

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES



Bob Condrón

Bob Condrón is the author of two recently published erotic novels, *Easy Money*, published by Idol-Virgin and the bear-themed, *Sweating It Out* published by Zipper/Prowler). His short stories have appeared in numerous anthologies, including Alyson's *Bar Stories* and *Slow Grind*, Arsenal Pulp Press' *Quickies 2*, and Palm Drive Publishing's *Chasing Danny Boy: Powerful Stories of Celtic Eros*. He is a trained actor and his work as writer and director for fringe and community theatre has been performed in Ireland, the UK, and the USA with notable success, including the prestigious Edinburgh Festival, Scotland.

Born, raised, and educated in the North of England, he first worked as a social worker before returning to full-time education in his late-twenties whereupon he studied Drama at university. Thereafter, he embarked upon a career as a teacher and writer. For the past five years, he has lived and worked in Berlin with his Irish husband, Tommy. He

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is currently at work on new fiction.

Bob says, “‘Santa’s Sackful’ was the first erotic story I ever wrote for publication. It was written, dispatched, and sold directly to *Bear* magazine who snapped it up. It was that straightforward. And it was at that point that I thought to myself, ‘Bob, you’ve found yourself a new audience!’ ‘Santa’s Sackful’ was an attempt to write something that I personally would want to read; something centered around bear sex for sure, but something a little off-beat, breaking free from stereotypes and formula. The bear cult may well have originated in the States, but the movement is now worldwide. Why shouldn’t erotica reflect that diversity? On the other hand, so much erotica is *phantasievoll*—as they would say here in Germany—in that the scenarios in bear erotica are seldom grounded in reality. I wanted to take this fantasy idea to the extreme and write a modern fairytale or, more accurately, a ‘Beartale.’”



John Coriolan

The Midwestern native who has long been known under the pseudonym “John Coriolan,” author and artist, decided after one year in New York acting school he would never be a movie star and that he wanted to be a playwright. After graduating from the University of Iowa, he returned to New York ready to be a famous playwright. He was “promising” and did all sorts of theatre work, including running a summer stock company and staging drag-shows at Fire Island—until he turned to teaching and settling down to thirteen years of connubial bliss with a six-foot blond teacher. They alternated summers of work on graduate degrees at Columbia with touring Europe. While Senior English master at a boys’ school (established in 1709), “John Coriolan” emerged in 1968 as a gay novelist with his novel, *A Sand Fortress*. He mounted the barricades of early Gay Lib along with his novelist friends Richard Amory (*Song of the Loon*, 1967), Sam Steward (his ‘Phil Andros’ stories), and David Merrick (*The Lord Won’t Mind*, 1969). This Over-the-Barricades Gang of pioneer gay writers was determined to tell explicitly who did what to whom and

how big it was that it was done with. All of them continued writing into the 70's and beyond. Coriolan's later novels were *The Smile of Eros* and *Christy Dancing*. His story collections are *Unzipped* and *Dream Stud*.

Weary of dirty old New York, where gay life was becoming routine, Coriolan fled to Key West in time for the fabulous Gay Boom. He deserted Key West in 1992 to explore legendary San Francisco where he discovered he liked drawing better than writing and could still center attention on a splendid Big Dick. In San Francisco, he could roam the wild reaches of the Nameless Beach. "After all," this pioneer writer says, "my great-grandmother Chaney was a Shawnee and Indians believe the passing years only make one wise, not less curious and less hopeful."



Charles Eldridge

“Charles Eldridge” is the *nom de bear* of this fiction writer well-known to the readers of the popular bear magazines. His specialty is fiction set in such historic periods as the American Civil War, the Crusades, and particularly the Roman Empire. A prolific writer, Charlie has had over 25 stories published since 1995.

Charlie was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in June, 1950. His home-life and upbringing were typically suburban and middle-class. Even then he showed a marked interest in history, especially Roman history. Charlie graduated Towson State University in Baltimore in 1973 with a B.S. degree in History, and began his long career in public administration.

Charlie was always interested in writing, but never did anything about it. However, in early 1995, a chance visit to the Baltimore offices of *Daddy* magazine changed all that. During a conversation with the magazine’s publisher and secretary, he was asked the fatal question, “Do you like to write?” He responded that he had always wanted to, and *Daddy* encouraged him to submit a story for consideration.

Daddy liked his first story, “Decision at Pompeii,” and published it in the next issue of *Daddy* 22. Thus was launched his writing career of his “One-Handed Epics.”

Charlie has always been interested in bear-men ever since he came out in 1974. So after his writing debut in *Daddy*, in late 1995 he submitted his first bear story, “The War Is Over,” set during the American Civil War, to *American Bear* magazine. This story was published in *American Bear* 13, in mid-1996. Ever since, he has had a very pleasant and successful publishing relationship with *American Bear* and *American Grizzly* magazines. To round out his success, his first story published in *Bear* magazine was “The Hero of the Greeks” in early 1998, *Bear* 49. Charlie has learned to concentrate on what he seems to do best—bear stories set in historical periods—and has future plans for stories set in Sumeria, England, Japan, Italy, Russia, and India.

Charlie lives in Baltimore with his partner of twenty-five years, Jim, who is also a bear. He is an active member of the Chesapeake Bay Bears.



Jack Fritscher

Jack Fritscher is a pioneer founder of the bear movement on page and screen. He wrote the first-ever piece on bears and was the first editor to print the word “bear” on a magazine cover. His article was “Bears: Hairballing at the Hair Fetish Ranch” in the November 1982 *California Action Guide*, published in San Francisco, five years before the first issue of *Bear* magazine. No one person created “bears,” but many regard journalist Fritscher as epicentric to the upgraded way lesbian culture now judges homomale men as acceptable new gay archetypes.

With a doctorate in American Literature and Criticism from Loyola University, Chicago, he is also the legendary founding San Francisco editor of *Drummer* magazine into which he introduced in 1978 the butch-romance themes of beards, bellies, and cigars in both “Tough Customers” and “In Praise of Older Men.” He is *Drummer’s* most protean

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contributor with a record of more than 125 feature and fiction pieces, as well as 400 photographs, including covers and centerfolds, in 60 issues.

In 1979, his invention of *Man2Man Quarterly* set the 1980's tone for the emerging homomascularity of bear culture. *Bear*-magazine founder, Richard Bulger, acknowledged *Man2Man* as his model for *Bear* magazine first published in 1987. Fritscher was one of *Bear* magazine's first writers and centerfolds, and is Brush Creek Media's most published author.

The *Bay Area Reporter* says "Jack Fritscher is the inventor of the South of Market leather prose style of masculine writing." He is the deeply established author of 16 books including *Some Dance to Remember* (1990) which is the first novel to feature a bear as one of the central characters. The main character is named precisely "Ryan O'Hara" for Orion, the Constellation of the Bear. Reviewed as a literary classic by *The New Republic*, *Some Dance* spins with some irony the epic story of "men's men" in San Francisco, 1970-1982. *Some Dance* is extraordinary memoir for Daddy Bears who remember the 70's party and for Cub Boys who wish they'd been born to celebrate the Golden Age of Gay Liberation during the window of the Gay Renaissance, 1970-1982, after penicillin and before the twins viruses of HIV and politically-correct Marxism.

In 1967, as gay-activist founding member of the academic American Popular Culture Association, he insured that homosexual culture be prominently represented. His nonfiction book, *Popular Witchcraft: Straight from the Witch's Mouth*, the first book to address gay wicca and gay-witch voices, was published in 1972 as was his first novel, *Leather Blues*, which critic Michael Bronski hailed as the birth of the gay male romance.

His nonfiction titles include his memoir of life with his scandalous lover, *Mapplethorpe: Assault with a Deadly Camera*, 1994. His collection of "69 Erotic Stories" is in the

four books: *Corporal in Charge of Taking Care of Captain O'Malley*, *Stand By Your Man*, *Rainbow County*, and *Titanic: Forbidden Stories Hollywood Forgot*. The series won the 1999 Small Press Book Award for best erotica in the U.S. from a field of straight, gay, and lesbian books.

He has written, directed, and photographed more than 130 videos for www.PalmDriveVideo.com. Hundreds of his photographs have appeared as covers and centerfolds of 18 magazines including *Bear*, *Bunkhouse*, *Powerplay*, *Checkmate*, and *Drummer*, as well as on the cover of James Purdy's novel *Narrow Rooms*; and in *The Index of Censorship*; *Gay Sports: The Arena of Masculinity*; Edward Lucie-Smith's *Adam: The Male Figure in Art*, and *Ars Erotica*.

Gay Men's Press, London, published fifty-five of his photographs in the coffee-table book, *Jack Fritscher's American Men*. Two of his videos regarding the painter-photographer, George Dureau, are in the permanent collection of the Maison Europeenne de la Photographie, Paris.

His screenplay, *Water from the Moon*, the true story of a Chinese woman who became an international political force, is in pre-production as an international motion picture with the Beijing Film Company, Beijing, China.

His 6,000 published pages also appear in more than 30 magazines, as well as in more than 20 anthologies including Camille Paglia's *Vamps and Tramps*; Derek Jones' *Censorship: An International Encyclopedia* (on Mapplethorpe); Richard La Bonté's *Best of the Best Gay Erotica*; Winston Leland's *Gay Roots: 20 Years of Gay Sunshine: An Anthology of Gay History, Sex, Politics and Culture*; *Chasing Danny Boy: Powerful Stories of Celtic Eros*, and M. Christian's *The Burning Pen: Sex Writers on Sex Writing*. He is also the author of the Introduction to *Bear Book II* (2001), and the founder of www.BearArchives.com.

In 1993, he appeared on *Oprah*—before *Oprah* became a self-help church—recounting why gay men sleep with straight women's bearded, blue-collar husbands. His

pre-quel to the bearish *Some Dance to Remember* is his new 2001 novel of teenagers coming of age in a 1950's Catholic boys' school, *What They Did to the Kid: Confessions of an Altar Boy*.

www.JackFritscher.com



Shaun Levin

Shaun Levin lives in London where his short stories appear in *Does the Sun Rise Over Dagenham?* (Fourth Estate), *The Slow Mirror: New Fiction by Jewish Writers* (Five Leaves Press), *The Gay Times Book of Short Stories*, and in the journals *Stand* and *Kunapipi*. In the USA and Canada, his work can be found in the *Queer View Mirror* anthologies, *Bad Jobs*, *Quickies 2*, *Best Gay Erotica 2000*, *Slow Grind*, and in *Mach*, *Indulge*, *Harrington Gay Men's Fiction Quarterly*, *The Evergreen Chronicles*, and *Venue*. He also has stories in the e-zines, *Mind Caviar* and *Suspect Thoughts*. He runs "Gay Men Writing," a creative writing workshop for gay men.



©Greg “Beast” Garcia

George Madison aka Furr

My “bearness” has roots deep in my childhood. My dad was in the redwood logging business, and would occasionally take me out and show me where the crew was working, or take me with him to the logging hardware store. There’s a connection between the kind of men I idealized at an early age, and the kind I prefer now: big, burly men, often bearded, in dirty, sweaty work clothes with dirt and grease under their fingernails and sawdust caught in their arm hairs.

My fourth-grade math teacher was a chunky man with a nice full beard and hairy forearms. He was one of two coaches. I was so enamored of him that I became a sports team “manager.” I was the lucky go-fer staying late to pick up jockstraps and equipment in the locker rooms when the two coaches took their showers. Both men were bearded

and furry: my math teacher with dark fur and the other coach with blond body fur. At that age, it never occurred to me to pay much attention to their crotches. Their beards and hairy chests fascinated me.

In college I realized I was gay, and my long fascination with bearded and hairy men finally made sense. By then I myself was bearded and hairy. Genetics granted a childhood wish. Not long afterwards, I discovered the world of erotica where the kind of man I liked wasn't exactly common. Most of the stories dissatisfied me, so I began writing my own jerkoff material. I figured writing down some of my more heated fantasies would help get them off my mind.

And then came *Bear*. I'm not sure it's possible to relate the impact finding that magazine had on me back before bears were popular. I scraped up my nerve and sent off some stories...and got published! Karl von Uhl, one of the *Bear* editors at the time, gave me valuable advice: "Make me taste it; make me smell it!" My story "Down & Dirty" provoked the biggest reaction from readers, possibly because it printed alongside pictures of me whacking off smoking a cigar. Readers got the story plus the twisted hairball who wrote it, all in one package.

After years of fantasy and fiction, I finally got my first motorcycle, a Honda Shadow ACE 750 Deluxe, in December 1999. My scoot is a chain-drive bike. So in the name of servicing the chain, I have a perfectly legitimate opportunity to get greasy, and I wipe that grease all over my jeans the same as the bikers in my stories.



Jay Neal

By day, Jay Neal is a rocket scientist; by night, a bear pornographer. Born in 1956, Jay Neal has always been attracted to husky, hairy men. He's written about bears since 1998. After his youth in Kansas, college in Iowa, and graduate school in New England and the South, he received his Ph.D. in Physics in 1984, after which he worked on NASA projects for the U.S. Space Shuttle and Hubble Space Telescope. Later he moved into satellite-communications technology research for the twenty-first century. Under a pseudonym, he has published a number of technical papers with remarkably silly titles.

Words have long been his obsession. Actually, so has sex. Together, they're a pretty potent combination. With his scientific background, he never expected to find himself at a keyboard typing sentences like, "Fuck me! Fuck me! Oh yeah! Fuck me harder!" Happily, life is full of surprises. He'd like to reassure his readers that most of his writing is indeed done in the nude.

Besides the science, which pays the bills, and the porn, which doesn't, but helps keep him warm, Jay Neal enjoys

music. As a child, he played cello when he was smaller than the cello. Recently he realized a life-long nightmare and appeared on stage as the leading man in an amateur musical-theater production. The experience convinced him that he's better off behind the scenes than in them.

He's at work now on his advanced degree in sex, but feels it could be some time before he really masters the subject. Several of his research findings have appeared so far in *American Bear* and *American Grizzly* magazines.

He hopes in the near future to obtain a grant to study the relationship between self-organizing pattern formation in chest fur and chaos theory. In the meantime, he continues his course of studies with his partner in suburban Washington, D.C., where they collaborate on experimental research with friends and guests.



Simon Sheppard

Simon Sheppard is the author of *Hotter Than Hell and Other Stories*, Alyson Books, and the co-editor with M. Christian, of the best-selling anthology, *Rough Stuff: Tales of Gay Men, Sex, and Power*. His work has appeared in two editions of *Best Gay Erotica*, and has also been published in over fifty other anthologies including, lately, *Guilty Pleasures*, *Aqua Erotica*, *The Burning Pen*, *Strange Bedfellows*, and *Noirotica 3*, as well as in a bunch of magazines. He is currently working on a non-fiction book about kink, to be published by Alyson. His column, “Sex Talk,” appears in queer newspapers nationwide and on several websites. He lives, happily and hairily, in San Francisco.



Ron Suresha

Ron Suresha grew up in and around Detroit, where his first sexual encounters with adults occurred in the downstairs tearoom of his neighborhood mall. He studied creative writing and journalism at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and edited several alternative periodicals. Converted to vegetarianism, he ran a community switchboard, went to India, and lived in yoga ashrams for ten years. Over the past twelve years, he has contributed freelance editorial work to scores of book projects at Shambhala Publications and other book publishers specializing in Eastern studies, philosophy, and psychology.

Ron has been involved with the bear community since the late 80s when he lived in San Francisco with one of the creators of *Bear* magazine. He designed signs, graphics, and promotions for the Lone Star Saloon, including the famous barn sign on the Lone Star patio. He also studied

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Sign Language at Vista College in Berkeley for three years.

Since leaving San Francisco in 1994, he has been a member of the Chesapeake Bay Bears, New England Bears, Rhode Island Grizzlies, and Motor City Bears. He acted as a judge for the International Mr. Bear 2000 in San Francisco.

His interview column for *American Bear* magazine has featured discussions with comedian Bruce Vilanch, New Hampshire State Senator Sen. Rick Trombly, artist Tim Barela, and authors Eric Rofes, David Bergman, and Michael Bronski. He has also written for *Harvard Gay & Lesbian Review*, *Lambda Book Report*, *White Crane Journal*, *Art & Understanding*, *Southern Voice*, *Gay Community News*, *In Newsweekly*, *Darshan*, *Siddha Path*, and *Visionary*, as well as for the anthologies *The Bear Book*, *Bear Book 2*, *My First Time 2*, *Quickies 2*, and *Bar Stories*.

He is finishing work on two books: *Bears on Bears*, a collection of interviews and discussions; and an anthology of bear-themed erotic fiction, both forthcoming from Alyson Publications. He's also working on a recipe book, and a collection of Persian folk tales.

Ron lives by the verdant Emerald Necklace in Boston.



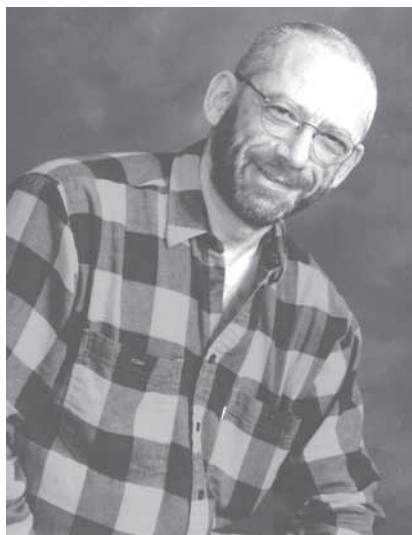
Bob Vickery

Bob Vickery has been writing erotica prolifically since the 1980s. His stories have been published in numerous magazines, and he is a regular contributor to *Men* and *Freshmen* magazines. Two anthologies containing only his stories are: *Skin Deep*, Masquerade Publishers, and *Cock Tales*, Leyland Publications. Other Vickery stories appear in a wide number of other anthologies, including *Best American Erotica 1997 and 2000*; *Best Gay Erotica 1999 and 2001*; *The Friction series, 1-4*; *Up All Hours*, *Quickies*, *Quickies 2*, and *Queer Dharma (Voices of Gay Buddhists)*.

A motion picture, *Love, Lust, and Repetition*, based on his stories, is currently in production with independent film maker, Edgar Bravo.

Bob can often be found in his favorite coffee shop in the Haight Ashbury, pounding out his prose on his lap top. In his spare time, he bakes muffins for a Zen Buddhist monastery a few miles north of San Francisco.

www.BobVickery.com



Mike White

Author Mike White has worked at a variety of jobs, from selling auto parts, telemarketing, truck driver and courier, to dispatcher. He has raced cars, taught competition driving, and done public relations work. He has also taught country western line dancing.

Mike attended the Dale Carnegie Human Relations class, where he won two awards. He was also a Graduate Assistant five times.

His nonfiction work has appeared in *Super Ford*, *VW & Porsche*, *Ford Dealer World*, and *E Jag* magazines.

Mike's fiction has appeared in *Playguy*, *Manifest Reader*, *American Grizzly*, *American Bear*, *Gruf*, and *Hand Jobs*.

In January 2000 Mike turned his full attention to writing and investigating alternative medicine, such as acupuncture, massage, biofeedback, yoga, and Shamanistic medicine. When he's not writing, he also does extra work for TV and movies. Mike also does volunteer work at the

Howard Brown Health Clinic in Chicago.

Mike maintains an interest in auto racing, mainly NASCAR and CART, when he is not writing or reading science fiction. He often reads two or three books at the same time. A long-time *Star Trek* fan, Mike grew up in the Detroit area, and lives in the Chicago area.

