



QQ MAGAZINE

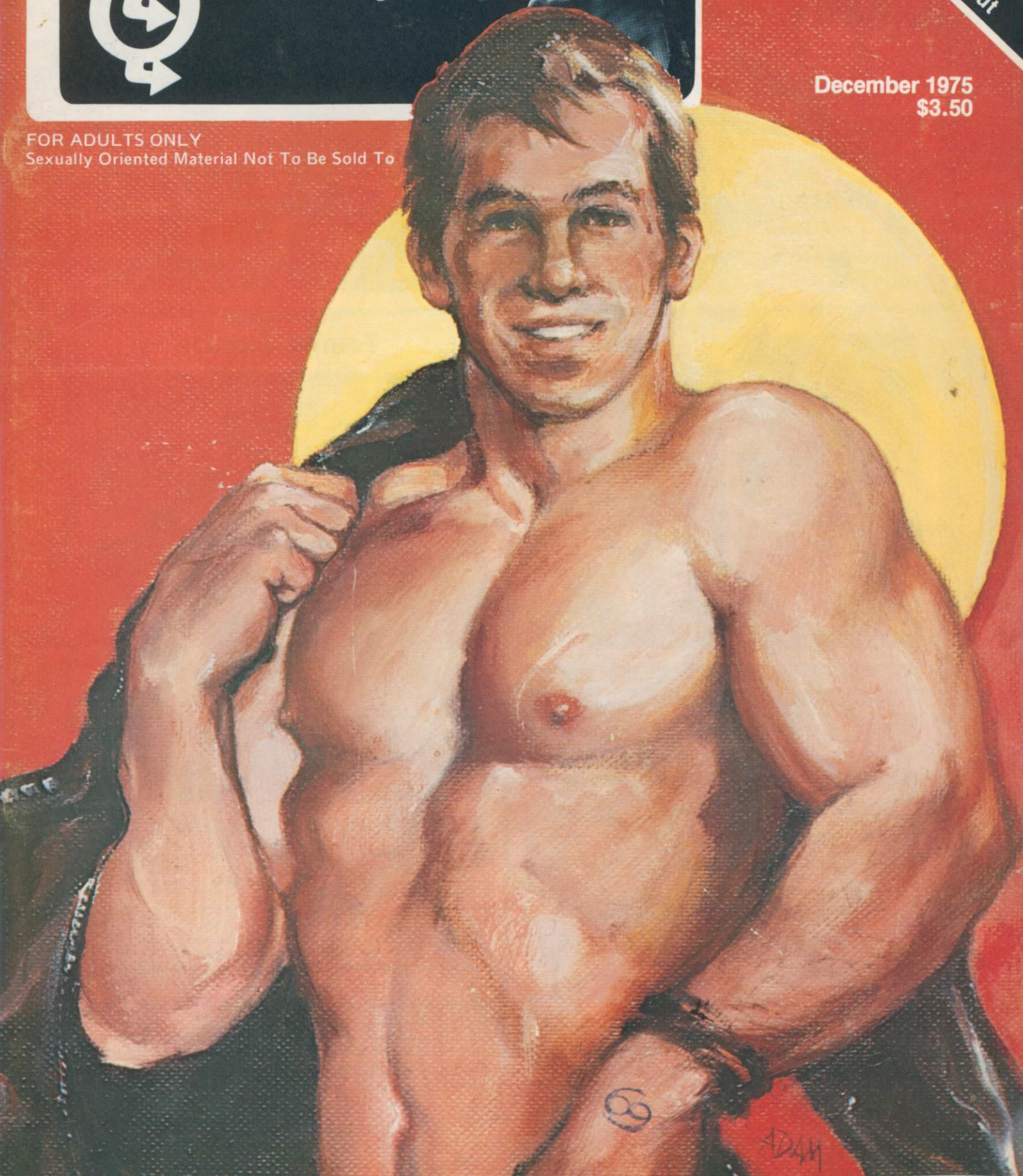
For Gay Guys



Personal Ads
8-Page Bonus Pull-Out

December 1975
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GAY CHICAGO

By Ralph W. Davis

NO other American city has as beautiful a lake shore drive as Chicago. It stretches the length of the city and delights the eye with its splendid buildings, beaches and parks. But it's in Chicago's backyard where all the fun and charm of the city lies. It's here that you'll find a little bit of Sweden or Germany or Greece or China squeezed inbetween high rises or deposited comfortably in middle-class residential neighborhoods. It is here that you will find the ethnic restaurants and shops and people that reflect the character and charm of the Old World.

Since Chicago is a huge city, there isn't just one area to see. The first-time visitor will need a map and a little determination to really see the town. Real Chicagoans—not these plastic imitations on Michigan Avenue or Rush Street—are warm and friendly and worldly. The same fun that a visitor has in New York or Paris or Rome can be had here—if you move into the city and mingle with the people.

If your interests are strictly gay, you won't be disappointed. There are so many bars and johns and favorite areas that it is impossible to list them all. It is like New York or San Francisco in that you can wander almost anywhere and make contact with someone. Imaginative and smooth-talking gays will find the variety and picking easy everywhere because Chicago is a potpourri of types who travel freely between neighborhood boundaries with the same restless curiosity as New Yorkers.

Before listing the gay areas to visit or not to visit, there are two telephone numbers to keep in your pocket. One is the Gay Switchboard (929-HELP) and another is for a recorded, up-to-the-minute report of gay events (GAS-1234).

NORTHSIDE

This is the area from Irving Park north to Howard Street, and from the park west to the city limits. The area is a mixture of nationalities, some tough and black, others ethnic and middle-class. The farther north or west you go the better the neighborhood becomes. Generally north from Irving Park to Foster and west from Sheridan Road to Ashland Avenue, there is a heavy deposit of rough Chicanos, Blacks and hillbillies. Foster and Ashland seem to be the cut-off points. After passing over these two streets you will find yourself moving toward a middle-class neighborhood favored by a variety of nationalities like the Swedes, Greeks and Jews.

Bars

Blue Pub, 3059 W. Irving Park. An older crowd goes here. The age can start as low as 30 and work up. It is a nice neighborhood bar which attracts its customers primarily from the northwest area. On Friday and Saturday from 9:30 p.m. to closing many gather rough the piano and sing-a-long. Opens at about 7 p.m. and closes at 2 a.m. weekdays and 3 a.m. Saturdays.

Twenty-One Club, 3042 W. Irving Park. This bar is practically across the street from the Blue Pub. Most of the customers go back and forth. On Friday nights from 8 until midnight they have a fish-fry here. All you can eat for \$1.50. From all reports the food is supposed to be good. Hours are from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. on weekdays and 5 a.m. on Saturdays.

Up North, 6244 N. Western Avenue. This bar attracts a nice, quiet mixture of gay girls and boys from all parts of the city to its upper northwest area bar. They have a full menu and the food, which is served from 6 until 10:30 p.m. is good and reasonable. Champagne brunch on Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. The help is friendly and the atmosphere is pleasant.

Mike's Aragon, 1113 W. Lawrence. The Aragon falls in that area which is quite rough. I don't recommend the bar unless you like to take chances. It seems to be open all the time, and it attracts everything.

Office Lounge, 4636 N. Broadway. This bar is close to the Aragon and is



Blue Pub



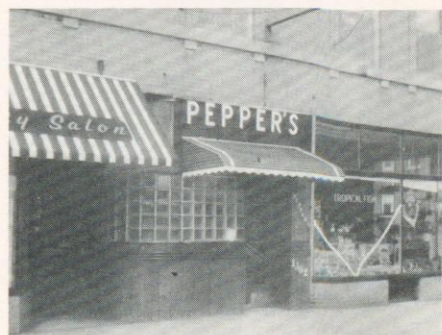
Twenty-One Club



Up North



Mike's Terrace



Pepper's



Man's Country



Carol's Coming Out Pub



El Dorado



Virgo Out



Snake Pit

under the El tracks (Wilson stop). There are probably worse places to go in Chicago but I don't know of them off hand. It has been here for years, and the men seem to be either aging and giddy or tough and commercial.

Alameda Club, 5210 N. Sheridan Rd. I understand that the rough trade (Latins) from below Foster have stepped across the line to this address. So, again, if you like your men rough with a south-of-the-border accent, this may be your bag. Show bar. Female impersonators. No cover. Hours are 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. weekdays, and on Saturday to 5 a.m. Show time is 10:30 p.m., 12:30 and 2:30 a.m.

Mike's Terrace, 1137 W. Granville St. This is not a cruise bar, but a nice drinking and dancing bar with a mixture of pleasant, upper-Northside gays from about twenty-one years-old up. Hours are from noon to 4 a.m. weekdays and on Saturday to 5 a.m.

Pepper's, 1502 W. Jarvis Avenue. This is also in the upper-Northside and its crowd is older than at the Terrace. It is a friendly and nice bar, worth your time if you are in the area. Hours in this 1930-decorated bar are from 4 p.m. to 4 a.m. weekdays and to 5 on Saturday.

Outside Cruising

Howard Street, which separates Chicago from Evanston, was once a good place to meet Northshore gays at night. Many of the college types and married men would head to Howard by the El tracks to make contact. The police have cleaned up the area and very little cruising is going on here now. Maybe things will change by the time you get to Chicago, so give it a look if you are near, but be careful.

East of the Outer Drive from Montrose to Lawrence is also cruisy day and night. But the types who visit the park are getting rougher each day from all reports. So avoid this area if you can't protect yourself. North of Lawrence there is a wooded area which frequently is the scene of orgies. This area used to be a gay paradise years ago because salesmen came here on their lunch hour and made themselves available. This is still true to a degree during the day, but at night it is strictly murder and rape.

Not too far from here, between Montrose and Wilson, there is a john that faces Outer Drive. This has always been popular for cruising and the clearing for sunbathing. If you want to cruise the area, start at Montrose (in the park at the path by Outer Drive); walk slowly to Foster Avenue.

Baths

Man's Country, 5015 N. Clark St. This is probably the baths in Chicago. Splendid and private. Sponsorship necessary. Membership is only \$1 without any renewal fees. It has everything, including water beds, snack bar, clothing store and friendly customers. Each Wednesday at 10 p.m. and midnight there is live entertainment. Once a month a headliner; other times a local. Locker is \$5 and a room is \$8. If you go with a friend, a double is \$12.

NEW TOWN

This area stretches north from about Fullerton Parkway to Belmont Avenue, and west from Sheridan Road to Halsted Street. It is considered the most popular gay area in Chicago, and to make matters even better, it is a very nice area to wander (especially along Broadway between Diversey and Belmont). But like all such areas it has its drug problems and a high density of all types. There are many nice shops, restaurants and antique dealers in the area, but their prices are generally higher than in other areas of the city.

Bars

Knight Out, 2936 N. Clark St. This is a friendly neighborhood bar which is expanding its hospitality to gays from other parts of the city. Open usually from noon to 2 a.m. weekdays and until 3 a.m. on Saturday. Attracts an older crowd. Dancing.

Checkmate Lounge, 2546 N. Clark St. There is a nice mixture of younger and older men here. Hours are from 3 p.m. to 2 a.m. daily and until 3 on Saturday. Since this bar has been in the neighborhood for a long time it attracts a very loyal crowd.

Shari's, 2901 N. Clark St. This bar is very popular with the young. On weekends it's standing room only. Hours: noon to 2 a.m. weekdays and to

3 a.m. Saturday. Dancing.

Annex, 2865 N. Clark St. Very close to Shari's; gets a nice crowd. It swings after Shari's closes. (Annex closes at 4 a.m. weekdays and 5 on Saturday.)

Carol's Coming Out Pub, 2519 Halsted. This is popular primarily with an older crowd from the neighborhood. It doesn't draw so easily from the city as the Annex or Shari's, but it attracts some humpy young numbers. Hours are 7 a.m. to 2 a.m. weekdays and to 3 Saturday; Sunday from noon to 2 a.m. Food. Beer garden. Buffet on Sunday after 10 p.m.

El Dorado, 2683 N. Halsted St. This bar can be rough. The door is locked and needs to be opened electronically from inside. If the bartender thinks you're a desirable customer it springs open for you. Primarily Latins and mixed with straights and gays. Dance floor. The weekend is the best time to go for a good crowd.

Virgo Out, 642 W. Diversey. This is a small bar with a small dance floor. It's slowly becoming a very popular bar. Service is good. Dancing. Sandwiches. The hours are from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. weekdays, and until 3 on Saturday. Opens at noon Sunday.

Snake Pit, 2628 N. Halsted St. This is a discotheque bar that attracts a swinging, hip crowd (some Latins). On Wednesday there is usually a two-for-one special on drinks; Thursday night is party night, also with a special on drinks. Hours: 3 p.m. to 2 a.m. weekdays, and until 3 on Saturday.

The Closet, 3325 N. Broadway. A small, intimate bar that gets about 60% boys and 40% girls. Dancing. Open daily from 3 p.m. to 4 a.m., and on Saturday until 5.

Book Stores

The Adult Book Store, 2928 Broadway (at Oakdale). It has the usual porno books and bedroom aids. In the back are the 25-cent movies. The movies, however, don't always work and the management doesn't seem inclined to refund the money. Several of the booths have huge glory holes.

Movies

Parkway Cinema, 2736 North Clark. The john, as well as the back

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November/December 1975



The Closet



Finocchio's



Butterfly



Bijou



Sunday's



Deming Place/Lagoon



Our Den



Le Pub



Gold Coast



Wacker Health Club

it up here. A swinging group of Volunteers.

Kibbutz Hazerim. Hair grows longer here . . . some fem-gay types. More hippily gay-oriented. Volunteer Groups. Both the *kibbutzim* just mentioned are a 10-minute bus ride from Beersheba. This is mentioned here because a little deeper in the Negev from Beersheba the scenery is like that of The Painted Desert of the American West. Fantastic, especially at sunset. A very friendly masculine atmosphere at *Kibbutz Revivim* in the Negev. Lots of bi-guys and closet clientele.

Kibbutz Ramat Rachel. This is actually within the city limits of Jerusalem. Groovy Volunteers; youth hostel on grounds—very popular with young gay travelers. This is the only *kibbutz* in Israel located within a municipal boundary. Bus #7 from Jerusalem takes you there. This is a good way to see what life in a *kibbutz* is like before committing yourself to a lengthy stay. Come out for a day.

Kibbutz Gezer, located near Ramle where Israel's finest organic fruits and vegetables are grown. Delicious meals that shouldn't be missed. Lots of gay dudes and friendly straights who groove to gays. From Ben-Gurion Airport or Petach-Tikva catch the Egged bus #249 to Ramle. At the Ramle Central Bus Station take a local bus to the *kibbutz*.

Kibbutz Einat, near Petach-Tikva. This is the area in which Jack Bernstein lives and operates his gay travel-tour and "special services" agency. It has a shoe and boot factory. So save your money until you get here . . . you can buy all you want at wholesale prices! A friendly *kibbutz* with lots of active gay guys. Dan lines bus #82 from Central Bus Station in Petach-Tikva will whisk you here.

Kibbutz Givat Hashlash is only a 10-minute bus ride on Bus #77 from Petach-Tikva. Friendly bunch of guys. Popular with extreme-masculines, as well as with other gay guys. Volunteer Groups. Sandal factory . . . also get them at wholesale prices. The food served in this *kibbutz*, along with its rugged gay guys, makes a visit to Givat Hashlash an enlivening experience. You can catch Bus #77 from Central Bus Station, or anywhere along Rehov Stampfer.

Kibbutz Hanita is on the Lebanese border. Fine Ulpan; Volunteer Group; youth hostel (very popular with young gays); swimming pool; and a guest house with a bar and a fantastic restaurant. Older gay guys will love this place. Highly recommended.

Beit Nir. This *kibbutz* is near Kiryat Gat. Not as many gay guys as bisexuals. If this is your scene you'll

have come to the right place! Moreover, just a 45-minute bus ride from here is Ashkelon, with a gay scene that must be seen to be believed! Two *kibbutzim* are located near this gay Ashkelon area. They are

Yad Mordechai Negba and Bror Hayil. Heavily mixed groups in both. Since this is in the Gaza Strip which was Egyptian until 1967, the Army and Police advise that the area is safe by day but risky at night. Take care! Yad Mordechai Nega has a museum. Both *kibbutzim* have colorful markets and fabulous fish restaurants.

Kibbutz Ein Shemer. Lots of blond Scandinavian gay Volunteers in this friendly place located in the Hills of Menashe near Pardess-Hanna. Lots of Ulpan students. On Friday and Saturday nights this *kibbutz* really takes off!

Gesher Haziv. A large *kibbutz* only 1 kilometer south of Eli Avivi's "Achzivland" . . . that swinging gay area described in detail in the June 1975 issue of *QQ Magazine*. It's also just 3 kilometers north of Nahariya. Founded in 1949 by American pioneers, this "Gay Disneyland," as it is fondly called, boasts many Volunteers; Ulpan; youth hostel; swimming pool; an excellent restaurant and a motel-style guest house popular with Liberace types.

Kibbutz Sasa is the 'meat rack' of the Galilee. Also started by some American settlers. Join the Volunteer Work Group here and you'll meet many gay tourists who take the free Architecture & Garden Tour which the *kibbutz* offers to visitors—gay and straight.

Kibbutz Sa'ar. Five minutes from Central Station in Nahariya by bus brings you to this 'fruit bowl' of Galilee. Great group of mod Volunteers. Some gay gals too.

Kibbutz Shomrot is only a 10-minute bus ride from Acre (Akka) via the Egged #271 bus. If outdoor fun, the occult, uniforms and butch guys are your thing, then be sure to volunteer for this *kibbutz*.

In addition to these *kibbutzim* and the gay life of each, be sure to read the Personal Column of the *Jerusalem Post*. In that way you'll have touched all bases of gay life in Israel. You won't have a dull moment in your entire stay!

Very likely the easiest way to get acquainted with *kibbutzim* life is to do it experimentally via a day or two at a guest house. Many gay guys do it this way . . . as a kind of vacation 'retreat'. Also Lesbians and bisexuals 'dip the pinky in' this way. Often older gay guys come with their young lovers for a weekend as do many gay married couples. So for detailed

information just on guest houses in the *kibbutzim*, write *Kibbutz Rest and Guest House Association*, 100 Rehov Allenby, Tel-Aviv, Israel.

Shalom!

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CHICAGO

(Continued from page 25)

rows of this small theatre can be cruisy. Although it is in a nice area, it still attracts some hustlers and rough trade, and the manager can be nasty.

Lake Shore Theatre, Broadway at Belmont. Most people go here for the movies. Usually the movies are new and aren't as dated as at the Parkway. Cruising isn't very obvious, but since this area is very gay, enough gays go here to make it worth your time . . . if you want to see the film!

Outside Cruising

The intersection of Broadway, Diversey and Clark has always been a very cruisy area. All types meet here. In fact, this area draws from the entire city because of the many restaurants, shops and bars. Broadway from Diversey to Belmont is a good street to walk slowly. Also Pine Grove from Surf to Wellington.

The park area near the lagoon from Deming Place to Fullerton Parkway is very cruisy and very dangerous, especially at night. This includes the john by the lagoon and the hills on the east side of the lagoon.

The Belmont rocks, from Belmont to Diversey, is still the area for gay swimming and sunbathing. The water can be treacherous and deep here, so don't go into the water if you don't swim well. In the park, the john near Fullerton and Stockton Drive is popular with vice and gays during zoo hours. Closed at night. It is best to watch yourself if you go here.

OLD TOWN

This area is from Division Street south to Armitage avenue; from Clark Street East to Halsted Street. It was once a very "in" area like New Town now, but it lost its popularity and became quieter in the past years. Many good restaurants and bars and antique shops are still located on Wells Street (the heart of Old Town), despite some publicity of rough play from Westside toughs who visit the area at night.

Bars

Glory Hole, 1343 N. Wells St. This is a pleasant bar with a beer garden in the back. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday there is a go-go-boy type show from 10 p.m. on. On Tuesday, November/December 1975

they show free movies. Mixed gay types. Hours are from noon to 4 a.m. daily and on Saturday until 5.

Finocchio's, 1440 N. Wells. This is a drag-show bar which straights think is an all-girlie bar. Although this isn't really a gay bar, some gays go here for laughs and watch the drags tease the straights and hustle drinks from them. There is a two-drink minimum at \$2.50 each.

Our Den, 1355 N. Wells St. This is a nice dance bar with good lighting and sound. Deejay on weekends. There is also an entrance charge of \$1 on weekends.

Butterfly, 1437 N. Wells. Unlike *Our Den*, this bar is small and quiet and a nice place to relax and be yourself. Food is served. Dancing.

Le Pub, 1944 N. Clark (North Park Hotel). This is fast becoming the place for the elegant. Prime location and first-class entertainment. Friendly crowd. Hours are from 4 p.m. to 4 a.m. daily—until 5 Saturday.

Book Store

Over-Twenty-One Book Store, 1347 N. Wells. This is supposed to be the most active book store in the area. There are gay 25-cent movies and open cruising. One dollar entrance fee, refundable with a purchase.

Movies

Bijou, 1349 N. Wells. Movies are strictly gay. Open from noon to midnight. Usual cruising in the theater. Admission is \$4.

Outdoor Cruising

Wells Street still has a little cruising, but for serious outside cruising there is the nearby Lincoln Park. The two johns in the park are the field house (basement, not the first floor) by the ball diamond near La Salle Drive and Clark Street, and the john at Armitage and Clark behind the museum and in front of the lagoon. Both johns have heavy action from gays and vice. It is wise to use common sense here and avoid the park at night. The walk area between both johns can be very tempting at night, but also dangerous.

NEAR NORTH

This is the area which has always remained the most elegant section of the city, and some of the more fabulous hotels and restaurants and bars are here. Rush Street for years has been the center for nightclubs and good, off-Broadway-type shows. The area stretches from around Superior Street north to North Avenue, and from Lake Shore Drive west to La Salle Street. The gay bars here, though, can be anything from raunchy to elegant.

Bars

The Trip, 27 East Ohio. There are

rumors that this one is going out of business but management told me that they've renewed their lease. So I don't know what the facts are. Nevertheless, it still attracts many gays and is one of those three-floor super bars. Food. Dancing. Entertainment from 10:30 p.m. onward. Closed Monday. Hours: 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. daily, and to 3 a.m. Saturday.

Baton, 436 N. Clark. This is a very nice show bar, and there's a \$2 cover charge to see the show at 10 p.m. (earlier on Sunday). Nice gay crowd. Reservations necessary if you want a table. Dancing

Words of Wisdom From the Far East Side

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"Aerialist who shit in mid-air
called 'Crapeze Artist'!"

Dugan's Bistro, 420 N. Dearborn St. This is another super bar which attracts a very hip and humpy crowd. On weekends there is a comedy drag show from 11 p.m. on. Open daily from 4 p.m. to 4 a.m. daily, and to 5 on Saturday. A popular cruise bar. Dancing. Deejay. Cover charge of \$1 Friday/Saturday.

Gold Coast, 501 N. Clark. This is the leather bar in the city, so the usual S&M types hurry here for their amusements. There are also two bars downstairs—the *Pit* and *Beer Cell* bars; also the *Leather Cell Shop*

(usual leather and toys). On Sundays at 5 and 10 p.m. there are free movies. No dancing. The bar opens at 4 p.m. daily. On Sunday at 2 p.m.

Kitty Sheen's, 745 Rush St. This is where to go if you are young and attractive and looking for someone older to pay your bills. The crowd has elegance, so they think, and coat and tie are a must on Friday and Saturday nights. Casual clothes are permitted during the other days, but *never* shorts. Hours are from 4 p.m. to 4 a.m. weekdays, and to 5 on Saturday.

New Jamie's, 1110 Clark St. A very rough crowd of hustlers come here, and it isn't recommended to anyone who doesn't know the rules of *their* games. Hours are from 7 a.m. to 4 a.m. daily, and to 5 a.m. Saturday.

Ritz Bar, 937 N. State St. This is primarily black hustler and rough trade. Hours are noon to 4 a.m. daily and to 5 Saturday. Dancing.

Nite Life, 935 N. State. This attracts the same crowd as the *Ritz* next door. Many straights head here to see the drag show which begins at 10 p.m. Same hours as the *Ritz*.

King's Ransom, 20 E. Chicago Ave. A very pleasant bar with a fireplace and friendly people to warm you up on cold nights. Open from noon to 4 a.m. daily, and until 5 on Saturday. Cocktail hour: noon to 8 p.m. daily.

Haig, 800 N. Dearborn Parkway. This bar has been around for years and it still draws from all over the city. All types drift in and out of here. It is across the street from the Lawson YMCA and a block from Bug House Square, so you can really get some losers! Open daily from noon to 4 a.m. and until 5 on Saturday.

Sunday's, 430 N. Clark St. This is a very popular bar and there's frequently a line to enter. A varied crowd and a campy front keep this bar swinging. You can't miss it; the bar stands out like a neon sign. Hours are from 3 p.m. to 4 a.m. daily and until 5, Saturday. Dancing. Dazzling light show. Admission charge on weekends. Films on Monday night.

Baths

Club Baths, 609 N. La Salle Street. It's part of the national chain and membership is required. Rooms and lockers are \$7. No specials.

Wacker Health Club, (Wacker Hotel) 674 N. Clark St. This is the dirtiest of the three baths in Chicago. Saturday night is supposed to be the best night. \$5 for four hours. Membership. Sponsorship necessary.

Movies

Newberry Theatre, 856 N. Clark St. They are still supposed to show good gay movies. The theatre can be wild, but reports are still out that the hustlers can be rough here. Admis-

sion is \$4. Hours from noon to midnight.

Outdoor Cruising

Washington Square in front of the Newberry library between Clark and Dearborn, in the 900 block, is the place to go if you like trash. Often called Bug House Square, everything can be found here, but the majority is the type you don't invite home.

Oak Street Beach is still popular along Oak and Lake Shore Drive. This is where to come for sunbathing and general cruising. Many of the elegant gays of the Near North head here.

Hotels

Lawson YMCA at Dearborn and Chicago. This particular Y has always been favored by gays over the downtown Wabash Y. The usual activity can be found here, and it's very close to everything.

Crystal Hotel, 1110 N. Clark St. If you want to head somewhere for a quickie, this is the place. It's in the same building as Jamie's. Prices are \$10 for a single or double. Showers are located on each floor. Rates for a single by the week are \$35, and for a double \$45.

DOWNTOWN

Downtown turns black when the offices close at night. The big movie theatres that once showed top first-

run films now show only Black exploitation movies. Therefore most Whites stay away from the area.

Bar

Town and Country, in the basement of the Palmer House Hotel. This is a coat-and-tie bar that attracts the usual ribbon clerks and businessmen during cocktail hour.

Outdoor Cruising

Grant Park between Randolph and Monroe Streets is very cruisy, but it isn't recommended. It gets rough at night. The area to walk, if this is what you like, is along the walkway by the Illinois Central Railroad tracks.

Johns

The Greyhound Bus Station at Clark and Randolph gets the usual crowd and deserves the usual caution. Marshall Field's (any john of the downtown store) can be cruisy, as well as the basement john of Carson's. The john in the I.C. Station at Randolph and Michigan is busy, especially during rush hour. And finally, there is the Art Institute, but the cruising in the museum is not sufficient to warrant a trip. If you are here to see a show, then by all means keep your eyes open.

Movies

Monroe Theater, 57 W. Monroe is where to go for straight porno films. There is some activity in the base-

ment john (mostly Black), but be alert . . . vice!

For those who like the 25-cent peep shows there are several on South State Street below Van Buren Street and across from Sears. You can expect the usual activity here.

SOUTHSIDE

I don't recommend the Southside because it is mostly poor and rough, except for a few nice areas here and there. The only two bars worth mentioning are the *High Chapparral Night Club* at 7740 S. Stony Island, and *Chain Liquor and Lounge* at 7860 S. Cottage Grove. Both attract Blacks.

That's about it for Chicago. Check it out soon.

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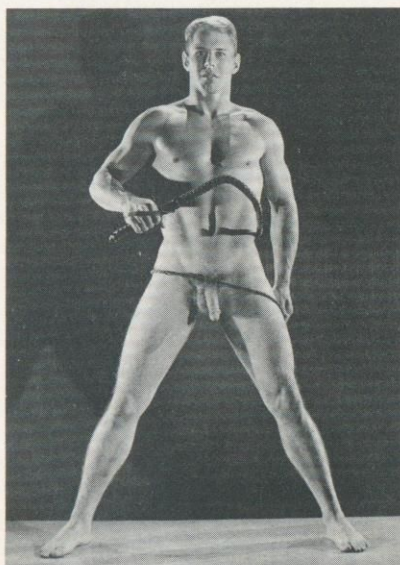
THE 'HUSTLE'

(Continued from page 10)

Soul City Symphony (which, in fact, is symphony-related, having a passel of strings, clarinet, piano, horns, small percussion instruments, drum, guitar, bass and, of course, the Moog). Other selections—there are five on each side—bear such fascinating names as *Get Dancin'*, *Turn This*

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