

## Straight Up | Jan Herman

Arts, Media & Culture News with 'tude

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June 07, 2006

### PASSION AND PERPS

If blogs are the leading edge, how come it took me so long to discover [Reality Studio](#)? (Don't answer that.) The site is dedicated to Burroughs scholarship, and so rich in related material it's dangerous. You can end up doing nothing all day but read it. For instance, have a look at this [interview with John Geiger](#), who wrote the biography of Brion Gysin "[Everything Is Permitted -- Nothing Is True.](#)"



Which brings to mind this question: What would the millions of mainstream mainstream perp watchers who tune in to the [perv-nabber specials](#) on NBC's "Dateline" make of the [Supervert](#) site? It's a self-described "sort of deviant Bauhaus [that] strives to create new experiences through the synthesis of art, technology, pornography, and philosophy."

Supervert is an alias -- a nom de plume -- a moniker for an individual -- a company -- a corporation -- better yet, a *brand name*. Yes, that's it. Don't get hung up on what's behind Supervert. Just get off on what Supervert offers you, a unique combination of intellect and deviance. Perversity for your brain. Vanguard aesthetics, novel pathologies.

Only a few days ago Supervert launched a spinoff, [PervScan.tv](#), featuring "videos of sexual perversity in the news." Why let NBC corner the perp-watchers market?

Posted by jherman at June 7, 2006 01:42 PM

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#### ABOUT...

##### ...Straight Up

The agenda is just what it says: arts, media & culture delivered with attitude. Or as Rock Hudson once said: "Man is the only animal clever enough to build the Empire State Building and stupid enough to jump off it." [more](#)

##### ...Books 'n Stuff

I'm the author of "[A Talent for Trouble](#)," the biography of Hollywood director William Wyler. Putnam published it in [hardcover](#).



It is now in [paperback](#) (Da Capo Press).

I've also co-written "[Cut Up or Shut Up](#)," experimental fiction, with Carl Weissner and Jurgen Ploog (with a "tickertape" intro by William S. Burroughs).



[more](#)

##### ...My Checkered Career

Writing of mine has appeared in "little magazines," among them VDRSVP, Ricochet, Unmuzzled Ox,

Message (optional):

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San Francisco Earthquake and John Bryan's Notes From Underground, as well as in Partisan Review, The New York Times Book Review, Trans-Atlantik and The Journal of Film History. [more](#)

**...Jan Herman**

When not listening to Bach or Cuban jazz pianist Chucho Valdes, or dancing to salsa, I like to play jazz piano -- but only in the privacy of my own mind. [more](#)

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**'WILD SIDE' STILL ROCKS**

Nelson Algren was one of the great American authors of the 20th century, it is no exaggeration to say, and among the most neglected. Consider his underrated classic, "A Walk on the Wild Side." The title -- popularized and co-opted as an idiomatic phrase by Hollywood and Madison Avenue (institutions Algren loathed) -- is familiar to most anyone who speaks English or knows Lou Reed's lyrics. But the novel itself? Hardly.

[more](#)

**BUSTER KEATON REVISITED**

*Buster Keaton: Tempest in a Flat Hat* is not a biography. "This book is merely a fan's notes," Edward McPherson writes in the introduction, although his publisher ignores the disclaimer and calls it a biography on the cover. In fact, the book is a bit of both, a difficult combination to bring off unless you're David Thomson, who set the standard with *Rosebud*, his penetrating rumination on the life and career

of Orson Welles, which was nothing if not a distillation of every obsessive thought he ever had about the myth and the man and all his movies. [more](#)

[more of me "elsewhere"](#)

## AJ BLOGS

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[AJBlog Central](#)

### Architecture

#### [Pixel Points](#)

Nancy Levinson on Architecture

### Culture

#### [About Last Night](#)

Terry Teachout on the arts

in

New York City

#### [Artful Manager](#)

Andrew Taylor on the business of Arts & Culture

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Culture News with 'tude

### Dance

#### [Seeing Things](#)

Tobi Tobias on dance et

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### Media

#### [Serious Popcorn](#)

Martha Bayles on Film...

### Music

#### [Adaptistration](#)

Drew McManus on orchestra management

#### [Sandow](#)

Greg Sandow on the future of Classical Music

#### [Rifftides](#)

Doug Ramsey on Jazz and other matters...

#### [PostClassic](#)

Kyle Gann on music after the fact

### Visual Arts

#### [Artopia](#)

John Perreault's art diary

#### [Modern Art Notes](#)

Tyler Green's modern & contemporary art blog

### Special AJBlogs

#### [The Future of Classical Music?](#)

Greg Sandow performs a book-in-progress

#### [Critical Edge](#)

critics in a critical age  
May 14-17, 2006

#### [The Center of the Dance World?](#)

an online public conversation  
December 12-16, 2005

[Critical Conversation II](#)

classical music critics on the  
future of music  
July 18-22, 2005

[Midori in Asia](#)

conversations from the road  
June 22-July 3, 2005

[A better case for the Arts?](#)

a public conversation  
March 7-11, 2005

[Critical Conversation](#)

classical music critics on the  
future of music  
July 28-August 7, 2004

[RoadTrip](#)

Sam Bergman on tour with the  
Minnesota Orchestra  
February 9-16, 2004

