

**NEW YEAR ISSUE
RIGHT ON TIME**



Nº14

GAY NEWS

10p

**More Personal
Ads Than Ever
Gay Sister Freed**

**Of Men And
Little Boys -
The Article That
Shocked Canada**



GAY NEWS

Joint Editors and Members of the Editorial Collective

Richard Adams (Design), Peter Holmes, Denis Lemon, Peter Mundy, David Seligman and Ian Dunn (Scotland), Glenys Parry (Manchester), Graham Chapman, David Sherlock.

Gay News Special Friends

Roger Baker, Denis Cohn, Barry Conley, Laurence Collinson, Brian Dax, Martin Grant, Antony Grey, Peter MacMillan, Manus Sasonkin, Martin Slavin, Bernard Searey, Rebecca John, David Hart, Christopher Ambury and Richard Watkins.

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Editorial

There's an awful lot of fat queens sitting around on their butts spending all their money on themselves, and not on the gay movement — that's the opinion of one of the top men in Britain's homophile organisations.

He reckons there's £7½ million being earned each year by members of societies that belong to the National Federation of Homophile Organisations.

This estimate and the accusation that rich gays spend their cash on themselves only came at the annual meeting of the NFHO, held last month.

What caused the plain talking, after the first half of idealism, hopes and plans, was the fact that Gay News is — in plain English — broke. Flat broke, or, at least, it was at the time.

Immediate Donation

The NFHO asked Gay News to tell the meeting what it was like running a fortnightly homosexual newspaper. And we told them. After that people's reservations about talking money crumbled. The NFHO gave Gay News an immediate donation of £50 from its all too small funds.

Antony Grey, the managing trustee of the Albany Trust, said an appeal which, ten years ago, would have raised £3,000 to £4,000, now raised £300 to £400 if they were lucky.

Why is money drying up? Are there less gays? Of course there aren't.

Poverty Parade

It would seem that ten years ago, before the 1967 Sexual Offences Act, even the rich gays were prepared to write a cheque now and then to keep the few organisations then brave enough to exist to claim our civil rights as gays.

Now they have been given half of what we want — we are half-legal, we half-exist — and it seems they can't be bothered to keep supporting those who are doing the fighting on their behalf.

It's not just Gay News that finds money hard to get, the Gay Liberation Front parade its poverty in its regular newsletter. CHE needs money, Friend is young and poor.

The Albany Trust is lucky enough to have a charitable trust supporting it just now, the NFHO — which could link up the disparate efforts towards gay liberation, given a chance — is starved of funds.

Selfish Gays

As the senior man from the organisation

that belongs to the NFHO said, it's time these gays stopped being complacent and started doing something to benefit the rest of the gay community — if it exists at all, rather than selfishly spending all those £7½ million on themselves each year.

The editorial collective decided some time ago that we weren't going to deal with internal matters in the editorial column (that's what "Here We Are Again" is for). But the present money shortage in the laughably constructed "gay world" has hit all gay organisations and publications. Therefore we feel that the matter is more important than being merely a domestic shortage.

Independent and Determined

The fact that this copy of Gay News has been printed is proof of what we intend to do. We'll keep on keeping on. Keeping on at the authorities who have only given us half a life and keeping on at those selfish gays who can't be bothered to support their organisations.

The fact that we have received donations and loans from various quarters — more details elsewhere — does not mean that we are going to start toeing anyone else's line.

From now on Gay News is Gay News. And it's here to stay.

Shoe-Strings can Strangle

We started without enough money to get past issue three. This is Gay News 14. Through cost-paring and seemingly never-ending days of work, this paper runs on a shoe-string. But a shoe-string isn't good enough.

How many gays have to get by on £15 a week? Because each member of the collective never receives more than that. Gay News is here now. But it still needs money. £500 immediately. With another £1,500 to follow to guarantee our existence for 1973.

It's not the only gay organisation to need money. We all do. Just to stay in existence — for some of us.

Big Mouths

People are generous enough with their praise, the sound they ought to produce if they think the gay organisations are doing any good is the sound of pens on cheque books.

urge there. I think Antony Storr points out that many active homosexuals want a partner with a big prick, which is, may I say in passing, English vernacular as opposed to the American *cock*, applicable to both male and female genitalia. The fantasised urges I spoke of can't be allowed to direct our lives. I hope that JS and BS are happy together. But I do think that being 'turned on' is suspiciously mechanical.

Faults of layout and format are not worth criticising in view of the difficult conditions you have to cope with. I wish you could find a gay millionaire to smooth things out.

Another thing: whatever Messrs JS and BS may say, your business is *not* to do with cocks and spunk and arseholes. These are very private matters. Gay includes women. Women do not have the apparatus mentioned. Not only do you need to devote more space to women, you also need to promote more effective communication between gay women and men. I am sure you are thinking about this.

Finally, I think you could and should increase the price of GN to at least 40p. You are in a seller's market, with the unique advantage that you are on the side of the buyer.

Peter Jackson

Second Thoughts

Brighton

Dear Editorial Collective,

At your invitation I feel I must write and ask who is the self-styled Mary Whitehouse, or Little Hitler? Who has barred such innocent words as leather and denim from the personal ads?

While I must agree some of the ads have been near the knuckle, I'm sure the situation doesn't justify this discriminatory action.

Why, even in GN 12, Julian got all switched on when "he" visited the Wheatstheaf's Green Room. I can't wait to get there.

If you don't want to continue the personal adverts for fear of prosecution, then come clean and say so, and don't inflict this dictatorial attitude. After all, I'm sure everyone knows the idea of the ads.

I was hoping to put a personal advert in after Christmas, but for fear of this censorship, I am having second thoughts. So will many others.

Have another think about this matter, and come up with a logical answer.

Roy Bonham

P.S. Have subscribed to no 23. Make it!

ED: Sorry we didn't explain our new policy towards personal ads clearly enough in GN13. We most certainly are not "barring" words such as leather and denim. But for now we must alter or refuse adverts which explicitly refer to sexual acts, preferences or organs, ie whipping, CP, well-endowed, etc.

Love Lives Forever

London, SW8

Dear Gay News,

Your correspondent Doug Pollard approached the problem of ageing (GN 12 page 7) with as much wit as possible. Correct. Better laugh than cry, always. But I must tell you that the lads at the disco don't tell me (as Doug does) to go and find an armchair at the Athenaeum; and talking to my old school chums (all those bloody bishops). On the contrary, the lads at the disco invite me to come again, because I love them and they (bless their hearts) love me.

There's only one solution to the problem. We must create a special Marxism for grandpas. What about joining the T.G.W.U. (Terpsichorean Grandpas of the World Unite) and then I can buy a ticket to the Yuletide National Lorrydrivers Lottery (You've nothing to lose but your life).

To be serious, Doug, I think that your phrase "gone for ever", is a bit defeatist in tone. Of course you are perfectly right in a way. If homosexuality is simply a question of cocks and balls and having it off, then certainly there comes an end to that. But homosexuality isn't that. It's love, and love doesn't go, it lives forever.

So let me stay on the disco circuit, where I guarantee I'll find more courage, humility, generosity, gentleness and sheer love per square foot than anywhere else in London, possibly in the world. Oh brave new world that hath such creatures in it. Even Pale Brother Death is halted, and stands amazed.

Dai Grove.

Face It Babes

Dear Collective,

Sorry, but I'd like to inject a sour, critically appraising note into the general chorus of congratulation. Of course it is good that you exist and the paper is mildly entertaining, though not very informative. But how many other gays besides me are increasingly turned off by the prevailing giggly, simpering, juvenile tone representing all that is passé and stupid and discredited in the homosexual image.

Face it, babes, there is something tawdry about Gay News. Just not enough reality and intelligence. It is mostly badly written, amateurish and uncritical in its comments on almost everything. I am not calling for the over-intellectualised approach, just a more balanced and broad depiction of the real variety and maturity in much of the gay world.

And how confused can your values get? That calendar has a photograph of Mae West who may be the object of a cult but has been known for years to be extremely hostile to gay men. I suppose you're being good Christian gays (who needs them?) in turning the other — you should pardon the expression — cheek, but first rule of any revolution, no matter how minor, is know thine enemy.

Daniel James

Fem or Butch

Leeds

Dear Gay News,

I've just returned from a gay club in London where I was asked if I was 'fem' or 'butch' — having never considered this, I just said I was a person. However it seemed that people expected to know

if I was 'fem' or 'butch' in order to relate themselves to me; was I a good pick up. I find it equally hard to relate to fem and butch images and all their restrictions. Perhaps it's my restriction but I suggest that these gay women are presenting the stereotypes that one can find in any straight disco/bar. They also prevent other gay women coming out by turning them off the gay scene because these gay women seek individuality rather than conformity. Anyway, I'd like to know what other people think of this.

Incidentally, we'd like more women members of GLF in Leeds, we have fluctuated to two at the moment.

Jane

Much Ado

Bayswater

Dear Gay News,

Whilst, probably correctly, petulantly chanting again and again your dissociation with any organisation, do you dare print this letter and admit in reply to James Knight that Roger Baker, Press Officer for CHE wrote the attack on Martin Stafford for your newspaper?

Love, B S

ED: We dared to print your letter. So what?

Bugging the Bugs

London

Dear Gay News,

Thanks a lot for that really interesting article on crabs in GN8! As you said we can all be a bit simple sometimes and I must qualify for simpleton of the year award. I've been scratching my balls for



Illustration: Jean-Claude Hevenin

about a week or so, and it was only when re-reading some back numbers of GN that I realised what I had got. I immediately rushed round to the local chemists for the Quellada (and got an icy and disgusted look from the assistant as she gave it to me!) Got a hot (too hot) bath with about half a bottle of Dettol in it and proceeded to cover myself with the recommended lotion. Then I took everything I'd worn, the bedsheets, towels and all to the laundrette and the dry cleaners. All this as you can imagine cost me a fortune, the dry cleaning alone came to £1.50. I'm still racking my brains to think when and where I could have caught the little bastards, as I get a bath very regularly and use plenty of Femfresh — er I mean Old Spice! What really made me uptight was that the other night I was with a really fabulous boy at a club and had to make excuses when he asked me back to his place, as I still had the Quellada lotion on my body! Thanks to the above mentioned article and its excellent advice I have got rid of the pesky things and can start to live again!

On another track, I'd like to say how fantastic I think Gay News is and give my love to Julian! Keep the gay flag flying!

Rick

Lovely Points

Dear Gay News,

That letter from 'Queenies Castle' really slayed us (Gay News issue number 12). "If Sebastian is 'straight', then 'call me Madam'. Perhaps He (or she) had a tiff with the Manager of the "dear old Bio" and plans to get her revenge.

Keep on writing, Julian, we love to read your points of view. We also think "Queenies Castle" should be renamed "HATTERS CASTLE".

Martha, Michelle and Diana

Never Be Parents

London, W14.

Dear Gay News,

Few people seem to be aware of the unhappiness facing the Lesbian who loves children, but, because she cannot respond to men, despairs of ever having any children of her own.

Many gay men marry women who understand their problems and together they managed to bring up happy children. Gay women, on the other hand, have to find all their emotional satisfaction in their relationships with other women — and as they get older, with increasingly young girls who tend to become daughter substitutes.

Not all gay women may have found this, but it has been my experience. All my men friends are gay; all the straight men I ever knew lost interest not being content with a non-sexual relationship. Good riddance anyway. In retrospect they are all so hung-up on role playing that they couldn't see the real person in me or themselves.

Is there anyone who is really into kids and is not hung-up on sex and roles? Creative and understanding? I would like to hear about gay or bi men who also get depressed because they think they will never be parents.

Dierdre.

Your Letters

Please note that any letters received by us at Gay News are liable to be published unless you state otherwise.

Why Risk It?

Middlesex

Dear Sir,

I have only seen numbers 9, 11 and 12 of GN. I advertised in numbers 11 and 12 for someone to share my home and life. There was a bigger response than I expected and I am dealing with this now in what I hope is a civilised way.

Meanwhile, one or two thoughts occur to me. I think the heading of your illegal page is excellent. Some of the ads, however, are a bit doubtful. If

you want to remain in circulation, why put it at risk in this way? There is always a temptation, feeling oneself to be in a minority, resentful, a bit aggressive about it, to be *daring*. Resist it. You do not have the lampooning function of Private Eye, that can tell any client of the blessed Arnold Goodman to get fucked. JS recently found BS by way of your columns (it may have been the other way round!) One of them wanted a big black cock but he could well have found it by other means without exposing you to police prosecution. Stratton-Wells is justified in his complaints. I am half-guilty myself, knowing that particular appeal, though I am not passive. Still, there is a fantasised

Angie Freed In Angry Trial

LONDON: Gay sister Angela Weir was freed by an Old Bailey jury last month at the end of the Stoke Newington 8 trial — otherwise known as the Angry Brigade trial — which turned out to be not only the longest case that court has ever known, but also its most under-reported case.

The fact is that only Time Out gave the trial week-by-week coverage. And it's even more surprising that the mass-circulation papers weren't interested in the story until four of the eight had been convicted of bombing offences, which the prosecution claimed were the work of the so-called Angry Brigade.

After the best part of a year sitting in the court listening to conflicting prosecution evidence (as on the topic of the explosives used) the 12-man jury retired. But only after Judge James had summed up the trial — to "refresh" the juror's minds. In this factual account of the evidence the judge deemed it necessary to remark on the fact that Angela's

case, with no recompense now that they are cleared, and ensured that Angela's political line changed substantially.

In Time Out's interview (TO148) she told the magazine's news team: "The things I was mainly involved in were Gay Liberation and Women's Liberation, and I think I was involved in them in a reactive way, you know, saying 'This is terrible, we must do something about it' — involved in a moral kind of way. Now I'm more convinced of a proper Marxist understanding of the situation and a strategy which comes from that and the need for proper organisation."

It took the state a million pounds to make Angela a committed Marxist.



Angela Weir talks to newsmen at Time Out's offices.

witnesses were gay. And he didn't stop there. He went on to say "Don't hold it against them (the witnesses) that, perhaps in other peoples' eyes they are not normal members of society, they are normal in their own eyes."

The state of the law in England then, as now, is that the jury decides matters of fact. The judge is there only to advise them on points of law and to make the legal decision necessary — that is, sentence the accused once the jury has found them guilty. He must not evaluate the various bits of evidence presented; that's what the jury's for.

However, after a couple of days recess the jury could only manage to reach a majority decision of 10 to 2 to convict four of the people accused with Angela of conspiring to cause explosions. Conspiracy, according to Judge James, can be a wink or a nod or any other slight sign of agreement. The four convicted were said to have stored explosives for Angry Brigade bombers in their home in Amhurst Road, Stoke Newington.

Apart from jailing four young people for alleged conspiracy in a number of bombings, the Stoke Newington 8 trial — the first really big show-trial of political dissenters in Britain this century — guaranteed promotion for Commander Bond, the detective who made the arrests, made sure that the two men cleared of conspiracy charges with Angela were kept in prison for 16 months awaiting trial and during the hearing of the



Men Jailed For Bizarre Performances

STAFFORD: The Crown Court here jailed three men for taking part in what were described as "bizarre and disgusting performances" in the bedrooms in a house nearby Longton, after a case in which the court heard that the house was visited by a succession of boys, youths and young men.

A fourth man (aged 19) who faced charges of indecency with the others was put on probation for two years.

All four had pleaded guilty to indecency charges but the case concentrated on 40-year-old Derek a driving instructor, who owned the house where all the 'offences' were said to have happened.

Even his defence lawyer told the court that Derek was emotionally immature and incapable of forming a sexual relationship with a woman. He added "He has a basic defect of personality."

Mr John Field-Evans, prosecuting, outlined the facts of the case in more detail than usual, because, he said: "The public

ought to be made aware of the facts."

He told the court that for the last three years, boys aged between 12 and 19 had visited Derek's house.

Some of the boys were truants, others had left home and at least one was in the care of the local authority.

He said: "One of the most disturbing factors in this case is that a housemaster from a local authority home at Penkull, a man by the name of Alan Perry, took one of the boys from the home and introduced him" to Derek. Perry does not appear in court and the police are still looking for him.

Derek, who was said to be "a confirmed homosexual", admitted nine offences of gross indecency. He asked for 28 other "offences" to be taken into consideration.

Judge Brian Bush sentenced him to a total of six years imprisonment and said: "For three years, your home became a refuge for young boys on the run."

The reason you did this was in order to practise your perverse desires on these young boys.

"No-one who has read the papers in this case could be in any doubt that you are an evil man — and it is clear from reports that you did not consider your conduct to be serious, nor do you have any conception of its effect on the parents and families of the boys concerned."

With Derek in the dock were 25-year-old Derek, of Bury, Lancashire, 33-year-old

Graham, of Hanley, and 19-year-old Michael of Meir. Each of them admitted two 'offences' of 'indecent' and Graham asked for a similar 'offence' to be taken into consideration.

The 25-year-old Derek, a former public health inspector for Manchester Corporation, was jailed for two-and-a-half-years. Graham who runs a menswear store in Hanley, was jailed for two years and Michael — who was said to have been the 'victim' of a number of the 'offences' — was put on probation.

Mr M. Hytner, the counsel for the younger Derek, said he was a homosexual, although his link with the other Derek was 'tenuous'. He said: "Even as the law stands now, the life of a homosexual is a lonely one. He met this man Perry and was introduced by him to (the other Derek)."

Mr Brian Gibbons defending Graham, said that he was "only slightly involved in this dreadful state of affairs. One of the 15-year-old boys he assaulted was a willing partner. He had nothing to do with the other bizarre and disgusting performances in the house."

Mr Gerry Farnon, who appeared for Michael said that he had "begun to go down hill after running away from his home and going to lodge with (Derek). He now has a girlfriend and has told her all about these offences — he is now on the right road in life."

These Are A Few Of My Favourites Lies

LONDON: After the first two defendants in the Champion "drag-bust" case lost out to the authorities in early November (GN10) in an explosive atmosphere after the magistrate had cleared the public gallery, a new magistrate was fielded to hear the cases against the other three gays arrested at Notting Hill's Champion pub.

But this new magistrate found all three guilty as charged, despite confused police evidence. As he said in his preamble to announcing that he thought they were all guilty: "The question is whether I can be sure that the police officer was telling the truth, or whether I should believe the defence evidence."

So, deciding that it was more likely that the policeman had told the truth, he found Douglas McDougal guilty of obstructing the highway outside the Champion late on October 24 (reported in GN7), Richard Chapple and Peter Borne both guilty of obstructing a police officer in the course of his duty.

Certainly the magistrate gave the impression that their guilt was not "beyond all reasonable doubt" — the classic formula for a verdict to be arrived at — as far as he was concerned and it came as something of a shock after his "liberal" overture when he pronounced them all guilty and fined Douglas £5, and Richard and Peter £15 each.

All three conducted their own cases and dressed up for the occasion. The public gallery was filled with up to 20 gays supporting the three in the dock in various stages of "drag" and make-up.

At the beginning of both the morning and afternoon sessions the magistrate warned the gays in the public gallery that if he didn't like the way they behaved he'd have them all thrown out. A warning he had to repeat half-way through the afternoon session.

Basically the evidence for the prosecution was given by PC Allen, of Notting Hill Police, who said that he'd arrested Douglas for obstructing the 15-foot-wide pavement out-

side the pub after a group of gays had been ejected from the pub at the landlord's request. They had sat down as a protest against his refusal to serve men in "drag".

PC Allen claimed that as he was leading Douglas to the police-van double-parked outside the Champion, Richard Chapple had jumped on his back and Peter Borne had grabbed his arm to stop him.

This was backed up by PC Alan Wiseman of Notting Hill, who said at first that he was sitting in the front of the van when Douglas was put into it, and later said he was standing by the doors, when he was pressed for that answer by the prosecuting solicitor. Allen also claimed that Douglas had said that he was not going to be arrested by a member of the "working class". PC Wiseman admitted he'd heard none of this.

What PC Wiseman did admit, however, when questioned by Douglas MacDougal, was that he had started to charge the three, leaving the room for a while to write up his notes and then returning to finish the charge procedure. But when he was questioned by the prosecution PC Wiseman was wise enough to change his story.

This neat sleight of tongue was completely ignored by the magistrate, as was the entire defence case.

Douglas said that he had never stopped walking, therefore he had never caused an obstruction. PC Allen, on the other hand, had called the gays "fucking queers" and had told him (Douglas) to "fuck off" towards Notting Hill Gate which was not the direction that Douglas wanted to go. So he walked back, without stopping. It was then that PC

Continued on next page.



From left to right: Richard Chapple, Douglas McDougal and Peter Borne who were found guilty; Peter Reed and Andrew Lumsden who had been convicted previously (GN10).

Allen grabbed him and dragged him by the hair to the police-van.
Both Peter and Richard brought witnesses to say that neither was the type of person to go around hitting 15-stone policemen, who were already 'over-excited'.
Summing up the case the magistrate said: "One of the things I have to ask myself is whether the comment about the 'working class' was made up by PC Allen or whether McDougal said this. I think it is a statement that most people are likely to use. And at the same time, it is unlikely that PC Allen would have made it up." But even he didn't sound altogether convinced.
When he announced the sentence the public gallery turned from a gentle smoulder of discontent to open amazement, with

shouts such as "Why don't you hang them while you're at it?" people lighting up cigarettes and others noisily leaving in disgust.

LIBERATION NOTE: *Gay Lib supporters suggested the reporters from Gay News and Lunch didn't attend the second half of the case if the reporters valued their safety. Despite this intimidation, both Gay News and Lunch returned and reported.*
FASHION NOTE: *Quote from a Gay Libber to the Gay Newsmen at the Champion case. Gay Libber looks down nose and says: "You don't look very gay. You look like a Young Socialist." This came from one of the current GLF power clique.*

of Hedley's continual threats to close the bar is his resolve that he would much rather not have a bar at all if it meant that the standards that he thought appropriate for an institution of further education were not maintained.
He states that he merely wants to maintain the standards which apply in any public house and that he doesn't want his £13½m development plan endangered by a lot of queers.
He justifies his prejudices against what he affectionately terms "hard-line homosexuals" by referring to what is generally believed to be a fictitious telephone call from the Assistant Chief Constable who allegedly warned repressed Gruppenfuhrer Hedley that hordes of nasty offensive queers were changing their patronage from Mario's which was following police advice by dis-

couraging overt homosexuality. There is no reason to believe this is true.
Moreover, Hedley's definition of drag is at best an unconventional one. It seems important to make this clear, by all accounts there has been, with one exception, no real drag except during Carnival.
By drag, Hedley means the use of make-up, and his hatred of homosexuality further manifested itself in the recent Management Committee meeting where he and Lyon (Deputy Director, Student Affairs) insisted that not only the bar was involved. If a person in drag (sic) was found in lectures or any part of the Poly premises, action would be taken. The president replied that in such a case that person would be defended by the Union.
Love and kisses to Gongster, Nottingham University Student's Paper.

Bath Gays Gagged

BATH: Bath's Evening Chronicle has run two articles about the Bath Gay Awareness Group, but it will not carry the group's paid advertisements inviting lonely gays in the Somerset University city to its meetings.

The Bath and Wilts Evening Chronicle — to give it its full name — will not carry the ads because they do not represent what is "truth and right" in the eyes of the paper's managing director, Mr Edgely.
Mr Edgely, who is only a minor cog in the bigger wheel that owns the Chronicle, the Westminster Press group — the provincial newspaper group owned by Lord Cowdray, whose dilettante son Michael Pearson has as his hobbies owning the Hedonist, the biggest motor-yacht built since the war (complete with circular bed and bath with gold taps etc) and producing movies (such as Vanishing Point).
Lord Cowdray has as his hobby making money and to further this end controls S. Pearson Publishing, which owns Penguins, Longmans, Ladybird Books, the Financial Times and Westminster Press, a string of highly profitable newspapers with large numbers of advertisements kept apart by editorial matter of a high moral tone (for instance the word "rape" could not be used until 1968.)

It is in this high moral tone and the "family newspaper" aims of the Pearson organisation that motivates the smaller men of the hierarchy such as Mr Edgely, to refuse to allow Bath's gays to run a simple advertisement in the

Bath Chronicle's personal ad columns.
Bob Illingworth, of BGAG met Mr Edgely to try to talk to him. Bob pointed out that BGAG only wanted to have the ad published to contact the many lonely and isolated gays in the city and help them come to terms with their homosexuality. It was not the group's intention, he said, to "deprave and corrupt" people into becoming homosexual.
Mr Edgely, who'd refused to talk about his decision to bar the BGAG ad, eventually agreed to pronounce upon the subject of gays and gayness. He said that homosexuality was a gross abnormality and homosexuals were sick people in need of medical attention. To him homosexuality was abhorrent and not suitable to appear in the advertisement section of his paper.

He told Bob the advertisements in the Chronicle represented the newspaper itself and should therefore represent what is truth and right. He failed to explain how the articles on the BGAG were truth and right if the ad wasn't.
Maybe he was prepared to allow the editorial department to use the gays as a sort of freak-show to fill in between the display ads. Beyond that his Westminster Press-approved liberalism didn't stretch.

Boys Burn House To Hide Murder

Three teenagers were sentenced on November 24, 1972, at the Central Criminal Court (the Old Bailey) to terms of detention in connection with the murder of Maxwell Confait, 26, at his home: a bed-sitter in Doggett Road, Catford, SE6.

Mr. Richard du Cann, prosecuting, described the events as a "truly appalling crime." Mr Du Cann said that the three youths had broken into the house in the early hours of April 22, 1972, their motive being to rob or steal. Confait had discovered them shortly after they had broken in.

The court heard that 14-year-old school-boy Ahmet Salih, of Nelgarde Road, Catford SE6 was a witness to the killing, by strangulation, of Confait.

Dead Man Was A Homosexual

Confait was said to be a homosexual who liked to dress in women's clothing and was well-known in the locality. In the gay circles in which he circulated he was called 'Michelle'.

After two of them had killed him all three of the youths set fire to the house, the rest of which was occupied by a Mr and Mrs Goode, and their five children. They awoke at 1.15am to discover smoke and flames coming from the basement. The fire was apparently started to "cover their traces".

Colin George Latimore, 18, unemployed, of Nelgarde Road, Catford, was said to have strangled Confait by twisting some white electric flex around his neck. Latimore was

acquitted of murder, but found guilty of manslaughter on grounds of diminished responsibility and of arson. Said to have a mental age of 10, he was ordered to be detained under security conditions in a mental hospital without limit of time. In a statement he was alleged to have described the death of Confait as "an accident".

Ronald William Leighton, 16, unemployed, who lived in the same road as the dead man, was described in reports as being "on the borderline of the subnormal". Convicted of murder and arson, he was ordered by Mr Justice Chapman to be detained during Her Majesty's pleasure (ie without limit of time) in a place and under such conditions as the Secretary of State may direct.

Ahmet Salih, 14, schoolboy, also of Nelgarde Road, was convicted of setting fire to the house, with intent to endanger life; he was ordered to be detained for not less than four years in a place to be directed by the Home Secretary.

The police did not have to look far from the scene of the crime to find the accused. One of them lived in the same street as 'Michelle', the others just one street away.
Steve Williams

Poly Prejudices

On the third of November a letter was sent to the director, Hedley of the Trent Poly-technic, from its catering manager concerning homosexual activity in the Poly; the head barman complained of people in drag using the bar facilities.

The director explained to the president of the Student's Union that he wanted the so-called "homosexual elements" out or he would close the bar.

At an Extraordinary General Meeting, a motion was passed to the effect that the union would not accept any discriminatory practices upon people entitled to enter the bar and who are acting within the law.

Although an important issue, since it entails bigoted discrimination against minority groups, many of the members of the union

with whom we spoke see this as part of a much larger scheme directed at curbing student autonomy still further, and it was felt by the Labour Club that recent disciplinary action were all part of this attack.

It is seen that Hedley is using this issue to split the Union, on the theory of divide and rule, and that drag is just an excuse, a tactical move, more political especially as it comes at a time when the Instruments and Articles come under review and the Executive's time is taken up by the bar situation. At the root



1972 Goes Out In Style for Gay News

LONDON: The editors and members of the editorial collective of Gay News dispersed themselves briefly in Shepherd's Bush, to celebrate the end of the paper's first half year of existence.

Not that the gays had it all their own way. Sandi Rutenberg, the GN typesetter brought along her South African boyfriend, and Richard Adams, Gay News' art man brought along his wife.

The Christmas issue of Gay News was read by more people than have bought any other issue, as sales are up by about 1,000 — another reason for the editors to celebrate six months of publishing.

When Gay News first appeared it made British publishing history, as the first independent gay newspaper in the country. Since then it has picked up a design award and sales of about 10,000 — which results in a readership of 40,000 to 50,000, being the most widely read gay publication in the British Isles.

The Christmas party was held in the Green Room at the Wheatsheaf, Goldhawk Road, and, though it was a relatively sober affair, Hammersmith police and New Scotland Yard decreed that it should end at 1 am.

The bill was footed by friends of Gay News.

Doctors Stay Away

READING: Out of 90 doctors invited to a lecture on "Homosexuality and Doctors", none turned up. But enough people did go along to make for a lively discussion on the medical profession's treatment of gays.

The discussion's leader was Dr Schlicht, a consultant psychiatrist, with two general practitioners.

It was generally agreed that homosexuality was not a medical condition to be treated by prescribing medicine. The doctor's role was more that of a friend and adviser, helping homosexuals face their situation in an otherwise hostile society.

Some in the audience felt doctors should do more to change society's hostility towards gays, but the doctors pointed out that they had limited time and resources and homosexuality was just one of several problems they dealt with. But, they said, facilities for homosexuals had much improved recently.
From Reading Gay Arrow

'Policeman' Black mails Aged Man

LIVERPOOL: A Birkenhead man posed as a policeman to blackmail a 73-year-old man from Wallasey, he told Liverpool Crown Court, where he was jailed for two years.

Noel Chapman, 36, pleaded guilty to four charges of demanding a total of £140 during July and August. Another man appeared with Chapman, but, because he pleaded not guilty, his case was put back for trial.

Judge Nance told Chapman "You repeatedly blackmailed an old man and induced him to part with money by pretending as a police officer that you would report his involvement in homosexual activities, of which there is no evidence whatsoever."
"You further set about staging a charade

with another man, to get more money from him."

Mr Glynmor Jones said Chapman had approached the 73-year-old man as he was leaving a public lavatory at Wallasey, accused him quite wrongly of being there for an 'immoral' purpose and threatened, as a police officer, to arrest him.

Chapman emphasised to the old man the publicity his arrest would attract and indicated that he would forget the whole thing for a fiver.

More demands for money were paid until August 24, when the victim found another note demanding money. He went to the police and arranged with them that he would pay over the blackmail cash in marked notes.

The old man handed the money to Chapman behind the library in Earlston Gardens, Wallasey. Police officers then arrested Chapman.

Librarian Says No

BATH: Despite requests from Bath's Gay Awareness Group for Gay News to be stocked along with other newspapers and periodicals in the city's library reading rooms, the Director of the Bath Municipal Libraries has refused to allow the paper to go on display, and he blames the re-organisation of local government, which is due to take place within the next year or so.

The libraries' director also told BGAG that the libraries didn't have enough notice-board space to take a Campaign for Homosexual Equality poster. He said the notice-boards were kept for official posters only.

But, having denied Bath's gays any worthwhile publicity, he gave the impression of fairness by telling the group that it could fill in a registration form for the Directory of Local Societies, a card-index kept in the Reference Library. This, he said, would show "the time taken to complete the form will be amply rewarded by the publicity thus achieved."

Something Old... Something New...

EDINBURGH: Nominations to the SMG Executive Committee for 1973 exactly matched the number of vacancies. For SMG, this was an encouraging start to their fourth year of existence.

In 1971, SMG introduced the 3-year retiral rule which impels elected Executive Members to retire automatically after three years of service to the cause. Standing for re-election this year are John Breslin, presently National Secretary, and Alan Dalziel who is the Exec's minutesman. John's voice is comfortably familiar to the hundreds of telephone callers to the Glasgow Office over the past two years, - even his answering machine has a friendly shine! Alan has coped well with the often heated discussions (and semi-awareness-raising sessions) generated at the monthly Executive Committee meetings.

Old "stock" is soundly preserved in the shape of bearded Ian Dunn (SMG's Chairman in 1972, and its first secretary in 1969), Danny Mullen (debonair and with a flawless taste for bow ties and red carnations and blue velvet trousers), Alastair (The Dish) Davidson who's a speech and drama student, Jim Halcrow (solidly into the role of SMG Treasurer, and a true gem in our crown), blond-haired Paul Kennedy, permanent London representative on the National Federation of Homophile Organisations (did you see his letter in "The Listener" on 16th March raising the banner for gays' contribution to the population explosion? Yes!) and finally Ian Hoy and Tony Bromley (who

kept us on our toes).

New "blood" is represented by Mike Coulson (the powerhouse of SMG Edinburgh in 1972, best known for his law reform work, who hit Radio and Press headlines recently when the University of Edinburgh announced that a Teach-In on Homosexuality would be held on 8th March 1973), by Bruce Briggs (a former National Secretary - making a fresh bid for power? - who's guided SMG Glasgow through a slowly growing year), by dark horse David (Dot) Miller recently relocated to Glasgow, who proved his salt as a local committee worker in his Edinburgh days. Nigel Butcher, the tall, dark-haired and dashing nominee from Glasgow is very much an unknown quantity (I mean in committee, dears!) but gave a sound account of himself at a recent Hustings Night in Edinburgh. Finally, Lionel Harrison - the fiscal lion of the SMG COBWEB Club in Edinburgh - brings the Executive Committee up to strength. If we can persuade him to use his considerable talents in music, he should have fun getting revenge on this potted biography by composing a new Enigma Variations.

Lets wish the team "orrabes" for their work in Scotland during 1973.
Sporran News Service
* Glasgow dialect for "All the best".

Swannsong

LONDON: The new chairman of the BBC's board of governors is on record as being anti-permissive and anti-gay.

Sir Michael Swann has told the press that he intends to be neither "too permissive nor too authoritarian" in his new position of power of what is broadcast by the Beeb.

But in his past as Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Edinburgh University, Sir Michael has shown what he means by not being "too permissive".

In April 1972 he wrote to the chairman of the board of directors of Scottish Inter-

and the same applies.

It is ironic since two of the Republic's favourite sons were homosexual - Oscar Wilde and Roger Casement, though if you publicly believe that the patriot Casement was gay and his 'black diaries' true, you'd get short shrift from today's patriots.

Ironically it was a former Ulster Unionist MP, Montgomery Hyde, who wrote "The Other Love" of which GN published an extract recently.

Remember in Ireland homosexuals must be political because the laws are vicious.

Trevor

Belfast.

Dear Sir,

Those concerned with civil liberties should be made aware of the peculiar situation facing homosexuals in N. Ireland. Though governed by Mr Whitelaw and sole legislative control being exercised in Westminster, the unchanged N. Ireland law is still in operation. Thus we have the peculiar situation where a Westminster MP is liable to life imprisonment in N. Ireland for an act that is perfectly permissible in London!

The Unionist party in their role of supervising institutionalised inequality were incapable of removing such penal iniquity, even five years after the reform in England. Not surprisingly they were ably supported in mutual silence by all the nationalist groupings. One might think that such grotesque inequality between Britain and N. Ireland would have galvanised an organisation like the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA). But NICRA said and did nothing, its credence as a genuine civil rights organisation being further eroded. An undefined term of internment and life imprisonment are remarkably similar and equally worthy of denunciation when those living in Britain are liable to neither.

The Ministry of Community Relations ought to give the Belfast homosexual community some token of gratitude for the uncompromisingly non-sectarianism it has displayed in the last three years. Not only has it remained united but it has also had the capacity to unite elements of the majority Catholic and Protestant community, albeit in common antagonism!

I recognise that changing laws does not change society, but in this case it is a vital first step. No organisations for self-help or external re-education can emerge while potential members remain liable to such harsh penalties. And only when that happens will it be possible to integrate homosexuals into society and erase the negative and self-destructive features of their behaviour.

It goes without saying that the same laws apply in Southern Ireland. As letters such as this are seldom if ever published, the matter may still be an unsubject, fit only for medical journals. If it is permissible to discuss the issue let us not hear the woeful cries of those who legislate by sloth, that there is no demand for such changes or worse still, that many homosexuals approve of the present law. It is an interesting coincidence that the homosexual minority is something on a par in numbers with the Protestant community. Where a lot has been written of the relatively minor legal discrimination they suffer, nothing has been written of the social and legal position of homosexuals.

Hopefully, Republican homosexuals will not be forced into some kind of reform queue behind Protestants, women, emigrants, etc. Instead a co-operative effort needs to be undertaken of all those minority groupings in society who are pushed around - to overcome the intransigence of a few and the ignorance of most. Otherwise individual freedom becomes a market commodity, traded in by church and state and political lobby. Back in N. Ireland where reform is largely there for the asking, a wise campaign exposing the anomalies in the law is immediately required.

Trevor McAville

Goodbye Agitprop

LONDON: Agitprop, East London's leading alternative bookshop is to close on February 5.

Agitprop, run by a collective from a store in Bethnal Green Road, broadened its interests to include being an information service and the home of many East London alternative groups - such as the East London GLF. It has to close because the members of the collective find it impossible to carry on.

Andy and Pauline Conroy are faced with charges of conspiracy to get guns. Ruth and Harris are being hassled over their visas. Under these pressures, they say, they can't plan for the future.

The Agitprop collective says: "We each feel the need to change in different ways, we feel we must end our involvement in the projects occurring here and help others in the libertarian movement."

ED: With agitprop closing the alternative loses its major beach-head in the East of London. We would thank Agitprop for being friendly and honest dealers. Without the set-up it would be more difficult to start anything new, like Gay News, and we would thank them for their help in giving us information, and acting as a very friendly outlet.

Jewish Press Lashes Gays

LONDON: November's national think-in held by the Jewish Homosexual Liaison Group has got Orthodox Jewry in Britain hot under the tight white collar of its Saturday-best.

To begin with, the Jewish Chronicle - the national newspaper for British Jews - refused to carry any ads for the think-in because homosexuality doesn't exist according to the Torah, the ancient set of laws governing Orthodox Jewish beliefs. The Torah goes as far as saying that homosexuals should be killed.

Then the paper decided to carry a report on the think-in held by people it had already said didn't exist. It was an unbiased piece written by a freelance reporter who stressed what was said by Dr Wendy Greengross and Antony Gray.

This report was duly savaged by a Birmingham doctor, one Dr Gerald Jacobs, of 148 Penshore Road, whose letter was headed "The Sin of Homosexuality". In it Dr Jacobs said: "What a charade! I had to

re-read the report of Dr Wendy Greengross' address to homosexuals.

"Has she not heard of the absolute condemnation of homosexuality by our holy Torah? . . . I am disgusted that the report of these abnormalities is in fact given the credence to warrant valuable space in your columns. If Dr Greengross is so inclined, by all means organise these sexual malcontents for the purposes of treatment . . . But to normal heterosexuals the whole subject nauseates."

But not all the readers of the Jewish Chronicle subscribe to Dr Jacob's views. He came in for some attack from Samuel Litvin of London and Penelope Goodwin of Southampton.

Mr Litvin said Dr Jacobs should live and let live. Ms Goodwin said: "The 'divine' Torah was compiled many thousands of years before full comprehension of homosexuality; it may be indicative of the bigoted attitude of Jewish men that it has taken a Jewish woman, Dr Wendy Greengross, to bring the matter forth into the light of day, instead of leaving it to continue in the stinking dark decay of abysmal ignorance as shown by Dr Jacobs."

First National Friend Conference

FRIEND, CHE's counselling and advisory service, is holding its first national conference on Saturday 13th January. The conference is intended primarily as a forum for FRIEND group organisers and their counsellors who will be coming from all over the country. Items on the agenda include planning for the future expansion of the national network of FRIEND and working with voluntary and statutory agencies.

In the evening there will be a party at CENTRE, FRIEND's national headquarters, from 8-12 pm, open to all. A room has been booked adjoining the dance hall to enable people to talk and socialise without being blasted by the music.

Tickets cost 50p (proceeds to FRIEND) and are available now from FRIEND CENTRE, BROADLEY TERRACE, LONDON NW1, or can be bought on the night of the party. NOTE: CENTRE is not licenced, so if you want to drink - PLEASE BRING A BOTTLE!

Equality For Gay Cops

LONDON: IT (formerly International Times) the oldest of Britain's alternative newspapers reports that the Heath Government has relaxed discrimination against gay people in the security forces.

IT claims that this reverses the Wilson government's puritanical edict which barred gays from promotion within the security forces.

The first boss to be appointed after this relaxing of the ban is Sir Louis de Bailli, the new head of the security forces.

ED: Thanks, love, and happy new year for the above to IT.



Sir Michael Swann - shortsighted?

national - a monthly arts and political commentary magazine supported by the Scottish Arts Council - to complain that the magazine had run a story about the warden of a students hostel who'd been sacked for being gay.

More recently, since being knighted in the Birthday Honours List, Sir Michael has been none too helpful to the Scottish Minorities' Groups' planned teach-in, to be held in March in Edinburgh.

He became incensed and wrote letters complaining about the "abusive letters" he'd received after the Glasgow Herald reported that the teach-in on homosexuality was to take place.

He was quick to point out that the teach-in, which is being organised by a university professor and students from the university was not an official university function. And to reinforce this he has taken steps to make sure that no university funds are spent on the teach-in by telling university committees that they may not regard the teach-in as official.

Therefore it does not exist as far as Sir Michael is concerned.

Irish Oppression

I sent the letter printed below to the Irish Times, The Dublin liberal daily. Needless to say it wasn't published, although they happily publish letters detailing methods of deporting Ulster Protestants that would make General Amin quake. A similar letter was sent to the Belfast Telegraph, the Belfast liberal daily,



Pictured here with some of the many toys donated to under-privileged children - are Mr Steve Francis (compere), 'Stella', Peter Martindale (disc jockey), Mr Jean Fredericks (hostess) and Mr Barry Scott who all say the Fancy Dress Ball prior to Xmas was a huge success. As well as the toys - the raffle raised £28 towards a party for O.A.P.'s held at St Martins In.The-Field by Miss Louise Symonds. Many thanks to the crowd who came to the dance and gave a toy towards this charity. See you all on February 17 - at the Aquarius Ball - Porchester Hall, W2.

J F

What's In A Name

LONDON: The Miss Hong Kong, who the Sunday People salivated, is accused of being originally male, who'd had a sex-change operation is called Miss Meilin Gay.

Meilin, who wasn't placed in last month's Miss World contest, is a model all the way from Kensington. Her business affairs are handled by one Mr K C Kum (if we're to believe the Sunday People).

LIVERPOOL: A man who posed as a policeman to blackmail a 73-year-old gay was convicted at Liverpool Crown Court of extorting £140 from the old man. The judge's name was (brace yourselves) Nance. This case is reported more fully elsewhere in this issue.

Boy Blackmails Shopkeeper

MARLOW: The juvenile court in this Berkshire town was told that a 15-year-old boy tried to blackmail a shopkeeper with a 'poison pen' letter.

Prosecuting Mr Colin Cleugh read a letter he said the boy had handed to the shop-

keeper. It said: "I know what you are and want you to do with me. You are a homosexual. If you don't want me to tell the police put £10 in an envelope. What's £10 to five years away?"

The letter, he said, referred to an incident at a shop where the boy had worked, when "the man very foolishly placed his hand on the boy's trousers - nothing more."

Mr Ronald Kentisbeer, defending, said the letter was the act of a "young, frightened boy". An older person would have acted differently.

The case was adjourned for reports.

From Reading Gay Arrow

Angry Silence Hits RGA

READING: Reading's Gay Alliance is facing a two-way threat to its social functions.

First, the licensee of the Railway Tavern, where RGA has always held its social evenings and discotheques, forgot to re-apply for his late drinking-and-music licence. That ensured that RGA socials became both silent and sober after 'closing time'.

Now the brewery that controls the Railway Tavern has told RGA that it mustn't mention

the pub's name in any press ads, or the brewery will stop RGA holding any functions there. That fairly certainly, ensures that no-one knows where the RGA discos and socials are held, even in their curtailed form.

The brewery, in effect, was happy enough to take the gays' money, but after a member of the public "complained" it didn't want the public to know it had gays in its pub.

But, unabashed, RGA went ahead with plans for New Year celebrations at the Railway, after a promise from the landlord that he'd get the after-hours licence back, so the events could be held realistically.

A spokesman for the brewery said this ban on ads had been imposed after "complaints from a member of the public".

It isn't clear whether "complaints from a member of the public" made the licensee of the Railway forget to go through the routine

procedure to renew his late drinking/music licence.

Touched And Overwhelmed

The Gay News Editorial Collective has been really touched by the scores of Christmas cards that have been pouring into our office over the last four weeks. We're sure that you'll all understand that we have neither the time nor the funds to answer them individually, so may we use this space to thank you all very sincerely, and wish you health and happiness in 1973.

Gay News Editorial Collective

Here We Are Again

Thanks for welcoming us to the New Year by purchasing our first edition of 1973. Despite the present financial gloom, we are all optimistic about the future, and like Mr Micawber, feel something is bound to turn up.

As we have said in the Editorial, we do need a large amount of money/capital to come into our coffers to guarantee our continued existence, as well as expansion and improvement. But as well as needing cash, other needs are almost as important. These are larger premises, which hopefully will be available in the not too distant future, and also we must have better and more professional organisation and systems of working together within the structure of Gay News itself. And it is up to us, the joint editors and members of the editorial collective to make sure that these things happen. We most certainly are endeavouring to.

New People

On the first of this month we are being joined full-time by Peter Munday, who is now solely responsible for distribution, apart from street selling which is a must for every member of Gay News.

It is extremely important that we do sell more copies of GN, but to do this we have to find more outlets. This is where Peter comes into his own. As well as ascertaining all is running smoothly with our present distribution network, he will, during the coming months, be attempting to make sure Gay News is on sale in many more newsagents, bookshops and street vendors pitches around the country and in London. Also, and probably more significantly, Peter will be trying to arrange that the paper is available in as many gay pubs and clubs throughout Great Britain as possible. Whilst GN is still in its infancy, it seems logical to us that the best place to sell a gay newspaper is in gay places.

So if you can help Peter, please contact him at the Gay News office.

As well as having someone to handle our distribution, we also have been joined by Mike who is looking into the present running systems of GN. We feel many areas leave a lot to be desired and also that we may be wasting much time and energy by using unrealistic and self-defeating methods. So during the month or so Mike is with us he will be examining the complete structure of Gay News and be offering advice on how we can improve or change the present way we work. In addition, he will be organising new ways of handling the administrative side of the paper.

New Years Resolution

During 1972 we felt that there has been far too little co-operation between Gay News and the other gay publications available. Like

us, these other papers and magazines are as hard pressed for money and necessary assets. So it seems to us at GN that if we all try a little harder to understand what the others are doing, and worked and exchanged information with one another it would help put an end to that bad feeling that exists between some of us.

All too often, bitchiness, intolerance and non-communication has taken the place of friendliness, awareness and a general interchange of ideas. Unfortunately, this has happened too between Gay News and some of the gay organisations. None of us are going to get anywhere without each other's help and support, so in 1973 let's all take a step down from the various pedestals we have placed ourselves on, and be friends, even if we cannot bridge the gap between our ideological differences. Gay News sees no reason why a little more co-operation and love amongst the various gay publications and organisations will result in any of us having to sacrifice our editorial independence or ideological convictions.

By working together we can show the 'straight' world more than just the fact that we are no different to them. For we can also let them see the power of togetherness and toleration by a large and varied cross-section of people who by overcoming their differing opinions and commitments, can jointly struggle and work for a common cause.

Togetherness and toleration should be the New Years Resolution we should all make and keep through 1973.

Julian

Apart from a brief phone call the other evening, the last we heard of Julian D. Grinspoon was that he had gone off to his beloved Brighton for a quiet but socially busy Christmas. A member of GN did receive a rather vague call from him though last weekend, when, in a lightly breathless manner he said he was thoroughly bored with turkey and that his New Years article would be 'gay' ways of making turkey leftovers interesting and appetising. Since then we haven't heard a word from him, and as turkeys are a fading memory for most of us, it's probably just as well. Anyway, Julian, we hope, will be back for the next issue. We all love you, dear.

Next Issue

Gay News No 15 will be available from 24th January. Please keep your letters, articles and suggestions coming in. See you all next issue, and hope you enjoy this one.

Gay News Editorial Collective

FRED OF THE MONTH



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NEW GHETTOS FOR OLD?

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will discuss

THE HOMOPHILE MOVEMENT IN STRAIGHT SOCIETY
Friday January 12th at 7.30 pm
Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn WC1.
Admission 30p.

Of Men And Little Boys

Many conversations with "liberal" straight people on the subject of homosexuality follow a predictable format. After declaring that they don't care *what* we do in bed as long as it doesn't affect them, they express concern for the plight of children seduced and abused by a large and pathological segment of the homosexual population. Perhaps no other myth concerning homosexuals is so prevalent as this one, and though it has been laid to rest many times in the past, its persistence among otherwise enlightened folk decrees that it be interred once more.

The facts are:

1. Sexual relations between adults and young people seldom involve physical or mental coercion.

2. The incidence of *violent* seduction is higher among heterosexuals than among homosexuals.

When a child is violently forced into sexual compliance, the crime is one of *assault* and should be dealt with as such by the law. The sexual element is only of peripheral interest, and should be excluded from legal consideration.

All of this has been said many times, yet the myth persists, partly because most people are incapable of accepting the fact that children are sexual beings. For a variety of reasons, innocence is equated with purity in our culture, and purity with chastity, and it is unavoidable logically that if a child is to be innocent, he must also be chaste. In the world's most erotophobic culture — ours — sex is still the most persistent example of *adult* depravity; a concomitant of the fall from innocence and Eden.

I have seen a Mexican peasant grandmother soothe a fretful two year old boy by cooing to him and gently kissing and licking his cock and balls. The room was full of people — there was nothing furtive about her actions, in fact they were scarcely noted by the others. I might add that the boy was soon peacefully asleep.

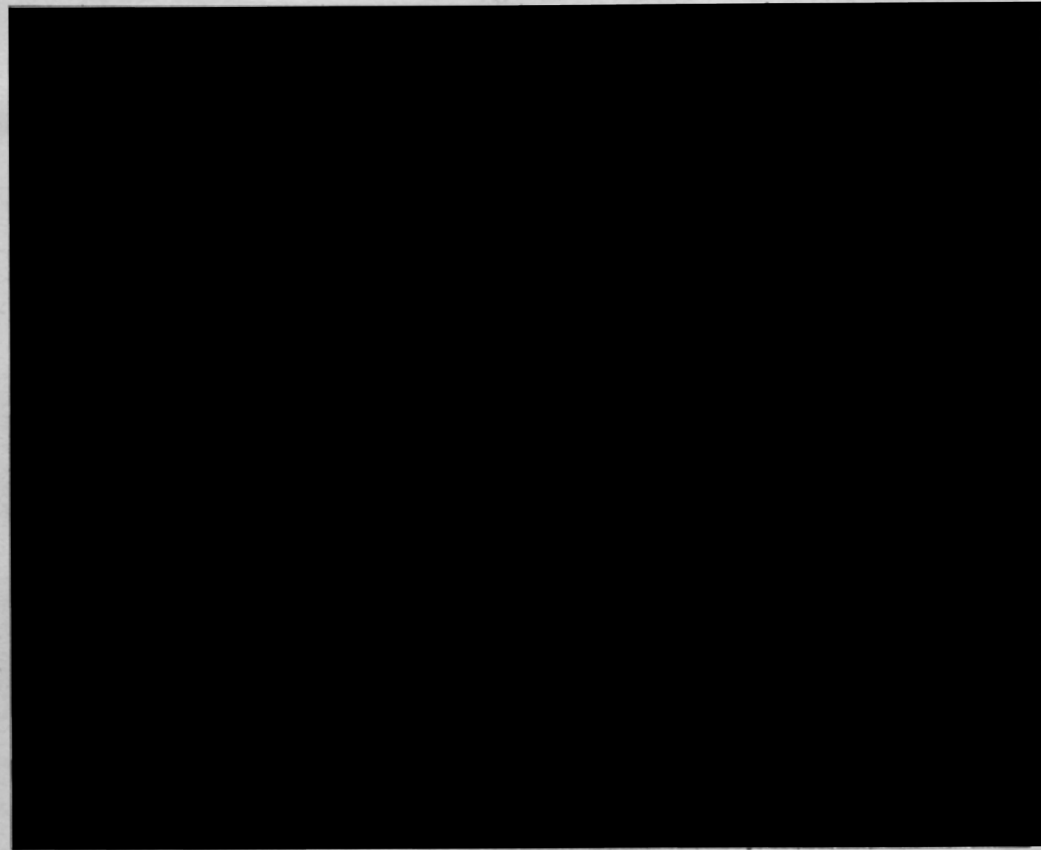
I ask you to try and imagine a North American mother or babysitter doing the same thing. It is impossible. The woman would be considered depraved beyond redemption.

That the topic of child sexuality arouses such a violent reaction in the straight world is understandable — it is less easy to countenance the attitudes of the gay community. In

enduring celibacy thereafter until an appropriate marriage has been consummated. Anything which would free the child from this environment is important. Sex is something that does. A child's sexual life turns him *outward* from the family; by its very nature it is exploratory and community oriented, and once begun the child is in the process of leaving home, psychologically at least. The straight world considers us to be dangerous where children are concerned. The irony is that they are *right* — not to the physical well being of their offspring however, but to the family structure that imprisons them, a structure based in part on the concept of possession. "In some cultures children have only a very vague concept of family relationship, and the rearing of children is something of a communal effort . . . Often in these cultures the concept of motherhood and fatherhood is very vague. *These cultures tend also to be very sex-positive in comparison with our culture.*" (Wainwright Churchill-Homosexual Behaviour Among Males, Prentice Hall, Inc., Page 306. The italics are mine).

It is easy to see that this article could now move into the area of children's rights generally, but I shall content myself with saying that if the child is to cease being property, if it is to attain to full civil liberties, if it is to achieve economic independence, if it is to relate meaningfully to society as a whole, then of necessity it must move away from the family unit of the Christian West. Anyone who leads the child into sexual awareness and exploration is helping to do just that.

We feel that one of the most positive aspects of the sexual drive is its variety and unpredictability, and from this point of view it is hypocritical to assume that pedophiles represent a group to which one either does or does not belong. All gay men should face



the pecking order, "chicken hawks" are well near the bottom. They are objects of amusement and contempt, and many more responsible members of the gay community feel the need to apologise for their presence, and to declare that they are an almost non-existent minority. They fear that the whole movement may be discredited by the actions of these recalcitrant few.

The time has come to face the fact that there is a *sizeable* minority of gay men who are primarily interested in sexual relationships with adolescents, and that these people, by the mere fact of their sexual preference, are working — albeit often unwittingly — toward some of the ideals of the gay liberation front with regard to the family.

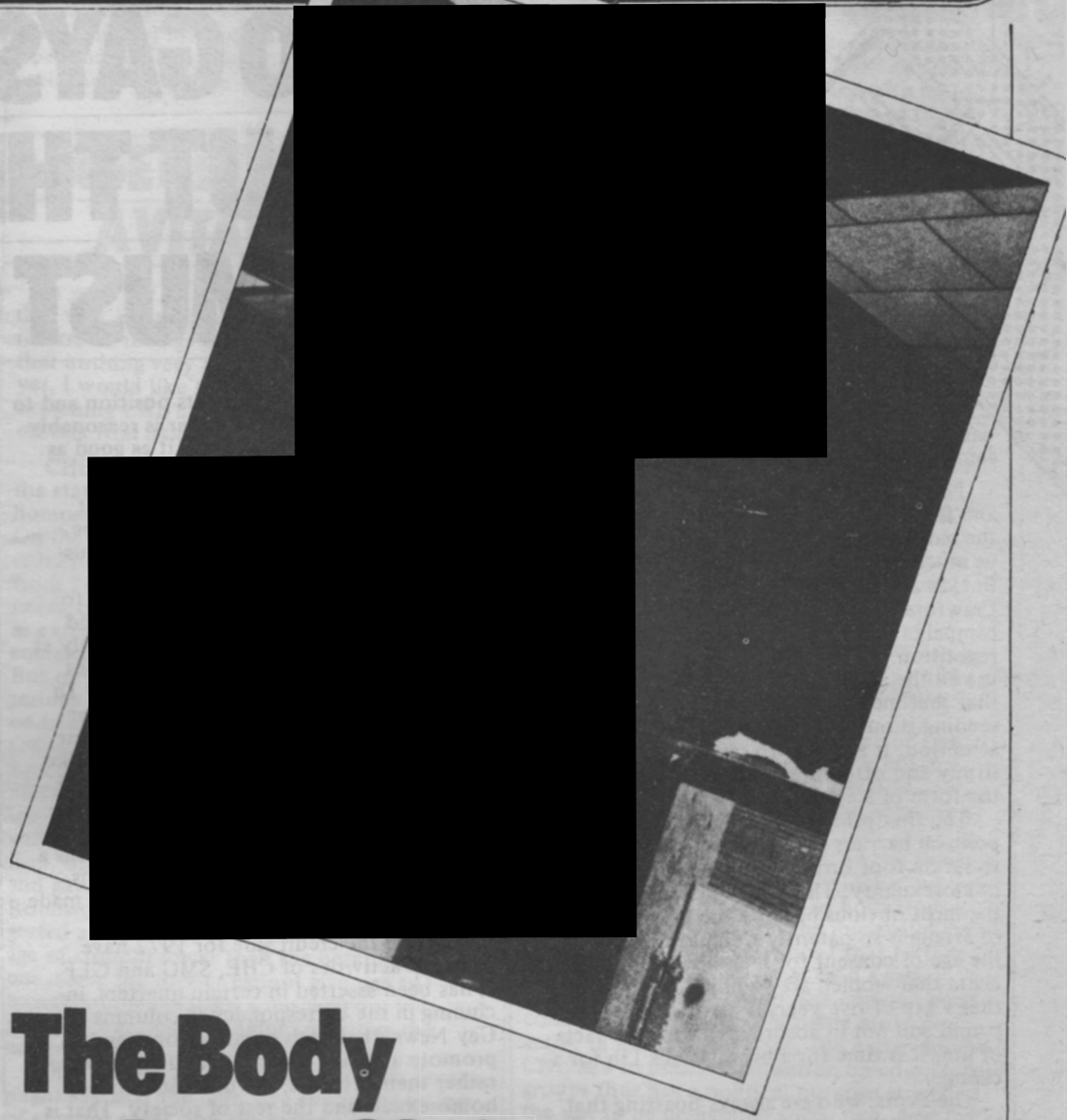
To illustrate my point, let us examine the child in relation to the family as it exists today. The familial power is oppressive and stultifying and based on mutual manipulation. The child is one of the possessions of the parents, a eunuchoid doll that is supposed to attain to sexual awareness at 18, gleefully

the fact that at some point in their lives they may be captivated by some particularly luminous young man, and they should be prepared to embrace that experience joyfully, confident that the experience is potentially an enriching one for both parties and a step towards a sex-positive culture.

Loving a child and expressing it sexually is revolutionary activity. The activists of tomorrow are more than likely in someone's arms today.

Gerald Hannon

The above is re-printed from Canada's 'The Body Politic'. To them we send our love and thanks. Below follows an article written about the consequences of publishing 'Of Men And Little Boys'.



The Body Politic Affair

The July-August issue of the *Body Politic* featured an article under the headline "Of Men and Little Boys" written by Gerald Hannon, the publication of which caused an overnight sensation throughout the gay and straight population of Canada.

The storm started when a Toronto journalist bought a copy of the B.P. on the streets. He noticed the article and did a little checking. The Community Homophile Association of Toronto (CHAT) had received a grant from the Federal Government of Canada to run a drop-in and distress centre for homosexuals in Toronto. The award of this grant under the Opportunities for Youth (OFY) programme was a highly contentious issue. The taxpayer of Canada (excluding homosexual taxpayers, of course) was indignant that his tax dollars should be going to the support of a project for those "lousy fags and queers".

So it was that a reporter phoned CHAT and asked what association they had with the B.P. He was truthfully informed that CHAT members worked in the editorial collective of the BP and that, since both were gay liberation organisations, they had the same goals. Our reporter friend then called the BP regarding CHAT. He was told much the same thing, that the two groups worked together for the same ends.

Our eager reporter returned to the office and told his editor. The next day subscribers to the *Toronto Sun* (and other Canadian papers which use the same wire service) were treated to a story of how Federal tax dollars were being used to seduce little boys. The editorial quoted at length from the article; however only negative and "horrifying" (to the straight public which cannot fathom the idea of gay love) segments were quoted. I am enclosing the entire original article for you to read, rather than bore you with quotes.

The Canadian public was horrified, the

Canadian Government and OFY were embarrassed and the gay community was left with another false blot on its record. The editorial had overlooked a simple journalistic fact. The opinions of a newspaper are traditionally presented on the editorial page with articles being the opinion of the people who write them. The editorial had also reached the totally false conclusion that, since CHAT members worked with the BP, CHAT was automatically funding the BP without determining where the funds for the BP *actually* came from. Since the *Body Politic* had stated that they were working toward the common goals of gay liberation along with other gay organisations, the editorial writer had also falsely assumed that seduction of little boys must be one of these goals. The editorial and our reporter friend had not bothered checking further to find out whether this was indeed one of the aims of gay liberation.

The BP as a matter of interest has not received a penny of the grant money as the newspaper is funded by subscriptions and advertising revenues. The people who work on the *Body Politic* are not paid out of the grant which was given to CHAT. The only things in common are that both are gay liberation organisations demanding equal rights for homosexuals (and thus a threat to the straight status-quo) and that both have some personnel in common.

Gay organisations, like those in the straight community, should not be above investigation. But this investigation must be unbiased, rational and thorough — all the facts must be brought to the surface before editorial comment takes place. We do not need another "Body Politic Affair" — reporting and editorial comment like that which was written harm both the gay scene and gay liberation organisations as well as blemish the reputation of straight journalism.

Michael Roberts, Edmonton

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EURO GAYS WE MIGHT BE, BUT THE STRUGGLE MUST GO ON

As 1973 dawns it is time for the Homosexual Society to take stock of its position and to decide what action must be taken in the days that lie ahead. The record so far is reasonably satisfactory. It is not as bad as some of the critics and carpers make out: nor is it as good as some of our professing activists and demo-mongers profess.

For those who are fighting for our cause and for those who are only too well aware of the nature of the problems which confront us much of what follows may seem repetitive. But, as a great advertising man, Sir William Crawford, once said, the key to a successful campaign is domination, concentration and repetition. State the message loud and clear, use all the available resources in such a way that that message is got across and go on sending it out until people are forced to pay attention. It is better to say a few things firmly and often than a great many things in the form of a confused dissertation.

The first priority must be to penetrate the political barriers of hostility and inertia and to set on foot further reforms of law on homosexuality. The most important, and the most obvious because the present state of affairs is so patently ridiculous, is to bring the age of consent for men down to 16. To claim that women are so much more mature that a gap of five years is justifiable is plain stupid and not in accordance with the facts of life. It is time for a bit of Men's Lib for a change.

The Scots, who are always boasting that they are better educated as a nation than anyone else in Britain, should undertake some effective self-education and press for the existing law to be extended to their own country. In Northern Ireland a bit of sanity would be welcome for once. Now that Westminster is in control, or claims to be, the same conditions should be made to apply.

The social segregation of the Armed Forces and the Merchant Navy is undemocratic and demonstrably absurd as well as being somewhat laughable under all the known circumstances. There will be resistance from the top-brass who always resist change on principle. It should be pointed out to them that such an attitude is an admission of failure on their part to keep order in their own house. And that is a very poor advertisement for the powers of leadership of which they are so proud.

Relationships with the Police must be reviewed at top level otherwise the situation threatens to deteriorate and that is not in the interests of the Force who have quite enough problems on their plate without adding to them. The new Commissioner of Police is a great reformer: this is one reform he should tackle as a matter of urgency. There must be an end to harassment and effective action must be taken to stamp out the offensive and immoral practice of "queer-bashing" which is an abuse of civil liberties and worse than "mugging" which is causing much more public alarm. The rules concerning homosexual assembly must be abolished and that involves political as well as police action as also does the whole question of advertising as was made clear by the 'IT' case.

Socially, an advance must be planned on three fronts: the education of parents, teachers and children, the improvement of medical training and understanding; the recognition of the existence and position of homosexuals by men of religion.

The Ministry of Education must be approached with a view to discussing the establishment of enlightened sex education, including education about homosexuality, in schools. Until a directive comes from above, local education authorities and headmasters will be unwilling and afraid to act. There is plenty of evidence of that. Parent-teacher organisations must be persuaded to support this move so far as is possible. Margaret Thatcher may not be everybody's pin-up girl and the new Under-Secretary, Norman St John Stevas has not been made exactly welcome in every quarter. But they both like to lay claim to being progressive in their outlook. They should be confronted.

The Medical Profession should be challenged with regard to its failure to implement the recommendations of the Wolfenden Committee. At a meeting held at Guys Hospital in 1972, the Chairman, a distinguished physician, declared at the outset that he knew nothing about homosexuality. That was not any sort of a joke. The answer to him and to those like him is physician heal thyself. The campaign must be carried into the medical camp and there must be

more meetings not only at hospitals but local doctors and psychiatrists should be invited to address meetings under the auspices of homosexual organisations.

The Churches must be clearly asked to state their attitude to homosexuality and homosexuals. This must be done not only at the level of parish priests and the like but also at the top. The views expressed by Dr Norman Pittenger in his book "Time For Consent" should be put to them and their reactions to them should be sought. Unlike Pilate we have time to wait for our answer — but not for ever. The meeting of Jewish homosexuals in London, despite the snide remarks which appeared in Gay News, was a courageous and heartening occasion. It is hoped that progress will continue to be made in that field.

Also on the credit side for 1972 have been the activities of CHE, SMG and GLF. It has been asserted in certain quarters, including in the correspondence columns of Gay News, that such organisations tend to promote a ghetto mentality and to increase, rather than decrease, the division between homosexuals and the rest of society. That is poppy-cock. To begin with, if society had behaved in a more intelligent and rational manner such activities would not have been made necessary. Such considerations apart, they provide important and essential grounds for homosexuals to meet one another and to exchange views. They are also of the greatest social and psychological value for those homosexuals who are lonely or depressed.

Gay News, a product of 1972, is a courageous venture which deserves to succeed and prosper in 1973. It is a forum for opinions of all kinds by homosexuals and others and that is healthy. Because not enough space is provided by the main media of communication it fills the gap and it may well encourage its colleagues in the Press world to pay more attention to the subject. Every homosexual should support a publication which speaks out fearlessly for the cause. This is no time for reticence or silence: those days are over.

On the political front CHE held fringe meetings at all the Party conferences in the autumn. In 1973 it holds its own conference at Morecambe. These public appearances are important because they help to make clear that we are not an element to be disregarded with impunity. There are over a million and a half, probably more, of us. Politically that is something which should not be forgotten. It is particularly something which the Liberal Party, which is aiming at a national revival, should note. All political candidates from now on should be sent the questionnaire which was prepared by CHE and sent out at Sutton and Cheame by-election. Gay News should be encouraged to publish the answers so that we may know who are our friends.

A fringe meeting was held at the Conference of the National Union of Students at Margate. It was a constructive and stimulating occasion. It seems likely that one outcome will be a closer association of all University Homosexual Groups and that is all to the good as it will increase their influence. After all the ultimate future is in the hands of youth and that means our future.

In 1973 it is important that all homo-

sexual organisations should increase their activities and their membership and that they should work as closely as possible together. We all have the same object in view: the achievement of our rightful place in society. It is essential that more people should be willing to take part in these activities. In the past too much has had to be done by too few at too great a cost both mentally, physically and financially. The time has come for all homosexuals to stand up and be counted. The only thing to fear is fear itself. Our campaign is on the march. In 1973 we must aim to go farther and faster and there must be more of us.
Ian Harvey (Non-Executive Vice-President of Che)

1973-MAKE OR BREAK YEAR

When the National Federation of Homophile Organisations held its first annual general meeting on 9 December, one fact stood out very clearly: that unless the homophile movement speedily gets much more realistic about relating resources to objectives — and in particular about money — it might as well pack up shop in 1973.

The present situation is only too lamentably plain. Too many self-consciously overlapping groups are trying to do far too much with far too little. Unless this unreasonable competitiveness stops, and a greater willingness to pool scarce assets and work together for the common good emerges, we shall all get nowhere fast.

Much of the homophile movement, to my mind, is far too reminiscent of those children's games of wish-think, where the more grandiose and fantastic your dreams of self-importance are and the more euphoric you become the more it is all a case of "if wishes were horses, beggars would ride." Want a great big gay social club? An instant nationwide legal aid and counselling service? More law reforms? Bigger and better issues of 'Gay News' and other gay mags? Of course. So you join CHE, GLF, Sappho, SMG, Challenge or one of the other homophile groups, and feel jolly virtuous and recklessly generous if you give them even a nominal quid above their slender subscription rate. And then you grumble when the great big club and the bigger, better newspaper don't materialise. Come off it. A collection of paupers in a workhouse planning to gut and refurbish Buckingham Palace would be as sensible.

But most gay people aren't paupers. On the (not excessive) assumption that a high proportion of them earn average incomes of at least £1000 a year, the 18 member organisations of NFHO represent individuals worth £5 million. And if one considers that there are probably between 4 and 5 million British gays (and bis), the whole gay community — charitably assuming that there is such a thing — commands a formidable spending power. It would certainly seem so when one surveys the cash changing hands over the bars and counters of their favoured pubs and clubs every weekend!

So why is the homophile movement in danger of fading out for lack of cash? Maybe it's because not enough people know the facts. Here are some of them.

To start with what you're reading, 'Gay News' own economic problems are compounded by the refusal of the big monopolistic distributors to handle our only community paper — although despite this it has built up a circulation of several thousands in thirteen issues: a most creditable achievement. £1000 at least is urgently needed NOW to ensure 'Gay News's' survival through 1973. Practical suggestion to everyone who reads this article: put £1 in an envelope and post it to 'Gay News' immediately!

No single homophile group is looking forward to a 1973 budgeting surplus on present membership levels and current subscription rates, and most have only enough cash in hand to look ahead on a month-by-month basis. This makes long-term development planning virtually impossible, and the sheer nitty-gritty of keeping the organisation going is a chronic worry for those responsible. (I know — I've talked to most of them).

The need for centralised information services to deal with the ceaseless flow of

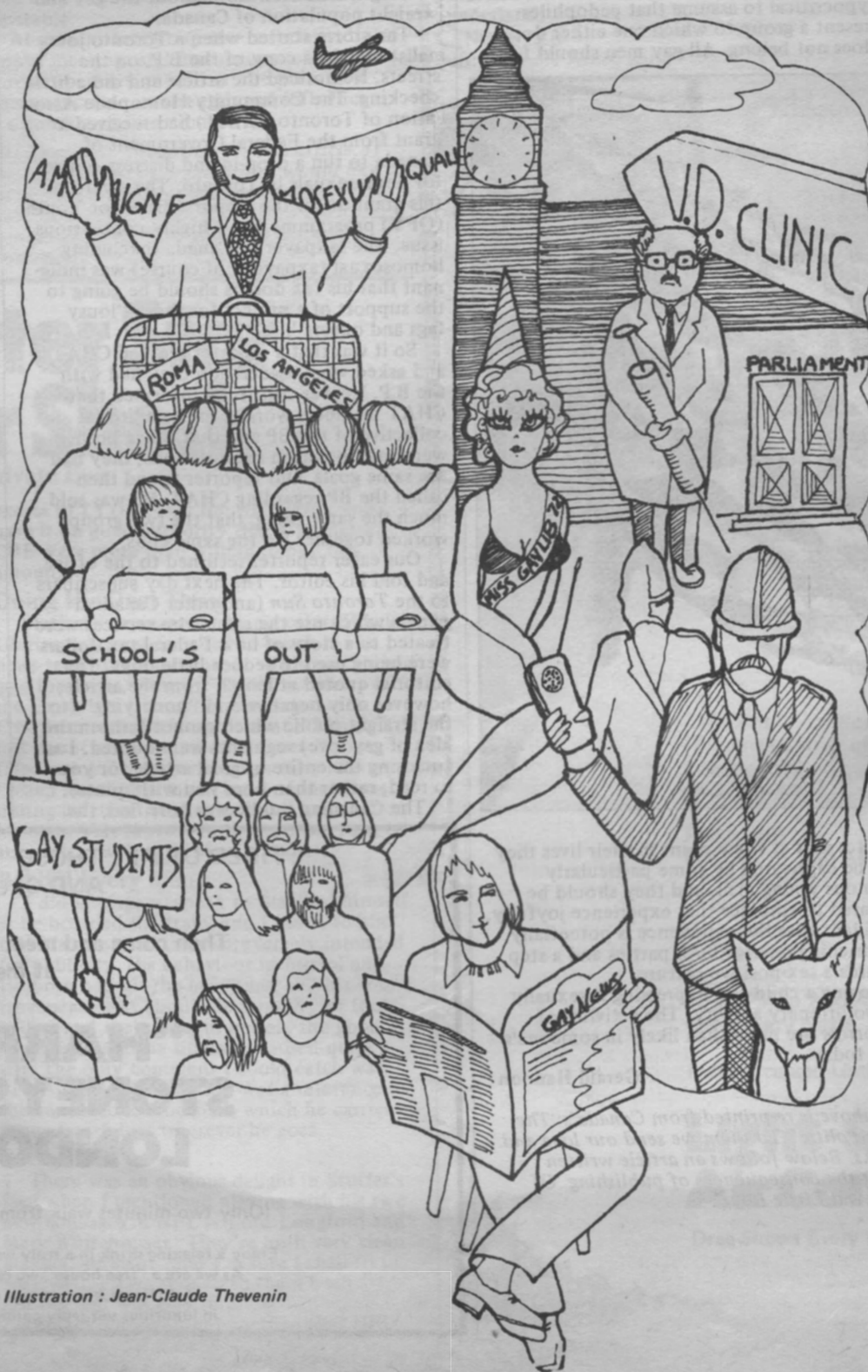


Illustration: Jean-Claude Thevenin

LOOKING AHEAD

personal enquiries and requests for help reaching all gay organisations and publications cannot be met without the necessary money to set it up and maintain it. NFHO and the Albany Trust have agreed in principle to do this - but the funds must first be found.

The Albany Trust, whose staff currently consists of myself, one secretary and a clerical assistant who gets only out-of-pocket expenses, is short of £5000 a year to ensure its survival even on this slender basis. Its recent appeal for new Deeds of Covenant has so far brought in only £300 instead of the £4000-£5000 hoped for, and we cannot go on living on "windfalls" in the shape of legacies for much longer. Unless more support is forthcoming from the gay world pretty quickly, the Trust - which was responsible for most of the positive work done for gay people between 1960 and 1970, and still has many valuable contacts in the political and social-work worlds - could have to close down during 1973. That would mean that NFHO's plans for collective counselling and information services, and the Sexual Law Reform Society's work on further law reform, will all be jeopardised.

As Chairman of NFHO, I have told all the member organisations that this movement is at a critical point where it must either go sharply uphill in terms of committed support and finance, or it will go down the drain. If the gay community of this country really wanted to, it would raise £50,000 a year for its own organisations and services with little difficulty. It all boils down to this: do most gay people want a vigorous and effective homophile movement, and are they willing to support organisations and publications which work actively on their behalf - or are they contented with the present situation of lamentable public ignorance about, and discrimination against, homosexuality?

If the latter is the case, an increasing number of people will begin to wonder whether the gay minority is a minority worth working and fighting for. I hope it is, because I have spent the last ten years of my life doing just that.

Antony Grey

AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS: OR HOW TO BE HAPPY THOUGH GAY

I'm writing this near the end of one year; you'll read it, of course (if Gay News prints it) soon after the start of another. In '72, especially in recent months, I've known a happiness deeper than I've ever known before: much deeper and richer than, in the years when I was a hidden, isolated homosexual, I'd imagined as possible. 'Imagined' is the word: I elaborated fantasies and daydreams about a happy state of life which I wanted to exist for lonely me: but they were ignorant as I didn't, by definition, know the reality. The main reason why I feel so thrilled to have broken with my former way of life is the actual discovery-by-experiencing of the richness which homosexual love can bring. I hadn't known it could be this good.

To destroy a way of life is justified if the destroyer means to, and can, build another which is better. I wasn't sure I could be that constructive, and often had cold feet in the early stages. The construction now achieved (though as it's living, it isn't static or fixed) is therefore surprisingly good - and is due more to several much-loved friends than it is to me. (Must get that in, as I don't want to sound too self-congratulatory!) Although '72 has been the peak of life so far, I'm hoping that '73 will even outdo (outsoar?) it.

You're probably wondering what the hell I'm going on about - so some personal details may make sense of what I've just written. First, though, I realise that this reflective contribution may sound very self-centred. I'll try to justify it by saying that it's written in a spirit of encouragement/concern/love for the readers of Gay News, to show that happiness is within our reach. (Some of you, I realise, have overcome or are facing difficulties beside which those I've got rid of must seem very petty.) It would be nice to think that the majority of homosexuals, even the majority of Gay News readers, are perfectly used to being happy-to-be-gay; but surely that's very doubtful. We're in a society which still, very largely, thinks that homosexuals live a life which is squalid, disgusting, furtive, sad - and so on. Of course, most books and plays about homosexuals still see us like this - as men and women to be pitied when not condemned, receiving at the best the 'compassion' of 'enlightened' straights. I've found all that, in my own life, to be a lot of rubbish; my own positive, pulsing happiness, for which I'm so grateful, seems

pretty exceptional when I look around at straight life. So if you're feeling sad, bewildered, hesitant, resolve to be happy this year: it *can* be done.

Now the personal details, with apologies - but nobody can be someone else; we must each speak for ourselves.

For years I tried, for long stretches, largely successfully, at least as far as the surface of life went, to ignore my homosexuality. I was a schoolteacher in Cornwall, and tried to direct my love, with painfully inadequate, though not contemptible results, into my work which I did moderately well. I tried in short to be a loving person. Not surprisingly, this proved an unsatisfactory way to give, and an even more unsatisfactory way to receive, love. I showed a concern for the pupils (especially for the diffident; those who struggled to gain an exam pass which mattered to their future), but came to realise clearly that all this conscientiousness, this patience, simply amounted to an attempt to love abstractions. In trying to meet the inescapable human need to love and be loved, I was living in a vacuum and not even coping with the secondary relationships of life which a person sexually at ease can quite readily deal with. I needed to love real, live people; as a male homosexual, I needed other men's bodies - not ideals of service to the community (which I can now serve better because I'm happy and outward-looking, not shrivelled up inside.)

So, feeling rather weak and unsure, I threw up this respectable/secure job and came to London to meet other homosexuals - at the start not knowing where they could be found, except in the cottages at Piccadilly Circus and Leicester Square, and in the Salisbury. I'd like to say I was brave enough to come out in Cornwall (though my friends there know now) and nonetheless refused to give up my job, but at that time I wasn't able to feel like that; in fact, I felt desperate, still duped into thinking of my homosexuality as a burden. Whatever else this article is, it isn't boastful; I've felt embarrassed - and miserable. I lived on the edge of a breakdown and would have fallen over if I hadn't had enough self-knowledge to realise that I wasn't in the least wicked/evil because I was gay.

I was interested to read Jim Scott in GN 12 attacking what he sees as the GLF ethos of dispensing "love... equally and indiscriminately to all men and women of all ages everywhere", a wish "to spiritualise physical sex out of existence and refuse to acknowledge its less ideal aspects". I see what he means and don't want to take issue with him; indeed, what I most needed to put me right was another man in my bed. But I can only say that I am able to dispense this pervading and pervasive love now: that it *too* is a reality for me. I've never been to bed with *some* of my dearest friends, probably never will go - and, honestly, don't particularly want to. But my love for them isn't any less satisfying. (We do give each other a hug and a kiss!) I must say too that my present happiness has come about because of my involvement with GLF and CHE (I went to GLF first). There's so much to love and be thankful for in them both, and I only wish that more homosexuals would support them both. I was getting desperate, before I went to GLF, from standing in the Coleherne, appraising and being appraised, a calculating business on both sides, trying to go down to the he in sips - and, brother, did I once go down! (Still, that was months and months ago; least said, soonest mended.)

You may be thinking, bloody fool; probably are, if you met your great love in the Coleherne. But this is just my point: I'm not saying *you* ought, or need to, live exactly as I do and hold my exact views if you're going to be happy. Of course some gays find their height of happiness in the Coleherne; probably some find it by loitering in cottages - though that, I must feel, isn't usually a happy life. All I want to say is that I've found happiness in the way I've described. Unless I continue as I live now - being pleased for others to know I'm gay; at least *trying* to spread love, to be peaceful and (without apologies for the word) a good person - I couldn't continue happy. To express myself as a homosexual means to express myself as a person, and I wouldn't be a person if I hid away as I used to; what goodness I have derives from my gayness. '72 is the first year in which I've been a person.

So really "How to be Happy..." isn't quite the right title; I'm not so arrogant as to presume to dictate a course for your life. But if you are "sad, bewildered, hesitant", then I can recommend, and say that I honestly believe to be happy is possible to you, *in your particular circumstances*. If you aren't already, do be unashamed, proud and glad this year; do consider supporting GLF and CHE; do try to dispense love "equally and indiscriminately". Above all, determined to be happy.

With love to everybody; special love to the GN Editorial Collective for bearing with all this - not forgetting Julian who writes such lovely reviews. *Why* do people slate

you, Julian? I love you ducky. Let's have a "be-kind-to-Julian" year. That's one way of spreading love - yes, seriously.

Peter Rogers

AGE OF CONSENT - A VITAL ISSUE

In your No 11 editorial, you commented that very little seemed to be happening on reform of the age of consent. While agreeing that nothing very tangible has been achieved as yet, I would like to take the opportunity of sketching CHE's position, and level of activity on this vital issue.

CHE's objective is simply to remove from the statute book discrimination between homosexual and heterosexual relationships. On the age of consent, this currently means a reduction of the age for consenting males from 21 to 16; the position for females also needs clarification to ensure their rights are as extensive, the current situation being somewhat confused (at least in my mind). But of course by the time this topic receives serious parliamentary consideration we may be talking in the context of a lower heterosexual age of consent anyway. The Sexual Law Reform Society, sponsored by the Albany Trust and due to report shortly on the whole spectrum of sexual law reform, will probably recommend an overall reduction, with no distinction between straight and gay. One of its members, Dr. John Robinson (a CHE Vice President) has suggested a case could be made for a homosexual age of consent *lower* than the heterosexual one, since the former cannot give rise to unwanted pregnancies; a mischievous idea perhaps, but one that helps to redress the perspective.

Then there's the question of tactics. Some might say that the objective should be no age of consent at all, and the tactic a compromise of 14, or whatever. There is much to be said for this view, but it seems to me to be an ideal so far from the realms of reality that to make it our declared objective would provoke derision and get us no nearer solving the dilemma of the under 21's. The more difficult tactical question, which will become progressively more controversial as we get nearer to parliamentary reform, is the compromise of 18. I hope CHE will remain absolutely opposed to this line; the relevant

criterion is the age of heterosexual consent, not the age of majority, etc. But I can see that 18 has more attraction to SMG, who are of course arguing from the position of there being no homosexual age of consent at all in Scotland.

So what is CHE doing about it? The issue is only one aspect, albeit an important one, of our overall parliamentary reform platform. Our objective in 1972 has been to overcome the profound lack of interest, compounded by political fear and emotional claptrap, which our first parliamentary overtures encountered. To do this we must be seen to be more than a few isolated voices crying in the wilderness. We have recently:

- (a) Held fringe meetings at each of the three political party conferences, including the Tory one, where we had the backing of the London YCs
- (b) Canvassed MPs from their constituencies via local CHE groups.
- (c) Solicited the support of prospective MPs at by-elections, both as to law reform and the activities of CHE groups in their constituencies.
- (d) Explained our cause to tomorrow's political leaders (Young Liberals etc) who are rather more open minded than today's and enlisted their support.
- (e) Submitted evidence to a House of Lords Select Committee considering the bill outlawing discrimination on the grounds of sex, arguing that the scope should be widened to include sexual preference.

The first breakthrough will be the creation of a committed parliamentary lobby; we now have a number of members of both Houses whom we hope will form the nucleus of such a lobby. But we are convinced that further reform requires much more than a self-appointed pressure group; the impetus must come from a massive civil rights movement, active in all constituencies. The expansion of CHE as a national organisation based on local groups thus has a political purpose as well as the not to be denigrated social one. And the need for close contact and co-operation with other gay groups is clear. After all we are not working for a reduction in the age of consent for CHE members only!

Tony Ryde (Vice Chairman, CHE)

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The New Year

Integroup - A Social Experiment

Integroup came into being in the Autumn of 1970 as a society of heterosexual and homosexual men and women, meeting to promote integration and a better understanding of human relationships, both within the group and in society generally. It was founded in Catford, London, where the pilot group still meets, and about a year later, a second Integroup formed in Golders Green, London. It is still therefore at a very formative stage, and must still be regarded as a social experiment.

Behind Integroup lie certain assumptions, most of which will be familiar to and accepted by readers of Gay News, but which have a generally less certain currency elsewhere. As far as we can see, human sexuality has always been, in all ages and societies that we know about, extremely variable as it still is today. Why this should be so we cannot tell. There are of course any number of theories - sometimes the consensus leans towards environment, sometimes towards heredity. In this writer's view, it is probable that the causes are complex and involve both factors, and are likely to vary according to the individual. Perhaps we should rather ask why shouldn't there be this variability. Since human nature is so variable in other ways, why should we expect or desire conformity in this respect? In any case whatever opinion or attitude is held, the facts of the matter can scarcely be disputed, namely that there is a scale of sexuality with heterosexual men and women at the one end, and homosexual men and women at the other. Between these two poles are bi-sexual men and women. All of us are somewhere on this scale of sexuality, with its many, often subtle, graduations. Integroup accepts that these diverse expressions of sexuality are all natural in society, and considers that social and legal discrimination on the basis of a person's sexual preference is both unhealthy and immoral.

When Catford Integroup came into being, the local press called it a 'club for homosexuals'. This isn't so, and to so regard it is to miss the whole point. There are of course any number of gay clubs and pubs for those who want them, as well as GLF and CHE. Integroup is not opposed to these and feels sure that all of these have important roles to play. Gay may be good, as may straight, but I doubt whether either have a monopoly of virtue. The distinctive thing about Integroup is that it is just as much for heterosexuals as for homosexuals, and as much for men as for women. It is true that some degree of contrivance is necessary to achieve and maintain this balance. It is also true that since no-one is required to state their sexual preference unless they want to, the proportions are not absolute. Nevertheless the whole point of Integroup is 'gay-

straight' integration, that is for mutual benefit.

Initially then, Integroup seeks to promote among its members mutual understanding and respect, to create in microcosm what it feels society at large should reflect. At this stage, probably, heterosexuals have the more to gain, for through they might have liberal attitudes in intent, to practice them and experience them is often something very different. Certainly many of the straights at Integroup have said how personally enriching this contact has been for them. On the other hand the gays have said that they have benefitted immensely from the experience of simply being themselves in an integrated group. And so purely on this level, Integroup has enabled people from all over the Kinsey scale to discover each other as people. And looking to society as a whole - and that is of course predominantly heterosexual society - we reckon that it is losing a great deal in effectively causing the homosexual minority to segregate itself into special groups and to live even today to a very large extent in an atmosphere of secrecy and fear. A healthy society is one in which minority groups - as long as they believe in and practise toleration themselves - can live openly and responsibly.

In the long term then Integroup is concerned to foster healthier social attitudes, and differs from purely homophile organisations in believing that heterosexuals must be as actively engaged in this as homosexuals. It is true of course that this kind of programme is in itself a minority appeal within a minority. Some straights have come out of curiosity, and some gays have come mistaking us for a gay club. Of these a few have been converted, others have left. This is inevitable.

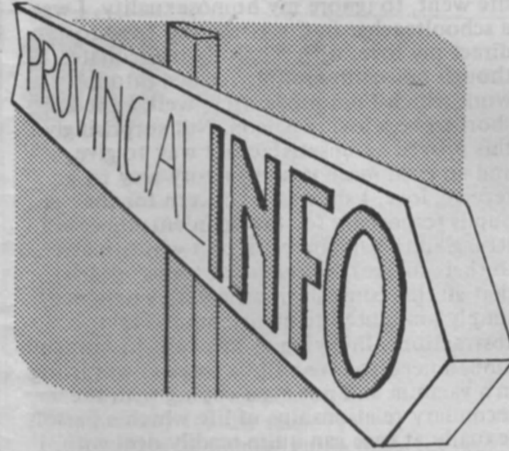
At present Integroup meets socially, holds serious meetings and discussions, offers to provide speakers, monitors the press and aims to increase its strength and influence in a number of directions.

ED: Thanks to Integroup for this article. If any other group or organisation would like to use the pages of Gay News to communicate their ideas and describe what they are doing, then please remember that you are most welcome to do so.

players would react to the size of the transfer fee, and his 8 degrees in Philosophy. "It might take me a little time to settle down with the lads, but as long as they're not too friendly I should be all right."

Allan Clarkson

All references to Martin Stafford are entirely coincidental.



As promised a few issues ago, here is another round of provincial info. We shall be printing more at regular intervals, just as fast as you send it.

BATH

Pub: The Regency (opposite Theatre Royal)
Club: Georges Club.

CHELTENHAM

New Twenty Club, 20 High Street, Telephone 25821.

PLYMOUTH

Pubs: The Lockyer, Derry's Clock, Lockyer Street (Oak Lounge - Back Bar).
The Phoenix, off Union Street,
The Valletort.

NEWCASTLE

Pubs: Eldon Grill (Variety Bar) opposite Grey's Monument, Grey Street.
Royal Turks Head (Red Rover Bar), Grey Street.
Grapes Vaults, Grey Street.
Royal Court Grill, Bigg Market (rough)
Chancellors Head, Bigg Market
County Hotel (Nancy's Bar), foot of Westgate Road.

SUNDERLAND

Club: Ro-Ko-Ko, The Promenade, Roker, Sunderland.

LANCASTER

Pub: Farmers Arms, King Street. "Landlord

pro gay".

SCARBOROUGH

Pub: The Cliff Inn, Huntriss Row.
Hotel: The Granby, 1 Queen Street, reasonably priced private gay hotel.

LIVERPOOL

Pub: The Lisbon, Victoria Street
Club: New Bear's Paw, off Lord Street, near British Home Stores.

CHESTER

The bar of the Blossom Hotel.

WINDSOR

Pubs: The Ship and the Three Tuns, both near the Guildhall.

BLACKPOOL

Lucy's Bar, Talbot Square.

MORECOMBE

Mason's Arms, Queen Street, Thursday through Sunday.

PRESTON

Pubs: Grove Hotel, Fylde Road.
Bull and Royal, Cockpit Bar. Men only.

BLACKBURN

Pub: Merchant's Hotel, Darwen Street, by GPO. Drag shows.
Partly gay club: Top Hat Club.

NORWICH

Pub: Studio Four, Anglia Studios.

BEDFORD

Pub: The Barley Mow, Bromham Road.

MANCHESTER

Pub: Union Hotel, Princess Street, women, men and drag.
Rembrandt, Sackville Street, Trafford. Back Bar and mostly men.
Cavalcade, junction Wilmslow Road and Barlow Moor Road, Didsbury, Sunday lunch time.
New York, Richmond Street, behind Union Hotel. Women and men.
Mechanics, Sackville Street.
Clubs: Samanthas, back Piccadilly (off Newton Street). Ban on women and admittance restricted to members and guests only.
Picador, Bradshaw Street, Shude Hill.
Rockingham, Queen Street.

NOTTINGHAM

Pub: Roebuck, Mansfield Road. "Members only" Bar on the left - tell them you're gay - the landlady is too.
Club: Mario's Restaurant, Stenford Street, off Castlegate.

LEEDS

Pubs: Great Northern and Hope and Anchor
Club: Charley's Briggate. Members and guests. Free in the week, pricey at weekends. Mostly men.

Manchester Star Transfer Shock

With Apologies to Private Eye

The story that has been buzzing around the gay world for the last few weeks took a dramatic turn today with the news that Martin ("Whiz Kid") Stafford had been transferred from Manchester CHE to London's Nationwide Festival of Light. The fee involved is reported to be a sum not in

excess of £5 (to cover the train fare), and I have it on good authority that Manchester CHE were more than willing to pay this amount.

Doing His Own Thing

Stafford's manager at Manchester, Frank Ofarim, who was featured so much in the news recently, commented: "This boy should go a long way, already." Other members of the Executive Council of the Manchester Club seemed to be in agreement. "I have lost count of the number of times," confided one EC member, Glenys (Gay) Parry, "when Martin has taken leave of his senses during meetings of the team and gone off on his own. This move is in the best interests of the club as well as of Martin himself."

Behind Every Man

I did manage to speak to Stafford himself as he boarded the train, and I put it to him that his recent actions were largely intended for publicity. His behaviour in Bristol and Holborn had hit the headlines, and his controversial views about the morality of footballers and their need to uphold the good image of the game similarly caused quite a stir. The only comment I could catch was "Balls" and I assume that was a reference to the two practice footballs which he carries around with him wherever he goes.

Porn Free

There was an obvious delight in Stuffer's face when I mentioned playing with his two new colleagues in NFL - Lord Longford and Mary Whitehouse. "They're both very clean players" he said, "and I'm sure I shall fit in very well. I have spoken to them both already and was very impressed."

Finally I asked him how the other NFL



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Illustration: Jean-Claude Thevenin





Photograph : Roger Perry

In Ten Days The Circus Leaves Town

I've never seen a pantomime like Le Grand Magic Circus - and I've never seen a circus like it either. In fact, to say that Robinson Crusoe, which the Grand Magic Circus is staging at the Roundhouse, Chalk Farm, London, until January 20 is unique is no overstatement.

In short, you don't get to see many pantomimes that don't have women dressed up as men trying to look like women as the principals or men dressed up as women trying to look like men dressed as women in support roles. Le Grand Magic Circus has none of the overblown panto about it.

Instead of a yesterday's pop idol clutching onto a hand-mike, Robinson Crusoe gives us the mime that gave panto its name. Forget yer usual R.C. story, this one has Crusoe hanging around in a hammock watching the telly while Friday pulls massive cardboard vegetables out of the ground.

So it's not a pantomime in today's accepted-and-debased sense. It's real theatre. And it's no ordinary circus, either. The only animals used are a few birds (a chicken and a goose inter alia) who make noisy and unexpected entrances from various parts of the auditorium. Otherwise the zebras, very obviously human underneath it all.

Le Grand Magic Circus started life as a street-theatre group in the Paris troubles of May 1968. Robinson Crusoe has grown out of that. It works on two levels, it's fun and it's a piece of propaganda about the telly-watching landlord Crusoe, who's not sure he wants to be rescued while life's so soft on his island.

This is one band of actors who can get me to pay to see it a second time, and get me to forget all my reservations and participate. Robinson Crusoe is quite easily the most interesting thing on London's stage. But the Circus leaves town on January 20. Get in quick and see the show. It may be a long time before you get another chance.

Peter Holmes

All About Margo

APPLAUSE at Her Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket.

The London critics to a man have sung the praises of Lauren Bacall for her appearance in the musical APPLAUSE, and I can but echo their comments. It is difficult to find any new adjectives not already showered on her, and I am grateful that for once the original star of a Broadway show has graced our shores. We've missed out in the past on seeing the original 'Dolly', and of course Merman in 'Gypsy', but here after a two year wait is the Margo Channing we've heard so much about.

Bacall first burst upon the screen in a Hemingway story titled TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT and was instantly hailed as a promising new star. In those days everybody was tagged with a 'nickname' and hers was quite rightly 'The Look'. With her provocative eyes and smouldering sexuality she delivered lines such as 'If you want anything, just whistle' to perfection.

In her earlier films she didn't always get the chance to prove her worth as an actress, appearing more as a 'personality', but when Fox gave her the role of a cynical gold digger in HOW TO MARRY A MILLIONAIRE she came into her own, making a perfect contrast to those two dumb blondes Monroe and Grable. Later in Metro's DESIGNING WOMAN she again had a role

worthy of her talents, and I was hopeful that she might appear more often in this type of sophisticated comedy.

However, her appearances became less frequent, though her last one in THE MOVING TARGET (alias HARPER) proved that she had lost none of her talent for delivering witty dialogue. I bless whoever had the idea of bringing her to the stage to portray Margo Channing, as I truly can't imagine anyone else doing the role as well as her.

The Mary Orr story THE WISDOM OF EVE is supposedly based on an incident in the life of Elizabeth Bergner, famous European star of the 30's. When Fox purchased the story, Joseph L Manckiewicz re-worked the script, basing it on Tallulah Bankhead and incidents that occurred when she starred in a Broadway play.

Claudette Colbert was the original actress chosen to play Margo, but when she fell ill, Bette Davis replaced her and went on to score one of her greatest triumphs. ALL ABOUT EVE received a total of 14 Academy Award nominations and won seven Oscars. The film has become a favourite with movie buffs everywhere and is up there with the big money makers of all time.

I am surprised that it took so long for its conversion into a musical as the plot lends itself so well to musical numbers. Comden and Green are responsible for the book, and these clever writers have already given joy to theatre and cinemagoers with their writing. Their book incorporates a lot of the original film script plus many funny new lines. There is a noticeable effort to remind the audience that this is a NOW show. For example at one point we are treated to the sight of the derrières of 3 of the chorus boys, and there's even a mention of Screw magazine thrown in for good measure.

The character of Eve is a complex one, part Cinderella and part Wicked Witch. The one flaw I found with both film and show is that I felt these show business people would never be taken in by her for one moment. Ann Baxter's subtle performance managed to overcome this fault admirably. I've met a few Eve Harringtons in my life (believe me you don't have to be a Broadway star to come across them) and one can't always spot them in the beginning. In this show Angela Richards is most believable in the role of Eve - she is all sweetness and light for just the right amount of time (perhaps a longer period than in the film) before she shows her true colours. In her last big scene near the end where she sings 'One Halloween' she really lets loose, and we see the tigress



A big hand for Lauren Bacall and Ken Walsh at Her Majesty's Theatre, London.

Photograph : Tom Husler

hidden just below the surface.

Ken Walsh as the hairdresser is the only one who is on to Eve's tricks from the beginning, and he is a valuable asset to the show. Sheila O'Neill scores well, as she does in every show, with her vivacious singing and dancing of the title song, and later in 'She's No Longer A Gypsy'. I wasn't too struck by the choreography, having to agree with a friend who remarked that each routine ended with 'Good Friday arms'.

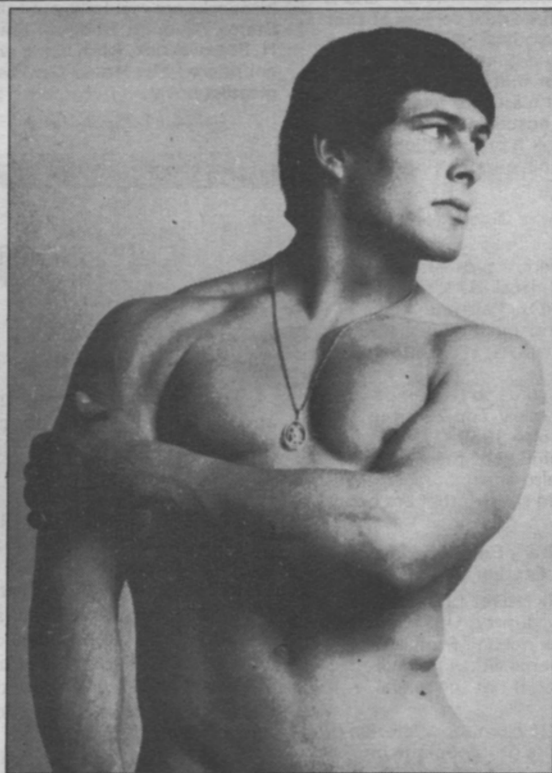
The music by Charles Strouse is unmemorable, but in several instances I was noticeably pleased with Lee Adam's lyrics, especially in Bacall's cynical first act closer, 'Welcome To the Theatre'.

As for Lauren Bacall herself, I can only reiterate and borrow from Miss Stein - "A star is a star is a star" . . . Her curtain call at the finale was 'something else' - standing triumphantly on an empty stage in a shimmering black dress she looked like a million dollars - and rightly deserved the bravos from her audience.

Barry Conley

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Coming: Ian Young on the great grandfather of gay liberation - guess who? Ray Gosling, The Chevalier D'Eon, Mrs. Alvina, Joe D'Allesandro and other lovelies for your delight.

The Best Of The New Paperbacks

THE HONOURED SOCIETY (*The Mafia Conspiracy Observed*) by Norman Lewis. Penguin, 50p.

The social disease best known as the Mafia has attracted much attention during the last few months. The film made of Mario Puzo's 'The Godfather' has broken box office records in nearly every country it has been shown in. The popular press recently has given a large amount of column inches to the 'honoured society' and its offshoots. A fair number of books, and especially pulp paperbacks, have appeared on the subject, most of them attempting to imitate Puzo's successful novel. CBS records have even released a comedy album called 'Everything You Wanted To Know About The Godfather (But Don't Ask)'

In other words, all and sundry have been trying to cash in on the public's current interest in one of the most depraved, corrupting and murderous criminal organisations that this planet has ever known.

If you are at all fascinated by the Mafia, and would prefer to find out its factual origins and how it has managed to increase its destructive power over the years, I thoroughly recommend you to read **The Honoured Society** by Norman Lewis. Originally published in paperback in 1967, Penguin have seen fit to re-issue it during the current 'craze'.

It is an important book, because it does without the colour magazine gloss and celluloid glamour that has made the Mafia somehow romantic to those whose knowledge just touches the surface of what the 'honoured society' is all about. The book is an unemotional study of this social phenomenon, backed up with hard facts that bring the whole disgusting menace back to the realms of reality.

Even though **The Honoured Society** concerns itself with historical actualities, Lewis has produced an absorbing and at times astonishing document, that many would do well to read.



TEST YOUR NQ (*Nostalgia Quotient*) by Denis Gifford. New English Library, 30p.

Denis Gifford was responsible for the long running radio programme 'Sounds Familiar?' and is now currently involved in the visual version of that show, now called 'Looks Familiar?' which Thames Television started screening last autumn. This paperback is an extension of that television series.

Included are 1247 mind teasers to test your memory on contemporary nostalgia, and if that's what turns you on, this book'll prove delightful. For **Test Your NQ** is amusing, entertaining and informative.

ROCK FILE edited by Charlie Gillett. New English Library, 40p.

Whilst concerning a different type of nostalgia to the last book mentioned, **Rock File**, edited by Charlie Gillett and compiled by Pete and Annie Fowler, is as entertaining and enlightening. And to rock and roll critics and fanatics it is absolutely essential.

For this book is a short guide to contemporary music and features a list of every Top-20 hit in the British charts from 1955 to 1969.

It is great fun to be reminded of these past 'oldies but goodies' and is also an encouragement to dig out those battered old singles, that are bound to amaze younger listeners.

MY SECRET LIFE by 'Walter'. Edited and introduced by Gordon Grimley. Panther, 50p.

At long last 'Walter's' **My Secret Life** is freely and legally available in this country. Unfortunately this edited version has much missing from what was originally an eleven volume work, but the essence of the book is intact, if not the sexual explicitness.

This 'underground' classic from the Victorian era is a valuable work because of the unique insight it gives the reader into one man's sexual appetites and obsessions. 'Walter', living in a period when openness about sex is a social taboo, and the whole subject was hidden beneath a wealth of repression, fear and misinformation. The sketches of Victorian life and its class structure portrayed, also prove to be fascinating and historically informative.

The complete text of **My Secret Life** has only recently been available in the United States. Let us hope it will not be long before we have the opportunity to freely read this incomparable document into human sexual responses in its entirety.

SATAN WANTS YOU by Arthur Lyons. Mayflower, 35p.
A HANDBOOK ON WITCHES by Gillian Tindall, Mayflower, 35p.

Satanism and witchcraft are still proving to be intriguing and fascinating to as many people as they have done for some time now, during this current boom of interest in these and other related subjects. And to a growing number they mean a lot more than just reading about cults, devil-worship and the 'old religions'.

Satan Wants You and **A Handbook On Witches** are worthwhile additions to the wealth of material published on these 'dark' matters. Both are written and presented with illustrations in an intelligent and revealing manner, and fortunately do without the unnecessary over-sensationalism, often leading to misinformation one associates with much of what is already available.

OUTLAWS OF AMERICA by Roger Lewis, Pelican, 40p.

Roger Lewis's book **Outlaws of America** is subtitled 'The Underground Press and its Context: Notes on a Cultural Revolution'. And that's exactly what it is. It also contains many references to the 'underground' press in Europe, especially to those publications that appear in Great Britain.

The 'alternative/underground' press has come about in recent years, and has already proved itself to be a valuable contribution to society, very often covering events that do not appear in national or even local newspapers, as well as supporting and giving space to the struggles, aims and ideas of minority groups, ie blacks, gays, etc. As such it is important that those unaware of the necessity for this form of media should enlighten themselves as to why it has such a significant role to play in society.

Outlaws of America succeeds well in informing those whose knowledge of the subject is small. It also serves as a useful record of what has taken place so far during the 'alternative' press's short but impressive history to those who already find these publications a vital addition to the accepted media.

Whilst on this topic, **Gay News** is classified by many as an 'underground' newspaper. In some ways it is, I suppose, but it is also trying to break out of the confines of this categorisation and open up areas which have been overlooked for far too long.

THE HOUSE ON THE BORDERLAND by William Hope Hodgson. Panther, 30p.

To be honest I haven't yet finished this book. I'm about two thirds through it, so even if I wanted to, I can't give the end away.

Suffice it to say I find this little book absolutely obsessive reading. It is a fantasy/supernatural work of the highest order, and the worlds I have travelled to whilst progressing through it, make me wonder where the tale will terminate.

The author, William Hope Hodgson, was killed in action in 1918. But it is only recently that his macabre, haunting story has been re-issued, although his works are regularly published in the United States. Amongst Hodgson's numerous admirers was H. P. Lovecraft, who, along with many others, considered **The House On The Borderland** to be his greatest novel.

Denis Lemon

Chilling Evil

DEVIL DADDY by John Blackburn. Published by Jonathan Cape, £1.60.

To anyone interested in the Supernatural and the Occult, and who enjoys a good thriller, this new book "Devil Daddy" is a MUST. Written by one of today's masters of the macabre, it tells of an Evil the world never dreamed existed outside of fiction.

Fighting this evil are Marcus Levin, Bacteriologist, and his pretty Russian-born wife, Tania, who have featured in previous occult thrillers. But none as frightening as this new one. Together they face great danger to discover a fanatical group of Satanists who have opened one of the Gates of Hell and released on the world a plague more frightening than the black death.

Who brutally raped pretty Elsie Kerr? What turned her into an eighty-year-old hag overnight? Who fed a naked body to a farmer's starving pigs? Many more spine chilling questions arise before the most exciting and breathtaking climax is reached and the reader left shocked and shaking in his chair.

Thank God it can never happen... or could it?

John Blackburn's previous novels have all been connected with the occult and one earlier work has now been filmed "Nothing But The Night" directed by that horror star we all love, Christopher Lee. Look out for it.

David A. Johnstone

Cupid's Coming

Grandma Press has just announced that enough subscriptions have now been obtained for the firm to send its comic, sexy novel, **CUPID'S CRESCENT** by Laurence Collinson, poet, playwright and contributor to many gay publications, including *Gay News*, *Lunch* and *Quorum*, to the printers. The delay that has occurred since the book was first advertised has been due partly to the fact that some potential subscribers were slow in making up their minds, and partly to the fact that certain personal problems intervened that made it difficult to act as quickly as had been hoped. Such difficulties have now been happily overcome, and people who have subscribed can be assured that the time they will now have to wait for their copies will be no longer than it takes the printers and publishers to set up, lay-out, design, staple and post off the book.

A few autographed and numbered copies are still available at £2.00 each; while there are still plenty of the ordinary £1.00 copies for those who want them.

Orders for copies of this funny, semi-gay paperback novel should be sent, along with the correct amount of money (postage is included) to Laurence Collinson, 30 Andrews House, Barbican, London EC2Y 8AX.

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Solution

Here is the solution to the first *Gay News* crossword which appeared in the Christmas issue.

E	D	I	T	O	R	I	A	L	B	O	Y	S		
A	N	M		E	S	R	W							
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