



# SPARKLE



**In the Ghetto**

BY KURT ERICHSEN

©1988

# SPINSTERS

Duchess!  
Come on in.

But that  
is Harold.



Hi, I'm Harold Bennett, Duchess' co-conspirator in antique erotica. Have some Vitamin C. You must be Lee and Vernon.

No, she's just Vernon. This underwear fetishist is Lee.



And Duchess. Got your check, and the umbrella rack is on hold. But you must be fired. Have a B<sub>12</sub>.



Then it is the 1803 duFreret original!

Yes, indeed. The Antique shop is around the corner. But it closes at 5:00, so you'll have to wait till tomorrow.



I'll show you the Community Center. Everyone's busy on their banners.

Yes, that's the right address. This must be the Gay Community Center.

Harold said it was a chic old Art Deco building. This can't be it. This is Italianate.



Lee, do be a dear, and bring the luggage. You haven't had your workout today, and we wouldn't want those incredibly sexy muscles to get soft.

A body builder! Have a Vitamin D!





What were you saying about banners?

It's the big Walt Whitman Gay Pride Parade. Isn't that why you chose this weekend?

Mary, I don't do parades. Besides, my boudoir's wallpaper has more Gay Pride than all of Christopher Street!



Is it Whitman's birthday, or something?

No, it's the anniversary of his first orgasm. Everybody will be in the march. The Mayor and Council will be on the lead float.

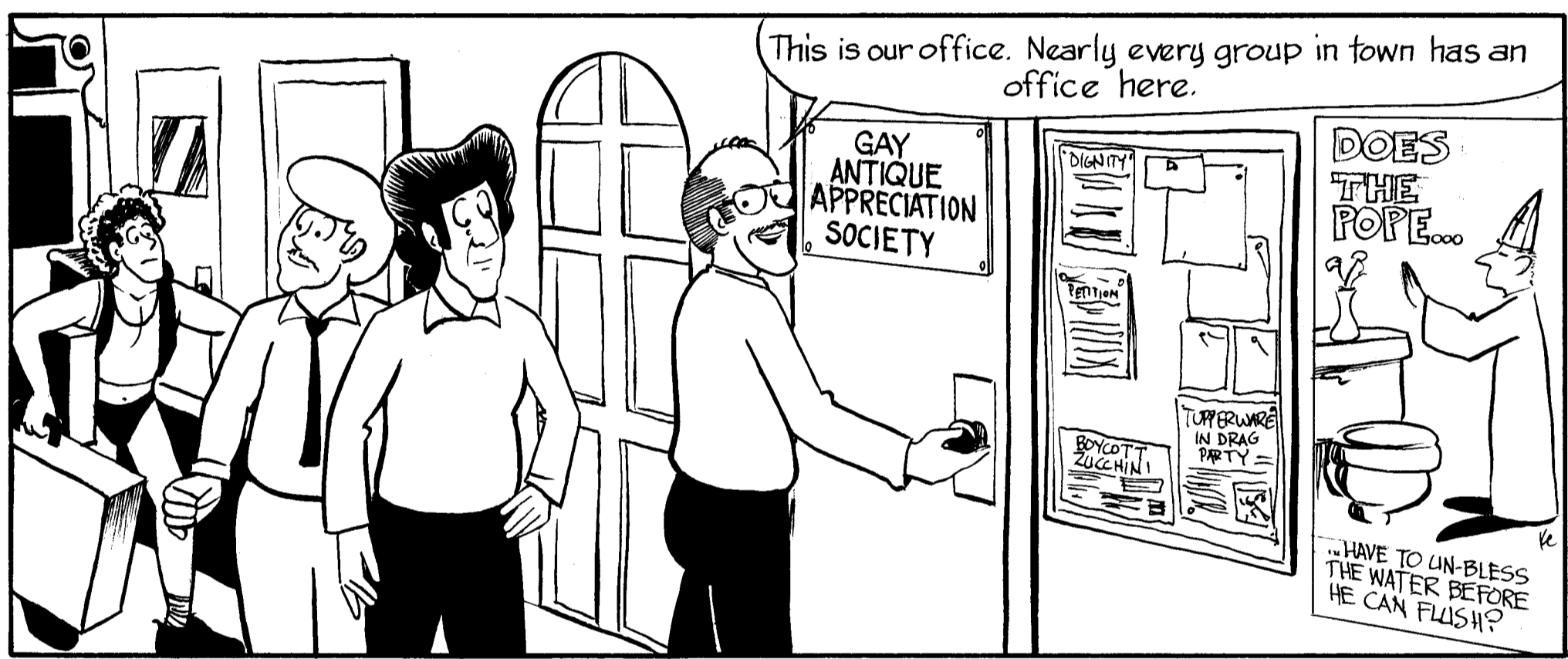
In G-strings.



We never have parades like that.

One soldier in the American Legion parade last year wore a G-string.

...under his uniform, of course!

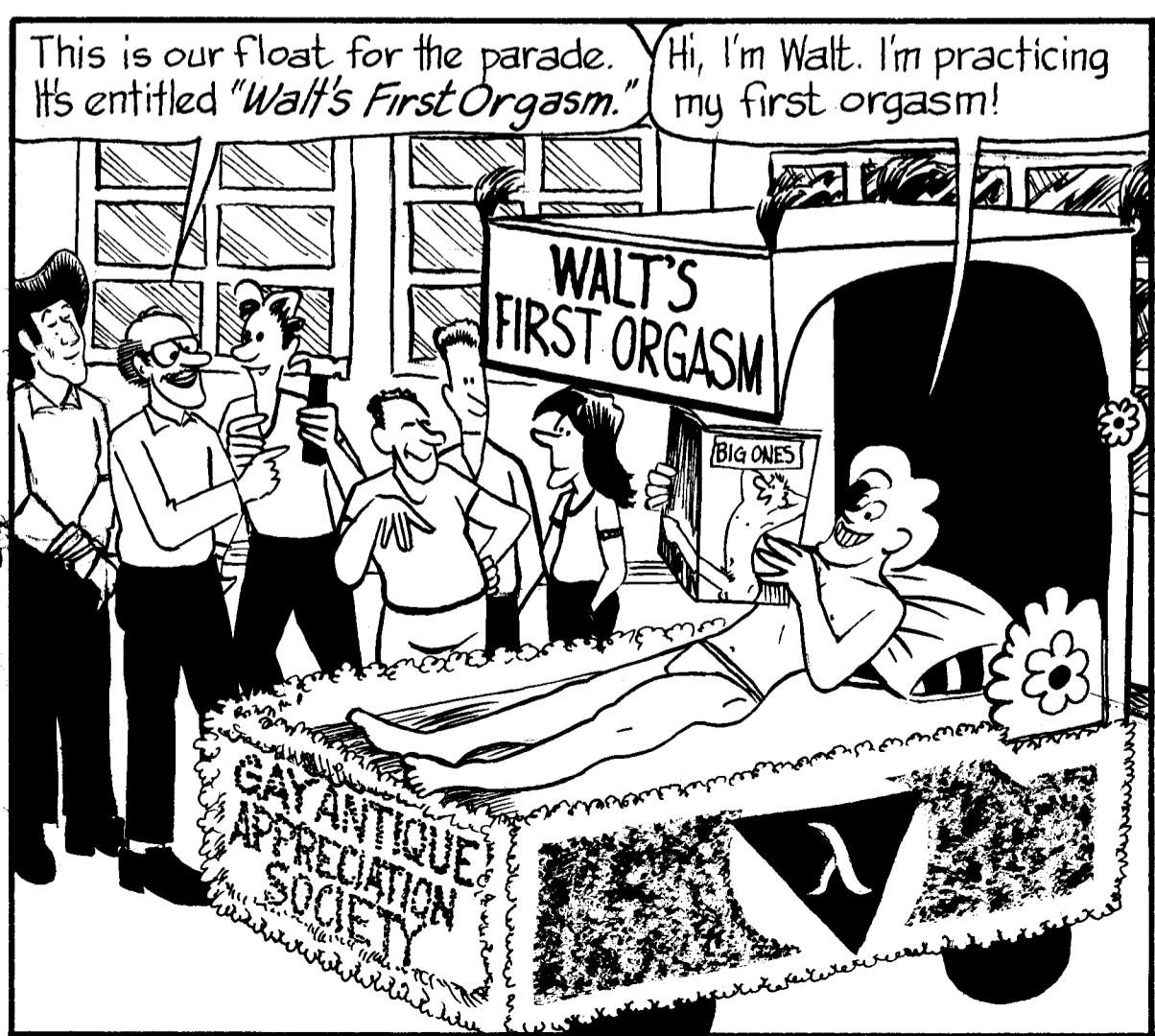


This is our office. Nearly every group in town has an office here.

GAY ANTIQUE APPRECIATION SOCIETY

DIGNITY  
PETITION  
BOYCOTT ZUCCHINI  
TUPPERWARE IN DRAG PARTY

DOES THE POPE...  
...HAVE TO UN-BLESS THE WATER BEFORE HE CAN FLUSH?



This is our float for the parade. It's entitled "Walt's First Orgasm."

Hi, I'm Walt. I'm practicing my first orgasm!

WALT'S FIRST ORGASM

GAY ANTIQUE APPRECIATION SOCIETY

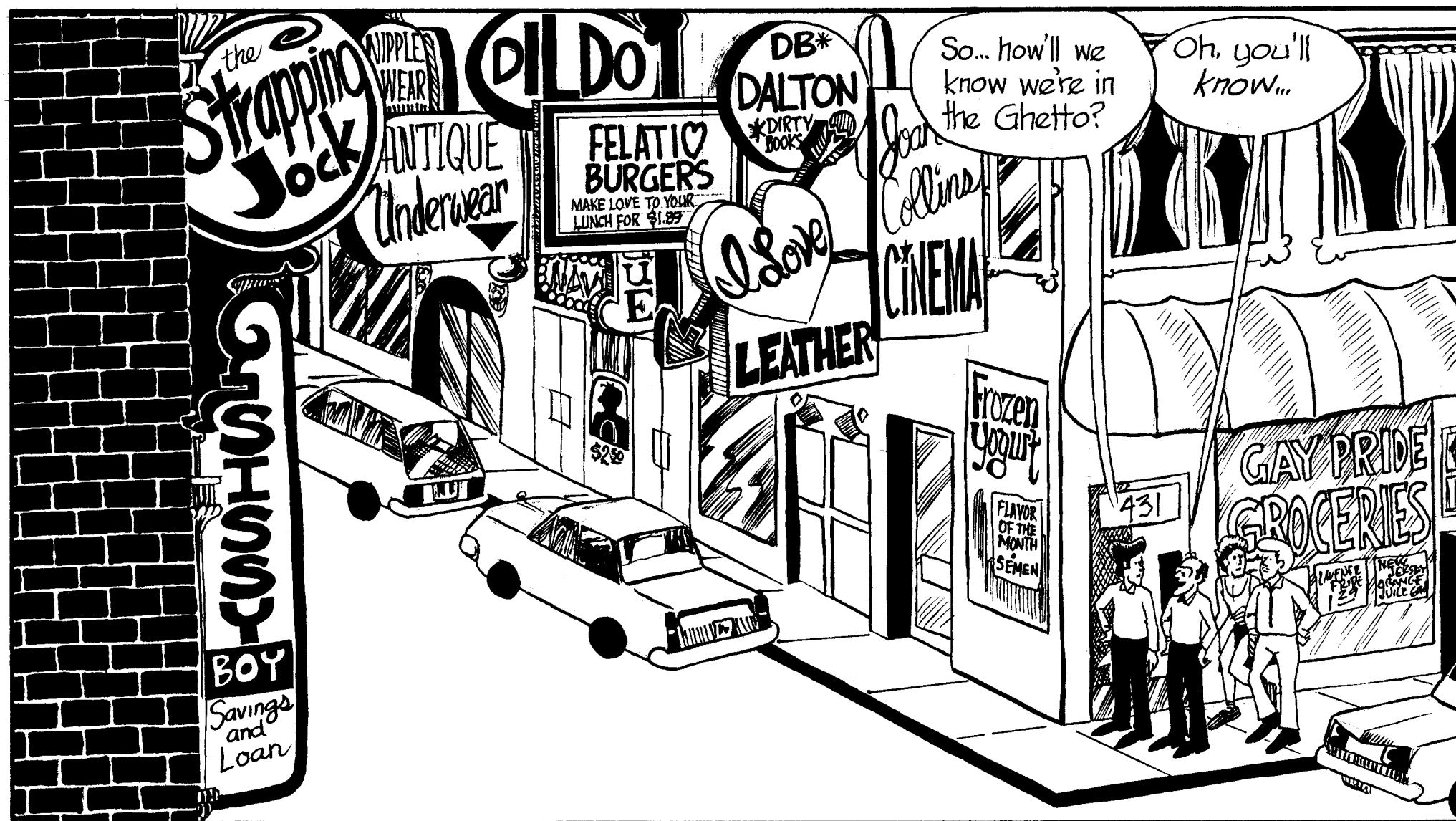
BIG ONES

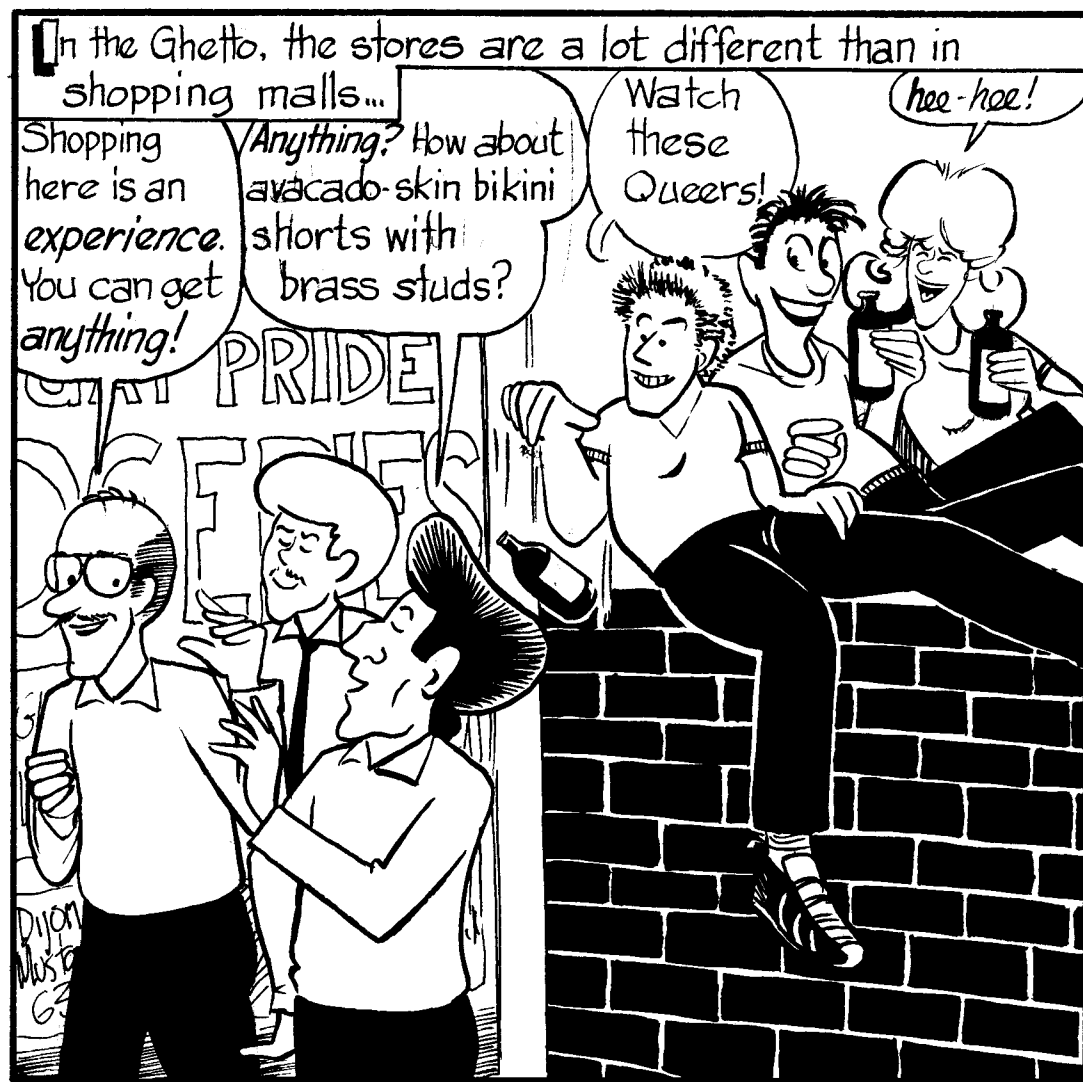


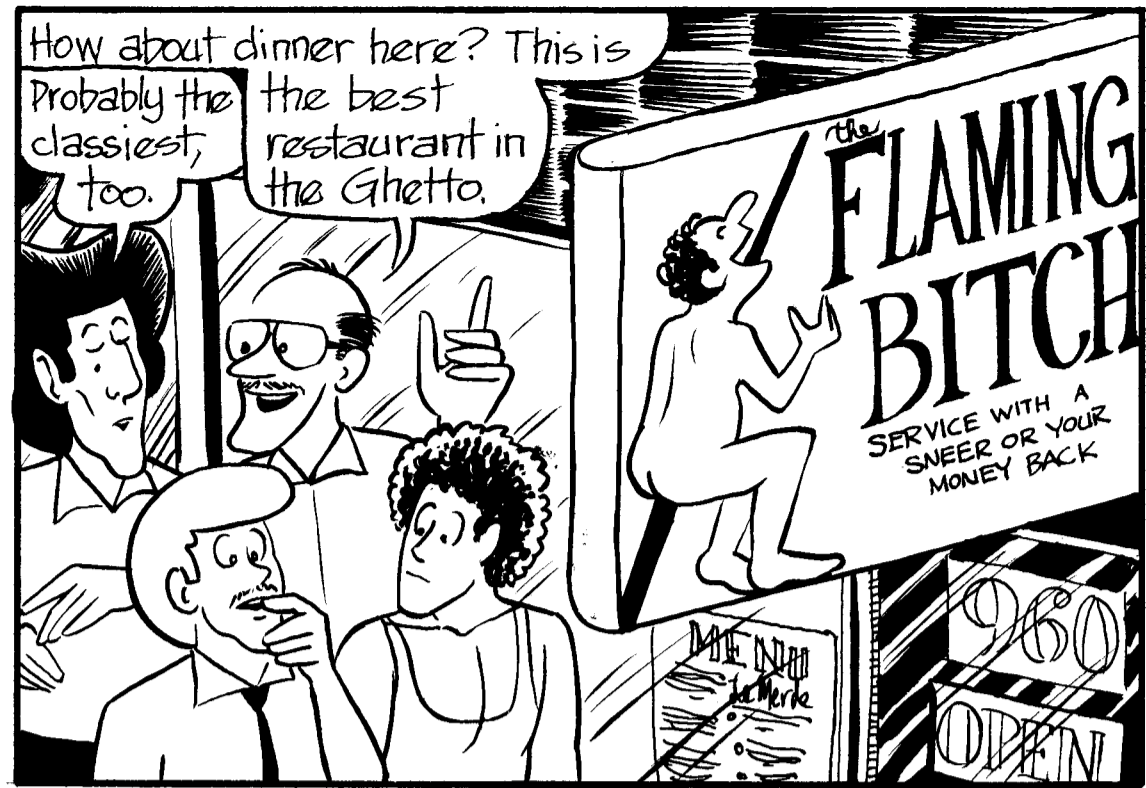
Such a lovely float!

How do you like this, Duchess? A gay antique club!

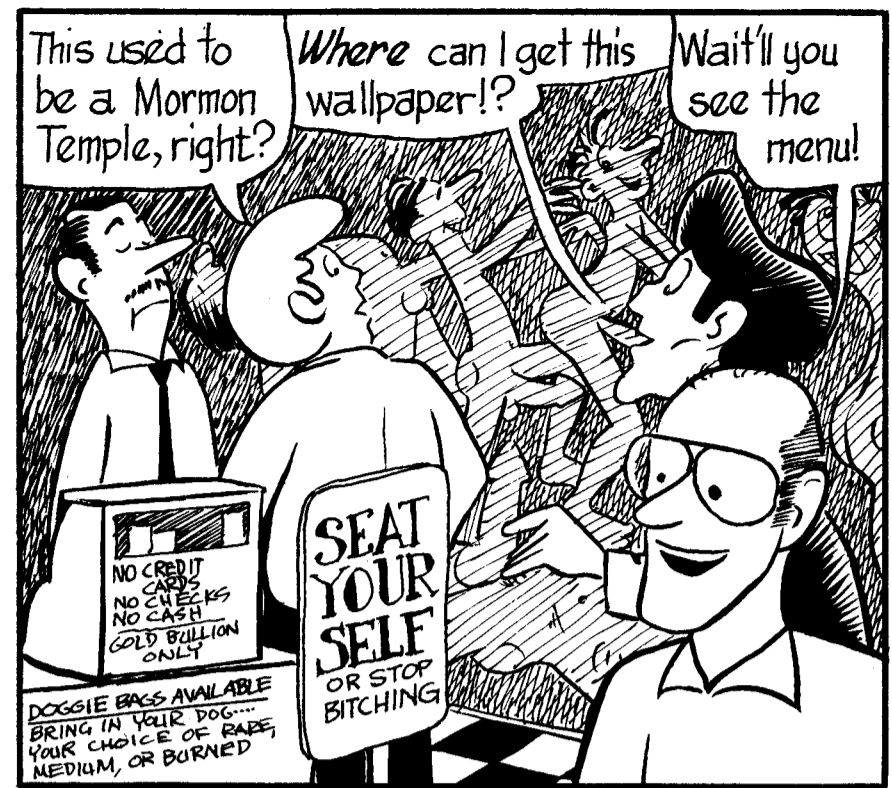
Duchess knows all about preserving antiques. She's been using creosote on her face for years.







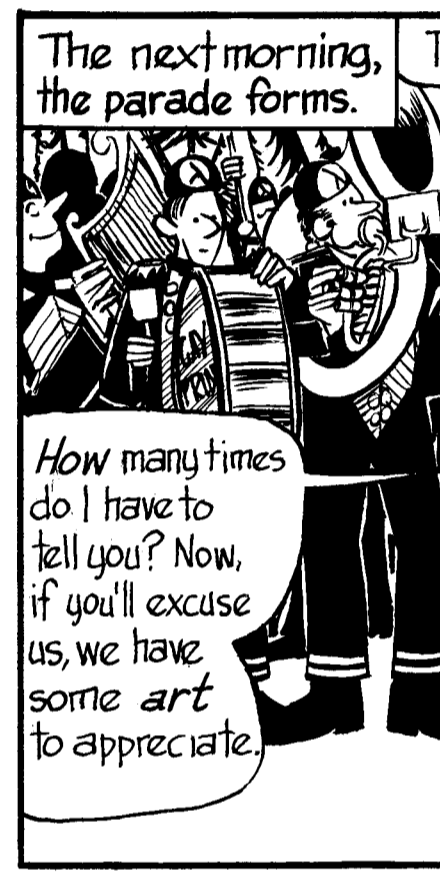
How about dinner here? This is probably the classiest, too. This is the best restaurant in the Ghetto.



This used to be a Mormon Temple, right? Where can I get this wallpaper!? Wait'll you see the menu!



After dinner, I'll show you the bars. A couple good ones are close... Greased and Ready, The Open Hole, and Uncle Dick's Little Thing. And I thought Leather Heaven was too blatant!



The next morning, the parade forms.

How many times do I have to tell you? Now, if you'll excuse us, we have some art to appreciate.



The parade'll only last a couple hours. You'll be back at the antique shop by 2:00.



After several hours of True Art, Duchess emerges with his prize umbrella rack...



What a stain! No wonder this pitcher was a bargain!



I thought you'd be here, fag. Into the alley. There's no cops and no crowd to save you! We'll see how you like broken glass!



I know how terribly seductive I am, but I never go into alleys with strangers. She only does alleys on the second date.

