

When you're in love,
the whole world
is lavender...





Lesbians and Gay Men Put It On Paper!

In this comic book you'll find work by lesbians, gay men and bisexual human beings. The subject is Being Gay.

Each artist speaks for himself or herself. No one speaks for any mythical "average" homosexual. No one speaks for the Gay Movement. No one is required to be "politically correct."

We are individual cartoonists complete with personal beefs, slants, insights and blindnesses. We've tried to leave our soapboxes behind and express our humanness.

In drawing this book, we gay cartoonists would like to affirm that we are here, and that we live lives as strewn with India-Inked pratfalls, flawed heroics, quizzical word balloons and surreptitious truths as the rest of the human race and even a few talking animals.

To put it mildly, there's more to the gay experience than can be chronicled in 36 pages. So this one's just for starters. Have fun.

—Howard Cruse, Editor

SPECIAL NOTE: Two of our contributors have produced their own solo comic books dealing with gay themes. From Mary Wings: **Come Out Comix** and **Dyke Shorts**. Both are \$1.50 postpaid; order from Ikesdatter Enterprises, P.O. Box 5385, Seattle, WA 98105. And from Roberta Gregory: **Dynamite Damsels**, \$1.35 postpaid. Order from Roberta herself, P.O. Box 4192, Long Beach, CA 90804.

AND WHILE WE'RE PLUGGING: We invite you to check out the non-gay but still good solo comix created by **Gay Comix** contributors. Lee Marrs has produced three issues of **Pudge, Girl Blimp** (Star*Reach) as well as the enlightening **Compleat Fart** (Kitchen Sink). Our Canadian cover artist Rand Holmes is justly famous for his two issues of **Harold Hedd** comix (#1 Georgia Straight; #2 Last Gasp). Howard Cruse has drawn three issues of **Barefootz Funnies** (Kitchen Sink). And Mary Wings has a new and excellent comic on substance abuse to her credit, called **Are Your Highs Getting You Down?** (Ikesdatter).

MEANWHILE, FROM HOLLAND comes Theo Bogart, only beginning to be seen in the U.S. but with a significant body of satirical and erotic work published in Europe. Theo has been featured in the German **U-Comix Sonderband** series (#25) and was showcased this spring in the **Advocate**. Our remaining contributors are new to underground comix. Billy Fugate, a Kentuckian now cartooning professionally in Florida, has worked in practically every cartoon medium at least once, including animation, educational comic books, and t-shirt design. Kurt Erichsen of Toledo, Ohio, is an engineer professionally, but has cartooned extensively for fanzines (catch him in **Comics Feature**, for instance) and APA-zines. Demian, of Cambridge, Mass., describes himself as a "cultural worker in the visual & performing arts" who authors articles on liberation issues and both produces and hosts **Gay Way** once a month on WBUR-FM.

OUR PUBLISHER is **Kitchen Sink Enterprises**, a division of **Krupp Comic Works** (P.O. Box 7, Princeton, Wis. 53561). Krupp publishes dozens of the most interesting comic and distribution news of the best comic

SOME PEOPLE ARE DESTINED TO BE THE AVANT GARDE OF SOCIETY—HIP, WITH IT, FAR OUT, IN THE KNOW; PACESETTERS ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF LIFE! NOT ME, I WAS ALWAYS A...

Stick in the Mud

©1980 LEE MARRS-



...AS FAR AS SEX WAS CONCERNED... MY MOM KEPT SAYING I WAS A "LATE BLOOMER".

YOU THINK JACK IS A NERD; BEN TOO TALL; AND SAM'S TOO DUMB! LISTEN SUE: DON'T YOU LIKE

I WASN'T A SPOILSPORT, HOWEVER. MY REP AS A STELLAR PRANKSTER MASTERMIND WAS KNOWN IN 3 COUNTIES.

THIS'LL TEACH COACH SNORK TO APPROPRIATE LIBRARY FUNDS FOR FOOTBALL JERSEYS!

HURRY UP, SUE. IT'S ALMOST DAWN.

WHERE'S THE LEFT DOOR?
HAND ME THAT BUMPER.

...AND FOR BUYIN'
GODDAM FURREN
CAR! YANKEE
AGITATOR...

SAMUEL GOMPERS HIGH

WEEKS OF COVETOUS GLANCES BETWEEN US... THEN ONE NIGHT WE CELEBRATED MIDTERMS IN 6 PACKS!



OMIGOD! A VERBOTEN THRILL PAR EXCELLENCE! NEITHER OF US DARED TO MENTION "IT" ALOUD. WHAT IF I WAS A... LESBIAN?!! WHAT THE HELL WAS A LESBIAN? ABNORMAL PSYCH II JUST DIDN'T GO INTO DETAILS. I'D HEARD OF GERTRUDE STEIN... DID IT MAKE YOU FAT? WHO TO ASK?



MONTHS OF FORBIDDEN NOCTURNAL JOYS. INNOCENT FRESHMEN BY DAY AND JUICY... HOWEVER SILENT-LOVERS BY NIGHT... I BEGAN TO FEEL LIKE A VAMPIRE. GEE, DID IT SHOW? COULD ANYONE TELL?

HORRIBLE SECRET

SAY, GALS! WHY DON'T WE PACK IN A PIZZA AND CATCH THIS NEW

AS WITH SO MANY, COLLEGE WAS A PIVOT POINT: FRESHMAN YEAR, MY ROOMMATE HAD THE CUTEST CHEEKS..

THEN JOYCE "SOLVED ALL OUR PROBLEMS" BY TRANSFERRING TO N.Y.U. OUR SOPHMORE YR. WITHOUT EVEN A FAREWELL.



SOON THE COMFORTING BECAME... MORE...



I LOVED THE RUBBING - GOD! WHAT MUSCLES! - BUT JACK RESPECTED ME... WE ONLY WENT ALMOST ALL THE WAY!



AT FIRST MARRIAGE WAS FUN...



BUT SOON I LEARNED THE TRUE MEANING OF BORING



I DREAMED CONSTANTLY OF EXCITEMENT, BUT NOT ONLY WAS JACK ABSENT FROM THOSE DREAMS - SO WERE MEN.



HAMBURGER - AGAIN? THAT'S RIGHT! CUT ME DOWN! I DO MY JOB! LOOK AT THOSE DISHES! IN THAT SINK 3 DAYS! THAT'S RIGHT! JUST BE SARCASTIC! ALL I EVER HEAR FROM YOU ARE CUTS!

THAT'S RIGHT! YOU... ICEBERG!!

I'M NOT A CHEF!! ON YOUR SALARY... SO IS THE GARBAGE WITH CHORES?!! DON'T START THAT "HARD-HEARTED WOMAN" ROUTINE... WHAT ARE YOU? ROBERT REDFORD? ANV D...



WITH DEVIL-MAY-CARE ABANDON, I ACTUALLY MUSTERED THE GUMPTION TO VISIT A SINGLES BAR.



WITHOUT LIFTING A FINGER, MY MYOPIA GAVE ME AN IRRESISTIBLE, VULNERABLE LOOK AND BOTH MALE AND FEMALE CRUISERS CAME CALLING. MY SOCIAL LIFE WAS A THREE-RING CIRCUS. YUM.

FOR A COUPLA YEARS I PLAYED RICOCHET, ALTHOUGH THE BISEKUALITY DID MAKE LIFE A BIT...



THE REVOLVING DOOR PATTERN—FROM ONE PERSON TO THE NEXT. I DIDN'T BELIEVE IN LOVE—FOR ME. JUST TO HAVE A GOOD TIME. I MIGHT NOT BE A STICK IN THE MUD, BUT I STILL HAD A HARD TIME MAKING DECISIONS...



ANGEL WAS A WONDER, A GODDESS! LOVELY, ARTICULATE, TALENTED, ARTISTIC, SOPHISTICATED...



ANGEL WAS SUREFIRE DYNAMITE. I WAS IN LOVE: COLD RUSHES, HOT FLASHES, SHIVERS, DIZZINESS, AND LACK OF APPETITE.



BUT THE JEALOUSY!! THE HEAVY TIDES OF NEGATIVE EMOTION. I COULDN'T HANDLE ANGEL'S LIFESTYLE... THE SURPRISES...



WHEN ANGEL FOCUSED ON ME—THERE WAS NEVER A BETTER TIME IN MY LIFE... BUT I WAS OBSESSED AND HER RUNAROUND SUE PATTERN DID ME IN. HER LIES, THE EVASIONS. IT GOT UGLY.



* UNIVERSAL COMEBACK CLICHÉ #3: FIRST SPOKEN BY ONE PTERODACTYL TO ITS MATE IN ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA WILDS.

CLEARLY, OURS WAS A PAINFULLY INCOMPATIBLE AFFAIR—QUITE DESTRUCTIVE TO ME AND SURELY BOthersome TO HER—SO I DID THE ONLY THING A MATURE, BALANCED INDIVIDUAL SHOULD...



I HUNG AROUND DOING NOTHING UNTIL ANGEL DROPPED ME FOR A CORPORATE ATTORNEY WITH A CONDO IN MAZATLAN.

I WAS BLOWN OUT. FINALLY, A REAL LOVE & NOW... OVER. COLD TURKEY FLIPPED ME OUT. REJECTION TOOK ME DOWN ROADS I NEVER KNEW EXISTED. I WAS DISGUSTING.



MONTHS LATER, I WOKE UP ONE MORNING... OMIGOD! PLASTIC HOT TUB, JACUZZI, A NEON BACKGAMMON GAME, AUTOMATIC PERRIER DISPENSER, AND... A TV DISTRIBUTOR—WEARING A COKE SPOON! SOB! =GASP=



O.K. O.K. CLEAN SLATE TIME. I'LL
NEVER BE A HAPPY SWINGER.
DULL AS IT MAY SEEM, I GOTTA
BE... ME.

I'VE GOT TO TAKE
CHARGE OF ALL THIS.
USE FORESIGHT IN
GETTING INVOLVED, FOR
ONCE. I'M TOO OLD
FOR THIS BULLSHIT.
IF I DON'T FIND A
RELIABLE LOVER,
THEN FUCK IT! I'LL
JUST GO IT ALONE!

TIME TO SETTLE DOWN. IF IT MEANS SETTLING DOWN ALL ALONE.... WELL, I'LL JUST DO IT ALONE.

SO, FOR A YEAR I PLAYED SOLO. THE SAME CHARMING ASSHOLES CAME AROUND BUT NO GO. THEN JULY 12TH..

I MET CAROL!

WEAVING CLASS

I CAN'T DECIDE WHETHER TO TRY THE LOOM OR GO FREE STYLE. THE LOOM IS FAST BUT SO CONFINING; FREE STYLE LETS YOU ADD ANY OBJECT YOU WANT. ON THE OTHER HAND, WITH THE LOOM MORE COLORS CAN BE EVENLY BLENDED. BUT, IF I SUDDENLY ...

AMAZING! A PERSON MORE WISHY-WASHY THAN I WAS!! WOW!

WE SHARED SO MANY INTERESTS. IT WAS A
DELIGHT EVERY DAY. FROM THE FIRST, I
WANTED TO TELL CAROL ABOUT ME... BUT
SHE WAS... SEEMED... SO... STRAIGHT!

THEN, BEFORE I COULD GET MY COURAGE UP (IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN 2000 A.D.) CAROL JUST CAME OUT WITH IT...

EVERY TIME I SAW HER,
I WAS MORE CERTAIN
OF MY CARING. BUT
HOW TO TELL CAROL?
SHE'D GIVE WHAT I
COULD THINK MIGHT BE
HINTS... BUT MAYBE
NOT... SOMETIMES I'D
BE SURE THAT MY DEEP

IT'S REALLY GREAT
WE'VE ONLY KNOWN
EACH OTHER ONE
MONTH, BUT I
FEEL AS CLOSE
TO YOU AS THOUGH
WE'VE BEEN PALS
FOR YEARS, SUE.

ER... UH... CAROL,
I... EM... YOU...
UH, YA WANT A
BROWNIE, KID?
GULP!

I DID TRY TO TELL
HER I LOVED HER...

SAY, CAROL, I'VE
BEEN... UH.. UM..
THAT IS, WHEN...
YA WANNA GET
SOME DESSERT
AFTER "STAR
WARS"?

SURE. HAVE YOU
ALWAYS HAD
THIS STUTTER?
I HAVE A COUSIN,

A MONTH LATER, SHE CAME OUT!

EVEN WITH THE FINANCIAL TROUBLES,
WE MIGHT NOT HAVE GOTTEN THE
DIVORCE, BUT THE FINAL STRAW
WITH ROLFE WAS THE POWERFUL,
UNCONTROLLABLE URGE I HAD
TOWARD HIS SECRETARY, LOIS...
IT WAS THE MOST OVERWHELMING...

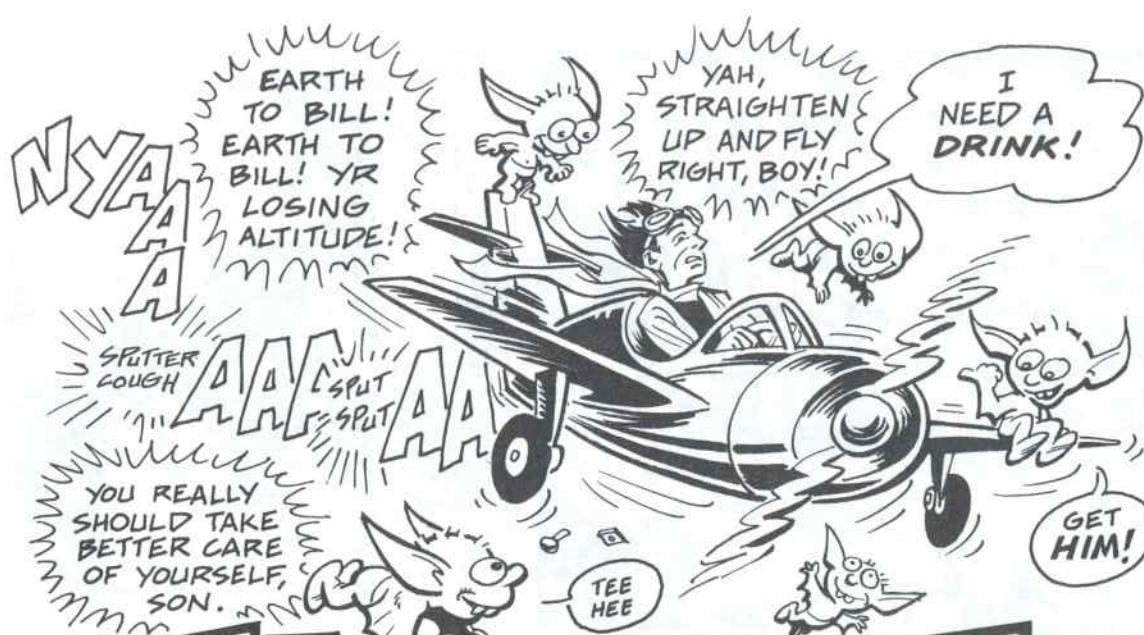
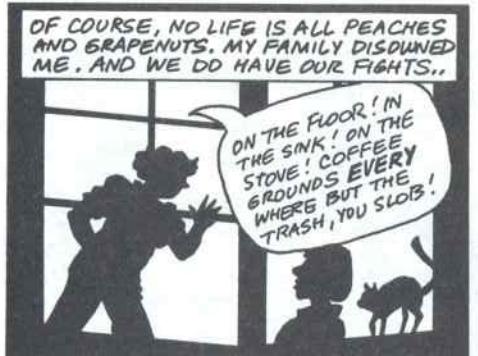
YEAH, SHE PRACTICALLY RAN HIS BUSINESS - SHE WAS SO EFFICIENT. ANYHOW, IT WASN'T UNTIL AFTER TWO CLANDESTINE MEETINGS WITH LOIS THAT I LEARNED THE HORRID TRUTH: LOIS HAD BEEN ROLFE'S PARAMOUR FOR TWO YEARS! CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT? I'D NEVER GUESSED AT ALL... SO WHEN ROLFE CAME HOME THAT NIGHT, I ...

MY CHICKENSHIT COWARDICE WAS GOING TO FOUL ME AGAIN. CAROL WAS THE QUEEN OF INDECISION. IT TOOK HER 20 MINUTES TO CHOOSE WHICH SHIRT TO WEAR. I HAD TO SPEAK UP. CAROL SEEMED TO CARE — MAYBE SHE JUST WANTED ME TO FEEL ACCEPTED. MAYBE... NAW... I WORE A CIRCLE IN MY LIVING ROOM RUG. WHAT IF SHE WAS DISGUSTED? OR... LAUGHED!!!

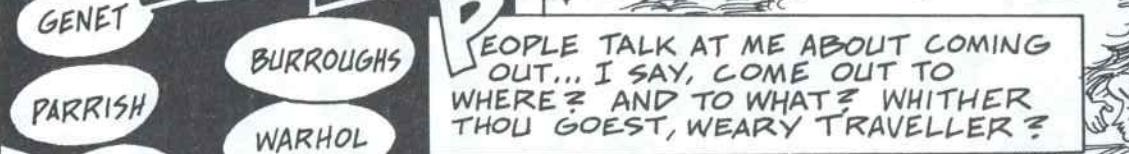
WELL, CAROL... UH... OF ALL THE WOMEN I'VE
KNOWN — YOU'VE IMPRESSED ME THE MOST..

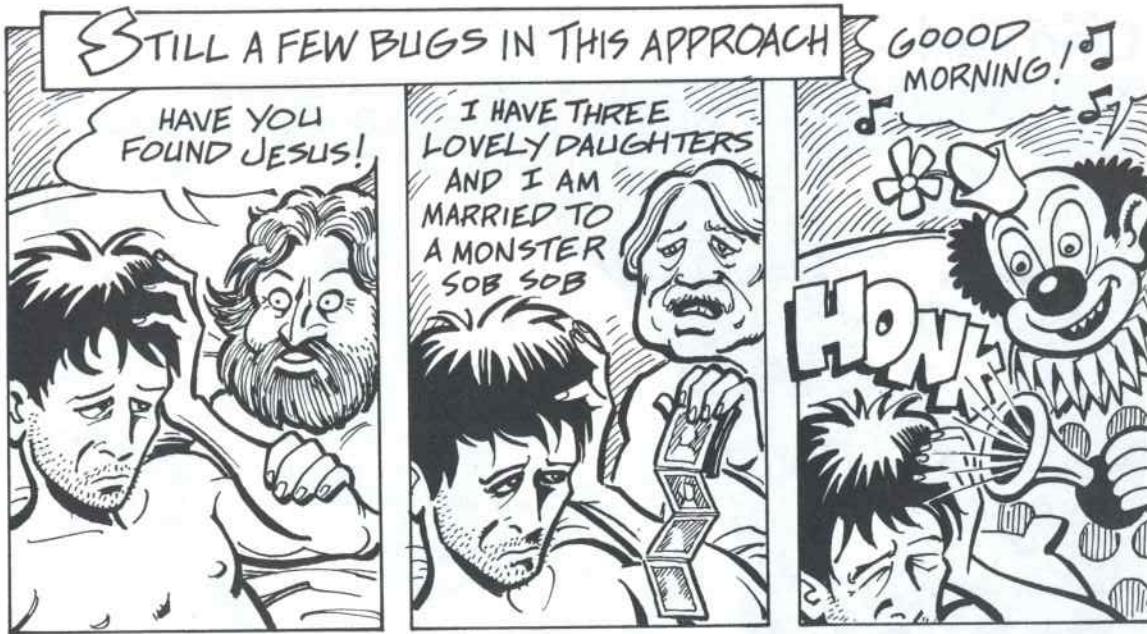
TWO HOURS
LATER : EVEN ANGEL, WHO COULD
MAKE MY PULSE RACE,
DIDN'T QUITE... OH... UM...

A black and white line drawing of a woman with short, curly hair and glasses, wearing a patterned dress, talking to a man in a suit. The man is only partially visible on the left. The woman is gesturing with her hands as she speaks.

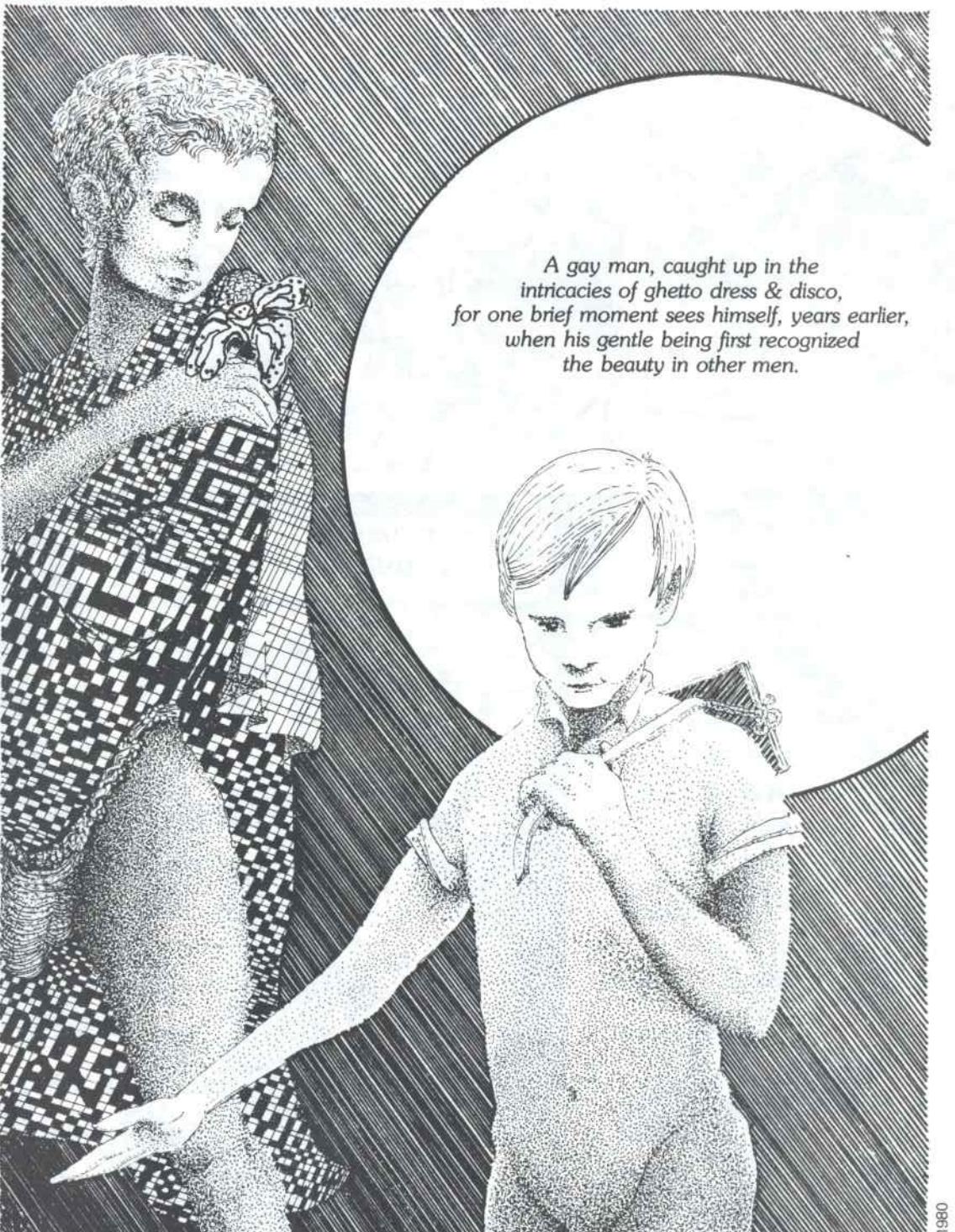


FALLOUT





Demian



A gay man, caught up in the intricacies of ghetto dress & disco, for one brief moment sees himself, years earlier, when his gentle being first recognized the beauty in other men.



TOO MANY
WOMEN ARE
WASTING JUST
TOO MUCH
ENERGY...

WELL, MY SITUATION'S A
LITTLE ... UH.. DIFFERENT..
I FOUND MY RIGHT ... UH..
WOMAN! AND IT DIDN'T
TAKE ME LONG!

BARB AND I HAVE A
WONDERFUL RELATIONSHIP!
WE TALK..WE'RE VERY
OPEN..NOT LIKE THOSE
MONOGAMOUS OPPRESSIVE
RELATIONSHIPS! WE
TRUST EACH OTHER ENOUGH
TO LET EACH OTHER SEE
OTHER WOMEN..WE
ENJOY BEING SO HONEST!

WELL, ALL I
WANT IS MY
FAKE I.D. SO
I CAN MEET
SOME OF
THESE WOMEN!

~ SOME TIME LATER ~

- NEVER THOUGHT I'D EVER LEARN TO DISCO.. GUESS I JUST HAD TO MEET A CUTE WOMAN WHO'S A DANCING FOOL.. / WELL, I DON'T GET OUT A LOT

WELL, I DON'T GET OUT A LOT,
BUT WHEN I DO, I TRY TO
MAKE IT COUNT...

WHATZAT?
WHATZAT?
OH, SHIT!
JUST A
MINUTE!





I'M GLAD I DECIDED TO COME TO THIS CONCERT.. ALONE! I'VE GOT TO GET IN TOUCH WITH MY OWN NEEDS.. IF I'M STILL ABLE TO!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.. LIZ!

UH.. HI.. HOWZIT GOING.. YOU'RE LOOKIN' GOOD.. OH.. DO I KNOW YOU?

OH, YEAH.. THE STRAIGHT WOMAN..

REMEMBER? THE C.R. GROUP FROM THE "WOMAN TODAY" CLASS? I'M MARTA!

WELL, LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THAT..

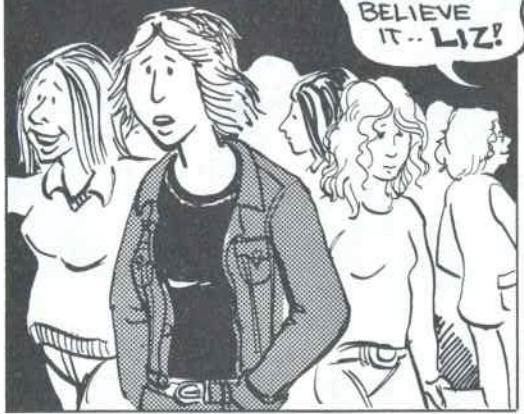
HEY, NINA! IT LOOKS LIKE THE SIX-YEAR REUNION OF THE "WOMEN TODAY" CLASS!

..NINA?
OH.. YEAH..

HI.. MEET ROBIN!

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO COULDN'T WAIT TO GET INTO THE BARS! AREN'T YOU GLAD THERE'S SOME ALTERNATIVES?

OH, YEAH.. I WOULDN'T HAVE MISSED THIS CONCERT FOR THE WORLD!



- SO I GUESS NOW I'M FRANTICALLY SEARCHING FOR "MS. RIGHT". IRONIC, HUH? YOU CAME ALONE, SO I GUESS YOU'RE UNATTACHED, TOO, HUH?

I REMEMBER! YOU HAD A GOOD THING GOING WITH BARB! I THINK THAT'S GREAT.. HOW IS SHE, ANYHOW?

WELL, ACTUALLY, SHE LEFT ME FOUR YEARS AGO.. I'M WITH SANDY.. AND RITA.. ; SIGH:

HEY, YOU'RE LUCKY- AT LEAST YOU GOT TWO WOMEN WHO LOVE YOU.. THAT'S BETTER THAN NONE!

WELL....



WELL, I LET YOU SKIP YOUR AA MEETING TONIGHT, BUT YOU GOTTA GO TOMORROW, NOW! HEAR ME?

OKAY, SUGAR!

HEY, IT WAS NICE SEEING YOU ALL AGAIN.. CALL SOMETIME, OKAY?

YOU THINK YOU'LL NEVER SEE A SISTER AGAIN, AND THERE SHE IS, ONE DAY! THAT'S SISTERHOOD! -REMEMBER THAT WORD?

AT THE RISK OF SOUNDING P.I.* I GUESS WE'VE COME A LONG WAY!

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS FIND ANOTHER LESBIAN MOTHER.. SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE.. MOVE IN TOGETHER..

..AND IF WE'RE EMOTIONALLY AND POLITICALLY AND SEXUALLY COMPATABLE AND SHARE SOME OF THE SAME GOALS AND LIVE IN THE SAME AREA AND ARE ATTRACTED TO EACH OTHER AND THERE AREN'T TOO MANY CLASS AND CULTURAL CONFLICTS, EVERYTHING OUGHT TO WORK OUT JUST FINE.. IF OUR KIDS GET ALONG WITH EACH OTHER!

WELL, OTHER WOMEN DO IT! THOSE TWO HAVE BEEN TOGETHER FOR TEN YEARS.. JUST AS HAPPY AS CAN BE..

THOSE TWO LOOK LIKE HONEYMOONERS, TOO... HEY, LOOK!

LOOKS LIKE LIZ AND NINA ARE REALLY GETTING THEIR SHIT TOGETHER! WELL, IT MIGHT TAKE ME A LITTLE LONGER, BUT I'M GOING TO BE THE PERSON I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE, TOO! JUST WAIT AND SEE!

LOOKS LIKE MARTA AND LIZ ARE REALLY GETTING THEIR SHIT TOGETHER! WELL, IT MIGHT TAKE ME A LITTLE BIT LONGER, BUT I'M GOING TO BE THE PERSON I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE, TOO! JUST WAIT AND SEE!

LOOKS LIKE MARTA AND LIZ ARE REALLY GETTING THEIR SHIT TOGETHER! WELL, IT MIGHT TAKE ME A LITTLE BIT LONGER, BUT I'M GOING TO BE THE PERSON I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE, TOO! JUST WAIT AND SEE!



* POLITICALLY INCORRECT

Saboteur



BEING GAY
BUT
ASSUMED
STRAIGHT
CAN BE
LIKE BEING
A SPY....

Hear the one
about the two
queers and
the donkey?



KURT
ERICHSEN

Roger Barkley is an agent of LAMBDA, the gay espionage organization. At headquarters he receives an undercover assignment.



We have an infiltration job for you. Here are your papers. We've got you hired at Straightways Industries.

Straightways? They'd lynch any gay they could get their claws on!

Ah, I see you've heard of them.



We've got wind of some anti-gay scheme. They're hatching. Your job is to sabotage it.

You'll need a disguise.



But this is a mask of my own face.



Best disguise there is, kid.



Good luck.

Roger reports for work at Straightways.



What security! You'd think they were getting ready for war.

I'm a new employee. Here are my papers.

Come this way.



This is Murphy, your boss.

Hi, I'm Roger, the new night security man.



We only want the right sort of man working here. Catch my drift?



We give new employees a test.

Shortly...

So they're asking questions they think only faggots can answer, eh? Well, I'll give 'em straight answers!



16. Where are the prostate glands located?

In the elbow.



127. What is a lambda?

a baby sheep.



After Roger finishes the written portion...

There's one more section to the test.

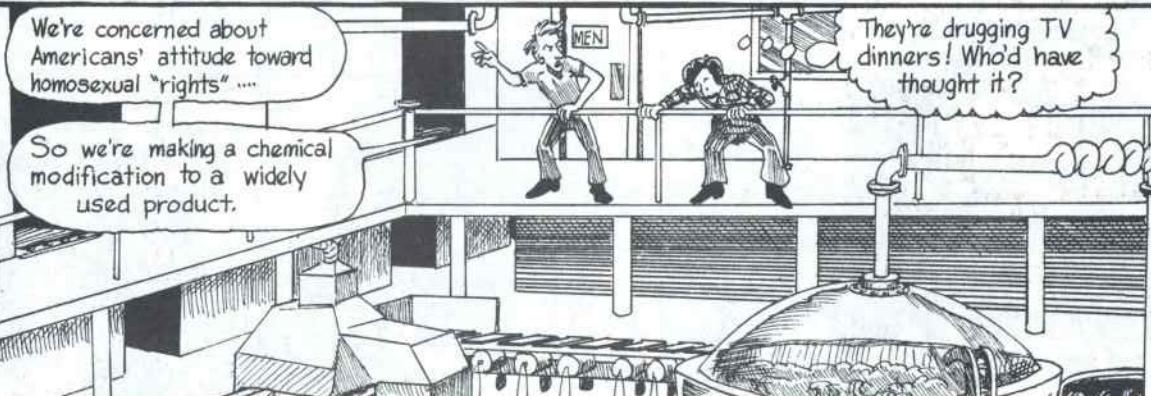


We want to make sure you don't have a limp wrist.



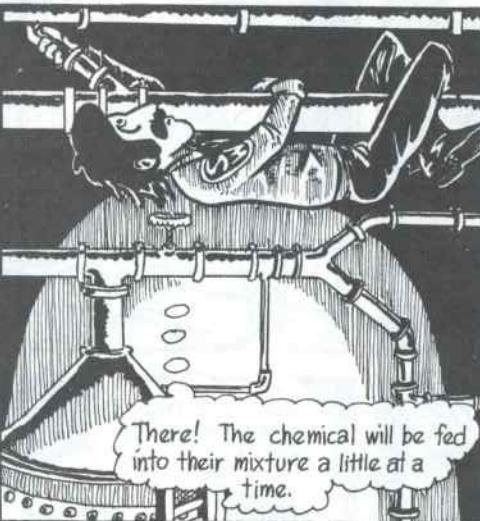
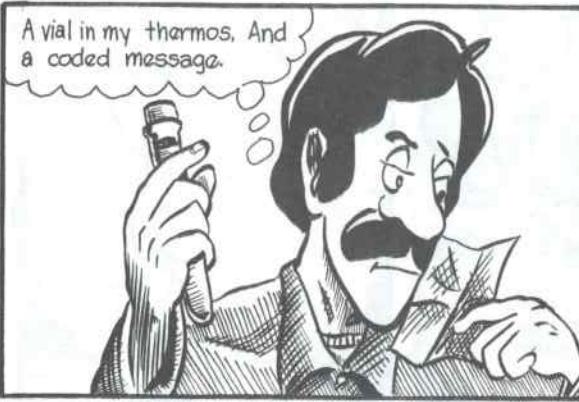
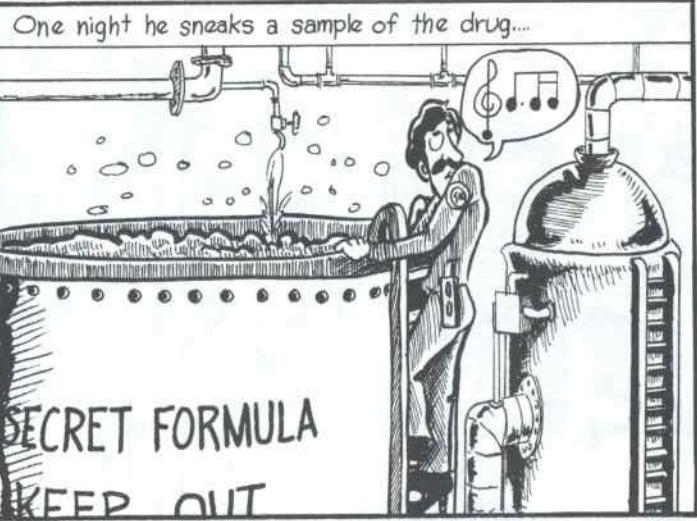
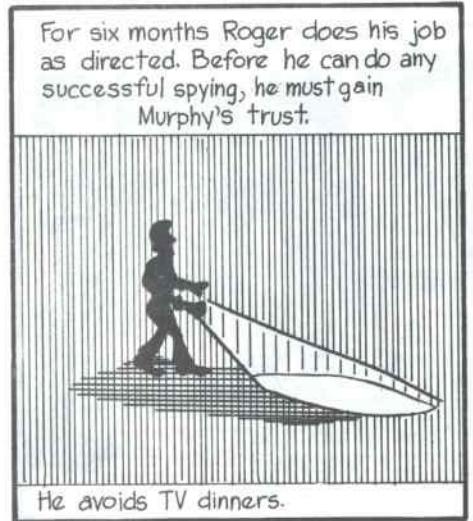
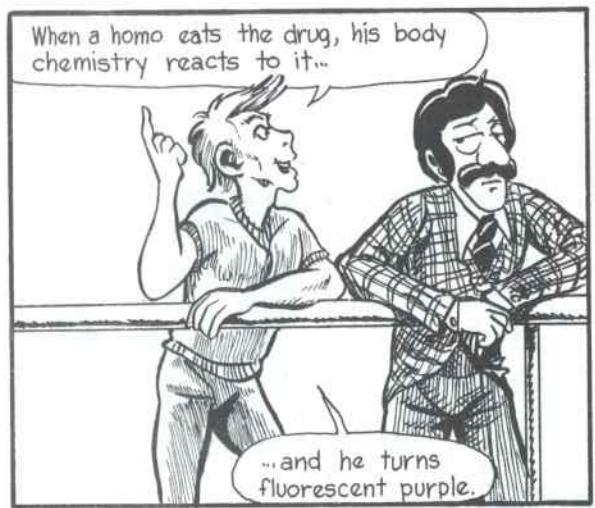
C'mon, I'll show you to your assignment.

They're drugging TV dinners! Who'd have thought it?



We're concerned about Americans' attitude toward homosexual "rights"....

So we're making a chemical modification to a widely used product.



BILLY GOES OUT

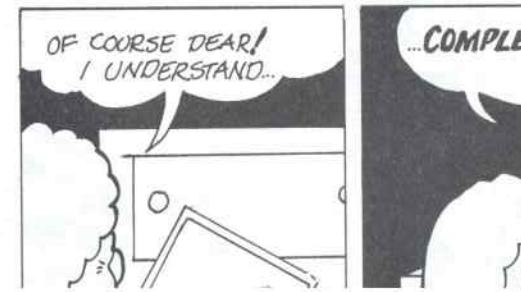












I LOVE THE
FRIENDLY FACES
OF
OLD SORROWS
PLEASE RIBS

Theo Bogart

