

# GAY NEWS



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... on this basis, write  
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... PRESENTABLE young man  
... 32 wishes meet attractive young  
... ladies 18-38, any nationality  
... r colour, preferably with own  
... d, for friendship etc. Photo-  
... aph not essential but  
... appreciated and returned. All  
... ters answered, please write  
... ully and freely. Box 52/100.

## MALES

**INFORMATION**  
It is illegal for minors to place ads in this classification, or for advertisers to seek to contact minors. (Under 21)

PLEASE SEE PAGE 14 FOR CHANGES IN THE SMALL AD. RATES

**BACHELOR**, London, active 42, perhaps a little dominant. Stable, loyal, tired living rather lonely existence, own home, seeks contact sincere noncamp younger chaps who don't think that anyone over 30 has had it. View to regular companionship, only non kinky genuine types please. Photo, fullest particulars essential, all letters answered. Box 52/103.

**ATTRACTIVE** young man seeks sincere young males under 30 for friendship not sex. Social evenings, going out together etc. Box 52/104.

**ACTIVE** young man 26 wants very passive attractive young males under 27 for pleasure and friendship. Photo please. Genuine all offers answered. Box 52/105.

**YOUNG** man 24 (Edinburgh) would like same as friend, any nationality. Photo please. Box 52/106.

**DAVE** is 27, goodlooking, uninhibited and passive but holed up in respectable conformist society, desperately wants butch friend who really digs hip scene, blues and psychedelic music. Write with photo a.s.a.p. Box 52/107.

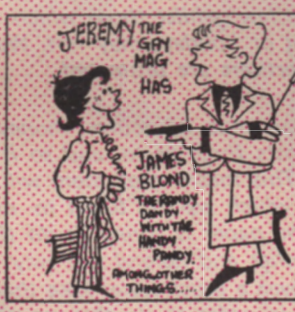
**YOUNG** leather boy (aged 24) seeks similar boys with 'gear' Box 52/108.

**MALE** (32) seeks younger male for genuine friend, (versatile, passive) please. Looks immaterial, but must be virile, quiet disposition, I have own house, would suit working boy, of boyish nature, for weekends or share house together. Box 52/109.

**ATTRACTIVE** youth (21) wants young boyfriend with own pad. London, Oxford. Photo reciprocated. All answered, Box 52/110.

send photo. All letters answered. Box 52/117.

**GOODLOOKING** coloured males live in North. Like to meet man in South or East and London. Like to work at seaside. Photo if possible. Genuine. Box 52/118.



**MAN** intelligent active middle-aged wants friends in or around London preferably around 30. Has car and flat. Box 52/119.

**ATTRACTIVE** young man active 23 half English half South American seeks friends in London with good physiques for friendship. Please send photo. Box 52/120.

**GAY** introductions. Personal contacts arranged by correspondence. Send details of age, occupation, interests etc. enclosing only 5/- s.a.e. We will then supply names, addresses, and personal details of gay contacts. Box 52/121.

**YOUNG** man, 27, sits and dreams about his school days, appropriately dressed. Needs playmate and would like to swap gear. Box 52/122.

**MIDDLEAGED** active amusing seeks younger man to care for and entertain, likes theatres. Could provide accommodation. Box 52/123.

**MATURE** masculine music loving mate wanted for London bachelor (40) Box 52/124.

**WANTED** dolly longhaired youth kinky for jeans for fun with another aged 22. Box 52/125.

**BUSINESSMAN**, normally resident near East Coast, requires young man needing home, friendship and job, and able to type and do housework, including cooking. Write fully. No effeminate or promiscuous types. Francis, Miramar Hotel, Funchal, Madeira (postage 9d.).

24 year old guy wants sexy passive friends to stay weekends in Essex. Flat. No older than 27. Photo and letter please. Box 52/126.

**VERSATILE** (29) seeks young attractive pal for exciting weekends. Photo. Box 52/127.

**MALES International:** Introductions arranged memberships invited. Write in confidence to M.I. Box 52/128.

**CAMP** as all hell - thats Jeremy.

**TALL**, slim, blond, virginal boy (21), wishes to meet boy for sex (photo) Box 52/129.

**ROMAN BATHS**  
(Turkish Baths)  
And Accommodation For Gentlemen. Open 2 pm. Day 10/- Night 20/- 77 Inverness Terrace, London W2. Tel Bay 4639

**CIVILISED**, steady, sincere home-loving/owning N.C. Birmingham bachelor (39) seeks gentle, affectionate, intelligent, non-effeminate boy 21-25 with view to sharing. Photo please. Box 52/130.

**LOVING** but very lonely 28 year old male needs gentle affectionate younger boy for genuine and lasting friendship. Preferably interested art, bikes, London/Reading. Photo appreciated. Box 52/131.

**YORKSHIRE-Lancashire** bachelor, discreet passive nature own pad. Polite, seeks active friends. All letters answered. Box 52/132.

**TWO** continental 28-29, one blond, one dark hair offer Sunday afternoon tea (orange label) and sympathy (any label) to 23/32 non effeminate. Photo appreciated. Box 52/133.

**YOUNG** 23 gay and crazy slowly going heterosexual for lack of beautiful people. Can you help help help Box 52/134.

**YOUNG** n... fast power-  
ful sports... hes to meet  
others 21-30 our varied  
interests. Box 52/142.

**BONA HOMME** - Jeremy is  
for you - 30, Baker Street,  
London W.1.

**SINCERE** graduate student  
(25) tall, slim seeks affectionate  
friend 21-24 any area, pre-  
ferably driving distance Oxford/  
London. Box 52/144.

**ACTIVE** 22 year old, own  
flat, seeks young friend. Photo  
appreciated. All letters with  
photos answered. Box 52/145.

**MASCULINE** looking 27 year  
old with grey/blue eyes,  
fair, goodlooking slim, wants  
to meet active males 21-35  
view close friendship. Photo  
please. All answered. Box 52/  
146.

**VERSATILE** leather/denim  
guy (26) fed up London  
scene seeks similar preferably  
with motor bike for friendship/  
relationship. All letters with  
photos answered. Box 52/147.

**YOUNG** 47 year old would  
like to meet gay younger man  
for friendship and artistic  
outings. Photo if possible. Box  
52/148.

**SLIM** masculine 33 year old.  
London flat. Dominant. Leather  
fan. Seeks friend under 35.  
Photo appreciated. Replies  
guaranteed. Box 52/149.

**ATTRACTIVE** slim youth 21  
seeks friendship with similar  
preferably those having own  
accommodation in London.  
All answered. Box 52/150.

**MALES INTERNATIONAL**  
*It's all happening here at M.I. where people meet people, so for a really reliable partner write in confidence to M.I., Box 52/1. Introductions arranged.*

**LONDON** Young man (25) seeks friendship with young man 25-30. Genuine all letters answered. Photo appreciated. Box 52/151.

**BACHELOR**, middleaged, seeks younger man to help find and share central London flat. Box 52/152.

**MALE** 22 seeks longhaired boy 21-23 who wears tight jeans and is well equipped. Photo appreciated. Box 52/153.

**I'M** 38 and want to share interests with same age man in Yorkshire. Box 52/154.

**FRUSTRATED** impo... passive homosexual... sexual relief. Free L... B accommodation... return. Please help... 52/155.

**OVERSEXED**, a... young man, 27, passive, slightly... young men 24... please, returns...

**BACHELOR**... once or twice... meet man... any race or...

**MALE**... water ger... restaurant... Lake D...

**2 GAY**... need... ways... left... know... help... des...

**C**... 23... 24... 25... 26... 27... 28... 29... 30... 31... 32... 33... 34... 35... 36... 37... 38... 39... 40... 41... 42... 43... 44... 45... 46... 47... 48... 49... 50... 51... 52... 53... 54... 55... 56... 57... 58... 59... 60... 61... 62... 63... 64... 65... 66... 67... 68... 69... 70... 71... 72... 73... 74... 75... 76... 77... 78... 79... 80... 81... 82... 83... 84... 85... 86... 87... 88... 89... 90... 91... 92... 93... 94... 95... 96... 97... 98... 99... 100...

**THE CORRESPONDENTS, AS FEATURED IN OUR FILM 'LOVE IN OUR TIME' IF YOU WILL WANT OUR MAGAZINE ONE COMBINING ADVERTS AND MATERIALS FOR ADULTS ONLY, SEND 7/6 FOR LATEST CATALOGUE OF EXCITING PRIVILEGES FOR MEMBERS. REACH OUT, P O BOX 4 M G, LONDON W1.**

Frankly for: M.S. Barri...  
65, Waldemar Avenue...  
S.W.6.

**GAY** young versatile 23...  
other with it guys, 25 o...  
younger, for you know w...  
Please send portrait (retur...  
will do same. Own pad, S...  
London, but can travel. S...  
letters answered. Box 52/

**PRIVATE SWEDISH BOOK SERVICE**  
For hard to find books and magazines.  
Just arrived: ten different DANISH M...  
7/- each, 3 for £1. Forty novels and sex books at half published price illustrated lists 1/6 P.S.B.S., 69 Knightsbr...

**BACHELOR** (35) office research worker, dark, 145 lbs., greatly desires friendship with a slim young man of good working class background in London area. Photos appreciated. Complete genuine. Box 52/163.

**URGENT** - If you are a tall blond male and hirsute please reply. I am 30, slim, attractive, and live in centrally heated London flat. Seek special friendship with above mentioned blond. Sh... 28-30 attractive. Photo... please. Box 52/164.

**LONELY** work... seeks company... active well en... man. Box 52/165.

**WILD** prof... needs friend... tour of Eu... etc. Inter... art, hust... 3 weeks... All any...

**MALE**... area, com... prob... Apr... into... sle... ia...

Does the Law Tend to Deprave and Corrupt?



# GAY NEWS

## THE GAY NEWS EDITORIAL COLLECTIVE

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John Chesterman	Sylvia Room
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Martin Grant	David Sherlock
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## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Andrew & Peter Jane & Shaun Richard & Norman Ken & Allan	Michael, Angus & Ken and all the other Friends & Loved Ones.
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# Where Your Paper Goes From Here

This is the second issue of Gay News. There is still a long way to go. Gay women do not feature anywhere near enough. There are many areas of the country we do not reach. There is not sufficient money in the kitty to expand either the size of the distribution of the paper. All these things may be remedied in time, but with your involvement the paper will become what you want it to be much faster. We of the collective only ever intended to give you the paper and let you decide what it should become - by writing, subscribing, donating, working with us and eventually supplanting us. But before we go any further we must look at what could stop the paper happening.

The most obvious barrier to the continuance and expansion of the paper is the legal situation. Technically, anything which helps bring gay men into contact with one another can be construed as unlawful, however well-meant the attempt. Any publication which openly discusses sex and sexuality, especially when related to gay men and women, might be judged obscene. It is this which has forced us to abandon, for the time being, our plan to print the story "Shirley Temple Knows", which we promised you for this issue. It is this which forces us to reiterate that, although we will continue to run a personal ads column, we retain the right to refuse or amend them as we see fit and according to our legal advice. Any ad which states specific sexual tastes is likely to attract unfavorable attention from the law, whilst those which seek only companionship, friendship, or someone to share a flat or holiday, may not. We will take all the precautions we can to ensure that our advertisers are protected.

The second major barrier is, of course, money. We aren't going to put up our prices or rates unless rising costs force us to, and so it is unlikely that the paper will ever make any significant profit. This means that there will only ever be a limited amount of cash in the kitty with which we can begin to expand the paper and its availability. If you think that what the paper is trying to do (by its very existence) - that is, end our isolation from one another and defend our way of life - is worthwhile, then the paper needs to be available over a much wider area than it is now, and it needs a much larger number of pages. And in order to do this we need money, so that the paper can be planned well ahead instead of existing from issue to issue. So this is an appeal for donations, large and small, backers, advertisers, etc., and anything any of you can do to help us find them. We know you've been asked for your money thousands of times before - only this time it isn't so somebody can do something they want to, it is so that you can do something for all of us, for yourselves, all over the country. And that isn't just a semantic difference.

It would also be incredibly helpful if one of you (at least) would come and join us full-time in order to work almost wholly on getting the paper around the country. There isn't much money in it worth the name, just enough for survival, so it would have to be a labour of love. Would any lady or gentleman like the job?

## Afterthoughts Editorial

# Editorial

After some very trying times, issue one finally hit the streets, and the first feedback from our would-be readership began. Some of us weren't too keen on going out to sell the paper ourselves, since there is more than enough work to do in the writing and the preparation of the paper, but the reception almost everywhere was so overwhelmingly friendly that I don't think any of us will hesitate with this or any future issue.

Of course, there were times when some of us found it a bit trying - like being threatened by a couple of skinheads in Richmond, or being asked "If I buy one can I have you?" (the answer was yes, but the guy didn't wait!)

People have begun to send in letters, articles, and reviews, which is really nice and exactly what we hoped would happen - keep up the good work. The number of people dropping into the office has increased, too, which makes life a bit crowded some of the time, but they are often coming to offer help with office work, selling and distribution (all of which is very welcome) as well as just calling in for a chat.

One such visitor was Alan Brien of the Sunday Times, carried into our midst by a whirlwind born of the fleeting press interest in gay small ads, the Spare Rib party, and Jill Tweedie. As those of you who saw his piece in the Sunday Times, 25th June, must have realised, the main topic of conversation was the Radical Feminists in G.L.F. and their behaviour at the Spare Rib party. We both agreed that it was a pity, since most people will now think that Radical Feminism equals Gay Lib, whereas they are only a very small minority on its right wing. Many others in G.L.F. are leaving the movement rather than have these people's views imposed upon them - on

justify the space we would take up). So we still need you to visit your local bookshops and newsagents as our salesmen, to put these people in touch with us. The more places you visit the easier it will be for all of us to communicate with each other, and that's what it's all about.

One or two people that we met thought the first issue a bit dry, but liked it in spite of that - in fact, the response generally has made the incredible amount of work well worthwhile. Of course, for some it was too radical, for some, too conservative, but you can't please everybody all of the time. It seems especially difficult to please the Rad. Femmes; since deciding to run the pieces on the Spare Rib party and on what they are doing to G.L.F. generally they have tried to get us to postpone issue two, censor out our opinions of them and generally forget the whole thing. We have made space available in this issue for them to give their version of the events, but at the time of writing this, it has not arrived. It seems unduly hard to make them realise that other people besides themselves have things to say, like the nicer faction of G.L.F. who demonstrated outside the Earls Court pubs. Of course, the Rad. Femmes did not support the main body of G.L.F. on this part of Gay Pride week; a perfect example of the selfish way this faction



Rib Vs. Lib Exhibit A, M'Lud.

Monday Harrow local group decided to split from G.L.F. and go it alone under the name "GAY UNITY": a title which seems to be an appropriate hint to the divisive Rad. Femmes. It appears from what we hear that other groups are considering similar actions.

However, back to the paper. We have now had refusals to stock us from quite a number of bookshops around the country (including an official refusal from W.H. Smith's on the grounds that we wouldn't sell fast enough to

operates.

Anyway, one last thought to leave you with; if you buy the paper from one of the streetsellers in London, the person will most likely be one of us, the editorial collective, so if you've anything to say, any articles that other people might like to read, any criticism or encouragement to offer, let rip and we'll do something about it.

See you around.

# Time Out's Book of London Out Now

Time Out's  
Book of  
London

70p



"Do you believe that the 1967 Act solved everything?"

## The 1967 Confidence Trick Law or Sexuality. Which Corrupts ?

Do you believe that the 1967 Act solved everything? That it gave you the same rights as anyone else. Well, take very careful note of the words of one of their high and mighty lordships (Lord Reid) in deciding that IT was breaking the law in publishing gay personal ads. According to him, and therefore the law, there is "a material difference between merely exempting certain conduct from criminal penalties and making it lawful in the full sense". In plain English, it's legal, but then again, it isn't. To the corrupt minds of their lordships, of the police, and of everyone else in a position of power over you life and mine, our homosexuality is a "vice", a "perversion", an "abnormality".

It cannot be said too often that homosexuality, like any other sexuality, is about life, about people, about love, and not just about sexual practices. That human beings cannot be classified into "normal" and "abnormal"; they are simply different from one another. There is no such thing as "sexual normality", but if "normality" means the sexual preference of the majority of the population, then it would not be heterosexuality, homosexuality or even bisexuality, but sexuality without a fixed direction. The unpleasant, impersonal things of gay life, like the cottages and sauna baths, the overpriced clubs and pubs are a result of the fear and shame specifically created by the law, because the law forbids us to meet freely as everyone else can, to advertise freely as everyone else can. To live openly and freely is our right, but the law denies this, repressing us into a less than full existence, treats us as less than human. If the way we live is depraved and corrupt (and I most strongly contend that it is not), then it is the law which is responsible for that and not our sexuality.

Which is more reprehensible - two people making love (or having sex together), or a whole organisation of people dedicated to isolating, punishing and discriminating against ordinary human beings because they make love? Which is depraved? Which is corrupt? Which harms others? Do we seek to keep any group of individuals down, to deny them less than their full rights as fellow human beings, to damage and control them because of their sexual preferences?

Look at the letters reprinted here - they are from organisations of gays working for our rights. Then consider what the law has said. It doesn't take much to work out who cares about people, and who is depraved and corrupt.

THE TIMES 19th June, 1972

### HOMOSEXUALS AND THE LAW

From Mr Antony Grey and others  
Sir, the undersigned are chairmen of organizations with a combined membership of over 5,000, representing the welfare of homosexual men and women throughout Britain. We have read with the gravest concern *The Times's* report (June 15) of the House of Lords judgment in the case of *Knular (Publishing, Printing and Promotions) Ltd v Director of Public Prosecutions*.

The effect of this would seem to be that homosexuals are prohibited from making contact with one another for non-criminal purposes through the public press - a freedom which is not denied, so far as we are aware, to any other group of Her Majesty's subjects. We deplore the House's apparent judicial belief that homosexuals "corrupt" one another, and we are impelled to seek urgent Parliamentary action to clarify, and if necessary amend, Lord Reid's dictum in relation to the Sexual Offences Act 1967 that there is "a material difference between merely exempting certain conduct from criminal penalties and making it lawful in the full sense".

It was the clear wish of Parliament as expressed in that Act - supported, according to opinion polls, by two-thirds of the population - to relieve adult homosexuals of a criminal stigma which had brought much suffering to individuals and wastage to the community. Are we now to understand that this objective has been circumvented by the courts?

This seems a ludicrous and unintended outcome of reform. It is also lamentable that such old fashioned and ignorant views about the nature of homosexuality apparently still persist in high judicial quarters (eg Lord Hailsham's quaint notion, expressed on television this week, that it is simply a "vice").

We think it is time for those who lay down the law to do some elementary psychological homework.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY GREY,  
Chairman, National Federation of Homophile Organizations,  
MARJORIE BRYANTON,  
General Secretary, NFHO,  
TONY CROSS, Chairman, Integroup,  
IAN C. DUNCAN, Chairman, Scottish Minorities Group,  
BRENDA GODFREY, Chairman, New Group, Manchester.  
ALLAN HORSFALL, Chairman, Campaign for Homosexual Equality,  
SHARON M. MURRAY, North Eastern Women's Group,  
65 Shoot-up Hill, NW2  
June 19.

The Scotsman, 21st June, 1972

### PUBLIC MORALS

214 Clyde Street, Glasgow,  
June 16, 1972.

Sir, - The decision by the House of Lords on Wednesday, 14th June, that the publishers of "It" had been rightly convicted on a charge of conspiring to corrupt public morals by inserting "gay" advertisements in the magazine, cannot be allowed to pass by without comment.

That conspiracy to corrupt public morals was a crime known to the law of England, was decided by the House of Lords in the "Ladies Directory Case" in 1962. This decision adversely affected the defences provided by Section 2(4) of the Obscene Publications Act, 1959 where the essence of the offence was "tendency to deprave and corrupt". The Solicitor-General assured the House of Commons on 3rd June 1964 that "a conspiracy to corrupt public morals would not be charged so as to circumvent the statutory defence in Section 4," but no effective action was ever taken by Parliament to draw the legal profession's notice to this directive.

In the "It" case, it is important to remember that the prosecution made no point what-

soever that males under 21 would likely to reply to the advertisements.

The appellants argued that because homosexual acts between males in private were now lawful by the provisions of the Sexual Offences Act 1967 (both parties being over 21), it could not therefore be the law that other persons were guilty of an offence if they merely put in touch two males who would, perhaps, indulge in perfectly lawful activity. This argument was dismissed by their Lordships, who, in a very narrow reading of the 1967 Act, said that if people chose to corrupt themselves in that way it was their affair and the law would not interfere, but no licence was given to others to encourage the practice.

The effect of this deliverance must be gloomy news indeed for all those who hoped for more understanding towards the many problems which millions of homosexual men and women have to face. How are like-minded men and women to meet in a lawful manner? No other minority group in Britain is today discriminated against in such a total way. The decision must adversely affect the gradual improvements being won by such organisations as the Scottish Minorities Group who over the past two or three years have been talking with the caring professions and encouraging new thinking towards counselling homosexuals. What now happens when a doctor, a clergyman, a social worker or a lawyer introduces two isolated men with the express aim of bringing about a happy and creative union? We are told that the law is being broken. It is a fallacy that homosexuals usually wish to meet for the purposes of having sexual intercourse. A principal aim of the SMG is to organise social occasions where homosexuals can meet, and thus banish the foul atmosphere of the public bath and the public lavatory.

And in doing just this, SMG has been highly successful. Is this useful activity now to be viewed with opprobrium?

Neither the 1959 Obscene Publications Act, nor the 1967 Sexual Offences Act apply to Scotland. However, we are assured that "in practice the law is enforced in Scotland in much the same way as it is in England" (Civil Liberty - The NCCL Guide, p. 293). The effect of the House of Lords' decision is to throw

into doubt all the good work achieved by people who have no connection with obscene publications, but whose first desire is to create a caring and happy society. Fresh legislation is now imperative in the light of this recent development.—I am etc.

IAN C. DUNN, Chairman,  
Scottish Minorities Group.

From The Evening Standard, 26th June, 1972.

### NOW - A GAY PRIDE DEMO.

Sir: Milton Shulman's article 'Dockers and Homosexuals' accurately portrays the effects of the recent Appeals decision. Any ordinary person who has been involved in a trial cannot fail to be astounded at how out of touch with present reality most judges seem to be.

What the I.T. decision does is to put many persons, including myself, in peril of arrest, trial and imprisonment. On July 1, there will be a GayPride Demo in Trafalgar Square. The purpose of this clearly is to advocate homosexual practice for homosexuals and to protest against the continued oppression of homosexuals in our society, the 1967 Act notwithstanding. I, and other gay people will continue to defy this absurd law. To be arrested for advocating legal activity is something only a judge would appear not to find ludicrous. Let Parliament speedily remedy the situation or vote money to house a rapidly expanding prison population.

Warren Hague (address supplied)

The Guardian, 19th June, 1972

### HOMOSEXUALS IN ISOLATION

Sir,  
The law acknowledges the right of homosexuals to make love. By rejecting IT's appeal, the House of Lords continues to support the law's illogical refusal to allow homosexuals to meet. There are no circumstances under which they can meet. Not in the streets, which is importuning; not in properly conducted social clubs because none is allowed to exist.

Such repression encourages recourse to a few dubious pubs and furtive drinking clubs that cater for homosexuals; it encourages desperate efforts to make contact in public with the consequent risk of police prosecution. It encourages the growth of increasingly militant homosexual organisation. It throws and is throwing, an increasingly large burden on the Samaritans and other social service groups — the only people that the isolated homosexual knows he can turn to.

To use the Ladies Directory case (a list, I understand, of prostitutes) as a precedent for dealing with ordinary homosexual people is appalling enough. But their Lordships' decision represents a major piece of discrimination

against a section of the community that is, numerically, larger than our coloured population. The House of Lords was dealing with one underground newspaper; their decision affects the very real needs of isolated people all over the country.

Yours faithfully,  
ROGER BAKER  
Flat F. 23 Great James Street  
London WC1.

THE EVENING STANDARD  
20th June, 1972.

### GAY ADVERTISING

With regard to your news story (June 14) Lords in Clash on Gay Advert, I and the members of the Gay News, would like to point out that we will be carrying personal advertisements for gays of all sexes. We consider it the right of homosexuals to advertise in this way if they so wish, and can see no earthly reason why gays should not be able to do the same as heterosexuals. Hopefully, one day it will not be necessary for any people, no matter what their sexual preference, to advertise in this way. Until gays are free from the isolation imposed on them by society and people in general are released from the misguided taboos that surround sex and sexuality. Gay News will carry personal ads, no matter what the penalty.

Gay News is a national fortnightly paper for gay men and women and will be available this week. — DENNIS LEMON, Gay News, 19 London Street, W.2.



repression permeates Scotland, for example, regarding the licencing laws, places of entertainment and Sunday observance. The reasons for this attitude are complex but the historical role of the Church of Scotland is an important factor.

The facts, then, are that for practical purposes the law is not enforced though there would seem to have been some prosecutions of men for acts with younger men or boys; convictions are usually gained through voluntary confessions. However there are many convictions for acts of public indecency in toilets to which homosexuals are driven because of the lack of social meeting places.

The law (Section II Criminal Law Amendment Act 1885) remaining on the Statute Book encourages social discrimination of homosexuals, makes them feel insecure and open to blackmail and fosters prejudice. Scotland is a relatively small country with few large cities; because of the prevailing attitude, described above, any person admitting or being "found out" as gay, faces loss of job and social ostracism. This includes women who, though they don't face legal penalties, are in many ways worse off, certainly in the availability of social meeting places.

In 1971 the following motion was passed at the Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Council for Civil Liberties:

"This AGM notes the continuing social and legal inequalities of the homosexual in Scotland and recommends to the Executive Committee and the Parliamentary Civil Liberties Group to press for sound legal reforms for an early removal of remaining discrimination."

Together with the Scottish Minorities Group which is affiliated to the SCCL, it is campaigning for law reform. The Scottish Minorities Group is set up to look after the interests of sexual minorities in Scotland.

A memorandum prepared by SMG was sent to all Scottish MPs. In a covering letter the SCCL stated:

"We adopt as our basic principle the view that sexual activity of any description between consenting parties should not be subject to legal constraints, with exceptions only in the case of provisions necessary to protect the young and immature and to prevent public indecency. We also believe that social discrimination against minorities such as homosexuals is unjustifiable but it can only be eliminated when the law ceases to discriminate."

Copies of the memorandum were also sent to social workers and other organisations. The press were informed but published little.

The response of Scottish MPs to the memorandum was disappointing. We received replies from a number of MPs who said

they would actively oppose any attempt to change the law. The majority of other replies said "Yes, I agree with you but let sleeping dogs lie". Those MPs who offered to help all thought it was hot the best time to try and introduce reform. Our most helpful replies were from several members of the House of Lords.

Frankly, it seems unlikely that we will get any constructive action from the present Parliament since the "hang 'em and flog 'em" brigade seem to be in the ascendancy. However, one of our lawyers has prepared a draft Bill which we hope to introduce into the House of Lords sometime this year to test Parliamentary and public reaction. In addition, members of the Law Reform Committee of SMG have been personally lobbying MPs and this line of attack seems very useful.

The SCCL has been involved mainly in the campaign for legal equality, SMG has been doing a first-class job in contacting and speaking to social workers, churches, university organisations, local councillors MPs and school teachers. This kind of face-to-face contact will do more than any law case, to dispel the public image of the homosexual as some effeminate sex pervert and lead to the realisation that they are ordinary decent citizens attracted to their own sex.

### The SCCL

The SCCL is the Scottish arm of the National Council for Civil Liberties (NCCL)

All the SCCL's work is done by voluntary helpers; solicitors and advocates, trade unionists and academics, social workers and housewives. There is a Scottish sub-Committee of the Parliamentary Civil Liberties Group.

Members of the NCCL living in Scotland are automatically members of the SCCL. Membership is administered by the NCCL. The SCCL receives half the subscription fees of Scottish members.

### SCOTTISH MINORITIES GROUP.

MEETINGS:  
EDINBURGH, from 7.45pm to 9.00pm in the basement of 23 George Square. Check with Mike Coulson at 031-225 4395. Women's Group at 7.30pm. Saturdays from 9.30pm to 12.30pm coffee/food/dance at the same address.

GLASGOW, meetings every Tuesday at 8.00pm at 8 Duneart Street, Glasgow C4. Women's Group at 184 Swinton Road, at 8.00pm. Third Friday of every month at 214 Clyde Street (library of community house) invited speakers, from 8pm.

DUNDEE, every Friday at Dundee University Chaplaincy. Social. Details from 041-771 7600.

ABERDEEN, Weekly social meetings, Details from 041-771 7600.

## Local Folk Are Just Not Shockable

Many thanks for your letter of 2nd June sorry for the delay in writing but one or two points that you have wanted have had to be obtained from other persons so it's taken this bit of time to obtain it.

Lets take it point by point — firstly, what's it like to be gay in Norfolk. By comparisons with London no pressures exist — this I feel is the reason for the exodus of gays from London to Norfolk. We're having a lot of them lately, some just for the summer others coming permanently. It's an interesting study to note how they change after a few weeks, more tranquil, less militant. The most surprising thing to them is if they want to shock for any reason at all it doesn't have effect. Local folk are just not shockable — we've got good examples of this to quote.

Police harassment — none recorded and none known of; this has been verified by cruisers and not heresay. The only possible connection is two uniformed ones who stand by one con in the centre of town but these are there for other reasons as well — not specific harassment. This was covered some time ago when a blow-up occurred in Cambridge and it was suggested (probably to strengthen the Cambridge case) that it was happening in Norwich as well, but when it was checked with the people it would have affected none was reported.

Samaritan connections — very good (well,

we think so) one CHE member and one GLF member on the staff. Besides the Sams we have another advertised system called (for want of a better word) Gemini. Anyone can ring the number. Differences between CHE and GLF are explained meeting dates etc., the choice is then left to the person concerned.

VD clinics — nothing out of the ordinary reported from people who had used them. Doctors — only two who are reasonable which is poor considering the amount of registered GPs in the area.

Pubs and clubs — again only two, the club is the Jacquard, Magdalene Street, and the pub is Studio 4 behind Anglia Television. At the latter parties are held above the pub at intervals which attract about 150 approx. from an area covering Colchester Cambridge and Peterborough.

We have no local campaigns except connections with national ones — this is due to the fact that GLF and CHE have only just come into being in the last six months.

Well, that's a little info. Hope I can visit you some day when I'm in town — if the office is not open all the time is there another contact I can make?

Yours

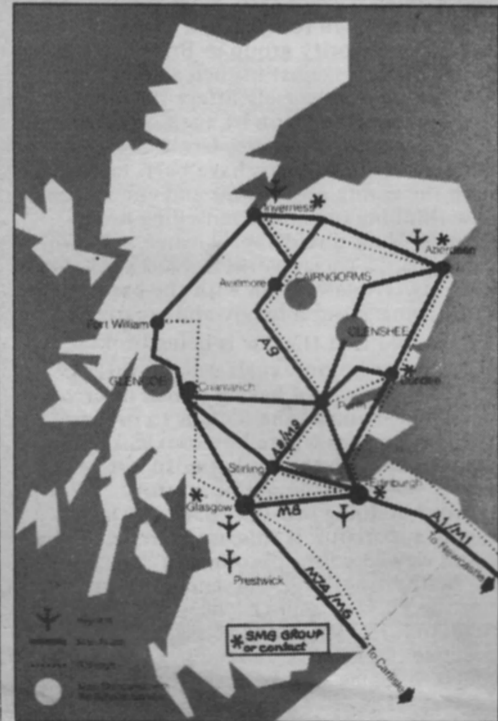
Tony

19 Braydeston Crescent  
Brundall  
NOR 86 Z

## Obsolete or Not

### The Law Relating To Homosexual Acts In Scotland by Robert Thomson, Secretary, Scottish Council for Civil Liberties.

Most people in other parts of Britain do not realise that Scotland has a separate legal structure with many fundamental differences to that in England and Wales. Some Acts of Parliament do not apply to Scotland and many items of government policy need separate legislation: for example, going through Parliament at present is the Housing Finance (Scotland) Bill which seeks to increase local authority rents in Scotland as does the Housing Finance Bill in England and Wales.



The chief law officer in Scotland is the Lord Advocate — at present Norman Wylie, QC, MP. He combines the duties of the Lord Chancellor, Attorney-General and the Director of Public Prosecutions in England and Wales. Through his Department, the Crown Office in Edinburgh, he controls prosecutions throughout Scotland by a system of Procurator Fiscals. The Fiscals are similar to District Attorneys in the United States.

"I asked the Crown Office about this and I was informed that efforts have been made to find when the last prosecution of two consenting adult males took place but nobody was able to remember a single one . . . and the fact is that they have never done so in living memory so far as I can ascertain."

So said the Earl of Dundee on 13 June 1967 during a debate on the Sexual Offences Bill. His point was the main argument for not including Scotland in the provisions of the Sexual Offences Act 1967.

However, as late as 1970 when the Crown Office was approached directly on this matter, it transpired that their policy was much more illiberal than supposed. The Crown Agent stated that those laws which related exclusively to male homosexual behaviour were enforced in so far as it was possible to do so but that since most homosexual acts were conducted in private and because of the Scots Law requirement of corroboration, prosecutions seldom, if ever, arose.

It would seem, therefore, that some duplicity and hypocrisy was practiced at the time the Sexual Offences Bill was going through Parliament. If some item of legislation is not being enforced, surely that is an argument for removing it from the Statute Book rather than for retaining it. Obsolete legislation brings the whole legal system into disrepute.

This type of hypocrisy exemplifies establishment attitudes in Scotland. Sex is not a "nice" subject. "Decent" people don't discuss it or even admit it exists. This form of

## Danger! Police At Work

All the cottages in Battersea Park are under continual surveillance by the police (plain clothed), and a guy was recently arrested at the popular one by the athletics track. After arrest by a plain-clothes-man he was taken to the superintendent of the park, so that in future he would be easily recognisable. When he appeared in court he sentenced to three months imprisonment, was fined £100 (for a first offence!), also

suspended for three years, and banned from Battersea Park for one year. Another guy, for whom it was a second offence, was fined £400. (All at the magistrates court, Lavender Hill, where there is a virtual stream of similar 'offenders'.

So DON'T GO TROLLING IN BATTERSEA PARK COTTAGES - or if you do, you know what to expect.

## London University Gays

CHE and GLF have got together at London University to found a Homophile Society - GAYSOC. So far it has been an object-lesson in co-operation between the two organisations. If nothing else, GAYSOC will be the front behind which gay students of all different persuasions can come together officially, both to speak as a gay voice in student and University affairs where this is needed, and to provide social facilities for themselves similar to those abundantly available for straights. It will also be a means of action.

At our first meeting we necessarily concerned ourselves with organisation and business, but things really livened up at our second meeting. For this we had as guest speaker the noted aversion-therapist Dr. Bancroft of Oxford University. He was not surprisingly, strongly attacked, and though very little constructive dialogue emerged, at least the important issues were aired, and we had a chance to hear the therapist's "justification" of his job.

Direct action was taken within three weeks of our starting when almost twenty GAYSOC members turned up at a straight University disco. We were seemingly regarded with amusement or indifference until about an hour from the end when two

members were told to leave - "so that the boys and girls can have the last half hour to themselves"; The source of the trouble, apparently, was a number of women (who had got in free) who seemed to regard themselves as having been insulted. No men had complained. We solved this problem by gathering together quickly in a group and making it clear that we were not going to be forced to leave. After the failure of their strong-arm tactics, further intimidation by officials of the disco took the form of herding us into one corner of the dance floor and telling us not to break the law. We ignored this, and they retaliated by playing no slow records from then on. We all left when we felt like it. Next day a notice was placed prominently in the building explaining our case. We regard this whole affair as a significant success; hopefully we may have opened the eyes of a few straights, and it certainly helped to build up a feeling of solidarity between our members. Similar activities are planned for next term.

Our contact address is: GAYSOC, University of London Union, Malet Street, London, W.C.1.

Robert Maynard

## We Know You're In There

The march was scheduled to start at nine, but by nine thirty only thirty or so people were there. Since it seemed unlikely that anyone else would turn up, the march moved off. As they turned the corner into the main road, a couple of slightly hostile policemen cautioned everyone to stay off the pavement, but generally seemed to be rather amused.

The same could not be said of the employees and customers of the two main Earls Court pubs, the Boltons and the Colherne. The GLF leafletters and balloon carriers were quickly ejected from the Boltons and pushed around outside when they persisted in chanting slogans at the people within - "Come out of your shells! We know you're in there!" and "What is Gay - Good! What is the Boltons - Crap!" did not appear to amuse anyone. All that happened was a minor exodus to the Colherne over the road. There the reception was even more hostile, and the exodus of customers back to the Boltons even larger, but the majority of people seemed singularly unmoved. In fact, there was a total lack of comprehension

to the policeman who moved everyone away at closing time with the immortal words "If I see any of you lot around here again, I'll arrest you".

### Fulham, Stucco and Drag

Gay Pride week got off to a friendly but not very inspiring start with a dance at the Fulham Town Hall - all thirties glass and stucco. The hall was responsible for the poor sound - it was either too loud or inaudible - and so the first group deafened me whilst Rupert Herries gentle songs were lost. In the former case, it would have helped if the hall had been tull, but, alas, the attendance was only fair.

The most noticeable feature of the evening was the quality and quantity of guys in drag, from those who took themselves very seriously and were got up in variations on a theme by Mae West/Yvonne de Carlo or even a sort of Drag Valentino in a velvet mirrorwork gown, on through the dollybird to a sort of Gert-and-



Back on the streets again.

of one another, which made the customers ignore the marchers and drained any attempt at further action. People just stood around, and the guy from the Colherne gave up yelling "Fuck off" when it had no effect. It seemed obvious to me that no-one in the pubs saw any need for a march, and since they had come out for a drink and to cruise that was what they were going to do. People aren't too keen to come out and be seen, and shouting at the doors of the pub they are in seemed a singularly ineffective way to persuade them that they would be better off if they did. I'm not at all sure what the march was intended to achieve anyway, but whatever it was, it didn't. Granted, the passive acceptance of so many people of the whole "gay scene" is a depressing phenomenon, and one does wish gay people would create places for themselves as an alternative, but I didn't hear a word about that all evening. It was all, alas, entirely predictable, right down

Daisy character in a print shift, woolly socks and hush puppies (not to mention the hairy, stockingless legs and the three-day growth). Major entertainment of the evening for me was watching one guy lifting his skirt and hauling down his tights in order to join we poor trouserbound males at the urinal. But I do wish that the people in make-up had made up their minds too - most attempts at combining thirties vamp with Cherokee warpaint are doomed to failure, I'm afraid.

It was O.K. as dances go, certainly more fun than the last, and I'm quite sure a few of the town hall staff were given considerable food for thought. It's a pity more people from outside GLF weren't there - still, never mind, eh?

Wednesday, June 28th, 1972

Dear Gay News,

Yesterday, in London's Oxford Street, I saw a mob of grotesque, raddled and over-painted nellies carrying placards and banners proclaiming "GAY IS ANGRY". As they ambled towards Marble Arch whooping, jeering, calling out slogans and four-letter words etc., I couldn't help but feel utterly disgusted by their behaviour.

What, I wonder, do such people hope to achieve? Were they in any way sensible they would realise that flaunting themselves through the streets of the Capital will only shower further disgrace on all gays and incite more and more youths to go "queer bashing".

If the object of "Gay News" is to campaign on behalf of exhibitionists such as these then your battle is completely lost, and you should toss in the towel right away. No self-respecting gay would want to concern himself with these drop-outs. They are a menace, not only to gays, but to the whole of man/woman-kind.

Yours faithfully  
Simon L. Manson.



Rad. Femmes samba in Grosvenor Square, to the massed bands of the American Marines.

This letter is a comment on a G.L.F./Radical Feminist action, presumably part of Gay Pride Week. Gay News welcomes other interpretations of this event.

## Samaritan Enquiry Part 1

Many people who are lonely, frightened and isolated go to the Samaritans for guidance and comfort - and although they advertise themselves as a last ditch help service for suicides, they are accustomed to handling personal and social problems at all levels of intensity. Their policy of deliberately keeping their distance and not giving active advice makes them an attractive prospect for people like gays, who don't want or need someone to moralise at them.

"If you go to the London branch and say you're a lesbian, you'll see Chad Varah, and when you admit what your problem is, he'll pat you on the knee and say 'congratulations!'"

"... We have special people to deal with the neuroses, depressives, the marital problems. So that just leaves me the female homosexuals and male deviants, a very nice thing to be left with. They are the most vulnerable and gentle people you could meet." (Chad Varah, the founder of Samaritans)

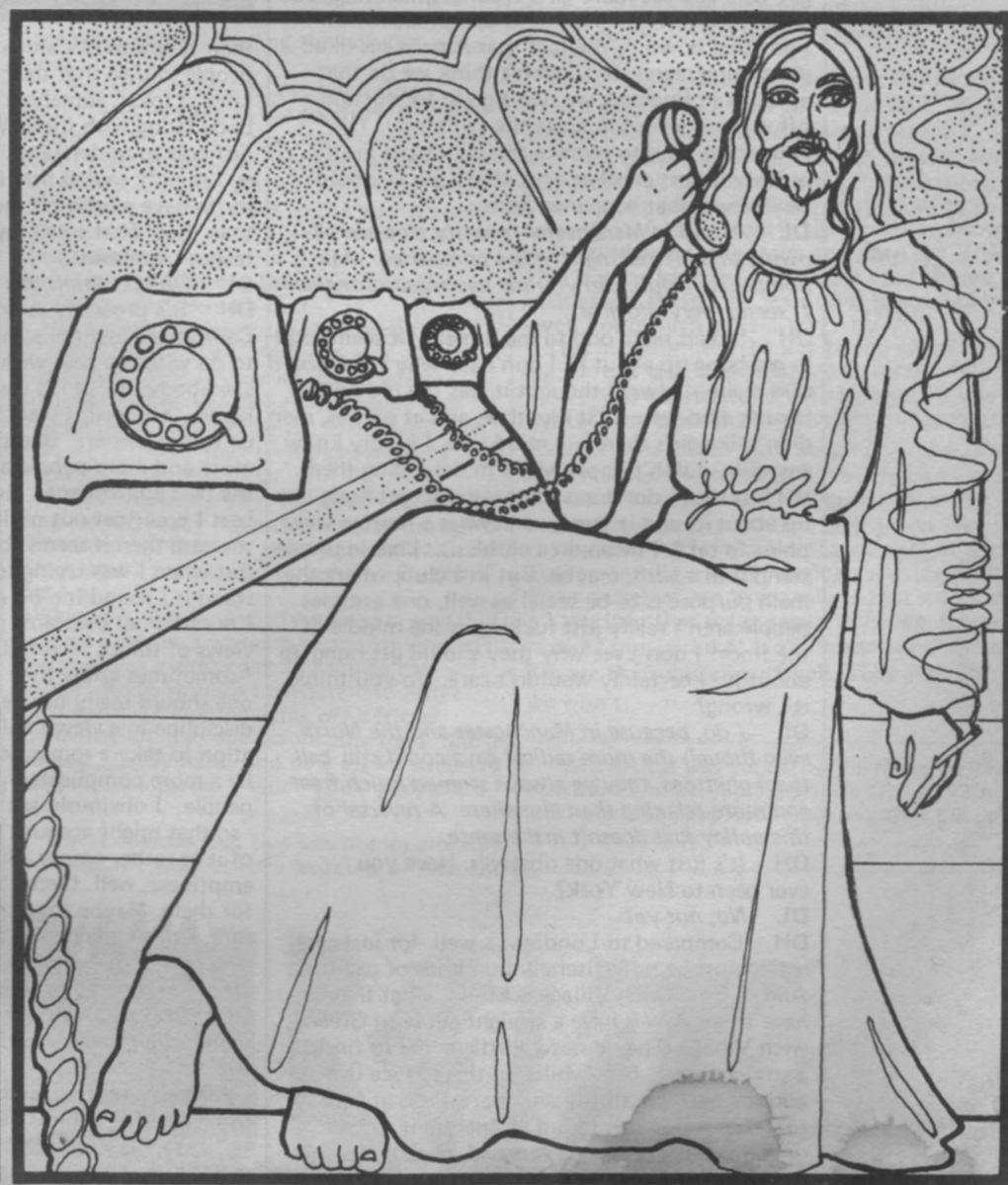
It's true - I did get referred to Chad Varah very quickly, after twenty minutes talking to a woman Volunteer at St. Stephen's, Walbrook, where Sams started 18 years ago. The Volunteer just said reassuring things and warned me off organisations like GLF on the grounds that "they do a lot of showing-off" and "They are very busy being gay and not taking it very seriously." She hadn't heard of CHE, or showed no reaction, anyway.

Chad Varah gives me a direct and serious smile, and takes me up to his office. I began where I'd left off with the volunteer, talking

quite truthfully about an affair which was breaking up, and he immediately began to give what I felt were traditional replies - the quote above was repeated almost word for word, plus little stories about "the two hundred very genuine lesbian friends I have", and about a couple who had sent him a card while "on their honeymoon". I felt even more isolated by this 'happy-ever-after' angle, as I'd already been talking about loneliness.

He uses physical contact a lot, holding my hand in both of his, patting my knee and putting his arms round me when I'm crying. I don't like this very much, partly because I do not want to relax and put it all on to him, and I feel this is what he wants. He also makes a lot of small suggestions relevant to points I make, and I find this worrying, as if he has assessed me and decided how to act, although we have only talked for twenty minutes. He asks whether I am a Christian, and refers a lot to 'the boss'. This does not sound very stupid, and he is obviously sincere, but as I do not believe, it makes me feel that, again my statements are being partly pre-judged.

I spend two hours in his study, although perhaps a third of this is spent listening while he deals with telephone calls. I do feel that I want to see him again, when he asks me to make another appointment, but I do not give my name and address, and although I am sure he is genuine, I feel no compulsion to reveal that I am 'test-marketing'. I thought I might want to admit that I am from 'Gay News', but what I have said about my personal life is true, and I don't want to alter the relationship before I've investigated it further.



Drawing: Jean-Claude Thevenin



# GAY NEWS INTERVIEW 1. DAVID HOCKNEY TALKS TO DENIS LEMON

David Hockney is an artist with a considerable international reputation. He was born in Bradford, Yorkshire, in 1937, and studied there and later at the Royal College of Art. He has not had his work on show in London for some time - his last show was in May this year, in New York. He has told us that, as a result of the large number of gay papers available in the States, the young American male is much less hung-up about his own possible gayness, or anyone else's. After a year of Gay News here, who knows?

DL You used to be involved with GLF for a while - what attracted you to that?

DH Curiosity - that's all really! Actually, there was no real involvement; I just went to one or two meetings out of curiosity, and I don't suppose I will get involved too much. I would regard it as too time consuming when I would rather allocate my time out to my own work. I just assume that the other people would like to spend their time doing that - everybody's to have something to do - so I don't feel too guilty about not being involved too much. I don't know if I'm an absolutely liberated person - I don't actually know what one means by a liberated person. I suppose there are still things about me that even close friends wouldn't know. That of course must be true of almost anybody, whether one likes the situation or not.

DL Do you think that gays need liberating?

DH What I was really getting round to saying, I suppose, was that it's nice that people might have some mystery - the only kind of people who would disclose everything to somebody is probably when talking to an analyst or someone like that. There's no real need to - but I might be wrong, there might be some people who always feel that need to tell. In fact you do meet a lot of Americans who tell you their life story in 15 minutes, tell you what they like, how they feel, and things like that.

DL You spend a lot of time in the States - is there any particular reason why?

DH I used to. I lived in California for about 5 years. I went because I thought it would be very sexy - and it was! Los Angeles was, anyway - a very very kind of sexy city, I think - and a very gay city.....

DL When I came to see you before you talked about American sex. What did you mean by that?

DH Well, I did talk about various things to do with American life - or American sex-life - that I rather disapproved of. In some ways I feel that it is rather segregated, which is a pity. But after having been in New York for a month I think maybe it's slightly breaking up. If you go in the gay bars you see more girls around which might be a sign of it not being quite so uptight as it was. I put that down to the fact that Americans liked everything segregated. I don't think we do that as much in England, we don't go in for cutting off various groups in quite the same way. The Americans tend to remake their ghettos pretty quickly in just another way, that's all. It would be a pity if that happened here.

DL A club in Manchester recently stopped allowing girls in, making it into a completely male homosexual club. Can you see any reason for this? It seems very illogical.

DH It does seem odd to me, I mean, it seems odd to get hung up about it. I don't see why they would care really. I always thought it was the old homosexuals who were a bit like that, and at parties, men didn't like girls there.....mind you, I hardly know any girls - I don't know why I'm defending them. It's just that I don't see any reason to get hung up about it, and it seems somewhat a narrow viewpoint to take. I mean, in a club!.....I could understand it in a bath, maybe. But in a club, where the main purpose is to be social as well, one assumes people aren't really just fucking in the middle of the floor! I don't see why they should get hung up about it - I certainly wouldn't care. Do you think it's wrong?

DL I do, because in Manchester and the North, even though the more radical gays could still call them ghettos, they've always seemed much freer and more relaxing than elsewhere. A reversal of this policy just doesn't make sense.

DH It's just what one observes. Have you ever been to New York?

DL No, not yet.

DH Compared to London.....well, for instance, there must be now, literally hundreds of gay bars. And in Greenwich Village....I think what they'd have to do now is have a straight guide to Greenwich Village. They'd need a little guide to find a straight place. But, whilst on the surface it appears quite.....thrilly and marvellous at first, but yet, when I kind of analyse it a little or watch it, a lot of it is very sad, because, of course a lot of people are very sad people. Which

makes me think maybe it's not so good.

DL Whether they're gay or not?

DH That's really nothing to do with it, really.... but in a way there's something new happening. I know people in New York who want to live alone, and they get their sex by going to the baths or just nipping out and picking up - which is very easy, you know. Literally, you seem to go to the street corner, just nipping out, picking somebody up, and then having the sex reasonably quickly - and that's it. But they really want to live alone in their place. Now that, I must admit, I don't quite understand. It's not a thing I particularly want to do myself, but obviously some people do. Now it seems to me there's more and more like that, so it's obviously getting to be a common taste with certain groups of people. The newness about it is that they are open about it, they don't hide



their desire to live alone and do this. Some people said to that they didn't really want a kind of lover, somehow they wouldn't like somebody living with them. Well, I find that just a little difficult to understand. I'm not condemning it, I'm only saying that for me I'd feel a necessity to have a little bit more out of something than that. That's just my particular desires and tastes, I suppose.

DL Do you think this is just New York?

DH It's probably very American - I'm sure California's just the same. Probably it's partly to do with the ease with which you can pick somebody up. If it's easy then they always know, "Oh well, I want some sex now, so I'll go to the corner." Because it is so easy I suppose more and more people are thinking "That's the best adjustment I could make, that's the best I could get out of life", and if that is the case then it seems to be a wise thing to do. But when I was trying to observe it and understand it I found it a bit difficult - I mean I know I'm rather an incurable romantic, really, my views of things tend to be romantic, even when I sometimes know they shouldn't be, when one should really have a certain amount of discipline in a view I still have a natural inclination to take a romantic view. But then I might be a more complicated person than other people - I obviously am a little more complex - so that might account for me having seen some of it as rather empty. But if people can't see it's emptiness, well, then it's not particularly empty for them. Maybe that's my hangup, but I'm not sure. I think maybe we should question a few people like that and ask them - find a person who is extremely promiscuous in that way.

DL In a place like the Colherne - you've been there sometimes, haven't you?

DH Extremely rarely now. To be quite honest I think I've been twice in the last eight years. Not too frequent! I think I went not too long ago, but only because I was with someone who particularly wanted to go. But I don't go out of any

choice.

DL It's a very segregated pub.

DH I must admit it's very rare I go in pubs. I usually just go in them if.....if I feel thirsty. I have a drink and then leave. I mean, I'm not really a pub person, I don't sit in pubs much. I prefer sitting in a restaurant or somebody's room or house or whatever.

I'm not really an expert on gay pubs at all.

The only gay place I go quite often is the "Yours and Mine" - not that I go in there much. I might go twice or three times in a month, which is more frequent than the Colherne! Otherwise my life's a lot more domestic, not too much in public, although it used to be more so. I suppose that really depends on economic circumstances - probably, doesn't it?

DL Yes.

DH It's certainly one reason (it's nothing to do with gay life, but....), why in Paris are cafes enormously popular. People tend to live in very small apartments and they don't entertain in them much - so they entertain their friends in the cafes. Because they do that, there's one on every corner. I mean, when I was a student and I lived in a room, and everyone else I knew lived in a room, one wasn't particularly keen on just sitting in. It was often nicer to sit in a bar, because they would be more comfortable. So then I did go to pubs, but now I don't. But I like that kind of life on the continent, I mean, I love those cafes in Paris and I live sitting in them. But it's different from pubs - you sit outside, you watch the world go by a bit more.

DL But do you think that gay people are beginning to accept themselves more than they did before, or do they still think of themselves as outcasts, like much of heterosexual society sees them?

DH From my experience of gay people I certainly think they have a lot less hangups. Although I must admit I don't know too many closet queens really, so maybe I'm not really an equipped guide. And again, in the world I move in, there's really no need for people to be closet queens. I do admit in some worlds, as you must know, it's easier than others, easier to be honest about oneself because you know a lot of people aren't going to care, and usually the more intelligent the people around you are, the less they care about something like that, so you can be quite open about it.

But.....well, I can remember when I was at art school at Bradford, my masters there were all about fifty-five and I was, seventeen, eighteen? And I must admit I wouldn't have liked them to know too much there. Mind you, it was a very small art school. I was always a bit frightened. But later on when I was a student at the Royal College of Art I realised, will, you just face it and then you don't have to care. For a while, in fact, you take the opposite view, you say, you know, fuck you, and you flaunt it. I suppose that's a natural kind of thing to do.

DL But is it natural for all gay people? Most people, especially gay people, still try to suppress whatever they are.

DH No, that's not true. I think it's probably most other people as well, I think the problem isn't just a gay problem - I'm sure most people would suffer from it a little bit. Often they wouldn't admit their real desires, would go along - suffer along a lot. Probably the reason why divorce rates are higher now is simply that people are a little more honest about themselves. And partly through economic circumstances - if one has to spend an incredible number of hours each week working and you don't get too much for it, then obviously you can't spend a lot of time worrying about things like that. One tends to put up with what you've got, tends to accept it. Obviously that is changing now, people are not willing to put up with just what they've got, they want a little bit more. There's a desire for liberation, but I would think that affects everybody. Now, for instance, you can read in the New York Times that the average marriage in California lasts about seven years, and it's dissolved - now for all we know that might be the perfectly normal time for a couple to have a relationship. Of course, in a straight marriage there is the problem of children, and how you deal with them, which probably isn't resolved too well at the moment.

The interview ended here as David was already late for an appointment when I arrived.

# SPARE RIB ATTACKED OR WHEN THE COMMUNICATING STOPPED

Gay Liberation Front has always consisted of numerous small groups, each in its own way expanding and experimenting with new possibilities to develop gay pride and gay awareness. Also in their actions and in communication Gay Lib has attempted, often successfully, to alter societies ill-informed knowledge of homosexuals and to end the discrimination against gays which appears in many ways in this country, as well as, of course, all the countries of this planet. But in the last few months, G.L.F. - to many - has been stagnating or going off at tangents which totally fail to communicate anything to anyone.

On Monday 19th July, the Gay News collective had been invited to attend the Spare Rib party. This was being held to celebrate the coming out of this new monthly magazine for women, run by women. Spare Rib is intended to communicate women's lib ideas, but without the dogma that so many fall foul of; as well as providing a magazine that truly is a women's paper, instead of the existing mags that are run by men who think they know what women want. In other words, Spare Rib is attempting to communicate news and ideas to all women.

The Gay News collective and I arrived at the party, being held at The Place in North London, just before 9.30pm. The party had been in progress for just over two hours. As we were climbing the stairs to where the event was being held, we noticed a fair number of people leaving. When we were at the bottom of the final flight we met a few members of the self-styled Radical Feminist faction of Gay Lib. They warned us that the party was a waste of time; that it was nothing more than a middle-class trendy cocktail party. I tried to get the most agitated member of this group to explain but with little success. We said that as we hadn't even gone into the party yet, we thought we would have a look around (and a drink) ourselves before passing judgement. This was greeted by hysterical screams of "Don't go up there!", and "Where's your head at man?". The screams continued as we ascended the final flight.

The room where the party was being held was pretty crowded, and what was immediately noticeable was the lack of smiles. And the whole room, to us, had a general aura of uptightness. Gay News people melted into the chilly throng to speak with friends and acquaintances, many from other papers such as Time Out, IT and OZ. I had a chat with Rosie Boycott, one of the editors of Spare Rib, after which the reason for the apparent bad scene became clearer. The Radical Fem-

have completely misunderstood the intentions of Spare Rib. Which, to me, is to communicate to as many women as possible; through information, news and less rigid explanation of women's lib ideas, but without the preaching.

I have been informed by members of the Rad Femmes faction that I should not be writing this piece, as I didn't get to the party till just before 9.30pm. This I take (and this is a personal opinion) to be an attempt at censorship; maybe they have at last realised what a grave and stupid mistake it was to create such an exhibition of themselves at the party. But although I was not there from the commencement of the party, I did, for the rest of the evening, talk to as many of the women and men who had been present throughout the evening. This is what I heard; at least thirty copies of Spare Rib had been torn up by the Rad. Femmes (they haven't got round to burning words yet), someone called someone else a "cunt", but from which 'side' this abuse came is still unclear as I have heard so many different versions. A guy who is completely out of the game of sexual role playing was abused for being a mere bisexual; one woman endured being shouted at for two hours, so she could try to understand the grievances of the Rad Femmes, she was unfortunately none the wiser after her attempted indoctrination. Chris Rowley, of OZ infamy, thought at the time the best way of showing he had no antagonism towards gays, tried to kiss one of the dragged-up radicals, only to be bitten for his more physical attempt at communication. And I could go on and on.

After we had been at the party for just over 15 minutes the real trouble started. This was heralded by some really frightening screaming. What exactly happened is still not clear, but someone, either from the Spare Rib people or the Rad. Femmes, had had enough and a running fist fight started. This skirmish descended down from the party to the front door of the building, where a two

right, for if communication breaks down completely, especially into senseless violence, then no one wins, everybody is a loser. But one point it does raise is what exactly are these warriors in dresses on about? Are they into ending sexism and the exploitation of women? I don't think so, their actions showed them to be no more than exploiters of the women's situation and in the words they so often use themselves on people, they left many at that party thinking of them as 'male chauvinist pigs'. They accuse others of telling women what to do, what then are they doing?

Do the Radical Feminists represent the general direction that Gay Lib is going in? No, they don't. Except for a wobbly unity amongst themselves they seem very much on their own. G.L.F. as a whole cannot comprehend the delight they seemingly have for the type of alienation and hostility they create. Unfortunately, Gay Lib as a whole will suffer because of these people, because as we all know, it's those who shout the loudest who get the attention. I have spoken to many G.L.F. people since the event, and find that my opinions are shared by many

within that movement. Even amongst the Rad. Femmes, there are those who really are trying to communicate and find the action of the others, like so many, mindless and damaging.

One interesting point this incident does raise, is why weren't the Radical Feminists present at the coming out parties of Cosmopolitan and Plexus, two magazines that truly exploit women and help continue the dangerous myths about sexuality. Why Gay Liberation Front has done many important things in the past, but unfortunately their continuing fault has been their failure to communicate, usually, to all gays. Of course there is always a need for a spearhead of people to always be attempting to change the many misguided and harmful parts of our society, but what good is this if at no times does anyone understand them.

G.L.F. will suffer from the mindlessness, selfishness and intolerance of these few people. Wake up Gay Lib! As Warren Hague said at the door of The Place, "these few people are just looking for a label to exhibit their neuroses".

Denis Lemon, Gay News collective.

## Another Opinion

The confusion of repainting the GLF office was broken by an announcement "Does anyone want to go to the Spare Rib party", "Yes" we chorused; so we did: we being most of the people who were in the office that Sunday; wouldn't it be lovely to have a chat with the people who were getting out a new womens lib magazine - even if we did think the editorial line up from Friendz, Oz, Vogue, etc. rather trendy. So off we went in our paint stained frocks.

When we got there (there being The Place, just off the Euston Road) we found we were in the midst of a full launching ceremony; friends, journalists and the stars all jostled at the bar; it was like being at a fifties celebrity occasion; the chat centred around nothing in particular - the magazine was being given away, but most people preferred to pocket it and read it later, rather than talk about it there.

We all had a quick look read bits in more detail - and talked about it amongst ourselves; but weren't we there as allies of the womens movement - if not more. So we broached the topic with some of the women in the room.

"What did they think of the glossy format - ooh and the only names on the cover were those of G. Best and R. Neville - and wasn't that an ad for Woolies slap on the back cover".

"Well you've got to sell your first issue haven't you".

"I mean, how do you get through to the women in the street if you don't give her something familiar to hang on to".

"It's really an attempt to bridge the gap between Vogue and all that womens lib sectarian dogma".

Our reactions were that it was a sell out - and what a price 17½p; only a liberated middle class mum could afford that - not yer Enids at Dagenham working a full mans week and still having to cook the dinner.

It was admitted to be a compromise venture; and looking at the product, it was brought home to us that a compromise in the face of male dominated capitalist society will always be a cop out. We don't object to make up - right on Mary Q - but to the way it's sold with women being used as sex symbols, as inferior beings, as masks not people - as was happening right here in this magazine. How can you compromise on that.

For a womens paper, there seemed to be a fair sprinkling of men - well why not. The IT brigade was there in denims and sunglasses, other undy mags and more respectable rags were present; DJ's and columnists mixed well here; we thought that a bit more honesty would help the situation.

"Trendy party isn't it my dear", "Yes I suppose it is really - plenty of booze though". "What do you think of the magazine", "Great effort isn't it". "Have you read it yet", "No - just a peep".

What sort of liberal shitty nonsense was this; were we here for a womens paper for womens liberation, or a glossy rag as a sop to the system? Rosie wouldn't tolerate criticism as she'd spent six months living off a friend, borrowing money, and scrounging food. She'd worked bloody hard, and now all we could do was pull it to pieces - which a few poeple did later on.

It was obvious that this was not an attempt to bridge the gap between working women and

the politicised minority; it was an attempt to salvage a conscience; little attempt was being made to find new ways of communicating with the mass of women who aren't in the movement; rather than politicising them it



The obvious conclusion.

was letting them know that womens lib was part of the system now talks - so lets all cash in.

In the midst of all the chatter, suddenly some dancing started - charltons all round, and wasn't that Alan Brien lifting his skirts up. This seemed to relieve some of the tension that resulted from a honest expression of our views.

In the midst of the jollity, some shouts arose from a gaggle of IT men and some GLF people; tempers had flared when one man from IT, who said he was bisexual, showed his love for gay people by calling a brother "a fucking queer, you pansy, you filthy fairy" and to a sister "you fucking cunt"; they came to blows and spilled down the stairs and onto the street. This is what happens when male egos oppose each other. Hadn't we learnt our lesson before - well not in such a plain way - no.

This incident held the key to the whole evening; here at last, in words, and unfortunately in blows, was confrontation. The magazine was fighting the chauvinist aggression of the system on their own terms - how could they win. We have realised that violence is their terms - and we aren't doing things on their terms; we've realised the futility of that; their terms are the product of a male dominated uptight aggressive neurotic society; through starting to liberate ourselves, we have realised that we mustn't get into that scene again; when we did we realised our mistake; can't the sisters on Spare Rib see their mistakes as well. They sold out, we won't.

This article was collectively written by the Radical Feminist faction within G.L.F. They were also the people representing Gay Lib at the Spare Rib party.



A spare gay libber.

inists had arrived (no-one still has any idea who invited them) in a flurry of crumpled silk, grubby cotton dresses, fur wraps, stilettoes and large amounts of makeup. (One of the women present later joked with me that the makeup looked more like war-paint.) The Rad. Femmes had taken exception, so it seems, to the fact that many of the women's husbands, boyfriends and male friends were also invited (the gravest sin being that Spare Rib's accountant was a man) and that the magazine wasn't a more extremist periodical. They were accused of selling out, and, as is obvious now, must

sided screaming match took place. After a while Spare Rib people and friends began to reappear, some with cuts and grazes, others with blood running down their faces. Some people said that some of the women had had violence tableaux enacted out upon them, by members of the Rad. Femmes, but this I haven't been able to verify to my complete satisfaction. Whilst in retreat the Rad. Femmes had managed to take with them the remaining eight bottles of wine, a truly revolutionary protest.

So what does it all mean? To me it doesn't matter who is in the wrong or the



# An Open Letter To The Rad. Femmes

Last night I saw some of you at the launching of Spare Rib. Last night I saw you behaving like the oppressive chauvinist men you claim to despise, but in fact are yourselves. Last night I saw you deciding what other people should think, how they should behave, what they should say, and when they didn't you turned into a bunch of petulant, aggressive little children, because you couldn't get your way. It would have helped, perhaps, if, instead of screaming for attention like spoilt children, you had told someone what you had decided, what you thought, and what you felt could be done to change it, if it needed changing. It might have helped if you had shown some concern for others, no matter how blind, especially as you were in the company of people who, for the most part, were either gay themselves, or at the very least, not unsympathetic. But as usual the opportunities to create more, to build love, to understand each other, were wasted in favour of violent destruction.

I thought GLF was about love, about people, about freedom, about life, about liberation. Pardon me. I was wrong. I recognise the straight gay ghettos for what they are — something where there would otherwise be nothing, frightened, confined. But I seek to break that confinement, where we can all be what we are and what we wish to be, without oppressing others. You have looked in the ghetto, in fact, you inhabit it more frequently than most other self-styled liberated gays, but you are there in the role of warders. You have come to the conclusion that, if people will not come out of the ghetto, you will build a fence of hate and bitterness about it so that they may rot in a prison of their own creation. Where you will go from there I do not know — perhaps to a final solution of the straight-gay problem, but I will not come with you.

"If they're not liberated, tell them to fuck off, they don't belong in GLF." Who decides if they are liberated, who applies the tests? Who decides what GLF will and will not accommodate — it is for all gay people.

"We found a cocktail party atmosphere . . . a bunch of straight men telling the women what to do . . . one of them said she didn't mind . . . we told them what they really wanted . . ." Are you any the less men telling women what to do because you're dressed in frocks? Or are the dresses just the sheeps clothing from the safety of which you can utter your aggression, your



Shock and dismay among the spectators.

chauvinism? How do you know what anyone else wants? Who are you to tell anyone else what they need? Who gave you this wisdom, insight, righteousness? The answer is no-one, because you have none of these things. A Stalin is no less a Stalin because he looks like a moustachioed Mae West. A fuhrer is still a fuhrer in a frock. You do not care for people, because they are neither perfect nor perfectible. You care only for principles, which can be purified. You also reserve to yourselves the right to decide those principles, and to change them at will. Neatly removes everyone but yourselves, doesn't it? You won't fight the society and the prejudices which, whilst you may claim they do not oppress you, oppress and are real to many, many people, gay and straight. It's much more fun fighting the people who were your friends and your lovers, far easier to hurt those who have tried to be open, honest and free with you, than to attack people you never meet, never talk to, and, in the case of straight people, never have any need to relate to.

Can you not see that the words, actions, and manner you employ to achieve whatever you want to achieve, is nothing more than masculine aggression run riot? Can you not see that the only end you have so far turned them to is a cold and loveless destruction of all who refuse to side with you? You are not new, you form no part of any alternative, because you use fear as your weapon, and repression as your tool. You will not frighten people into being liberated, but by the way you behave it is clear that that is what you are trying to do. And in refusing to see these things in yourself you are perpetuating dishonesty and deceit. You are sincere towards others, but you lie to yourselves.

And from where came this hatred of straight people, and I say again, PEOPLE . . . ? Neither you nor I nor anyone else are any better than anyone else. We each have our skills and talents, unless the repression of society has twisted us so far as to render us useless. You didn't chose to be gay, and most of you couldn't chose to be straight — do you think straights are in any way different, except that it's a little bit easier for them? Do you think that the majority of straight men enjoy being dependable fathers, husbands, lovers? We are all oppressed and all brothers in our oppression, no matter how blind to the fact or how obstructive, no matter how frustrating and hurtful it is to see those who ought to be on your side placing themselves on the other, when there isn't even a need for fences.

And on top of this, you have created nothing, Nothing, that is, that is of any use to anyone but your pure little selves in the company of other pure little selves, and even then only within your head. What help have you been to the greater body of people who are trapped within the system, whether materially or mentally? What attempts have you made to reach them? How have you tried to understand and communicate? What have you given to someone who may want only a gay club to go to unmolested, and be free of interference and insult? I'll tell you . . . more insult, and from the only group of people — other gays — to whom he can relate. Where have you made any changes except in your ghetto of ideology and pink-sequins? How does that show others the way forward? How does that prove to someone that he or she is oppressed, if all you do is compound the oppression?

Fascism in a frock has come to GLF. A lie masquerading as a truth, an oppression playing at liberation. Your selfishness and your arrogance are not what GLF is for. GLF no longer exists in any meaningful way whatsoever. You go your way, and those of us who still can love, and know the meaning of the word, will go ours . . . .

Doug Pollard, Gay News.

## Gay Unity

The Harrow local group of G.L.F. decided on Monday night (26th June) that it no longer wished to have any further ties with G.L.F., and will now go it alone under the name "GAY UNITY". The group has been stagnating for some time because of the large numbers of members who did not wish to be associated with G.L.F. any longer — but now the decision has finally been made.

And whilst we are in Harrow . . . the group often meets for a quiet drink in one of the local pubs, usually on Thursday evenings. After the meeting on Monday, when several mem-

bers of the group retired to this particular pub, they were approached by the landlord, and informed that a member of the local C.I.D., posing as a genuine enquirer, had telephoned the numbers given in the advertisement in the local press, and had been told that the group could be found in this particular pub on Thursday nights. The landlord strongly requested that the group stopped recommending his pub, "Cos it's causing me aggravation, so you tell 'em to lay off."

One wonders what was threatened.

## "Buggery Clubs"

Reprinted with love, from the Evening Standard Thursday 22nd June, 1972.

A Government scientist today calls for a radical change of attitude in British society towards homosexuality.

Dr. John Loraine, head of the Medical Research Council's Clinical Endocrinology Unit in Edinburgh, is at pains in a new book\* out today to puncture what he describes as the "conventional wisdom" about orthodox sexual relationships.

In what is undoubtedly the most horrifying picture yet of "the global spectre of over-population", Dr. Loraine acknowledges that society today is less vociferous in its condemnation of homosexuality than it was in the days when Lord Kilmuir was Home Secretary and "continuously denouncing the evils of 'sodomite societies' and 'buggery clubs'".

The scientist says: "Yet intrinsigence on this issue persists, for within the conceptual horizons of the wisdom there is no room for the thought that a proportion of men and women actually prefer homosexual to

heterosexual relationships and they will obstinately persist in such activities in spite of the most strident calls for sexual orthodoxy.

"Indeed, the wisdom finds it exceedingly difficult to judge a man or woman by parameters other than his or her sex life; nor does it see fit to stress the contributions to civilisation of men such as Leonardo da Vinci, Oscar Wilde, John Maynard Keynes and Ivor Novello".

By Alan Massam.

\* *The Death of Tomorrow*, by John A. Loraine, Heinemann, £3.75.

Gay News would have reviewed the book in this issue, but unfortunately Heinemann's are still keeping us waiting for our review copy. Maybe they think that the book is of no interest to a paper such as ours.

## Lord Beaumont Cooks

The Liberal Cook-Book, is the literary dish edited and partly written by Lord (Tim) Beaumont of Whitley. The Liberal peer and the founder of the Beaumont Society for transvestites, is an accomplished cook. Or should be by now after cooking for eight months for his family; his wife has been studying for a diploma in the decorative arts.

Other contributors to the cook-book are

Lord Byers and Jeremy Thorpe (who has offered a recipe called 'Camembert Ice'. Among liberal party supporters offering culinary delights are Derek Nimmo, Flora Robson and Clement Freud.

Lets hope that the recipes are as hot and tasty as the hot air and intriguing squabbles usually offered by politicians and their flocks.

## Book Reviews

"THE FILM GOERS COMPANION" by Leslie Halliwell. Paladin Books 1072 pages £1.00

This is certainly the most complete, clear, well produced (all listings in alphabetical order) guide to the film world I have ever seen. Whether you are just simply an ordinary film fan, writer or serious addict you'll find what you want to know.

Every actor who has ever appeared in films, however small their part, seems to be listed

with a fairly detailed biography, together with producers, directors, designers etc.; and there are even clear explanations of those technical words like "cross cutting" etc., together with concise explanations of subjects such as the use and development of colour in-films.

My one and only complaint is that despite the fact that the paperback edition has only recently appeared, the information therein is only correct to late 1969 or early 1970.

David Seligman.

## Help Safeguard Liberty

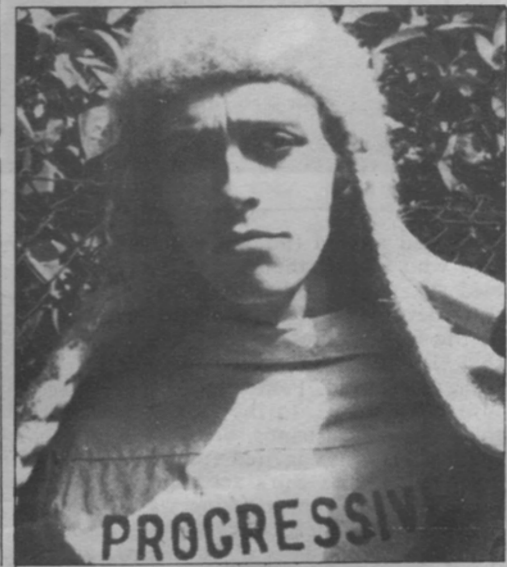
CIVIL LIBERTY: THE NCCL GUIDE, ed. Anna Coote and Lawrence Grant. A Penguin Special, 50p.

This is a successor to the National Council for Civil Liberties' Handbook of Citizens' Rights but is much more extensive in its range. The NCCL is not anti the police, public services or the establishment. It is not concerned with privilege or concessions. It is interested only in basic legal rights and is anti — as we all should be — the misuse and abuse of power. Unlike Canada and the USA, this country has no written constitution, no Bill of Rights. Consequently the rights of British citizens are often difficult to isolate and even harder to assert. Vigilance is required to safeguard liberty, but can only be based on knowledge.

This 356 page guide sets out the legal rights of British citizens in simple terms. Unfortunately, as the editors point out, too often one may only find out what one can do by studying the lists of what one cannot do. The most sensitive areas (racial discrimination, drug use, rights on arrest and court procedure) are thoroughly covered, but the guide also includes valuable chapters on the law and the motorist, the consumer, the landlord and tenant. There are sections devoted to children, to education, to sex and to marriage. The theoretically law-abiding citizen who will never be searched on suspicion of carrying drugs or discriminated against through colour or sex, will find much to concern him. The distinguished list of contributors have been resolutely fair: anom-

alies in the law (different rights for a husband and a wife, for a girl of 16 and a boy of 16 for example) are quietly pointed out and case-histories are included where relevant. The full text of the European Convention of Human Rights, which the United Kingdom signed in 1950 but the provisions of which have yet to be incorporated into the ordinary law of the land, is published as an appendix.

Roger Baker





# Your Letters

ALL LETTERS RECEIVED BY GAY NEWS ARE LIABLE TO BE PUBLISHED UNLESS YOU STATE OTHERWISE.

BCM/PETREL,  
London WC1.  
24th June, 1972.

Dear Gay News,

Yesterday I was able to by Gay News AT LAST. It was worth waiting for. The look of it is very professional and the content positive and provocative. Long may you continue and prosper.

Re your Speak-Easy spat. Sappho was invited too and I was the 'wise child' who asked the producer if he was gay. For someone who is forty plus I found this an excuse for an elegant ego-trip! We were under the impression as the recording was being held in the National Youth Clubs Centre we would have had the stimulating experience of discussing homosexuality with young people. To discover that the audience for the programme was also the tight little group of homosexuals representing various gay organizations was a big sell and the closet atmosphere of the 'studio' did not enhance the occasion. This was no jault of the gays present but the responsibility of those organising the programme. To segregate homosexuals from heterosexuals is absolutely against the aims and objects of Sappho. However we stayed because the opportunity for peak time programming for homosexuals is non-existent. Hearing the programme afterwards certainly made it worthwhile because we sounded like a large audience as well as sounding off. Sappho has made a large number of new contacts, who were despairing and isolated. I must take issue with Doug Pollard glossing over the GLF scene on the previous Speakeasy programme about homosexuality. GLF were totally disruptive - or I should say one or two individual members of GLF were - to the exclusion of other gays getting a word in. I admire so much that GLF does and contribute to many of their actions and am present at their demonstrations, but I despair of those individuals whos turn up at events organised by others than GLF and bring the proceedings to a halt by undemocratic fillibustering. The Speakeasy antipathy to GLF is quite understandable and was caused by rogue members of GLF themselves.

Thank you for advertising Sappho on your back information page. May I point out that we are a magazine and not a paper. We also hold meetings every first Monday in the month at the Museum Tavern 7.30pm Upstairs room, Great Russell Street, London WC1 and all women are welcome to hear speakers, discuss the magazine and air their own views. The price for individual copies has gone up to .25p plus postage, but the subscriptions remain the same, £1.50 for 6 months, £3.00 for 12 months including postage.

Love and peace  
Jackie Forster.  
Editor of SAPPHO.

Birmingham,  
23rd June, 1972.

Dear Gay News Staff & Friends,

Your newspaper gave me delightful reading, as it was in good taste and good sense.

It is a welcome newspaper, as in todays society a needed source.

All the best of luck in the future.

Miss P.A.....

London N.W.3.  
27th June, 1972.

Dear Gay News,

Thank you for the letter and please pass on my

thanks to all the staff of Gay News. I bought a copy yesterday and read it through twice and enjoyed it immensely. I intend to send you my subscription at the end of the week, to make sure (in a little way) that Gay News carries on.

It is very good that Gay People, like myself, have now got their own paper. Cheers.

Love Nick C.....

P.S. Liked the ads.

London W.2.  
20th June, 1972.

Dear Gay News,

I have frequently wondered about Gay News, because as a 'local' I often pass 19 London St. and now the Evening Standard has confirmed my suspicions. I am delighted! I should be pleased to hear about your activities and I should also like to become an immediate subscriber to Gay News..

Ian M.....

Middlesex.  
27th June, 1972.

Dear Gay News,

I was rather touched by your letter to the editor of the 'Evening Standard', in which you aptly referred to 'Lords in Clash on Gay Advert', and wish to take out a personal advertisement in Gay News, but I am rather haunted and terrified of possible blackmail. Is there any way to eliminate the risk of blackmail in this respect?

Also, I would very much like to obtain a copy of your latest edition of Gay News, and would be very grateful for any help you may render in this respect.

S.A.....

Sussex.  
23rd June, 1972.

Dear All at G.N.,

Have just received my first copy of Gay News. I found it very interesting with varied reading for all.

How about a monthly crossword? And might I suggest that you write to all or some of the County Councils and see if they will take out subscriptions for their library reading rooms, and so put G.N. alongside the national papers etc.? I will be contacting my local council to see if we can put it in our library, and will send you their reply.

Look forward to number two, keep up the GOOD work. Will also send you a donation in due course.

Norman R.....

There was no address,  
and we couldn't read  
the postmark.  
27th June, 1972.

Dear Boys,

I am very disappointed with Gay News, and before you can expect to build up a 'readership' you'll have to not only improve your articles, but also employ an on-the-ball proof reader.

The quality of the paper is good, and I have no doubt that everyone worked extremely hard - but with such co-operation and talent (?) you must be capable of doing better.

Looking forward to issue no.2 before subscribing.

Yours etc.  
Paul X.

P.S. Incidentally - should any of your readers be holidaying in Marbella (Spain) there are two bars worth visiting - Cozzi's International and El Boccacio.

His intended is invited to enter his stall and stand with one foot in each bag while he blows him. I have never personally witnessed this event.

The reason this can is popular is that underage boys go there quite innocently and of course meet some older man. They keep returning there as they feel that is the only place that homosexual satisfaction can be had, and of course the dear old lechers keep them in ignorance.

Pme ptjer sprt pf cp

One other sort of cottagley thing is the bathhouse a few blocks from my house on English Bay. It is a cement structure that used to be the public aquarium that overlooks the beach. It is built partly under the road that runs under the beach giving it the look of some oversized hobbit warren.

The beach area of course is Vancouver's main outdoor cruising ground (save Wreck Beach in summer). But at about 3 in the

morning the steps of the bathhouse become the scene of an outdoor orgy with perhaps 4 couples doing their assorted things in plain view to the gawking spectators.

That is all I know about cottaging - no, one more savory detail - and this one was even researched in person (though I maintained my detached observer status throughout). When the student union building was being designed at UBC, someone thought student

that students needed a place to rest during the day to refresh themselves for the late night labs perhaps. At any rate they installed dark rooms off the cans filled with about 12 huge leather couch-like beds. For some reason most of the beds were removed until there were only 3 left. After hearing about a friend of mine who claims to have had sex in these rooms with 5 different people in one day (he went in for the ten minute break between classes), I decided in moral indignation to investigate. It is true.

## HET OF THE MONTH



Photographed by Jon Blau, Camera Press

## Cottaging in Br. Columbia or The Mountie Always Gets His Man

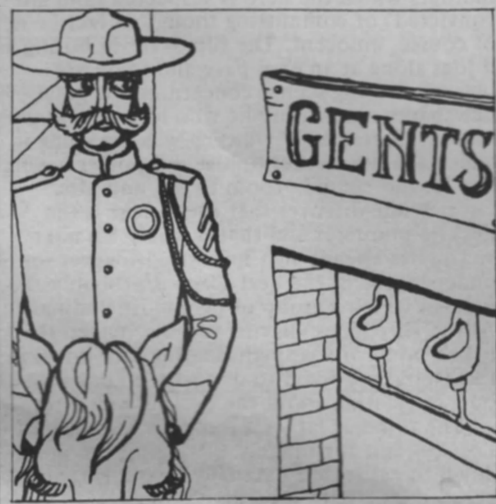
(Being excerpts from a letter from Roedy Green, dated 16th April, '72)

You wanted some information on Cottaging. First of all I should make it clear that there is a very strong prejudice in western Canada against this practice. On top of the status heap are those who meet through private "parties". Next come the club people. Next come the steambath people. Next come the outdoor cruising people, and on the bottom of the heap come the cottagers.

I think that the disdain with which the practice is viewed has a lot to do with the wide variety of other methods available. People who meet in cans must do so because they like cans - perhaps it is the smell that rouses their lusty emotions.

Police cruising of cans (even in an official sense) is minimal. In all my time I have never heard of anyone being arrested or even harrassed by police in cans. The one exception happened about ten years ago (I remember being somewhat horrified by it as a child) when the police broke up a huge orgy in one of the washrooms in Stanley Park. About 30 people were arrested but there was no further mention of it.

The most active can is the Hudson's Bay downtown store on the 2nd and 5th floors (two separate places actually). One old gentleman goes there with two shopping bags.



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# FROGS



## WHEN IT'S SLEEPYTIME DOWN SOUTH

Here we are back in Tennessee Williams' deep south land on the old plantation. Granddaddy played by Ray Milland with a 'fright' grey toupee on, has all the family around to help celebrate both his birthday and independence day. There is so much family around the place that it's hard to tell just who is related to whom.

The son of the house drives his speedboat too near to a rowing boat on the lake, overturns it and the occupant, who's a pollution expert taking photos of the district. He is offered a change of clothing and refreshment up at the big house. There he meets the family and guests which include the dusky lovely Judy Pace (last seen in 'Omega Man'). She's come along as guest of the photographer, son of the house, and she gets toggled up in the very latest in African outfits to go on the lawn to play croquette.

All the while we are meeting the family there are shots of the lawn and nearby swamps and of every reptile you can name running, jumping or merely sitting there poking its tongue out. The first hour passes uneventful and you begin to wonder if the film isn't

merely going to turn out into 'Son of Cat on a Hot Tin Roof'. There's the alcoholic son, the discontented wife and sure enough honey the dignified coloured servants. Even the two kids begin to resemble the 'no neck monsters' from that other movie.

But as the last half hour begins the director decided to liven things up and we are given a fair variety of violent deaths... One guy trips, shoots himself in the leg and is covered by fast moving spiders... an old gal out catching butterflies is done in by a passing snake... another son is gassed to death by poisonous fumes let loose by a friendly looking lizard... the mother of the kids is bitten by a turtle and drowns... an elderly man meets his death by crocodile (shades of Captain Hook in 'Peter Pan')... the servants flee by boat to a nearby island and from the look of things the vultures attacking them are straight out of Hitchcock's 'The Birds'.

The title players, THE FROGS, come into their own at finale time taking over the house and causing the death by heart failure of Big Daddy—sorry Ray Milland. If you can bother to sit through the first dreary hour I guarantee those with ghoulish tastes will be more than satisfied.

Barry Conley

## Superstar Sings Superstar

"The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars" — David Bowie — R.C.A.

After all the blurb about a "new superstar" and bringing back "glamour into rock-and-roll" I was prepared for the worst. Not so. This album manages to be intelligent and fairly entertaining at the same time. It seems that Bowie himself is aware of the perils of superstardom and also aware that it could happen to him, for the songs fall into a story-pattern



about a rock-and-roll star who comes, godlike, from outer space becoming the focus of hope in a world with only five years of existence left.

The first couple of tracks ache with desperation and defeat, but in answer to them "all I have is my love of love—and love is not loving". The madness is close to the surface, breaks through now and again. And when Ziggy arrives he is a sensation, confident, beautiful—but he becomes so wrapped up in being a star, in being so egotistical, that in the end he is destroyed and the band (which by this time has become Ziggy's band) is broken up.

So that's the story. Very roughly. But it had me wondering as to what it was getting at. At times it might almost be an attack on the Bolan phenomenon, at times it sounds like Bolan. At times it is superstar rock, at times a Bonzo-like send up of itself. The cynical key lies in the track "Star", in which Bowie is clearly singing of himself—"Tony went to fight in Belfast... Bevan tried to change the nation... I could make a transformation as a rock and roll star... I could do with the money." Trying to convince himself he could do something by being a star, but knowing that it's really only a massive ego-trip, and lucrative too. But he knows, because Ziggy becomes arrogant too, and dies.

Some of the album is a bit uninventive, but some of it aches with feeling, especially the first and last tracks ("Five Years" and "Rock-and-Roll Suicide"). Some of it is great fun, whatever it means, and "Suffragette City" really bangs along well. As a whole, I don't think the album comes off, but nice try, and it's good to know you've got some idea what you're doing David, even if you can't do much about it.

Doug Pollard

## The Biograph Review

Dears, thanks for all those letters and phone calls. I never thought that the little ad I put in this naughty papers' personal column would interest all the two people who rang up. Mind you, it didn't do much good for me. George, with the deep voice, didn't turn up, and I waited outside the cinema for nearly two hours with my Come Together clutched in my hand for recognition purposes. The other contact I made was rather nice though.

I've had a really busy fortnight, what with deadlines to meet and so many films to see. Didn't see half the ones I wanted too, but did catch a few superb numbers at the Biograph though.

Stephen Boyd in *The Inspector* was such a dish. What I call a real fella; more than can be said for the person unknown who apparently was trying to pick-pocket me in the most amateurish manner all through the supporting feature.

And I do wish that the gentleman on the Biograph staff would learn to use his little torch. Instead of showing people through the dark to their seat, all he seems interested in is flashing it along the rows of seats. You can soon tell what his game is, looking for dropped small change. What a meanie.

Anyway enough of this chit-chat. On Thursday 6th July the main feature is *McKenzie Break* with Brian Keith. If I remember correctly it's all about a bunch of men who can't stand being couped up in prison with one another anymore. It must be very difficult if one is stuck in a cell with people of different dispositions. And we've all heard those stories about prisons. Hopefully the Biograph will get round to showing *Fortune and Men's Backsides* in the near future.

Oliver Reed, well known for disliking being looked at in sauna baths, stars in the support *Take a Girl Like You*. I'm certain that will be a treat, for somebody.

There's a bit of sauce showing on Sunday 9th July, *The Amorous Virgin*, with Marisa Solinas. Personally, I would have thought a Sunday at the Biograph wasn't quite the day for a film with such a title. It's playing with *Charge of The Black Lancers* which sounds a goody, and a fulfillment to someone's fantasy.

On Monday 10th July they are showing *The Liberation of L.B. Jones* and *Start The Revolution Without Me*. The former I haven't cast my eyes on before, but with Lee J. Cobb in the cast... Donald Sutherland performs in the latter, and anybody who has oggled at a previous performance of his, you know there will be a thrill or two in store. *Don't Start The Revolution Without Me* is set in France at the time of their most successful revolution to date. The plot, and the numerous sub-plots, follow the adventures of two identical King Louis's, and although by the final frame the story line is completely incomprehensible, there are some scenes with Donald raising many a titter and giggle.

Sophia Loren and Marcello Mastroianni are in the unlikely *The Priest's Wife* on

Thursday 13th July. I'm sure the audience of the Biograph won't receive this with much interest. However, hulk Clint Walker may help even the programme out in his starring role in the support, *The Great Bank Robbery*. Sunday fare on 16th July is a bedazzling double bill; *Frustration* (charming) and *The Sadist*. One wonders if the latter is being aimed at some of the gentlemen who block up the entrance way to a certain public house in Earl's Court. I wonder though, 'all that's leather is not butch'. And let's hope the audience won't be too frustrated with *Frustration*.

A real goody on Monday 17th July, *Dracula Has Risen From The Grave*, starring that ever so sexy Christopher Lee. This is a shocker from Hammer, with Dracula getting more erotic by the moment. I wonder if it's just blood he's interested in sucking now-a-days. Support is *Anything For Laughs*, a collection of pieces of film from the Mack Sennett fun factory of the silent days.

All in all, not a bad couple of weeks cinema in the cosy little Biograph. Michael York starring in *Zepplin* is a future attraction of note. The film isn't much cop, but Michael York is such a doll; what a lovely body he has, as anyone who has seen *The Strange Affair* will know.

That's it for now dears, keep the letters coming in and to all you telephone callers, I'm wide open to suggestions. See you in the celluloid gloom maybe. Bye for now.

*Julian Denis  
Grimpoon*

The Biograph, Wilton Road, Victoria, SW1.

Thursday 6th July.

McKenzie Break AA with Brian Keith.

Take a Girl Like You X with Oliver Reed.

Sunday 9th July.

Charge of the Black Lancers U with Mel Ferrier.

The Amorous Virgin X with Marisa Solinas.

Monday 10th July.

The Liberation of L.B. Jones AA with Lee J. Cobb.

Start the Revolution without Me A with Donald Sutherland & Gene Wilder.

Thursday 13th July.

The Priest's Wife A with Sophia Loren & Marcello Mastroianni.

The Great Bank Robbery U with Clint Walker & Zero Mostel.

Sunday 16th July.

The Sadist X with Gunner Bjornstrand.

Frustration X with Ingrid Shulin.

Monday 17th July.

Dracula Has Risen From The Grave X with Christopher Lee & Rupert Davies.

Anything for Laughs U- Mack Sennett Comedy.

## Carry On Hitchcock

I used to be an Alfred Hitchcock fan but I can't say his recent films (post "Psycho") have appealed to me at all. Therefore I approached his latest film with mixed feelings, hoping for a return to the suspenseful mystery thrillers he is capable of making but being prepared to see something as weak and soppy as "Torn Curtain".

Having gone into the cinema with mixed feelings I also came out with mixed feelings as though "Frenzy" cannot be described as a bad film it cannot be described as good for it is totally lacking in excitement, mystery and suspense and I seriously wonder that if it wasn't for Alfred Hitchcock's name would this film have had a West End showing at all?

It used to be sacrilege to divulge just so much as a line of plot in an Alfred Hitchcock film, but in "Frenzy" this is hardly likely to apply as there are no secrets or surprise endings to keep us guessing. The film is a straight-forward thriller concerning a series of necktie murders which the hero is suspected (and later convicted) of committing though in fact he is, of course, innocent. The film is never boring as it jogs along at an easy pace and there are several amusing scenes concerning the great newspaper reading public who love a good gory murder, particularly amusing was the scene in which the hotel receptionist and porter having just let the "cupid" room to Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Wilde discover that their guest is the necktie murderer and that possibly his next victim has already met her fate. However for understatement the best scene is probably the first, in which a group of people (including Alfred Hitchcock) having just discovered the naked body of a woman floating face down in the Thames proceed to discuss the gory rumours circulating about the necktie murderer.

The film has rather a romanticised view of London, but fortunately the people are more down to earth (did I actually hear a Hitchcock heroine say "Balls"! ). The murder scenes are

well handled and though they lack tension they do make compulsive viewing. Also well handled was the scene in which the villain tries to get back a tell-tale tie pin from the grasp of his latest victim who he has dumped in a sack of potatoes on the back of a truck which is now heading north.

"Frenzy" carries little of the emotional impact its title implies, even Jon Finch as the hero screaming that he shall have his revenge appears to be too well rehearsed to be convincing. In fact the entire plot seems to unfold in something of an emotional void which not even the two lovers can break down. There are of course the numerous red herrings e.g. though Billie Whitelaw is a fine actress was her part in this film really necessary?

Though this film is totally lacking in the Hitchcock ingredients of suspense, mystery and intrigue which made him a world famous director this film does have an unexpected flair for comedy. The sight of the detective (who is in charge of the necktie murders) enduring his wife's exotic dishes is surely one of the highlights of the film. It is scenes like this which keep the film from being just routine or outright bad, but such scenes can only enhance a film and not make it, therefore I'm afraid I shall have to report that though this film is unlikely to win Hitchcock any new fans it should keep the rest of us quiet until he gets back to his old form of making exciting films with lots of mystery and intrigue and most of all suspense.

Adrian Bales

Gay News apologises for the fact that the second part of our VD feature is missing from this issue. Hopefully we will be printing it in issue No.3.



# Love Knoweth no Laws

Owing to certain pressures put upon us by the law, we hold the right to cut, change or refuse to print any personal ads sent to us. We must also warn male 'minors' (under 21) that you may have unpleasant legal nasties unloaded on you, and us, if you attempt to use and reply for certain reasons connected with the meeting of someone for immoral purposes, namely making love. Apart from those antiquated legalities, men and women are welcome to use these columns as they wish.

\* Chaucer.

## Situations Vacant

Refined young women/men living central/N.W. London for domestic work in private houses. No evenings or weekends. Phone 01-624 9774.

## Personal Ads

Versatile, middle-aged Male, slim, lovely cheeks (been told often), seeks intelligent similar, any age up to 45. Preferably fond of Mozart. For companionship, and everything else. Box 9.

Bournemouth - Young Man or Male Student wanted as Part-timer in Small Guest House for Summer Season. Accommodation if required. Box 10.

It is an offence to conspire to incite males to commit homosexual acts - The Law Officers Department. Box?

Hardworking young man, 21, looking for an older, steadier person to live with in London. Versatile, well educated and refined, and am not 'camp' or 'kinky', just happy. Box 11.

Beautiful young gay male seeks companionship of gay people willing to provide lodgings. Box 12.

Mature Gentle Man own flat car etc., seeks young companion with varied interests in Winchester-Southampton area. Box 13.

Slim 26 would like to meet active partner. Please reply with photo. Box 14.

Friendly, unprejudiced 38, a loner, would like to meet similar guys, any area. Interested in cinema, correspondence and photography. Guaranteed ALA. Box 15.

Affectionate Lonely Male. Slim young 50's anxious for another who is alone 50-65 yrs, to share all including flat and mutual fun. Separate divans, N.C.P. please, recent snap please. Ilford. Box 16.

Young Man Seeks large well built companions for friendship, also seeks permanent friend. I like well developed people. Genuine replies only and photo. Box 17.

Gay Male Student, 23, needs place in gay flat/house. Reasonably central. Box 18.

4th Energetic Young Man Wanted, London-Venice lift only or 2/4 weeks camping, late July on (2 cars, 2 tents). Share costs. No other obligations. Photo. Box 19.

Gay Students in the Redhill/Croydon/Guildford area interested in vacation experiences. Contact College Lecturer. Group meetings could be arranged. Box 20.

Young Man, tired of playing games with straight gay scene, also GLF and CHE, wishes to meet for recreation. Box 21.

Educated and Creative 22 year old seeks companionship and love as well as a place to live in London. Box 22.

Writer, 40, seeks long-term relationship with thoughtful partner. Unluxurious accommodation probably available. Give phone number if a member of the phone-owning classes. Box 23.

Gay Male, 25, inexperienced, wishes to meet masculine gay 21-26. Photographs required. All letters answered. Box 24.

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**Sappho** meets every first Monday in the month, at the Museum Tavern 7.30pm, upstairs room, Great Russell Street, London WC1. All women are welcome. Sappho magazine is available at 25p for single copies, plus postage. (Subs rates are unchanged) from Sappho Publications Ltd., BCM/Petrel, London WC1.

Gay News, wishes to thank the management and staff at the Colherne and the Boltons (at Earl's Court) and the Champion (at Notting Hill Gate) for their help in letting us sell Gay News in their establishments. Gay News will regularly be on sale in these three pubs in West London.

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