THE 50th STATE OFFERS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, A GOOD LEI

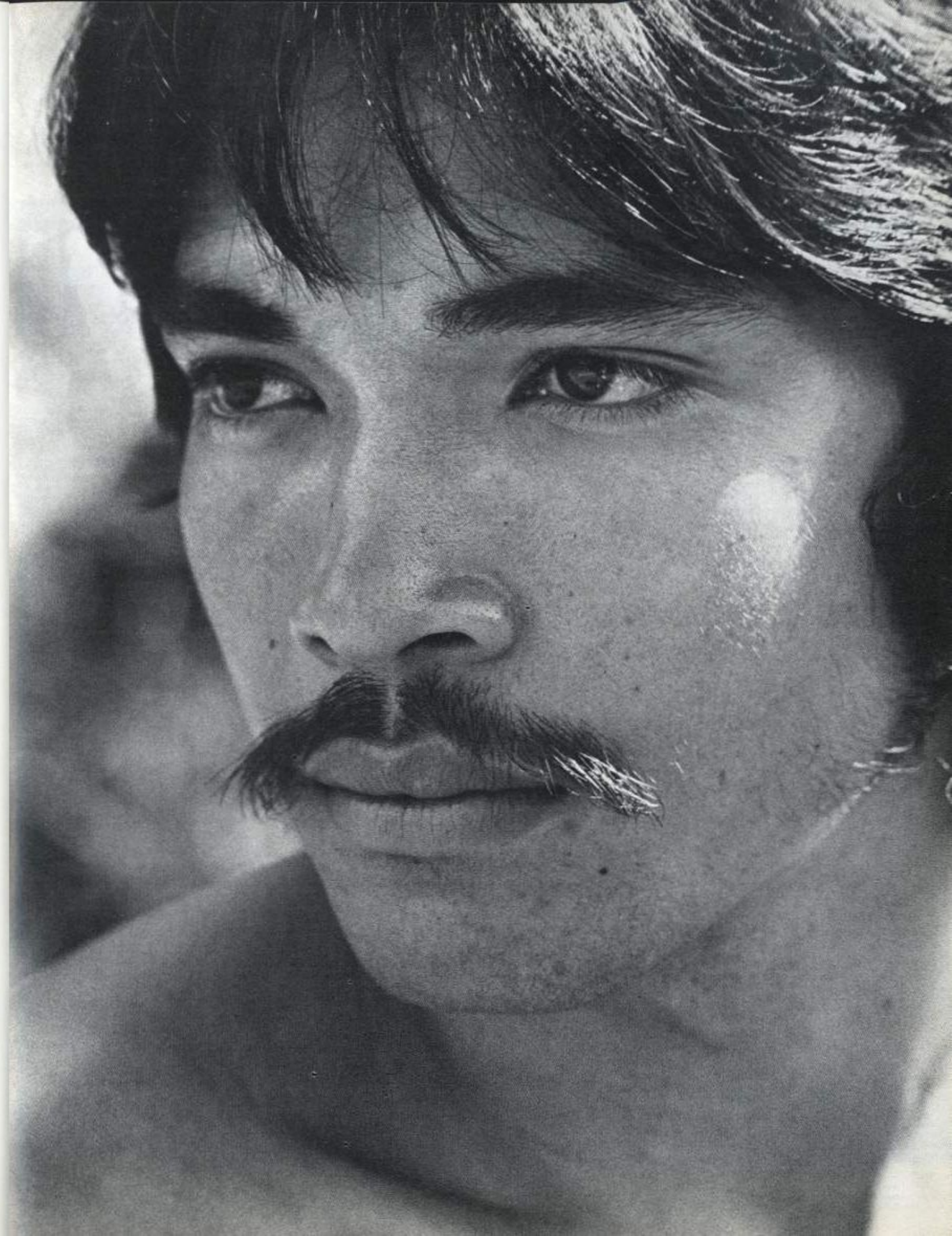
HAWAII!

Photograph by Roy Dean

The face of Hawaii is that of countless blendings of nationalities and cultures. It is evidenced in the face of the young men at right whose heritage is a mixture of French, Chinese and Polynesian. His exotic look is typical of the gorgeously polyglot populace of our 50th State who enjoy an unfettered lifestyle, welcoming people of all sorts. It is not surprising, then, that gays have discovered Hawaii to be a very special paradise.

Hawaii is actually a chain of 132 islands, with eight major ones making up all but three square miles of the entire area. The average tourist will arrive not in Hawaii itself but in Oahu because Hawaii, "The Big Island," is a separate place altogether. 82% of all Hawaiians live on Oahu, most of them in Honolulu. Aside from the aforementioned islands, your interests will lie in Maui, Kauai, Lanai and Molokai. Now that you've had a quick geography lesson, we'll get down to the basics of why tourists spend almost $900 million annually making Pacific overtures to this specific Garden of Eden.

It's true that Honolulu has become something of an urban nightmare, sprawling recklessly from Waikiki Beach in an attempt to accommodate locals and the ever-increasing crush of visitors. But natural beauty is still bountiful, and Hawaiians have fortunately put considerable focus on environmental quality control. In other words, the Aloha State still has unspoiled areas which will take your breath away. It also has some men



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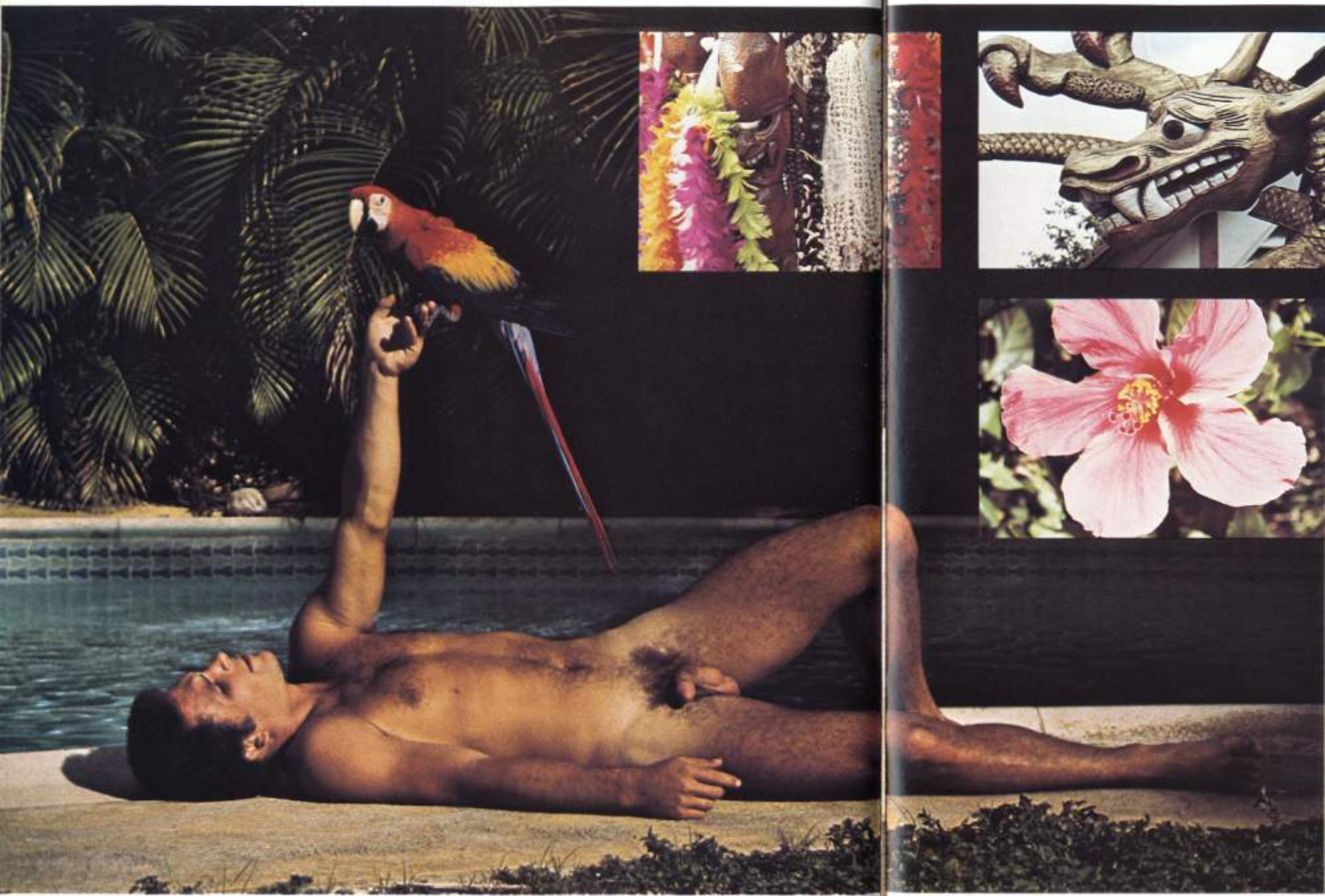
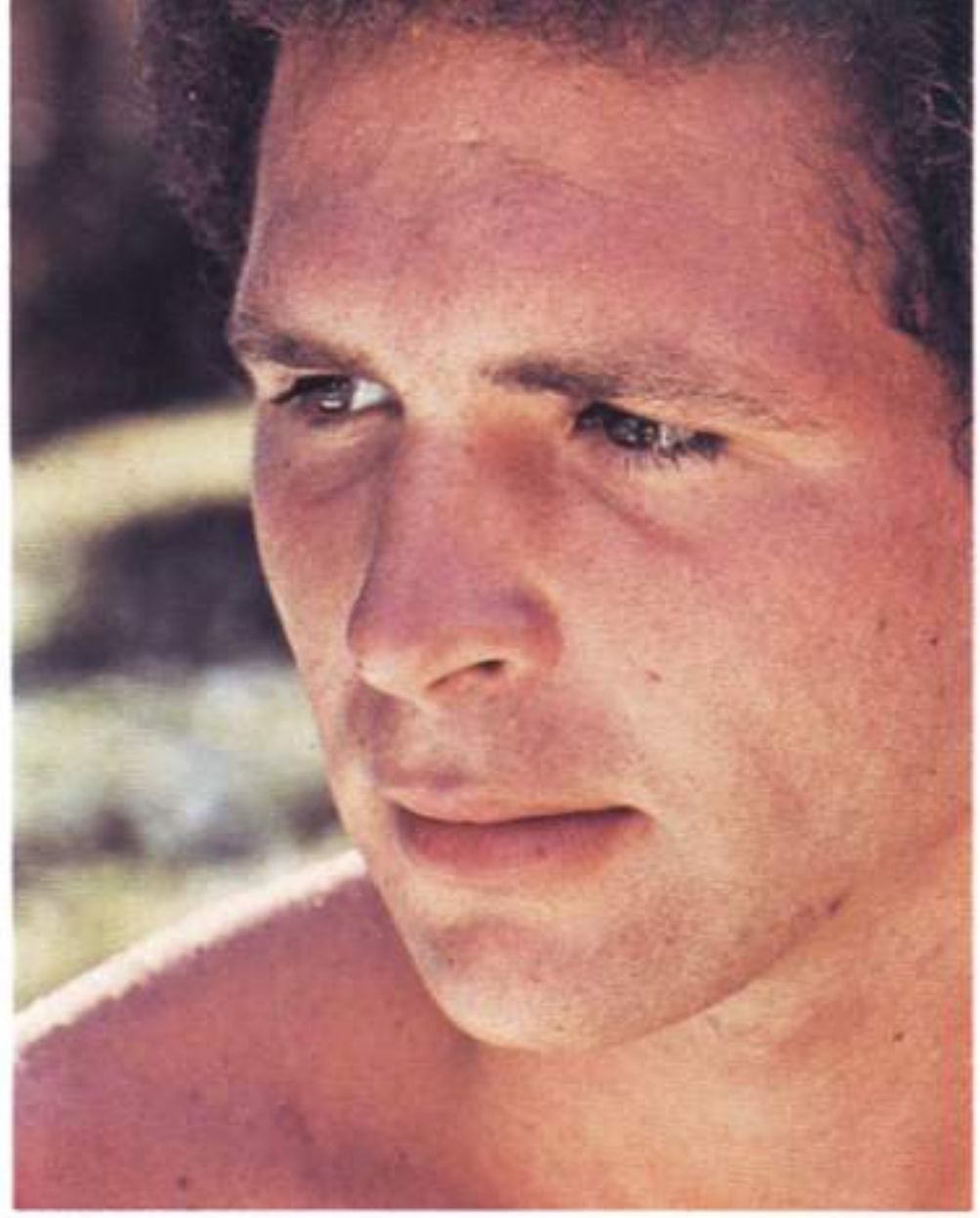
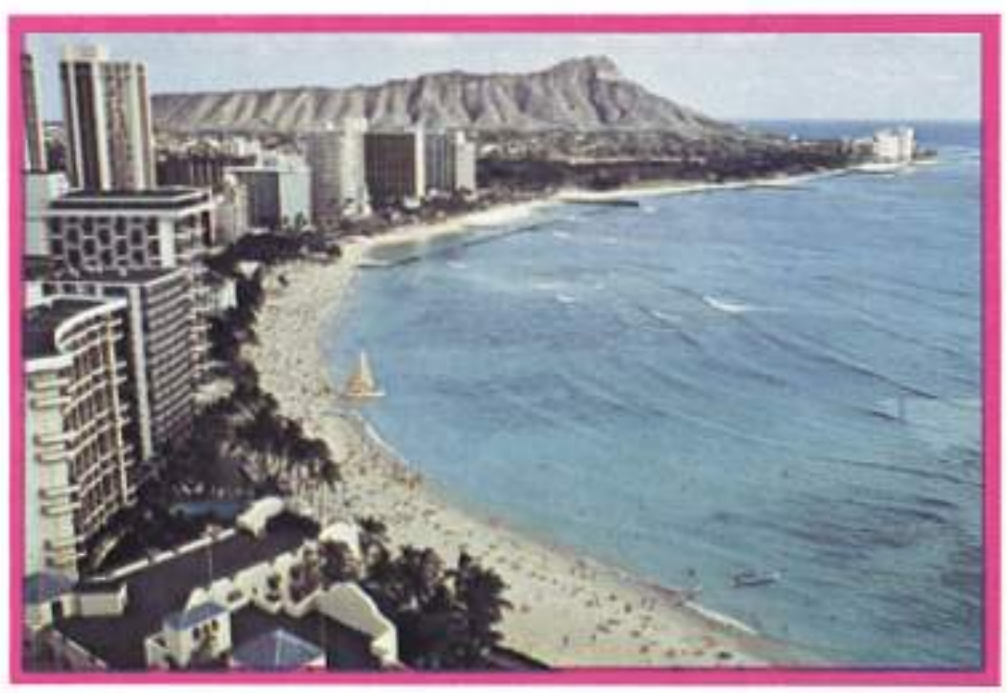
The riot of color that is our 50th State is suggested here in a rich montage of photographs by Roy Dean. The turquoise and white of Waikiki, the blazing pink of hibiscus, a rainbowed potpourri of feather leis, earth shades of a fierce temple demon, multi-colored native handicrafts: each reflects a special facet that makes Hawaii unique. Of course, there are also the flesh tones of a dozen nationalities, only one of which is represented by the young man taking a poolside Hawaiian lay with his big cockatoo.





Photographs by Roy Dean



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who will do the same.

Most likely you'll make your base of operations in Honolulu along with the other 3½ million travelers who go there each year. There are no strictly gay hotels in Hawaii because the action centers in bars and on the beaches. You should consider staying at the incredibly lush Kahala Hilton which is a ten-minute ride to the other side of Diamond Head. The Hawaiian Regent which has Honolulu's savviest restaurant, the Hyatt and the Halekulani are also recommended. The dowager of them all is the venerable Royal Hawaiian, on Kalakaua Avenue directly on Waikiki Beach. Maybe not as posh as it once was, the Royal Hawaiian is nonetheless soaked with atmosphere.

Aside from pineapples, luaus, hulas and leis, there are other things worth seeing in Honolulu. There is the impressive memorial at Pearl Harbor, Ala Moana Center, Iolani Palace which is the last residence of Hawaiian royalty, Bishop Museum, the mission houses, Nuuanu Pali cliff and Sea Life Park. If surfing is your game, head north through the Pali Tunnel to the north shore where you'll find the greatest surfing beaches in the world. For swimming in that area, try the Lanikai and Bellows Field beaches.

Naturally, you'll want to spend a goodly amount of time soaking up that famous Hawaiian sun. After all, you're in the tropics, and the gloriously sunny weather is a main reason why you came. You'll be glad to know there are places where you can combine getting a suntan with getting another kind of hot action. There's very heavy cruising in the dressing rooms and showers at Ala Moana Beach and the park. Also Coco Head Stables, Kapiolani Park Beach, Sheraton Waikiki Beach and especially Queens Surf Beach. If you want to take the sun bareassed, try the Diamond Head Beach below the lighthouse. You'll find lots of nude young bodies to keep you company.

As you might expect, when the sun goes down, much of gay Honolulu gets up. In the city proper are Glades, 152 N. Hotel Street and the Question Mark, 43 Beretania. Most of the action, however, is on Waikiki Beach. Try the Blowhole Cabaret, 124 Kapahulu; the very popular Cocktail Center, 435 Atkinson; Coco's, corner of Kalakaua and Kapiolani; Hula's Bar & Lei Stand, 2103 Kuhio Avenue; and the Lavender Fox, 478 Ena Road at Kalakaua. Also very popular is the Steam Works, 307 Lewers, a baths reached by taking the elevator to the second floor.

If you're with a lover, either newly met or brought from home, you'll want to get away from the craze of Honolulu and discover the real Hawaii. Island-hopping is both easy and cheap. If you have a round-trip ticket from the Mainland, Aloha and Hawaiian Air offer frequent flights for just $11. SeaFlite is a hydrofoil operation and a fun alternative to flying with fares at $21. Another bargain: once you get to the island of your choice you can do your exploring in a car rented for as little as $12/day.

The island of Hawaii is definitely worth a visit. With over 4,000 square miles, it can easily make you forget you're on an island, especially when you stand on a snowy tip of the crater of Mauna Kea. Hawaii has everything from lush forests to a volcanic terrain reminiscent of the moon, and the diversity, especially after Honolulu, is refreshing. Once the coffee capital of the islands, the Kona Coast has splendid accommodations including the Kona Hilton, Kona Surf and Keahou Beach. The Mauna Kea Beach Hotel just up the coast is the most luxurious resort in all the Pacific. It has an overwhelming collection of Polynesian and Oriental art, and the service is fabulous. You'll find a fresh tropical flower placed on your pillow every night! Inquire locally about the Kona Steak House where you might find somebody to share that flower with.

If you want to get even further from civilization, go to the Hilo side of Hawaii, specifically a town called Pahoa. They've never heard of packaged tours and Coppertone. In Hilo itself are two places where gays congregate. The Hilo Travelodge Bar, 121 Banyon Drive, is mixed but can be fun. And if you want to meet the natives, try City Tavern at 55 Haili Street. For a first-hand look at real live volcanoes, check into the Volcano House not quite an hour from Hilo. It looks out over the constantly smoldering Kilauea crater and the Halemaumau fire pit.

Photograph by Roy Dean

Opposite: Bareassed and bareback, two native Hawaiians enjoy the lush beauty of Kauai, "The Garden Island" where locals insist that the Menehune, a two-foot tall race of Polynesian pixies, still live in the dense forests.

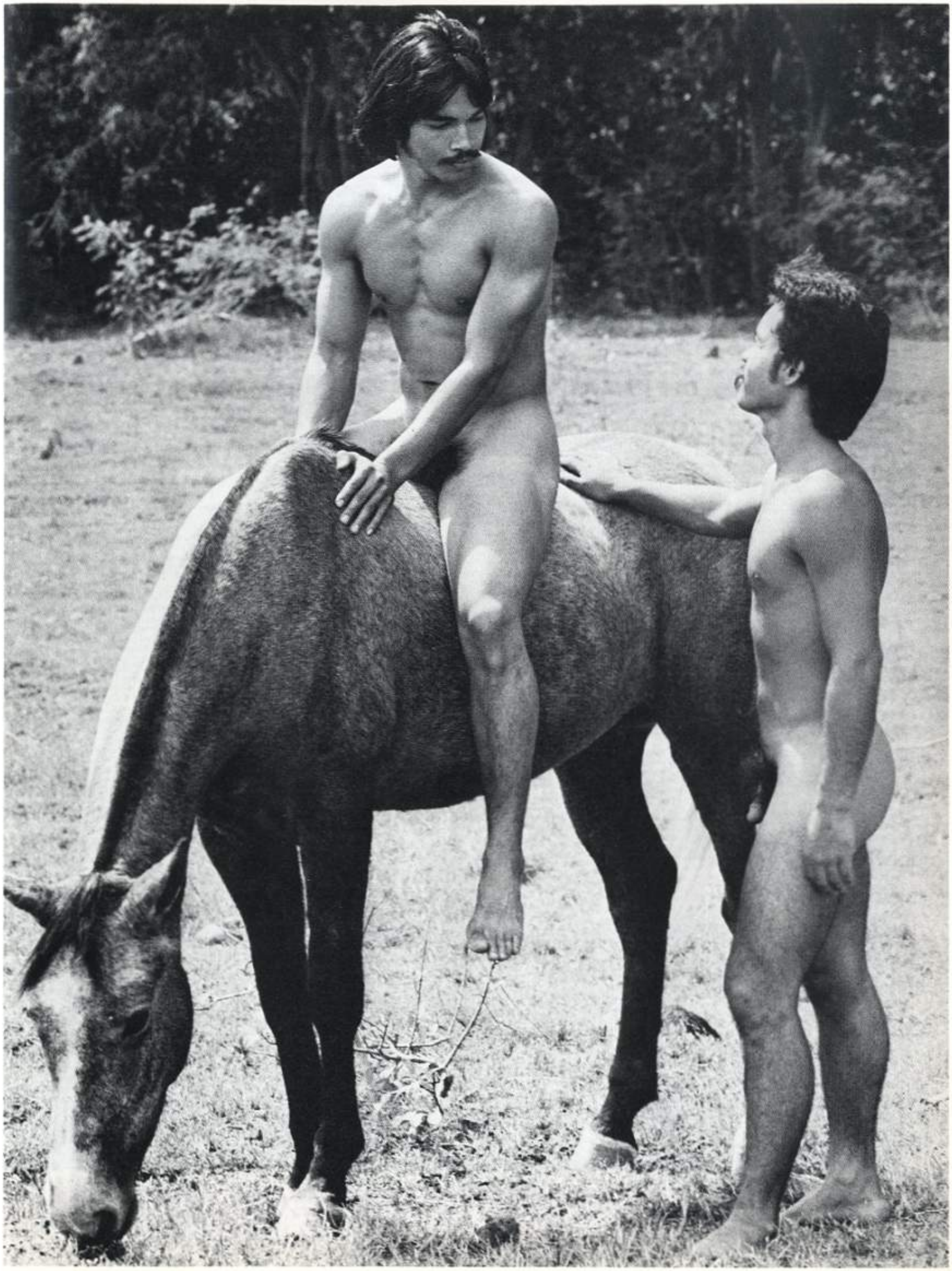
The island of Maui has been called the resort of kings. Lahaina was once the capital of the kingdom, and it is steeped in legend and mystery. The big tourist strip is along Kaanapali, but once again you'll want to get away from that with a side trip to Haleakala, a 10,000 foot volcanic peack blanketed with snow in the winter. It's the largest crater in the world and a spectacular sight, especially if you're willing to get up at 4 A.M. for the drive from Kaanapali to watch the sunrise over the Pacific at Haleakala. It's worth it.

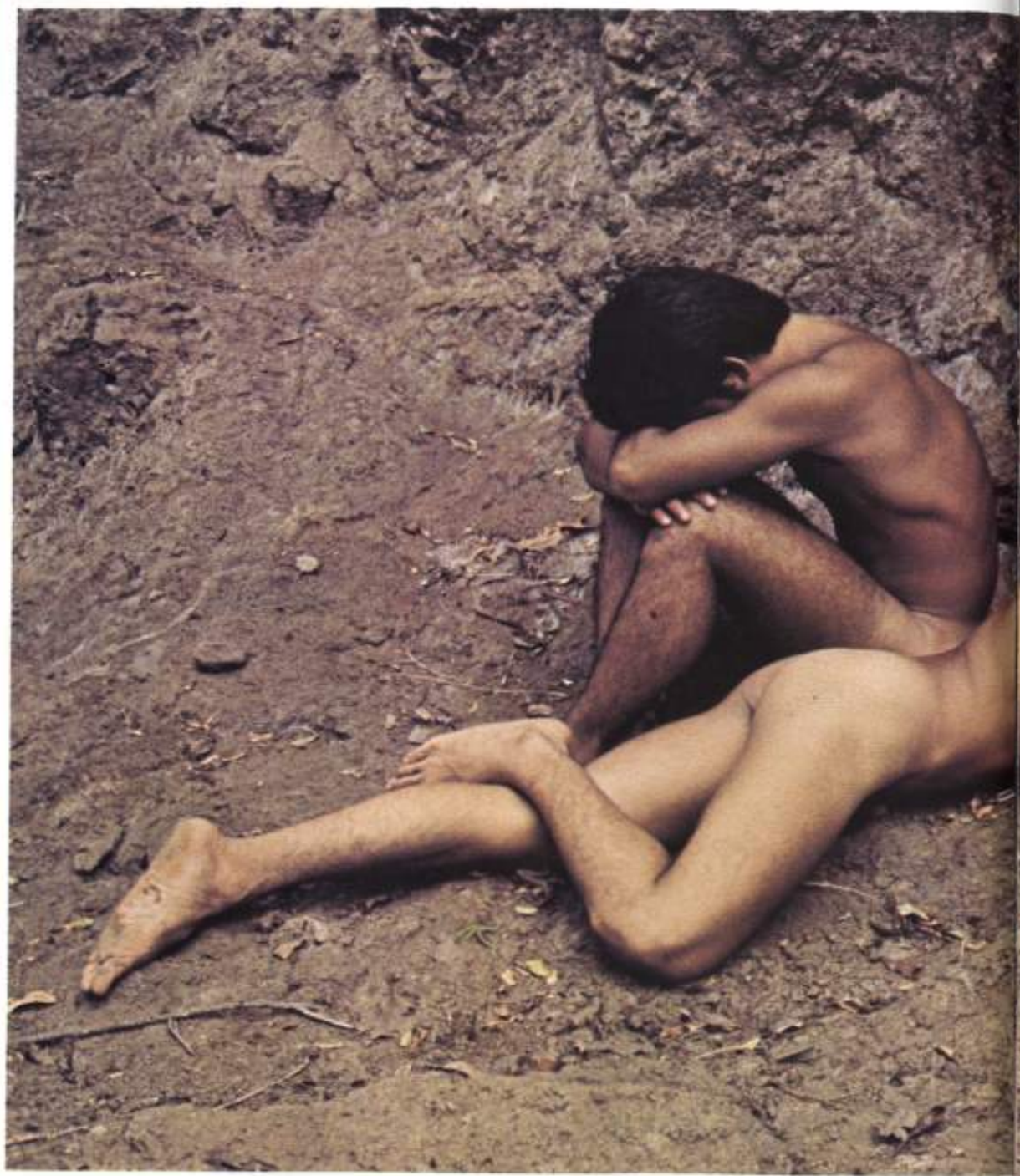
The least developed of the major islands (excluding Kahoolawe which is uninhabited) is Kauai, "The Garden Island." Unbelievably lush, Kauai gets its greenery from 486 inches of rain annually. Mt. Waialeole ("Rippling Water") at just over a mile high is the wettest spot on earth. Don't let that bother you. Hawaiian islands almost all have split personalities—one wet, one dry—and the south shore of Kauai is arid and sunny almost the year-round. For hikers, there's both the Kokee State Park with 45 miles of trails and the Kalalau Trail, an 11-mile trek along the great cliffs that is truly spectacular. Take a stroll through the Hanalei Plantation Hotel where Elizabeth and Richard Burton used to hide out.

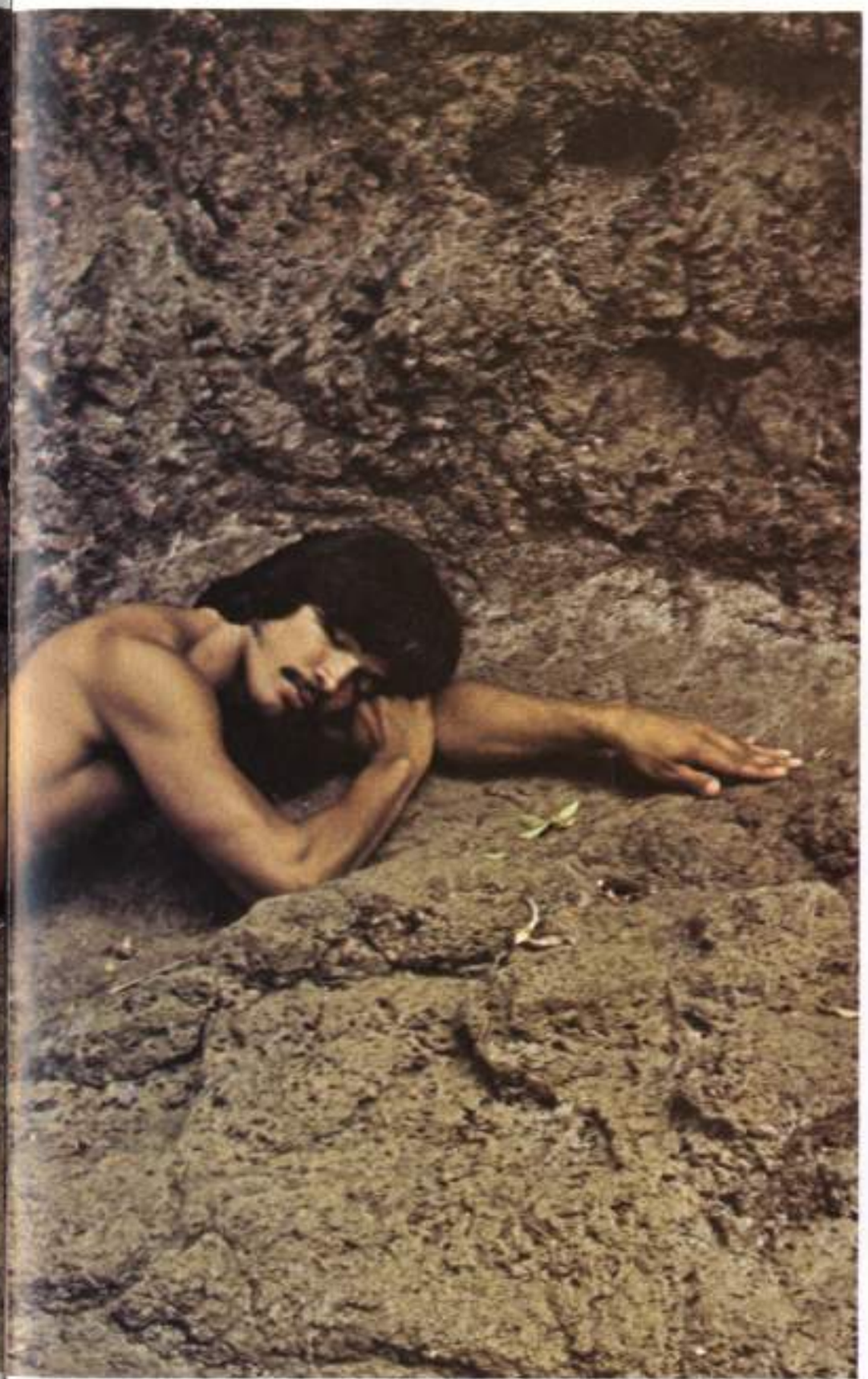
Nightlife for gays is limited to the Casa Nostra bar in the center of Hotel Row, and outdoor cruising can be found at Queen's Pond, a bareassed beach on the west side of the island. Speaking of beaches, be very careful of the undertow at Lumahai's Beach, beautiful but treacherous.

For roughing it a bit, hop over to Molokai whose north-shore scenery is the prime attraction. For something unusual, sign up with Tropical Rent-A-Mule (office at the Kaunakakai Airport) for a jaunt down to Kalaupapa to tour the state-run leper colony. From Molokai you can hop over to Lanai, the island specializing in pineapples and solitude. Difficult to get to but worth the effort is the dramatic Halawa Valley. There is no gay action on either island, but each has its own special other charms.

Armed now with all this information, you should have no trouble in finding your own personal Hawaiian lay. Aloha!







Volcanoes are evident everywhere in the Hawaiian Islands. The two young men here radiate their own special brand of heat as they sprawl appealingly on a bed of lava on the island of Oahu. Photo by Roy Dean.