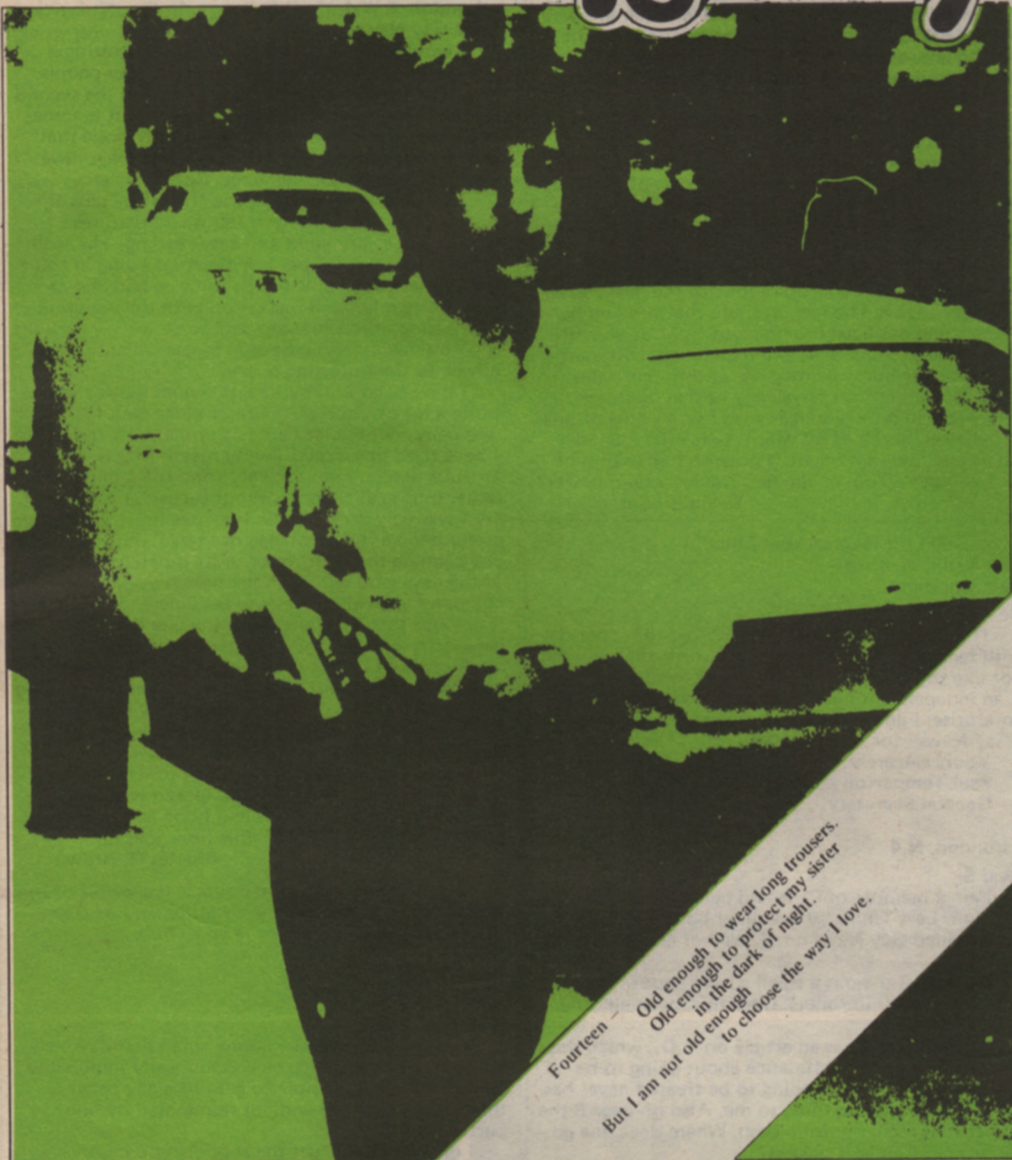


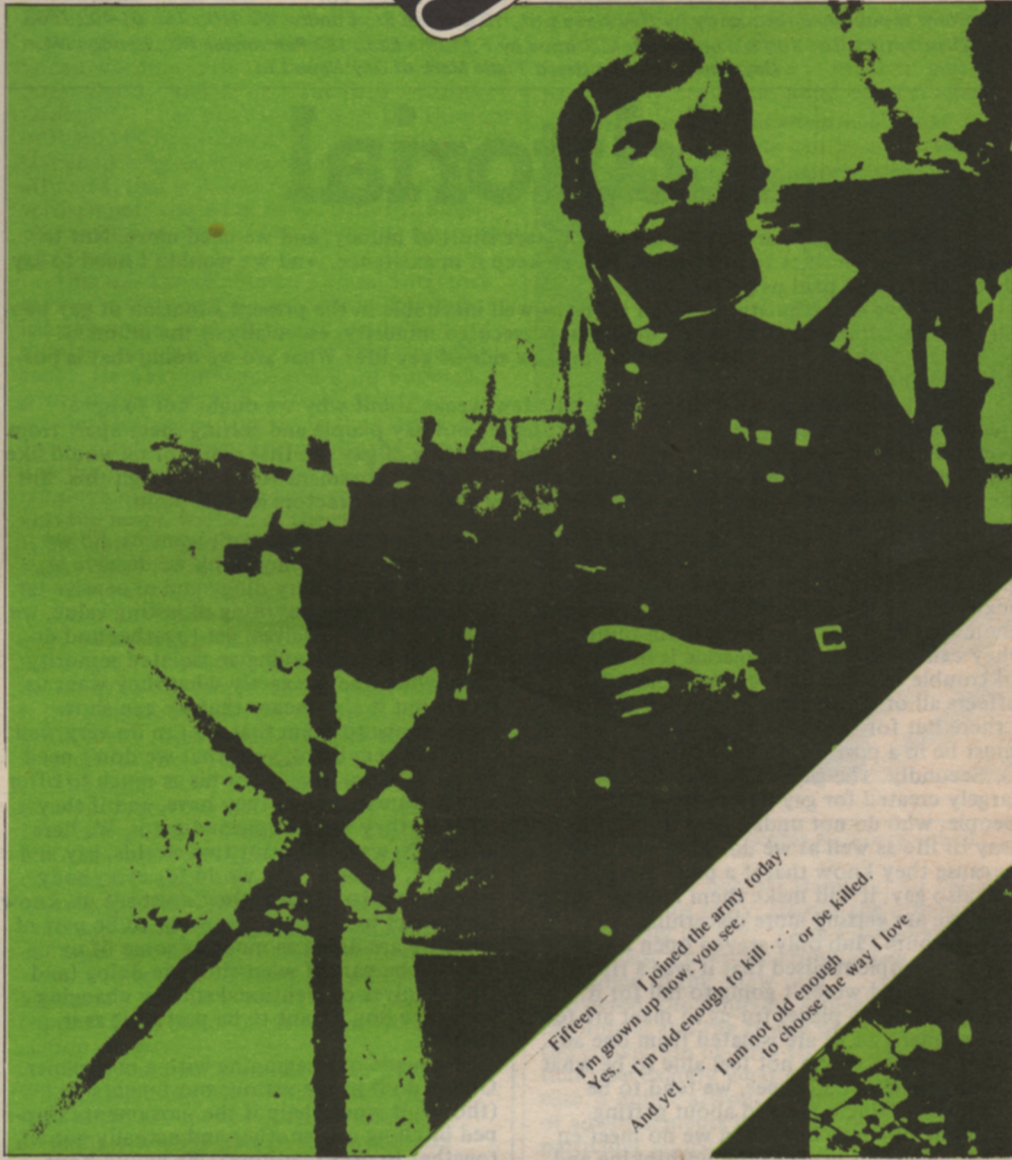
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GAY NEWS

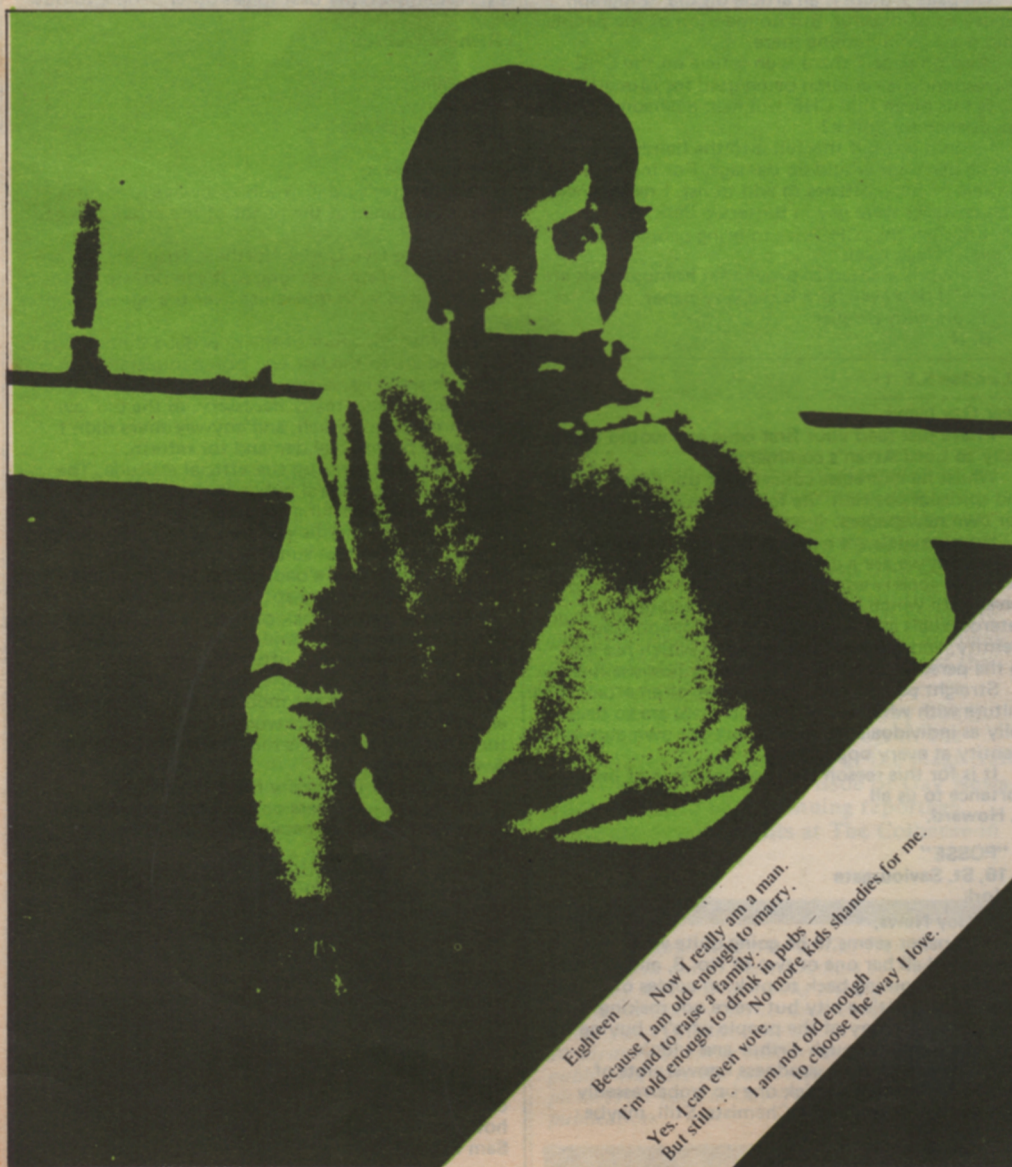
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Fourteen — Old enough to wear long trousers.
Old enough to protect my sister
in the dark of night.
But I am not old enough
to choose the way I love.



Fifteen — I joined the army today.
I'm grown up now, you see.
Yes, I'm old enough to kill . . . or be killed.
And yet . . . I am not old enough
to choose the way I love.



Eighteen — Now I really am a man,
and to raise a family,
Because I am old enough to marry,
I'm old enough to drink in pubs —
Yes, I can even vote. No more kids shandies for me.
But still . . . I am not old enough
to choose the way I love.



Twenty-one at last.
The day has finally come.
The way I love is mine to choose.
The only trouble is . . . those I love
are not old enough to choose
the way they love.

GAY NEWS

The Gay News Editorial Collective

Richard Adams (Design), Martin Corbett, Ian Dunn (Scotland), Denis Lemon, Glenys Parry (Manchester), Suki J. Pitcher, Doug Pollard, David Seligman, Jean-Claude Thevenin, and Julie Frost, Julian D. Grinspoon, Peter Holmes, Alister McGregor, Richard Turner, Peter Waldschmidt.

Gay News Social Friends

Roger Baker, Ian D. Baker, Granam Chapman, John Chesterman, Denis Cohn, Lawrence Collinson, Brian Dax, Barry Conley, Martin Grant, Antony Grey, Peter MacMillan, Sylvia Room, Manus Sasonkin, David Sherlock, Mike Winter.

Special Thanks To:

Andrew & Peter, Jane & Shan, Richard & Norman, Ken & Allan, Michael, Angus & Ken and all the other Friends & Loved Ones.

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Gay News is published fortnightly by Gay News Ltd., 19 London St., London W2 1HL. Tel: 01-402 7805. Distribution: Us, You & a prayer book. Printed by F.I. Litho Ltd., 182 Pentonville Rd., London N1. Gay News is the registered Trade Mark of Gay News Ltd.

Editorial

We said it once. We are saying it again. We are short of money, and we need more. Not to expand the paper. Not to improve it. Just to keep it in existence. And we wouldn't need to say that if our shops paid us promptly.

Most news is pessimistic — which is pretty well inevitable in the present situation of gay people. We are, after all, a frightened, fighting, persecuted minority, especially at the moment.

But . . . where is the optimism, the creative side of gay life? What are we doing that is positive and fun? Not much.

The collective has heard a lot in these past few weeks about why we ought not to have started a gay newspaper, about how we are singling out gay people and setting them apart from everyone else, about how we are publicising the elements of gay life that many of us would like to forget or pretend didn't exist. We've also had favourable comment to far outweigh this. But we feel we ought to make it clear why we disagree with our detractors on this point.

Firstly, The business of creating gay groups, papers, and so forth, serves a very great need. If someone thinks they are the only homosexual in the world, publicly gay things show them that they are not, show them things they can be part of. If someone is in any kind of trouble because they are gay, then that affects all of us, because we are gay too, and "there but for the grace of god go I". We must be in a position to help one another.

Secondly, The gay scene that does exist is largely created for gay people by non-gay people, who do not understand us and our way of life as well as we do. They are in it because they know that if a place is passable but also gay, it will make them money. Mind you, we are getting more discerning. The Hummabum Club only stayed open a short while — people realised that it was a rip-off operation and weren't going to fall for it. But because the places for us to meet are few, and so many of us are isolated from one another because we do not feel able to be what we are openly at all times, we tend to be aggressively single-minded about getting someone home to bed when we do meet en masse. And this leads to the unthinking and inhuman treatment of other people as bed-fodder, judging them solely on the basis of their look and style, not as people.

We don't like that attitude very much. It's so much nicer going to bed with people you like, people you know, people you care about — in other words, to have friends you get to bed with now and again.

Thirdly, We believe in honesty. At all times, in all places. It's incredibly hard. It hurts, especially if you're not used to it. But it is really worth it. It really is worth the effort. So playing straight is not our game — indeed, we try not to play any games, or if we do, at least be aware of them.

So, at the moment, there is very little of value . . . for the simple reason that anything gay people have has been granted or provided after much pressure by the very begrudging majority. A majority that is ignorant of us,

doesn't like us, and doesn't want us. So we end up with what they think we deserve — and most of it is very dingy and expensive tat. If we really want anything of lasting value, we must create it ourselves; get together and do it. If that means staying an isolated minority for a while, that's exactly what they want us to be. But it also means that we can show them, prove to them that we can do very well without them thank you, that we don't need them. That we have every bit as much to offer to the human race as they have, and if they want it, they must come and get it. We here at Gay News don't want two worlds, gay and non-gay. We want one world for everybody. For all that to happen, they must see us, know us, respect us, and actively want to be part of what we are doing as much as some of us want to be part of what they are doing (and that involves conventional society changing too — we don't want to be part of it as it stands).

We made our beginning with a newspaper. Others do it in the various movements (though it would help if the movements stopped bitching one another and actually got together to do something). We would hope that the paper will stay out of those inter-movements politics, bridge some of the gaps, and perhaps become a nucleus for the more positive side of gay culture. At the moment we are preoccupied with trying to survive. But what we want to do . . . to be really national, with regional offices, to have really much less cramped premises here, to start a counselling service for people in trouble, to run a club. We get letters, lots of them, that show how cut off, how lonely, how tired-of-things-as-they-are people are. We want to do something about it. All of us, all of you.

If we could all get together and do something like that, we could spawn a whole new beginning for straight society as well as for ourselves. It's a dream. It's a long way into the future. It could start now. But does anybody care?

Pitville Circus,
Cheltenham.

Dear Collective,

Some random thoughts about you, provoked by No. 3. First, thank you for existing. The personal ad column alone should have demonstrated to the MPs you visited that you perform a valuable social function. With a background much like that of 'Neville Gadd', I too wondered what I was letting myself in for. I have so far only found one item offensive, and that was the advertisement for the Maltese meat market in No. 3. If the law ever descends on you, it will have been provoked not surely by your ads (though they may provide the legal pretext) but by the degrading *tone* of letters such as this. I wonder if others thought it inappropriate for what aspires to be a national newspaper?

I appreciate that as a collective your right hand may not know what its left hand is doing, but I wish one of them could spare the time for a bit of proofreading! If I lived in London, I'd come and do the job for you free. It's a shock to see 'Samaritans' spelt 'Samaritians' in a headline! Accuracy of detail is, I'm afraid, an essential element in the confidence one puts in a newspaper.

It would help if you mentioned whether answers to ads have to be individually stamped: one might want to answer two at once or enclose one in a letter to you, and presumably you forward them under separate cover.

Some of your statements I find very baffling. How could Doug Pollard find 'unpleasant and unnecessary moral attitudes' in that valuable article on VD? It would need an advanced case of persecution mania to discover any moral attitude whatever in that clinically dispassionate prose. Let's have more of it!

Finally, 'Neville Gadd' is missing a lot in life, I fear, through his preoccupation with the 'age barrier' whatever that is. The fact is surely that the number of years one has lived has precious little to do with one's value and charm as a human being. Different aspects of the human entity age at different rates; some people improve physically as they mature; some seem to grow younger with age. I know of one 44"-chested butch of 50 who is twice the man he was as a sallow short-sighted priggish bookworm of 25. I wonder whom of the two Neville would prefer?

David Blount

Campaign for Homosexual Equality,
28 Kennedy Street,
Manchester.

Dear Mr. N

Thank you for your letter received the other day with regard to "Gay News". I am sorry that you did not like this publication but would point out that it is an independent newspaper and in no way a CHE enterprise. I am, therefore sending your letter on to "Gay News" for them to deal with.

Yours sincerely,
Paul Temperton
General Secretary.

London, N.4.

Dear Sir,

I am a member of CHE and belong to Group 12 London. Last Thursday evening I bought a copy of a paper called Gay News no. 3. Well of all silly papers I ever read.

On page 3 there is a small advert about "Danger Police at Work" in toilets. Does this mean all other toilets are safe?

On page 8 there is an article on V.D., which does not give one much confidence about going to be treated. In 30 years of going to be treated never has anyone ever said anything to me. Also on page 8 the Samaritans comes in for a bash. Where does one go for advice? Can you suggest?

On page 7 there is an article on the "Biograph". So gay so wonderful. But no mention of the people who get a good bashing there.

Also on page 7 there is an article on the CHE correspondence column being used for procuring sex. Does this mean that CHE will help a person if letters are opened by Police?

I would go on if this fell into the hands of a young person it would do damage. For instance the address of two cottages to add to list, I never knew that cottages were gay in Battersea Park.

I thought that CHE was to bring people's mind above cottage level.

If anyone wanted to prove that homosexuals are dirty and depraved here is the very paper.

Yours with Disgust.
B. N

London S.E.11.

Dear Gay News,

I have just read your first issue and would like to reply to Lord Arran's comments.

Whilst he expresses concern for our "sociological and spiritual position" he fails to see why we need our own newspapers.

Homosexuals are a part of the community but within this we are a distinct social group, whose existence society would suppress. The images of ourselves with which we live are those fostered by heterosexuals and it is a lack of a common Gay identity, and the resultant isolation which has led to the personal problems of so many homosexuals.

Straight people have the security of an established culture with which to re-act, and if we are to develop fully as individuals we must assert our own cultural identity at every opportunity.

It is for this reason that your paper is of importance to us all.

T. Howard.

"POSSE"
16, St. Saviourgate
York

Dear Gay News,

The paper seems to be going quite well; we've sold all bar one or two of No. 3, and people are coming back to pick up copies of Nos. 1 and 2. It's a pity but we're not making contact with many of the people who're buying the paper (even though Arthur and I look anything but straight goodness knows); lots of people flash past and pick one up embarrassedly like buying Durex in the Chemists. Still, maybe time will tell.

WOOF (of Posse)

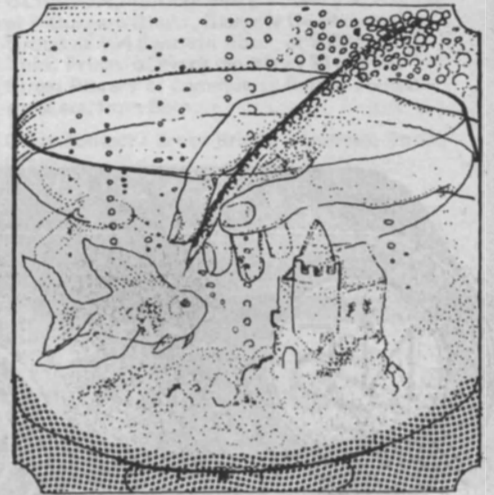


Illustration by Jean-Claude Thevenin

Knightsbridge,
London, S.W.1.

Dear Gay News,

I would like to congratulate you on getting a gay paper published for the benefit of gay people and after reading the first issue (I missed the second one being abroad on holiday) I feel that it is something that has long been needed. I only hope that you do not fold up like so many other mags have done in the past, i.e., Jeremy, Spartacus etc.

The price is reasonable, the cost of the ads are not excessive and the news items and features appear to be very good and easy reading. The main thing is that your paper is a means of being in touch with other gay people which can't be bad and can only bring relief and relaxation with the possibility of meeting others like one self.

You may possibly be able to give an answer or advice to the following query.

I have been told by lots of acquaintances that quite a lot of youngsters prefer older men for company, but whilst I am not senile! (just over 40) I have tried unsuccessfully by means of ads, visits to pubs (which I am not very fond of), joining CHE, rather boring at times, without success. I wouldn't say I was ugly but as far as I can see most youngsters prefer people their own age or thereabouts and I am not blaming them, however unfortunately I am one of the gays who are much happier in young peoples company, providing they are genuine and not making it obvious that they are tolerating one for their generosity or what they can get out of them.

Anyway it is nice to be able to put on paper ones' thoughts and if I can be of any help in running your paper, (not selling I'm afraid), I will be only too pleased to do so in an administrative capacity, home typing etc.

I only hope I have not bored you with my letter or offended anyone and would like to wish you all the success with Gay News and hope it continues to be published and gets better as time goes on.

Charles G. Brown

If any reader wishes to contact the writer of the above letter, please send your letter care of Gay News and we will forward it on to him.

Gateshead,
Co. Durham.

Dear Gay News,

You are doing an absolutely splendid job which I would have thought to be economically impossible and almost as impossible to get out a gay paper that's representative and not dominated by one particular line.

I only hope you get the support you deserve — I'll certainly do my best to get other people to buy it.

Richard Webster

Coleraine,
Co. Derry,
Northern Ireland

Dear Gay News,

With Ulster's other troubles always in the headlines, who thinks of the plight of the province's gay population?

First, the law. Under Northern Irish law, we are allowed to breath — as long as it's in private, with consenting oxygen molecules over the age of twenty-one.

The first convenor of the now dead Belfast C.H.E. group wrote to the last two prime ministers, and received similar answers, to the effect that legal reform didn't seem really necessary, as the old law wasn't used very much, and anyway there didn't appear to be any real demand for reform.

That about sums up the official attitude. The attitude of the general public is about the same as in England — the working class don't give a monkey's either way, the middle class are against any change in a nice system that suits them. How does one convince them that a bad, stupid law should be scrapped, rather than kept as a curiosity?

There is also the lack of facilities to consider. Belfast has one (yes, I said one!) gay bar. There were two others about fifty-fifty, gay and straight, but they are suffering from a slight case of bomb damage at the moment. For the wanderer benighted in the backwoods, the last resort (only fucking resort!) is the lounge of the Royal Avenue Hotel.

Queen's (?) University has a flourishing G.L.F. group — address on the back page. Drop in on them if you're passing through, they'll be glad to see you.

And if you're unlucky enough to be passing through Coleraine (The wages of sin is death!) and if you're male and under thirty, well I'm sure Gay News would let you have my address.

Also, if any reader is starting his or her studies at the New University of Ulster at Coleraine, and is interested in forming a group in this area, I would be thoroughly delighted to hear from him or her, or them.

Dear Gay News, please get my name right this time! Your last misprint, for some reason, caused extreme mirth to a straight friend — odd how one mislabeled 'u' can have that effect.

Sam Frizzell, jnr.

Your Letters

Cliftonville
Margate
Kent

Dear Friends,

Having lived in the borough of Margate for a year and a half, I am finding it not as dead as I at first thought. Gay people are gradually turning up here and there, and trying to form some sort of social get together. It is always a slow process, as people still seem to like the 'exciting' cottage pick-up rather than respectable social introductions. Love is a very beautiful thing, if used properly and wisely.

As a yogi priest or monk, I have found out a lot about life in my thirty-nine years in this period of my full spiritual development. Gay people can love God without any feeling of guilt, as long as they are true to their nature, sincere and loyal, and steer away from man-made religions and all the unhappiness and guilt they have caused.

My personal advice to gay people is to form loyal balanced friendships with as many people as possible, with or without sexual love. To keep healthy trim bodies as far as possible, and to love God through nature and peace.

Clive

Reading Gay Alliance
Room 7
30 London Road
Reading, Berks.

Dear Gay News,

Firstly, many congratulations on the launching and production of this much-needed paper. We in R.G.A. are much impressed by what you have so far produced and wish you all success for many editions to come.

Reading Gay Alliance is a group of gay people formed to promote the interests of homosexuals in our area. We are an umbrella organisation consisting of CHE and GLF members, both men and women, including people who do not belong to any existing established group.

Fortnightly we publish a newsletter for all interested parties, called Gay Arrow, and this, and any other information about us, can be obtained by writing to the above address.

Yours very sincerely

Reading Gay Alliance.

The Queens' Delight

"What's Up Doc?" Directed by Peter Bogdanovich. Starring Barbara Streisand, Ryan O'Neal. 93 mins. Distributed by Columbia-Warner

Have you ever seen a funny film and then attempted to repeat it to your friends. You stand there explaining every funny moment, working yourself to a frazzle doing it, and all the time having a ball reliving those moments. Then you glance at your friend's face, sitting there with a bored expression, and you realise you're "dying a death". Well each of us has surely done this in the past, and therefore I'm not going to waste time repeating each and every gag that occurs in this very funny film. Suffice to say that it involves four identical travelling bags and the chase that ensues involving a large cast of mostly new faces to the screen.

First and foremost one must mention Peter Bogdanovich the director of that telling saga of mid-West America 'The last picture show'. This is about as far removed from that film as can be. Its almost as if he intentionally proves he can handle a comedy as well as he handled the latter drama.

The picture stars the delightful, delectable (apply your own adjective according to your admiration) Barbara Streisand again playing a crazy kook of a girl which she managed to perfection previously in 'The Owl and the



Barry Conley

Pussycat'. She's lumbered with Ryan O'Neal for a co-star and as rumour has it that he left his wife for Miss Streisand in real life I suppose we must expect to see him again in other films whilst the romance is on. He might be dishy to look at but personality he hasn't. But SHE has ... and how. Wearing some pretty ghastly outfits she manages once again to confuse the brain in that she looks one moment a raving beauty, and the next moment downright ugly.

These days she is known as 'The Queen's delight' and indeed there are precious few personalities around in films to rival her. With the passing of Judy Garland, the rare screen appearances of Bette Davis, and mere memories of Mae West in her hey day, we are ever hopeful that other new personalities might emerge in the coming years.

Apart from her brilliant comedy playing she warbles Porter's "You're the tops" over the credit titles, and later on a few bars of "As time goes by". Let us hope that she can be persuaded to make more screen appearances soon whilst we are waiting for future star personalities to arrive.

Not for Trendies

"Greatest Hits" - Simon & Garfunkel - CBS 69003

Simon & Garfunkel's Greatest Hits album is a fine memorial to a great duo who over the last six or seven years have produced some of the best and most pleasing popular music. It is a pity that they have finally decided to split up, although Paul Simon has already released a promising solo album. S & G's musical roots are in folk but with the passing of time and with the gaining of experience and production knowledge they have moved into the less limiting world of rock, and in the last year or so have been into what could be called 'symphonic' rock. But without losing sight of the simplicity and directness of folk music.

And as they have progressed, so has their following grown. But without them having to sacrifice their ideas and experiments to please this wider audience. In other words, they are one of the few acts to incorporate the wide spectrum of musical styles available and at the same time have been able to bridge the gap between peoples peculiar likes and dislikes.

Now-a-days, S & G are usually put down by the hipper-than-thou trendies, who seemingly need a new 'superstar' to worship every few weeks, and not artists who get better as they develop their talents. Not for them anymore is the singing duo who once only used to turn them on, for now S & G manage to communicate to Mums and Dads, 'squares' and 'straights', skinheads and greasers, and all the other social groups that aren't in the seventh heaven of hip-dom. And that's a shame for them because they have missed out on much good music and words; words that are more than just romantic sentiments and are valid, realistic comments and descriptions of the emotional states that are part of us all.

Simon & Garfunkel songs like *Bridge Over Troubled Water* and *America* are very much anthems of the times we live in. The two people in the latter song are looking for America - for an identity, and aren't we all looking so very hard for something; something that this materialistic, automated world is

unable to provide. And with a song like *Bridge Over Troubled Water*, there aren't many people who, in a serious loving relationship with another, couldn't have applied the words in the song to themselves.

If you have S & G's other albums, you may find it unnecessary to get this album, although 'live' versions of some of their hit singles are included here, but without them losing any of the power of the studio recorded versions. Also, despite their age, songs like *The Sound of Silence* and *I Am A Rock* still sound as convincing as ever, for me the imagery of *The Sound of Silence* is even more provocative and intriguing than it was before. Personally, I miss the non-inclusion of *At The Zoo* and *Baby Driver*, but all the other hits and well-known songs are there.

Greatest Hits albums quite often don't make it because the songs are out of context from the original way they were presented, or time doesn't allow songs from different periods in an artists career to jell well together. But with this album none of these problems arise. If you don't know S & G's earlier material this album is a good way of getting to hear it, and if you feel like rediscovering past favourites this is an ideal medium to do so. For me, this album will be regularly played for some time to come.

Denis Lemon.

Up Frankie Howerd

"Up The Front" Directed by Bob Kellet. Starring Frankie Howerd, Dora Bryan, Lance Percival, Bill Fraser, Zsa Zsa Gabor. Distributed by Anglo-EMI. Cert 'A' - 88 mins.

Oooh. No, what? Ah, yes No. Listen. Poor soul, no, don't laugh. Who else but Francis Howerd, master of the double entendre and the camp gesture. Not seen much these days on television, and in danger of being knocked off his throne in that media by Larry Grayson, having now transferred his talents to celluloid. Let me put it on record, before I continue, I have been a fan since Variety Bandbox (whoops, me age is showin'). So when I blatantly state that he is wasted on film it is for genuine concern for him as an artist. Perhaps it has something to do with the fact that I have always preferred him as a stand-up comic, and do not think that situation comedy is his forte. I do of course understand his desire to progress, remembering him so long ago pleading with Johnny Speight to write a film script for him. I wish he had. It was obviously a market he wanted to conquer, and did, his first two films being box-office hits. But I always thought he was selecting his material with a care for his image. Like the late great Tony Hancock whose intention to move in a more artistic direction failed and tragically lost him his public and eventually

his soul, maybe Frankie Howerd saw the moral. Although I would much rather sit through and enjoy the underrated 'Punch and Judy Man' than 'Up the Front'.

The plot, as with the laughs, is thin, woven around Lurk (Howerd) as a loser, but under hypnosis, from a nice cameo role by Stanley Holloway, whose assistant has the most liquid jellified boobs I have ever seen, seeks to save England and become a war hero, which of course he does, by having the German master plan tattooed on his bum. Bill Fraser as 'Groping' (not just his name it's his hobby) is excellent and has better lines than the star, as does Lance Percival as a German Officer. Dora Bryan plays Dora Bryan again, constantly squeaking the appalling title song ... they don't write 'em like that any more, in fact they wrote better. But despite a few asides Frankie Howerd has little or no comic lines; the only high-camp high-spot where he has a chance to shine is the scene with Zsa Zsa Gabor, as Mata Hari. So as 'Carry Ons' do, so will the 'Ups', continuing ad infinitum. Me? I'm still diggin' the Runaway Bus Ian D. Baker.

BIOGRAPH REVIEW

Last issue Julian was a little peeved, in this one he's as cross and annoyed as someone with piles in Tangiers. Ooh, those silly people at Gay News who are responsible for the pasting up of the paper. No doubt you know what I'm talking about, just in case you don't, take a look at my last Bio review and see what those naughty people did with it. The beginning is alright, but the second paragraph is a passage from the middle of my piece, the paragraph that ties in with my opening is somewhere in the middle, and my review of the first films showing that fortnight somehow ends up at the end of the whole article. I will have to forgive them I suppose, especially after giving me an absolutely divine lettering for Biograph Review. And that little illustration of my favourite bag at the end by my signature is very nice. One wonders what else of my personal attire will end up there. So 'boys' and 'girls' of Gay News, watch, or else Julian will do a number of you, know what I mean 'loves'.

Now let me tell you of the films showing at the end of August and at the beginning of September at our little haven, the Biograph. On Thursday 24th August, for three days, Jean Seberg (lovely lady) and David Jannsen star together in *Macho Callahan*. God knows what this is about, I've never heard of it, and even I can't think of something witty to say about it. *Macho Maudling* perhaps? Support feature is *Rider On The Rain*, an exciting thriller, if the beloved Bio staff can manage to get the reels in the correct order. I wonder if anyone would notice though? The cast of this little beauty are Charles Bronson and Marlene Jobert.

Sunday 27th August is Western Sunday at the Bio. Henry Fonda pops up again, ably supported by James Stewart (what a man!), in *Firecreek*, whilst Stewart Granger (another old man of the West) stars in *Flaming Frontier*. If you're into cowboys, this is for you.

When *Dinosaurs Ruled The Earth* with Patrick Allen and Victoria Vetri is showing for three days commencing on Monday 28th August. Times have changed, it's my friend who thinks he rules earth now, and me especially. But I like it. Really though, it's a super film if you like that sort of thing. Hammer films produced this historic piece. Also showing is *Me, Me, Me And The Others*. What others? Gina (don't say it when you're tipsy) Lollobrigida and Walter Chiari are the principle actors in this bit of nonsense.

Thursday 31st August, for three days, has *The People Next Door* and *C.C. And Company* playing together. Well they might. Eli Wallach and Julie Harris do their thing in the former, whilst Ann-Margret (again) and Joe Namath perform together in the latter. Both portray middle-class America, are made by middle-class Americans, for middle-class Americans. Sure you'll love them dears.

Treats on Sunday 3rd September for us. Richard (throb) Egan stars in *Chubasco*. But even more thrillingly is another appearance by Rod Taylor, this time in *Hotel*. Rod shares acting credits with his friend Melvyn Douglas, and have they got their claws sharpened!

Sunflower, with Sophia Loren and Marcello Mastroianni (Fellini's friend), is showing for three days starting Monday 4th September. Not such a bad film, it certainly hasn't deserved the limited screenings it has had so far. One up for the Bio. Support is *An Eye For An Eye* starring Robert Lansing, who lances his way through this second feature attempted thrill-maker. Good B movie, ideal companion for the rather soft

main feature.

Future delights at the Bio in early September are the 'wicked' *Baby Love*, and *Cosa Nostra - Arch Enemy Of The F.B.I.*, with our old friend from *Burke's Law* (remember?) Efram Zimbalist Jnr. in the starring role.

Before I leave you let me say "knickers" to Mr. Copeland and his sergeant-at-arms Mr. Nesbit (or something like that). Seriously though, please gentlemen don't take things so seriously, everything can be fun, really. And please Gay News staff try and get my para's in the right order (no offence soldier). Bye for now loves.

Ed. Did you notice Julian's deliberate mistake?

Julian Denis
Grampson

Thursday 24th August
Macho Callahan : AA : David Jannsen & Jean Seberg
Rider On The Rain : AA : Charles Bronson & Marlene Jobert
Sunday 27th August
Firecreek : A : James Stewart & Henry Fonda
Flaming Frontier : U : Stewart Granger
Monday 28th August
When Dinosaurs Ruled The Earth : A : Patrick Allen & Victoria Vetri
Me, Me, Me And The Others : A : Walter Chiari & Gina Lollobrigida
Thursday 31st August
The People Next Door : X : Eli Wallach & Julie Harris
C.C. And Company : X : Ann-Margret & Joe Namath
Sunday 3rd September
Chubasco : A : Richard Egan
Hotel : A : Rod Taylor & Melvyn Douglas
Monday 4th September
Sunflower : A : Sophia Loren & Marcello Mastroianni
Eye For An Eye : A : Robert Lansing
Thursday 7th September
Baby Love : X : Ann Lynn & Linda Hayden
The Hell Benders : X : Joseph Cotten
The Biograph,
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follow-up

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Tyneside CHE

23 members and guests came to the first meeting of Tyneside CHE which was held in Jesmond on Tuesday, July 25th, among them members of the North Yorkshire/South Durham and Nottingham groups, and of GLF, as well as others of us whose first experience it was of a gathering of this kind. Our Convenor, David, at once demonstrated his talent for creating a relaxed, informal atmosphere by faultlessly introducing every one of us by name to the last arrivals, and Derek, who had very kindly given us his hospitality, helped to make us feel very much at home by producing coffee at just the right moment before the talking started.

David, introducing the meeting, kept up the informality by suggesting that we first get to know each other and our thoughts about the Group before getting down to the business of constitutions, committees and subscriptions at a later date. Any fears that we might turn out to be a tongue-tied lot were quickly dispelled, and some pretty lively discussion took place on the balance we should keep between carrying out the campaigning and educational objects of CHE and the fulfilling of social needs. Most of us seemed to agree that there need be no clash between the two, and that as well as furthering in every way we could the aims of the Campaign, we should also make our Group a socially attractive one (which it looks like being anyway), with special emphasis on helping those who have been victims of social isolation. David undertook to discover our "hidden talents" in the form of a questionnaire.

On the subject of meeting-places, most people thought Newcastle would generally be the most convenient centre, but that we should aim to vary our surroundings at the homes of members who were able to offer hospitality. For the more organised monthly occasion, the possibility of our being able to use a private room at the Percy Arms would be investigated, also the Quakers' Hall, and David mentioned that there was a chance of his being able to negotiate the use of other licensed premises where we could meet in privacy. Inevitably no one evening in the week would be equally convenient for us all and, though on Tuesday the Tuesdayites were in the majority, we

would see how the evening could best be varied. Meetings with guest speakers from a distance might need to be on Fridays, and we resolved to invite as our first guest to speak National Executive member Ike Cowen, legal adviser to CHE, whose recent talk in Durham had been enjoyed enough for those who had heard him there to want to hear him speak again. We hope he will be able to come up towards the end of September.

Michael suggested the very valuable possibility of our being able to make eventual use of office facilities which GLF are hoping to acquire in Newcastle, and our thanks are due to Ken who is giving up his time and facilities for the duplication of material like this, and also to Alan who has offered the same essential service.

There was such a generous response to David's request for offers of transport that there will be no difficulty over arranging a ferry service from Newcastle for anyone who needs it to our next meeting at David's at North Shields on August 8th. An equally generous response to the plate which was passed around to cover immediate expenses raised £2.54, and since Derek absolutely refused to allow us to reimburse him we actually start with something in the kitty.

I think we all found it was a most encouraging beginning. Tyneside may have been the last major region to form a Group, but from Tuesday's experience it looks as if our late starter may well surprise some of its elders.

Richard

Prejudice hinders Law Manchester Police Victimize Gay Robbery Victim

In the early hours of July 16th, 23-year-old John Ash left his two lesbian friends outside the Picador, a gay club in Manchester. He began to walk through town to catch his bus home. In Sackville Street he was approached by five youths who suddenly surrounded him and demanded his wallet. The street was deserted and they began to push and kick him. John was carrying £7, which he gave them. They then ran off.

John reported the incident to the police shortly afterwards, and was interviewed by a member of the C.I.D. The policeman asked where he had been and who with. John replied and when the police asked the names of the girls he had been with earlier, John gave them.

The policeman then asked, "Are either of those ladies your girlfriend?" When John replied that they were not, the policeman said, "Mr. Ash, are you a homosexual?" John said that he was, but could not see why that was relevant to the robbery. The interview went on, and the policeman eventually told John that his story was not consistent. The policeman brusquely asked him why he had not cried out or ran away.

John was by this time not only shaken by the robbery but also bewildered by the aggressive and antagonistic police questioning. John explained that there was no time to cry out,

and that the street was deserted anyway. As for running away - he was encircled by the heavily-booted boys.

The police would not accept this, despite the obvious evidence of John's cuts and grazes. John left the police station convinced that they had no intention of trying to find the robbers.

He wrote to Gerald Kaufmann, his M.P., who has said that he will take the matter up directly with the Chief Constable.

The implications of this are grim. Although the police ask for public cooperation in this sort of robbery, the fact that you are homosexual obviously affects the police attitude.

Suffice to say that none of John Ash's gay friends in Manchester would now appeal to the police for any assistance whatsoever.

Glenys Parry

Here They Come Again

22 men were held for trial after a police raid on a nightclub in Tangier last Saturday (12th August). More than 80 men were originally arrested, but most of them were released, including two male dancers from the Royal Ballet. The raid occurred after complaints about men in drag, men dancing together, "nudity and obscene gestures in public", and "debauchery of minors". The club is called "The Blow-Up".

Meanwhile back in dear old G.B., Newham Council have closed their "vapour baths" because someone saw two men "behaving indecently" there, called the police, and had them arrested for gross indecency. The men were subsequently fined £30 each at West Ham court. The council caused some considerable rumpus by closing the baths without any notice, until they can take steps to "increase supervision".

Tangier or Newham, it's a hard life and a short one.
Reuters, Evening Standard, and Newham Recorder
..... thanks.

Crabs and The Law

Dear G.N.,

Might I suggest you have a feature (if you haven't already) on How to Get Rid Of Crabs. They seem to be on too many people these days, and a lot of guys don't even know they've got them. Quickest method is a spray of Pestroly or Vamoose (dog powder) and a bath half an hour afterwards, but there may be better ways.

Oh, the cops have been acting very suspiciously in Hyde Park, just north of that bandstand where the cruising goes on. I was going through there the other night with a friend and we saw two figures up against a tree - turned out to be a couple of young cops (one of whom was gorgeous) with their helmets off, obviously out for some quick promotion. With a ready-made story no doubt cooked up already so that each could corroborate the other, what could be easier than to nab some innocent gay. Panda cars were also much in evidence, so to hell with all the robbery and violence everywhere else - just a short spell in Hyde Park and you are a detective constable in no time. Please warn your readers!

E.

Gay Corner

Members of Campaign for Homosexual Equality stood up to be counted for the second time at London's Speakers' Corner on Sunday August 13.

Even though the five speakers took just under an hour to outline the main points of the gay-oppression struggle, CHE managed to gather a good crowd of some 300 or 400. And, better still, the speakers held that crowd despite the heckling from both sympathisers and opponents of homosexual equality.

The most striking thing about the meeting was the fact that there just weren't many interruptions, as well as one of the speakers being unexpected.

A guy called Bill stood up. He'd never heard of CHE or GLF, but he was gay and proud of it. He wanted the people to know

that. He thought homosexuality and intelligence were interlinked. "Many of the most intelligent people in history were gay", he said.

One of the best speakers was Jacquie Forster. She stood up and said: "You're looking at a roaring lesbian." Then she pleaded for people to drop labelling everyone else. "We lesbians aren't trying to get into your wife's knickers all the time."

Jackie was a forceful speaker and she got a lot of laughs, which helped offset the rather earnest tone of the rest of the meeting.

But even if there are some criticisms you can make of the CHE meeting, one thing's for sure - it took a lot of guts to stand up there and say "I'm gay and I'm proud."



"You are looking at a roaring lesbian", said Jacquie!

Scots Bits

Councillor Kidd reads Gay News!

The most surprising thing about Councillor Kidd's letter is that he actually read the newspaper.

Councillor Kidd is well known in Edinburgh and derided by all political factions. He is a fool and an imposter of the first order. His preoccupation with homosexuals borders on the sick. As I have said before (as Chairman of S.M.G.), he seems to have an unusual knowledge of the goings-on of a certain sector of the homosexual community in Edinburgh. Kidd has commented several times on the "sick fairies of Calton Hill" and he's publicly threatened to set the police dogs on gay men who frequent the Hill.

Who is Councillor Kidd? He slipped into Edinburgh in 1947, sat as a Progressive on the Council until the late 1950's, and is now an Independent Councillor for Newington. He is lazy and does not attend for the full duration of Council Meetings (but does eat up the free lunches!) He provides an effective voice for the reactionary Right Wing of

Edinburgh's Town Council. He can safely be ignored: there are many fine men - Councillors Christie, Hoy, Smith, Laurie and Ross for example - who are openly gay or who support S.M.G.'s local fight for gay rights.

Ian Dunn

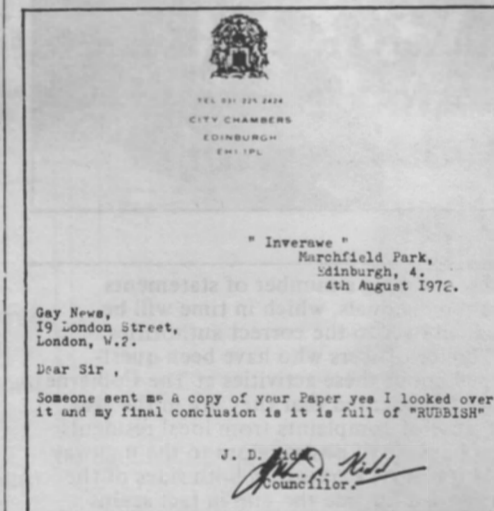
Premises Progress

At a specially convened Policy Meeting on 29 May SMG EDINBURGH took the crucial decision to look for premises for the Edinburgh Branch. Expenditure of up to £15,000 was authorised, and quick cash backing for up to one third of this amount was received from two or three of the Members at that meeting. The meeting warmly welcomed John Compass' offer to examine likely premises with a view to purchase. His expert knowledge will be invaluable, as will be the advice of several other people whose views have been sought. We are looking for premises which will include a large hall (theatre/dance), a bar, a library/quiet room and space for offices. If we are fortunate there could be a house-manager's flat and space for diverse group meetings.

SMG Women

Progress continues in both Edinburgh and Glasgow with the occasional recruit also enrolling from outside the two main centres. One happy feature is that the women appear to be becoming less "introverted" and are taking an ever increasing part in the general meetings and activities. One related problem which has arisen: a hospitalised non-member, but lesbian, requires accommodation for a period of one month in order to secure discharge from hospital. This could be with either a host or a hostess, and in any area. For full details apply to SMG NEWS. Helping others inevitably puts ourselves to some inconvenience. But if the welfare aspect of SMG is to be a practical reality rather than a lip-service deal we have to be prepared to do just this. So... offers of help, please.

Reprinted, with love, from the Scottish Minorities 'SMG News'.



Fulham

Fulham police are smarting from the defeat they suffered in the gay dance queer bashing case at West London Court.

Tony Reynolds, 21, one of the organisers of GLF's Youth and Education Group and of Gay Pride Week, was charged with using threatening behaviour outside Fulham Town Hall.

With the court's public gallery packed to capacity with GLF members, some of them in full drag, the magistrates were told of how a gay left the GLF dance on July 7 and was beaten up - needing four stitches in the cuts in his face (reported in GN3). Sgt Mervyn Sault said Tony shouted

obscenities and raised his arm, with his fist clenched, at a group of youths standing on the other side of the road.

Tony told the magistrates he had shouted: "Look there's one of them. He's laughing and joking with them - British justice!" But he'd said nothing obscene - in fact, he rarely swore. He didn't clench his fist.

Three witnesses appeared to corroborate Tony's evidence.

The police did not attempt to deny that they had been laughing and joking with the queer bashers, and had to withdraw a charge of using threatening words.

The final egg on the law's face came when a well-wisher handed Tony the £5 from the public gallery to pay his derisory fine.

A Thoroughly Responsible Paper

The freedom of the British press is something we have all learned to value. Usually this is understood to mean that our newspapers are not controlled or censored by the government, the state, the police or the army. Publish and be damned is still a good slogan.

However, this freedom is also assumed to mean that individuals and groups of individuals have the right to reply to attacks made upon them by individual newspapers. Quite often this right is freely given. You will find in general that all contentious topics are given a pretty free airing from both sides, whether it is scientology in dispute or Sir Basil Spence's erection.

A significant exception was made recently though by The Sunday Telegraph. On Sunday, June 25th the following item appeared in that paper's column of pungent tit-bits called To the Point; —



Gents' Directory

LEAVING aside any dispute about the power of judges to make what is in effect new law, there will be general satisfaction that they have declared to be illegal any advertisement designed to put homosexuals in contact with one another.

It has now become clear that the concept of privacy enshrined in the Wolfenden Act should have applied, not only to homosexual practices as such, but to anything likely to encourage them. The Act was intended to protect an unfortunate minority from persecution, but not to empower them to spread their deviant ideas in society at large.

Presumably no one would dispute the S. Telegraph's right to express such an opinion. Some people might question the use of emotive language — eg. 'unfortunate', 'empower' and 'deviant ideas', not to mention the use of 'their' with its establishment of a 'them' and 'us' division.

Quite naturally though the paragraphs upset a great many homosexual men and women. And several immediately wrote to the newspaper.

Dear Sir,

I would like to take issue with you, as no doubt others of your readers have done, over last week's article entitled 'Gents' Directory'.

You leave aside the question of whether it is right that the judiciary should usurp the legislature's function by effectively making laws to cover what a few unelected judges consider to be Parliament's omission. I have not seen in your columns an equal lack of concern at, for example, left wing youth groups which similarly by-pass the established democratic channels from time to time.

You assert that the denial of advertising rights to homosexuals will meet with general satisfaction. Among the one in twenty homosexuals who read and write for the Sunday Telegraph? Among those who believe in one law for all citizens and abhor discrimination against minorities? Among those concerned at the isolation and despair often faced by homosexuals denied the opportunity for social contact and fulfilling relationships because you do not like them?

You claim that the Sexual Offences Act intended to protect homosexuals from persecution. The Act indeed allowed consenting adult male homosexuals a limited freedom at

law. But society persistently denies homosexuals the opportunity to exercise that limited freedom. You justify this with the emotive concept of homosexuals 'spreading their deviant ideas in society at large!' We do this, apparently, by seeking to contact other homosexuals via advertisements, just as heterosexuals freely do, on a much larger scale. And if they feel the need, in an entirely heterosexually orientated society, how much more so must we!

The outcry against this social persecution has only just begun. We are comforted by the knowledge that, although this is and must be our battle, we are not alone.

Tony Ryde, (Vice Chairman Campaign for Homosexual Equality) 28 Kennedy St., Manchester.

Dear Sir,

Your editorial comment on homosexuals (Gent's Directory, last Sunday) has brought considerable and unnecessary distress to a great many people. The note is based on the misconception (which a little unbiased research would have swiftly corrected) that homosexuality is infectious. When a homosexual advertises for companionship then only another homosexual is interested. Society at large remains unaffected.

Surely you would agree that one's sexuality can hardly be dismissed as a mere idea, but is an inescapable fact of one's personality.

What you refer to as the "spread (of) deviant ideas" is the simple assertion that the homosexual man and woman have a human right to exist in equality with our heterosexual brothers and sisters. A society which happily accepts our contribution to its economy (mostly greater than that of married people) yet continues to condemn us to a crippling emotional isolation might itself be judged deviant.

Roger Baker
Press Officer: CHE
28 Kennedy St.
Manchester.

Dear Sir,

I was dismayed to read your editorial "Gents' Directory".

To many heterosexual adults, the subject of homosexuality appears to be aligned with pornography, bestiality and intentions to deprave. Anyone admitting to being a homosexual is branded as unclean and considered fair sport for either mental or physical punishment.

This is manifestly unjust. It is surely the case that homosexuals are by accident of birth made what they are. How many of your readers would endorse your condemnation if it were directed at another branch of society different from the norm of which there are so many tragic examples

I do not agree with the aims of the Gay Liberation Front and others which appear to show the homosexual as superior to his

brethren but I am sure that the majority of this section of the population merely want to be accepted for what they are and have the equal rights to which we subscribe in every other walk of life.

In the present isolated environment that has been forced on them, why should we even now deny them the right to try and establish contact with each other? Your own endorsement sir, of the recent Court ruling aggravates the present bigotry and further delays the coming of a free and well adjusted society.

Anonymous

Dear Sir,

I read with astonishment your editorial 'Gents' Directory'. I can only hope that your extremely distasteful and hostile remarks stem from a complete ignorance of the nature and effect of homosexuality, rather than a wilful desire to inflict suffering by perpetuating wicked myths.

I and my colleagues, who include doctors, surgeons and priests, have daily brought home to us the misery and unhappiness of that minority whom you gratuitously describe as 'unfortunate'. Our clients problems are not caused by their homosexuality but by the very attitudes within society towards homosexuals as exemplified by your editorial.

If, as a responsible, opinion forming member of that society, you should wish to discover the truth, I and my colleagues would welcome the opportunity to inform you of our work. If, however, your prejudice will not permit you to take up our offer, then I hope your conscience will restrain you from publishing such ill-informed editorials in the future.

Michael Launder
(National Organiser)
Friend,
Broadley Terrace,
London, N.W.1.

These are clearly sensible, reasoned letters, hardly the work of maniacs or cranks. But of course, none were published. Instead, Brian Roberts the 68-year-old editor of the Sunday Telegraph took what seems to be the unusual step of replying personally to his correspondents.

Sunday Telegraph
Fleet Street,
London, E.C.4.
Tel: 01-353 4242

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of June 28. There is nothing in our editorial which I wish to withdraw. It did not attack the protection afforded to homosexuals by the Act. In rightly supporting the recent Court ruling against advertising, it took into account that there must be many that I might call "borderline" homosexuals whose often courageous resistance to homosexual practices should not be undermined by such proselytising. Tolerance is

one thing, encouragement another.
B.R. Roberts
Editor

One could, of course, go on for several paragraphs about the implications and — perhaps more important — assumptions of Mr. Roberts' letter. Tony Ryde, in fact, did reply, as follows:—

Dear Mr. Roberts,

Thank you for acknowledging my letter. I did not ask you to withdraw any part of your editorial but rather to recognise that there are other views, equally strongly felt and perhaps as widely supported. Perhaps you intend to publish such an alternative view this Sunday since presumably the Letters Column in the Sunday Telegraph, as is generally the case, doesn't have to reflect the Editor's personal opinion.

I recognise that your editorial did not attack the protection which the 1967 act affords to homosexuals (so long as they are over 21 and live in England); I do not think I suggested it did. Rather I pointed to the social persecution which continues unabated and is reflected by your own views, albeit in the guise of protecting borderline cases from temptation.

Of course there are borderline cases on both sides. If I, being predominantly homosexual am tempted to heterosexual practices neither I, nor I think you, will applaud as courageous any resistance I might offer. The morality or immorality, surely, depends not on the act but on the spirit. For you, as for the proponents of the 1967 Act, homosexuality is to be considered as intrinsically evil or sick. Whereas CHE, together with all homosexuals campaigning for full civil rights argues that truly fulfilling, responsible relationships have nothing to do with hetero- or homosexuality per se, but with people and personal values. The borderline homosexual therefore has an equal chance of, and right to, meaningful homosexual relationship as to a meaningful heterosexual one.

In any case you cannot contend that homosexual advertisements appeal primarily to 'borderline cases' and you will admit I think that trying, I believe misguidedly, to protect them you are denying a far greater number of confirmed homosexuals the opportunity to make contact with other confirmed homosexuals in the hope of relieving their loneliness and establishing mutually rewarding relationships. If CHE proselytises it is for this freedom which should be an unassailable right; so long as it is denied to us tolerance is pure fantasy.

Tony Ryde

What is disturbing about the whole episode is The Sunday Telegraph's inability to admit another point of view — and a point of view backed with rather more experience of the real situation that the author of the original article.

The Piccadilly Affair

One Thursday night I was at Piccadilly Circus, viewing the lights and minding my own business, when after a time, I got talking to a boy next to me, and in the course of the conversation he said he was from Australia. He had a slight Aussie twang in his voice (which was rather nice), his hair was fair, with pale blue eyes and freckles over his nose, which made him rather attractive to me. We talked for a time and then went for a cup of tea.

By this time, I had fallen in love with him, with his soft Aussie twang and his freckles, and his slim build, and he talked away quite freely, about everything. "Where do you live" I said, "Kent," he said, "What time is your last train" I said, "1.45" he said, "Well come down to my place and spend the time till your train time" which he did, good I thought, this boy will be mine for a few hours. Wow, I thought, wonderful, wonderful.

After a short taxi ride we arrived at my place, up the stairs and into my small bed-sit, and after a short period of time his beautiful,



slim, half-sunburnt, naked body was mine, there will be no need to tell you any details, only one thing, there was no response to me advances, he just lay there quite passive, letting me do the work, when the time came for him to go he got up and dressed himself, and as doing so he said, "you know the score, what about it", "About what" I said, "Come on, you know what I mean, my £5 plus my taxi fare back to the place where you found me".

I could not believe it, then I realised it was not me he wanted but my cash, then he realised that I was surprised and that I had not realised he was for rent when we were talking at Piccadilly, and I think that in a way he was sorry, by the way he talked after. We had a cup of tea and we talked and I gave him his £5 (may be daft on my part), and then he went for his train, and as he went out he said "I would like to see you again", "OK sometime", I said, and went back to my room and remembered a poem of long ago, it is;

You are not the boy of my prayers and tears
But of my love, my hope, my certainty
You are not a god you are the boy I am
You breathe in me my blood is yours
What I have you possess
As I hoped and wished
We shall henceforth be together for ever
And it is my turn to say to you
How splendid that is
always

If it be sin to love a lovely lad
Oh then sin I for whom my soul is sad

and I have been around Piccadilly a few times and seen my god from Australia with other people, then disappearing, how sad I am when it is not me who is with him, what can I do, can anyone tell me for I love the lad from Australia, love him with all my heart, do the people who rent themselves not realise, they are breaking peoples hearts in the process.

I'm not typical Tests For Lesbians-How Do You Tell?

"Dr. A.J. Eisinger and colleagues from London hospitals, London University, and Dundee University . . . set out to discover whether female homosexuals were different from heterosexual women . . . they compared forty-two lesbians, all members of a lesbian organisation who volunteered to help in the study, with a control group of mothers of the same age".

Apart from the implied assumption that lesbians are not sometimes mothers too, this seems a ridiculously small sample. Could not this diverse group of researchers have rustled up more subjects, with all the resources of London and Dundee at their disposal (especially all those gorgeous nurses)? And, surely, if all the gay girls had come far enough out to join a specifically lesbian organisation, they would not react 'typically' to a personality test. A minority within a minority is a dangerous choice for scientific research of this kind.

"No differences were found in the age of menarche between lesbians and the control group, nor were there any hormonal differences. It was also found that the secondary sexual characteristics, for example lack of facial hair in women, were normal for all the lesbians, and no differences were found in the external genitalia."

What did the good doctors expect? Perhaps to find a clitoris long enough to be capable of fucking, as beloved by the Victorian porn-writers, on every gay girl! It's a relief to know we aren't recognisable, anyway, isn't it girls? After all, the Nazis had measurement tests to determine who was Aryan and who a Jew, once upon a time.

"Measurements of body size did show the lesbians to be greater in stature and shoulder width than the control group, but Dr. Eisinger and his colleagues did not consider that difference to be significant".

Thanks! I'll stop my diet at once!

"Tests for masculinity revealed a difference between lesbians and the control group of 1.4 units, the lesbians being more masculine; but again, that is not a significant finding, as the normal difference between an average man and an average woman is 14 units. The differences in the investigation, however, disappeared when the larger size of the lesbians was taken into consideration".

Wonder what these tests were? Saliva sampling, like those victimised athletes, I suppose - or was it downing pints, driving a three ton truck, and selecting a suit and tie? With most people's preconceived ideas about lesbians, it could happen - almost.

"As a result of the tests, Dr Eisinger and his team conclude that there is no such thing as a typical lesbian physique".

Something one look inside the Gateways (suitable disguised in drag, of course) would have told them - and they would have had a bigger sample, instantly!

"The only significant difference in the physical appearance of the lesbians was that they all looked much older than their age, sometimes strikingly so".

"Poor things!" commented the gay guy who passed this report to Gay News. It seems to be the gay men who are preoccupied with the youth-and-beauty criteria, not the women, in general. Anyway, how the fuck do you scientifically determine how someone "looks older than their age"?

"Having failed to find any significant physical differences, (they) then gave the lesbians two personality tests, one of which measured anxiety, restlessness, tension and vulnerability to stress, and the other measured impulsiveness, sociability, empathy and gregariousness.

"In the first test, for neuroticism, the lesbians achieved a much higher score than normal, whereas for the second, extraversion, test, they scored significantly less than normal. That showed that the lesbians were prone to anxiety and nervousness, and had obsessive tendencies."

Some tests! They certainly tell a lot, don't they? They sound as omniscient as I Q tests were once believed to be - and just as suspect.

I suspect all such research, especially when the word 'normal' is used as above, but I do see a need for honest and thorough research into sexuality as a whole, considering the whole spectrum and relating to all sexes. As a small and lighthearted contribution, what about a Gay News poll on experiences and attitudes? any opinions and suggestions as to approach welcome Suki J. Pitcher.

I'm Tired of Being Gay

I've been gay (well actually bisexual with a strong homosexual bias) for as long as I can remember, and I'm completely adjusted to it. All my friends know, and accept me for what I am: even my parents accept me.

I'm tired of what being gay implies. To me, what it should imply is simply being myself, and preferring relationships with my own sex over those with the opposite sex. But what it actually does imply to all but a very few of the other gay people I know is being totally artificial and shallow, wearing smooth trendy clothes and expensive immaculate hairstyles, cutting oneself off from the straight world and isolating oneself in sordid clubs and pubs, picking up similar people for use-once-then-throw-away sex. It's just not for me.

I'm a great believer in human relationships and personal honesty within them: such relationships I could never have with any of

the gay people know. On the other hand, all my relationships with my straight friends - of both sexes - are so much more meaningful that I'm sorely tempted to give up being gay and try being "straight". If I were to repress my homosexuality in favour of heterosexuality it would not be because of oppression by the straight world but by the gay world. The only alternative would be to tread the downhill path into dishonesty, and become an institutionalised queen. I have seen one once-liberated gay do this, and now another - my ex-affair - is on the way down. It makes me despair. It makes me so sad that I'm tired of being gay.

Anonymous

Introducing FRIEND

FRIEND is an adjunct of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality, staffed by volunteers, carefully selected in consultation with our professional advisors.

We befriend, along similar lines to the Samaritans, homosexuals who have difficulty in establishing good personal relationships and in accepting themselves in a largely unsympathetic society.

We are supported by a team of professional advisors to whom we can refer problems outside our terms of reference.

Our aim is to expand our network of FRIEND Groups throughout the country and individual Befrienders where no Group exists. Co-ordination of London and national befriending is organised from Centre, which is the national headquarters of FRIEND.

If at any time you feel that FRIEND may be of help to someone who comes to you for assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us. There is, of course, no charge and all information received by FRIEND is held in the strictest confidence.

FRIEND is operative for personal callers at Centre on Monday & Friday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. Please try to let us know beforehand if someone is coming to see us. Address: Friend, Centre, Broadley Terrace, London NW1

Consenting poodle

Fan of Larry Grayson? So was I. Then he gave an interview to "Tit-Bits" (no, he's not one of their pin-ups).

He's so nice to his fans . . . "A lot of the queer people like me . . . I should hate people to think there's anything like that about me . . . I thought I'd only appeal to a certain section of the public, but it's not like that at all." He's discovered he can make money out of straights, too.

He says he lives with a woman of 62 and a twelve-year-old poodle. I wonder which one of them gives him "these terrible pains down my leg."? He gives me a pain somewhere else (and it certainly wouldn't be my arse).

He says he only does what he does for laughs. Anyone want a "Loveable Larry", going cheap? Perhaps I'll have a word with Julien

A Church for Gay People

If you had told me, just six months ago, that I would be spending a lot of time this year plugging the idea that there is a real need for a church movement that openly welcomes homosexuals, I would have laughed. Right now there are a lot of people laughing at me, plus a few who are quite hostile, but there are plenty more who are sympathetic and helpful.

How did I come to change my mind? In February this year I was in Los Angeles, and one Sunday afternoon a chance remark to a friend that I'd like to hear the Reverend Troy Perry preach resulted in us both going along to the Metropolitan Community Church. Like many others before us, we had read sensational press articles and so we went along out of curiosity, quite prepared to snigger and perhaps to sneer at this latest eccentric religious cult from California.

The church building is quite large, and was quite full by the start of the service. My estimate was a congregation of some 400, but I have learned that it must have been nearer 800. We were welcomed by those around us, as I believe is customary in America, and were struck by the full cross section of the public represented there: all ages, all (well, nearly) colours, male and female, gay and straight, affluent and not-so-well-off, couples and singles. I understand that 20% or more of the members of the church are sympathetic straights. As a badly lapsed, middle of the road member of the Church of England, I found the evangelical flavour of the service strange and it took me some time to warm up and feel part of things. A good stirring sermon on the Prodigal Son, and by the end of the service I was feeling for the first time in my life that here was a church that I could really feel at home with, and that homosexuality and Christianity are wholly compatible.

A couple of weekends later I was in Washington D.C., and went along to the church there, a smaller and fairly recently started branch of some forty or so members. Although I was a complete stranger to everyone there I was welcomed as a friend, and I now know that I need never feel lonely in any American city where there is a branch of the Metropolitan Community Church. This, for a start, is a lot more than can be said for going on tour with a guide to gay bars! One can feel just as much frozen hostility in American gay bars as one can over here.

So, really, I must in all honesty say that it's as much the actively friendly social side of things as the realisation that I have a religious side to my nature after all that has warmed me to the whole idea of a church movement aimed at gays. I've read what I can about the Metropolitan Community Church, and found

a lively organisation centred on Christian worship and charity, with a whole range of social activity, welfare work, counselling, prison visiting, law reform, non-violent anti-discrimination pressuring, all integral parts of the movement.

It is not my purpose in this article to do an exclusive advertising and selling job on the MCC. I've been a church drop-out for a good many years, and it's only since I came back from the States all fired with enthusiasm that I've started taking an interest in church matters relating to the homosexual and meeting churchmen.

I have learned for the first time how very many ministers and clergy are actively interested in the homosexual and his problems. I keep hearing that there is no need for yet another sect of Christianity in these days of ecumenical change, and that it can all be handled very nicely, thank you, by the existing churches. Well, perhaps it can - but I need to be convinced. St Paul said that faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Those who are outside the church, like myself, need to see for themselves that the churches care and that they welcome homosexuals without a lot of static about a fact of our natures over which we have no control. If the churches start doing something, instead of just talking about it, if they get out into the streets and the bars and show us that they really have something to offer, only then will I agree that there may be no need for the MCC to start up in Britain.

Meanwhile, the Revd Troy Perry is going to be visiting London for a few days from about 20th to 26th September. He will be talking to an open meeting in the Holborn Assembly Hall, thanks to CHE, at 8pm on Friday 22nd September. Some friends and I are trying to arrange other engagements, including press coverage, and I hope you will get in touch with me or keep an eye open for further news. He has four years of campaigning in America, and I know that we can all learn something from his experiences. Don't ask me about the MCC and the work it is doing in the States, ask him. All he is asking is that you come along and listen to what he has to say with an open mind.

Pete Goodwin
c/o 61, Earls Court Square, SW.5.

'Disgusting'

Sterlings bookshop, St Martins Lane, London has refused to stock Gay News because our covers are "disgusting" and cannot be displayed in a shop like this, which has been established since 1920". 1. The manager has never displayed the paper - "I'll sell it," he said when he saw issue one, "but I'll keep it for my regulars, I can't put it on show". 2. Sterlings is one of the best-known purveyors of gay-wank, near-porn fiction in London - seen the covers on a lot of current paper and hardback novels now cashing in on the 'queer-is-fashionable' media boom? Of course Sterlings has every one of these on open display.

Please - every time you have a lunch-time drink in the Salisbury, every time you cruise down St. Martins Lane, go in and ask for "The latest Gay News, please."

CAMP Fire Night.

NICHOLAS PARSONS is hosting a Camp Fire Night on Saturday in the grounds of Beechwood, Hampstead. The theme is a gipsy enCAMPment. Dinner boxes and wine are provided, with a firework display before midnight. Well heeled peg sellers only! Starting at 8pm, tickets £5.

SNIPPET
'Journey's End', currently at the Cambridge Theatre, London, is the definitive World One trenches play, and well worth seeing. It's an unashamed 'Well - made play', with plenty of manly comradeship and stiff upper lips, set in the officers mess dugout in the front lines.

The final credit reads: 'Tatoos by Mary Quant cosmetics.' Bona drag, darlings, and I love the dinky gas-masks!

Yours on top of hers

Quite recently, I went to my local GP (a male doctor) and told him I had begun to get severe pains in the groin and abdomen. His reply was "Oh, nothing to worry about. Plenty of women get it."

I then told him that I was sleeping with a girl who had had severe salpingitis quite recently - could I have caught it from her? "No, no - you're not lesbians or anything like that, are you?" I told him that, yes, we were. His attitude then became somewhat hostile - "Off to the VD clinic with you, then." - and he gave me some painkillers. He made no internal examination, and did not examine me in any other way.

The next week I was on holiday, and had to get antibiotics from the local GP, as I had begun to have attacks of sharp pains. I went back to my GP and told him this, and was given more painkillers and told to rest.

Later that week my girlfriend had to take me to the casualty dept. of the local hospital. I was given some pills and told to get more from the doctor, which I did.



On going to the VD clinic, I was asked whom I had slept with recently. I gave the names of about five women. They were not interested in these, and wanted to know when I had last slept with a man, so I told them, and said it was about six months ago. I kept going for check-ups, and was told I did not have VD, but an inflammation of the fallopian tubes.

The doctors' attitudes ranged from amusement, to sarcasm, and lastly open hostility. One of the doctors wanted to know if I was butch or femme. I explained that I wasn't into role-playing, etc., at which he was most amused and surprised, and wanted to question me further. I answered his questions, as I felt he needed educating, but he was merely titillated.

I asked him if it were possible for women

to transmit sexual infections to each other. He did not appear to know, and ended up by answering me in this fashion: "Well, I would imagine it would be rather difficult to get, er, 'yours' on top of 'hers', wouldn't it?" "No, it's not that difficult, actually." I then asked him if we would be at risk by plating each other (cunnilingus). He was very embarrassed by this, and again could give no definite answer.

I was given more pills, and will now have to go for further examinations.

In the first place, I think this could have been avoided with more help and interest from my doctor; in the second place, there should be more readily available information about transmission of VD etc. between women, as gay women do go to these clinics, and need help as much as anybody else.

GAYROCK

David Bowie, in concert at The Royal Festival Hall.

There comes a time when each of us has his turn to be right. But let me put that truism in perspective.

This year your reporter said this was going to be the year of "gay rock" And the year when David Bowie was going to happen.

He said it last year. And the year before. By now his ancients are used to dismissing these portentous statements by "Just because you fancy David Bowie" and that sort of thing.

This year Alice Cooper is getting friendly with snakes, the Kinks are living up to their name, the grounds of Elton John's Honky Chateau have turned into a camp-site. And Elton and Rod Stewart camped around with John Baldry on Top of the Pops.

Most important, Bowie is back in the top twenty singles for the first time since Space Oddity (1969) and he's well up in the album charts.



It's good to be right. And that brings us to the event.

THE EVENT: Saturday July 8th Bowie played at London's Royal Festival Hall in a benefit for the Friends of the Earth's Save The Whale campaign fund.

Bowie and Mott the Hoople were going to be equally billed. But Mott insisted on doing their full two hour act, which, with Bowie, makes the thing too long, so Mott drop out.

That leaves the boy from Brixton at the top of the bill. And makes the concert something of a coming out for him. And of a gay event.

Two weeks before the concert you couldn't get a seat in the RFH for deviant practices or money. Your reporter got in early with a couple of quid and there he was just a few yards out from the stage and enough amplification equipment to set up a small to medium sized radio station.

Kuddly Ken Everett is compere. Introduces Marmalade and the JSD Band, who replace Mott. It seems podgy Scots boys with glasses are in this week. They get a reasonable reception. But we're waiting for the Star.

The crowd isn't noticeably campy, even though the after shave lies slightly heavier on the air than at most concerts at the RFH.

And on stage, Bowie rampant.

Until now, Bowie's never been a star, but he's studied some of the best, like Garbo, Presley, and now he's on top he knows what to do.

Sometimes he plays guitar, sometimes just sings with his eerie thin voice, but sometimes that voice grows. Bowie is the understudy who's been waiting in the wings for years. Finally his Big Day comes, and he's got every step, every note, every voice-warble right. A star is born.

He's a showman alright. Even the pubescent girls who'd spent their Saturday-morning-at-Woolies wages on a seat, or crowded into the gangways, screamed.

He says, "Tonight we have a surprise for you". And everyone knows what it is. Lou Reed. The NME and the other pop papers carried that secret during the week in inch-and-a-half caps.

"Tonight we're going to do a number by the Cream - Free." Anti-climax swamps the hall.

But the Bowie voice is haunting in the few lines of words at the beginning of the number. Then he leaves it to the spiders to get on with it. They do-talented musicians that they are. Strobe lights on the gantry over them slow then into a far from silent movie, one frame at a time.

Then our David's back. Now he's in white satin space suit that leaves only how he managed to get into it to the imagination. Garbo on Mars

And, off-hand, he says: "If you've seen us before, you'll know we do some numbers by the Velvet Underground. And tonight we have, for the first on any stage in England, Lou Reed."

And the Velvets' former leading light bounds on in black to match Bowie's white. We get a set of Velvets numbers. David plays to Lou.

Lou plays to Mick. Mick plays to David. While they're having fun on stage there's enough electricity generated in the RFH to keep the national grid pulsing high voltage goodies all over the land.

They end, and the front several hundred of

the 3,000-plus crowd mobs the stage. Time for the expected encore.

Ziggy and the spiders reappear and do 'Suffragette City', orange handouts with their pictures on, explode from the stage.

In this hour-and-a-bit Bowie has passed from wild electric rock to simple ballads, such as 'Space Oddity' and a Jacques Brel poem, 'The Port of Amsterdam' and back to wild electric rock.

His words span concepts from science-fiction and the coming of a superrace to sexual liberation.

And that's what a lot came to hear, your reporter supposes. For Bowie is the totem of gay-rock. Lou Reed a "bisexual chauvinist pig."

But more important is the little girls who came to scream at Bowie's "bump" - as the groupy girls say - get turned on to sexual liberation.

And we all had a bloody good time.

David Bowie is probably the best rock musician in Britain now. One day he'll become as popular as he deserves to be. And that'll give gay-rock a very potent spokesman.

After the event:

Reporters in state of shock, deafened. So easily put off making prearranged backstage tryst with the Bowie circus by unfriendly lady from Friends Of the Earth, who's busy being seen with the Stars.

"Thank you so much, Kenny, it was wonderful" Kisses the ducking Ev. Lady from F O E is another reason for mysogeny.

So back to the records.

Brief discography of albums:

'Love You Till Tuesday' (Deram, deleted) but much of the material is on the low - price 'World Of David Bowie' (Decca).

'David Bowie' (Philips, deleted).

'The Man Who Sold The World' (Mercury deleted)

'One Stop, Dean Street, W.1 has some U.S. import copies of this, Bowie's most powerful album, at £2.99.

'Hunky Dory' (RCA)

'The Rise And Fall of Ziggy Stardust And The Spiders From Mars' (RCA) his latest is equally best. Treat yourself. 'Rock 'n' Roll Suicide' (Side two, last track) is a wow.

Peter Holmes.

Saga of a Sexy Novel

Back in the late Sixties I finished a novel which I called 'Cupid's Crescent' - Not my first novel but the first I actually thought worth persisting in sending round to publishers. It wasn't a long novel, just a fraction shorter than the average, but it was certainly sexy and contained a few of those words that, though in common use, weren't at that time supposed to appear in print.

During the following years the manuscript passed through the hands of several agents and practically every fiction publisher in and around London. Reactions ranged from that of a well-known publisher, since dead (though not, I understand, because of reading my book), who got very uptight and slammed the agent for sending him such a disgusting piece of work. The regular response was: Sorry, but not suitable for our list. But about half a dozen publishers were extremely enthusiastic, and although they wouldn't take the novel, their comments gave me the heart to keep trying.

They put in their rejection letters such nicely quotable phrases as 'entertaining and very well written', 'congratulations on a really original story', 'it's one of those rare, really funny books... contains scenes of great comic merit', and 'a dirty book but deliciously funny'.

These same publishers, however, tempered their praise, not by picking out faults but by indicating that they were afraid of the consequences of producing my book. 'It is the dirtiest, kinkiest, sickest, and most unpublishable one that has come my way', said one, adding that he didn't want to end up in prison. Another said that 'we'd be inundated by strangled cries from the outraged reading public'. And another commented: 'If you clean it up, you're going to ruin the effect; if you don't clean it up, you're going to have to wait until the dirty market catches up with you...'

I doubt if the 'dirty' market is ever going to catch up with me. Why? Because in England there is the hypocritical belief that detailed sexual writing, unless dealt with in an indirect or in an 'educational' way, is pornographic - I use that last word only because it's handy in the context; I don't believe that anything is porno or obscene, and if I have to use such words I'd rather apply them to such matters as war and violence and unnecessary suffering. And if a writer not only writes about sex, but also does so in a comic manner (which I hope is the case with 'Cupid's Crescent'), then his case is hopeless. Sex isn't supposed to be funny!

I guess that most English publishers are scared of sex. If a publisher likes a book, as several obviously liked mine, then why suppress it? - because suppression is the ultimate effect of their rejections. It's an identical kind of censorship to that which is supposed to apply to political novels in the so-called Iron Curtain countries. Of course, if you cut

the book off at source (that is, in manuscript form), then you can kid yourself that you're not a censor at all, merely a publisher rejecting unsuitable material, and you can go on believing you're living in a lovely free democracy.

Ah, says the Gay News reader, but what about such books as 'Candy' and 'Portnoy's Complaint' and those by Genet and Burroughs and Henry Miller - they're all available here. Well, potential customers, don't forget that these were published with considerable success in other countries first; they were acclaimed by critics, endorsed by best-seller lists, and enjoyed by millions of readers in their own countries. Any attempt to suppress them in England would make the censors, whether at publishing company level or at Government level, look bloody silly. And don't forget either that the publicity such books have already attracted makes them sure best-sellers here. Profitability is, for most publishers, whatever they spout about honour and integrity, the supreme factor; and whether we like it or not, in this kind of society it's difficult to blame them.

Anyway, I finally decided to publish 'Cupid's Crescent' myself: by subscription, as this is the only way I could think of to raise enough bread. For potential subscribers, let me say that I think you'll get your money's worth. The novel recounts the adventures of a young man who like certain unnamed people connected with pornography commissions and festivals of light, believes that Sex is a very Nasty Thing indeed, and goes to extreme lengths, murder even, to achieve his goal of ridding the world of people who actually enjoy fucking. There's practically no 'straight' sex in the book, but lots of other kinds, especially gay sex - and it's all dealt with in a tongue-in-cheek, humorous (I hope) fashion.

The novel is going to be published as a paperback, clearly printed but not a luxurious production. It's expensive for what it is: £2.00 per copy for the first 350, which will be signed and numbered by me; and the rest, without my autograph, at £1.00 each Postage included. It's possible they'll become collectors' items, but this I don't guarantee. What I do guarantee is that, if the project doesn't get off the ground, you'll get your money back. Okay? Laurence Collinson.

(Editorial note: Laurie is an active member of both GLF and CHE, has had many short stories published, stage plays produced, TV and radio plays on the BBC and other networks, and is the author of two collections of poetry. Cheques should be made out to Laurie or to 'Grandma Press', and sent to 30 Andrewes House, Barbican, London, EC2Y 8AX)

MORE THAN ONE ALICE IN WONDERLAND



The Professional Homosexual

"We have a great and momentous task before us which can only be performed through diligence and mixing with the right people. I do my bit by getting around and speaking to groups. This week, for example, I am talking to some Young Conservatives in Liverpool on Monday, I have a Rotary Club luncheon on Tuesday, dinner with a few selected MPs on Wednesday. Thursday I am down to speak in a debate on pornography in Cambridge and on Friday at the preliminary, sub-agenda, pre-planning committee of the NFHO. Meanwhile I have to write eight articles for magazines ranging from the *Police Gazette* to *Forum* and work on my own definitive book on the



subject. Yes it's a busy life. I am also involved with the following organisations: The Kensington Womens Information Movement (KWIM), the Camp Activist Volunteers and the Political Action Group (CAV and PAG), also the Homosexual Information Movement and the Homophile Erotic Research Society (HIM and HERS), then there's the Gay International Go-Go Lads Excursion Society (GIGGLES) and the Co-operative Underground News Trust which is well-known. My book of gay recipes will be coming out in the Autumn, but I have no plans to come out myself as no one knows my real name. There's little time for love life, I agree, but I don't exactly waste my time on those inter-city trains, you know."

The Gay Type

"My dear, such a divine party last night, absolutely scrumptious drinkies you made,



sweetie. What was it? Gin and passion fruit juice? Oh you wicked queen. And how's that darling Sam you dragged in from the cottage? He did look *dropped* on when he came in, those leather boots . . . mmm . . . so brave of you, I do hope I'm so bold when I'm your age, petal. Was he good in bed? Sam I mean? Oh . . . he *did*? . . . he *didn't*? . . . *did* he now? . . . *did* you? . . . you *did*? Oh, full marks lovie . . . Oh no! how awful . . . still you will take risks won't you, heavenly? . . . is your mother alright now, then? . . . oh goodie . . . a game old bird I always thought. Some of us thought we'd toddle along to the Garden tonight for ducky Rudi in Swanners . . . why not slip into something tight and join us . . . do you good after that nasty experience last night. Champers in the Crush Bar? Tempting? Then the Inigo Jones afterwards? Oh just Johnny and Dolly and Tiny and lil' ol me . . . oh no, we can't stand *her* with her pinstripe trousers and Turnbull and Asser shirts, so *passé* and so *serious*, darling. That's lovely then, tonight at the Garden . . . oh, no one will notice the black eye if you wear shades. I know, put a bit of raw steak on it if you can stand any more red meat in a week if you see what I mean . . . byeeeeee"

A Simple but Butch, Soul

"Well, it's like this yer see, some Saturday nights I lose me mates at the Elephant and get up West, see? Wander into one of them pubs, buy myself a half a bitter and stand about a bit. Never takes long. One of 'em come up - 'what'll you, have?' Always have a whisky. Then we get chatting and its "Why not finish off the evening at my place?" he says. "Why not" I says and a taxi it is, all the way up to Hampstead or Kensington or Notting Hill Gate. Sometimes its Kensington. Quite like that, I don't have to stay the night 'cos I can walk home, see. I don't hold it against them, they can't help being that way can they? And



I don't hold with violence of any sort, that's where me and my mates differ, like. Good boy, I am. Go back with them good as gold. Another drink and a Shirley Bassey record. Yeah, she's alright. A bit skinny for my taste, still you can't have everything can you? Then we get down to it . . . you know. Well, me, I just lie back and enjoy it, let them do all the work, after all that's what they like innit? No, I wouldn't do *that* . . . no its not that I don't hold with it, its like I say, each to his own. But it's not my thing. We have good times, sometimes I see them again. *Kiss*? Christ! mate, what do you think I am, a fucking pansy?"

The Sanctuary Queen

"Well you see, we believe that homosexuals are *real* people and that *love* is the most important thing in the world. Actually, we don't use the word homosexual at all, but prefer to say *homophiles* which means *lovers*. You see, we believe that we *homophiles* (you see?)



must prove that we are real human people by doing things for those less fortunate than ourselves. What sort of thing? Well, we sell flowers on street corners and collect rags on a door to door basis. Some of us are rather keen to go round the neighbourhood cleaning cars and doing odd jobs for housewives. You see, we must convince everyone that we are *real* people and help them in important, *real* things. No, I couldn't possibly give you my name, heavens *no*, sir. It's so *dangerous* to do that, I mean people might find out I'm a homophile mightn't they? And I can't give you my address, oh no, that would be too difficult, my canary is terribly sensitive. That doesn't matter you see, what does matter is that we really try and show everyone that homophiles are exactly the same as everyone else. Oh no, my friends don't know about *me*. Well, I take my sister out a lot and I have a girl friend too - I think she *knows*, but it's never actually spoken of, you understand, I take her out a lot so people don't start wondering about me. You see - it's really easy to adjust and live a normal healthy life, if you really try."

A Responsible Person

"As I see it, there's no point in going around with placards screaming that one is gay. I mean who's interested? People have their own problems, don't they. Anyway, I don't want to lose my friends. Friends I've had for twenty or more years would drop me if they thought I was . . . like I am. There is no difference between homosexual people and straight people at all, so its just a question of working quietly towards proving this. I'm in favour of homosexual marriages, for example, in church if you like. You probably think that's very radical don't you? But if people could see homosexual pair bonds setting up home just like *they* do, don't you think they'd feel easier? I don't think homosexuals should

get mixed up with women, or people under 21, or transvestites or anyone who might give us a bad in. age. I've no time for students, after all its not so long to wait before you're 21 is it? I think demonstrations do more harm than good on the whole. Its a better feeling just to go along to a meeting and chat



to a few other blokes, have a beer, smoke a pipe or two and exchange ideas. That's what it's all about, really. Good fellowship. If we don't bother anyone else, no one will bother us will they?"

A Liberationist

"Society is wrong its the capitalist system that bugs us all and all the competitiveness and role-playing we're forced to do that's why I think we should all refuse to work and live in communes, let everyone find their own way through it all, our struggle is a class struggle our fight is the same as the fight for women's rights and black people's rights and the workers' rights isn't it get all that sorted out and everyone will be happy everyone should come out as quickly as possible everyone should make it clear they are gay we've got to push it down their throats in their suburban gardens its no good stealing their children they wouldn't care burn their garages that's what they understand property do away with private property and gay people will be free to fight on no I don't do a job



why should I society has made me what I am so society can jolly well keep me right if I want to wear drag, then I will because its what I want to wear and its nothing to do with being butch or bitch or any of that crap so I wear a dress and I paint my nails so what that's me I would go leafletting on Saturday night with you but its my sister's coming-out party its rather important to her and mummy that I'm there so I shall have to dash off to Moss Bros now for a white tux. Right on!"

Who's Whose What?



"Girl Stroke Boy" - Directed by Bob Kellett - Starring Joan Greenwood, Michael Horden, Clive Francis, Straker - Classic Victoria (834 6588) - Cert "X"

The basic idea is good, and has a lot of potential - two boys are in love, and want to meet each others parents. How will they break the news, and what will the reactions be?

Unfortunately, that is all it remains - a good idea, which gets swallowed in a mess of theatrical jokes and finally drowns in a confused sea of innuendo. Why Ned Sherrin thought this script, which flopped on the West End stage, was "a strange comedy... perfect for the times", remains a mystery.

We see the whole situation from the point of view of Laurie's parents, in their middle-class home counties residence, coping with bitchy neighbours, central heating jammed at full blast, and the nagging worry that their son has never shown any interest in girls. What, then, will his West Indian girlfriend be like? Mother, who writes romantic novels, including one titled 'Love in Marrakesh', feels that all will be well when she has her boy home, although her racial prejudice makes that unlikely. Dad, played with some depth by Michael Horden, wants peace after a tough week at the sec. modern school where he is headmaster, and when the young people arrive, he attempts to keep the situation calm.

Mother (Joan Greenwood) doesn't know the meaning of the word, and the ambiguity of the girlfriend, Jo (Straker - Peter Straker of 'Hair' to his friends) leads to some of the nastiest bitching since 'Till Death Do Us Part'.

The son, Laurie (Clive Francis) attempts to protect Jo from his mother, but she has her say, several times, until we see what Laurie

means when he tells her he showed her books to his psychiatrist, and "he couldn't believe they were written by a happily married woman". While the 'young people' escape to the pub, Lettice persuades her husband to phone Jo's parents - Michael Horden has his best moment panicking over the telephone - only to find that the Caribbean High Commissioner and his wife are looking forward to meeting Jo's girlfriend Laurie. A row follows when Laurie and Jo find out about Lettice's spying, and the story limps to a close in which the family close ranks in the face of an evil neighbour, the boys claim to be married, and Jo asks if he/she can call Lettice "Mother". What a cop-out.

There are some good moments, including Michael Horden's sincere but confused assertion: "I don't give a damn if she's a man - if she is she's a jolly fine chap!", and a radio weather report which refers to snow "in the homosexual counties". The setting, a country house referred to in the credits as Faggot's End, is attractive, if rather cramped, and one feels that the cast, especially the inimitable Miss Greenwood would really have felt happier on a stage. From the point of view of gay awareness, the film is so cramped it hasn't even opened the closet door, and don't let any publicist tell you otherwise.

Suki J. Pitcher.

It's all been done before

"Jesus Christ Superstar" Music by Andrew Lloyd. Words by Tim Rice. Directed by Jim Sharman. Palace Theatre, Cambridge Circus, London W1. Tel: 01-437 6834

To begin at the beginning. I was born a Jew but not brought up to follow the faith. When I reached the age of understanding it occurred to me that even though we weren't supposed to believe in the existence of Jesus Christ, anyone who received that much publicity must surely have existed.

Therefore it was with much trepidation that I went along to the Palace Theatre not knowing quite what to expect. JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR has already been a big box office success in the States and it really wouldn't matter if every critic in the land panned it because it is one of those 'automatic hits' that the public will flock to like sheep.

The fact that there were so many irreverent moments in the show didn't bother me that much as I'd already been warned by friends who had seen the show and heard the record.



Indeed there were several very moving moments handled quite tastefully mixed up with all the other bits.

This 'rock-opera' deals with the last 7 days in the life of Jesus who is portrayed suitably poker-faced by Paul Nicholas. The role of Mary is filled by a last minute replacement Dana Gillespie who does fine with her big ballad 'I don't know how to love him' even though she seemed a trifle nervous. But the emphasis in this show seems to be on Judas or maybe it was just that Stephen Tate in this part seemed to eat up the stage every time he came on. This was without doubt one of the most hammy performances in the entire history of the theatre.

The earliest song to score is 'Everything's alright' but as the tricky rhythm beat of this number is then repeated in several later songs it becomes rather a bore. There's one called 'Hosanna' which to my ears sounded like a steal from Kurt Weill. This song involves a big routine with a dozen red streamers which are first lowered for Jesus to walk over and at the end of the number are thrown every which way.

Any moment I expected them to throw in some of His most publicized stunts such as walking on the water, or wandering into the audience with the loaves and fishes, or at least pass the wine around as they so kindly did in 'Godspell'.

In the second act 'King Herod's Song' stops the show. Its a trite corny number but it comes as light relief just before the trial. I must admit the crucifixion was handled beautifully and as nothing can follow that I won't try to.

Barry Conley

HORNY?

"Moody Jr." - Junior Walker and the All Stars-Tamla Motown STML 11211
 "Bump City" - Tower of Power-Warner Bros. K46167
 "MF Horn 2" - Maynard Ferguson-CBS 65027

The last month has seen the release of three albums whose basic ingredient, although used in different pop/musical contexts, is the use of horns, in the form of both trumpets and saxophones.

The first of the three is Moody Jr. by Junior Walker. Released last year in the States, Motown have finally acknowledged the small but ardent following Junior Walker has in this country. It is bound to please some, but I found it lacking in the 'guts' and 'funk' that has made his past albums so enjoyable. Gone apparently have the days of Junior Walker's exciting 'dirty' sounding sax solos, that made albums like Road Runner such a success and which still remain immensely enjoyable despite the amount of time they have been available.

Jr's latest offering is comparatively tame, with an over-indulgence in the use of strings and girly-group backings. Once in a while Jr's unique blues/soul playing comes through unhampered by the excesses of over-production. This is more an album for late-night listening, unlike his hits from the past, such as Shake and Fingerpop or How Sweet It Is, which are still some of the most irresistibly danceable records Motown have ever produced. Moody Jr. is worth a listen if you have liked his last couple of albums. Standout tracks are Way Back Home and Don't Blame The Children.

The second horn dominated album I've been listening to is Bump City by an American band known as Tower of Power. The band has a following in the States but is virtually unknown over here. This is their first release to be issued here, apart from a track or two on the Last Days of The Fillmore triple album set.

Tower of Power unfortunately don't live up to their name though. The playing is good, as is the production, but it is all without anything original to distinguish them from the many bands into brass backed rock. Blood Sweat & Tears have done all of this before, and that particular band, by the time they had finished their first two albums, had run out of anything musically interesting to say. And why does every American band of this kind have a vocalist whose singing is so embarrassingly similar to that of B.S. & T's or Chicago's vocalist? (as it is the last two mentioned groups singers have always sounded extremely alike to me.)

Tower of Power's music is a mixture of rock/soul/jazz, just like all the other bands working in this popular musical area. Give this a miss and wait for Chicago's new album or try and get a listen to an import copy of one of the sadly under-rated Sons of Champlin records.

The trumpet playing of Maynard Ferguson is the main ingredient of MF Horn 2. This is not strictly a rock album, for the music is of the big band jazz variety. But much of the material Ferguson is working with here has been successful in the pop world. Numbers like Hey Jude, Lennon's Mother, B.S. & T's Spinning Wheel and an outrageous version of Theme from "Shaft" are included on the album. I'm not a big band devotee, but I found the record had a con-



Junior Walker

sistency in it's inventive arrangements and the production is faultless. My only complaint is that after hearing the album through a few times, one track tended to sound much the same as another; possibly because I'm not into jazz enough to appreciate the finer points of Maynard Ferguson's playing. Denis Lemon

The Campaign for Homosexual Equality has been given two hours of air space on Radio London. On August 30 it will take over the regular Wednesday evening programme, Platform, which gives minority and pressure groups a chance to sound off about their aims and objects and particular points of view.

Though the programme will clearly act as a recruiting opportunity for Che, it does have much wider reverberations and will cover most aspects of the homophile situation. In particular special attention will be paid to the age of consent, the implications of the IT judgement and the extraordinary situation of the female homosexual and the bi-sexual. Real people will spell it out and there will be several authoritative voices in the studio including representatives of the Gay News collective.

Platform is one of those programmes during which listeners are invited to telephone questions in as the discussion continues. This is a vital part of the programme and it is hoped that gay people throughout London will

gather round their VHF wavebands and phone in. August 30th. 8.15 pm. The studio telephone number will be given regularly during the course of the programme. Roger Baker

FOR A GAY NIGHT OUT SEE

Girl ^{STROKE} Boy_x

Hemdale presents

Ned Sherrin's new comedy production of GIRL/STROKE/BOY

Joan Greenwood & Michael Horden



School for Virgins_x

EASTMANCOLOR

NOW SHOWING CLASSIC VICTORIA 834 6588

Who Was Obstructing Who?

No Photographs - No Evidence

At approximately 11.20 pm on Saturday 12th August, 1972, Denis Lemon, a member of the editorial collective of Gay News, was arrested for allegedly 'wilfully obstructing the passage of the footway of Wharfdale Street, London SW10'. He was released on £10 bail later that night, and appeared at Great Marlborough Street Magistrate's Court on the morning of Monday 14th August. After pleading Not Guilty to the charge, Denis was remanded until Tuesday 22nd August. He applied for legal aid and was remanded on bail.

It is understood that Denis will be represented by a solicitor and will be calling a number of witnesses in his defence.

Wharfdale Street, SW10, is directly behind The Colherne public house in Old Brompton Road. After 'closing time' on the Saturday evening Denis had been acting in his official capacity as a Gay News reporter and had been taking a number of photographs of police action outside and in the nearby vicinity of the pub. After

to unpleasant situations to say the least. Alleged too, by Colherne customers, is that unnecessary violence has been used by the police whilst performing this almost nightly 'duty'.

Other, more serious allegations have also been made by people about this regular occurrence. Gay News is at



1. "Move Along". 2. "Your Nicked". 3. "Welcome Home".

taking a number of photographs of the police directly outside The Colherne, he crossed to the opposite side of the road where he took a few more pictures, then moved to Wharfdale Street where he was arrested whilst trying to take a shot of a number of police officers 'moving on' a small group of people chatting in the street.

Denis was active that evening as he was attempting to gather documented evidence of alleged 'police harassment' by members of the constabulary from the Chelsea Division of the Metropolitan Police Force.

Over the past few months it has become apparent to the Gay News editorial staff, from either information received at the paper's office or personally witnessed by the members of the collective, that the level of police action outside The Colherne has been increasing. A number of people have been arrested on various occasions.

It has also been noticed that police dogs have been frequently used by the police whilst performing their duty outside the pub. This has seriously worried members of the general public as well as customers, and the use of particularly large groups of police, often exceeding 20 in number, has sometimes nearly led

present taking a number of statements from individuals, which in time will be handed over to the correct authorities.

Police officers who have been questioned about these activities at The Colherne have commented that they are in the area because of complaints from local residents and because of obstructions to the highway and footway. Parking on both sides of the busy road outside the pub in fact seems largely responsible for the highway being frequently congested. A report of the outcome of Denis's hearing at the Magistrate's Court will be in the next issue of Gay News. There will also be continuing reportage of future developments at The Colherne in Earl's Court.

The editorial collective of Gay News would like to point out to the customers of The Colherne that they will only be taking photographs of the police and will try not to take recognisable shots of the pub's patrons. Any photo that clearly shows the identity of either customers or the general public will have the faces blanked out if these pictures are used in Gay News or any other publication.

'On All Fours...'

The Attorney General in The House of Commons

The legal position with regard to contact ads was clarified in a Commons adjournment debate on August 2:

"Prosecutors must carry out their duty. It is their duty to enforce the law," Sir Peter Rawlinson, the Attorney General, spelled it out. "Prosecutors do not make the law. Very many people are very alive to any failure by the prosecution to enforce the law."

"But accordingly, if people produce advertisements by males or by females advertising their wares, calling for partners, reciting the terms upon which they will associate, describing their particular tastes or giving ways of communicating one with another, these at present are offences against the criminal law."

Gay News wonders how this relates to lonely hearts ads in magazines like Time Out, and still more to the computer dating firms - what about the ads on the tube trains?

Referring to the International Times case in 1969, Sir Peter said "... the then Attorney General had to consider advertisements by males, the kind of advertisement that contained wording such as 'Dolly Boy Seeks Sugar Daddy' and so on. The then Attorney General" ... had discussions with the Director of Public Prosecutions and a prosecution was launched because it was held, and the courts affirmed, that publication of these male advertisements was on all fours with the Shaw case, which involved advertisements for female prostitutes."

This was the celebrated Ladies' Directory case in 1960, when a man called Shaw published a guide, with addresses and telephone numbers, in which Soho prostitutes bought space. He was convicted and Lord Simonds, giving judgement, said: "In the sphere of criminal law there remains in the Courts of Law a residual power to enforce the supreme and fundamental purpose of the law, to conserve not only the safety and order but also the moral welfare of the state, and it is our duty to guard it against attacks which might be all the more insidious because they are novel and unprepared for."

Lord Reid, however dissented: "There are wide differences of opinion as to how far the law ought to punish immoral acts which are not done in the face of the public. Parliament is the proper, and the only proper, place to settle that ... Where Parliament fears to tread, it is not for the Courts to rush in ..."

The noble Lord Reid has received a lot of support for this statement (see 'Half A Loaf' story in Gay News No.3), but Lord Simonds asked another question which forecast the I.T. case: "Would it not be an offence if, even without obscenity, such practices were publicly advocated and encouraged by pamphlet and advertisement?"

Some people, including the police and, apparently, the DPP's department, seem to support Lord Simonds, as recent victimisation shows.

These statements were quoted by Mr William Hamling, MP (Woolwich West) who raised the matter in the House. Mr Hamling is a brave and trusted watchdog for the freedom of the press and the arts, and a witty attacker upon those who *whitehouse* (verb.act.).

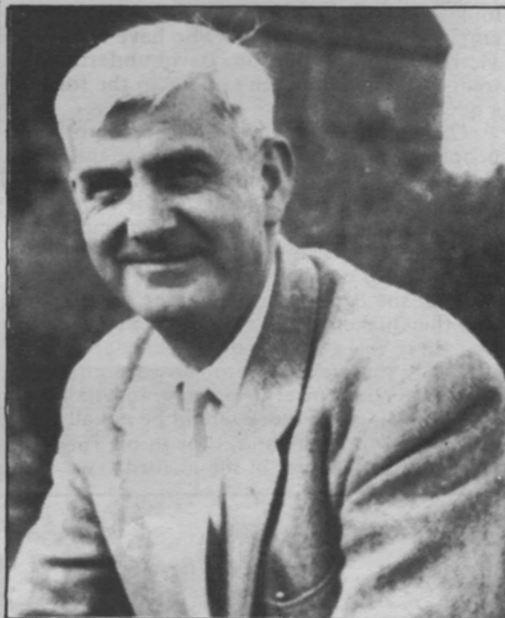
Mr Hamling went on to refer to the Attorney General's reply to a Bernard Levin article in the Times, on the question of the assurances given in Parliament when the Sexual Offences bill was being discussed. "The Attorney General's statement refers to assurances given in 1964, that publishers would not be prevented from pleading the defence of public good when charged with publishing an obscene article. The assurances given did not apply where the essence of the offence was incitement to commit homosexual acts rather than the publication of an obscene article."

"... I should like to direct his (the A.G.) attention to the debate in another place when Baroness Wootton (proposing a Lord's amendment to the Sexual Offences Bill) moved a new clause specifically on this matter of conspiracy. The new clause read: 'Conspiracy. It shall not be an offence to conspire or attempt to commit a homosexual act which by virtue of this Act (the 1967 Act) not in itself an offence.'

"The noble Lady went on specifically to refer to the Ladies Directory case and said: 'We are still a little disturbed by the possible consequences of the Ladies Directory case, and the words used in that case ... (she quoted Lord Simonds, as above) ... (he) is there referring to conspiracy in a rather wider sense than my amendment, which refers only to the conspiracy to perform the act as distinct from advertising or flaunting it.'"

Lord Stoneham, replying to Baroness Wootton, gave some assurances, but Mr Hamling, and others, have doubts as to what these actually meant, and the point is crucial to our freedom. Mr Hamling: "This prosecution (I.T.) and this whole question of what assurances were given raise some very great difficulties about an Act which permits things to take place which some people may consider to be immoral or offensive in the deepest sense, and yet the law says that these acts are legal and are permitted. The question

arises as to how far reference to these acts may be regarded as a public affront. There are grave difficulties about this - about homosexuals meeting, about arrangements that homosexuals may make in order to meet, particularly bearing in mind other sexual acts between heterosexuals which may follow meetings which can be advertised



Will Hamling

and which nobody seems to worry much about."

Well set out out, Mr Hamling! Sir Peter, concluding his reply, set out the opposing view equally clearly; "(The I.T. case) was a proper case under the criminal law, as explained in the Shaw case ... the jury convicted, the Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal and the House of Lords upheld the conviction by four to one. There was in that case exactly what existed in the Shaw case, a public affront, namely the publication of advertisements by the persons seeking particular sexual services - in the Shaw case involving women and in the International Times case involving men."

"... I repeat, finally, that this being the law, it is the duty of the DPP, the police authorities and the Attorney General of the day to enforce the law as it is interpreted by the judges. It is their duty to see that that is done, and they must not be dissuaded from that because it may be the opinion of certain persons that the law ought to be changed."

Not so much changed, as disregarded perhaps. I make no apology for setting out the debate at such length - if we are to act constructively, we must be informed fully of the attitudes of the opposition.

It still seems, as Raymond Fletcher said on an earlier occasion, that the judges are trying to make the laws, whatever Sir Peter Rawlinson says about the omniscience of Parliament. We must note too, the equation of homosexual activities with prostitution (remember the Dangerous Doctor Rubens?), and the assumptions being made that all homosexual contact ads are for prostitution, while heterosexuals are not subjected to any such blanket condemnation.

Suki J. Pitcher.

She Found Out Too Late

Letter from an anonymous person to CHE

TO ALL HOMOSEXUALS

You are all so utterly vile, cause so much distress and unhappiness and are a complete disgrace to the human race. You should all be exterminated. I am not a crank but a mother with two wonderful children and we have suffered appallingly during the last three years, since one of your kind perverted my husband after 17 years of happy family life.

The best you can do is leave decent people in peace and I suggest you get a single ticket to the moon or better still to the planet Mars because that is farther away.

You are all so completely disgusting and revolting and your advertisement is an insult to all normal people.

YOU ALL ABSOLUTELY STINK.

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.

Personal Ads

AVA - Are you still singing in Manchester? Can you write to Denis (Fly Me To The Moon) for possible Gay News interview. Gay News, 19 London Street, London W2 1HL. Tel: 01-402 7805.

Inhibited Lonely Gay, 25, wishes to meet masculine gay, early-mid twenties for encouragement and hopefully long-term relationship. Only sincere persons need write. Photo reciprocated. Box 107

Lonely Bachelor, 50's, would like to meet another for genuine friendship and share flat 50-50. Affectionate and easy going. Photo please. A.L.A. Box 108

Gay Generous Man residing in country but often in London would like to contact gay young man. Please write, all letters answered. Box 109

Holiday Companion (attractive literate and unobvious young man in late 20's preferred) sought by similar for september holiday abroad. Phone number appreciated. Write Box 110

"Copy of Jeremy magazine Vol.1. No.7 urgently required; write - Brian Hart, 1 Trinity Road, Folkstone, Kent. Telephone 54698"

Male Naturist, wants to join their group at home, if not, any one interested in forming one, mixed, for all, gay people. Box 111

London Gay Guy, seeks real friend for life, under 25. Not interested in transitory relationships. I like music, & movies, and sincere people. Box 112

Intelligent Non Dreary Gay Male, 35, wants to meet nice sincere other for warm relationship. Box 114

Gay Girl, 22, seeks friendship and correspondence with others. Box 116

Calling All Gays (Male & Female) in the Belsize Park area. How about coming together for a drink and social evenings. Write to: Garry, 40 Belsize Park Gardens, London NW3.

Country Girl, married, fed up, looking for warm and loving, not too way out gay girl 20-30 ish. B/Th, S/ton, Bristol or Salisbury district. Box 118
Could the person who placed Box 118 please contact the Ads Dept., Gay News, 19 London St., London W2 1HL. Tel: 01-402 7805. Thanks.

"Rather straight" quiet guy, late thirties, own pad, interested in music, electronics, and things technical, looking for younger pals - anyone interested? Box 120

Young Males - early twenties - living in London, need friends of same age group. Box 121
Gay Girl, 24, wishes to meet similar, preferably Bristol area. Box 122

Even the fish'll whistle! Tight mini swim things for athletes. List 6p. stamps: Larry Knight, 4 Hamilton Close, London NW8 8QY.

Gay, 35, quiet disposition - loves classical music, countryside, seaside etc., seeks gentle longhaired, feminine dolly-boy with similar tastes, for sincere affectionate friendship - photo appreciated - returned. Box 124

Bachelor, 29, Flat-share own room, S.E.4. Home-Builder wanted! Box 126

Tall, Athletic, dominant young man, 30, wishes to meet passive, effeminate, type male for sincere friendship, will travel, London area. S.A.E. for reply. Box 128

Young Man (21) wishes to meet male 21-25 for sincere friendship and mutual pleasures. Photo's if possible, returned with mine. Box 129

Older Man with nice flat and car, offers share everything with genuine young working man: looking for good home and companionship. Genuine, only photo if possible. Box 130

What about the gay life in Silloth, Cumberland and the Solway Firth Coast, anyone interested in getting it started for I love you all. Box 131

Male, 28, Seeks friends same age or younger for fun time. London Area. No whiskers please. Photograph essential for reply. Box 132

Butch Glaswegian, 20's, moving shortly to London, seeks playmates and/or pad. Diverse interests from pubs to current affairs. Box 133

Is There and educated young man 20's, who would care to befriend isolated Channel Islander, 39. Box 134

Lightweight wants sparring partner at weekends. Country cottage near Scottish border or will travel. True friendship sought and offered. Box 135

Happy Self-Confident uninhibited masculine male wishes to meet similar occasionally. London Box 136

Surrey Bachelor, 40, car owner, wishes to meet friends between 21 and 30. Wide interests include football, pub touring, walking, theatre and cinema. Box 137

Quiet Guy, 24, seeks younger affectionate friend. Box 138

Eccentric Queen requires urgently an Eccentric Pad. Low rent please. Write (only) to Claudia, c/o Gay News, 19 London Street, London W2 1HL.

Gay Bachelor (51) invites others to join me in long weekend. October 7-9, Jersey. No age limit if genuine. Box 139.

Shy Guy, 28, not camp, seeks sincere friends (M/C area) 21-30. Photo please, will return. Box 140

Gay Artist (chick) sick of pretentious pseud's, seeks real people to share mediaeval freak outs and much love. Box 141

Gay Girl. I am really lonely. I just wish and pray for a girl friend who could come and stay with me. I am 18. Box 142

Young Man (29) South London, wishes to meet younger person. Box 143

Male (30) quiet disposition, likes cinema, TV, records. Seeks younger man for friendship and everything. No effeminates please. A.L.A. Box 144

One Man Wanted to Help Distribute "Gay News" in Edinburgh. 30% commission. Contact Ian Dunn at 15 Hope Park Terrace, Edinburgh.

Music-Lover (classical, vocal), London, owner of vast record collection, wants real friend, slim, non-kinky, to share enjoyment. Box 145

50yr Old Shy Bachelor Business Man living 30 miles north of London seeks friendship. No (camp) or (effeminates) please. Age unimportant as long as sincere. Telephone number if possible. Box 146

Gay Body Builder, aged 28, wants to meet gay body body builder, aged 22 to 30 in London area or South, Photo please. Box 147

Gay Student wants accommodation in Aberdeen. Box 148

Urgent - modest pad or share required for active gay guy (22). Anything in London considered. Box 149

Could the person who placed Box 149 please contact the Ads Dept., Gay News, 19 London Street, London W2 1HL. Tel: 01-402 7805. Thanks.

"Peter - see you at the Drag Discotheque Aug 9 or any wednesday after - Pontrefact Castle, 48 Chapel Street, London NW1. (Edgware Road tube station.) - am doing wild go-go dancing there. John."

Business executive, 34, transferred to London shortly seeks young social contacts, maybe roommate. I'm young looking & thinking and love & can afford the nicer things in life. Lets correspond! MAX, PO Box 26017, Los Angeles 90026, USA Airmail.

Gay Girl, 28, independent but friendly, own flat in Central London - fancy meeting for drinks, chat, etc? Box 51.

Homeloving 43 year old, active continental wishes to meet someone over 30 to share home and life. Phone number if possible please. Box 105.

Any personal ads containing any form of racial prejudice will be immediately rejected, and money paid for insertion will NOT be refunded. Gay News collective.

Accommodation

Urgently Needed. 2 Large free or inexpensive rooms in Central London for Gay Social Activities, for both men and women. They will be needed continuously, but for at least 3 nights a week. Contact Gay News, Tel: 01-402 7805.

Liberal, moderate, young undergraduate is looking for a room in a flat, or for others looking for same, in N./E./S.W. London. Please write, Alan McGorran, 59 Forburg Road, London N16 6HR.

Large Single Bedsitter available at £5 pw. near Westbourne Park Underground Station. Give Phone Number (if convenient) with reply. Box 125

Weekends, Holidays, Business. CHE member offers Accommodation (one male adult only) Single B & B. Private, clean, homely. Write for further particulars or booking. SAE please. Devere, 40 Stewart Road, Sheffield S11 8XT.

Lovely Lad, 26, would like own room in beautiful flat with other lovely people in London. Phone 01-267 0064.

Non-Effeminate Gay Wanted to share flat. Brockley. Box 123

Manchester. Mature active guy to share terraced house with working man. £3 p.w. inclusive. Box 117

Pleasant rooms available for older gay women in sympathetic homelike Chelsea house. Box 113

2nd. Man (25-35) to share Bromley Sth. flat. Own room. Pref. someone interested in music. £6.75 per week excl. Box 115

Respectable Male, 19, wishes to share clean flat with similar. Box 127

Employment

Ladies Salon urgently requires hair stylists, gay or otherwise, to start work immediately. Above Average Rates. Tel: 01-405 7499 (9am-6pm)

Male, 29, seeks position Houseman Valet. B.Cubiss, 33 Sydney Street, Chelsea, London SW3.

Cabaret Singer - requires "Top" Pianist to work on Joint Act. Straight Gay-Male Only. Serious musician only - with own piano. If you fill the bill - ring 01-794 3427

Classified Ads

Gay Coach Trip - Southend - including Disco Dance Friday 15th September. Details/Tickets - Dicks Inn, Mondays, or S.A.E. to 203, Clayhall Avneue, Ilford, Essex.

A wide selection of books, periodicals, pamphlets and posters on gay liberation is available from the **Gay Liberation Book Service, P.O.Box 40397, San Francisco, Cal. 94140, U.S.A.** Write for free price list (send 2 international reply coupons for airmail). Overseas orders welcomed. The service is operated by the group which publishes **Gay Sunshine** a radical gay liberation paper. In exchange for four international reply coupons you can get a sample copy of the paper.

Gay News thanks Roddy and The Masquerade - the paper is always available at the door. Masquerade Club, 310 Earls Court Road, SW5.

Newstime, 6 Pembridge Road, Notting Hill Gate - NEWSAGENTS OF THE MONTH! Thank you Mr. Mathews and staff, for selling more Gay News than any other newsagents in London!

The DisKOtheque (D O K), 2a Lowndes Court, London W1 (off Carnaby Street) regularly has Gay News on sale. Thanks.

If you live in **CUPID'S CRESCENT** Watch out, or the Sexual Avenger will get you! Read about his truly dreadful career in the new soft-cover novel: **CUPID'S CRESCENT** by LAURENCE COLLINSON WHICH

which is comic and erotic and contains lashings of gayness. This novel is being published by subscription because even those established British publishers who have been most enthusiastic about it are still hung-up about sex.

The manuscript will go to the printers as soon as there are enough subscribers - not longer than about three months, the author/publisher hopes. In the meantime, the money will be held in trust and returned if the project fails to get off the ground. There will be a special limited edition of 350 copies, signed and numbered by the author, at £2.00 per copy. The ordinary edition will sell at £1.00 per copy. Both prices include postage.

Send cheque/P.O. made out to 'Grandma Press', c/o Laurence Collinson, 30 Andrewes House, Barbican, London, EC2Y 8AX.

LUNCH An Independent Monthly (affiliated to The Campaign for Homosexual Equality). Read By Male And Female Homosexuals. 32 Pages - Interviews, Articles, Letters, Illustrations. Send 25p. Now For Issue No.11 Or 50p. For Three Back Issues.

Lunch Magazine, 23 Avon Court, Keswick Road, London SW15 2JU. (No Callers Please).

BOYS/MEN !! Nude Magazines £1. (Lists SAE) Johnny: BM/FBGH, London WC1V 6XX.

ORGY ACTION Each pretty boy (and girl) expects To sample every kind of sex And in our films and mags you'll find Their naked beauty well defined In heterosexuals. A postal order (20 pence) Brings photo-catalogues to you With vouchers for a free mag too! **NETCO** (Dept. GNU), PO Box 10149, Amsterdam, Holland.

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.

BACK NUMBERS of GAY NEWS are still available. Send 13p (which includes postage etc.) for each back issue.

AGITPROP BOOKSHOP
 A Gay Manifesto 5p.
 Gay Manifesto (GLF London) 10p.
 The Sexual Struggle of Youth 37½p.
 Oscar Wilde 60p.
 Come Together 5p.

and many more books, pamphlets, papers and posters at the shop or by post from 248 (GN) Bethnal Green Road, London E2.

York. Gay News available from Woof's Stall, Newgate Market, York, on Thursdays and Saturdays.

Latest Soul Singles: 20pence Each at Dicks Inn Every Monday.

JEAN FREDERICKS PRESENTS:
At the HILTON HOTEL Park Lane,
Miss U.K. Drag, Dinner/Dance. 8.30 pm
to 3.00 am. Saturday September 30th.
 Tickets from J.Watson, 55

Blomfontein Road, London W.12.

THE UNICORN BOOKSHOP, 50 Gloucester Road, Brighton BN1 4AQ. For many literary delights, and regular stockists of Gay News. Send for lists (enclosing SAE) or pay them a visit. You can regularly buy Gay News at **Bookends, 23a Chepstow Mansions, Chepstow Place, London W2.** Send S.A.E. for their lists of fantasy/sf/comic books.

Gay Books & Novels.
 The Other Love by H.Montgomery Hyde, 75p.
 The Unrecorded Life of Oscar Wilde by Rupert Croft-Cooke, £3.50.
 The Wild Boys by William S.Burroughs, £2.50.
 Oscar Wilde by Philippe Jullian, 60p.
 The Well of Loneliness by Radclyffe Hall, 50p.
 Death in Venice by Thomas Mann, 30p.
 I Give You Oscar Wilde by Desmond Hall, 40p.
 All obtainable by post from: **Books, 84 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds 2.** Tel: 42483. Ad 10% to cover post and packing.

Gay Films-Books-Fotos-Slides-Sex Aids-Etc. Free Illustrated Lists S.A.E. New World Sales, 1581 London Road, Norbury, London SW16.

SOUNDS. Drag-Mobile Disco/Lights. Simply the best. Built-in drag show or male floor show if desired. Pete: 01-743 9930 (5-7 pm)

MAN TO MAN
 Bold catalogues describe and show (For just a 20 pence p.o.) Gay, virile, naked, handsome guys Of every type, shape, age and size In crisply detailed shots and scenes From gayest films and magazines. You'll get one magazine quite free With your first order. Write and see! **LUX PUBLICATIONS (Dept. GNU), PO Box 10269, Amsterdam, Holland.**

Gays Dance Close Together at Dicks Inn. See Information Page.

Have A Clean Up! For General House Cleaning or Spring Cleaning. Phone: 723 8842 or 402 6881.

6 Berth and 4 Berth Caravans Vacant. Dover Cliff's Caravan Park. Lovely Van's, Reasonable Charges. 'Leros', 71 Myddelton Square, London EC1.

David Delacey for your Drag or "Special" costumes. My designs or yours. Sequinning a speciality. 38 Somerfield Road, London N4. Tel: 01-226 8980 (evenings - weekends).

Classified Ad Rates

COMMERCIAL ADS. 5p a word. No Box Number service available.
NON-COMMERCIAL ADS. 2p a word. Box Numbers 30p.
PERSONAL ADS. 2p. a word. Box Numbers 30p. (Owing to lack of space, we ask users of the Personal Ads to try and not use more than 30 words.)
SEMI-DISPLAY (Boxed Classified) £1.50 extra.
 All information listings are free.
 All Ads must be prepaid.

Display Ad Rates

Prices quoted on request.

Personal and Classified Ads Form

Please insert in the next issue

.....

Please find enclosed a cheque/postal order made payable to Gay News Ltd. for the sum of £..... for an Ad of words.

Send to Gay News, 19 London Street, London W.2.



Information

This corner is really a long list - of places, people you might like to know about or one day need. We can only, of course, publish the information that comes to us.

OPPIDAN - ADVISES AND BEFRIENDS.

It hopes to have an introduction and accommodation service eventually. Write to Box No: 99 (c/o Gay News) or ring: (01) 769-7965 anytime.

LESBIAN LIBERATION.

Meetings Wednesday 8.00pm, at the South London Women's Liberation Centre, 14 Radnor Terrace, SW8. All women welcome. Tel: 01-622 8495

CAMPAIGN FOR HOMOSEXUAL EQUALITY is urgently seeking office premises in or near Central London, preferably with telephone already installed. 300 square feet approx. required. CHE would be happy to share with another organisation if necessary. If you have, or know of, a place vacant, write to: Derek Brookfield, 7 Briston Grove, Crouch End, London N8 9EX.

New CHE group at BARKING, c/o George Jordan, 39a Mansfield Road, Ilford. Tel: 554 3337.

'CHALLENGE' is a London-based homosexual group (recently heard on 'Speakeasy') that meets each week for a drink and a chat - why don't you join us? Ring Martin at 427 8175 or Sid at 328 4647.

"Gay Cambridge", a joint CHE/GLF group covering both the town and university. Meets every fortnight, weekly in university term. Contact Bernard Greaves, 29 John Street, Cambridge. phone Cambridge 52661 or Pat Jones, 48 Milton Road, Cambridge, phone Cambridge 55772.

Putney/Wimbledon/Richmond CHE group forming. Men AND Women. We plan to meet at least once a month. Write: Fred Green, 368 Upper Richmond Road, Putney SW15 2TU.

Gay Unity, Harrow. For details phone Janie at 863 1184 or Alex at 422 7890. Meets on Mondays.

Newcastle GLF Dance August 25 at Sallyport Tower. Licensed bar until midnight, Group, Disco and possibly a lightshow. Tickets are 35p., available from all members of Newcastle GLF.

GAYSOC: For London University students. Meets regularly in term. Send s.a.e. to Gaysoc, ULU, Malet Street, London WC1.

FRIEND is the advisory and befriending service of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality. Call (Monday and Friday 7.30 to 9.30 pm) or write to: Friend, Centre, Broadley Terrace, London NW1.

CHE. An All-London Political Action Group is in the process of formation. Will anyone who wants

further information on this campaigning group write to: Derek Brookfield, 7 Briston Grove, Crouch End, London N8 9EX.

Women's Disco Benefit in solidarity with The Fakenham v Brannon Women. On Friday 1st September at Sols Arms, Hampstead Road, London (Warren St. Tube). Admission only 10p + collection. Bar - Bookstall - Film. Organised by Gay Socialist Women's Group.

Sussex G.L.F. Disco every Friday 8-11pm at Stanford Arms, Preston Circus, Brighton. Only 15p.

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 30p inc. postage for single copies. (Subs rates are unchanged) from Sappho Publications Ltd., BCM/Petrel, London WC1.

Women's Liberation Workshop, 3 Shavers Place, London W1. Tel: 01-839 3918.

CAMPAIGN FOR HOMOSEXUAL EQUALITY.

Cambridge	South Essex (Basildon)
Chilterns (Berkhampsted/Amersham)	South Herts (Watford/St.Albans)
Colchester	Southampton/Bournemouth
Cornwall	Stoke-on-Trent
Crouch End	Swansea/Carmarthen
Croydon	Teesside
East Kent (Canterbury)	Tunbridge Wells
Guildford	Tyneside
Halifax/Huddersfield	Windsor
Ilford	Wirral
Leeds	Wolverhampton
Lewisham	Wolverhampton & District worker's group
Liverpool	York
LONDON	STUDENT GROUPS
Acton/Ealing	London
Central	Manchester
Highbury/Islington	Oxford
Kensington	Kent
Kilburn	Liverpool
Manchester	
Newport/Cardiff	PROPOSED GROUPS
Northampton	Devon
Norwich	Leicester
Nottingham	Enfield
Oxford	Barking
Portsmouth	Preston
Reading	Taunton
Sheffield	
Shropshire	

Many local group organisers are wary of having their names and addresses publicised, so for the time being please contact all CHE groups via the national office: 28 KENNEDY STREET, MANCHESTER 2. Telephone 061-228 1985.

GAY LIBERATION FRONT GROUPS

At present there are GLF groups in operation in the following areas:

Aberystwith	Essex University	Reading
Bath	Folkstone	Sheffield
Bristol	Greenoch	Swansea
Brent	Guernsey	Sussex
Bedfordshire	Higham Ferrers	
Birmingham	Hull	LONDON
Belfast	Keele University	South London
Bradford	Lancaster	West London
Cambridge	Leicester	East London
Cheltenham	Leeds	Notting Hill
Canterbury	Manchester	Hackney
Cardiff	Newcastle	Youth Group
Colchester	Norwich	Religious Group
Derby	Oxford	Women's Group
Durham	Portsmouth	
Edinburgh	Potteries	

The addresses of these groups may be obtained from the G.L.F. Office at 5 Caledonian Road, London N1. Tube Kings Cross. Tel: 01-837 7174. Also contact here for other G.L.F. information.

Gay Women's Liberation Group, Contact Gillian 837 4502. Meets Wednesdays 7.30pm.

G.L.F. Youth and Education Group meets on Mondays. Phone 837 7174 for details.

Religious Gay Lib Group, meets various Sundays at 2.30 pm. Phone 278 1701 for details.

West London G.L.F. meets every Thursday at 8.00pm upstairs at the 'White Lion' pub, Putney High Street, just south of Putney Bridge. Tube Putney Bridge, Buses 14, 22, 30, 85, 85A, 93, 220 and Green Line 718. BR Putney. Disco there every Wednesday.

Sussex GLF meets Tuesdays at 8.15pm upstairs/back bar Stanford Arms, Preston Circus Brighton. Contact: Doug Coupe, 40 Ashford Road, Brighton, or phone Ray at 686939.

Reading Gay Alliance, Room 7, 30 London Road, Reading.

Bath Gay Awareness Group. Contact Richard or Teresa at Bath 29437.

Bristol Gay Awareness Group, c/o Tony, 20D, West Mall, Clifton, Bristol. Tel: 0272-32669.

Leicester Gay Awareness Group, Contact John Page, 126 Nansen Road, Leicester LE5 5NJ. Phone: Leicester 738832.

Leeds GLF Liberation Office, 153 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds 2. Tel: 0532-39071 ex 57. Meetings every Friday at 7.30pm at the Liberation Office.

SCOTTISH MINORITIES GROUP.

EDINBURGH, from 7.45pm to 9.00pm on Mondays, in the basement of 23 George Square. Check with Mike Coulson at 031-225 4395 between 1.00pm and 10.00pm. Women's Group at 7.30pm. Saturdays from 9.30pm to 12.30 pm, coffee/food/dance at the same address.

During August and first half of September, 23 George Square is closed. Check with Mike Coulson.

GLASGOW, meetings every Tuesday at 8.00pm at 8 Dunearn 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.

Other contact: Bruce Briggs, 8 Duncam Street, Glasgow.

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

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

Discos

KINGS ARMS, Liverpool Street, London. (corner of Pinder Street) Tube/BR Liverpool Street. Dicks Inn, Gay Disco every Monday. Compere Tricky Dicky.

THE ARABIAN, Cambridge Heath Road, London (corner of Bishops Way). Tube Bethnal Green/Bus 277. Dicks Inn, Gay Disco - closed for the Summer. Re-opens early October.

THE FATHER RED CAP Boys Only, Girls Only, and Mixed Disco's.

KINGS ARMS, Liverpool Street, London. (corner of Pinder Street) Tube/BR Liverpool Street, Buses 8, 8A, 22, 6, 47, 97. Tricky Dicky Show on Saturday Nights, 8.30-11.00. Admission Free. Saloon Bar. Disco, Impersonations etc. Gay Atmosphere.

Drag Cabaret

THE CRICKETERS, Battersea Park Road, SW11. (BR Battersea Park).

Sun. The Trollettes. Fri. Various Artistes.
Tues. Steel Band. Sat. Singalong & Dancing.
Wed. Various Artistes. Compere/Organist
Thurs. Talent Night. Kenneth Mancell.

THE DORSET ARMS, 124 Clapham Road, SW4. (Oval Tube)
Tuesdays. Michael and Bow. Thursdays. Michael.
Sundays. Michael and Bow.

THE NEW BLACK CAP 171 Camden High Street, NW1. (Camden Town Tube) Drag Every Night. Featured Artists include Mark Fleming, Bow, Mrs Shuffelwick, Jean Fredericks, New Dumbells, Sandy Graham, Chris Kay.

Alan McGorin is Gay News's super salesman at The Black Cap. Be nice to him, he works very hard for us.

THE FATHER RED CAP 319 Camberwell Road, SE5. (Camberwell Green)

Featured Artists include Lee Paris and Lettuce, Michael and Bow, Sandy Graham

ROYAL VAUXHALL TAVERN.

372 Kennington Lane, SE11. (Vauxhall).
Thursday (Alt.) Mr. Tammy or Lee Paris with Lettuce.

Friday. Mr. Tammy. Monday. Bow.
Saturday. Lee Paris. Wednesday. Lee Paris.
Sunday. (Lunch) Bow. New Act Starting Soon
Sunday. (Night) Mr. Tammy.

ROYAL OAK, 62 Glenthorne Road, W6 (Hammersmith). Drag every night except Tuesday.

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, South Lambeth Place SW8. (Vauxhall). Every night except Tuesday. Friday Mark Fleming.

OXFORD TAVERN 256 Kentish Town Road, NW5 (Kentish Town) Drag on Tues, Wed, and Thurs. Resident host Perri St. Clair.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 309 Harrow Road, W9. (Westbourne Park) Drag on Wednesday and Sunday. (Lunch & Eve).

THE BELL, Pentonville Road, N1. (Kings Cross). Every Alt. Friday.

THE BUSH HOTEL, 2, Goldhawk Road, W.12. (Goldhawk Road). Every Thursday.

THE ALEXANDRA, Alexandra Road, St. John's Wood, NW8. Wednesday's Friday's

This is a list of some of the pubs in London that regularly have Drag Acts. Information of out of London pubs featuring drag will be added to this list as we receive it. So if your local has something good happening at it, let us know; and that goes for you landlords as well.

GAY NEWS will always be on sale at the following pubs:

MARSH HOTEL (Mike & Eileen) Canute Road, Southampton.

Semi-Gay. Disco every Thursday night. Also: **THE ANCHOR** (Pat & Geoff) East Street, Southampton. Gay girls and boys. Disco every Fri & Sat

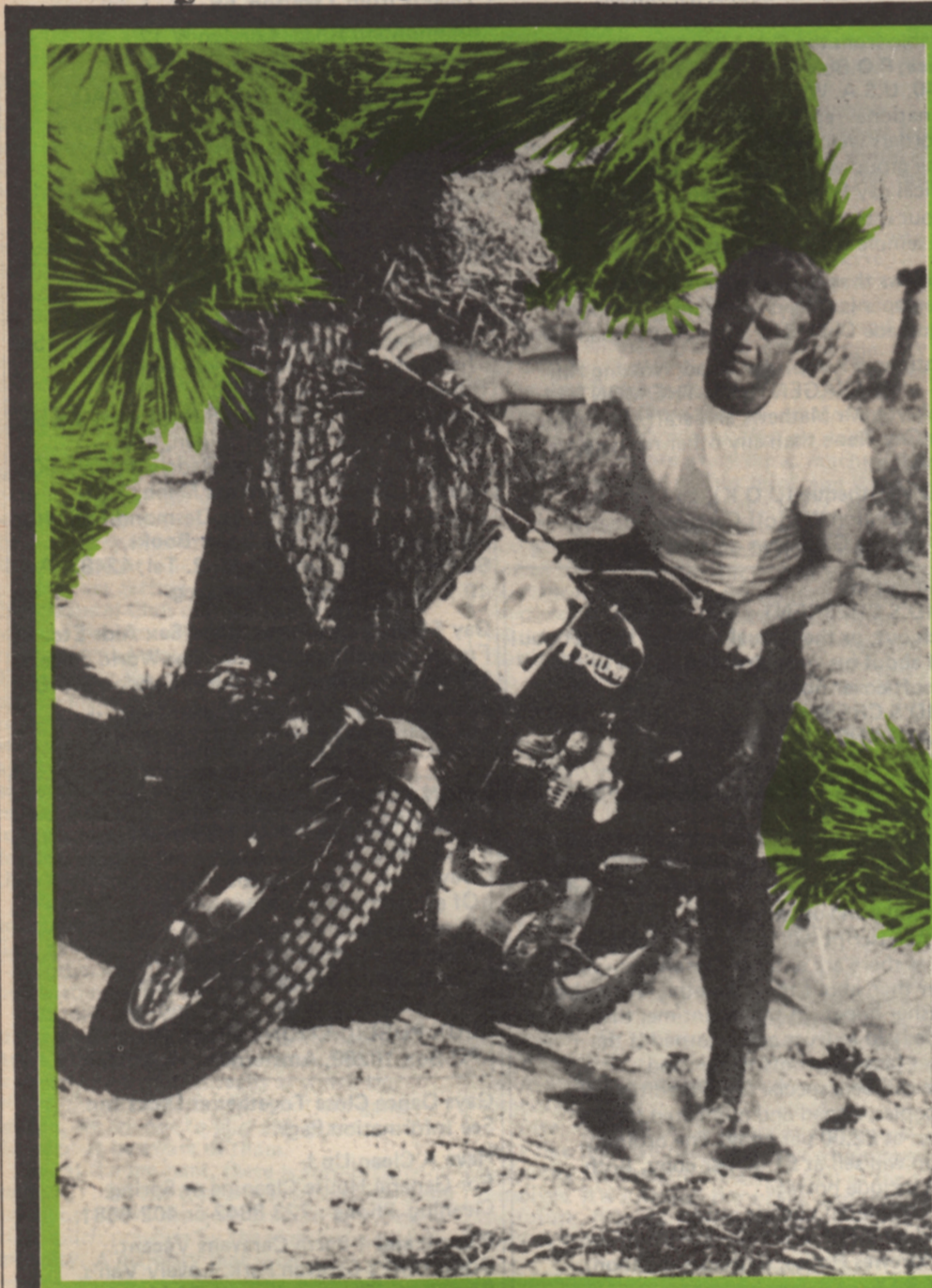
MARIO'S CLUB, Stenford Street, off Castlegate, Nottingham.

Nottingham - Roebuck, Mansfield Road, room upstairs

THE PLOUGH, Great Munden Herts. A.10 thru Ware (Herts), signpost on left to The Mundens. At the end of side road turn right - pub is on right. About 3 miles off the A.10

Postage costs are very high, so when you write to us, could you please enclose a stamped addressed envelope for the reply - if you want a reply, that is.

McQUEEN OF THE MONTH



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