

"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away."

Henry David Thoreau



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Cover: "Tie him up with Christmas tree lights and plug him in." A festive idea using Charley, our centerfold, who went along with the idea. Photo by Patrick Nunn.
Opposite Page: Two versions of a Santaspank for boys who have been good and boys who have been bad. By Man's Hand Films.

On November 2, we understand, a contest was held to select Mr. Leather New York at the Paradise Garage in that city. I had received a letter from a photographer there offering to cover the contest for *Drummer*. There was no return address on it, let alone a telephone number. So much for that.

Yesterday we got a call from another someone calling for Artie Haber, the contest's organizer, saying that that someone had been photographing the proceedings on behalf of *Drummer* and that Artie was very concerned since none of the contestants wanted their pictures in print.

San Francisco's Mr. S, who was a judge, tells us that the winner was sponsored by the Mineshaft, which was recently raided by sixty-five of NYC's finest. We thought they only did that in LA, sending an army to hack up a place of business to close it, instead of merely serving a piece of paper.

Last year, everyone was happy that New York was finally getting its shit together and having a contest at all. We assume their winner is to go to Chicago for Mr. International Leather and we hope not wearing a paper bag over his head to keep from being recognized.

This is in no way criticism of Mr. Haber, of whom we are rather fond, or of the people involved with or in the New York contest. Or even the contestants who, for reason of their own, must remain nameless and faceless. But kids, New York City should be a far cry from Wichita Falls.

It is too bad that the New York leather community is so closeted that it tolerates such a raid on the Mineshaft, or any other place of business that is to follow.

And speaking of following, a city the size of NYC should be leading the way for leather as well as the rest of the gay community.

—John H. Embry