

N°31

# GAY NEWS

15

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

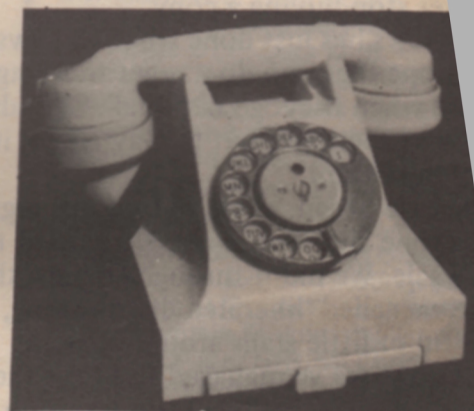
# HELLO.

# CAN

# I

# HELP

# YOU?



# GAY NEWS

## A Word To New Readers

CHANCES are, you might be holding your very first copy of Gay News. Never bought it before. Perhaps you've never even seen it.

If that's the case . . . if you're a newcomer to our newspaper, then we'll never stop thanking you for buying a copy . . . provided you never stop buying a copy.

Gay News has just done what all newspapers hope they can do . . . get to a stage in their life when they 'go national'. Sounds a little corny, perhaps, but to Gay News, it's so very important.

When we began, as we've told our regular readers time and time again, we battled to make a sale. We did it through friends, the people we called 'liberated distributors', and a handful of little stalls around Britain.

But now, we've managed to break the ice, and perhaps even break a little tradition. Gay News is now being distributed by one of the biggest publication handlers in the country, and already, there's massive evidence that we are on sale in hundreds of new outlets.

It's a big step. Bigger than just having our publication on sale in more places which makes it more convenient for you to buy.

It means that we are sharing space with the 'white collar' publications, the ones people never thought we'd be allowed to be seen side by side with. There's no reason why you shouldn't go right on up to your most respected newsagent and get a copy of Gay News along with your Time magazine.

And just getting back to our little welcome . . . if you are one of the new band of readers, Gay News is your newspaper. Not a one-eyed, screwed up, pontificating advocate of a way of life. If you like the way it's happened in this edition, we just hope you like the way it comes together a fortnight from now too.

We're mighty glad you were suddenly able to buy us, and we're mighty glad to have you with us.

## It's Up To You Too

WHEN things get tough, just get in touch with somebody who'll do it all for you.

The too-often heard yell of the gay world. It's about time we woke up and started getting in there and doing something for ourselves.

For no particular reason at all, it came to our attention — us being self-appointed observers — that there's a great lethargy about action in the gay world. A great feeling of 'leaving it to someone else.'

Gay News, or Campaign for Homosexual Equality, or the Gay Liberation Front, or the Scottish Minorities Group, or any of your favourite campaigning action bodies, do spend a lot of their time getting things into shape for gay people. We will, they will, and nobody is complaining about doing it.

But it is time to jolt thousands of gays into realisation that when it comes to doing things, whether it be battling for equal rights petitions, getting into action groups or whatever, gay people are very capable too. The great gay solo attitude is to find somebody else, and then to present an idea or a complaint to a Gay Action organisation, and leave it at that. Gay people have every right in the world to do things for themselves.

The activists will still press for law changes and go to the peers and seek national recognition, but it seems sometimes to fall just a little flat when there's little or no record of action from individuals.

It doesn't hurt. Short-circuit the system. Nobody will complain.

## 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.

### A United Voice

Glasgow,

Dear Gay News,

Regarding GN29 page 3 on recent splits, I have always thought that the gay movement, being concerned with an aspect of human nature, should be the most international thing on earth. And yet, after being in Scottish Minorities Group from the start, I find that a grotesque chauvinism has to be reckoned with. I used to envisage a vast all-British organisation which, if all who should join it did so,

would have a million members. Is this not desirable? If SMG and Campaign for Homosexual Equality were to merge, the main advantages would be that we could enjoy the services of full-time staff (which SMG cannot afford) and even more important, some magnificent men such as Ian Dunn (courageous founder of SMG) would become more widely useful as leaders and promoters of the gay movement. There would also be a united voice for reforming that intolerant ass, the law, and this united voice is something which we really should have, even if SMG and CHE remain apart. The existence of separate campaigns is bound to confuse public opinion and try parliamentary patience, whilst the long night drags on.

Donald

### Gay Loses His Wings

RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk

Dear Gay News,

I am a Sgt in the US Air Force, stationed at RAF Mildenhall in Suffolk.

I want to congratulate you on a job well done. You are publishing a newspaper which is improving the image of homosexuals to a "straight" society, while still being informative to the gay scene.

I will soon be leaving England and returning to the United States, as the Air Force has found out that I am a homosexual, and thus after 4½ years of honourable, good service, I am being discharged.

Michael E Ploski, Sgt, USAF

### Relaxing 'Within The Law'

160 Faversham Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent

Dear Gay News,

Reading your reports of the Scottish Minorities Group's and the difficulties they face, I believe many of us could help with direct action.

I suggest that those who are able, offer their accommodation to our friends north of the border for short vacations to give them the opportunity of relaxing 'within the law'.

Perhaps CHE and Gay Lib groups might organise offers on an area basis.

Anyone reading this letter north of the border is invited to take up the offer to spend a few days in East Kent.

R. J. Groves

### Overcoming Isolation

Yorkshire

I was struck recently by a letter from one of your readers, who stated that reading GN gave him 'the feeling of not being alone'. I feel that I must write and endorse this view.

Gay newspapers and magazines give a tremendous boost, and do in fact provide a lifeline for people who are inclined to feel isolated.

For myself, at any rate, reading gay publications is a large step forward from the time when the only contact with the gay world was myself.

So keep on doing what you're doing!

Anon

### 'Especially Tasteless'

London

Dear Gay News,

An especially tasteless anti-gay programme on BBC was the final episode of the *Jack The Ripper* series, shown on August 17th. Writers Elwyn Jones and John Lloyd put dialogue into the mouths of Inspectors Barlow and Watt that blithely lumped all gay people with criminals. An extra touch was provided by actors Straford Johns and Frank Windsor, with their usual snide delivery of the lines.

Some anti-gay scenes were of course justifiable in that they merely depicted what actually happened in the 1880's, complete with Victorian bigotry. But even in those flashbacks (ie court proceedings in a libel suit), the one avowed gay was portrayed as a crude stereotype of a limp-wristed poof.

I wonder how many fans of the ever-popular Barlow and Watt will be influenced by the show's prejudices.

Richard Keiser

### Points of Law

Woodsetts, nr Worksop

Dear Gay News,

I should like, if I may, to be permitted to take up a couple of points in Mr Locke's excellent article on Sexual Offences (GN30).

I do not think it is quite correct to define 'inter-crural contact' so as to include the mere contact of thighs or buttocks. The more usual meaning given is that of a simulated form of sexual intercourse in which the penis is inserted 'intra cruris' ie between the legs at the crotch. There are, of course, other forms of 'gross indecency'. As the Wolfenden Committee so sapiently observed — "Occasionally the offence may take a more recondite form; techniques in heterosexual relations vary considerably, and the same is true of homosexual relations."

The second point is that I do not feel that we should have any anxiety about a kiss between two males being brought within the ambit of 'gross indecency'. We have Professor Radzinowicz's opinion that if "two male persons kissed each other under circumstances which showed that the act was immoral and unnatural" it would be indecent, but not 'grossly indecent' (Quoted in Smith and Hogan 'Criminal Law' page 323, second edition).

I also happen to think that Mr Locke's discussion of the meaning of "in private" is too optimistic as is his remark that the cases on importuning are confined to relationships between adults and minors.

On a note of hope may I relate that I once managed to persuade a court that it was anatomically impossible for a man to commit sodomy when the passive partner was lying face down on a bed!

H E 'Ike' Cowen

### Missing Films

Glasgow 3

Dear Gay News,

In GN25 you carried an advert from Lux Publications stating that anyone who had missing orders should get in touch with them. Reply to come within four weeks.

As I had two movies on order from them since December missing, I wrote to them, but despite the enclosure of an SAE I have received no reply from them. As the order was worth £20 I am very annoyed and would advise anyone to have absolutely nothing to do with this firm.

Richard

ED: GN is refusing to carry advertisements for Lux Publications until every person who has complained about them has received satisfaction or compensation.

### An Appalling Gay Attitude

High Wycombe, Bucks.

Dear Gay News,

Having read your report on the het couple caught having sex in Hyde Park who were fined £5 (GN29), then the report of the GAY world who were caught having sex (sorry, committing an act of gross indecency) who were fined £25 each (GN30).

This made me furious as this is just typical of the discrimination we all know about. YES, WE ALL KNOW ABOUT but what the HELL are we doing about it, granted Gay News is doing a great job, but what of the majority of the GAY world who do not read Gay News, what are they doing? In my opinion they are doing nothing at all and if I mention CHE or GLF to a lot of my GAY friends, they just curl up into a little ball and nearly die.

How can we possibly get anything done when the gay world itself is too frightened or apathetic to join the fight, and what is worse, even frowns upon those of us who do.

David Armitage

### Cottaging — GN Too Sympathetic?

Dear Gay News,

Whilst I can sympathise with anyone who may have been arrested by over-zealous policemen where there is little or no evidence to support a conviction, I cannot understand the attitude of Gay News, which seems to think we should be sympathetic to people who are convicted of committing an "act of gross indecency" in public lavatories. After all, everyone who goes cottaging knows the risks, so why cry about it when they have to pay the fine?

G A

ED: At GN we have received numerous accounts of police provocateurs and entrapment tactics — enough to convince us that many innocent gays have been arrested, and therefore they are deserving of our sympathy. Also, as GN has previously pointed out, fines against gays are higher than their het counterparts.

### 'Power' of the Gay Press

London SW12

Dear Gay News,

I would like to thank you for your co-operation in publishing the letter I wrote to you about my comedy with a gay theme, "HELLO MOTHER, HELLO FATHER!" Firstly I didn't really expect you to publish my letter, and secondly, I didn't expect the response which I have had to it. Enquiries have come from all over England, and I also had a letter from a gentleman (quite unknown to me) who wanted me to come and live with him.

This is certainly proof, if proof there need be, of the excellent coverage and power that Gay News has.

By the time you receive this letter, it is probable that definite arrangements will already have been made to present "HELLO MOTHER! HELLO FATHER!" in London later this year, and that this may be followed by other productions elsewhere, so I am greatly indebted to you. May you go from strength to strength.

"Butch" Black

ED: Since receiving this letter we have learnt that the CHE Players will be staging the play in November, full story in this issue under the heading 'Three Firsts for Gay Play'.

### Corrections and Emendations

Los Angeles

Dear Gay News,

Thanks for coming to see me that rainy day in London and for the generous piece you printed (*Joseph Hanson Interview, GN28*).

Just a couple of corrections and emendations. First, I don't want anyone in the gay activist movement anywhere to think I'm trying to take credit for things I never did. Don Slater and Dorr Legg were the pioneers of the homosexual movement here in 1953. I didn't come into it until much much later, as editor of ONE Magazine. I began writing pieces for the magazine in 1961, I think.

The picket line at Barney's Beanery was led not by me but by Morris Kight, moving spirit of the Gay Liberation Front in Los Angeles, though I was in on the planning of the demonstration, and took part in it. The first picket line I walked was earlier, against the monolithic Los Angeles Times when they refused to print adverts for homosexual books, films, etc. We won!

And I think it is important to make clear that the name Brandstetter as used in my novels is meant to refer to no person living or dead. No such person has been involved in any of the events depicted in my books which are wholly fictional. The only individual of this name ever known to me was then a child; the character so named in my books is a man of middle years. There has been no intent on my part to defame or damage anyone of this name, and I sincerely apologise for any in-convenience or embarrassment my use of the name may have caused.

Joseph Hansen

### DEAR GAY NEWS...



Illustration: Jean-Claude Thevenin

### Defensive Attitudes

London W1

Dear Gay News,

It's good to know (GN30) that many important housing authorities view gays in a positive light. What is significant is that this finding comes as a 'shock' to us (to use Tim Skinner's aptly ironic comment), just as the widespread acceptance of gays by the Morecambe populace came as a 'shock'.

Why? Why should we be surprised that housing bodies have realised that many gays make model tenants? Isn't it time that we ceased internalising what we (wrongly) assume to be society's blanket condemnation of us? To continue acting on such non-facts is to perpetuate our own isolation.

By assigning the role of gay-haters to the wrong people, we gratuitously invite 'prejudice' from them, which we (again wrongly) assume to derive from our gayness, rather than from our defensive attitudes. Another of R D Laing's little vicious circles?

To break it, we have to assume people innocent of anti-gay prejudice until found guilty of it; and one very salutary way of establishing their collective innocence (or otherwise) would be for *Gay News* to conduct more surveys, similar to the one just conducted on housing.

Bob Sturgess

## GAY NEWS

No 31  
September 6-19

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### Deadlines and Copy Dates for GN32

Copy, letters, etc — Saturday, September 8  
Display, Personal and Classified Advertising etc — Noon, Monday, September 10

### Gay News Special Friends

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

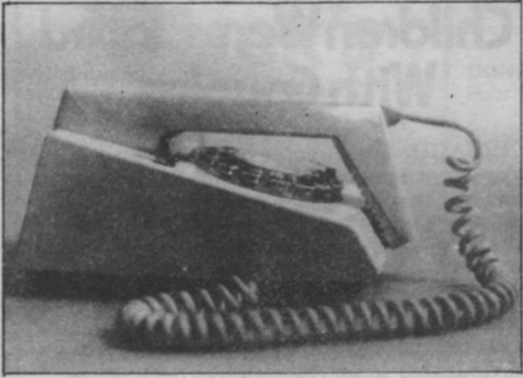
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Gay News is distributed throughout the UK by Moore Harness Ltd, 31 Corsica Street, London N5.  
Tel: 01-359 4127

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

Gay News is the registered trade mark of Gay News Limited



# Who Needs A Gay Switchboard?

SIX years after the Sexual Offences Act, six years after gay activism went into business in England, it seems strange to us that we haven't managed yet to get a central clearing house for information about the gay scene. And it's not that there is no demand for one.

Every day at the offices, we get phone calls from people who want to know where the gay pubs are in Burnley, or where they can find a gay solicitor who will handle their legal aid case. We try and help where we can, but all too often we can't give the caller an answer. We simply don't have the time to collect all the information and ensure that it is kept up to date. And many other gay organisations face similar problems. We would all like to help, but other things get in the way.

So what can we do that would really help? We want to see a telephone service set up, a number for people to ring with their questions, a number for people to ring with their problems. And it really isn't an over-ambitious plan.

First off, we have written to a number of these organisations inviting them to a meeting. You will find a copy of the letter we sent out printed in this edition, along with an article by Tom Queenan in which he talks about the switchboard he started in New Jersey with three friends. By the end of September we hope to have got pretty clear ideas about how the service is going to work. And we would like to see it working by October.

It depends for its success upon a lot of things, and a lot of people. This is *not* a Gay News scheme. As we have said, we would like to provide such a service, but that is not our main job, and we don't have enough time to do it properly. We want to join with other gay groups and help get the thing off the ground. But we don't see it being run by any particular organisation. We hope that there will be a number of individuals in each group who will feel that it is something they would like to do, and who are prepared to take it on as a personal commitment. As Tom points out in his article about the New Jersey switchboard, it would be easier all round if the people who ran the service weren't involved in group politics. At the same time, if they have some sort of connections with CHE, GLF, Sappho, Jewish Gaysoc, etc, it is going to be much easier to get a good flow of information in.

And we would also like *your* help in this. We need you to supply information. We need to know what sort of service you most want. Later on we might want help finding accommodation (though to begin with we hope that we can make the Gay News offices available for the switchboard during the evenings). Of course, if you think that you would like to volunteer to work on the phones yourself, we'd like to know that too.

We've all got our fingers crossed here. It could be a huge step forward for the whole gay community if everyone is ready to help. We'll keep you informed on how it goes.

## ... Some Suggestions

- (1) *To begin with, the service will operate between 6.00pm and 11.00 pm.*
- (2) *Gay News offices could be made available for this.*
- (3) *Gay organisations should start it, but it should be run by people who are prepared individually to commit themselves to it.*
- (4) *The service will start in London, but large cities around the country may think it worth considering for their own areas.*
- (5) *The aim must be to cater for both men and women.*
- (6) *Three types of call may be handled: requests for general info (for example pubs, clubs, GLF demos, CHE meetings); next requests for professional advice (medical/legal) which can be referred if more than basic information is needed; finally, problem calls which it may be possible to help with, or which may sometimes have to be transferred to trained helpers.*
- (7) *Whilst we can all contribute to the early financing of the scheme, it is a project for which we should request money from local and central government agencies.*
- (8) *All organisations would assist in publicity schemes.*



## An Invitation To Gay Groups

TRY asking the Citizens Advice Bureau about gay counselling services. Or drop into a London Tourist Board office and ask for a list of gay hotels or clubs. In most cases the answer will be a silence broken, perhaps, by a 'Sorry, we can't help you.'

When somebody phones us at Gay News to ask about gay bars, or for the name of a sympathetic doctor, we try to help. But we simply don't have the time to produce the paper, and collect, and check on, all the sorts of information we are asked for. This is much the same position that all gay groups find themselves in.

So what can we do about it? We feel that it is about time to start up a Gay Switchboard to deal with enquiries. So we are writing to you in the hope that your organisation will send a representative to a meeting to set up such a service.

As we dearly want some kind of action to come out of this first meeting, rather than see the idea discussed out of existence, it would be a great help if you arrived armed with ideas, offers of financial aid, or even with the names and addresses of volunteers who would man the phone.

We shall be giving the idea an airing in Gay News 31. This letter will be printed, along with an article by Tom Queenan who started up a switchboard in New Jersey with three of his friends. We'll be sending copies to all of you as soon as it comes out. See you at the meeting.

With love from all at Gay News.

## ...And How It Started In New Jersey

IN late 1972, a group of four gay people in New Jersey decided to organise an information centre and switchboard for homosexual men and women in the state. There already existed one in New York City, but its distance from most of New Jersey made it impractical for most people in the area to use. What follows is an account of how they dealt with organisation problems and how they are managing currently with their project, the New Jersey Gay Switchboard and Information centre.

**Q. Let's start with something about your staff.**

Well, we range in age from 23 to 40, are two men and two women, two of us are active in local gay organisations, two are hair-dressers, one is a student, one is a school-teacher. None of us have any special training in counselling, we all like to talk on the telephone, two of us have minimal skills in office operation, one used to be into transvestism, one is just coming out of a relationship of some years standing, one has been married, I could go on...

**Q. Thanks. Where is your Centre located?**

We don't have a centre, in the strictest sense. I guess you could say that headquarters is in Princeton, New Jersey, but our phones operate from other areas up to ten or so miles away. Let me explain. Our first (and largest) problem was finding a place to operate from. We begged, asked through state gay organisations, buttonholed friends, did everything we could think of to find a place where we could set up. Then somebody suggested starting out from our separate apartments. We decided to try it temporarily with the hope that somebody would come through with a free place. We're still without a permanent location, but working out of our own places has worked out fairly well, much better than we anticipated, in fact. Our announcement cards list four telephone numbers. We've scheduled ourselves so that at least one number would be available every evening. An obvious disadvantage has been that a caller might have to call several numbers before getting one that answered, but even this has had a side advantage: since the numbers are scattered over a considerable area, a caller can choose one that's close to him and save on tolls, or call a more distant number and ensure his anonymity. People have told us that they like this.

So, not having a centre to work from hasn't been the problem we expected it to be.

We keep our files at Princeton, and mail is handled from there. The other three members of the collective keep files at their phones. We all get together periodically to exchange information and hash over problems.

We've also gotten into some consciousness raising among ourselves.

**Q. How did you get organised?**

An important thing that we had to decide right in the beginning was where we were in relation to the other state gay groups. We all felt that we should work closely with them BUT we should operate independent of them. This proved to be a wise decision: we're out of any fights or political hassles that they might get involved in. I'm active in several of these other groups and so is one of our other members, but we keep any partisanship separate from the information centre. Being independent also has the advantage of allowing the switchboard to determine its own policies and methods of operation.

Another rule we try to follow is that we devote our time and energies to activities of collecting and distributing information. We avoid bake sales and other fund-raising projects, I'll get into how we finance ourselves later.

**Q. Talk about it now.**

Well, we absorb the cost of operating ourselves. This isn't financially ruinous as it might seem. First of all, each of us has a telephone anyway, so this was not an extra expense. We've found it essential to limit ourselves to incoming calls. This has been hard to stick to, but we do keep up on mail and encourage callers to contact us this way. Our largest outlay has been for postage. Our bill for the first six months has come to about \$25. We also had cards printed - but shopped around and found a gay printer who did it for us at cost. There have been other expenses, I'd say we each put in about \$15 to \$20 since we got started. No, probably less than that - we got a donation from one of our callers. The only other large expense we've had so far has been post box rental. Again, we shopped around and found a small town near Princeton that had boxes cheaper. The box costs around \$4 per year.

**Q. How do you publicise?**

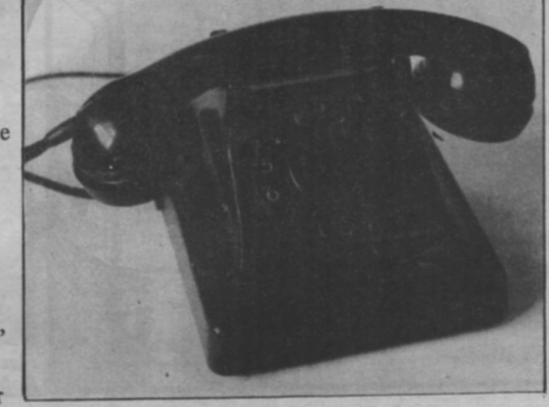
Ideally, we should be running ads in local newspapers and leafleting at shopping centres, things like that, but we can't afford it. Most of our calls came from people who hear about us from gay newspapers, or pick up our

cards in local bars. We get a number of referrals from gay switchboards in New York and Philadelphia, as well as hotlines in other parts of the state. We're on file at medical, legal, psychological counselling services.

**Q. What sort of calls do you get?**

Most of our calls are for specific information of one kind or another: where can I find a doctor, are there any gay groups in the seashore area? Is there a gay steam bath in South Jersey? This sort of request is fairly routine and we all have information to pass on about this. We get quite a few problem calls: "My parents just found out I'm queer. What do I do now?" or, "I'm looking for a lover. How should I start?" These we handle from our own experience or pass them on to people who can help them. We also get calls from people who just want to rap. We're not experts in counselling techniques - we see ourselves as listeners rather than advisors. So we encourage the caller to talk freely, try to be supportive toward him, avoid making judgements, and finally refer him to someone else who can help him further. We get 'touchy' calls occasionally - the most common of these is the heavy breather. This guy just breathes faster and faster and finally hangs up. Another type is the sexy talker. He tries to get you involved in conversation. Our usual tack with these people is just to be non-committal. If they get offensive, we hang up. Another type of call is the abusive one. These we cut off immediately, usually by suggesting they call a number a few towns away which turns out to be the police station. We've only had three or four of this last kind since we started.

*Continued at top of column 1, Page 4.*



## Gay Switchboard

Continued from Page 3.



There's another type of call we get fairly frequently — the person who calls and wants to make a date. This can be pretty risky all round. We've found the best way to deal with this is to arrange to meet the person and take him to one of the organisations' social affairs, or to a general meeting. If something develops, fine. If not, nobody loses face.

### Q. Where did you get your information from?

We started with a three year old bar list and a few copies of New York gay newspapers. Next step was to contact through a form letter those places listed in the newspapers asking information about themselves, and for help in locating other sources. These established organisations were very helpful in putting us on others — a sort of chain-reaction set in and soon groups were seeking us out. Another source of information was other gay people. We got valuable information on gay or gay sympathetic medical doctors simply by asking people who their doctors were, and if he knew they were gay. People were also helpful in finding out about bars, clinics, semi organised social groups etc.

Also sometimes putting people with similar problems together can be helpful all around. A routine question we ask callers is if they'd like us to keep them on file and put others with similar interests in touch with them. (We usually request first name and phone number, general geographic area and field of interest.) We've put together a drama reading group and gay alcoholics group so far this way, and currently have people on file interested in cooking, karate, knitting, a lesbian baseball team, CR groups for women over 35, to name a few.

### Q. Anything else?

What I've described is the working of a communications centre in an area where gays are relatively few and far between. If you were to put these questions to, say, the metropolitan gay switchboards in Philadelphia or New York City you might get very different responses. However, the area we work in is more typical of the gay environment across the United States, and I'd guess, Britain too. We'd be happy to pass on anything we have found out to anybody interested in starting something similar in other locations. Get in touch with us through our PO Box.

One more thing — if we can be helpful to any visitors who want contacts in the New York-Philadelphia area, drop a line to New Jersey Gay Switchboard and information centre, PO Box 323, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550

Tom Queenan



## Should Gays Feel Any Guilt? Houston Mass Murder

LOS ANGELES: California's most influential gay paper, *The Advocate*, has published an analysis of the Houston mass murder case. Written by Larry Townsend, who holds a Masters degree in clinical and industrial psychology, the report states that gays in general should not feel any guilt over the rape-murder of possibly thirty teenage boys.

Of Dean Corll, the man who appears to have engineered the initial killings at least, Townsend writes: "Following the classic pattern of heterosexual child molesters, Corll utilised younger fellows to lure his victims into the net and physically used or abused them; then, probably motivated more by fear of discovery than anything else, he murdered them. As yet, we have seen no immediate indication of Corll having had any gay social aspects in his life; that is, he is not characterised as having been involved in any adult activities with other gays."

"This would point up the basic inadequacy of his ego structure, a typical inability to relate to a peer group. Like the dirty old man who seduces little girls, Corll sought release by using kids. His behaviour pattern relates about as closely to a gay S&M person as does that of heterosexual murder-rape to the style of the het 'family man'."

"As gays, we are easily embarrassed by sensationalised, bizarre behaviour on the part of any homosexual. But in neither Corll's nor Brust's\* case should we feel any kindred humiliation."

\*Albert Brust was recently deemed responsible for some Miami killings in a case unrelated to the Houston murders (GN30). Brust described himself as a "bisexual who preferred boys".

## Party Planned For The Gay Community

PLANS for the 1973 Winter Fayre are well under way, and the Campaign for Homosexual Equality have booked the Holborn Assembly Hall for Saturday November 3. Last year's fair was the Campaign's first and proved to be a tremendous success, with hundreds of people packing the hall and £900 raised to help CHE's fighting fund.

Many of the most successful attractions of last year are to be repeated this time. There will be lots of stalls again, selling books, records, jumble, home-made jams, as well as side-shows, fortune tellers and so on. Other gay groups are also taking stands, Gay News amongst them, and bookings for stalls are being handled by the Winter Fayre Workers, CHE London Information Centre (CHELIC), 22 Great Windmill Street, London W1.

There will of course be refreshments available throughout the day, and this year you will be able to get a full meal there. The 25p admission ticket will give you a chance in the lucky draw, but the prizes have not yet been chosen.

The Fayre starts at 11.00am. In the evening there are plans for a show at about 7.30pm and a dance (tickets about 50p). People coming in from out of London who need somewhere to stay overnight can write to 'Winter Fayre Accommodation' at CHELIC (see address above), but they are advised to write well in advance as accommodation is limited.

Absolutely anyone is welcome. For some it is a chance to 'come out'. The organisers are also trying to ensure a campaigning side to the event by opening it up to the general public. And with the badly needed money it will raise, the whole scheme is very much one worth supporting. It will certainly be supported again by those who had such a good time there last year, and it does give the whole gay community a chance to get together in a truly gay, party mood.

Tickets will be going on sale in early September, and you can get them either from London CHE groups or CHELIC. They will also be on sale on the day of the Fayre at the Holborn Assembly Hall, Theobalds Road, London WC1.

See you all there.

Gay News



Flashback to 1972: Actress Coral Brown with Peter Robbins, CHE Autumn Fair organiser.



Jo Daly - putting gay on television?

## City Post For Gay Woman

SAN FRANCISCO: Jo Daly, a gay director of the Alice B Toklas Democratic Club, has become the first openly gay person to be appointed to any city position.

She has been appointed to a board which will advise on the programming of cable and pay television.

One of the achievements contemplated is the establishment of a channel for minority broadcasting. This would permit groups such as the local Queer Blue Light to show its videotapes of gay happenings to a broad audience.

The board decision was unanimous in its selection of Daly after it was announced she was a representative of the gay community.



Stonewall settler Bob Aronson: most of the building done by hand.

## Gay Pioneers

SEATTLE: A pioneering gay residential group named Stonewall (after the famous bar riot) have acquired a \$75,000, 50 acre site on beautiful Orcas Island, 80 miles north of Seattle.

The scheme brings to mind a 1970 plan to take over Alpine County in the High Sierras of Northern California. The Alpine plan was inspired by gay writer Don Jackson, who wanted gays to take over the area in such numbers it would become a colony remote from the world of oppression, with gays running county government. The idea generated much publicity but did not come to fruition due to the lack of volunteer colonists.

Stonewall is different in that it will be open to anyone who can accept diverse sexual orientation. As it is now, the people helping to develop Stonewall have problem-filled backgrounds: reformed drug-abusers, alcoholics, sex offenders and people with various other emotional problems.

Stonewall has succeeded on these points — a \$75,000 investment in choice land; a \$50,000 investment in a Seattle home; some new trucks and cars; an antique shop on Orcas Island.

Stonewall was initially established as a therapeutic centre, with funds filtering through from Federal grants. These have now been cut back, and Stonewall is hoping to support itself with any outside help that can be obtained.

Not everyone makes it through Stonewall's rehabilitation programme, which takes 12 to 18 months, but it has achieved remarkable success. Of the people Stonewall has managed to stay in contact with, nearly 65% are leading "involved, non-criminal lives", according to one organiser.

So far there has been no adverse reaction from the nearby straight community.

## Children Were Placed With Couples

CHICAGO: The director of the largest child placement agency in Illinois has indirectly revealed that his agency has been placing children with homosexual tendencies in the homes of gay foster parents.

Dr Jerome Miller, head of the Department of Children and Family Services, said in a newspaper interview that his department was considering such a plan, but made it obvious that some children had been placed.

This is the first time such an action has been publicised. Gay organisations in several cities have quietly arranged for such placements, but have avoided publicity in the fear that it might wreck their work.

Dr Miller said he was not personally in favour of placing children with homosexual tendencies in the care of gay couples, but let slip by saying: "What arrangements have been made have probably been handled informally without any specific directive."

By national clinical averages, about a sixth of the children could be expected to have gay tendencies. Dr Miller mentioned the case of a 14 year old boy "who failed in four households because they have been straight, middle class where homosexuality seems threatening."

One of the biggest problems in a gay parent plan would be to find suitable couples, he said.

## Newsletters

### Journal Slams Church for Gay Attitudes

LONDON: The English based, somewhat radical journal *Christian Renewal*, has made a plea for Christian Churches to accept and bless gay relationships.

The journal does not argue for the Church to marry gays as it does heterosexuals, but insists that it is time for the Church to accept and bless gay people who desire Christian recognition.

*Christian Renewal* also criticises the Church for making the lot of the gay person "a great deal harder by blanket condemnation."

### Gay Student Teacher Committee

NORTH HARROW: A National College of Education Gay Rights Committee has been formed, aimed at dealing with the special problems faced by gay student teachers. The committee will work in conjunction with the National Union of Students campaign for gay rights on campus, but will be primarily concerned with evaluating the professional position of gay teachers and student teachers. Other aims include an effort to bring about realistic attitudes to sex education, and a representation of the situation to the various government and professional bodies concerned with education.

The committee is currently enlisting aid, and asks anyone interested to write to the National Secretary, NUS, 3 Endsleigh Street,

### A Gay Divorce — With Alimony

CHICAGO: One of the first reported gay divorces has taken place — complete with alimony.

Wealthy West Indian Randee Harris, 27, was married to 19 year old James Keenan at a Catholic Church here on May 20, 1972, after a year of legal manoeuvring. In contrast to several other gay marriages, this one had no overtones of gay liberation. The principals shunned publicity, and the little information which leaked came from an attorney representing the estate of Harris' mother, socialite Victoria Togers Gibson-Harris.

Ms Gibson-Harris' estate has put out a statement saying Harris and Keenan separated in January of this year, and Harris subsequently agreed to set aside payments of \$1500 a month to his ex-spouse, along with an undisclosed six-figure sum.

When they were married, Harris and Keenan got around the problem of a certificate by signing a contract. So far, no statement has been issued by them.

### Gay Prostitution Ring "Uncovered"

DALLAS: Police here believe they have uncovered a nationwide, mail order gay procurement ring. They have discovered files containing possibly 100,000 names and photos of young men "available for sponsorship".

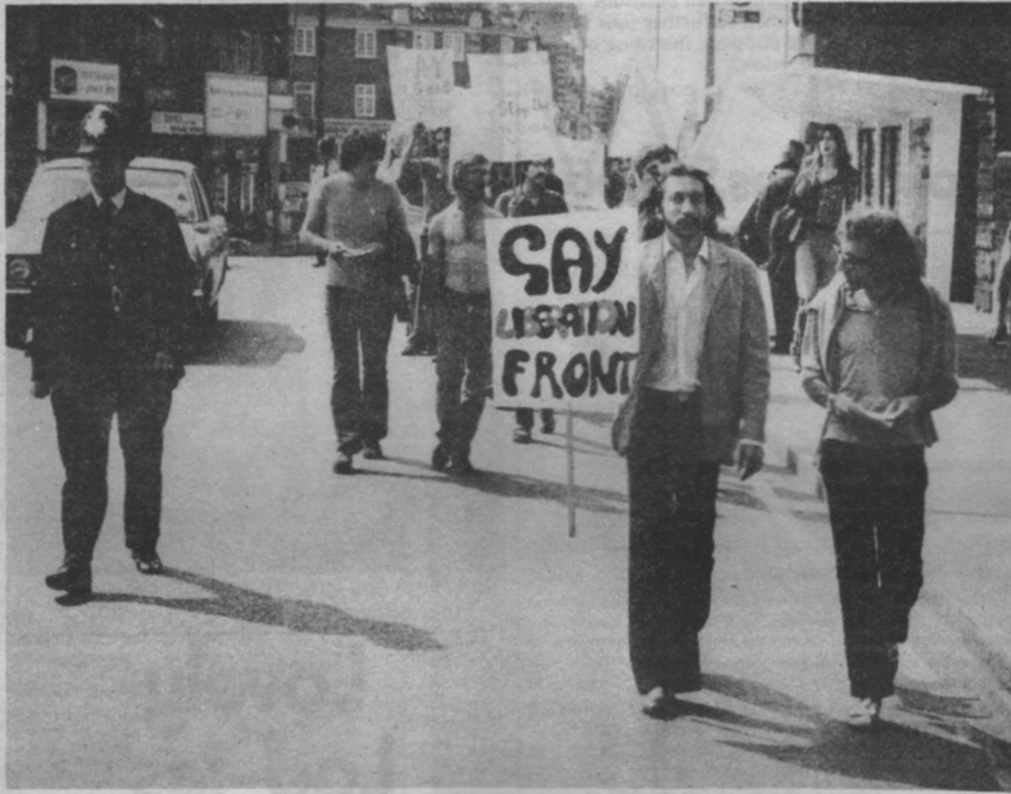
Among items found in a raid on an apartment were four photographs with the word "kill" printed in orange lettering on the tape binding the young men's pictures.

Police carrying out investigations may link this with the Houston mass-murder which took 27 victims.

### A Close Shave

LONDON: Tim Skinner, GN's departed news editor, recently caused a 'bomb' scare at Heathrow Airport. It happened when his battery-operated electric razor somehow got switched on as his baggage was being unloaded from a plane. With security men standing at a safe distance, Tim opened his suitcase, and to everyone's relief, exposed the bogus 'bomb'.

# Marchers Picket Paper



Marchers in Hendon: Angry at paper "feeding public prejudice".

## "Perverts" "Abnormal" But Editor Denies Prejudice

LONDON: By 2.15pm on Saturday, August 25th, the tube entrance at Hendon Central was populated by about 80 people willing and eager to protest what was felt to be an insult against gay people in general.

The target: the Hendon Times, a suburban newspaper edited by Dennis Signy. His front-page editorials had, for several issues, expressed heated concern over activities in a public lavatory within the Barnet Borough. The words 'perverts' and 'abnormal' had been used (see GN 28 and 30); the editor of the Hendon Times wanted to see the lavatory in question bull-dozed.

The London Gay Liberation Front had picked up on the matter, touting it as a worthy vehicle to draw gays together to battle oppression. The mechanics of the organisation (one of GLF's more sensitive points in the past) were impeccable. Circulars were printed, people were contacted, transport was available and the gathering place was made clear.

So by 2.30pm the march set off from the tube entrance and began making its way through Hendon. Passers-by expressed only casual interest; the nearest thing I saw to an extreme reaction was a woman in her 50's seized by a giggling fit. "Five hundred homosexuals!" she whooped, overblowing the matter somewhat.

The police officers assigned to the demonstration seemed intent on presenting a token PR gesture, gently herding the march along as if it were a girl-guide rally.

People walking the dormant, tree-lined streets were few. White curtains occasionally moved at the windows of middle-class houses; faces appeared then disappeared. Hendon exudes the kind of solidarity which dares one to fruitlessly seek reaction.

Editor Dennis Signy, in fact, hinted to GN on the phone shortly afterwards that he had never considered the existence of gay people until the GLF eruption. Likewise, the people of Hendon did not seem eager to explore the matter.

In the quietly commercial shopping centre of High Street Hendon, the march passed Saturday afternoon shoppers whilst making its way to the planned destination: the home of Hendon Times editor Signy.



The editor's home: GLF were not invited in for tea.

The marchers also passed a truck bearing an ironic advertising slogan. The Edgware Times, an affiliate of the Hendon Times, announced itself as the paper "for People Like You".

Signy was not at home when the protesters reached his red-brick house.

Contacted by GN shortly afterwards, he seemed quite angry. "I offered to talk to GLF, but when they're pushing leaflets through doors saying 'The Hendon Times makes good toilet paper, but it's a shit' - well, if that's the level of GLF, I'm not interested."

"Perhaps I Was Emotive . . ."

None of the leaflets Mr Signy referred to were visible to GN during the protest. GLF march organisers Brian Birt and Allan Bray were therefore questioned. Both seemed genuinely surprised that such leaflets existed, and claimed no knowledge of them.

Of his editorials, Mr Signy told GN: "I had not denigrated homosexuals. In the newspaper editorials I was not anti-homosexual. I was trying to clean up a toilet where some pretty dreadful things have taken place. In no way was it intended to reflect on homosexuals. Perhaps I was emotive about the matter and made the point by beating a drum."

Without doubting Mr Signy's original sincerity of intent with the editorials, this remark is whitewashing the subject somewhat. Mr Signy admits he had not considered gay oppression until the protests, and the final impression given by his writings was sensationalism at the expense of the basic problem.

And whilst he made reasonable points when talking with GN, there was an element of hostility in the tone. It was as if the argument was being pushed at him by a faceless mass of gay people. The replies to GN's questions indicated he considered this paper and GLF to be the same organisation ("your people"), a mistake twice pointed out to him.

GLF member Allan Bray says he encountered an initially hostile man when he decided to leaflet the Hendon Times offices as a personal gesture a week before the march. "Signy at first came down the stairs waving his arms and speaking very abusively. We then spoke in his office and I indicated we were willing to speak with him later on, which still stands of course."

GLF is not the only voice to express protest. A member of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality visited Mr Signy's office (and went away happy, the editor claims). The Hendon Times also received and published a letter from a priest who is also a teacher. The letter complained, amongst other things, of sensationalism employed in the editorials. In reply to the correspondent, (the Rev Keith Gilley) Mr Signy wrote in the paper: "I cannot subscribe to Mr Gilley's rather odd viewpoint that public attitudes to homosexuality are a factor in causing the minority to use public toilets for their contacts . . ."

### The Word 'Perverts'

Several well-founded books on the subject would seem to go against Mr Signy's opinion.

Of the GLF charge that the Hendon Times had labelled gay people as 'perverts', Mr Signy said: "I mentioned the word pervert in connection with the placing of the penis through a hole in the wall. Now I don't know if that's a gay practise . . ." Pause.

None of the Hendon Times editorials made specific reference to penis's being placed through holes. Mr Signy told GN that as well as the hole, the toilet cubicles did not have locks on them. "I am thinking of the children who go into that lavatory."

The concern for children who may see sex acts is a genuine one. The cross purpose between Mr Signy and the gay protestors has not arisen from this, but rather from the concern of the latter that newspapers such as the Hendon Times should make the public aware of just how these situations come about.

Mr Signy, however, still advocates that the public lavatory be bull-dozed, obviously naively believing that this situation will then cease to exist.

Asked what he thought of the GLF demand that his paper should campaign against gay discrimination, Mr Signy said he was not aware that such a thing existed. "In fact, until this thing came along, I was not aware of - I have not been involved with gay people. What people do outside public lavatories is their concern."

### GLF Letter

GLF had written a letter to the Hendon Times stating their case, but it had not been published . . . Why?

"The letter was contentious, if not dangerous. We are bound by law, as you are. You are bound by law, aren't you?"

A letter from GLF to Mr N B Morrell (managing director of Westminster Press, which owns the paper) was acknowledged. Replying to GLF, Morrell wrote: "I cannot believe that the editor of the Hendon Times has referred to homosexuals in the terms that you suggest. I am, however, sending a copy of your letter, together with its enclosure, to Mr W Kingston, managing director of C H Peacock, who publish the Hendon Times."

In finalising the conversation with GN, editor Signy said he hoped the matter was "understood". Perhaps it is: Signy appears to claim a distinct difference between the actions of alleged "perverts" in lavatories, and the alleged discrimination against gays.

Hopefully, the situation will be resolved - not by bull-dozing lavatories, but through understanding.

Stephen MacLean

## Not So Liberated Lady

LONDON: 28 year old Lyn Barber, currently gaining attention for her book *How To Improve Your Man*, says she is in favour of threesomes, but they should be made up of two girls and one man. "I know I'm making an unfair distinction," she told a reporter, "and it's a bit of a swizz. But I think two men kissing is rather revolting, and with two girls it's rather fun. Men have this voyeuristic thing." It's difficult to know whether Lyn is merely intent on putting on a chauvinistic show for her man, or is just plain greedy.



Gay Mothers Sandy Schuster (left) and Maddy Isaacson: touring to raise the cost of the court battle with husbands.

## Gay Mums Mission

SAN DIEGO: Two lesbian mothers, who won a landmark divorce battle with their former husbands and received custody of their six small children, are currently touring the West Coast attempting to raise the \$4000 which the court case cost. They are Sandy Lee Schuster, 35, and Madeleine (Maddy) Isaacson, 32.

The Metropolitan Community Church here has already allowed them to show a 16mm colour film made by the University of Washington in place of the regular sermon. The film was made by the visual aids department of the university and mainly covers what took place during the court battle.

The couple's respective husbands both sued for divorce and child custody. The lesbian defendants were charged with "loss of love and respect", Sandy Schuster reported.

The female judge broke tradition by awarding custody to the women, but ordered them to pay high court costs (losing parties, the husbands in this case, can generally expect to pay court costs.)

The film reveals the children to be clearly happy. Four of them are Ms Schuster's (aged between 4½ and 9). Ms Isaacson's two boys are aged 6 and 8.

The film has been shown by two Los Angeles TV Channels, and will soon be taken to San Francisco by the couple.

Maddy and Sandy were depicted as "religious fanatics" by their husbands during the trial, and their church talk here reflected their Pentacostal-Baptist upbringing.

A case worker assigned to writing a report for the court was at first determined that her decision would not be in favour of the mothers. Sandy and Maddy told the case worker they would pray for her. Later the worker said she didn't know why, but something changed her mind and she completely rewrote the report, recommending that the mothers retain custody of the children.

### Parliament Favours Gay Marriages

DENMARK: Harald Soby, a 64-year-old ex-pastor and Marxist who married two women on Danish television a few months back, has revealed in an interview that a parliament committee is working on the advisability of gay marriages.

"Incidentally," Soby adds, "a newspaper poll conducted amongst all 179 members of Parliament, showed the majority were in favour of legalising homosexual marriages and the church blessing them."

Soby, who has been married to a woman for 36 years, has a heterosexual daughter. Asked if he would officiate at a ceremony should his daughter wish to marry another girl, he answered, "Of course. Why not?"

Soby claimed, "It's becoming as fashionable for homosexuals to marry as for heterosexuals not to."

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Editor Signy: "I did not denigrate homosexuals".

# The NFHO Affair.... No Time For Squabbles

I WAS sorry to hear that Campaign for Homosexual Equality and Scottish Minorities Group feel that the National Federation of Homophile Organisations is a pointless exercise. The idea of the NFHO was mooted at a conference in York in 1970. Representatives of the then existing homophile organisations (including CHE, SMG, Kenric, St Katherine's, the North Eastern Women's Group and Arena Three among others) sat down together to talk over the future of the homophile movement. It was a very happy occasion because never before had male and female gays got together to see what they had in common rather than keeping their distance.

The outcome of the conference was a determination from all sides to work together for the common good of all those thousands of gay people who were perhaps legally acceptable, but socially cut off or too timid to turn for help when they got bogged down by personal difficulties.

The representatives of the counselling side of the Albany Trust for the next 18 months worked on a document on the topic of counselling homosexuals. It was in fact published last week by the National Council of Social Service, and was favourably reviewed by both the gay and straight press.

The second by-product of the conference was another working party which met in Nottingham over the next year to devise a constitution for an "umbrella organisation", which emerged with the clumsy title of BFHO. The whole York venture was sponsored by the Albany Trust and the Yorkshire Council of Social Service.

So the working parties did their stuff and were productive. The Albany Trust in the mean time went through a difficult period when nothing seemed to happen except an accumulation of bills and a falling away of support, although individuals requesting advice and help were continually on its doorstep. It is now once again in better shape, but still hampered by the difficulty of attracting charitable grants for its "unpopular" work.

Since that exciting post-York time, CHE has really come into its own as an organisation which shows a determination to get things done. Understandably people join organisations which are seen to be on the move.

With CHE and SMG in membership the NFHO brought together some 20 member organisations representing about 6,000 individuals. If all had worked together, it could have been really significant at a national level. Even without the "big two", NFHO is still needed by a lot of the smaller groups who need encouragement and the feeling that they are not completely on their own but that each one of them has something to offer to the homophile movement as a whole.

Everyone, whether they belong to CHE, SMG Sappho or Gaysoc, knows that throughout the country we need a network of professional people to whom everyone who is gay can safely turn when in need. It is extremely difficult for one organisation alone to arrange this, because of limited resources. All need to work together to achieve this.

We need more research into the needs and life style of gay people. Working together, the various homophile groups should all contribute to this. Above all we must have more publicity for all the groups. NFHO hopes to produce a pamphlet soon about its members.

NFHO is therefore a Federation of autonomous groups which welcomes a diversity of aims and priorities amongst its members, who may appeal to people preferring not to belong to the larger and more publicised organisations; if anyone is interested, perhaps they would contact us through "Gay News".

The big battalions have their place and they do a grand job: so do the small units in their own particular way. After all, every kind of temperament and outlook on life is found among gay

people so they should have a selection of choices to whom they may align themselves and feel free to do so.

One can only hope that the disaffiliation of CHE and SMG from NFHO will eventually lead to more co-operation in the homophile movement as a whole — not less. In spite of all the successes of the past three or four years, gay people are still too widely misunderstood by the world at large to be able to afford the luxury of petty internal squabbles amongst their own organisations.

Michael Butler,  
Deputy Chairman,  
NFHO

## ...On The Other Hand

AS the person who, as chairman of the working party which formulated the proposals for the setting up of National Federation of Homophile Organisations was largely responsible for its creation and for the form of its organisation, perhaps I may be permitted to add my contribution to the debate that has arisen over the decision of Campaign for Homosexual Equality and Scottish Minority Group to secede.

I think that it ought to be remembered that one of the main concerns of the Conference at York which set up the working party was that an attempt should be made to set the homophile movement in this country free from the somewhat restrictive tutelage of the Albany Trust. Arising out of a series of circumstances which no-one at the time could have foreseen, the end result has been to tie NFHO even more securely to that organisation.

I now believe that the failure, (as I think) of NFHO to realise the high hopes that attended its birth is traceable to four main reasons.

First is the fact that the administrative arrangements for the re-convening of the York Conference to receive and act upon the report and proposals of the working party were entrusted to the Albany Trust. Because of the confusion that existed there at the time (and, it must be said, because of a certain amount of foot dragging by the then Director) a whole year was allowed to go by without anything being done. Almost a further year elapsed before the report was acted upon. This meant that a great deal of the impetus and enthusiasm which was such a feature of the York Conference had evaporated by the time the inaugural meeting was held.

Second, I would put the failure of NFHO once it had been formally set up to be seen to be doing anything. I do not want to minimise the difficulties that beset the formation of any organisation of this kind; but the fact remains that nothing appeared to be happening and the great mass of the gay world was ignorant of NFHO's existence or purpose. NFHO has achieved more publicity mileage over the secession of CHE and SMG than in the whole of its previous history.

The third point is that, coupled with this apparent lack of activity on the part of NFHO, there was an unprecedented growth and development in CHE and I think it is true to say that most members of CHE, even if they had heard of NFHO, thought of it as at best an irrelevance, and at worst an impediment to the achievement of CHE's objectives.

Fourth, and possibly the most important factor, was the fact that had set up too elaborate and bureaucratic an organisation. For this I, and to a lesser extent the members of my working party, must bear the majority share of blame. With the benefit of hindsight, I now think that it would have been far better if the reconvened York Conference had thrown out my working party's report and instead adopted a suggestion that was made that we should merely set up the machinery for calling together periodically a conference of all interested parties — a Standing Conference of Homophile Organisations rather than a National Federation. From this there would have been a possibility that something more permanent and more in tune with the needs of the homophile movement might have emerged.

Unfortunately, organisations generate their own loyalties and vested interests which sometimes prevent their faults and weaknesses being recognised and dispassionately discussed; but it would be for the ultimate benefit of the movement if there could be second thoughts about both NFHO

and the relationship of CHE to it. In the meantime nothing but harm can come of the suggestion by the Secretary of the Fellowship in Christ the Liberator that attempts should be made to persuade CHE groups to change their allegiance. Let us not be in a hurry to take up entrenched positions which can have no effect other than to further sour the relations between us and put back the cause of homophile unity a generation.

H E 'Ike' Cowen

## Formalities Stifled NFHO

I AM afraid that I cannot agree that your reporting of the disaffiliation of Scottish Minorities Group and Campaign For Homosexual Equality from National Federation of Homophile Organisations, has been either balanced or perceptive. The subsequent correspondence has done little so far to redress that imbalance (with the exception of the contributions of Barrie Kenyon, John Saxby and Peter Norman).

A cursory glance through the many viewpoints would lead the uninformed to think that the gay movement was falling apart at the seams. Nothing could be a greater figment of certain persons' imaginations. Jo McVay-Abbott's letter (GN30) is particularly disturbing. If anything is designed to promote disunity in the gay movement it is just this sort of silly slight at CHE's Executive which is as unfortunate as it is unfounded.

SMG left NFHO quite simply because we felt we were not making any positive contribution to the Federation nor were we deriving any particular benefit from our membership. NFHO had reached a stalemate situation, through no fault of either its officers or the constituent groups. The member groups were saying 'NFHO isn't doing anything' — and they were correct, it wasn't. NFHO's executive replied 'NFHO is ineffective because the member groups aren't participating' — and they were correct, the member groups weren't. That particular cat would still be chasing its tail up Shaftesbury Avenue in twenty years time!

Antony Grey hits the nail squarely on the head when he says 'NFHO is simply a common meeting place and think-tank for all gay groups who wish to use it as such.' SMG agrees that we need to meet together. But do we really need a 20 page constitution, a sliding scale set of fees, joint group or individual membership, another executive committee and another round of annual general meetings and elections to achieve this? Surely not. SMG was formed to get on with its task in Scotland and most of the other groups were formed to execute their own specific aims. This situation leads to healthy diversity with many people doing their own thing, but with a common and united aim in mind. If SMG feels that it can help CHE with its education campaign, then we'll need all the united support we can muster. When SMG needs the help of the North East Women's Group — and our many other English friends — I would like to feel confident that they will help, if they can, when we ask. Many have already offered support to the Campaign we are waging with our Sexual Offences (Scotland) Bill which is more than certain elements in the NFHO have done!

None of the groups I have encountered underestimates the challenge and volume of the task which faces us all — together. SMG has always had an open door at its meetings and most of the English so-called 'smaller groups' have been present at our conferences and this year's is no exception. I can confidently assure your readership that SMG's Executive intends to keep that door wide open. We feel quite united with all of our friends south of the border, whether they be members of NFHO or not.

Gay News is right when it says 'we all stand to gain from gay unity' but there has been no failure in communication. Hopefully all that has happened is that a little common sense and informal friendship will replace a formal organisation which, due to the differing opinions of many people (each fully entitled to their particular viewpoint) was not succeeding.

Danny Mullen  
Chairman,  
Scottish Minorities Group



Miss Minge (top left), pictured with the gang at the Green Room.

## Lovely Lad-ies

LONDON: Through the ages, drag has been used for several purposes: political, entertainment and just plain camping it up. Now the Green Room of the Wheatshaf Hotel, Shepherd's Bush, has found another use — to finance a night out for 43 local pensioners.

The Green Room recently held another charity evening complete with a quite witty parade of drag. Miss Minge, a stern librarian type, was given a whisky decanter and glasses for her efforts; the customers who enjoyed the drag stayed on to buy raffle tickets (first prize was a year's GN subscription). Proceeds will finance a night out for local pensioners. Cilla Black at the Palladium, dinner, champagne and chocolates are planned. A further £65 has yet to be raised to cover costs, so Green Room budding drag artists and raffle ticket buyers are encouraged to keep at it.

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- The Second Sex — Simone de Beauvoir . . . . . 75p
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# Here We Are Again

WE are grateful to those of you who filled in the survey that appeared in GN29 under the heading 'Your Chance to Change Gay News'. The response has been incredible as statistically it brought in a much larger volume of replies than periodicals usually hope to receive when they publish similar polls.

Work has started on compiling the results, but because of the unexpected amount of replies, it will be a few weeks before we can publish the findings. We're not complaining though about what we have undertaken, the fact that so many of you are actively interested in the development of the paper is both encouraging and highly stimulating.

## Where Do You Live?

There are a number of orders held by GN Mail Order which we are unable to send out because people didn't put their addresses on the order form. If you suspect this is why you haven't received some books you ordered, can you please write to Peter Mundy at the GN office, giving full details.

## Give Us The Facts

Derek Jardine would like to remind readers that he needs a constant torrent of information about gay pubs, clubs, discos etc in Britain if he is going to increase the potential of Derek's Guide by making it more comprehensive. It is important though that the details you send him are accurate, and as well as giving the name of the pub etc, he also needs to know the correct address.

## Bargain Basement

A close friend of GN's staff has provided the Order Form and Price List sent out by Family Planning Sales Ltd. Under the heading 'Lubricating Jellies', they offer for sale 2 sizes of 'KY'. Small tubes are 13p each, or 35p for 3. Large tubes are 22p each, or 58p for 3. With the increased cost of living and Christmas only so many shopping days away, we suggest you take advantage of these cash savings. The address to write to for further details is 23 Mortimer Street, London W1A 4WY.

## Many Happy Returns

With the publication of its twelfth issue in August, Quorum, the monthly glossy magazine for gay men, celebrates its first birthday.

During the last year a number of new gay male mags have been published, some of which are still going strong, whilst others have vanished into obscurity. Their contents and value have ranged from good to extremely shoddy, but only one has been able to surpass the high standards set by the late Spartacus and Jeremy, and that is Quorum.

It took a few issues for the mag to find its feet (and its direction) but the recent editions bear no comparison with the earlier ones. Quorum's new large format offers readers a varied diet of well

written features, short stories, interviews, regular columns by contributors such as Laurence Collinson (author of the controversial Cupid's Crescent) and fashion notes by Adam Campbell. There are also well produced male nude photo studies, the best work coming from Colin Clarke.

Illustrations are often provided by GN's own Jean-Claude Thevenin. The mag's editor is Roger Baker, who is also a frequent contributor to Gay News as well as writing for various other newspapers and magazines.

Although expensive at 75p for a single edition (much cheaper by subscription, £6 for 12 issues), Quorum is at present the wittiest and most entertaining magazine for gay men available in Britain. We wish the Quorum team good luck in the next year and hope they won't sacrifice quality for excess titillation.

## Dismally Negative

The lead feature in the 30th August issue (No 142) of the fortnightly music paper Rolling Stone, is 'The Violet Millennium or The Invert Comes of Age featuring Total License and the Consequences'. It is written by Tom Burke and is supposedly a reflective and balanced analysis of the developments in the gay community in America since the beginning of the gay liberation movement.

Although it is at times quite witty and perceptive, in a send-up sort of way, the overall tone of the article is dismally negative, with Burke failing almost completely to recognise the important implications of the gay struggle. Gays should not be above criticism, but it should be a good deal more constructive than the apparently empty cynicism displayed in this piece of word-masturbation.

## Across The Nation

This issue is the first edition to be distributed throughout the UK by Moore Harness Ltd. GN can now be bought in most newsagents and bookshops that stock Private Eye, Penthouse and Time Out (not W H Smiths) and all outlets that stock Jeffrey. If it is not on sale, you can order GN by asking your local newsagent to contact our distributors rep or by giving the shop the order form printed in the paper. Why not have Gay News delivered every second Thursday along with your morning paper?

## Dates and Deadlines

The next edition of Gay News (No 32) will be published and available on 20th September. Details of advertising deadlines and copy dates for that issue can be found under the contents section on Page 2 and the beginning of the Personal Ads column on Page 17. It is important to refer to these dates to avoid disappointment.

Gay News

# Gay Student Power?

AT the end of the last Academic year, a Gay Rights Society was formed at our College. We feel that this is particularly significant as ours is a College of Education. We now have an opportunity to openly counter the mis-education in school "Sex Education" by pointing out that all forms of sexuality develop "naturally" (ie are the product of genetic and environmental interaction). These "lessons" are often limited in attitude and scope and seem to justify the correctness of heterosexuality by only discussing variations in sexual preference in terms of a misappropriate term - deviancy.

Very few books concerned with sex education for children give information on homosexuality, and bisexuality is apparently never mentioned.

We would be pleased to get any letters of support, particularly from students who have a gaysoc running at their College, or who would like to help start or join one. Our efforts will initially be centred on the greater London area, but we are already in touch with colleagues throughout the country and are preparing to help promote a National Campaign for Colleges of Education. Whilst proving the valuable part that Colleges of Education can play in the Gay Rights campaign and taking into account any particular difficulties, we will be working in close co-operation with the National Union of Students.

Letters of support, or requests for further information or help should be sent to the following address:

"David", c/o General Secretary,  
National Union of Students,  
3 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DU

All replies will be treated in the strictest confidence.

# Three Firsts For Gay Play

THE FIRST major production of the CHE Players (the Drama Group of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality) is to be a brilliant new comedy "HELLO MOTHER! HELLO, FATHER!" by Butch Black, a playwright whom they discovered unexpectedly amongst their own ranks. The play which has already had a public reading, is uproariously funny and the producers say that Mr Black has not only written about the gay scene with great wit and insight, but also about the parents of homosexuals, who are usually unaware of the proclivities of their offspring.

The play will be presented in November at the Portcullis Theatre in Westminster.

Not only is this the first major stage production of the CHE Players, but it is the first play by a new playwright, and the first play of this genre to have a happy ending.

## Public Auditions

Auditions for actors of all ages and sexes will be held at the Museum Tavern, 49, Great Russell Street, London WC1 at 7.30pm on Sunday, September 9th. Stage management, crew, handymen, electricians and carpenters are also required. Mr Ken Holland, who has agreed to direct the play, says that one important role, that of an Irish labourer, may be difficult to cast. All members of CHE are welcome to attend and read for parts, and if you are interested but not a member of CHE, now is the time to join!

Gavin Clare,  
Press Officer  
CHE Players

# Before I Go, I'd Just Like To Say..

by Tim Skinner

YOU see, Gay News bucks the system. When a reporter leaves a newspaper, he usually collects his vacation pay, cleans out his desk and sells his car parking space to somebody. That's usually it. He just goes away.

But with Gay News, there's something else. They get you to write about going away. And that's a little difficult, just as going away is a little difficult.



to me whether Gay News was gay or not. It was a newspaper. It was a mass communicator with vast potential to grow. It did not need an excuse to exist. It told people very nicely what was going on. It circulated among men and women and boys and girls. It was bought by tinkers and tailors and soldiers and sailors, doctors, lawyers, richmen, poormen, and even Public Libraries.

Gay News does have a bias.

You see, Gay News for me has been a remarkable experience. It's almost been a little like specialised conscription, where the old power of the pen and hand over the heart approach still means something.

Way back when the cold westerlies blew hail and sleet along Earls Court Road - just after Christmas this year - I joined the Gay News brigade. I read that advertisement asking for a news editor, fell under the spell of the fascination of crusading journalism, and almost immediately I found myself on my way to cover a two-day whoopee at Morecambe for the Campaign for Homosexual Equality.

It hasn't been easy working behind a Gay News typewriter. Maybe it never will. Waving the journalistic flag for Gay News has brought as much criticism and condemnation as I can recall. The great army of critics say it's not needed... that it's dirty... that it's a shameful thing to write for.

For them, I guess the reason and the content of Gay News will always appear that way. You can't publish a newspaper and call it Gay News and not expect a bit of verbal violence.

But seven or eight months with Gay News for me has been a totally serious job of journalism. I saw it then as a newspaper first and a newspaper selling to gay people and non-anti-gay people second. It didn't matter

It believes in a strange little liberty called freedom. Freedom to choose what you want to do. Freedom to talk and think and live the way you think suits you best. But that's where its bias ends.

If a vast army of homosexuals suffers persecution by people who think it's right to persecute homosexuals, then let there be more power to the Gay News pen. That factor alone gives the paper justification to live.

So there, I guess, is the reason for my involvement with Gay News. It's a newspaper. And it's doing very well.

And this happens to be my last piece of typewriter bashing for it for the foreseeable future. Which for me is one of the saddest parts about working for Gay News.

Difficult to write too. I mean it's Sunday morning and I'm in Amsterdam after a very heavy Saturday night, and I'm rushing for jets to take me soon to the other side of the world into the tropics of the South Pacific.

That's one of the reasons that makes leaving the basement at 34d Redcliffe Square a little easier. It's very difficult to even dream of saying goodbye like this. Who am I saying it to? Who really cares? Maybe I care a lot more than I really understand myself. That's why I hope some-day I'll be back.

ED: Tim Skinner has gone on an extended tour of Australia and other countries for an indefinite period. Hurry back, Tim!

# News From CHE

THE following is a report of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality's Executive Committee Meeting, held on 18th August.

CHE's Legal Standing Committee has recently approached the Home Office about unnecessary harassment of gays by the police. The Home Office reply was very helpful... but on closer scrutiny, said nothing.

The second CHE Annual Conference, to be held at Malvern, Worcestershire, from 24th-27th May, 1974, has officially been confirmed by the EC\*. The three day programme is to include a public meeting on Sunday evening, 26th May.

An Education Campaign is to be launched at CHE's National Council meeting at Cardiff on 8th September. It is to emphasise the quality of human relationships in a homosexual context to be included in sex education.

Bernard Greaves has been appointed convenor of a sexual law reform working party.

Supportive action is to be taken to back Gay Liberation Front in their struggle to reinstate gays in the Great Northern Hotel bar in Leeds.

The CHE EC has taken exception to GN 29's NFHO cover and feature article. It has been interpreted as "implying that CHE and SMG had destroyed an organisation that had no real existence." (ED: GN does not agree that the NFHO "had no real existence", although we do concede that its potential had not been fully realised or adequately explored. It is regretted that the CHE EC members have dismissed or ignored the wider

implications of the feature.

It was agreed that official releases about CHE EC meetings would be given to the press monthly. Jacqueline Forster is the Press Liaison Officer, Roger Baker recently resigned as Hon Press Officer.

\* Conference Organiser is Wallace Grevatt. He can be contacted for further information by writing to: Mill View, Wray Lane, Reigate, Surrey. Wallace tells us that over 300 organisations over Worcestershire and beyond will receive invitations to attend the conference's public meeting.

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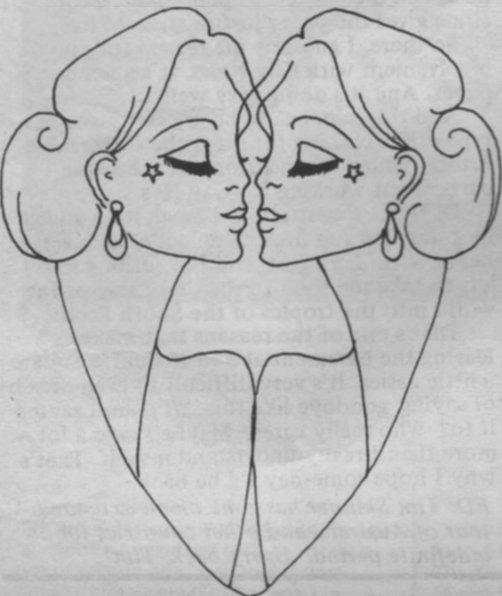
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Malcolm & Michael Offer You A Warm Welcome

# RAGS

## Browned Off

DID you take your skin on holiday this year? Did you give it a few weeks grilling under continuous sun, daily immersions in salt water, maximum exposure to cool evening breezes and air-conditioned clubs, lots of healthful late nights and double gins? Do I see you nodding happily, sated by memories of recent sun, sand, sex and spiced-up food? Yes? Well, your problems start right here. Sun, fresh air and a change of scene can be great for problem skins — greasy complexions dry out, spots disappear, your tan covers various blemishes — but on the principle that you can't get too much of a good thing, I guess you may have overdone it and created for yourself more problems than you set out with.



The ultra-violet to which you have exposed your skin will have dessicated it to the texture of fine aniline leather unless you protected it every waking moment with an efficient sun-screen combining a powerful moisturiser. Your hair may not show obvious signs of the rot setting in, but it has been equally badly treated by strong sun, wind and salt water. Even the refreshing cool of the evenings and air-conditioning draws out moisture

from the skin. That tight feeling across your cheeks is not the return of youthful condition — it means you've dried the hell out of yourself and you're going to realise it sooner rather than later. When that marvellous tan fades, the scales will fall from your eyes to let you see the rest of them littering your body.

But happily, yes, Virginia, there is an answer. And that goes for Tom, Dick and Harry too — men are not miraculously immune from the ravages of summer. The best way is to start right now with a regular crash programme of skin care. To simplify matters, choose a range of cosmetics with which you are already familiar or in which you feel able to place your faith — Max Factor's Swedish Formula hypo-allergenic range, or Clinique and Almay for sensitive skins. All three are completely free of perfume and non-essential additives. Other comprehensive ranges include Lancome, Helena Rubinstein, Vichy and Charles of the Ritz.

A powerful moisturiser is an essential — Clinique Dramatically Different Moisturiser, Yardley's Nature Lipids, Elizabeth Arden's After Sun Lotion, Lancome's Bienfait du Matin moisturiser. Wear one of these under make-up, in bed, and particularly in the bath, where the steam will help the cream soak in deeply.

Speaking of baths, add oil. Roger & Gallet's Huile pour le Bain, Boots' Baby Oil, Juvena Active Moist Treatment, Aramis Shower Gel. Rub these oils into the skin before soaking or, more economically, add a capful to the bath.

Do cream off stale make-up very thoroughly (and you should be using a moisturised foundation) with Ponds Cold Cream or Yardley Nature Lipids Cream Cleanser. If you insist upon taking soap and water to your face, substitute Phisoderm for harsh toilet soap. Clinique, however, produce a really good soap which I concede you may use. After cleansing, apply astringent — Yardley Nature Lipids Freshener or Lancome's Fraicheur Tonique. Elizabeth Arden produces an efficient skin tonic, but if you want to make up your own, mix equal quantities of distilled witch hazel and rose water. Add orange flower water if the mixture seems too strong for your particular skin type. Then moisturise with any of the creams already mentioned.

For areas of hard or rough skin on elbows, hands and feet, Vaseline Intensive Care Lotion is a miracle — and Scholl produces a comprehensive range of products to soothe and shape up weary feet.

To keep a tan going, take to the bottle. Piz Buin Self-Tan Milk is reliable and effective. The only problem is that it tends to stain white sheets and light clothing when you sweat the fake tan out through your pores. But the effect of luscious brown is worth the dry-cleaning bills.

Finally, condition your hair every time you shampoo. Life-Text Balsam by Wella should do the trick, and their regular conditioner is a wonder.

If your hair is really dried out, divide the hair into sections and thoroughly saturate with olive oil. Wrap the head about with thin polythene to allow the natural warmth of the scalp to help the oil penetrate the hair shaft for half an hour or so. Then shampoo thoroughly and, when dry, apply Culpeper's Hair Tonic to nourish and brighten the

hair.

For those who prefer to use herbal products which do not contain animal products, Culpeper's shop in Bruton Street, W1, is the place to head for. They produce a complete range of pure cosmetics and a relatively cheap luxury is their beautiful Rosemary shampoo at 55p.

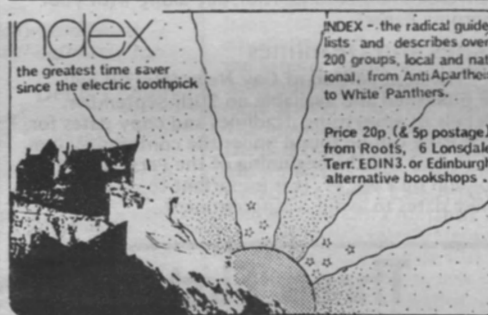
The prices of the products mentioned are, in some cases, fairly expensive (although Ponds, Boots', Vichy and Yardley ranges are very reasonably priced). But you are literally investing in yourself and perhaps you owe yourself that favour. Go on, spoil yourself — but not your skin!

Iain T. Finlayson



"Gigi" — the new short back and sides by Christopher Brooker at Vidal Sassoon specially coloured mahogany brown, for 1973. New Bond Street and Sloane Street salons, London.

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 for forwarding your letter, and a stamped addressed envelope for Iain's reply.



## 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.

## Gay News Oldies

Back copies of Gay News Nos 1-11 and 13-19, price 10p and 20-30 price 15p are available from Gay News Oldies, 34d Redcliffe Square, London SW10.

Orders for 10 or more copies are post free otherwise please add 3p per copy for post and packing.

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A BIRTHDAY INVITATION

# QUORUM

The most exciting magazine of the gay world... celebrates its FIRST ANNIVERSARY... this month!



QUORUM's great BIRTHDAY ISSUE (75p or 50p to subscribers), is packed with features (Manouche, Genet, West Side Story), fashion and book reviews, poetry, fiction and cartoons. PLUS of course, a splendid selection of new photographs. From the twelve issues of the past year, regular readers have learned to rely on QUORUM for its consistently superb photography — the best studies of the young male nude.

And in future issues...?

QUORUM will maintain its high standard of sophisticated entertainment and glossy photos as well as its exploration and discussion of the more serious aspects of the gay world — drag, pederasty, the bisexual, promiscuity and Laurence Collinson's regular radical column.

SO... as QUORUM enters its second year — bigger and better than ever before — we invite you to celebrate with us...

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# The Turn Of The Tide At Brighton

by John Montgomery

*"It wasn't the girl I saw you with at Brighton, Who, who, who's your lady friend?"*

NOWADAYS the old music hall song seems slightly out of date. Was that really a girl or was it a boy? It's often hard to tell. And in Brighton's breezy, carefree holiday atmosphere, does it really matter?

The town has always favoured lovers, even since Priny secretly married Mrs Fitzherbert. And if Beau Brummell wasn't gay, he certainly looked, behaved and dressed as if he were. All that preening, prinying and corsetting wasn't concerned only with womanising.

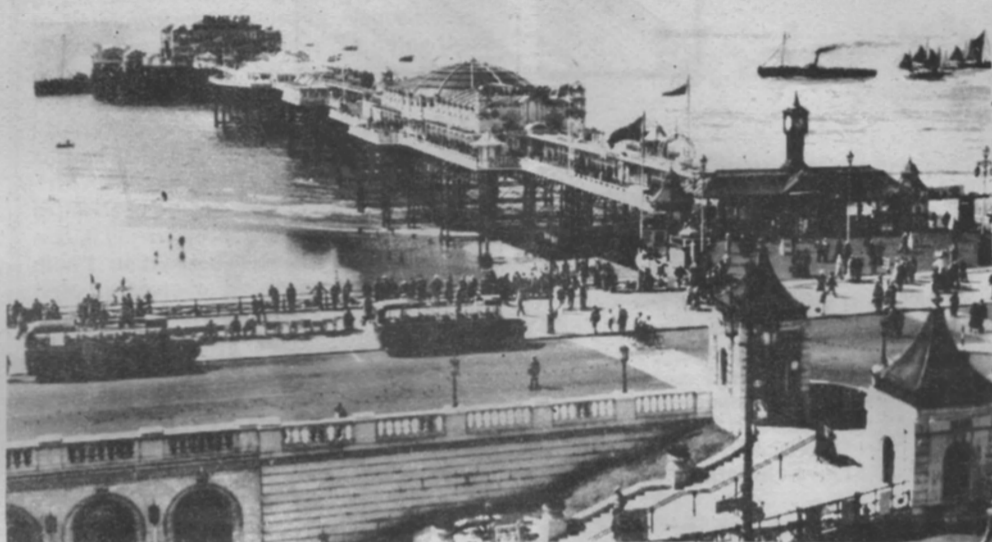
I first came here in 1919, and have lived here most of my life. From London, in the thirties we used to roar down to the coast in fast sports cars, or if we were hard up, ten bob would buy a week-end return. The main rendezvous was the Star of Brunswick pub in Hove, outside which Rolls-Royces, Daimlers and MGs were parked far up the street. There was also the New Pier Tavern, long since gone, with its noisy honky-tonk piano, thick atmosphere of tobacco, and sprinkling of red-coated, pink-faced guardsmen, and sailors from Portsmouth. When the war came, the naval authorities banned the Star of Brunswick because too many officer-cadets from HMS King Alfred were going there. And after the war everyone moved to the Albemarle, near the Palace Pier, where we sipped drinks in a palm court full of potted plants and other rare flowers, and could stay upstairs for seven and six a night including breakfast.



The Heart and Hand, in Brighton's Ship Street, a favourite rendezvous for visitors

Later came the Great Powder Puff Raid, involving a club in the town centre which unwisely served drinks after hours. Although warned by the police, they insisted on remaining open long after closing time. So the police swooped, and took the names of everyone present. Next day the local paper printed all the names. The magistrates' court was crowded with business men, shop owners, bank clerks, bus conductors, ex-army types, retired gentlefolk, gas officials, and plumbers with their mates. All their addresses and occupations were published, as was the police evidence that although the club had been completely all-male, a number of powder puffs had been found on the floor. The club was closed, but how all those powder puffs got scattered on the floor is a mystery.

In 1935 and 1936 the annexe to the Old Ship Hotel was always full. Few chauffeurs used it, but at week-ends the cubicle bedrooms were packed. For five bob a night you got a comfortable bed, bath or shower, and a gigantic breakfast of corn flakes, kippers, eggs and bacon, toast, marmalade, tea or coffee.



Brighton's Palace Pier in the 1930's

One of Brighton's many attractions was, and still is, the comparatively reasonable attitude of the police. I cannot recall any serious harassment. After all, it is several hundred years since Deryck Carver, the Brighton brewer was hanged for being a Quaker, and since then the Jews, Friends, Asians and many other minority groups have all helped to bring prosperity to the town.

It is a long time since the police of Brighton or Hove set traps for cottagers, but they and the magistrates jump very hard on those they catch and find guilty. £50 is not an unusual fine for what they call "persistent soliciting" or "indecent behaviour" in a public place. As reported in GN a fine of £250 was recently imposed. But why, ask the police, do a minority of gays need to go cottaging and cruising when the town has so many clubs, pubs and guest houses where they can meet and when most of us have a large number of friends and acquaintances? It is not an unreasonable question, from both the legal and moral points of view.

I was once arrested by the Brighton police on suspicion of being involved in an illegal act that took place, so it was alleged, in private, in my own home. The evidence against me was overwhelming, and if the case had gone to court I should - in the atmosphere of those days - probably have gone to prison. But the case was never brought against



Holding his own in Brighton

A permissive young man at Brighton, 1930.

me, and I must say that throughout long and unpleasant questioning and interrogation, the police behaved with great fairness, and a measure of sympathy, so that when the case was finally dropped, I could only feel gratitude mixed with relief. The experience not only taught me a short, sharp lesson, but confirmed my belief that our local police are certainly not anti-gay, or biased, or especially anxious to get people put away.

As in many other large towns, there are other hazards for the unwary. By far the worst is the danger of being mugged, especially at night on the seafront. Visitors walking home alone, even under the bright lights, have been hustled, robbed and sometimes stabbed. One doesn't need to be gay to be robbed. It happened to the actress Ann Todd, right outside her hotel. Wise residents avoid wandering home alone, and keep away from groups of lads, often very young, who seek watches and wallets.

Until about 1960 there was a Men Only bathing beach at Hove, a relic of Victorian days. There was even an attendant to keep women away. One young man used to sit on the beach wearing a huge straw sun hat, apparently knitting an endless pullover. When a couple of ladies strolled onto the pebbles one summer day, the attendant ran towards them shouting "You can't stay there - men only!" "Then why," replied one of the women, "do you allow that young lady to sit down over there?" "That happens to be a man," he replied. "Nonsense," said the other woman, "She's knitting a lady's jumper!" "That proves nothing," replied the attendant. "He also comes here on a lady's bicycle, but that doesn't mean he's going to be a mother."

The local paper recently suggested there are now 10,000 gays living in Brighton, but this seems widely optimistic. 5,000 seems a more realistic figure. The highly respectable 42 Club certainly has an international membership of many thousands, past and present, having been a popular rendezvous for about 15 years, but fortunately they don't all go there at the same time. The police have never needed to officially enter the premises. Like the Longbranch opposite the Royal Pavilion, the Queen of Hearts, the New Curtain Club, the St Albans, Pink Elephant and Regency, the 42 is strictly run, very well furnished, smart, and much more comfortable than most of the town's het clubs. In fact, these clubs, and bars like the Greyhound, Heart and Hand, and Spotted Dog, are so well conducted that visiting mums and dads who stray into them by accident, usually think them rather dull. Certainly there is a lot less drunkenness than in some places in the town, and the licensing laws are strictly observed.

But, as in most towns, the majority of gays don't make a habit of using these meeting places frequently. They're much too busy working, shopping, looking after their homes, visiting the laundrette, or simply watching telly. Bars can be expensive, and Brighton wages aren't high. But a first night

of a good new play at the Theatre Royal will bring out the tiaras.

Currently, many Brighton gays are resenting the decision of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality headquarters in Manchester not to hold next year's annual conference in the town, but at Malvern. The local CHE branch has worked hard to arrange the conference here. Brighton had already promised a civic reception to delegates, an honour reserved for only five other conferences, mostly much larger. Kemp Town's Conservative MP, Leslie Bowden, has expressed interest in CHE and support has also been promised by the parliamentary Labour candidate, Dennis Hobden, an ex-MP who may well regain his seat at the next election. These two leaders of public opinion have been joined by many town councillors in expressing their understanding for CHE and all it stands for.

Rightly or wrongly, many of us feel that the town which has led most of its rivals in showing sympathy and understanding towards our way of life is the one where the CHE conference would be more at home. But what looked like being a real breakthrough, in which delegates would be treated just like members of any other conference, has been thrown away in favour of Malvern,



The 42 Club, overlooking the sea on Brighton's front.

to which I would have thought gays owe no particular loyalty. After all, the Great Powder Puff Raid took place many years ago, and it was never a very serious affair. And I bet that Malvern, with its rather dreary waters, can't offer anything like the hospitality or understanding of our town. If it isn't too late, won't somebody at CHE think again? The tide of public opinion turned long ago at Brighton, as most of us who are lucky enough to live here know.

FOOTNOTE: Brighton author John Montgomery's books include *The Twenties*, *The Fifties*, *The World of Cats*, *Foxy*, *Toll For the Brave*, *Florence Nightingale*, and *Queer People*, written under the pen name of Douglas Plummer.

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# HOMOSEXUALS AND SEX

By Roger Baker

GAY Liberation has many fronts: it looks inwards and outwards, to segregation and to integration. But the more one thinks into any specific front, the more one realises that the political, social or psychic needs of gays are eventually the needs of everyone. A paper on homosexuals and sex was originally conceived from a segregationist point of view, but it soon became clear that the subject ripples outwards.

Starting points. A letter in the magazine *Lunch* suggesting that there wasn't enough sex in Campaign for Homosexual Equality. This is a remark often heard in a CHE con-



text, usually delivered semi-jokingly and received with nervous giggles. I see it as a tentative articulation of a need for more sexual awareness in this particular organisation. A casual conversation with a man involved in homosexual counselling and his suggestion that there seemed a surprising amount of ignorance among homosexuals about what they could actually do with each other in physical terms, an ignorance accompanied by certain fears, neuroses, hang-ups and what have you about the body in general. And not always among young, inexperienced people.

And there are the letters I have received as editor of two gay magazines. Some ask

for direct advice or information on purely sexual/genital problems. But others like to set down a few decisive statements for my benefit to which no reply is expected. Recently I was informed in this way that "circumcision should have been made compulsory when the National Health Service was introduced". This guy goes beyond preference, even prejudice, and into dogma about circumcision. Maybe he had a bad scene with a cheesy foreskin once. But I still call this a problem.

Questions building. Do gays know as much as they ought to about sex and their sex-potential? Is there a need for homosexual sex information in a very practical sense? Is there any link between the politics of gay liberation and physical sexual behaviour? And how do homosexuals find out how to enjoy their bodies anyway?

Everyone, of course, is assumed to be growing up straight. So a heterosexually-orientated sex instruction is something we all share. Today there are many ways of finding out about hetero-sex, idealistically three: instruction from parents; education in schools; specially-written text books. Biological facts with a vague emotional gloss. Less legitimate ways: books of pictures of sexual positions (expensive but instructive); hard-core pornography (most helpful medium of all since porn is usually graphic, inventive and candid. But it is also brutal and impersonal and tends to emphasise the personal violence implicit in sex, and separates the body from the psyche); the spin-off from porn (representation of the sex act executed with taste and easiness in advertisements, TV plays, movies); hearing about it from contemporaries (information likely to be incomplete or distorted, certainly affected by the experience, lack of it, the prejudices and expectations of the informant); practical experience.

This plethora of information is of comparatively recent origin. Certainly nothing like it existed when I was sitting up and taking notice in 1945. Maria Montez had her points, but she was no Glenda Jackson. My most thorough sex education derived from a pocket manual called *The Red Light* (the guilt-making title suggests it was designed for the serving forces, but I don't know). I recall a phrase in it that stated, a touch reluctantly, that men liked to have their penises stroked now and then. Even at that age I thought this was coming on cool.

Many aspects of today's vast sexual information service are deplored by certain people who seem to believe that everyone knows exactly what to do by osmosis or something, or that information is passed on through relaxed little chats with parents and teachers. But I think that these critics are

also aware that too much knowledge can bring a certain kind of freedom, and that sexual liberation for heterosexuals would ultimately bring the breakdown of too many essential social structures.

It is essential to keep the public in ignorance about sex as it is to keep it in ignorance about spending on defence, on experiments in biological warfare, in adulteration (known formally as technological advances) of food. The pleasure/punishment equation relating to sex must be maintained. Hence the continuing reluctance to disseminate information about VD, the reactions against pregnancy tests, the fight for abortion, the resistance to both contraception and artificial insemination and so on. The work of Masters and Johnson, which revealed new and valuable information about the female sexual response, is publicly deplored by David Holbrook who has also been angry about quite sensible and informative articles on lesbianism published in *The Times*, and in the girls' magazine *19*.

Sometimes it seems that every pathway towards some form of sexual liberation is blocked by the barriers of upside down thinking. Talk about lowering the age of consent for boys and girls and you are met with cries about the spread of VD. Why not tackle VD? Sexual activity outside an accepted pattern has got to be punished. Such sexual repression is essential of course. For if it is ordained that one's entire sexual outlet is to be invested in one person only, and that a person of the opposite sex, then any information (which is instantly interpreted as instigation) that tends towards experimentation with extra-marital relationships is bound to be subversive of the social structure of which marriage and the family is so vital a part.

The need for more information, more unqualified freedoms, has been strongly made by heterosexuals, and while the need exists, that information, that freedom, will be increasingly available. I think that much of the more informed outrage that greeted *Last Tango In Paris* was due not so much to the rather graphic fucking that goes on, but more to what that fucking implied about this very breakdown of rigid sexual structures.

Homosexuals suffer greatly from their heterosexual upbringing. Expressed simply, this means that gay people inherit sets of standards and values that would equip them very well if they grow up straight and conform to the principles of marriage and so on, but which are not just useless but downright damaging to the individual who wishes to realise his full potential as an homosexual. In this specific context he inherits a sexual outlook that is hemmed in by severe

repressions.

Today the heterosexual may be beginning to fight his way out of these repressions, but the homosexual situation is exacerbated by the dreadful realisation that homosexuality is in itself an integral part of heterosexual repression. It is rather like having VD and finding oneself with people who are talking about that ailment in tones of horror and disgust.

There is little wonder then that a great number of homosexuals are going to find it difficult to speak openly of their sexual experiences and their sexual needs — even



among themselves. As far as I can tell, the homosexual has only two ways in which he can find out what to do. Through pornography and through experience with others. (I thought of adding talking to contemporaries but in my own experience, homosexuals seem far less willing — or able — to talk realistically about their sexual experiences than are my straight friends, male or female, married or single).

Which is tough. It says a great deal for innate sensuality and for the strength of the homosexual impulse that so many gays do enjoy a full, liberated and rewarding sex life. Some of the information outlets I listed above are part of the texture of everyday

living. We are far from seeing even a tiny homosexual equivalent in the portrayal of homosexual acts on the screen; instructional books available for single-sex lovers, two boys in Sunday morning bed, reading their *Sunday Times*. Every woman needs her weekly *Woman*. Outside porn, I have only seen two movies that show homosexual intercourse, *Fortune and Men's Eyes* and *Deliverance*. In each case it was a violent, unsavoury act and, moreover, emotionally designed to image the demasculinisation (is that a word?) of a male.

This lack of information, refusal to accept that homosexual bonds are a normal part of life (which they are) is an insidious form of repression emphasising even the most together gay's sense of isolation of not being at one with the rest of his community. Might I not be happier reading in bed with Joan rather than John? Would I be more fulfilled if I had a toddler to play with rather than my gay Afghan hound? It is my contention that by asserting the value and validity of the homosexual sex experience, some of this self-hatred can be relieved and a sense of wholeness within oneself be achieved. Such assertions must start from within the gay community. As I suggested earlier, the sex experience is not a favourite topic in CHE groups. We hear a lot of portentous nonsense about stable pair-bonds, promiscuity, cottaging, counselling and contact ads but precious little about the actual sexual confrontation that underpins these preoccupations.

But among sections of Gay Liberation Front this is not so. Sex is noised abroad, loudly and happily. I remember my first GLF meeting back in 1970. I was a very tentative comer on the scene. One man was going on at length about something or other when a voice yelled at him: "Are you gay?" To which he replied: "Well - I've sucked a lot of cocks in my time." That was the first time I'd ever heard a public assertion of a homosexual activity. It was loud, it was proud and I was very thrilled. Since then I have become accustomed to reading and hearing about the sexual habits of people like Allen Ginsberg, William Burroughs and others less famous.

To your average Englishman, struggling with his pockets of Puritanism, still enmeshed in the coils of repression as purveyed by the Church of England, the House of Lords and the Stock Exchange, all this sounds very much like showing off. It offends his taste, his sense of the fitness of things. How very boring, he says, meaning how awfully embarrassing . . .

And yet I wonder.

It seems to me that this sort of statement, however crude, however casual, must act as an assertion of individual right; as a reassurance to others that gays do have a sex life which is vital and important to them. In this way it becomes a political statement as well as a personal one; a showing up as well as a showing off.

One of the main sponsors of the Sexual Offences Act, Lord Arran, later said that he had not intended the Act to pave the way for the formation of 'buggers' clubs'. That is how someone who is still regarded as a champion of gay rights sees the homosexual and his sex life. Such evocative language is pervasive, among gays as well as straights and tends towards the feeling that if the homosexual plays down his sexual impulse and comes across as a kind of castrated straight, then his integration, or acceptance into society as an equal will be so much easier. Maybe it would, but at what sort of sacrifice? To assert that yes we are indeed buggers and the buggered, the grinders and the ground, the suckers and the sucked may be difficult, may alienate or frighten the liberal straight. But it may be necessary.

In my admittedly fairly limited experience, heterosexual people do have a pressing interest in what homo- and bisexual people do in sexual terms.

The first time I addressed a non-gay group on homosexuality, someone got up and asked: "Yes, but what do you actually do in bed?" Naively - as now I realise - I hadn't expected that, and was rather thrown. Fortunately, a quick chairman took me off the hook. Later, the redoubtable Sappho took me into her confidence and gave me the answer: "The same as you - only better and for longer". I have used this response since. It gets a big laugh and effectively defuses the situation; especially at Rotary Clubs.

But it is still an evasion. When straights ask such a question, there is a tendency for gays to get all toffee-nosed and say pompously: "I don't ask you what you do in bed". I now think that such interest is not prurient or intrusive, but natural and seriously meant, and that it deserves a full

and satisfying answer. One way towards integration is to destroy the homosexual mystique and a lot of mystique hangs around the bed. After all, to an inexperienced straight, the concept of homosexual sex might range from the absolutely impossible to the downright disgusting. Hence the myths that gays are either pretending (have deliberately chosen their way of life, are frightened of the opposite sex etc) or are utterly perverse. A few straight (sorry!) facts allay such fears.

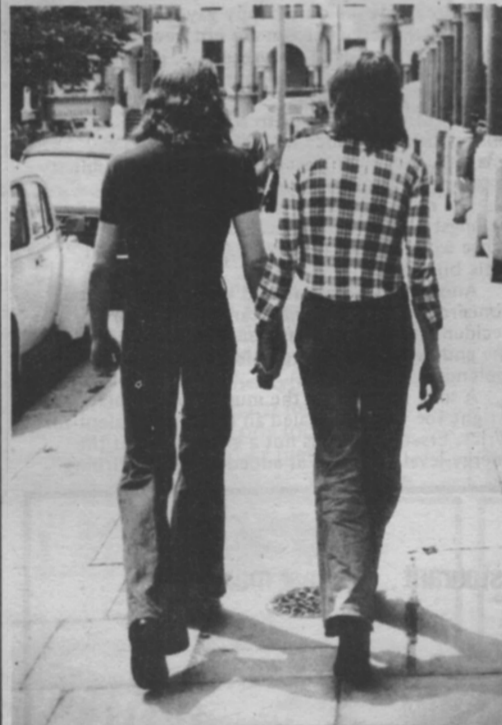
Evelyn Waugh in one of his diary entries, expressed concern about describing the sexual behaviour of his characters. If he didn't, he realised, his readers would put onto his characters their own sexual habits. Gays should surely try to avoid this happening to them. After all a heterosexual, through his training and experience of sex, would probably find it difficult to imagine an absolutely equal meeting in bed, hence strange ideas that gays are all (male or female) butch or bitch, fixed and forever.

But such statements can hardly happen until gays themselves have got confidence and security in their own sexuality. There is a lot of unnecessary ignorance which should be dispelled. But factual information is sparse. Even the once-celebrated *Homosexuals Handbook* was not entirely candid. There was a useful and instructive article in *Screw* (reprinted in the LSE's *Beaver*: March '72) that gave detailed instructions for anal screwing. And I was particularly taken by a paragraph in Colin McInnes' recent essay on bi-sexuality *Loving Them Both*: "If you fuck an arse, male or female, don't you get 'dirty'?" From conversations with gay men and from an abundance of letters, I know this is a deeply suppressed hang-up with a lot of people. MacInnes says briskly: "The answer is, you do if your partner hasn't had a shit, and don't if he or she has."

The social repression of sexuality leads often to an unhealthy physical repression among gays. Try to break through the social tabu that says gays can't kiss/hold hands in the street and, accommodating themselves to this, a lot of gays are going to say (do say) - but we don't want to. Thus imposing on themselves a degree of self-control which would be unthinkable to anyone else.

Beyond this there lurks, surely, the feeling that such demonstrations of public affection are a public statement that gays do have physical contact with each other, and that this is an undesirable thing to foist on the unsuspecting public. I believe it is a highly desirable thing and that until gays do assert their full sexuality, then any developments on other fronts will be chimeras.

### The End of the Beginning



FOOTNOTE: Roger Baker comments: Quite obviously this article is written from a male point of view and is primarily addressed to men. Some aspects of it do, I think, apply to women - especially those relating to the learning about sex. As I've said before, I know very little about women in this way, so would not try to analyse their situation in the same terms. My thesis that male homosexuals should assert their sexual identity is probably easier for men, because in our society men are expected to do this anyway. Women are trained or taught to have different expectations. The views of sisters who have managed to read the article would be welcomed; even more so a parallel piece, perhaps from a gay sister.

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## Gay Genius Bacon Rose High Under 'Queen James'

by Rictor Norton

WHILE Renaissance men were rapidly expanding all the frontiers of knowledge - in geography, philosophy, medicine and astronomy - Sir Francis Bacon was devising a deductive system for empirical research which has earned him the title "the Father of Modern Science."

Most scientists today still owe him a debt of gratitude. They repay this debt by giving his capsule biography in almost every text for high-school or college-level courses in most branches of science.

But they carefully avoid mentioning that he was gay.

Though he married - at the age of 48 - contemporary figures relate that he was by preference homosexual. John Aubrey in his *Brief Lives* says quite bluntly that Bacon "was a pederast" and had "ganimeds and favourites," ("Pederast" in Renaissance diction means, simply, homosexual, not a lover of minors; "Ganimed" meant homosexual lover, from the mythical shepherd abducted by Zeus to be his cup-bearer and bed-warmer).

Sir Simonds D'Ewes in his *Autobiography* discusses Bacon's love for his Welsh serving-men, in particular a "very effeminate-faced youth" whom he calls "his catamite and bed-fellow." ("Catamite" is a corruption of "Ganimed.") D'Ewes, incidentally, was a Puritan moralist.

### 'Bloody Percy'

Even his mother, Lady Ann Bacon, in a letter to her other son, complains of "that bloody Percy" whom Francis kept "yea as a coach companion and a bed companion," as well as others including Jones, Markes, Enney "and his Welchmen one after another." Lady Ann's major distress was not that her son was gay, but that it violated decorum for a nobleman to allow a servant to sleep in the master bedroom; she felt that a lower-ranking bedroom would have been more appropriate.

In his will, Bacon bequeathed a sum of money to a certain Henry Percy, probably the same Percy mentioned by Lady Ann and the fair youth seen by D'Ewes. Unfortunately we know nothing else of the Welshman who was the lover of one of the most powerful men in England at that time and one of the greatest minds of all time.

Bacon's biographers find all this evidence "inconclusive". This is simply because they cannot accept the notion that a person can be brilliant, virtuous, healthy and gay at the same time.

Had the evidence been more conclusive, Bacon would have suffered the fate of his brother-in-law, who shared similar tastes. Mervyn Touchet, second Earl of Castlehaven, and two of his servants were executed for homosexual love on May 14, 1631 - the master beheaded on the scaffold and the servants hanged on the gallows.

Bacon, happily, followed one of his own principles: "A habit of secrecy is both politic and moral."

### Rapid Rise - and Fall

Bacon was born into a middle-class family in 1561, became a practicing lawyer in 1582, and was appointed Queen Elizabeth's Counsellor in 1591. He rapidly rose to fame under King James I. He was knighted in 1603, made Solicitor General in 1607, Attorney General in 1613, and Lord High Chancellor in 1618. He thus occupied the highest public post next to the throne itself. He received the titles of Baron Verulam in 1618 and Viscount St Albans in 1621.

Bacon was undoubtedly a man of uncommon abilities. Yet the swiftness of his rise may have been influenced by his personal friendship with James. The King was so unsecretive about his own homosexual loves that his subjects openly called him Queen James.

But Bacon fell suddenly in 1621 (the same year that James fell from grace by trying to abolish Parliament), when he was found guilty of having accepted "bribes" while serving as a judge. Actually it was common practice during this era for all judges to accept gifts from the winning parties.

It was really a political, rather than a moral, trial. A strong faction in Parliament disliked Bacon's friendship with James and seized an opportunity to pretend moral outrage. Bacon acknowledged receiving gifts but maintained that this custom never influenced his judgements. This is probably true, for no-one ever demanded a re-trial of any of the suits in question.

His public career was ruined, and he retired to write and to conduct scientific research. *New Atlantis*, utopian fiction about the ideal society, had been published in 1617; the *Novum Organum*, a theory for



Illustration courtesy of The Advocate (Los Angeles)

organising knowledge, in 1620; *The Advancement of Learning*, an argument for empirical research and against superstition, in 1623; and an expanded version of the *Essays* in 1625. He also wrote poetry and plays, and there is still controversy that he co-authored many of Shakespeare's plays, including *Hamlet*.

Always the indefatigable investigator, in 1626 he tested the effect of freezing on the preservation of meat by going out into a blizzard and stuffing a chicken with snow. The chicken was preserved, but Bacon caught pneumonia and died a month later.

### Pithy and Witty

The *Essays* contain Bacon's personal reflections upon men, manners, and morals. Bacon's pithy, witty advice reveals him as one of the finest English prose stylists of English literature. Here is a typical example from his first essay, "Of Truth":

"What is truth? said jesting Pilate, and would not stay for an answer. . . Truth may perhaps come to the price of a pearl that showeth best by day, but it will not rise to the price of a diamond that showeth best in varied lights. A mixture of a lie doth ever add pleasure."

Of particular interest are his essays on love and friendship. Bacon's attitude toward marriage is quite negative:

"He that hath wife and children hath given hostages to fortune; for they are impediments to great enterprises, either of virtue or mischief. Certainly the best works, and of greatest merit for the public, have proceeded from the unmarried or childless men, which both in affection and means have married and endowed the public."

He preferred masculine friendship to heterosexual love, for although nuptial love *maketh* mankind, friendly love *perfecteth* it."

One of the great values of friendship, he felt, was the ability for two men to be completely honest with one another, even including candid criticism: "There is no such flatterer as is a man's self, and there is no such remedy against flattery of a man's self, as the liberty of a friend."

In fact, only friendship makes life worthwhile: "If a man have not a friend, he may quit the stage."

Bacon's finest perception is that "a crowd is not company and faces are but a gallery of pictures, and talk but a tinkling cymbal, where there is no love."

At a time when moralists described homosexual love as "unnatural lust", and a variety of other degrading terms, Sir Francis Bacon was the first person in the English language to use the non-stigmatising phrase "masculine love" (in *New Atlantis*). For him, morality was a matter of personal integrity, not a matter of following socially approved conventions: "Reading good books of morality is a little flat and dead."

The important thing is to "be so true to thyself as thou be not false to others," a line which Shakespeare (or Bacon himself) modified in *Hamlet* to read "To thine own self be true: thou canst not then be false to any man."

ED: Our love and thanks to the Advocate (Los Angeles) who originally published this piece.



An aristocratic knees-up. Eric Shilling as the Lord Chancellor, flanked by Denis Dowling (left) and Terry Jenkins as their Lordships Mountarrarat and Tolloller.

## Every Peer A Fairy

IN response to the annual tourist plague (and perhaps as an antidote for be-Wagnered Coliseum audiences) Sadlers Wells Opera's two latest offerings have been in lighter vein.

The first production to be revived was Lehar's Merry Widow, a popular attraction first seen last season. The revival, however, was sadly lacking in spirit. Much of the trouble lay with Lois McDonall in the title part. Inaudible at times, her conception of the role owed too much to Julie Andrews — a very nice Widow, but somewhat out of place in turn of the century Paris high society. A touch of gay abandon would have helped.

And talking of Gay Abandon — the second lightweight to have been brought back is the company's inimitable version of Iolanthe. If the Claygate Operatic Society might just get away with lines like "How would you like to be a fairy guardsman?", with no more than two or three muffled sniggers, no West End production would even dare try. So Sadlers Wells plays the fairy jokes for all they are worth. In fact the whole evening, dare one say it, is camped up something rotten.

Desmond Heeley set the enchanting Act One fairy grotto against a design clearly inspired by childhood memories of mother's chintz loose coverings. And in front of the huge roses, the monstrous regiment of fairies tripped hither, tripped thither, both thunderously and boisterously. Their antagonists, the chorus of peers, were determined not to be outdone and arrived on stage with a detachment of the Band of the Irish Guards in full uniform.

"Twixt the enthusiastic rival bands, the principals (some mortal, some fairy, or curious combinations of each tendency) weaved the tangled web of the story. Anne Collins was a superbly regal fairy queen (even if she did finally succumb to a guardsman, the fate of many another fairy queen before her) and was more than a match for the poor put-upon Lord Chancellor (Eric Shilling).

Mr Shilling's performance was nigh on impeccable. Resisting the temptation to over-do the stage business, he sang with great panache and handled the patter with an ease of expressions that left him free to extract all the comic possibilities from the songs.

Barbara Walker may well have studied her role with a porcelain dresden shepherdess, so carefully did she maintain a virginal level of

naive romanticism throughout. Only once did the mask slip, when she evinced excessive relief on discovering that her betrothed, Strephon (gallantly played by Alan Opie), was a fairy only down to the waist. But let that pass, even if the audience didn't.

Honours for the evening must be shared equally by all. Indeed if the performance did have stars, then they were surely the two choruses, in rollicking good spirits both. From the chaotic dancing of the fairies (including an impressive mountain of a fay whose weight it would be impolite for me to estimate, but who had us all in giggles) to the poor tearful peer who flooded at the slightest excuse, the acting was as enjoyable as the singing.

And as the rollicking reached its climax, on the final number 'Soon As We May', we were left to ponder the moral of the story that, given the right circumstances, fairies can present a real threat to the ruling classes.

Michael Mason



Fresh out of mourning, the widow (Lois McDonall) with Camille (John Brecknock).



## Horse Boy

*EQUUS*. The National Theatre at the Old Vic, Waterloo Road, London SE1.

A GOOD night's sleep and one realises that Peter Shaffer's widely acclaimed new play falls to pieces in your hands, well — that is (a) if you can get a good night's sleep after it, and (b) if you are seeking a well-crafted piece of escapist fiction. Basically, it is cast in the form of a long dialogue between psychiatrist and boy patient referred to him because the lad stabbed six horses through the eye with a spike. The instant case history is never far away: "Alan S (17) was uncommunicative at first and would only sing snatches from television commercials when asked questions . . ." Tolerant magistrate, reactionary horse-owner, confused parents are jerked into action to say their representative bits.

But Shaffer, in intimate collusion with the director (John Dexter), the choreographer (Claude Chagrin) and the design/music/lighting team has attempted something even more staggeringly ambitious than having Spaniards climb the Andes. Which is to make palpable for us the limitless, magical, image-infested world of the boy's mind. Analysis is dry as dust; words and evasive answers. You make notes and give a pill. You say: "Alan S (17) has been fixated on a sado-masochistic Christian image which he transferred to the image of the horse . . ." or something like that. But on the stage we see this happening as the bleak dialogue in the bare consulting room breaks into living images of the naked boy riding in the night, communing with the essence of the horse, panting, erecting, coming . . . the dream-ballet cliché of the American musical becomes suddenly a perfect dramatic tool.

This production will be remembered for these climactic moments, particularly the blinding sequence, spectacularly well performed, in which the boy's nakedness reveals him most vulnerably human, struggling with the Gods, a converging circle of great gold horse-masks. By Dexter out of Shaffer, is



Alec McCowan (standing) and Peter Firth in Peter Shaffer's widely acclaimed new play 'Equus'.

probably the appropriate credit in this cloud-burst over the analyst's couch.

The dark forces, the power and passion released, the boy's capacity for worship affect the psychiatrist and ultimately *Equus* climaxes on the disillusion of the doctor. The boy's trauma uncovered he can work. But at what cost. He will deprive the lad of his guts (this image is thoroughly worked into the play) and send him away a nebbish. "Doctors can kill passion; they cannot create it . . ." The erotic choreography blasts the mind, but it is Alec McCowan's delivery of the final, bitter epitaph that remains. No actor is better equipped to project the civilised man in agony of self-doubt, self-hate even. Hadrian and Butley, philanthropist and misanthrope, McCowan just absolutely is late 20th Century man, seeking passion and finding a biro.

Roger Baker

## Entertaining, But Happy?

*THE HAPPY HOMOSEXUAL HOUR* / A one-man show by Ersör (hereafter referred to phonetically).

Ersör's *Happy Homosexual Hour* finally came to rest for three lunch-time performances in the upstairs lounge of that famed gay ghetto gathering place, the Boltons Hotel of Earls Court. It could be said that the location is the spiritual home of his writings, but even the ghetto mentality which keeps the Boltons operating can offer more positive gay ideals than are to be found in the *Happy Homosexual Hour*. Entertaining it may be, but happy it is not.

The overall impression left by the show brought to mind a line from the *Boys In The Band*, the one suggesting that the only happy gay is a corpse.

I gather these criticisms are not new to the troubadour. In GN23 he wrote "... my observations are both honest and entertaining, and I don't give a shit who it upsets."

One can empathise with this, but when the observations reinforce my destructive old gay images, a movement needing all the good publicity it can get must object.

The only vaguely liberated gay I could find amongst his characters was a transvestite who pleased those who came to her because she gave "that little bit more".

Another constructive and well-played sketch concerned a straight American couple who accidentally land in a gay bar. They only feel safe at the end, when they are outside, surrounded by violence.

A song inspired by the murder of gay playwright Joe Orton revealed an interesting talent for lyrics. Ersör's voice is not a great one, but the energy-level he works at added to the disturbing

quality he summoned with the song.

When he doused his hair with talcum, changed clothes, and became a miserable, somewhat stupid old gay, probably in his late 50s, the imagery was depressing. The portrayal was in sympathy with the character, but seemed to be laughing at him at the same time. It also occurred to me that such a humourless, bitter old person would have lost buoyancy and committed suicide long ago. It was the sort of one-dimensional portrayal which encourages unenlightened straights — or gays for that matter — to go away thinking, "Yes, that's how the poor buggers finish up."

A ballad about cottaging was given a light, happy treatment. He finished the show with a sketch about a vicar teaching children the "meaning of homosexuality". Whilst this was given a punchy performance, it offered no new insights on the workings of hypocrisy.

Ersör has talent, energy and determination. It seems a pity that such qualities are largely exercised on the presentation of a dated, negative view of gay people. His characters are neurotic reactions rather than fresh conceptions. The new wave of gays who see themselves as totally valid human beings were not represented at the performance at the performance I caught (however, three numbers had been dropped from that performance due to a missing pianist).

What we were left with did not inspire a glad-to-be-gay feeling. And whilst Ersör says his basic wish is to entertain, this does not render him immune from political scrutiny. I feel sure he is capable of both entertainment and inspiration: a more balanced, positive view would endow him with the latter quality, and then even the Gay Liberation Front could leave the show feeling happy.

Stephen MacLean

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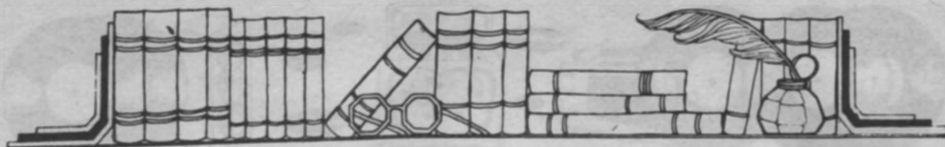
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# Everything That Mother's Against?

*THE QUEEN'S VERNACULAR (A Gay Lexicon)* by Bruce Rodgers. Published by Blond & Briggs £1.50 (original paperback).

GAY NEWS readers have already tasted a few of the delights from this gay lexicon which is, if nothing else, the funniest book to emerge from the homosexual sub-culture. And a sub-culture is precisely what these columns of slang words, phrases and expressions define. Bruce Rodgers spent a dozen years collecting his material - asking, listening, recording. His sources are, to say the least, eclectic, and there is a useful bibliography. The overall impact is, however, American.

The introduction mentions the ghetto quality of slang terms, and Rodgers comments: "... the people who use slang words most frequently in their everyday speech are economically oppressed ...". The lexicon contains words absorbed from the black, drug, prison and prostitution scenes. There are too a number of words which are not specifically of gay origin, but which are sexual slang used by everybody (like 'cock').

British entries seem to be derived from the short vocabulary published in Richard Hauser's terrible book *The Homosexual Society* which seems to be a language rarely heard these days. I was introduced to it in the 1950s when it was called Egyptian (why?) it includes words like: riha (hair), ecaf (face), verda (look) and so on. This slang received a boost in the mid-60s with the radio programme *Round The Horne* when Kenneth Williams and Hugh Paddick in their roles as Julian and Sandy popularised it in schools and pubs. Verda has become varda, lyles (legs) has become lallies. Neither then nor now have I ever heard used mute (vagina), oyster (mouth), maria (sperm) or shyckle (wig). Most British gay slang derives from Parlyaree cant which is composed (oddly) of Italian words, but with an admixture of show-business jargon and carnival slang of the sort used in *A Clockwork Orange* (where varda became viddy).

A lot of pejorative words for homosexuals are included, but not the British rhyming

slang terms: ginger (ie ginger beer/queer) and iron (ie iron hoof/poof). Beyond mere definitions, there are two extremely taking aspects of this book: quite detailed essays involving slang terms relating to specific areas such as prison life or army life; and the examples given to demonstrate the use of words - these are invariably astoundingly funny: "His mother's knitting him a holder for his KY".

**bargain basement** any place where it is easy to locate a sex partner.

**bend over** to be passive to anal eroticism. "Mention 'Dick' and that one bends right over and touches her toes."

**black widow** (kwn SF late '60s) male homosexual who habitually takes away the love-mates of other homosexuals.

Syn: burglar; dragon lady; spider lady

**buy queen** a homosexual man who has a desperate compulsion to buy furnishings for the home constantly.

**catalogue queen** homosexual who collects physique magazines for masturbation purposes.

The quality of the slang that emerges is of a language that is muscular, vigorous and direct; faint hearts will find the open confrontation with all aspects of sex unnerving (try spinach-queen for starters: "man who sucks a cock just after it has fucked his ass"). Self-criticism, self-parody, the attribution of female qualities and names to male activity is emphatic. The homosexual disgust for women is also strong. The escapism of the gay ghetto emerges in constant references to royalty, fairyland and the screen. Most certainly this is a book about gay oppression; if it ever worked, gay liberation would necessarily destroy this language and it would become quaint and amusing. The gut reality of it is depressing.

Roger Baker

# Dear Bosie...

*DE PROFUNDIS AND OTHER WRITINGS* by Oscar Wilde, ed. Hesketh Pearson. Penguin 35p.

AS poet, wit and latterly as dramatist, the reputation of Oscar Wilde lingers on. But it was mainly to remind us of his talents as an essayist that Penguin first published Hesketh Pearson's selection of some of his works in 1954. This selection is now to be reprinted as 'De Profundis and Other Writings'.

A few poems are included, amongst them *The Grave of Shelley*, *Requiescat* and *Ballad of Reading Gaol*. But the greater part of the book is taken up with prose writings. First of these is the famous 'Soul of Man Under Socialism', his manifesto of the New Individualism, towards which he sees Socialism, like it or not, contributing. That same battle is still a significant one today, though the end seems even more remote to us now than it did to an optimistic Wilde.

'The Decay of Lying' which follows, is a glorious and intricate conceit, abounding in the epigrams which poured so facetiously from his pen. "The final revelation is that Lying, the Telling of beautiful and untrue things, is the proper aim of Art." And through the whole essay runs a common thread in much of his work, that an ability to distinguish between fantasy and reality is a crippling disability for an artist.

But the heart of this selection is 'De Profundis', a letter of epic proportions addressed by Wilde to Lord Alfred Douglas ('Bosie') from Reading Gaol. This is required reading for any who think of Wilde simply as the playwright who created 'The Importance of Being Earnest', or even as the first great gay martyr of modern times.

I had not read the letter for many years, and in that time had been seduced by a couple of light evenings at the theatre into

the naive view of him as a mannered original.

It is precisely this view that suffers most severely on re-reading *De Profundis*. It is the only introspective work that Wilde ever wrote. Whilst many others may have originated from periods of self questioning, this is the only piece in which the process is seen in action.

During the two years that Wilde had been in gaol, he had not received one word from Lord Alfred Douglas. The boy he had loved, the boy he felt to be the main instrument of his imprisonment and bankruptcy, had maintained a complete silence.

The letter does not mince words. He accuses Bosie of shallowness, selfishness, lack of imagination. Even Bosie's love he asserts was dwarfed by the hatred he had for his father. It is the antagonism between father and son to which Wilde attributes all his present miseries. Yet he is at pains to point out that the letter contains more than bitterness. It is meant as a warning to Bosie, in the hope that he would examine his own nature a little more closely, and avoid destroying himself as he destroyed Wilde. For Wilde, the letter is an exorcism of the hatred in his own heart.

And in all these conflicts we glimpse a real man, wretched, inconsistent, implausible at times, yet a hundred times more vivid than the waxwork dandy often paraded in his place. It is an unhappy thought that it should have taken such humiliating bitterness to force the man out into the open.

As for his martyrdom at the hands of Society, even this is shaken. What destroyed Wilde was an unsuccessful relationship, and his battle with Bosie and his father. Perhaps Society simply kicked a man who was down. It was an affair of the most intricate tangles, and this letter provides a fascinating view of it.

Michael Mason

# Fun For Film Fanatics

*THE FILM-GOER'S BOOK OF QUOTES* by Leslie Halliwell. Published by Hart-Davis, MacGibbon. Price £2.25

Leslie Halliwell has come up with a marvellous new book which will give hours of enjoyment to all film fans who buy it. His list of subjects include many of the top names in the cinema, and the diversified group ranges from Julie Andrews to Mae West, and from Garbo to the Marx Brothers. Each chapter is devoted to a different subject, with a list of comments made by the stars about themselves, as well as other people's remarks on that particular person. I find it hard to believe that all of the witty remarks come direct from the stars' mouths, but it is impossible to define just where the press agent's work ends, or just how intelligent or amusing the stars themselves are. A collective group of subjects on other aspects of cinema such as acting, publicity, and film trends, also include many interesting comments by both stars and directors.

For collectors of trivia, like myself, there are also included over a dozen rather difficult quiz lists. These range from a group of 'Film Cliché's' (in which film did Katherine Hepburn say "The calla lilies are in bloom again"), to 'Fade Outs' ("This is Mrs Norma Maine"), to 'Famous First Lines' ("Last night I dreamed I went to Mandalay again"). Some of these questions are easy, but the majority stumped me, and I consider myself quite a film buff. Recommended to all film fanatics.

Barry Conley

# Nightmare Fodder

*DAUGHTER OF DARKNESS* by J R Lowell. Published by Souvenir Press £2.20

THE DAUGHTER of the title is Willie, a tomboyish twelve-year-old, with an extraordinarily high IQ, whose collection of dolls have more sinister purposes than usual. The only child of a concert pianist and doting author father, her fertile mind

is stirred by the first-hand experience of a ghost-hunting family friend.

Already a bookworm, she reads and absorbs any available material on various forms of black magic. The opportunity to test her new found powers arrives in the form of a school outing, which is eventually cancelled due to the teachers enforced illness. Unaware at first of the terrible consequences she is risking, she then begins to use her skills to manipulate her parents' lives.

Slowly she becomes more the victim of her own power than the controller of it until finally she reaches the twisted role that her guilt-ridden mind has driven her to.

If you have a passion for spinechillers, two hours spare, and a lively imagination, this one could give you a restless night.

Norman Pratt

# Bacchic Tributes

*WINES AND SPIRITS* by L W Marrison. Penguin 50p

*HOME BREWING AND WINE-MAKING* by W H Tayleur. Penguin 50p

Another book all about wine? Yes, and the reason for yet another becomes clear after the most cursory glance through. Marrison's *Wines and Spirits* is packed solid with information about wines from every corner of the earth, from Argentinian whisky to the pale red Bzazano wines of New Zealand. Most of the information, however, is a little more directly relevant. And the readable text is often very funny.

For the growing band of home vintners and brewers, Tayleur's *Home Brewing and Wine-Making* is one to be recommended. It is clear and simple, whilst the author also manages to roam beyond the limits of the sketchy 'For Beginners' approach. Recipes for mead, cider, fruit and vegetable wines, and beers are here; and a jungle juice recipe which, it is claimed, fulfills practically every purpose from aphrodisiac to furniture polish. Crammed with sound advice and help for less than the price of a cheap beaujolais, this book is a worthwhile buy.

Michael Mason



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# Decadent Or Just Outrageous



THE last couple of years has seen a whole new rock and roll scene emerge in New York City. Some say it's similar in many ways to what was happening in Liverpool in the early 60's or San Francisco in 1967, except — as the cynical have been only too quick to point out — New York is a latter day 'Rome Before the Fall'. And, not surprisingly, now that the terms 'glamour' and 'glitter' rock have fallen out of favour, and 'gay' rock brings out the moralising puritan worst in even the hippest rock critics, the word everyone is pouncing on, especially to describe the apparently semi-retired David Bowie, is 'decadent'. But to twist an old adage, 'one man's decadence is another man's liberation'.

If rock and roll has any social relevance, it's because the lyrics and music accurately reflect the attitudes and antics of the society they are being created in. Two classic examples of what I mean are the careers of Bob Dylan and the Rolling Stones. Dylan, before his talent dried up, owed his rise to fame and fortune by singing songs of dissent for the 'protest' generation. The Rolling Stones defied and poked fun at traditions and authority. Their songs and lifestyle epitomised the growing dissatisfaction and subsequent rejection of hypocritical values and the hysterical taboos that governed sexuality.

The sound currently coming out of New York owes much to the musical 'revolutionaries' of the 1960's. And it is also in debt to Alice Cooper and David Bowie, two outstanding artists who between them have brought a much needed vitality and showbiz professionalism back to rock and roll. The primary concern of a performer in this genre should be to entertain and not to sacrifice the essential element of fun on the altar of pseudo intellectual integrity. Audiences are at long last reacting against rock musicians who have as much stage presence as a handful of ageing prunes, and it comes as no surprise that people love and gayly welcome the outrageousness (decadence) of the emergent 'glamour/glitter/gay' bands. If 'outrageousness' means that members of rock groups openly display

their rejections of stereotyped sexuality, all the better. As a result, gayness, bisexuality, drag or whatever are very much part of the newly found liberation to be found in contemporary music.

## Are You Ready for the New York Dolls?

Harlots of 42nd Street, Teenage Lust, Elliott Murphy's Aqua Show, The Planets, Kiss Wayne County and Queen Elizabeth are reported as being amongst the best of the new wave of 'glamour/glitter/gay' rock bands that have recently surfaced in New York. But currently riding high above all of them are the New York Dolls, the hottest, best loved and most outrageous of them all. Their first album, simply called *The New York Dolls* was released in the States in early August on the Phonogram/Mercury label, but I'm told it won't be issued in Britain until October. (But available on import).

The Dolls toured England last year, but their visit turned into a tragedy when their drummer, Billy Murcia, accidentally died. (The album is dedicated to him.) On their return to New York, they got regular bookings at the Oscar Wilde Room, which is part of the Mercer Arts Centre. It wasn't long before they became a big attraction: even David Bowie went to see them, telling the group that they had "as much energy as six English bands." Apparently no local band has acquired such a cult following since the legendary Velvet Underground (with Lou Reed) as the Dolls now possess.

On hearing their album it is easy to understand why. The Dolls' music is a powerhouse of high speed dynamics from start to finish. Their sound certainly isn't pretty; it's harsh and loud and dancers will need no encouragement to start shaking their hips. According to those who have heard the band live, producer Todd Rundgren has shown considerable constraint, but even so they display enough pure energy to satisfy the most devoted heavy rock addict. The lyrics are ambiguously sensual and lead singer David Jo Hansen delivers them in a raw, half-screaming voice.

Their musical influences are numerous, but it is impossible not to hear the early Stones in some of the numbers. The driving, solid sound, with lots of emphasis on the bass lines derives much from the Velvet Underground and on *Lonely Planet Boy* they sound remarkably like present-day Lou Reed. Obviously the latter, along with Bowie and Alice Cooper, have been major sources of inspiration.

Ten out of the eleven songs on the album have been written by members of the band, the exception being *Bo Diddley's Pills*. Amongst the most memorable tracks are *Personality Crisis*, *Frankenstein*, *Trash*, *Jet Boy* and *Looking For a Kiss*. The latter starts with a menacing but enticing spoken introduction from Hansen: "When I say I'm in love, you'd best believe I'm in Love, L-U-V."

By glancing at the picture of the band at the beginning of this piece, you can see for yourself what the Dolls look like. No doubt shocking for some. I find their drag/make-up/transsexual image stimulating and adventurous, particularly as they avoid the tackiness and predictability so many *male feminists* (substitute your own label if that one offends you) settle for. The Dolls really are just a natural progression of the liberating trend started by Bowie.

To finish with, I think it interesting to reproduce part of an interview with the Dolls' lead singer. After reading it, you'll see why it is a fitting end to this piece. It's always difficult to write about a group one hasn't seen perform, but on the strength of their first album and the over-all excitement it creates (though it must be played at the highest volume possible to get the full impact). I don't expect to be disappointed when I get the opportunity to see them play at the Crystal Palace, London, on 15th September? Hopefully they'll perform two of the highlights of their stage act which aren't on the album, the golden oldie *Seven Day Weekend* and *Babylon*, a saga of a Long Island drag queen.

*\* Date not yet officially confirmed, although Lou Reed will definitely top the bill.*

Denis Lemon

## 'People Are Just Sexual'

The following is an extract from an interview which Ted Castle held with David Jo Hansen, lead singer with the Dolls.

Hansen: "People are conditioned in our lovely era to think that they can never do anything with themselves. Most people are led to believe that they can't be successful. They can't communicate. Communication has been dampened by popular beliefs. You know, contrary to popular belief, people are human beings. I really want to communicate. I communicate with certain people very well... As far as my own situation in New York City here and now: Rimbaud used to write about the monstrous city and the effects it would have on the species. And here it is 1973 and everything is very fast and moving and I try to understand how people feel about it, how they relate to the environment. That's what a lot of my songs are about. About the interrelationships of people who are trying to bust out of a certain syndrome... My sex life is rampant. I usually get raped more than I rape... It's so insane to talk about sex. Sex is something to everybody. Whatever it is to that one person is fabulous, but people have such horrible ideas about sex, that when somebody talks about sex, it's usually misbegotten. Most people have very perverse ideas about sex. I'm not too perverse. What one person may think is perverse may be another man's stew and tea. So it's hard to talk about, publicise, sex. I'll give you a statement on sexuality: Sexuality is a very personal thing, because like whatever you perceive as sexuality, that's what it is. And it's

not for one person to say that they're heterosexual or homosexual or a bisexual, because none of those things are real, none of those things have anything except media and cheapness. 'Cause people are just sexual and people feel things that no-one can say are any one of those things, because they're not. No-one is any of those things because everyone is all of those things. It's all just a media creation. The way sexuality is dealt with these days it's all on the sense of making money and that's all there is to it. That includes marriage... I think marriage is propagated out of mistrust and commercialism... Who's to say there's any kind of sexuality when people are just sexual. That's all I wanna say. And people are conditioned to believe that they're not sexual."

"... I have a collection of clothes I like, that's what I wear, and all the Dolls are into that, the clothes we like. Drag to somebody else might be the drag queen, somebody who's impersonating a woman. I'm not impersonating anybody. I'm perfectly satisfied with what I am. Using the existing language, I'm a man of course, I'm a human being. I'm a person, you know... I'm not that uptight about if a person is a man or a woman, they're all fabulous."

## New Releases

**TOUCH ME IN THE MORNING** — Diana Ross — Tamla Motown STML 11239

After 'Lady Sings The Blues' I wondered what Diana Ross would do next. Wisely, she hasn't attempted anything too extreme, and has produced a superbly balanced album containing 10 excellent songs. Perhaps a little low key for more energetic Tamla Motown fans, but the record is certain to have an appeal that isn't limited to pop music audiences.

It is difficult to single out individual tracks for special attention, all are equally good and combine well to offer the listener an overall performance that lacks nothing. Particular favourites of mine are the title track *Touch Me In The Morning*, a medley comprised of Oscar Brown Jr's *Brown Baby* and Marvin Gaye's *Save The Children*, Paul Williams' *I Won't Last A Day Without You* and the ultra romantic *All Of My Life*. Ms Ross's interpretation of Roger and Hart's *Little Girl Blue* is especially memorable, as is her version of John Lennon's *Imagine*. Needless to say, the production and lush arrangements are faultless.

Each time I listen to this album, the more I'm convinced it is the best record Diana Ross has made since embarking on a solo career.

**MORE CREEDENCE GOLD** — Creedence Clearwater Revival — Fantasy FT 512

As I suspected when *Creedence Gold* was issued, it wouldn't be the only 'greatest hits' album of Creedence Clearwater Revival to be released. The second volume is surprisingly called *More Creedence Gold* and is as good, if not better, than the first collection of 'hits'.

It contains 14 tracks, a number of which were chart successes, others are memorable 'B' sides, whilst the rest are some of the best cuts from the group's albums. Included are *Who'll Stop The Rain*, *Up Around The Bend*, *Fortunate Son*, *Sweet Hitch-hiker*, *Good Golly Miss Molly* and their unique version of *I Put A Spell On You*. Also, there is my all-time favourite Creedence track, *Lodi*.

Before the group split up, their accomplishments were phenomenal. Their singles were never out of the world's hit parades and their albums sold in enormous quantities. Although their style was unmistakably based on the best traditions of rock and roll, Creedence created a sound that was

quite unlike anything ever heard before or since. It was uncluttered and sparingly arranged, never allowing the vitality of the music to be obscured by over-production. Deservedly, they are assured of a prominent place in the history of contemporary music.

I wonder what tracks will make up 'Even More Creedence Gold'?

**ANTONIO CARLOS JOBIM PLAYS JOBIM** — Polydor 2310278

An especially pleasant album for the long warm evenings we are currently being graced with is *Antonio Carlos Jobim Plays Jobim*. The record is in fact a reissue of a set the South American composer recorded in 1965, but it has lost none of its romantic charm and the haunting rhythms are captivating as ever.

Jobim will long be remembered as the man who introduced the world to the Bossa Nova. His big break came when saxophonist Stan Getz (with guitarist Charlie Byrd) recorded his composition *Desafinado*. It was an immediate success, both commercially and artistically, as was the album it came from, *Jazz Samba*. On this recording, Jobim performs the numbers that brought Getz much acclaim, along with other similar material. Included are the unforgettable *The Girl From Ipanema*, *One Note Samba*, *Meditation*, *Jazz Samba* and of course, *Desafinado*.

To many people, for a variety of reasons, Jobim Plays Jobim will prove to be a totally rewarding experience. The delightful moods it evokes are both richly satisfying and compellingly tender. Highly recommended for stubborn romantics in a ruthlessly materialistic and unemotional world.

**THE MAGNIFICENCE OF NOEL COWARD** — Norrie Paramour and His Orchestra — Polydor 2310279

Aimed at admirers of the late Sir Noel Coward, and buyers of first rate stereophonic 'easy listening' records, *The Magnificence of Noel Coward* is a superbly arranged and lavishly orchestrated album. It contains 12 tracks featuring a total of 23 outstanding compositions by 'the Master', and with the exception of *I'll See You Again*, the remaining 11 cuts are presented as two-number medleys.

Norrie Paramour has shown remarkably good taste in his interpretation of some of Sir Noel's best-loved melodies. Subsequently, it is a fitting memorial to a magnificent composer and is also a good buy for those who are particular about the quality of the background music they listen to.

**SEBASTIAN** — Cockney Pride — EMI 2051

This is a very strange recording. Apart from anything else, it seems to have at least one symphony orchestra and full chorus providing the backing for the most unique non-singer to surface this year. On the flip of the single is *Rock and Roll Parade*. That's extremely odd too.

Denis Lemon

**ROD MCKUEN'S GREATEST HITS** — EMI 3007

The popularity which Rod McKuen enjoys in the USA does not extend to Britain, so the title, "Greatest Hits" may be a little confusing. He has, however, had many hits in the States, and has recorded almost 100 albums there, many of which are not easily available here.

The fifteen tracks on this collection, including *Jean*, *Listen to the Warm Fields of Wonder*, *If You Go Away* and *Blessings in Shades of Green*, are taken from a wide range of these albums.

The arrangements and the backing of the Stanyan Strings accentuate, rather than detract from, the warm, simple poetry that is Rod McKuen. A must for fans.

Sandi Rutenberg

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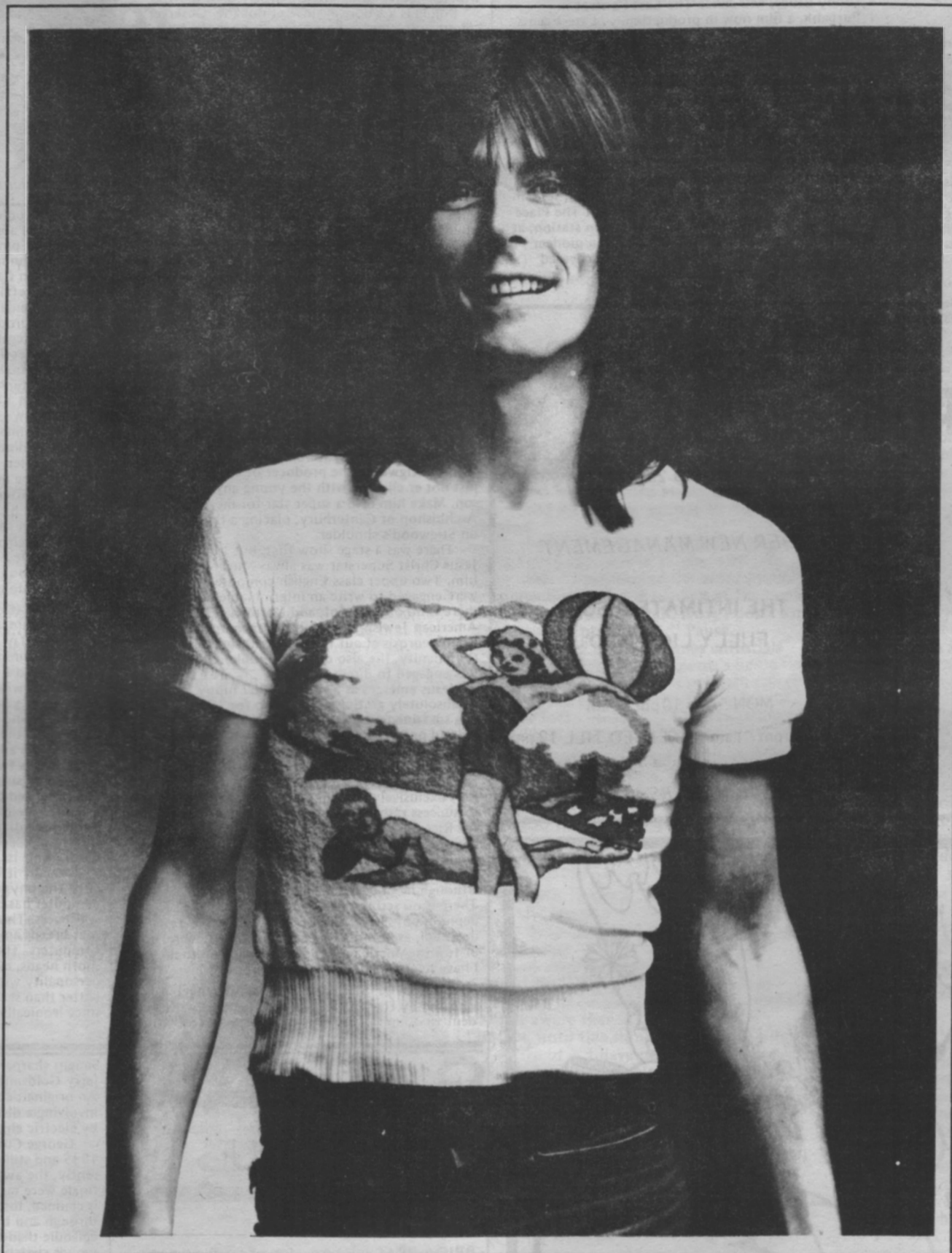
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## QUICK SILVER

THE Rocky Horror Show has re-opened at the Chelsea Classic, and first-nighters were most demonstrative in their acceptance of the show. Peter Straker, Robert Helpman, Richard Neville and Malcolm McDowell were there, as was Loretta (of the Chelsea club of the same name), who made more entrances and exits than the cast. But it was Rocky star Tim Curry who really made an unbeatable entrance, hitting the catwalk to thunderous applause. Tennessee Williams was in the audience. At the dandy party following the show, he said he had been "riveted" by the sci-fi sex-merger musical.

The inconquerable Mr Williams purred with southern charm and — all things considered — looked to be wearing well. A Broadway revival of his Streetcar Named Desire (starring Faye Dunaway) was a hit of the last season: London will see the play later this year, with Claire Bloom and Stacey Keach starring.

Legend, a new play about the last four days of Marilyn Monroe, has been announced for a West End world premiere later this year. Starring is Joan Collins, who was a starlet at Fox when Marilyn's career there was at its height.

Marilyn also figures in a 6 month series of old

films which the Notting Hill Gate Classic Cinema has ambitiously undertaken. The great Mae West currently has a season until September 23rd. Other stars represented include Rita Hayworth, Jean Harlow, Marlene Dietrich, Veronica Lake, Ros Russell, James Cagney, Lana Turner, the Marx Brothers, plus a Busby Berkeley season.

From America: Bette Davis will soon spend a week as hostess of a TV talk show... Dustin Hoffman stars in The Witness, a forthcoming film about a gay murder... Sally Marr, mother of the late Lenny Bruce, will dance The Last Fox Trot in Burbank, a film now in production... Latest gents to go nude for Playgirl magazine include George Maharis, 50s rock star Fabian, and even — remember him? — Cesar Romero... Mae West has been named "Woman of the Century" by the University of California.

Season of British Films: Camden's '73 festival includes screenings of the gay liberation film Come Together (on September 22nd) and the women's lib feature The Other Side of Underneath (September 27th). Both films will be screened at The Place Cinema, Duke's Road WC1, near Euston station, at 8pm. The festival had planned to screen pioneer gay-theme films such as Victim, but discovered prints were unavailable.



## The Screen Scene

STEELYARD BLUES (Columbia-Warner) directed by Alan Myerson marks a revolution in Donald Sutherland's and Jane Fonda's careers, because both of them seem at last to have broken away from those terrible neutral, pseudo left wing tracts, of the *Mash* and *Klute* variety, into a film which is enthusiastically anarchical, funny and loving.

Fonda is a whore again, but not the 'Observer' colour supplement conception — she looks sufficiently tinted, dyed and drawn. Sutherland is a delightfully naive drifter (with a zany fascist policeman brother) who enjoys demolition — cars, buildings, anything, an idea which is intended, and acknowledge as palpable comment on, most of the ideas and objects around us. There's also Peter Boyle, the screen's newest master clown, in many riotous guises — airline pilot, pinball machine spiv, hangman, cowboy. This trio and others, tired of the real world of jobs, breakfast cereals and politics, set themselves the task of reconstructing an old amphibious aeroplane, so they can fly away to where there are no prisons.

There are, of course, fiercely satiric battles against the police, sanitary inspectors and the air force, which the gang always win, the police convincingly emerging as gratuitously stupid sadists. Soon you begin to realise that you are watching a fantasy not far removed from those of your little drunken group at the local; there's a lot of love with the anarchy, and the film is making an immense attempt to deal with the frustrations of its audience. Recommended.

AFTER seeing JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR (CIC), Director Norman Jewison, I can't help envisaging a scene over dinner somewhere, between the Archbishop of Canterbury and theatrical agent Robert Stigwood, the producer of the film. "He's just not er clicking with the young any more, my son. Make him into a super star for me," says the Archbishop of Canterbury, placing a fatherly hand on Stigwood's shoulder.

There was a stage show first, but I'm sure Jesus Christ Superstar was always meant to be a film. Two upper class English composer/lyricists were engaged to write an interminable score — there is no other script, and Norman Jewison, an American Jewish man with the accompanying confused neurosis about the supposed sources of Christianity, (he also directed *Fiddler On The Roof*) was engaged to direct.

Jesus emerges as a vintage 1967 hippy type with an absolutely grating whine, who for 107 minutes, in a sustained exercise in choreography, leaps around on location in Israel, though for all the advantage that is taken of the location, it might as well be the back lot of Universal Studios in Hollywood. There isn't one scene in the film that isn't exclusively dancing (abysmal) and singing, so its success rather seems to depend on ones affection for Rice and Lloyd Webber's rock score or the bible story. Both for me, are unmelodic and tedious.

Jewison directs it all as if he'd been lumbered with a boring assignment he didn't really want, although he does get a credit as co-scriptwriter! There is no script. His one innovation is the depiction of Herod and others who lead to Jesus' downfall, as homosexuals. Is this some new form of Jewish American homosexual hang-up that even I have never previously encountered?

THE LAST OF SHEILA (Columbia-Warner) directed by Herbert Ross is a sumptuously decadent whodunnit that satirically dissects a selection



James Coburn bewigged in 'The Last of Sheila'.

of Hollywood's dregs. The failed director (James Mason), the apparently mindless starlet (Raquel Welch), her pimp of a manager/boyfriend (Ian McShane), an impossibly over made up and bitchy agent (Dyan Cannon), a failed alcoholic actress (Joan Hackett) and her failed writer husband (Richard Benjamin) and a grand, glittery, typically nasty film producer (James Coburn).

Sam Spiegel's yacht is the location where this motley collection believes they have come to discuss the making of a film about Sheila... (my colleague Stephen McLean suggests Graham) who was killed in a hit and run accident a year earlier. By whom? We certainly find out after the black-mail, the games and the dastardly murders begin. The butler didn't do it, but it could have been the child molester, or the homosexual or the shoplifter or any of the miscreants our Hollywood respectable emerge as, after the fun starts.

Scripted by Anthony Perkins and Stephen Sondheim in campified Agatha Christie style, turning its characters into what Hedda Hopper always wanted to write, *The Last of Sheila* succeeds admirably in doing the dirty on Hollywood as its never been done before.

BLACULA (Columbia-Warner) directed by William Crain, about a black vampire on the loose in present day Los Angeles, is a good deal more gory and entertaining than most of Hammer's recent efforts, with a good line in high camp dialogue.

Blacula will be going on release with THX 1173. Made three years ago but only now getting an airing, I found it to be one of the most frightening forays into the future I have ever seen on film. Starring the admirable Robert Duvall and Donald Pleasance as two men who attempt, with a good measure of suspense, to escape from a perversely computerised city, where emotional and physical love are forcibly outlawed via the computer's prescribed sedatives, and the computer system has utterly replaced man to such an extent that he has become its servant.

Visually it is both a moving and chilling exercise. The physical and emotional neutrality of the computer has created weird vast expanses of whiteness. There is a new breed of rat-like vermin, that breeds amongst the wires and ducts of the computers. The population, all with completely shorn heads, every ounce of their individuality and personality wiped out. A film that deserves a lot better than second feature status to a "horror" film, since ironically it is a real horror film.

David Seligman



BRIC-A-BRAC this time. Most of the films mentioned can easily enough be seen if you watch out for them, at clubs (in particular Universities outside of London), late night shows or tucked away in double bills. Firstly, one of the greatest male "love" films ever made which often emerges in London: usually in a programme of classic underground films at the Mall's ICA cinema

Jean Genet's *CHANT D'AMOUR* (stunningly) made in 1950 is, at last, a male love poem intoxicatingly merging surreal and romantic eroticism. Beginning at the height of sex frenzy as caged men attempt contact through walls, with writing, feeling of chest and hair: breathing smoke through a straw and filling one another's mouths with billowing white. At the same time, a prison guard watches through a hole in a door — cheap, uneasy thrills while a prisoner laughingly masturbates before him in the film's most violent shot. Intercut, flashes of a hand reaching out through bars for a bunch of flowers that swing back and forth. The guard is enraged at the lack of repression and enters the cell: violently whipping, holding a gun into the man's mouth while fantasies are intercut of the guard's playful romp through trees with a beautiful young man. Amazing film. Like the eye slitting in Bunuel's *UN CHIEN ANDALOU*, Genet releases astonishing audience repressions and in an English climate denied anything from *BOYS IN THE SAND* to *AMERICAN CREAM* it is indispensable viewing.

William F Claxton's *NIGHT OF THE LEPUS* is an agreeably grotty "B" film about Stuart Whitman, Janet Leigh and Rory Calhoun waging a war against bunnies that kill. Rather attractive colour and prairie location intrigue, though Hitchcock's *THE BIRDS* is the masterpiece of the genre.

Similarly, *THE TRAVELLING EXECUTIONER* has slipped past unnoticed despite being Jack Smight's most satisfying if not particularly likable film. Almost lacks colour (camera: Philip Lathrop) so as to enhance its grisly death game themes.

Smight sharpens the edge further with buoyant Jerry Goldsmith music and comic-throwaway lines. An original: contains a monologue by Stacey Keach involving a disturbingly sensual account of death by electric chair.

George Cukor's *SYLVIA SCARLETT*, made in 1935 and still revived is "curious Cukor". Apparently, the awkward opening and most of the finale were tagged on later. Katherine Hepburn, it is claimed, lost confidence in the material half way through and the film "was a disaster". More freely episodic than usual for Cukor than any other, moods switch and collide; from light realist drama to satire and melodrama. It's perplexing to sit through but, undeniably Cukor: echoes of *TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT* dreams and role-playing already. Sylvia (Hepburn, out of necessity has to masquerade as a man) allows this masculine "side" to nevertheless meet and mingle with her femininity; resulting in weird, revealing growth in her sexual/emotional life. The ending suggests a blending of the two; which Cary Grant, locked in an unsatisfying "traditional" relationship with a Russian Countess, suddenly and beautifully acknowledges and laughs at his own irony. A beautiful Cukor.

THE PORNBROKERS (made by John Lindsay and Laurie Barnett) is banned by the British Board of Film Censors though passed for "lucky" Londoners by the Greater London Council. As a result of this, the GLC are planning a referendum to find out what London feels about adult film censorship. It is also curious as the GLC Board were reported to have found THE PORNBROKERS and one other (SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN PERVERTS?) "very boring" and the referendum would seem to be a further eroding of Stephen Murphy's activities. THE PORNBROKERS is "normal", titillating and not particularly informative because there is no shaping of the material. A flab-core mess, best left prostrate, though perhaps someone's claim in the film that "all censors are fascists" evoked the wrath of Murphy. Curiously, the GLC has since banned two films, LOVE ME DEADLY and SCHOOLGIRLS, so perhaps they are already sure London adults do need censorship after all.

Comment on the banning of Peckinpah's *PAT GARRET AND BILLY THE KID* will have to wait until later, though Visconti's *LUDWIG* is 2 1/4 hours in Britain as opposed to 3 1/4 hours in the original, and the new Jodorowsky is *HOLY MOUNTAIN*, not *GLASS MOUNTAIN*, as I mentioned earlier.

Peter Herbert

The Society Club

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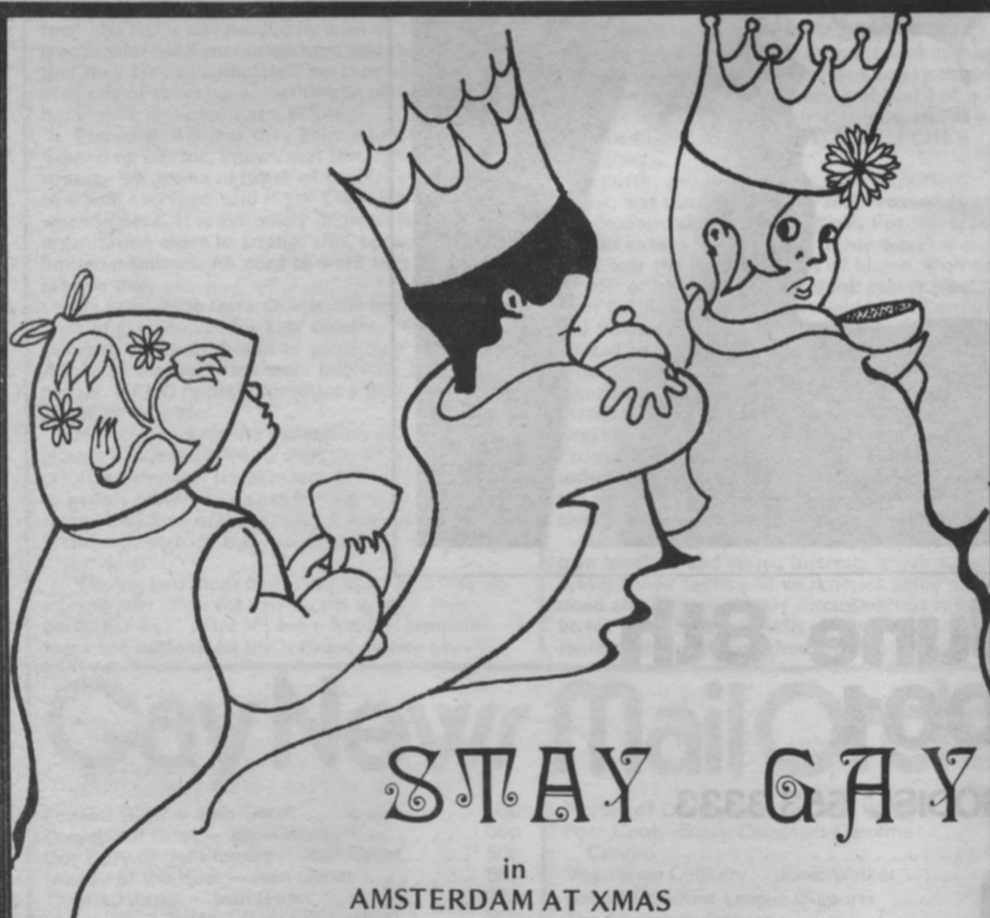
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# Derek's Guide

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.

\* indicates 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: Lucy's Bar, Talbot Square  
Club: Pepe's Club, Talbot Road  
\*Du Fayre, Princess Street.

## 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, Ship 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  
Longbranch Club, Grand Parade  
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

## CHELTENHAM

Club: New Twenty Club, 20 High Street

## CHESTER

Bar: The Blossom Hotel

## CIRENCESTER

Pub: Black Horse

## CLEETHORPES

Club: \*Birds Nest, Club, Kings Road, Bathing Pool.

## COVENTRY

Pub: Rose & Crown, High Street

## DERBY

Club: Pavilion Club, 123 London Rd, Shardlow (7 miles)

## DONCASTER

Pubs: Don Jon's, Silver Street  
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

Pubs: Duke of Wellington, Argyle St  
McCalls, Hope 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  
Cafe: \*Odd Spot Coffee House, Sir Simon's Arcade (CHE disco held there first Sat each month)

## LEEDS

Pubs: Hope & Anchor, Call Lane  
Flemingo  
West Riding (Back Bar)  
Honky Tonks

## CLUBS: Charleys Brigade

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

## LONDON

Pubs: \*The Boltons & The Coleherne are near each other in Old Brompton Road (nearest tube Earls Court)  
\*The Champion, Bayswater Rd (tube Notting Hill Gate)

\*The Green Room at the Wheat-sheaf, Goldhawk Rd (Goldhawk Road tube)

\*The Queens Head, Tryon Street (off Kings Road) (Sloane Sq tube)

\*New Black Cap, Camden High street, (Camden Town tube) (D)

\*Pig & Whistle, Little Chester Mews, SW1 (Sundays only)

\*Horse & Groom, near Pig & Whistle (Sundays only)

Cricketers, Battersea Park Rd (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, Glenthorne Road, W6 (D)

\*William IV, Hampstead High Street

\*Royal Vauxhall Tavern, Vauxhall Cross (Vauxhall tube) (D)

Royal Mail, Upper St, Islington N1 (Angel tube) (D)

Watermans Arms, Water Lane, Richmond

Imperial, High Street, Richmond

Clubs: \*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 Church St SW1 (Victoria tube)

Apollo, 31 Wardour St W1 (Dilly or Leicester Sq tube)

Discos: The Catacombs\*, Old Brompton Road (Earls Court tube)

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)

Alan & Daves Disco, Surrey Docks Stn (Thursdays)

## LUTON

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

## LUTTERWORTH

Pub: The Man at Arms, Bitteswell, nr Lutterworth.

## 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

New York, Bloom St

Clubs: Samantha, 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 (Nancy's 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 Wellington Road

NOTTINGHAM

Pubs: Dog & Partridge, Parliament St

The Roebuck, Manfield Rd

Bentink Hotel, Midland Station

The Foresters (Girls) nr Victoria Centre

Clubs: Mario's Restaurant, Stanford St (off Castlegate)

Pavilion Club, 123 London Road

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: Rendezvous, Sandgate

PLYMOUTH

Pubs: The Lockyer, Lockyer Street

The Phoenix (off Union Street)

The Valletort

POOLE:

Pubs: The Jolly Sailor

The Lord Nelson

PORTSMOUTH

Pubs: Albany Bar, Commercial Road,

Balmoral Bar, Commercial Road

Standard

Lennox Bar, Portsmouth Station

PRESTON

Pubs: Bull & Royal Cockpit Bar (men only)

READING

Disco: Reading Gay Alliance Disco, Wednesday and Saturday at Railway Tavern

SANDBACH Cheshire

Pub: Market Place Tavern (Thursdays)

SCARBOROUGH

Pubs: The Cliff Inn, Huntress Row,

The White Horse (Cath's Bar)

Falsgrove

Club: The Bottleneck, Ramshill Road

SHEFFIELD

Pub: The Cossack

SOUTHAMPTON

Pub: Lord Robert's, Canal Walk

Club: Harvey's, St Mary's Street

Anchor Inn, East St (Girls only Saturday)

Robert Burns, 9 South Front

SOUTHPORT

Pub: Scarisbrick, Lord Street

## STOCKPORT

Pub: Duke of Clarence, Avenue Street

## 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

Pub: 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

Pub: Three Tuns, near Guildhall

Noahs Arch, near disused Gas

Works (Fri & Sat)

WOLVERHAMPTON

Pub: Prince Albert, Station Drive

Club: Silver Web, Whitmore Street

YORK

Pub: York Arms

# Love No Laws\* Knoweth

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 September 11th box numbers in issue 27 and earlier will be discontinued and replies to them will not be forwarded. Advertisements for inclusion in issue 32 must be received no later than noon on Monday September 10th.

## Women's Personal

**Personal Ads continued from Page 17.**

**Post graduate 24** is looking for intelligent young friend with view to permanent friendship. Photo please. East Midlands. Box 31/32

**Slim attractive guy, 24** interested in denim, seeks young friends. Photo please. London ALA Box 31/33

**Old Rossallian fraternity** will be formed if sufficient replies obtained. Those interested write with brief details of career. Full confidentiality assured. Box 31/34

**London 45** seeks friendship with motor cyclist with view pillion riding. Have gear, no bike. Box 31/35

**Urgent. Guy 30** contemplating hair implant (as advertised in GN), needs information from users re effectiveness. Close range undetectability, other advantages and disadvantages. Box 31/36

**Dalescroft railway enthusiast**, loco spotter 21 seeks similar, Midlands/London. Box 31/37

**Masculine guy**, business oriented, 30s, wants to meet similar for friendship and opportunities. No effeminates please. London/Kingston area. Box 31/38

**Young Hampshire farmer** 26 own cottage, would like to meet young man 21-30 interested in country life, for lasting friendship. Photo if possible. ALA Box 31/39

**Oxford student or boy** over 21 wanting friendship with intelligent uncle figure in thirties please write with photo to ensure answer, to Box 31/40

**West Midlands**. Active young man, tall, medium build, mid 30s but looks 27, very straight appearance, not camp, no kinks but likes and wears casual dress (jeans) seeks similar or younger over 21 for sincere friendship. Very broad interests, in particular music, steam railways, own transport. Sorry no fat, whiskery or over forties. ALA but photos preferred. Box 31/41

**22 slim and lively** would like to meet friends similar age London/Brighton. Recent photo essential. Pen friends of similar age also. Box 31/42

**Active male 33** wishes to make new friend up to age of 36. Photo appreciated. Box 31/43

**Two attractive guys** London, 38 and 25 seek friends for exchange visits, London or elsewhere. Box 31/44

**North Lincs**. Gay young man 27 slim, lonely and inexperienced, wishes to meet similar, Lincs, Yorks, Notts area for lasting friendship. Photo if possible please. ALA Box 31/45

**Bodybuilder - very keen** would like to find others with enthusiasm - as training partners or friends. Box 31/46

**Geezer 27** happy personality and lots of interests wants to meet a nice ordinary working class bloke aged 21-28 and reasonable looking in SW London/Kingston area. Box 31/47

**Male friends 21-24** urgently required within 40 miles of Aldershot, Hants. Preferably slim, clean shaven and reasonable looking. Photo if possible. I'm 26. ALA Box 31/48

**At 31 I have** an affair and intend to stay with him. But I still need gay friends around London to talk to sometimes and go to the theatre with. Write if you're young, camp and effeminate, and if you're not, write anyway. Box 31/49

**'With-it' building worker** 30 wears denim, seeks mate. ALA photo appreciated. Box 31/50

**Amateur photographer** requires models under 25 years Edinburgh area. Small fee plus travel expenses paid. Full details preferably with recent photo. Box 31/51

**Londoner, East End type**, 32 likes denim, would like to meet active types, any age. ALA Box 31/52

**Londoner living Spain** seeks the truly genuine and sincere affectionate friendship and companionship of another, young, no ties, non effeminate, with willing working interests. Box 31/53

**Younger active man** over 30 with own home London area could help me make life less lonely. I am 50, without claim to good looks but good company and affectionate. ALA returnable photo welcome. Box 31/54

**John. Matlock, Derbyshire**, mature, lonely, seeks slim sincere gentle young companion for deep permanent and meaningful friendship. Good home offered to right young man. Genuine replies please. Box 31/55

**Stockport, two gays** 29/35 seek similar, single or couples for get together. Photo please. Box 31/56

**Graduate 30** seeks affectionate virile friend, British/foreign. Interests travel, writing, arts. Box 31/57

**Are you disenchanted** with London life? Advertiser plans to emigrate to Iberia. Has enough cash. Would like companion any age. Box 31/58

**Wanted. Imaginative**, tall active leather man 28 plus, south of London with own pad, By blonde guy 24. ALA Photo essential. Genuine replies. Any nationality welcome. Box 31/59

**Ashford/Staines area** but prepared to move, young man 24 would like to meet someone 21-24 for lasting friendship. Looks not as important as sincere and genuine nature. ALA Box 31/60

**Midlands, Two young men** 32 seek slim, intelligent friends under 30. Photo appreciated. Box 31/61

**Leather and beards**. Anything more masculine? Tell 32 year old with West London flat. Photos exchanged. ALA Box 31/62

**Hairy tall, slim** 35 seeks similar. ALA Box 31/63

**Oriental pen-pals** wanted anywhere. Also if required can offer part-time job with prospects, Oxford with free accommodation. Box 31/64

**Very straight looking** 23 London wishes to hear from short-haired similar men 21-50 anywhere. No camp. Photos please. Box 31/65

**Victoria Line, NE London**, cheerful, friendly guy 34 wants to meet similar or younger. Interests beer, books and theatre. Box 31/66

**Peter. Since** August 12th dark haired guy, moustache, wants to meet you again. Bournemouth, Norwich or elsewhere. Box 31/67

**Manchester. Attractive** intelligent young 25 would like to meet reliable happy friend. Photo please. Box 31/68

**Straight looking guy 29** slim and quite muscular, affectionate, discreet, own house in Kent, seeks masculine, preferably active friend, 21-35 for companionship. London or South East. Recent photo please. I will send mine. Complete confidence guaranteed for all letters received. Box 31/69

**Assorted pieces of furniture**, some in good condition, available to anyone who can give them a good home. No charge, but you will have to arrange to have them picked up. Central London. Box 31/70

**Attractive 33 year old** mature and well balanced who enjoys life seeks similar non camp up to 35, SE England/anywhere to meet/correspond. Interests many and varied including theatre, music, painting, antiques. Sense of humour vital. View to permanent undemanding friendships. Photo please. Box 31/71

**Fortyish active friend** sought London by agnostic socialist 51 years young. Interested life, talking, walking, music, theatre, Not effeminate. Needy not greedy please. ALA Box 31/72

**Pleasant looking** amicable young man would enjoy meeting a super-tall (6'6" upwards) friend. Box 31/73

**I am 28** enjoy most things, seek someone just to be happy with. ALA Box 31/74

**Young man 26** living near Darlington would like to meet same 24-30 with view to lasting friendship. Must be sincere and quiet. ALA Box 31/75

**Young male Lancashire** wishes to meet discreet active friends 25-35. Photos and particulars please. Box 31/76

**If your need** of complete and total friendship is as great as mine, whatever the age, wherever the place, and you are young and presentable, non effeminate and absolutely genuine, please write. Box 31/77

**Ilford area** gay social club - why not? Strictly non-political, non-sectarian. Men over 21 interested write Box 31/78

**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 anyone who could help? Box 31/79

**Professional male 27**, quite attractive, interests music, arts, architecture, travel, walking, countryside, seeks permanent friend over 21. Someone to care for and build close friendship. Very affectionate and sincere. London/Home Counties. ALA with photo. Box 31/108

**Boxing fan** seeks others for sparring or correspondence. Box 31/109

**Are bearded men best?** 25 with seeks 21-30 with or without. London. Photos welcome. ALA Box 31/110

**Young boy 21** interested in meeting active friends. All types welcome except piss elegant types. London W14 area. Box 31/112

**Londoner 29** tall masculine graduate with wide interests enjoys company of men over 40. Box 31/113

**Fed-up male leather** guy 30 tired of gay scene would like to find same. Not good looking but honest, genuine, with own flat. Photo please. ALA Box 31/114

**Manchester area**, 21, tall, happy, own car and home, seeks active guy for lasting friendship. 21-31 years. Photo if possible. Box 31/115

**Male 25 London** seeks lasting friendships, looks and colour unimportant. ALA Box 31/116

**Male 36 own flat** needs someone to come home to for sincere friendship. Photo if possible. Box 31/117

**Male 30** fairly handsome, 5'10" pleasing personality. Varied interests, lives London, seeks well built or stout masculine type for genuine friendship. Photo appreciated. Box 31/118

**Gay man late 30s** would like to meet others 21-40 for sincere and lasting friendship. Interests theatre, films, writing, languages, railways, London/Southend area. Photo appreciated. Box 31/119

**Tall slim** desperately lonely 24 year old seeks active man, similar age, for full lasting friendship. Interests varied and adaptable. Photo appreciated. Box 31/120

**Nice intelligent slim** young male 31 is looking for a quiet shy friend 21-30. Disposition more important than looks. Yorkshire area. ALA Box 31/121

**Quiet affectionate guy 32** west Kent. Interests hi-fi, cine, outdoor life. Seeks slim young gay man 21-32 for lasting friendship and someone to care about. Please write soon with photo. ALA Box 31/122

**Bloke 23 normal looking** seeks others 21-25. Active. Hoping for lasting friendship. Peter, Box 31/123

**'Young guy'**, are you in need of really warm affection, from sincere and genuine older guy? Then write quickly. ALA Box 31/124

**Holiday accommodation** £1.50 per night. B/B. Gay atmosphere. 106 Olive Road, London E13. Tel 01-472 3122

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

**ALWYN International Hotel**, West Promenade, MORECAMBE. Ring Malcolm, daytime Lancaster 2750, early evening Morecambe 411650, and mention Gay News.

**GIVE-AWAY AIR FARES** to Spain, Greece, Italy, Tunis, Morocco, Frankfurt, Vienna, India, Middle East, Far East, Australia, New Zealand, Africa. JET-AWAY, 5th Floor, 62 Oxford Street, London W1. Phone: 01-637 1971 or 580 3298

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

## Accommodation

**Icebreakers urgently need premises** in London every evening from 7.15 to 10.45. Exclusive use of a telephone is necessary - we'll pay all phone bills and installation costs - and use of securely locked cupboard or safe an advantage. If you can help, please write to us at BM/GAYLIB, London WC1V 6XX

**Quiet Londoner 45** seeks furnished flat/flatlet Fulham/Wandsworth/Brixton. Would share with quiet West Indian. Box 31/84

**Classical music lover** living in Hammsmith wishes to share his large two-roomed flat with similar responsible male over 30, younger considered. Separate beds. Applicant expected to share chores and expenses. ALA Box 31/85

**Guy, mid 20s** graduate, poor but hard working, lively but discreet, seeks flat (preferably shared) at reasonable rent, fairly central - West, North west, East End. Box 31/86

**Oxford. Gent offers** share comfortable flat free in return for light domestic help. Suit quiet young man or student over 21 any nationality. Box 31/87

**Multilingual gay Swedish student**, 25, 6'2" blonde, seeks accommodation from mid September, London. Willing to perform household duties in return. Box 31/88

**Young guy 26** seeking to share flat in Hertfordshire with gay guy 21-28. Own interests, sport, art, music, theatre and photography, politics. ALA Photo appreciated and phone number if possible. Box 31/89

**Bedsitter available** in pleasant suburban house in own congenial young man Liverpool area. Box 31/90.

**Wembley. (Bill 25)** graduate seeks flat/flatlet in this area from September. Must have own bathroom/WC. Reasonable rent. Excellent references. Box 31/91

**Accommodation for guys** - couples, sharers, one single in house of bedsits, W12. Full particulars exchanged. Box 31/92

**Good looking guy 24** seeks reasonably central flat preferably with similar guy(s). ALA Box 31/93

**Wanted urgently**. Unfurnished accommodation, London or near. Anything considered. Willing to decorate. Reliable male tenant. Box 31/94

**Young man to share** comfortable flat Putney area. Must be quiet type liking classical music. £8pw and £25 deposit. Box 31/95

**Writer 50** offers free home in his Kensington house to someone non-effeminate in return for loyal companionship and occasional caretaking in his absence. Cleaner employed. Photo appreciated. ALA Box 31/96

**Indian 23ish** affectionate, wanted to share home near Richmond with two other guys. Own room £10pw all inc. Photo appreciated and Tel No. ALA Box 31/97

**Room to let** in spacious Putney flat from October. Complete run of the place for suitable person. £10 per week. Box 31/98

**Someone out there** would like an intelligent, creative, extroverted, thin, good looking (self-opinionated?) guy 25 and his B&O stereo system to share their flat/house in London (unfurnished?) That someone is in their 20s and likes me. Nick, 207 Carrington House, London W1.

**Lonely gay sympathiser** will share modern maisonette Croydon near stations with 1 or 2. Own room. Share bills, modest rent. 01-686 5170 evenings.

**Trendy young guy to share** South Kensington bedsit with similar. £5 per week. Ring 01-373 2781, Room 8.

**Real gay brother** (camp) and sister need a flat up to £15 prefer unfurnished, Central London. 01-589 1071 Steve.

**W4 Watchfield Court**. Gardenview flat 2 rooms, kitchen, bathroom, C.H., 98-year lease £13,000 including carpets and fitted wardrobes. Phone 994-7508 evenings.

**Active householder** wants full time sharer. Colour etc immaterial. Interest in literature, current affairs an asset. Write box 31/128

**Man - middle aged** - is looking for a room or flat in London area. Box 31/127

**Young executive seeks flatlet**, flat or possibly flatshare with young man over 21 in Kew, Richmond, Kingston area. Photograph available. Box 31/126

## Employment

### FORTUNES TO BE MADE

Could you sell Gay News in your local pub on a regular basis? High commission. Write or phone Peter Mundy, Gay News, 34d Redcliffe Square, London SW10, 01-373 0586.

**Unemployed?? Waiters English** willing to learn. Man for kitchen work: experienced storeman linen/towels etc. College near Swindon 18 miles. Own room, food wages. Box 31/100

**Young guy interested** in pop scene sought for Entertainment Agency (South) general duties - live in - prefer bi or 'sympathetic'. Full details please. Box 31/101

**Young masculine 22** seeks work as chauffeur etc. Prepared to travel etc. Box 31/102

**Lawyer 27** litigation expert, highly experienced, salary £3000 plus extras, tired of job frustration and making fortunes for others, seeks challenging, exciting, rewarding and remunerative change. Prepared to consider any type of work matching above requirements. Box 31/103

**Sports coach 24** seeks job as trainer/manager in East Midlands. Box 31/104

**Young male 29** seeks work for winter November-March. Good appearance, valet, catering experience, but not afraid of manual work. Likes driving, will travel anywhere. Box 31/105

### ASPIRING MILLIONAIRES

Gay News needs people to act as regional sales agents to sell Gay News to shops and clubs in the provinces. Responsibility and enthusiasm are vital. Excellent commission. Write now to Peter Mundy, Gay News, 34d Redcliffe Square, London SW10.

**Graduate 22** seeks well paid temporary job for 4 months in S E Essex (London considered). Anything from labouring to office work. Box 31/106

**Attractive guy 24** seeks lucrative part time work, must be LEGAL. Tony 733 4519

**Publisher in St James'** requires Personal Assistant. Must have shorthand and typing. Civilised office hours and conditions. Arlington Books, 839-3594

**Architect's office:** Interesting post dealing with private clients only. Reasonable speeds required - audio only. No shorthand. Hours 9.30-5.30. Would suit young man with initiative and personality to join hardworking/cheerful/friendly/intimate/team. 607-2002

**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.

**Young man 26** requires evening work urgently. Must earn £100 quickly. Anything legal. Phone numbers please. Box 31/129

**Young guy, good looking**, tall and muscular with professional modelling experience both in Europe and America, seeks legitimate work. Would also like another young guy to share London flat. Photo please. Box 31/130.

**Gay but discreet** barman seeks job. Midlands area preferred but anywhere considered. Age mid 30s. Good experience, good references. Box 31/111

**Reliable male 27** living NW2 looking for employment, would like to train for something interesting, eg photographic processing, printing, ticket-writing, or anything similar. Willing to train on low wages. Will work hard where work is appreciated. Box 31/131

**Urgently required**, full time barman live-in for busy semi-gay town centre public house Single, 21-35 years, good looking, good physique. Telephone Blackburn 61181 now.

## Classified

**Stomach too big?** Slendertone slimming treatment for men. 370 6506

**Surprise and delight him** in the latest frilly knickers for fellahs. Exotic Enterprise, 47 Quarry Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

**Athletic South London** masseur will visit, for massage ONLY. Ring 675 1083 before noon.

**New young male masseur** with certificates seeks genuine legal work. Phone Greg 01-727 8322

**Young models wanted** for underwear catalogue. Phone Bath 29705 for details.

**THE JOKE'S OVER** - a report on 'The Social Needs of Homosexuals'. Gay-prints No 2; price 20p (inc p & p) from Box GP Rising Free, 197 Kings Cross Road, London WC1

**Contributing editors** sought on intelligent gay magazine. Write to Lurch, 98 Felsham Road, London SW15.

**Gay Sounds Disco**. Lights, effects, etc. Pubs, parties etc. Ring 9 to 5, 01-247 0437 extension 5.

## 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 .....

**"The Highwayman"**, a fast growing pen pal club. SAE for free details to: H.F.C. c/o 19 Glan Aber Park, Chester.

**Burroco House for sale** (by contract), Peak Park/Pennine Way/Derbyshire: Jeffrey (Burrows-Builders), Burroco House, Hadfield, SK14 7HA

**Keith's Record Stall**, Golbourne Road, London W10 (north end of Portobello Road) R & B, Soul and Pop Single Specialists. Every Saturday (9.00am to 5.30pm)

**Soothing! Stimulating!** Personal vibrator massager 7" long. 95p (5p P&P) Pleasancies (Regd.) G8, 3 Middle Street, London E1A 7JA

**Male only penfriend club**, membership £1. Also magazines. Contact, 4 Hazel Grove, Hereford.

**Experienced qualified masseur** - licensed premises in SW10. Genuine only. 370-6506

**Male physique art magazines** and albums. Large selection - fair prices - reliable service. Send SAE for lists to Classic Books, 19 Abbey Parade, Merton High Street, London SW19 1DG

**A Party?** Ring Jason Cooke, The Mobile Discotheque-471 0700

**Boy Studio**, 44 Earls Court Road, London W8. Photo-Sets. Leatherwear. 35mm Colour Slides. Catalogue 30p

**Mike, 21**, cute, fresh face, qualified masseur/experienced model. Worked music world London/DJ Greece. Seeks BONA-FIDE work. 01-578 0320

**For gay penpals** and introductions: The Gay Friendship Society (AA3) BCM/GFS, Mono House, Red Lion Square, London WC1. Send SAE for genuine details. State age. Over 2,000 members nationwide. **Cock-Sure!** "Male Model Guide" 200 pix £2.25. "Boys Exclusive" £2 (lists s.a.e.) Johnny, BM/FBGH, London WC1V 6XX

**Hotel East Cliff Towers**, East Cliff, Bournemouth. Gay weekend house-parties re-commence 26th October. Programme and brochure on request. Reservations call (0202) 36558. 40 persons maximum.

**Light Removals** also delivery service. Anytime. Anywhere. 01-460 0977 or 01-254 4265. Strictly legitimate business.

**Greta takes great pleasure** in announcing a Grand Queen of the Week Drag contest every Friday evening at the club Ro Koko Sunderland. Judging at midnight. All welcome.

**Meet new friends.** Get Apollo contact magazine 75p; Gay Circle 50p; both sent for £1; or new Gay World 50p; from D. Gritten, 131 GN Richmond Park Road, Bournemouth

## General Information

**Librarians.** Send SAE for info about the Gay Librarian's Group now forming, to Bob Elbert, 33 Pembroke Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 3BE.

**Cambridge Gay Women's Group** meets fortnightly. For info contact Jane, 29 John Street, Cambridge.

**Gay Marxist Study Group.** Details: 01-794 3368. Second issue of Gay Marxist now available 10p incl postage from 329a West End Lane, London NW6 1RS.

**CHE Winter Fair** will be held in Holborn Assembly Hall, WC1 on Sat November 3.

**Isle of Wight** - 6.30pm on Sunday 16 September. Discussion on Intergroup and Homosexuality at Unitarian Meeting House, Newport. All sexes welcome - all ages too.

**Friend** now have new premises at 14 Gwendwr Road, London W14 and are open Monday to Friday from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Ring 01-603 6293.

**Mental Patients' Union.** General meeting on Saturday 18th August at Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, London NW1 from 10am till 6pm in Room 789.

**Transsex Lib Group:** Please write to Della Aleksander, Isis Commune, 10 Hosack Road, London SW17

**Social Action** projects and drug dependents care group caters for all problems at Walnut Cottage, Moorland, Bridgewater, Somerset. **Isolated homosexual men and women** can ring **Icebreakers** on 274 9590 between 7.30 and 10.30 every evening of the year to talk over their problems with other gay people.

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

**Transvestite Group now forming.** Details from Martin Rees, Transvestite Group, 58 Charles Street, Cardiff, South Wales.

**East of Aldgate.** A social group for homosexual men and women meets each weekend. Come along whether you are feeling serious or gay, and meet new people in relaxed and friendly surroundings. Write for details to S K Group, 32 Shaftesbury Ave, London W1V 8EP

**Harrow Gay Unity** meet every Tuesday 8.30pm at 99a Harrow View, Harrow. For info ring Dennis, 863 5717

**Mental Patients Union.** Leeds and District Branch meet every two weeks. Contact Ian Everton, 16 Quarry Mount Street, Leeds 6

**Manchester Gay Alliance** newsletter gives details of meetings of the four gay groups in the area. Write for a copy to Side Door, 7 Birch Hall Lane, Longsight, Manchester M13 0XJ **Manchester Gay Alliance Disco** on Friday 14th Sept 8pm-1am at Withington Town Hall, Lapwing Lane, Didsbury. Disco by Julian, 15p at door. Bring a bottle.

**Manchester University Homophile Society**-social events, campaigning-open to all-meets Thursdays, 8pm, meeting room 4, University Union, Oxford Road.

**Gay girls** meet on alternate Fridays 7-10.30pm, Blue Anchor Hotel, St Mary's Street, Cardiff, upstairs room. **"Gay Cambridge"**, a young GLF/CHE group covering both the town and the university. Meets every fortnight, weekly in university term. Contact Bernard Greaves, 29 John Street, Cambridge. Phone Cambridge 52661. **Oxford Gay Action Group**, Oxford 45301 between 7 & 8pm. Meetings every Sunday at 8pm in The Marlborough, St Thomas Street.

**Confrontation or Integration.** One of the topics to be discussed at SMG's conference "The Homosexual in an Industrial Community", Glasgow 15 September 1973. Disco/Live Group in the evening. Final details later.

**Jewish Homophile Group** welcomes new members of either sex. For further information please write to Timothy Goldard, BM/JHG, WC1 6XX **Manchester Gay Women** meet on alternative Mondays. Details: Liz Stanley, 061-881 3683

**Gaysoc:** for homosexual men and women in any school or college of London University-undergraduate, postgraduate or staff. Social, political and campaigning activities aimed at creating better conditions for gays within the university-then the world! Write (enclosing SAE please): Gaysoc, ULU, Malet Street, WC1

**Abortion, contraception, entertainment** transport, legal advice, jobs, alternative? Work, food, hitch-hiking, cheap furnishing, communications, shelter, late night services, accommodation, free services, ad infinitum

Contact: Nutshell Information Service, Phone: Birmingham 772 2483. 24 hours every day. (Ask for Nutshell as we share a line with St Basil's Centre.)

**Leicester Gay Awareness Group.** Ring Leicester 738832, ask for Clive or John. **Homosexual Counselling.** If you have a medical, psychological, legal, spiritual or just a general problem contact CENTRE, Broadley Terrace, Marylebone, NW1, for an appointment or telephone 01-262 9595 (office hours 7.30-9.30pm)

**Reach**-A nationwide homophile group of members of Christian churches primarily concerned with campaigning within the churches and helping isolated homosexual Christians. Reach, 25, Blackfriars Road, Manchester **Gayprints**-Faggots and the Revolution etc has now moved to 66 Woodland Rise, Muswell Hill, London N10

**Sappho** meets every first Monday in the month at Euston Tavern, corner Judd Street/Euston Rd, London NW1. 7.30pm upstairs room. All women welcome. Sappho 30p inc post for single copies from BCM/PETREL, London WC1V 6XX

**Bristol:** Help and information for gay men and women. Regular social group meetings in relaxed atmosphere. Send s.a.e. to Confidential Friend, CHE Bristol, PO Box 171, BS99 7ND **Lesbians** come together in London every Monday and Friday. For details ring Pauline and Sally, 01-346 4684

**Kent University Gay Libsoc** meets every Thursday evening in Canterbury. Everyone welcome. For details contact: Gill Irvin, Keynes Cottage, The University, Canterbury, Kent or Brian Hart at Folkestone 54698

**Edinburgh University Gay Group.** Contact Rod Hall, 18 Guthrie Street, Edinburgh.

**Transvestite, Trans-sexual?** Would any tv/ts men or women like to help isolated transvestites and trans-sexuals. If so write to Icebreakers, BM/Gay Lib, London WC1V 6XX

**Bath Gay Awareness Group** meets Thursdays 8pm. Info from John-Bath 20105 or Hugh-Bath 4738.

**ROOTS:** Edinburgh's alternative magazine, 6p monthly from 6 Lonsdale Terr Edinburgh 3, also INDEX, Edinburgh's radical directory. Over 250 organisations listed, many with descriptive paragraphs-your guide to the alternatives in Edinburgh (and the rest of Britain). Out May 21. 20p (+3p postage) from Roots.

**Southampton Area:** Gay men and women welcome to new group. Details from Ken, Romsey 512959

**Living outside the law?** The other topic to be discussed at SMG's conference, Glasgow 15 September 1973. Disco/Live Group in the evening. Final details later.

**University of Surrey Gay Soc:** contact David Reeks, Student Pigeon Holes, University of Surrey, Guildford

**Mental Patients Union** research group needs written evidence on the effects of electro-convulsive therapy, brain surgery and psychiatric drugs. All information will be treated confidentially. Details to MPY, 97 Prince of Wales Road, NW5

**Sheffield Gaysoc** embraces CHE, GLF -and those who don't go in for organisations too-for discussions, campaigns and exciting social activities. Not just for the university, but for all gay, bi and sympathetic women and men at educational institutions in the area. Write to us via Societies Pigeonholes, Students Union, The University, Western Bank, Sheffield 10

**Reading Gay Alliance** regular disco and social counselling, quiet meetings, public meetings and action. Town and University. SAE for News-sheet. Room 7, 30 London Road, Reading **Alternative Free Library** needs donations of radical/liberated Gay Papers and Magazines. ESPECIALLY back issues. Please write Geoffrey Leigh, 30 Woodside, Wimbledon, London SW19 7AW

**Bristol Gay Students Society** -for all young people, male and female. Regular meetings, social events, guest speakers, theatre visits, awareness groups. Write to Trevor Locke, Gay Students Soc, University of Bristol Union, Queens Road, Bristol BS8 1LN for a programme of events. Tel: Bristol 35035 **CHALLENGE** is a social group for gay women and men over 21. We have weekly meetings at 3 London branches and would be delighted if you would join us for a drink and a chat. Please telephone any evening between 7 and 11. Dial 567 5085 and the operator will give you the number of the member of the evening. Do call us.

**Fellowship in Christ the Liberator.** Communion service 8pm Sundays, West Kensington. Details: FCL c/o 61 Earls Court Square, London SW5 **Help/Information/Coffee** at Bethnal Rouge, a bookshop run by a collective of gay people, 248 Bethnal Green Road, London E2. Tube: Bethnal Green, Bus 8

## CAMPAIGN FOR HOMOSEXUAL EQUALITY

There are over 70 local groups, for details and membership information contact their offices at:- 28 Kennedy Street, Manchester M2 4 4BG. Telephone 061-228 1985. Or contact London Information Centre, 22 Great Windmill Street, W1. Telephone 01-437 7363 (Mon-Fri noon to 10, Sat noon to 6, closed Sundays). You can ring some groups direct at the numbers below:

Bath: Bath 4738 (Hugh)  
Birmingham: 021-706 9818 (Douglas)  
Bradford: Shipley 51742  
Brighton: Brighton 778025 (Malcolm), Brighton 732550 (Roland)  
Bristol: Bristol 35035 (Trevor)  
Cambridge: Cambridge 52661 (Bernard)

Chilterns: High Wycombe 39321 (Haydn)  
Herts Stn: Hatfield 69172 (John)  
Kent East: Thanet 42059 (Roger)

Lancaster: Lancaster 2750  
Leeds: Morley 7686 (David)  
Leicester: Leicester 738832 (Clive)

London Information Centre: 01-437 7363  
London, East: 01-500 6032 (Tony)  
London, MOnDay Group: 01-589 6438 (John)

London, Stepney: 01-476 7980 (Mike)  
London, Youth: 01-567 5590 (John)

Manchester: 061-225 0058  
Northants/Beds: Northampton 22861 (Alan)

Portsmouth: Horndean 2855  
Preston: Preston 59908  
Shropshire: Cressage 231 (George)

Southampton: Romsey 512959 (Ken)  
Tunbridge Wells: T.Wells 33175 (Ross)

Tyneside: North Shields 76454 (David)  
Wirral: 051-327 5178 (Jack)

Youth: 01-385 7246 (Mike or Jim)  
**Homosexual women:** Find out more about CHE groups from a woman. Every Tuesday 6-10pm at 22 Great Windmill Street, W1. Telephone 01-437 7363.

**CHE Liverpool Group.** Information from CHE, P O Box 7, Liverpool L8 2XN. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 8pm in the Pagoda Club.

**Newport CHE** meets fortnightly in Newport Civic Centre on Tuesdays at 8pm from August 7th. Gay girls most welcome. Gay News on sale.

**CHE London Poetry Group.** The Company of Nine meet on the last Friday of the month at the Lamb and Flag Pub, Rose Street, Covent Garden, WC2. All are welcome. Programme complete for next 8 months. August theme - Personal Choice. Bring your own poems.

**CHE Surrey Group.** For further information contact either Charles: Byfleet 48716, or Myrtle: Haslemere 51882, or Frank: 01-399 7495

**West Midlands CHE (Birmingham)** meets Carrs Lane Centre, Carrs Lane, B'ham 4 on last Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm. For info ring Denis, Wolverhampton 752673 or June, Coleshill 62339.

**Streatham area** newly formed CHE group meets regularly. Details: Ian Clayton, 56 Hillbrook Road, SW7

**Young Gays** meet regularly in London. The CHE Youth Group meets fortnightly around central London. Details from Mike or Jim at 01-385 7246

**Wandsworth/Richmond CHE group** for men AND women. Incorporating surrounding areas. Meetings twice monthly; Charlie Micklewright, 46b Chartfield Ave, SW15

**Carlisle, Cumberland, The Lakes.** Will anyone interested in joining a new group in this area please get in touch with Richard Webster, Tyneside CHE, 17 Oxford Terrace, Gateshead NE8 1RQ

**CHE Cardiff** now meets at Chapter Arts Centre, Market Street, Canton, Cardiff, every other Monday. Gay News on sale.

**Teesside has a CHE group** with regular meetings in Middlesbrough. Social and campaigning activities. Send address for recent newsletters and further information to CHE, 132 Borough Road, Middlesbrough

**CHE Lewisham.** If you live in SE London, this is your local group. Meets weekly. Phone 01-692 6397 after 8pm for details.

**Haringey CHE** meets 2nd Monday of each month. For info send sae to Fred Oliphant, 25 Kinver House, London N4

## SCOTTISH MINORITIES GROUP

**National Office:** 214 Clyde Street, Glasgow G1 4JZ 041-771 7600. Please address all communications to "The Secretary" An s.a.e. is a great help.

**Branches of SMG meet in:** **Aberdeen** contact Rosemary Kemp, 16 Belmont Road AB2 3SR or phone Denis 0224 20576 **Borders-Carlisle** (contact Richard Webster, 2 Cowpasture Cottages, Newbiggin, Penrith)

**Dundee** (contact Len McIntosh, 1 Airlie Place or phone Len 0382 425433 or Tony 0382 25913) **Edinburgh** (contact Mike Coulson 031-225 4395 1pm-10pm or Ian Dunn 031-667 7473) **Edinburgh Women** (contact VOC, 11 St Colme Street EH3 6AG) **Glasgow** (contact John Wallace 041-882 3536) **St Andrews** (contact Richard Batchelor 45a South Street KY16 9QR)

## GAY LIBERATION FRONT

London Gay Liberation Front is divided into local groups and there are over 40 provincial groups. Full information from the London GLF office, at 5 Caledonian Road, N1. Telephone 01-837 7174.

**GLF General London Meeting** at 19.30 on Tuesdays at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1

**Gay Womens Lib** (North London) meet at the Crown and Woolpack, 397 St Johns Street, EC1 (Angel Tube) 8pm on Mondays.

**South London GLF** meets Wednesdays at 8.30pm in Hanover Arms (Upstairs room) near Oval Tube. Disco held at same place on Saturdays at 8.30pm. Meetings will return to Oval House in September.

**West London, GLF** meets in the Committee Room of Fulham Town Hall, Fulham Broadway on Thursdays at 8pm.

**East London GLF** meets Thursdays at 103 Market Street, East Ham, E6 at 8pm.

**TV and TS group** meets Tuesdays at All Saints Church Vestry, Clydesdale Road, W11 at 8pm.

**Religious Gay Lib Group** meets on Sundays. Details: 01-278 1701.

**Dundee GLF.** Anyone interested? Please contact Tony Hughes, 15 Bellefield Avenue, Dundee. Ring 0382-25913.

**Alternative Free Friendship Club.** For info send SAE to West Scotland GLF (Glasgow), c/o Robin Brown, 4 Eldon Terrace, Caird Drive, Glasgow W1.

**Blackburn GLF.** For info contact (after 6pm) either George Giles, 45 Whalley Street, Blackburn, Lancs. (Tel: 53012) or Kath Fraser, 104 Infirmary Street, Blackburn (Tel: 52435)

**Manchester GLF.** Details from John or Steve, 17 Claremont Grove, Didsbury, Manchester 20

**Darlington GLF** is now forming. Anyone interested in joining please write to Ken Pollard, 5 Chancery Lane, Darlington DL1 5PR.

**Birmingham GLF.** 021-643 0996. Peace Centre, 18 Moor Street, Queensway. Weekly free discos every Wednesday at The Old Crown, Digbeth

**York GLF** now forming. Details from Bob Olorenshaw, A 113 Derwent College, University of York, Heslington, York.

**Newcastle GLF** meets Wed 8pm at 258 Westgate Rd, Newcastle 4. Office open 8-10pm nightly. Help, legal advice or just coffee and a chat. All gays and straights welcome.

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

**Essex GLF University.** Contact Brian Roberts, c/o Student Pigeon Holes, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester

**Sussex GLF** meets Tuesdays 8.15pm upstairs back bar Stanford Arms, Preston Circus, Brighton. Official contact is Doug Coupe, 40 Ashford Road, Brighton, or phone Dave or Graham at Brighton 688301 or call in on us any time at 24 Gladstone Place.

**Sussex University Gay Soc** meets from time to time. Contact through Students Union, University of Sussex, Falmer, Nr Brighton.

**GLF Manifesto.** 15p (incl p & p). 30% discounts for orders of 10 or more from GLF, Dept M, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1

**Manchester GLF.** Details from Rex A Bernette, Flat 3, 102 Hathersage Road Manchester 13 or tel: Women's Centre, 061-273 2287 10am-10pm.

**Leeds GLF** office open Mon-Fri 12-2pm at 153 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds 2. Ring 39071 Ext 57. Meetings every Friday 8pm at Trades Council Hall, Upper Fountain St, Leeds.

**Cardiff GLF** is at RIB, 58 Charles St, Cardiff 44441. Advice on drugs and legal matters, entertainment and cheap food.

## Historic Gay Beach Doomed?

**BRIGHTON:** The way things are shaping, the local gay beach may not exist by the end of '74. Following the closure of Telescombe Beach east of the town, much favoured by gays and nudists of both sexes, gay residents and visitors have been using the Portslade Gasworks beach, which first attracted gays, nudists and a few fishermen over thirty years ago. This beach, with plentiful sand at low tide, has the advantage of being difficult to reach, and like the famous beach at Zandvoort near Amsterdam, can be gained only on foot. Breakwaters protect bathers from adverse winds and peeping toms, whilst offering privacy without giving offence to mums and dads who might stray there from Hove at low tide.

Now, however, the gasworks are being pulled down and Portslade is to have a new road to the beach, allowing residents of so-called Portslade-by-Sea to reach the sea for the first time for many years. Beach huts, a cafe, and parking facilities are planned for 1974, providing the local council finds the money. While gays may possibly continue to use the beach, it looks as if next year the beach queens and bathing beauties won't get a sun tan all over. Unless, of course, the climate of public opinion changes.

**HOW TO GET THERE:** Car or bus along seafront to the Lagoon. A large pub on the main road, called the Adur, offers last chance to drink and collect beer or lemonade. There are no other facilities near the beach. Wise bathers who stay all day take a packed lunch, sandwiches, fruit, lemonade or milk, and possibly a blanket. Walk onto the beach where there is a row of turreted private houses called Hove Villas. This is marked as Private Beach. Walk westwards along pebbles (or on sand at low tide) in front of these houses for about half a mile until you reach tall, high wooden wall of gasworks. This secluded space should, on sunny days, offer you a pleasant, kiddy-free haven. Police don't interfere unless beach trollers upset local residents by parading in the nude so that they're visible from sands or other beaches. Not many people on weekdays, more full on weekends, and so popular on bank holidays that even Esther Williams might find all the best places taken

John Montgomery

## No Comment



ED: The above photograph was kindly brought to our attention by Andrew of Harrow.

## Newsettes

### ● Police Detective Denies Sex Charge

**GLASGOW:** A 41 year old regional crime squad detective has been charged with committing an "act of gross indecency" with a 27 year old teacher.

Both men denied the charge of gross indecency in a parked car.

Constable Currie told a court he saw the two men apparently kissing. The constable said he opened one of the car doors and the man sitting in the passenger seat was partly undressed and being 'fondled' by the detective in the drivers seat. The detective then spoke to the constable, saying he was a police official interviewing an informer.

The schoolteacher later said he had undergone "treatment" for his homosexual tendencies during a period of eighteen months.

The case has been adjourned until a later date. The detective charged with the so-called sex crime is a widower with two young children.

### ● Discrimination: Gay Church Homeless

**NEW YORK:** The Church of the Beloved Disciple (for three years the church for gay New Yorkers) is attempting to buy a building after being unceremoniously evicted from their church in Manhattan.

The old church was being rented from the Moravian Brethren, who now have decided they do not want "homosexual sinners" in their church.

The Beloved Disciple may soon take a building near the heart of this city's "gay ghetto" in Greenwich Village.

### ● High Speed Lovers

**DURHAM:** A motorcycle policeman who saw a car swerving across a Durham dual carriageway has told magistrates that the two male occupants were kissing and cuddling in the front seat whilst travelling at 50mph. The 30 year old driver who admitted to driving while under the influence of alcohol, was fined a total of £115 and banned from driving for five years. His companion was fined £20 when he pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting the driver to operate the car without proper control.

### ● Trudeau Admits Gay Bias

**OTTAWA:** Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau has admitted that suspected homosexuality, emotional instability and sexual abnormality are among factors considered by the Canadian Government in granting security clearance.

These factors "are taken into account" to determine whether those applying for security clearances would be "vulnerable to persuasion, coercion or blackmail."

The disclosures drew protest from several gay groups, one of which says that the only way to cease the discrimination is for all gays in any form of public service to make their sexuality known.

### ● Gay On Radio

**LIVERPOOL:** Radio Merseyside has given two airings to a half-hour interview with four members of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality. Interviewer Keith Macklin gave the CHE members a good chance to speak about problems faced by gays, and the programme received excellent public reaction. It is possible that Radio Merseyside may devote a future phone-in programme to a gay discussion forum.

### ● Gays Will March on Washington

**ILLINOIS:** About 60 gay groups and institutions from various parts of the US are planning a convention aimed at organising a march on Washington.

The attempt to operate at a national level is not a new one: in the past at least two organisations have tried, and were less than successful.

### ● Company Admits Gay Discrimination

**MINNEAPOLIS:** The Bell Telephone Company has admitted in a newspaper here that it will not hire anyone openly admitting his homosexuality.

Gay organisations have begun picketing and leafleting the firm's headquarters, producing some public support for gays, and criticism of Bell from a number of prominent Liberal politicians.

Demonstrating a curious double standard, Bell gave a statement saying: "Until society recognises homosexuality as socially acceptable behaviour, we believe that employing known homosexuals would tend to have an adverse effect on how our company is regarded by other employees and the general public."

A local television station cited the Bell discrimination case as a reason why state, local and federal human rights laws should be amended to outlaw job discrimination against homosexuals.

### ● Newspaper Backs Gays in Council Argument

**CARDIFF:** The local Campaign for Homosexual Equality, who have been labelled "weirdos" by city aldermen and evicted from their city-owned meeting hall, now find they have the backing of the South Wales Echo.

The paper sent a male reporter to one of the group's fortnightly meetings. A report headlined 'What Really Goes On At Those Meetings' was later printed, and it was a sympathetic account.

The report concluded by saying: "Viewed away from the uninformed hysteria and misplaced apprehension which so often surround talk of homosexuality, it does not seem much to ask of the city council, or general public, to allow CHE to carry on with its meetings at Chapter."

CHE had invited the education committee chairman, Ald Harvey Salter, and his deputy, Ald Sidney Doxsey, to attend a CHE meeting. Ald Doxsey stated that he had "no intention of getting mixed up with that bunch", but the two men are now reported to be still considering whether or not they will attend.

### ● Indecent Arrests At Hyde Park

**LONDON:** Arrests for "acts of gross indecency" in Hyde Park are taking place at an alarmingly frequent rate.

On August 24th, six men appeared in Marlborough Street Court charged with committing sex acts in Hyde Park. The arrests came from three separate incidents. Five of the men were fined £30, the remaining one (who had a previous similar conviction) received a fine of £60.

### ● US May Change Sex Laws

**WASHINGTON:** The American Bar Association has adopted a resolution which urges the states to repeal all laws prohibiting private sexual behaviour between consenting adults, saving only those portions which are necessary to protect minors or public decorum.

It is expected that the resolution will be voted on by the House of Delegates one year from now.

### ● This Cottage Is Condemned

**TOOTING BEC:** The public lavatory next to the Wheatsheaf Hotel, opposite the tube, is now closed after a long period of police surveillance. A reader who lives in the area told GN that if it re-opens, 'trollers' are not to consider it safe.

### ● For Gays In The Future

**LONDON:** Ms Rose Robertson, who operates Parents Enquiry, made a brief appearance recently on the daily Radio 4 programme 'You and Yours'. She explained the need for Parents Enquiry, which is the first counselling service for families with gay children to be set up in the UK. This invaluable service has probably come too late to benefit most GN readers, but it is important to remember its potential for ensuring the happiness and peace of mind of gays and their parents in the future.

### ● Democrat Supports Gay Parenthood

**VANCOUVER:** An un-named female delegate at a national New Democratic Party convention here has put forward a resolution which advocates leave with pay so "both mothers and fathers can remain at home during the very important first few months of a child's life"

The woman also called for a system of salaries for individual parents making a full-time occupation of caring for pre-school children. She said the resolution should not just deal with male-female couples, but with gay family life as well.

### ● Pub Straights vs GLF

**BLACKBURN:** The local Gay Liberation Front will soon continue activities at a new meeting place. A change became necessary when GLF members gathering for meetings at the Merchant's Hotel became involved in fights with straights attending the pub. "Straights picking on gays sort of thing", says GLF member George Giles, who has obtained a room at a different hotel for meetings.

Giles wants all members to contact him by phoning Blackburn 53012 to settle arrangements for the next meeting.

### ● Gay Activity in Prison "No Worse Than Outside"

**STIRLINGSHIRE:** 350 Scots prisoners have seen a performance of the controversial US play *The Stage*. The play was staged at Polmont Borstal, with author Rick Cluchey (a former inmate of San Quentin) playing one of the parts. Part of the plot involves homosexuality. At the time of its presentation, a prison authority states: "Homosexuality in prisons or other enclosed institutions is no worse than in the community at large." Polmont Borstal Governor, Charles Hill said: "There is no censorship in what the prisoners read, or watch on TV or in recreation facilities."

### ● Gay Radio Waves Abroad

**SAN FRANCISCO:** *The Gay Liberation Show*, a regular weekly radio programme, continues to serve the minority in a manner we have yet to see in Britain. The show includes gay news coverage, community announcements, gay music, interviews and special reports. Future subjects include 'Gay Literature: Voices from the Past'; 'The Male Actress' (a study of a female impressionist); and a very personal interview with the two women who wrote the best-seller, *Lesbian/Woman*.

### ● Gay Conference in Scotland

**GLASGOW:** The Scottish Minority Group will hold their second annual conference at Woodside Halls, St George's Cross, on September 15th. Theme of the conference is *The Homosexual in an Industrial Community*, which is of special significance locally. The morning discussion will focus on 'Confrontation or Integration' and in the afternoon the theme will be 'Living Outside the Law'. In the evening, those attending the meeting are invited to a disco being given by the Strathclyde Student's Association.

### ● Black Support on Gay Rights Legislation

**CHICAGO:** A black alderman (Clifford P Kelly) introduced in July a motion for legislation for gay rights, which backers are hopeful the city council will soon pass.

The measure would guarantee equal opportunities for gays, and repeal a ban on cross-dressing (transvestism). So far, a large proportion of the council's black members have shown support.

In the past, black government officials and lawmakers, perhaps because of their sensitivity to minority rights issues, have generally been somewhat more receptive to gay needs around the nation than other officials.

### ● More Gays Control VD

**WEST RIDING:** More gays are seeking VD treatment in this area, says County medical officer, Dr R W Elliott. Attendance by heterosexuals has also increased - the number of new syphilis cases shot up to 44 from 6 last year. Dr Elliott blamed the rise on "declining standards of morals and behaviour in Western societies, indiscipline, irresponsibility, the contraceptive pill, early sexual maturity and the permissive society."

He has also added that the number of prostitutes attending clinics in the area has dropped.

### ● Gays Sue Police for Harassment

**DENVER, COLORADO:** A suit has been lodged against the city and Police Chief Art Dill alleging harassment and a series of intimidation arrests against the gay community here. The charges have been made by the Denver Gay Coalition, with individual clauses naming several members of DGC.

### ● The Forgotten Man

**SIDMOUTH:** The success of Sidmouth in the Britain in Bloom contest was mainly due to a man who has since committed suicide, say several local residents. Mr Martin Hull, former Parks Superintendent, was found dead in his car several days before he was due to appear in court on a cottaging charge.

Since his death, two letters received by GN, and one published in the Sidmouth Express Echo, suggest Mr Hull has not publicly received the credit due to him.

### ● 17-Year-Old Gay 'Incredibly Naive'

**EXMOUTH:** A 17-year-old Exmouth youth charged with committing "acts of gross indecency" and an "indecent assault" on two boys who escaped a training school, has been fined £30.

The boys were aged 14 and 15. The accused said he saw his future as a homosexual, but acknowledged he would not be able to act so legally until he was 21. He was described by his mother as "an incredibly naive idealist". He told police he met the two errant boys in an Exeter Cafe and took them home, intending to help them. He said the boys had made overtures to him, and he had responded.

### ● Holland Park Arrests

**LONDON:** A GN reader has written claiming that Holland Park Walk, a very well-known troling area, has been the scene of several arrests recently. "I have seen police working as a pair, in plain, casual clothes, hiding behind trees. They attract the attention of gay men, provoking them in different ways into making an advance, then grab them by the arms saying they are policemen."

The reader says the arrests have been taking place "regularly during the past two weeks", and claims that the "quite nice-looking" plain-clothes policemen have been brutal with anyone attempting to escape.



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