

N°21

GAY NEWS

15p

Gay Morecambe

Happy Easter



GAY NEWS

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Editorial

Something important happened at the end of the weather-beaten pier at Morecambe last week. Two boys kissed each other, and the leather-faced fisherman who watched it happen just went on waiting for a bite.

He didn't shudder and he didn't look upset. He was asked whether it bothered him. It didn't. He was after his fish. The fact that two boys had publicly demonstrated their gayness just didn't matter a damn.

In a way, that's what the meetings at the end of the Morecambe Pier last week were all about. Abolish the damn. Let it happen . . . and let it happen where people can see. Burn the closets if you like. Get glass walls and invite the neighbours around to watch.

The significant factor about the assembly of 300 homosexual people at Morecambe for the Campaign for Homosexual Equality's first Annual Conference was that it happened. A lot of people travelled a long way to find ways of smashing out of the great shell of oppression and isolation. Two of the legacies of homosexuality.

In what's become accepted CHE form, a lot of paper work had to be ploughed through, a lot of internal problems had to be sorted out, the question of full time officers and amendments and minutes of the last meeting was raised, and somebody forgot to put toilet paper in the toilets.

But business was taken care of in a very straightforward way. The aim of it all was to look for that crack of light and wedge it open. A fair sex law and total assimilation. That's the way the people who ran it saw the aims.

And valid points they were. The radical idea came at the end of the conference, and just like most radical brain explosions, it was pushed through with gaped mouths not quite ready to object.

Initially, the Government made a vague announcement that it planned legislating against sex discrimination, doing it along the same lines as the Race Relations Act.

But the conference suddenly decided that this was not anything like the answer. It wants a sweeping change to make everything reasonable quite legal.

The Race Relations Board scheme is fine on paper, but it doesn't remove all discrimination simply because most of the discriminatory acts are too subtle to be legislated against.

And there is one marvellous anomaly in our society today . . . the one which declares that sodomy between a man and a woman is illegal but for men, under the right legal definitions, it is quite OK, but under the new Government proposal, it would outlaw that too.

Morecambe raised seldom whispered points about gay adoption, gay marriage, the age of consent and even the great yet-to-be-discovered event of 'coming out'.

Morecambe did one other very important thing. It attracted women. Not a lot - not enough - but they came and they talked. And that, for a gay organisation until now an unwritten gay male sanctuary - was like a downpour over a parched desert.

Morecambe was happy too. A policeman danced with a priest, one of Bert's false eyelashes fell into his beer and a gay boy kissed a gay girl. What's happening?

But it happened wonderfully well, and to hell with the critics who preach that CHE is dying from an acute case of paper clip poisoning.

It's optimistic, it's bold and it's a lovely message of thanks to the Morecambe City Council who ran for cover when they heard that nasty name "homosexual".

But it's vital. That's what matters. It's one of the very first heavy efforts to tell the world - at least this corner of the very worried world - that being gay is a very satisfactory, alternative way of living.

That's what made it all worthwhile travelling 250 miles through the snow and the rain and the wind to make it happen in that weatherbeaten building at the end of the Morecambe pier.

with love and brotherhood, then many of the problems would die natural deaths.

As to the problem of personal ads, I do not want to see an end to one of the few life lines for the gay person to contact his own kind. There are one or two other sources of contact and as we know most of those are of high cost to those who wish only to make new friends of compatible nature.

Unfortunately I also realise that by having a contact column the paper's future is put in jeopardy with the law as it stands.

I don't think that any of your readers would want to see such a useful paper destroyed for lack of a little consideration.

Also many will be against the discontinuation of the contact section. If it is to continue and yet not at the expense of closing down the paper as a whole, there has got to be some compromise.

Both the Gay News as a paper and the contact section are a must to the gay society of this world. Personally, as a gay bachelor, of early 50's, I don't use the contact column - except to read some of the ads with interest. At my age, no-one young enough to suit me is interested in anyone other than their own age group. To me, that means being stuck in one groove and I beg them to remember that one day, they too will find they will grow old and find it hard to meet the ones that they like.

I am fortunate though in having some friends who are both young and interesting to be with, without going to bed!! Two are 15, one 16 and one 25, so there are a precious few to whom age is no barrier to a loving relationship.

So I feel the column must go on, with some reservations. The descriptions of likes and requirements are too descriptive, leaving nothing to the imagination.

I feel that to safeguard the continued production of your paper, keep it out of the hands of the law, and yet help gays to make contact, the description must be toned down a great deal. It is not my personal view to limit anyone's right to speak freely. Unfortunately our law makers think otherwise even though we disagree with the many disparities within the law. Until these are sorted out and made fair to all and I mean all people, gay or not.

So please keep the contact ads, but play it safe. Better we have to lose a means of making contact, than lose our paper altogether.

Aries

More Tolerant

Newcastle

Dear Gay News,

Thanks for the write-up on the Sam Greene Granada TV show. While I am willing to respect personal opinions, I do think that you could have been a bit more tolerant. Newcastle is *not* London. We are where you were ten years ago. *Think about that!* We did not choose the form that this programme took. We had to leave that in the hands of the producer.

Certainly the film could have been better from our point of view, but we had no control over that. In the circumstances we did the best we could. I think you should accept that as it is.

The quotes mentioned were not all from GN but from other papers and personal experience in Newcastle towards your paper. We think that, under the circumstances, we did well. Enough said.

Eric Wears
Newcastle GLF.

Cease To Fear

London SW10

Dear Gay News,

As an American now residing in London I've found your newspaper to be informative, witty and telling. What we accept as a norm in the USA, you are still fighting for - recognition. Perhaps you've seen your American counterpart called 'GAY', and I believe your paper to be much more basic and gutsy than the latter (no offence meant if you are friends of Lige and Jack). It isn't a question of the rights of homosexuals but rather that we be accepted for ourselves regardless of our sexual preferences. And with newspapers like yours people will become educated and with that knowledge, cease to fear. Young people, these days, care less about clearly defined sexual roles than we of the next generation, so there is hope.

Keep the barrage coming our way and don't slack off. We all need to be reminded of who we are.

Steve

Pay More Attention

Chorley, Lancs

Dear Gay News,

I have only recently discovered GN. What a revelation! I feel as though a large black cloud has been lifted from my life. However, it is very disappointing to discover how London orientated you are. Surely you could pay a little more attention to your provincial brothers. For example where does one purchase GN in provincial towns and cities?

You could also be a great help to many thousands of quiet, shy, non-blattant gays by devising some simple, unobtrusive method by which we could recognise each other. My idea would be for all discreet gays to wear two straight pins in lapels or jacket collars, inserted from the back so that they form a small neat X when seen from the front. Perhaps some other reader can come up with a better idea. Imagine what a breakthrough this would be for the silent or non-screaming majority.

Pat Johnston

ED: Gay News is on sale at a large number of pubs and clubs around the country; see the 'Friendly Outlets' column and at most good bookshops, or you can always subscribe. We try hard not to be London orientated, but we must have your co-operation in sending in news and information of what is happening in your different areas.

Grain of Truth

Edinburgh

Dear Gay News,

One might tend to disregard the hysterical letter of Mary (GN 19) on the subject of Gay News. It tells us a great deal about Mary: she has a lot to learn about life and I wish her well on her voyage of discovery.

There is, however, a grain of truth in what she says. You mentioned in the previous issue that copies of GN have been seized in Edinburgh in connection with the retailing of pornography or some such. If the paper does eventually become difficult to obtain in Edinburgh, I feel you, the editors, must carry some of the blame.

I mean that I too thought the dictionary of gay slang to be in very poor taste (and that's as near as I would ever get to the word 'obscene').

Such vocabulary is OK in the heat of the moment (for some), or in urgent, poignant graffiti; but set out pseudoscientifically in cold blood, it is just sick, and may make enemies of potential friends for Gay News. I suggest you drop it, an opinion shared by others I've talked to.

Dick Revere

ED: Gay News was the first publication to be returned to five Edinburgh bookshops after copies of various periodicals, including GN, had been seized by police in a series of 'porno' swoops (see GN 19 'Back On Sale' Newsette). Scotland at least considers us to be 'respectable'.

In the USA, the 'dictionary of gay slang' (The Queen's Vernacular - A Gay Lexicon by Bruce Rodgers) is acclaimed - by gay organisations as well as individuals - as being a highly original, informative and amusing work.

Fortnightly Filth

Caerphilly, Glamorgan

Dear Gay News,

Mary (GN 19) Hurray! at last another voice in protest to the filth published fortnightly in Gay News. When are we going to see a paper worthy of both sexes? Up until now, apart from the views expressed by Sappho, there is nothing to interest us girls.

In Gay News 10 I wrote a letter offering help to anyone who needed a friendly shoulder and what did I receive? Letters from gay men, expressing in full detail the sexual activities that took place between two males. I am also very broad minded, but I refuse to have my offer mistreated in this way, until Gay News thinks again about its personal ads and its vulgar use of four letter words. It's always been my belief that people that use such words to express themselves do so out of ignorance and the lack of mentality to find something better.

It took me five minutes to read Gay News 19 as apart from Mary's letter, there was nothing of interest to myself being gay. The film and book reviews, stage and TV I could have found in any other magazine or newspaper.

You ask repeatedly for more funds, more sister readers; until you do something constructive about Gay News, then you are asking in vain.

Placing a sincere ad in your column is asking for abuse and letters only fit for garbage. We've all been waiting and hoping for a paper solely for us gays, but if this is what we show the straight people we like to read, no wonder we are treated as outcasts to society.

The only people you are catering for are the mentally sick and perverted who get a kick out of reading such filth. Thank God that there's a law to prevent you from printing further filth. What would we get if you had a free hand? I shudder to think. We don't all want to know the details about cottaging, it's sickening to know that it goes on without reading about it.

If you can't manage to clean up the whole paper, then give us at least one page, to which we can turn, hastily missing all the others, surely that's not too much to ask - for 15p. For a women's page, there must be some news somewhere that would interest us, even if it was straight it would be better than filth. We would be able to feel free to write our own interests, poetry, letters, in our own page. Perhaps you could offer two of those intended pages for GN20 to us instead of more pages of rubbish.

Daphne

ED: GN has always been opposed to running a token page for women readers. In time, we hope the paper will appeal to more gay women, but like their gay brothers, sisters too will have to regularly contribute news and articles. Until such a time, there is little we can do about the one-sided balance in our pages.

Your Letters

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

The Right To Worship

The Fellowship in Christ the Liberator,
Information: Phone 01-603 9088
Correspondence address:
FCL
c/o 61 Earls Court Square,
London SW5 9DG

Dear All,

I was interested to read Dudley's letter in GN18 about this Fellowship, but sad to see that he apparently had not read very thoroughly the article he referred to.

There are a few chips on our shoulders (no more than average), but even if most clergy did, as Dudley claims, welcome openly the gay who is "honestly gay" - they are in fact somewhat rare - their congregations do not. However, is it really a part of Christianity to shop around until you find the 'right' Church? Do we really have to look for the bargain of the week?

Many Christian gays are working for change within the Churches and they include many members and supporters of this Fellowship. But such change is going to be long in coming and the "honestly gay" have the right to worship freely and openly NOW: this Fellowship provides the oppor-

tunity to do just that and hopes to influence the Churches by its example.

Finally, somewhat tongue-in-cheek, I cannot help noticing that Dudley is more or less advocating even insisting that Christian gays, in particular members of this Fellowship come out ("honestly gay"?), yet he remains "Dudley of NW11". What's that bit about practising what one preaches?

Love, joy, happiness and peace,

Jo McVay-Abbott
Secretary

Compromise Necessary

Maidstone, Kent

Dear Gay News,

As a regular reader of your wonderful paper, I have many times felt that I should put pen to paper especially re some of the points made by writers of letters.

Although I am always disposed towards freedom of thought and speech, I deplore some of the comments made about the gay person's own feelings and problems.

When will they get together and decide just what changes they do want made. If all people, gay or otherwise, would only follow their hearts



Morecambe—Paperweights, Weighty Papers, Then Great Success

The first annual conference of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality and its sister alliance, the Scottish Minorities Group ended last week — a total success.

A crowd optimistically estimated at 400 by a CHE official, and 230 by the London Times, huddled in groups in the icy complex of the Morecambe Pier in northwest England and did more for the cause of equality and anti-oppression than any Government-level moves this decade.

The three-day conference, which began on a sadly flimsy note on Friday night at a poorly attended reception, turned into a deadly serious call for top level action and investigation, with only a comparative minimum of the anticipated weighty CHE 'filing cabinet' traumas.

than there have ever been at a CHE conference.

They are us, which is about as close as we can make it sound. The rule of thumb until now has led to a phantom thought that gay men and gay women shall for some inane reason, never meet. At least, not unless it is totally necessary.

But Morecambe didn't have it. Naturally (and we say that only because it's the way it's been until now) there were far more men — of both sexes — than women, but there were more women than anybody expected. And not in ghettos. Not in little groups. We had it on absolutely reliable information that a gay man was holding hands with a gay lady, and that wonderful things happened.

in any other capacity except as total CHE supporters and homosexuals.

One of the policemen volunteered to have his name printed, but his colleague advised of its obvious dire consequences.

The Morecambe City fathers, however, gave cause for quite a lot of concern when they flatly refused to turn on any kind of official reception for the Campaign's executive or its delegates on any of the days of the meeting. Their decision to officially shun the conference rated a few paragraphs on the front page of the local 'Visitor'.

The other local newspapers simply ignored the conference.

Morecambe's council's decision to shy away from anything associated with the gay world was, however, not a unanimous one.

One non-gay councillor came to both the reception and the disco. He explained that he was totally disappointed in the council's decision not to make any official welcome to the CHE conference, and he said the decision to draw the curtain on anything labelled 'gay' was carried for no other reason than because the other councillors could not grasp the fact that gay people were really quite ordinary . . . perhaps a little better than a lot of non-gay people.

One of Morecambe's biggest businessmen, Mr Frank Hannagan, had his say too. He was having a quiet drink in Larry Doherty's Mason's Arms Hotel, the unofficially appointed gay pub for the conference.

A Gentle Pat

Said Mr Hannagan: "You can write this down if you like, and I don't mind if you use my name. As far as I'm concerned, these people here today are some of the best people you could wish to meet. I've travelled around the world, and wherever I've been it's been the same. I would always take a stand for gay people. And so would my wife."

Nice words, but certainly not isolated around Morecambe.

Larry and Nora Doherty, who get a nice regular living from local and visiting gays who spend a lot of time and VAT at their pub, have nothing but praise for gays. They had even more for the conference and its crowd of 300, all of whom managed to get into the two bars that Larry threw open to them.

The animosity a lot of people half expected just didn't come. There was a vague punch-up on Friday night which resulted in a young GLF member attending part of the conference with a black eye, but there was not one single other report of trouble.

Local police did what their superiors told them to and kept an eye on the 'pier where those queers are having a meeting', but about the only real activity there was a dismal banner display telling the delegates and anyone else mad enough to be out in that wind to repent while there's still time, and the hamburger man who did a roaring business.

It must have been a bit of a shock to the system for what looked like a very conservative Morecambe itself. Suddenly a lot of little hotels were booked out, restaurants which usually had spare tables to burn at this time of the year had to tell people to come back in a half an hour. But there was not a lot of what a lot of gay critics predicted. It was a very non-camp gay meet. Generally, the people who went to Morecambe were there to get down to business. And sadly, that meant a daytime conference started around 9.30am, which on Sunday was unfunny.

Ms Dorothy Lyall, who works at a chemist store near the esplanade summed it up neatly when she said she liked serving gay people because they were usually nice and they smile a bit anyway . . . that the way they run their lives is up to them, and why wasn't their meeting open to anyone anyway . . . and she always thought that gay people smelled a lot nicer.

Take that. So life outside the unheated conference rooms was more than bearable. Morecambe was generally — apart from the council's attitude — very friendly.

The meetings themselves though, were totally serious. Each of them claimed to be either the most vital or the most controversial of the conference, but each one dealt with extremely serious problems and concerns of the campaign.

Get It Together

The commission into the future structures of the Homophile movement probed three contentious issues. An analysis of the Homophile movement, a look at its own internal structure, and the growing issue of support from students.

The commission heard doubts about the strength of the student movement, and called for better co-ordination and a closer marriage between the Gaysoc group and all homophile movements.

The Law Reform Commission fell onto its feet almost immediately, with a call for a comprehensive revision of all the laws relating to sexual matters. Suggestions that drawing the injustices of the existing laws to Parliamentarians' attention would have a

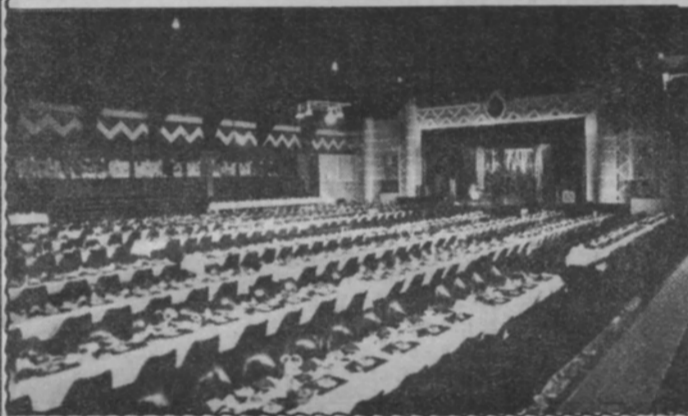
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MORECAMBE IS AN IDEAL CONFERENCE CENTRE

There are several good venues for your conference. Seating capacity from 50-1,600 delegates. The new town centre is an additional attraction and there are spacious car parks available.

The town is of great interest for delegates' wives and families to explore whilst the men are in business sessions.

Full details of all conference facilities can be obtained from the Publicity and Entertainments Manager at the Town Hall, Morecambe and Heysham.



Our townspeople have a natural aptitude to play a role of host and all visitors, whether it's Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter can be sure of receiving a warm welcome.

The conference delegates will find that Morecambe and Heysham is an ideal place for both business and pleasure and will return home re-vitalised from spending a few days at the seaside resort.

Morecambe and Heysham Corporation welcome all — except gays.

Time To Get Going

The conference was called because CHE felt it was time to get things together on a true national scale, and probably, to convince itself that there would be a show of strength at a time when CHE (and naturally SMG) was starting to win good friends and influence some surprisingly important people.

There were three major topics served up for discussion — the analysis of a 'Gay Life Style', the commission on the future structure of the Homophile movement, and a deep look at homosexual law reform.

The best attended of the three discussion groups was the Gay Life Style analysis, which also produced the most important proposal of the conference — a call for a complete revision of laws about sex.

The policy was adopted overwhelmingly instead of a suggestion from a commission group.

In essence, the resolution called for an end to all laws which showed distinction between people on the grounds of their sexual orientation.

The conference decided not to rush in and do it blindfolded . . . it wants a thorough investigation done by a working party, who should have a massive revolutionary proposal ready in time for a political campaign at the next general election of the Campaign.

Nothing at the conference sounded very mono-syllabic or simple, but hidden in the volumes of papers and proposals to emerge from the conference were masses of simply exciting moves. Not ideas, but definite plans of action.

A Call To Come Out

The great non-event called 'Coming Out' was also given a long hearing, and after an hour of discussions which became honestly spine-chilling, 'Coming Out' no longer fell into the non-event file.

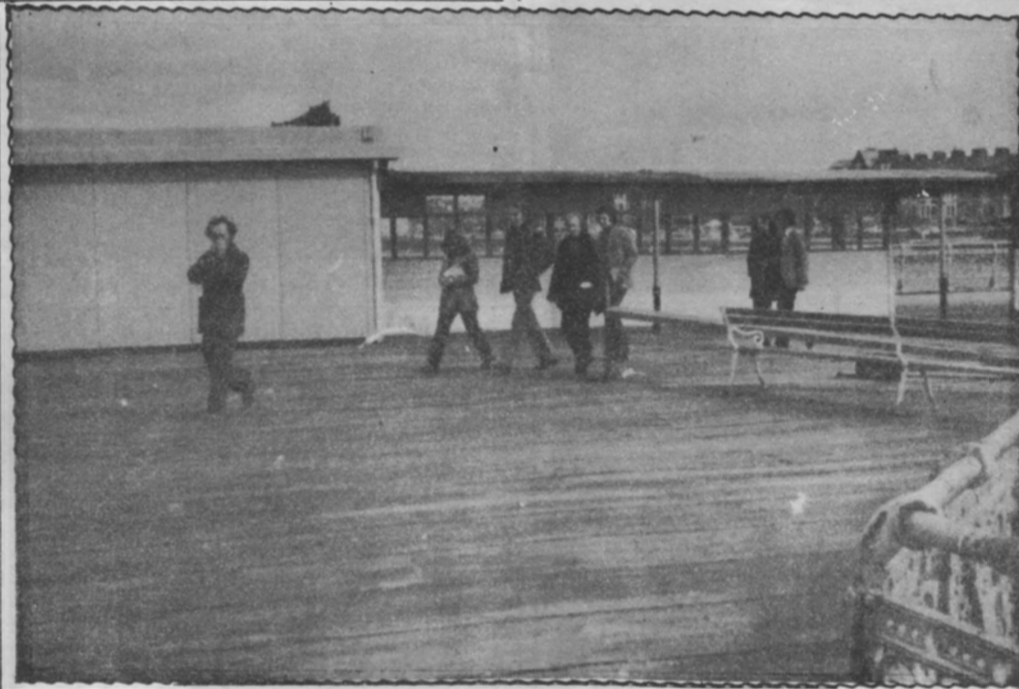
CHE members, executives, supporters, and Gay News itself voiced plans for a very probable scheme for what might turn out to be a virtual revolution in public declaration of homosexuality.

There was a flutter of worry when someone announced that a party of skinheads from a neighbouring borough were on their way to do savage things to the conference.

But the only slight headache was the late arrival of a delegation from the Gay Liberation Front, who voiced some approval and a lot of disapproval with the general trend of the CHE-SMG thinkout.

Women, Women

Still, there was one very important factor about the conference. Women. More women



CHE members walking briskly along the Central Pier to the conference.

The important point was the very attendance of a bigger-than-ever crowd of gay women at a conference which may well have been all male. CHE recognised it, went into a mild spin because of it, and made it clear that it wanted to see more women at more conferences.

As Anna Raeburn from Forum put it in her final address to the conference, seeing so many openly uninhibited women so close to so many uninhibited men fighting side by side for an end to joint homosexual oppression was something close to a wonderful emotional meal.

A Few Surprises

Morecambe also came packaged with a load of surprises. The first eye-opener happened at the get-together reception/disco on Friday night when several unexpected VIP's turned up.

One was a self-proclaimed homosexual Church of England minister who said it was his first CHE conference, but that he had suddenly felt the need to do something very positive about voicing his support.

The other real stunner was the presence of two Special Squad members from Scotland Yard, one of whom produced his identity card and his 'special friend'. They were at the conference, they promised, not



Tired but cheerful gays emerging after a hard day's debate.

Continued from page 3.

worthwhile effect, were given vast votes of approval.

The Gay Life Style commission paper, drafted originally by Roger Baker drew the biggest crowds and sparked off the hottest reactions. Its two main points were a virtual 'call to arms' for a national 'coming out' scheme, and a general proposal to get the homosexual race to recognise itself as a power of very worthwhile people.

Campaign for Homosexual Equality

The 'coming out' proposal was bold and almost unexpected. Speakers urged gays to really do something concrete about declaring their gayness, and to be proud of it, but they also recognised the problems associated with any sort of national 'coming out' where there was bound to be some form of discrimination.

Our Say, Too

Gay News itself spoke briefly in favour of coming out, and announced briefly a proposal for a national campaign spearheaded by the newspaper.

There was a disturbing difference of opinion between some members of CHE and Gay Liberation Front, who were in town for the conference, but didn't arrive until the last day, acting obediently in accord with the laws of CHE.

What was all important though was the total togetherness of the conference. After it was over, and after a rousing barrage of addresses from four of the nation's most qualified pro-gay and gay women, the feeling to really get out there and do something for the gay cause was real enough to feel.

The meeting was successful. Totally.

And if all goes well — and if the Morecambe Council has by then discovered that ten percent of its own ranks might well be gay, CHE will be there again in 12 months' time.

Nearly all of Morecambe, except perhaps the cold-shoulder council, said that CHE and its band of supporters is a pretty nice band of people to have around.

The active band of GLF members came in force on Sunday to the open meeting — along with an unspecified number of general public observers.

For a while, it became slightly obvious that there was a positive division in policies and ideas between both organisations, but the votes for equality and justice turned the silent feuding into solidarity.

If all goes well — and if the Morecambe Council have by then discovered that ten percent of its own ranks might well be gay — then CHE will hold another conference there 12 months henceforth. Most of Morecambe — except the cold council — have said it would be a wonderful thing for the town.

Fire From The Ladies

The true climax to the Morecambe conference came on Sunday when the heavy-



Rose Robertson: "Being gay is not dirty"

going front liners were replaced by four of the nation's most vocal pro-gay and gay-observing ladies.

Diana Chapman from Arena Three urged gay people of both sexes to show themselves, not to be ashamed of it for any reason, and to get out of their life at 'Queer Street NW3'.

Anna Raeburn, who's Forum's advisory panel and a non-gay, gay-lover, made it quite clear that Forum was run because of its enormous profitability. She also said it was, as she saw it, an exploitation of sex, but it became that because the demand allowed it to happen.

Anna deals with sexual problems ranging from people with gay complexes through impotence to premature ejaculation, and she underlines the need for total homosexual recognition. She said that a gay relationship simply worked, and that there was no need to read anything especially complex into it.

Rose Robertson from the Parent's Enquiry bureau called for a simply sane recognition of homosexuality as an acceptable way of life. She said that the worst part about it was that parents condemned it when they discovered it, that children were far more terrified when they discovered it, and did all in their power to live a dual life... even when they were pre-teenage. This, she said, was a hell of a way for a child to live. Rose said that she would advocate total parental recognition of the homosexuality of their children, and if it was the way their children wanted to be or the way they were going to be, then they should treat it as a matter of fact.

She said a lot of was brought about by simple old-fashioned terrors and inhibitions.

"Why are they condemned for masturbating?" she asked. "Most kids only get a chance to masturbate in the loo's. Why don't they masturbate on the rug in front of the fire where it's warmer and more comfortable? It's because they're terrified and that's what makes kids emotionally hurt. That and all the other things that are caused so often by parents who don't try to help."

"Look, being gay is not dirty, and it is not bad and it is not anything other than the best way of life for a lot of people. It will never be fought and it will never be stopped. It is important and it is also wonderful."



May Hobbs: "Gay people more loving than most"

May Hobbs, the very outspoken founder of the Nightcleaners Union brought them-dering applause when she put the case for gay adoption. She said she was totally aware of the almost impossible battle that gay people have when the decide they would like to adopt a child.

"Why can't we adopt children like other men and women adopt kids? All a kid wants is love and freedom, and God knows that gay people are more loving than most non-gays."

"A kid needs two parents. That's true, but who gives a damn whether it's two moms or two dads. The kid will get love and protection, and that's the thing that matters. Kids don't need big mansions, they want love. There are thousands of kids without parents who would love to have gay people as parents. Not because they know you're gay, but because they know you love them, and that's something that a lot of un-gay people don't have."

"Look, half of you would love to have a kid to love, try for God's sake to do it, and for your sake, and for the sake of the kid."

What It's All About

This is the text of the all-embracing resolution from the commission on law reform, which has been handed to the full body of the CHE for preparation for the next general conference.

The commission said that the original resolution which called for limited law reform had been produced to resolve a conflict in the commission between those who believed in short term measures to get rid of the worst abuses.

The commission proposed that "The conference recognises that homosexuals suffer not only from legislation which discriminates against homosexual behaviour, but also from absurdities and ambiguities of the whole field of sex legislation, and in general recommends that:

(1) The executive committee sets up a working party to make comprehensive proposals for a total revision of the laws about sex. This legislation should be framed in such a way that no distinction is made between people on the grounds of their sexual orientation.

(2) This working party should report back to the next CHE conference and should aim to produce its final report in time for a full political campaign to be launched for its implementation at the start of the next parliament."

A Word From Our Heart

The Morecambe CHE conference was more than just an important occasion for the gay movement. It was an important exercise for Gay News itself.

We do have limited resources and an even smaller staff. And it was thanks to some magnificent people at Morecambe that we were able to report its outcome.

It's only fitting to give credit where it's due, so here goes.



David Bozman. GN's No 1 street seller in Morecambe.

Alan Beresford for his assistance on gay oppression, John Elbert for help with Homophile movement, Larry and Nora Doherty for breaking tradition and throwing open both bars, and for selling Gay News, Malcolm Jackson of the Alwyn International Private Hotel for being such an understanding host, David Bozman for selling Gay News and for virtually joining Gay News staff for the entire conference. To the ladies in the bar at the pier, to the taxi driver who carried us free because we were gay, to the policeman who winked, and to Maureen Olsen for offering to give all future gay workers free board if they needed it.

In the very best way we know how to say it, thanks.



Actually, GN travelled by British Rail.

All gay women should read **SAPPHO (30p inc post) regular monthly magazine BCM Petrel London WC1**



Illustration: Chris Welch

Gay News Seized in Massive Police Swoop

Gay News has been seized by the Leeds City Police Force.

Armed to the teeth with a warrant, six members of the city's Milgarth Division raided the premises of 'Books' in Woodhouse Lane, Leeds, and descended on a long list of newspapers, periodicals and magazines.

The uniformed policemen cleaned out the shop's supplies of Gay News, Follow-Up, Oz, International Times, Forum, Cosmic Comics, Nasty Tales, Jeffrey, Ecstasy and Underground Comics.

Then came the books. Swiftly and quietly, acting in the cause of public moral protection, they swooped on Naked Lunch, Quiet Days in Clichy, Homosexual Dialectic, Song of the Loon, Lenny Bruce Volume One, Phillipino Food, I am Curious Yellow, Does Sex Make You Feel Guilty, The Sensuous Man, Walter — My Secret Life, Theatre and Drama Review, Boswell's Life of Johnson, and Mysteries of the Organism.

Several Enid Blyton books and a pile of Superman comics escaped the massive raid.

The police warned the staff of 'Books' that the material they'd seized would be submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions for possible action.

Superintendent Fieldhouse of the Milgarth Division of the Leeds City Police confirmed the raid but made no comment.

Friendly Norwich

Vivian Waldron, the new London organiser of FRIEND, spoke to the Norwich Campaign for Homosexual Equality on the 9th of April.

FRIEND has grown from a London-based organisation in November 1971 (it was founded by Michael Launder as a specifically CHE service) to a National Organisation of 7 established groups and a growing desire for autonomy from CHE. Twenty-one people heard Vivian Waldron appeal for the setting up of a FRIEND group based in Norwich. The response was not a spontaneous "sure thing" because the local group has to cope with local community attitudes about its existence. Apparently there is quite a bit of indifference — even hostility — to the local gay group, who meet in the local nunnery.

Part of the trouble is the tendency to accept all this conspiracy of silence on the part of the homosexuals in the group themselves. Also the average age of 35-40 has imposed a feeling of cautiousness on any local gay activism. The atmosphere is nevertheless friendly and welcoming, and if you are visiting the town, you should make a point of getting in touch with them. David Blamires is speaking to the group on April 18th about his new book "Homosexuality from the Inside" so there is no dearth of interest.

The local gay pub is "Studio Four" in Crown Street, and Rex, the barman will give a warm welcome, especially to visitors. Maybe even Gay News will be on sale there regularly; a trial run was negotiated while I was there.

Ian Dunn

Controversy Held Over

ED: Shortage of space has forced us to omit from this issue a controversial article written by Michael Launder, who, until recently, was National Organiser of FRIEND, the gay befriending service. The piece is called 'Who Holds The Reins?' — An open letter to the homophile movement. It will now appear in GN 22.

House Of Lords Report The Long Struggle Ahead

The Sexual Offences (Scotland) Bill was introduced and discussed at a specially convened committee meeting in the House of Lords on Wednesday 28th March. Lord Archibald was in the Chair with Tom Oswald beside him representing the House of Commons.

Because the Irish White Paper was being debated at the same time, the attendance at this particular meeting was very small. This prompted Lord Archibald to say that he felt "ashamed and humiliated" at the way his 60 invitations had met with such poor response. In addition to representatives from the Gay Community and the National Council for Civil Liberties, were Lord Beaumont and Lord Boothby for the Upper House, with David Steel from the Commons. Lord Arran turned up later in the Peers' Guest Room and was in a most amiable mood and was highly animated over the prospects for his Bill for the protection of Badgers.

The reasons behind the Bill were described by Councillor Ian Christie, who was speaking for the SMG Law Reform Committee. A fuller exposé on Law Reform will appear in a later issue. Peter Wallington, Executive Member of NCCL and the "author" of the Bill, explained the legal differences and similarities between the 1973 Draft Bill and the 1967 Sexual Offences Act. The Scottish proposals make it an offence for the police to incite or encourage the commission of any "act of public indecency" — see article on Police Cottage Spying in GN 19 — and the Bill proposes to legalise Gay Contact ads. In other respects, continued Peter Wallington, the Scottish Bill is modelled on existing law. The aspects are: merchant seamen, the armed forces, living on earnings of male prostitution and brothels, which the Scottish Bill does not propose to alter.

David Steel began the discussion by declaring that he supported the principles of the Bill — especially as a vice-President of SMG — but he was extremely worried that not only would it get defeated in the Commons, but that it would be very soundly defeated. He was not convinced that the public education campaign had made sufficient impact, and suggested that the Bill's introduction should be delayed.

Lord Boothby, alarmed that the Bill went much further than the 1967 Act, was convinced that the provisions would "create a division between England and Wales and Scotland". He was worried about the age of consent of 18. He said that the Crown Office's concessions to SMG in February 1973 and the recent Glasgow Herald Editorial were major advances, and that "if I was a homosexual, I would prefer to live in Scotland." Thus his ignorance on the whole subject was revealed to the meeting.

Lord Beaumont supported the Bill — "indeed, its proposals do not go far enough" — and he favoured a hard course, that is, he was against the mere extension of the 1967 Act to Scotland. A new "all UK" Act was called for. He also thought that more public awareness raising was required before the Bill should be introduced. It would then stand a good chance of getting through the Upper House at least.

In reply, SMG pointed out that a Parliamentary debate on homosexuality would be the ideal way of bringing up the issue for public debate and for sounding out changes in attitudes since 1967. The political realities in Scotland are that the majority of the 71

MPs are returned on a Labour Party ticket and they are conservatively minded on social issues. A recent example of this is the defeat of the Divorce Reform Bill in the Commons.

There are very few Socialist Peers who are free to introduce a Private Member's Bill of the type SMG is backing.

The SMG Law Reform Committee are now faced with a choice of strategies: either to link with an all-UK campaign, or to continue with the Scottish proposals. The bitter fact is that CHE, who ought to have got off the ground with their law reform campaign two years ago, have been amazingly inactive. The Morecambe Conference should resolve this lethargy. The visit to the House of Lords has shown that there is a lot of good will for the gay community, but the gay community in its turn, is still not getting wise to the tactics of getting its wishes across to the Members of both Houses of Parliament.



House of Lords

The days of mere letter-writing are behind us now.

NCCL was represented by a Legal Officer and Christine Jackson from the general office. It may be that NCCL will itself come forward with a Draft All-UK Bill (this is in line with already agreed NCCL policy on homosexuality), but this has still to be discussed at the next NCCL Executive Meeting. The National Union of Students adopted a vigorous Gay Rights platform at their National Conference at Exeter. But the achievement of sound law reform needs commitment and a personal ability to remain free from despair, because it will be a long and unexciting struggle.

Ian C. Dunn

FOOTNOTE: We have since heard that there has been an NCCL office meeting at which it was decided to wait for the Gay Community Organisations themselves to come forward with an All-UK Bill. NCCL do not think that a blanket age of consent of 16 years will get much support, and have suggested that a "drink, drugs, financial inducement" clause should be written in to protect under 18-year-olds, in line with Dutch law on this matter.

followed him again, and the court was told that the policeman saw Mr Vick smiling at other men.

At that stage the policemen identified themselves to Mr Vick, and the court was told that Mr Vick said "Oh God, no. Please let me go. I am ruined, I am ruined."

Mr Vick told the court that he went to the toilets because he needed to. He said he stood there but because it was so crowded he could not urinate.

He said he left and went back about 20 minutes later when it was less crowded.

He said he was then able to urinate.

He also said he tried to explain this to the police officers, but that they didn't seem impressed.

And the court cleared Mr Vick of the charge.

Gay Film Night Plans

OXFORD: The Oxford GLF is working hard on plans for its Gay Pride week, scheduled to start on May 12. As well as talks, discussions, a dance etc, they have decided to hold a gay film night. They have not decided on the films yet, but we'll let you know in plenty of time.

A Bit of the BBC For Cliff

LONDON: The mighty External Services section of the BBC has included Cliff Richard on its list of priorities. Charities if you like.



Mr Geoffery Owen, who's the executive producer at Radio 2 has sent a message to the programme organisers in the German, French, Italian, Portuguese and Yugoslav sections of the service and asked them to get behind Cliff's new record 'Power To All Our Friends' which is already making great piles of money for EMI, and is also Britain's entry in the Eurovision Song Contest. Mr Owen has asked that programmers give it all the airtime they can.

In their inter-office memo, the BBC explain that the record is out on EMI, they give its number, and advise its duration. Quite a nice little service to Cliff, who's not doing at all badly really.

And nice to know that an organisation like the BBC's external Services, which gets a thumping great £14m handout from the Foreign Office is really nice and close to Cliff.

There's naturally been a little reaction to the news of 'higher-up-help' for Cliff, but the BBC makes it very clear in its statement that it sees nothing wrong in promoting the British entry.

The End Of The Line

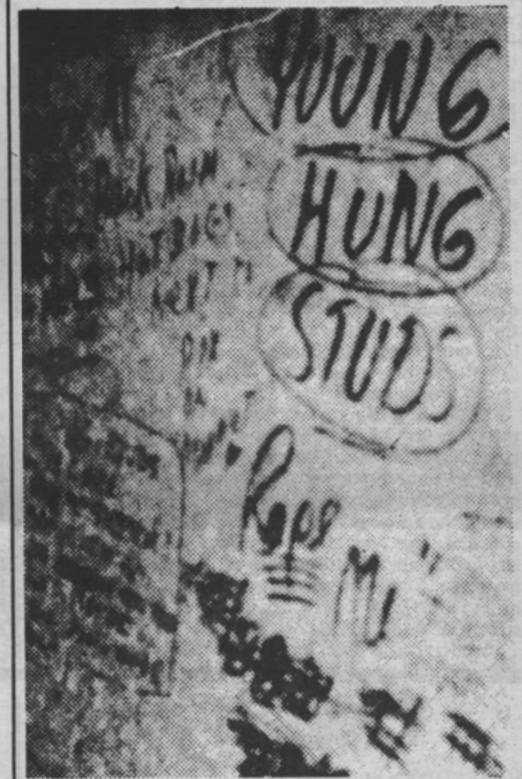
LOS ANGELES: The Rev Ralph Campo, head of the New-Clear Universal Foundation, a metaphysical group, says that gay people

are a reincarnation of someone of the opposite sex and have come to the end of their incarnation cycle. Using certain simple techniques, he says, gay people should be able to 'see' a past reincarnation of themselves in the mirror, and it will always be of the opposite sex.

He refers to gays as talented Zodiac travellers put on earth for the divine purpose of depopulation, ie natural birth control. Unfortunately he's not telling what the 'simple techniques' are. Perhaps it's just 'Mirror, mirror...'

Your Very Own 'Y'

SAN FRANCISCO: The San Francisco YMCA, possibly the most notorious gay get-together spot in the entire world, is up for sale. Sealed bids of over 850,000 dollars are being accepted, and it would be nice if some kindly philanthropist snapped it up and reopened it as the world's first Gay Museum. Although still in partial operation, no attempts are now being made to erase the never-ending graffiti that continually appeared on virtually every possible writing surface. Facilities include a TV lounge, basement, steam-room, and a rooftop sun-deck. The YMCA Public Relations Director said that officials knew about the widescale homosexual activities that occurred there but that they didn't discuss it. "If you discuss a problem, you have to do something about it," he said.



360,000 Students Vote For Gay Rights

The National Union of Students Conference has been presented with an all embracing document on Gay Rights. Called simply CD32, it's divided into three parts, and deals specifically with background, proposed policy and a list of 31 detailed instructions to the NUS executive and member unions of NUS on how to help gay students, and how to operate a campaign for gay rights.

The motion stated that there were probably more than 25,000 homosexual men and women in the NUS, that the vast majority of gay students were still isolated from other homosexuals, and that many felt that they were the only homosexuals on earth who suffered from loneliness and depression.

The motion went along with the now often talked about theory that women were more oppressed than men, and that the NCCL was compiling a dossier on police harassment.

It pointed out the special problems of gays in Northern Ireland and Scotland and clearly defined the existing laws in England and Wales.

The motion stated that the gay cause was one of civil rights and social change, and that a fundamental change in society was needed before there was any real integration of homosexuals and other minority groups.

Rules and Regulations

Some of the 31 instructions suggested by the motion were: Talks with Trade Unions in education with a view to setting up a joint policy on the protection of gay people from all forms of discrimination at work; to call a one-day conference on gay rights; to work with homophile groups; to help in the formation of gay student groups within member unions; to support Irish students; to campaign for changes in the education system; and to support any staff member or student under discrimination for being gay.

The motion got its first backup support from Jamie Gardiner, a 25-year-old student from London's University College, and a fellow member of Gaysoc.

He said it was outrageous to think that not until this meeting had any similar motion been tabled in the NUS.

"Being a homosexual," he said, "is simply one of the many valid alternatives of being a human being. Student unions can and must provide the means and encouragement for gay students to form Gaysocs. They must take positive action against discrimination."

Later, 23-year-old Trevor Locke from Bristol University said that the position of the law was that homosexuals were simply no longer persecuted for being what they were. He said that homosexual conduct was not made lawful in the full sense, but that it was merely exempt from real criminal penalties.

He urged a conference to call for a repeal of the 1967 Sexual Offences Act.

Press Reaction

The passing of the motion did win a considerable amount of press coverage. The Daily Telegraph said "Students to set up 700 Gay Clubs". Other newspapers which reported the motion were The Times, The Guardian, The Express, The Sun and The Morning Star. The Sun was the only newspaper which coloured the report with its own oft-sampled anti-gay opinion.

Newsletters

Court Clears Clergymen

HUDDERSFIELD: A 41-year-old clergyman from Mirfield was found not guilty of a charge of importuning for a homosexual act.

Rev Samuel Vick faced the Crown Court in Leeds on a charge of having been in the public toilets in the Merrion Centre for immoral purposes.

The prosecutor said that Mr Vick was a single man. He said that on December 1, two plainclothes policemen were at the toilets and noticed Mr Vick at a urinal. One of the policemen stood beside him, and he alleged that Mr Vick smiled at him.

The prosecutor said that the first policeman was replaced by a second plainclothes policeman, and that Mr Vick also smiled at him.

The prosecutor said that when Mr Vick left the toilets, he stood at the top of the stairs, smiled at one of the policemen, and went back into the toilet. A policeman

Reminders And Jottings

In case you were wondering where the 'Here We Are Again' column had disappeared to, it has changed its name to 'Reminders and Jottings'. The column will still serve the same purpose of letting you know about the internal workings of, and developments in the paper, as well as acting as a reminder for forthcoming events and copy/advertisement deadlines.

Favourable Reactions

Judging from your favourable comments and initial reactions to GN20, you found the design and layout changes an improvement on past issues. We felt that the overall look of the paper was much clearer, but still intend to keep trying for an even better and easier to read format. Front covers have often been one of our design failings, but in recent issues we've endeavoured to raise the standard, and hope to make that page always as exciting and eye-catching as possible. For obvious reasons it is very necessary for GN to stand out well at retail outlets, but of course without having to descend to sensationalism or flaunted nudity to gain a sale. We learn from our mistakes (GN14).

Slightly Smaller

To save irritated readers from sending us angry letters, many of you will perhaps have noticed that GN21 is slightly smaller than usual. Half-an-inch smaller in fact. The reason for this, according to our printer, is because at present there is a considerable shortage of offset litho paper of the type we want our new twenty page issues to be printed on. So there was no alternative but to settle for what good quality paper there was available. Unfortunately it was of a different size, but we should be back to our usual height of seventeen inches for the next edition.

New Faces

The result of GN's advertisement for a news editor brought a speedy and effective response, for we now have been joined by Tim Skinner, a sparkling, highly qualified and extremely experienced Australian journalist. Tim's individual and professional style of writing will considerably improve and enlarge our news section. Other aspects of his arrival, which have already benefitted the paper, are the interviews he has conducted and the insight/in-depth studies of 'stars' and personalities currently in the news. In addition, readers can expect his forthcoming feature work to increase the impact of GN.

GN would like to take this opportunity to thank Denis Cohn, who, often at short notice, contributed many of the news stories whilst we were without a news editor. Denis is GN's regular proof-reader, an arduous chore he took on after seeing the amount of copy errors in our first few editions. This task takes up much of his spare time, but he has always stubbornly refused any kind of payment. Furthermore, he has written entertainment features, and provides us with a steady stream of book and record reviews.

We have also been joined by Mike Nightingale,

an absolutely charming young man, who will be involved with the internal running of the paper. He will also be helping out with distribution and will be one of the people who may sell you a GN in London's gay pubs. We can't afford to pay him very much, so be kind, and buy a copy of the paper from him.

Michael Mason, our wizard of an office manager, is rather ill at the time of writing, so please accept our apologies if some of your general enquiries, subscription queries etc, are taking a little longer than usual to sort out and answer. Get well soon Michael.

Office Hours

GN now attempts to keep regular office hours, which are 9.00am to 7.00pm on Mondays to Fridays. On Saturdays the office will usually open for a few hours, but please ring first to make sure. On Sundays the only people who might be in the office are editorial members writing their copy, and they will be unable to help with any problem or enquiry.

We have to ask you to remember these hours, as people asking about box number replies at 1.30am on Saturday/Sunday nights are disturbing the residents who live in the building where our offices are. Such thoughtlessness will not be greeted with much politeness in future.

Personal callers are still welcome, especially if they want to inspect our mail order book stocks, but only during office hours please.

Mary's Letter

The letter written by Mary which started off the 'Your Letters' column in GN19 has brought in a flood of mail. The effect of her criticisms and opinions has produced a vastly differing range of comments, some of which have taken us rather by surprise. We have published a cross-section of these communications in this issue.

First Class

This is to remind you that all subscription copies are now sent as first class mail. We had received a number of complaints about the length of time copies took to reach subscribers and hope that this action will rectify the delays people have experienced in the past.

Dates and Deadlines

The next edition of Gay News (No 22) will be published and available from 2nd May. Deadlines for that issue are Saturday 21st April for copy, letters etc and midday on Monday 23rd April for ALL advertisements.

Gay News Editorial Collective

Solution

This is the solution to GN Crossword No 4/73 which appeared in the last edition of the paper.

A	E	F	B	S	U	C	K	I	T		
S	O	L	D	I	E	R	S	M	R	N	
H	A	R	E	M	O	S	A	I	C	S	
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E	V	T	W	E	T	N	U	R	S	E	
A	N	G	E	R	S	N	G	G	R		

We apologise to those readers who are also crossword fanatics. The fifth GN Crossword has unfortunately gone astray in the post, so for this issue you will have to do without this feature. But we will have one in the next edition. Sorry about this, perhaps the ? Of The Month will serve as an entertainment substitute.



BALLS UP OF THE MONTH



Cheeky

SOMEBODY's blundered, and it's not Gay News.

There's a very fine publication in circulation at the moment called Psychiatry and the Homosexual, which turns out to be a good but short breakdown of gay oppression.

We've read it and it's a reasonably responsible publication, but there is one very misleading statement close to its front page which claims that it comes from an organisation called Gay Information with their address at 34d Redcliffe Square, which happens to be the home of Gay News.

That's the bungle. Gay Information simply has no connection with Gay News, and Gay News certainly did not publish the book.

It's very nice to think that publishers think so highly of Gay News to automatically use our address, but we must get the record straight. Gay Information has no connection with Gay News. There's no room in our office anyway. The new chair took up the last bit of space.

We were feeling pretty angry about it all when the book arrived in the mail for review, but we've cooled down now and feel ashamed at feeling so hot under our collective collars. So don't be fooled. That book is not ours.

Notwithstanding, it's a fine book, and we'll devote some space to a review in GN22, but don't write to Gay News for copies and complaints, because it's not our book.

We are sorry therefore that we cannot accept responsibility for any lost orders, either to or from Gay Information.

Gay News Editorial Collective

Wanted

Gay News has a vacancy for a man or woman to join the paper as a news reporter/features writer. An experienced and reliable journalist who can also master the intricacies of shorthand is preferred, but enthusiasm, reliability and common sense would count for a lot too.

The ability to be able to write and type well is essential though.

Age, sex and colour are, of course, immaterial. Hours and salary by arrangement.

For further details telephone NOW 01-373 0586 or write to THE EDITORS, GAY NEWS, Basement, 34d Redcliffe Square, London SW10, giving details of experience and enclosing samples of your past work.

Earn Money

Aspiring millionaires - Gay News needs street sellers now to sell in gay pubs all over London. Phone Peter Mundy on 01-3730586 to find out how to make your first million.

Queen Quotes

bushie moll ('40s-mid '50s) male homosexual who thrills to the danger of having sex in a park or other public areas "The bushie moll recalls his childhood fantasies of how much gay fun he had when he played cops and robbers."

Syn: Earl Stanley Gardner (camp fr gardener = somebody hired to tend the yard); green queen; park-mouth [queen]

cherry flip (mid '60s) a cock in the mouth "She wants a pink lady but I'll settle for a cherry flip if you don't mind."

cherry splitter (kwn LV, early '60s) long needle-like cock "Cherry splitters are the best thing in the world for breaking in a new set of buns."

The above titbits are extracted from THE QUEENS' VERNACULAR: A Gay Lexicon by Bruce Rodgers, to be published by Blond & Briggs Ltd in August at £1.25. As a special concession to Gay News readers only, the book is available at a special pre-publication offer of 95p + 5p post and packing. Please note though that The Queens' Vernacular is not available until August, and only orders received by us before the date of publication can be supplied with the book at this special price.

When larger extracts of Bruce Rodgers' works have been published in GN, they have caused a certain amount of controversy. But it is the general opinion of the Editorial Collective that The Queens' Vernacular is a uniquely fascinating, well-researched and at times hilariously funny work. We gather that we are not alone in thinking this, judging from some of your comments and requests for copies, and reports from abroad, including the USA, confirm our opinions.

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Flying Circus Hits The Road



The Monty Python Flying Circus is going on the road. It starts a national tour on April 27.

Graham Chapman, who's responsible for its television creation, says it's becoming a road show for a while simply because everyone concerned in the show was desperately short of money.

But it should emerge as one of Britain's funniest, possibly gayest road shows of the decade.

The entire cast - John Cleese, Michael Palin, Terry Jones, Eric Idle, Terry Gilliam and Graham himself open in Southampton on April 27.

Said Graham last week as Gay News caught him slaving over a half peeled tomato in his kitchen: "We need the money. It's as simple as that. But it doesn't mean the show is a desperate one. It's a marvellous show.

"It's all go for about two and a half hours. We'll be doing sketches for two hours and the rest of the time will be the best of the Python shows, shown as film clips.

"We're going to show a couple that we weren't allowed to go through with on television. There's the sketch in the cocktail bar where someone gets served what we called a 'Mallard Fizz' which might surprise a few people.

"That's where I chop the head off a dead duck - a real dead duck - and shove it on the top of someone's drink to decorate it.

"And then there's another drink we serve in the sketch. It's called a 'Harlem Stinger'. That's where we pour something into the mouth of a black man, and he vomits it into a glass. It's a bit shaky.

"The only one that might really bother people is the sketch with the undertaker. This one was actually on television... God knows why the BBC let it through... a man comes into the undertaker with his dead mother in a sack. He's upset because she's dead and the undertaker explains the alternative ways he has to dispose of her. He tells the boy he can have her buried, which is nasty because the maggots get her... he can have her burnt, which might be nasty if she's not completely dead... she can be dumped into the Thames... or she can be eaten.

"It all upsets the boy for a while until he realises that he is a bit peckish and he goes off and eats his mother.

"Of course there will be a lot of gay inferences in the show. There always have been and there always will. I know we've got a couple of gay sketches, but that's not surprising considering the gay following we get."

The Monty Python Road Show starts in Southampton on April 27. It's in Brighton on April 28 and 29 and then it goes to Cardiff on April 30. Here are the other dates.

- May 4 and 5 Birmingham
- May 7 and 8 Bristol
- May 10 and 11 Liverpool
- May 16 Sheffield
- May 17 and 18 Edinburgh
- May 20 Glasgow
- May 23 Leeds

From June 4 until June 20 the road show will also tour Canada, where the television show was top rated last year.

Newsletters

Would You Rob A Bank To See This Film?

NEW YORK: As reported in our last issue, there are plans to film the story of John Wojtowicz's New York bank robbery which was to pay for the sex change operation of his boyfriend, Ernest Aron. The film is tentatively titled the Boys In The Bank, and is the second rip-off from the original Boys In The Band movie. The first, The Boys In The Sand, is a hard porn epic of boyish love and lust which has been breaking box office records wherever it has been shown in the United States. Sorry, it's unlikely to be screened here.

Health And Sun Papers Unhealthy

LONDON: Studio Publications of Herne Hill have lodged a protest against the recent decision by Mr Justice Bridge which ordered that a huge consignment of their books be impounded by customs. Studio Publications say that the order by Judge Bridge meant the impounding of £2,000 worth of books. The case was heard in the High Court without a jury. Studio Publications said in a written press statement that the judge admitted that he was not able, from his cloistered position, to determine what the opinion of a jury would have been. The statement goes on, quoting the judge: "I am forced to place myself in the stream of current thinking."

Studio Publications, whose publications include several pictures of nude young men, said that because of the ruling from the High Court, they were forced to withdraw. They said they were unable to fight what they said was a 'supernatural' judgement. They also said it meant that they could no longer take part in any Common Market dealings, and that they were forced to cancel their present contracts with Germany, one of their main sources of supply.

Gasp!! It's Gay

LONDON: A Rushall councillor is furious about the way the Family Planning Association is running its education course for trainee teachers. Cllr Richard Arkell, who's taken on a self-appointed watchdog role, says he's just horrified at some of the leaflets being handed out by the FPA to the teachers. He says he's also disgusted to think of the things advocated being taught to children. Cllr Arkell says the books mention things like free love, masturbation, lesbianism and even homosexuality. Cllr Arkell: "These are not the sort of things which should be taught to children, and if they are not to be taught, then why are the teachers attending the course?"

Time For Timekeeper

LIVERPOOL: A 53-year-old timekeeper who indecently assaulted a 14-year-old boy was given a six month prison term last week in Liverpool by Stipendiary Magistrate Leslie Pugh. He had the sentence suspended for two years and was fined £50 on each of two charges.

Fairer Sex Law Soon

LONDON: After the summer recess, Parliament will study a new bill, currently being drafted, which legislates against sexual discrimination.

The bold move comes right on the heels of two very frustrated private efforts by Mr. Willie Hamilton in the Commons, and Lady Sear in the Lords.

If it gets the rubber stamp, the Government Bill will probably be moulded along the lines of the Race Relations Act. Simply, that specific act will mean that those who believe they are being discriminated against in jobs and status because of their sex will be given a chance of investigation and redress.

The prime targets of the law will be large organisations that persistently discriminate against women. Organisations like trade unions, businesses and professional bodies.

Third Thoughts?

STOCKHOLM: After living for the past ten years as a bearded (and the last two) happily married man, Marianne Hersegard, a 29-year-old hospital worker who at age 19 was given a partial sex-change operation has decided she wants to be a woman again. After a car accident Marianne, at this point in-time Mikael, was shocked to discover her menstrual periods commencing again. Although a further course of hormone injections were given, Mikael found himself unable to cope either physically or mentally as a man. Now separated from his wife and awaiting plastic surgery to provide new breasts, Marianne criticised the doctors and psychiatrists who advised her to undergo the operation in 1963. She advised others thinking of changing sex roles to reconsider, adding that anyone born as a woman can never be satisfied in a man's role. Marianne is still having trouble with her facial hair and will probably have a deep, masculine voice for the rest of her life.

The Church Smiles Softly

NEW YORK: The Salvatorians last week began a course for members of their community on the ministry to Catholic gays.

They say there's a great need to make people aware that the homosexual is an individual person with human needs and values, and that the homosexual is not too different after all, from anybody else.

They say that the teaching of the Church is that any sexual act outside marriage is wrong, but they also say that the Church is just as concerned with helping a person with homosexual tendencies as she is with helping anyone.

They also said that their voice about gay attitudes is not to be seen as a wholehearted support for movements like Gay Liberation, but they wanted to make it clear that they felt positive about making a stand to treat all gay people as total equals.

The Way We Like It

QUEBEC, CANADA: Mr Oswald Moyes, who's one of the Canadian officials of the Rotary Club, told a meeting of 200 Rotarians recently that a gay policeman was the best sort of law enforcer because he helped keep the community gay.

Mr Moyes is 60. He was stressing the need for better police relationships with the public, and he said that the happier the policeman, the happier his dealings with the public. But Mr Moyes used the word 'gay' instead of happy. Either he made one of the loveliest clangers of the year, or Quebec has had a moral transplant.

Nice Idea, Sailor

LONDON: Not the sort of story that usually makes it into our columns, but then, anything qualifies these days. This just seems like a fine idea. An extra nice seagoing gay friend of ours called 'Silver Buckle' wrote the other day saying he was sick and tired of a lot of what he said was the 'petty bickering' of the gay world.

So, he's rounded up three of his own gay cohorts, pushed his most miserable memories aside, and he's just about to sail around the world in a yacht. Beats cruising around Eros in a Mini.

Giant Gay Gala

OHIO USA: Plans for the big All-Ohio Gay Conference have just been announced. It's due to start on the campus of the Ohio State University on May 4.

The conference is being sponsored by the Ohio Gay Pride Committee, a coalition of gay groups and individuals from around the world.

Two of the speakers at the event will be Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, co-authors of Lesbian/Woman. The weekend conference will also feature workshops, an art exhibition, films and videotapes, a dinner, a dance and an outdoor rock concert.

Registration for the weekend - if anybody feels the urge to spend up big and go away - will be 3 dollars (UK£1.25), and that includes the dinner, dance and rock concert. If you want to go, write to the committee, 1739 N High Street, Columbus, Ohio, USA.

It's Liberace, In Mink

SYDNEY: Liberace arrived in Sydney last week to start an Australian tour, and almost left the local fashion writers without any appropriate adjectives.

He slinked down the steps from the jet wearing a sequined green velvet suit, ruffled shirt, a fawn mink coat, a piano shaped diamond watch, two enormous rings, a pendant and a medallion made of gold, and a bracelet, and crucifix, made of diamonds.

Said Liberace to the crowd of newsmen: "These are just my street clothes."

Gay Prisoners Action

WASHINGTON: The National Gay Prisoners Coalition has formed a branch at the Washington State Penitentiary. Membership is open to homosexual and heterosexual people and there are no membership fees.

The goals of the organisation include a probe into the treatment given gay prisoners by prison staff, a drive to legalise homosexual acts in prison, and an effort to present to state powers an alternative suggestion other than prison for all gays in legal trouble.

Nude Frankenstein?

ROME: Warhol Superstud Joe D'Alessandro, whose generous dimensions have been responsible for a torrent of penis-envy among more than one generation of filmgoers, (see Flesh, Trash, Heat), will appear in Flesh For Frankenstein, now being filmed as an Andy Warhol/Carlo Ponti production in Rome. Co-starring as Baroness Frankenstein will be Monique Van Vooren, a 50s starlet of whom little has been heard of late. Joe's physique will probably feature as strongly as ever, but this time in 3D! Reach for your viewing glasses, fans.

No Room For Teach-In

ED: Lack of space forces us to omit from this issue our report of the Highbury and Islington CHE Group's Teach-In. As it was a most constructive event, it will appear in an abbreviated form in GN22.

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No Roof Over Gay Heads

And you wonder why I sit alone in my room . . .

The old, perhaps too-familiar cry of someone you know. Maybe it's your own current lament. It's one of the ballads of the sad young men.

But in London, it's not always the result of a singular life, an after-dark failure.

Too often, it's the system. The living machine which states very definitely that if thou art a man, thou shalt not live with another man. Or in a more updated way, No Gays, please.

The problems facing men in their often-depressing search for somewhere to live are growing daily, and invariably, it comes as a crushing blow to males of all sexes.

"We were really looking for a married couple", is how a lot of property owners like to put it if they have sneaking suspicions about the applicants.

"I don't think it would suit two men, I think you'd be a lot happier in something bigger," they pontificate.

But oddly enough, it's a problem that hits gays and non-gays with almost equal force. Several big agencies and property owners in and around London express the same disinterest — or at the worst — anti-interest when they're confronted with two young men looking for a together-basis flat.

Last week Gay News was confronted with the problem at first hand — but the flat hunter in question was non-gay. As soon as he told the agency that he wanted to share it with his friend, who was another male, the agency took down the welcome sign and said they were catering for married couples.

It's not always that hard. Some agencies have totally open minds about it all.

But home owners generally take on a hard line if they are confronted with the facts.

GN went on a short hunt for flats around Earls Court and Hampstead. We set a ceiling price of £30 and asked for a self-contained, one or two bedroomed flat with all facilities. Before the date and time was set to inspect the flat, we told the agency that we wanted to be honest about it, that the two people looking for the flat were gay.

Three out of four agencies changed their minds completely, saying that the owners would not be happy about it. The fourth offered to call back and didn't.

One of the agencies said it was a question best put to the house owner. Apparently the house owner was told and shuddered at the thought. But the reason relayed back to us was that he had second thoughts because "two young men tend to have parties quite often and the other tenants mightn't like it."

Gay or non-gay, it's total discrimination. And usually totally reserved for men of all ages. Women, whether they be gay or non-gay, seldom find a problem. It's quite acceptable for girls to share, but for men, it's odd.

Gay News has from time to time had several reports of discrimination of this type, but now we would like to investigate all these reports and publish our findings.

We will treat all the information as confidential, but we'll confront agencies, property owners and landlords with the cases and seek a reply.

If you know of any cases of discrimination or simply any cases of difficulty in flat or job hunting where the question of gayness is a problem, we'd like to hear from you.



From Out Of The Archives, Lord Boothby

Every now and then, newspapers and magazines suffer from that great illness called the void. That horrible vacuum between edition and edition where reporters and editors just can't raise a front page idea.

Last week, the dreaded sickness hit the brains bank down in swanky Printing House Square, home of the glossy, full-colour Sunday Times Magazine.

It must have been a bad week for that huge army of newsmen, because London had no new bridges to open, we were light on visiting pop stars, the Times cleaned up what was left of Sir Noel Coward's epitaph, and Rupert Murdoch's Sun and The News Of The World made a clean sweep of the city's industrial traumas and latest strip sensations.

So the Sunday Times Magazine had a file day. A rummage through some good oldies. Evergreens that should have been left to die. And they came up with a marvellous piece of reporting — a sort of not-too-gentle probe into the life and affairs of Lord Boothby.

On the credit side, reporter Susan Barnes deserves a Fleet Street gold star and three early minutes for a first class piece of documentation. Lord Snowden took the pictures, and as pictures go, they are some of the best of the many pictures he has taken.

But on the red side of the column, it's hard to believe that if Susan Barnes' assignment was to 'dig out and rewrite the Boothby saga', she left it alone at that. For an unbiased piece of background, it reads more like a slight accusation than a biography.

For the record, Lord Boothby became a slightly flamboyant member of the House of Commons in 1924, and managed to outdo scores of the entertainers of that era in popularity alone with his radical attitudes towards domestic problems, and even the fishing rights of his local constituents.

Lord Boothby virtually had a fan club, one of the first. It was nationwide. He was seen with the nation's finest ladies and many of the greatest men. He often clashed with Sir Winston Churchill, who looked on Lord Boothby as something of a revolutionist.

He was a daring dresser, he was electric before electricity itself, and he always said exactly what he liked.

He was a friend of royalty, a dark lover (his private life later became the subject of a huge scandal) and he had that magical ability to make people queue in the rain to hear him talk.

His Parliamentary career was spangled with gossip. Newspapers and other media had a great time speculating about his after dark relationships with women, and even men. But they just wondered then. Nobody dared print a thing. Lord Boothby probably had one idol, Sir Winston Churchill, who he supported day and night. In a way, it was probably thanks to the efforts of Lord Boothby that Sir Winston moved out of the political wilderness to a place where he could be seen and heard.

Further, harder support from Boothby ultimately bore a great crop of fruit. Sir Winston Churchill fought tooth and nail — with unending support, to bring down Chamberlain in the late 30s. He won, and after ten years in what was something close to isolation, Churchill was the nation's leader and its hero.

Lord Boothby was still a hero, but he had to ride a seat further back in the public popularity car. Until he had a wonderful confrontation with Hitler, in which Lord Boothby out-fronted Hitler himself.

And later, when he played a key role in setting up the Radcliffe Commission on monetary policy, and then the very contro-

versial Wolfenden Commission on homosexuality and prostitution.

Lord Boothby made a stand alone on the homosexuality point. Many of his colleagues were ultra wary about doing anything on law reform. Let sleeping dogs lie, said they over glasses of lovely old English port.

In 1964, Lord Boothby was handed his daily copy of the Sunday Mirror to browse over during his breakfast coffee.

It said, in those attention getting headlines, 'PEER AND A GANGSTER. YARD INQUIRY'. A week later, the Daily Mirror pulled one short of a hat trick when it used up a lot of space on its front page by saying 'THE PICTURE WE DARE NOT PRINT', and they followed it up by saying 'A well known member of the House of Lords seated on a sofa with a gangster who leads the biggest protection racket ever known in London.'

The dirt flew. The bigots and the great press questioners hinted about homosexual goings on between a peer and a clergyman in Brighton.

Lord Boothby was unflustered. He denied it all. He said he was not a homosexual, but he acceded to having met the man who wore the tag 'King of the Underworld'.

They made sure nobody wasted electricity at the Daily Mirror that week. They had to watch their pennies rather carefully. In a red faced move, the newspaper handed over a hefty £40,000 to Lord Boothby for an embarrassment caused, and as a gesture of compensation.

In a nutshell — ever so perforated, that's part of the Boothby saga. As far as we know now — apart from a brief appearance in the Thames show 'This Is Your Life', Lord Boothby has pulled the blind a little in what he hopes will turn out to be a blissful marriage.

But reading it all carefully — over four weighty pages — it seems that the glossed up magazine of the Sunday Times might not like much about Lord Boothby's stands in public problems. It seems that they are only too willing to reincarnate a lot of old scandals and newspaper headlines for no real reason.

Because April 1 1973, which was the edition the paper that devoted so much space to Lord Boothby, was neither an anniversary of anything Boothbian nor a date to be remembered.

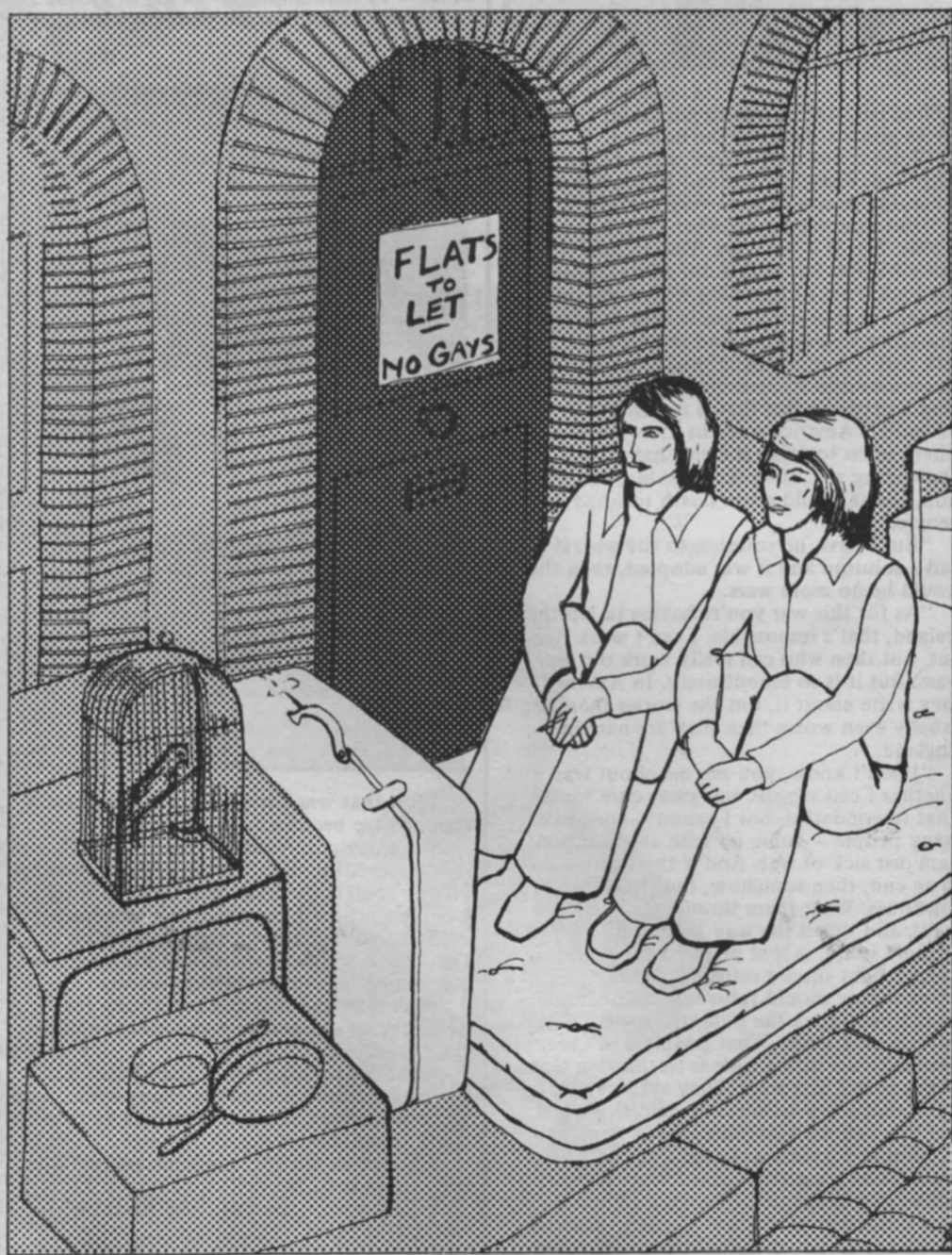
For the gay world, Lord Boothby was an unwritten hero. He won their unequalled support when he took a stand for reform and he concreted gay approval when he refused to back down for what he stated was a needed case for reform.

His often outrageous appearances on television, his flamboyant approach to radio, and even the clothes he wore, made him a hero in an age when the too-repressed homosexual community needed a hero — even though it has been stated publicly that Lord Boothby's only official stand on gayness is his denial about being gay.

In essence, the only thing the Sunday Times managed to do was to fill up four pages with memories, none of which taught us anything new about Lord Boothby, and none of which helped clear up any of the unanswered questions.

It has been said that Lord Boothby slid quietly out of public life with dignity and fond memories. We'd prefer to go along with that thinking.

Tim Skinner



Gay And Proud Of It, & Who Gives A Damn

It was all so easy. Joan Baez in Conference was almost as entertaining as Joan Baez in Concert.

It simply said a lot for the real power of the brain that powers Joan Baez. At 12.30 am, AFTER her more-than-successful concert at Wembley, about 60 people packed a smokey annex of a reception room at the suave Royal Westminster to hurl all sorts of questions at her.

Who ever heard of an after-midnight news conference — fully attended — for an entertainer. This is 1973, and that sort of thing rarely happens.

But happen it did, and throughout it all, Joan Baez sat cross legged on the table she was supposed to have sat behind. She drank copious quantities of orange juice — straight, unadulterated vitamin C — and coolly kept the answers coming.

Her concert, as it turned out, became a sort of personal editorial about the involvement by the United States where Joan Baez felt there should be no United States involvement. She called — as she has always done, for peace and non-violence. She pleaded for world-wide understanding, and she sang the songs that made her own message so important.

And then she walked headlong into the news conference, where reporters were armed with their own ideas and opinions of Joan Baez. Many of them had done a lot of reading up, many of them asked about the first thing that sprang to their minds, and a lot of them had come along for a free drink.

Vietnam scored nearly the whole conversation, because Vietnam and United States war involvement is why Joan Baez is able to sing the sort of songs she likes best.

Briefly she touched on lesbianism and Women's lib, but she dismissed them during one glass of orange juice.

She sat cross legged on the table for an hour and a half. She didn't move. She asked for questions and promised she'd answer them all.

Said Joan: "I will go on telling as many people as I can that I am opposed to violence and war. I have been to Vietnam and I have seen the war. And that made me more opposed to it than I was when I had to rely



Even in Vietnam there's a certain amount of weapons smuggling going on across the border. And they say this is the start of a peaceful era.

"When America stopped bombing Vietnam, it was a little victory for somebody, but I'm not sure who. But it was only a little victory. I just seem to be talking to people like you all over the world trying to get across this message of the need for peace, but I think one of the biggest problems we are faced with is that so many people are so apathetic. Nobody really seems to care about the war in Vietnam.

"I know it's a bit futile to say this, but if someone up there asked me how I thought the world was right now, I'd say it was in a hopeless mess, and I have no idea how it's going to be fixed."

For a while there was no more Vietnam to talk about, and Joan Baez sipped on a fresh glass of orange juice. A couple of newsmen asked about her new record and another middle-aged man asked her to break into a song 'just for the benefit of us all here'. To which Joan replied that when she was asked that, she felt she was being used.

And the man who asked the question didn't ask again.

It had to be asked. Vietnam and war and peace and the way Joan Baez thinks about it all has been given second place recently in nearly everybody's newspapers to a little report that some time ago she had a lesbian experience.

Did she, we asked.
 "Yes, I did. And it was as wonderful as all those newspapers told you it was. Yes I had a lesbian experience, but apart from it being a fact of life, I don't think it matters. It was wonderful, yes. But do you care about it. Has it made me any less of a person in your eyes, I mean, here it is, after 1 o'clock in the morning and probably miles away from all your homes, and you've all come tonight to see me. So if I had a lesbian experience some time ago, has it messed up my status and my ability to hold a news conference at this ridiculous hour? Has it turned anybody away from me? Yes, I am open about it, because by hiding, you give a lot of people a wonderful weapon to get you, and that's secrecy.



fighting and killing and bad will. That will never be the solution.

"They hate me singing anything that's against the machine, or the war if you like. I am not un-American, I must make that clear. But when it comes to killing, then I feel un-Administration. The presidents have just got no real idea how bad it is. I have been to those parts of the war and I have seen lumps of flesh in the street. I have seen so many people killed by the war machine. I have heard so many times the 'Head them off at the pass' cry by America, and I have seen the massacre that was the result. And that is what made me more sick about it than anything.

"You asked me whether I have a solution for the war in Vietnam. I do not believe it is really over. Yes, the United States have withdrawn, we all know that because a lot of us believe everything the newspapers and the television newscasts write.

"But the war is not over really. What I think they need is one Vietnam, but to get it, they will probably fight for it. They always have and that seems to be the way history goes. But it was when America got into it that the real slaughter started. That is what I hated more than anything.

"You know, they even hate me talking about it in America on television. It's fantastic here because here you are all in this room and I am having a chance to say just what I feel about it all. And I try to get that message across in the concerts too, and what I say seems to be very popular, so all I can hope is that people are really as sincere about peace and goodwill and ceasefires as they demonstrate to me they are.

"But they don't let me talk about it. I was asked to go on the Johnny Carson show in America just before I came to England, and they said to me before the show, 'now, don't say anything about Mr Nixon will you?' and I had to agree. But I did talk about the war, and what I thought about it, and I made sure the song I sang carried quite a message with it.

"You see, I know that the three last United States presidents haven't agreed with what I have been saying, but I can't bow to their demands, even as I said, if it costs me a

spell in jail. And if I go to jail again, I will try to give a concert to the inmates.

"I did it not long before when I sang in Sing Sing. They loved it and I found that even there, the prisoners were very anti the war.

"But you ask me whether I think the war is over. No. It is not over. Yes, I know the United States has pulled out all its troops, but look what's happening with Cambodia. Nobody knows who owns it, and they're smuggling in weapons, and there's even talk that America might have to go into the war zone again to press its point about demanding peace. But that is not the way. Because if America went in to bomb somewhere again to make it clear that it was demanding war, then that would be a violation, and it would mean death to some people.

"But I have no solution to the war. If I had a solution and it was adopted, then there would be no more wars.

"As for this war you're having in Northern Ireland, that's impossible. I can't work it out, but then who can really work out any wars. But it is so bloodthirsty. In America they write about it, but the stories there are usually even worse than they are here in England.

"I don't know, you ask me about war, and whether I can suggest any great cure for it. That is wonderful, but I cannot — just like many people — come up with any solution. I am just sick of war. And if the war comes to an end, then somehow, the violence just continues. What there should be, as far as I see it, and this is the way I advocate a lot of it in my songs, is that people who would usually fight should refuse to fight. And other people should refuse to be fought. That would drive the potential enemy crazy, but it would work. What people don't seem to be able to do all the time is to think in terms of peace and non-wars. They still seem to think that a few bombs here and there will end the war, no questions asked.

"But not America. Look, they say that the nations are getting past the era of war, but what's happening. Russia has built a record number of nuclear missiles. America has increased its defence budget, and other countries just go on getting more arms.



"But that was a long while ago, and since then, I have become man-orientated."

She was right. Nobody cared. Women's Lib didn't get much of a hearing either. Somebody asked whether she would burn her bra in the cause of the movement. And in Joan Baez style, Joan made it clear that the only reason she would burn her bra would be if it kept somebody warm.

With that, she thanked everybody for being there, and people raced away to meet their deadlines.

What did we learn from Joan Baez? That war and violence is here for a long while, and come what may, she will campaign to the death to stamp it out.

Just before we left, someone asked "What do you want from life?"

"It's simple," she said. "All I want is peace. That's all."

Tim Skinner

Personal Opinion Positive Outlook From CHE

'It never rains but it pours' seems a fitting adage to describe the recent events that may well affect the lives of every homosexual man and woman in Great Britain.

The acceptance of the Gay Rights motion at the National Union of Students conference in Exeter is extremely encouraging, especially as it was voted in with such an overwhelming majority. So too is the Government's acceptance of the Sexual Discrimination Bill, which, if it becomes law, will be a considerable breakthrough in the position of women in society, changing their lot from that of second class citizens to one of equality with men. The arrival of the Scottish Minorities Group's long worked-for Sexual Reform Bill at the House of Lords is a significant advance in the Scottish gays' struggle to end the ridiculous situation they have found themselves in ever since the Sexual Offences Act of 1967. It only applied to England and Wales. Unfortunately, they have settled for 18 as being their proposed age of consent for male homosexuals.

For me though, the Campaign for Homosexual Equality's first national conference at Morecambe was the most constructive development of them all. Only a few years ago it would have been impossible to hold such an event. Even now it isn't easy and CHE must be congratulated for its perseverance and patience in dealing with the prejudice and fears of town councillors and the intolerant and bigoted editorials of local newspapers. But make no mistake, it wasn't just three days of justifiably hot air. CHE amply showed that of the existing gay organisations, they were more likely than any other movement to achieve equality, civil liberty and an end to ridicule for all gays, as well as changing the stifling laws that still govern those who choose not to conform to society's ideas about sexuality.

CHE has, in the past, had a reputation for stuffiness, bureaucracy, reactionary ambitions and solely middle class ideologies. Of course there are those who do have rather old fashioned views about the direction the Campaign should be taking, but generally speaking the myths that have surrounded CHE are as laughable as the idea that every male homosexual is a 'limp-wristed' pederast and every lesbian is an aggressive 'bull-dyke'.

Throughout the weekend at Morecambe, I couldn't help but be aware of the friendliness and togetherness amongst the members, regardless of their social background or sex. The mixture of

social events and serious business did much to make this harmony possible. The biting wind and cold draughty conference chambers (the end of the Central Pier) did little to dampen the high spirits and the free exchange of far ranging ideas. Even the ever youthful Cliff Richard only making third place in the Eurovision Song contest didn't detract from the enjoyment of the history making dance held in the ballroom of Morecambe's largest pier.

Two important developments emerged from the conference. First - CHE is now starting to work on preparing its Sexual Reform Bill. It will demand the end of all types of discrimination, social and legal. Legislation similar to the Race Relations Act is wanted and 'crimes' such as gross indecency, conspiracy to corrupt and deprave (contact ads), indecent assault, sodomy etc, will be removed from the statute books. Harassment by the police and other authorities must stop and CHE makes it quite clear, as it has always done, that the only acceptable consenting age for gay males is the same as the one for heterosexuals. 16. Also, gay women figure predominantly in the priorities of the proposed reform. CHE wants nothing less than the whole of the 'loaf' of equality.

Second - the importance of 'Coming Out' was stressed throughout the conference. It's still a very frightening subject for a lot of people, but it was generally agreed that it is essential. Of course, deciding the degree to which one can accept, be honest about and no longer hide one's sexuality depends on individual circumstances. No-one should be pressured into this major factor in gay liberation. It must be a personal decision.

The 'Coming Out' by a public figure or celebrity has an immeasurable effect. It gives confidence and reassurance to countless gays when such a person admits or refuses to hide his or her gayness. The recent action of the highly respected film director John Schlesinger (of 'Midnight Cowboy' and 'Sunday Bloody Sunday' fame) will certainly have fruitful repercussions for some time in the gay community. An even greater number of non-gays will now be prepared to re-examine their prejudices and hopefully seek a wider and more adventurous understanding. Mr Schlesinger, in his letter published in The Observer on April 8, stated thus: "As a homosexual, I object to being labelled a 'deviant'."

Isn't it about time we, along with notable gay members of society took a firm stand and retaliated to slanders by the often blind and thoughtless

attitudes that still prevail in our country.

As a result of the solidarity expressed and experienced at Morecambe, Gay News is hoping to promote a National Coming Out Week later this year. We will be seeking the co-operation and support of ALL the gay movements in this venture. It may appear a move too radical for some, but we hope to fully examine and comment on the effects of 'Coming Out'. We will try to provoke more gays, including the privileged and famous, to follow Mr Schlesinger's example. As our plans become more concrete, more details will be announced.

Much of this may seem like an enormous pat on the back for CHE. Simply, I am impressed by its recent work, particularly the getting-together of the Morecambe conference, and showing the country that gays are as adequate and responsible as anyone.

But I do have some reservations about its over-structured organisation, and I urge it to place even more emphasis on the establishments of basic human relationships. It must push for even stronger communication between its hierarchy and its ordinary membership.

Another sore point. I still feel it's a totally unsatisfactory situation if a gay - in all sincerity - calls the CHE office in Manchester seeking information about gay pubs, clubs or other venues, only to have the request refused on the grounds that the caller is not a member of CHE. That one is filed under needless rudeness, not unhelpfulness, and CHE must grasp the fact that legitimate calls for help are duties to fulfil... necessary responsibilities if you like. As one of the very needed homophile organisations, it must realise that part of its unwritten charter is to try hard to stave off loneliness and isolation, regardless of overwork or inadequate facilities.

The various gay organisations and movements still only represent a small proportion of gays, and I think it's time we all showed more interest in the valuable work they do for all homosexuals.

Maybe, also, you've been bored, disillusioned, or worried by their past activities, but couldn't it be time to forget some of that. Could it not be time to give these organisations their first real chance? A chance is what they deserve, for like us, they are merely people who desperately need people. By joining their ranks, we can voice our criticisms and do something concrete when it's time for action.

Denis Lemon

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ARIES March 21—April 20
Whatever else you do you must at all costs avoid being argumentative. Use all your powers of leadership — the results will be worthwhile. Subtle appeal on the 20th will win you a convert.



TAURUS April 20—May 21
Face situations realistically and don't look on the gloomy side of things all the time. The evening of the 26th brings a threat of a violent argument. Take care on the 27th and reject all dubious advances that may be made to you.



GEMINI May 22—June 21
Don't be temperamental or petty. Continue to co-operate as fully as you can with other people, especially those away from you. The 23rd could be a bad day for money matters and you could find yourself being cheated. The 30th is going to be good for all business affairs.



CANCER June 22—July 23
Try not to create tensions with a loved one — confidence in your domestic affairs will pay dividends. The 26th will be a very good day for reviewing your household budgets. Be on your very best behaviour on the 30th — all eyes will be on you.



LEO July 24—August 23
Now is the time to attend to correspondence and to expand your horizons. Watch out for troubles with relatives, co-operation with others will pay handsome dividends. Be wary on the 28th and do consult others before taking decisions about money.



VIRGO August 24—September 23
Keep an open mind and try to see the true value of any projects submitted to you. Make sure your talents are used to the full. You usually have trouble in finding a partner and the 27th will be no exception. Don't despair — play the field a little longer.



LIBRA September 24—October 23
Be objective and practical and support group projects. Pay great attention to detail. On the 21st sport may take a greater role in your life — at least be active. The 29th will put partner in the lime-light. Put his/her needs first.



SCORPIO October 24—November 22
Don't get involved in too many projects in the next couple of weeks. Pay great attention to your partner's problems and help when asked. Tread carefully on the 23rd. A joke may well misfire. Bow to authority. On the 27th push and protect the interests of a dear one.



SAGITTARIUS November 23—December 21
More haste less speed — think carefully before you act and have great faith in the future. Watch your behaviour on the 23rd — one of your mannerisms may put off someone that you are trying to impress. The 25th is a good day for taking important decisions.



CAPRICORN December 22—January 20
You will be subject to great urges to spend money and acquire new possessions in the next couple of weeks. Don't be too impetuous. You may well find a soul-mate on the 23rd. The 26th is a good day for experimenting.



AQUARIUS January 21—February 19
Don't cling to old fashioned ideas and methods. Avoid pre-judging issues. Be prepared to take the lead in all sorts of ventures and to play an active role. Watch your step on the 24th — you could get into a jam. Travel a little on the 30th and the results could surprise you.



PISCES February 20—March 20
Don't take on too much extra at this time — you could easily overload yourself. Care with money will continue to pay dividends. On the 24th you could win new respect by being a source of moderation. The 28th should provide fun within your home area.

BIRTHDAYS

This week's star is Diana Ross, singer and actress, born on March 26th 1944. You share originality of expression and the opportunity to effectively organise your work. Whilst you have the marks of a daydreamer you also have the ability to achieve your ambitions if you make the effort.



? OF THE MONTH



GN Competition No 1

? Of The Month is the first Gay News competition for all our readers. We hope to make this a regular feature in the paper.

All you have to do is answer correctly all three questions concerning the above photograph:

1. Who is the person in the photograph
2. From where does the photograph come?
3. What year was the photograph taken?

The first letter or postcard correctly answering all three questions that is picked out of an elephant's condom (a large polythene sack) on Tuesday 1st May 1973, will win a free LIFELONG subscription to Gay News (what else!)

Please send your replies to: GN Competition No. 1, 34d Redcliffe Square, London SW10. The winner's name will be published in GN No 23. Don't forget, your answers must reach us by the first post of Tuesday 1st May 1973.

This competition is not open to members of the Gay News staff, any of their friends, relatives or lovers, or anyone receiving complimentary copies of the paper.

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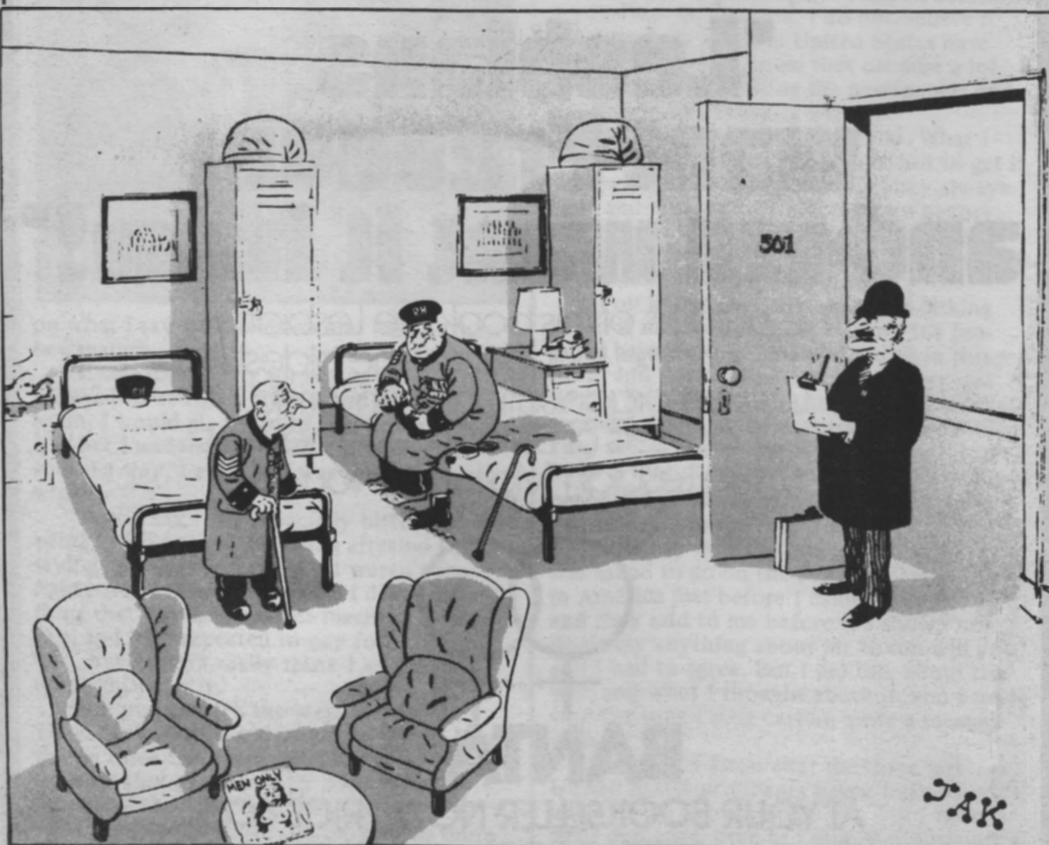
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"I'm from the Ministry of Social Security — how long have you two been living together?"



Noel Coward with Judy Campbell as the ghostly Elvira in 'Blithe Spirit'.

Photograph: Cecil Beaton

The Blithest Spirit

A million words have by now been written since the passing of the great Sir Noel Coward. By Fleet Street standards, he has had a full honours burial in Westminster Abbey.

The abbreviated evening dailies called him 'The Master'. The upper crust Sundays nearly all dubbed him with an 'immortal' tag, and the sophisticate analytical periodicals have described his death as one of the saddest and most permanent blows to legitimate theatre in Britain.

Some have been less kind. But no man has commanded more attention in the theatre since Sir Laurence Olivier lost his horse. Sir Noel Coward's death has simply left a hole in live theatre which is — rashly — not possible to fill.

He was a total legend. Sophisticated, gay in his interpretations, and political in some of his outlooks on stage. He was one of those few personages born with a foot on the stage. He was meant to live on it, and meant to die still involved with it.

Right from the start, show business and Noel Coward were a happy twosome. His mother more or less had a hand in it when she called him Noel.

She did that because he was born nine days before Christmas. Still, the birth of Noel Coward was no flashy affair.

He once told someone simply that "I was born in Teddington, Middlesex. I was an ordinary class boy. I was not 'gutter'. I didn't gnaw kippers' heads in the gutter as Gertrude Lawrence quite untruthfully always insisted that she did. Nor did my first memory give me a picture of the crunch of carriage wheels in the drive."

But somewhere in there, was something to do with entertaining. It began even then.

But people have always believed that Noel Coward was born into a rich family. Mayfair at the best, or Belgravia at the worst. And our first mental thoughts of the then baby Noel was as a beautiful youngster photographed on a bearskin rug murmuring baby jokes through clenched teeth, and possibly holding a tiny cigarette holder.

When Noel Coward was born on December 16, 1899, the Boer War was filling the headlines, Queen Victoria turned 80 and in Paris, Oscar Wilde was living out the last few months of his life in exile.

Over the next few years, the life in the Coward family switched often from near poverty to something not a lot better. They moved house and they went through a share of family crises.

But despite the problems, Noel's childhood was cast in slightly classic theatrical mould even then. In public he was the sort of child who would burst into great floods of unexplained tears. They were usually tears of fury, but it made no difference to the mystery of them.

Noel began to sing in the local church when he was in his early teens. But as he said, he preferred singing at concerts, because at concerts, there was applause, and applause was what he liked.

People who saw and heard him said

things like 'How sweet and pretty', but nobody was sure whether they were referring to his voice or his looks. In 1910 Noel spent a lot of time in a dancing academy in Hanover Square. He starred. He was brilliant. His teacher and the other pupils said so. And it was while he was attending these dancing lessons that young Noel grew fond of travelling alone for great distances.

He also, said a newspaper of that time, learned to tell beautiful lies with theatrical grace. And it was at this time that the Daily Mirror carried an advertisement for a 'talented boy' with attractive appearance to play in a production of 'The Goldfish'.

He applied for, and won the role. To celebrate, Noel and his mother went to Selfridges and had ice cream sodas.

By the time he was 17, Noel was frothy and lucid. His lines were unique. His male following was huge. His female following was even bigger.

Perhaps where it really started to snowball was when Noel turned 25. That was when he had his first smash hit on both sides of the Atlantic with *The Vortex*, where he played a drug addicted son with a Hamlet-like fixation on his mother.

The public loved it, the critics hated it. He was, they said, making something that was degenerate and decadent. But he did score huge space in newspapers, whether they liked it or not, they talked about it, and they did it day after day. Which was one of the reasons that Noel Coward decided to stay on the controversial kick.

In 1925, he did it with *Hay Fever*. Sex crept into it, and the prudes shuddered at parts of it, but the still young Coward was making people queue in the rain to get in. His name was guaranteed box office success.

In 1925, Noel made his first venture into operetta with *Bitter Sweet*. Several acts, lots of crinolines, pretty lavish sets, and Viennese music. Lavish and pretty, but still crammed with some sort of disguised caustic comment that was becoming the trademark of Noel Coward.

Then in 1930, *Private Lives* began. And run it did. Even when Sir Noel Coward died, the West End was still running it. Perhaps it was the most daring of all his productions. People who saw it to write about it came away and said it was full of nastiness including suggestions about copulation. They said it was hard to take, that it was thin, brittle, gossamer, iridescent. Some said, however, that it was delightfully daring. Which in a way, was how Sir Noel gracefully bowed out of the stage arena.

Cavalcade and *Blithe Spirit* rocketed Sir Noel into continued success with his blithe smile, his clipped accent. When he was sad, he still smiled. Once he said: "Never let people see when you are hurt."

Few people really know how deeply he could be moved. His face seldom told the story of woe he was so often faced with. But it was always in his plays, very clearly spelled out, for the millions of people who took the time and trouble to understand them.

Noel Coward was never cool about the theatre. It was his cross, his sword and his crown. He lived by it, he believed in it, but it didn't necessarily rule his life.

He served the theatre with grace, with, and loyalty. He was not slipshod. He hated anything that came close to being less than perfect.

The tributes to the now late Sir Noel have been overwhelming. They began the night his death was announced, and they are still arriving. From heads of states to the people who managed to scrape enough money together to watch one of his shows from the gods. He was simply, a very very loved man.

But not all people have come to his praise. Very very few had anything short of accolades to hurl at his legacy of honest theatre, but the *Spectator* magazine which came out on March 31 took an odd stand.

In a more than pontificating analogy of the Coward Era, Will Waspé said in the *Spectator*: "It cannot, of course, be said, that with the deaths of Hugh Beaumont and Sir Noel Coward the whole edifice of homosexual domination of the British Theatre will come tumbling down, but with the loss of these two pillars, the structure begins, inevitably, to look a little less secure."

He went on to say that they were friends of long standing, professionally associated

for over 30 years, moving in the same social show-biz circles and within the same network of homosexuality that covers so much of theatrical life.

He went on to talk about the excess of mincing and wrist-flapping, and though there were unquestionably the odd 'boyfriends' who figured in the shows, their presence was incidental, and the 'casting couch' was never the seedy factor it was with heterosexual producers. Coward, said the paper, was too much. And definitely the professional.

But Noel Coward grew accustomed to a slanging match. He was, whether he asked for it or not, a hero of the gay world. Probably because of what turned into an outrageous approach to whatever he did. Coolly in control.

And now the legacy of Noel Coward is a great memory bank of wonderful shows, controversial stories and a sensational gift to honest theatre.

There was every chance, we think, that when he did get to Heaven, he did a sort of repeat performance.

We can visualise St Peter opening the door, Sir Noel wafting in through the pearly gate, and before the gate swings closed for the last time, Sir Noel must surely come and take a final bow.

Tim Skinner

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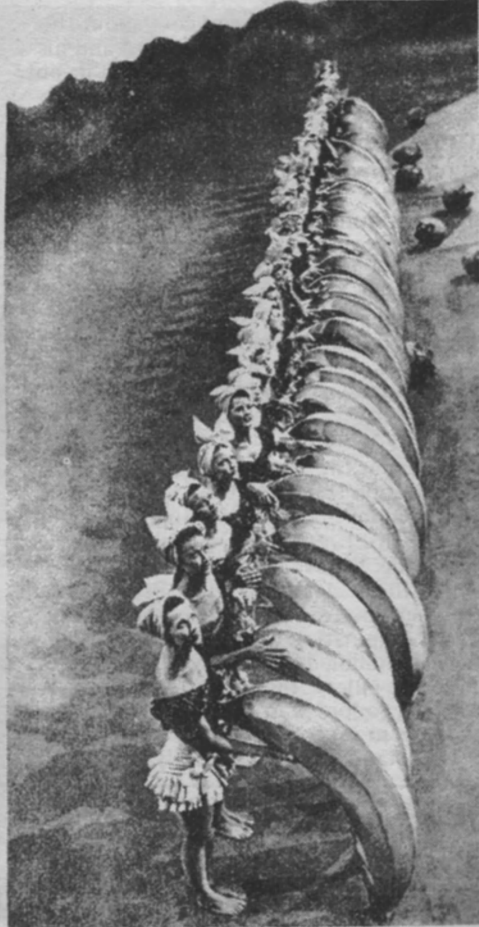
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Tasteful Bad Taste

The above illustrations come from the English impression of Jacques Sternberg's book, *Kitsch*. First available in France in 1971, it is published in the UK by Academy Editions at £1.75 (paper) or £3.50 (cloth). The book is lavishly illustrated with numerous examples of many aspects of high kitsch, including art kitsch, ad kitsch, porno kitsch, and living kitsch.

To define what kitsch means is a difficult task, each person seems to have his/her own personal interpretation. My version is that it is good taste in bad taste. Another way I could define it is by saying that kitsch is a reproduction of a familiar subject, but in a form one would not usually associate with it. For example, Mona Lisa teatowels, elephant shaped teapots, or as illustrated in the book, plastic fuck dolls and an advertisement for Bovril with a drawing of bulls sitting on electric chairs, with the caption 'Bovril by Electrocutation'. Perhaps that is oversimplifying its meaning, but to spare you an essay I'll leave it at that.

Kitsch is becoming one of the most popular/trendy art forms in our culture. The current surge of interest in the 30s, 40s and 50s is proving an ideal source for discovering new variations, and it is a pastime anybody can enjoy and participate in, depending on what particular good bad taste turns him/her on. Jacques Sternberg's book is an excellent introduction to kitsch for the uninitiated and lazy, or for those who just want something eye-boggling to scan through. Essential for all aware coffee tables.

Denis Lemon

The Lavender Menace Of Radicalesbians

LESBIAN/WOMAN by Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon. Published by Corgi/Bantam Books, 60p.

"... this is a subjective book. It is not a true confession... it does not pretend to be scientific either. It is written from experience — firsthand experience with the persons involved. It is partisan. But we hope it will be coolly, rationally, factually, heatedly partisan. For no book on the Lesbian can overlook the feelings, the thoughts, the self image, the *beingness* of the woman who has adopted this as her life style..."

So Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon introduce *Lesbian/Woman*. The book is certainly all of those things and the first bi-jective biography in that they both write about and interrupt each other and the many Lesbians they met when they founded Daughters of Bilitis (a person not a health condition, who was supposed to have lived on Lesbos at the time of Sappho) for Lesbians in 1955. DOB also launched Ladder Magazine one year later.

Scattered through their turgid style are some marvellous moments of perception: "We have maintained a strong objection to measuring the Lesbian in terms of happiness or unhappiness. A Lesbian who is struggling with her identity or who may be trying to repress her sexuality will, of course, be unhappy during that period of her life..."

The Lesbian who has hurdled the identity crisis and established a meaningful and satisfying relationship with another woman may still feel somewhat unhappy on occasion because of society's strictures. Happiness is not stationary; it is fluid, it fluctuates..."

"Gay is Good" is more than a slogan. It

signifies a way of life that need not and cannot be measured in heterosexual terms. Continued comparison is useless and serves no-one..."

"This does not mean that Lesbians reject their femininity or are unhappy being women... It means that they reject male definitions of what it means to be a woman and are unhappy with their 'assigned roles'."

"Heterosexuals often have difficulty in understanding our claim that homosexual counsellors can deal successfully with heterosexual clients, but that the reverse isn't necessarily true. There are several reasons — homosexuals are exposed all their lives to the heterosexual life style, and its concomitant problems; most of their professional training is in these areas; and homosexual counsellors are not biased against heterosexuality and would not be disposed to prejudge their clients. While more enlightened heterosexual therapists do not feel it imperative that homosexuals change their sexual orientation and do encourage their clients to adjust to their homosexuality,

their approach is still more often than not, judgemental or patronising. The implication is that homosexuality is an unfortunate substitute for heterosexuality and that the homosexual must make the best of his 'affliction'."

The latter part of the book describes the growing pains of DOB and Ladder magazine, the birth of the homophile movement in the States and its development into political action in alliance with the women's movement. Sisterhood solidarity shattered into sexist in-fighting between straight ladies and the 'Lavender Menace' (Lesbians). Del Martin, chairman of San Francisco's Branch of National Organisation for Women (NOW) challenged Betty Freidan, President of NOW to take a stand on the Lesbian issue to prevent women's oppression of the Lesbian. Betty Freidan obviously still caught up in her own 'feminine mystique' ignored the letter. Del wrote to the chairman of the board who considered the idea sheer disaster. The ensuing eruptions in NOW conferences by the Lavender Menace make spicy reading.

"Lesbian-baiting is, of course, a favourite masculine ploy in putting down feminists. Members of Women's Liberation, in earlier days, were known to take all sorts of insults at the hands of their antagonists, but dissolved into tears when called a 'dyke'... but in their consciousness raising small groups... they found that Lesbians were likeable

women not unlike themselves..."

"Both Radicalesbians on the East Coast and Gay Women's Liberation in the West have identified almost wholly with the women's movement and have only an indirect alliance with the homophile movement..."

Prophetic words, I'm sure, for what will happen in Britain in regard to Lesbians and their political loyalty. If there is to be any gutsy homophile liberation movement in Britain the men had better come out of their closets and cottages and listen and participate in the women's movement.

Lesbian/Woman is not entirely a political manifesto. There are many anecdotes about lesbians, their loves and problems which makes the reader alternate between hot displeasure and chuckles. They speak to Lesbians too — about their future:

"Know yourself, accept who and what you are, and then take charge of your own destiny... You are competent to deal with your own life as a Lesbian given the chance, don't expect anybody to give you the chance — you'll have to take it... whatever else you do, quit snivelling and blaming others for your plight, even if it's true... otherwise you can drown in your self-pity. If you are scared (and we all are in the beginning) remember that those you fear are probably even more afraid of you."

By SAPPHO

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Diana Ross, the fashions of the 1930's suit her admirably.

Holiday—Hollywood Style

LADY SINGS THE BLUES directed by Sidney Furie, starring Diana Ross and Billy Dee Williams. Distributed by Cinema International Corporation. A Paramount Picture. Cert 'X'.

Mom and Dad were just a couple of kids when they got married. He was 18 and she was 16 and I was 3... thus began Billie Holiday's biography published in 1956. When she died tragically in 1959, it was inevitable that Hollywood would eventually film her life story. Sidney Furie's film has telescoped most of the important events of her life into a 6 year span, and with audience reaction in mind, ends the film on a triumphant note as Billie performs a successful concert at Carnegie Hall.

The facts of her death are dispensed with by a mere photograph of a newspaper headline announcing 'Billie Holiday dies aged 44', whilst the concert continues. The film omits the painful fact that she died in a hospital bed whilst under arrest for illegal possession of narcotics — the police guard having been removed by court order — only a few hours before her death, which, like her life, was disorderly and painful.

Throughout *Lady Sings The Blues*, poetic licence is very much in evidence. Her mother in real life was 38 when she died, but here is shown as a mature and older woman. Three husbands are not included in the story. Conspicuous by their absence throughout the film are both pianist Teddy Wilson and saxophonist Lester Young, who formed such an integral part of the Holiday career.

Now for the good things, and there are many, in spite of its inadequacies. Firstly I should mention the montage sequences conceived by Laurence Schiller. Shot in sepia, as a splendid contrast to John Alonzo's beautiful colour photography, we are shown the courtship of Billie and Louis McKay, and later in a few well chosen stills, the anguish in Billie Holiday's face whilst serving a prison sentence. The title shots, using the start, then freeze technique, shows the torment endured by her as she is arrested whilst in need of further drugs, but initially denied them.

The star of the film is Diana Ross, making

her screen debut — and quite a debut it is too. She is a beautiful, graceful woman, and the fashions of the 1930's suit her admirably. She runs through all the emotions — from a shy adolescent and later starry eyed romantic, to the other extremes of showing the tortures of drug addiction and humiliations when denied a licence to sing in New York clubs after her first arrest.

Long before the phrase 'tell it like it is' was in use, Billie was doing just this through her vivid and memorable interpretations of the songs closely associated with her. Diana has gone on record as saying that she has tried not to sound like Billie or phrase like her — but this is a debatable point, considering how many songs featured end with the familiar two note slur used by Billie. The Ross interpretations of 'All of Me', 'Them There Eyes', 'Love is Here to Stay' and other standards are fine by me. However it is when she comes to sing Billie's personal songs such as 'My Man' and the closing 'God Bless The Child' that we miss the full poignancy and feeling that only Billie could give to them — and we are left with a poor imitation.

Critics in America were full of praise for Diana's acting, and if she didn't win the Oscar as expected, it is still a debut that will be long remembered. Unfortunately, because of the typical Hollywood gloss surrounding the story, there are moments which only succeed in cheapening the memory of a great singer.

Barry Conley

Don't Come Dancing

LAST TANGO IN PARIS (United Artists) director Bernardo Bertolucci is a modern romantic saga for sophisticated voyeurs, with a mechanical, too perfect Marlon Brando, having a French affair with a fiery Maria Schneider. The film tends towards a parody of the traditional romantic French cinematic style with its shadows and soft music, but the sex and the language make it more modernistic.

Am I oversimplifying a film that has caused a greater furore than even Andy Warhol, largely because of a small scene where Brando buggers Schneider with the aid of half a pound of best butter. It's all very intense like most French movies — lovers, whores and alley ways, full of director's self indulgences. Also it is very lifeless, doing nothing to explore the reasons for the non-communication that it depicts.

Quite a nauseating experience really, going to the lunchtime performance, squeezed in with giggling secretaries, and old men noisily sucking boiled sweets, all waiting for a bit of tit, by courtesy of the United Artists publicists. She has got a lovely pair though, no kidding!

David Seligman



Maria Schneider getting ready to tango.

Sex Games

EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT SEX BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK (United Artists). A few years ago "Dr" David Reuben wrote a supposedly serious and factual book, a deliberate money making bestseller for a mass readership. It contained reams of over-simplified misconceptions and slanderous inaccuracies on various aspects of sexuality and more particularly homosexuality. Just to prove how seriously he takes his work, Reuben recently sold the film rights for no doubt a massive amount of money, to Woody Allen, knowing that the end product would debunk and contradict just about every miserable lie and half-truth in the book.

Written, directed by and starring Woody Allen, the film is divided into seven segments, each of which has the title of one of the book's headings. Excepting the first on chastity with Lynn Redgrave, they are brilliantly bitter, cynical and often funny ha ha. My favourites were 'Sodomy' about a middle class doctor who has a romantic affair with a sheep: 'What's your perversion?' a delightful take of 'What's My Line', featuring a rabbi who loves to be tied up and beaten; an episode on sexual research, a parody of a Hammer film, in which a cross between Dracula and Frankenstein creates a giant breast which roams the country... finally that latter day symbol of healthy heterosexual virility, Burt Reynolds, as the big boss cell inside the section of a man's brain that controls the working of his penis. The brain looks like the control room at Cape Kennedy as the seduction of a girl is conducted like a moon shot.

David Seligman

Eclipse Of Two Sons

TOTAL ECLIPSE by Christopher Hampton (BBC2 April 10th)

To be a poet, one must become a 'seer'. "Il s'agit d'arriver à l'inconnu par le dérèglement de tous les sens." So wrote the 16 year old Rimbaud to Georges Izambard, his school master and early mentor. Later the same year (1871) he left Charleville for Paris to stay with the Verlaines and to continue the "disordering of the senses" to which he had committed himself

It is with his arrival at the Verlaines that Christopher Hampton takes up the story in his play 'Total Eclipse' now adapted for television. The play is no simple biographical study of Paul Verlaine and Arthur Rimbaud, but an attempt to present and explore the nature of the ferocious and destructive relationship between the two poets.

Given the subject and relying solely on historical record, Christopher Hampton could not have helped but write an interesting play. But this work is more; it is powerful and disturbing. With a skilful and economic use of dialogue which we have come to expect from him, the story is opened and the characters established in a handful of lines. The wit of 'The Philanthropist' is here foreshadowed, and the use of imagery (both of his own and of the poets') is memorable — Rimbaud's vision of mirrors reflecting in mirrors endless new vistas of himself, as an example.

In an account of these two men's relationship, any writer runs the risk of depicting Verlaine as so weak of purpose as to be a mere figure of fun. Here, though, is an attempt to draw him as a tragic figure. Unable to resist either the youth's physical charms or his fierce personality, Verlaine is

caught inextricably in, and ultimately destroyed by, that disordering of the senses to which Rimbaud has pledged himself.

The great question marks that intrigue readers of Rimbaud to this day — why did he stop writing poetry altogether at the age of 20, how sincere and significant was his death-bed conversion — were judiciously avoided, and referred to only insofar as they affected Verlaine. The abandoning of his poetry was dismissed in a line, a less than impartial account of his conversion was delivered by the pious Isabelle Rimbaud, Arthur's dangerously well-meaning sister.

Joseph Blatchley in his appearance was uncannily like the Rimbaud we know from photographs. His flat 'non-acting' delivery threatened at first to mar the production, but in fact caught exactly the right tone for what was to follow. The technique of Ian Hogg's Verlaine was in complete contrast, serving to underline the conflict between the menace of the fanatical younger man, and the wild violence of frustration, incomprehension and despair that was Verlaine's.

This most disquieting production of 'Total Eclipse' will surely be repeated. If you missed it this time round, don't make the same mistake twice.

Michael Mason

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Fresh Revolutions

FOR YOUR PLEASURE — Roxy Music — Island ILPS 9232

If it wasn't for Roxy Music, British 'progressive' music would be going through one of its dullest periods. They are the only group creating anything significantly new, and, apart from David Bowie, are the only band to be visually stunning on stage. Their recent appearances at London's Rainbow Theatre had to be seen to be believed. In comparison, the support groups, highly rated by some, were dismal, sharing the general unprofessionalism of most UK, and many American groups.

For Your Pleasure is Roxy's second album and encompasses an even wider range of musical experiences than their first release. It is also an easier recording for the average listener to relate to. Do The Strand, a staggering explosion of a song, opens side one and it seems to be a parody of all the dance crazes of the 1960's. Brian Ferry's composing abilities produce some very weird material, but nothing is stranger than In Every Dream Home A Heartache. The first part of the song tells of an eerie romance involving a plastic fuck doll. As this uneasy love story comes to its macabre conclusion, Phil Manzanera breaks into the most impressive post-Hendrix guitar work I've had the pleasure to hear.

There is a total of eight tracks on the album, and all keep the level of excitement turned up to the full. The saxophone playing of Andrew Mackay is amazing throughout, proving he is one of the few musicians exploring the full potential of this versatile instrument. Listen to Editions Of You, for it provides a perfect showcase for his inventive style. Eno, on synthesiser and tapes, adds yet another dimension to the Roxy's unparalleled sound, without the computerised feeling that is the downfall of many groups who use these electronic techniques.



In the Christmas issue of GN, I chose Roxy Music as 'group of the year' and said that I expected them to reach a wider audience and receive even greater acceptance in 1973. By April of this year they have achieved both of these points, judging from the way For Your Pleasure has jumped into the album charts only a week after its release. The full houses and the audiences' wild enthusiasm at the Rainbow concerts, indicates their assured success as the leading British exponents of avant garde rock music in the 1970's. Forget your musical prejudices and listen to the sounds of the future now.

WATTSTAX — Various Artists — Stax STS-2-3010

Wattstax is a 'live' recording of the highlights of a mammoth seven hour concert held at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum last August. It's also the soundtrack to a film made of the event. The concert was held to commemorate the seventh anniversary of the Watts race riots, and over 100,000 black brothers and sisters crowded into the arena, usually used as a sports centre. Entrance was only one dollar and the ticket sales benefitted local community ventures, including the Martin Luther King Hospital in LA's Watts district.

Stax Records, one of the leading black soul labels, was responsible for most of the organisation. And it is the cream of that company's solo artists and groups who dominate the album, performing their most successful material, as well as other extremely popular numbers. Amongst the impressive list of super-soul stars is Isaac 'Black Moses' Hayes, who performs an almost eighteen minute version of Bill Withers' classic Ain't No Sunshine. Others appearing are The Staple Singers, Eddie Floyd, Albert King, Carla Thomas, the Bar-Kays, Rufus Thomas and The Soul Children.

Throughout the two-record set the recording quality is first rate and the audience's reactions are carefully edited to save the boring minutes of applause that spoil many 'live' albums. Apart from the four sides of fine music, Wattstax is a fitting memorial to an important black community event, and subsequently it is a must for the record collection of any serious soul enthusiast.

REALLY — J J Cale — A&M AMLS 68157

In 1972 I had no hesitation in naming J J Cale's first release Naturally 'Laid Back Album of the Year', in GN's

THE TWO SIDES OF LAURA LEE — Hot Wax SHW 5009

The Two Sides Of Laura Lee is, I believe, the first album to be released by this artist here. She has had a number of singles released in the past, which have gained her a small following amongst soul record collectors, but apart from that has had very little impact. Rip Off, her most successful single to date in the UK, is included on the album, and in comparison to the rest of the material is the most outstanding track.

As is obvious from the album's title, this recording is attempting to demonstrate two aspects of a Laura Lee performance. The two types of material she uses are either smooth and soulful ballads, like Brenda Holloway's classic Every Little Bit Hurts, or danceable, funky numbers such as Crumbs Off The Table or Rip Off. But except for the latter track, few of the cuts rise above being rather ordinary, using the same old tired soul clichés that have stopped much development in this area of contemporary music.

Certain tracks will undoubtedly be popular in discotheques, but on a commercial level, The Two Sides Of Laura Lee is unlikely to attract much attention.

GREATEST HITS (Vol 2) — Jr Walker & The All Stars — Tamla Motown STML 11224

Jr Walker & The All Stars have consistently produced first rate Motown inspired soul music since the early 60s. I have always thought that Walker has been at his best on the tracks released as singles, especially as the quality of his recent albums has been very uneven, Shotgun and Road Runner still remaining my favourite collections. But I welcome Volume Two of Jr Walker's Greatest Hits, with the same enthusiasm I greeted the release of the first volume.



It does contain his best recordings of late, even if most of them had very little impact on the British charts. There is a total of thirteen cuts, including Gotta Hold On To This Feeling, These Eyes, Way Back Home, Walk In The Night and Groove Thang.

KRAFTWERK — Vertigo 6641077

Some modern music is next to impossible to analyse or comment on, for its effect and significance depends very much on whether the listener is in sympathy with what he or she is hearing. For example, Kraftwerk are a musical unit, comprised of two young Germans, who produce sounds that are difficult to define. In Germany their music has met with a degree of acceptance and their albums sell well. The basis of their compositions is electronic, although not exclusively.

If the unusual and unconventional appeals to you, the first two-record set

of Kraftwerk to be released in Britain may be the very experience you are looking for. The double album is reasonably priced at £3, but be warned, only those with adventurous and bizarre musical tastes are likely to be rewarded.

THEY ONLY COME OUT AT NIGHT — The Edgar Winter Group — Epic EPC 65074

One of the largest categories in the constant flood of new records are the albums from contemporary rock bands. Most haven't a chance in hell of attracting large, or even medium sales, there's just too much competition from the big name groups. The majority of these outfits offer little that one hasn't heard numerous times before and after a while they slip back into the obscurity they came from. Unfortunately, this means that some of the better bands suffer from the same lack of promotional push that the undeserving ones do. I hope though that this doesn't happen with The Edgar Winter Group's latest recording, They Only Come Out At Night.



This is their fourth album, and, in the States at least, it is their most successful release so far. It is currently riding high in the American charts. Apart from being first class musicians, Edgar and his band inject an enthusiasm and originality into their music that is usually lacking from most second rank groups. And you can dance to most of the tracks too.

The front cover is particularly worthy of attention. It portrays Edgar's face and nude chest, with his make-up and sensuous shade of lipstick contrasting well with his albino white hair. The multi-jewelled necklace is a nice finishing touch. Apparently Edgar's American management have been trying to play down his new image, much the same way as England's new Brian Epstein, Mr Defriess is attempting to change David Bowie's glam/gay rock image. But the people know what's what and who's who. Who really cares anyway, it's the music and the individual fan's response to image that counts, not the management's.

They Only Come Out At Night is two sides of thundering contemporary rock, do try to hear it.

LIVE AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN 1972 — Dion & The Belmonts — Warner Bros K46208.

FLASH CADILLAC AND THE CONTINENTAL KIDS — Epic EPC 65438

The biggest trend in mass media culture in the 1970's is a product called Nostalgia. One of the most noticeable areas of entertainment where this fashion is catching on the fastest is in pop music. To the teenagers of today, rock & roll's past achievements may seem quaint, even bizarre, but to those of us who are slightly older, going back in time to re-discover many great and half-forgotten classics can be an extremely rewarding experience. And it isn't just the kitsch value of these 'golden oldies' that makes them so appealing, many of them genuinely stand out as important landmarks in

the development of rock & roll.

The early 50's were one of rock's most fruitful periods, but so were the middle and late 50's and the beginning of the 60's. Rock & roll was no longer generally considered to be corrupting 'race' music and big business had realised that there were many fortunes to be made in keeping the kids happy, eg Elvis Presley, The Everley Brothers. By the middle 50's promoters and managers had watered down much of rock & roll's unique energy and the charts were filled with records by 'the-boy-next-door' clean-cut singers like Fabian, Ricky Nelson and Pat Boone. The one exception to this 'well-scrubbed' brigade was the original 'punk' superstar Dion, who, along with the Belmonts, brought a little reality into pop and told of things 'nice' boys and girls weren't supposed to do or know about. Of course by today's standards it was all very tame, but when Dion's initial hits were released it was a very different story.

Due to contractual and record company legalities, there isn't yet a comprehensive anthology of Dion's (and the Belmonts') early work. But until there is, Live At Madison Square Garden 1972 will serve as an immensely enjoyable reminder of these artists' contribution to pop. The sound quality is adequate and for once the audience's enthusiasm and delight adds to the album's impact. Most of the old hits are performed, including That's My Desire, Where Or When, Ruby Baby, The Wanderer, A Teenager In Love, I Wonder Why, Little Diane and an extended version of the earthy, all-time Dion classic Runaround Sue.

Incidentally, The Belmonts have recently had an album of their own issued in the States, as yet unscheduled for release in the UK. Dion, over the last few years, has proved himself to be a gifted solo artist and songwriter.

Flash Cadillac and the Continental Kids are a new group, but they are one of the few revival bands to capture the energy and fun that, if you take away all the intellectualising, is the real basis of rock & roll. They also get first prize for their name. Frank Zappa has much to answer for when he called The Mothers and himself Ruben and The Jets for their Cruising album.



Flash and the Kids' music is a combination of 'oldies' and their own material, and they perform both equally well, with all the vitality and rawness that stopped rock & roll in its early days from becoming pretentious. The only difference is the recording quality and the stereo reproduction, which only adds to the power and drive of their music. Amongst the best tracks are You Gotta Rock, Tell Him No, Reputation, Crying In The Rain and Endless Sleep. My personal favourite is Pipeline (originally by The Chantays).

If you were wondering what had become of rock & roll, skip the illogically compiled and inferior sound of the K-Tel etc compilations and take a listen to these two albums.

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Not quite as happy a family as it seems.

Photograph: Reg Wilson

Gran Shows Her Claws

SAY GOODNIGHT TO GRANDMA at the St Martin's Theatre, West Street WC2.

Mother-in-law trouble is the theme of Colin Welland's new play *Say Goodnight To Grandma*. From the pictures of some drunken middle aged men in the stills outside, and the statement 'Not suitable for children' on the posters, I entered the theatre uncertain what to expect. What I found, in fact, was a comedy with many amusing moments, and the closing scenes forming into a finale which was both poignant and satisfying.

A young married couple are about to return to Lancashire to visit their respective mothers and proudly present their newly born child. The older Mrs Weston has been widowed for 10 years and has continued to overprotect her son in an almost incestuous way. She is only one cut above working class, but with airs and graces assumes herself above her station. Plastic flowers are hastily replaced by real flowers for the impending visit. Her son's photograph is put away and a wedding photo of the couple is hypocritically displayed.

Both mothers are there to greet the couple on arrival. It is here we see that the boy's mother is a woman who receives great pleasure from antagonising other people, and is quick to interfere in her son's marriage when given the chance. She is soon able to wound the girl's mother, a staunch Catholic, by remarking how sensible the couple were to plan their first child.

She has pre-arranged for one of her son's friends to phone him and has anticipated their return later that evening with his other cronies for a small party. The men return and playfully grab at her, and she is both coy and girlish, but triumphant in her knowledge of being the winner in this particular round against her son's wife.

The daughter, realising her adversary's victory, makes her own decision. She arrives at the party provocatively dressed in a rugby shirt and panties and proceeds to entice the men with party games and seductive advances. The kitten turned tigress, and a sudden show of promiseuity is too much for these oafish men, and they soon depart, some in disgust, others in embarrassment.

It is only when confronted with the extent of his mother's scheming, and the possible adverse effect upon his marriage, that the umbilical cord is broken for all time. In the closing moments of the play the daughter holds her baby up to her mother-in-law and utters the title words "Say goodnight to Grandma" - her victory is then complete.

Colin Welland portrays the amiable husband as if almost unaware of the intricate emotions of the two women in his life. Pertly attractive Stephanie Turner handles the role of his wife with subtlety, hinting that in years to come she may well become a replica of her husband's mother. Madge Ryan could not be bettered as the possessive matriarch. On reflection, this is a well written and difficult role, but she has been greatly assisted by Patrick Dromgoole's excellent direction.

Barry Conley

Fools Paradise

A DOLL'S HOUSE at the Criterion Theatre, Piccadilly Circus, WC1

Ibsen's DOLL'S HOUSE does not appeal to me as much as his other plays, the reason being that I find it difficult to accept the sudden transition in the heroine's behaviour in the closing scenes. Nora has built her marriage on quick-sand by borrowing a substantial sum of money to pay for her husband's treatment during his illness. Confronted as she is by the threat of exposure regarding the loan, there is an ironic parallel with recent press articles concerning tallyman tactics. Her childlike attitude towards life is understandable in view of her husband's strict behaviour. So engrossed is she in decorating the family Christmas tree, that for the moment, one believes her to have forgotten the realities of life.

Critics have been quick to mention the similarity to *Women's Lib* in Nora's outlook at the end of the play, and indeed, her husband has all the attributes of the male chauvinist in his reaction to the eventual discovery of his wife's deceit.

In her early scenes as Nora, I was aware of an actress giving a performance. However, my faith was restored somewhat by Claire Bloom's touching recital of the final speech, when she has become the emancipated female. In those few moments it almost works. The usually reliable Colin Blakely tended to rush his words in some scenes, but here again, in those final moments he matched Miss Bloom's performance in this difficult scene.

Barry Conley

Look Back At Anger

LOOK BACK IN ANGER at the Young Vic, The Cut, London SE1

The original showing of this play, John Osborne's first, was in 1956. It caused a mild sensation as it was the first 'kitchen sink' drama and was deemed to be totally immoral. Although the moral structure has changed considerably over the years, it still has plenty of thrust.

Nicky Henson plays the role of Jimmy Porter, an anti-socialist to say the least, and from the outset proves to be the sort of arrogant preacher who has the answer to everyone's problems but his own. He never misses a chance to humiliate anyone, and makes a special attempt to ridicule his wife Alison (Mel Martin) at every opportunity. She leads a life of hell, but for the sake of peace and quiet hardly ever retaliates. Alun Lewis plays Cliff, Jimmy's lifelong friend, though he too is a victim of the 'dictator'. The only person willing to tell Jimmy a few home truths is Alison's friend Helena (Lois Dane) but she is no match for him either, and soon concedes defeat. In the closing scene we finally see his defences crumble when his fractured marriage begins to heal. A brilliant cast, in my opinion, makes this one of the most enjoyable evenings I have had at the theatre for a long time.

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