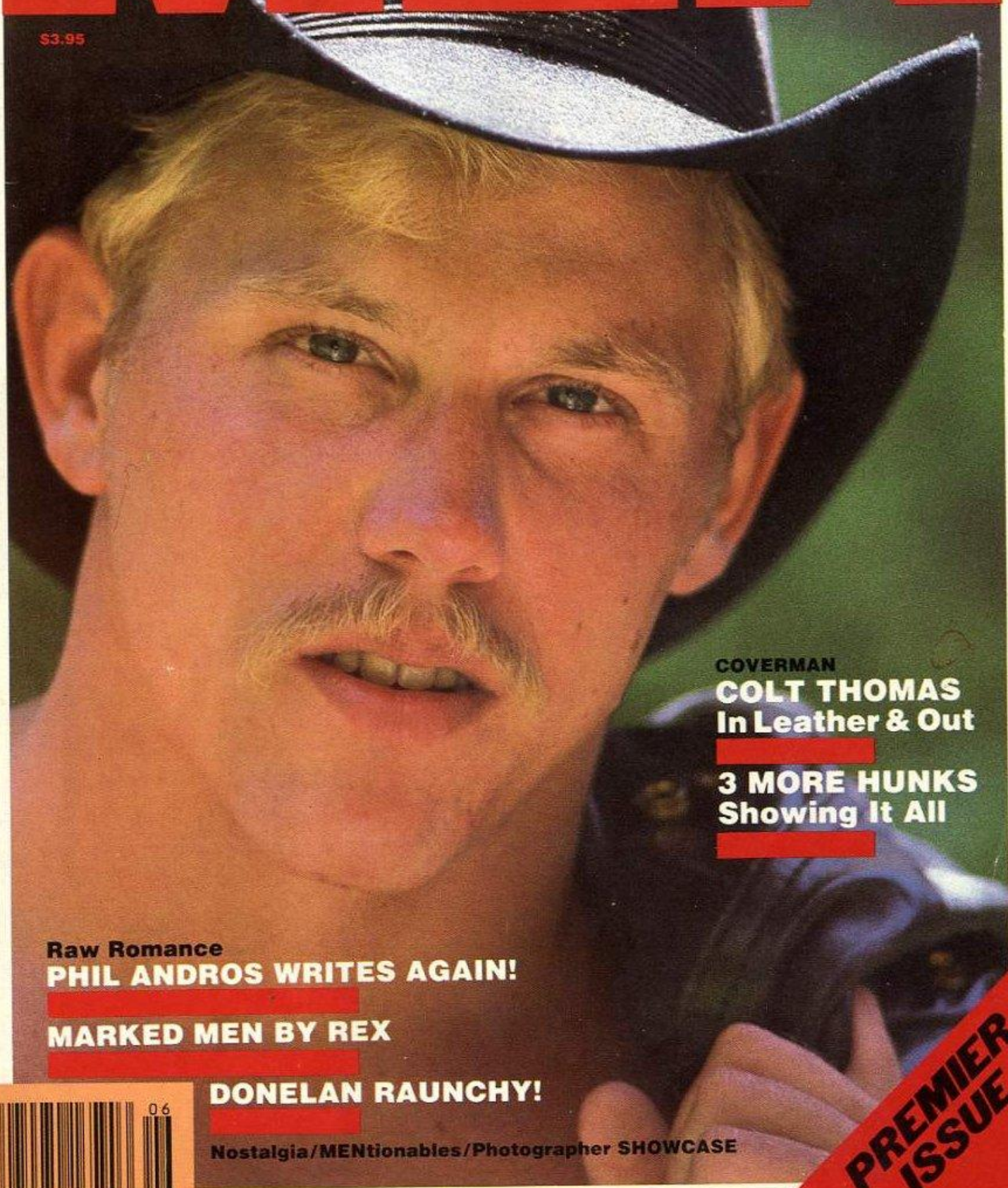


ADVOCATE

MEN

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COVERMAN
COLT THOMAS
In Leather & Out

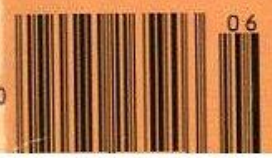
3 MORE HUNKS
Showing It All

Raw Romance
PHIL ANDROS WRITES AGAIN!

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DONELAN RAUNCHY!

Nostalgia/MENTIONABLES/Photographer SHOWCASE



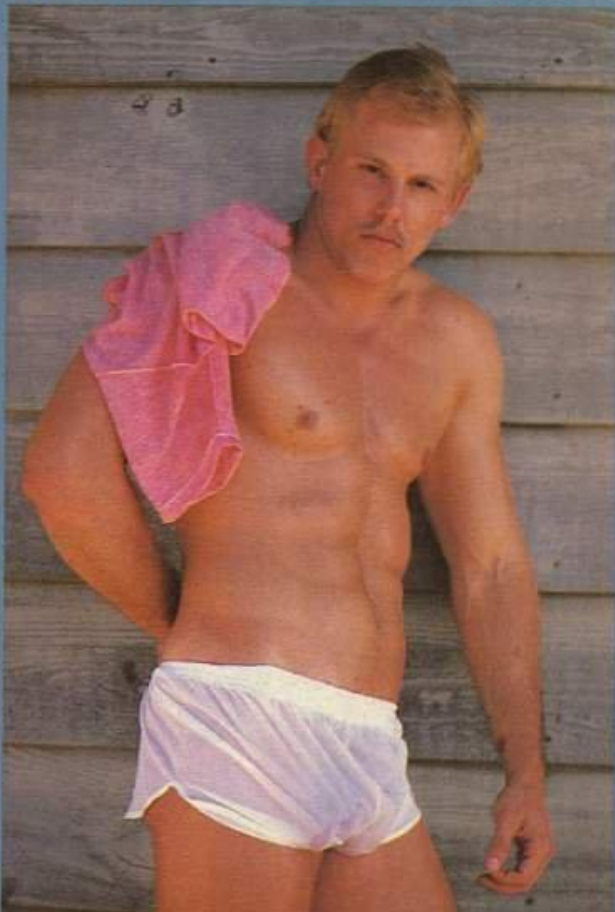
PREMIER
ISSUE

COVERMAN

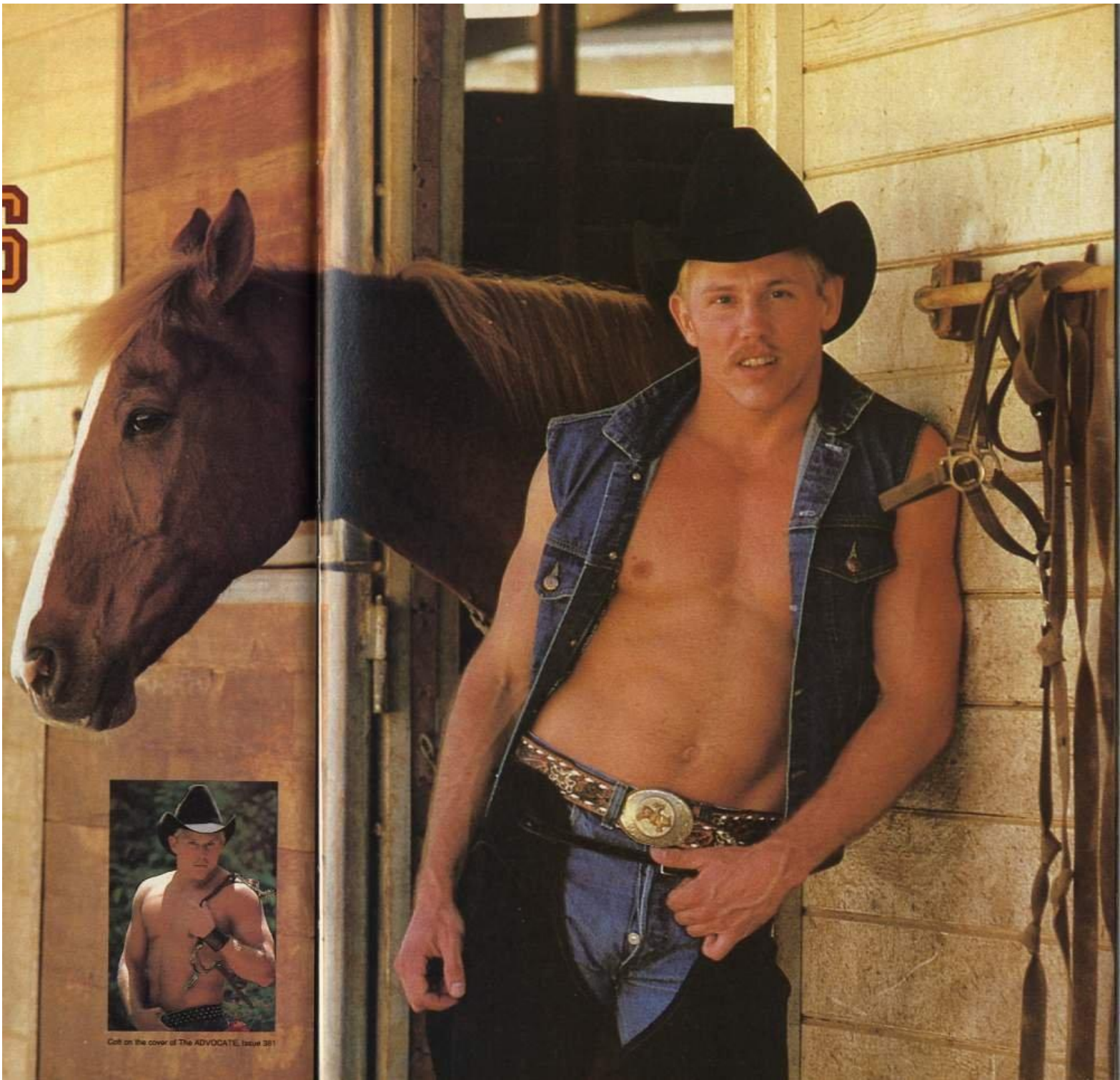
COLT THOMAS

A strapping boyish towhead, a bodybuilding third-year medical student, hailing from the rural heartland of Texas, Coulter Thomas, 25, of Galveston has just completed his 12 months in harness as International Mr. Leather '83, an honor bestowed on him in Chicago last year after stiff competition with 44 other men who favor black leather as emblem of their special sexuality and lifestyle. The second consecutive smooth blond hunk to take home this most-coveted of gay "titles," Colt—the nickname his friends and admirers call him by—doesn't fit the classic image of leatherman as unshaven hirsute "daddy" replete with tattoos and titrings. Described instead by a 30-year veteran of the international leatherscene as "classic daddy's boy," Thomas and his immediate IML predecessor have changed—softened—the public image of leather, perhaps forever. It was one of his stated ambitions, if selected for the title last May, to work towards healing what he called the "schism" between the leatherworld and the gay community at large. Sacrificing time from his medical studies, Colt traveled widely as goodwill leather ambassador—going as far afield as Munich for Oktoberfest—appearing at numerous fundraisers for AIDS, a special concern of his as a gay man, leatherman and future physician. Colt's media presence and high personal visibility, like that of IML'82 Luke Daniel before him, has established a tradition which his successors in Chicago will be hard pressed to live up to.

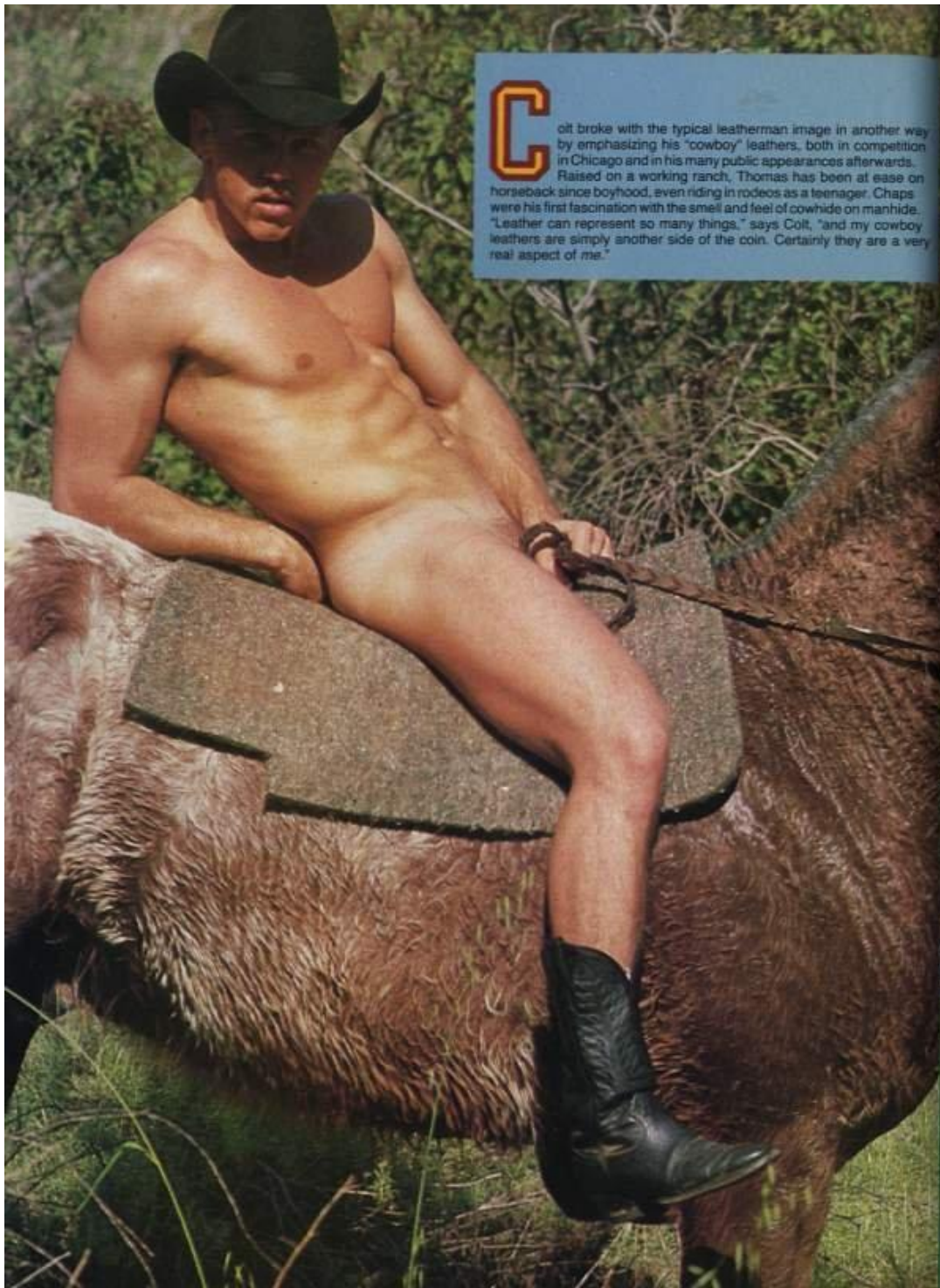
PHOTOGRAPHS BY BISONNES



Colt on the cover of The ADVOCATE, Issue 381



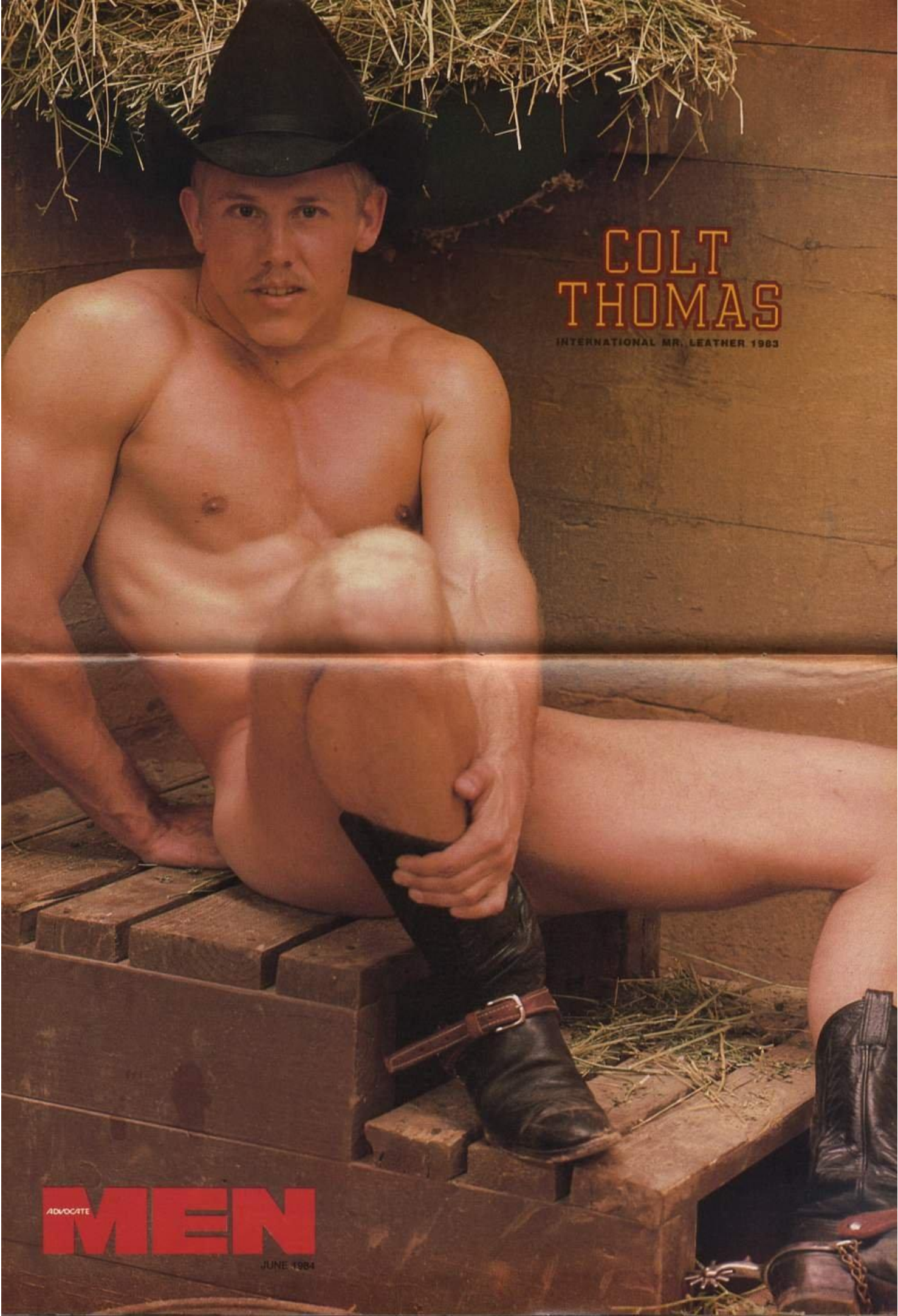
Cell on the cover of The ADVOCATE, Issue 381



C

olt broke with the typical leatherman image in another way by emphasizing his "cowboy" leathers, both in competition in Chicago and in his many public appearances afterwards. Raised on a working ranch, Thomas has been at ease on horseback since boyhood, even riding in rodeos as a teenager. Chaps were his first fascination with the smell and feel of cowhide on manhide. "Leather can represent so many things," says Colt. "and my cowboy leathers are simply another side of the coin. Certainly they are a very real aspect of me."





COLT
THOMAS

INTERNATIONAL MR. LEATHER 1983

ADVOCATE **MEN**

JUNE 1984



T

homas graduated to black motorcycle leathers some time ago, however. As a result of his life, he now owns an extensive wardrobe of traditional leather gear, although much of it is more-customized than the off-the-rack look of many men recently arrived on the contemporary leatherscene. Colt doesn't live in his leathers anymore than can other professionals who are leathermen at heart. His current med-school status finds him more often in hospital "scrubs" or typical 501s-sweatshirt student attire. "My leather only comes out at night and on weekends," he admits.

B

Be sure to mention why I'm not posing for these pictures in the full nude," Colt urged Advocate *MEN* photographer Fred Bissonnes during their three-day shoot together on location in the Los Angeles area. Simple enough: It was agreed all around beforehand that in light of his future career concerns it would be best to leave a little something to the imagination in Thomas' particular case. Or a "Texas-sized" something, as Bissonnes claims. And he should know!

