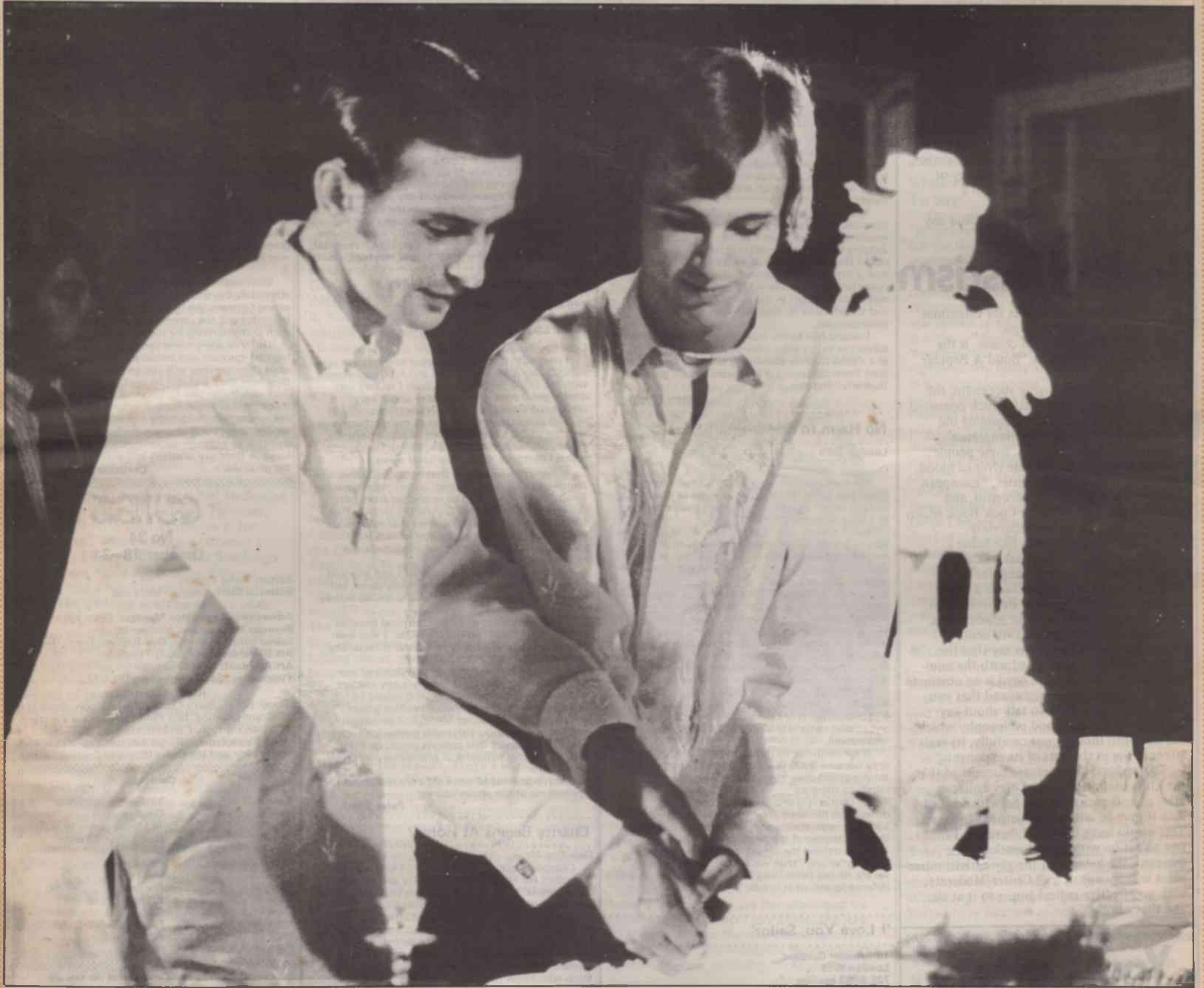


N°34

GAY NEWS

15p

MILLIONS WATCH TV WEDDING OF THE YEAR



Photograph: Yorkshire Television

There was a great deal wrong with the first in Alan Whicker's new series, *Whicker's Way Out West*, called *The Lord Is My Shepherd And He Knows I'm Gay*, a Yorkshire production which was seen on Tuesday 2 October, but it was moving and dramatic, and it carried, almost implicitly, important messages. People were smiling, and they seemed to be saying, "We aren't afraid any more, and we aren't running anywhere."

They were seen to be real, everyday people who live and love and occasionally get murdered, sometimes *en masse*. Not one of them was reminiscent of the people hand-picked by Auntie BBC to represent homosexuals, although the ITV programme on lesbianism a couple of years ago ran circles around Alan Whicker. However, in fairness to him, he didn't allow his sardonic moustache to twitch or twitch, not even once, which would have given an embarrassing

'candid camera' quality to a programme which was already teetering on just the right side of sentimentality. Banished forever, one hopes, are the self-pity and the anonymous 'backs-to-the-camera'.

Another message not to be missed is the fact that the programme went out at 10.30 pm instead of at 7.00pm when Whicker normally fills the screen. The producers themselves obviously considered the programme *unsuitable* for a wider viewing audience. This kind of patent discrimination ran the risk of defeating their own purpose. **Serious Omissions**

However, the programme failed to say anything at all about the problems facing the American homosexual, the nature of their oppression, the history and progress of gay action, the work of the gay community centres, the position of the homosexual at the present moment and their chances for

the immediate future. Nor did it attempt to depict their life style — professional or private. These are serious omissions.

Being an American myself, and having left the United States nearly twenty years ago because I had been chased down hot dusty city streets and spat at and beaten up once too often, I was conscious while watching the programme that a revolution has taken place in America which is continuing, not a Glorious Revolution either, for while the programme itself was being made, there was a blood bath in New Orleans which reminded me of Martin Luther King's famous words: "Blood must flow in the streets, but it must be *our* blood, not theirs." However, I doubt that the programme was as meaningful as it could have been to heterosexual British people, and perhaps some British gays even missed out because homosexuality in the States has no terms of

reference here.

Furthermore, the producers of the programme, while ignoring the crucial points mentioned above, and for reasons which obviously had more to do with good television journalism than good television reporting, decided to take as their point of departure a homosexual wedding between two men, thus setting the scene and adjusting the discussion to such topics as love and marriage, togetherness, the permanence and stability of gay relationships and the problems arising out of fidelity or lack of it. It was real Evelyn Home stuff, right down to the couple who couldn't afford the rings, but managed to get married in white. At a time when intelligent heterosexuals are re-examining the institution of marriage, and homosexual marriages are legally invalid, any discussion of gays getting married smacks

Continued on Page 3.

GAY NEWS

Amazing Dancing Bears

STRANGE how fascinated men are by dancing bears, or circus poodles who stand on their hind legs and pirouette. Even elephants rise to their hind legs to waltz on occasion, the whole attraction being that the poor creatures are doing something in comic imitation of human beings, rather than behaving as would a natural bear, poodle or whatever.

Latest entertainment in this specialist field is from Alan Whicker, who managed to get two queers to stand on their hind legs, dressed all in white, and perform in a marriage ceremony just like two heterosexuals. Of course this must have made very good television, or something. But how did it help inform heterosexual viewers about us, and how did it help our gay brothers and sisters to come to terms with their sexuality, if all they were being asked to do was to behave like straights?

We could do with more programmes which deal with the gay scene, but there are better programmes which could be made. Perhaps a homosexual's view of his or her way of life would be better informed than a heterosexual's.

Or perhaps ITV and BBC can't find any homosexuals on their staff.

Radical Fascism

WHAT shall we give the kids for Christmas? Only two more months to go.

A firm old favourite, of course, is the well-known series of kits, 'Build A Popular Political Platform'.

Number One was highly successful, the "Britain for the British" kit, which consisted of a lump of excrement, a trembling old lady, and a statistic about immigration. With these simple materials, some people managed to build a complete river of blood.

The fourth one in the series, "European Express", was almost as successful, and included the Excess Butter Cook Book which has since been published separately.

But the latest one looks like being a commercial disaster. The makers call it 'Radical Fascism' (a step-daughter of Radical Feminism), and includes a sepia daguerrotype of a house in Bethnal Green, a half-understood idea about gender roles, and a bit of colour from a 19th century Anarchist tract. The makers say that the platform can be constructed with the minimum of thought. All you need is an obstinate belief that your idea is right, and that you have an exclusive right to talk about gay liberation. Like any good philosophy which has not been thought out carefully, its real strength lies in the fists of its exponents.

The makers, however, are concerned that the kit is too unstable, and may collapse after a short period of use. So with a bit of luck it may be withdrawn before Christmas. This would leave the Gay Liberation Front free to get on with its real work. At the moment, the balance of the gay activist movement is sadly out. It's all Centre/Moderate, with no effective radical ginger to it at all, and that's boring.

Your Letters

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

Growling At The Prices

London N8

Dear Gay News,

I have just returned from a visit to the Black Cap at Camden Town. The new decor is super, and it is now a very pleasant pub to visit.

However I was reminded of the old story of the small dog going into a bar for a drink.

"Pint, please!" said the dog.

"Thirty pence," said the barman. "Strange, you know, we don't get many small dogs in here on their own."

"I'm not surprised," said the puppy, "with beer at six bob a pint!"

Why does every gay pub owner eventually get too greedy?

Terry

Uplifting Example

Balham, London SW12

Dear Gay News,

Congratulations to Independent Television for broadcasting the Whicker Way Out West programme 'The Lord Is My Shepherd and He Knows I'm Gay'. It was handled intelligently, being educational without patronising the audience or the gays interviewed. Stereo-typing was avoided, our side of the issue was portrayed unsensationally and honestly.

It obviously took both thought and courage for the team organising the show to avoid the many pitfalls such a show is prone to, and for this they deserve to be complimented.

Their work was probably beneficial to those people, gay and non-gay, who considered homosexuality, transsexualism etc to be 'problems'.

Being still the only minority group it's fashionable to hate and insult, it was an important feature of the programme that gays were seen developing a community spirit and a coherent philosophy about how and why society is hostile towards us. And these gays were plainly determined to oppose that hostility, a very uplifting example to those suffering fear and loneliness.

It was an excellent programme which demonstrated what a wonderful medium for communication and change television can be.

Theodore Brown

Impact of the Media

North Weald, Epping, Essex

Dear Gay News,

I think Alan Whicker's TV documentary "The Lord Is My Shepherd and He Knows I'm Gay" was an extremely well presented and interesting programme. I also feel that it has done a fine service to the cause of educating people about homosexuality, and dispelling the myths and many inaccuracies which are in so many people's minds.

The programme was responsible for a lunch time discussion at my place of work, where it would appear that I am the only gay person. Judging by the conversation it left me in no doubt that at least two of my straight colleagues are now a little better informed. It also gave me the opportunity of conveying to my workmates by way of taking part in the discussion that I am gay and therefore in no way different to them as heterosexuals.

I would like to see more programmes on the subject as in my view television has the impact as a media to drive something home to people, and start them discussing it afterwards much greater than anything else.

Antony Wright

No Harm In Sex-Without-Love

London SW8

Dear Gay News,

Ian Harvey's letter in GN32 touches a most important point. Surely 'the attitude of society' is not the criterion which we are supposed to accept as a valid judgement?

Is Ian Harvey saying that Oscar Wilde, attempting to justify his life-style in the eyes of society, made a mistake in legal tactics? Or is Ian Harvey really saying that sex-with-love is 'right' and sex-without-love is 'wrong'.

No scientifically minded person, either psychologist or moral philosopher, can support the opinion, today, that sex-without-love is 'wrong'.

Of course, we can think, and everybody does think, that sex-with-love is superior, because it has an extra dimension, and a sort of enrichment, and is a more complete experience. Of course we all prefer to love 'body and soul' as people say.

But that does not mean that sex-without-love is 'wrong'. It is not wrong, nor is it depraved, nor is it disgusting. It is a perfectly normal release, and in that sense it is 'right' and does no harm whatsoever.

If we continue to think that it is wrong, that's only because 3000 years of Judaeo-Christian moral thinking, and preaching, have conditioned our minds to think so.

Of course it is important to observe the differences between sex-with-love and sex-without-love, but nevertheless they are one and the same thing, extremes of the pendulum.

If we defend the one as 'right' and reject the other as 'wrong', then we are defending nothing, we are simply permitting 'society' to tell us what is defensible and what is not.

Dai Grove

'I Love You, Sailor'

15 Arundel Gardens, London W11 727 8563 evening, 567 8018 day

Dear Gay News,

I am taking the initial steps toward creating a mixed media show, consisting of tape, film, slide and a rather wild environment. Its purpose is to examine, in an entertaining way, gayness and the situation of gay people, through poetry, visual image, song, recorded interview, and the presentation of fact and theory. The show will be called 'I Love You, Sailor' because these words were painted on the footpath near my home in Kensington, and they seemed to sum up one aspect at least, of what I hope the show will explore.

The show will be designed to allow the audience to participate, either as performers or in a discussion format. It will never be exactly the same twice, and will be performed in private homes, clubs, pubs and theatres.

There's no point in asking the arts councils for help on this one, as we usually do, so I'm looking for private contributors, and for people with access to equipment such as film projectors, Carousel, screen tape recorders and so on as well as for poets, writers, film makers etc who'd like to become involved in the creative process.

Clem Gorman Ceremony Co-operative

More Meat On It

London SW1

Dear GN,

As one of your many 'invisible' (ie non-subscribing) readers, I should like to be among the first to congratulate you on your latest expanded issue (GN33); it is good to know that, finances permitting, it will regularly run to 24 pages from the New Year.

And now I have a confession to make. The reason I haven't taken out a subscription to Gay News is that, up to now, I've felt that the paper has been weak on the wider (eg political) issues of the day and strong (too strong?) and space-happy on the more parochial type of news coverage and associated feature articles.

That you yourselves seem to be aware of this is perhaps indicated by the inclusion, in your last two issues of more substantial pieces of universal appeal — Dr George Weinberg's 'study of psychological claptrap' (GN32) and Bob Sturgess' brilliant satire on the gay candidate question (GN33).

Would I be correct, I wonder, in assuming that the addition of this meatier main course to our fortnightly banquet was deliberately timed to coincide with GN's new nation-wide distribution? If so, I welcome the decision, as I should like to feel that the paper appealed as much to my 'straight' as to my 'gay' friends.

Another few issues like the last two and I'll cease cribbing my friends' copies of Gay News and will take out a subscription in my own right!

Professor E N Wright

Military Doesn't Realise

Oxford

Dear Gay News,

I've just read about Sgt Ploski (GN32). I sympathise with him. I too am in the USAF, although so far I've been lucky not to have been found out. It's too bad the military doesn't realise what a large minority of gay people they have. Perhaps they would change the discriminatory politics. Good luck to Michael Ploski. Keep up the good work Gay News. Please sign me

Sgt, USAF Hospital, RAF Upper Heyford, Oxon.

Gay Hoodwinks Royal Navy

149 Wyndham Court, Southampton, Hants, SO1 0GU

Dear Gay News,

I read with great interest your cover story (GN32) about Michael Ploski and his disagreement with the USAF, probably because I myself was discharged from the Royal Navy under very similar conditions, or so the Navy thinks.

The similarity ends insofar as my discharge was not due to the clever snooping of Naval Security, as they probably like to think, but to the carrots which I carefully held under their noses.

It began when I heard that an acquaintance of mine was being 'investigated' and at my suggestion he allowed my name to be wrenched from him during his interrogation. During the months that followed, the 'discreet' enquiries that were made were made known to me by gay friends in strategic places and the whole thing became a rather super game.

I had intended to look surprised and shocked when the moment of truth eventually came, but I'm afraid I lost my self control and smiled hugely at the dear Captain.

I was discharged with 'full terminal benefits' and without a stain on my character. I was even given a gratuity after only one letter threatening legal action!

This, however, is not the main point of my letter: I was wondering if there are any readers who are members of MENSA who would be interested in forming a special interest group within the framework of MENSA. I do not, at present, propose any particular policy for such a group, but suggest that policies would be better if left to evolve naturally at preliminary informal discussions.

Any interested M's or FeM's are requested to contact me at the above address.

Peter Smith

Charity Begins At Home?

Dear Gay News,

I suppose many will be fed up of hearing about Campaign for Homosexual Equality and its financial dilemma, but I reckon it's time that the picture was made crystal-clear, so here goes.

As many of our readers will NOT know, (because they're not CHE members), CHE is once again in financial difficulties, partly because many aren't renewing their membership, partly because new membership to CHE has fallen, but mainly because those who know of CHE's existence (it is those who are already on the 'gay scene' I refer to here) just cannot be bothered to join. Don't these people realise that besides offering an alternative socially, CHE is fighting for Equality for homosexuals, and that also includes those on the 'gay scene'? Most gay people, like any others in our society today, will give to societies which help other people, but haven't they heard of the proverb 'Charity begins at home'? So why aren't they supporting CHE? It is only for their own good, unless they really wish to remain an oppressed section of society forever.

Of course, the usual argument against joining CHE is that one has to give one's name and address to CHE HQ, and if this information fell into the wrong hands, there could then be trouble. But can you really foresee the day of the revolution when all gays are marched into the gas-chamber? If CHE is to keep its members informed about the progress it is making, then it seems pretty obvious that some contactable address has to be given.

I hope those who aren't supporting the homophile movements, either financially, or in any other way, will seriously consider the advantages of joining CHE. A lot of good work has been done, and it would be a pity if it had to stop, when considerable progress is being made, all for the sake of a £1.50 yearly subscription.

Dave Brown

DEAR GAY NEWS...



Illustration: Jean-Claude Thevenin

Love And Caring

London N8

Dear Gay News,

In reply to your request for readers' views of the Alan Whicker programme: I am a girl aged 22, I am not gay but have a few male gay friends. I have a lot of understanding and sympathy for the problems of gays and have been reading Gay News for a few months now.

I saw the programme in question and thought it was extremely well presented, informative and intelligent. It ought to do a lot to lessen hostility and ignorance on the behalf of a great many straights.

I thought the marriage at the beginning of the programme was really beautiful. Being a romantic, sentimental idiot, I always think weddings are lovely, but the gay wedding shown in the programme was one of the most touching I have ever seen, and I admit to shedding a few tears over it.

How anyone could possibly find it offensive is absolutely beyond me. The obvious love and caring between the two guys concerned was so beautiful and the ceremony was handled with such understanding by the minister.

Unfortunately some people are so stupid, bigoted ignorant and intolerant that no matter what they see they will still be blind, however much they hear they will still be deaf.

I would also like to take this opportunity of thanking Gay News for a wonderfully informative newspaper, which is doing a great job, both as a service to gays and also as a medium for helping straights to a greater understanding and tolerance towards their gay brothers and sisters. Keep up the good work.

Christine Markwell

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Continued from front cover...

of Disneyland. In other words if the programme had been about hets tying the knot, it would have been bloody boring, and nobody would have bothered tuning in.

Jesus Freaks

To make matters worse, we never even got to go on the honeymoon. Somehow or other, we got lampooned in the vestry with the Rev Troy Perry, a cleric of non-specified denomination, a sort of gay Billy Graham cum white Martin Luther King; and much of the programme had a clerical quality which would suggest incorrectly that American gays are Jesus freaks. Nonetheless, Perry was very good and came across with great sincerity, courage and conviction. Furthermore, Americans are more evangelical than the British, they do go to church on Sunday and take a friend with them, and the American homosexual has been much more oppressed than the British homosexual who historically has always enjoyed greater tolerance provided 'he didn't do it in the streets and frighten the horses.' Therefore, it's not surprising that an intolerably and inhumanly persecuted minority should take refuge in the church. Even the Indians did it, and the point was not lost on Paddy Cheyevsky that gays and Indians have two very important qualities in common — their innocence and their vulnerability.

Love And Marriage

The transexuals in the programme, one of them looking exactly like Dick Emery in drag, wearing a pair of horn-rimmed spectacles, bird-shaped and embedded with rhinestones, were completely out of place. This was a programme about gays, and by their own admission, transexuals aren't gay. They're women, and they want to get married to men. I'm not trying to put them down — indeed, what is needed is a full-length in-depth documentary about them alone because we know so little about the problems and life style of the transexual and the medical mechanics involved.

There is no need to repeat the text of the programme because so many of our gay brothers and sisters saw it. According to one observer, several of the gays pubs were a veritable wasteland, and even the Coleherne, that bastion of draught gainness, was down a hundred pounds in the evening's takings!

The programme opened with guests arriving at a wedding at the United Methodist Church in San Diego, California. However, this was a wedding with a difference, for marriage vows were exchanged between a serving Chief Petty Officer of the San Diego United States Naval Air Station, Edward Brandon, and a hotel receptionist, Joseph Brown. The wedding service was very beautiful although the controversial kiss at the end was rather excessive, and the wording of the actual vows was more meaningful than in a conventional service.

Alan Whicker then explained how gay lib came out of the closet in 1968, handing America its biggest undiscussed social 'problem'. They created gay community centres across the country "to reinforce fragile relationships . . . to receive legal advice or medical attention, but mainly just to feel less apart . . . Today, the old homosexuality-as-a-mental-illness viewpoint is giving way to homosexuality as a life style." They also formed the Metropolitan Community Church, the fastest growing religious group in America with branches in 34 cities (and one in London).

"Although estimates of the number of homosexuals in the United States," according to Whicker, "vary from 10 to 30 millions, they're still the only minority you can get away with hating in public. There is no doubt the homosexual does make the heterosexual uneasy, particularly if he's at all sexually insecure. But the old loneliness of the outcast is going, swept aside by the new excitement and defiance of Gay Power."

Bons Mots

Whicker then interviewed a number of people, and a few comments bear repeating. "How in the world can you live with somebody for ten years, find out that they've had sex with somebody else for one second, and all of a sudden you don't love them any more? That's ridiculous . . . I won't let that happen to us. I love him too much."

Whicker: "Would you agree that the view of the majority of people would be that intimate physical contact between members of the same sex is unnatural?"

Gay Cleric: "The view of the majority of people seems to be that intimate physical contact between anybody is unnatural." "Psychiatrists used to say that homosexuals were sick because the only homosexuals they

Whicker's Gay World



Alan Whicker talking to members of the Los Angeles' Gay Community Services Centre.

ever saw were sick homosexuals."

Whicker: "Many people regard the gay way of life with a great deal of distaste, even loathing. Their argument would be that it's unnatural."

Gay girl: "We don't believe that. We're rather convinced that if they tried it, they'd like it. You see, most of us have tried heterosexuality, and we've made a choice."

"If homosexuals are more promiscuous than heterosexuals, it's because homosexuals haven't got the same hang-ups as heterosexuals."

Whicker asked one gay girl if she ever felt the need to marry another woman. She explained that she had lived with a woman for seven years, but never felt the need "to have a piece of paper." They are no longer together. "Would you like to know why?" she asked. "The girl just couldn't deal with her gayness. We couldn't have straight friends because she was afraid they'd find out that we were gay, and we couldn't associate with gay people because she couldn't make that identification herself." "At this point in my life, I'm not heterosexual. I'm not even homosexual. I'm gay. The word homosexual defines the person in a very narrow sexual context. What I'm talking about, and what my sisters and brothers are talking about when we talk about being gay, is much, much more than that. We are talking about getting into contact with a much broader range of human possibilities. Gayness is much different from homosexuality. 'Homosexuality' is a sexist term. It refers to the sex act. There's much more to us than that. We're now centering on ourselves as gay people. We're discovering things about ourselves. We're experimenting. We're exploring ourselves, our bodies, our identities."

"There are men in my life whom I love and there are women in my life whom I love. Why is it that I can become intimate with women, but it's difficult to reach out and show affection for a man. Doesn't that seem peculiar to you? In this society the only way two men are allowed to relate to each other is through a good hand-shake and a pat on the back. Doesn't that seem odd to you?"

"Why cut off half of human possibility from your experience? We're the first generation of gay people who have said, 'No more. We're oppressed. No longer will we take that. No longer will we allow you to tell us who we are. We will tell you who we are. I wouldn't want to be anything but gay.'"

The climax of the programme was a memorial service held by the Rev Perry for the victims of the New Orleans gay bar attack. He broke down and cried and said that if the New Orleans victims had been heterosexual, no stone would have been left unturned to find their murderers. He said that just before the bar went up in flames, the victims had been happily singing the following song, a gay anthem: *United we stand, divided we fall, And if our backs should ever be against the wall, We'll be together, together you and I.*

There's nowhere else in the world that I'd rather be Than with you my love.

And there's nothing in the world that I'd rather see Than your smile my love.

And if the world around you should fall apart my love, Then I'll still be here.

And if the going gets too rough along the way, You should call on me, my love.

*For united we stand, divided we fall.**



Rev Troy Perry standing outside the burnt out Metropolitan Community Church in San Francisco.

What The Papers Had To Say

The Observer (7 October) and the Daily Telegraph and The Guardian (3 October) reviewed the programme in an honest, objective and straight-forward manner. Clive James, writing in The Observer, said "There was a lot to be compassionate about . . . A couple (of homosexuals) got married in front of the camera. Thirty of them were burned to death in a gay bar sabotaged by vigilantes. An eloquent gay cleric, the Rev Troy Perry, spoke the irrefutable case for liberty, and . . . his Memorial Service for the slain was deeply touching. . . As always, the American experimenters came over as weird and brave in equal proportions. The show ended with a close-up of a burned body, to remind you that the truly sick man is the one who reacts to homosexuality with a flaming sword."

Sylvia Clayton, writing in The Daily Telegraph, merely gave a verbatim account of what the programme was all about and concluded by saying, "Alan Whicker conducted the interviews with his usual smoothness, but he failed to relate the people concerned to their daily or professional lives . . . A serious documentary would have defined more clearly the areas of tolerance and persecution."

The sublime Nancy Banks-Smith, writing in The Guardian, described the programme as "a most sympathetic, dignified and decent account of homosexuality in a country where 'the only way men are allowed to relate is with a good firm handshake,'" and concluded by saying that during the

programme she "stopped feeling, 'This is really none of my business!'"

Elizabeth Cowley of the Evening Standard made an interesting point. She said, "I'd have liked more from heterosexuals involved in the scene . . . the wife of Troy Perry, for instance . . . and something from the 'other side' — the notably hostile police, perhaps." She also confessed that "although we came away full of anxious hope for America's gays — we were none the wiser about why a man or woman becomes so," thus illustrating her ignorance of current informed opinion on the 'causes of homosexuality'. However, she's a good soul, and concluded by saying, "It was a decent, gentle, inconclusive film — and very far from gay."

All of which brings us finally to the Daily Mirror and Mary Malone's unenlightened, unintelligent and unsympathetic put-down and piss-take. "Armed with evidence of your eyes after seeing those fellas sealing their wedding vows with a smacking kiss, you'll be one up in any discussion where someone insists it's all platonic. Oddly, these brave folk who've kicked convention in the teeth turned out to be wistfully conformist . . . Having made the break to do what they like, they then lumber themselves with all the old-time honoured rituals. Like making it official in church. Plighting a troth forever. Letting the neighbours know that now we are One and can be held responsible for each other's bills. Why, in California, fellas are even filing joint tax returns. *Together and respectability can go no further.*

What The People At Gay News Had To Say

One regular contributor said that the "programme marked a turning point in that for the first time in this country a programme was shown which treated gays as real people and not as figures of fun or contempt," and Peter Mundy "felt that the programme was important in as much as it was shown at all." Michael Mason asked a question: "A gay marriage makes good 'controversial' television, but does it represent any really significant development in gay consciousness?" Sandi Rutenberg said, "There are a few comments which shouldn't have been made, like the guy who said that everybody is born gay. One can imagine everyone in the heterosexual audience shrugging their shoulders and crossing him off their mental list of could-be-valids. That one has been used too many times before by homosexual apologists." But Denis Lemon, the editor, who never loses sight of the Cause, or gets his priorities wrong, thought that the overall quality of the programme was excellent, and he was particularly impressed by Troy Perry and the closing images, as well as the couple of men married two years, interviewed after the gay wedding sequence.

What The Public Had To Say

Yorkshire Television received three complaints from persons who said that homosexuals should not be depicted on the screen and telephone calls from 40 people saying what a brilliant, tolerant programme it was. Thames Television received one complaint and 25 telephone calls from viewers who described the programme as "wonderful," "marvellous," "decent" and "superb". Gay News sampled public opinion in the London area by telephoning people at random and interviewing them in the street. Everybody agreed that the programme was well done and that there was nothing in it that could be considered offensive or disturbing. The women interviewed were particularly tolerant of homosexuals.

One housewife and mother said, "I thought the programme was very well done with great sympathy. Nothing offended me at all. I don't consider homosexuality a problem. It's a way of life, and I wouldn't be upset if my own children were homosexual — provided they were happy."

Another said, "I found the programme very interesting. There was nothing offensive or disturbing about it. I think it's nice that homosexuals aren't being pushed around any more, that homosexuality's out in the open. I believe in living and letting live. I'm glad these people are able to live their lives openly."

The men, however, weren't quite as tolerant, but apart from Mr Wimbledon, who slammed down the telephone, even Mr East Dulwich, who finds homosexuality "simply shocking", thinks that law reform was a good thing and that homosexuals should be "left to get on with it."

James Tyson

*Recorded by The Brotherhood of Man (Deram Records).

Coming Together~Coming To Blows

Feathers Fly In Gay Lib Confrontation

LONDON: It was reported in the last issue of Gay News that the London GLF Information Office at 5 Caledonian Road, N1, had been invaded by the Radical Gay Communards from Bethnal Green, who consider that they can do the job better than GLF. Although they were prevented after an uncouth and undignified fracas by one of the GLF Office Collective, from absconding with the office equipment, the Radical Gay Communards now consider that the London GLF Information Office has removed to Bethnal Green.

This is not an easy story to report or one that makes for instant comprehension, because it's rather like coming into the middle of Peyton Place, and the history of the confrontation and the personalities of the two groups concerned are not immediately apparent. First of all, London GLF ceased to exist over a year ago, and *gay liberation* is now more of a political and intellectual ideology than an organisation, not that it was ever really very structured. This spiritual force has permeated the many small fragmented GLF groups the length and breadth of the country, affecting, indeed, many people who are in no way associated with an activist group, but who care about *personal freedom and sexual liberation*. Furthermore, South London GLF at Brixton is virtually the only effective London group, and the office at 5 Caledonian Road is not a central GLF office: it's an information bureau providing a loose liaison among the many GLF groups, chiefly by publishing a newsletter, and, of course, by offering advice and help when asked for it. It's important that this function should continue and it will continue, probably at 5 Caledonian Road — one of the most famous gay addresses in the world.

Who Are The Radical Gay Communards?

Some of you already know, but the story bears repeating. The Radical Gay Communards are a group of young people of both sexes representing the multi-sexuality who run a gay bookshop called Bethnal

Rouge at Bethnal Green. Well, that's not strictly so, because they're also into Women's Lib and therefore sell books by female authors as a matter of policy. They claim that their chief aim is to live together peacefully, and they appear to do this in a communal arrangement upstairs, which, incidentally, smacks surprisingly of middle-class taste. However, they also have a 'thing' about gender-conditioning and role-playing. In other words, they condemn society for forcing the individual through all kinds of admittedly insidious conditioning, eg parental and didactic, not to mention the enormous pressures of the mass media to function either as a 'man' or as a 'woman', playing suitable roles accordingly.

Many liberated men and women and many liberated homosexuals who have come to terms with gender-conditioning and role-playing would consider that all the fuss they make about these issues is really rather silly. Still, this is one of the reasons why several of them wear drag, to demonstrate to the community that you can wear make-up and a dress and still be a man. Consequently, they tend to be lumped together in many peoples' jargon as 'radical feminists' which is inaccurate because not all of them are.

Unfortunately, the community isn't very impressed and treats them badly, sometimes viciously and violently, which is *wrong* because they, too, must be allowed to do their own thing. However, they themselves don't show the same respect for other people's freedom, and this is why they're in trouble at the moment with the London GLF Information Office, why they've been in trouble in the past with Spare Rib and Gay News and so forth.

Confrontation

Gay News made it a point of talking to both the Office Collective and the Radical Gay Communards to find out exactly what happened and why.

I have no desire to malign the Radical Gay Communards. They've got a Cause and sometimes even a case, but most of the time, their harangue consists of an unhappy union of half-baked ideas and garbled nonsense. Indeed, I find writing about them objectively a demanding task because when I visited them at Bethnal Rouge, I was literally attacked — challenged as a man, as a journalist, as a gay, put into a defensive position and insulted. This is not what communication is all about. Furthermore, their most significant admission was their unwillingness to talk unless assured of their right to alter or veto outright my copy. They accuse the Office Collective, on the one hand, of Fascism and attempt on the other, to stifle freedom of speech and freedom of the press.

In actual fact, the Radical Gay Communards didn't have an awful lot to say for themselves with reference to GLF. They prefer talking about male chauvinism, sexism, the women's movement and education as indoctrination — the customary red herrings. However, they admitted that they had entered the Information Office and removed it to Bethnal Green. Richard Chappell explained that communication had broken down between themselves and the Office Collective about two months ago and that they had hit upon the idea of 'direct action' as the only alternative that lay open to them. He added that the Office Collective had been unable to cope with this *fait accompli* and had therefore responded with "complete aggression". They agreed that if a majority of GLF at the all-London weekly GLF meeting at the Conway Hall voted to have the Information Office returned to Caledonian Road, they would acquiesce to popular demands, but the Office Collective explained that there is no constitutional machinery in operation to allow for this. Mary French, in a confused speech about the uses and abuses of power and the nature of democracy, compared the confrontation to the Watergate affair. Well, you have to hand it to them. They sure talk big.

The Radical Gay Communards described the Office Collective as an elitist group of middle-aged, middle-class, educated, straight gays who are unable to provide an adequate service because they are in full-time employment. They are also accused of discriminating against women, censoring GLF literature and failing to provide a weekend service.

According to a Collective spokesman, "The people in the Office Collective vary in age from 20 to 40. Most of us are working class, not middle class, and most of us are rather less educated than the people at Bethnal Rouge, some of whom have a Public School background — Richard Chappell, for example, has a Cambridge degree. Nobody in the Office Collective has been to Public

School, and only two of us have been to University. Most of us attended Secondary Modern Schools and left at the age of 15 or 16.

"The Office is open from two in the afternoon until nine in the evening, and so far we've had no complaints about this, but we don't open on Sundays because of lack of demand. It's nonsense, absolute nonsense, to say that we discriminate against women, and it's rubbish, absolute rubbish that we censor GLF literature. Furthermore, we are unable to allow just anyone to run the office because our landlords have insisted that there should be a list of persons who are entitled to collect the keys and open the office. This is owing to the fact that some people behaved very badly in the past. However, anybody is entitled to join the list."

Another Collectivist said, "The confrontation between Bethnal Rouge and the Office Collective was inevitable. The people at Bethnal Rouge will not discuss things. It is impossible to have a rational discussion with them and change things through reason. They lack both logic and warmth, and these two qualities have been replaced by paranoia and violence, both physical and verbal violence."

David Seligman, a Collectivist himself, described an encounter with a Radical Gay Communard at a GLF dance. "I was working for Gay News at the time, and I went along to sell a few papers. One of the Radical Feminists came up to me and snatched them out of my hands and tore them into pieces all over the floor and said something very anti-semitic, suggesting that I was selling Gay News in order to make a personal profit. It upset me so much that I just burst into tears, something I had never in all my life done in a public place."

Violence

Another Collectivist explained: "There's been an irrevocable split between the Office Collective and the people at Bethnal Rouge who believe that a revolution must take place and that physical violence must be employed if necessary. They want to smash the concepts of gender and role-playing, but the revolution they envision is totally fanciful."

David Seligman: "The Bethnal Rouge people often make me feel that I ought to want to be castrated. They're obsessed with this thing about being a 'man' or a 'woman'. And yet, when they went violently to the Information Office, to remove the equipment, kicking and punching people in their way, they were behaving just like stereotyped gender-conditioned role-playing men. Of course, they've reached a kind of nihilism we all reach on occasion, but we realise that we have to control it. You cannot rush round violently. You cannot always act immediately as you feel because there are other people round who must be taken into consideration."

The Office Collective admits that there are many good reasons why the Information Office *could* be run more effectively at Bethnal Rouge, — chiefly because the Communards live there and could therefore offer not only a 24-hour service, but a crash pad for people in trouble. A Collectivist added: "If they had come to us and said that they wanted to discuss this possibility, we would have discussed it with them. However, when people turn up unexpectedly and uninvited and begin ripping the place apart, one naturally responds with hostility."

What Will The Outcome Be?

Seligman: "It has been suggested that we should change our name and call ourselves the Gay Awareness Alliance or something along those lines, thus severing our connection with GLF entirely and preventing this kind of misunderstanding from happening in future. GLF as a large movement doesn't exist in London, and the Radical Gay Communards haven't got this fact into their heads yet."

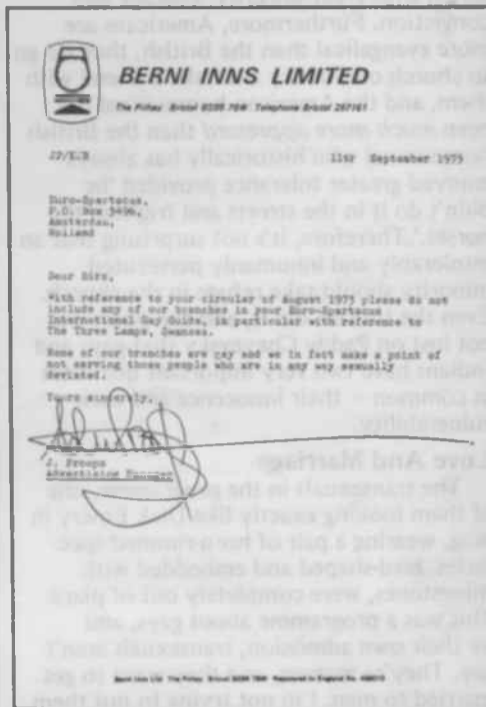
Gay Lib News described the incident as "merely the culmination of two months of bickering, internecine warfare and general nastiness which has driven people away from the meetings at the Conway Hall, wasted the efforts of the Office Collective and those of the Bethnal Rouge commune, so that nothing has been done to further the liberation of London. You may well ask where our communal head is at, and I'll tell you — it's stuck between our legs, fist-fucking."

Well, the fist-fucking has to stop. The Radical Gay Communards may have a joyful unity among themselves, but they are at loggerheads with most other activist groups, gay or otherwise. And GLF is not blameless. Come Together has fallen apart, and most gays have as yet to learn that a house divided against itself cannot stand.

James Tyson

Berni Inns Raps Anti-Gay Employees

JOHN STAMFORD, while revising his Euro-Spartacus International Gay Guide, sent out a circular to all bars listed in the first edition to check out information. One went to the HQ of Berni Inns Ltd, in Bristol, with reference to the Three Lamps in Swansea. A brisk reply from Mr J Proops, Berni Inns' Advertising Manager concluded with the statement: "None of our branches are gay and we in fact make a point of not serving those people who are in any way sexually deviated."



Apart from the assumption that homosexuality is a deviation, such a blunt statement of discrimination is fairly rare, so we rang up Berni Inns to find out if this was official policy, how sexual deviates were spotted by managers and head waiters and what happened if they were — bearing in mind that apart from gayness there are about a dozen forms of loving that could be termed deviations.

Mr Proops was on holiday; his secretary remained cool on hearing our query and said she'd call back. Sure enough, five minutes later, Mr Bogarde called. He is Berni Inn's Marketing Director.

"The letter could have been better expressed," he said, "it's meaning made plainer. Berni Inns discriminate against nobody, either individuals or groups and we have no intention of suggesting such a thing. We operate exactly the same as any other licensed premises and are certainly not concerned with the private lives of our customers. If however, someone's behaviour is offensive to other people, then we will eject them. And this has only happened, as far as I know, with people who get violent and throw their weight around."

Mr Bogarde promised to write to John Stamford, making this point.

This was not a hasty retraction, and Mr Bogarde's attitude is consonant with a previous experience John Stamford had with Berni Inns. The assistant manager of The Posada in Brighton hurled anti-gay abuse at him and a party of friends dining there about two years ago. Mr Stamford reported the incident to the Bristol HQ, the result of which was a visit from a director (Mr Galli) who dismissed the assistant manager on the spot, apologised personally and offered a subsequent meal on the house.

Left unchallenged, both incidents (the abuse, and the thoughtless phrases of Mr Proops) fester and create bad feeling. Challenged, it allows an issue to be brought into the open, a policy statement made. A Berni Inn may not be your idea of a gay night out, but at least you know that, unlike some catering chains, the outfit is not exactly anti-gay. It merely needs to train its minions to think before they write.

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Gay Switchboard: New Moves

London will get its gay switchboard if the final details can be worked out. This was the outcome of a meeting of gay organisations held at the Boltons, Earls Court on Saturday September 29th.

Following the feature in GN31, invitations were sent out to a large number of people, and representatives of fifteen groups attended what proved to be a highly successful meeting.

There was initially some doubt as to whether a switchboard was needed, or whether the organisations who are already on the phone, like GLF or CHELIC, were sufficient. But there were attractions about the new plan which brought people round. First of all, it was pointed out that it is a lot easier to publicise one phone number than a dozen. Every group present could help in this respect. The central number would also ease the burden of individual groups who found it difficult to handle all the more general queries about where the gay scene was.

As enthusiasm built up over the afternoon, a number of hard core problems were talked over. The main difficulties that members saw included money, manpower to run the phone, a building to operate from, and finding a small group of people who would take it on themselves to start the whole thing off.

There seemed to be a lot of feeling that money would not be a problem. A suggested budget for starting up the switchboard would be £200, and this was estimating a little on the expensive side. Some groups, including Challenge, The Albany Trust, and tentatively CHE, offered financial support to the scheme, subject to the final say-so of their groups.

It was difficult to estimate just how the manpower situation would turn out. As the main job of the switchboard, it was generally agreed, would be to provide hard information rather than a counselling service, the people on the phones would not have to be highly trained counsellors, but could include anyone who could simply read out the information that the callers wanted. There would also be a list of referral numbers if the caller had problems which he wanted to discuss.

The accommodation problem provoked a lot of suggestions, from the new Gay News offices to a room in a bishop's palace. There was a general optimism about finding space — partly because the space required was small, and partly because the organisations involved had a large number of contacts which could be useful.

But the solution of all these problems, the meeting agreed, would be the responsibility of those who volunteered to do the dirty work involved in starting it up. Names were suggested of people who might help in the early stages. And Gay News offered to ask for volunteers in its report of the proceedings. We have received two or three letters already from people whom we will be contacting. But we still want names of people who would be prepared to do the initial work, find a room, instal a telephone, publish the number and so on. A small work force of four or five, it was felt, would be sufficient.



The organisations who attended included The Albany Trust, representatives of London CHE and of their National Executive, Centre, Challenge, Fellowship in Christ The Liberator, Gay Liberation Front, Gay News, Gaysoc, Icebreakers, Integroup, the National Union of Students, the Samaritans and Sappho. Some of these representatives were also there as observers on behalf of other groups.

A meeting has already been arranged for later this month. Now that the general discussions have taken place, this next meeting will be for people who are committed personally to the operation of the scheme, and will be able to devote time to starting it up. If you are interested, contact Gay News for more information. We shall also be asking for financial support at a later stage. But for the time being, put it away in a safe place. If you have any ideas about suitable accommodation, we'd like to hear from you.

We will be keeping readers up to date on any further developments that take place.

Gay Convictions Soar By 160%

TOM HARPER, writing in *The Listener*, says that the number of men convicted of gross indecency between 1967, the year of homosexual law reform, and 1972, has increased by 160 per cent, a sharp increase compared with that of any other offence in the criminal calendar, especially during a period when the Sexual Offences Act should have produced the opposite effect.

He says, "Sociologically and criminologically speaking, it is of obvious importance whether this increase involved indecency with young children or homosexual acts between adults, which, on one technical legal ground or another, were caught by the criminal law. The published criminal statistics are, however, totally silent on the point, and the Home Office are able to provide no information on it," which, in our experience, is hardly surprising! "All they are able to say is that virtually the whole of the increase in convictions between 1967 and 1972 occurred in the Metropolitan Police district and Lancashire, which raises more questions than it answers. (our italics) However, the highest proportion of offenders during the 1967-1972 period were in the 30 to 40 age group while convictions in the under-21 age group have declined steadily.

Tom Harper says that "Compromise . . . rarely makes for good law, and it is not therefore very surprising that anomalies have so soon become apparent in the operation of the 1967 Act, even within the scope of what it purported to improve. One of the most glaring anomalies in the present law relating to homosexuality has arisen, not directly from the 1967 Act, but from a later enactment — the Family Law Reform Act of 1970. This among other things, lowered the age of legal majority from 21 to 18, but only for the purposes of civil law. Where under the criminal law the critical age was 21, as it was under the 1967 Act, it remained unchanged. A criminal offence is therefore committed where homosexual acts take place, even in private and between consenting persons, if one of them is, say, 20 and the other is 21. In such circumstances, moreover, a criminal offence is committed by both. In consequence, whereas

consent was the basis on which the 1967 Act excluded homosexual conduct in private from the sanctions of the criminal law, consent is totally irrelevant for that purpose if one participant in a homosexual relationship is under 21. Yet an individual of 18 is deemed to be capable of giving fully effective legal consent to marriage, and a girl of as little as 16 to a heterosexual extra-marital relationship."

Tom Harper considers that two campaigns are necessary: "one to get the law relating to sexual offences changed, so as to remove its evident and in many instances indefensible anomalies, and the other to promote the kind of statistical research which will throw light on how the law actually works. What is needed therefore . . . is not more statistics, but more meaningful statistics."

Gay Bar Destroyed - Bombing Suspected

SPRINGFIELD: An explosion, the origin of which is still unknown, has destroyed a gay bar here. The blast occurred in the early hours of the morning, and no-one was hurt by it, but the force was strong enough to shatter 67 windows of a nearby hotel.

A kerosene-soaked rag was reportedly taken from the debris, and a police officer working on the case said there was "some reason to suspect that it was a bombing."

Bar owner Lewis Lake claimed that he felt the fact that it was a gay bar "didn't have anything to do" with the explosion, though he said the business had been plagued by obscene telephone calls in recent weeks.



A pile of rubble is all that remains of the gay bar.

Gay News Goes To Church Two Services Catering For Gays

LONDON: Whilst many criticise the Christian religion as being perhaps the most potent oppressor of gay people in history, there are those in the gay community who suggest that this need not be so.

And here in London, on Sunday, September 7, two church services were operating to give gay Christians a place of worship in which they were encouraged to feel they belonged.

One of the church services was given by the London branch of the Metropolitan Community Church, which is derivative of the US-based namesake which figured heavily in Alan Whicker's recent documentary on aspects of gay liberation.

The other service took place under the auspices of Centre and the Rev Peter Royston-Ball. The gathering place was St Paul's Church, Rossmore Road, London NW1, which will welcome gay people and their families and friends the first Sunday of every month at 11.15am.

GN attended this Communion Service, and the atmosphere was friendly and informal. Rather than speaking from the pulpit, Father Peter — as he is generally called — delivered his sermon from the aisle. Hymns were sung to organ accompaniment; when the service had finished, everyone present was invited for refreshment (including home-made cakes) in the Centre coffee-bar which is annexed to the church.

It is here at Centre that Father Peter carries on his day to day work. Over coffee, he described Centre as a community care counselling and befriending project he started four years ago. For the past two years, Centre has been aligned with experts in gay counselling and social work.



Father Peter — crusader against gay ghetto.

Now Father Peter has taken the activities another step further by creating these regular services, which are designed to attract gay people with family and friends attending with them.

"One is not trying to build a ghetto," Father Peter explained. "I have tried in my day to day work to bring people out of this created ghetto."

"This morning's service was for people in special situations — for instance, people who are married, and one of the partners has discovered that he or she is homosexual — people trying to resolve their marital responsibilities in a loving, caring way for their husband or wife, and deciding what is best done with their children."

Father Peter says he does not see a need for a gay church as such "because this would be contrary to the doctrine of the Church. The Church means a gathering of people. From that point the Church is concerned with humanity in all its manifestations."

He feels that many gay people may find a sense of family within the church, being unable to do so through a heterosexual relationship.

Father Peter says he does not anticipate any backlash from the established Church. "We are the established Church," he comments.

Of his first sermon, Father Peter said the purpose of it was to reconcile humanity by dropping labels. "We've one thing in common — we're all human beings."

The other service of the Sunday was given by the Fellowship In Christ The Liberator, which serves as the London Branch of America's MCC.

It has now entered its second year in this country following a twelve month period blighted by lack of accommodation. "We desperately want to find a larger place to hold our services in permanently," says secretary Jo McVay-Abbott. A large number of halls that might be suitable are owned by the Church or England or an otherwise antagonistic body. We just don't get anywhere. Lots of church ministers would like to help us, but . . . there's always a good excuse why they can't."

"Because it's a gay church?" asked GN. ". . . a Christian Church," Jo answered firmly.

Despite its difficulties, the group has 30 members and 17 'friends', as well as another dozen people who attend frequently. It is still hopeful that a regular place of worship will become available. If so, MCC London plans to open its doors to as many people as possible.

The group says it is "an associate member of the National Federation of Homophile Organisations," but does not really give support to any gay groups because "we are not a gay group ourselves."

Jo explained that the group came into existence after a visit from MCC's American leader Troy Perry last year. "We had a list of people who were interested, invited them to the first service, and people turned up."

The Church has a wide spectrum of Christians attending its services . . . from Salvation Army to Roman Catholic. But as far as it knows, the Church is not recognised by any of the established ones. "We've made no special effort," says Jo. "We were in touch with Lord Soper of the Methodist Church and got a very sympathetic and encouraging letter. The Roman Catholic and the Anglican Churches apparently don't want to know . . ."

The MCC's Pete Goodwin said the Quakers were in tune with what they were doing, but basic differences of style created a gap. The Quakers prefer silent prayer, while MCC services feature the singing of hymns.

The Fellowship started with a permanent minister who resigned in July, and has relied since on a rota of various ministers from different denominations.

As well as solving the accommodation problem, Jo McVay-Abbott says he would like the coming year to see an end to "any psychological barriers which prohibit people from attending."

With established hierarchical church attitudes ranging from condescension to vilification, the gay community is divided in its opinions of the worth of services welcoming gays, or gay churches such as the Fellowship in Christ The Liberator. What cannot be criticised is the simple fact that these projects are bringing gays together — and that's perhaps the most important aspect of these efforts.

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GN's Latest New Address

Gay News is now working from 62a Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY. The phone number is 01-995 1958. In GN we advised that the new address would be 1 Paxton Road, Chiswick, but plans have since changed (see 'Here We Are Again', p8).

Phone calls and mail to both the old Earls Court address and the Paxton Road one will be directed to us at Chiswick High Road, and we regret any inconvenience caused.

Keep This Man Away From Our Children

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE: The Sunday Sun of September 23 came up with a clanger — Geoff Phillips' column 'In My View', bearing the headline 'Keep these men away from our children'.

The men in question are gay teachers. "If you can manage it," the column begins, irrationally, "shed a quiet tear for our so-called 'gay' folk."

The tears are presumably being shed because Phillips does not think gays should be teachers. "Our funny friends can be lorry drivers, bank managers or what have you — but nothing so directly concerned with kids as teaching."

Phillips speculates that gays as teachers could lead to "The Ronald Biggs Security Service . . . the Jack the Ripper Escort Agency . . . the Geronimo Hair Care Centre . . . No brother, lead us not into temptation."

Phillips attempts to sweeten his idiocy with humour and hypocritical 'honesty'.

"Call me a hard-hearted reactionary, but my compassion for the unfortunate, even in this permissive age, doesn't stretch this far."

Phillips then abandons his libellous treatment of gay teachers as criminals and tackles the question of the Sexual Discrimination Bill, referring to women as "dolly birds".

GN contacted Phillips at his newspaper office to gain a more complete picture of this man who is given newspaper space to air such crass, repressive views.

Like a large proportion of people who seek to make life difficult for others, he seemed to be an amiable enough type.

Yes, he had heard of the British Medical Association survey which concluded that gays often make better teachers than straights, (not mentioned in his column) but he didn't set much store by science.

"I think all homosexual teachers should be barred. I don't think they can be considered normal. Children are very impressionable . . . I remember when I was at school, I was very impressionable to a teacher's attitude. There was a left-wing teacher, verging on Communism, and he had a certain influence on me. Homosexuals are too far on one extreme. In fact I would bar teachers



Geoff Phillips: "I think all homosexual teachers should be barred."

with political views that were too extreme." Did that include extreme reactionaries? GN enquired. "Yes it does."

Then what of the children who read your extremely reactionary column?

"Children don't have to read my column, but they do have to go to schools."

One pursued the matter with Phillips, hoping to reach a rational outcome, but the results were not satisfactory. He chatted away, the repressive views purveyed in a pleasant enough tone, as if talking to a brick wall.

But the sad fact is this: he is not talking to a brick wall. He is talking to a large number of provincial readers, who often lap up such irrational, unsubstantiated comment.

It all goes to point out just how necessary a more balanced system of education is. Had Phillips received such schooling in his youth, the left-wing teacher notwithstanding, he perhaps would not be blind enough to write such extreme twaddle.

It is proposed that the Course should cover a period of several weeks or perhaps even a term, and that at each weekly session, a guest speaker, qualified professionally in one or more of the many disciplines to which homosexuality is relevant, would give a talk and then participate in a general discussion. The speakers would not necessarily be gay, and the discussion would be led by informed GLF members in order to prevent the dissemination of inaccurate or biased information.

Prospective speakers interested in the Course are invited to attend the Education Group which meets every Thursday at 8pm at 45 Talma Road, Brixton, SW2 1AU.

Police As Target Of Gay Suit

MIAMI: Frank Arrango, a gay activist here, has initiated a class-action suit on behalf of himself and other gays in response to the upsurge of police harassment.

He names Miami Beach police chief Rocky Pomerance as defendant. In recent weeks, police have swooped on gay bars, repeatedly demanding extensive identification, and reportedly trailing gays from prowlers yelling "Faggots", "Animals" and so on.

The suit seeks both injunctive and declaratory relief.

News From FRIEND

FRIEND, the National counselling and befriending organisation for gays, is expanding rapidly: this recently became clear, when 40 members of FRIEND met for their Second Conference.

The Conference was held in the Royal Institution, part of the University of Liverpool on Saturday, 29th September, and was attended by members of groups from all over the country.

Established FRIEND groups reported upon the progress being made in their areas. Some groups have been working with supportive and social groups. Tribute was also paid to the work being done by accredited befrienders in areas where there is, as yet, no recognised group.

A concern was expressed that new groups should be formed to ensure that all gay people, wherever they live, are able to receive the sympathetic and skilled help

which FRIEND is providing in many areas.

Discussion took place on ways of maintaining the high standards of help available to gay people through FRIEND, and interest was shown in exploring different methods of training befrienders.

The need to improve and extend FRIEND's publicity was stressed, especially so as to reach the isolated gay men and women who have not yet been contacted by the existing homophile organisations.

During the Conference, several new groups applied for recognition as FRIEND groups.

A further FRIEND Conference is planned for Spring 1974.

Ted Clapham
National Organiser

ED: FRIEND can be contacted by writing to 44 Earls Court Road, London W8, or by ringing 01-603 6293 between 7.30pm and 9.30pm, Monday to Friday.

Newsletters

Gay Discotheque Banned

DUNDEE: Following the successful disco held in Laing's Hotel in May this year, the Dundee Branch of Scottish Minorities Group decided to hold another at the same hotel in November, as part of the activities connected with the National Law Reform Campaign in Scotland. In late August the Branch Secretary phoned and asked if a booking could be made for 6th November and was told by one of the staff that another disco had already been booked for that date. The secretary then wrote to the manager asking if an alternative date could be arranged. No reply was received during the next four weeks and the secretary phoned again and asked to speak to the manager. The manager agreed he had received the letter but said he was sorry he could not allow 'a function of that kind' to be held in his hotel. He was asked if this was his own decision or a decision of the Brewers — Ushers — and replied that it was his own decision — we could contact Ushers if we wished but the licence would shortly be transferred to his name and it would do us no good. He was then asked the reason for his refusal. "I wouldn't be able to get staff to work at that kind of function again". It was put to him that the reaction of the staff seemed quite good at the last disco, and everyone, including the staff, seemed to have a good time. "Well, they didn't like it, especially the organisers of the disco. I'm sorry, I understand your problems, but I cannot help you."

The Dundee Branch of SMG is sending a delegation to the hotel to attempt to discuss the ban with the manager and a letter of protest will be sent to Ushers. The Branch is also contacting the National Union of Students, to ask for support in taking stronger action, especially since the hotel is well patronised by students, and stands on University property. In the meantime, attempts are being made to find another meeting place for the disco in November.

L. McIntosh, Secretary, SMG Dundee Branch

Gay Pub Violence

PORTSMOUTH: The outbreak of violence that is sweeping the city struck at one of the best known gay bars, when Mr Peter Greed, landlord of the Balmoral Public House in Landport Terrace was beaten and kicked, by a gang of six young sailors, amid scenes of unprecedented thuggery.

Violence broke out when Peter intervened in an argument between two matelots in the gang, all of whom were complete strangers to the Balmoral, and were disturbing the enjoyment of the regular clientele. Peter's wife, Claire, looked on helplessly, while regular customers joined in the subsequent mêlée in which tables were overturned and glasses and bottles smashed. Peter and

another regular were eventually forced from the bar into the street and set upon in a brutal and cowardly fashion, being knocked to the ground and kicked several times. The young thugs, thus satisfied with the night's work, made off at speed, with several regulars from the Balmoral in hot pursuit, who kept them under observation until they were finally apprehended by the police. Peter was taken to hospital for an X-ray examination but was later released with bruises and lacerations about the face and body.

Rising anger and protests from both private individuals and city councillors about the serious increase in violence in the city has fallen on deaf ears. Many people, both straight and gay, are now treading the streets around the redeveloping city centre at night with utmost caution, having to face a common threat. The police do not appear to notice much of a threat, even when local councillors are attacked and protest to the city's watch committee. Perhaps the release of police officers from the notorious city vice squad who have nothing better to do than interest themselves in the activities of harmless unsuspecting gays in the city's cottages, would be a better and more effective use of police time in helping to control the rise in violence.

BBC Gay Coverage In Scotland

EDINBURGH: The public interest in homosexual rights which followed SMG's recent Conference in Glasgow, has prompted BBC Television (Scotland) to make a film on the fight for homosexual law reform in Scotland, and the work of Scottish Minorities Group. The film, about 40 minutes long, will be screened during the first edition of the new series of Current Account, at 10.30pm on Thursday 18 October, under the direction of Ken Gargill.

Viewers will see the Law Reform Committee in session and will hear how strategy and tactics are worked out. There will be interviews with Mike Coulson and 4 MP's about SMG's Parliamentary Bill. Tom Scott, Chaplain of Heriot-Watts University, will answer questions on student counselling, and SMG's chairman Danny Mullen, a graduate of Heriot-Watt, will be interviewed with his lover on the sorts of situations which a gay relationship has to cope with.

I will be describing the crucial formative years of SMG and this story will be matched by contributions from Sheila McCaskill (lesbian viewpoint) and Tony Hughes will cover GLF in Scotland.

A key element of the documentary will be the sequences shot at a 'straight' party at which the gay people are seen to be having an equally happy time dancing, drinking and chatting with each other and with the majority of non-gays. This is not a 'celluloid put-on' — the situation exists in real life at 1/2 Acre and A Cow, a community of ten, including myself, who live in a house in Edinburgh's Newington district.

Gay Studies Course

LONDON: The Education Group of South London GLF was set up two months ago to organise, co-ordinate and prepare a syllabus for a Gay Studies Course to be held at an Adult Evening Institute under the aegis of the Inner London Education Authority. The Education Group has met with a Principal of such an Institute whose reaction has been encouraging, and although nothing has been decided definitely either way, discussions with the ILEA are continuing. It is hoped that this pilot scheme, which represents a major step forward, will get off the ground soon and lead to similar courses, at the moment without precedent, being set up throughout the country.

The aim of the Course is to provide a community education service for those whose work brings them into constant contact with gays and for those in a position to disseminate information and ideas necessary for the promotion of greater understanding of homosexuality among members of the general public. Thus it is essential that a large number of teachers, social workers and members of the medical and legal profession and of the police and youth services should be encouraged to attend the Course as well as ordinary people, both gay and straight, who wish to improve their knowledge of the subject.

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NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

The Bowie Paradox Public Opinion V. Business Thinking

LONDON: David Bowie has been elected Melody Maker's most popular male artist of the year. A recent edition of the paper featured a shot of Bowie looking as pretty as ever in a white frock, joyfully announcing his triumph.

But the triumph still has a razor edge. Gay might be popular, but in the advertising offices of IPC (owners of the paper) it's still a dirty word.

The paper will not accept any advertisements using the word 'gay' or 'homosexual'. GN discovered this back in issue 22, when we sought to place an ad in the classified columns of Melody Maker and it was refused.

The point was raised again this week when GN reader Dave of Oxford, wrote claiming that gay classified ads, which had formerly often appeared in Melody Maker columns, suddenly ceased after the paper published an article on Bowie which was interpreted by some - Dave included - as being anti-gay.

The paper's editor, Ray Coleman, spoke to GN this week. He affirmed that the advertising policy was still operative, but denied that it was related to any Bowie editorial. "There has been a management ruling against gay classifieds for some time, but a few managed to slip through. This was stopped a month or two ago."

On the subject of Bowie: "I can remember the tone of every Bowie piece we've published, and I don't think any were angled against gay people."

"Personally, my views on the gay situation are very liberal. Obviously a proportion of the paper's readers are gay, and I wouldn't wish to make them feel that we discriminated against them. We try to be a very liberal paper - the music world in general has a liberal attitude to things, and we try to reflect this."

GN asked Mr Coleman if he would bring a journalist's attention to any anti-gay tones in a potential Melody Maker article. "Yes I would," he answered.

Asked if he accepted personal responsibility for the advertising policy, Mr Coleman said he did not.

The Advertising Department of Melody Maker were polite, but not nearly so talkative. To gay advertising, the attitude is the same as it was three months back. A flat no.



David Bowie - Melody Maker Artist of the Year.

It seems quite paradoxical, if not hypocritical, that Bowie, a proponent of bisexuality, is exalted in a magazine practising an anti-gay advertising policy.

Melody Maker is not alone in this. When GN canvassed 26 publications three months back, nine gave a blank refusal to any ad carrying the word 'gay' (Playboy included). 10 said they would consider it as a courtesy, but probably reject it, 2 said "Maybe" and 5 said "yes".

Judging by Bowie's sweeping victory of the Melody Maker poll, it seems the time has come for business to start catching up with public opinion. Or at least start thinking about it.

Stephen MacLean



From left: Barbara Allen, Leslie Parker, (last year's drag winner), Graham Anthony (this year's victor), Millicent Martin, and hostess Jean Fredericks.

Flamboys In Park Lane

IN the ballroom of Park Lane's Grosvenor House Hotel on Saturday September 29, that universal bastion of old guard camp took place - the annual Theatre Arts Ball.

And sauntering through it all, vigorously chatting and mother-henning the drag participants, was Mr Jean Fredericks. Swathed in a rainbow-coloured gown, he presided over an evening which was somewhat lacklustre with its ritzy overtones at the beginning, but quite joyfully chaotic towards the end.

Never having attended such an occasion in the past, I half fancied it might be an exercise in high decadence. Not so. Descending the stairs into the ballroom, a quick glance across the floor revealed that in most cases the drag gave manifestation to some quite modest fantasies. Amidst the occasional flash of jaded elegance, or Rita Hayworth exotica, the impression was remarkably wholesome. An air of suburbanism clung to some of the girls as tightly as the nylon and beading.

The predominant drag conception seemed to be geared towards flamboyance perhaps, but tastefulness always, like the boss's slightly tarty wife at a works ball. Paradoxically because it was the Theatre Arts Ball showbiz fantasies were few. The glitter facades present were more in the realms of a Shirley Bassey than a glamourously deluded Gloria Swanson, or sexually ambivalent Garland.

Interestingly, two of the winners in the 'Miss Female Impersonator International' Competition did not conform to this general trend.

Third place-getter Lloyd Givens - Miss New Biba - was similar to the mannish Joan Crawford of the 30's, and the outright victor was a blonde in starkly glamorous attire.

Selecting the winners was an elaborate and sometimes chaotic task, but the job was executed with finesse. The 86 drag contestants enjoyed dinner, dancing, two cabaret acts, then walked down the catwalk with cocktail music accompanying every step.

Some caught their heels, some could not hide a manly gait, others were superb. A personal favourite of mine was the only entrant who chose a title rather than a name

- 'A Night In Paris'. Judging by the costume, the night took place during 1953.

A few of the larger contestants seemed to have leapt into a dress, whacked on some slap, clamped on the wig, then caught a taxi.

It took Miss Biba to demonstrate that a six-footer can masquerade with the best of them. Third place-getter, she wore a wonderful hat, with plumes standing at least three feet high, square shouldered fur jacket and a dark gown.

Announcement of the second placing provoked a tremor of outrage. A cry of "She's a woman" sailed across the dance floor, followed by two wine glasses. Jean Fredericks later told GN that curvaceous Max Rahman ('Kim') was actually "a pre-operative sex change, on hormone treatment, but still a boy." Nothing's certain at a drag ball: in fact, a reported 50 ladies present were actually heterosexual men from the Beaumont Society for Transvestites.

But this disturbance was merely a ripple. When the victor was announced by number, complete with fanfare and the presence of Millicent Martin, no happy victor rushed the dais. The judges, confused by the numbering system, had chosen a non-existent winner.

With admirable aplomb, la Fredericks swiftly had the 20 finalists trouping before the judges again. Tension was high, and the revelry was enhanced by the fact that many of the girls were now noticeably looser from drink.

With little delay, the judges selected their winner - 27-year-old salesman Graham Anthony, last year's runner-up, and much more attractive than our photo suggests. It was a popular choice, and by 3am everyone hit the sharp night air of Park Lane, feeling well spent.

Taxis were as rare as coaches or pumpkins, but the walk home surely was a good opportunity for the girls to think about their costumes for the Halloween drag ball, November 30 at Fulham Town Hall.

Stephen MacLean

Are Gay Teachers Being Blacklisted?

ALTHOUGH a pamphlet published by the British Medical Association says that "Homosexuals can, and do, make particularly good teachers," it has been alleged that the Department of Education and Science has produced a blacklist, the famous 'List 99', outlawing homosexuals from the teaching profession. The National Union of Students is going to investigate this allegation in addition to making a survey of local education authority attitudes towards the employment of gay teachers.

An NUS Executive Member, Al Stewart, said, "We shall take a very strong line against homosexuality being used as a criterion for ruling out anybody as a possible teacher, and anyway, we would be against any form of blacklist, unless it were on the basis of professional failure."

The Department has admitted that a list has been circulated to local education authorities giving the names of persons excluded from teaching on the grounds of misconduct, which can include convictions for a criminal offence, but denies that any

specific mention was made of homosexuality as grounds for dismissal.

However, Gay News can report that within the last fortnight, we have had letters from gay teachers found guilty, in different parts of the country, of acts of 'gross indecency' in which they had been incited by agents provocateurs, and both were sacked.

An NUS spokesman said, "Some of the most creative teachers are homosexual, but they can't admit it. Many drama, English and art departments would cease to function as effective and creative departments if homosexuals were banned."

The NUS admits that further debate is required in depth, and a student teacher conference has called for an NUS report on the position of gay students and student teachers, more money for the Union's Gay Rights campaign, more support from individual college unions against any form of discrimination against gays and more active and committed support from college principals for the Campaign.

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Here We Are Again

Gay News did NOT move to 1 Paxton Road, Chiswick, as anticipated in GN33. Instead, we are now at 62a Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY. Phone number is 01-995 1958.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused, but the switch in plans was unavoidable. After printing the Paxton Road address, we found a set of offices which were irresistible. Our new executive suite offers a sweeping view of London's spell-binding suburban sprawl, carpets to pad around on, and space to spare.

We exaggerate. But it's certainly a step forward from the room and kitchen in the damp Earls Court basement, where moss was beginning to grow on our typewriters and the kettle boiled eight inches from the news desk.

Phone calls to Earls Court and Paxton Road will be referred to us, and any mail will also be redirected by the Post Office, to us.

BLOT, GN's typesetter, is now also esconced at the Chiswick High Road address.

Our Obligation To You

GN feels that it should, like any other conscientious publication, take a certain amount of responsibility with regard to the display and classified advertisements that appear in the paper. Perhaps in our case we owe a little bit more to our readers, as Gay News is the largest and possibly the most influential gay periodical currently being published in Britain. Also, the loyalty displayed by many readers should be respectfully guarded.

We realise that GN is an ideal medium for many organisations and individuals to advertise their products and services in, and for some, the paper has opened up a number of new markets. Therefore, if you ever have any genuine and reasonable complaints about goods you have bought as a result of being influenced by advertisements that appear in GN, please let us know. The course of action we'll take will depend on the nature of your grievance.

The last couple of paragraphs are not intended to show off our righteousness; we just don't want any reader being unfairly exploited or ripped off.

We cannot take any responsibility for the reaction a personal ad you have placed may or may not receive, or whether you get a response if you reply to one. Neither can we ensure that people will return photographs you may send them or guarantee that people really mean the phrase 'all letters answered'.

Gay Days Gone By

Some of the most popular features published in GN have been those that have appeared under the heading 'Gay Days Gone By'. We would like to encourage readers to send in articles which fit into this category. They can either be personal reminiscences or items about the history of gay life in your area or town. Contributions should be sent to GN's editor, Denis Lemon.

It would help enormously if you could also send in suitable photographs or drawings with your articles, or alternatively suggest the type of illustration to go with your piece. Photographs etc will be returned.

Short stories are also welcome, but they must not be more than 2000 words, as shortage of space at present prevents us from running those that are any longer.

We advise you to keep a copy of any items sent to us, and to make it quite clear if you want them returned by also enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

A Little Late

Apologies to those readers and retailers who received GN33 a day or so after they should have done. Our printers' folding machine broke down at an inopportune moment and subsequently copies were late being dispatched to our distributors.

Not Forgetting Gays

The recently published *Alternative Brighton* (Unicorn Bookshop Publications) includes a useful selection for gay men, written by Sussex Gay Lib member Sean Payne. Unfortunately, the editors couldn't find someone to contribute to the chapter from a gay women's point of view. Nevertheless, it is good to see that the guide has attempted to be truly comprehensive, unlike the dismally inadequate gay information in *Time Out's Book Of London*.

More Social Information Wanted

Our bonnie laddie from Scotland, Derek Jardine, continues to moan about how he isn't receiving enough information about gay pubs, clubs, discos, etc in Britain.

To increase the potential of Derek's Guide and make it the only free guide that is both accurate and comprehensive, he needs your help. Please try and check any information you send in though, particularly the addresses.

If Derek keeps pestering us, we'll pester you; so why not put pen to paper and tell him all about the amazing social outlets you have in your area. That goes for landlords and club owners too.

Dates And Deadlines

The next edition of Gay News (GN35) will be published and available on 1st November. Details of advertising deadlines and copy dates for that issue can be found under the contents section on Page 2 and at the beginning of the Personal Ad columns on Page 17. It is important to refer to these dates to avoid disappointment, as they will be strictly stuck to in the future.

Gay News

STAR-GAYS

with Merlin



Scorpio

Gay Star for October 23 to November 22

IN distant times, LIBRA (GN32 & 33) was bound to SCORPIO, and their influences combined. Following the creation of LIBRA as a separate Zodiac sign, SCORPIO was left with a strong sense of injustice but with many attributes of his one-time astrological partner; remaining something of a paradox ever since.

One of the few mystic signs (PISCES and AQUARIUS are others), SCORPIOS have a rare depth of feeling. Yet that brooding enigma hides a passionate nature, in turn fiercely loving, plotting revenge for some imagined slight, scathingly witty, bitterly acid, tangled with sexual problems, taut with emotional worries, intrigued by matters of death and illness, or simply wondering if a monastery plank bed is uncomfortable enough.

SCORPIOS are fascinated and preoccupied with Death. They are not afraid, but defy it. They can themselves lie at death's door with terrible injuries or illnesses, but being a friend of and to Death, they know just when to surrender and die, or turn about and live, recovering their health with breath-taking defiance. Undoubtedly they are their own best physicians.

SCORPIOS can also be their own worst enemies, stinging, like their SCORPIAN symbol, with ferocity and a troubling lack of discrimination. When in this mood, they are best left alone to work off their Mars-dominated fury, emerging sunny and purged

of all revenge.

Subjects of SCORPIO are concerned with the 'secret places' of the body, sexual matters dominating their lives. The arising emotional problem plus their own excesses tend to tear them apart. With an inner spartan nature torturing both spirit and mind, they punish the body with self-imposed hardships, seeking to destroy the problems by physical activity.

They rush from extremes of personal comfort to extremes of physical hardships and endurance; sometimes they do this anyway, without emotional or sexual motivation. (You can find SCORPIOS rushing from comfortable, shared beds at three day pop festivals, living on music, hardly any food, a few cokes, no sleeping bags, ending up soaked to the skin and not even noticing any discomfort.) A friend only the other week queued all night outside the Royal Albert Hall for the last night of the Proms, stretched his cramped limbs all day, and squatted in the Arena all evening, entranced. He could easily have watched it on TV, but he was a SCORPIO, and so emerged unscathed, determined to do it all again next year.

Never attempt to change SCORPIOS; they resent this most of all. Suggest and he may follow, but he hates criticism and is always right. Friends aren't easily made, but after a dissecting assessment, SCORPIOS make a cautious approach and then expect the ultimate in friendship, response, absolute fidelity and will strike like an enraged cobra if any attempt is made to destroy their carefully built up relationships.

SCORPIOS have a secret liking for philosophical or religious subjects, intricately researching into the more obscure regions. They then allow you to gently draw them out, warming to stimulating, intelligent conversation, and displaying some of the most fascinating views you ever imagined possible... And revealing an attraction which casts you completely under their spell.

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Mr W.H.

Auden's Death

Saddens

Poetry Lovers

WYSTAN Hugh Auden lies buried in Kirchstetten in Austria. He was 66 when he died in his sleep on September 28th. He leaves behind him a mass of highly distinctive writing, an army of readers who will miss him deeply, and a place in literary history as the leading English-speaking poet of this century.

He was born on February 21, 1907 at York. He showed, at an early stage, the voracious appetite for knowledge which was to remain with him, and colour his poetry, for the whole of his life. At Gresham's School, Holt, he took prizes for science as well as for Latin, he gave a talk on 'Enzyme Action' and produced, and performed in, a concert of modern British music. And he began to write poetry.

"I first made up my mind to become a poet on a Sunday afternoon in Norfolk in a ploughed field, in March of 1922 when I was just fifteen." He had been out walking with a childhood friend, "I don't remember how the conversation started but at one point he asked me if I ever wrote poetry and I said no, because the thought had never entered my mind. Then he said 'Why don't you?' and that moment I knew that's what I was going to do."

And that is exactly what he did do. He left Gresham's for Christ Church, Oxford, with an Exhibition in Natural Sciences, read PPE for a term, and then changed his course to English. After taking his degree he left for Germany.

In Berlin he met Layard, the psychologist and anthropologist who:

"... fed
New doctrines into my receptive head.
Part came from Lane and part from
D H Lawrence.
Gide, though I didn't know it then, gave
part."

The net result of these varied contributions from men of letters was to confirm Auden in his view of poetry as a clinical and sharply observant medium. The poet's first duty was to be honest, and he was scrupulous about this at all times, excising works from his collections because they expressed feelings or beliefs which their author never felt or entertained; an honesty no longer in vogue.

In 1930 he published his first volume called simply 'Poems', and enjoyed an immediate success with it. In 1932 came 'The Orators', a dense and difficult work, and rare amongst his output in the explicitness with which it discusses the predicament of the homosexual. Only in this one respect, in his sexuality, does he seem to have found difficulty in maintaining those standards of honesty which he applied to the rest of his life. Whilst never denying his gayness, it was perhaps the one major facet of his personality which he did not affirm in his writing. For one as passionate as Auden, this was a large sin of omission. Especially as his sexuality appears to have assisted him in his role of observer and reporter, an alienation from his fellows which left him on the outside looking in.

It was at this time that he was swept up in the gathering political storms of Europe. It was the time of the depression. In Germany, Fascism had taken root and the Spanish Civil War became the focal point for English radicals, with Auden playing a leading part in making the cause fashionable. Despite his



W.H. Auden speaking at the Poetry International Festival '73 held in June - one of his last public appearances.

Photograph: Peter Harrap (Report, London)

regrets in later life about the attitudes he took at that time, and the intensity with which he took them, he is probably best remembered as the angry young voice of England's 1930s intellectuals and dissidents. His poems of this time, 'Look Stranger' and 'Another Time', no less than the plays he wrote in collaboration with Christopher Isherwood, show an expansive social concern, but at the same time a growing hopelessness at the apparent inability of people to improve, even rescue, a rotting and unjust society. He went to Spain, drove an ambulance, but his main contribution as ever, was his writing.

If he had upset the responsible and respectable worthies of British Society during the thirties, their voice was soon to be raised, when, in 1939, he left for America with Christopher Isherwood. Along with others who left England on the eve of war, he became the object of abuse, and snide comments both publicly and privately. Not only was there anger at the way he had scourged the pre-war establishment, but he was made to suffer for his homosexuality. His leaving with Isherwood was the signal for establishment howls of moral indignation. Cowardice was exactly what one would expect from a pervert.

It was at this time, however, that he achieved real confidence in his own powers as a poet. And with this new confidence came a series of ambitious works including his Pulitzer Prize winning 'Age Of Anxiety'. He was fortunate that his powers were great enough to take him above the level of petty bitterness which hurt others in a similar situation. The experience may well have decided him to take out American citizenship as he did in the forties.

From here on in, his life story was mainly one of the king collecting laurels and tributes. Whilst pushing his own frontiers out to take in new forms which he had not tried before (opera, libretto, film commentaries, travel books) his published poetry was assured of an immediate market. In 1956 he became Professor of Poetry at Oxford. In 1957 the

Feltrinelli prize enabled him to buy his house in Kirchstetten. Both Oxford and London University were to award him honorary Dr Lits, despite the attempts of those who tried to write him off when he left England.

His poetry is the poetry of the intellect. Behind almost everything he wrote there is an argument. His massive vocabulary was deployed not so much to set a mood, as to explain a point, to reveal the workings of a character's mind. And yet he was seldom pretentious once his first youthful outpourings were past. He could be grave and rhetorical, or he could be keenly witty. His poetry slipped comfortably from one style to another, assisted by a dry sense of humour.

Whatever particular aspect of his varied writing appeals to you most, his light humorous verses, his psychological insight, his figurative originality, it is to him that we owe the salvation of British poetry from the machinations of obscurantist bank clerks.

And for that much alone, we must thank him.

Michael Mason

Uncle Henry

*When the Flyin' Scot
fills for shootin', I go southward,
wisin' after coffee, leavin'
Ladie Starkie.*

*Wedy for some fun,
visit yearly Wome, Damascus,
in Mowocco look for fwesh a-
-musin' places.*

*Where I'll find a fwend,
don't you know, a charmin' cweature,
like a Gweek God and devoted;
how delicious!*

*All they have they bwing,
Abdul, Nino, Manfwed, Kosta:
here's to women for they bear such
lovely kiddies!*

W H Auden



Photographed in 1938 in the BBC programme 'Speaking Personally' - the young poet W.H. Auden with his friend, novelist Christopher Isherwood (right).

Hallowé'en Special



Gay Tales Of Terror

by Rictor Norton

I always shudder with fearful joy when the hideously gaunt vampire stealthily creeps into a helpless maiden's bedchamber, twines her fair hair about his pallid fingers, slowly drags her to the edge of the bed, and begins sucking. And I quiver with even greater dreadful pleasure when I read of the tortures of the Inquisition, which far outdo any of the *Advocate's* S&M wanton ads. Any avid reader of Gothic novels or viewer of horror flicks recognises in this melodramatic genre the classic form of High Camp, Dracula of course being a bitch queen in drag.

This was illustrated some time ago in the American magazine *National Lampoon* by a shoddy satire on "Dracula, Queen of Darkness", and in the much funnier parody of a gay vampire in Roman Polanski's movie *Dance Of The Vampires*. There's also a surprisingly sympathetic portrayal of a lesbian vampiress in the X-rated movie based upon Le Fanu's *Carmilla*. But what is especially intriguing is to discover that many gay writers have been fascinated by the aesthetic experience of horror. In fact, gay authors were the original creators of the Gothic novel tradition, and some of its finest exemplars.

The first Gothic novel ever written was *The Castle Of Otranto* (1764), by Horace Walpole, (1717-1797). It's about a desperate damsel pursued through underground dungeons by the villainous Manfred. She is rescued, and Manfred finally destroyed (along with his castle) by a giant ghost who appears at the end. The novel itself is



stylistically primitive, but it is the prototype and ancestor of later genres such as the detective story, the historical romance and the psychological novel.

The unmarried Walpole's most intimate friend was the poet John Gray, more openly gay than his friend Horrie. Together, he and Walpole were responsible for the cult of medievalism that flourished in the late eighteenth century, and finally blossomed into the Romantic Movement. Walpole's medieval dilettantism transformed his cottage at Strawberry Hill into a charming architectural monstrosity with cardboard battlements, the model for the *Castle of Otranto*, and a monument to the imagination of whimsy.

Next on our list is William Beckford (1760-1844) author of *The History of the Caliph Vathek* (1786), the first Oriental Gothic in literature and still the finest. Like Walpole, the millionaire Beckford rebuilt his Fonthill Abbey into a fairytale castle with secret chambers and filigree arches. Its magnificent tower was not only the tallest in all England, but also the most grotesque. It collapsed six times, each time being rebuilt with even more fantastic lopsidedness. Beckford was infatuated with the ten-year-old boy William Courtenay, who lived with him for six years as the favourite member of the harem of boy-valets in Beckford's Gothic empire of 6000 acres.

In spite of his refined gentility (Mozart was his private piano teacher), Beckford led a life of scandalous hedonism, followed by an entourage larger than that of the Emperor of Austria. But he went into relative seclusion after the Vere Street Scandal of 1810 in which a boy-brothel was raided and numerous English noblemen were incarcerated, exiled and manhandled by the hysterical mob. On the execution of Lord Eglerton, Beckford wrote: "Tomorrow they are going to hang a poor honest sodomite. I should like to know what kind of deity they fancy they are placating with these shocking human sacrifices." Beckford then got married in order to avoid a similar fate.

The hero of *Vathek* is "the charming Gulchenrouz, the most delicate and lovely creature in the world," modelled upon Courtenay. The novel contains various gay episodes and some brilliant satire on human folly, represented by his wife. It ends with the villainous Vathek's sacrifice of fifty little boys over a steep cliff. Its decadent style was a direct influence upon the novels of Ronald Firbank and Joris-Karl Huysmans, and the poetry of Mallarmé and Swinburne.

Matthew Gregory Lewis (1775-1817), like Walpole and Beckford, was reasonably wealthy and could indulge his interests in the antique and the exotic. He often visited his friends, Byron, Shelley and Goethe (all of whom were bisexual) and created an

interest in German folklore which became the Transylvannian legends essential for later Gothic novels. Lewis' favourite boyfriend was William Kelly, whom he met in 1802 when Kelly was fourteen. But Kelly was peevish, irascible, "wandering" and caused Lewis much grief and anguish, making his life rather melancholy.

In 1796 (when he was only 21) Lewis had published *The Monk*, the best Gothic horror story of the century, which later influenced works by Byron, the Marquis de Sade, Baudelaire and the French Decadents, Andre Breton and the French Surrealists, Victor Hugo, E T A Hoffman, Poe, Hawthorne, Melville and Emily Bronte. The novel concerns a monk who falls in love with another monk, who turns out to be a woman in disguise, and is finally discovered to be a demon sent from Satan to corrupt him. He succumbs and is damned eternally. The plot is melodramatic, but the characters are so realistically drawn that we sympathise with all of them, including the boy-girl-demon.

Lewis made his money from the West Indies slave trade, and in 1817 voyaged to Jamaica in order to better their treatment and living conditions. He died en route, and his coffin mysteriously slipped overboard and was lost at sea.

Another humanitarian of sorts was John Polidori (1795-1821), whom Lord Byron chose as his private physician and bed-companion for a trip to Italy in 1816. Polidori, the youngest physician ever to graduate from the University of Edinburgh, was a vain and supercilious person, easily insulted and prone to tantrums. For a while he was an amusing companion, but he finally became a nuisance, and Byron fired him.

But that summer in Italy was reasonably happy, for Byron, Polidori, Percy Shelley and Mary Shelley got together at the Villa Diodatti in Geneva and decided to write ghost stories. Shelley gave up, preferring poetry to prose, though he had earlier written two Gothic novels, *Zastrozzi* and *St Irvyng*. Mary Shelley eventually produced *Frankenstein*. Byron scribbled a brief fragment of a vampire tale. And Polidori, whose father had translated Walpole's *Castle Of Otranto* into Italian, produced *The Vampyre*, the first vampire tale in English literature.

His novel was immensely popular, undergoing several translations and stage productions. Someone followed up with *The Son Of The Vampyre*, beginning a tradition that would culminate in Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. In the tale, the strange and supernatural power by which the vampire Lord Ruthven causes the death of his victim Aubrey is modelled upon Polidori's own erotic fascination with Lord Byron. After being fired by Byron, Polidori returned to a dull-physician's

life in London and five years later killed himself with poison. Byron, when he heard of it, said only "Poor Polly is gone."

Other later Gothic horror stories by gay writers could be cited: Oscar Wilde's own *Picture of Dorian Gray*; Huysman's *Down There*; Marcel Schwob's short stories in the 1890s; Julian Gracq's *Castle of Argol* (1949), the first example of modern Gothic Surrealism; Henry James's *The Turn of the Screw*, in which Miles and Peter Quint may have been lovers, regarded as the best horror story ever written; and literally a host of others.

With such a wealth of interesting material for research, it is not surprising that even the undisputed critical authority on the Gothic novel was gay. Montague Summers (1880-1948) compiled the standard bibliography of Gothic novels, the definitive critical study *The Gothic Quest*, and numerous related works such as *The Vampire: His Kith And Kin*, *The Vampire In Europe*, *The History Of Witchcraft and Demonology*, *The Geography of Witchcraft*, *The Werewolf*, a study of the Marquis de Sade, and hundreds of other books.

Summers was a Catholic priest of sorts, though he once performed a Black Mass and practised black magic. He was often seen in weird black robes crossing the reading room of the British Museum, carrying under his arm an ancient volume marked SATANISM; in bold scarlet letters. This erudite scholar wrote several Gothic tales himself, and openly gay poetry dealing with S&M, necrophilia and religious eroticism, suggesting that only the most refined and judicious sensibilities can learn to love a vampire.



'Terry — he's me mate — gets dead jealous if I go out on me own. I have to watch he don't try and follow me. He's done that before now. Course, I'm not supposed to mind when he goes and brings something home. Well, sometimes it don't bother me. Anything for a change, that's me. I'll try anything that's different. If you don't try it you don't know what you're missing, do you? Ray was the worst though. Me and Terry nearly split up for good on account of him. See, Terry and Ray used to knock about together before he met me. I was still living at home with me Mam then. After me Dad died, Mam took Terry in for a lodger, I used to spend hours in his room. It got so I'd often stay there all night, sleep with him. Me Mam knew what was going on, like, but she never said nothing. She's dead broad-minded is me Mam, and she liked Terry.

I found out that Ray had took a flat up the road and there was Terry trying to keep the two of us happy. I wasn't having that. Well, things got a bit rough, I got fed up and I told me Mam I was leaving home. She had a bad time then, I know. See, I'm all she has to care about now. I went off to Portsmouth and had a great time. When the fleet's in you know they're dead generous with their money. Really splash it around, some of them. Good food, nice hotels, big soft beds, I got round quite a bit. It's nice down that part of the country, very nice. You want to try Portsmouth sometime. You can't fail there. I sometimes wonder why I bothered coming back. I got fed up I expect. Besides, I missed Terry.

When I come home, Terry had moved in with Ray. To be near the shop, he said. He sells old furniture, second-hand stuff. I help out in the shop Saturdays. Here, there was this feller come in a few weeks back asking to see what carpets we got. I took him upstairs to show him the stock. Only he's more interested in me and we ended up down on the carpets. Good job it was a slack day for customers. It's dead boring though, sometimes. I had me seventeenth birthday after I come home from Portsmouth and I'd had enough of living at home. I told Terry I wanted to live out and he told Ray to sling his hook. Me and Terry took over Ray's flat. Me Mam was pleased. See, we were only moving round the corner. Ray didn't give up that easy though. He still had his own latch-key and I used to have to keep the latch on so he'd have to knock. You know, make him see he couldn't just come and go as he



Trade Secrets Colin's Story

by Keith Harrison

liked. I've nothing against Ray, he's quite nice really. I wasn't going to share Terry with anybody else, that's all.

Terry didn't care a monkey's. He thought it was all straight between us and he was quite happy with the three of us in one bed, but I got so I couldn't stand for it no more. I'm that fond of him that I often buy him steak for his tea. Just the sight of raw meat fair turns me stomach. I'm vegetarian like me Dad was, but I cook Terry his tea-time steak regular. I have to keep his strength up, don't I? I come out the kitchen one night with Terry's steak on a plate and there's Ray sat at the table, large as life and twice as ugly. I knew I'd left the latch down, so I guessed Terry had let him in. "Fetch us another plate for Ray," says Terry. "Let him fetch it himself," I says and chucked the steak at pair of them. "Make up your mind," I says, "it's me or him." I slams the

door and buggers off down to the pub. Dead dramatic, it was. When I got back Ray had gone. He'd got the message at last. He still comes round sometimes and we're still mates. We have a drink together now and then.

They all know about me and Terry down the pub. It's great. We have a good laugh about it and nobody minds. Terry's drinking heavy again just now. Comes home paralytic some nights and I have to drag him to bed. It's terrible. There I am, lying wide awake and all hot for it, and he's no good for nothing. Just lies there snoring his head off. He was thirty-one last week, perhaps he's losing interest? Here, he fell off a bus last night coming home. Got off at the wrong stop. They picked him up off the road that pissed he couldn't even remember his name or address. Blood all over him when they brought him home. Laugh? I could have died.

He's got a very jealous nature, Terry has. He gets real nasty when I want to go out on me own. I have to tell him where I'm off to and that. He gives me the third degree when I get back as well, unless he's too pissed to care. He keeps a gun under the pillow. It's kept loaded, but he don't have no license. Here, I can always shop him if I wanted to get me own back on him, couldn't I? You want to watch out for coppers, they're as bad as all the rest. I was waiting for the all-night bus once, sheltering from the rain in a shop doorway. This copper came in and stood just in front of me, with his hands behind his back. Next thing I know, me flies is undone. I've always fancied a copper, it must be the uniform as does it. Wouldn't like their job.

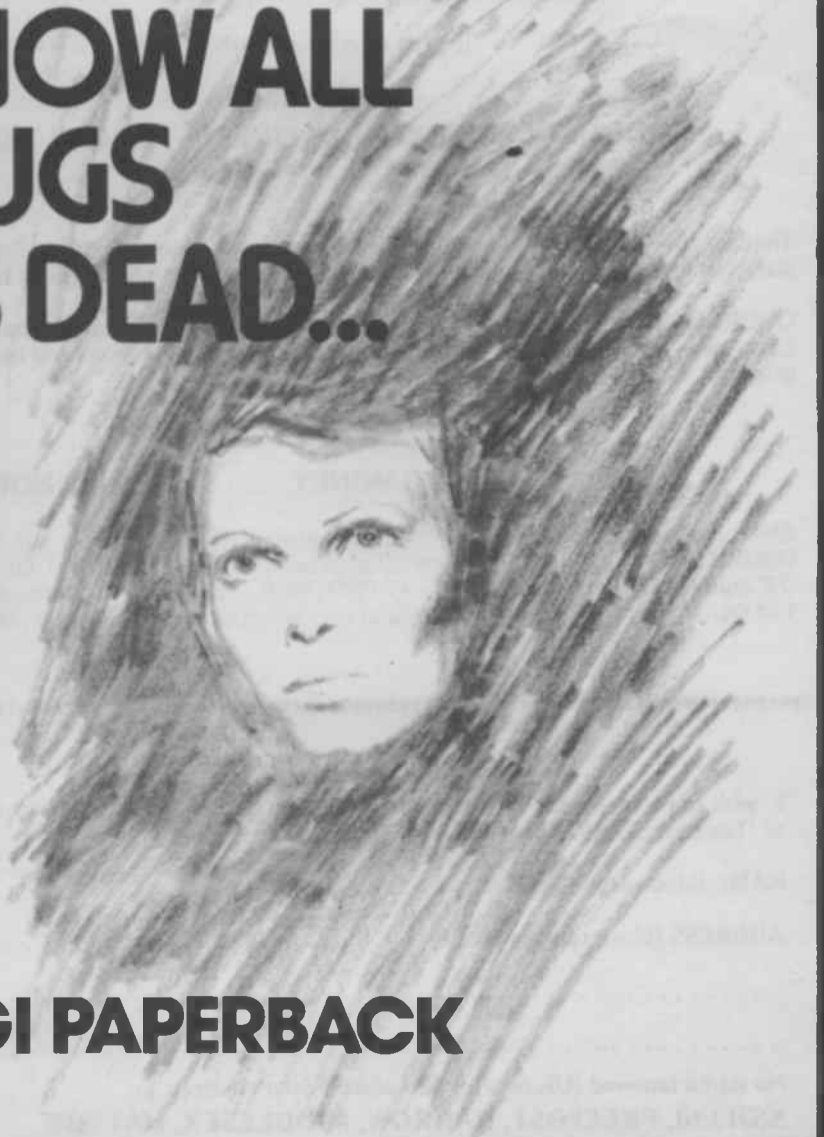
I don't seem to stay in a job more than a few weeks. I get sort of bored and I ask for me cards. All the jobs I've had were dead boring. I get so I can't face going to work, so I go off on the sick for a couple of days, then hand in me cards and off down the Labour. I'm working in a mill now, watching a machine. I have to make sure it don't break down. It's bloody terrible. There's thousands of little tiny needles you have to keep threaded. If a thread snaps I'm supposed to stop the machine, else yards and yards of cloth gets to be wasted. I don't think I could stick it if it wasn't for me mates there. Two of them's as camp as they come. One of them's only little, — Kenny — Queen Kenny we call him, he's a bloody scream. I think I'll get fed up and leave before long though.

I don't know what I'd like to do. Never did. Here, I used to be a Boy Scout once. They wanted me to be a Queen's Scout. No. Honest! I'd never have passed the exams, though. I couldn't remember all the knots. It's not really me, is it? Anyway I left the Scouts when I got put on probation. I went in this cottage up town and this feller come in, shoulders on him this wide he had. "Going somewhere exciting tonight?" he says. Silly bugger here says "Nowhere special." So he arrests me. Plain clothes. Loitering for an immoral purpose, they said. They give me three months probation. I had to go up every week for three months. Nice young probation officer he was too, it was a real shame. They wanted to know why I did it. I told them I didn't know. They made me promise not to do it again. Well, I promised of course. I knew Terry was waiting for me back home.'

Illustration: Jean-Claude Thievenin

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BUSMAN'S HOLIDAY



ONE of the perquisites of being a fashion journalist is the pleasure to be derived from the zest with which manufacturers and retailers vie with one another to seduce the fashion press by feeding it tiny rolls of smoked salmon and long tulip glasses of champagne before entertaining it with fashion shows which are becoming increasingly more imaginative and as exciting as the best cabaret acts. Possibly to compensate for the often indifferent clothes, the models parade with choreographed precision to some of the most ambitious son et lumiere this side of Zizi Jeanmaire at the Folies Bergere. Afterwards, there is more champagne and an extended opportunity for gossip and anxious note-swapping between the trays of hot savouries and little canapes intended to refresh and hearten frail hacks who may have to walk as far as five yards before finding a cab to whirl them back to their respective publications. There were some half dozen of these delightful interludes for me during the past fortnight and, with a nod to objective reporting, I catalogue a few of the better clothes shown:

Sekers Fabrics, of Sloane Street, presented the latest show by the Japanese couturier Yuki. Along with Kenzo, star of recent Paris fashion shows, the inventive design talents of the Orient translated into Western terms is one of the most amazing success stories of '70s fashion. Yuki's forte is evening wear and frequent fashion points were Gothic V-necks, batwing sleeves often cut as low as the hips, and occasional polo necks from which the main body of the dresses hung in well-regulated soft folds. It is a simple, classic look with much of the flair and draped beauty of the kimono and these clothes are meant for, and look best in, swirling movement.

Rather nearer home, one of the advantages of the Common Market is, I suppose, that British fashion acquires a much wider mar-



Rodier-Monsieur: Navy blazer with three patch pockets worn over grey jersey trousers featuring front pleat and angled pockets. The wool/acetate blend crew-neck sweater is shown in one of a selection of jacquard patterns. Other colours available. From Rodier, Sloane Street, London SW1

ket for 'le style anglais', but there is also a reciprocal benefit in that we, in turn, have greater access to the best (and worst) of Continental fashion. Rodier, one of the most reliable and best known names in Europe, opened their first boutique in Britain last month. The red and white painted shop in Sloane Street is stocked with well-designed clothes for both men and women. Which would not be anything special, were it not for the fact that great care has been

taken to assemble a collection of separates well co-ordinated in style and colour intended to take the hassle out of flying hither and thither in a desperate attempt to match up an outfit from as many different shops as the outfit has component parts. The French flair for seemingly effortless casual chic, is in fact, the very devil to achieve and more often than not requires more thought, planning and hard work than most busy people have time and patience to organise. Rodier, by presenting a range of intelligent and beautiful co-ordinates, solves your problems on that score at least. Very French, very smart and very expensive. Worth investigation.

The most extravagant busman's holiday was Harrod's Autumn Fashion Show. Wedged between 'Vogue' on my right and a fashion manufacturer on my left, I thoroughly enjoyed the sheer entertainment of the presentation. What I didn't like quite so much was the clothing, except for a selection of really nice black dresses in floor and knee length by Frank Usher and by Marcel Fenez, plus a very grand finale of lovely smoke-blue sequined djellabas by the eclectic talent of John Bates for Jean Varon. He also produced three vast, swirling, pleated tricolour floor-length smock dresses with high yokes in a yellow/beige colour which were pleasing to the eye. The menswear was uniformly dull — but in Harrods Good Taste — and the new Boss range from Way In was expensive and unimaginative. If you are in the league where you pay £50 to £60 for a jacket, you will be better off going to St Laurent's Rive Gauche shops or Brown's in South Molton Street where there are some really good-looking Italian designs, superbly cut in the latest shorter, no-vents style. The Harrods selection of furs for men was clearly designed with Man-Mountain-Dean in mind. Vast, shaggy coats in pale colours, reminiscent of an albino variation on 1920s Harvard men's muskrat swagger coats, weighed down and submerged the most valiant attempts of the models to give them flair and movement.

The best, however, was yet to come three days later, at the Sabre menswear show. The chill air at 9.30am was heated up

by a brisk, eye-riveting collection of swimming trunks and lean brown bodies muscling their path through the usual gaggle of press and buyers. The tight, stretch boxer shape was well in evidence in a variety of prints or plain self-coloured with decorative stitching and piping; but the bikini slip which has established itself as a popular winner was also well represented. Jacquard print T-shirts, occasionally matched to the material used for the swimming pants, created a well put-together look for chilly British beaches. This year, Sabre has also produced a large range of inventive woollies with interesting cross-over necklines, intarsia patterns, jacquard knitting and contrast stripes designed to bring Saturday casuals forward into the rest of the week. The Sabre range will be distributed through menswear retailers country-wide and you could do a great deal worse than save up for a whole drawerful of their classic shapes in the new shorter length (ie waist length pulled in with ribbed knitting) for Spring '74. The swim trunks and bikinis should be available in time for next year's vacations and if they do as much for you as they did for the model boys, I'd like to be there to see it.

Heigh ho, all this and money too — my careers master never told me it was going to be like this . . .!

Iain T Finlayson

FOOTNOTE: Iain hopes to be of some help to any readers who have particular dress or appearance problems. Contact him by writing to Iain Finlayson, 'Rags', Gay News, 62a Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY. Please enclose a 3½p stamp for forwarding your letter, and a stamped addressed envelope for Iain's reply.

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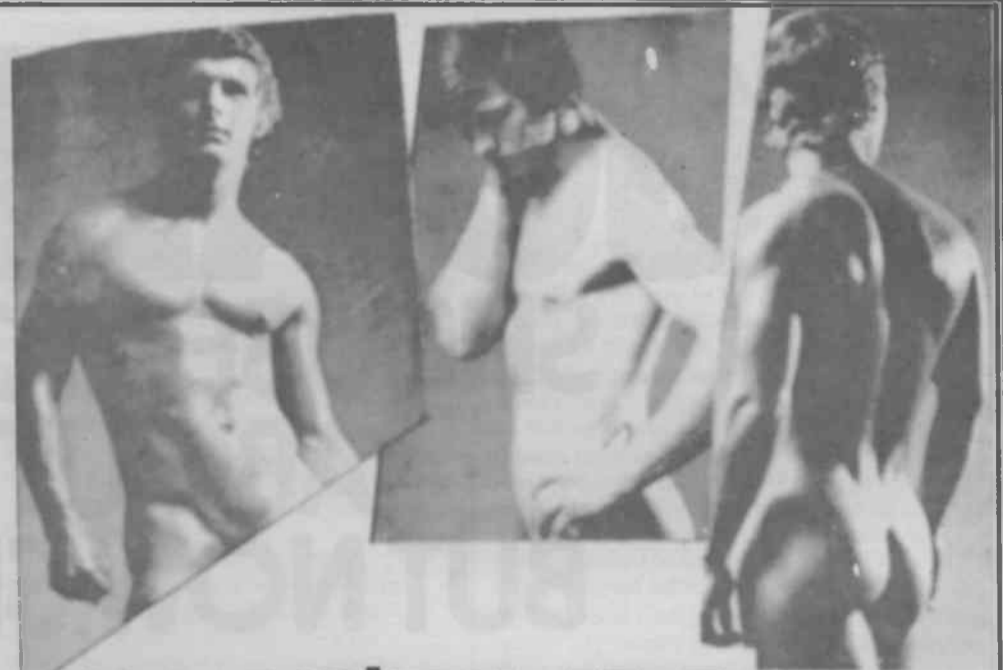
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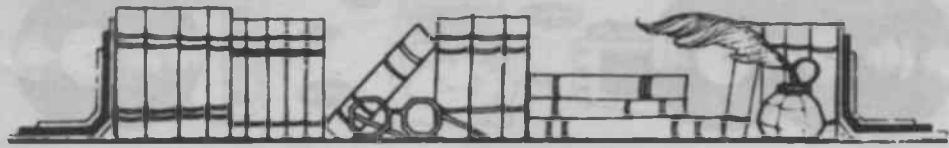
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VOLUME 2



Sapphic Women: Real People

LOVE BETWEEN WOMEN by Charlotte Wolff. Published by Duckworth. Paperback £1.50

FIRST published in 1971, this revised edition in paperback of LOVE BETWEEN WOMEN by Charlotte Wolff has been meticulously updated to include the contemporary scene of the major Gay Organisations by the addition of an extra appendix. Re-reading LBW two years later I am astonished at the proliferation of gay societies and associations in such a short time, let alone gay publications. In the present atmosphere of coming together and coming out, LBW weathers very well and is still a unique record about the reality of lesbianism in Britain.

Charlotte Wolff has merged a medical text book with a human document which absorbs the general reader as much as the specialist. For once lesbians are not just medical case histories of deviants vis-a-vis normals, but are women of involvement in society, with families, lovers, jobs, clothes, dreams, achievements and faults. She, herself, is very much part of the book, which gives a warm authenticity to what she writes, instead of the usual clinical pronouncement to which lesbians have been martyrs — on the few occasions they have been taken seriously!

"Lesbian love . . . has a definite profile which is quite different from that of heterosexual love. It's 'radio-active' core lies in emotion and romanticism, while physical contact is a by-product only and neither a goal nor a necessary outlet. There have been and there are many lesbians, particularly in the older age groups, who have lived happily with their beloved friends over the years without any sexual acts . . . Emotion is the life centre of lesbian love. It often leads to emotionalism (my italics) because of certain sexual frustrations. As all interviewees saw emotion as the very essence of their attachments and relationships, I coined the word 'homoemotional' to replace the terms lesbian and homosexual."

She traces the history of lesbianism through Sappho (preferring the term 'sapphic' to 'lesbian'), psychologists and writers. Quoting copiously from Freud, Ferenczi, Melanie Klein, Groddeck, Hirschfeld, Havelock-Ellis, de Beauvoir, Friedan, Kraft-Fibbing among others, she argues with them and analyses them in her capacity as a psychiatrist. She even argues with herself:

"I have been vacillating in my ideas about the possible causes of lesbianism since my student days . . . I always realised, of course, the importance of environmental influences, but believed that the basic structure of the individual could only be understood through biological functioning, particularly those of the endocrine glands, and through genetics . . . It is, today, unthinkable to concentrate only on one type of research. Biological and psychological functions form an unbreakable unit and nobody really knows where the frontier lies between the two."

She puts paid to the idea of lesbians wanting to be men and does not agree with Freud's theory of penis envy and castration complex. She rounds off the first section of her book with her own theory of lesbianism, which enlarges upon her word 'homoemotional'.

" . . . the sameness of the psycho-physical reactions entails the possibility of an understanding on every level so complete as to be incomparable to any other form of love. There is no need to grope for the right response: it is given *per se*. Thus lesbian love can, at its best, fulfill the impossible; the intertwining of the most exciting



emotional ecstasy with the greatest sensuous intimacy. The anatomical bisexuality of women allows for a considerable variety in love-play, when the masculine partner of one day becomes the feminine one on another occasion."

The second section describes her method of investigation. Ninety questions were asked in one questionnaire and answered by both controls and lesbians who volunteered from Kenric and Arena Three readers. A separate one enquired about the intimate details of sex life from lesbians only. The results are tabulated in twenty-seven tables at the end of the book. Charlotte Wolff requested written biographies from lesbians and interviewed them in depth. The interviews are described in detail. Three autobiographies are published, unedited, and are followed by the author's comments.

LBW is not without undisputed feminist statements, before women's liberation really took off. Charlotte Wolff provokes speculation and re-thinking about this overlooked basic truth:

"The male also underwent a shaping and mis-shaping process through the pressures of civilisation. He has, however, been less affected by it than the female, who became what he wanted her to be . . . The lesbian has not escaped the inevitable change through social evolution either. But has she perhaps remained closer to the authentic woman than the 'normal' female? She has been far less gripped and affected by male demands which determined character traits and emotional reactions in other women, AND SHE INSISTED ON THE EQUALITY OF THE SEXES LONG BEFORE WOMEN'S RIGHTS WERE DECLARED."

Sappho

Dated Views On Gayness

THE FUNDAMENTALS OF SEX by Dr Philip Cauthery. Illustrated by Dr Martin Cole. Published by Corgi Books at 50p

THE FIRST thing that ought to be said about the Fundamentals of Sex is that this is not one of those pornographic books which masquerade as 'sex education'. This is the real McCoy.

I am acquainted with both of the authors and have worked with them, and I know that their interest in sex stems from a deep humanitarian concern for the welfare of their fellow man, and not from a cheap desire to titillate. Their involvement with the Birmingham Pregnancy Advisory Service and the Calthorpe Nursing Home, for example, was not motivated by personal gain, for there was none, except perhaps the satisfaction which comes from helping young women in a crisis situation. Philip Cauthery is also the Medical Director of the University of Aston where he's something of a cult figure with the students, and Dr Martin Cole wrote and produced the controversial sex education film Growing Up which freaked out the Festival of Light mob. Together, they are Founders of ISER, the Institute of Sex Education and Research. No two persons are better qualified to write a sex-education book which is never dull because it's intelligent, well-written and fully comprehensive, covering a physiological description of the human male and female, their psychosexual development and sexual intercourse; pregnancy and birth control; and venereal diseases and related conditions.

Of course they both deserve to have the backs of their knees smacked for including homosexuality in the chapter entitled 'Normality, Sex Deviations and the Law', but homosexuality is one subject on which I've never been able to communicate with them fully, although Dr Cole admits that he wishes that he were bisexual (because then his chances of scoring would be automatically doubled) and both he and his wife Barbara, make no bones about the

fact that she is bisexual.

However informed and enlightened they may be on most other aspects of sex, they display a remarkable ignorance of homosexuality which one can almost forgive them because they virtually admit that they 'don't know'. They examine this possibility and that and come up with no conclusive answers — which isn't surprising since they're looking, one suspects, for proof which doesn't exist to support conclusions they've already drawn. Once they get 'with it' and stop speculating about the causes of homosexuality (which cause them so much perplexity) and accept homosexuality as an alternative life-style, they will be able to offer homosexuals the same help they give heterosexuals.

Until then the following comment is inexcusable and damning: "Ultimately homosexuality does not make biological sense, especially where it is an exclusive activity, and in this way it could be regarded as abnormal. However, the disruptions which commonly occur within the personality and sexuality in such cases would probably prevent the homosexual from ever becoming an adequate parent, so it is as well that such people do not reproduce." *Nasty!*

James Tyson

Cause For Celebration

ESQUIRE — 40th Anniversary Edition — £1.20

This month Esquire draws upon its very illustrious past and comes up with one of the most impressive anthologies of American writing ever seen. You'll find the expected short novels by authors such as Hemingway ("Snows of Kilimanjaro") and Truman Capote ("Breakfast at Tiffany's") plus some delightful pieces from the likes of Dorothy Parker and John Steinbeck. Amongst some often superb examples of journalism is a fascinating study of American Senator Joseph McCarthy's last day. In all a very enjoyable and valuable assemblage of writings.

Stephen MacLean

Gay Author Gets Liberated

LAURENCE COLLINSON, gay activist, poet, playwright and Gay News contributor has just received two awards from the Literature Board of the Australian Council for the Arts.

The first was a special grant of 2000 Australian dollars to offer him financial security. The second came a couple of weeks later when Laurie was additionally awarded a two-year fellowship worth 6000 Australian dollars — that is about £3000 sterling a year.

Although only about 90 writers out of a total of 1,100 applicants have benefitted from the Australian Federal Government's generosity, the liberality of this scheme — which involves well over one million dollars, is probably without precedent in English-writing countries.

"I can hardly wait until my Fellowship begins," Laurie told Gay News, "which is in January. It is the first time in my life I have had the freedom to write full time." Immediate projects which the grants will allow him to complete, include the revision of a volume of his collected poems, the completion of a new play and a novel about wartime Brisbane, a city he lived in for over a dozen years.

Even considering the necessity to earn bread, Laurie's output has been formidable, including ten plays, all of which have been performed in the theatre, on radio or television here and in Australia. He ranks as one of Australia's main poets: both his plays and poems are anthologised. This year he published the controversial, but fast-selling novel Cupid's Crescent and did a spell on dial-a-poet. Every month his radical column gives pleasure and pain to the readers of Quorum magazine.

This poem, Subterfuge, is from his most recent collection:

*I weary of pretending
I am what I am not;
Of insolently spending
wealth I have not got;
lest, others comprehending,
I lose my little lot.*

*Why am I tormented,
must seek what I must hide,
when all in me intended
never to have lied?
But devils have repented
And honesters have died.*

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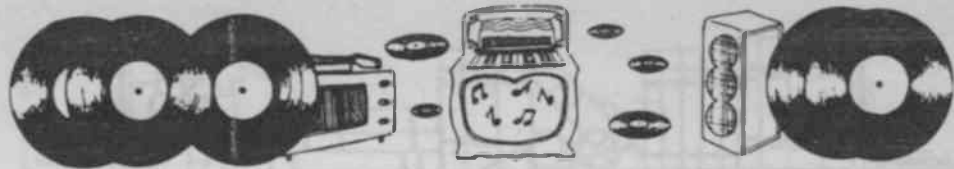
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LET IT BE WRITTEN, LET IT BE SUNG - Ellie Greenwich - MGM 2315243

One of the most prolific and successful song-writers of the 1960's was Ellie Greenwich, who, in partnership with other talented writers such as Jeff Barry and Phil Spector, composed some of the finest and most memorable pop songs of that decade. The ultimate proof of her worth is the long list of million selling records to her credit. To name but a few (and the artists who recorded them):

Leader Of The Pack (The Shangri-Las) Chapel Of Love (The Dixie Cups) Maybe I Know (Leslie Gore) Be My Baby and Baby I Love You (The Ronettes), Doo Wah Diddy Diddy (Manfred Mann) And Then He Kissed Me and Da Doo Ron Ron (The Crystals) and one of the all time pop classics River Deep Mountain High (Ike and Tina Turner).

Ms Greenwich wasn't just a writer though, she was the commercially successful Raindrops vocal group (she sang all the voices) who had a number of chart entries in the States. She also produced all of Neil Diamond's early hits, including Cherry Cherry and Kentucky Women.

Recently released is Let It Be Written, Let It Be Sung, on which Ellie Greenwich sings many of the hits she wrote for other artists. And they aren't just re-hashes of the originals, for each is given a new and exciting arrangement enhanced even more by her impeccable production. Included are versions of Maybe Know, And Then He Kissed Me, Be My Baby, Chapel Of Love, River Deep Mountain High, I Can Hear Music and Today I Met The Boy I'm Gonna Marry. The latter two songs were hits for the Beach Boys and Darlene Love respectively. The remaining tracks are all equally good.

You've probably got the message by now that I think Ellie Greenwich is a rather exceptional person. Listen to her album and you shouldn't have much difficulty in understanding my fervour. Pop music at its very best.

LOVE - Elektra K32002

Love suffered from one of the anomalies that sometimes occur in the pop world. They had everything a group should have: the right name (they lived and played in California during the 'flower-power' days of the mid-1960s), their sound had an unparalleled uniqueness, they had a charisma of weirdness, dope, 'love' and hippie sunshine and the band's leader was the legendary eclectic genius Arthur Lee. Nevertheless, they remained a truly 'underground' group, never gaining more than an ardent cult following.

A compilation album simply called Love has just been issued and is a release in the medium priced series, Elektra Masters. There is a generous total of sixteen tracks, mostly taken from the group's first three albums and representing some of their finest material. Amongst them there are My Little Red Book, Signed D C, Hey Joe, the complete version of 7 and 7 Is Number Fourteen (previously only available on a double sided single), Orange Skies and She Comes In Colours. From their third album Forever Changes, cuts such as A House Is Not A Motel, Andmore-again and Alone Again Or are taken to demonstrate what is considered to be Love's masterpiece (it's influence was very much responsible for the increased use of brass in rock music since the late 1960's).

Also, Your Mind And We Belong Together and Laughing Stock, which were the two sides of a long deleted single are included, the latter appearing on a Love album for the first time, (the former was on a full priced collection called Love Revisited).

Despite the success of many amazing West Coast groups, who also surfaced in the 1960s (Jefferson Airplane, The Doors, The Grateful Dead, Quicksilver Messenger Service) Love have remained sadly underrated and unrecognised. Even now, many years after the tracks on Love were recorded, it is difficult for the discerning listener to understand why they have been so neglected. Subsequently, this record is an essential addition to the collection of any serious student of contemporary music. Buy it.

CLASSICS - NICE 'N' EASY - Tilsley Orchestral - Philips International - 6641148

This two volume set's title, Classics Nice 'N' Easy more or less says everything there is to say about this latest release in Philips' 2 albums for the price of 1' series.

The track listing reads like a composers' 'Who's Who'. Works by Grieg, Tchaikovsky, Chopin, Dvorak, Rimsky-Korsakoff, Brahms, Debussy, Bach, Mendelssohn and Beethoven are transformed into pieces of high class muzak. Each composition is given a discreet 'beat' and the arrangements are all deliciously lush and sweeping.

Classical purists will no doubt be horrified by the interpretations, but for people who like the type of music played to passengers waiting for delayed flights at airport terminals, there are many treats in store. Seriously though, Classics - Nice 'n' Easy is well recorded and orchestrated background music, that will be especially appreciated by anyone with a sense of humour.

AFRODISIAC - The Main Ingredient - RCA SF 8367

The Main Ingredient made a sizable impact earlier this year with their hit singles You've Got To Take It and Everybody Plays The Fool, and the album Bitter Sweet further showcased the three-man group's collective talents. Their formula for success was a combination of precise, often complex vocal work, contrasting material, stylish arrangements and balanced production. The net result was a disciplined, very melodic brand of soft soul, that never became too sweet because they incorporated enough 'big city' aggression into the sound.

Sadly, the group's new release, Afrodisiac is tediously unstimulating compared to their previous album. Despite the skillful vocals, the arrangements and production are insipid and uninspired. Many of the songs are Stevie Wonder compositions, but the treatment they receive is so unexciting that it is hard to differentiate one track from another. This time round, the 'main ingredient' is too much syrup and not enough soul.

THE BEST OF SKEETER DAVIS - RCA LSA 3153

Skeeter Davis is probably best remembered in Britain for The End Of The World which was a monster hit a few years back. Although still immensely popular in the States, she has failed to repeat her initial success in this country, apart from establishing a small but loyal following in the Black community and a place in the hearts of country & western fanatics, with cuts such as My Last Date (With You), I Forgot More Than You'll Ever Know and Am I That Easy To Forget?

Skeeter specialises in tearful, country & western orientated ballads, as is amply demonstrated on The Best Of...

Apart from the numbers already mentioned, other highlights include I'm Saving My Love, I Will, He Says The Same Things To Me and (I Can't Help You) I'm Falling Too, the latter being her answer to Hank Locklin's chart topper Please Help Me (I'm Falling). The exceptions are Gonna Get Along Without You Now and I Can't Stay Mad At You, on which she can't make up her mind whether she's a country or pop singer. Pleasant tracks all the same.

Issued in a middle priced album series, The Best Of Skeeter Davis is recommended to both country fans and mid 1960s nostalgia freaks. It certainly turned my household on.

THE VOICE OF JAZZ Volume Four - Billie Holiday - Verve 2304114

The releases in Polydor's twelve-album series of recordings of the late Billie Holiday, made for the Verve label, continue to be impressive, with the recently issued fourth volume being the best to date. It is a subtle and highly stimulating set which was made in August 1955 with a small but extremely proficient group of jazz musicians.

Barney Kessel (guitar), Benny Carter (saxes) and Harry Edison (trumpet) all contribute superb performances, particularly Edison's solos and the dialogues between his instrument and Billie's voice.



A number of tracks are absolute gems, with Billie's interpretations of songs such as When Your Lover Has Gone, Please Don't Talk About Me When I'm Gone, Nice Work If You Can Get It and Come Rain Or Come Shine surpassing those of any jazz singer before or since. The rest of the material is of the same high standard, with It Had To Be You, I Gotta Right To Sing The Blues and Prelude To A Kiss being amongst the most memorable cuts. The recording creates a subdued, late-night atmosphere which is ideal for appreciating the unique artistry of the one singer who above all others deserves the title 'The Voice of Jazz'. If you haven't yet heard any of the records in this series, volume four is a perfect introduction. You won't be disappointed.

ANGEL CLARE - Garfunkel - CBS 69021

After reading some unflattering comments about Arthur Garfunkel's Angel Clare, I approached his long-awaited solo album with some trepidation. Surely the angel faced, silver voiced former member of the now defunct Simon & Garfunkel duo hadn't started his new recording career with a bad record.

He hasn't, of course. Although no world-shattering masterpiece, it is a cleverly conceived and beautifully executed recording, that puts to shame the pop world's apparent pre-occupation with over-indulgence, hype and mediocrity.



Don't expect to find another Bridge Over Troubled Water though, a song like that is a once in a while event. Instead, look forward to some very tasteful, often moving performances, that are magnificently arranged and richly orchestrated. Garfunkel's choice of material is also excellent, with songs by such gifted writers as Paul Williams, Jimmy Webb, Randy Newman and Van Morrison. For instance his interpretation of Paul Williams' Travelling Boy is particularly impressive, as well as being an ideal number to begin the album.

Records often sell in great quantities solely because of an artist's past achievements. And sometimes the public buys some very uninspired product. Garfunkel will undoubtedly enjoy much success with Angel Clare because of his talent, not his reputation.

HITS | GREATEST & OTHERS - Joan Baez - Vanguard VSD 79332

Since signing with A&M Records, Joan Baez's previous company, Vanguard, has been issuing compilations made up of the substantial amount of material she recorded during her long stay with them. Hits/Greatest & Others is the latest such release and whilst it is of little use to devoted Baez fans, who probably have most of the albums the cuts originally appeared on, it is an excellent buy for those whose devotion hasn't been quite so faithful.

The eleven tracks are all interpretations of contemporary songs, amongst the best being Ms Baez's bittersweet versions of Eleanor Rigby, Let It Be, Help Me Make It Through The Night, There But For Fortune, Heaven Help Us All and I Pity The Poor Immigrant. Also included is The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down, one of the biggest hits in her career.

Denis Lemon

10cc - UK Records UKAL 1005

Jonathan King, mentor of UK Records, certainly seems to have a penchant for sleazy cheap rock sounds à la the late 50s. Firstly his Rocky Horror album (reviewed this page), and now this thing. It could well have been the soundtrack of a Sandra Dee high school confidential flick, had she made one (Gidget Goes Berserk?)

Rubber Bullets, included here, was a hit for 10cc, probably because of the copyist Beachboys high harmonies which the group are very reliant on.

10cc sing about high school proms 90 pound weaklings who have sand kicked in their faces. Their lyrics are delightfully inane: West Coast nostalgia very amusingly performed.

10cc manage to enter the realms of satire. Their style is almost always directly derivative, but the old pop sounds belched forth here somehow emerge as refreshing. The album is fun.

Stephen MacLean

JUDY GARLAND | LIZA MINELLI 'LIVE' AT THE LONDON PALLADIUM - Capitol EST 11191

Presumably Liza Minelli's recent rise to world fame has prompted the release of this shortened version of her Palladium concert with Judy Garland, originally issued as a double album in 1964.

The show itself was a massive sellout drawing much critical acclaim for both mother and daughter, while Ms Minelli was promptly announced a new star on her first introduction to a British audience.

The now single LP contains some of the best of their duets, including Together, Swanee, Hello Dolly with adapted lyrics suitable to the occasion, and an incredibly messy version of He's Got The Whole World In His Hands that brings credit to neither lady.

Liza, already by then assured and mature though slightly more strident than now, belts out on her two solo tracks, Gypsy In My Soul and Who's Sorry Now. Judy's voice by 1964 was not at its best, but still very far from its worst. Slightly hoarse and faltering, she struggles through The Man That Got Away, more than amends with What Now My Love, but disappoints on the compulsory Over The Rainbow.

It's a shame that the compiler didn't omit one of these numbers to leave space for the touching version of Smile which was easily her best track on the original 2-record set.

Norman Pratt

Ben Bagley & Michael McWhinney's RODGERS & HART REVISITED - Various Artists - SF 8375

Another in Bagley's composer series, and this one has been a personal favourite of mine since its release in America ten years ago. Lorenz Hart's way with a lyric was only rivalled by Cole Porter, and his marvellous air of cynicism was unique in song writing. The album is virtually a showcase for two American artists unknown here, Charlotte Rae and Dorothy Loudon.



Both get the chance to handle ballads and up-tempo songs, and they are equally at home with either type of material, as witness Rae's campy I Blush, and Loudon's cynical bitter-sweet This Funny World. Elsewhere, for curiosity seekers, there are three melodies contained here, which include two separate sets of lyrics. I was particularly interested in comparing the original songs, which were dropped from shows before they reached Broadway, with the second set of alternative lyrics used in a later show. If you haven't heard any of the Bagley collection I recommend this set as a good beginning.

Barry Conley

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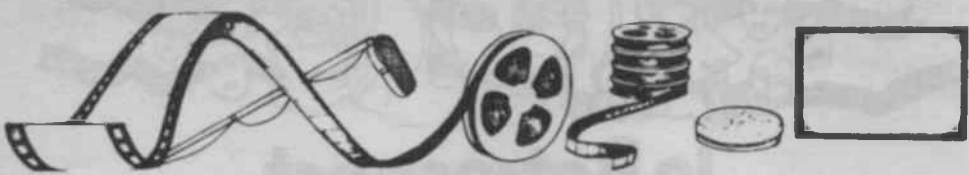
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The Screen Scene

THE ADVENTURES OF BARRY MCKENZIE (Columbia-Warner) directed by Bruce Beresford, which chronicles the incidents of the Private Eye cartoon strip character's life as he journeys through the English bureaucracies, establishments and lifestyles, applying the naivete of his middle class oppressed Australian mentality to them all. As in all successful satires the strength of the jokes, which in this particular film are often highly sexual, doesn't belie the satire's purpose in seeking to destroy established ideas through its mocking caricatures.

They are all delights. Barry the arch poof baiter, but terrified of girls. Flowery Aunt Edna (Barry Humphries in drag), who addresses English middle class ladies as "Your Excellency". They meet Joan Bakewell doing a programme on the new Australians and other assorted BBC trendies, Judith Furse as a lesbian called Claude who attempts to seduce Aunt Edna, and lives in a house called Radclyff Hall. Avice Lauren and Dennis Price as the social clambering Rickmansworth couple trying to marry their daughter into money, disinfecting the mail after it's been delivered by a black postman; Dennis Price in his last desperate role henpecked into his only escape, dressing up in his old public school uniform and begging to be whipped. There's even a cameo appearance by Jean Fredericks, and Spike Milligan as an ancient, delightfully senile seedy hotel owner who insists you place pound notes in the gas meter.

It's a very, very funny film, mocking the very foundation of our sexual and ethical pretensions, but like all films that annihilate our society, it has a pessimistic seriousness that more often than not drives home the pathos and isolation of homosexuals, Aunt Ednas, middle-aged inhabitants of Rickmansworth, and everyone. The performances are outstanding in this very worthwhile film.

WHEN, near the climax of **THE LEGEND OF HELL HOUSE** (Fox Rank), Roddy McDowell violently hacks a wax model of Michael Gough, the grand master of the British horror movie, sadly lacking from this film in a live form, one is tempted to surmise that we have just witnessed a symbolic ritual killing of the genre of the horror film. And I assure you, that if many other sloppily constructed quickies like this one deign to appear, the horror film will die. Four, only four, it keeps the costs at a minimum, shallow characters, played by Roddy McDowell, Clive Revill, Gayle Hunnicutt and Pamela Franklin, two of whom are mediums, descend on a haunted house surrounded by typically American and British fog, to purge it of the ghostly spirit of its former occupants, surprise, surprise, an aristocratic family now deceased, but haunted by the ghost of the scurrilous son, who it is divulged, dabbled in bestiality and vampirism no less.

The tables vibrate, the black cat leaps, the unfamiliar voices reverberate, one of the girls is crushed to death by a falling statue. The success of such familiar ploys relies on a directorial skill, which John Hough in this particular film doesn't reach. The psychic happenings and the gruesome horrors emerge predictably without an iota of atmosphere, and the characters are neither credible nor sufficiently fantastic, and I'm afraid it's all a big bore.



Psychic investigator (Pamela Franklin) is viciously attacked by a black cat in 'Legend of Hell House'.

THE FINAL PROGRAMME (Anglo-EMI) directed written and designed by Robert Fuest (based on a novel by Michael Moorcock) who was responsible for the Dr Phibes films, is a science fiction story set in an indeterminate future era immediately before the World is due to finally expire. Jon Finch is Jerry Cornelius, the hero, extravagantly dressed with chocolate coloured finger nails and with a line in camp entendre that unfortunately rarely raises a titter. With his lady companion who is bisexual in a futuristically egalitarian fashion, he sallies forth around the place along a totally illogical story line, surrounded by some of the most chic colourful sets I have seen, before finally disappearing into a machine with his lady companion, which is going to turn them into a single hermaphrodite, the new human being. He emerges as a cave man and walks off into the sunset.

I'm afraid the whole exercise defeated me. While I was riveted to the screen during Fuest's visual extravaganzas, the obscurity of the story and the utter and complete failure of the dialogue to generate any reaction from the audience, either intellectually, emotionally or humourously, which one often felt was the vague intention, led me to surmise that in the Hollywood era this film would have been the subject of one of those hurried 're-writes'.

Strictly for the fans the latest Shaw Brothers King-Fu drama, **INTIMATE CONFESSIONS OF A CHINESE COURTESAN** (Anglo-EMI) chronicles the adventures of a young prostitute who has been forced into the low life against her wishes, and seeks revenge against the lesbian madam of the brothel, and the customers. Karate murders abound, and at one stage she successfully defeats ten or more men simultaneously. I'm just waiting for the pseudo left-wing critic who labels this a Women's Lib film.



Gary Grimes plays the part of John Wayne's 17-year-old son in 'Cahill'.

After Watergate, Warnegate, as John Wayne, possibly by a significant stretch of the imagination, armed with Republican funds, ensures his films are laced with a surfeit of propaganda for the American way of strife. **CAHILL** (Columbia-Warner) directed by Andrew V McLagen and produced by son Michael, is possibly the most uneventful, unfunny Western it has been my displeasure to view since I began writing film criticisms for GN. In its plot, no doubt the brainchild of the prodigal Michael, not only does it reek of the most unambitious 1950s B Western, but exemplifies all kinds of distasteful fascism.

Wayne/Cahill is a benevolent tough old lawman, upright, stolid, always a gentleman to the ladies, respected by his ancient Indian servant, who doesn't quite call him "Boss". Unfortunately, and let this be a contemporary lesson to all America's friendly neighbourhood parents, his two sons, Dad being away so much, tracking down bank robbers and the like, fall into evil ways and find themselves helping some nasties rob a bank. But it all turns out all right at the end, because Dad pins a star on his son's chest and together they ride off to track down these despicable men and bring them to justice, not before they have killed the faithful Indian, whose dying request is for a few puffs of one of Big John's fat cigars.

I have but one thing to say about Cahill, Don't go. Just lie back and dream of Stagecoach.

Presidents certainly are no longer American heroes except perhaps to the recumbent middle aged. Youth generally creates its own thrills as does **THE LAST AMERICAN HERO** (Fox Rank), so zestfully and charmingly portrayed by Jeff Bridges. Director Lamont Johnson with a plethora of made-for-TV and other low budget features behind him, has become an expert in converting so-so scripts into scintillating movies, usually by the insertion of competent performers and his own skilful, detailed direction.

My assumption after *The Last Picture Show* and *Fat City*; that Bridges is probably the most fantastic American acting discovery for some years is further fulfilled in his inspiring portrayal of a typically naive, bored young lad from the North Carolina backwoods. Seeking to escape from the constrictions of his outmoded rural family whose life is centred around an illegal whisky distillery, he rapaciously races a car along the rough country roads every night.

When the law catches up with Dad and his whisky, and a jail sentence seems imminent, ambition, the desire to escape and financial needs, cause Junior, via local stock car races, to start climbing the motor racing spiral. Hereafter, the film is decorated with exciting races, and the essence of Johnson's direction which gives his major characters such depth and reality, as well as picking out minor amusing details from his minor characters and locations. One must also credit his superb depiction of the North Carolina mentality, a sort of slow, certainly not slick, unintelligent corruption, and the performance of Geraldine Fitzgerald as Junior's mother, the archetypal loving, stupid, grey-haired, very tired rural wife. Finally, it is Bridges' striking personality his softness and concern, that gives the film such an atmosphere of what appears to be the sophisticated urban eye to be a lyrical romantic struggle, but which is the reality of so many lives.

David Seligman

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QUICK SILVER

Leo's Last Roar: MGM head James Aubrey has announced the studio will no longer produce films for theatrical distribution. Aubrey instituted a policy of low budget features when he took over the studio, and this was not highly successful. A large chunk of MGM's staff in various points of the globe will be dispensed with, and MGM will now concentrate on television.

Judy Garland's last big contract was with Aubrey when he was head of CBS television, the studio which fired him amidst payola scandal. Now Aubrey is posthumously using Judy again. Some long-lost film of Judy singing two songs from 'Annie Get Your Gun' has been found, and will be used in the sequel to a two-hour tribute to MGM's musicals which has just been completed.

Liza Minnelli has signed to provide a brief bit of narration to the documentary, but is emphatically denying she will star in the rock re-make of Judy's 'A Star Is Born', due to begin production soon.

Judy's other daughter, Lorna Luft, has opened at the St Regis Hotel in New York with her father Sid overseeing things. It would seem that Papa is dwelling a bit too much in the past - Variety commented that Lorna's act has been too heavily focussed on nostalgia, and she does not seem overly comfortable working in this idiom.

Death of Anna Magnani: The star, aged (surprisingly) 65, had been suffering from a tumour of the pancreas, and died September 26 in Rome. Magnani grew with the Italian film industry, starring in Roberto Rossellini's 'Open City' after World War II and attracting universal attention.

Tennessee Williams wrote 'The Rose Tattoo' for her, but Magnani withdrew from the Broadway production because her knowledge of English was limited. She starred in the 1955 film version, and won both the Oscar and the NY Film Critics Award.

Magnani was reared in poverty by her grandparents, then studied at the Academy of Dramatic Art whilst doing occasional nightclub singing and vaudeville work. In the early 30's she did her first film for director Geffredo Alessandrini and married him. They had been separated for many years.

At her funeral, crowds outside the church applauded the coffin as it was carried by.

In GN 24 it was reported that Maggie Smith and director George Cukor were huddling over plans to film the life of Gertrude Stein. A change of plans: the pair will now make a film of Virginia Woolf's life.

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Not Quite An Ace

THE CARD at the Queens Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1
I have never read Arnold Bennett's novel, and my recollections of the British film version are dim, so I approached THE CARD with an open mind. This story of a humble clerk, who rises to Mayor of the town, provides a challenge for the leading player, as he is on stage throughout the evening, and must endeavour to keep the audience with him, as he careers from career to career, using people along the way.

Now Jim Dale is a very amiable and personable chap. His energy is boundless, and he dances well enough when the occasion demands. His singing is adequate for the few solo songs he is given to perform, and his playing of the role is both comic and likeable. But never for an instant did I feel him capable of being a 'go-getter'. Far more believable was his blindness towards the scheming Millicent Martin and her motives. I disagree with the decision to keep the hero entirely likeable, but this IS musical comedy and perhaps I place too much importance on his likeability.

The four women in Dale's life are all interesting characterisations. Millicent

Martin gives a subtle performance as the extravagant gold-digger who hooks him. Beautiful as ever, and in fine voice on her waltz-ballad 'Lead Me', and a typical Hatch-Trent up-tempo song 'Moving On'. Marti Webb is the long-suffering heroine, just waiting to be noticed, and she scores well with him on the show's best song 'Opposite Your Smile'. Eleanor Bron steals the show at every appearance as the 'Lady Bountiful' Countess, who becomes patroness to one of Dale's many money-making ideas. Joan Hickson is extremely droll as his mother, always loaded with a basket of freshly laundered clothes, making frequent appearances delivering well-known platitudes of advice and warning throughout the evening.

Gillian Lynne's choreography, whilst highly energetic and particularly good in a 'mock' polka routine, tends to tire after a while. The score by Tony Hatch and Jackie Trent seems tuneful at the time, but unmemorable after leaving the theatre. Perhaps the real star of this 'half way' hit musical is the brisk dialogue by adapters Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall.

Barry Conley

FOOTNOTE: Since this review was written Ms Dinah Sheridan has replaced Eleanor Bron in the role of the Countess.



In Retrospect

THE MINES OF SULPHUR: Sadlers Wells Opera at the London Coliseum.

Richard Rodney Bennett is one of the most versatile, and correspondingly intriguing, young British composers. He is equally at home before a Coliseum curtain in a droopy velvet butterfly tie, as in a black polo neck at a jazz piano with Eartha Kitt.

The revival of *The Mines Of Sulphur* was of interest in a number of ways. The work was originally commissioned by Sadlers Wells and was produced at Roseberry Avenue in 1965. Since then it has not been seen, until now when it receives two performances at the Coliseum; rather a short run, and a bit overdue after eight years, but sad to say there did seem to be plenty of room in the theatre for those who wished to see it.

More than anything, it was an opportunity to take stock of Bennett's operatic progress. Since *The Mines Of Sulphur*, we have heard three operas from him, *Penny For A Song*, *All The King's Men* and *Victory*. Looking back to the earlier work, whilst the technique is there, the lack of experience in this particular form showed through in a number of places. The singers, for example, often found themselves unable to compete with the orchestration, and key climactic phrases were drowned by waves of dense scoring. David Lloyd-Jones, conducting the performance, did not help much in this respect. His approach was brisk and cheery, and he clearly enjoyed the music, but he seemed to lack a real deep sympathy for his material.

The composer, who appeared on stage after the performance, has modified the opera a little, by reducing the three acts to two. Gone is the hiatus between the players' performance and the macabre twist at the end of the opera. But in some ways this contraction has shown up certain weaknesses in the libretto and its musical treatment. There are extraordinary contrasts of mood (particularly in the closing stages of the drama), huge and frightening moments of drama, underwritten by powerful orchestral passages, slip casually into lengthy and uneventful scenes where plot and music al-



Ann Howard as 'Leda' in Richard Rodney Bennett's 'The Mines of Sulphur'.

most grind to a halt.

On the positive side, there are some magical moments of musical invention. Shirley Chapman (Rosalind) and Lois Macdonall (Jenny) both gave confident performances, and Ann Howard (Leda) was delightful. Gregory Dempsey (Boconnion) and Terry Jenkins (Fenney) gave a good account of the rather less exciting male parts, and Norman Welsby played a very quiet and unassuming Tovey. Incidentally, the Sadlers Wells *Smoke Machine* (without which . . .) was in superb form.

This opera will not stay as long in the repertoire as, say, *Victory*, but it still deserves more exposure than it has so far had. Let us hope for a new production before the next eight years are up.

Michael Mason

Love Makes The World Go Round

IN PRAISE OF LOVE at the Duchess Theatre, Catherine Street, London WC2

Terence Rattigan's first new plays for the theatre in ten years, have arrived under the heading *In Praise Of Love*. The opening playlet, twenty five minutes of nonsense, titled 'Before Dawn', follows the plot of the opera 'Tosca' fairly closely. Joan Greenwood is the famous Diva, intent on saving her lover from the firing squad, Adorable creature that she is, her height and small husky voice belies one's vision of a Prima Donna. Drawing herself up to her full height (and seemingly several inches taller), her outrageous posturing is reminiscent of Hermione Gingold in revue. Donald Sinden gives an extremely comic portrayal of the Baron, revealing sado-masochistic tendencies in his seduction of the Diva. There are some rewarding moments when he attempts to give instructions to his Captain in command (an amusing performance from Richard Warwick) but the total effect of this trifle is of little importance.

For his second play, 'After Lydia', Rattigan tells of a wife suffering from terminal leukemia. Lydia keeps the knowledge of her illness from her husband, not knowing that he himself is aware of it. Paralleled with this somewhat claustrophobic situation is the author's interesting approach to the generation gap - lack of communication between father and son. Both characters have the opportunity to express their views on life and politics, and I became more interested

in this sub-plot than the main story. The poignant moment when the wife discovers her husband's awareness of her illness is suddenly turned into comedy, which spoils the earlier dramatic effect.



(left to right) Richard Warwick, Joan Greenwood and Donald Sinden in 'After Lydia', one of the two plays in 'In Praise of Love' by Terence Rattigan.

Donald Sinden's husband is an interesting portrayal, and he is far more at home than Joan Greenwood, who struggles along with a mysterious European accent. Sterling support is given by both Richard Warwick as their son, and Don Fellows as a family friend.

Barry Conley

GN Writer To Mount Duffy Play

ROGER BAKER is a freelance theatre critic as well as a regular contributor to *Gay News*. And he is quite prepared to accept a taste of his own medicine when his production of Maureen Duffy's play *Rites* comes up at the Tower Theatre in Canonbury later this month.

"Naturally I'm pleased to be directing a play by one of this country's leading gay writers," he says, "but the play does not have a gay theme. It is about women. It is Duffy's intention I think, to show how women are stereotyped by society into accepting certain roles, entirely dictated by men, which they may or may not like. We see the voracious secretary birds, the effusive mothers, the resigned widows. It's a very anti-man play and includes a ritual murder and a ritual (but thwarted) attempt at castration."

The play was commissioned by the National Theatre in 1969 when Joan Plowright directed it with Geraldine MacEwan in

the main part. It is about an hour long, has an all female cast and is set in a ladies' lavatory. "I didn't see the original," Roger says, "and I imagine Geraldine MacEwan must have been sensational. The only other person I could imagine doing this role is Danny la Rue, for Ada - the high priestess of the rites - is a woman who has reduced all love and all sex to a matter of barter, economics.

She spends a lot of time putting on her slap, and is very conscious of herself as an object to be paid highly for. Actually I would have liked to cast all the women from male actors, but the company is doing *Macbeth* next, so all the boys are busy . . . but believe me, the girls I'm working with are fantastic."

Rites is at the Tower Theatre, Canonbury Place on October 25, 26 and 27 at 8pm. All seats 55p. Maureen Duffy has promised to attend on the second night and lead an audience discussion of the play.

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Derek's Guide

This guide relies on your information, so if you find any inaccuracies please don't just tell 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
Pub: Caledonian Hotel (buffet bar)

BARNSELY
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: Imperial Hotel, Temple Street

The Trocadero, Temple Street

The Victoria, John Bright Street

Grosvenor House, 326 Hagley Road, B17

*Nightingale, 50 Camp Hill, B12

BLACKBURN
Pub: Merchants Hotel, Darwen Street (O)

BLACKPOOL
Pub: Lucy's Bar, Talbot Square

Club: Pepes Club, Talbot Road

BOLTON
Pub: *Peel Arms Hotel, 423 Halliwell Rd

BOURNEMOUTH
Pub: The Norfolk Hotel

Clubs: Gigs, The Triangle

Hotel East Cliff Towers, East Cliff

BRADFORD
Pub: Junction Inn, Leeds Road

Club: Shangri-la, Piechall Yard

BRENTWOOD
Pub: The Greyhound, Childerditch Common

BRIGHTON
Pubs: Spotted Dog, Middle Street

Greyhound East St (upstairs bar only)

Cricketers, Black Lion Street

The Basket Makers

Hove Lawns Hotel

Shorts London Pub (Gaiety Bar) East Street

Heart & Hand, Ship Street.

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

Regency Club, Regency Square

Rest.: Olde Twitten, 62 Middle St

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

BRISTOL
Pub: The Ship, Park Row, nr Red Lodge.

Club: *Moulin Rouge, 72 Worrall Rd, Clifton

BURNLEY
Pub: The Cross Keys

CAMBRIDGE
Pub: The Stable Bar, Green St (off Trinity Street)

CANTERBURY
Pub: The Queen's 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
Pub: Grosvenor Hotel

CIRENCESTER
Club: *Birds Nest Club, Kings Road

Bathing Pool

COVENTRY
Pub: Rose & Crown, High Street

DERBY
Club: Pavilion Club, 123 London Road, Shardlow (7 miles)

DONCASTER
Clubs: 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, Argyll St

McCall's, Hope Street

GRAVESEND
Pub: The Kent, High Street

GUILDFORD
Pub: The Royal Oak, nr multistorey car park

HOLMFIRTH
Pub: Royal Oak, Upper Thong, nr Holmfirth, Yorks

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

Amster Dam

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

HULL
Pub: White House Hotel (Tudor Bar) Jameson Street

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

West Riding Bar (back bar) Wellington Street

Coffee Flamenco, New Briggate

bars: Honky Tonks, Boar Lane

Club: Charley's, Briggate

Disco: Leeds GLF disco fortnightly

Contact their office for location

LEICESTER
Pub: Dover Castle, Dover Street

LIVERPOOL
Pubs: Lisbon, Victoria St, L2

Bonaparte (private lounge) Temple Lane, L2

Clubs: New Bears Paw, Dorrans Lane L1

Johns Gay Bar Royal, Wood St L1

Pagoda, 31 Colquitt St L1

LONDON
Pubs: *The Boltons & *The Coleherne are near each other in Old Brompton Road (tube Earls Court)

*The Champion, Bayswater Rd (tube Notting Hill Gate)

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

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

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

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

*Horse & Groom, near Pig & Whistle, Sundays only

Cricketers, Battersea Park Rd (D)

*Elephant & Castle, South Lam bath Place, (Vauxhall tube) (D)

The Salisbury, St Martins Lane WC2 (Leicester Sq tube)

Ship & Whale, Gulliver St 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) (O)

Watermans Arms, Water Lane, Richmond

Imperial, High Street, Richmond

Golden Lion, Dean St, off Shaftesbury Ave, W1

The Elmhurst, Lorship Lane, Tottenham N17 (D)

Clubs: *OOK, Lowndes Court, W1 (Oxford Circus tube)

*Le Gigolo, Kings Road (Sloane Sq tube)

*Masquerade Restaurant & disco, Earls Court Sq, SW5

Earls Court Sq, SW5

*Paint Box, 29 Fowley Street, W1 (Oxford Circus tube)

*The Pink Elephant, 8 Newport Place, WC2 (Leicester Sq tube)

*Molin Disco Club (see general info)

*Shanes, Broadhurst Gardens NW6

The Escort, 89a Pimlico Road (Sloane Sq tube)

Yours & Mine, Kensington High St W8 (Ken High St tube)

Rockingham, 9 Archer St W1

Vortex, 62 Tachbrook St SW1

Toucan Club, 13 Gerrard St W1

Festival Club, 2 Brydges Place WC2 (Leicester Sq tube)

Louise, 17 Poland St W1 (Oxford Circus tube)

Chaquaramas, Neal St WC2

Collage, 46 Churton Street SW1

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

Disco: *The Catacombs, Old Brompton Rd (Earls Court tube)

South London GKF disco, 8pm Sat at Hanover Arms (Oval tube)

*Arabian pub, Tricky Dicky disco every Wed, Cambridge Heath Rd E2 (Rethnal Green tube)

Disco: Alan and Daves Disco, Ship & Whale, Gulliver St SE16

Tricky Dicky Disco, Hornsey Wood Tavern, 3/6 Seven Sisters Rd N6 (Finsbury Park and Manor House tubes)

*Tricky Dicky Disco (Mon & Thurs) Kings Arms, 213 Bishopsgate EC1 (Liverpool St tube)

Rest- Chaguaramas, 41-43 Neal St WC2

aurant Simple Simon, 234 Old Brompton Rd SW5

Masquerade, 310 Earls Court Rd SW5

Le Faune, 23 Praed Street, W2

La Casserole, 338 Kings Road, Chelsea SW3

Collage, 46 Churton St SW1

Thebes, 78 Bell St NW1

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

LUTTERWORTH
Pub: The Man At Arms, Bitterwell, nr Lutterworth

MACCLESFIELD
Pub: Waters Green Tavern

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 Street

Laughing Cavalier, Market St, Stalybridge

Clubs: Picador, Bradshaw Street, Shude Hill

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 Caps of Good Hope, The Plain

PENRITH
Cafe: Rendezvous, Sandgate

PLYMOUTH
Pubs: Lockyer Hotel, Oak Lounge (Back Bar), Derrys Cross

The Phoenix (off Union Street)

The Valletort

Club: West Hoc Club, Cliff Road

POOLE
Pubs: The Jolly Sailor

The Lord Nelson

PORTSMOUTH
Pubs: Balmoral Bar, Landport Terrace, (off Commercial Rd)

Standard Bar, Portsmouth St

Rose of England (mixed) Spring St

PRESTON
Pubs: Bull & Royal Cockpit Bar

READING
Disco: Reading Gay Alliance Disco (Wed & Sat) at Railway Tavern, Stanshawe Road.

SANDBACH Cheshire
Pub: Market Place Tavern (Thurs)

SCARBOROUGH
Pub: The Clift Inn, Huntress Row

Club: The Bottleneck, Ramshill Rd

SHEFFIELD
Pub: The Cossack

Club: Amberley Club, 225 Attercliffe Common

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

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA
Pub: Queens Hotel (Street Bar), Hamlet Court Rd

SOUTHPORT
Pub: Scarisbrick, Lord Street

Club: Concor Club, 18 Neville Street

SOUTHSEA
Pubs: Captain's Table, Granada Rd

Jolly Sailor, South Parade

Duke of Devonshire, Albert Rd

STOCKPORT
Pub: Duke of Clarence, Avenue Street

Portwood

STOKE-ON-TRENT
Pubs: Grand Hotel, Hanley

The Antelope, Hanley

Club: One For One, 141 Marsh Street North, Hanley

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

SUNDERLAND
Pub: Roker Hotel, Upper Promenade, Roker

Club: *Rokoko, The Promenade, Roker

SWANSEA
Pubs: Dolphins Hotel (C T Lounge) Whitewalls

Cricketers Hotel, King Edward Road

THAME
Pub: The Jolly Sailor

TORQUAY
Pub: Meadfoot Inn, Meadfoot Lane

Club: *Double Two Club, Rock Rd

VENTNOR, Isle of Wight
Pub: The Hole In The Wall, Market St

WARRINGTON
Pub: The Higher Seven Stars, Bridge Street.

WINCHESTER
Pub: The Green Man, The Place

WINDSOR
Pubs: Three Tuns, Nr Guildhall

Noah's Arch, Nr disused gas works (Fri & Sat)

The Ship, nr Guildhall

WOLVERHAMPTON
Pub: Prince Albert, Station Drive

Club: Silver Web, Whitmore Street

YORK
Pub: York Arms

Love Knoweth No Laws*

The editors reserve the right to refuse or amend any advertisement without giving a reason. No refunds can be made on advertisements which have to be altered or amended. 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, 62a Chiswick High Rd, London W4 1SY. 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.

Advertisements for inclusion in issue 35 must be received no later than noon on Monday October 22nd. They should be no longer than 35 words (see note about length restrictions). As from October 23rd, box numbers in issue 30 and earlier will be discontinued and replies to them will not be forwarded.

Women's Personal

Bisexual girl 'freak' seeks similar London area. Photo appreciated but not essential. Box 34/127
Lesbian wants to meet sensitive and gentle woman. Box 34/128
Shy but affectionate girl 23 seeks genuine friendship with another. Warmth and sincerity more important than age and looks. Can accommodate. London and Northants but ALA. Box 34/129
Gay girl 24 seeks female friends, correspond and/or meet. Photo appreciated. ALA Box 34/130
London woman 50 practical easy going, homeloving type, seeks similar, view with gentleness and consideration to build good relationship. Box 34/131
Lonely gay girl 23 central London seeks free intelligent understanding woman 25-33 not butch for lasting friendship. Photo appreciated. Box 34/132
Girl 28 gay, fair, slim attractive affectionate, loving car, likes dancing and music, seeks understanding effeminate broadminded female any age for friendship or perhaps correspondence. ALA with my photo. Box 34/142

Mixed

Is there a gay girl who is looking for a gay guy to form a close friendship with? I hope so, and if so please contact me. I'm 29 years old from Manchester. Box 34/134
Gay guy 27

Personal Ads continued from Page 17.

Dolly boy, small, long hair, lonely, needs to meet older, more experienced friend for outings, holidays. Won't somebody brighten my life up, maybe somewhere to live? I am 22, slim, medium height, pretty good looking. Photograph if possible please. Box 34/63

London area: I am in early thirties and hoping for a friend in late twenties who likes denim. Box 34/44

Slim guy 30 varied interests seeks active heavily built leather friends 30-40. Your place. Photo appreciated. ALA London/South. Box 34/45

Journalist researching for article on 'The Age Of Consent For Gays' would like views from any reader 21-40. ALA I promise. Box 34/46

Sagittarian: lively, practical London teacher, 44, obsessed with Bach, Mozart, Venetian, Pre, just, languages, travel, motor-bikes, Whitmanesque ideals of male friendship, seeks camerado preferably with similar interests and holiday arrangements. Box 34/47

Oriental assistant required by businessman. Interesting job with prospects and good home offered quiet young man. Box 34/48

Richard darling - Happy Birthday - love Jerry

Poser required by amateur photographer. Needy music student preferred. Any colour. Also information required on Oslo scene. Box 34/50

Lincolnshire guy 27 wishes to make new friends own house, but no transport. The Thane, Hantsards Drive, 06734-408 Creative and overworked. Soothe my brow? I'm 29, kinda-well built, kinda-attractive, Scorpio. If you're around the same age, gentle and warm, please write with photo. Box 34/51

Company director 36, slim, good appearance, seeks young genuine non-effeminate active male 21-30 for sincere permanent friendship. London. Latins particularly welcome. Photo please. ALA Box 34/52

London 23, slim, very lonely is longing for the friendship of a lad similar age. Please write with photo. ALA Box 34/53

Active 22 seeks slim affectionate boy for sincere friendship. Photo appreciated. Box 34/54

Sincere male 25 London seeks soul mate any race or colour. ALA Box 34/55

Retired 60s looking for a friend to visit for an occasional chat. Fulham, Hammer-smith area. Box 34/56

Birmingham/Midlands, 30 year old would like to meet gay person for companionship/friendship for visits to CBSO/Theatre. Hope for long term commitment. Photo essential but disposition all-important. Write fully. Box 34/57

Guy 24 studying in Nottingham longs to meet one genuine friend to settle down with for life. Please send photo if possible. Box 34/58

Skinny, pot-bellied idiot 9250 days old, craves to meet tall blue-eyed, blond bodybuilder. I hope nobody writes to me. Actually I've exaggerated a little bit. Box 34/59

I am 41, nothing special, but not too bad! To be complete I long for someone to share the good things of life - to love and be loved. Anyone - no conditions - with similar hopes, do write. Box 34/61

Ad Limits

Lots of people want to advertise in the personal section. That's sort of nice, but it is getting very difficult sometimes to fit them all in. With only 20 pages in the paper, we can't allow the ads any more space. And we don't want to put the cost of advertising up. So we are asking people to keep their ads short.

Therefore from issue 35, please limit your ads to 35 words. Ads of 35 to 40 words will be printed if there is space, but ads of over 40 words will be returned. It seems the fairest way all round.

COMMERCIAL ADS: 7p a word. No Box Number service available.
NON-COMMERCIAL ADS: 3p a word. Box Numbers 50p
PERSONAL ADS: 3p a word. Box Numbers 50p
SEMI-DISPLAY (Boxed Classified) £1.50 extra
 All information listings are free.
ALL ADS MUST BE PRE-PAID.
DISPLAY AD RATES - prices quoted on request - contact Ad Manager Peter Mundy.

Good looking Leeds guy 35, pilot, tired of local gay scene, seeks genuine friendship with sincere 25-35 non-camp in Yorkshire. ALA Box 34/60

Roger 27. Please write. Photo appreciated. Box 34/62

Husky leather guy 25 with pad, seeks bike guys, leather men, skinheads, denim creeps etc with or without bikes. Photo appreciated. ALA Birmingham. Box 34/63

Cambridge/Essex, male 35, 6'2" would like to contact non-effeminate companion. Box 34/64

Teacher, passable looks, slim, active 40. Tired of casuals seeks interesting guy any age nationality. Likes theatre, books classical music, country. Leather, denim. (The last not a must) London. ALA Photos exchanged. Box 34/65

Black gay guy 22 attractive (?) plans to visit the USA within next six months, would like a companion. Age, sex, looks immaterial, if we can get along with one another. Area Clapham. Phone 673-5341, Monday, Tuesday evening, ask for Ted.

Active male 48, 5'10", 135t, muscular and hairy type seeks clean shaven friend over 21 in Midlands area preferred but not essential. Photo if possible and full details. ALA Box 34/66

Norwich area. Older man young at heart would like to be uncle to genuine young man. Interests country life, politics and social problems, food reform, good music and conversation. ALA with photo please. Box 34/67

Lanky leather chap, 32 with own London flat seeks healthy well preserved guys for 'no strings' type friendship. Photo and telephone number appreciated. Box 34/68

Affectionate 21-year-old. Good looking and new to gay scene. Needs friends in London for sincere friendship, photo exchange, no freaks please. ALA Andrew. Box 34/69

Young, lonely studentish freak, uninterested in 'sincere' old men, or pseudo gay scene, wants to meet someone real for once. I'm 23, 5'8", skinny, longish hair, wispy beard, reasonably intelligent, attractive. I go for people like me.

Young, long-haired freaky types who care more about people than possessions, people with beautiful, open minds, but not drippy. Maybe someone with cheap London pad to share. Photographs please. Thanks. Box 34/70

Beautiful TV 30 would like to meet active men 30 plus for friendship, London, Kent. Box 34/71

Fancy Moscow for 4 days next month? Ken has been let down by a friend so there's a vacancy. Leave Manchester Nov 11th return 16th £40. Briefly my own age (28) or under. This is a short fun holiday so no 'arty or bohemian' types please. Phone me for details. Burnley (0282) 33950 after 6pm weekdays. Love to all.

Are you 21, in search of love, home and a job? Straight looking chap 24 East London seeks non-effeminate youngster who genuinely needs companionship. Photo please, returned with mine. Box 34/72

Not waving but drowning in the countryside (Northants/Bucks) is there someone nearby that would care to befriend a professional guy 32 who is dreading the long winter evenings without the steady and lasting friendship of someone genuine. Box 34/73

Lonely male 30 Hounslow area seeks young friend 21-25. Photo appreciated. Interests motorcycling, leather and denim. Box 34/74

Anyone interested in joining social group in Croydon contact Tony and Brian with ideas. ALA Box 34/75

Amateur photographer requires models for close work. Please send photos. Peter. Box 34/76

Birmingham bisexual 24 would like to hear from others same age or younger ALA Box 34/77

Non-camp Londoner 34 wants to meet rugged masculine guys under 35. Leather/denim interests, dark hair, beards especially welcome. Box 34/78

Is anyone with good build interested in posing for amateur photographer? Prints given in exchange for modelling. Snapshot appreciated. Box 34/79

Creative London publisher interested in all arts seeks active friend. Non-temperamental (just harassed, my colleague says) 33, tall, slim, presentable and sincere. Box 34/80

Straight looking Mediterranean guy 35, own pad, central London seeks non-camp, good-looking, active guy 22-27 for winning, dining, theatre. Genuine replies only please, with photograph and phone. Box 34/81

44-year-old visiting Coventry each week would welcome meeting 35-55 year old to share late evening meal. ALA Box 34/82

I'm 28, short hair, good looking and reasonably well built, not very keen on pub/club scene (London) would like to hear from similar guys, my age, anywhere in UK. Photo appreciated. Box 34/83

Devon or Bristol area. Male 36 interested in arts, travel, seeks non-camp friend 21-30s. Recent photos exchanged. Box 34/84

David 22 living Devon, fed up with being alone, seeks young friends anywhere for correspondence, meeting (have accommodation) and hopefully something permanent. Please help! I don't think I can remain celibate for ever! Interests mainly cultural. Photo essential for reply. Box 34/85

Small London bachelor 50s seeks younger active masculine companion for 8 day Christmas holiday Athens. Not over 5'3". Photo please. ALA Box 34/86

Birmingham. Young Hells Angel geared in tight jeans and Nazi helmet, seeks young mates with motor bikes interested in forming group with headquarters for regular biking activities. Box 34/87

North Birmingham gay guy 31 seeks attractive friend 21-30 own flat. Accommodation available. Photo essential. Write Richard. Box 34/88

Oxford College tutor with typical cultural interests emerging from shell, but confident of providing good relationship and possibly home for student 21-25 who wants care and security of someone about ten years older. Photo appreciated. Box 34/89

Young coloured gent 40 living in SW London would like to meet a young man 21-25. Must have good sense of humour and be a good sport. Only people who know what they want and have a genuine interest in a permanent friendship should reply. Photos with letters only will receive reply. Box 34/90

Frenchman 30 years old wants to meet well built guys for friendship. ALA Box 34/91

Beautiful photographs, in your home or my studio. Box 34/92

Collector would like to buy any Toyale Storylets. Please write to Box 34/93

32-year-old into all forms of scatology (get out your dictionary) and water sports wants to hear from younger friends. Box 34/94

London guy 25, not bad looking seeks sincere friendship with tall, well built guy of strong personality under 35. Why not drop me a line. Box 34/95

Graham 22 seeks non-camp chap 21-23 Ring 0203 318931

Adaptable 50-year-old needs active friend 25 to 55 for weekends at my place 25 miles West of London. Photo if possible returned, and ALA. Box 34/96

Graduate 35 tall slim reasonable looks, sincere, interested in the arts, travel and people. Dislikes the plastic gay scene, wishes to establish long term worthwhile friendship with someone 21-35 London area, but have car can travel. Box 34/97

Non-effeminate East Londoner, 30, 5'8" dark haired, slim, told good looking, like to hear from guys, recent photograph please, returned with mine. Box 34/98

51 year old, own place Central South Cost, seeks active hirsute companions. Age race and creed no barrier. ALA Box 34/99

Wigan, Lancashire, could be fun. Sincere, active attractive tall young 40, own home, dreams of meeting coloured bodybuilders or sun bleached blonde denim types, but in reality seeks friends any age - so if you think you are butch looking, your letter will be welcome - so write. Photo helps, definitely ALA. Box 34/100

Attractive tall slim active professional man 35 seeks male friends aged 21-40 for sincere friendship. Yorkshire based but distance no problem. Own flat, own car. General cultural interests. Photo appreciated and phone number, both exchangeable with mine. ALA Box 34/101

Young man 21 wishes to meet similar for long lasting genuine friendship. My interests are general, any area. Photo if possible. ALA Box 34/102

Anybody wanna have a drink with successful (but bored-out-of-his-skull) American televisionwriter? What have you got to lose? And plenty, perhaps, to gain. Photo and phone appreciated, but not necessary. Box 34/103

26 good looking, adaptable, understanding, own home, transport, wants to meet new friends, not camp. Please send photo. Will return if requested. Box 34/104

Young man wishes meet leather boy any area, for month's car holiday in Spain November, all paid, and view permanent friendship. Photo please. ALA Box 34/105

Espanol? Good looking guy 22, blonde, slim, non-camp, would like to meet Spaniard in twenties, attractive, for friendship. Photo please, returnable. Box 34/106

Active 35-year-old music cinema theatre lover, would like to meet others to share interests and broaden social horizon. ALA Box 34/107

Young Londoner 27 attractive with many interests, body-building seeks similar person under 35. Recent photo essential and returned with mine. ALA Box 34/108

Bachelor going to Benidorm, Spain mid November, has anyone information, gay bars, etc. Write BM/JWN, London WC1

Londoner 32 seeks active friend 21-45 any nationality. Box 34/109

Young houseowner offers free weekend accommodation and food London in exchange for cleaning painting etc. Suit young visitor to London or student any nationality. Box 34/109

Houseowner 32 seeks young visitors for weekend companionship London. Any nationality. Box 34/109

SE London own place - seeks companions for morning coffee or afternoon tea. Box 34/109

Jobs accommodation 01-723 6724 after 6pm.

Manchester, small group of gay professional people. Outings, theatre and similar social activities. Details 34/110

Young companion sought by athletic slim fairly middle aged own car house, sense of fun. Suggest pub meeting, no obligation. Kent South London. Box 34/111

I have big brown eyes, small broad shouldered, hairy chested cuddly affectionate activist. Photos please. Box 34/114

Guy 23 seeks genuine friends of any nationality who are interested in friendship. Box 34/113

Young man 23 seeks same for lasting friendship. Interested in music, cinema, theatre and much more. Photo appreciated. London area. Box 34/117

I'm a quiet wow! 25 year old Gemini, tall slim and athletic, butch looking but deceptive. Photos please. Box 34/115

Bachelor 35 seeks European/Middle East friends 21-35 London area. Box 34/116

Heavily built guy 35 would like to meet others with similar problem for friendship London area. Box 34/117

"Hello Mother! Hello Father!"

Professional man, active, own house, needs company and stimulus, intelligent male, interested literature, current affairs, no age or colour bar. Advertiser 45 but in excellent nick. Twelve miles, tube, Central London. Box 34/135

English public school guy, masculine-looking 6'2", late 40s. Good figure, silver hair, own home 5 Km, many friends but no love. Open generous nature, good cook, housekeeper, seeks tall active mature well built man 30-40 non-camp fair, hirsute type. Sense of humour, loving nature essential. Appreciative good comfortable home, broad minded to make life worth living by sharing joys and beauties. Replies with photo appreciated and returned. Box 34/136

I am 30 not bad looking and would like to meet lots of good looking guys 21-25 years of age and very clear from any part of England or other countries who are visiting London for friendship. Londoners are also welcome. A current photo please and your address and phone number at work and at home. ALA Box 34/137

I am over 40 years of age - and yet I still see and feel things precisely the same long ago, when I was a young boy. I find it good to be a kind of elder brother or friend to a person, to whom I can show that I appreciate him, that I like and am fond of him. You may be young and yet like to know somebody to whom you can speak freely and who understands you in all earnest. You like to be with somebody who you can have enjoyment with, and happiness and even more. Have no fear to write to me, perhaps we are meant for each other. One thing is certain, you will receive a prompt and sincere reply. Box 34/138

English bachelor with own secluded house near sea on Mediterranean's loveliest island accepts paying guests. This ad is placed on his behalf by one who has been asked to recommend it most highly. Nox 34/140.

Accommodation

Businessman 35 seeks part furnished or unfurnished room/s with kitchen in Putney, Fulham, Wimbledon area. Model tenant with excellent references. Box 34/200

Young Kew student, good looking, studying for professional exams, seeks accommodation in SW London with own room. Enjoys life and many interests. Share house/flat. Box 34/201

Butch dolly home wanted by a skinny camp 24 year old redhead London area. Photos please. ALA Box 34/202

Tottenham - Wood Green area, man (30) and dog wants accommodation share? Rent - anything considered - have good furniture. Box 34/203

Coventry guy 39, tall and hefty, considerate, sports orientated, can provide inexpensive comfortable accommodation sharing flat. Principally seeking a loyal friend essentially active lonely genuine younger man preferred, needing love and understanding, possibly rural. Photo ensures prompt reply. Box 34/204

Guy 22 seeks own room in Central London flat with other(s) same age group. Ideal rent £10 but anything considered. Box 34/205

Guy 23 requires s/c flat or similar from November West London, prefer Hammersmith Acton or Ealing area but not essential. Box 34/206

Professional guy 32 seeks quiet room in congenial central London flat/house. Box 34/207

Leather guy offers share of comfortable SW London house to responsible guy. Own rooms. 20 mins Victoria. Box 34/210

Urgent - postgrad Social work student 21 needs accommodation in London now - share flat/house. Box 34/209

Late forties requires room with cooking facilities Hampstead, Swiss Cottage, areas, non-camp, discreet, references can be supplied. Urgent, nosy landlady. Box 34/210

Warm, practical guy early 30s seeks sincere domesticated person to share beautiful Hampstead flat. Sense of humour with love of music, sincerity and ability to carry on intelligent conversation essential. Box 34/211

Accommodation required in Ipswich for 5 nights from Sunday 18th November to Thursday 22 inclusive for 44 year old guy (active athlete) attending a family psychiatry course in Ipswich. Box 34/212

Canadian guy mid 20s, seeks flat in Central London preferably shared at reasonable rent. Box 34/213

Lonely bachelor, slim, artistic, own small business offers to share his secluded house between Worcester/Malvern with similar lonely male, young to forties. Box 34/214

Young gay couple seek flat/bedsit not expensive London. Box 34/215

German or Austrian active guy wanted 22+ to share luxury flat central London. I am 35, Mediterranean, interested in theatre, art. References required. Rent £6.50pw own room, CH. Please write with phone no. Box 34/216

Professional 35 no hang ups, starting new job. Croydon soon seeks similar to help look for and share modern flat or maisonette that area. My interests cooking, cars, travel music, pubs. Photo appreciated. Box 34/218

Bristol. Non-camp gay guy 21 wanted to share flat with similar. Box 34/219

Ilford luxury flat, young guy requires two or three other guys to share my flat, must be under 30 and non-camp. should be vacant in three weeks time. Apply Box 34/220

Manchester, own room offered to male 21-38 in luxury flat. No strings. £6pw Tel Derek, 061-445 2889

Young musician seeks (modest) accommodation SW London. Tolerant of 3/4 hours daily piano practice an advantage. 01-622 8151

Young gay couple female, seek accommodation with similar for sight-seeing weekend in London. Roma Stillwell, 86 Pyle Street, Newport, Isle of Wight.

Young Cardiff student in need of professional house/flat with handsome male person under 40. Genuine. Phone David 0222-23845

To let SW10 very large flat. Suitable for at least five people about £7 each pw. Ring 674 3980 for details.

Birmingham Harborne 30 year old wants similar gay person to share modern flat in delightful oasis. Own room. All facilities shared. Preferably professional person. Ring 021-427 4289

Non-camp professional male/female person wanted to share nice house with family atmosphere in SE London. Own room - all facilities. Absolutely no ties. 858 3109

2 luxury furnished bedsits to let, central heating, serviced, constant hot water, fitted carpets available Nov £45 per month for double, £38 for single SW17 area. Phone 672 5337, 7.30-10pm.

Second person to share pleasant flat, with pussy and garden W5. 'discretion' unessential. £6.00pw. 01-739 7676 X42 daytime.

Young gay seeks room or flatshare Earls Court or West London with friendly person/persons. ALA John 72 Muswell Hill Road, Highgate N10

Respectable asian student seeks furnished /unfurnished accommodation in North London single or sharing reasonable rent, write BM-Box 1030, London WC1

Birmingham. First class hotel accommodation - rooms with TV, shower, bath etc. Licensed Bars, heated swimming pool. Grosvenor House, 326 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham 17. Tel. 021-429 4678

French guy, chinese origin, early 20s, studying accountancy, seeking to share flat in London at reasonable rent. Own room essential, having exams soon. Box 34/217

Warm welcome at Wembar Hotel, 19 Warwick Rd London SW5, in heart of Earls Court gay scene. Tel: 01-373 9950. Reasonable prices. Weekly terms.

Holiday in Cornwall, ring 51 lves 6906 for bed and breakfast £1.50 per night. Landlords. Phone your vacancies after 6pm 01-732 6724.

Living abroad? Young man university graduate, seeks occasional hospitality in sun to write. Would pay keep. Box 34/139

Employment

27, slim, mod, adaptable, friendly, lonely and broke. Any legitimate part-time work appreciated from 7pm and 3 out of 4 weekends. Clean driving license and shaven by recent move to London. ALA Box 34/118

Male Secretary reqd. Professional office near Victoria. General office duties. Audio typing. Some bookkeeping. Top salary. Box 34/119

Just arrived. Good looking young boy seeking employment with accommodation. Vast experience in catering, but anything legal considered. Any area in England. Must have good pay and conditions. No ties. Box 34/120

Purser/Catering officer 35 wishing to end the sea seeks a position of trust in the catering set-up. Box 34/121

Domesticated young man can cook, garden lover, seeks living in post, London. Box 34/122

Remunerative evening/weekend work needed urgently by attractive guy 23. Anything, but strictly legal only, considered. Box 34/123

Good looking likeable young man 25 tired of the routine of accountancy seeks satisfying job. Willing to work hard for good rewards. Anything legal considered. Box 34/124

Australian guy 25, not effeminate, educated, reliable, seeks legitimate employment connected with the gay scene Britain or abroad for the winter. Available November on. All offers considered. Box 34/125

24, very good looking, efficient guy seeks lucrative legal part-time work. Box 34/126.

Classified

Mortgages for gay people on Joint Incomes. Phone John Aldam, Bristol 292966

Professional courier, speaks English, French, German, Dutch. Chauffeur driven Lincoln Continental. Contact Klaus D Kuhne, 22 Saltown Road, London SW2 or telephone 01-643 4255

Christian? Feel Rejected? Come and worship with the Fellowship in Christ the Liberator. Details F C L c/o 61 Earls Court Square, London SW5. Metropolitan Community Church, London

Bargains at sale by candlelight in aid of the London branch of the Samaritans. 3 to 6 pm Saturday 3 November at 31 Thurloe Place, London SW7. Books, records, prints, Christmas cards, china, shampoos, jewellery, soft toys, homemade jam and cakes, palmist, tombola. PLEASE help the Samaritans to help others.

Yoga improves looks, physique, whatever age. Individual or group tuition. Genuine message also available. Ross Nilson 01-602 0721

'Gay Printing' Write: BM/8850 London WC1V 6XX

Light Removals, also delivery service. Any time. Any where. 01-460 0977. Strictly legitimate business.

Empty Space Drama Studio. Students now accepted for Autumn and Winter terms in Central London studio. Phone Miss van den Bergh, 01-346 8537

Patrick THE Hairstylist specialist in modern cutting, tinting, highlighting and bleaching. Phone Leeds 757279

David Reade does Swedish Massage and slimming treatment at his own studio in SW10. Strictly no nonsense. For appointment call 01-370 6506

Experienced masseur gives soothing massage home/hotel - male/female phone Ron 472 1939 Tues-Fri 6.15pm to 8pm or all day Sunday.

Burro House for sale - under contract. Wanted, client or investor. Jeffrey (Burrows-Builders) Burro House, Hadfield, SK14 7HA Derbyshire.

Drowning in a sea of loneliness? Let Gayities rescue you, the Gay Matchmaking Bureau, Rosalind King, Box 40 Harrow, Middx HA1 3SL

Classified Ads cont. at top of next page.

Personal & Classified Ads Form

Classified Ads continued from last page.

Gay disco phone Tony 722 6885
Bangor GLF - group now forming. If you live in North Wales please contact Simon del Nevo c/o UCNW Students Union, Deiniol Road, Bangor, Caerns, North Wales.

CHE WINTER FAIR, Saturday 3rd November from 11am. Tickets 25p. Serendipity Cabaret from 7.30pm. Tickets 50p Holborn Assembly Hall, John's Mews, London WC1. Tickets from 22 Great Windmill Street or CHE groups.

CHRISTMAS IN THE COUNTRY. Bookings now taken for a small number of guests who wish to spend Christmas in country house near Bath. Family atmosphere. Log fires. Phone 022-16 3299

Body hugging tank top singlet and brief set in super stretch nylon only £1.60. Black, red, white. Fabulous underwear list free with order. SAE list only. Sondine Ltd Dept GU2, 6 St James Parade, Bath BA1 1UL.

GAY HALLOWEEN DANCE, Albion Rooms, Royal Albion Hotel, Brighton. Sat October 27th 1973 from 8pm to 12.30am. Disco, light show, bars, fancy dress. Tickets 50p at door before 11pm.

Esalen massage for relaxation. Home visits by young masseurs. 733 4519

Genuine massage offered by male negro with a Clarke system certificate. Hotel visit welcome. Home visits. Own accommodation offered if needed. Phone between 10.00am and 8.00pm. 01-727 8540

Make friends world wide. Good looking guys from all continents seek pen pals/friendship. Details and sample photographs free. Hermes, Berlin 11, Box 17/91, Germany.

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. The Gaytime Friendship Society (AAC) BCM/GFS Mono Heds, Red Lion Square, London WC1. For details send SAE stating age.

Private accommodation address from 25p weekly. Letters held for collection or forwarded. Telephone messages taken. Reliable confidential service. Also typing, printing. 01-568 8626 any time.

The Go-Between removals and deliveries, local or long distance. Phone any time 01-349 1838

Cock-sure! Nudes!! "Boys Express" £1. "King Size" (Butch leather) £1.50 (Lists SAE) Johnny: BM/FBGH, London WC1V 6XX

New young qualified masseur seeks genuine legal work, your place or mine. Phone Greg, 727 8322

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

ACCOMMODATION SHARE . . .

Let's choose a flat together. I am looking for a girl who likes music, is a very down-to-earth person, preferably a businesswoman, who is lively and active. I want to find a flat in Richmond area. We can find what suits us both! Please contact Sandi, 01-994 4613

General Information

ISLE OF WIGHT, Tues 30th Oct at 7.30pm. Meeting on Intergroup and Homosexuality in the Small Hall, Unitarian Meeting House, Newport. All are welcome.

WOMEN'S LIBERATION WORKSHOP. New address: Kingsgate Place Women's Centre, 1 Kingsgate Place, London W6 Open Mon-Fri 10.30am-10pm.

SAPPHO DISCO. 'Witches, Warlocks, Venches' 8pm Sat 27th Oct. Upstairs Room, Euston Tavern, Euston Road/Judd St, London NW1 opp St Pancras Stn. Prizes, bar extn. Admission 50p. All women and CHE members welcome.

LS E GAY CULTURE SOCIETY. Meetings from 6.30pm-8pm in S 101A, St Clements Bldg (1st floor) Houghton St London WC2. Fri 19th Oct - Sheila Rowbotham on: Edward Carpenter and the 'Simplified Life'. Fri 9th Nov - John Chiddick on 'Homosexuality and Political Allegiance'.

CAMBRIDGE GAY WOMEN'S GROUP meets alternate Thurs. Details write Angela, 77 Tension Road, Cambridge, or Ring Camb 59641

MANCHESTER GAY ALLIANCE DISCO. Fortnightly starting on Fri 19th October 7.30-11pm at Open Lounge, Students Union, Oxford Road, Manchester. Fully licensed. Admission 20p.

MANCHESTER STUDENTS HOMO-PHILE SOCIETY meets Room 4, Students Union, Oxford Road 8pm every Thurs. Contact Gordon Fryer, Side Door, 7 Birch Hall Lane, Manchester M13 0XJ. Open to all.

MANCHESTER GAY WOMEN meet at Friends Meeting House, Mount St, Manchester 2. Details ring Claire at Glossop 4121.

GAY LIBRARIANS GROUP. Send SAE for details to Bob Elbert, 33 Pembroke Rd, Bristol BS8 3BE

NEW JERSEY Gay Switchboard and Info centre. Contact: Box 323, Princeton Junction, New Jersey 08550, USA. Service free of charge although an International Postal Reply Coupon (for at least 10p) would be appreciated.

GREATER LIBERATED CHICANOS is a Gay Latin/Spanish Liberation Movement providing legal aid, job referrals, counselling and other help to all gay, bi and straight Latin/Spanish speaking brothers and sisters. Write to GLC, P O Box 38216, Los Angeles, California 90038 USA.

REACH is a nationwide homophile group of members of Christian churches primarily concerned with campaigning within the churches and helping isolated homosexual Christians. Reach, 27 Blackfriars Road, Manchester 3

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.

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 ICEBRAKERS at 274 9590 between 7.30 and 10.30 every evening of the year to talk over their problems with other gay people.

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

TRANSEX LIB GROUP: Please write to Della Aleksander, Isis Commune, 10 Hosack Road, London SW17.

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.

JEWISH HOMOPHILE GROUP welcomes new members of either sex. For further information please write to Timothy Goldard, BM/JHG, WC1 6XX

GAYSOC: for homosexual men and women in any school or college of London University - undergraduates, post-graduates 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, Maleit Street, WC1

ABORTION, CONTRACEPTION, ENTERTAINMENT, transport, legal service, 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)

FRIEND is a nationwide befriending and counselling service for gays in distress or with a problem. Write to Friend, 44 Earls Court Road, London W8 or ring 603 6293 Monday to Friday 7.30-9.30pm when a visit can be arranged.

BRISTOL: Help and information for gay men and women. Regular social group meetings in relaxed atmosphere. Send SAE to Confidential Friend, CHE Bristol, PO Box 171, BS99 7ND

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 BCN/PETREL, London WC1V 6XX

LESBIANS come together in London every Monday and Friday. For details ring Pauline or Sally, 01-346 4684

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY GAY GROUP. Contact Rod Hall, 18 Guthrie Street Edinburgh.

HARROW GAY UNITY meet every Tuesday 8.30pm. For info ring John or Dennis at 863 5717

TRANVESTITE, TRANSEXUAL? Would any tv/ts men or women like to help isolated transvestites and transsexuals, 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 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

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 Pigeon holes, Students Union, The University, Western Bank, Sheffield 10

ALTERNATIVE FREE LIBRARY needs donations of radical/liberated Gay Papers and Magazines. ESPE - CIALLY back issues. Please write Geoffrey Leigh, 30 Woodside, Wimbledon, London SW19 7AW

WHISTOL 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

KENT UNIVERSITY GAY LIBSOC meets every Thursday evening in Canterbury. Everyone welcome. For details contact Gill Irvin, Keynes Cottage, The University, Canterbury.

READING GAY ALLIANCE. Disco evenings every Wed and Sat in the Function Room, Railway Tavern, Stanshaw Road, Reading. Members 10p. Non members 20p.

CARDIFF FRIEND helps anyone in South Wales with homosexual problems. Write to Friend, 58 Charles St, Cardiff or ring Cardiff 44441 any Tuesday evening between 7.30pm and 9pm.

CENTRE, London's Gay Counselling Organisation offers a warm welcome to homosexuals at Centre, Broadley Terrace, NW1. Ring 01-262 9595 Open Monday to Friday 7pm-10pm. Free medical, legal and general advice for men, women and youngsters.

Disco every Friday at 8pm-12. Coffee bar from 7pm.

FRIENDS' HOMOSEXUAL FELLOWSHIP A Gay group for Quakers. Details from Michael Hutchinson, 15 Dalkeith Rd, Harpenden, Herts, AL5 5PP

MOLIN DISCO CLUB on Saturdays - girls only, Sundays and Wednesdays mixed, at the Sun & Doves, 61 Coldharbour Lane, Camberwell Green (entrance to club in Coldcott Road, Blue Door) Buses 35 and 45. Details 01-674 4004

TRANVESTITE SOCIAL GROUP. For information send SAE to Sam Cash, 10 Hasack Rd, London SW7

FATHER RED CAP. New season of Drag featuring star acts. Discos on Thurs and Sun (boys only), Wed and Fri (girls only) Sat (mixed). Membership ring Gary 01-735 1001

ALL STAR DRAG NIGHT, in aid of Guide Dog League at Surrey Rooms, Oval on Tues 30th Oct. Sausages & mash, buffet, drag, cabaret, dancing till 12. Tickets £1.25 from Father Red Cap.

NATIONWIDE TRANVESTITE GROUP, now forming. Monthly newsletter 'The Transvestite' planned. All enquiries to Martin Rees, Transvestite Group, 58 Charles St, Cardiff.

LOUGHBOROUGH STUDENTS GAY SOCIETY invites students and staff of all Loughborough colleges to their meetings, campaigns and social events. For info ring Peter at Sileby 2048

LEICESTER GAY AWARENESS GROUP. Ring Leicester 706050 (Steve) or Leicester 738832 (John or Clive)

EAST OF ALDGATE. A social group for homosexual men and women meets each weekend. Come and meet new people in relaxed and friendly surroundings. Write for details to S K Group, c/o Albany Trust, 8A Christchurch Ave, NW6

MANCHESTER GAY MEN AND WOMEN meet fortnightly Friends Meeting House, For details ring Derek 061 445 2889

GAY WOMENS DISCO at the Sun & Doves, 61 Coldharbour Lane, Camberwell Green, welcomes males Sunday and Wednesday nights - not Saturday, as printed in GN32

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY GAY GROUP. Contact Rod Hall, 18 Guthrie Street, Edinburgh 1. Meetings regularly in our own Room in Societies Centre, 21 Hill Place, Edinburgh 8. Open to all students. New members welcome.

SCOTTISH MINORITIES GROUP NATIONAL OFFICE: 214 Clyde Street, Glasgow G1 4JZ 041-771 7600. Please address all communications to 'The Secretary' An sae 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 0382-452 433 or Tony 0382-25913. GLASGOW WOMEN contact SMG women (214 Clyde Street G41 4JZ. 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, 357 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.

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

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

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

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.

YORK GAYSOC, contact Javid Hal, Derwent College, University of York. BRISTOL GAY AWARENESS GROUP c/o Tony, 20D West Mall, Clifton, Bristol. Tel: 0272 32669

BRADFORD GLF. New group forming. Details from Don Milligan, 10 Victor Road, Bradford 9

MANCHESTER GLF OPEN FORUM in Open Lounge, Students Union, Oxford Rd, Manchester. All gays welcome. 1st Forum on Sun 28th Oct 2-7pm. Topic: The Age of Consent. Guest speakers, suggestions and ideas welcome. Write in advance for details and crash pads to Rex A Bernette, Flat 3, 102 Hathersgate Rd, Manchester M13 0HU

LEEDS GLF office open Mon-Fri 7.30-9.30pm at 153 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds 2. Ring 39071 ext 57. Meetings every Fri 8pm at Trades Council Hall, Upper Fountain St, Leeds.

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 Cooper, 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 GAYSOC. 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

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 48G. 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)
 Bradford: Shipley 51742
 Brighton: Brighton 778025 (Malcolm), Brighton 732550 (Roland)
 Bristol: Bristol 35035 (Trevor)
 Cambridge: Cambridge 52661 (Bernard) Chilterns: High Wycombe 39321 (Haydn)

Herst Sth: Hatfield 69172 (John) Kent East: Thanet 42059 (Roger) Lancaster: Lancaster 2750 Leeds: Morley 7686 (David) Leicester 706050 (Steve) Leicester 738832 (John or Clive)

London Monday group 01 385 1191 (Brian) London Information Centre: 01-437 7363 London, East: 01-500 6032 (Tony) London, Stepney: 01-476 7980 (Mike) London Youth: 01-567 5590 (John) Manchester: 061-445 2889 (Derek) Northants/Beds: Northampton 22861 (Alan)

Portsmouth: Horndean 2855 Preston: Preston 59908 Shropshire: Crasage 231 (George) Southampton: Romsey 512958 (Ken) Tunbridge Wells: T.Wells 33175 (Ross) Tyneside: Newcastle 877701 (Jerry) 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 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, Colehill 62339.

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 for men AND women. Incorporating surrounding areas. Meetings twice monthly. Charlie Mickiewright, 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

TESSIDE HAS A CHE GROUP with regular meetings in Middlesborough. Social and campaigning activities. Send address for recent newsletters and further information to CHE, 132 Borough Road, Middlesborough

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

CUMBRIA/BORDERS CHE/SMG joint group now meets regularly in Carlisle on 2nd Friday of each month. For info contact Richard Webster, 2 Cowpasture Cottages, Newton Rigg, Penrith

CARDIFF CHE meets every Monday at 7.30pm in Chapter Arts Centre, Market Road, Canton. Cardiff 566419 (Mike)

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE every Wednesday of Sept, Oct, Nov and Dec, a qualified Educationalist will be on duty at CHE Information Centre 22 Great Windmill Street, W1, to deal with enquiries on education, campaign and personal problems (careers etc). Ring 437 7363. Chairman: David Bell, 26 Fitzrov Square, W1. Tel. 387 8336

CHE LONDON POETRY GROUP. The Company of Nine meet on the last Friday of the month at the Lamb & Flag pub, Rose St, Covent Garden WC2. All are welcome. Programme complete for next 6 months. October theme - Oscar.

CHE EDUCATION GROUP meets every first Wed of each month 8pm at 22 Gt Windmill St, W1. Open to students, teachers, lecturers and all interested. Dates - Sept 5th, Oct 3rd, Nov 7th, Dec 5th, 1973.

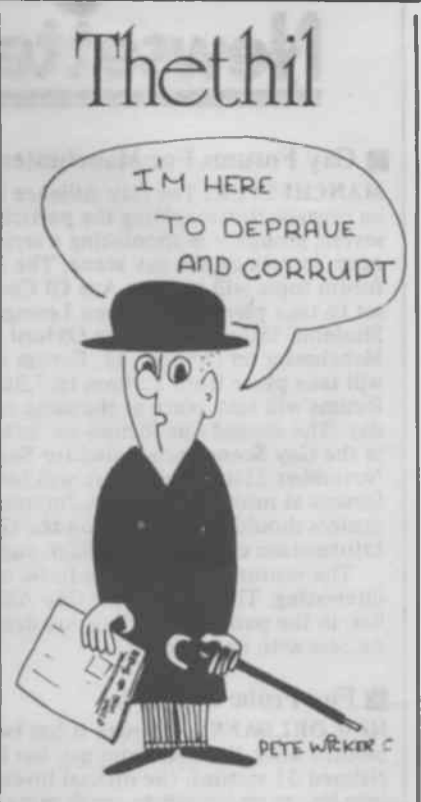
CHE EDUCATION SERVICE. Every Wed of Sept, Oct, Nov and Dec, a qualified educationalist will be on duty at 22 Gt Windmill St, W1 to deal with any enquiries concerning the Education Campaign and any personal problems (careers etc). Chairman: David, c/o CHELIC. STREATHAM CHE GROUP meets regularly. Details from Ian Clayton, 14 Mansion Place, SW7 5LT

All gay women should read SAPPNO (30p inc post) regular monthly magazine

BCM Patrol London WC1

BANGOR GLF - group now forming. If you live in North Wales please contact Simon del Nevo, c/o UCNW Students Union, Deiniol Road, Bangor, Caerns, North Wales

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



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ARABIAN KNIGHTS



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Newsletters

Gay Forums For Manchester

MANCHESTER: The Gay Alliance here — an organisation involving the participation of several groups — is sponsoring a series of open forums on the gay scene. The first forum topic will be 'The Age Of Consent', set to take place at the Open Lounge at the Students' Union Building in Oxford Road, Manchester on October 28. Forum discussion will take place from 2.30pm to 7.30 and all forums will take place at the same time of day. The second one focuses on 'Integration in the Gay Scene', scheduled for Sunday November 25th. In all, there will be five forums at monthly intervals. Interested readers should keep an eye on the GN Information column in the back pages.

The venture should prove to be most interesting. The Manchester Gay Alliance has, in the past, achieved a good deal of success with its projects.

Fire Probe Drags On

NEW ORLEANS: Although it has been three months since the disastrous gay bar fire here claimed 31 victims, the official investigation into its causes has yet to reach any conclusions.

The New Orleans Fire Department is one of three agencies pooling forces. The department has announced that it believes the origins of the fire to be highly suspicious, and wants information gathered so far to be made public. However, it is unlikely that the information will be revealed soon. "It will probably take a few months to close the file and issue a report," said one official.

The different agencies handling the investigations appear to be at odds with one another. The Fire Marshall, for instance, says he wants to see the file closed because he disagrees with the analysis and wants the matter ended.

Meanwhile, a National New Orleans Memorial fund has received \$14,000 in donations from gays throughout the country.

GLF Displays Itself

SOUTH LONDON: The Gay Liberation Front here held the first of five weekly zaps on a recent Saturday. Aim of the action is to put GLF and its viewpoints before the public, and for this purpose twelve South London members took to the road in a rickety Morris van and a somewhat sturdier open Landrover.

The convoy began at 10.30am and continued through the afternoon. First stop was Brixton Market, where the group collected a few curious stares, and barely missed collecting a tomato and egg thrown by two young male onlookers.

At Streatham GLF passed out leaflets to some Mums doing their Saturday shopping. Eying the banners, a young boy asked his mother what they meant. "Don't take any notice," she advised him, "they're people who don't have anything better to do."

An elderly man also informed the GLF brigade that he "used to be like that too, but Jesus saved me, and he can save you too."

Reaction from the shoppers and others using the streets was minimal, as usual, but leaflets were distributed and more people were made aware of GLF's existence.

Telephone Company Sued

MINNEAPOLIS: The Minnesota branch of the American Civil Liberties Union will sue the vast Bell Telephone Company because it refused to hire an admitted gay for a \$122 weekly messenger's job.

The company has admitted it will not hire persons who are openly gay. It is hoped the court action will bring an end to its policy.

Sex Play Finally Performed

LONDON: The airily titled *Spring Awakening* a play banned here for almost 50 years, opened at the Cockpit Theatre West London on September 27. The play has a cast of 20 — most of them under 20 — and illustrates the situation of adolescents attempting to express their sexuality.

In one scene, a screen partially hides boys masturbating, and in another, two boys kiss and caress.

Frank Marcus — author of *The Killing of Sister George* and also the father of the play's 19-year-old director — said he had contacted the heads of schools attended by some of the players, and "no one had objected." The newspaper *Sunday People* did not seem to be overly approving; it headlined its report "Schoolgirls act in blue sex show".

Now He Tells Us

LONDON: Former Premier Harold MacMillan has "revealed" that at the time of the Lord Profumo sex scandal in 1963, "Soviet agents" exploited the situation initiating accusations that "half the Cabinet were involved in 'perversion, homosexuality and the like.'"

Gays Sue Radio Phone-In Man

MIAMI: Gay activists here are preparing to sue a radio station which broadcast comments by a phone-in compere to the effect that gays were 'perverts'.

The offensive labels were used during a broadcast of the *Alan Courtney Show*. Prompted by a caller referring to the Houston mass murder case, which took many teenaged male victims, Courtney declared that almost all homosexuals "recruit young children into their ranks". Encouraged by Courtney, several other listeners phoned in with similar sentiments.

The radio station refused to make a public apology, so the gay group contacted the American Civil Liberties Union, who agreed to take action on behalf of the gay group.

During the radio show, Courtney stated he was repeatedly propositioned whenever he walked into a gay bar, but none of the callers thought to ask him what he was doing there.

Irish Gays Geared For Action

ULSTER: Irish gays are joining forces to set up the Irish Gay Liberation Movement, the first national effort to combat the repressive thinking and anti-gay legislation still rampant in this country.

It is hoped that the liberation movement will spring from a conference to be held in Coleraine during the first week of November.

The New University of Ulster Sexual Reform Movement is laying the foundations for the meeting, and is inviting the participation of all Irish sexual minorities.

In Ireland, organised politics still excludes gay people. The law seeks to stop gay people from gathering to argue their case, even if they do so in a non-political manner.

16 Year Fight: £45,000

IPSWICH: Following a 16 year legal battle to clear himself of a court martial conviction of 'indecently assaulting' a sub-lieutenant, Lt Commander Swabey has been awarded £45,000 from the Ministry of Defence.

As if the expenditure of police spying on men walking through parks, harassing gay pubs, and expensive court proceedings for victimless crimes weren't enough, tax payers have now forked out £45,000. It's time the government took a deep look at what the word 'indecent' means. When they get through with that, they could then deal with 'waste'.

A Nice Idea

LONDON: Observer columnist Katherine Whitehorn has proposed that someone should write a manual of conduct to aid conventional people faced with friends who are not.

She suggests that it would illustrate to the straight person a way of judging the extent of gay relationships (would he prefer to come alone to a party or would he prefer to bring his male lover?) Ms Whitehorn would also like to know about rules of conduct when a ménage à trois involved two partners of the same sex.

Gay Murders — Victimisation?

DALLAS: Two "discreet" gay men have been murdered here, and it may also come to light that several other murder victims in the past few weeks were gay.

O T Hampton, a special features writer for the *Dallas Times Herald* was found strangled with a towel around his neck. He was also stabbed in the eyes, abdomen and heart. Hampton is the fourth murder victim from his paper in the past eight years; each of them was known to be gay or bisexual.

Hampton's semi-nude body had obscene messages scrawled across it. Police will not reveal what they were. Like Hampton, two other recent murder victims were stabbed in the eyes.

John Manson, 28, was found shot, stabbed and burnt with a hot iron in his apartment. A 20-year-old companion who was staying with him has been taken for questioning, and two others have been implicated.

Wives Fear Gay Discovery

LONDON: Wives of prisoners, fearing that their husbands may 'become' homosexual in jail, have formed a union to formally demand overnight visits.

Ms Margaret Tuttle, 30, whose husband James is serving 18 years for jewel theft, held the first meeting of 15 women in her North London home. The women decided to press the Home Secretary for overnight visitation rights, to lobby for full trade-union rates for work done by prisoners, and the right to have uncensored letters. "If a man is sent away for long periods, away from females, no wonder he becomes a homosexual," she said.

In response to Ms Tuttle's plans, the October 3 issue of the *Evening Standard* carried a letter from T Bradley, a gay male who wrote saying that the same privilege should be extended to gay prisoners in jail, "who undergo harassment from both prison officers and fellow-prisoners."

Forces Laws 'Unnecessary'

LONDON: According to the Rev Clifford Jobson, "Homosexuality, thank God, is still regarded by the Services as a crime and so by and large there is very little of it." Rev Jobson is Deputy Assistant Chaplain General of the First Division BAOR.

His comment, quoted in the *Daily Telegraph*, brought a letter of response to that paper from ex-MP Ian Harvey, now a member of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality. Harvey writes that the assertion "is not borne out by experiences in the past". He also states that the exclusion of the Forces from the 1967 Sexual Offences Act is unnecessary, "as the Forces have the appropriate regulations for dealing with any offences which are contrary to good order and discipline."

Radio 4, which also quoted Rev Jobson's speech to the Forces Family Association, is to be congratulated for having omitted the Reverend's laughable and perhaps evasive remarks on homosexuality.

'Ashamed Of Glasgow'

GLASGOW: Ms Janey Buchan, a Bailie here — the Scots version of an alderman — this week spoke of her 'fear and strain' before welcoming the gay Scottish Minorities Group to a civic reception prior to their national convention.

"I am ashamed of the way Glasgow has reacted to this conference and I put the blame on the publicity it received last week."

Ms Buchan said she had received a spate of 'nasty' letters following the announcement of the conference.

Houston Mass Murders Not A Record

HOUSTON: The sex slaying of 27 young males here, which made headlines around the world early in August, was not the record American mass murder many have assumed it to be.

The Guinness Book of World Records says the dubious achievement belongs to Harry Howard Holmes, who murdered an estimated 150 persons between 1890 and 1895. Most of his victims were children and young women.

The *Pictorial History of Crime* also cites Bella Poulosdatter, a woman who murdered 16 confirmed victims with 12 more suspected.

A Cottage Is Condemned

HENDON: After three months of turgid, anti-gay editorialising, *The Hendon Times* has proudly announced that the "notorious toilets at the Shirehall Lane end of Hendon Park are locked."

The sensationalistic tone of the editorials angered at least one local reader, a cleric, and provoked a large demonstration by the Gay Liberation Front. Editor Dennis Signy did not yield to any of GLF's demands, and writes in the September 28 edition of the paper that his "table-thumping" tactics had proved successful.

A news report of the closure in the *Hendon Times* reads: "This paper, backed by magistrates and police, highlighted the practices going on at these particular toilets, which were mentioned abroad as a meeting place for visitors to this country."

This major 'tourist trap' will now remain closed unless there is a special charity event in the park, and the paper reports that the Borough's engineer will prepare a detailed report on public lavatories in the area.

Trouble By The Sea

BRIGHTON: A GN reader tells us that the police are currently spending a lot of time hanging around a cottage situated in the Old Steine. A number of people have already been arrested and charged with 'committing acts of gross indecency'. Don't let it happen to you. Brighton magistrates court recently fined someone £250 for a cottaging 'offence'.

Gay Rights Conference

BRISTOL: A National Gay Rights Conference, organised by the National Union of Students and Bristol University Students Union will take place at the Union in Queens Road, Clifton on October 20.

The conference should prove to be a very important one — it will be covered next issue of GN.

Attorney Favours Sodomy Reform

LOS ANGELES: City Attny Burt Pines has endorsed a Bill which would withdraw the criminal status currently attached to acts of adultery, oral copulation and sodomy.

Pines says the laws are no longer generally enforced in LA, and should be removed from the books. "The law should not intrude into an adult person's bedroom," he said.

New Seattle Job Law

SEATTLE: A city ordinance which forbids employment discrimination against gays has come into existence here. The law came about with little push from gays — the groups mainly responsible for it were the Human Rights Commission, Women's Commission, and the Seattle Division on Ageing. It prohibits discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, nation of origin, sexual orientation etc.

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