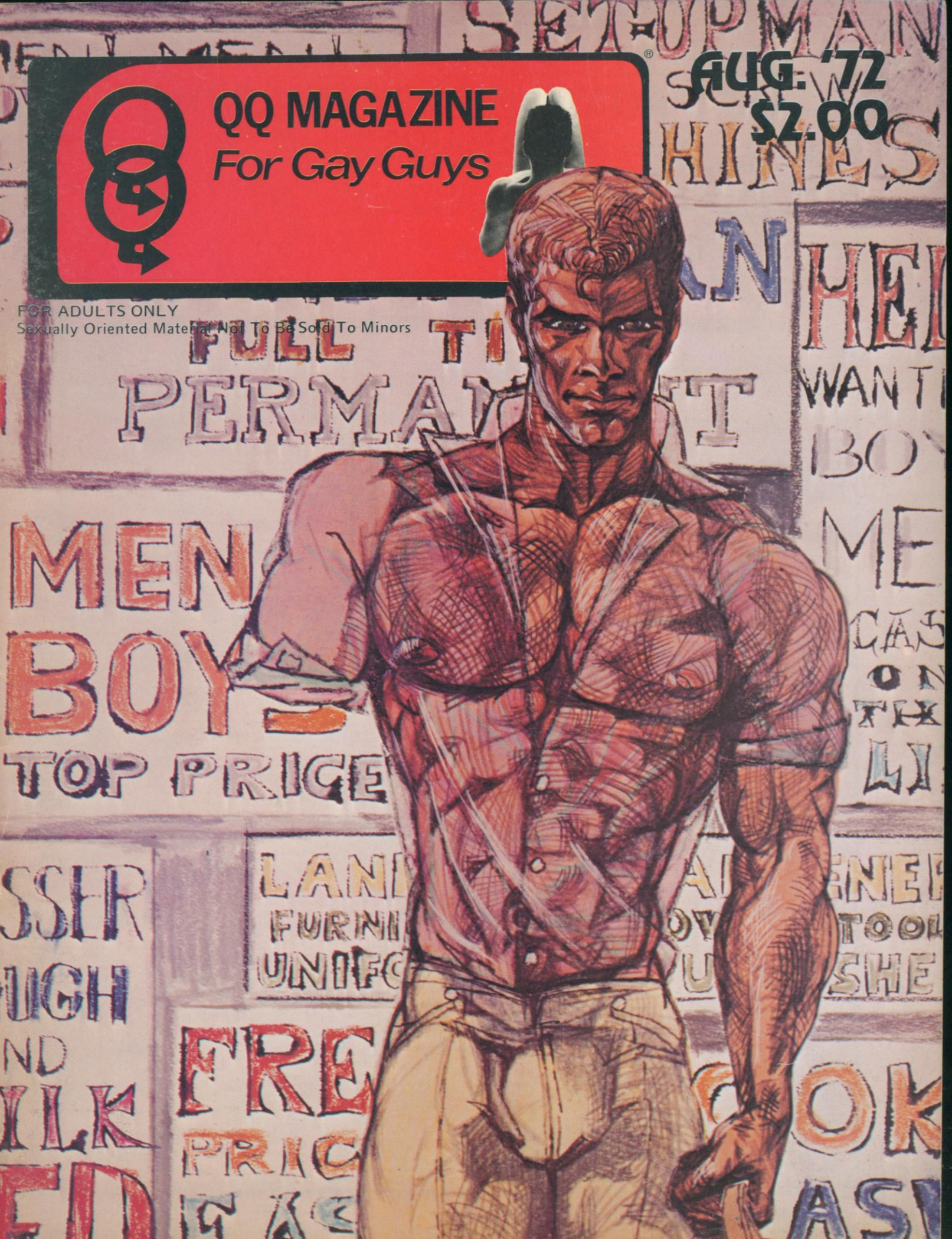
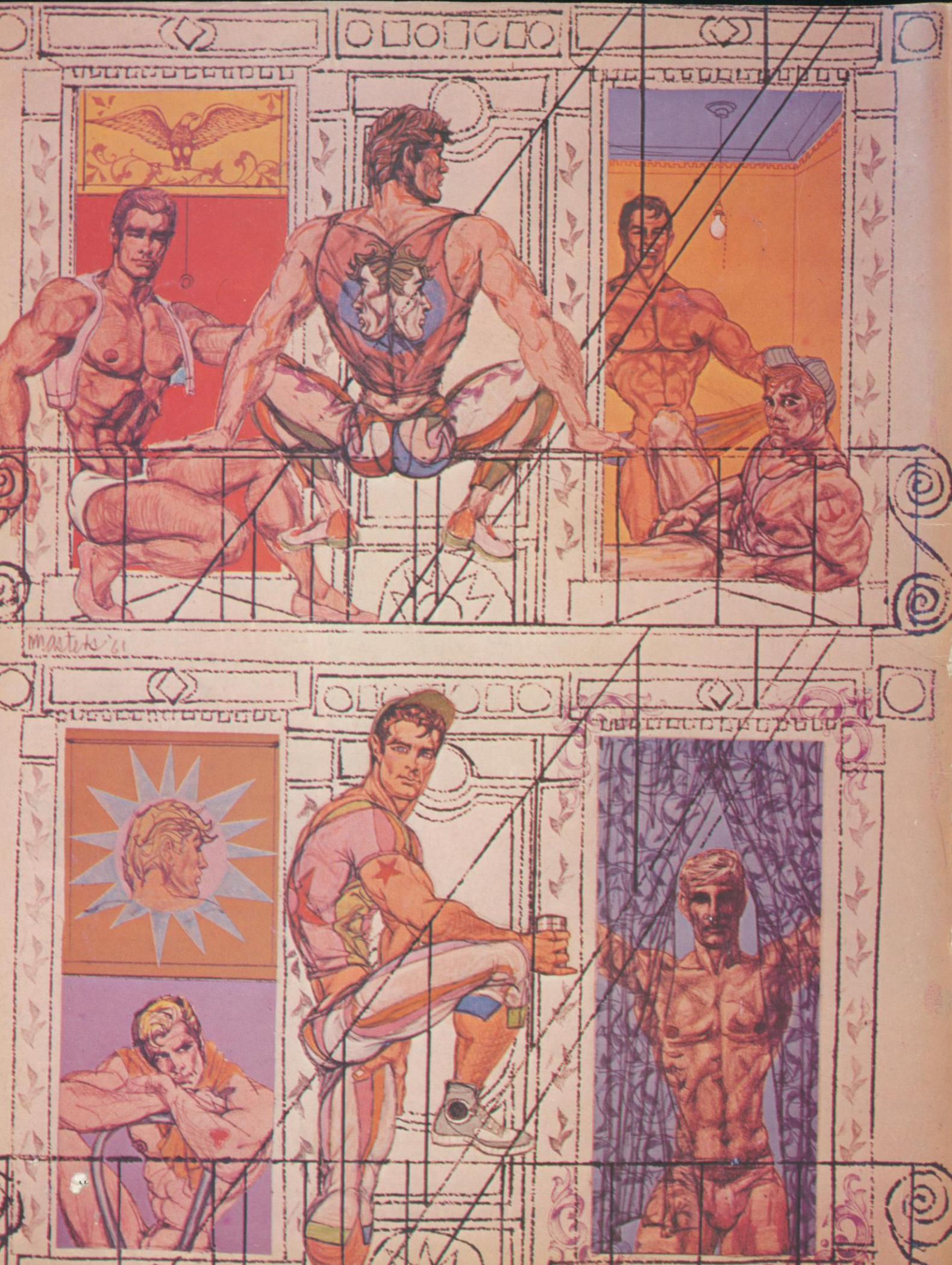






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Front cover: "One Arm," an original drawing by Steve Masters, inspired by the Tennessee Williams short story. **Back cover:** "House of Boys," an original drawing by Steve Masters.

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WHILE any thinking person, in good conscience, must support the idea of Homosexual Law Reform—the elimination of statutes in the various states which attempt to regulate consenting sexual behavior and the enactment of legislation at the municipal, state and federal levels of laws prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation—I think too much importance and energy is being attached to the idea of law reform. Let's face it; the cause of oppression of Gay people is not the sodomy laws or the lack of anti-discrimination legislation.

A case in point is the state of Illinois, where I was born and raised. Illinois was the first state, in 1961, to make consenting adult Homosexual behavior, in effect, legal. Yet, in the decade since, this first instance of Homosexual law reform has had virtually no effect on the lives of Gay people in Illinois. And why should it have any effect; such laws are unenforceable to begin with!

Support for Homosexual law reform in 1972 has become a safe political stance for most "good liberal" politicians. For example, among the dozen or so Democratic candidates for the presidential nomination, more than half of them have come out publicly for law reform in this area—not only for striking anti-Gay statutes from the law books, but also for legislation banning discrimination against Gay people in housing, employment, etc. And before the end of this decade, we will most likely see federal legislation passed amending the various Civil Rights Acts banning discrimination based on sexual orientation.

But then what? Is that the end of the Gay Liberation movement? Not by a long shot; our primary goals are so revolutionary that most people, including unfortunately most Gay people, don't realize the real impetus and vitality of the movement. As long as we allow the public, the media and the politicians the luxury of thinking that we are another minority group asking for equality and "law reform," things will progress calmly. But watch the you-know-what hit the fan when they suddenly realize that what we're calling for is the end to institutionalized sexism which raised boys to be fathers, soldiers, husbands and providers; and women to be mothers, wives, seamstresses and secretaries. When they realize that we're calling upon parents to raise their children to be free human beings with the capacity to love, physically and emotionally, all people, regardless of sex. When we call upon the public schools to use textbooks that portray *equally* same-sex relationships and opposite-sex relationships. When they come to the full realization that what we're asking is not change for us but change for *them*.

Aside from the relative unimportance I obviously attach to the idea of Homosexual law reform, there are also some very real dangers attached to it; for example:

1. The Homosexual Rights movement in England during the late fifties and sixties was based almost entirely on the law reform issue, namely, the enactment of the recommendations of the famous Wolfenden Report. But when the Wolfenden proposals were enacted by Parliament in the mid-sixties, the Gay movement in England virtually disbanded; and it wasn't until the past year that the movement has started to revive as Gay people came to realize that very little had changed and there was still a lot to be done. The same thing could happen in the U.S. if we allow ourselves to think that law reform is our major goal.

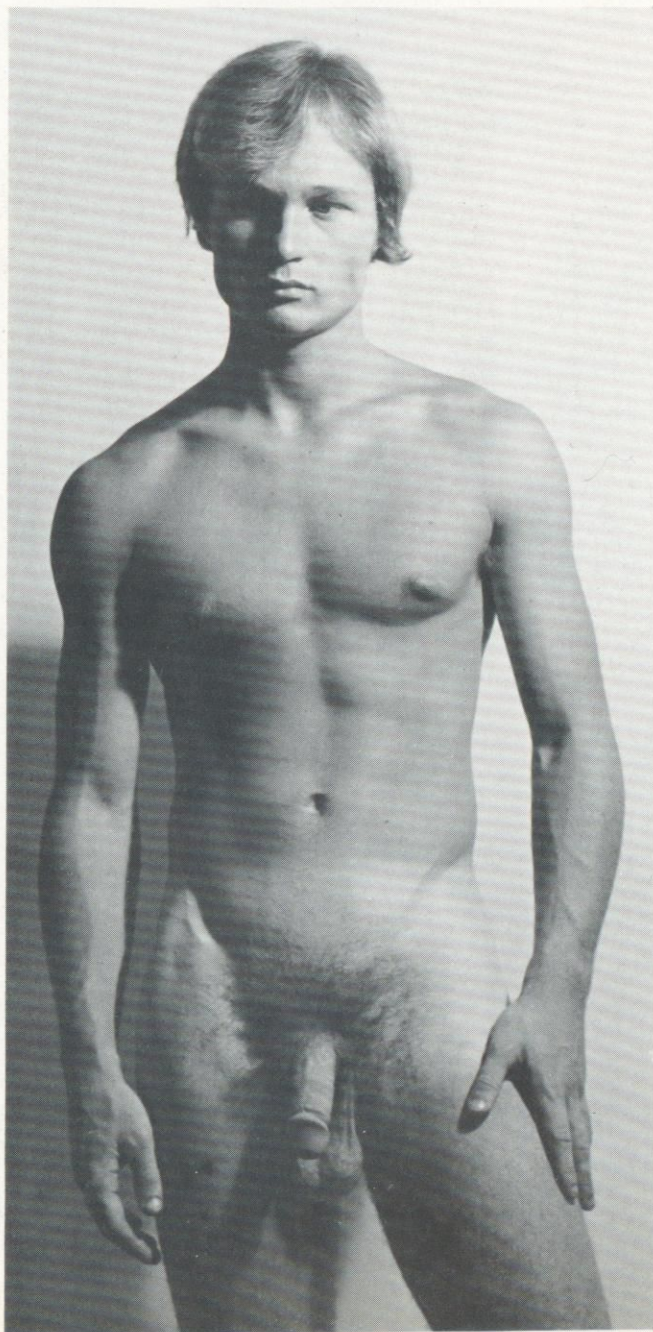
2. As black people have learned that antidiscrimination legislation does not

(Continued on page 40)

EDITORIAL

HOMOSEXUAL LAW REFORM

by Craig Rodwell



This type of nose surgery generally requires additional recontouring for an over-all natural effect. It's done under a local anesthetic and there are no scars. \$500 to \$1500.

Of course any other flaw that is excessively disfiguring whether too-deep pits, or an overhumped nose, is no longer just a flaw but a possible menace to health (especially to mental health if it continually affects one's composure). So in cases like these one should think of surgery as health-improving as well as cosmetically.

VULNERABLE EYES

As we have become liberated from an older ethos of masculine goodlooks we have become 'glasses oriented'. Peter Fonda helped this movement along with *Easy Rider*, so now we have 'easy rider' glasses . . . 'shooters' glasses . . . 'fun' glasses and 'put-on' glasses as part of the 'now' image.

But of particular relevance to this discussion of flaws that flatter are glasses that flatter the flaws. A pertinent example is the man who is rugged clear through, whose face is strong and free of flaws, who exudes an aura of complete self-confidence and self-mastery, and who seemingly has enough strength to succor the weak, yet whose eyes—though 20-20—look weak, or squint, or lack the character of his other manly attributes (let's say they are 'out-of-characterless'), or which are too deep-set or too pale, or have some other flawed characteristic that negates or at least weakens his otherwise strong image.

What to do? Why not wear clear-lens (non-magnifying) glasses in strong, full-of-character frames that also 'make sense' with the rest of the features?

It may also be that the irises are too pale, and so a feeling of weakness is suggested. There are wonderful new soft-lens plastic contacts that give you a choice of color intensity! And, say experts, there will soon be on the market 'instant eye color' for weak-looking irises.

So if your eyes are now weakly-blue, like a new born kitten's, a few drops tossed in before cruising can make them look deeper, more intense, and as passion-charged as Paul Newman's!

So pamper your flaws . . . look at them lovingly in different perspectives. They just may be your saving grace!

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EDITORIAL

(Continued from page 5)

guarantee them equality, we, too, must realize that law will not guarantee any rights to us. If an employer or a union doesn't like Gay people, they'll find other reasons to fire us or refuse to hire us.

3. Homosexual law reform now provides many political office seekers with a banner to wave in front of Gay people to get our votes, and as has happened many times in the past year, we flock to their banner. But after they are elected, we generally hear nothing more from them.

4. In New York State alone during the past year, tens of thousands of dollars and much energy has been spent for Homosexual

law reform while the substantive issues of Gay Liberation, at best, get only lip service—such issues as building community, building group consciousness of our common oppression (the causes, not the effects), breaking the cycle of syndicate-police exploitation of our people in the bars, etc.

Homosexual law reform is obviously a good and just cause, but it is not an end in itself. And my major fear is that because of the time, money and publicity being given it today, we tend to lose sight of the truly inspiring message that Gay Liberation has to offer everyone, not only Gay people.

The following is a quote from Henry Hay, one of the first "Gay activists" in the early fifties, which I've used before but think it bears repeating as an expression of the basis of Gay Liberation:

"Homosexuals are and always have been, through their oppression and in spite of brainwashing, a Free People . . . a minority that shares each other's dream, that redirects the aggressive fighting instincts, competitiveness and inherited animal maleness and femaleness of the parent culture into appreciation of—nay, even a lifelong passion to call forth, the grace and tenderness . . . the humility and compassion . . . (of our) shared commonality of outlook . . . challenging us to break loose from the lockstep expectations of heterosexual life patterns so obliterating of our own natures. Our Homosexual liberation movement must consist of far-ranging communities of free spirits."

At the risk of being called a Pollyanna regarding my ideas about Homosexual law reform, I think that it is well on its way to fruition. And that Gay Liberation need only give it minor importance in the allocation of money, time and people-power. In fact, a good argument could be made that law reform will come even quicker if we don't press for it at all. In the states that have reformed their consensual sodomy laws, for instance, there was little, if any, pressure from Gay people for law reform; and in the states where Gay organizations have lobbied and demonstrated for law reform, the State legislatures voted against it, notably New York and California.

Anyway, besides having little reality to the everyday problems that Gay people face, the law reform campaign is dull and uninspiring. Perhaps we should return to the spirit of one of the first Gay Liberation slogans which appeared shortly after the Christopher Street Uprising in 1969, "Homosexuals are Revolting—You Bet Your Sweet Ass We Are."

• • •

THE COMPANY YOU KEEP

(Continued from page 33)

own greatest artistic experiments and achievements.

In the 1930s—after a succession of youthful lovers, most of whom had influenced his work one way or another—Cocteau met the extremely handsome blond French actor Jean Marais, who was the inspiration for several of the poet's supreme achievements. Marais played the princely "beast" in Cocteau's *Beauty and the Beast*, and the title role of *Orpheus*, both films