

EUROPE'S LARGEST CIRCULATION FORTNIGHTLY NEWSPAPER FOR GAY MEN AND WOMEN

When it comes to housing the Councils just don't mind IT'S LOOKING GOOD

ANOTHER shock for England's gay community. There's no reason why you shouldn't apply for — and get — a council flat or house . . . even if you go in waving a banner proclaiming your gayness.

Gay News has just completed a coast-to-coast survey of councils, shires, counties, government bodies and housing authorities to gauge the official attitude of housing bodies to homosexuality.

The new survey was prompted some time ago after the first Gay News inquiry into accommodation, when a GN reader complained that he'd been turned away from a big accommodation agency on the basis that gay tenants should look elsewhere.

The survey found, happily, an almost unanimous clamouring for gay tenants. It discovered that flat agencies and flat finding bureaux were full of praise for gay clients, saying that they were more often than not more suitable as tenants and as people.

Still the questions were raised. . . could gay couples — men or women — enjoy the same accommodation benefits as non-gay people and families in the areas of council-controlled housing.

No Problem

Armed with pre-conceived ideas that councils would view homosexuality in a dim light when it came to a share of its housing, Gay News first tackled several London boroughs. Not a solitary council objected to the suggestion. Several councils criticised GN for thinking there might be a problem. One council even offered accommodation.

The areas contacted for an official reaction from local housing authorities were Manchester, Edinburgh, Stepney, Corby, Westminster, Hammersmith, Cardiff, Hackney, Kensington and Chelsea and Surrey.

Those areas, specifically, because they represent a wide range of living standards and population density.

The original Gay News intention was to hold a massive survey, hopefully with interviews from each local Town Clerk, or representative housing official, but that was impossible.

Under the operational intricacies of the machinery which drives local government, there is little more that we could do than make an official application for housing, or try a telephone ring-around.

There was no chance of personal interviews on telephones — and because of Gay News' publication deadline problem, and an ever-increasing staff shortage, we could not dart all over England.

However, the Gay News Telephone Marathon did show what became a happily revealing reaction. The whole gay question is neither a problem nor a handicap when it comes to council accommodation.

In a nutshell, there is no reason why a gay couple or a gay single person should not apply for and get a council flat or house . . . but there are some very understandable sections of red tape . . . not, however, on the grounds of homosexuality.

The housing information officer at Corby explained it well when he said that as far as the council was concerned, sexual orientation mattered not.

"What we have to consider," he said, "are the real priorities. It's important to get that straight. We've got a big housing problem here, not as bad as it is in London, but it is a problem. We just haven't got enough houses for everybody, so there is a simple matter of genuine priority.



Photograph: Time Out

"We have to look at all the applications according to their needs. If we have a two-bedroomed house, for instance, and the waiting list has a married couple with a relatively low income and a couple of children to look after, then I'm afraid we'd have to consider a family like that in genuine need for housing support over and above a couple of men or a couple of women with no children, let alone a single man or a single woman.

"But then if we have all the urgent cases attended to — and they could also include elderly people, sick people, people on pensions, people who really have nowhere to go — then we look at the list again. And if there's no real need — and I want you to understand the real meaning of what I mean by need, then there's no reason why we couldn't find the right sort of accommodation for two young men or two young women, or two elderly men or two elderly women, or even single people.

"Whether they're homosexual or not honestly doesn't matter. I think they'd be considered for a two-bedroomed house or flat, but if they want a one-bedroomed place, which may be understandable, then they'd have to ask us for it. But please don't think that we exercise any sort of prejudice or dismay about people who may be homosexual wanting somewhere to live. If they do have the priority requirements, or if nobody else needs accommodation ahead of them, then it's all down to residential qualifications."

Red Tape Strangle

This 'residential qualifications' requirement is the killer for anybody wishing to acquire or rent a council house or flat. Under its operation, anybody wanting local accommodation must have lived in an area for a specific period.

So if a gay couple or a gay person moves into a new neighbourhood, hoping to find some cheap council town-house accommodation, it's a valueless mission. It has no chance

of working. But neither would it work for non-gays.

Hammersmith Council had a slightly different approach — Hammersmith being fairly representative of most living status.

The anonymous lady who handled housing enquiries assured me she knew of Gay News, that she remembered our survey on accommodation agencies, but that State housing bodies in no way exercised any discrimination against sexual orientation or desires.

"It doesn't come into it," she said. "If we get an application, we file it and look at it when we have a flat or house to let. If the person has all the residential qualifications necessary, then we'd look at his application against everyone else's and there's no reason why he or they wouldn't get a place to live.

"I think you're wasting your time if you hope to find someone with some opposition to homosexuals getting houses. Some of the people in the departments mightn't like it, but what we are interested in is getting people who live in council areas into houses, and if it happens that the rents in council houses are low enough for them, then, if they have the right qualifications, they will get a house. It is that simple."

Permissive Official

A wide-eyed reaction came from the City of Westminster's housing department in fashionable W2, the sweet sherry belt of London, where I understandably thought that any suggestion of homosexuality might introduce an official red face or two.

Not a bit of it. "I think we can help," said the lady in the information office. "If you have lived here for a specific period, you can certainly apply. I know a lot of gay couples who live together, and from what I understand, they are very proud, very good home owners. I'd like to see more gay people in houses, but you see, they have a problem, because most of them come here from other counties or even other countries. And unless they have lived where they want their council house or flat for the right qualifying

period, then they just won't be able to find help here. I'm afraid it is very very official.

"But you want to know what homosexuals should do, you're not looking for a lecture. I can't advise you, because all I am allowed to do is to tell you the official procedure, and that is simple enough. You fill in a form and send it or bring it in. If you live around Paddington or Hyde Park, you bring it here, and we file it, and after we look at it, we look at the sort of housing that's available. If nobody else needs the housing before you, and there is a sort of priority system where these applications are judged purely on the needs of the applicant, then you might find a letter in the mail telling you that there is a house for you.

"As to the sort of accommodation, you understand that if a council property is the property you want, then you more or less have to accept what we have available. If it's not right for some reason, then we look again, but it might take some time.

"You asked about bedding arrangements. I'd say that if they were a gay couple, whether man and man or woman and woman, they'd probably want to live as a married couple, so I suppose you want to tell me they'd want a double-bedded room, and that's sensible enough I suppose, but I'd also suggest they think about a two-bedroomed house. One with their double-bedded room, and another one with a single bed in case they have an argument. You know, these things can happen in the best-run families.

"But gayness and homosexuality doesn't worry me. Nobody has actually come in and asked for a housing unit on the grounds that he or she is homosexual, and I don't think they would. There is just no need to say it. But if they have the necessary residential requirements, and if there is nobody else who really needs a property, then yes, I'd say we can help, because that's what I have this job for."

Continued at top of first column, Page 4.

GAY NEWS

Spreading The Word

WERE you at the Gay News office last Wednesday? If you were one of the intrepid adventurers eager for a preview glimpse of the new goodies-packed number 30, you are probably only just getting over the chaos that greeted you. Bundles of papers stacked precariously in every part of the room, bewildered helpers caught firm in squid-like tentacles of sellotape and string, parcels on postal scales (1½lbs, give or take 20 ounces) railway parcels, postal packets, subscription copies, bulging mail bags, piled high in a demon-designed obstacle course. And yet by some miracle — or freak — of Nature, you now hold a copy in your hands.

Well, it has been like that for 30 issues. And it has got worse as more and more of you wanted to buy the paper. But now the Wednesday nightmare is over.

Enter Moore Harness, fairly godmothers and national distributors. From issue 31 we will only have to worry about subscriptions, and you will be able to buy GN in hundreds of new places. Moore Harness, who already handle papers like Private Eye, Time Out, IT and Boxing Weekly, will be distributing us to 600 shops in London and to 200 wholesalers around the country (no, not WH Smiths!). Of course you can still get the paper in all the shops, pubs and clubs where you have bought it before, but it will save you the extra journey to buy Boxing Weekly.

So that's 'Nice For Us' number 1. 'Nice For Us' number 2 is that lots of gays in lots of places, and especially outside London, may hear about Gay News for the first time. As we have said many times before, one of our main reasons for existence is to provide some kind of 'life-line' for our brothers and sisters in the provinces who have little or no contact with any kind of gay scene at all. It takes quite a stretch of the imagination to realise just how wide the gap is between attitudes towards gays in the very large cities like London and Birmingham, and gays who live in Cheltenham or Darlington. Every little bit of moral support we can give (and 'we' means our readers as much as the GN staff) really helps.

In the end, of course, it depends on all of you whether going national is a success. No shopkeeper will go on ordering the paper unless people buy it from him. And that means one less place where the casual gay browser might come across it accidentally. So if you have had difficulty finding somewhere to buy a copy, give your newsagent a visit when number 31 is published. Some people still find it embarrassing to ask for Gay News in a shop. But if the newsagent isn't too embarrassed to stock it, maybe some of your worst fears are groundless. If he stocks it, then surely it means he wants to sell it! (And now that the bulk of the copies will be going straight to Moore Harness, it may mean some delay in sending out single copy orders of the current issue, as subscription copies will take preference.)

One last plea. With our greater distribution area, it is even more important that people tip us off about things happening around the country. We recently had a phone call to the office asking us where we had got hold of a story about a demonstration in Canterbury, in which the caller had taken part. We had, in fact, picked it up from a local newspaper report, but we might have been able to cover it a bit better if the caller had phoned us before we printed the story, rather than after! So don't keep it to yourself. There may be hundreds of other people who would love to share the secret with you.

It's Getting Better All The Time

WE do brag a lot, don't we. But then again, a breakthrough is a breakthrough, whichever way you look at it.

Some time ago, Gay News took up the challenge and decided to launch headlong into a national fact-finding campaign to see just what was what in the question of accommodation. We'd heard then that it was a pretty rugged affair for anybody who happens to be gay to find a roof to put over their heads.

That one came under the category of a blunder. We discovered very quickly that there was simply no problem with house-owners, and even less of a problem with accommodation agencies.

'Gays,' they said, 'were the very best

tenants'. And we closed chapter one of the battle for a bedroom.

This week we took up the challenge again. We'd heard that it was a total impossibility for gays of either sex to find accommodation in council-owned properties . . . houses, flats or villas.

Not so, once again. Our fears were totally groundless. Gayness, it seems, is treated by local authorities as a very matter-of-fact way of life.

The only problem with homosexuals moving into council-owned property is that they are rarely resident for long enough to qualify. They seldom have the same hardships as pensioners or large local families, and they are seldom low-wage earners.

But if they were, and perhaps some are, then there is no reason why they should not move into a council flat.

The councils just don't care. "Do we discriminate?" they said collectively.

"Why should we? You're just people."

Like we said, it's getting better all the time.

Your Letters

Please note that any letter received by us at Gay News is liable to be published unless you state otherwise. Owing to lack of space, please make your letters as brief as possible.

Lost Time Not Wasted

Harrington Road, London SW7

Dear Gay News,

Your analysis of the whole gay movement faltering and National Federation of Homophile Organisations collapsing for lack of an adequate base at the grass-roots level was dead right. (GN 29) But if the movement pushes for a large scale involvement of the 'straight gays', it must be prepared for the consequences.

The consequences of success in membership terms will almost inevitably be (at least in the short run) a lack of 'civil rights' reasons (though in time many of them do become interested).

Anyone who has ever helped organise a local gay group will confirm that 90% of the people admit to joining for friendship, sex or both, and most of the rest are kidding themselves. If the group is any good, participants will have the chance, perhaps for the first time, to choose their own lifestyles and discover the ways in which they want to relate to one another, sexually or otherwise, free from the various pressures of either straight society or the commercial gay scene.

While this process of self-exploration is going on, most members will be totally uninterested in the political philosophies or national campaigns of whatever organisation the local group is affiliated to; they may even, much to the dismay of the zealots, turn to apparent irrelevancies like drama groups or film-making.

But this apparently lost time is by no means wasted; it is essential for building up self confidence and getting rid of self-oppression. No-one can be expected to "campaign" for homosexual equality until he or she really, deep-down, believes that homosexuals are equal, and this liberation of gays from self-oppression is what the last two or three years in the gay movements have been about.

There are now a few thousand people scattered around the country who really are "glad to be gay", and who genuinely feel the equal of anyone. So now let's spread the word, not via NFHO and its committees of representatives from far-flung groups which hardly exist, but by co-operation in every town and city between the local gay groups in getting the message across to the public, and by every grass-roots member, the next time he sees that glum-looking, spotty-faced guy standing alone at the other end of the bar, making him feel glad to be gay too.

Peter Norman & John Saxby

More Than A Splintering

Manchester M19

Dear Gay News,

If a look really is worth a thousand words, the front cover of Gay News 29 is worth a second glance: it appears as if two "bits" (CHE and SMG) are absconding from a rather pasty-looking mum — the National Federation of Homophile Organisations. Well, the numbers game is a dicey business. But if, as we are told, NFHO used to represent five thousand folks, it has just lost four fifths of them. More than a splintering, surely.

But what does it all add up to? Few folks in CHE know of the workings of NFHO, so is CHE to blame? You can't report on plenty of nothing, save the occasional poisoned dart and bleats for co-operation. For many of us, NFHO's veiled attack on the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Bill was a final straw, flung on a browned-off camel. Some things matter a lot and some don't. That was the lesson NFHO seemed incapable of learning in its insistence that equality means identity.

Unity and pulling-together are popular war-cries, and most certainly a worthy ideal. But they cannot stand devoid of context. Hitler wanted co-operation from everybody (no further analogy intended). If the gay world in Britain is to have an umbrella, the ruddy thing must at least operate, and keep off the rain. The NFHO never did. It was and is the classical case of the "good thing" which does absolutely nothing apart from giving tiny, even minuscule, organisations (with every right to existence, of course) some sort of basis

in natural law.

Some measure of fragmentation is inevitable — probably healthy in fact. Gay News can be infuriating — so can we all. But I would challenge anyone to say that CHE is not a broadly based organisation. After all the everlasting hoo-hah about the age of consent, the lovely Jackie Forster — member of the CHE Executive Committee and all — can still say (GN29) that she doubts whether CHE really cares! If further proof were needed . . .

Barrie A Kenyon

Wrong View of NFHO

Albany Trust, 32 Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1V 8EP

Dear Gay News,

Thank you for your balanced and perceptive article on the gay movement. You are not correct, though, when you say that NFHO sees itself "as an organisation in its own right". None of us who have been trying to make it relevant and useful view it in any different way from your own concept of it as a common meeting place and think tank for all gay groups who wish to use it as such. It is *theirs*, and they themselves make it effective or render it impotent.

It's not my habit to cry over spilt milk, but it strikes me as quaint that the CHE Executive, which has ostentatiously cold shouldered NFHO for months past, should now accuse it of poor communications. As for "creating dissension" — well, words fail me!

Antony Grey
Managing Trustee
Chairman

National Federation of Homophile Organisations

Forgotten Aims?

London NW3

Dear Gay News,

I was quite surprised to read in GN29 that nobody wants to present "Hello Mother, Hello Father", the play written by Butch Black. I was at the playreading that was given of his play in a pub in Marylebone some time ago, and I thought it much funnier than a lot of plays that appear in the West End, and funnier than the plays Mr Black mentioned in his letter. It certainly deserves a proper performance. I especially liked the scene where the boys have this renter staying with them and one of them is in drag when their parents arrive — it was really screamingly funny.

But what I want to ask is why don't a group like CHE Players present this play? I'm sure this play would be a box-office success for them and if their name (Campaign for Homosexual Equality) is supposed to *mean* what it stands for, surely this is the kind of play they should be doing instead of the ones I see in the same issue of GN they are holding auditions for. I think this is another example of CHE forgetting what their original aims were supposed to be. If not even the homophile organisations put gays first, it is no wonder we feel like second-class citizens.

Mike Perry

United We Stand . . .

The Fellowship in Christ the Liberator, (Metropolitan Community Church) c/o 61 Earls Court Square, London SW5 9DG

Dear Gay News,

It is saddening to see the representatives of supposedly caring organisations — CHE and SMG — threatening to disrupt what little unity the homophile movement in Britain has had hitherto. More distressing still is their apparent dismissal of the hopes and aspirations of the smaller groups which have effectively been left to sink or swim by themselves.

For I find it very difficult to clear my mind of suspicion of the motivation and intent of, in particular, the CHE Executive in seceding from NFHO. Of course, the statement from the CHE National Secretary which you published (GN28) promises to approach other groups of NFHO and to co-operate wherever appropriate. Well, it has not yet approached this Fellowship at the time of writing, and I am cynical enough to dare to guess that that co-operation will come only if the other group approaches touching forelock in full recognition that CHE is the largest homophile organisation in the country (as the other members of NFHO were frequently reminded by a CHE Executive member). Further, I speculate whether the co-operation will be of the kind enjoyed by this Fellowship in its early days, courtesy of the CHE Executive — publicity we did not seek or want in terms that we did not care for!

Now I could not pretend that NFHO has been faultless, could not have done even more than it did, but it is the only physical expression of the unity which is so essential to the common aims of the homophile movement and its potential as a mutual forum for that movement is tremendous. Realisation of that potential, however, does depend on the active support and participation of its members — the CHE Executive's efforts in this area were not particularly noticeable. But NFHO is far from moribund, despite the departure of CHE the national organisation, for not only has the CHE Executive's petty action galvanised the remaining members of NFHO into action, it has also stimulated several of CHE's local and 'special interest' groups in their autonomous capacity to affiliate to NFHO. This seems right and proper for, despite the unfortunate inference in your feature on NFHO, it is very much of and for and about people as are the CHE groups. I hope and pray that CHE groups all over the country will examine closely their Executive's behaviour and, as one might say, start voting with their feet by independently affiliating to NFHO. And there is nothing to stop interested individuals from doing the same. That way we can show society that, the CHE Executive notwithstanding, the homophile movement in Britain is mature and caring and responsible . . . and UNITED!

Please, all of you, pray for that unity . . . or if you do not believe in prayer, then concentrate all of your mind on it. Separately, we are tiny, insignificant, unimportant, with very limited hopes of

DEAR GAY NEWS . . .



Illustration: Jean-Claude Thevenin

achieving anything, but united we can be a force to be reckoned with. There is so much to do, that *must* be done if all gay people in Britain are to have the chance of living complete, happy and fulfilling lives as is their right. And we *can* do it . . . TOGETHER!

With prayers for love, joy, peace and happiness . . . and unity.

Jo McVay-Abbott
Secretary

No Bodies!

London NW8

Dear Gay News,

GN no 27 calls for more letters, so may I say I'm amazed that you have got so far without anything in the way of a regular pin-up-boy feature. Your printers are good, and I'd have thought that say a quarter-page reserved for tiffs in the same place in each issue would be quite popular. After all the gay predicament is an affair of both splendours and miseries, and perhaps GN harps too much on the latter?

Of course I'm an interested party since I produce such photos—indeed I could keep you supplied with beautiful male bodies well into the next century. But there are lots of other admirable photographers you could ring the changes on—Colin Clarke, Don Busby, Weatherby Studios, George Greenwood, etc, etc, etc. So—when do we start?

Larry Knight

ED: We don't start. There are dozens of gay pin-up magazines, but only one British gay newspaper. We don't want to waste valuable and desperately limited space on merely reproducing pictures that look so much more attractive anyway on glossy magazine paper.

GAY NEWS

No 30

August 23 — September 5

Contents

Page 3-6	News
Page 6	Here We Are Again
Page 7	Masculine/Feminine
Page 8	Comment
Page 9	Gay Days Gone By
Page 10	Sexual Offences
Page 11	Danse Macabre
Page 12	Fashion & Gayness
Page 13	Books
Page 14	Records
Page 15	Stage
Page 16	Films & Showbiz
Page 17	Derek's Guide & Personal Ads
Page 18-19	Ads & Information
Page 20	News

Deadlines and Copy Dates for GN 31

Copy, Letters, etc — Saturday, August 25
Display, Personal and Classified Advertisements etc — Noon, Monday, August 27

Gay News People

Denis Lemon, Michael Mason, Peter Mundy
Stephen MacLean, Tim Skinner
Jean-Claude Thevenin (Design), Derek Jardine,
Pascal Danot (Photography), David Seligman,
David Rushton (Design Assistant)
Sandi Rutenberg (Typesetting)

Gay News Special Friends

Roger Baker, Denis Cohn, Barry Conley, Anna Raeburr
Laurence Collinson, Graham Chapman, Brian Dax,
Antony Grey, Peter MacMillan, Manus Sasonkin,
Bernard Searey, David Sherlock, David Hart,
Maxie Bacon, Tim Morris, Mike Nightingale,
Christopher Ambury, Carl Hill, Richard Watkins,
and Ian C Dunn (Scottish Correspondent).

Special Thanks To:

Richard & Norman, Ken & Allen,
David & Anthony, Peter & Adrian,
Peter, Eric, Ken, David, Richard, Jim,
and all other Friends and Loved Ones

© Gay News Limited, London, 1973. All manuscripts submitted become the property of the publishers and submission of material will be construed as permission to publish without further notice. The material herein may not be reproduced without the written permission of the publishers.

Whilst we do our best, we can't be responsible if unsolicited material that you send us goes astray.

Gay News is published fortnightly by Gay News Ltd, Basement, 34d Redcliffe Square, London SW10. Tel: 01-373 0586

Distribution (until next issue):

Us, You and a Prayer Book.

Printed by F.I. Litho Ltd, 182 Pentonville Road, London N1.

Gay News is the registered trade mark of Gay News Limited

Cottage Under Siege

Campaign To End 'Police Trap' Tactics Fails

by
Tim Skinner

A NATIONALLY organised campaign to warn of the dangers of 'loitering' and cottaging has been blocked by Government bodies.

The campaign was being planned by Gay News after a string of reports about an upsurge in the number of police arrests in public lavatories in London's West End.

Several of the reports alleged specific cases of 'police entrapment', an activity reported not infrequently from the 'Gentlemen's' at the end of Babmaes Street, off Jermyn Street, close to Piccadilly Circus.

At first, the reports bore little difference from what's become 'recognised procedure' of police activity in public lavatories, but after checking the reports further, Gay News found that there may be instances of Agent Provocateur tactics by certain policemen.

One reliable source claimed that a policeman, un-uniformed, 'created the circumstances which led to arrest' in the Babmaes Street lavatory block.

Gay News was told that the informant was followed into the lavatory by the then-incognito policeman, who stood beside the man, who alleged that he began masturbating himself in front of the informant.

The incident which followed led to the immediate questioning and subsequent charging of the informant.

If the information about police entrapment and the possibility of 'agent provocateur' tactics are right, then Gay News is appalled. Lawbreaking is most definitely punishable by law - but provocation to break the law is another totally inexcusable thing. When and if that provocation is the work of the keepers of the peace, it is indefensible.

To Arms

Acting on information received at Gay News, we took the story to the Vine Street police headquarters in the West End, a stone's throw from the public lavatory in question.

Before Vine street was approached, Gay News received more information from the victim of a police arrest. He told Gay News that he'd been told by a policeman that police activity is such at the Babmaes Street lavatory that four people a day are arrested there for charges including loitering, importuning and gross indecency.

At the Vine Street police station, we spoke with a most sympathetic duty officer, who was aware of arrests at the Babmaes Street establishment, but he denied that there was any increased police activity in the area against people in public lavatories.

Gay News explained that it believed there was definite evidence of increased police surveillance at the lavatory. The duty officer denied it.



The Babmaes Street Trap. The cottage in the West End. 'A police swooping ground', they say. It's red hot.

The sign we said we'd pay to have put up.

Gay News editor Denis Lemon then suggested to the police officer that to save policemen a considerable amount of work, and do a public service, it would certainly be a worthy idea to erect a sign in the lavatory, warning of police activity. The sign we had



Next stop after the cottage - for the unlucky ones - Vine Street Police Station.

in mind read... "WARNING... THIS LAVATORY IS UNDER POLICE SURVEILLANCE. IT IS AN OFFENCE TO LOITER FOR THE PURPOSES OF IMPORTUNING" Gay News proposed to include on the sign a list of offences and the possible penalties.

Gay News would advertise that it is the originator, publisher and distributor of the warning signs, and with council and police assistance, hopefully, begin a massive nation-wide campaign in all public lavatories.

The Cold Shoulder

The police did not like the idea. The duty officer at Vine Street made it clear that there were signs erected in many public lavatories.

Gay News pointed out that the signs were largely typically official, hard to read, and generally unread, even often souvenired by visitors to London.

Gay News suggested that the erection of such signs in public lavatories would save police the trouble of keeping a close eye on them, and automatically, save hundreds of people from the possibility of police action.

Gay News made it clear, also, that it was very aware that many public lavatories in

and around London were used continually for sexual meeting places, for cottaging and for importuning.

Gay News also told the police that while it was totally a newspaper aimed at broadening the acceptance of homosexuality, it was horrified at the importance police placed on petty sexual 'offences' in public lavatories, but it did not deny that under the terms of the 1967 Sexual Offences Act that what did often occur in the lavatories was undeniably an 'offence'.

The police felt that the posting of such signs may not only be a contravention of bye-laws, but that by mentioning police in its contents, it may also represent a contravention of some laws... a matter which would have to be taken up with Scotland Yard.

Gay News pointed out to the Vine Street Duty Officer that there would be no expense involved for the Metropolitan Police Force... that Gay News would bear all costs of printing and circulation of the posters.

Police sanction for such an idea did not come from Vine Street, so we took the case to Scotland Yard. The matter 'has been referred to the correct authorities'. And the Press Liaison department suggested we also obtain the relevant information from the Bye-Laws Department of the appropriate local government body.

Red Tape Time

The Bye-Laws section of the City of Westminster did not agree with the need for Gay News posters.

Mr C Glockling, of the Improvements section, said that there were already several signs erected in all public lavatories.

"You see, the police are the ones who worry about doing all the arrests," he said, "what I have to make sure of is that those signs are up. You wouldn't believe it, but I've had to replace all sorts of things from toilets, and I suppose some have been stolen. People like to have a toilet sign in their house, I suppose."

"But I don't think you could put up your sign. We have a proper official one, and we always have the same sort of ones done because you see, there's standards we have to keep up and they look nice. It's small printing, a lot of things are written on it and we have them put on a big plastic frame and fix it on the wall. I don't think you'd have to spend any money on new posters, because people can all look at the official ones."

Gay News explained that the 'official posters' didn't necessarily tell the story about police surveillance, and did not serve as an urgent warning.

"Well," said Mr Glockling, "I don't really understand all that business. Our signs are very good. I mean they say what they have to and I don't think you'd be allowed to stick yours in our toilets, but you'd have to talk to someone higher up the ladder than me about that. But thanks anyway about the information, I'll get a new sign put up in Babmaes Street."

The next step was a direct appeal to the

Building Improvements section of the City of Westminster. But the section was either non-aligned with any Gay News policy, or the entire department was out to an official lunch. It was a case of not wanting to know about it.

"I'm sorry sir," said the girl in the deserted office, "but you'll have to ring some other time. I don't know about posters, but Mr Hine (a still unidentified member of the Department) has been out all day and I don't think he would like the idea very much."

Gay News tried to speak with Mr Hine again, but Mr Hine was not forthcoming.

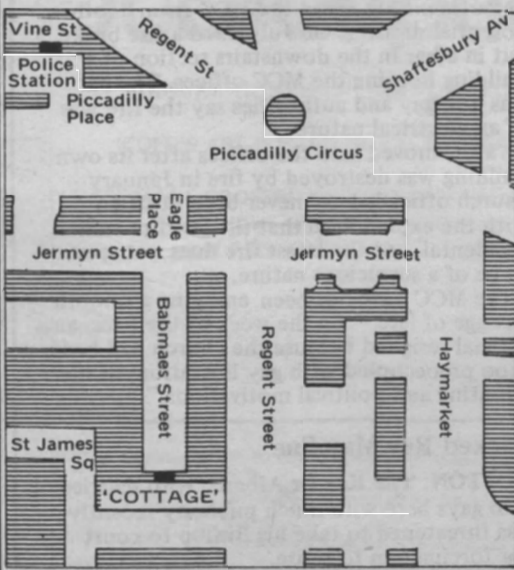
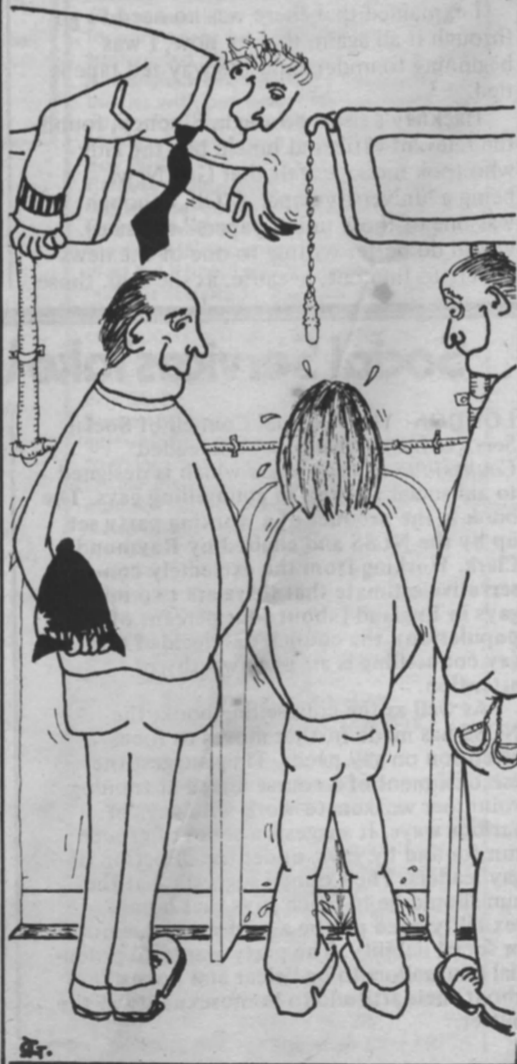
And time ran out. The battle to distribute the posters will continue until Gay News gets a positive reply from both Scotland Yard and the City of Westminster.

There is no question of finance. Gay News will print and circulate the posters - provided it gets official sanction - and the costs will be borne by the newspaper and its affiliates.

While Gay News is not making any attempt to stamp out cottaging - that is a matter for the people concerned - the newspaper feels shocked at the increasing number of prosecutions resulting from alleged police activity and the possibility of 'Agent Provocateur' tactics.

The efforts to launch a national drive to warn about the police activity will continue, and while we continue to take up arms against Scotland Yard's no-help policy, Gay News asks for your help.

If you have any evidence of police entrapment, 'Agent Provocateur' methods or police surveillance, please write to the Editor. All correspondence will be treated with strict confidence.



It's Still Looking Good

Continued from front cover.

Yet Another

Edinburgh, a fairly non-permissive society, sent us reeling again. Mr Cormack, who was handling housing queries said: "Anybody would be lucky to just arrive and get even a flat, because even private flats are hard to get I think, but we've got our own problem with council houses, but don't tell everybody we have a hatred for homosexuals, because we haven't."

"I'd like to say yes to everybody. It breaks your heart to have to tell people there just isn't a house, which makes it easier, I suppose that you get these applications in the mail, but please don't think that homosexuality scares us. Perhaps we have got homosexual people all over the place in our houses and our flats. Perhaps they are like that all over London. I don't think people worry because they look the same and they act the same. I think perhaps they are sometimes better tenants anyway, but if they applied for a council house, they have got a problem because they just have not got the urgency need that a lot of the families or old people or sick people have. I think you'll find that a lot of homosexual people who might want one of our premises are young and generally able to work, and generally they will be two working people, and if they have that sort of income, then they must take a back seat for the time being to a pension couple who haven't got any income apart from their pension. I hope you understand, but that's the way I feel. It's also the way the department works."

And The Workers

Manchester, home of industry and blue collar workers, shared the same opinion, without reservation.

"You'll have to write us a letter to get the matter discussed, but there's nothing like discrimination. That sort of thing went out with button-up boots. We have black people and white people and Catholics and Jews all wanting housing, so what's different about homosexuals. It might make it easier if one was a man who had lived here all his life and really needed a house, and his partner was a woman who'd lived here all her life too and needed a house, because it's hard enough getting places for everyone on our lists. Some of them have been waiting for months. Hackney didn't mind too much.

"I'm sorry, I can't help you, because we have no available accommodation at the moment for the sort of people you are talking about. We have some people needing a house urgently and it is so bad that we have a waiting list. But there is no discrimination at all. You have to remember though that getting a council flat is not like getting one from the newspaper or an agency. You have to live in the area for a definite period and we have to consider your application thoroughly."

I explained that there was no need to go through it all again, that by now, I was beginning to understand the way red tape is tied.

Hackney's sister borough, Stepney, found the relevant officer at lunch, but the lady who took messages felt that Gay News, being a 'university paper' ("Oh, I thought it was one of those union papers" she said), would do better writing to one of the newspapers to find out, because, as she said, those



people never come into housing departments in case they get embarrassed.

The meritorious borough of Kensington and Chelsea was non-committal, but reading between the lines, it may have even had the occasional enquiry for gay housing.

"There's not very much I can tell you Sir," said the very well-spoken gentleman in the housing department. "I think I'd have to refer you to somebody else, but I think you'll get the same sort of answer. There is a shortage of housing here, and the last thing we do is believe in discrimination, but it is a difficult one because homosexuals probably have special housing needs. (ED: Like a roof over their heads?) No, I think you'll have to leave it with me and I'd like to think about it, but if you need housing at the moment you will find it hard anywhere."

Sadly, the Gay News survey of council and state housing reaction is incomplete, simply because of lack of staff and time, but undeniably, it looks good.

No council objected to the suggestion of homosexual occupation of any of its premises, provided the gays conformed to local government requirements, and the total justice of that pre-requisite goes without saying.

Summing up the survey, there is no immediate housing vacancy in London or around it in the areas contacted by Gay News, for gays who want council housing . . . UNLESS (a) they have lived in the area in question for a specified time — ranging from three to five years;

(b) there are no priorities on the waiting list and

(c) the available accommodation is suitable.

It would seem therefore, that provided a gay couple — men or women — are responsible, money earners, residents, and genuine in their endeavours to set up a council home — which at a later stage can be purchased — councils have no objection.

Tim Skinner

Social Services Take Up Gay Counselling

LONDON: The National Council of Social Services has published a book called *Counselling Homosexuals* which is designed to aid social workers in counselling gays. The book is the product of a working party set up by the NCSS and chaired by Raymond Clark. Working from the extremely conservative estimate that there are two million gays in England (about four percent of the population), the council has decided that gay counselling is an issue worthy of attention.

As well as the counselling book, the NCSS has made further moves to focus attention on gay needs. They suggest the establishment of a course aimed at training volunteer workers to work with gays in various ways. It suggests a series of groups run for and by gays, under the direction of gay leaders. The Council suggests that the aim should be to teach gays that homosexuality need not be a professional, emotional or social liability. The party wants all potential counsellors to be "clear and honest" about their attitude to homosexuality at the outset.

The outcome of their suggestions would be (a) therapeutic groups for gays who feel they are suffering some degree of personality disturbance; (b) "supportive" groups for gays feeling lonely or isolated; and (c) social groups where gays can meet each other in an open atmosphere.

The party also hinted at the usefulness of a special social service department exclusively aimed at helping gays.

However, at the moment, these are merely suggestions, although the move can certainly be viewed as a positive one. At the launching of the new book, Peter Righton of NCSS said, "We must get rid of the common attitude that all sex is suspect and all gay sex is dirty."

A familiar black cloud dominated, however: He warned that the law at present does not allow young gays to make contact, and any counsellors who helped under-21's to meet each other would risk committing an offence.

FOOTNOTE: A review of *Counselling Homosexuals* appears on page 13 of this issue.

Medical Profession Quizzed On Gayness

A survey has been carried out on attitudes to homosexuality among those on the other side of the doctor's desk. Three-hundred psychiatrists and general practitioners were asked, among other things, how they thought a homosexual condition was best "managed" and at what stage they thought it developed. Some answers were illuminating, especially where the doctors differed widely in their views.

The survey was initiated by Dr Philip Morris, consultant psychiatrist at Kingsway Hospital, Derby. A list of 150 general practitioners was selected for him at random by the Department of Health and Social Security. The names of 150 psychiatrists were chosen — also at random — from among the membership of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association. Of the questionnaires sent out 108 were returned by the GPs and 102 by the psychiatrists.

They were first asked how they viewed homosexuality. Of the three alternative answers they were offered, 70.9 per cent considered it an "aberrant behaviour pattern", 34.8 per cent viewed it as a "normal variant, like left-handedness", and 5.7 per cent said it was a disease. But the figures show that as two groups, the numbers of GPs and psychiatrists who considered it a "normal variant" were far apart.

Secondly, they were asked at what time of life a homosexual condition developed. 42.4 per cent said it was inborn, 41.4 per cent said pre-adolescence, 37.1 per cent said adolescence, 28.6 per cent in infancy, and 11.4 per cent after adolescence. The sizeable percentages in each category show that, as a whole, the doctors were again far from agreed, and as two groups they were most at variance among those who thought it was inborn and those who imagined it to be developed in infancy.

The most interesting answers, perhaps, came in the third section of the questionnaire, in which the doctors were asked what they thought was the best "management" for a homosexual condition.

About two-thirds—64.8 per cent—thought it was best to help a patient adjust; 58.1 per cent said secondary symptoms, like anxiety, should be treated; 19 per cent considered it best left well alone; 12.9 per cent said a patient should be referred to an organ-

isation like the Albany Trust. And asked whether they would attempt to change a patient into a bisexual, 25.2 per cent said they would try by psychotherapy, 19.5 per cent by behaviour or aversion therapy, and 8.5 per cent by drugs. Here again, the GPs and psychiatrists were widely at variance among some of their answers. But to consider the figures as the average percentages they are intended to be, and to look at them a little harder, it means that one in five doctors would consider aversion therapy as treatment, and one-third of them would *not* consider helping a patient to adjust.

In the last section, the doctors were asked whether they considered their attitudes were modified by their own sense of morality, or whether they were purely intellectual and dispassionate. Sixty-nine per cent admitted their own morality had something to do with it; the other 31 per cent reckoned they were dispassionate.

In a summary, Dr Morris wrote that his overall impression was that most doctors were willing to fall in with their patients' wishes and that offers of help and treatment were available on request. This would seem, he wrote, to be a healthy attitude in keeping with the best tradition of medicine.

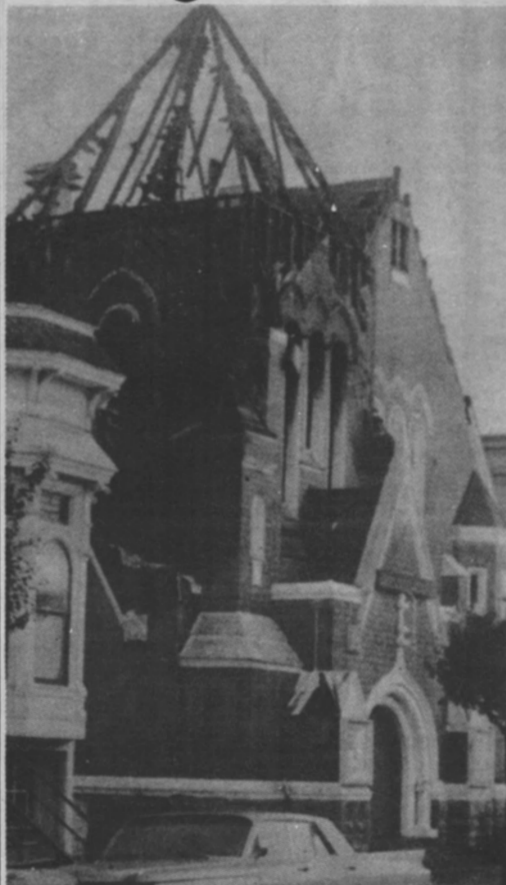
The inquiry gave rise to an appeal from Dr Jane Thompson, of the Newcastle-Upon-Tyne and District Counselling Centre. In a letter to the *British Journal of Psychiatry*, which is compiled by the Royal College of Psychiatrists, she called for an investigation of her patients who had been brought up by their grandmothers.

"The impression I got was that grandmothers tend to fondle their grandchildren overmuch. The infant is a bundle of erotic zones, some more vulnerable than others," she wrote. "This is not important in the case of the female child but it is devastating in the case of the male child whose instinctual maleness is, albeit unconsciously, affronted. One man described it as being 'smothered by breasts'..."

Her suspicion is that the cause of homosexuality is this over-petting. If this is so, she wrote, it might be dealt with satisfactorily by proper teaching regarding eroticism in infancy and the care needed in regard to it.

Brian Kerr

Arsonists Torch Gay Church



The remains of San Francisco's MCC church. The charred timbers of the steeple and roof are reminiscent of pictures of the Mother Church in Los Angeles after its destruction in January.

SAN FRANCISCO: The Metropolitan Community Church here was gutted during early hours of July 27 by a fire which "was definitely arson", according to one fire department official.

The church has been the place of worship for many gay church-goers during recent years. The fire came four days after a blaze in Los Angeles which almost reached the offices of the Metropolitan Church (see news item this page).

Arsonists apparently entered the building by breaking a heavy wired glass panel in the door at the side of the church. Lt George Kelly of the arson squad called the fires "very amateurish" — matches and matchbooks were seen in several locations in the sanctuary.

The roof of the Church is a total loss, with the remaining sections heavily damaged by fire and water.

The Rev James Sandmire of the MCC explained: "Because this was such an old building, and because, particularly, we've had fires all over the country, we purposely moved most of our valuables out of here."

Although he didn't feel there was any national, anti-gay conspiracy against the church, Mr Sandmire said, "we have a right to some nervousness on this."

MCC moderator, the Rev Troy Perry, said he didn't think it was an organised conspiracy by one group, but rather . . . "the national conspiracy that I think our country suffers from, in that people have been taught for so long that we're fair game for anyone."

In recent weeks there has been an outbreak of fires at gay gathering places, the only fatal one being the New Orleans bar fire which killed 32 people.

Church Offices - A Close Call

LOS ANGELES: Fast action by the fire department has saved the MCC from another potential disaster. On July 23rd a fire broke out in a bar in the downstairs section of a building housing the MCC offices. The bar was non-gay and authorities say the fire was of an electrical nature.

MCC moved into the offices after its own building was destroyed by fire in January — church officials have never been satisfied with the explanation that the last fire was accidental, but the latest fire does not seem to be of a suspicious nature.

The MCC have not been enjoying a smooth passage of late — on the week of the fires, an official resigned because the church had become "too preoccupied with gay liberation, head-counting and political motivations."

Sacked Rev May Sue

BOSTON: The Rev Dr Alberts, who married two gays here with much publicity recently, has threatened to take his Bishop to court for forcing him to retire.

Gay Education Supplied On Tape

A GENTLE attempt to educate the baffled, non-understanding non-gay community has been launched by the Albany Society.

The campaign — soft and perhaps too unobtrusive — is the brainchild of the Society's council member Anthony Kildwick, who got together a small crowd of well chosen, well-versed people, to break the news about homosexuality in a way that could allow it to be discussed over the cornflakes.

The heart-to-heart natter about gayness has been put onto two cassette tapes. One tape is for people who fall into the Society's definition of teenagers, and the other one, it says, has been aimed at adults.

The Society aims to distribute the tapes free of charge to as many educational bodies as possible throughout the country. They're also being sold privately for 50p each direct from the producer and the Albany Trust.

The all-about-gayness tapes are made up of five fairly brief statements on various aspects of homosexuality, finishing with a ten-minute interview with CHE member Tony Ryde, and former National Organiser of Friend, Michael Launder.

The tapes — or more correctly, gay-education programmes — are an obvious method of telling it as nicely as possible with no cause for alarm and not even a case for a blush from even the most uptight parents.

It all starts with a brief rundown on the sexual development of boys and girls — an authoritative statement by a doctor who works in the young peoples' unit of a large provincial hospital. It is not a weighty academic analysis . . . rather a logical, almost cold matter of fact look at homosexuality, treated with the same nonchalance as a headache. It makes it very clear that there is simply no medical hangup about homosexuality.

Then there's the religious aspect, hand in hand with the morality question of gayness. The only real blue ribbon part of the tape, because it always means a lot to hear a cleric

giving a deep testimony, whether it be about gayness or God. And he makes it quite clear — not in church logic — that maybe there is a reasonable correlation between the love generated by a true understanding between two people — regardless of sexual orientation — and the way the Church hopes people will live together. It's told very neatly and very nicely by Malcolm Johnson, Student Chaplain at the Queen Mary College, University of London.

Jackie Forster, smooth, authoritative, and certainly one of the most publicised gay 'leaders' in London, steps into the light lecture with her analysis of the homosexual problem of girls and women. Again, done in a way to shield worried parents from worry, and making it clear that there is no cause for worry anyway.

Jackie's role in the tape perhaps should have been stronger. A fine talker, but if it was a full-bodied attempt to allay all the old-fashioned phobias about female gayness, it fell short somewhere.

Rose Robertson of Parent's Enquiry touches on a couple of tender points about gayness when she advises the right way for young people to tell their parents about their suspected gayness. She also discusses some of the things parents should do when they in turn discover that they have a gay son or daughter.

Anthony Kildwick, the producer of the programme, discusses gays and marriage, leading into a three-cornered discussion with Tony and Mike.

In a barren wasteland of down-to-earth information about homosexuality, the tape is a much-needed tonic. It is informative, but perhaps a little over-cautious for fear of offending anybody.

And if you want a copy, both tapes — the long and the short of gayness — are available at 50p each from Anthony Kildwick, Flint Cottage, Wendens Ambo, Saffron Walden, Essex and the Albany Trust, 32 Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1.

Tim Skinner



"Yes, but what does it do in bed?"

Brutal Murders Shock World

HOUSTON: The systematic rape, slaughter, then burial of an estimated 30 youths has attracted front-page headlines across the world, and the case may possibly be cited as the most horrendous sexual atrocity to take place outside wartime.

Detectives came to grips with the mass murders when two teenage youths revealed they had taken part in the carnage.

Elmer Henley, 17, said he and another youth were paid up to £4 for each boy they procured for Dean Corll, 33. Henley also claimed Corll forced them to take part in torture, sex and murder. He eventually shot and killed Corll during an orgy at Corll's home.

Henley's partner, 18-year-old David Brooks (married with a pregnant wife) has also been charged with murder. However, Brooks told detectives that Henley operated as a ringleader of the slaughtering: "Henley was extremely sadistic and liked to tie the boys down spread-eagled on a board on the floor and perform an unnatural sex act before murdering them." Brooks said the victims were "apparently strangers or acquaintances."

Whilst the remains of the victims are being dug up from beneath a boat-house rented by Corll, Henley said: "Dean decided he wanted to have sex with them, killed them and then brought them here."

The extent of the horror has been fully dealt with by the national press.

The possible repercussions should also be dealt with. The millions who read the reports of the murders may associate the case, either directly or subliminally, with gay people in general, and may see this mass-murder as a logical argument against encouraging the freedom of gay people. The initial reactions may be very bad for the gay image at large.

It is imperative that the mental conditions of those who perpetrated the murders be reconstructed as thoroughly as the facts surrounding the case. How far were their mental disturbances aggravated by the pressures of a society which stigmatises all homosexuality?

In the final analysis perhaps this terrifying case will serve to show dramatically just why gay liberation is so necessary.



Maugham To Rescue Nijinsky

NOVELIST and playwright Robin Maugham is to write a play about Nijinsky. Maugham, author of *The Servant*, *The Wrong People* and a controversial autobiography, *Escape From The Shadows*, is currently in Bad Gastein, Austria, with Madame Romola Nijinsky (the dancer's widow). Madame Nijinsky specially requested that Robin Maugham work with her on the play. Maugham commented: "It is a fascinating story, and will make an amazing play. Most people have been incredibly prejudiced against Madame — looking at the story from Diagalhev's point of view. I want to get a balanced picture and write a play with no villain."

CHE To Receive Civic Reception

CHE To Receive Civic Reception

THE Malvern Urban District Council has officially accepted the application by the Campaign for Homosexual Equality to hold its 1974 National Conference in Malvern.

Also approving the decision is the Malvern Hills Council, which takes over office April 1st '74 as part of a change in local government organisation.

The council will accord CHE a civic reception. The date planned for this is the night of May 23rd.

The conference begins May 24th, winding up on the 27th. The three-day period includes a bank holiday, and this was a key element in CHE's desire to hold the conference at Malvern, rather than Brighton, the first rumoured location. Brighton Council could offer facilities for two days only, and CHE are pleased with the fact that Malvern can offer facilities for the bank holiday, giving extra time for business and social activities.

GLF To Picket Hendon Times

LONDON: Angered by editorial remarks which appeared in the Hendon Times, the London Gay Liberation Front is planning to picket the newspaper. The demonstration will leave Hendon Central Tube at 2pm on Saturday August 25th.

GLF is demanding a withdrawal of statements made by editor Dennis Signy in the June 29th and July 6th newspaper editorials.

Brian Burt of London GLF said: "In Gay News 29 there was a call for gay unity, and that's what we're aiming for here . . . for 'gaypower' to be more than merely a word. GLF asks all gays to take some action on this: Anthony Grey, NFHO, Jackie Forster and Sappho, CHE, SMG, St Catherine's Group, Kenric, Jewish Gaysoc, Gaysocs and gays on the club and pub scene.

"These words were used about you — 'Perverts', 'Abnormal', 'Dangers', 'Evils', 'Undesirables'. We want the Hendon Times editor to promote a spirit of community care by dispelling the myths and prejudices against gay people and by campaigning for pleasant, comfortable places for gays to meet.

"The Hendon Times is part of the vast Westminster Press Group which owns papers all over the country, and is itself a subsidiary of Pearson Longman, who also own the Financial Times and Penguin Books. The names, addresses and phone numbers of editors and directors are all publicly available. We realise not everyone will be able to march at Hendon, but you can write or phone."

Sex Club Silence Stanbury: Not Talking

ALL is silent from the Dennis Stanbury camp — the closely-watched headquarters of the Happiness Club — the London-based sex-contact club which has fallen into the spotlight in the past few months.

Since the Gay News exposure of Stanbury's operations in threatening blackmail tactics to get money from former members of his club, more reports from those ex-members have been sent to Gay News and to the Scotland Yard division handling investigations into his operations.

The Director of Public Prosecutions has also received more complaints, and a file on Stanbury has been prepared for consideration.

Meanwhile, Dennis Stanbury himself has gone into seclusion. After receiving his copy of Gay News last week, he has neither answered any telephone calls nor answered letters.

A top BBC programme into the Stanbury affair has been researched, using Gay News' background material, and its production has begun.

The Scotland Yard department handling the Happiness Club file told Gay News this week that there had been no new developments, but that the report on Stanbury had been handed over to the DPP.

Meanwhile, former members of the Happiness Club, until now continually pestered by demands from Stanbury for money, have heard no more from the founder-chairman of the club. Tim Skinner

Anti Gay Pub ~ Round 1 To Gay Lib

LEEDS: The fight against the Great Northern Hotel, formerly the drinking place of many local gays and now vigorously discriminating against them (GN28), has brought about a court action which was dismissed after one hour of confused evidence by police.

Leeds Gay Liberation Front members Martin O'Leary, 23, and Linda Lavender, 27, appeared before Leeds magistrates recently and pleaded not guilty to "obstructing the free passage of the highway". The pair were arrested during a GLF picketing of the Great Northern on July 7.

Police Sgt Michael Grinstead told magistrates four passers by "had to walk into the road in Wellington Street" because of the demonstration.

Sgt Grinstead said that when he arrived at the hotel, 14 people were standing in the entrance to the car park. "I asked Miss Lavender to leave and she said 'I know my rights. I don't want to.'" Miss Lavender said she was not obstructing because there was no footpath.

At the end of the defence evidence, the solicitor acting for the GLF members said "Here are two people who are charged with obstruction, but there is no evidence that they individually obstructed anyone."

The GLF members were discharged after an hour of evidence.

GLF continued its campaign following the July 7 arrests. A fortnight later, on Friday, the hotel was picketed with the aid of various representatives of political groups, and a solicitor was in attendance.

"The police were already there when we arrived", said GLF's Don Lonsdale. "We were warned three times that unless we moved we would be arrested. However, they realised that we were better-organised than in the past, and apart from everyone getting wet from rain, nothing much happened."

During the following week, a rumour that the Great Northern was again admitting gays began circulating. "It was arranged that instead of a picket the following Saturday, we would enter the hotel in groups of two's and three's wearing GLF badges. Everyone who went in was served, but one guy was stopped by the manager, who inquired of the nature of the GLF badge he was wearing. He was asked to leave, which he did, but some GLF Lancaster people refused to leave and police were called.

"Support from gays in the town is still strong, so a boycott of the pub has been called for, and will be accompanied by leafletting and poster campaigning. It has also been decided that each Saturday two people should enter the bar and refuse to leave until the police are called. We feel this will add to our publicity and cause a certain amount of embarrassment to other customers. This was done last Saturday and worked very successfully."

Doing The 'Holland Walk'

LONDON: In a letter published in the July 20 issue of the Kensington Post, Mrs H King complained "about the 'gay' people who collect in Holland Walk (which runs down the side of Holland Park) between the hours of 11pm and 4am" and also criticised the Kensington constabulary for never patrolling there. She said it was a disgrace and that at 2am one night she had seen "an act that really shocked me". Admitting that "this sort of thing had been going on for many years," Mrs King thought there had been an "increase in the number of 'gay' people walking between High Street Kensington and Holland Park Road" in the early hours of the morning.

In the July 27 edition of the Kensington Post which is the area's biggest selling local newspaper, there was a response to Mrs King's letter, but not perhaps the one she may have expected. In the letters column, Michael Petty asked: "Does Mrs King seriously suggest that the police waste their valuable time checking what 'gay' people may possibly be doing in Holland Walk between the hours of 11pm and 4am?"

"There is far too much really serious crime to be checked, with muggings on the undergrounds, old ladies robbed of their handbags, and the like. Although I am not condoning 'gay' practices in public, I honestly do not think it matters at all if this is happening in the Walk during these late hours. It affects no one—not even Mrs King, whom I am sure has not been invited to join in or look on. And what is Mrs King doing in the Walk herself at such late hours? I often walk home through the Walk late at night from work in Kensington. The only people I have noticed about are a few voyeurs hoping to see exactly what Mrs King describes."

In another letter, Jacqueline Castles queried: "While not qualified to comment on the gay scene in Holland Walk, I cannot help wondering what takes Mrs King there at 2am when she knows from past experience she may witness unpleasant scenes."

"In fact, police officers have been known to leap out of bushes in that area in the early hours of the morning, but to increase their effectiveness they tend not to wear uniform, and perhaps would not be easily recognisable to Mrs King."

"I suggest she take comfort from the fact that she is able to walk in safety, free from the fear of assault, which is not the case in many streets, in this borough late at night."

Nobody would dare offer such a suggestion of comfort to Mr Clive Hogarth, whose letter appeared in the August 3 edition of the paper. He bitterly complained that gay activities are not confined to Holland Walk... "The depravities are matched in more detail in the confines of Kensington Church Walk, St Mary Abbots Garden, and the adjoining graveyard, not forgetting the men's lavatory."

Mr Hogarth, eagerly keeping tabs on such activities, notes them as "the destruction of



Holland Walk: "... police officers have been known to leap out of bushes in the early hours of the morning..."

our way of life". This destruction is also perpetrated by young people "shopping endlessly in boutiques". There is an implicit sadness to his letter; Mr Hogarth says he did not give his youth to fight a war for these type of things to later happen.

In the same issue of the paper, another letter from Michael Petty was more an objective exercise than serving as an expression of personal sadness. Referring to his previous letter, Petty says: "During the weekend I received 19 telephone calls from both men and women endorsing my comments that valuable police time should not be wasted on what 'Gay People' may possibly be doing in the Walk late at night, when there is so much serious crime of robbery and violence to be dealt with in the Royal Borough."

GN kept an informal watch on Holland Walk the weekend after Mrs King's letter was published but saw no increased police activity, or much else. On the following Tuesday, a lone uniformed policeman made an appearance at about 2.30am. It has been reported to us though that two people were arrested and charged with 'gross indecency' in June of this year. They were apprehended by plainclothes officers.

GN advises gays using Holland Walk as a late night rendezvous to be careful and to keep their eyes open. It is the experience of some members of our staff that dark shapes behind trees and bushes sometimes turn out to be uniformed police officers with their helmets tucked underneath their arms.

ED: Thanks and love to the Kensington Post.

Here We Are Again

GN received a belated birthday present recently in the form of a flattering, but at the same time thought-provoking, article in the August 3 issue of the religious periodical 'British Weekly'.

The piece was headed "Congratulations on its First Gay Birthday" and was written by 'Marksman', an occasional columnist who subtitled his copy "Analysis of Europe's biggest selling independent newspaper for homosexuals." Apart from the compliments which we are still glowing over, we felt the article was important for a number of reasons, particularly because of the constructive and far-reaching implications such a piece may have in a well established publication which is deeply concerned with the role of the church in the political and social community.

What brought smiles to our faces though, was Marksman's description of GN as "... a well-produced, 20-page tabloid, a quite novel mixture of 'Time', 'Life', 'Daily Mirror', 'Woman' and 'Playboy', a distinct dash here and there of the 'New Statesman' or the 'Observer', I couldn't tell which. Quite a blend."

Quite a blend indeed! 'Marksman' next took aim at W H Smith. "As they already stock glossy porn I cannot for the life of me see why they should gag at GN which is clearly a responsible paper of integrity and serious purpose."

If any readers are interested in reading the article in full, the August 3 issue of 'British Weekly' (which, incidentally is published monthly!) can be ordered from most good newsagents or direct from the publishers, Christian Weekly Newspapers, 69 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1NN. It costs 5p.

Going Truly National

The lead editorial on page two explains why we consider the commencement of our relationship with the distributors Moore-Harness Ltd to be a significant event in the existence of GN. To repeat what is said in that piece, it is important for readers to remember that more than ever before, it is essential that you keep us informed about what is happening in your part of the country. As from GN31 it will be possible to purchase the paper in nearly every town and city in Britain (not Northern Ireland though, and we think we're on the banned list in Eire). So from now on we must consistently be a truly national newspaper, even if in some cases it is only to say that gays in your area live quiet and unharrassed lives.

Don't forget, we really do need your news items, articles, letters and information to continually come flowing in at a furious rate.

Although GN's availability will be greatly increased in newsagents etc, you'll still be able to buy the paper from the clubs, pubs and gay organisations who at present sell it. As ever, their help and co-operation is greatly appreciated. In London, GN people will continue to sell each new edition in the local gay pubs.

Meanwhile, Back at the Basement...

Tim Skinner, GN's ace reporter and feature writer, has to return to Australia for a few weeks at the end of this month, but will be writing for the

paper when he returns. This means we'll be somewhat short-staffed for a while until we can find someone to replace Tim. It is intended though, that once the current editorial problems are sorted out, that GN reporters will be getting around the country far more than they have done in the past.

Learning to Laugh

In the past, GN has been criticised for being too serious and for not having a sense of humour. This problem has now been partly solved by us making use of the talents of two very amusing cartoonists, Grant Dowling and Peter Wicker.

Grant, a charming Australian, was responsible for the front cover of GN29 and also the witty visual comment on the timid and restrictive attitudes of Brewers. He'll be regularly supplying us with humorous and topical cartoons to brighten up GN's pages.

Peter makes his first contribution in this issue and we'll also be featuring his work in subsequent editions.

VD Blues

A growing number of readers have asked us to run another feature on venereal diseases, with specific reference to the 'special clinics' advice of having regular check-ups. GN has already published articles about VD, but as knowledge—even with today's more enlightened and less moralistic attitudes—is limited and/or surrounded by social taboos, we appeal to any doctor reading this column to write for the paper an informative and gay orientated piece on the subject.

Incidentally, in London, information about VD symptoms and where to go for treatment can be obtained by telephoning 246-8072.

'A Deplorable Habit'

Without wishing to preach at the people who make use of GN's personal ad columns, it has been brought to our attention by some of our readers that many people don't bother to reply to letters sent to their box numbers and that the phrase 'all letters answered' (ALA) means very little.

A reader in Kent calls it "a deplorable habit", as it not only wastes peoples' time, stationery, stamps and photographs, but it is also thoughtless and rude. Of course, not all contacts made through the personal ads will turn out to be beneficial to the individuals involved, but it is unkind and unthinking to completely ignore letters sent to box numbers. Even a short note acknowledging receipt of letters would help matters.

Dates and Deadlines

The next edition of Gay News (No 31) will be published and available on September 6. Details of advertising deadlines and copy dates for that issue can be found under the contents section on Page 2 and at the beginning of the Personal ads columns on Page 17. It is important to refer to these dates to avoid disappointment.

Gay News

Staff Vacancies At Gay News

Office Manager

Can you count to ten without missing more than a couple of numbers? If you can, you may be just the person Gay News is looking for. We desperately need someone with a head for figures. The Chosen One will be required to run the office, keep the paper's books in good health, fight off creditors, and try and persuade the rest of the people in the office that we can't afford to go to thirty-two pages of full colour until some time late in 1999. Besides being a master of elementary book-keeping, an applicant should be able to type, and have some sense of organisation. He or she would be able to earn more blacking boots in Leicester Square, but would rather give up everything to work for Gay News. If you phone or write to Michael Mason at the GN offices and can

persuade him that you live up to all these qualifications, you'll be half way to landing yourself an exciting job.

Writer/Reporter

Gay News is on the look out for another writer/reporter. This paragon of all virtues will ideally be an experienced journalist, perhaps a member of the NUJ, will have shorthand, be able to type (and spell!), will thrive on long hours, be more dedicated to what Gay News is trying to do than to making money (and you've got to be that or a masochist), and will be a man or a woman, although others will not be rejected out of hand. Just write your race, colour and religion on a postcard and send it to your mother. Then get in touch with Denis Lemon at the GN offices, either by letter or phone.

North London's Only Gay Night Club

SHANE'S

1 BROADHURST GARDENS LONDON NW6

(Finchley Road, behind John Barnes)

TELEPHONE : 01-624 9838

Featuring Two Bars and Lively Discotheque

Friendly Atmosphere

Fully Licensed

Photograph : Denis Lemon (Gayshot)

Photograph courtesy of a GN reader.



Spanish Drag

Above, Laurie Phillips, who presents a drag act at the Bolo Club, on the Barcelona Road in Calella, Spain. Although Spain is notoriously anti-gay, a GN reader writes that the club is "semi-gay, no admission charge or membership is required, and it's open from 10.30pm till 5am. Also well worth a visit is the very gay San Sebastian beach at Barcelona, with individual beach huts and a swimming pool."

We can't promise a newly-liberated Spain, but that's what our reader says.

On With The Dance

BRIGHTON: Undeterred by Brighton Council's rather pathetic refusal to allow them to hold dances on Corporation property, Sussex Gay Lib recently held a highly successful dance at the Royal Albion Hotel, Brighton. The event attracted 200 people and it is to be followed by another at the

Troubled Water

MAY we remind you that GN operates a Problem/Advice/Help column appearing under the heading Troubled Water.

If you are at all worried or anxious about any matter, large or small, drop us a line to the address at the end of this piece. Strict confidence is guaranteed and if you prefer your letter not to be published, please state so clearly and you will receive a personal reply.

Centre*, an experienced and qualified gay befriending service, who describe themselves as a 'Community Care and Counselling Project', are helping us answer any serious or difficult problems that we feel unable to adequately advise on.

All sexes are welcome to use this service.

Write to us at:
Dept T/W,
Gay News,
34d Redcliffe Square,
London SW10.

*Centre can be contacted directly by writing to Centre, Broadley Terrace, London NW1, or by telephoning 01-262 9595.

HE is playing masculine. She is playing feminine.

He is playing masculine *because* she is playing feminine. She is playing feminine *because* he is playing masculine.

He is playing the kind of man that she thinks the kind of woman she is playing ought to admire. She is playing the kind of woman that he thinks the kind of man he is playing ought to desire.

If he were not playing masculine, he might well be more feminine than she is — except when she is playing very feminine. If she were not playing feminine, she might well be more masculine than he is — except when he is playing very masculine.

So he plays harder. And she plays . . . softer.

He wants to make sure that she could never be more masculine than he. She wants to make sure that he could never be more feminine than she. He therefore seeks to destroy the femininity in himself. She therefore seeks to destroy the masculinity in herself.

She is supposed to admire him for the masculinity in him that she fears in herself. He is supposed to desire her for the femininity in her that he despises in himself.

He desires her for her femininity which is *his* femininity, but which he can never lay claim to. She admires him for his masculinity which is *her* masculinity, but which she can never lay claim to. Since he may only love his own femininity in her, he envies her her femininity. Since she may only love her own masculinity in him, she envies him his masculinity.

The envy poisons their love.

He, coveting her unattainable femininity, decides to punish her. She, coveting his unattainable masculinity, decides to punish him. He denigrates her femininity — which he is supposed to desire and which



The world belongs to what his masculinity has become.

The reward for what his masculinity has become is power. The reward for what her femininity has become is only the security which his power can bestow upon her. If he were to yield to what her femininity has become, he would be yielding to contemptible incompetence. If she were to acquire what his masculinity has become, she would participate in intolerable coercion.

She is stifling under the triviality of her femininity. The world is groaning beneath the terrors of his masculinity.

He is playing masculine. She is playing feminine. How do we call off the game?

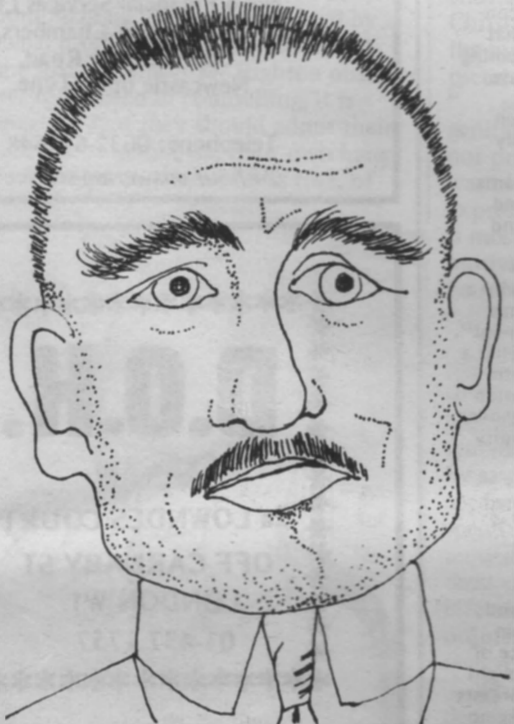
ED: Reprinted, with love and thanks, from *Gay Liberator*, Detroit, USA.

Masculine Feminine

he really envies — and becomes more aggressively masculine. She feigns disgust at his masculinity — which she is supposed to admire and which she really envies — and becomes more fastidiously feminine. He is becoming less and less what he wants to be. She is becoming less and less what she wants to be. But now he is more manly than ever, and she is more womanly than ever.

Her femininity, growing more dependently supine, becomes contemptible. His masculinity, growing more oppressively domineering, becomes intolerable. At last she loathes what she has helped his masculinity to become. At last he loathes what he has helped her femininity to become.

So far, it has all been very symmetrical. But we have left one thing out.



Illustrations: Jean-Claude Thevenin

Out Of The Ghetto

MOST male homosexuals have gone through the tortures of the damned from the time they first realised that while their mates were going for the girls, they were still lusting after the boys. They knew of the stereotype pansy, effeminate, limp-wristed and fighting a losing battle against the ravages of age (and gin) and the dirty old men in dirty old raincoats . . . The feeling of being doomed to a life hanging about in lavatories or camping in near drag.

Then the joy of finding that there were others with the same feelings, that there was a whole society of decent people of like mind. People who were witty and spoke an almost private language; people who rubbed shoulders (if nothing else) with almost the highest in the land and knew the famous by first names. If we were young and reasonably good looking, they would buy us drinks and take us to wonderful parties. The wonderful freemasonry of the gay life and we were members — life members.

However, nearly 95% of the population is nearly straight and among them are some of the best musicians, thinkers, artists etc. These straights have a lot to offer us and I do not wish to cut them off from our company.

In a mildly successful effort to bring these two cultures together, *Integroup* started about three years ago. *Integroups* break barriers. They are societies of men and women who meet to promote integration between homosexuals and heterosexuals and a better understanding of human relationships. They maintain an even balance between gay and straight and a reasonable balance between men and women. They never ask peoples' sexual orientation but find that people will tell when they are ready to do so, and in the easy, friendly, relaxed atmosphere of an *Integroup* meeting, that is very soon.

To help members in their own thinking, regular meetings are held. There is usually a discussion meeting at which an expert in a particular field or a knowledgeable speaker leads. In the ensuing discussion, sexual identity ceases to be a matter of concern. There are also social occasions at the members' homes, where people meet, mix and enjoy the company.

Integroups are primarily putting-in and not taking-out organisations. Members give time and effort so that they and others can understand better, but they seem to enjoy integrating, which is just eating, drinking and talking with other people.

Integroup are ready to try and inform others and are ready to send out a pair of speakers — one straight and one gay — to any organisation able to provide a reasonably intelligent audience or discussion group.

Initially *Integroups* promote among their members a mutual understanding and respect. At this stage the straight have most to gain, for it is one thing to hold liberal attitudes, but another to practice and experience them. They find this personally enriching. Gay people too, benefit from being able to be themselves in an integrated society and find that 'the others' are not always hostile.

Integroup leads the way from the ghetto to the freedom of the whole wide world.

At present there are three *Integroups* — all meeting in London, at Guildford, Golders Green and Kensington. On Sunday 16th September, two members from Golders Green — one straight and one gay — are going to the Isle of Wight where they will speak about *Integroup* and homosexuality at the 6.30 meeting at the Unitarian Meeting House*

at Newport. It is to be hoped that some gay people from the island will go along, as well as the intelligent straights.

Dudley Scott

*The minister of the Meeting House wrote a letter 'I Welcome Gays' which was published in *Gay News* 23.

News From Cardiff

Boring Meetings

THE Cardiff CHE group (who are threatened with eviction from the Chapter Arts Centre, as reported in GN29) have set up a special working committee to examine the lack of interest in meetings. The Committee will examine ways to improve meetings and reasons for the falling attendance. A form has been prepared and issued to members — so far 75 percent have replied.

At a recent CHE meeting, the time allotted allowed only mention of the Friend Organisation and the education issue. There has been a very apparent lack of life to the gatherings.

Cottaging in Newport and Cardiff

It might well be a thing of the past — cottages continue to be demolished without replacement, and police keep a regular watch on the remaining few which they consider need supervision.

Martin Rees

The Thil

IF HOMOSEXUALITY IS BECOMING
ACCEPTABLE
WHY CAN'T I FIND A
HOMOSEXUAL TO
ACCEPT ME



PETE WICKER . . .

Gay News Mail Order

Funeral Rites — Jean Genet	50p	Sexual Freedom League (Report)	60p
Querelle of Brest — Jean Genet	60p	The Obscenity Report	50p
Our Lady of Flowers — Jean Genet	50p	Fields of Wonder — Rod McKuen	£1.00
Miracle of the Rose — Jean Genet	60p	The Homosexual Dialectic — Joseph A McCaffrey	£1.20
Thief's Journal — Jean Genet	35p	Twelve Years of Christmas — Rod McKuen	80p
The Exile of Capri — Roger Peyrefitte	30p	Patience and Sarah — Isabel Miller	£1.75
Diplomatic Conclusions — Roger Peyrefitte	40p	Escape from the Shadows — Robin Maugham	£3.50
The City and the Pillar — Gore Vidal	35p	Body Charge — Hunter Davis	£2.00
Myra Beckenridge — Gore Vidal	40p	The Second Sex — Simone de Beauvoir	75p
Lesbian/Woman Del Martin/Phyllis Lyon	60p	The Dialectic of Sex — Shulamith Firestone	50p
Well of Loneliness — Radclyffe Hall	50p	Child of the Sun — Lance Horner/Kyle Onstott	40p
No End to the Way — Neville Jackson	25p	The Immoralist — Andre Gide	30p
Sandel — Angus Stewart	40p	Journals — Andre Gide	75p
Another Country — James Baldwin	35p	Out of the Closets — Laud Humphreys	£1.20
Giovanni's Room — James Baldwin	25p	Tea Room Trade — Laud Humphreys	£2.50
The Au Pair Boy — Andrew McCall	30p	Fourth Angel — John Rechy	£1.75
Last Exit to Brooklyn — Hubert Selby Jr	50p	Beardsley (a biography) — Stanley Weintraub	50p
The Ticket That Exploded — William Burroughs	35p	Homosexuality and Psychological Functioning — Mark Freedman	£1.25
The Soft Machine — William Burroughs	35p	Jackarandy — Leo Madigan	£1.75
The Naked Lunch — William Burroughs	45p	Candy — Terry Southern/Mason Hoffenberg	40p
Wild Boys — William Burroughs	£1.00	Fadeout — Joseph Hansen	£1.80
Give You Oscar Wilde — Desmond Hall	40p	Death Claims — Joseph Hansen	£1.80
Homosexual — Oppression and Liberation — Denis Altman	£2.50	Homosexuality — A Changing Picture — Dr Hendrik Ruitenbeek	£2.75
Hyperstud — Clif David	70p	A Soldier Erect — Brian Aldiss	35p
Mind Blower — Marco Vassi	70p	The Hand Reared Boy — Brian Aldiss	35p
Frost — Richard Amory	70p	Speaking Out — Poetry by CHE Company of 9	50p
All Is Well — Dirk Vanden	70p	Female Homosexuality — Frank Caprio, MD	50p
Cocksure — Mordecai Richler	40p	Mr Madam — Kenneth Marlowe	40p
The Other Love — H Montgomery Hyde	75p	I Said The Demon — George Baxt	£1.05
The L-Shaped Room — Lynne Reid Banks	35p	Cruising — Gerald Walker	30p
City of Night — John Rechy	50p	Fielding Gray — Simon Raven	30p
This Day's Death — John Rechy	£1.75	Cupid's Crescent — Laurence Collinson	£1.00
Picture of Dorian Gray — Oscar Wilde	30p		
Poor Cook — Susan Campbell/Caroline Conran	60p		
Vegetarian Cookery — Janet Walker	40p		
To Fall Like Lucifer — Ian Harvey	£1.00		

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS — BEAT THE RUSH AND ORDER YOUR COPY NOW

The Queens' Vernacular — as featured in *Gay News* — special pre-publication offer only £1.20 + 5p post & Packing — a saving of 25p (retail price now will be £1.50). This offer is exclusive to GN readers only.

(Please note, *The Queens' Vernacular* is not available until August and only orders received before the date of publication can be supplied with the book at the special price.)

SILVER RINGS — priced £1.00 — State small, medium or large.



Actual size

GN Bangle to match the Rings — £3.50

PLEASE SEND ME THE FOLLOWING

FOR WHICH I ENCLOSE CHEQUE/PO PAYABLE TO GAY NEWS MAIL ORDER, VALUE: £

All items are post free. To: **Gay News Mail Order, 34d Redcliffe Square, London SW 10.**
Please allow 14 days for delivery.

NAME

ADDRESS

Sex Change ~ From The Inside

ON the night of June 4th this year, I chaired a programme on BBC 2 (ED: Reported in GN25) by the Transsex Liberation Group being myself a sex change of some three years' duration. For the first time on any network in the world, transsexuals sat down and put their side of the story. It differs markedly from the version put to the public by those on the outside, however sympathetic.

In a recent article in Gay News (GN26), John Gough, in our view, fell for most of the old clichéd attitudes that pass for science in this field. This is not only unscientific, but socially inimical, both to transsexuals and their kindred in the sexual spectrum, the homosexuals. To write of 'genes interacting with the environment, creating a predisposition to maladaptation, with results varying from mild neurosis to homosexuality or schizophrenia', is to assign us all to the Funny Farm, the padded cells or the Casualty Department! This does wonders for the egos of heterosexuals, but little for their humility, still less for truth, and nothing whatever for the rights of all men and women.

Homo Sapiens is an evolving species. Unlike coelocanths and certain species of ants who have remained unchanged from what they were a hundred million years ago, Man moves on, ever changing. He is also an inter-sex species; meaning that both sexes show marked physical similarities to the so-called opposite sex. Men have nipples and atrophied wombs, women have a mini-penis called the clitoris. But beyond these characteristics which man shares with other mammals, he is a thinking species. As such he exhibits further marked inter-sex behaviour.

It is a newly discovered fact of evolutionary biology that in most life forms where evolution has become stabilised, homosexuality is unknown. Man, unlike most other species, is an emergent species, not yet at the end of his evolutionary cycle. Homosexuality is virtually confined to Man, being in fact a characteristic of an emergent species. What had previously been regarded as homosexuality in other animals, is now seen to be inverted heterosexuality. In such cases one of the partners always imitates the manners of the female sex in love play. It is a pity that medical and scientific opinion in society has been conditioned by the legal system to regard all sexual contacts between genetic males as 'homosexual', (or between genetic females for that matter). But even a child should have no difficulty in perceiving that there is a significant difference between two men going together, accepting themselves as men, and glad to be so (ie homosexuality), and two men going together, one of whom imitates the opposite sex and is attracted by his partner to the degree that he effects the impersonation. This is inverted heterosexuality. And this is what transsexuals emerge from, as a stabilised process, beyond the butch-effeminate relationship. A new stabilised process within the overall emergence, provides a springboard from which a new emergent process can be initiated. This is how the evolution of Man continues. End it — and Man's future is ended as the spearhead of this planetary life system.

To speak of neurosis as the contrary of 'normal' is to fail to perceive that far from this being so, precisely the opposite is the case. For neurosis is the natural state of Man who is in the mainstream of evolutionary impetus. This is Man's true 'normal' state, for he is ever developing. 'Order' may be beloved of legislators, doctors, and even some who consider themselves scientists, but the awkward fact is that 'disorder' is the natural state; or rather the true order of things lies far



Della Aleksander: 'We are all inter-sex to a degree.'

deeper than superficial minds are prepared to delve. So it is not some strange anomaly that the great of this world, in the arts and letters, and even those prominent in politics and the military arts have been frequently homosexual, bisexual or advanced intersex with transsexual tendencies. And that those who would pass a psychiatric 'normality' test are frequently the drones and passive conformers of society.

Throughout Nature, wherever there is an absence of mates of the opposite sex, then members of one sex will go through a ritual impersonation of the other. But when, for example, females are once again available as mates, then both actors in the drama return to 'normal' sexual activity; both the butch and the femme. In Man this ritualisation process occurs between affairs falsely termed homosexual, where the heterosexual roles are imitated. The sex-change has gone beyond this ritualisation process, thanks to modern hormone treatment and surgery, so that for the first time in our history, the median line between the sexual poles of maleness and femaleness has been crossed in a stable fashion. A fusion of the male and female principles has been effected in the one organism, which has never before been possible!

This fusion is what the old alchemists sought — the true Philosopher's Stone, the hierogamos — the 'sacred marriage within'. When this fusion occurs, the gnostic Christians believed a new age would dawn for mankind: the Kingdom of God. Or, in our terms, a new age nurturing a new racial type. What this will ultimately mean or how it will be accomplished we cannot say. Certainly, it is not uncontrolleable that eventually we will be able to control the genes and perhaps eventually surpass sex as a redundant process.

One thing at this juncture is certain — homosexuals and transsexuals should expose, for the lie that it is, that they are the dregs of society. In all evolutionary processes there is vast wastage — Nature is always prodigal. Admittedly, many transsexuals and homosexuals too, to a lesser degree, often display symptoms of psychosis. But, as we endeavoured to show, viewed from the

standpoint of racial survival this is not a negative thing. Rather than think of them as useless and despicable, we should see them as casualties in the glorious march of our species from the primeval mud to the stars and beyond!

The term 'transsexualism' was coined in 1956 by Dr Harry Benjamin of New York, a firm and valued friend. But it has been wildly misapplied. There is, in fact, no such thing as a transsexual, if that is meant to mean a person moving gradually from one sex to another without medical aid. A transsexual is an advanced inter-sex who does something about his advanced intersexuality. In other words, we are all inter-sex to a degree. But beyond a certain point, our intersexuality can become a problem. Changing sex is one way of handling that problem. It depends on many factors whether it is always the best. Some folk use the term 'transsexual' to mean someone who wants to become a woman or a man. This is liable to lead to confusion. For it tends to give the impression that wanting to do something is the same as becoming that thing! Would that it were so. But we have not yet evolved that far!

The last ditch stand of those who insist on labelling us all as either plainly men or plainly women, between whom there is a great gulf fixed (and non-conformers are merely aberrants within these insulated categories — queers and transsexuals), is to distinguish between sex and gender. This too has to be exposed for the unscientific sleight-of-hand that it is!

One surgeon in London, who is incidentally a charming person and an able technician, terms his operations in this field "gender reassignment". As gender is a behavioural term describing what a person does and not what a person is, the term is here nonsensical. Plainly, a physical operation if it reassigns anything, reassigns sex and not gender. We blame this kindly man less for this absurdity than the psychiatric opinion to which he is obliged to pay due deference. Psychiatry has ever been the mental arm of medicine designed to induce us to conform to accepted social patterns. It tends to pur-blindness when confronted with new data.

Cases abound of men who are married 'normally' who have female chromosomes, and women who have the opposite and live within marriage. In Price's 'Textbook of the Practice of Medicine', a Dr Chapple describes a beautiful girl with no abnormal body hair, lovely figure, breasts and vagina, yet possessing testicles and having no womb. A happily married man of my personal experience has a penis but no testicles — and a fully developed vagina. According to the 'sex and gender' brigade, the first is a man, the second a woman, both living out gender roles of the opposite sex.

The truth is that our sex is determined by many accumulative factors. The presence of penis or vagina can be a powerful impetus towards confirming a person in the male or female sex. In itself though, such is simply a physical adaptation.

Whether for the transsexual this is all it is to mean depends upon the transsexual. A surgically constructed vagina certainly impels the development rapidly towards the sex-change, that final stable crossing of the border into womanhood. And with its culmination, the prototype of a new synthesis is born. Such stand in the Vanguard of Humanity, not on the side lines. This is where we are at — and this is where we stand. And the devil take the hindmost!

Della Aleksander

ED: A second article by Ms Aleksander dealing with the social and psychological factors of transsexualism will be published in the near future.

Mene Mene Tekel Upharsin

SO — the breach is now official; the breach, that is, between the National Federation of Homophile Organisations, Campaign for Homosexual Equality and the Scottish Minorities Group. Following a delicate piece of manoeuvring, and with politically synchronised timing, CHE and SMG jointly have resigned from the NFHO. Although unsurprised and undismayed by this display of introverted fragmentation, I am disappointed that these internecine squabbles should — for the moment — have diverted the attention of the mainstream of homosexual suffrage from its concentration on the far more important issues of genuine acceptance, equality and freedom.

With a somewhat bombastic flourish, (gestures which women have long been accustomed to from male-orientated societies, whether straight or gay), CHE posted a "statement of disaffiliation", containing three points of issue. I now feel, as a very long-standing member of, and organiser within, the homosexual movement, that some objective and less emotional assessment should be made of the accusations made by CHE and the defences offered by the NFHO.

(1) CHE stated that the NFHO had "failed to fulfil the 'clearing house' function for which it was set up", and that "communications were poor". In reply to this, I would agree — to a certain extent — that the communications could be improved; but I would also add that it needs at least two parties for the purposes of communications, which cannot be established until, and unless, there is a response to an enquiry. CHE themselves are among the worst offenders of this 'nil response' act, since it took me 3½ years of patient trial to contact, (for the purposes of support and affiliation as aimed at by the NFHO) the local CHE group.

As regards the "clearing house" function; while granting that the actual administrative arrangements of the NFHO are not of optimum efficiency, the fact remains there has been established a satisfactory level of interchange and contact — certainly among the women's groups. This exchange of Group information is working at a practical and direct level, not merely on paper, and I can provide proof of this from the women themselves. This contact, I may add, is proving all the more beneficial by countering some distorted

reports of the women's groups which appear to be current among certain CHE groups run by men. (This last fact I can also prove by recent incidents, if I am asked to do so.)

(2) CHE has stated that the NFHO is "a means of creating dissension among the homophile movements". Ignoring the unnecessary and obvious malice motivating this remark, I can only say that CHE appears to be contradicting its earlier criticisms of the NFHO. Previously, they have accused the Federation of being "lethargic, stuffy, bourgeois and parochial". Since the "creation of dissension" must needs imply an expression of dynamic, radical movement, I fail to see how both of CHE's critical definitions can apply simultaneously. In fact, on several occasions, not the least of which was the Executive meeting on June 23rd, it has been the representatives of CHE who have proved obdurate, and presented irrelevant disagreements. These various objections were claimed to be an expression of the dissatisfaction of the grass-roots membership — a claim, I suspect, which would not be entirely supported by that very membership if a genuine enquiry were to be instigated.

(3) CHE has demanded that the NFHO "confine itself to the provision of administrative facilities and a discussion forum for member groups". Here I must remind the CHE Executive — indeed, must inform those of it who still seem to be culpably ignorant of the fact — that the NFHO has a full constitution, whose provisions have a wider scope than the above limitations demanded by CHE. As a member, not only of the NFHO Executive, but also of the original working party from June 1970, I have notes and agenda dating back through the meetings at which the NFHO constitution was drawn up, and I remind CHE again that their own representatives were present at these meetings. Any objections or amendments, and the final definitions of that constitution were ratified following mutual discussions, and I think that the cavalier demands which CHE are now imposing upon the aims and provisions of the NFHO are not only unconstitutional, but unbelievably ill-informed.

I hope that the foregoing statements will go some way towards redressing the balance of opinion in this current confrontation, which has

all the hallmarks of a guerilla campaign — lack of accurate information, areas of useless struggle, sporadic fighting and unco-ordinated partisanship. And guerilla campaigns are a drain on resources.

Within the last few months, I have been receiving increasing complaints and demands from the women's groups, expressing dissatisfaction with the masculine attitudes of CHE, and also with the apparent stagnation of the NFHO. I do not intend to expend energy on attempting to alter the first of these complaints, but with regard to the latter, the Secretary, the Chairman of the NFHO and myself have already begun improvements. Since one of the major complaints regarding CHE is the variance between their written claims and the practical demonstration of those claims, I feel that, at least within the NFHO, whatever claims are made can be substantiated in real terms — and this is especially true of the women's groups — though the aims have perhaps been too limited.

It is time that CHE began to work at really proving their concepts and statements, not merely dissipating their energies in idealism and disappointingly spiteful criticism, and it is time that the NFHO began to broaden their scope and put into practice the aims of their own constitution. Both have so much to offer, and if the personality differences cannot be adjusted, by either side, to fit major or minor roles, then perhaps they could at least be levelled to provide joint facilities for their memberships.

Meanwhile, may I point out to the men that while they concern themselves with wordy arguments, the women continue to work, forming groups, making contacts, exchanging ideas, and mutual help, and in our own still rather restricted way (restricted through other limitations of society) we are still chipping away at the rocks of prejudice, mistrust and ignorance which we are ALL still facing from the non-gay world. Just imagine — how the chipping could turn into a full-scale blasting operation if the gay world worked together.

Couldn't it?

Sharon M Murray,
Convener,
North Eastern Women's Group
(Executive Member NFHO)

Why camp out —
when you can buy your own
pad, cottage, business or trade?

Novo Financial Services Ltd

will tell you how.

We are specialists in low
payment 1st and 2nd mortgages,
business and venture capital.
No fees charged.

Phone or write:-

Novo Financial Services Ltd,
Barclays Bank Chambers,
305 Westgate Road,
Newcastle upon Tyne.

Telephone: 0632-611648
24-hour answering service

D.O.K.

2a LOWNDES COURT
OFF CARNABY ST
LONDON W1
01-437 1757

"ANYTIME YOU'RE FEELING GAY
JUST POP DOWN TO THE DOK."

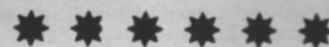


Friendly
Atmosphere



Disco

Licensed Bar



MONDAY THRU SATURDAY
TILL 3 AM

A GOOD DEAL FOR GAY NEWS
READERS!

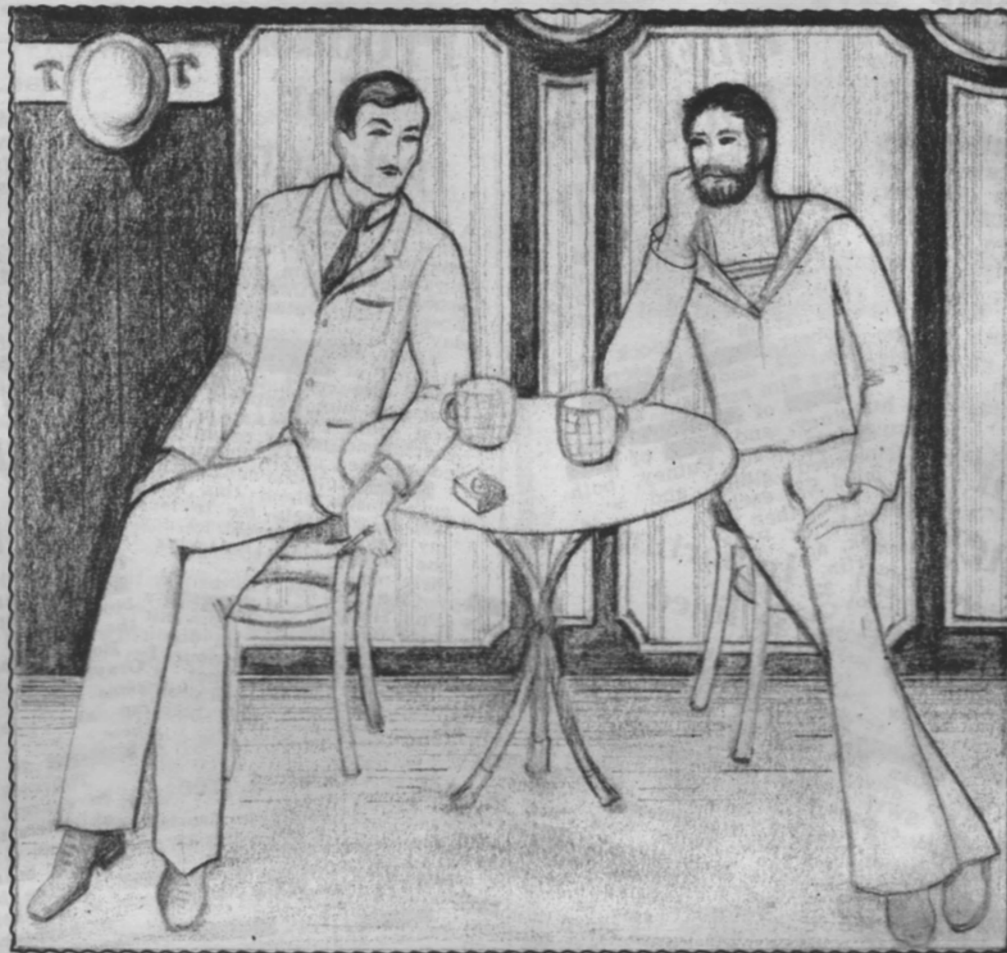
BUY YOUR HOUSEHOLD
ELECTRICAL GOODS FROM US
WITH 10% DISCOUNT

WRITE OR TELEPHONE
RAINSOFT (LONDON) LTD.,
3c MARKET PLACE, NW11.

TEL. 01-455 9857/3937

WE ALSO SPECIALISE IN
WATER SOFTENERS & SAUNAS

Gay Days Gone By



Gay In The Twenties

By Incognito

IN 1926, when I came down from Oxford, there was an atmosphere in England that had never been experienced before and has never been felt since. People were whispering a word that seemed ridiculous in an English context — revolution. But people were saying it seriously. There was the distinct impression that the old order was about to change.

I can remember going to a gay dinner party just after the General Strike had started. I had a long conversation with a gay friend of mine, and we agreed that a revolution was probable if the strike went on for a long time. We started to speculate what might come out of it.

We had the example of Germany and the Weimar Republic. Could the moral revolution that had happened there take place in England? Would the law at last withdraw from the nation's bedrooms? Would there be a new dawn for the homosexuals of England?

We were very hopeful. At the end of the evening, there was a rousing "hear hear" when our host proposed a toast to the revolution and the speedy introduction of the Code Napoleon into this country.

I was so filled with all this that I made a vow that if the revolution came about I would publicly press for a Gay Rights Bill — although I didn't use the word gay of course — whatever the consequences might be for myself. It was mostly the sherry talking, but I was sincere.

'A Certain Tone'

The following year I met the friend from the dinner party. The venue was the Rumbaba Club of blessed memory — the gay Atheneum of its day. It was known and frequented only by the select few.

We had a drink to the revolution which had not happened. In that palatial ghetto we were all too aware how little the cause had been advanced. Compared with the attitude in France, England was engulfed by a fog of sexual ignorance.

Before we became thoroughly gloomy ourselves, I suggested that we make a list of what was available to the homosexual in London at that time. To our surprise, it turned out to be a long list.

We agreed that the Rumbaba Club was at the top of the gay pyramid. The only thing that ever came near to touching it for class was the Apollo Club (not under any circumstances to be confused with the present day club of that name).

Both of these establishments were comfortably laid out, with several rooms, in which private dinner parties were given. One was often told of quite outrageous things going on, without ever having been witness to it oneself.

Both clubs, but especially the Rumbaba, seemed to spend a large amount of its energies on keeping potential members out. It was only for the rich, and the only thing that guaranteed one membership was a peerage, which was deemed to give the place a certain tone. Nobody accepts this fiddle de dee today, but at the time it was a common way of thinking.

There were a few other gay clubs, but they were a steep step down from the two mentioned above. There was the Florida, just behind the London Coliseum. This is not to be confused with the famous Florida Club which had a revolving dance floor, was very straight, and was destroyed during the war.

I know very little about the Florida, as I never went there, but it has since entered literary immortality.

In his novel 'Thin Ice', (the best gay novel in English) Compton Mackenzie describes a club which, my friends of that era tell me, could only have been the Florida. From Mackenzie's description it wasn't a very pleasant place.

Sharing A Glass

The homosexual of those days crossed social barriers with an ease unknown to other sections of society. The long vanished Cat and Flute in Charing Cross, all dark brown paint and sawdust on the floor, was the place to go if you wanted what would nowadays be called 'rough trade'.

The clientele consisted of two very contrasting sorts. On the one hand there was a large group of working class lads; on the other was a smaller group of middle class gentlemen trying to sound like Jack Buchanan (suave and devil-may-care). Many was the time that I stood in the corner, downing a pint and watching a pantomime that had been hallowed since Victorian times, at least.

What usually happened was that two young cockneys would scrape together enough money for a pint and then proceed to share a glass. (The practice of sharing glasses of beer disappeared with the advent of the welfare state, but was very common in those deprived times).

However, when they were about to share the glass, they were almost invariably approached by a plummy voiced man who would offer to buy another drink. This was accepted, and after a time one of the boys would drift away, leaving the other two, who would soon leave.

Some of the people who prostituted themselves were porters and dockers, but for the most part they were unemployed. Not all were homosexuals, by any means.

Working class families tended to be large in those days, and this was thought to be an easy way of earning money. I remember

hearing the words "I'm saving up to get married" so many times that I feel sure that in some cases they must have been telling the truth. Sex was not considered disgraceful if indulged in for money.

The rate was more or less fixed. A pound was the universally recognised fee, although an extra ten shillings was given if you took what was delicately called 'a personal liberty' (ie buggery).

(After a time I noticed that the working class seemed to expect the 'personal liberty' even more than the ten shilling it cost. Noblesse oblige, I suppose.)

Quite a different clientele was to be found in the 'Cri' Bar in Piccadilly. Here gathered what was called The Brittle Set. This bunch consisted of a group of fairly endearing effeminates who seemed to spend every evening of their lives in the theatre. After the opening night of a show they would flock to the 'Cri' Bar and there tear the show to pieces with malicious glee. Some of their criticisms were valid, but for the most part they were quite stupid.

Top Honours To The Navy

In those days the Services held a quite different attraction. Whereas the young unemployed at the Cat and Flute drifted into prostitution by chance or necessity, with the services it was largely a matter of tradition. This method of supplementing pay had been recognised for centuries.

The best place for meeting the soldiery was the Tattersall Tavern in Knightsbridge, which I believe is still standing. Whether the soldiers are still available or not, I do not know — I have not been to the place since before the last war. The Household Cavalry gave the best value for money.

But the Army came a poor second to the Navy.

Sailors had the advantage of having a genuinely erotic uniform. It was very flattering, quite unlike the uniform of recent times. The neck of the tunic was cut in a very rough square, which gave the wearer a very masculine appeal. The faces were often bearded, which helped. The trousers must have been made to titillate. They were very tight around the waist and bottom, but baggy around the ankles. If the sailor wore no underwear, then very little was left to the imagination.

This kind of company was to be found in the Drum near the Tower of London.

With the Army you paid for a few hours pleasure only. The Navy on the whole worked to a bigger time scale. I have the memory of many lovely weekends to look back on.

It was a good arrangement for both; I had the memory of a marvellous weekend; the sailor rarely went back to his ship without being at least £3 richer. That was a lot of money in those days.

Perhaps what I liked most about the Navy was the fact that they were more honest. I hardly ever got the "I'm saving up

to get married" routine from them.

'A Sense Of Caring'

Added to this were the Gay Parties. These were swell parties for the most part, and women never attended them. Even so, they were truly gay parties, which is more than I can say for some of the things passed off as such nowadays.

Towards the end of the 1920's the atmosphere in England changed. The sparkling twenties gave way to the grim thirties. I joined the Indian Civil Service, and in 1930 I set sail for the East to sample a very different kind of life. I might tell you about it one day.

What have I got to look back on? I am now riddled with arthritis, and can only rarely manage to totter along to the occasional Campaign for Homosexual Equality meeting, where the younger generation for the most part, go out of their way to make me feel unwelcome. I don't think I shall bother to renew my subscription.

About a year ago I would have said that I would have done anything to be young and homosexual now. Twelve months later I am not so sure. If the closet aspect of gay life in the twenties was bad, then perhaps I would be better off today.

But in those far off days, when your class was fixed, and it was only homosexuals who crossed the social barriers with ease, I think there was a truer sense of comradeship, a sense of caring.

I remember taking a young boy home for the weekend towards the end of the period I have been talking about. I found out that he desperately wanted to write. I was interested in this, and eventually managed to get him a job. True, he never wrote the books he wanted to, but he did become a respected journalist with a minor (and now extinct) Sunday paper. One never seems to hear of those sort of relationships nowadays.

All I have left that's really worth anything is my memories. I would like to think I am content.

ED: 'Gay In The Twenties' is the first of a series of articles which will appear under the general heading 'Gay Days Gone By'. We feel that they will be of interest to all readers, irrespective of age. Any readers who care to put pen to paper and remember 'golden' gay eras of yesterday are welcome to submit articles.

Bobby's

PRIVATE GUEST HOUSE

BED & BREAKFAST served until noon

50 Egremont Place — Brighton

Tel: Brighton 683961

* *

Easv Reach of Station

Close to Seafont. Bars and Clubs
Personal Attention Friendly Atmosphere
Advance Bookings Central Heating

Bath AND Wessex Finance

PROVIDING A COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL SERVICE

- £ Facilities for all aspects of business finance
Business loans for expansion, property purchase etc.
- £ Personal loans for all purposes
Home improvement, vacations
- £ Investment and savings opportunities
11% p.a. tax free, + life assurance, Free
- £ Mortgages and insurance arranged

For confidential and free advice
phone Bristol 292966
or write, 'Ingledene', Cleveland Row,
Bathwick, Bath

THE PSYCHIC RESEARCHER

& Spiritualist GAZETTE

will bring you up to date with what is happening in the field of psychical research, psychic phenomena, Spiritualism and ESP. The annual subscription for this monthly paper is £1.00 (UK). Write to: PR Publications, P.O. Box 6, Gerrards Cross, Bucks. SL9 8HP.

It takes a lot of confidence to call a typesetting firm BLOT.

We have that confidence. And for good reason.

blot

Basement, 34d Redcliffe Square,
London SW10
Telephone: 01-373 0926

ASSAULTED BOY IN TOILET

Nuneaton magistrates heard how a GPO worker entered the men's toilets at Trent Valley Station and indecently assaulted a 14-year-old boy who was there.

Before the court yesterday was Michael [redacted] 30 of [redacted] Road, Nuneaton, who pleaded guilty to the indecent assault on Mr [redacted] 12.

Chief Inspector West Watkins, prosecuting, said the schoolboy was using men's toilets at the station. The cubicle had sufficient locking to the boy was confronted by [redacted] who made an remark, and then in assault on the boy.

For trial on indecency charge

DEREK [redacted] (41), of [redacted] Twyford, 2 months. [redacted] was remanded on bail in his own recognisance of £50 and two further sureties of £50. The magistrates made it a condition of the bail that [redacted] makes no contact with the family of the boy involved.

Curate on indecency charge

The [redacted] 40-year-old curate of [redacted] Parish Church, was conditionally discharged for two years by Wigan County magistrates today, after he had admitted inciting a 17-year-old youth to commit an act of gross indecency with him.

Fined for indecency

TWO MEN who admitted committing an act of gross indecency with each other in a public lavatory in London road, Mitcham, were each fined £20. Police said they saw John [redacted] 47, a service engineer, and Alan [redacted] 43, a driver, enter the lavatory and commit the offence. The court heard that police saw times. [redacted] entered the lavatory and approached [redacted] and the offence took place. Police entered and arrested both men.

The Law And You Probation for indecency

INDECENCY: FOUR MEN CHARGED

FOUR MEN appeared at Mortlake last week charged with gross indecency after arrests by police at the tow-path, Barnes.

First in the dock were Robert [redacted] a secretary, aged 24, and [redacted] a news film assistant, aged 22. [redacted] of [redacted] Drive, [redacted] Road, Putney, both pleaded guilty and were fined £20 each.

Importuner is fined

An osteopath, Philip [redacted] went into a West End men's toilet to find homosexuals. It was claimed at Bow Street, [redacted] (23), of [redacted] drive, Street-ham, was fined £10 when he admitted importuning a Warwick-way. Victoria. Police said that in the early morning [redacted] enter a toilet. He was there for minutes and stared at [redacted] who came in. Police added that [redacted] admitted that he was to commit a homosexual offence if a person was willing

A SELF-CONFESSED homosexual who admitted indecently assaulting two ten-year-old boys at Bookham was put on probation for three years by Epsom magistrates on Thursday.

Victor [redacted] 45, a joiner of [redacted] had asked the court to help him and give him treatment at his first court appearance. A psychiatric report on him recommended group therapy. [redacted] told the court: "I feel enthusiastic about this and I feel it will help me to mend my ways so I do not let down the people who are trying to help me."

Chairman of the bench Phil Hodges told [redacted] had two previous convictions. "There can only be one offence becomes that more serious. We feel probation and treatment will help [redacted] considerably."

Under a tree

Pleading guilty to committing an act of gross indecency with another man under a tree at Park, estate agent Michael [redacted] was fined £23 at Marlborough Street. [redacted] (28) of [redacted] Notting Hill, a single man of excellent previous character, apologized to the court.

Indecency in churchyard

A man and a youth were fined £10 each by Bedford magistrates on Tuesday for committing acts of gross indecency with each other in St. Mary's churchyard.

Andrew [redacted] aged 19, of [redacted] Road, Bedford, and Harry [redacted] aged 17, of [redacted] Road, Clapham, admitted the charge.

SEX ASSAULT MAN IN COURT

TWO DAYS running, Derek [redacted] went to visit two small boys who pitched their tent in the Mardyke Valley. But his visits landed him in Grays Court, for on both occasions he sat the boys on his lap and indecently assaulted them.

[redacted] 26, of [redacted] Thurrock pleaded guilty to charges and asked for no others to be taken into consideration.

The court heard that on the [redacted] day, the boys were told to tell their parents, but it happened again, the day after.

The court was adjourned for reports. [redacted] 45, a sales representative, of [redacted] Grove, Teddington, and [redacted] 28, of [redacted] Road, Ashford, pleaded guilty to gross indecency at Feltham on Tuesday.

churchyard because [redacted] was going to a lecture in the church.

Mr John Rose, defending, said [redacted] and [redacted] had known each other for several months. They are students at [redacted] College, Bedford.

"They had been to various pubs before this incident," he said. "his statement that he was rather irate at the time."

Two remanded on indecency charge

What a policeman saw by the light of his torch in a Feltham public lavatory led to the arrest of two men.

Both [redacted] Douglas [redacted] 45, a sales representative, of [redacted] Grove, Teddington, and [redacted] Christopher [redacted] 28, of [redacted] Road, Ashford, pleaded guilty to gross indecency at Feltham on Tuesday.

The court heard that following information received, [redacted] went to a public lavatory in Hanworth Road, Feltham, on Monday evening. Both declined to say anything in court and were remanded on bail for reports until August 21.

SEXUAL OFFENCES

"Homosexuals are being prosecuted under Laws which cannot be enforced equitably"

IF capricious enforcement of unjust laws continues, then the day will soon arrive (if it is not already here) when the prejudices of irritated or over-zealous police officers impinge, at their own discretion, on some of the most intimate and private concerns of human life. Homosexual acts between consenting adults in private are no longer criminal offences, but I wonder how much attitudes have changes since the remarks made in Parliament on the passing of the Sexual Offences Act, 1967: "The passing of this act may to the average citizen show a degree of toleration by the legislature of homosexual behaviour and such a change would open the flood gates and result in unbridled licence."

Women readers of Gay News may be interested to know that the only offence which relates to lesbianism is s14(i) Sexual Offences Act 1956 which states that it is an offence for a female to indecently assault another female. So free are gay women in the eyes of the law, that they may like to read the following to get some idea of the legal oppression under which gay males live.

The 1967 Act made many alterations to the law. The most important change was embodied in section one which permitted the commission of buggery or gross indecency between males, but even then only in closely prescribed circumstances. The following conditions must be satisfied:

- (a) the acts are done in private;
- (b) only two people are present;
- (c) both parties consent; and
- (d) they have both attained the age of 21.

In 1967 the age of legal responsibility was 21, and this age was adopted for the purposes of the act. However, when the age of majority was reduced to 18 in 1969, the age for homosexual consent was not lowered. It seems inconsistent with the rationale of the act, yet the anomaly remains.

The legal definition of buggery is "Inter-course per anum" and other forms and variations of intercourse do not come within the definition. If one is prosecuted for buggery, the prosecution have to prove that actual penetration took place, but need not prove ejaculation. With the standard of proof in criminal cases as it is, cases which come to court are there because one or both of the parties have admitted buggery, or have been caught in the act.

The most common of all sexual offences is gross indecency, contrary to s13 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956. Although the expression 'gross indecency' has not been defined by statute, the courts have said that

"if two men behave in such a manner so that one could say a grossly indecent exhibition was taking place, then the offence has been committed." It is not necessary for physical contact to take place for the offence to have been committed. Thus, watching someone masturbate in a public toilet, whether by standing next to them at a urinal or watching them through a hole in the wall of a closet, is an act of gross indecency. The essence of indecency is that the acts took place in public. Physical contact in public is conclusive of guilt. The Wolfenden Report suggests three likely ways that physical contact could take place so as to constitute an offence; mutual masturbation, oral genital contact, and some form of intercrural contact. The last of these three is somewhat ambiguous but suggests some form of contact between two peoples' thighs or buttocks.

In the absence of a statutory definition of gross indecency, court decisions are the only guide lines available. The following is not an exhaustive list of rules, but will, I hope, give readers some sort of idea of what one can and cannot do. If two men kiss in public, it might be said that they were engaging in activities which are immoral and unnatural. Is the law to take into account the length and intensity of the kiss? The crucial question is what the average man in the street would think. It is still true in this country that such a man would be rather shocked at seeing two people of the same sex kissing passionately, and one could therefore say that it was grossly indecent. On the other hand, one would hope that holding hands or kissing on the cheek would not be regarded as indecent. Nevertheless, it is up to the average right-minded citizen (in actuality, a jury of twelve people) to decide what is or is not grossly indecent conduct. As juries are drawn from local areas, what may be grossly indecent in Lincolnshire may be quite acceptable in London. This may seem strange, but sad to say that is how the law stands at present.

A similar offence to gross indecency, though not as popular with the police, is 'persistent soliciting and importuning for immoral purposes'. The words 'immoral purposes' once again are not defined by statute, but it is clear that it means males importuning and seeking out other males for homosexual relations. The cases which deal with this point tend to be confined to relationships between adults and minors which have resulted in the prosecution of the adult. It is clear that if one hangs about outside a cottage following everyone and anyone who enters, or walks around parks looking for

trade, you will be prosecuted if your conduct is persistent. Persistent means frequent, either on the same occasion or, more often than not, on other occasions as well. People sometimes ask 'Well how long can I stay in a cottage before I get picked up?' There is no simple time limit. What matters is the intention. Indeed it is rumoured that in Guildford a few years ago a gentleman used to take his radio and sandwiches into the local cottage and stay until closing time.

The evidence of statistics shows that arrests for importuning are largely confined to those cottages well-known as places for contacts between homosexuals. The rationale behind the offence is to prevent the offenders from becoming a public nuisance. Whilst the law has some degree of sympathy with the police and their use of subterfuge, it is clear that it would not tolerate the policeman who provokes the commission of such an offence. The Wolfenden Committee were particular stringent on their discussions about importuning and commented that the law could not be changed to give the homosexual a general licence to behave as he pleased. However, where they went completely wrong was in drawing comparisons between homosexuals and female prostitutes, a comparison which has not helped in easing public attitudes towards the homosexual.

The Act of 1967 refers to homosexual acts in private. At first sight the word private may seem to have a wider meaning than it actually has in law. The aim in drawing up the legislation was to avoid outraging public decency whilst allowing homosexual acts to take place. Such acts were therefore confined to private places. The same basic rule applies to both heterosexual and homosexual offences. If two people have sex in public, whether of the same or opposite sex, they are usually prosecuted, although the fines are often not comparable. 'Private' is used to describe places "where the public do not have access". Thus two men were found not guilty of gross indecency where they were having sex in a field belonging to a farmer and well out of the public reach. If the law is primarily concerned with the protection of public decency, one might argue that a gay club with private membership, and so not open to the public, is well within the law, provided members are aware of the nature of the club.

The real problem relates to the actual words in the statute "two men". So, if you are at a party or a club where people are getting over-familiar etc, then you are not on your own for the purposes of the act be-

cause more than two people are present. The two people involved could be arrested for indecency and any others-present could be arrested for aiding and abetting. I feel that such a step would be retrospective and one which courts would not entertain. But as the law stands at present, it is quite possible. I believe that people sharing flats, gay communes etc, are not committing criminal offences simply by sharing, so long as tenants do not indulge in threesomes, and sexual acts are carried out in private between no more than two of them at a time. The police only tend to raid places which are being used as brothels.

Finally, a word about the age of 21 which was chosen. It was not intended that criminal proceedings should be taken against everyone under that age detected in a homosexual act, even though it is an offence if you are under age. It was introduced to deal with the offender who has violated public decency, or is a public nuisance through his persisting importuning of men. A person under 21 cannot be prosecuted without the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions being first obtained. But the requirement for such permission does not prevent the person being arrested, charged or even remanded in custody until the decision of the DPP is known. If you are charged with an offence with a person under age, it is no defence to say "he told me he was over 21." The only effect such a statement may have is to reduce the sentence imposed.

I conclude by saying that homosexuals, even if they are not guilty of the charge which has been brought, will often not fight their case in the courts. They think it better to plead guilty and hope for the court's mercy. Many homosexuals are suspicious and fearful of exposure and publicity, so they usually prefer to forego trial by jury and plead guilty as they feel that others will consider them guilty whatever evidence there may be to the contrary. Even when in the hands of the police, many homosexuals seem to be intimidated into making damaging statements and admissions, often untrue, but which can be so incriminating as to make a genuine defence almost impossible. Remember, never plead guilty to something you did not do.

By writing to Gay News Box 999 or contacting Centre, or the Campaign for Homosexual Equality, readers can obtain help with their legal problems, or can be put in touch with other sympathetic legal advisers.

Danse Macabre

A Woman's View Of The Gay Club Scene

by Phebe Cooper

THE DISADVANTAGES of the club scene are well-known to any of us, of either sex, who has ever stood on the edge of a dance-floor, trying to look nonchalant but feeling obvious, with an unwanted drink in one hand and the umpteenth cigarette in the other (not to mention the dilemma of whether to take one's glasses off and risk overlooking someone or to keep them on and risk being overlooked). Although organisations now exist which provide facilities for meeting people in a less predatory atmosphere, they do not have the clubs' advantage of being always there for one to drop into on a free evening. For women, clubs are even more necessary than for men, since we have no pub scene worth mentioning.

Unfortunately, many lesbian clubs are afflicted by a form of role-playing which is carried to the point of absurdity. People coming to it in the hope of finding a milieu in which they can feel at home are often surprised to find themselves in a world which is hidebound by etiquette similar to that of the straight disco and dance-hall scene which they have escaped. A woman who may see herself simply as someone who likes people of her own sex, finds herself faced with the choice of roles: she is expected to be either butch or femme. Wanting and needing to be accepted by other gay women, she conforms by identifying with one of these roles, and thus begins to be untrue to herself.

It is true that these roles are not as sharply defined as they were a few years ago — the lesbian world has been influenced by the trend towards unisex — but the old tradition is flourishing with surprising vigour. Disturbingly, it is not only continued by the older generation but by girls in their teens and early twenties.

A good many women feel safer in a gender-defined situation because it resembles

barriers between us. It destroys the feeling of sisterhood which can be one of the most blissful elements of a lesbian relationship. It has caused the creation of an isolated world, which is paradoxically imitative of society, and rejected by it.

It also means that women are being exploited by women. Anyone who thinks that only men treat women as sex objects and generally push them around, must be unfamiliar with London clubs. However masculine a woman may feel herself to be, she should know better than to treat a more feminine woman as anything less than an equal, for in doing so, she is trying to achieve her own liberation at the cost of someone else's. The way to beat male chauvinism is not to join with it.

I am not suggesting that a woman is wrong to adopt a male image and style of dress if she wishes. Clothes should be regarded as relatively unimportant, and anyone, male or female, should be free to dress as he or she pleases. What is regrettable is that behaviour and even feelings should be dictated by the superficial image. If a girl visits a club in a dress and eyeshadow, which she may have put on because they happen to suit her, she is then expected to wait to be asked to dance, to be courted, to be dependent. It is ludicrous that there should be a need for femme liberation, but there is.

If we look for a way out of this miniature sex war, we must find new ways of relating to each other. This is easy to say, but incredibly difficult in practice. For a start, it would help if we tried to be honest about our sexuality. Without going to the other extreme, as in certain sectors of the male gay scene, where sex seems to be more openly accepted than love, we should stop playing the courtship games customary among heterosexuals. We are not "just like straights", for although we may have the same emotional reactions, we have no need to adopt the hang-ups created by centuries of patriarchy. We should not be copying the straight world, but giving it a lead. We should approach sex not as the conquest of one person by another, but as the coming together of equals by free choice. To be able to ask someone, courteously and without pressure, to come to bed; to be able to accept a refusal gracefully; to refuse gracefully — all this strikes against the tradition of romantic love, but replaces it with something more sincere. The thrill of romance is insipid when compared with the dynamism of communication.

An atmosphere in which people can sit and talk to each other helps. A few snatched words between the records on the juke-box shows nobody at their best. In most clubs one relies on snap decisions; because of the way we shroud our intentions, any conversational approach becomes loaded with significance, and even in speaking to someone, we commit ourselves to a stronger interest than we may have at that stage.

It is hard for a few people to take a stand against all this. The greatest hope for the future lies in the development of an alternative lesbian scene. As it is, women keep going to the clubs through lack of other facilities and, if they are not careful, are absorbed into the system. Progress could come through clubs arising from organisations. Sappho aim one day to start a women's club, and CHE are ready to start a mixed club as soon as they can find suitable premises. Perhaps we can create a more fluid, easy-going scene, by the setting up of new places to go, and by sticking to our ideals and breaking all the rules of gender behaviour in the older places.

If we can make the lesbian "microcosm" simply out of date, its decline will be regretted by those for whom it is the whole world, but the realm of nostalgia is all it is fit for.

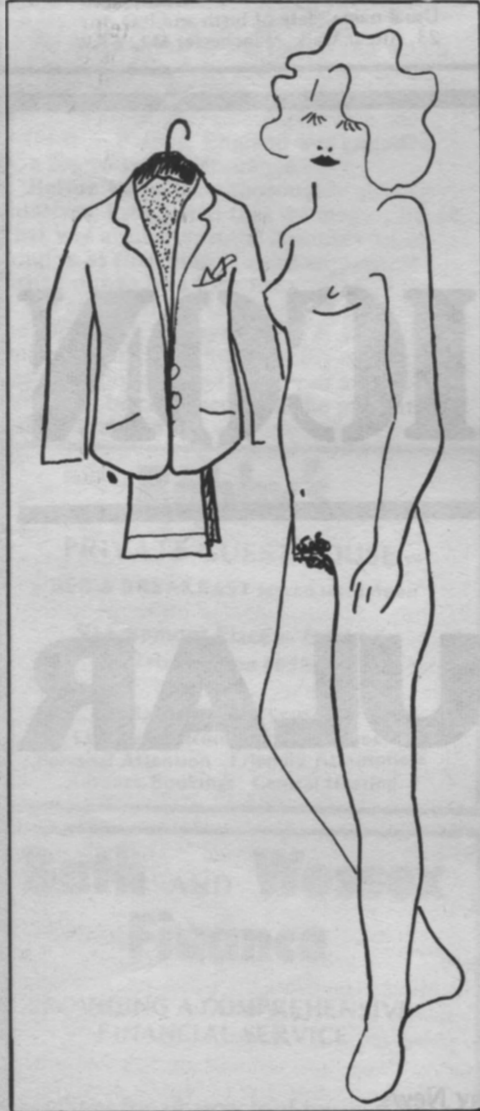


Illustration: Carl Hill

the straight culture which they have been brought up to accept as normal, and allows them to relax in the cosy illusion of being "just like straight people really". It calls for no radical change of attitude in their approach to people they meet: some are classified as potential lovers, with whom contact is made according to social rituals adopted from the straight world; others, of the same sub-gender as oneself, are sexually non-viable and therefore one can talk to them more relaxedly. The playing of gender roles brings advantages to some: people know where they are.

Nevertheless, if we believe in communication, fellowship and love, this state of affairs must be condemned because it puts up

 All gay women
 should read
 SAPHO (30p inc post)
 regular monthly
 magazine
 BCM Petrol London WC1



Mr Jean Fredericks

presents

HIS THIRD ANNUAL

"Theatre Arts Ball"

The most sparkling night of the year — don't miss it!

at the World Famous

GROSVENOR HOUSE HOTEL

Park Lane, London W1.

on

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 29th

at 8.30pm till 3am

Cabaret: Mr Les Lee (Cannes, France)

where the beauty contest of the year will be held to award the title of:

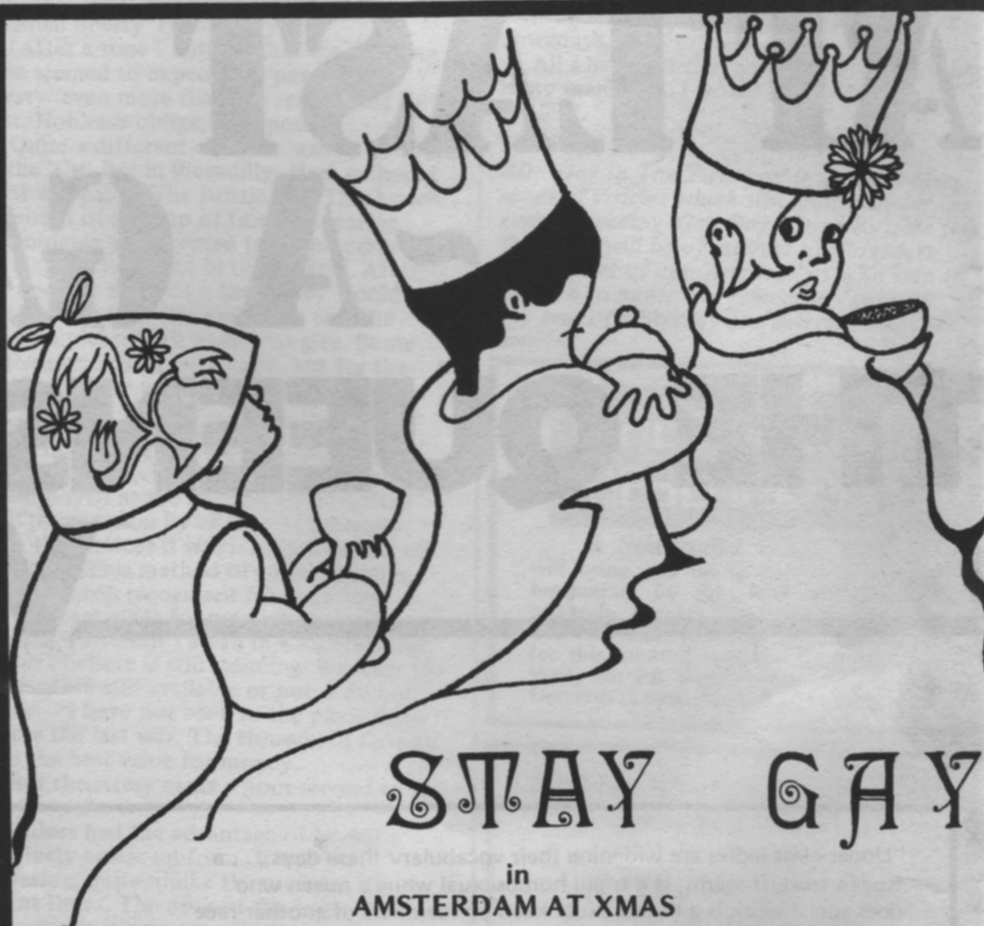
"Miss Female Impersonator International 1973"

First Prize: Trophy plus Holiday in Greece plus many fringe prizes

To be chosen by a panel of unbiased famous personalities from London's Theatreland.

Tickets: £8.25 (Dinner-Dance)
 inc VAT and 12½% service charge
 BOOK EARLY FOR CENTRE TABLES

Dial 01-940 0416
 Director: C. H. Greville-Williams
 Secretary: J Watson
 55 Bloemfontein Road, London W12 7BH



STAY GAY

in
 AMSTERDAM AT XMAS

4 and 8 day holidays by air, departing from Gatwick, 23 December.
 HOTEL PALACE, Bed and Breakfast — Full Board arranged on request.

FROM £43 inclusive

For full details, apply to Keith at

'ALL ABOUT TRAVEL'

25a Merton High Street, London SW19
 Phone: 01-540 0431



RAGS

Nobody's Perfect

HELEN of Troy's face may have been beautiful enough to launch a thousand ships and burn the topless towers of Ilium, but if mine is attractive enough to launch even one rowboat from the far side of the Serpentine or fire one heart atop the Knightsbridge Barracks tower block I shall be entirely content with my comparatively modest success.

During the past few years the 'male grooming aids' market (polite euphemism for cosmetics) has boomed into a world-wide multi-million pound money spinner. Most couture houses now produce a wide range of colognes and unguents for both men and women and the giant cosmetic firms such as Revlon and others, manufacture complete ranges of products designed to beautify the male in every presently conceivable manner. Unisex products, too, are readily available — the deodorant 'Right Guard' is designed and advertised for family use, and Goya's 'Aqua Manda' range is presented as suitable for use by both male and female.

It's no secret that, by and large, cosmetics in the laboratories of the manufacturers are entirely 'neuter' until they are either virilified or feminised by the addition of subtle perfuming and appropriate packaging to appeal to men and women respectively. Firms such as Almay and Clinique add no perfuming to their products and produce hypo-allergenic cosmetics in the pure state for skins sensitive or allergic to the addition of ingredients other than those specifically intended for the job they are designed to do — which is simply to repair, alleviate, and, hopefully, retard the more patent signs of ageing in the human skin.

I was much affected by an article some time ago which appeared in, I think, 'Vogue', which gave stern warning that skin after the age of twenty-five required constant attention and nourishment. As I was then a couple of years short of the ravages I was convinced would overtake me on the dawn of my twenty-fifth birthday, I decided that prevention rather than repair was the better course, and I hauled off to Harrods in search of magic products which would be sure to work miracles. Indeed, that very morning, standing at the mirror shaving, I had made a determinedly ruthless inspec-

tion of every square inch of my face. Sure enough, I thought, skin with pores wide enough to pass for orange peel, clogged with miniscule patches of oily secretions which threatened to turn into blackheads and dark, ingrained dirt at the corner of and just below the eyes. Dry, flaking patches on my cheeks and a nose like that of the luminous Dong.

The myriad counters which confronted me when I finally arrived at Harrods reminded me of a county fair. There were stalls with ladies in attendance who looked as though they had never had to perform a natural function in their lives and slept standing in Mummy cases padded with cotton wool. I finally approached the most efficient looking sales girl who was dressed reassuringly in a sharp white uniform and who had a no-nonsense air of determination and proceeded with the act I had carefully rehearsed. Assuming a little-boy-lost expression coupled with bewildered-young-husband attitude towards all things feminine, I quizzed her on the pretence of buying some cosmetics for an entirely spurious girlfriend.



Nobody could have been more sweet or more helpful and I emerged with a complete range of products designed to wreak miracles on any but the most withered of octogenarians. The range I had chosen happened to be Clinique because I have a sensitive skin and in the weeks that followed I can report that nothing did more for my self-confidence than the diligent use of those products. I washed my face with a special soap designed to clear out grime and impurities in the skin, tightened up my pores a little with astringent lotion and fed the clean skin with a good moisturiser. I did this every morning and evening and within a few days the texture of the skin was tighter, clearer and felt smooth and clean. The effect was gradual and, as no make-up was used, the exercise was entirely undetectable in my

everyday life except that I began to look a bit better and, as a result, to feel better and more self-confident about my appearance.

Encouraged by the success of my venture, I finally took a tentative step in the direction of using a suitably masculine form of make-up. Aramis had produced a gel which was advertised as giving the face a completely natural tanned look and finally, after some hesitation, I forked out for a tube of the magic liquid. The contents of the tube squeezed out into my hand rather like a snake of toothpaste and I was horrified to discover that this supposedly 'natural' colourant looked the deep colour of Vandyke Brown I'd used for years in watercolour painting. However, I'd bought the stuff, it was soluble in water and could be washed off, and so I rubbed the gel between my hands and applied it to my face. It looked wonderful, except that I'd stopped short at the jaw-line and my neck looked distressingly white in comparison, so I squeezed out some more bronzer and blended it into the skin from jaw to collar bone and nothing could have looked more natural — as though I'd spent a week in the Aegean. In fact, the first friend I met when I ventured out asked where I had been on holiday and how did I look so disgustingly healthy in the middle of February anyhow?

Nowadays, having overcome my initial shyness at buying skin care products at all, I have made firm friends with the lady at my local chemists shop, who, in spite of her forty-odd years, has a skin like magnolia petals and a ruthless attitude towards the cosmetics industry. She tells me what I should buy and I have discovered from her advice that it is every bit as good an investment to buy cheaper products — the ingredients of which are basically exactly the same as those more expensively advertised and marketed — and I've never looked better in my life.

I now wash my face with Phisoderm, refresh and tighten the skin with witch hazel and moisturise against the elements with Pond's light moisturiser. All these are widely available at most chemist shops and prices are rock bottom. It can cost very little to take a lot of care which will pay dividends far outstripping the investment made right now and continued with regularity.

Iain T Finlayson

FOOTNOTE: Iain hopes to be of some help to any readers who have particular dress or appearance problems. Contact him by writing to Iain Finlayson, Rags, Gay News, 34d Redcliffe Square, London SW10. Please enclose a 3p stamp and a stamped addressed envelope.

Correction

IN GN29 it was stated that the Boltons Hotel, London SW5, was affiliated with Allied Breweries. This is not correct. The hotel is part of the Bass Charrington group — our apologies for this slip-up.

Gay Alliance In Manchester

THERE is no shortage of homophile organisations in greater Manchester. The Manchester local group of Campaign for Homosexual Equality (not to be confused with the national office) has almost two hundred members and meets more or less weekly. There is another CHE group, the Manchester university homophilé society, mainly though not entirely for students. The Manchester women's group was started to answer a very real need, in view of the statistical fact that most CHE members are men. The fourth group is the Gay Liberation Front though, hopefully, more will be heard of them in the future than in the past.

The notion of a gay alliance to explore co-operation between the various groups is not new, but has particular application in the Manchester area which has lengthy roots (certainly well before 1967) in the gay rights movement. The purpose of the alliance is to increase the amount of information available to gay people in Manchester and to begin to break down the sectarianism and ignorance of each other, still all too common everywhere.

There will be a monthly Manchester Gay Alliance newsletter which will give details of the functions and meetings which are open to all. It is hoped to organise on a permanent footing the Saturday discos, open to any and all gay people in Manchester. This will mean lots of publicity and a considerable amount of leafleting wherever gay women and men are likely to congregate. Another sensible idea is a weekly "drift-in" where people can chat about anything or everything.

But there is more to the matter than publicity and social mixing. If gay people are ever to achieve the civil rights and freedom which are so demonstrably lacking at present, a greater cohesion and combined effort will be necessary throughout the country. Problems there certainly are, some structural, others social. Least of all is there any question of CHE "losing its identity". How successful the endeavour in Manchester will prove remains to be seen. But it is an ideal well worthy of duplication elsewhere. Further information is available from Glenys and Liz (061-881 3883) or Barrie (061-225 0058).

Barrie A. Kenyon (CHE)

Postal Only. Your letter and photo sufficient!

ALBERT TATTON (I.I.Dip.) M.S.M. (P.)
The Medium of the Tarot

2 Questions ... (Special Offer) 50p
Problem Analysis £1.50p

Usual name, date of birth and P.O. to:
23, Altcar Walk, Manchester M22 6AW

AT LAST ~ A GAY LEXICON THE QUEENS' VERNACULAR

"Upper-class ladies are widening their vocabulary these days... a frozen fruit, it seems, is a frigid homosexual while a queen who does social work is a homosexual keen on members of another race"
— THE SUNDAY TIMES

"A perfectly serious, though hilariously funny, dictionary of homosexual slang"
— THE OBSERVER

"Thank you for a proof copy of 'The Queens' Vernacular'... of course, I threw it away at once"
— A MANCHESTER BOOKSELLER

- * Semantically revealing . . .
- * Sexually international . . .
- * A Vade - Mecum for all readers of Gay News
- * 288 riveting pages for only £1.50
- * Ask your newsagent or bookseller or direct from Gay News
- * Published, just now, 'midst gales of laughter, by Blond & Briggs Ltd, 56 Doughty Street, London WC1

Getting Through To Church And State

"SOCIAL Service Departments are the last places a troubled homosexual would go to — because they are associated with the social stigmatisation of gays." Comment from Peter Righton, introducing a new pamphlet produced under the auspices of the National Council of Social Service called *Counselling Homosexuals*.

The aim of the booklet is to instruct and inspire all those engaged in existing formal counselling activity to have a hard re-think about homosexuals. "When confronted by a homosexual problem, most counsellors go into some sort of panic," Mr Righton observed. "Whoever is involved in counselling, it is very important that they should admit their own vast areas of ignorance, their own hang-ups and be willing to learn. This is true, of course, of all service professions."



Illustrations: Jean-Claude Thevenin

You Can't Beat A Dogma with a Stigma, which is perhaps the best piece, simply because Ms Forster is direct and to the point, has no need to keep defining her terms, sees no point in special pleading or projecting palliative half-truths.

The sort of thing I mean is found in another article called *A Personal View of Homosexuality* written by the founder of Reach which is a group seeking to assist the church to understand and support the Christian homosexual (we won't delve into the implications of that just now) under the pseudonym D Lloyd. He remarks:

"... sexuality should not be confused with genital activity. Homosexuals on the whole do not primarily want sex in this sense. They want loving relationships which may find expression in overt sexual activity..." This is most certainly a half-truth and seems motivated by the feeling that gays ought to be represented for their own good as celibates.

Norman Pittenger, Ian Harvey and Malcolm Johnson, who is Anglican Chaplain at Queen Mary's College, London, also contribute. I find many of Mr Johnson's remarks of dubious value, and he concludes by saying: "If this way of loving is to be accepted as a natural part of the sexual spectrum; if it is to have the label of 'sin' removed, then homosexual people have to show church and society that they are not effeminate pansies with handbags, but ordinary people with love to give and receive."

What is the man suggesting? Kill off the pansies and gays will no longer be regarded

as sinners? That effeminate pansies are not a natural part of the sexual spectrum? That effeminate pansies are not ordinary people? That effeminate pansies have no love to give or receive?

I'd like to tell Mr Johnson that under my beard and meek little denim suit there lurks the most effeminate pansy with the biggest handbag he has ever seen; and there lurks too the butchest bike-boy in WC2 in the toughest leathers. And when I meet my alter egos, I say hello...

This issue of *Christian Renewal* probably represents the most up-to-date thinking on the church and gayness. It costs 25p post free from: Circulation Manager, 7 Lower Faircox Henfield, Sussex. (£1 for four issues).

Roger Baker



as sinners? That effeminate pansies are not a natural part of the sexual spectrum? That effeminate pansies are not ordinary people? That effeminate pansies have no love to give or receive?

I'd like to tell Mr Johnson that under my beard and meek little denim suit there lurks the most effeminate pansy with the biggest handbag he has ever seen; and there lurks too the butchest bike-boy in WC2 in the toughest leathers. And when I meet my alter egos, I say hello...

This issue of *Christian Renewal* probably represents the most up-to-date thinking on the church and gayness. It costs 25p post free from: Circulation Manager, 7 Lower Faircox Henfield, Sussex. (£1 for four issues).

Roger Baker

Touch And Go

ENCOUNTER GROUPS by Carl R. Rogers. Pelican, 35p
JOY by William C. Schutz. Pelican, 40p
GESTALT THERAPY by Frederick Perls, Ralph F. Hefferline and Paul Goodman. Pelican, 75p

Generally, encounter groups get a bad press. Popular newspapers in their relentless association of nudity with sex will invariably emphasise those occasional encounters where the participants strip. More serious-minded hostility will deliver awful warnings about the damage that insecure people may suffer. Both of these (and any other objections) can be explained, exploded even. To me, hostility to encounter groups always seems rooted in an attitude that the groups themselves are designed to eradicate and which the individual seems afraid to lose—or at least put to the test.

This is best illustrated by a moment in a long, sustained piece of invective against groups by Jean Stafford, published in *The New York Review of Books* (April 1973). She relates her own single experience of a group: "Dot said...in the future I would get along much better with my husband and my business associates. I replied that I was a widow and self-employed..."

There seems absolutely no correlation between the statement and the reply. Ms Stafford reveals herself as (purposely?) obtuse, but also self-locked in her own status to the extent that she is unwilling to admit that a little self-exploration might be interesting, if not actually beneficial. The more awareness-apologists try to press their case the more already uptight people tend to withdraw. Encounter group fears may also be rooted in an inbred revulsion to the idea of touching (physically and mentally) other people, and also a fear of chaos—that is, that if the accepted touchstones are removed (ie. self-employed widow) then nothing will replace them.

I admit to being frightened of submitting myself to an encounter group situation. I am also frightened of launching myself from the high-diving board at the swimming pool. But I would hardly deny that both could be exciting for me, that both are demonstrably invigorating for other people. I doubt if this small outburst of paper-backs from Pelican will make any conversions. In fact to find Mr Schutz prefacing his book with the lyric *To Dream the impossible dream...* is enough to turn one off for good. Mr Schutz also indulges in some rather winsome writing. Both he and Carl Rogers are clearly aware of the present flaws in the encounter movement, notably that one of the greatest problems for the participants is to use their new-found potential in their ordinary home/work situations—one saw a not too overdone demonstration of this in Bob and Carol and Ted and Alice. In both books, case-histories, taped sessions, group exercises are all expounded and explained thoroughly. Those who are emotionally squeamish may be embarrassed. They will, also, alleviate the fears of those who feel tempted, but as yet unable, to join such a group.

Certainly it seems that the gay awareness groups that sprung up in London last year (mainly through GLF) were of great help to a lot of people. When one understands the extent of the homosexual's alienation from the world around one can perhaps appreciate that a group situation will have the effect of revealing what Schutz calls "undeveloped capacities for excellence and pleasure". Gestalt Therapy is a basic book by the founders of Gestalt psychotherapy; heavy-going and made less accessible by the complicated sentence structure and jargon that seem to be so necessary to psychologists.

Roger Baker

An Insight Into Gay Liberation

OUT OF THE CLOSETS: The Sociology of Homosexual Liberation by Laud Humphreys. Prentice-Hall 1972.

OUT OF THE CLOSETS is Laud Humphreys' second book to deal with the gay world. It is quite a different book from *TEAROOM TRADE* however, and provides a refreshing excursion away from the silent and impersonal world of the public lavatory.

Laud Humphreys, a qualified Anglican priest, has augmented his sociological perspectives on the gay movement with direct personal involvement and many interviews. The book opens with a chapter on the 1971 Christopher Street Liberation Day March down Sixth Avenue, New York — a march in which I myself took part and met and rapped with many of the personalities (including Humphreys himself) who made my gay exploration of the US and Canada so memorable.

In the chapter 'Is Blatant Beautiful?', Humphreys examines the impact of the Gay Liberation Front on the older, structured homosexual organisations during 1970 and 1971. The North American Conference of Homophile Organisations (like Britain's NFHO) was shattered by the growth of Gay Liberation and Gay Activism. "Reformist leaders tried building a superstructure around the movement because they believed the movement needed both legitimacy and a nationwide channel of communication".

The book continues with chapters on one-issue organisations, on stigma and how to confront stigma, and a final chapter on the new politics of homosexuality ends optimistically by saying that those involved in gay liberation "are found capable of providing values that may be most in demand in our post-industrial society" and that the exodus from the closets "may bring freedom to millions who have no direct interest in homosexual liberation and little awareness of the gay world that intersects their own sphere of social concern".

If there is one big omission from this book it is its lack of information on Gay Women's Liberation. Humphreys does absolve himself in his introduction, but this excuse does not entirely convince ("lesbians are not particularly co-operative with male researchers"). Occasionally Humphreys seems to be very much the outsider, looking on at events. But this should not discourage the potential British reader from adding this important book to his library. Combined with Dennis Altman's "Homosexual: Oppression and Liberation" *OUT OF THE CLOSETS* provides an accurate and insightful introduction to the often confusing American Gay Liberation scene.

Ian Dunn

ED: 'Out of the Closets' is available from GN's Mail Order Service, price £1.20 (post free).

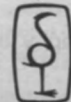
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A 'SENSITIVE'

... to have experienced happenings which are probably of a psychic nature. The chances are that many of you have had such experiences. We are always interested to hear about them. Just drop a line to the Editor of

THE PSYCHIC RESEARCHER

P.O. BOX 6 GERRARDS CROSS, BUCKS. SL9 8HP

WE KNOW THAT JAMES BALDWIN is already under contract with a publisher. But surely there must be another creative writer about who has yet to make his mark! Mind you, we are not in the market for pornography nor do we have a 'titillation editor' who looks for gawdy tripe, but if you think that you have a best-seller in you, you could do worse than send us your m/s, or better still, a synopsis of your work.



THE SENIOR EDITOR, COLIN SMYTHE LTD., GERRARDS CROSS, Bucks., SL9 8HP.

The Society Club

DON-JON BAR

Silver Street
Doncaster
Tel: 60763

Don Sooley Welcomes You To The Gayest Night Spot In The North With Over 1200 Members.

Mon - Sat 9pm - 2am
Cabaret Fridays

Christian Renewal

This is an independent quarterly journal not attached to any denomination; its 10th issue (now out) devotes a considerable amount of space to gayness. Obviously explaining and defending homosexuality to Christian denominations and congregations is bloody difficult and all the articles are afflicted in some way with a degree of emphasis that could be off-putting. One expects this (welcomes this) from Ms Jacqueline Forster and her dynamic speaking style comes through in her contribution,

The Spartacus

306 EARLS COURT ROAD
LONDON SW5
01-373 2347

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

THE INTIMATE DISCO
FULLY LICENSED

MON-SAT. 10pm - 2am
SUN. 10pm - 1am (LICENSED TILL 12 pm)

ENTRANCE MON-THURS 30p. FRI-SUN 50p.

Sensational New Male Pin-up Almanac.

A startling new horoscope chart with a Patrick Walker character profile for every astrological sign, each one illustrated with a full-colour large size picture of one of the world's most dazzling men, *photographed in the altogether*. Go starry-eyed at heavenly bodies for £1.95 plus 21p p&p.

POSTMAN'S KNOCK MAIL ORDER (GN)
9 Howard Road, London SE 20.



Quality And Quantity

SING IT AGAIN ROD — Rod Stewart — Mercury 6499484

THE easiest way of describing Sing It Again Rod is by saying a good alternative title would have been 'Rod Stewart's Greatest Hits'. A number of the tracks have been top-selling singles, while the rest, although without being hit parade successes, are an outstanding selection of cuts from his four previous solo albums.

The only new track is Pinball Wizard from the rock opera 'Tommy' and whilst Stewart performs the song in his own inimitable style, it doesn't compare with the Who's original version, although outshining the wishy-washy rendition by the New Seekers. All the cuts have, apparently, been re-mixed. The only difference I can detect is that on some of the numbers the sound is slightly more mellow.

Apart from the previously mentioned Pete Townshend song, the compilation contains eleven other tracks, five of which are Stewart originals, such as Maggie May, You Wear It Well, Gasoline Alley and Mandolin Wind. The rest are his memorable interpretations of other artists' material, including Tim Hardin's Reason To Believe, Elton John's Country Comfort, his unique version of the Stones' Street Fighting Man, Twisting The Night Away by the late Sam Cooke, Mike D'Abo's Handbags and Gladrags, and the number that has become a Stewart classic, (I Know) I'm Losing You. The only glaring omission is Every Picture Tells A Story, but one can't complain too much as the total playing time is just over 51 minutes.



People who have his other albums are unlikely to need this record as it just duplicates material already in their possession, but for those that don't or only have his singles, Sing It Again Rod is an excellent way of purchasing the majority of Stewart's most memorable recordings on one album. Recommended. **Denis Lemon**

LIVE AT THE INTERNATIONAL, LAS VEGAS — Jerry Lee Lewis — Mercury 6338148

If you believe in sleeve notes and are a faithful fan of Jerry Lee Lewis, you'll probably buy this record. But rave words printed on a 'product's' packaging bring out the cynical side of my nature and especially annoy me when the 'goods' are well below standard. Live At The International, Las Vegas — a recording made at Sicily's most important 'colony' — falls short on just about every level. Neither Jerry Lee's 'rockers' nor his country and western songs match the studio versions, even the four 'special bonus tracks' on the British pressing of the record — "a thank you from Jerry and Mercury [Records] for the fanatical support given by so many over the years" — hardly makes up for the mediocrity of the rest of the album. A disappointing release from someone capable of better things than dull 'live' recordings.

CURTIS MAYFIELD — HIS EARLY YEARS WITH THE IMPRESSIONS — Probe GTSP 201

I am in two minds about Curtis Mayfield — His Early Years With The Impressions. First, it contains a useful selection of the Impressions classic vocal-group recordings, including Gypsy Woman, Keep On Pushing, I'm So Proud, Amen, We're A Winner, You Must Believe Me, It's Alright, Talking About My Baby, Woman's Got Soul, Never Let Go and the immortal People Get Ready. These songs equalled, if not surpassed, anything Tamla Motown were at that time releasing and the two-record set is a worthwhile anthology of present day superstar Curtis Mayfield's early work. Roots and all that jazz.

On the other hand, for a double album that costs £3.10, a collection that contains only twenty tracks is poor value. A number of essential Impression/Mayfield cuts are missing, such as Meet Over Yonder, You've Been Cheating, Can't Satisfy and Minstrel and Queen, which, along with other conspicuous by their absence songs, could easily have been used to give record buyers a better deal. Also there is an almost total lack of relevant background information on the sleeve, not even a track sequence listing, and the cover illustration is shockingly bad. None of these gripes lessen the importance and harmonic beauty of the material that has been gathered together, but serious collectors are strongly advised to

search for the two volumes of 'The Impressions Big 16', which between them feature the very best of the group's recordings.

NOEL COWARD — YEARS OF GRACE — The Les Reed Orchestra — Philips International 6382071

On Noel Coward — Years of Grace, Les Reed and his Orchestra instrumentally interpret twelve of Sir Noel's glorious and, for many, unforgettable melodies. Included are tastefully up-dated versions of Room With A View, Mad About The Boy, Dance Little Lady, Poor Little Rich Girl, London Pride and I'll See You Again.

The album is reasonably priced at £1.29 and is recommended to those who like their background music to have a touch of class and can't stand the tuneless distortions usually foisted onto the market under the label 'mood music'. Also, the sleeve notes, for a change, are intelligently and informatively written.

FOREIGNER — Cat Stevens — Island ILPS 9240

I've tried on a number of occasions to get into Cat Stevens' new album, but usually find I end up doing anything but listening to it. I start reading something, go and make coffee, or phone someone I'd forgotten to get in touch with. In other words, the record offers the listener very little to latch on to and evokes none of the personal involvement I experienced with his earlier recordings.



Side One is taken up with Foreigner Suite, an over-long, alienating collection of vague and self-indulgent images. The piece finishes with the rather disturbing phrase: "I've seen many other girls before, ah but darling/ Heaven must have programmed you." Wince!

The four tracks on the second side are more accessible, although harsh and humourless. The fine sensitivity displayed in the lyrics of his previous compositions has now been replaced

by a cold, almost impersonal vision that reflects the overall dilemma of an album that is confused and unsatisfying. Colour Cat Stevens' latest direction grey.

THE POINTER SISTERS — Blue Thumb — BTS 48.

The Pointer Sisters' first album turns out to be as good as described in all the reviews I've read in US publications, and deserving the growing amount of adulation in the States.



Uniquely different from what anyone else is currently attempting, the four black Californian sisters display remarkably good and imaginative taste in their musical eclecticism. Although their material is new, their sources of inspiration include and combine the major popular music fashions from the 1930's up to the present day, as well as incorporating old and new jazz styles.

All through the album the group's adventurous harmonies are never less than stunning, and on top of everything, the Pointer Sisters swing like hell. The entire happening is' nostalgia at its exhilarating best.

SUPER DUDE 1 — Don Covay — Mercury 6338211

Don Covay is a much respected soul artist, whose past achievements include writing a sizable number of hits for other performers, as well as scoring himself with sides such as See Saw, Sookie Sookie and Mercy Mercy. But apart from Overtime Man, the opening track of his latest album Super Dude 1, he fails to equal his past successes. The material ranges from uninspired to the purest 'corn' that contemporary songwriters can provide. Even his version of Chuck Berry's Memphis is unexciting. Production, by Covay himself, is adequate, but most recordings are if made at the renowned Muscle Shoals studio.

With so many rising stars in the soul music field, Covay will have to do a lot better than this with future records. Glowing reputations only count for something in the showbiz world if you stay on top of the heap.

Denis Lemon

BLUE — RSO 2394105

First new group to appear on Robert Stigwood's RSO label are Blue and as he has an uncanny knack of involving himself with successful 'products' (Cream, Bee Gees, 'Hair') I suspect we'll be hearing a lot more about Blue in the future.

Their initial album is moderately endearing, demonstrating an individualistic charm. The music is chunkily appealing and the lads sing and play well. All the material is written by the various members of Blue and they also produced the record themselves, but no doubt relied to a certain extent on the judgement and experience of that very excellent engineer Jerry Boys. I find the similarities to the Beatles' sound a little disconcerting though, and the recording suffers from being samey throughout. A band to watch for all the same.

HARD NOSE THE HIGHWAY — Van Morrison — Warner Bros K46242

Perhaps those acquainted with Van Morrison's work will understand when I describe his new record as being 'just another Van Morrison album'. Unlike Astral Weeks or Moondance, his first two releases on Warner Bros Records, which have become important and unforgettable milestones in the history of rock music, Hard Nose The Highway is only a shadowy reflection of the heights of imaginative originality and virtuosity Morrison once reached. Lyrically, he seems to have nothing to say any more and the music is derivative of his former recordings, but without the excitement. If I didn't respect Morrison's musical integrity, I would dismiss Hard Nose The Highway as cocktail lounge muzak for 'now' people.



S AND H

PUBLICATIONS

37 LOWLANDS ROAD
HARROW, MIDDLESEX
HA1 3AP.

- * S & H are the leading publishers and distributors of books and mags of interest to the gay world.
- * Have for 10 years provided a prompt, efficient and reliable services to our customers, and welcome personal callers — we do not use a P.O. Box number or any other 'anonymous' address.
- * Publish QUORUM, the outstanding gay monthly magazine. (Published first week of each month.)
- * Invite you to receive our free monthly list of books and mags available from stock.

- O Quorum issues 1-11 (from issue 8 in large 11" x 7" format) 75p ea.
- O Boys International issues 1, 2 and 3 £1.00 ea.
- O Boys International issues 4, 5 and 6 £1.50 ea.
- O Naked Teens £2.00
- O The Lusty Male — superb photography by Colin Clarke £2.50
- O The Dolly Male £2.50
- O Superb Youth (fine physique photographs by J.S. Barrington) £3.00
- O Naked Boyhood — hardbound, 128 pages £8.00
- O NEW — Beautiful Boys No.1 (15-17 age group, see illustration) £2.00
- O Big Boys £1.50
- O Go-Guys £1.50
- O Chicks £1.50
- O Cute Kids £1.50
- O Flesh £1.50
- O Skin £1.50
- O Photosets—six new superb sets each month (illustrated leaflet available) . . from £1.50 ea.

FREE OFFER: With each order valued £2.50 or more we will send you a free copy of a large format edition of Quorum.

Send me the publications I have ticked, for which I enclose payment to the value of £.....

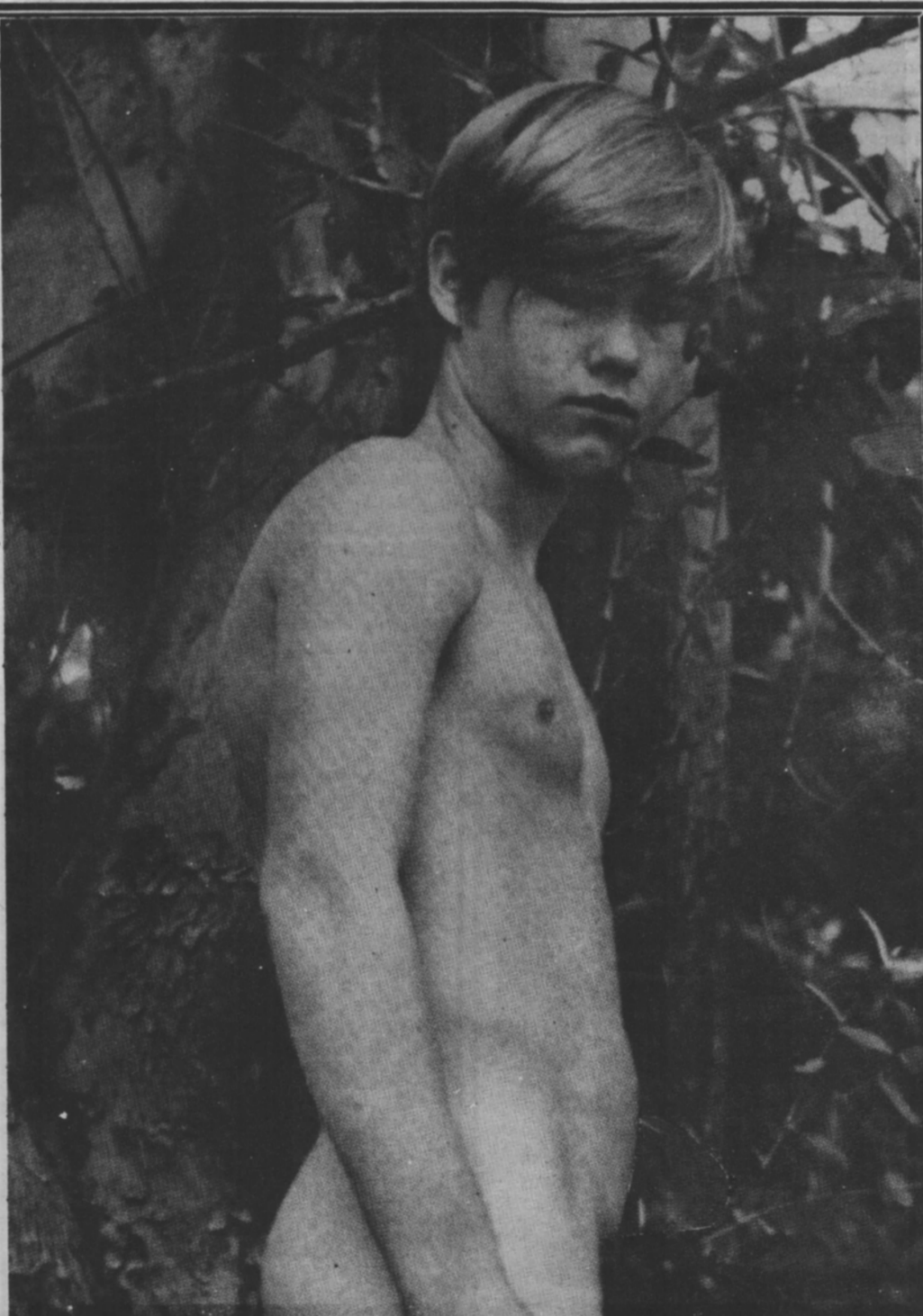
OR send me your current list now, and details of future offers as and when available.

Name (block letters please)

Address (block letters please)

No stamp required (UK only) if you address your envelope to:—

S & H Limited, FREEPOST, HARROW, MIDDLESEX, HA1 3BR.





Tennis Anyone?

FRENCH WITHOUT TEARS at the Young Vic, The Cut, Waterloo, London SE1.

BACK in 1939, whilst Europe was erupting into World War Two, Terence Rattigan burst upon the London theatrical scene at the age of 26, with his second play, *FRENCH WITHOUT TEARS*, which ran for over two years. This is its first re-appearance in London since a disastrous musical version about 12 years ago. It would have failed at that time, even in its original form, as the theatre was undergoing an anti-establishment period, and the public clamoured for new authors with fresh ideas. We have now come full circle, and the old establishment writers are in vogue again.

Rattigan's delightful recollection of the 30's is set in a South of France villa, where a group of typical Englishmen are learning French under the tutorage of a stern, elderly French professor and his daughter. The catalyst to the plot is the beautiful and self-centred Diana, sister of one of the pupils, weaving her spell around three of the men. Whatever Mel Martin lacks in personality, she more than makes up for with her ravishing beauty and great charm. Gavin Reed is delightfully funny as the pompous Lt Commander, who is under her spell as soon as he arrives. Alun Lewis with his husky good looks, is suitably sulky as her discarded boyfriend, and Ian Charleson is amusing as the student involved with the local tart. Perhaps the hardest role is that of Alan, who spends half the time as a cynical onlooker to Diana's involvements, only to become himself, another of her victims after she declares her love for him. Andrew Robertson manages the transition from voyeur to the hunted, in another of his splendid performances. Denise Coffey struggles valiantly with a rather strange French accent, but is extremely moving in her big scene towards the end of the play.

Rattigan's charming comedy of manners wears well over the years, and together with Frank Dunlop's brisk direction and Carl Thom's excellent

set combine to make this Young Vic offering far more worthy than many of the West End's current productions.

Barry Conley

Nothing But The Truth

WHO'S WHO at the Fortune Theatre, Russell Street, London WC2

MY axion has always been 'If you have to tell a lie, check your facts and ensure that they stick.' Those masters of mirth Waterhouse and Hall, have built their latest play around a complex web of deceit and lies, reminding one of a chess game, through their use of the names White and Black for the two male protagonists. Infidelity is the theme of this clever farce, and the few people involved, who are staying in a Brighton hotel during the off-season, are forever seeking their identities through the impersonations they are forced to conduct.

The luxurious hotel lounge has a multitude of alcoves on both ground and balcony levels, through which the players are constantly entering and exiting in the true style of farce. Mr White is staying there with his mistress, and shortly after meeting an old army pal, his wife arrives unexpectedly. When wife and mistress meet, each thinks the other is somebody else, and complications begin at an alarming speed. Through most of the action, there are seldom more than two people on stage, but as the hotel is understaffed, and seemingly has an endless variety of rooms leading off from the lounge, the cast are able to come and go with complete believability, as they search for the telephone, food, drinks, their rooms, and the reception desk, which apparently remains unattended throughout.

Mr Black, sharp and fast-talking, is always in command of the situation as he endeavours to assist White in the charade. Mr White, on the other hand, is an unconvincing liar, who gets tongue-tied frequently, and innocently believes his method of running an affair has fooled his wife. In the second act, the two men appear in the same roles, but the position has been reversed, and it is Black's wife who arrives unexpectedly.

The authors have written two especially funny scenes where Mr Black displays his 'survival kit' (a complete set of articles to underline his supposed trip to Amsterdam), and later when his befuddled mistress runs through the alphabetical list of pseudonyms she is forced to employ on various weekends with him.

Joe Melia is a tower of strength as Black, always one step ahead of everyone else in his cunning game, and Francis Matthews is an ideal foil, at all times baffled by the proceedings. Judy Cornwell is the glamorous mistress of both men in turn, and her droll sense of humour aids the play at all times. The 'eternal wife' figure is delightfully portrayed by Josephine Tewson, and full marks to the fast paced direction of Robert Chetwyn. After seeing this play, anyone intent on a dirty weekend at Brighton may well think twice before taking the plunge.

Barry Conley



Diana (Mel Martin) and Kit (Alun Lewis) enjoying a 'petit dejeuner.'

Soundtracks Unlimited

The No 1 Shop In London.

For Shows - Nostalgia Soundtracks And All Of Those Unusual Albums That Are Hard To Find.

Now In Stock:- God Save The Queens - Sandy Brown The Singer - Liza Minnelli Joel Grey At The Empire Room And Many More From

Soundtracks Unlimited Harlequin Records 60 Dean Street London W1.

URGENT!

Calling all record collectors and DJs

owing to bulk purchase of a radio DJ's private collection, we can offer hundreds of golden oldies at incredibly low prices.

LARGE SAE FOR LISTS (mail order only)

ALLAN KING PRODUCTIONS (RECORDS) LTD (DZ1)

24 Southfield Gardens, Twickenham, Middx Phone: 01-892 7641

The English Ring

THE one great problem facing any reviewer of the Ring Cycle at the Coliseum must be to come up with some sort of adverse criticism to balance out several hundred words of fulsome praise. Three candidates have emerged.

The first of these is the pace at which Reginald Goodall takes Wagner's score. The tempi have been described as broad and considering that he adds over two hours to the usual duration of the cycle, broad might seem to be the *mot juste*. But every one of the four operas argued in favour of his judgement. It was as if the rich and dense orchestral score were being opened for the first time, and I was left wondering whether earlier conductors with their 'usual' tempi might not have been depriving us all of two hours of great pleasure. My only moments of uncertainty about the pace were during the prelude to Rhinegold and in Act I of The Valkyrie. But the roar which greeted Mr Goodall's curtain call at the end of Gotterdammerung (I beg your pardon, 'The Twilight of the Gods') was enough to silence any criticism on this score.

Candidate number two for a moan is the translation. But this is true of any opera sung in English (even Peter Grimes, after a performance of which an American visitor to Aldeburgh was heard to comment to her friend that she preferred to hear it sung in the original language). If you believe, as do the administrators of the Sadlers Wells Opera Company, that opera is a form of drama and that it is as important for the words to be 'true and intelligible' as it is for the music to be 'idiomatically sung and played', then you could do little better than to hear Andrew Porter's meticulously careful English version. It is a fine example of compromise between such conflicting demands as accuracy of translation, sympathetic phrasing, singable vowels at the right pitch, and simple grammatical sentences (compare Porter's "Had my shield and spear been strong, half as strong as my body, I would never have fled." with Jameson's "If but half so well as my arm shield and spear had availed me, ne'er from foe had I fled.")

On the principle of third time lucky, it should be possible to fault Ralph Koltai on his sets, described as 'space age' by some. The metallic silver lines and spheres which provide the thematic basis of almost all the sets may mean spacemen to some. But metal abounds in the original poems, the forging of Nothung, the Tarnhelm, not least the Ring itself. And the spheres serve to set the actions not solely on Earth but amongst the gods above and the Nibelungs below. And for once the fairy tale magic of the operas came over, even though the grim conflicts and powers of evil were still strong. Valhalla was a notable success in this respect. Above all, the evolution of the sets brought a unity to the cycle, a point which emerges now that the four operas are done together in sequence.

One thing to be remembered about this Ring, it is a company production, rather than a spectacular with an imported cargo of international stars. Yet nowhere did one have to make allowances for this. The singing and acting was of the highest class, and in particular the performances of Rita Hunter (Brunnhilde), Norman Bailey (Wotan), Alberto Remedios (Siegfried), and Ann Howard (Fricka) will be remembered for a long time to come.

In Rhinegold, Norman Bailey showed from the outset that he had the full measure of Wotan. With a sense of authority, he matched the cunning of Loge, delightfully sung by Emile Belcourt, and withstood the shrewish Fricka. In Valkyrie his authority grew to Olympian proportions as he battled with the strong willed Brunnhilde. And battle it was with the powerful Rita Hunter, who showed time and time again how justified is her ever-growing reputation. Never can she have shown her range to better effect than in her moving scene with Siegmund as she refuses to be parted from Sieglinde, and her last duet with Wotan, where both she and Norman Bailey were in fine voice, singing boldly yet never missing the

emotional conflicts and changes that run through the scene. Mention too must be made of the stormy band of Valkyrie who whipped up the fury, setting the pace to come.

And so we came to Siegfried. Once again, Norman Bailey nicely alters the character of Wotan (now 'The Wanderer') as he stands back from the conflict, seeing his power slipping from him, yet never losing his dignity or proud bearing. But a new treat for the audience was the singing of Alberto Remedios as Siegfried himself. Along with his ebullient and youthful characterisation, he displayed a strong and agile voice, heard to its best advantage perhaps in the forging of Nothung, where he took the difficult tenor passages with consummate ease. Not, perhaps, a voice suited to a romantic salon tenor role, but precisely what was required here. And as a climax to the evening came the love duet with Brunnhilde, properly followed by the final curtain. Nothing else could possibly have followed it.

Finally to the Twilight of the Gods. The scene changes in the first act seemed a little bizarre at times, with a somewhat excessive use of the River Rhine, which tended to flood onto the stage at the slightest excuse. But the production hit the heights again towards the end of the first act. In Act II, a splendid band of stalwart ruffianly vassals heralded the arrival of the principals, and from then on the fury of events rolled on unabated. Clifford Grant as Hagen understated his role to great effect, using his sonorous bass to underline the power wielded by Hagen in the final twists of the drama. Siegfried and Brunnhilde were no less exciting than before, whether together as in the oath scene, or separately, Siegfried at the hunt, or Brunnhilde delivering the panegyric over the dead hero's body. The staging of the funeral march was particularly impressive.

Behind all the fine singing was some magnificent orchestral work that went from strength to strength as the cycle unfolded. Reginald Goodall must have been delighted with his players, and their performances spoke of long and careful preparation. Nor did their high standard of playing go unappreciated by the audiences, who were enthusiastic in their applause.

Next year the production goes on tour to those fortunate places which have the facilities to mount it. It might be billed more as a triumphal progress than a mere tour, if these standards can be maintained.

Michael Mason



Waltraute (Katherine Pring, on right) begs Brunnhilde (Rita Hunter) to return the Ring to the Rhine Maidens in 'Twilight of the Gods.'



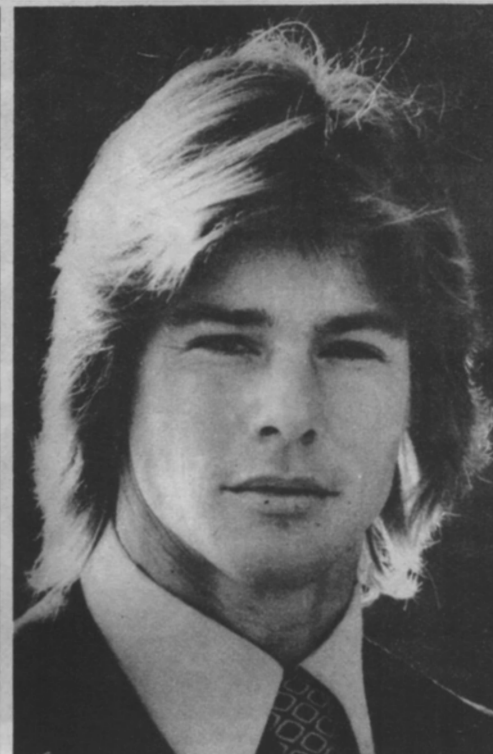
Love Him, Hated It

IN the good old days, I always waited eagerly for the school holidays, and a visit to a new superbly polished Disney fantasy or perhaps yet another look at Fantasia. If **THE WORLD'S GREATEST ATHLETE** (Walt Disney Productions) director Robert Sheerer is representative of the fantasies enjoyed by today's kids, they all deserve to be exiled on a desert island off Southend with a fruit machine, a year's supply of baked beans, a colour telly and a plastic replica of a can of David Cassidy's hair spray.

The story involves a sports coach at a small American university who, tiring of training teams who always lose, goes on vacation to Africa, where he meets Nanu, a modern manifestation of Tarzan, whose strange properties he shares. A fair-haired white skinned African native who speaks with an American accent, he possesses enormous athletic grace and strength, and after various tussles with his godfather, who isn't a member of the Mafia, but a black witch doctor, Nanu (Jan Michael Vincent) is removed to America to become a success.

Accompanied by Harry, his tiger, and staring into the camera with blue eyes beautiful enough to make most teenyboppers forget all about David Cassidy, he makes good faster than most immigrants. Before long he manages to win every single event at the local athletics meet, but not before he's managed to fall in love with his young tutor, "Jane", of course, and persuaded her to come back to Africa and live happily ever after.

Walt Disney Productions celebrating their fiftieth year as purveyors of good clean family fun have shown themselves remarkably able to move with the times. Judging



Jan Michael Vincent: '... enough to make most teenyboppers forget all about David Cassidy.'

by the vast amount of stills they supplied to Britain's two main film magazines, all of which have large gay readerships, you'd think the film was all about the shapely Jan Michael Vincent careering around Africa in the nude for 90 minutes. David Seligman

Masquerade Restaurant & Discotheque

310 Earls Court Road
(Entrance Corner of Earls Court Square)
London SW5
01-373 3480

Intimate, Informal Restaurant,
Offering Fine French Cuisine
And Excellent Wines
- Minimum Charge £1.50
inc. Discotheque admission -
Open 8.00 pm to 1.30 am (Last Orders)
Closed Sundays

Discotheque
Admission 50p
inc. Salad Supper
10.00 pm to 2.30 am
Open Every Night

Fully Licensed Until 2.00 am

**Light-Show. Stereo.
Air Conditioning.**

a superb french restaurant . . . near marble arch . . .



le faune

23 praed street london w.2
(01) 723 5170

last orders 11:30 pm

LUNCH

Save 40p by subscribing now to
new Lunch magazine

The completely independent radical intelligent
cosmopolitan monthly

£2.40 per annum (12 issues)

Back numbers 25p each

Cheques and postal orders should be made
payable to Lunch magazine and sent to

Lunch Magazine
20 Elm's Crescent
London SW4

Mad, bad and dangerous to know

Other Screenings

IF you don't like rock 'n' roll music now, you will after you've seen **LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL** (Columbia-Warner) directed by Sid Levin and Bob Abel, as the apparently ageless musical demagogues of the fifties are enthusiastically filmed as they devastatingly happen. But *Let The Good Times Roll* is much more than just another pop concert on film. It's an analysis of a phenomenon, the first example of youth asserting itself, choosing its idols, making a lifestyle out of its music.

Thus the magnificent come-backs of Chuck Berry, Chubby Checker, Bo Diddley and an outlandishly liberated, gayish, Little Richard, are interspersed, often on a split screen, with the monumental film clips of the period. The Lone Ranger; Elvis having his sideburns shorn in readiness for national service; Marlon Brando leading "The Wild Ones"; unending amounts of television sets being unloaded; Nixon being jolly with President Eisenhower.

Many of the clips are very funny; some, notably the ones involving Nixon, make you wince. The overall effect is the creation of an unusual film which, besides containing some of the very best music you're likely to see on celluloid for quite some time, imaginatively reconstructs the atmosphere of a past era without that big white elephant — nostalgia.

Lovers of the brutal Western shouldn't miss **HIGH PLAINS DRIFTER** (CIC) directed by and starring Clint Eastwood, who indefatigably rides into a small lakeside town to impose his own brand of dictatorship. This includes making a vaguely homosexual dwarf sheriff and mayor, before battling with local whores and ruffians amidst blood, thunder and broad humour, and finally burning the whole place down.

Eastwood's efforts as a director obviously owe much to Sergio Leone, but he manages to introduce many original images, which frequently appear to mock the whole Western genre and

his own preference for playing the silent toughie.

SINCE the appearance and commercial success of *The French Connection* some eighteen months ago, there have been many unworthy sequels. But **BADGE 373** (CIC) director Howard Kock is a refreshingly professional piece of cinema, despite the fact that it tends to glorify the 'good cop'. Once more we have a film that revolves around successfully depicting the nitty gritty of life in New York, and one of its victims or weapons, depending which way you look at it. The central character is a middle aged detective, balding, pot-bellied, divorced, portrayed with genius by Robert Duvall.

Suspended from duty after pushing a junkie off a roof during a drug raid, he's been working as a bartender, not a disimilar profession, the bar and the police station both being the mortuaries for lost souls. The bar has brought him a little consolation in the form of the cigarette girl, with whom he is living, when his former life-long partner is shot dead and he proceeds to take the law into his own hands in a fierce attempt to track down the killers.

Where the emphasis in the *French Connection* was on drugs, here it is guns and Puerto Rican revolutionaries. And you can be sure that before the final savage shoot-out, you are going to see some new and entertaining variations on the car chase theme, and a plethora of brutal and bloody killings, all soaked with the skilfully filmed colours, sounds and sights of New York. There is also a burningly fascinating, often touching, analysis of the played out forty-fourish cop. All proceeds at gargantuan pace.

Badge 373 is on general release with re-released prints of either of two of Clint Eastwood's best thrillers: *Coogan's Bluff* directed by Don Siegel and *Play Misty For Me* which he directed himself. Both are tough, realistic, funny, exciting thrillers that help to complete a very satisfactory double bill. David Seligman

QUICK SILVER

ON September 17, Diana Ross headlines a special Albert Hall charity concert with ticket prices scaled up to £10. In December Julie Andrews also plays the Albert — a special Christmas concert will team her with Andre Previn and the London Symphony as part of a concert series celebrating the orchestra's 70th anniversary.

"An Evening With The Watergate Enemies": the famous people who found themselves on the anti-Nixon list (everyone from Carol Channing to Truman Capote) are getting together for a special New York fund-raising dinner. The newspaper reporters who have refused to divulge sources of information to Nixon's administration will benefit financially to help in their legal battle.

Dudley Moore was recently on display at Small's Café, Knightsbridge. He was tickling the ivories several nights weekly with his jazz trio.

Germaine Greer's husband of '68 currently suing for divorce in the London Courts.

Announced Dickie Burton: "I'm a communist at heart". And Liz is a Marxist? Ms Taylor has reportedly unleashed histrionics Bette Davis never dreamed of in her new movie *Night Watch*, due soon.

Jack Hawkins was working on an autobiography at the time of his death, titled 'Anything For A Quiet Life'. His widow will add a final chapter.

Some people just go on and on and on. Marlene Dietrich, for instance, will play ten concerts in Paris next month, and Ginger Rogers has been unearthed at an Italian seaside resort rehearsing a cabaret act.

The Moscow Film Festival has been the scene of prolonged attacks on capitalistic film-makers "who stress only the negative aspects of humanity". The fellatio feature *Deep Throat* has especially provoked outrage (the film, of course, was not screened).

Charles Kingsley's famous *The Water Babies* is currently receiving a stylish production at the Royalty Theatre, morning and matinee performances only until September 1st. Jessie Mathews darling of the London stage during the 30's, returns as the lady who loves children.

A musical tribute to the late, famed London producer Charles Cochrane is planned for the West End in December.

The *Card* has opened in the West End to quite poor reviews and a good deal of bother. The night before opening, star Eleanor Bron announced that one of her Jackie Trent-Tony Hatch numbers had been dropped and she was leaving. Her personal reviews were excellent. Dinah Sheridan replaced her August 6th.

Derek's Guide

This guide relies on your information, so if you find any inaccuracies please don't just tell all your friends—tell me, c/o Gay News.

* indicated Gay News on sale. (D) applies to pubs with regular drag shows.

In SCOTLAND all pubs close at 10pm and do not open Sundays. Hotels have 7-day licences.

ABERDEEN
Pubs: Caledonian Hotel, Buffet Bar (Sundays)
Star & Garter, Crown Street (Wednesdays)

BARNESLEY
Pub: Queens Hotel (Venturer Bar)

BATH
Pub: The Regency (opp Theatre Royal)
Club: *Valentines, 14 George Street

BEDFORD
Pub: The Barley Mow, Bromham Road

BIRMINGHAM
Pubs: The Crown, Station Street
The Trocadero, Temple Street
The Victoria, John Bright Street
Clubs: Grosvenor House, 326 Hagley Road, B17
*Nightingale, 50 Camp Hill, B12

BLACKBURN
Pub: Merchants Hotel, Darwen Street (D)

BLACKPOOL
Pub: Lucys Bar, Talbot Square
Club: Pepes Club, Talbot Road

BOLTON
Pub: The Vulcan, Great Moor Street

BOURNEMOUTH
Pub: The Norfolk Hotel
Clubs: Gigis, The Triangle
Hotel East Cliff Towers, East Cliff

BRADFORD
Pub: Junction Inn, Leeds Road
Club: Shangri La, Piecehall Yard

BRENTWOOD
Pub: The Greyhound, Chilterdith Common

BRIGHTON
Pubs: Spotted Dog, Middle Street
Heart & Hand, Sip Street
Greyhound, East Street (upstairs bar only)
Clubs: New Curtain Club, East Street
42 Club, Kings Road
Pink Elephant, Corner of Regency Square
St Albans Club, Regency Square
Queen of Clubs, Bedford Square, Hove

Disco: Sussex GLF, 8-11 Fridays at Stanford Arms, Preston Circus

BRISTOL
Pub: The Ship (by Colston Hall)
Club: *Moulin Rouge, 72 Worrall Road, Clifton

BURNLEY
Pub: The Cross Keys

CAMBRIDGE
Pub: The Turks Head

CANTERBURY
Pub: The Queens Head, Watling Street

CARDIFF
Pubs: Royal Hotel (Roberts Bar), St Mary Street
Royal Oak, St Mary Street
Club: Showbiz Club, Hope Street

CHATHAM
Pub: The Ship

CHELLENHAM
Club: New Twenty Club, 20 High Street

CHESTER
Bar: The Blossom Hotel

CIRENCESTER
Pub: Black Horse

CLEETHORPES
Cafe: Birds Nest, Boating Lake (Saturday)

COVENTRY
Pub: Rose & Crown, High Street

DONCASTER
Pubs: Don Johns, Silver St
Underground

DUNDEE:
Pub: Gauger, Seagate

DUNSMORE, Bucks
Pub: The Fox

DURHAM
Pubs: Country Hotel, Old Elvet
The Three Tuns, Old Elvet

EDINBURGH
Pubs: The Kenilworth, Rose Street
The Abercromby Hotel, Abercromby Place
The Baillie, St Stephen Street

GLASGOW:
Pub: *Duke of Wellington, Argyle St

GRAVESEND
Pub: The Kent, High Street

GUILDFORD
Pub: Royal Oak, Nr Multistorey Car Park

HUDDERSFIELD
Pubs: The Grey Horse, Chapel Hill (Sundays)
Amster Dam (Sundays)

HULL:
Pub: White Horse Hotel (Polly's Bar)

IPSWICH
Pub: Sea Horse Inn (young crowd, Friday disco)

LANCASTER
Pub: Farmers Arms, King Street

LEEDS
Pubs: Hope & Anchor, Call Lane
Flemingo
West Riding *Back Bar
Honky Tonks
Club: Charleys Briggate
Disco: Leeds GLF disco fortnightly, contact their office for location.

LEICESTER
Pub: Dover Castle, Dover Street

LIVERPOOL
Pubs: Lisbon, Victoria St, L2
Bonaparte (private lounge)
Temple Lane, L2
Clubs: New Bears Paw, Dorrans Lane L1
Johns Gay Bar Royal, Wood St L1
Pagoda, 31 Colquitt St L1

LUTON
Club: Pan Club, Bute Street. Open nightly, weekend cabaret

LONDON
Pubs: *The Boltons & The Colherne are near each other in Old Brompton Road (nearest tube Earls Court)
*The Champion, Bayswater Road (tube Notting Hill Gate)
*The Green Room at The Wheat-sheaf, Goldhawk Road (Goldhawk Road tube)
*The Queens Head, Tryon Street (off Kings Rd) (Sloane Sq tube)
*New Black Cap, Camden High Street (Camden Town tube) (D)
*Father Red Cap, Camberwell Green (Upstairs Disco)
*Pig & Whistle, Little Chester Mews, SW1 (Sundays only)
*Horse & Groom, near Pig & Whistle (Sundays only)
Cricketers, Battersea Park Road (D)
*Elephant & Castle, South Lambeth Place, (Vauxhall tube) (D)
The Salisbury, St Martins Lane WC2 (Leicester Sq tube)
Ship & Whale, Gulliver Street, SE16
Royal Oak, Glenholme Road, W6 (D)
*William IV, Hampstead High Street
*Royal Vauxhall Tavern, Vauxhall Cross (Vauxhall tube) (D)
Pub: Royal Mail, Upper St, Islington N1 (Angel Tube) (D)
Pubs: Watermans Arms, Water Lane, Richmond
Imperial, High Street, Richmond
Clubs: *The Catacombs, Old Brompton Road (Earls Court tube)
*DOK, Lowndes Court W1

(Oxford Circus tube)
*Le Gigolo, Kings Road (Sloane Sq tube)
*Masquerade Restaurant & disco, Earls Court Sq. SW5 (Earls Court tube)
*Paint Box, 29 Fowley Street, W1 (Oxford Circus tube)
*The Pink Elephant, 8 Newport Place WC2 (Leicester Sq tube)
*Shanes, Broadhurst Gardens NW6
The Escort, 89a Pimlico Road (Sloane Sq tube)
Yours & Mine, Kensington High Street W8 (Ken High St tube)
Rockingham, 9 Archer St W1
Festival Club, 2 Brydges Place WC2 (Leicester Sq tube)
Louise, 17 Poland St W1 (Oxford Circus tube)
Chaguaramas, Neal St WC2
Collage, 46 Churton St SW1 (Victoria tube)
Apollo, 31 Wardour St W1 (Dilly or Leicester Sq tube)
Discos: South London GLF disco, 8pm Sat at Hanover Arms (Oval tube)
*Arabian pub, Tricky Dicky disco every Wed. Cambridge Heath Road E2 (Bethnal Green tube)
*Kings Arms, Liverpool Street. Tricky Dicky disco Mon & Tricky Dicky Show on Sat (Liverpool St tube)

MACCLESFIELD
Pub: Waters Green (Tuesdays)

MANCHESTER
Pubs: Union Hotel, Princess Street (D)
Rembrandt, Sackville Street
Trafford (back bar), Gt Bridge-water Street
Cavalcade, Wilmslow Road
Didsbury (Sunday lunchtime)
New York, Richmond Street
Mechanics, Sackville Street
Clubs: Samanthas, Piccadilly (men only)
Picador, Bradshaw Street, Shude Hill
Pyms Club, 60 Spring Gardens M2
Napoleons, Sackville Street

MERTHYR TYDFIL
Pub: Red Cow Hotel, Glebeland Street

MIDDLESBOROUGH
Pub: The Grand Hotel

MORECAMBE
Pub: Masons Arms ('Gays only' lounge)

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE
Pubs: Royal Court Grill, Bigg Market
Eldon Grill (Variety Bar), opp Greys Monument
Royal Turks Head (Red Rover Bar), Grey Street
Grapes Vault, Grey Street
*Lord Chancellor, Great Market
County Hotel (Nancys Bar), Westgate Road

NEWPORT Mon.
Pubs: Kings Head (Lounge Bar), High Street
Waterloo, Commercial Street

NORWICH
Pub: Studio Four, behind Anglia Television

NORTHAMPTON
Pub: Princess Royal, 172 Wellingborough Road

NOTTINGHAM
Pubs: Dog & Partridge, Parliament St
The Roebuck, Mansfield Rd
Bentink Hotel, Midland Station
The Foresters (Girls) Nr Victoria Centre
Clubs: Mario's Restaurant, Stanford St (off Castlegate)
Pavilion Club, 123 London Rd, Shardlow (13 miles)

OXFORD
Pubs: Red Lion, Gloucester Street
Gloucester Arms, Friars Lane
Disco: Oxford Gay Action Group disco every Fri at the Cape of Good Hope, The Plain

PENRITH
Cafe: Rendez-vous, Sandgate

PLYMOUTH
Pubs: The Lockyer Lockyer Street
The Phoenix (off Union Street)
The Valletort

PORTSMOUTH:
Pubs: Albany Bar, Commercial Road
Balmoral Bar, Commercial Road
Standard
Lennox Bar, Portsmouth Station

PRESTON
Pubs: Bull & Royal Cockpit Bar (men only)

READING
Pub: Railway Tavern, Stanshawe Road
Disco: Reading Gay Alliance disco, Saturday at Railway Tavern

SANDBACH Cheshire
Pub: Market Place Tavern (Thursdays)

SCARBOROUGH
Pubs: The Cliff Inn, Huntress Row
The White Horse (Caths Bar), Falsgrove
Club: The Bottleneck, Ramshill Road

SHARDLOW
Club: Pavilion Club, 123 Shardlow Road

SHEFFIELD
Pub: The Cossack

SOUTHAMPTON:
Pub: Lord Roberts, Canal Walk
Harvey's, St Marys Street
Anchor Inn, East Street (girls only Friday)
Robert Burns, 9 South Front

SOUTHPORT
Pub: Scarisbrick, Lord Street

STOCKPORT
Pub: Duke of Clarence, Avenue Street, Portwood

STOKE-ON-TRENT
Pubs: Grand Hotel, Hanley
The Antelope, Hanley
Club: One for One, 141 Marsh Street North, Hanley

STRATFORD-ON-AVON
Pub: Queens Head, Ely Street

SUNDERLAND
Bar: Roker Hotel, Upper Promenade, Roker
Club: *Rokoko, The Promenade, Roker

SWANSEA
Pubs: Dolphin Hotel (C T lounge), Whitewalls
Cricketers Hotel, King Edward Road

THAME
Pub: The Jolly Sailor

TORQUAY
Club: Double Two Club, Rock Road.

VENTNOR, ISLE OF WIGHT
Pub: The Hole in the Wall, Market St

WARRINGTON
Pubs: The Higher Seven Stars, Bridge Street
Dog & Partridge, Parliament Street

WINCHESTER
Pub: The Green Man, The Place

WINDSOR
Pubs: The Ship, near Guildhall
Three Tuns, near Guildhall

WOLVERHAMPTON
Pub: Prince Albert, Station Drive
Club: Silver Web, Whitmore Street

YORK
Pub: York Arms

Love Knoweth No Laws*

The editors reserve the right to refuse or amend any advertisement without giving a reason. No refunds can be made on unacceptable advertisements. No advertisement intended or appearing to intend to solicit for sexual purposes will be accepted. Advertisements are accepted on the understanding that they are submitted by persons over 21 years of age.

*Chaucer
REPLIES TO BOX ADS. When replying to a box ad(s) place it in an envelope and attach, not stick, a 3p stamp to it. Then place inside a larger envelope and send it to GAY NEWS BOX REPLIES, Basement, 34d Redcliffe Square, London SW10. The letters ALA after an ad denote ALL LETTERS ANSWERED.
WHEN WRITING your personal ads, it would help those wishing to reply, if you mentioned in which area you live.

As from August 28th box numbers in issues 26 and earlier will be discontinued and replies to them will not be forwarded. Advertisements for inclusion in issue 31 must be received no later than noon on Monday August 27th.

Women's Personal

Shy feminist gay girl 24 needs girl friend Newcastle area for evening jaunts and the sipping of many jars together. Into photography, reading, Cohen, Stones, community, karma, letters, countryside, movies etc. Your photo for mine. Sincere women 'just out' very welcome. Would love correspondence with kindly gays anywhere. ALA Box 30/80
Girl 26 gay, slim, fair, attractive, sincere, affectionate, car, seeks female friends, correspond and/or meet. Photo sent to all replies. Box 30/81
Gay couple (female) would like to meet similar (either sex) for social evenings etc. Genuine replies only appreciated. Box 30/82
Help! Surely there are some gay ladies in Devon near Plymouth/Totnes area for stranded, rapidly going insane 29-year-old Londoner. Box 30/83
Leicester gay girl 21 wishes to meet gay girls any age. Box 30/84

Personal

Gay guy 24 affectionate and sincere, non camp, seeks active younger guy East London area for regular friendship. Am keen on football, rock music. Photo appreciated. Box 30/1
Oldham gay guy 35 would like to meet similar for sincere and lasting friendship. Photo appreciated. Box 30/2

Attractive looking denim and leather guy 26 active, seeks smooth skinned muscular guy 21-30 for friendship. Interests swimming, cinema, snooker, music. Photo if possible. ALA London area. Box 30/3

Young good looking 50 seeks sincere younger attractive and active male (any colour). Interests countryside, music, theatre. Also like to contact truck-driver (Box 26/62 GN26). Birmingham or Hereford/Brecon area. ALA. Photo please. Box 30/4

Eh by gum! Attractive brown eyed Bradford lad 26 slim and nice physique, seeks young slim male for friendship. Like travel so area no object (no jokers from Orkneys please). ALA with photo. Box 30/5

Amiable 43 non camp resident NW and Midlands, own house and car, would like to meet quiet young man any race anywhere. Oriental or Asian welcome. ALA Box 30/6

Outwardly confident, really attractive (yes, really) gay male graduate 27 who often 'fails' because of 'nerves', desperately seeks similar for problem-sharing. Sorry, photo essential (mine gladly returned). Many interests. London, but ALA anywhere. Box 30/7

Attractive bisexual girl 26 seeks similar guy for friendship and outings. Heathrow area. Photo appreciated. Box 30/8

Young guy 24 living 30 minutes from London would like to meet friends up to 30, if compatible. Please send photo and telephone no if possible, returned with mine. Box 30/9

Coalman 28, jeaned and booted is looking for another guy any age over 21, any area, working on the coal. Photo please mate. Box 30/10

Young gay interested in electronics seeks young friends. Send recent photo (returned). All genuine replies answered. Box 30/11

Are you the chap with the side burns that came close and held my hand in the crowded Vauxhall Tavern Sat 28th July. I was in brown leather jacket also side burns. Please write. Box 30/12

Assistant hotel manager 26 (will send photo) seeks younger friend for lasting friendship. Have own car, pad South London. Outer London replies welcome. Photo please. Box 30/13

Are you 21-25, slim, interested in life, wanting to know London, or know it better? I am a 45 year old journalist, expert knowledge of London (gay or serious) and would love to correspond with and/or meet you. Please send photo (returnable). ALA Box 30/14

London guy 40s youthful outlook (no oil painting) but sincere, affectionate, discreet, likes music, laughter. Seeks ordinary guy, gay/bisexual shy/lonely any locality, for genuine, permanent friendship. Photo unnecessary. ALA Box 30/15

Professional man 38 South London, tall, dark, active, very slim, loyal and affectionate, seeks permanent friendship with younger person 21-26 preferring older type — Has car and can travel. All letters with photo answered first. Box 30/16

St Albans male 42 likes pubs, food and wine, theatre, music, seeks friends any age, either sex, for occasional evening out. Box 30/17

Hertfordshire male 48 would like to meet other gays same age for shared interests. ALA Box 30/18

Attractive non camp sincere and affectionate Londoner 27 seeks similar for permanent friendship. Photo appreciated. Box 30/19

Birmingham professional couple early thirties with pad would like to meet others for friendship and visits. Mobile, domesticated, active. ALA Box 30/20

Railway enthusiast 21 slim attractive and sincere, non-effeminate. Other interests walking, camping (with tent) Burnley/Halifax area. If this is you, drop me a line. I am 35. Sense of humour and photo essential. Box 30/21

Ardent railway enthusiast 26 wishes to correspond with and meet other gay enthusiasts in same age group. Will write anywhere and will travel. ALA Box 30/22

Successful businessman young 40 enjoying best things in life would like to share them with young student or similar interested in the arts. Photo essential and returned. Box 30/23

Birmingham, enthusiastic motor cyclist without bike, own leathers etc and pad. Wants to meet experienced super bike owner to ride with. Genuine friendship. No kinks. Box 30/24

Young guy attractive 27 London, slim build, own flat, very wide interests, seeks masculine working class or manual worker, East End type or similar 24-33. Photo appreciated. ALA Box 30/25

Middle aged 51 GN subscriber recently moved to Tavistock, Devon, hopes to hear from other readers in the district. Box 30/26

Young very smart guy 24 would like to meet smart gent 30-40 not effeminate for lasting friendship Somerset or Gloucester. Please send photo and telephone number. Box 30/27

40 years young amiable and affectionate guy. No transport, own flat in Hatfield Herts seeks active affectionate fellows 21-40. ALA Box 30/28

Personal Ads continued on Page 18.

Gay News Subscriptions

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE £1.90 FOR 13 OR £3.75 FOR 26

(COPIES ARE POSTED IN A PLAIN SEALED ENVELOPE)

PLEASE MAKE CROSSED CHEQUES/POSTAL ORDERS PAYABLE TO:
GAY NEWS SUBSCRIPTIONS AND SEND TO:—
34d REDCLIFFE SQUARE, LONDON SW10
TEL: 01-373 0586

NAME

ADDRESS

I wish my subscription to commence from Issue Number

(Single copies available 15p + 3p postage)

TRADE ENQUIRIES WELCOME

Personal Ads continued from Page 17.

Sheffield male 36 tall reasonable looks and build seeks similar for one-man friendship with love. Interests music, walking, travel etc. Must be loyal and sincere and honest. Colour no problem. No fem or camp. Photo please. ALA Box 30/29

Indian student 23 graduate would like to share flat with intellectual non-camp type in West London. Am tidy and good cook. Box 30/30

London denim/leather guy 25, 6' plus, long haired, non-camp, seeks similar tall guy. Photo please. ALA Box 30/31

George of Edinburgh. Get home OK after our Bolton night out? Please write. Keith of Manchester. Box 30/32
I am 23, attractive and bored. I would not be bored with the right man, if you are 23-27 (with a moustache) and wish to take on a bored 23-year-old, then write quickly. Photo preferred. ALA Box 30/33

Bath/Bristol/Wells area, 25-35-year-old male badly needed for sincere friendship by 40-year-old. Non-camp and sense of humour essential. Box 30/34

Young 50 tall, slim, own flat central Brighton, seeks sensible non-camp friends, 25-45 married or single. Box 30/35

Lonely gay male offers home to similar homely type 37 or under. Genuine replies please. ALA Birmingham area. Box 30/36

Male Dubliner 25 would like a friend, London area. Photo if possible but all letters answered. Box 30/37

Young man 24 non effeminate, seeks sincere friend under 30. Northampton area. Photo please. Genuine. Box 30/38

Edinburgh area. Slim 5'6" male aged 24 years, desperately needs companionship of sincere person who is similarly very shy of gay scene through inhibitions and inexperience with a view to genuine friendship. Photo appreciated. Box 30/39

Gay bachelor late 30s leather type would like to meet others 21-40. Hirsute preferred. Photo appreciated. London Southend area. Box 30/40

Would like to meet young guy to share my leave with. I enjoy Country Music. Cheshire area. Box 30/41

Lonely young man varied interests wishes to meet sincere long haired friend 21-26 Birmingham/Wolverhampton. Photo please. Box 30/42

London denim guy 20s seeks other well built active friends, 21-35. Arab, negro, Greek preferred but others welcome. ALA with photo. Give details if possible and telephone number. Box 30/43

Very good looking company director would like the company of a young active boy for occasional weekend/weekday meetings. London area. Advertiser has own flat, car. Photo appreciated. ALA Box 30/44

Bristol area. Professional graduate interested in arts, music, travel, politics and a civilised life - bored with and bad at pubs and clubs - superficially busy and active in various spheres but really lonely earnestly desires real friendship with person of similar tastes. Slightly pathetic maybe, but genuine nevertheless. Is there anybody who could help? Box 30/45

Male 38 N London seeks non-camp non-effeminate friends for sincere friendship. Genuine replies only please. Photo appreciated but not essential. ALA Box 30/46

Manchester Arts graduate 22, introspective and romantic, but honest and friendly, seeks friend of similar age, interests, and temperament for sincere and lasting friendship. Box 30/47

Affectionate slim middle-aged male, professional class with intelligent interests seeks active friend long-term. London/South. Box 30/48

Good looking well built 23 year old wants a mate with skinhead or leather gear, 21-25. Photo ALA Box 30/49

Dutchman leather guy 38 often visiting England, enjoys wrestling ASO. Wants contact with men up to 38 with same interests. Box 30/50

Leeds gay guy 22 seeks similar over 21 for a life time of friendship and affection. Photo please. Mine by return. Box 30/51

Good looking male, own flat, wants active and well built males for everlasting friendship, age 21-45. Photo if possible. ALA Box 30/52

Gay couple 21 and 25 seek other couples or guys for friendship etc. London area. Photo appreciated ALA Box 30/53

Edinburgh gay males 25 and 26 would like to make friends with gays anywhere. Where are you? ALA Box 30/54

Outdoor guy 21, dark, slim, good looking, interesting business/social life, tired of gay scene seeks intelligent guy 24-30 for lasting friendship London/Midlands. Non effeminate. Photo appreciated. Box 30/55

John, Matlock, Derbyshire lonely, seeks slim, sincere gentle companion for deep permanent and meaningful relationship. Good home offered to right young man. Genuine replies only. Box 30/56

Sincere lonely 24 yrs (young executive) not camp, would like to meet man over 25 for lasting friendship. My general interests include music, theatre and Christianity. Photo appreciated. ALA Box 30/57

Middle aged man seeks active friends, 25-30 in London area. Preferably with place of their own. Box 30/58

Young man 23 London area slim, 5'8" considered attractive, seeks tall friends between 21-35. ALA Box 30/59

Riders in the Knight. 27 year old tall, slim, never been on a bike, seeks ride. Have no crash helmet, do not mind getting messed up, no S/M. SW London but have car. Photo if possible. Box 30/60

Help! Two young men (an affair) - require financial backing for a new sound business enterprise. Both are partners in a professional practice. The new business can't fail (a limited company). Have some money and lots of customers. A short term loan is needed badly. Good security offered. Can any person please help us. Box 30/61

Active Sussex student? Share flat with untidy leather/denim inmate, 30. ALA Photos welcomed. Box 30/62

Gay gent in North east, wishes to meet others. ALA Box 30/63

Active male early 50s with own house in Sussex coastal town wishes to meet younger, clean-shaven 21-30 year old non-camp friend. Photo appreciated. Box 30/64

Man 40 wishes the company of active virile young man. Photo required. Box 30/65

Ifford area gay social club - why not? Strictly non-political, non-sectarian, men over 21 interested write Box 30/66

Warm loving sincere guy 36 needs young friend 21-25, non-effeminate with reasonable looks for a lasting and close friendship. I have own car and flat. Area not important but Midlands preferred. ALA with photo. Box 30/67

Craftsman 38 compassionate, understanding, living and working in idyllic Cornish cove seeks companion 21-28, slim, non-camp, for genuine friendship. Photo willingly exchanged and returned. Could meet London. ALA. Steve Box 30/68

Southend male 40 active, seeks well built dark hirsute companion for close friendship, possible view sharing home. Genuine and affectionate. Photo please. ALA Box 30/72

Young male nurse 21, not camp, seeks active man 21-28 with view to friendship. Photo appreciated. ALA Box 30/69

Slim blonde guy 24 attractive I'm told, Swedish forefathers, seeks friends who are attractive anywhere, have car will travel. Photo please. Box 30/70

Oxford area - pleasant looking, young 28 seeks friends, own age range. Photo ALA. Box 30/71

Lonely 26 gay male wishes to meet other gay boys 21-40 in Corby, Kettering, Northants area. Photo please. Box 30/73

Cultured music loving 22, slim and good looking, seeks similar for lasting friendship. London area. Photo please. ALA Box 30/74

Two guys in their thirties recently moved to St Albans area are keen to make friends with others of a similar age or younger. No effeminates. Box 30/75

Male person wanted Leeds region. Box 30/76

Wanted. Blonde guy 21-35 non-effeminate. I am 23, dark hair, brown eyes, good looking, own car etc. Please send recent photo. Midlands or London area. Genuine replies only. Box 30/77

Bored Londoner 33 denim fan wants to contact other fans with ideas. Under 40 unless well preserved. ALA Box 30/78

Young good looking tall blonde body-builder seeks similar as serious training partner/friend. Wide interests. Or other interesting/attractive friends. London Box 30/79

Gay girl seeks gay guy for marriage of convenience. Americans only please. Phone Pip 580-3766

John P have a very happy birthday on 1st September and good luck in Solihull. Tony.

Handsome gay Malaysian 21, seeks penpals Sweden, Denmark, Holland, France, answer in English. Danny Jacob 334-H Rahang Road, Seremban N S Malaysia.

Do you need typing done quickly at reasonable rates? Ring 01-370 4606 Mon-Fri after 10am days only.

MICHAEL LEE welcome home - much love always Peter.

Sincere young bachelor, London, attractive, considerate, absolutely genuine, seeks permanent friend, 21-35. Photo please (return promised) Box 30/104

Young bachelor, London, has secluded farmhouse 100 miles away. Wishes contact car owners, London, wishing to spend country weekends and willing to drive. Photo appreciated. Box 30/105

Bachelor, 51, own flat South Coast, seeks attractive hirsute companions for sincere friendship, age race, colour no importance. Box 30/106

Terry 29, lives South Bucks, seeks active rugged partner 30-45 for permanent friendship. Genuine replies with photo please. Returned with mine. ALA Box 30/107

50 year old gay lives South Bucks seeks adaptable masculine partner for permanent friendship. Domesticity and home comforts assured. ALA Box 30/108

Croydon young presentable professional Chinese seeks friends 21-35 home and abroad. Photo essential. Box 30/109

Londoner seeks pal for occasional afternoon meets for a chat. Write your interests. Active 60s. Box 30/110

Disillusioned 25 year old introvert reasonable appearance seeks active happy genuine friends. Box 30/111

Attractive slim guy 21 seeks genuine and warm friendship with sensible, clean, affectionate and non-effeminate boys any age from 21. Prefer masculine or well built and not long haired. Photo is essential and returned with mine. London or anywhere. Box 30/112

Even one reply would be nice! From a beginner who would like to drop in now and then to help listen to my good classical record collection, and talk about life. Earls Court. Box 30/113

Callin all Manchester Skin'eads. I'm a skin. honest cockney and I need mates who think the way I do. No bover just send details (wiv photo if possible) ALA Box 30/117

Sinhalese, professional man 46 residing in London, not gregarious, cultural humanitarian interests, possessed of deep compassion for the underdog, the feeble and disabled, seeks a soul-mate. He would be 46-60 years, serious minded and possess a strong masculine personality and guts.

Religion unimportant, but some affinity to Christ and spiritual values essential. Like me he would be seeking a life partner for a constructive relationship which would sharpen the mind and enrich the soul. Suitable person committed to tending an aged or disabled person given full support. Professional preferred but intelligent cobbler equally welcome. ALA Box 30/114

Lonely guy 21 (not camp) 6', slim, seeks sincere loving active guy 26-38 for lasting loving friendship. London area. Photo if possible. ALA Box 30/115

Londoner 30 wishes to meet oriental 23-27 living in London for friendship. Also for company on holiday next year. Photo appreciated. Box 30/116

London professional late 40s intellectual, 6' slim, accustomed to active role with young friends, seeks before it is too late to exchange occasional embraces with an older friend. Offers and seeks reciprocity of rugged good humour rather than any intellectual exchanges. Box 30/118

London Asian 34 5'7" well built masculine, likes music, cinema, sports, etc. Would like to meet sincere and friendly people 21-35 any colour or race. Photo please, returned with mine. Box 30/119

Psychologist, early thirties sick of giving love and receiving none, requires deep friendship with responsive London male 21-30. Box 30/120

Canada. Young man would like to hear from young gay men in Europe, especially those planning to visit Canada. Box 30/121

Timothy Leary disciples 21-35 wanted by guy hung up on consciousness kick. No beginners. Box 30/122

Attractive young guy, Birmingham seeks handsome young man for lasting friendship. Box 30/123

Mid-thirties seeks sincere friends 21-40 wide range of interests, non camp. Photo if possible. ALA Box 30/124

Guy 26 wishes to meet someone pleasant with slim athletic build similar age, view share small comfortable centrally-situated flat from September. £27 per month inclusive. Photo secures reply. Box 30/125

46 year old seeks genuine friendship with similar or younger. Interests reading acting etc. Berkshire area. Write with recent photo, returned with reply. Box 30/126

Male 30 likes leather, would like friends with motor bike, own flat. ALA photo please. Box 30/127

Young naturist bi-sexual couple, guy and girl, wish to meet one or two young gays for friendship, visits to nudist colonies etc. London and South East. ALA Box 30/128

Affectionate, shy, discreet Leo 34, anxious to meet someone same age or younger with view to permanent friendship. Sincerity more important than looks. Own place (Gloucestershire). ALA Box 30/129

Gamesplayer 28, tall, good looking, seeks adventurous games lover, preferably over 47, silver-haired in South East. Photograph please. Box 30/130

Young 33 year old requires an attractive man older than myself for everlasting friendship. Must be genuine and considerate, I live in London. I'm 5'9", fair and 150lbs. Full details and photo please. ALA Box 30/131

Londoner mid-thirties seeks active friend - preferably in 21-35 age group for sincere friendship. General interests. Box 30/132

Sentimental fun loving non-effeminate guy 26 interested in theatre, films, history, animals and music (varied) hopefully seeks counterpart 21-30 for loving friendship. Living West Midlands countryside but area unimportant. Photo appreciated (if exchanged). Dave. Box 30/133

Normal looking Leeds guy 22 wishes to meet short haired masculine bloke 21-35 for sincere relationship. Photo appreciated if possible. ALA Box 30/134

Guy 30 wants guy 21-35 for long mind trips. As far as as high as possible. Colours sounds and love, love. Let's really turn on. Write to Mitch, BM Box 6484, London WC1V 6XX

Genuine Scottish tawses for sale. Alan 23 Grayling Road, London N16.

Shy 24, anyone comes near I run. Slim and good looking, or so I am told. Intersted, ring 01-994 1584

"Penpals Unlimited" magazine. Free listing. 40p copy. Pleasantries Publications GN8 24 Cranbourn Street, London WC2A 7AA

Bachelor 60 would like companion for holiday abroad. No objection to colour. Box 30/103

Ring Betty for cheap reliable flights world wide 01-437 0817. Central Holidays, 103 Charing Cross Road, London WC2

Holidays. Caravans to let Cumberland coast overlooking mountains and sea. Good bathing. Gays welcome. Mr John Rigg, 11 High Street, Maryport, Cumberland.

Spend your holidays/weekends in the country. Two friends (male) with beautiful house, peaceful and secluded, offer full board. Family atmosphere. Reasonable charges. Easy reach M4, Bath. Trains met. 022-16 3299

Holiday in Cornwall. Ring St Ives 6906 for bed and breakfast £1.50 per night.

Is there a warm bisexual woman 35-50 free to accompany similar Mediterranean holiday later this year? Free hospitality. Possibility permanent friendship. London based. Box 30/138

Accommodation

Flat mate wanted to share flat in Forest Hill with 22-year-old. Own room no strings. £7.50 per week. Box 30/85

Share luxury flat Knightsbridge £15 per week. All mod cons. Sorry, only one bedroom. Ref essential. Box 30/86

Quiet Londoner 45 seeks furnished flat/flatlet, Fulham, Wandsworth, Brixton. Would share with quiet West Indian. Box 30/87

Young active non-camp to share my flat in South East London. I am easy going, music lover, car owner etc. Not interested in the pub scene. Permanent friendship if possible. Only genuine replies answered by return of post. Phone no and photo not essential, but would help. Box 30/88

Central to North London. Accommodation (own room) required in discreet flat by Irish guy 22. David, Box 30/89

London W4 house. 5th young man to share room with one other. Rent inclusive of everything except food, £35 per month. Box 30/90

Free accommodation, Manchester over 25, looking for permanent friend but willing to accommodate anyone for short stays, weekends etc. Luxury furnished, modern house. Box 30/91

Accommodation: young man wants to share flat/house in Gants Hill/Ilford area (within driving distance of Brentwood) with others who are young and enjoy living. Comfort and right atmosphere more important than cost. Box 30/92

Birmingham. Gay tenant of ground-floor flat would like discreet gay neighbours upstairs when first-floor, two-bedroom furnished flat becomes vacant in autumn. Can arrange introduction to landlord. Rent approx £50 per month. Exclusive area. Box 30/93

Young guy (mid 20s) to share comfortable flat SE19 with similar. Own large room, TV, telephone etc. Box 30/94

Young man 25 seeks room or flat in Central London, preferably convenient to city. Box 30/95

Three guys early twenties need fourth guy the same to share large modern flat in Streatham, 20 mins Victoria. Own room and all facilities available. Must be reliable, fun loving with no hang-ups. £7 inclusive. Box 30/96

Graduate 22 requires accommodation in Sheffield from late September 1973. Minimum one year. Box 30/97

Quiet guy 25, pleasant disposition and looks, seeks flat share in Birmingham area. Box 30/98

4th to share large studio Kings Cross. Hardworking but relaxed atmosphere. £5 per week. Box 30/99

Third man share luxury mews house opposite BEA terminal. Mature over 30 professional or airline. £30 pw. Box 30/100

Teacher 24 extrovert but discreet offers share in flat off Wandsworth Common to similar. Own access, telephone, one minute bus/tube. £6, no strings, details. 01-648 4919

W2 large bedroom in established flat. Guy or girl, gay or broad-minded. TV and phone. Details 01-229 6140 mornings. £10 per week.

Gay couple urgently require furnished flat Central London before 28th September £13-£15 per week. Phone 01-588 6010 ext 142 Morrison, 9.30-5.00 pm.

Bed and breakfast £1.50 per night. Phone 01-472 3122. 106 Olive Road, Plaistow, London E13.

Guy with modern bungalow, South Northants, wishes to share with one other - Brackley 2830 weekends.

Professional man offers young guy share of comfortable home/car. Own room SW2. Photo appreciated. Box 30/135

Sensible leather guy 30 would like to share in leather/denim house or flat. Box 30/136

2nd male 20s to share V Central London flat. Own room. £8pw. Box 30/137

Employment

Wanted immediately. Absolutely genuine and sincere. Fit and active 21-25. No ties. Sun lover, for employment. Gardening/ground work on Island estate. Full personal details and photo. Permanent. Write Marc, Tierra Roja, Santa Eulalia, Ibiza, Spain.

Van driver required full/part time. Contact 01-254 4265

Employment Ads cont. top of next page.

COMMERCIAL ADS: 7p a word.
No Box Number service available.
NON-COMMERCIAL ADS: 3p a word. Box Numbers 50p.
PERSONAL ADS: 3p a word. Box Numbers 50p.
SEMI-DISPLAY (Boxed Classified) £1.50 extra.
All information listings free.
ALL ADS MUST BE PRE-PAID.
DISPLAY AD RATES - prices quoted on request - contact Ad Manager Peter Mundy.

Personal & Classified Ads Form

Please insert in the next issue
BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Please find enclosed a cheque/postal order made payable to Gay News Ltd for the sum of

£ for an Ad of words.

Send to Gay News, Basement, 34d Redcliffe Square, London SW10.

NAME

ADDRESS

Newsletters

● Trudeau Gives Grant To Gay Booklet

TORONTO: The Canadian Federal Government has made a grant of \$9,500 (about £4,500) to enable seven high school students to write a booklet on homosexuality for fellow students in the Kitchener area.

The grant was made under Pierre Trudeau's 'Liberal Opportunities for Youth' programme.

The group writing the booklet numbers 7-5 male, 2 female. In all, 5 of the group are gay.

First step they took was to distribute questionnaires designed to determine community attitudes to homosexuality. 700 teachers were amongst those who answered, and the response of some particularly disappointed the students - the teachers in question thought the study to be a waste of time and money. The group of students stressed that teachers spend a great deal of time with young people developing sexual attitudes.

● Alderman Says CHE "Must Be Joking"

WALES: The Cardiff Campaign for Homosexual Equality, recently labelled 'wierdos' by an alderman wishing to evict them from their meeting place (GN29), has responded by inviting its attacker to a CHE meeting.

Alderman Sidney Doxsey told the South Wales Echo: "They must be joking. I have not the slightest intention of getting involved with that bunch."

"This does not alter my attitude to them at all."

● Unconsummated Love

SAN QUENTIN: Antony Estrada, 39, and Glen Watts, 47, both prisoners in America's notorious San Quentin jail, were recently married by mail order, and are now suing the warden because he refuses to let them share the same cell. Prison rules ban homosexual activity.

● The Magenta TV Test

SWITZERLAND: Psychologist Dr Max Luscher claims to have unearthed a new device to tap secrets of character. It's the colour TV test. If the viewer adjusts his or her picture stressing red, the diagnosis is: overconfident, oversexed, energetic. Too blue: contented, phlegmatic, prone to over-eat. Too yellow: too trusting and too hopeful. Too magenta: you're gay.

● Censor Suddenly Bans Play

JOHANNESBURG: 'Three Months Gone', a comedy which was playing here, has been banned after 30 of its 35 performances had taken place. The play ran in the West End for three months during 1970. The South African censor seems to have suddenly taken offence to the action, which centres around het and gay scenes and fantasies. A South African cast were appearing in the play.

● The Mysterious Repression Pill

LUTON: A 22 year old motor mechanic, charged in court with throwing an obscene photograph to two 15-year-old boys as an invitation for sex, has made reference to some curious-sounding tablets.

He explained: "I was shaking with fright because I realised I had homosexual tendencies and I feel they are wrong. I was given some tablets to overcome this. But I did not have them with me. I knew I had an obscene photograph on me, and I had to get rid of the temptation."

As it's accepted that homosexuality cannot be "cured", perhaps a special new tablet to counteract society's prejudiced and misinformed attitudes towards gayness has been developed. Perhaps not. Still, GN is always interested in information on shifting tactics.

● The Economics of Gay Sex

LONDON: In GN29, we reported that a het couple caught having sex in Hyde Park received a £5 fine. The point raised was this: "illegal" het sex comes a lot cheaper than its gay counterpart.

Now comes the news that two males, pleading guilty to committing "an act of gross indecency" in Hyde Park also, have each been fined £25 in Marlborough Street Court.

At those rates, we advise anyone planning a gang bang in Hyde Park to make it het - heaven knows what a gay one would cost.

● Men Kissed, Government Gets £50

LEEDS: A couple kissing in a car turned out to be... men! Police made the startling discovery when they were called to investigate a couple kissing in a car parked in Railway Street. The men, one a 42 year old hotel licensee, the other a 21 year old fettle, also admitted to "an act of gross indecency". They were fined £25 each.

● "Politicians Not Interested In Sex"

CHILTERN: The local Campaign for Homosexual Equality branch has complained in its newsletter that local politicians are not interested in sex issues. The group invited local Conservative, Liberal and Labour Parties to send representatives to meetings to discuss sexual law reform. Only one reply came in - from the Conservatives, who explained they had another meeting organised on the evening suggested.

● Vicious Attacks at Tooting - Police Promise 'Discretion'

SOUTH LONDON: Tooting Bec Common, which aroused police interest a year back because it began functioning as a trolling ground, has now become the scene of vicious attacks on men thought to be gay.

In recent weeks, men walking across the Common have been attacked by three youths believed to be in their late-teens.

At this stage, the exact extent of the attacks is not known. A detective said: "Few homosexuals will admit to police what has happened, but we can assure such people that we will treat all inquiries in the strictest of confidence."

Some of the known victims have had small amounts of money stolen from them, and police claim to hold fears that youths may look upon these queer-bashing activities as an easy way to make money.

The attacks have mainly taken place on a footpath, running between Hillbury Road, from Dr Johnson Ave to Bedfordhill.

"Queer-bashing" by warped youths has not limited itself to Tooting Common. In Battersea on Sunday afternoon, August 4th, three youths attacked and badly injured a 46-year-old man in a Bolingbroke Grove public lavatory. The victim was robbed of £5.

● Canadian Gay Pride Week

TORONTO: An extensive Gay Pride Week swings into action here on Friday August 17, winding up on Sunday August 26. Activities include marches, a baseball game, seminars, boating trips and dances. Most activities will emanate from 201 Church Street, Toronto.

● Gay Bill Just Misses

OREGON: A House Bill which would have banned discrimination against gays in all areas of employment (except domestic), as well as in housing and other areas of civil rights, has fallen two votes short of the constitutional majority it needed to pass.

● Gay Attacker Gets Light Sentence

SAN FRANCISCO: Geoffrey King, one of four teenagers who attacked the controversial Rev Ray Broshears, has received a mild 90 day suspended sentence with three years probation. Broshears has since formed the Lavender Panthers (GN 29) a militant group which plans to "fight back".

● Historic Stonewall?

NEW YORK: The Gay Activist Alliance is seeking to place a plaque on the site of the Stonewall Inn, scene of the famous gay riot in 1969. The Stonewall was a gay bar raided by police; the customers fought back.

● Action Delayed

NEW ORLEANS: The official investigation of the gay bar fire which killed 32 persons has yet to be resolved. Investigators say they are not about to speak until they have a definite conclusion.

The fire helped bring about the formation of the Gay Peoples' Coalition, which has already opened a gay VD clinic.

● Splendour In The Grass

EXETER: Tony Rowe, a visitor at the Cathedral here, claims to have received a nasty shock - he witnessed three gay couples in a "tight clinch" on the green near the church, with a dozen other straight couples doing likewise.

Mr Rowe said it took a lot to shock him, but this looked like an orgy. "The homosexual couples were kissing and fondling each other." Police were contacted.

The Dean of Exeter, the Very Rev Clifford Chapman, said: "This is one of the penalties of the so-called permissive society and we just have to take the rough with the smooth."

GN however, can cite it as the only case of church integration to be received at our newsdesk of late.

● Gay Course Accepted By Yale

NEW YORK: After long weeks of wrangling, Yale University has decided to include a course on homosexuality in its Fall schedule. The course will take place at one of Yale's colleges, with Roslyn Regelson working from a pro-gay syllabus.

● Sodomy is Still Crooked

TALLAHASSEE: A recent string of court decisions has upheld the State Court ruling that acts of sodomy may be prosecuted as an "unnatural, lascivious act".

● More Gay Bar Fires

SAN JUAN: A \$200,000 fire here has destroyed two gay bars, the only life loss being several pedigree schnauzers. Police believe the fire was of an electrical nature.

● Vicar vs Male Strippers

HORNCHURCH: The plan to install male strippers at the Bull Hotel (GN29) has been attacked by the Rev Peter Peatfield of St Andrews Church. Along with the predictable views that it is "distasteful", the vicar is thinking the delicate feelings of straights in the district. "Apart from anything else," he says, "it is likely to cause trouble from local gangs of youths who might take offence."

● Gay Lit Rejected By College

SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA: The Santa Rosa Junior College Board has turned down a proposed course on gay literature (the vote was 7-0) despite its plea for inclusion by the chairman of the English Department and two instructors.

● Close Cottage Watch

EDINBURGH: A local reader reports that the cottage at Register House and Woolworths "is being continually watched by police, from the manager's office of the North British Hotel, which is just across the road." A police box is also nearby which makes this particularly unsafe.

● The Gay Sense of Imagination

GEORGIA: *College English*, the official publication of the USA Council of Teachers of English, is planning to produce an issue devoted to homosexual literature. It is planning to focus upon the 'homosexual imagination' and its editors are calling for the submission of suitable articles. If interested, contact Louie Crew, Department of English, Fort Valley State College, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030 USA.

● Gay Lawyers Officially Acceptable

NEW YORK: The State Court of Appeals has ruled that a gay lawyer cannot be barred from practice solely on the basis of his or her homosexuality.

The decision was a victory for Harris L. Kimball, 47, who was disbarred in 1957 after arrest for sodomy. It is also a significant move for the many law students who have openly announced their gayness.

● Hypnotism as Gay "Cure"

LONDON: 'Clockwork Orange' therapy tactics are still being recommended - a bisexual who wrote to *Reveille* magazine recently, requesting advice on repressing his gay desires, was advised by the answering 'expert' to seek out a hypnotist. The GN reader who forwarded the clipping has lodged a complaint with the magazine. Readers who see similar archaic advice would do well if they likewise complained.

● Shocked Clergy

WEST LANCASHIRE: The Blackburn Gay Liberation Front have been attacked by the Fylde clergy for distributing leaflets at a Festival of Light meeting.

"These leaflets are very anti-church," said the Rev C Levy.

● Steambath Raid: 54 Arrests

INDIANAPOLIS: The local Club Steambath was hit by its second major raid in three months during the early hours of a recent morning. 54 arrests were made - 51 were charged with "frequenting a dive", 2 were charged with sodomy, and a deskman was charged with "operating a dive". The management claims police were denied entry because they did not have a warrant, but nevertheless forced their way in through use of physical force.

● Patients Want Sex

BROADMOOR: Inmates of the local mental hospital have made a plea for the one main thing missing from their lives - sex. The plea was made in the hospital's journal by "Janella Flight", presumably a woman.


"Let's not kid ourselves," she wrote, "homosexuality is rife in this hospital and bitter quarrels and many unhappinesses explode because of it."

She said hospital staff "belittle our attempts to form worthwhile relationships, and stop some from kissing as though it were a bad and socially unacceptable act."

● Documentary Traces Gay Porn

NEW YORK: A full-length film has been released documenting the rise of gay movies, from the posing-strap athletic features of the mid-60s to the current professional porn products such as 'Boys In The Sand'.

The film, *Erotikus*, features clips of 18 orgasms and is narrated by Fred Halsted, who appears in less and less clothing each time he becomes visible for comment. GN does not expect a British release of *Erotikus* to be imminent.

AT LAST!
 An
**INTERNATIONAL
 'GAY - GUIDE'**
 AN 'IN-DEPTH' INDEX CARD SYSTEM WITH YOUR OWN
 PERSONAL FILE OF UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.
 IT'S A QUARTERLY REVIEW OF NEW AND REVISED CARDS
 TO ADD TO YOUR PERSONAL LIBRARY.
 RELEVANT DATA ON ILLUSTRATED CARDS.

 Send £1.25 for the first issue to:
 I.G.G. Publication,
 13a Petersham Road,
 Richmond,
 Surrey.
