert or disguise their sensibility. At one time, homosexual poets, playwrights and novelists masqueraded their message into acceptable straight terms. Without cultural icons to identify with, they re-interpreted an already warped canvass to suit an alien public's needs. The material they foisted on their unsuspecting public was accepted as long as the real inspiration remained camouflaged. Today, the sudden proliferation of avantgarde, overtly homosexual subject matter-be it in the theatre, in dance, art or in films-is reversing all the former patterns, a vital sign that our culture is genuinely emerging from sexual dark ages. As homosexual voices express self-worth with authenticity, they speak to us directly, without camouflage. The result is exhilarating.

America's first gay arts festival, partially funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and New York's Council on the Arts, produced by The Glines, recently offered a forum to some of our most outstanding voices, people like Edmund White, Pulitzer Prize poet Richard Howard, Doric Wilson, Harvey Feinstein, Johnathan

Katz, John Rechy and Ned Rorem. Such opportunities to speak undisguisedly to one's audience are indispensable; as the performer eyes his public and his public eyes him, an essential dialogue is established.

The homosexual theatre showcased during the Festival demonstrated that gay playwrights must define their esthetics in terms of traditional theatre forms. In the past, unfortunately, too many gay plays seemed guided by soap opera or tv sit-com formats. If a gay play is about, for example, the difficulty of sustaining a one-to-one relationship in promiscuous times, that's soap opera; if it's about disquising one's sexual identity from curious neighbors, that's tv sit-com. There's certainly a place for gay soap opera and for gay tv sit-coms, but the playwrights discussed below either try to explore and exploit the format brilliantly or go beyond these traditional forms, with marked success. If they all have something in common, it's the finesse with which they've set up situations and characters, their genuinely sophisticated structure, the professionalism of the overall endeavor. This is no longer "experimental" theatre, lurking beyond the fringes of professional viability. The gay playwrights





In Doric Wilson's play Forever After, two Christopher Street clones (Hunt Block and Anthony Errinson, foreground) parody soap opera/tv sitcom situations in the gay mode, until the muses of comedy and tragedy (Bill Blackwell and Casey Wayne) descend from niches above the proscenium to begin a tug of war for the two characters' psychologies. Wilson's play was part of the first Gay American Arts Festival in New York. Photograph by Roy Blakey.

UNCLOSETED THEATER

have arrived.

Originating at Minneapolis' Out-and-About Theatre and imported to Manhattan for the Festival, Lane Bateman's Lying in State tells the story of two couples, one lesbian and one gay male, who are trying to deceive their parents, neighbors, even their college housing office about their sexual predilections; we are definitely in twit-com territory here. The playwright, Lane Bateman, who wrote the play as part of his PhD thesis at Southern Illinois University, suggests, "The play deals with lies, the need for them and the greater need to get rid of them."

Using comedy staples such as mistaken identity, staples as old as As You Like It and as new as I Love Lucy, Bateman has given some funny old screws some bold new twists. He uses standard sit-com esthetics masterfully, and much more consequentially than the usual tv writer. Bateman's theme is itself sexual disguise, so the game-playing is not just for fun, but relates directly to his characters' need for sexual masks. His form is his con-

play itself successfully metamorphoses from belly-laugh comedy into genuinely serious scenes of confrontation, especially when the mother of one of the lesbians is onstage. Kathy Lyles is very funny indeed, fending off her gargantuan straight boyfriend, and emotionally riveting when she learns of her daughter's lesbianism. This moving scene is the parent/child confrontation we have all fantasized; its touching resolution is tender and provocative and right. This play in three acts opens a Pandora's box of questions and invites the audience to think while it laughs. And the ending—a mature homosexual onstage alone, his relationship ended, as Barbra Streisand sings "What are you doing the rest of your life?"-gives an extra and poignant turn to the screw. Lying in State is, basically, tv sit-com fare, bukt so well structured, its characters so feelingly fleshed out, that it transcends the genre. With more professional casting, it could make it out of the gay ghetto and onto Broadway. (Which

Gay playwrights are struggling to define what a gay play can be, in terms of soap opera and tv sitcom formulas. A new theatre is emerging.

tent, since the mistaken identity punchlines are not ends in themselves, but derive from his very theme, sexual masquerade. As the lesbian couple, Sue Harrington and Vicki Goldish have both gusto and sensitivity, fleshing out magnificently the rich, subversive content of the play; their male counterparts unfortunately fail to find a consistent acting style, and don't quite know how to veer from comic mugging into seriousness. The

brings us to the question: Who are these plays intended for? Are they gay mirrors, intended to reflect gay images back to gays alone? Or are they reaching for a wider audience?)

Doric Wilson's Forever After attacks the gay subculture from a different point of view. Tom and David are perfectly matched Christopher St. clones; their macho self-centeredness, lithe athletic bodies and levis-and-workshirt lifestyle define them as gay soap

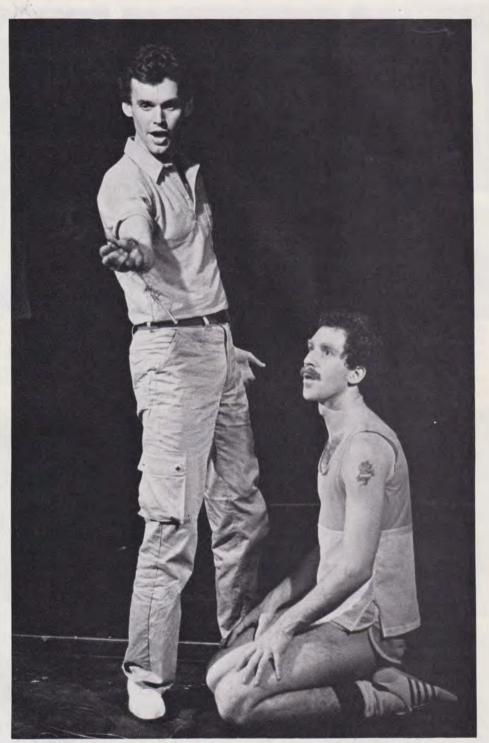
opera denizens, destined to live together happily forever after. Until the muses of Comedy and Tragedy hike up their skirts and descend onstage from their niches above the proscenium, to engage in a clever tug-of-war over the lovers' fate. Wilson's very concept is delightfully ingenious. Literary critic Armand Hoog once pointed out that in Euripides' Hippolytus, the goddesses Aphrodite and Artemis were actually onstage, one pushing Phedre toward sexual explicitness, the other restraining Hippolytus. Hoog pointed out that modern drama was born when Racine. revamping the myth in the French 17th Century, internalized the gods, creating modern psychological drama. In a funny reversal, Doric Wilson has decided to re-externalize the fates that weave our tangled webs, but only in order to redefine both gay theatre and gay sensibility. As Comedy and Tragedy war, tuggingly, Wilson cannily, cleverly parodies gay ghetto theatre, explicitly showing its soap opera and sit-com origins, suggesting that if Comedy wins, gay theatre may be merely trivial, but that if Tragedy wins, we may be back in Boys in the Band, pre-Gay Lib territory. What's a poor playwright to do? (God help the gay playwright who doesn't concoct a happy ending these days! The gay militants would stone him! In fact, Wilson's theatre has sometimes not been very popular with official gay spokesmen, precisely because Wilson is interested in writing plays that reverberate with truth, not with expected propaganda, the ritual party line.) In short, Comedy and Tragedy vie to define gay theatre, and vie, perhaps more consequentially, within each character. The comic influence, which insinuates itself into gay sensibility disguised as irony or camp, keeps us going, in spite of the constant problems Tragedy wishes to foist upon us. Wilson's structure, his goddesses, may be too literary for many theatregoers' taste and his topical references to other playwrights and to Broadway may date the play immediately, but his puns and innuendoes and literary references make the play a cornucopia of wit and sensibility. Forever After succeeds because it plays with theatrical conventions, parodies the very gay ghetto approach to theatre it itself derives from, and continues talking about the meaning of the Comedy/ Tragedy dichotomy both in gay theatre and in gay lives, long after it has exhausted its "homosexual plot." If it begins as soap opera, it is only in

order to line up gay soap opera in its rifle sights. Forever After starts shooting, it hits every target in sight, funnily. If homosexual playwrights must reinvent theatre to express their own reality, to get beyond the standard formats of soap opera and tv sit-coms, Doric Wilson is on the right track. Forever After playfully parodies, but it gets right to the heart of the issue: What is gay sensibility? And, given that sensibility, what sort of theatre is possible?

Shortly before the Festival, two other playwrights gave us some answers to those questions. A few weeks before the Festival began, Arch Brown's Newsboy opened. Perhaps the slickest, most professional production this side of Broadway's Bent, thanks to Brown's slick writing and Kevin Hanlon's fast-paced direction, Newsboy tells of a politician's son who tries to cover up his homosexuality for the sake of his father's upcoming election. After his gay militant friends leak the story to the press accidentally, he is forced to deny his gayness or to acknowledge it. The final confrontation between father and son is perhaps predictable in its sturm und drang. (We are back in soap opera/sit-com territory again.) However, the play's appeal stems from its humor and honesty, its mix of gloss and sensitivity. The slick stagecraft of the genuinely professional production gave Newsboy a credibility most other gay plays have sorely needed.

Even if, however, this season saw the arrival of an unprecedented array of gay theatrical offerings, after all is said and done, they almost all recede into one's memory, with few sharp contours remaining. Even though the performances were very entertaining on the spot, and often well-staged indeed, almost all lacked an essential ingredient, brilliant acting. Until casting improves, most of these plays will simply come and go, never reaching their audience potential in the gay ghetto, much less in a larger arena. After all this effort, if it's forgotten the day after it's seen, something's wrong.

For instance, there's Harvey Feinstein's Fugue in a Nursery, in which two couples share a house for the weekend. One's straight, one's gay, although one gay man once had an affair with the straight man. Straight out of Sondheim, the complexities and situations almost cry out for a musical rendering. The wit is quick and easy, in suggesting that promiscuity is no bed of roses; it creates pitfalls even



In the Bill Russell/Ronald Melrose musical Fourtune, Ken Arthur, ambiguously "straight," is eventually seduced by Justin Ross. The musical is a freewheeling, fabulous look at gay theatre folk both backstage and in bed.

for the most jaded. Feinstein offers more than just one-liners; beneath the banter are some searing truths.

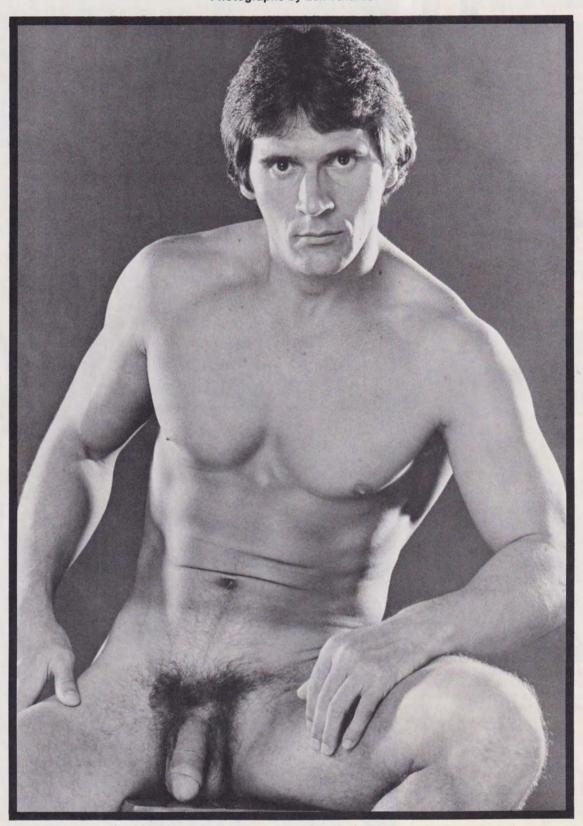
The season's been rich. From Tonynominated *Bent* on Broadway, to a cluster of plays off-Broadway, to the Glines Festival, the proliferation of homosexual characters, the unmasking of our psyches, the icon-

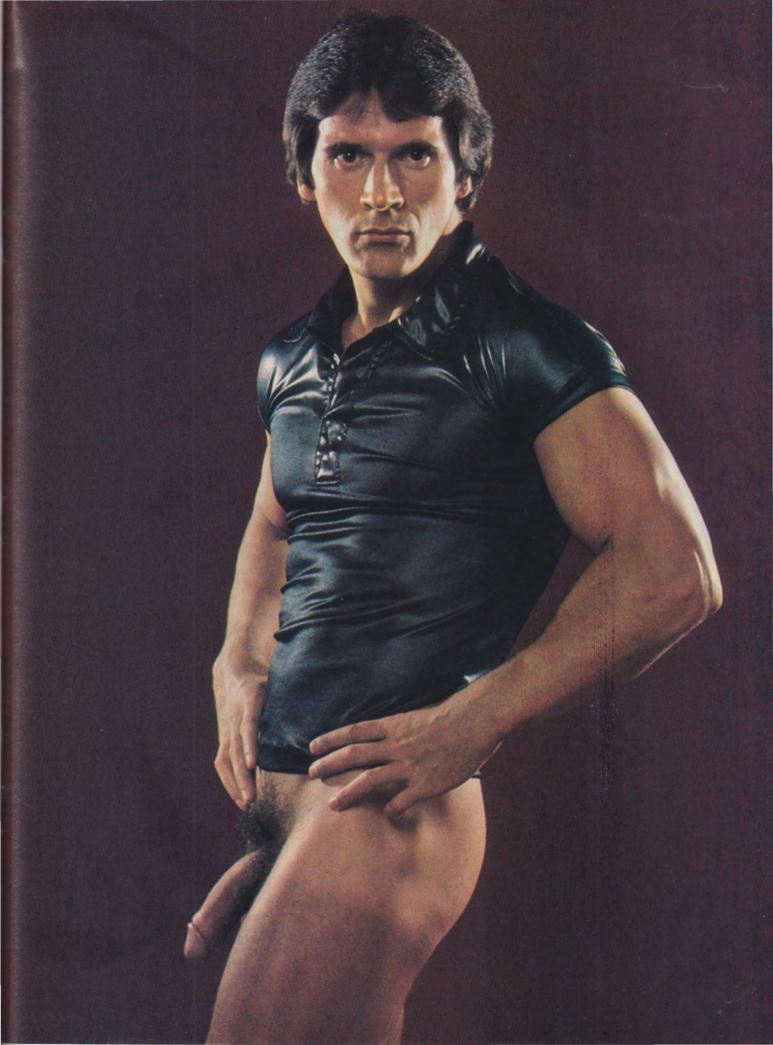
ography of our lifestyles—it proves that gay theatre is genuinely uncloseted at last. Playwrights, like Bateman, Wilson, Feinstein and Brown, are converting their life experience into art and giving us back mirror images of ourselves to contemplate, images constructed with wit, imagination and compassion.

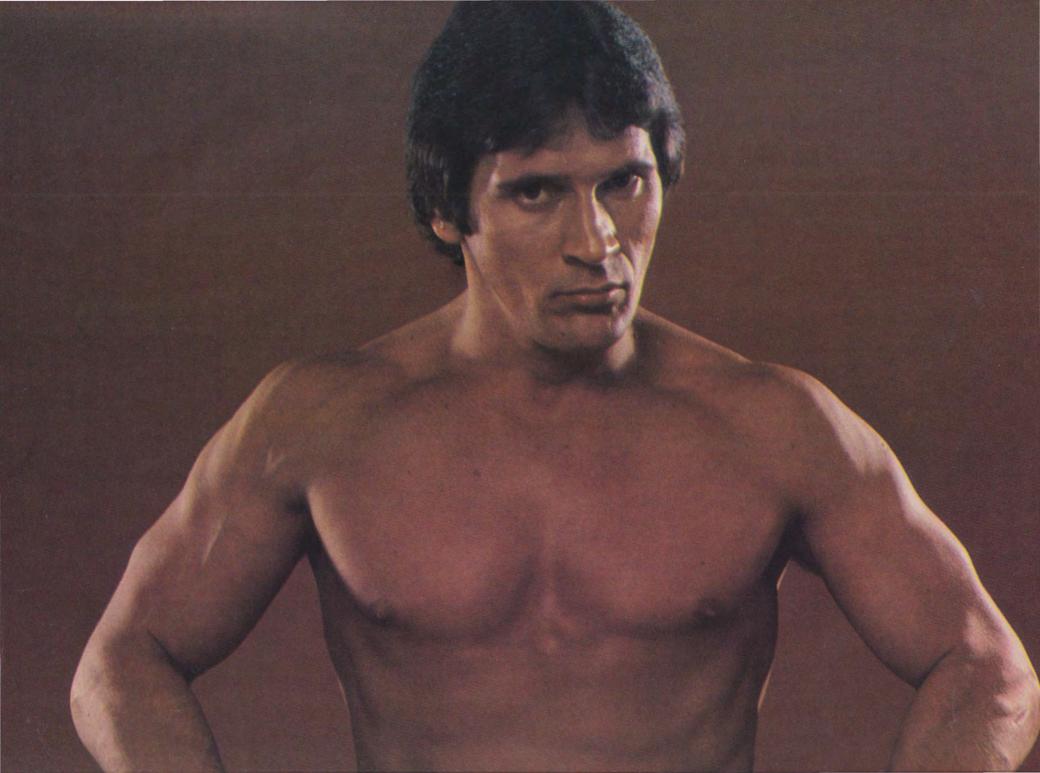
THE TOTAL MAN

Whether Joe confronts you totally naked (below) or in a muscle-hugging torso shirt (right) there's no disguising the aggressive, masculine good looks that make Joe Antoin a total man.

Photographs by Len Tavares

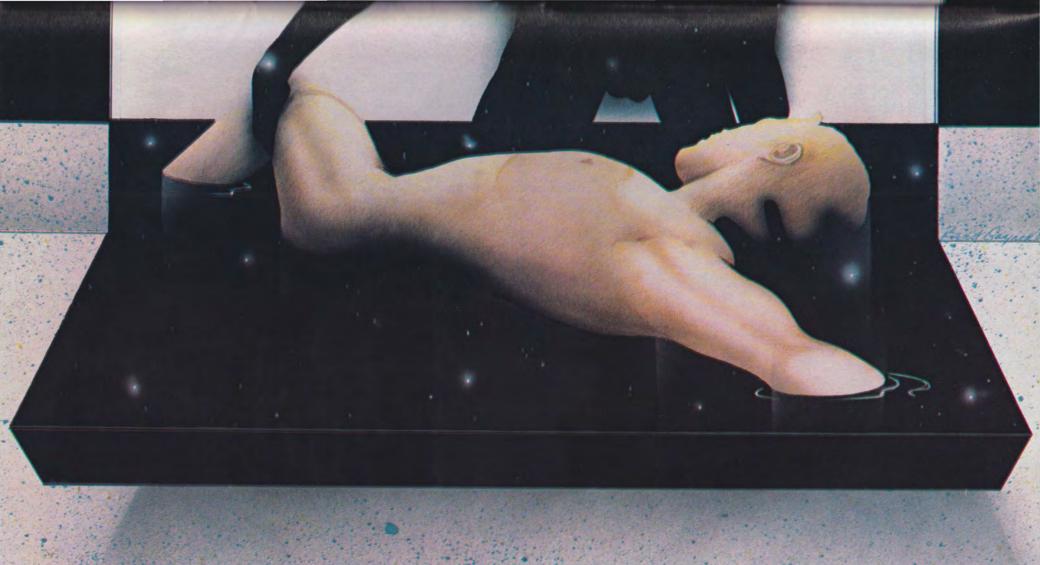












ART: DARKER DEMONS

In an issue with features titled "1980: Space Oddity" and "Outer Limits," what more appropriate art feature could there be than this eerily suggestive, erotically evocative work by Canadian artist Rand Gaynor. Come January, Gaynor's provocative art works will be on display at Stompers, 259 West Fourth Street, New York City. Meanwhile, this preview suggests the darker demons, aurochs and gargoyles, Darth Vader and alien invaders. Watch for Gaynor's work. Eerie, eerie.

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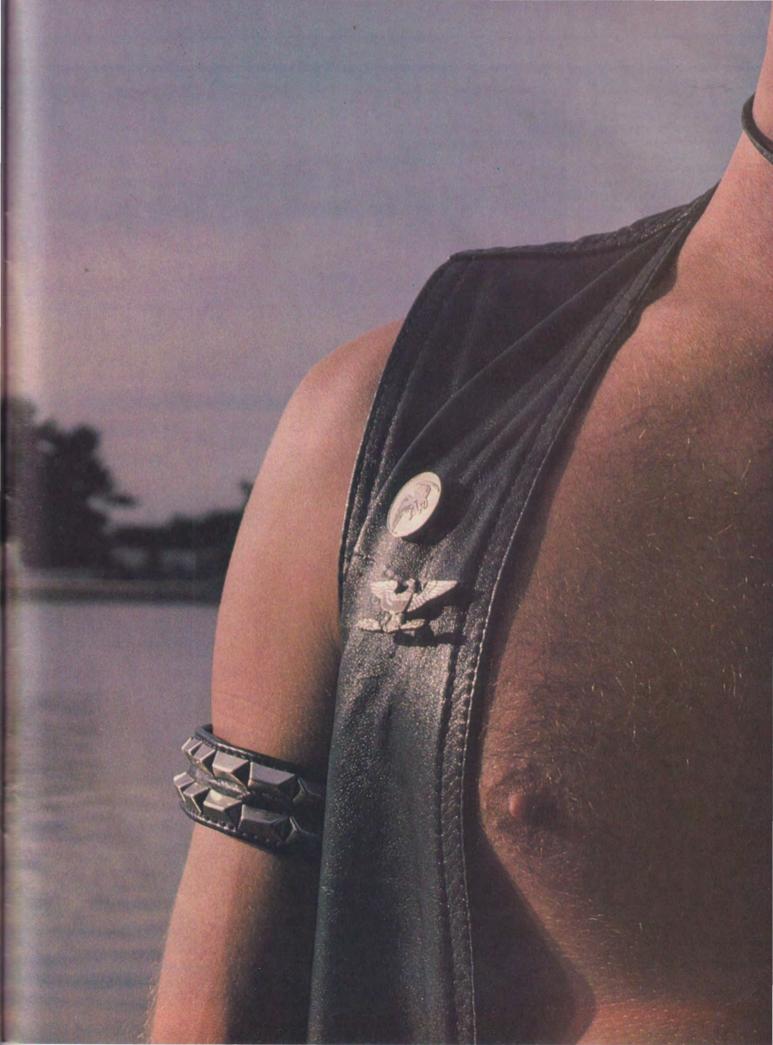
on Franklin was as straight as an arrow. He had been raised in Silver Lake, New Jersey in middle class splendor, educated at Princeton in penny loafers and crew neck sweaters and had completed his law studies at Harvard Law in the heady atmosphere of tweed jackets and rich pipe smoke. He was something of a fixture with Radcliffe and Wellesley girls, although his unwillingness to make even the smallest emotional commitment garnered him the reputation as a hit-and-run lover. Two years of working as an associate at one of Boston's most prestigious law firms, coupled with growing dissatisfaction over the clubby atmosphere of Cambridge where he still kept his law school apartment, made Don hungry for something new, something more challenging.

He found what he wanted in New York City working for the American Civil Liberties Union. This was work he could sink his teeth into. And New York! New York provided the shot of adrenalin Don needed to feel really alive. As he walked the teeming streets of the city to work each day he marvelled at the vast complexity of this metropolis and the people who made their homes there. His work on the exploitation of illegal immigrant laborers brought him in contact with people he had never known existed before. Each day was a challenge and each day Don felt more and more confident there was nothing he couldn't handle. Until one rainy day in September when the director called him into his office.

Washington, D.C. for a gay march. Don didn't want any part of it, any more than he wanted to run into his old friend Bill. As far as Don was concerned, the past was dead. Bill had other ideas...

By Martin Selig • Photograph by John Preston

SAY IT LOUD!



GAY CAUSE

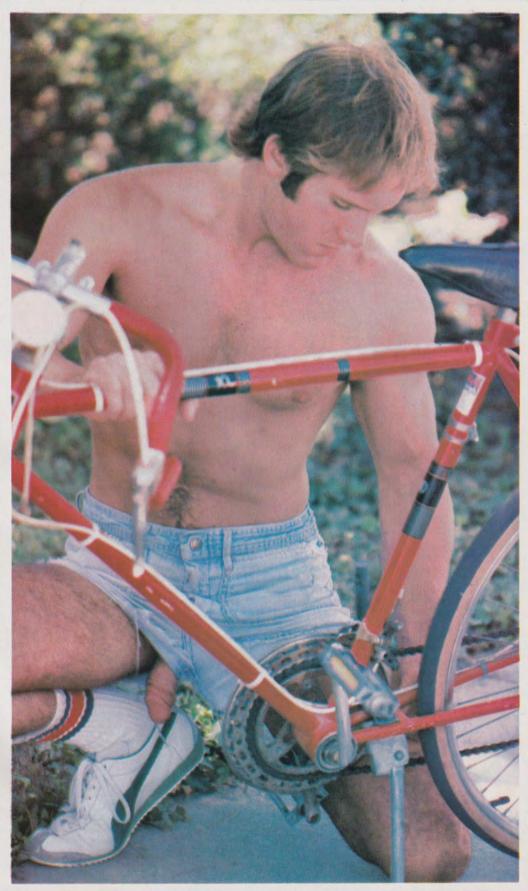
A new cause of homosexuality may be after effects of the drug DEW (diethylstilbestrol), used to prevent miscarriage. Unborn male infants exposed to this sex hormone later have more homosexual fantasies and activity than those not exposed. Although the end result may not be overt homosexuality, the explosive possibility has been posed. Other effects may include low sperm count, microphallus (penis size less than 11/2" flaccid), and a rare genital cancer. Perhaps there has never been greater cause for adhering to the ad slogan of "Not fooling with Mother Nature."

SELECTIVE BREEDING

The book Errol Flynn, The Untold Story by Charles Higham is creating a lot of ripples for a lot of reasons. In addition to Flynn's alleged tootsie-playing with the Nazis, details were revealed of his sexual affair with Tyrone Power. Playboy Consulting Editor Lawrence S. Dietz had this interesting query when he reviewed the book for the New York Times: "Isn't life biologically unjust? Imagine how beautiful their kids would have been?"

Now that summer's about over and the cooler weather may be just around the corner, we thought we'd give you a last look at one of the joys of the warm weather... we mean bicycle riding, of course. The freedom of a summer afternoon...

MAN



NEED 17?

I GUARANTEE CREDIT!

I'M PUTTING MY MONEY WHERE MY MOUTH IS — TO GUARANTEE SOMETHING YOU NEVER THOUGHT ANYONE WOULD OR COULD GUARANTEE! IF YOU HAVE HAD A BANKRUPTCY, BAD CREDIT OR NO CREDIT, YOU WILL HAVE 'MASTERCHARGE & VISA' ETC. THIS TIME NEXT MONTH! YOU CAN KISS MONEY PROBLEMS GOODBYE!

Hi, I'm Linda Saba, and I do not intend to bore you or waste our valuable time just to inform you about my wealth along with all the material things that I have acquired in recent years. It's true that I began receiving Big Money in less than 30 days after I had received my 'DB' rating, and that stood for DEAD-BEAT!

Lets understand one thing, if you are content living in a world full of false ethics, then there is nothing I or anyone else can do to change that. However! If you are tired of being a nobody, and feel that its about time you got your fair-share, then I know you and I can become good friends.

What I will be giving you is Knowledge, the same knowledge that man & women have been searching for, What had been unobtainable before, will now become easy to get.

We are all aware that there is a difference between the 'Good-Life' or struggling to just get by. I will put it right on the line, that will be the only way for you to have the money you are going to need. How? Well thats what my system is all about.

Don't you want to end the hassle? Wouldn't you like to have unlimited credit? Receive, and use all the major credit cards as Visa, Mastercharge, Diners etc? Want to buy a new home? Car? Wardrobe? Go on unlimited vacations? In other words, Fly now Enjoy now, Live now, and pay Never? Just take the time to learn how simply it is done, LEGALLY & FAST!

Would you believe that this all started a few years back when I had applied for a credit card with one of the major department stores. It was shortly thereafter that I received a letter that opened with Dear Ms Saba but what they really meant to say was, Dear Poor Credit Risk:

Don't you hate hearing that statement from credit card companies, banks etc. Sure you made a few financial mistakes over the years, we all do, But like you, I think it unfair that past errors be used against us so as to prevent us from enjoying the opportunity of reinstating or obtaining a credit rating.

As I said, not so long ago I was in the same position that many of you are in now. No Credit! I also was hounded by bill-collectors and attorney's, this along with my bank loan being overdue. Suddenly, the credit that I had enjoyed for so long, and had taken for granted for so many years, vanished overnight. If it had cost a nickel to go around the world, I would not have been able to get out of sight!

You can bet that I tried everything, pleaded yes even begged for my credit, and it was only then that I learned that credit ratings are based on a system of Building Blocks, in other words credit, anyones credit has to be built block by block over a period of many long years. As the blocks build higher, so does the credit rating, but if through misjudgement or error, which may be no fault of your own, these same blocks may come crashing down as they did for me.

Its pointless trying to fight the disaster, trying to explain to those disinterested, steeleyed credit managers that aren't the least bit interested. Remember, your a 'DB' rating, sure its unfair, but they are the ones who decide who gets the credit, not you!

Well I thought, what if I could design a system of speeding up those years of credit building blocks into a shorter period of time. After all, there is only way to go, UP! So I went to work on my system.



THE RESULTS WERE OUTSTANDING!

In just a few short weeks I had an A-1 credit rating with the banks and major credit card companies. I had become a new person, it was so simple that even I was amazed. You can be certain that if I can do it, so can you. I, Linda Saba am going to help you to help yourself for whatever purpose, and I am going to charge you for it, 10 bucks to be exact. Is your future worth 10 bucks?

I will begin by showing you how to borrow yourself out of debt, or how to stop creditors Dead-In-Their-Tracks, all in one simple legal maneuver.

What I will be sending you is a complete concise report (no bull———) of my proven and successful system, no, not a long boring publication, but a simple easy to read step-by-step method on exactly how to obtain or reinstate your credit as often as you want to.

No idle promises, no gimmicks or half-baked ideas!!! My system is completely legal, and is guaranteed to work for anybody, as it worked for Anthony P. of Vancouver, Canada. I recently received a letter from Iris K. of Atlanta, Ga. who had sent for my system out of sheer desperation. Iris is now living completely free of money problems, and is now enjoying a life of independence.

Jack S. of Long Beach, Ca. who, after being turned down for a mere check cashing card at his local supermarket, now possesses, and uses his own major credit cards such as Visa & Mastercharge, to name just a few.

I have received letters from hundreds of individuals in just a short period of time, and which I keep on file telling me over and over again how much more my system is worth. Would you believe that I have a letter on file from an ex-convict that was unable to borrow as much as one thin dime, but is now living quite comfortably along with unlimited credit, and only a short period of time after applying my system, Legally!

Now, I don't care if your poor credit is with autoinsurance due to traffic violations, repossessed automobiles, failure to pay the utility companies on time, or because you missed 3 payments in a row on the financing of your home or bank loan. It makes no difference to me if you hung a pail on the major credit card companies, or pover had credit at all!

Just by following my system you will easily become the **new person** with **unlimited credit**, I repeat, there is no long involved reading, as the average section will take all of about 3 or 4 minutes to read.

Its impossible to list all the valuable information however, each of the steps are fully explained and documented. No! This is not a book on some credit findings, or a guide on how a lazy person can get rich by going into business on a shoestring. This is a system that is GUARANTEED to give results in just a few short weeks!

Now wouldn't it be nice to be addressed once more as Dear Sir or Madam: rather than Poor Credit Risk: Wouldn't it also be nice to have the prestige that goes with an A-1 Credit Rating? Think of how great you will feel when you are able to hand out that plastic card to pick up the dinner tab when out with family and friends. Is that alone worth 10 dollars to you?

Think about it for a moment, then join me, along with the rest of us who now have unlimited credit.

MY UNCONDITIONAL GUARANTEE: If for any reason you return my system after 30 days, I promise that a complete refund will be sent without question. (I will even refund your postage stamp)

O.K. Linda, I believe you, and I will join you. Here is my 10 bucks, now please send me your money-back guaranteed system so that I may also learn all the angles, twists and turns that will make it easier for me to make more and more, yet pay less and less or nothing at all!

M Oct

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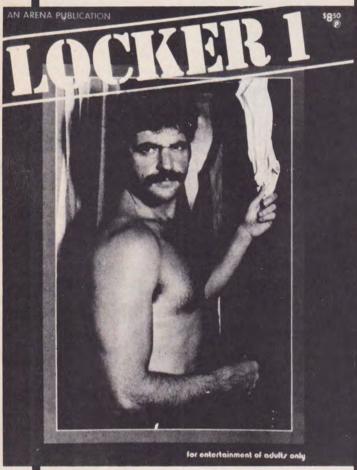
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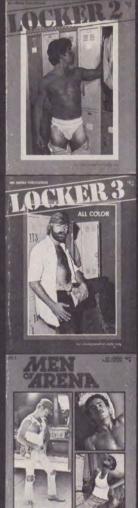
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Continued from page 31

merizing, and it's funny, moving, spellbinding in its accuracy. When the characters begin to fall apart, so does the movie. Yet Hazel O'Connor is someone we'll see more of. She can galvanize, and she suggests the narcissistic impulse, combined with sincerity, that can make a star. It's the mixture that made Garland, Streisand and Midler, the vulnerability beneath the bravado. Brian Gibson wrote and directed.

MANDATE

ON KHOMEINI

Dear Sirs:

I cannot but take offense at the recent attack that your magazine took on Iman Khomeini and Islam in its recent issue (with the pool boys). My English is still very poor but I just want to say that it angers me that gay Americans are just as anti-Iranian as the rest. When I first came here two years ago, it seemed like all the guys especially were kind to me-I slept with some of them. It is not true that being gay is illegal in Iran, only rapists and prostitutes are punished.

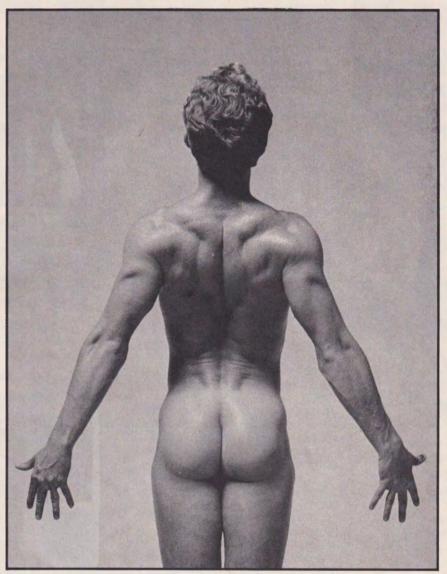
In any case, I am leaving the U.S. for West Germany where we are treated kinder. I liked your magazine, especially with all the blonde Americans,

but your attitude is so poor.

Ali Reza Razine Clearwater, Fla.

Over the years Mandate has very respectfully and enthusiastically covered Islamic countries, with major coverage of Egypt, Morocco, Senegal and The Gambia. There is no hint anywhere of any racial, political or religious bias, because none exists. The Ayatollah Khomeini, given the situation in Iran, is another matter altogether. It is unfortunate that innocent Iranians around the world must suffer the consequences of their leaders' erratic, irresponsible conduct.

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SAY IT LOUD!

Continued from page 26

The feeling that struck Don was one of being in an elevator whose cables had snapped. As the dizzying sensation increased he opened the cover and was confronted with a mass of press releases, official letters and literature about the first national gay march ever held in the United States. It was to be in Washington, D.C. in a couple of weeks and, unless Don missed his guest, he had been singled out to be the A.C.L.U. representative present.

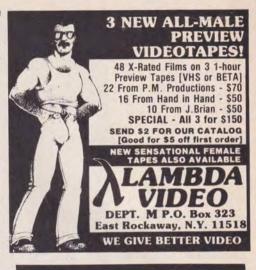
Don closed the folder without having read a word. His pipe had gone out, but he didn't notice. Only that unsettling sinking feeling remained. Why? He closed his eyes and rested his head on the palms of his hands trying to sort out his feelings. Shit, he was a liberal, he worked for the most liberal of all organizations, yet something was wrong here. His mind skipped over the past eight years like a flat stone scaled across still waters. Something, somewhere was definitely not copasetic. Suddenly, the elevator in his psyche came to a grinding halt. Bill Connolly. That was it. Bill Connolly.

Don pushed away from his desk and started towards the director's office, his mind frantically trying to assemble valid reasons why he shouldn't,

"Don, I want you to handle this from now on," he said sliding a thick folder of papers across his immaculately clean desk top. "Read it over, get in touch with the right people and get back to me by the end of the day." The director leaned back in his swivel chair, gave Don a quizzical smile, then nodded his head. "That's it."

Don struggled back to his office cubbyhold through the masses of workers, clutter and clients. He felt exhilarated; a new case, new people to meet, another chance to right some of the rampant injustices that cropped up out of nowhere each day. Once behind his desk, Don carefully packed a moist bowlful of private-blend tobacco into his pipe, lit it and savored the taste and smell of the tobacco before reaching for the thick folder the director had given him. He leaned forward and read the cover: Gay Pride March—Washington, D.C.

couldn't be a part of this gay pride business. Halfway to his destination Don stopped and retreated slowly to his office. There was no reason he



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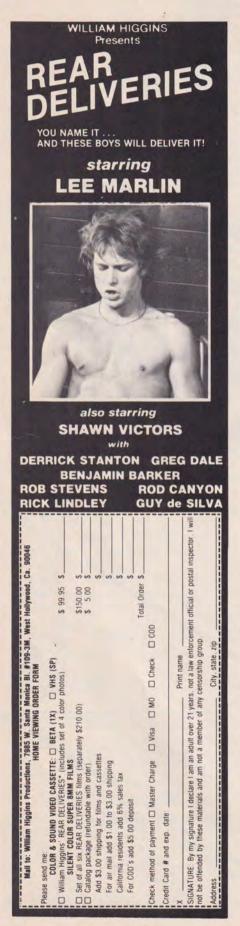
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SAY IT LOUD!

Continued from page 64

could give for not being a part of this; at least no reason he wanted to verbalize. How could he tell the director that in his second year of law school he had sucked Bill Connolly's penis late one night after they had dropped off their double dates at Garland Junior College? How could he tell him that he had preferred the feeling of Bill's rod in his mouth to the arden kisses of the equestrian major from Garland?

Don returned to his desk, this time lighting a forbidden cigarette. All that was in the past. Christ, what could you expect from a couple of guys who'd had too many pitchers of beers and whose teasing twenty-year-old dates had simpered something about

blond hair and icy blue eyes that were surprisingly friendly. He was hung like Don always envisioned powerful men would be and when they were together he hadn't been able to keep his eyes or his hands off Bill's penis and the heavy sac that hung underneath.

But that wasn't being gay. No way. The several times Bill and Don had fooled around with each other was just a phase. They had never kissed, nor had they ever had anal intercourse. Shit, it was just a phase. Don snubbed out his cigarette with a vengeance, flipped open the folder on the march and two hours later was back in the director's office giving him ideas about coverage, an outline for a speech he might make, if asked and, in general, returning to his old self—the self who had existed one second before he had thought of Bill Connolly.

"Things had changed since they were in law school; Bill was more skilled in the art of making love to a man. He showed Don what to do, where to touch, what to bite, what to stroke."

being "nice girls." It was just a fluke...the first time. Don dragged heavily on the Camel and tried to nudge the memories from his mind; they remained. The second time with Bill they had also been drunk, but there were no women involved, just the two of them. They'd blown each other in the sixty-nine position on the rumpled double bed in Don's apartment. And this time they had come in each other's mouths, had swallowed it and had spent the night together.

Bill wasn't as good a student as Don had been, but he was better looking. He spent his free time playing squash and rowing on the Charles River. His body was slender and sinewy and his legs, ass, and crotch were covered with a thick coating of fine, blond hair; the rest of his body was as smooth as a baby's. The memories of Bill became more insistent and, unexpectedly filled him with a strange sense of contentment. Bill had unwieldy, long

Don couldn't believe the scene in Penn Station. Sure there were the usual crowds of families, singles and couples waiting with consummately bored expressions for the arrival of their trains, but there was something else, something unique and exciting. There was what appeared to be several hundred gay men and women-men mostly-gathered near the gates, buying newspapers, buying snacks for the trip to Washington. They were animated, excited. Their features and their eyes glowed with pure pleasure and expectation. From what Don had read in the releases, this march was the culmination of years of work to free gays from the stereotyped nelly faggot and the truck driving lesbian image. They were here, in the open, proudly displaying not just their gayness, but their humanity. There was an electricity in the air that was tangible.

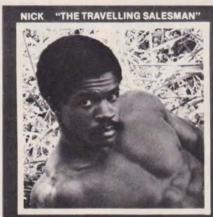
Don had planned to drive down to

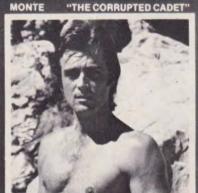


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Washington, but at the last minute had been given a ticket for the special train that was "gays only." It made him nervous being in the presence of so many gays; nervous because he thought they might be able to see in his eyes that he...no, he was just nervous in general. Don stood towards the back of the station near a pizza stand and the constant, warm breezes heavy with the smells of tomato sauce and cheese were beginning to make him feel sick. He moved towards the center of the room just as a crowd of men headed for Washington swung around the corner. One of them broke away to buy a newspaper. It was Bill Connolly.

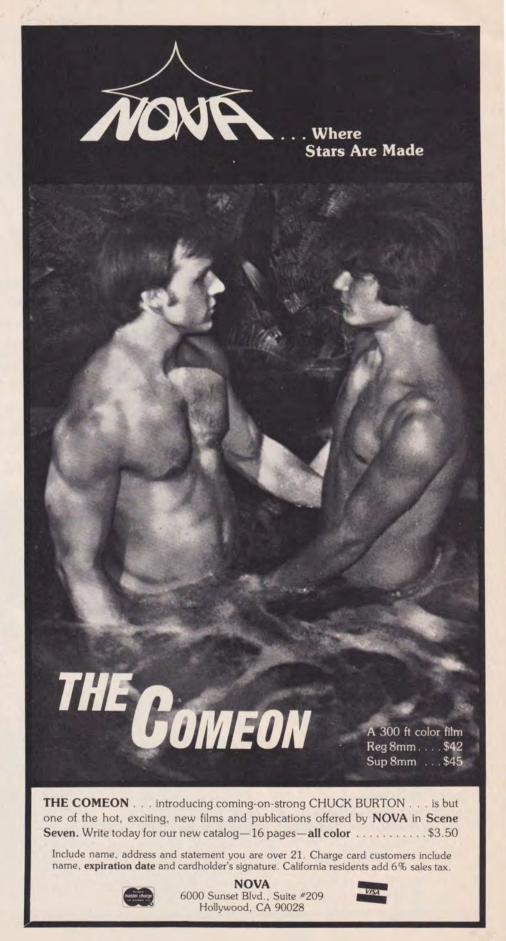
Don took a few quick steps forward, then stopped. It was five years since he'd seen Bill and, from where he stood, it appeared he hadn't changed. Of course his hair was shorter and he seemed physically bulkier but the walk, the face, the look were the same. Everything was the same except Bill was gay and Don was not. He shook his head in wonder. Strange how things worked out. Don decided he was going to talk to him anyway. After all, they had been close once. Bill's lifestyle shouldn't interfere with a friendship, even if that friendship had slipped over the years.

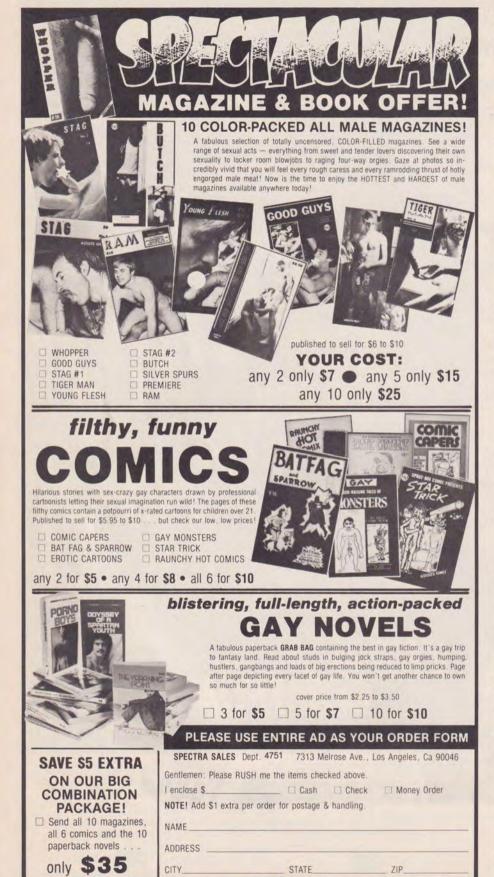
By the time Don was next to Bill he found he was trembling. When he spoke, his voice squeaked out of his throat and sounded distinctly juvenile. "How's it going, Bill?" he asked as calmly as possible.

Bill, startled, turned and faced Don. For a second he drew a blank, then his face lit up. "Jesus Christ! Don, is that you?" Don nodded mutely. "I don't believe it. How long's it been? Four years?"

"Five," Don corrected, his mind suddenly flashing to the last time they had seen each other. It had been a gray day like today. They had been having coffee in a restaurant in Cambridge and Bill had said he was leaving Harvard to go home to be with his father who was sick. "You look the same, guy," Don said, noting that the five years had added a hefty helping of masculine handsomeness to Bill's face. He was dressed in jeans, workboots, a checkered shirt and red nylon windbreaker. A knapsack was slung casually over his shoulder.

Bill shook his head. "I still don't believe it, Don. You look fantastic... preppy as ever," he smiled as his eyes travelled over the worn corduroy slacks, the oxford cloth button down





shirt just peeking out from the collar of his sweater, an ancient Harris tweed jacket with patches at the elbow and the signature penny loafers. "Where you headed?"

"Washington," Don replied, wondering if Bill's assessment of his clothing was judgmental. He decided it wasn't.

"Washington? You on the Metroliner?" Bill asked naming the fast train between New York and Washington.

Don shook his head. "Guess I'm on the special train, same as you," he said softly, the color beginning to rise in his cheeks.

Bill stared at him for a second, then dropped his knapsack, threw his arms around Don and kissed him loudly on the neck. "So, you finally came out! I was wondering how long it would..."

Don pushed him away with both hands, nearly sending Bill sprawling over the sack on the floor. "Hang on, buddy. You've got the wrong idea. I'm headed for the march to represent the A.C.L.U., nothing more. I'm straight." He was angry, but not as angry as he should have been. His eyes darted from side to side as he hoped no one had seen the unchaste kiss. No one was watching.

"Straight, huh? Well, good for you. Hey, let me pay for this paper, then let's ride down to D.C. together." He turned his back on Don before he had time to answer.

As they walked towards the train, which had been announced, Don asked: "What about your friends? The guys you came in with."

"I just met them on the subway. I'm a loner these days. Two years with a lover was enough for a while." He hooked his arm over Don's shoulder. "So, tell me about yourself."

The train, dubbed the "Disco Train" was crowded, noisy and probably the most exciting place to be on the East Coast at that minute. Men were dancing with each other in the aisles, drinks and joints were being passed around and, now and then, two—sometimes three or four—men would disappear into the restrooms for what were obviously sexual encounters.

By the time the train pulled into Union Station Don and Bill had filled each other in on their lives. Bill's father had died and he had finished law school and was now in New York with a private practice, comprised largely of a gay clientele. He was a member of the National Gay Task Force and he was an outspoken advocate of gay rights. He lived alone in



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the Chelsea section of New York and loved his life. Don tried to make his life sound interesting but, the more he talked the more boring it sounded. The work was great, but his personal life sucked. He had always justified his solitary existence by saying to himself that working took everything he had out of him. Now, saying it aloud, it sounded false.

They'd had a couple of drinks on the train and by the time they stood awkwardly facing each other in the station they were a little drunk. "So, what's your plans?" Don asked.

"None. First I'm going to look for a room for the night, then I'll think about things."

Don thought for a second before saying: "Look, I've got a double at the Carriage House in Georgetown. Why not stay with me?" Bill hesitated. "For old time's sake?" he asked a little too loudly.

Bill smiled. "You got it. But the cab's on me." And, once again he put his arm around Don's shoulder and they left.

An hour later they were in bed together. What led up to it seemed innocent enough on the surface, but both men knew it was calculated. How else could they explain the sudden urge to clean up, to shower, to be naked with each other. Bill had suggested it. actually, and he had showered first dropping his clothes in a heap on the bedroom floor before going into the bathroom. Don had pretended to unpack but his whole attention was on Bill's body. Don was second and. when he finished towelling off and returned to the bedroom, Bill was lying on top of the bed smoking a cigarette. He hadn't gotten dressed and his nakedness somehow seemed right in the circumstances.

It had only taken Don one look at Bill's body to know what would happen for sure. Taking the offensive. without a word, he had sat on the bed next to Bill, leaned over and kissed him on the mouth. Bill responded immediately, pulling Don onto the bed with him and the sex that followed far outshone anything they had done in law school. Bill was more skilled now in the art of making love to another man and he led Don, showing him what to do, where to touch, what to bite, what to stroke. When he turned over on his stomach, offering his friend the beauty of his ass and the secrets that lay between the warm cheeks, Don hesitated, for this act seemed to him the final step across a line he wasn't sure he was willing to



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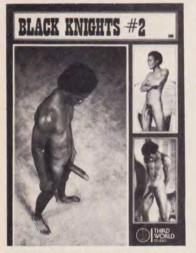






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But when he found himself fondling the hard mounds of flesh, prying them gently apart with his hands, when he found that he wanted to be a real, physical part of his friend more than he had ever wanted anything in his life. Don gave in to his natural desires. He eased himself onto Bill's back. biting and kissing the back of his neck as Bill guided him toward the mark and, finally, relaxed enough to let him enter. Don began moving back and forth slowly, then gradually as his passion overtook him, he began lengthening and increasing his strokes until the pleasure built and built and finally he climaxed, his body shuddering on that of his friend. Bill rolled over to his side and quickly masturbated, Don still deep inside him. After he had had his orgasm the two men slept soundly, now locked together by a bond far stronger than flesh

That weekend together vanished for Don and Bill as quickly as a morning mist. There was so much to do, so much to be seen, so much to participate in. They joined in the enormous rally the night before the march at the Washington Monument to hear singers, musicians, speeches. They listened with awe as a gay choir sang, and laughed when they sang "Blow the Man Down" and "Stouthearted Men." There were marching bands, new friends, dancing at night and wonderful dinners in Washington restaurants. They explored the city of Washington, were awed by its grace and beauty, by the immense sense of history they felt at the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, the White House, the Capitol. They saw leathermen silhouetted against monuments, lesbians holding hands at the National Gallery, men kissing men, women kissing women in the streets. They saw gay people unafraid to be themselves despite what others might think.

And, when the march capped off the weekend festivities, Don and Bill marched together, arm in arm with thousands of others from every state proclaiming to the world they were gay and they were proud of it. For the first time in many, many years Don felt like he belonged. He pulled himself closer to Bill under the eyes of curious strangers and didn't feel the guilt, the embarrassment. Their lovemaking was no longer a fabricated accident built around booze and lies. When Don went to Bill he went openly, knowing





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what to expect, knowing what he wanted. And, for the first time in his life, Don felt free.

The train back to New York left late the final evening and, despite the jubilant atmosphere and the music that poured from the speakers in every other car, the couple slept soundly in each other's arms.

In Penn Station, tired, bleary-eyed, Don and Bill stood facing each other. "What now?" Bill asked. Don shrugged his shoulders. "It was a great weekend, Don. The best." Don still said nothing. "In a way I feel kind of bad. I mean if you hadn't run into me your weekend would have been different. Remember, you told me that you're straight. Maybe you are. Maybe you just made the same mistake you made in law school."

Don shook his head. "No, that was no mistake. The mistake was in *not* taking the opportunity when it came along."

"No regrets?" Bill asked softly.

"None that I can think of," Don smiled. "Look, it's late and I have to get to work early tomorrow. I've got a report to write and some expense account spending to justify. What are you doing later in the week? Say, oh say, tomorrow night?"

Bill laughed. "I'm having dinner with you, of course. You're too new at this to start having one night—or one weekend—stands." He dug a paper and pencil from his knapsack and wrote his home and work numbers down. "Call tomorrow and we'll decide where to meet." Bill leaned forward and gave him a quick kiss on the mouth. "You'll be okay. We'll all be okay." He walked away towards the subway, stopping twice to look back and smile.

Don didn't move for a few minutes. He watched the men and women from the Washington train start to settle back into the routine of their own lives. For a brief time they had been one, touching something in each other that had never been touched before so openly, so dramatically, so proudly. Don started to leave the station. There was so much to think about, so much to do. His life had been turned upside down in the course of three days. He had made his choice and now he was going to stand by it.

The sounds of the chanting from the parade came back to him: "Say it loud! Gay and proud! Say it loud! Gay and proud." That's how it was. He would say it loud. He was gay, he was proud. And, one thing he hadn't counted on, he was in love.

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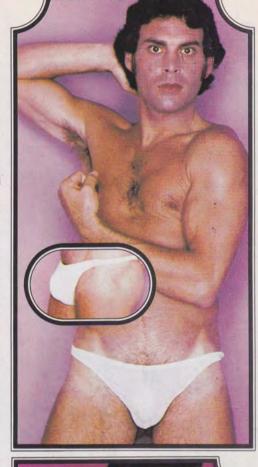
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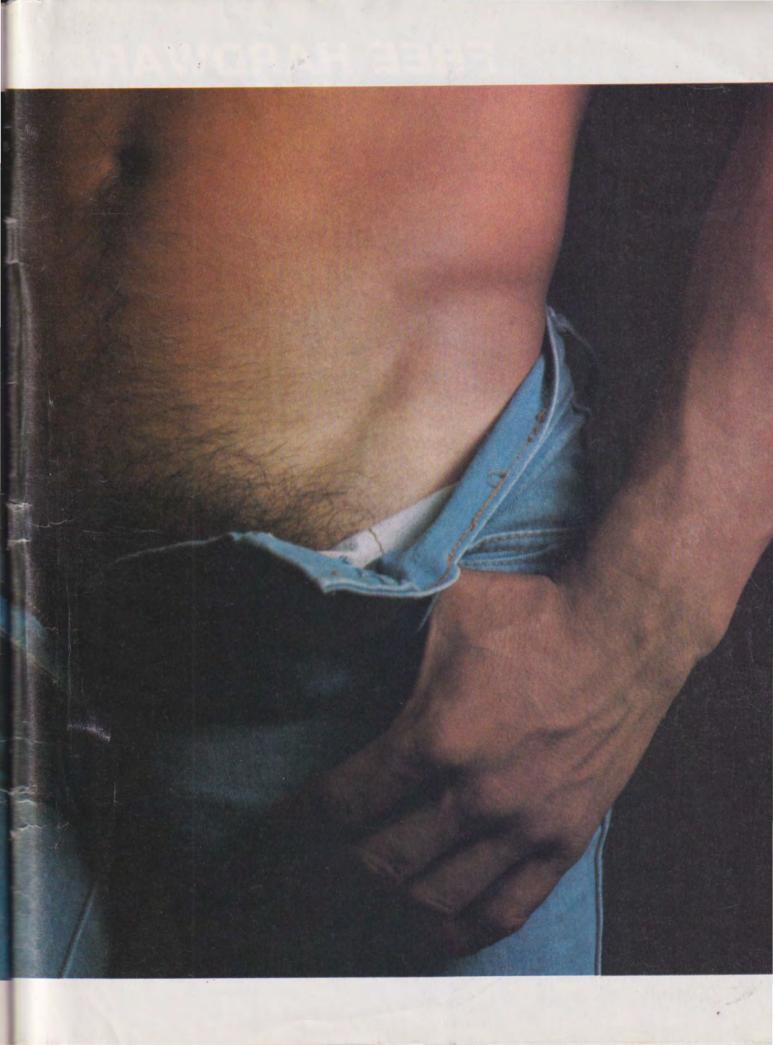
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