

"A DIFFERENT JOURNEY TO THE SAME END"

IS GAY OFFENSIVE?

EUROPE'S LARGEST CIRCULATION FORTNIGHTLY NEWSPAPER FOR

THERE has been a great deal of dissatisfaction over the years about the operation of the Obscene Publication laws. The root of the trouble lies in the uncertainty which surrounds it all. A publisher has nowhere he can go to get a clean bill of health for the book or magazine which he wishes to put out, and must simply publish and be damned. You print what you want, and sit back patiently to see if the police force approves or not.

If somebody complains and the case gets taken to court, the prosecution is required to prove that the item in dispute is liable to deprave or corrupt. In other words they must demonstrate some kind of harmful effect on the kind of people into whose hands it might fall.

But as if the present situation were not silly and objectionable enough, Home Secretary Robert Carr has introduced a Bill which makes the situation even more uncertain. Entitled the Cinematograph and Indecent Displays Bill, it makes it an offence for book sellers and news-stands, amongst others, to display material which offends or outrages contemporary public standards of decency.

The proposal runs counter to the whole purpose of having a set of laws operating in a community. An essential part of this purpose is to establish a code of public rules of behaviour so that an individual may regulate his or her behaviour and avoid offending those rules. There will always be conflicts between parties who feel that they both have the law on their side (sighs of relief from barristers and solicitors), but each can be fairly clear just where they stand.

With the publisher who produces a book, this is far from true. A lot depends upon little more than the whim of the police. And final judgement rests with a magistrate or a jury, whose behaviour in matters of taste and decency is often almost entirely unpredictable. There is no clear indication in the Bill itself what one may display in a shop window, and what one may not.

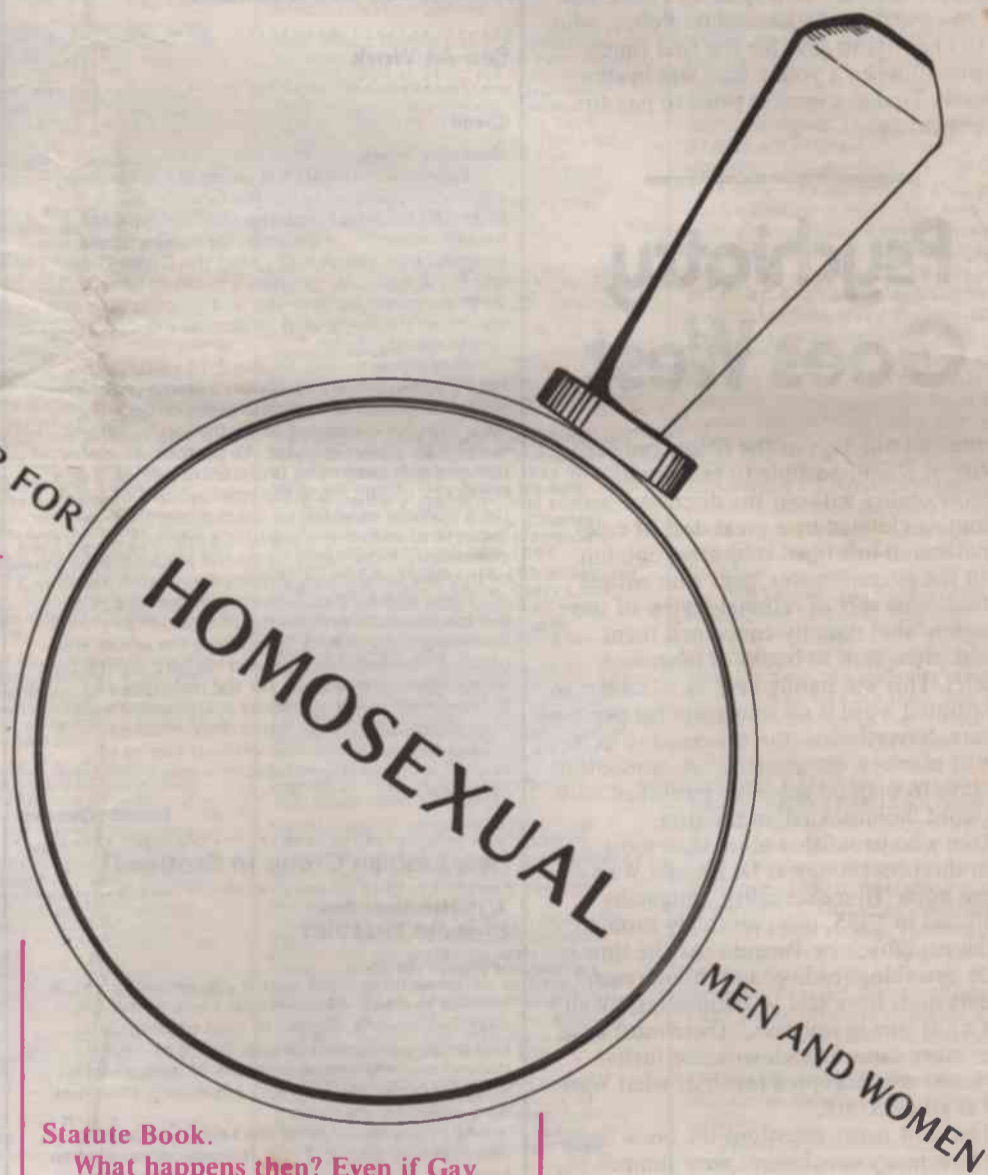
So uncertain is the new measure, in fact, that it has been suggested to

us that even Gay News is at risk, and that it may have to take its place under the counter with nudie-mags. Even if the front cover consisted of a tasteful photograph of the Lake District, with the controversial caption 'Autumn Sunset Over Lake Windermere', there are some people who are 'offended and outraged by the mere fact that we exist, and who would point to the small print where we make our claim to be Europe's Largest Circulation Fortnightly Newspaper for HOMOSEXUAL Men and Women. And, as if that were not indecent enough, could point out that we call ourselves GAY News.

It's still the sad truth that there are some people around who find the very thought of homosexuality offensive.

It will be interesting to see what happens. If the word homosexual is held to be offensive, then a number of books by doctors, psychiatrists, sociologists and lawyers are going to find themselves sitting quietly under the counter with this newspaper. An amusing thought, were it not for the fact that this sort of nonsense is seriously being proposed. By all means control public display material, if there is strong enough feeling amongst everyone that this is essential; but everyone must be clear what is offensive, and must be clear what it is that they so strongly object to seeing.

The Bill has now received its second reading in the House Of Commons, and it has been passed unopposed. As readers may know, the third reading is little more than a formality. So it is up to the House of Lords to demand a better piece of legislation. And it is a safe bet that they will merely tinker with it before it passes on to the



Statute Book.

What happens then? Even if Gay News is not considered offensive or outrageous, we know from bitter experience just how many newsagents and bookshops think of it as a 'sex paper' and what a battle it has been to get them to take it. There are bound to be the timid ones who will no longer dare to have the paper openly on sale.

And that depresses us beyond words. It has been a long and hard fight to get the paper out into the open. Homosexuality is not an 'under-the-counter' subject, something offensive and outrageous. By putting the paper into public shops and news-stands, we have tried to make it even less secretive. We are putting out something which we are proud of. Proud, not because it's the best produced paper in the world, not because it has the highest standards of journalism in the country, not because it is the most important newspaper to

anyone but ourselves. None of these things is true. We are proud of it simply because it is a small but very public part of the community, which, until recent years, has been forced to remain secretive and removed from public view.

Now all this is threatened.

As far as we are concerned, we reject any suggestion that Gay News is offensive to any right minded person. We shall resist any attempts to force us out of the shop windows and magazine racks which it has taken us so long to get into. And we ask you very simply, what is offensive or outrageous about the paper you hold in your hands?

We do not usually voice editorial opinions on the cover. But this is a battle about what the general public sees, and we are not going to hide our opinion inside.

GAY NEWS

A Heavy Price To Pay

IN this issue of Gay News we carry a report of the brutal murder of a 32-year-old gay in Blackburn, Lancashire. It is the sort of incident that makes one horrified, sick, but not surprised. There is an increasing acceptance, particularly in America, that gay people are attacked in this way. The only redeeming feature in the whole episode is that some of the detectives on the case came to have some sort of respect for the gay community of Blackburn. Officers who had been in the force for up to 20 years said that, for the first time, they had got to know gay people as people rather than crime statistics, and had been impressed. Undoubtedly, the investigations did something for police/gay relations. And yet the last time Gay News referred to Lancashire police was to report that the 160% increase in convictions for offences between males since the 1967 Sexuals Offences Act was almost entirely attributable to the activities of two police forces, the London Metropolitan Police and, yes, you guessed, the Lancashire Police, who got to understand gays for the first time this month when a young man was beaten to death. That is a terrible price to pay for understanding.

Psychiatry Goes West

IN the bad old days of the fifties and early sixties, it was impossible to talk about homosexuality without the discussion becoming clouded by a great deal of emotional and ill-informed subjective opinion.

In the circumstances, gays who wished to find some sort of rational review of the questions that directly concerned them would often turn to books or magazine articles. This was hardly very satisfactory, as the printed word is no substitute for personal debate. Nevertheless, there seemed to be a sort of manic, if understandable, compulsion for gays to snap up anything published with the word 'homosexual' in the title.

One who benefitted more than most from this obsession, was Dr Donald West, whose book 'Homosexuality', originally published in 1955, was eventually brought out in paperback by Penguin. At the time it made absorbing reading, and though many readers must have said to themselves, "Well, that's not true in my case," there must have been many out of touch with the furtive gay scene who accepted much of what West said as gospel truth.

Just how many questions the book begged, just how many conclusions were jumped to, and how many assumptions were unquestioningly made, became very clear when the doctor spoke recently at a London Medical Group lecture (see report this issue). In the interval between his book appearing and his talk the other day, much has happened. Besides the relaxing of the law in certain parts of Great Britain, gay activist groups have proliferated, providing a forum for discussion of many of the problems West has ignored. Such groups have had the clear advantage over West of having collectively greater contact with other living, breathing homosexuals, and an immediate, personal experience of situations which have trickled through to the doctor's notice in the form of statistics. And from the varied analyses, by gays themselves, of their situation, have emerged many new and worthwhile ideas which West has been either unwilling or unable to absorb into his theories. His work seems to have been overtaken by events.

On the positive side, his somewhat dated ideas provide a very convenient yardstick against which to measure the very real, but not always apparent progress that our own community has made in understanding its own position.

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.

NUS White-Wash

Notting Hill Gate, London W11

Dear Gay News,

Your editorial 'Berlin and After' (GN35) casts doubt upon the truth of my statement about incidents at the World Youth Festival in East Berlin. More than a dozen Festival delegates have corroborated my statement, including the secretary of the British delegation.

Obviously many students are concerned about the Executive's behaviour towards GLF in East Berlin. The recent National Conference of Polytechnics held in Belfast called for the resignation of those members of the Executive involved.

The NUS Executive's Report on the World Youth Festival dismissed the incidents in a few sentences, not even mentioning the violence that occurred. Thus it is with good reason that gay students fear a white-wash by the NUS investigation.

A positive result of the 'Berlin Affair' is that it has spurred the NUS Executive to give the Gay Rights Campaign greater support and assistance than before. Rather than using its editorial columns to criticise the Homosexual Students Association, Gay News should show its solidarity with gay students who are working to ensure that the NUS Executive is united in its support for the speedy implementation of the Gay Rights policy.

Peter Tatchell

ED: Gay News has been, and remains, clearly committed to supporting gay students and seeing that the Gay Rights Policy is pursued energetically by the NUS EC and members alike.

Sex At Work

Cardiff

Dear Gay News,

Your editorial staff has recently been making great play of the fact that the Government's proposals for equal opportunities for men and women makes no allowances for homosexuals. I suggest that you actually read the Green Paper and think again. No woman is going to benefit if these proposals become law and to include homosexuals in the law would encourage job discrimination against them.

Quoting sections 2.13 and 2.14 which allow for exceptions of equal opportunities: "Where it would be offensive to public tastes or decency for a man (or a woman) to do the job". "Where it could be shown that for the performance of personal services strong preferences among customers or clients made the employment of a man (or a woman) essential to the business." "Where it can be shown that a man (or a woman) is statistically more likely to do the job satisfactorily or to show satisfactory employment behaviour."

These possibilities for exceptions make any Act based on the proposals a charter for job discrimination, indeed, they make the whole area of job discrimination legal and socially acceptable. So no more campaigning for the inclusion of homosexuals in the proposed act, please. I have enough trouble already being discriminated against for being a woman without having to bear a further burden of discrimination for being homosexual.

Loretta Dawson

New Lesbian Group In Scotland?

4/15 Hailesland Park, Edinburgh EH14 2RQ

Dear Gay News,

I am writing to ask you if you would be so good as to make it known that I am, within the next few months, hoping to start off a Lesbian Campaign-cum-Social Group. It will of course, depend entirely on the numbers of persons who would support me and most important, the types who would be involved.

As I have already had the task of organising two previous groups, I talk from experience when I say that the last two groups failed dismally in their objectives due to lack of co-operation, bad behaviour in public, and general trouble within the membership. I can't help feeling that women, and in particular, lesbians are their own worst enemies. They seem incapable of enjoying themselves without "flirting dangerously", and drinking themselves to death! I am not talking for all lesbians, but it is the decent hard-working ones with principles who suffer as a result of these so-called rebels. If we are ever to become accepted in heterosexual society we want firstly, well-balanced images put across, and secondly, those with the courage of their own convictions to face up to their homosexuality and not run away from the fact. I believe this can be done in a discreet and orderly fashion, without going round with placards and such too obvious means.

If I were a defeatist, I would just sit back and let everyone get on with their own thing. Instead I am a tenacious person who believes that there is definitely a place for the lesbian in society and the least I can do is organise a meeting place for those very under-privileged members of society — lesbians.

I want to form a hard core of people who first of all must be genuine and want to contribute towards the group as a whole. In other words this gathering would be selective, and by this I mean single-minded in its purpose to provide a united front, but having no discrimination as to colour or creed. I visualise get-togethers, discussions, outings, and a regular weekly social meeting.

Anyone who is interested should contact me at the address given in this letter. I should make it quite clear from the start that the emphasis lies in consideration towards others, which in itself

provides a good basis for a happy, harmonious group. This being the key-note of success, I see no reason why, if these principles are adhered to, we cannot form a perfectly respectable lesbian group. It should be noted that the organiser reserves the right to refuse or cancel membership.

With all this in mind, let us get something worthwhile started on this side of the border which is sadly lacking in communication. No affiliation to any other existing organisation is intended. If it is possible for the men to produce their meeting places etc, and with more success, then let us women get cracking and help ourselves more towards an end.

Margaret Laurie

Come Back Regulars

Old Kent Road, London SE1

Dear Gay News,

I am writing to give a big vote of thanks to Mo, Lynn and Maggie, who run the MOLIN club at Herne Hill. Everyone worked very hard to make the opening night Friday Nov 2nd such a success. The club premises are a great improvement on the last place; carpets on the floor, soft lights, I know I speak for everyone there when I say we all had a great time and Mo with her terrific sense of humour really made the evening swing.

Just one small fly in the ointment. Where are all the regulars of the old place? Come on back and support three great gals and their bar staff. We now have a club to call our own. So, for heavens sake, support it, and help keep a great club going. With our help it can't help but be a success and go on to greater and better things. It is up to all of us. So how about it?

Thanks again, Mo, Lynn and Maggie.

Peggy

Appalled!

London SW1

Dear Gay News,

I was appalled to read 'Eric's Story' by K H (GN35). Sexist, pseudo-problems page trash with closet queen overtones. Surely this is the sort of shit we should be fighting against if we want to banish feelings of prejudice against gays? The whole thing smacks of some sort of transient sexual being that should not be entitled to a relationship with anyone. There's nothing to be ashamed of if one has had a broader sexual experience than one's mate, surely talking to his wife could have lightened his load and broadened the woman's sexual horizon? OK, it's only a story, but shit, why print it?

Nick Skinner

Credit Where Credit's Due

Liverpool

Dear Gay News,

I have read Gay News with interest for the past six months or so, and find that every issue is almost more interesting and informative on the gay scene than its predecessor. I am as concerned as yourselves, and your correspondents about undue police harassment of gay persons relaxing in situations which cannot cause real offence to the public or other persons — but that type of harassment is not only connected with gay persons.

It can at times extend into the coloured community or other fields, if a particular officer feels he should appear to be zealous and capable.

But I think we must be fair to the police. There are those forces where officers can be helpful and understanding. Earlier this year I was involved in certain circumstances that led me to receiving a blackmail letter from a young man of 26 who had posed as being gay but was really out to obtain evidence of myself in an incriminating circumstance, and then demand money unless I wished the evidence to be published on Merseyside. Blackmail I consider the most horrible of all offences after murder, and there is nothing in my life of which I am so ashamed that I would not defend myself against a blackmailer. I promptly went to the police and told them the whole story. They saw my continental magazines, films, and a whole lot more which exist on the fringe of the gay scene. They liaised with police forces in the Midlands and on a snowing night with driving snow across the M6 and the Stoke road, twenty officers converged to seal off all routes and entrap the blackmailer who was caught red-handed. Throughout the fortnight's investigation and subsequent police court proceedings, I had nothing but understanding and co-operation from the officers concerned in the case. They admitted that much that they saw was alien to them, and their way of life, but there was no harassment, only men doing their duty. They helped to keep my name out of the court proceedings and in every way possible, we even had informative discussions in my house and car on the sexual laws of this country.

I found them so understanding and helpful that I am prepared to make a substantial donation to the Police Department's Fund, for their steadfastness to duty in freezing temperatures as they hid in ditches in a snowstorm to entrap the blackmailer were to me remarkable — and they could not even change when they returned to Liverpool Main Bridewell with the prisoner. I think facts like these should be known. It is not all adverse publicity to our national police forces.

JH

How Much Longer?

London NW10

Dear Gay News,

Now that some Australian and all German gays can consent at 18 (the age adopted in almost all consensual legislation), how much longer must we wait for this tedious Government to follow suit? If a person is legally responsible at 18 here, there is no justification for the present gay 'yes-age' to be stuck at 21. There may be some difference as to whether 16 or 18 is more appropriate, but 21 clearly is not.

David Storey



Illustration: Jean-Claude Thevenin

We Get Around

Scunthorpe, Lincs.

Dear Gay News,

Just thought you'd like to know that I noticed Gay News being read in a pavement cafe whilst on holiday in Dubrovnik. Keep up the good work!

Maurice

Gay Candidate At University Elections

5 Beaumont Street, Oxford

Dear Gay News,

I am standing in the student elections for the Student Representative Council in Oxford University this term as a Gay Rights Candidate and am hoping to be able to educate a large amount of student opinion about Gay Rights in general, but especially the NUS motion of last year and the treatment of our GLF delegate in Berlin (GN35). Hopefully we might be able to encourage a few other gays to 'come out' in this terribly closeted scene.

We are hoping to galvanise support to have a gay representative in the University. The main trouble seems to be money. As I will be about the only candidate without political backing, if any group or individual has any spare cash, which they might be able to spare to publicise the cause we would be very grateful. Any contributions would be gladly received by myself or Roland Jeffrey, my agent, whose address is Queens College Oxford (and that's no joke!)

John Rossington

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Gays Assist Murder Inquiry

BLACKBURN: A swift arrest followed the discovery of the body of John Kirby, a 32-year-old accountant from Samlesbury, near Blackburn. The body was found in a leafy glade in Corporation Park, Blackburn, and his head had been badly injured.

The man arrested is Anthony Craig, 26 years old, also from Blackburn. He was charged with murder, and following a brief court appearance was remanded for one week at Risley Remand Centre.

Detective Chief Superintendent Joe Mounsey, head of Lancashire CID, took charge of the investigation and set up control headquarters at Blackburn's King Street police station.

The last time that John Kirby was seen alive was in the Merchant's Hotel, Darwen Street, the town's leading gay bar. Joe Mounsey asked for the gay community to come forward with any information which might be of help to police enquiries. He said that he knew police/gay relations had been somewhat strained in the past, but he felt that at this time the two groups should be working closely together to prevent the repetition of such a brutal slaying.

To make it easier for gay people to come forward, he set up a special 'hot-line' to King Street control headquarters, and promised that all gays using this line would be assured of complete discretion. Alternatively, he said, they could pass on information through Ken Pilling, landlord of the Merchants Hotel. A senior detective at King Street said that response to the appeal had been "very encouraging". Many gays ignored the secret phone line and went down to the police station in person to tell what they knew.

Gay News spoke to Ken Pilling who said he was shocked by what had happened. John, he told us, was "a very quiet lad.

Wouldn't hurt a fly. He was a nice type, one of the best." Ken only wished he could convince his customers how dangerous places like Corporation Park really were for gays.

The arrested man, Anthony Craig, was also a regular visitor to the Merchants Hotel, but was not gay.

Speaking of the police behaviour in the case, Ken told us that they had "acted with the utmost discretion. Whenever they wanted to interview someone, they were careful to speak to him away from his home or place of work, just so it wouldn't cause him any difficulties."

Ken said that during the case, many detectives had spent a lot of time in his pub, talking to customers, and trying in general to pick up some idea of what the gay scene was like. Later, when Craig had been arrested, a number of the detectives had come in for a last drink before going back to their forces, and several of them told Ken that it was the first time they had ever really got to know any gay people, got to understand something of how they lived. And for many it was an eye-opener. They had been quite impressed by the gays they had spoken to.

When Gay News spoke to control headquarters, they once again told us about the help they had been given, with a special mention of the part Ken played. "The main source of our help was Mr Ken Pilling. He was very helpful to us. He sort of organised the local gay people as best he could, and he was very helpful to us."



Police search Corporation Park for clues

Gay Jailed, Hets Go Free

CHELMSFORD: Two court cases taking place on consecutive days here prove that the law can be kind to everyone — providing you're not an unlucky gay.

On October 3rd, a father and son appeared in Chelmsford Court, both of them charged with having repeatedly raped a 15-year-old girl. The men — Ronald Barker 42 and William, 17 — both had sexual intercourse with the girl on numerous occasions in a room above their Braintree cobblers shop. A crucial factor of the case centred around photographs taken by the elder Barker while his son had intercourse with the girl. The prosecutor said these photographs were used to blackmail the girl into returning for more sex, under threat of the shots being sent to

her mother.

Both were cleared. The judge came to the decision after discovering that the girl had taken part in sexual intercourse with "a number" of her male school friends. The judge was not sure that the sex with father and son had taken place against her will.

The preceding day, Peter Gabbitas, 26, received an 18 month jail sentence after being charged with committing "sexual offences" with a 16 year old boy.

GN could not obtain facts surrounding the case, but a reader in the area contacted us, claiming that the pair had been living together under mutual consent.

Double standards can often prove painful to those who land on the receiving end.

Sappho Sisters Remember

HIGHGATE: Twenty Sappho Sisters joined together at Highgate Cemetery to pay a moving tribute to Radclyffe Hall, author of 'The Well Of Loneliness'. On the thirtieth anniversary of her death, the sisters gathered from Scotland, Wales, America, Australia and Portugal, and heard Jackie Forster read from the book: "You're neither unnatural, nor abominable, nor mad: you're as much part of what people call nature as anyone else; only you're unexplained as yet — you've not got your niche in creation. But some

day that will come, and meanwhile don't shrink from yourself, but just face yourself calmly and bravely. Have courage; do the best you can with your burden. But above all be honourable. Cling to your honour for the sake of those others who share the same burden. For their sakes show the world that people like you and they can be quite as selfless and fine as the rest of mankind. Let your life go to prove this — it would be a really great life-work."

Gay Lib Show Ends

SAN FRANCISCO: Len Richmond, co-author of The Gay Liberation Book, tells us that his Gay Liberation Radio Show which has been running throughout the summer on the commercial station KSAN has come to the end of its run. He will still be returning to KSAN from time to time to do gay specials, and he is asking his American listeners to send in ideas for programmes.

San Francisco, he writes, has over 75 gay bars. But there are very few expressly

gay places to go where people can get together outside the bar scene. Many other cities, he believes, like Los Angeles, New York, Seattle and London offer a much wider range of alternatives. And he thinks that in the cities where oppression is worst, the gay alternatives that are available are "the most loving, human and dedicated". Hopefully San Francisco will get its own gay community service centre in the future.

American Television Gives In To New Gay Group

NEW YORK: A major victory is being claimed here by American gay activists, following the recent announcement by the National Broadcasting Company that it will in future act more responsibly in its treatment of homosexuals.

Following meetings between four representatives of the National Gay Task Force and network executives responsible for programming and programming standards, a spokesman for the company said: "NBC acknowledges that the network has at times dealt unfairly with homosexuals in its programmes, and that an agreement has been reached to maintain a continuing liaison with homosexual organisations for advice in future treatment of homosexual topics."

The incident immediately responsible for the meetings was an episode of a programme called 'Sanford and Son' which was built around events in a gay bar, and included a whole catalogue of gay stereotypes. Besides the Task Force demand to meet NBC executives, Mark Siegel, the professional gay 'zapper', burst in on the early morning TV news show 'Today' to protest against NBC's handling of the whole subject of homosexuality. Other demonstrations of various sorts took place throughout the country.

The agreement must have been particularly encouraging for the Gay Task Force, which was barely two weeks old when this, their first major success, was chalked up.

The group was set up at the instigation of Dr Howard J Brown, formerly New York's senior health services administrator, who caused a stir when he 'came out' this autumn. Its role is to act as a clearing house and co-ordinator for the 850 gay groups that now exist in the states. The task force lists a board of directors of 22 homosexual activists and has a full-time, professional staff of five people. "Gay liberation has become a nine to five job — there's no other way to do it," says Ronald Gold, Task Force communications director and former press officer of the Gay Activists Alliance.

There is something strangely familiar in reports of rivalry between Task Force and other groups, but Task Force is anxious not to try and 'take over' the work that other gay activists are already doing. Nathalie Rockhill, the new national co-ordinator and

press representative of the New York State Coalition of Gay Organisations, was insistent that none of the existing homosexual and lesbian groups would be asked to surrender any 'sovereignty' to the new organisation.



Dr Howard J Brown, National Gay Task Force

Nevertheless, it is being said that it has simply taken advantage of the GAA's ground work with television companies to achieve the NBC agreement, and Gay Raider Mark Siegel accused Ronald Gold of taking the credit for Task Force after Mark interrupted the 'Today' programme.

But the new group soldiers on. One of its early tasks is to raise funds. Dr Brown thinks that they will need an annual budget of up to \$150,000 a year to carry on their work effectively. They have launched appeals for money which have already attracted some \$5,000. Both homosexuals and heterosexuals are being asked to contribute, and foundations are also being asked to give money.

"We are a bargain for a foundation," said Dr Brown. "They could make a big contribution to civil rights for very little money." He is also stressing that "if you give money it doesn't prove you're gay," in order to quieten the anxieties of the heterosexuals who may have some misgivings about donating money to the cause.

Whatever the future prospects of the group, the NBC concession is a positive and concrete success for it to have notched up this early in its existence.

More From Peterborough

PETERBOROUGH: Following our report on Cllr Charles Swift's speech in Peterborough (see GN35) in which he called for the city to provide facilities for its gay community, we were sent the following by the Town Hall, which we simply reprint in the belief that it says it all:

Press Release

In twelve short days decisive steps have been taken to establish a club for homosexuals in Peterborough.

The campaign began on October 27 with a speech to a leisure conference from city council leader Charles Swift.

He said: "I'm sick of the ignorance that has made the homosexual a hate object. I'm sick of the narrow-minded 'holier than thou' people who think they're so marvellously normal and clean.

"One way to solve the problem is for the city to have a club as a meeting place just for homosexuals. I don't care who starts it. But if we want to be able to say that we care for everyone, we've got to start putting our mouths where our minds are."

He was expecting angry and bitter reaction. He waited for the hate-mail to arrive. It didn't.

Instead he got support. Moral support from the city's homosexuals, financial support from businesses and businessmen.

Mr Swift said: "In the last week I've seen heartbreaking cases of young boys who have had to leave their homes because they are homosexuals and their parents feel ashamed of them.

"And the letters I've got have all said the same thing: 'Thank God someone has said something at last'."

Now Mr Swift plans to discuss the club idea with Mid-Anglia Chief Constable Mr Frederick Drayton Porter. He'll also be seeking council support and looking for suitable premises.

Press Release Ends.

Gay News urges its readers, particularly those who live in the Peterborough area, to write to Councillor Charles Swift, c/o The Town Hall, Peterborough, offering at least their support, in return for his stand on our behalf.

Meeting With Council Goes Ahead

NEWPORT: Efforts to stop the Newport branch of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality meeting the town's education authority have ended in failure.

The aim of the meeting was for CHE to discuss with the education committee discrimination against the employment of teachers, and the extent to which homosexual education is provided for children. The meeting is in line with CHE's present education campaign.

Cllr Veronica Brydon told members at a recent meeting of the committee that she was "staggered" that the meeting was to take place. "Speaking as a councillor and a parent, I would be violently opposed to this authority employing homosexuals in schools to teach our children. It is important to remember the parents' rights and duties in these matters and I say the meeting should not take place."

Cllr Paul Flynn said he thought CHE should attend. "I am sure we must be employing homosexual teachers now, just as

we must be employing homosexual bus-drivers and steelworkers. The suggestion that we should discriminate against them in this way is quite outrageous, and scrapping the meeting would be an act of gross intolerance and unworthy of this council."

Chairman of the committee, Rev Cyril Summers, told members that gay teachers were treated completely normally by the authority "as a matter of policy", except when sexual misconduct occurs. "The same goes for heterosexuals if there is misconduct, and we in no way discriminate over whether a person is homo or not." As far as sex education was concerned, he said that if it was to be properly done, "then information on the subject should be included. We shall obviously listen to what these people (CHE Newport) have to say and I hope we can convince them that our policy towards homosexuals is a just and fair one."

Ms Brydon's attempt to have the meeting called off was heavily defeated, and it will take place as arranged.

Death Blaze -Gay Confesses Arson

Raymond L Wallender, a 32-year-old homosexual of no fixed address, has admitted to starting the horrifying fire that swept through the upstairs lounge gay bar in New Orleans last June, killing 32 people and badly burning others.

Wallender had been in Sacramento gaol since August 31 when he was arrested on charges of grand theft and assault with a deadly weapon. He made his confession initially to David Goodman, a detective on Sacramento's Homicide Squad after telling a gaoler that he "wanted to get something off his mind".

Goodman immediately checked with the New Orleans police, getting them to match the details of the confession with the known facts of the case. And as a result, two New Orleans detectives flew out to Sacramento two days later. The two men questioned Wallender closely, and a warrant for his arrest was issued by New Orleans. Waiving his extradition rights, the prisoner was flown to the city where the tragedy occurred and charged with murder.

So far police have been unwilling to release details of the confession, because the investigations, they say, are in a delicate stage. They were only able to issue a summary of what Wallender had told them. In particular, Detective Sam Gebbia, one of the two men who brought the prisoner back from Sacramento, would make no comment on suggestions that there had been one or more accomplices at the scene of the fire.

According to the summary which they released, Wallender claims to have started the blaze by pouring a bucket of petrol over the ground floor of the building. This ties in with earlier statements made by witnesses that the fire seemed to start with a great

ball of flame, as though some kind of inflammable liquid were igniting. But there seems to be some question about which floor it actually started on.

His reason for starting the fire, says Wallender, was revenge. He alleges that one of the customers in the bar had earlier offered a gay friend of his \$200 (over £95) to have sex with him. But the friend had not been paid.

Responsibility for the fire had first been claimed in a hoax call to a New Orleans TV station by a woman who said: "The fire last night was started by a vigilante group which has declared war on homos. The group is called Black Mama, White Mama."

But New Orleans fire department have kept a resolute silence about the whole affair. A group of investigators called it all 'highly suspicious' but when later they proposed to make public some of the findings, the local fire chief vetoed the move. They have never said officially that it was a case of arson.

Wallender originally found himself in prison after an incident in which it is reported he attempted to steal a coat from a Sacramento department store, and pulled a knife on a store detective who followed him out of the shop. He had been in custody for two months when he made his statement about the fire.

Meanwhile, Gay America remembers. It remembers how a Gay Pride week of spirited demonstrations and marches ended on Gay Pride Day in tragedy, unhappiness and anger.

The memorial services that were later held nation-wide, the hundreds of dollars that poured into the Los Angeles Advocate memorial fund were some indication of how hard the American gay community felt the blow.

ILEA Turns Down GLF

LONDON: The Inner London Education Authority has rejected proposals by the Gay Liberation Front for a Gay Studies course at an Adult Evening Institute.

In July of this year, South London GLF decided to approach the head of the Cowley Recreational Institute, Mr S C Burden, with a view to setting up a course along the lines of those currently being offered by American and Dutch universities. In August, a GLF Education group was set up to prepare a syllabus for the course and to organise the recruitment of speakers and students.

Mr Burden, when approached, was enthusiastic about the project, so GLF wrote to the ILEA to get them to back the course, whose backing they felt would help to encourage the starting of similar courses in other areas of London and outside.

The course was planned to attract straights as well as gays, and in particular was aimed at those who in one way or another, come into contact with gays regularly, or have any part in influencing public attitudes, for example teachers, social workers, members of the medical and legal professions, the police and the youth services.

When first approached, the ILEA said that they were unable to provide educational facilities officially for "sectarian groups", and that any education service must be applicable to the whole community. As this was exactly the whole point of the course, GLF wrote back in greater detail to ask them to reconsider. As a result of this second application, they were invited to an interview at County Hall with Mr Peter Lincoln, Deputy Head of ILEA's Community Edu-

cation and Careers Branch. After fifteen minutes, the two GLF delegates realised that the course was not going to get backing, but it was an hour before Lincoln told them, "You probably knew what we were going to say before you came." Lincoln told them that gay people were not oppressed, that British society was remarkably tolerant, and that anyway there already existed a lot of channels for such views, such as public lectures, TV and radio, and press articles. Public money should not be spent putting across a "biased, minority point of view". And he was concerned lest young people came across the course and came into contact with ideas that "might attract them to that way of life". After all, he said, heterosexuality was the normal way of life, though of course he wasn't prejudiced personally. But not only the GLC and Government politicians would object to the idea; the ratepayers would also. The course was not on because "the climate of public opinion is not right". GLF finds the argument strange; that their attempt to dispel public prejudice was not viable because the public was prejudiced.

On the day of the interview, the ILEA Education committee met to discuss a report prepared by their Chief Education Officer entitled 'An Education Service for the Whole Community'.

GLF have not given up on the course, however. They are at present talking to other organisations to try and interest them in sponsoring the idea. They have promised that they will nominate Mr Peter Lincoln as Student No 1 on the course, when it starts up.

Anti-Gay Bias Banned

TORONTO: The City Council of Toronto, Canada's second largest city with a population of about 800,000, has accepted a resolution that city employees "are to be in no way discriminated against with regard to hiring, assignments, promotions or dismissals because of sexual orientation."

The move came after six months of lobbying by the Gay Alliance Toward Equality (GATE) when Alderman David Smith helped the group to prepare a brief and a resolution to be put before the council's Urban Renewal, Fire, Housing, and Legislation Committee. The committee unanimously adopted the resolution and passed it forward for the consideration of the full council where it was passed with 15 votes in favour, only 1 vote against, and 7 absentees or abstentions.

The GATE resolution had also received the public blessing of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, and a powerful citizen's group called the Confederation of Resident and Ratepayers Associations. They feel that this strong support helped greatly the smooth passage of the resolution through the council.

Gays crowded the gallery for the occasion, and there was a burst of loud applause when the result of the vote was announced.

Gay Funeral

LOS ANGELES: Scotty Runyon, a 29-year-old actor and musician who died in a Los Angeles bath house fire, has been buried in a cemetery in North Hollywood.

Scotty was asleep in a cubicle when fire broke out. It is understood that a small television set in the lobby started the blaze which spread swiftly through the small building.

A member of the San Francisco Cockettes Troupe followed the coffin as it was borne from the hearse to the grave, scattering gardenias from a silver box. Gardenias were Scotty's favourite flower. At the graveside the coffin was rested on a canopied mound banked with all kinds of flowers.



Actor Scotty Runyon

Basildon Bover

The popular London female impersonator Lee Tracy, who regularly comperes at the Paint Box Club, had an eventful night recently after finishing a drag show in Essex.

Still wearing the basic make-up he had been using in his act, he was driving back to London with two New Zealand friends and a hitch-hiker, when he was involved in a slight accident with a car in front. Fortunately there was no great damage, just a couple of scratches on the two cars' bumpers, but the driver in front was furious and leapt out to tell Lee in no uncertain terms what he thought of his driving.

However, having 'got it off his chest', he got back into his car and drove off.

So Lee carried on back to London. But he had hardly gone a mile and a half when a police car pulled out of a side road in front of him and stopped him. The two officers in the car, one of whom Lee identified as PC Stanbridge from Basildon police, told him that he had been reported drunk, and that he had failed to report an accident. They then pulled him out of his car, calling him a 'queer cunt', hauled him over to the patrol car, pushed him over the bonnet and pulled out a breathalyzer bag. Lee put it in his mouth, he says, but no sooner had he got it between his teeth than they snatched it out of his mouth, and told him he had refused to take a breath test, so they were taking him in.

The two New Zealanders, who have only been in England a week, watched the whole scene in amazement. When they saw that Lee was being taken away, they asked the police officers what they should do. They were after all stuck out in Essex late at night with no transport. "Hitch," was the detailed advice they received, and when they explained that they were newly arrived in the country and didn't know the way home, they say they were told to "Fuck off back to New Zealand then."

Lee was taken back to the station where he was questioned. Seeing the make-up on his face, the officer wanted to know what sort of places he frequented. But Lee couldn't see what the question had to do with a drunk driving charge and declined to answer.

He was taken down to the cells, and at this point, Lee told us, he was roughed up by five policemen. He received bruises on his back, a cut on his side which he showed us, and grazed elbows. He was subsequently charged with assaulting a police officer. It is the latter charge that he objects to. "I hadn't had much to drink," he said. "My work depends on my being able to travel around by car, so I am careful about the amount I drink. But if the blood test shows I was a bit over the official limit, I'll plead guilty to the charge. But I am going to fight the assault charge. It was them who attacked me."

Lee seems to think that the police didn't quite catch his name because they referred to him the whole evening as 'queer cunt' and 'queer bastard'.

The case will be heard on January 3rd at Billericay.

No Time For Gay Rights

LONDON: The NUS is not to hold a full debate on the Berlin affair (see report GN35). A motion was tabled by West London College, School of Slavonic and East European Studies (SSEES), Institute of Archeology, UCL, and Reading, which condemned the behaviour of members of the NUS Executive Committee at Berlin in using violence against GLF delegate Peter Tatchell which stopped him taking part in the closing ceremonies, and in opposing his rights to carry a placard, as well as attacking him for distributing leaflets to the US delegation. The motion reaffirms the principles contained in the Exeter gay rights motion, and describes the actions of the people concerned as displaying "at best moral cowardice and at worst downright hypocrisy".

The resignation of Judy Cotter, Steve Parry and Digby Jacks from the executive committee are demanded, and the NUS is instructed to write to all delegations at the Festival explaining and apologising for what happened. 11 amendments have been tabled to this motion, all in broad support except for two. The first was from the executive committee itself which asks conference to leave the matter in the hands of the committee, and a second from UCL, withdrawing its support from the main motion.

But following a ballot, the motion is not listed for debate at the Margate conference. Nevertheless, attempts will be made to raise the whole matter in questions on the executive report. A number of written questions have already been submitted.

Unequal Opportunities

EDINBURGH: The Government recently issued a Discussion Document "Equal Opportunities for Men and Women" and called for reactions from individuals and organisations. The Document itself gives the Government's intentions in the field of discrimination, and is the result of much campaigning by Willie Hamilton MP.

The Government do not plan to go as far as Mr Hamilton, in that the proposed Equal Opportunities Commission will have educative functions, not legally coercive powers. Although Home Secretary Robert Carr's introduction to "Equal Opportunities" makes it perfectly clear that he is thinking of women only, the document as a whole could, with suitable amendments, apply equally to discrimination against homosexuals in employment.

The Scottish Minorities Group's Law Reform Committee considered the Government's proposals and decided to send in comments to the Home Secretary. Basically SMG approve of the proposals - and Glasgow and Edinburgh Womens Lib Workshops have also discussed the SMG approach - which means that the Home Office will have to give some sort of consideration to homosexuals in work. Whether the Government take up SMG's suggestions is another question.

Ian Dunn

You-Know-Who Is At It Again

LONDON: In the Umpteenth Epistle of Mary to the Home Secretary, Ms Whitehouse has tackled Robert Carr on the scope of his new Cinematograph and Indecent Displays Bill.

During the past month she complains that "Viewers have been shown a homosexual marriage with men kissing (Alan Whicker ITV documentary) and lesbians in bed together (BBC TV drama).

"The public display of such behaviour in advertisement and photograph could be expected to violate the new law. On what grounds can TV and radio be exempt?"

The cover of GN35 showed men kissing. Ms Mary Whitehouse is suggesting that such a cover will be illegal under the proposed new legislation.

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Recent Thoughts Of DJ West

LONDON: On November 15 the London Medical Group welcomed as its guest Dr D J West, a clinical psychiatrist at the Institute of Criminology, Cambridge, but probably better known to readers of Gay News as author of the Pelican paperback entitled 'Homosexuality'.

The lecture, intended for medical students, junior hospital doctors and nurses, and open to students and others professionally interested, was held at the Westminster Medical School. Dr West called the talk "Social Problems of Homosexuality".

It is fashionable today, and rightly so, he told his audience, for prejudice and discrimination against homosexuals to be resisted by gays themselves, with the support of sympathetic heterosexuals.

But gay liberation, he warned, went further. What gay activists were suggesting was that homosexuality as a life style was as good as, or some claimed even better than, heterosexuality. It was this he wanted to question in his lecture, by suggesting that there were a number of problems that were *intrinsic* to homosexuality, either caused by gays, or suffered by them.

A human being went through a number of emotional phases as he grew up and developed as a member of society. From early childhood attachment to parents; through puberty to formal or informal sexual education and experience in adolescence; leaving home and parents to set up one's own home and life style; reaching middle age and a realisation that one's way of life has become set; and finally to old age, with failing health and loneliness in many cases. Whilst these phases are broadly similar for both homosexuals and heterosexuals, they have a different significance for each.

He did not want to talk about the 'causes' of homosexuality, because "in fact there are more male homosexuals than female homosexuals."

Because of simple childish curiosity about one another's bodies, young people before puberty frequently experimented with other children of the same sex. Thus incipient homosexual tendencies pass unnoticed. In fact, puritan attitudes tend to emphasise the 'dirtiness' of contact between two youngsters of *opposite* sex, so that in a sense homosexual play is seen as more legitimate at this stage.

With the onset of adolescence, a child begins to question his or her sexuality more closely. Many can dismiss homosexual attractions as being a 'passing phase' and feel little or no anxiety, but, in later adolescence, fears may set in and the individual may feel a misfit. The tendency is then to withdraw into himself, because he is left out of the adolescent het scene, and is too young for the older 'gay scene' proper. In this way, claims Dr West, he is missing out on an opportunity for sexual learning which he will probably never be offered again in his life. It is at this time that he must make a decision. And there is a choice, suggests the doctor, between only two alternatives; "to resign himself to his homosexuality, or to seek treatment".

Whilst it may be relatively simple for the homosexual living in a big city to develop a full social life with other gays, the adolescent living in a small provincial town has great problems if he decides to "resign himself" to being gay. Discovery of his gayness may lead to local scandal. He may have no opportunity for sexual, emotional, contact with other gays. So two solutions are usually adopted. Either he lives quietly and discreetly at home, making weekend excursions to the nearest big city. Or if he lives too far away from a city with any gay life, he may eventually decide to move, changing his job and leaving his parents' home.

It is only a minority who 'come out' and are open about their sexual orientation. If a person comes out, says West, he adopts the

clothes, mannerisms and behaviour patterns of the gay community. The fashionable Label Theory suggests that having taken the label 'homosexual', gays become totally gay to the extent of becoming a race apart, in their anxiety to live up to all the implications of the label.

Another aspect of accepting one's homosexual feelings, is how do you tell your parents. Few gays make an open, direct statement to them. More usually, if they want to avoid the risk of discovery, or simply want to ease their anxieties about living a double life, gays may prefer to let a slow and tacit realisation grow.

Amongst heterosexuals, it is common for young people to leave home when he or she gets married. It is often more difficult for the homosexual to find a point at which he can take the decision, without unduly upsetting his family.

In the field of employment, openness about homosexuality can often prove incompatible with the job being sought, in teaching for instance, or medicine or public service. It is often necessary to keep one's sexuality quiet even once employed. He told of a case of a doctor who worked successfully in a hospital. One day he took a youngster (under-21) back to his flat. The youngster, who was living under the guardianship of a social worker, mentioned it to the guardian. The guardian told the police. The police told the hospital authorities. And next time the doctor's appointment came up for review, the hospital authorities told him that he wasn't quite as efficient, etc. He lost his post.

Finding that he had gone on for longer than he had intended, Dr West called for questions at this point.

During the course of his talk, he had been heard out in a silence broken only occasionally by one or two gasps of surprise at some of the more questionable statements. But the questioning that followed indicated a more or less general scepticism.

Brought back to his original introductory remarks, he was asked in what ways the problems he had described were *intrinsic* to homosexuality. The difficulties he had mentioned, such as young people fearing to tell their parents, gay people seeking refuge in the closed gay community, doctors and teachers being afraid of letting anyone know they were gay, all these problems were surely not *intrinsic* to homosexuality, but were the result of heterosexual society's reactions and attitudes to gays. What would he describe as an *intrinsic* problem? The doctor only suggested one, and that was promiscuity. He said that there was a marked distinction between the number of sexual partners enjoyed by the homosexual and heterosexual male. He pointed out the high incidence of *homosexual* offences in public lavatories between males. Earlier, he had cited Laud Humphrey's study ('Tea-Room Trade', see page 9 this issue) which concluded that a large number of those who found sexual contact in public lavatories were *heterosexual* males who wished to find a quick outlet for their sexual needs, and when pressed on the inconsistency of these two references to cottaging, he said that the work of Schofield had demonstrated the promiscuity of gay men. He made no attempt to relate the strong taboos against adultery within heterosexual relationships, and the institution of marriage itself, with the contrasting lack of social recognition of homosexual couplings, to consider if this difference accounted for the greater promiscuity.

He was taken to task over his reference to 'random samples' of homosexuals. Such samples, said the questioner, usually consisted of people whose homosexuality had emerged because they had either been arrested by the police, or become patients of a psychiatrist. Such people could surely not be called representative of all homosexuals, so how could he talk of truly 'random samples'. Dr West conceded that such samples were probably not a true reflection of homosexuals generally, but were the only figures available, and so were "better than nothing".

A lesbian present, who described herself as "associated with a periodical for lesbians" asserted that most of the magazine's readers managed to live quite happy and contented lives without suffering from the sort of problems that he had described.

A student was interested to know where the disapproval of homosexual relationships had stemmed from in our society. The root causes, replied Dr West, seemed to be religious teachings. The Judaic-Christian tradition had adopted a hostile position, as the Muslim tradition also had.

In response to another question, Dr West said it was nonsense to suggest that homosexuals were persecuted by heterosexuals.

Civil Rights Movement Joins Gay Struggle

NEW YORK: America's Civil Liberties Union, equivalent to this country's National Council for Civil Liberties, is to embark on a major project to press for gay rights.

Called the National Project for Sexual Privacy, the campaign will be the responsibility of attorney Marilyn Haft, project director, and her secretary. One of the first moves will be to bring a suit challenging the validity of New York State's sodomy laws. The suit itself is in preparation.



Attorney Marilyn Haft

The Playboy Foundation is contributing \$20,000 a year for two years towards salaries.

Local branches of the ACLU have for a few years found themselves increasingly involved in cases of gay discrimination, and in the last two years, the organisation has been involved in 100 cases with a direct bearing on gay rights.

The aim is to set aside all legislation relating to sex acts in private, and "eliminate discriminatory practices which flow from such laws." Heterosexual conduct is also affected by these laws, but 85% of the effort of the campaign will be devoted to problems arising from homosexuality.

Birmingham Corporation: Will They, Won't They?

BIRMINGHAM: The Gay Liberation Front in Birmingham has written to more than 50 local city employers, asking how they stand on the employment of gays in their organisations. The group wants to bring the whole subject of anti-gay discrimination in jobs out into the open.

Of the firms who were sent letters, most have not even replied, but 10 firms wrote to say that they were willing to employ homosexuals.

A notable employer, which said it "would never knowingly employ a homosexual" was Birmingham Corporation. The statement was contained in a letter sent to GLF by a chief city officer.

But shortly afterwards, Councillor Stanley Yapp, leader of the City Council Labour Group, described the officer's letter as 'incorrect'. When told of the letter, Cllr Yapp said: "The Corporation is the largest employer in the city and obviously we have a number of homosexuals employed by us."

"Some appointments are made by committees, some by chairmen, some by chief officers and some by other officers."

"It is only right and proper that any of these bodies should take account aspects other than formal ability and training when making appointments."

"But there is no set Corporation policy on employing or not employing different types of people. However, we do have a duty to the public, and in certain cases, as in the employment of teachers, we might have to take a harder line than some employers."

GLF was glad to have the decision reversed, but a spokesman said "it is a pity that Birmingham City Council cannot take a more positive line in defending gay people from discrimination. We would have hoped that the city would have taken a lead in saying quite positively that it would employ homosexuals on the same basis as anyone else."

Vice Squad Seize 'Male Image'

More news from New Zealand. David Eastman, editor of the magazine *Male Image* writes to tell us he's been busted already.

His publication (reported in GN35) overtly stated it was "not a homosexual" magazine, but was, nonetheless, packed with photographs of naked boys and young men. "The vice squad was around today," David writes, "and took all the remaining copies we had. All on the strength of one complaint."

David defends his repudiations of the tag "homosexual" by asserting that he won't subscribe to sexual categorisation in any form. Love, he thinks, is all that matters. When we find out what the NZ Vice Squad feels, we'll let you know.

R B

CHE. In For A Penny...

The Campaign for Homosexual Equality has announced the appointment of 29-year-old Howarth Penny as their new General Secretary in succession to Paul Temperton.

Formerly a computer programmer and consultant, Howarth moved to the Department of the Environment, an appointment he gave up to become the new secretary from November 26. Describing CHE as "the most energetic and exciting organisation I have ever encountered," Howarth says that he is "delighted that I have been chosen to work on the one organisation which is going to be actively involved in bringing about the changes which are needed to give homosexuals the right to live their lives as they choose."

Other appointments announced at the same time included Michael Steed's as the new chairman (to take over from Alan



Horsfall, who vacates the post for personal reasons) and Peter Naughton's who assumes Michael Steed's old role of treasurer. Both these appointments will last until the Malvern conference when new elections will be held. Alan Horsfall is to remain a member of the executive committee.

In addition to the regular first Friday in the month disco,
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Here We Are Again

Unlike GN35, this issue will be published on schedule (the newsprint shortage, our printers and the Post Office permitting). We have now fully recovered from our string of problems and are confident that the paper will be appearing punctually in the future.

Between The Canals

Taking advantage of the lull in activities at the office, I disappeared over to Amsterdam for a few days to recuperate. Since living there in 1967 the city has been one of my favourite places in Europe, not just for the obvious attractions. And I feel that even a short stay in Amsterdam can be both a stimulating and relaxing experience.

Whilst there, I was in contact with the Dutch homosexual organisation COC and discovered that they are engaged in a number of exciting projects and have been meeting with much success with their campaigning recently. For instance they have even been officially recognised by Queen Juliana. I wonder when Campaign for Homosexual Equality will receive the blessing of our own Queen.

In the new year, we intend to devote an issue to Amsterdam, covering all aspects of gay life in the city, comparing it with our own situation and interviewing representatives of COC, which must be the most progressive and effective gay organisation in Europe.

Leather Galore

My last evening in Amsterdam was spent at an international 'leather meeting', organised by the city's Motor Sports Club in conjunction with the LL and Argos bars.

Without giving too much away, I experienced one of the most amazing events I have ever witnessed and taken part in. I'm not quite sure if I was completely turned on by the activities, but it certainly was different. The 'meeting' attracted well over 400 leather and/or denim enthusiasts, from all parts of Europe, including Britain, Germany and France.

Six other leather-clad diversions a year are officially sanctioned by the Amsterdam authorities until some time in the next century.

Christmas Issue

We are planning to make our Christmas issue (GN37) rather special. It will also be another bumper edition containing 24 pages at no extra cost. Not to be missed!

Christmas Hospitality

As I'm sure some of you are aware, Christmas can be a particularly lonely and depressing time for single people, especially homosexuals. For many gays, there is no room in the family oriented festivities.

If any of you are spending Christmas with a few friends, why not invite someone else who'd otherwise be on their own (or you think may be alone) to share the holiday with you? You might do a lot more than just give them a good time.

Alternatively, people who already know that they'll be alone over Christmas, why not find out if any of your friends or acquaintances will be in a similar situation, and make arrangements to spend the period together. It'll be a lot more

tun for both you and them.

Also, we will be only too pleased to publish a list in the information section of GN37 of all public Christmas parties and activities (not private grope-ins please). Organisers will need to get details of their plans to us by Tuesday, December 4 for inclusion.

Gay Cards and Gift Subs

GN's contribution to the commercialism of Christmas takes the form of specially designed greetings cards which are exclusively available to our readership. Full details of how you obtain the cards, designed by Jean-Claude, can be found in the illustrated advertisement for them in this issue.

We would also like to encourage you to give a subscription to Gay News to your friends and lovers. Details are included in the ad which is also in this edition.

Could we remind you though, that the Christmas postal delays and 'disasters' will soon be commencing, so it is important that you take advantage of these offers as quickly as possible.

Our Christmas Hols

The Gay News office will be closed for the Christmas holiday from Saturday December 22 to Sunday December 30 inclusive. All box number replies etc received before the former date will be dealt with.

GN's Motto

As readers have no doubt noticed, from GN35 we started to run the phrase "a different journey to the same end" under the Gay News logo on the front page. We are extremely grateful to Simon of Southampton who suggested to us that the motto would be most appropriate for GN. Needless to say, we are fully in agreement.

Whoops!

Apologies to Tom Blau of Camera Press London for failing to credit him for the photographs of old age pensioners that appeared on Page 7 of the last issue.

Credit should also have been given to our ex-reporter Stephen MacLean for his investigation into the difficulties many people have experienced when dealing with the mail order firm Lux Publications. His findings appeared under the heading 'Gays Lose Money to Porn-Mongers' on Page 5 of GN 35. Sorry Steve; good luck and much gay loving in Italy.

Dates & Deadlines

The last edition of Gay News to be published this year (GN37) will be available on 13th December. Details of advertising deadlines and copy dates for that issue can be found under the contents section on Page 2 and at the beginning of the Personal Ads columns on Page 17. It is important to refer to these dates to avoid disappointment, as they will be strictly adhered to in the future.

Denis Lemon

Troubled Water

THIS column is devised as a means of offering help, advice or information on problems relating to homosexuality. Serious or difficult problems that are outside the range of Gay News itself are handled by Icebreakers.

Originally Icebreakers was set up to man a telephone service whereby isolated or unhappy gay people can call in any evening to discuss their difficulties with other gay people. The main characteristics of Icebreakers are that all its members, men and women, are openly gay; have come to terms with their gayness; do not take a patronising approach; is not related to any gay organisation; is not possessive — that is, Icebreakers employ the entire range of gay groups, services and outlets. Strict confidence — for letters and telephone calls — is mandatory. The number is 01-274 9590, every evening between 7.30 and 10.30.

All sexes are welcome to use this service. Write to: Dept TW, Gay News, 62a Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY.

These letters are selected from the many that are received each week. Every correspondent receives a personal reply as soon as possible; both the letters and replies that are published may have been edited slightly.

Where Are The Women?

Please could you insert the enclosed ad in the next edition of Gay News... I am crying out with Loneliness with a capital L. Am near to suicide. Why is the Womens' Personal so short? Can't blame you, of course, but there must be hundreds of women all over England, isolated or lonely. I can find no help from our local CHE, too young. Is it not possible to write a few lines in Troubled Waters to try and bring the lesbians into reading Gay News? It is the only magazine which caters for both sexes and I personally find it very interesting. I am positive that if women, sharing my problems knew of your column it might help. I am myself experiencing a very lonely life and cannot go to pubs etc as I would feel too nervous alone. I cannot be the only one who feels this way. Please, please help. — Evelyn, Cambridgeshire.

— We told Evelyn we would put her letter in this column and that we would pass on letters to her from any readers who felt inspired to write as a result of it. We gave her the number of Icebreakers and also the private telephone number of one of our girl members. We suggested she explore Kenric and Sappho, two lesbian organisations that have a nation-wide membership over a wide age range. And, of course, we wish her the best of luck with her ad in Gay News.

Fighting A Problem

I am 28 and employed as a packer in a local warehouse. My problem is I have fought this problem at least ten years, but I have just been frightened to talk to anyone about this, except a doctor. Please don't think I am just feeling sorry for myself because if I knew another male who is fighting this problem I would give my right arm to help them. I feel guilty when I am attracted to someone of my own sex, but it just keeps happening. I also worry about my parents, as I couldn't talk to them at home about this. Hope you can help, as I've explained the best way I could. — Alan, Yorkshire.

— The first thing to tell you is that being attracted to someone of your own sex is not a "problem" to be "fought". As you yourself now know, this only leads to unhappiness. If you were able to see your homosexuality as a definite part of your personality to be looked after, just as you would look after an urge to go fishing or to tinker with motor cars, then you would find yourself in a much happier



Illustration: Jean-Claude Thevenin

state of mind. There is far more to being gay than just having sex, there is the great pleasure of friends of the same kind, who have the same outlook on life. Now, having said that, it is necessary to see how we can start to encourage you to agree and find out that it is true. It is essential that you start to meet other homosexuals in pleasant circumstances. There is no point in talking to a doctor about it, mainly because it isn't a medical thing, but natural. And doctors do not necessarily know any more about it than anyone else. And certainly don't try to talk to your parents — your life is no concern of theirs. You have seen some copies of Gay News now, and have probably looked at the advertisements and all the lists of groups and organisations for gay people. So we would suggest that the first thing to do is make contact with the local group of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality. Despite its rather pompous title, this organisation is friendly and understanding. It should be possible for them to arrange to have someone meet you for a preliminary chat and then you will start going to meetings. Don't expect to fall in love with the first person you see, and don't expect everyone to fall in love with you. Just take part in the discussions and try to make friends with the guys you meet.

Instruction Required

Could you please tell where I can pick up young fellows who will allow me to screw them? I have read that they can be found on certain bridges and in Piccadilly. But whereabouts exactly, and at what time of day? Please tell me how I should go about approaching them too.

— This is a brief extract from a much longer letter and we are publishing it because it is the sort of request Icebreakers are frequently getting, on the telephone as well as by letter. Even if we knew the information we would not be prepared to pass it on, for various reasons. Male prostitutes are often below the age of consent and are often known to — or even wanted by — the police. In the event of discovery it is the client who comes to court and Icebreakers never wish to put any lonely or inexperienced homosexual in such circumstances (or anyone else for that matter). We also remind such enquirers of the expense of the business and also of the slightly higher risk of contracting VD. In most cases, buying sex is actually the last thing a person really wants to do, but has come to see it as the only solution to other, more complex problems.

We are also concerned about the oppressive nature of prostitution, its reduction of individuals to sex objects and the one-way nature of the actual sexual exchange which may be momentarily appealing for the client, but which eventually becomes a sterile act.

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ACHES & PAINS

Although gay people are less reticent today about admitting their gayness to their own doctors, and although it is to be hoped that doctors are a bit more enlightened on the subject than they used to be, it is still true that a lot of gays are reluctant to discuss their particular problems with their local GP. For this reason, and because gay problems may be of general interest to our readers, we have installed our own resident doctor. If you have any medical problems which you think are related to a gay life-style, please send them to Aches & Pains, c/o Gay News, 62a Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY, and we will print them and the doctor's reply. Please keep your letters brief and to the point. The doctor has also promised to answer some who do not want their letters printed, if a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed. State CLEARLY if you do not want your letter printed. Naturally, all correspondence will be treated in the strictest confidence.

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If you have a subscription problem or are changing your address, help us deal with the matter quickly by quoting the number which appears on your GN envelope. Many thanks.

The Thil

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To Fly From Love's Sickness



VD and the Gay Scene Today

by Mike Heberden



It is an unhappy fact of the 1970's that the number of people seeking help from VD clinics throughout this country is increasing year by year, and of these the proportion of gays is high when compared to their numbers in the population as a whole. I shall discuss some possible reasons for this, and also try to answer some of the questions commonly put to doctors working in the clinics. However, before doing so, it is worth considering what venereal infection is, and how it has acquired its somewhat dreaded reputation.

Germs and Men

Nothing is so frightening as something we do not understand. Only a hundred years ago, the president of the Royal Medical Society declared to a government committee that VD was a punishment for our sins and we should not interfere! The whole subject has been clouded with guilt and secrecy ever since, until quite recent times. A lot of people are still ashamed of the idea of visiting a clinic, but to the doctors who work there one infection is no different to another, and their only aim is to cure the disease.

If there is life on other planets, it could hardly be more complex and varied than on planet Earth, where man sits somewhat precariously at the apex of a pyramid whose base is formed by the myriads of microbes. Somehow the various forms of life manage to exist together, though many species are now endangered by man's rapid expansion. The germs and viruses, who were no doubt here long before us, have adapted themselves to almost every possible environment. Most of them are harmless to us, some, such as yeast, have turned to our advantage in making bread and alcohol, and yet others have been employed against their brother bugs in the manufacture of penicillin and other antibiotics. Some of the remaining bacteria may be far from harmless, and against these we are engaged in constant warfare. On some fronts we are winning (against polio, tuberculosis and smallpox for instance), on others we are barely holding the line. Unfortunately, the venereal diseases come into the latter category.

Why VD?

In order to survive, germs, like other life-forms, must multiply, and to be strong they must mingle with other strains. Since a warm, moist and nutritious environment is

an ideal situation for them to do just this, it is hardly surprising to find that some have specialised in making their home in the human sexual organs, where they not only find comfortable living conditions, but are ideally placed for moving from host to host as often as the latter make sexual contact. That they are so specialised is strikingly borne out by the fact that although the rectum, for instance, is loaded with harmless bacteria (which even play a vital role in manufacturing Vitamin B), these do not normally cause infection in the penises of active partners. There are, in fact, only two common bugs which are responsible for the great majority of what we call venereal infections, namely the Syphilis germ, or Spirochaete, and the Gonococcus which causes gonorrhoea. These two diseases, although both transmitted by close bodily contact (and it is rare indeed for them to be passed on by any other means, such as towels, bathwater and the time-honoured excuse, lavatory seats) are so different that it is best to describe them separately.

Syphilis, A Potential Killer

At the end of World War II, Fleming's discovery of Penicillin completely revolutionised the treatment of a whole range of infections, including syphilis. Previously, the treatment had been prolonged, unpleasant and uncertain of results. Now the number of cases fell dramatically, and since Penicillin also cured gonorrhoea, many doctors thought in terms of victory and even proposed the closing down of clinics. Their rejoicing was premature, and the war continues. Syphilis is not a common disease now, but it is of particular importance to gays, since something approaching half the cases seen in clinics, at least in big cities, are in gay men. It is often assumed that gays are more promiscuous than straights, and while social pressures are against two men settling down to a stable relationship, it would not be surprising if this were so. Short-lived and casual encounters must inevitably aid the spread of infection, but other factors are at work also. The care of pregnant women, for example, includes a routine blood test for syphilis, and so reduces the numbers infected. The popularity of holidays abroad, where gays naturally gravitate towards countries where sex is easy and light-hearted, such as Morocco and Turkey, must also be remembered, especially as these are the countries where medical treatment may be inadequate or non-existent. One passive male, returning from his Arabian Nights, can spread a lot of infection in a short time. The fashionable ritual of kissing one's friends, not to mention strangers, at parties, has more than once caused an outbreak of syphilis when an unhealed lip sore has been ignored.

The Signs Of Syphilis

The syphilis germ, a minute, corkscrew-like organism, enters the body through a tiny scratch or break in the skin, usually near the genitals or mouth. After a period ranging from 9 days to 12 weeks a small lump may appear, resembling a boil, but painless. Alternatively, there may be a painless ulcer, perhaps near the anus or lips. This heals slowly, much more slowly than an ordinary cold sore. Swollen glands may be noticed. After this, nothing may happen for some months, and indeed these early signs may be missed altogether, but the germ is now in the system. Sooner or later other things start happening, and usually the most noticeable is a rash, which may be widespread, often coppery in colour, and does not itch. Other signs may include warty lumps around the anus, or ulcers in the mouth. Even these signs eventually disappear, and the real damage may not start for twenty years, when the heart, brain, bones

and in fact almost any organ can become cripplingly damaged. This is why it is so important to diagnose syphilis in the early stages (when it is also highly infectious) and why, if you have caught it, you will be asked to return for blood tests for perhaps two years after you have been treated. Doctors just cannot afford to take chances.

Blood Tests, The Safest Insurance

There is no blood test to tell you if you have gonorrhoea or not, but if you are being treated you will certainly be given the blood test for syphilis. These tests do not detect the actual germs, (though these may well be found on a slide test on your first visit) but measures the body's reaction to the infection, and the progress of the cure. Some of the tests may remain positive for years after treatment has finished, but this does not mean that you are still infected. Everyone whose sex life is not confined to one partner should ideally have a blood test once a year. Only in this way is there any hope of wiping out this scourge.

Gonorrhoea—A World Wide Epidemic

You may have seen the posters — "Gonorrhoea is now the second commonest infectious disease after measles." It has certainly, in spite of effective treatment, increased alarmingly in recent years. Promiscuity, the Pill, more travelling, have all been blamed for this. Unlike syphilis, it is still a disease which affects straights more than gays, in a proportion probably about five to one. You may say: "If it is so common and easily cured, is it more important than the common cold?" The answer is certainly yes, because, unlike a cold, the infection does not spontaneously disappear, and although the worst complications occur in women (inflammation of the tubes, possibly sterility) there are several unpleasant things which can happen to men, ranging from painful infection of the rectum, to inflamed testicles, even generalised arthritis.

Signs Of Gonorrhoea

This usually, but not invariably, appears as a yellow discharge from the penis, two to fourteen days after sex. Burning pain when passing urine, and increased frequency are common. In the passive partner it may show as soreness, slight discharge from the anus, itching or increased flatulence, especially after a bowel action. Sometimes it can cause painful spasms of the bowel, and even a severe feverish illness. Or it may not be noticed at all, until a subsequent partner complains of having been infected.

Treatment of VD

The treatment of the two diseases we have discussed relies mainly on penicillin. In those people who are allergic to this, other antibiotics may be used. For syphilis, ten daily injections are usually used, for gonorrhoea one or more, or a combination of tablets. In both cases a cure is virtually assured, but only hospital tests can really decide if this has been achieved. No doctor will ask you to return for tests unless it is necessary.

Other Diseases

Probably the most frequently seen is non-specific urethritis, an infection of the penis resembling gonorrhoea, but in which the actual germ cannot be found. There are probably several causes for this condition, which, although slight, may be persistent, and may recur several times. It is not serious, but can make the sufferer very miserable, as the treatment takes much longer. Other illnesses associated with sexual contact include warts, crablice and scabies, all of which are best treated in the clinic.

Some Common Questions Answered

Can I protect myself from VD?

Soap and water as soon as possible after sex is still the best and surprisingly effective preventive, as is also passing urine as soon as possible. Rubber sheaths give some protection but are not much favoured or very practical for gays. Antibiotic tablets are not advised as a preventive, they can't be prescribed indiscriminately, and there are too many snags in self-medication.

Why am I told to drink no alcohol?

This is not, in spite of rumours to the contrary, to make you feel miserable or guilty. There is definite evidence that alcohol hinders the action of the drugs you are taking, and also increases the inflammation of the infected tissues.

Need I tell the doctor I am gay?

Treatment is certainly helped if you do. Rectal infections generally require higher doses of drugs than penile infections, and different tests may be required. It is very rare nowadays to find a doctor who is unsympathetic to gays, working in a clinic. It will also be helpful in tracing and treating your contacts to be absolutely frank with the doctor.

Why can't I be treated by my own GP?

Most GP's have not got the time or apparatus to diagnose your illness accurately. Taking tablets or injections before being tested makes it difficult, if not impossible, to tell what it was you were originally suffering from. It may, in the case of syphilis, upset the tests without curing the disease.

Is fellatio (cocksucking) safer than other kinds of intercourse?

It might have been thought so till recently, but research is revealing more and more infections in the mouth caused by VD.

Final Conclusions

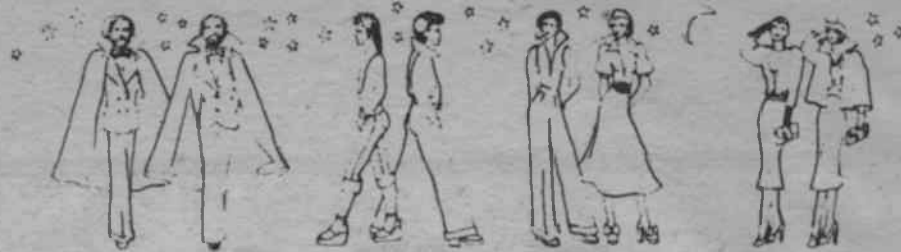
Eternal vigilance is the key to the control of VD. Vaccines, if they can ever be made, are a long way in the future. Rapid treatment, and rapid tracing of infected contacts, is the only way these diseases will be conquered. A jolly black lady patient of mine said to me one day when I asked if her man's penis had been in her mouth, "Why, doc, would it do me good?" I think sex does us all good, if we remember the rules I have tried to relate above.

ED: See GN7 for "The Homosexual Woman and Venereal Disease".

Illustrations: The Advocate (Los Angeles)

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STRIKE ME PINK!

SIR NIGEL PLAYFAIR, when an Oxford undergraduate, turned a pretty triolet:

"Ah! Possibility in pink,
Ah! Mystery in mauve.
Behold me trembling on the brink!
Ah! Possibly in pink,
Can you be all I dare to think,
Or is it that other treasure trove?
Ah! Possibility in pink,
Ah! Mystery in mauve."

Whatever his taste in beauty, it was evidently enhanced by the pale pastel colour scheme favoured by the object of his affections. The whole question of colour in fashion is inextricably linked in my mind with two stories which may (or more likely may not) be apocryphal. The first involves Ms Elizabeth Arden who, among other things, is credited with having treated injuries to her race-horses with applications of her own cosmetic Eight Hour Cream. Which sheds a new light on the word 'grooming'. This lady, arriving in London at the time of the Coronation in 1953 found, awaiting her on arrival, at her hotel, a large bouquet of geraniums, marguerites and blue anemones, patriotically tied about with red white and blue ribbon to reinforce the floral colour scheme. "How sweet of them," remarked Ms Arden, "to remember my racing colours." The second, and no more edifying, anecdote, concerns the noted interior decorator, Lady Mendl, who, being shown the Parthenon glowing honey-coloured in the Attic sunshine, cried out "My favourite colour - beige!"

Which just goes to show, if anything, that the impact of colour on individual sensibilities, if not a fairly hit and miss business, is at very least unpredictable. Schiaparelli, seduced by the power of her 'shocking' pink, would give short shrift to Sir Nigel's more dulcet pink tones. Colour can even imply disapprobation - what soul does not reprove a 'scarlet' woman - or it may equally imply moral approval - witness the pink blush of a timid, innocent soul faced with the moral turpitude of her scarlet sisters. Colour may even describe a whole movement or generation - you may be sure the Yellow Book has passed into general currency as epitomising all that was scandalous at the fin-de-siecle; and pale green, especially in vogue as the colour for carnations, was viewed with an equally jaundiced eye.

Despite all evidence to the contrary, the

fashion world persists in believing that it can dictate the fashion colour of the season to the buying public. Periodically, VOGUE will declare with great éclat that the New Colour is - Avocado! Immediately stores up and down the country will produce special displays featuring limitless garments, accessories, even cosmetics, based on the theme of Avocado! From Dover to Watford, from Watford to Tring, the message will thrill across country that fashion decrees - Avocado! this season and nothing will do but that every man, woman and child should possess at least one garment, and preferably more, in that particular shade of green. And if it's not Avocado, it will be Whisky (ie brown), or possibly Brandy (ie brown again, but different). One season, a little while ago, these fashion colour promotions became so determined that even the Ford motor company became infected with enthusiasm for the mode and produced models of their cars in the then current fashion colour Champagne. It was, in fact, a beige by any other name, but no-one remarked the fact until the enthusiasm wore off and another fashion colour was launched. Somehow, this seems on a par with Ford asking Marianne Moore, the lady poet, to christen their latest model. She came up with the name 'Edsel' and the rest is, of course, history.

To turn to more immediate concerns, the fashion colour (or colours, actually. You have two this time around, you lucky things), is fir green and peat brown. Which, being interpreted, means dark green and dark brown, and is much the same as was being worn last year, and the year before that, if fashion memories extend that far back. Hardy Amies predicts it, ELLE magazine promotes it, VOGUE goes fizzy about it and, as a result, there is very little of any other colour except fir green and peat brown to be bought in shops with any pretension to the mode this season. That news would be just too bad for Sir Nigel if he took a fancy to pink or mauve and his object of affections would be a further source of distress to him as she took the colours of the season to her fashionable bosom. Even Irish colleens, traditionally devoted to red and to green (though by what dispensation the Irish are permitted to get away with such an appalling colour combination is beyond my ken) must forgo the red at least. It's fir green or nothing - except, perhaps, peat brown and you've maybe had enough to do cutting the real stuff without putting it on your backs as well.

This seasonal fluctuation on the colour to wear is tough luck on those of us who simply do not



Chalk stripe flannel suit in (wait for it . . .) Peat Brown. The new shoulder line is broader than before and trousers feature 24 inch wide bottoms. Designed by Hardy Amies for Hepworths and available country-wide from branches of Hepworths.

suit fir green or peat brown. The peroxide blondes (of both sexes) who favour baby blue and pastel pink are hard put to it to discover their usual shades and the recent insistence upon Aubergine as a fashionable colour was only noteworthy by its success in actually making too many of its wearers actually resemble eggplants.

No, no, ladies and gentlemen of the fashion trade, it will not do. We are individuals, and have individual tastes in colour. Give us back our possibilities in pink and our mysteries in mauve, even let our scarlet women show their true colours. Next season, perhaps? Please? Is anyone out there listening while I go red with rage and clash with my new fir green suit?

Iain T Finlayson

Am I Too Loud?

Discretion is all, this winter. Colour tones are muted and you'd be difficult to find if you chanced to lose yourself on a moor while dressed in the country heather-mixtures favoured by fashion for the latest country-come-to-town look. Checks are especially popular for shirts, sweaters, suits and coats and the rule to remember is that checks must be unobtrusive. The revival of those paper-thin good tweeds in natural colours favoured by U-persons is the keynote to dressing in Good Taste. So don't be caught out in loud patterns and risk mortification like that suffered by the man in the bold check suit at Ascot who was hailed by the Prince of Wales with the words "Mornin' Harris, Goin' rattin'?" We are, above all, subdued this season.



Slim fitting Shetland sweater with Argyle pattern by Pringle. Sizes from 38" to 44". Approx price £19.60. Available from Pringle stockists country-wide.

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, 'Rugs', Guy News, 62a Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY. Please enclose a 3/6p stamp for forwarding your letter, and a stamped addressed envelope for Iain's reply.

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THE COTTAGE INDUSTRY

by A Voyeur

'Cottaging' appears to cause more embarrassment, anger (not to mention excitement) than almost any other gay activity you care to name. Laud Humphrey's book Tearoom Trade threw a fascinating new light on a subject about which many gays remain ignorant and confused. We print the following resumé of the book because it comes up with some surprising new facts. Indeed, cottaging may not be quite so gay a pastime as we thought.



Introduction

The great majority of police arrests in Britain and the USA for so-called 'indecent' offenses of a homosexual nature, take place in WC's, public lavatories or loos, conveniences, toilets, 'cottages', public 'johns', Mens Rest Rooms or 'tearooms'.

The last three terms are American, and the slang 'tearoom' is the equivalent of our 'cottage'. The origin of the argot 'tearoom' is unknown, but in colloquial English the word 'tea' has sometimes been used to denote wine.

There must be hundreds of serious, non-fictional books on homosexuality. Most of them, however, whether scientific, medical or sociological, are wide-ranging. Until recently, there has been no research material on which to base an objective analysis of the widespread, but rarely studied form of impersonal homosexual activity which takes place in public lavatories.

Tearoom Trade

Two years ago, a new and unique book appeared. It deals only with 'cottaging'. It is titled *Tearoom Trade* and was first published in America. Laud Humphreys, the author, is a professor of Sociology at the University of Illinois.

Although he leaves nothing to the imagination, and his revelations are surprising, this is no lurid, erotic or pornographic account written for the titillation of his readers. It is a serious, scientific investigation.

As a clergyman and married man, Laud Humphreys dedicates his book to his wife and children, "whose love and encouragement made this research possible".

The aim of this article is to review Humphrey's findings, which are limited to the States, and to compare them with the writer's knowledge and experience of the British scene. In both cases the results confound the usual myths about 'cottaging' which are founded on ignorance or the 'comparatively few' cases that find their way into the Law Courts. The majority of 'tearoom traders' are not necessarily lonely, effeminate, socially isolated, unmarried or ageing homosexuals. In fact the majority are shown to be married and predominantly heterosexual! The author of this book estimates by clinical analysis that 54% of his research subjects were married men living with their wives and families. The author of this article is convinced that the percentage in the UK is much higher — probably nearer 65% married!?

Laud Humphreys' qualifications for his research project were many — whilst at his religious seminary he was employed for two years in a district of Chicago well known in gay circles as 'Queen's Parish' — a place to which they could turn for counselling, understanding priests, good music, and worship with an aesthetic emphasis. He soon got to know the gay parishioners and to speak their language. Later he spent three months clinical training at a State University Psychiatric Hospital, well stocked with gay male patients. Here he gained a working knowledge of the psycho-analytical theory of homosexuality. From 1955 to 1965 while serving in various cities of the USA he was twice appointed as Episcopal Campus Chaplain in Universities. Because he was considered wise and sympathetic, and did not attempt to 'reform' them, hundreds of gays of all sorts and conditions went to him for counselling. His wife provided a social background for his work.

When appointed as a University Professor, Humphreys was at first interested in carrying out a broad sociological survey of homosexual behaviour, based on his existing knowledge of his many former gay parishioners. However, as his research progressed, he held many discussions with the Director of Research at Harvard University.

Between them, they decided that there already existed a sufficient fund of 'traditional' studies on homosexuality, and that the least explored area of social deviancy took place in public lavatories where it was organised, strongly structured socially, but not an inclusive part of the main gay sub-culture. There is probably no major town or city in America or the UK without its 'cottages' in current sex operation. These facilities constitute a major part of the free sex market for those belonging to the gay scene — and for millions more who never identify with gay society. For the social scientist these public establishments provide a means for the direct observation of the dynamics of sex encounters 'in situ'. Sociologists engage in the study of deviant behaviour because man reveals himself best in his back-alleys. It is here that basic social structures exist and where society's weaknesses can be seen in the behaviour that it fears.

The Nature of Cottaging

Cottaging is distinctly less personal than any other form of sexual activity, with the single exception of solitary masturbation. It has even less emotional and physical involvement than the furtive action that takes place in public baths, cars or behind bushes.

Only the public lavatory can provide the sort of immediate impersonal and non-committal sex that certain men seek. The advantages of these places are their availability and accessibility at all times of day and night, with a variety and volume of traffic to choose from. They are easily recognisable anywhere, even to a stranger; and once inside they provide some measure of temporary privacy. Not so on the continent of Europe where 'conveniences' only hide a man's trunk from the public gaze and where there are no closets for added seclusion.

In order to carry out his task, without actually taking part himself in any sexual activity, Humphreys had to overcome the main difficulty of an outsider. This was to allay the fears of participants against the ever-present risk of detection by the civil authorities. This he did by becoming a part of the structured but changing social order within the various 'tearooms' which he made a habit of visiting.

Cottage Roles

His catalogue of roles in cottage encounters follows very much the same order as it does over here:

Players

Insertee — The fellator (cock sucker) or passive partner in buggery.

Insertor — The one who is being 'blown' or sucked, and the 'fucker'.

Lookouts

Waiters — Those waiting for a particular sort of person or 'trick', or for a chance to get in on the action.

Masturbators — Those who only masturbate themselves, or pseudo-masturbate while being waiters.

Voyeurs — Those who get their kicks out of watching others perform. They may also be masturbators.

Teenage Chicks

Toughs — Youths who harass tearoom participants sometimes by physical attacks such as 'rolling'. Some of these, if they are inexperienced and guilt-ridden, can turn on their partner after sex and attack him as if he had violated them without consent.

Enlisters — Youths who want to get in on the action but are generally too feared to be allowed to do so.

Hustlers — Enlisters who demand payment for services rendered.

Straights — Persons who do not participate in the action. Their role is a legitimate one and only lasts for a few moments. If they overstay their time, they may be too heterosexually oriented or too inhibited to take part in the game.

Agents of Social Control

Uniformed policemen, plain-clothes vice-squad, park attendants, lavatory cleaners etc.

The above roles, between partners or within a group, may change from minute to minute up to the pay-off phase, but Humphreys invariably took the part of a lookout (watch queen) and voyeur. He stood at the window or door with the connivance of the players to whom he would signal at the approach of strangers.

Types of Cottage

In any large urban area only certain public lavatories are favoured by habits according to their location, lay-out, safety etc. Local rumours of police activity soon spread around among the cognoscenti. For instance in one such city investigated, only 20 out of a possible 90 cottages were frequented by sex seekers. In the cases he reports, Humphreys confines his observations to Public Parks. He did so because these

tearooms were the most popular, owing to their isolation and seclusion with easy access to main thoroughfares. In the same way only certain rendezvous are favoured in the UK. American park tearooms are peculiar in that the closets do not have doors.

The Action

This lack of doors leads to a specialised pattern of behaviour and facilitates quicker action. Seated on a stool and visible to occupants of the stalls, a player can readily signal his availability, and action can commence immediately. In the event of an alarm, an intruder can quickly withdraw into the main room.

In Britain the action can take place either at adjoining stalls or behind the locked door of a cubicle. In the latter case, while offering privacy from view, the danger of entry and exit by two occupants is considerable. Once inside they can also be detected through the gap under the door. In some cottages in this country, the partitions between the cubicles do not extend to the floor. There is a gap of some 9 to 12 inches. A common practice in such places is for neighbours to make contact with foot signals, followed by mutual masturbation under the partition. This type of procedure is favoured by many since they do not even see their sex partner and the act becomes more anonymous than any other method. In addition it favours those who are unable, owing to age or appearance, to attract a partner face to face. In some lavatories, contact is made through peep-holes bored through the dividing partition. Occupants can expose their parts to each other before starting under-wall action, or they can pass written notes. Occasionally the hole has become so large that a penis can be inserted into the next compartment for manipulation. According to Martin Hoffman MD, School of Criminology, at the University of California, Berkeley, the above practices became so prevalent that the University authorities removed the doors from every other closet on the campus!

In the detailed descriptions of the sex acts reported by Humphreys, they are confined to the act of fellatio (sucking) which seems to be the most common means of orgasm in American tearooms. Of the many encounters he watched, only twice did he observe anal intercourse. In Britain this is more frequent. It usually occurs behind closet doors or in the open when there are sufficient people present to provide warning and a feeling of added excitement. The more usual means of orgasm in UK lavatories is by mutual masturbation at neighbouring urinals or under the dividing walls of the cubicles. Humphreys rightly assumes that open buggery is rarer in public lavatories owing to the greater amount of time required and the drastic re-adjustment of clothing necessary. Both of these increase the possibility of being caught in the act by new arrivals.

In a similar though lesser degree, fellatio is difficult to achieve under such circumstances. The insertee has to remain on his knees for some time. It can occasionally be observed in British cottages, but only as a momentary stimulus before mutual masturbation.

Here is a typical report from one of the author's 'systematic observation sheets': "X entered and went to the third urinal. Y entered in about one minute and went to the first urinal. O stood and watched X and Y. Y was pseudo-masturbating as was X. X kept looking over his shoulder at me. I smiled and moved over against far wall and lit a cigarette. X moved to second urinal and took hold of Y's penis and began manipulating it. I moved to door to observe park policeman seated on a bench. Then I went back to position by wall. By this time X was on knees in front of urinals, fellating Y. I went back to door, saw A approaching and coughed loudly."

Strategy of the Game

It is played in silence, here and in the States. As this is one of the rules, the strategy of players requires some sort of a movement signal, such as a gesture with hands, eyes or head, a change of stance or move from one stall to another. Of these signals, the essential and ultimate indication of willingness to play is the showing of an erection. Another unwritten rule is that no-one will be groped or unwillingly involved in the overtly sexual act until he displays the necessary signals. Those who enter the building on genuine business and wish to play it straight are very obvious from their circumspect behaviour. They are never molested or importuned, except perhaps by drunks. In this way the general public are seldom involved or embarrassed.

Police and courtroom reports try to indicate that homosexual cottage behaviour is aggressively importunate. Experience here

and in the States shows the opposite. A silent ritual, consisting of an escalation of increasingly overt reciprocated signals invariably precedes any sexual approach. False moves towards unresponsive strangers are not part of the game. The presence of teenagers or male prostitutes actually inhibits the activity.

Humphreys spent many hours in men's restrooms and witnessed dozens of sex acts without hearing a word spoken. The same applies over here. Of 50 encounters, on which he subsequently made extensive notes, in only 12 instances did he hear any word spoken, and they were usually limited to such expressions as "not so hard" or "harder" or "thanks".

Trade Figures

From April 1966 to March 1967 he spent a total of 60 hours in 19 tearooms in five parks of one city with a population of one million. During this period he witnessed 120 sex bouts, sometimes involving several participants at the same time. On one occasion a fellator was seen to take on three men in succession. Between April and August '67, he made systematic observations of another fifty actions — a further 30 were noted by an assistant as a check against his own recordings.

It is impossible to make an accurate assessment of the proportion of the male population who take part in these activities. Even with good sampling procedures it would need a huge staff to make the necessary observations for an adequate census of such a mobile population. Nevertheless he estimates with some degree of certainty that the percentage of the male population involved is slightly less than the 16% Kinsey found from those with some homosexual history. Professor John Gagnon (who earlier this year opened the CHE National Conference at Morecambe) was one of the collaborators in the Kinsey Report. In that document he stated that one half of the male homosexuals studied had said that 60% or more of their sex partners had been 'one-night-stands'. Between ten and twenty percent reported that they had picked up most of their partners in public places, like rest rooms.

One of Humphreys' co-operators whom he interviewed, claimed to average three men a day during the busy season (April to October). Another told him he had had four tearoom orgasms in the previous 24 hours! There were some who became known as regular, even daily visitors, stopping on their way to or from work. One doctor in his late 50s was so punctual in his appearance at a particular tearoom that the author got to know him quite well. He admitted to daily visits over many years for quick blow-jobs.

The gathering and recording of research data was carried out systematically over a period of eighteen months by the author of *Tearoom Trade*. His methods and techniques are too complicated to go into here. They followed the well-known pattern of other sociologists, with the necessary variations and improvisations he was forced to adopt under the unusual circumstances he was working. From his recorded observations he selected a representative sample of follow-up interviews. These were set against a control sample of 'straights' for comparison of marital status, number of children, occupation and income class.

Characteristic Types

Perhaps the most interesting part of the book deals with the breakdown categories into which the author classifies the various types of tearoom trader. He lists them as Type 1 — Trade 38%; Type 2 — Bisexual 24%; Type 3 — Gay 14%; Type 4 — Closet Queens 24%.

Trade — 38% — all of these are or have been married. They are lower-paid workers with



minimum education. They are normally 'butch' masculine in mannerisms and appearance. Most of them have reduced sexual relationships with their wives and do not admit to being gay. In former times they would probably have used the cheap whore-houses in working class areas. Today they want a form of orgasm producing action that is less lonely than masturbation and less involving than an affair. They seek an additional sexual outlet that is quick, undemanding, anonymous and free from

Continued on Page 10.

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Continued from Page 9.

social entanglement. In other words 'kicks' without commitment. Most of the type have few social friends, they are suspicious and nervous in the cottage setting. They would ignore a former sex partner if they saw him subsequently in the street or pub.

Bisexual - 24% - they are generally quite open about their dual AC/DC nature, and have contact with their own kind as well as the gay world. Most of them are model husbands and fathers. They are what one would call middle class. The attitude of this type towards cottaging is summed up in the words of one of them: "It's not really sex - sex is something I have with my wife in bed. It's not as if I were committing adultery by getting my rocks off or going down on some guy in a tearoom. I get a kick out of it - some of my friends go out for handball - I'd rather cruise the parks. Does that sound perverse to you?"

Another, a doctor by profession, says that his day is not complete without his visits to the public johns. His children are raised; he loves his wife dearly; he enjoys stature in his profession; normally masculine in appearance, he has never been publicly labelled as gay. His sexual aberration is a routine part of his life, isolated from the rest much as a surreptitious gambling habit might be hidden from family and neighbours.

The Gay - 14% - these are the true homosexuals belonging to a community providing them with local knowledge about the cottage industry. These men take the homosexual role in society and are thus the most truly gay of all the types. This open participation in the gay world distinguishes them from the other larger groups in this type-casting. They show little preference in the sexual roles - "It depends on the other guy and whether I like his looks" says one of them. "Some men I'd crawl across the street on my knees for - others I wouldn't piss on!" It should be noted that Type 3 gays form only 14% of the cottage industry. Fully committed homosexuals are perhaps less in evidence because they have better means of making contacts and achieving satisfaction. They want personal sex - more permanent relationships - and the public restrooms are not where this is to be found. Occasionally where there is strong mutual attraction an affair might develop, but it is seldom lasting. Owing to the circumstances of the first meeting, one or both partners are likely to suspect the other's permanent fidelity. That any of them patronise cottages at all is incidental. They fear that open cruising in the usual gay market places of bars and baths may disrupt a current love affair, or they drop in at a tearoom while passing by with nothing better to do. They find the anonymity of these places suitable for a short visit, but not inviting enough to provide a primary setting for sex activity.

As an example, a young man with a permanent lover only goes cottaging when his mate is away from home or their relationship is strained. Then he says he may become 'horny' and goes to the park to study, cruise and engage in tearoom sex. "Bars are OK - but a bit too public for a 'married man' like me ... Tearooms are just another kind of action and they do quite well when nothing else is available."

Closet Queens - 24% - they belong to all age groups - are the secretive, lonely sort of true gay who is socially isolated. Many of them are feminine in nature and prefer the company of women. They are also inclined to prefer teenagers. This definition of Closet Queens fits the British as well as the American situation, but there is an additional sub-type not dealt with by Laud Humphreys - namely the elderly gay. In his book he refers to the ageing crisis but this only refers to the middle-aged cottager of any type from 35 to say 50 years of age. In their case it only means changing over from the 'insertor' role to that of the 'insertee'. One of them puts it plainly by saying: "When I started off everyone wanted to suck my cock - I wouldn't have been seen dead with one of those things in my mouth! So here I am at forty, with grown kids, and the biggest cock sucker in the city." Similar experiences are expressed by another who says: "I suppose I was around 35 when I started giving out blow-jobs. It just got that I couldn't operate any other way in the park johns. I still prefer to have a good blow-job any day, but I've gotten so I like it the way it is now."

The above state of affairs hardly applies in the UK where fellatio is the exception rather than the rule as it is in the States. Here, as men get older, they tend to get left out of the pay-off stage in cottage action. They are either ignored by younger men or obliged to make it with their own kind. They still continue to hang about in large numbers, but most of them are reduced to voyeur status. The same may be said of gay pubs and clubs with their paranoid emphasis on youth and beauty.

Risks of the Game

On both sides of the Atlantic, the police and other government agents continue to harass, provoke and intimidate the gay elements in society. As already pointed out, it is in the cottages that the greatest numbers are arrested. Here, the authorities frequently

resort to enticement by agents provocateurs, decoys or hidden observation by vice-squads. In a park cottage in a certain English south coast resort, for instance, these spies are concealed in a broom cupboard. The gap between the top of the cupboard and the ceiling is fitted with close mesh wire screening, behind which the occupants can watch without being seen from the outside. In one August alone no less than 40 arrests were made, mostly of ignorant holidaymakers.

In America the advancing technology of police operations has invaded the tearoom scene. Some police departments have developed a technique using a two-way mirror, and a sixteen millimetre camera for recording incriminating evidence against suspects. In the space of two weeks they recorded sex acts involving 65 men. A radio transmitter enabled watching police to signal colleagues waiting outside to identify and arrest the victims as they emerged. The application of these methods, published in the police journal *Law and Order*, has spread. At Laguna Beach, California, they have installed close circuit television along a two and a half mile stretch to keep a watch.

With constant complaints about increasing crime and undermanned police forces, it is extraordinary that the representatives of law and order should waste so many man-hours in such petty pursuits. In England, the intensity of these police activities varies throughout the country and often depends on the whims and prejudices of the local Chief Constable. In both countries the maximum sentences for what is termed here as 'indecent' or 'gross indecency' is very different. In the State in which Laud Humphreys carried out his research the Penal Statute reads: "Every person who shall be convicted of the detestable and abominable crime against nature with mankind or with beast, with the sexual organs or the mouth, shall be punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary not less than 2 years." In England 2 years is the maximum, but unless it is a repeated occasion the conviction normally carries a fine.

It is not the severity of a sentence, however, which counts in so many cases but the consequences of its revelation. The



official degradation rituals of the courts, the attendant press publicity and possible prison terms are the risks of the game. They have provided no more deterrent than those against the age-old practice of prostitution. Paradoxically it is this element of danger which seems to have an aphrodisiac effect on many compulsive cottagers. Some older men told Humphreys that there were no longer able to reach orgasm outside the excitement of tearoom encounters. It may be part of the gambling instincts for games of chance. A mixture of fear, pleasure and anticipation constitutes the fundamental element of all thrills.

Police corruption is difficult to detect but Humphreys gained indirect evidence through a number of his interviews with tearoom participants. His impressions are that most blackmailing is done by law enforcement personnel and as a result of decoy operations, one of which he details in full. Some blackmail is practiced by those who pose as police officers and a small amount is attempted by friends of the victims. Some of the better-off participants (particularly Type 2 who were married and with the most to lose) were able to pay off members of the vice squad or through social contact with Police Commissioners. One respondent had made substantial contributions to the police charity funds as an insurance, while another had been able to afford detectives to track down a blackmailer.

Although police corruption is thought to be less in Britain, it does exist in the above context. The writer of this article has spoken to two youths in different parts of the country who were blackmailed by the police into acting as decoys. Both had been caught in compromising circumstances in cottages. They were offered immunity on condition they enticed older men into sex acts and then reported them. In one case the boy complied, with disastrous effect on his victims. In the other he pretended to do so without producing any results, until the police got fed up and released their hold on him.

The Law School of the University of California carried out an exhaustive four year project to provide data on felony arrests made in men's restrooms in Los

Angeles County. Part of the report states: "As interviews with police departments indicate that complaints by citizens about soliciting by homosexuals are rare, there is reason for objecting to police activity in tearooms at all." It goes on to say "Empirical data indicates that utilisation of police manpower for decoy enforcement is not justified. Social interests are infringed only when solicitation to engage in homosexual acts creates a reasonable risk of offending public decency. The incidence of such solicitations is statistically insignificant. The majority of homosexual solicitations are made only if the other individual appears responsive and are ordinarily accomplished by the use of gestures and signals having significance only to other homosexuals. Such unobtrusive solicitations do not involve an element of public outrage. The rare indiscriminate solicitations of the general public do not justify the commitment of police resources to suppress such behaviour."

Exactly the same remarks could be said to apply over here.

Of the danger to health from venereal disease, statistics are hard to come by, because infected patients treated by Public Health VD Clinics tend to conceal homosexual involvement. In the case of syphilis, the staff of a VD Clinic have guessed that 95% of male homosexual cases are contracted through anal penetration. Oral infection with syphilis is rare. Dr William Masters, the noted authority on sexual behaviour, only recalls one case in the whole of his medical experience.

Conclusions

Tearoom Trade makes an important contribution towards exploding many myths on which police action against cottaging is based. The book shows that cottaging is neither the moral danger to unsuspecting youth nor the public nuisance of which it is often accused. On the other hand, police activity is more destructive to the lives of the individuals than their behaviour warrants.

The idea that a person may be influenced or persuaded into becoming a homosexual is one that dies hard. Scientific medical research over a number of years by many workers has shown that this is NOT so. A large proportion of conventionally heterosexual males have passed through a phase of adolescent homosexuality without subsequent effect on their life style. All the indications of Laud Humphreys' investigation are that recruitment or seduction of minors into homosexual activity are rare. From his observations and interviews it is clear that public concern with this aspect are doubly misplaced. What seduction there is occurs in private settings where a high degree of consent to availability has already been given. The few teenagers here or in America who allow themselves to be tempted in these public places are already too busy 'enlisting' to require recruitment. The author's interview sample of fifty tearoom participants contained one aged nineteen and another aged twenty. All the rest were adults. In his tearoom observations of 173 participants, only nine were thought to be minors. Of these, two were 'insertors' who actively sought involvement, one was a masturbator, two were unsuccessful 'enlisters' and four were toughs who intruded into the action. After one of the latter incidents, the researcher subsequently asked a man about a youngster whose arrival had occasioned his departure. When asked why he had not been interested in the newcomer, the man answered, "Shit! I've got enough problems as it is without getting involved with one of those!"

As America and Britain slowly evolve from a puritanical Victorian mentality there is a noticeable change in public attitudes towards cottaging. It is the public place of the offence rather than the nature of the act which is thought worthy of censure. In answering an examination paper, 52% of Humphreys' criminology class wrote that they would reprimand two men caught in the act, not because there was anything wrong with what they had done but because they had chosen an inappropriate place to do it. One student answered, "If police do come upon such activity they should admonish the party and tell them to 'move on' to more private quarters. Arrest and degradation are of no value in dealing with these matters."

Finally Laud Humphreys' study of cottaging provides a useful corrective for criminologists, legislators, social researchers and police. It shows that offenders are not a stereotype resembling those who are caught and tried. It also shows that the punishment and publicity, with consequent ruin to many, are out of all proportion to the gravity of the offence. The book highlights the depths to which police forces descend in their efforts to entrap and snare their victims in order to justify the time wasted by vice-squads, who could be so much better employed in real crime prevention.

Laud Humphreys' Tearoom Trade is published by Gerald Duckworth & Co at £2.50. It is available from GN's Mail Order Service at the same price, plus 10% for p&p.



Royal Wedding Souvenir



Court Circular

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

IT IS WITH THE GREATEST PLEASURE THAT THE KING AND QUEEN ANNOUNCE THE BETROTHAL OF THEIR BELOVED SON THE PRINCE JAMES TO THE PRINCE GUSTAV, SON OF THE KING AND QUEEN OF SWEDEN.

Daily Mirror

OUR HAPPY PRINCE TO MARRY GAY GUSTAV

YES it's true!

After months of rumours and denials, the King and Queen have announced that our Happy Jimmy - His Royal Highness The Prince James, heir to the throne, to be posh - is to marry Prince Gustav, second son of the King and Queen of Sweden. Gustav, known as "Gay Gustav" in Stockholm, is the leader of the dazzling gay high society of Sweden.



ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY RESIGNS

Exactly one week after the Royal wedding announcement, the Right Reverend Dr Thomas Longton-Barnes, the Archbishop of Canterbury, has tendered his resignation to His Majesty the King.

In a short announcement from Lambeth Palace, the Archbishop declared that he was totally opposed to the marriage of HRH Prince James to Prince Gustav of Sweden, and had made the strongest possible representations to the King and Queen. Under the circumstances, he felt it his moral duty to resign.

The Archbishop, who will be 78 in January, is noted for his adherence to the outmoded traditions of the 20th Century. When the changes to the Service of Holy Matrimony had reached the final stages, sanctifying the nuptial union of heterosexual and homosexual couples as being equal in the sight of God, the Archbishop had refused to accept them. It was only when the entire Synod of Bishops declared its intention to proceed and elect their own Archbishop in his place, that Dr Longton-Barnes accepted their wishes, and the Marriage Laws took their present form.

Daily Telegraph

NEW ARCHBISHOP?

Well informed sources expect an early announcement of the appointment of the Bishop of Maplin, the Rt Rev Dr Simon Granby as the new Archbishop of Canterbury.

The fifty year old bishop created a major controversy when at 35, and the youngest bishop in the country, he married himself to Alan Rogers, who was then the Dean of St Pauls.

DAILY EXPRESS



WILLIAM HICKEY

FEBRUARY WEDDING FOR HAPPY PRINCES?

It is confidently expected that Prince James and Prince Gustav will be married by the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Simon Granby, in Westminster Abbey in February.

The Ministry of the Scientific Environment is bound to arrange at least a week of national summer-type sunshine to celebrate the event. Now that weather control has been mastered for long periods, the world can look forward to the most fabulous gay wedding ever!



HOUSE OF COMMONS OFFICIAL REPORT

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The Prince James

1. Mr Henry Johnson asked the Prime Minister if in view of the Heir to the throne, His Royal Highness Prince James' forthcoming marriage to Prince Gustav, is it the Government's intention to recommend to the King that Prince James should also enter into a dynastic marriage with a young lady of suitable birth for the specific purpose of begetting an heir to the throne.

The Prime Minister: It is not the Government's intention to interfere in the personal happiness of the Prince. However, should Prince James wish to do so, the Government will readily enact the appropriate constitutional legislation.



PRINCELY WEDDING OUTFITS

The fashion world is agog with excitement to learn what the Princes will wear. They both have most beautiful physiques that cry out to be enjoyed by the adoring public.

Vogue predicts that the present trend to cloaks and diamonds will win the day. Quentin, the Royal Couturier, could well combine this with Prince James' fondness for the bare leg and buttock and create a diamond-studded cod-piece, perhaps with the letters J and G monogrammed on it in diamonds. The Prince might wear a spun diamond cloak flowing loose from the shoulder, with the Garter Sash proudly across his bare chest and Garter Ribbon at his knee. Rumour has it that a special princely crown has been commissioned.



Illustration - Jean-Claude Thievenin

Our Stockholm correspondent reports that Prince Gustav is expected to favour gold. A backless 'loincloth-of-gold' is top suggestion, probably with a spun sapphire cloak to match his sparkling blue eyes. Will the gay prince follow his enchanting custom of wearing flowers in his hair, or wear the centuries old Swedish Nuptial Crown?



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Darius: His Book

DANCE NAKED IN THE SUN by Adam Darius, published by Latonia at £3.50

This is a book which you will love or hate, or even, as I did, love *and* hate.

The love first. Darius has a remarkable sense of the theatre and can make plausible drama out of the most implausible material. He was born in New York in 1930 and spent the first years of his life in the Bronx. Small incidents along the way, the first appearance in a school play, a crush on a local judge's daughter, are translated at the stroke of a pen into events of at least national, if not cosmic significance. There are moments of lightness, but the story, as Darius sees it, is that of the artist against the world, against the prejudice of the commentators who attacked his decision to choreograph the story of Caryl Chessman, against the treatment he received in Israel, at the hands of the National Opera.

But there are times when he goes too far. I dread to think what Private Eye's Pseud's Corner would make of much of the book: "Hal had the soul of a Renaissance troubadour. When we worked together we were kindred spirits protected by the shining armour of our shared convictions," or "I am something of a 'workaholic', unable to evade for long the alluring melodies of my magnetic Muse".

There are times too when one can hardly hear oneself read for the crash of names being dropped all around. In a class with Nijinsky's sister, she mentioned her brother by his first name. "I had never heard Nijinsky referred to by only his first name. A chill shot through my body, the *frisson* of meeting face to face a legend's source."

It is not for me to predict whether other readers will be able to overcome a frequent sense of irritation and reach the end of the 316 page story.

Michael Mason

Evelyn Revisited

EVELYN WAUGH AND HIS WORLD edited by David Pryce-Jones, published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson at £3.75

The recent popular interest in Evelyn Waugh makes this a useful and timely companion volume.

David Pryce-Jones, the book's editor, and himself a novelist ('Owls and Satyrs' amongst others), has gathered a number of brief personal memoirs and essays from a number of people who were involved in the Waugh legend.

Waugh is one of those characters who has become so attractive to later readers and writers simply because he seemed so unattractive in many

ways. Had it not been for the mythology that has grown up around him about his 'mordant wit', his sense of right behaviour (as distinct from snobbery) and his egocentricity, he would remain the name on the cover of some of the finest imaginative novels of this century. But little more than just a name.



Evelyn at his son Auberon's wedding

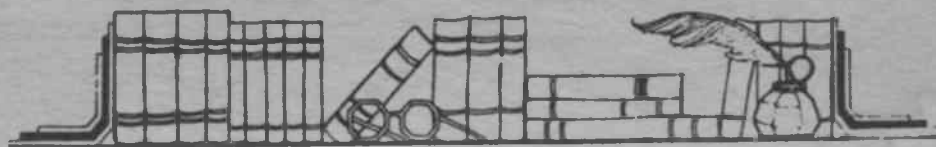
As it is, there are enough anecdotes about him to fill a dozen such volumes. Some of the better ones are collected here. Many of them demonstrating the more attractive side of his personality — as one might expect from his closer associates. From Handasyde Buchanan, a book-seller friend, came the criticism that *Unconditional Surrender* was not as good as *Men At Arms* and *Officers and Gentlemen*. "Really," was all Waugh said. And a little later he sent his friend a copy of the book inscribed "To Handy to reread patiently and at leisure, when unsuspected beauties will emerge."

There is the tale of his legendary progresses from his home in Golders Green, toiling up the hill to Hampstead to post his letters, to ensure that they bore a more respectable postmark. And accounts are included of his travels to Tanganyika, Yugoslavia, America (where he commented upon the success of *Brideshead Revisited*: "I have momentarily become an object of curiosity to Americans and I find that they believe that my friendship and confidence are included in the price of the book.")

Included in the price of *this* book are 240-odd pages of essays, photographs and some interesting examples of Waugh's own pictorial and graphic work (amongst them, one of the many book-jackets he was commissioned to design, a water colour, and some woodcuts of fauns and satyrs).

This is a handsome volume and makes a useful companion to *A Little Learning*, Waugh's own autobiography.

Michael Mason



Kinds Of Loving

by Roger Baker

SEX IN HUMAN LOVING by Eric Berne, Penguin 40p
TWOSOME PLUS by Barrie & Charlotte Hopson. Blond & Briggs, £2.50

Eric Berne authored the popularised and plagiarised, but essentially quite tough book *Games People Play*; he was too the grandfather of Transactional Analysis, a form of group therapy that has recently acquired considerable acceptance. Undoubtedly Dr Berne, who died in 1970, was a radical thinker in the field of interpersonal relationships. Basically he propounds that within each individual there exist three ego states which he calls Parent, Adult and Child. Our Parent Ego applies brakes and criticism of our behaviour, or can be affectionate and sympathetic — just like a real parent.

Our Adult Ego is the voice of reason and common sense. The Child Ego is spontaneous, creative and loving; or it can be sulky, demanding and possibly cruel. Dr Berne bases his theories of relationships on the inter-action of these three Ego states within one person and across two people. This is, apparently, a useful tool for therapists. To the common reader it can seem curiously naive and then, suddenly, incredibly complicated.

Berne refuses to use words like 'maturity' to apply to the Adult Ego, or 'childish' to apply to the Child Ego and he insists that the Child is probably the best part of a personality, that it is best to acknowledge it and try to get along with it. And in a sexual relationship it is the creative, loving, spontaneous child egos that are involved. Non-ideal sexual relationships can run into difficulties when the Parent Ego steps in and says: "You mustn't do that," or "Nice boys don't go with strange men". Or when the Adult Ego suddenly appears to say: "I could get VD" or "I wonder if she's taken her pill." Berne analyses many forms of relationship on these terms; the results make fascinating and often instructive reading.

By the end of the book, however, I didn't feel very friendly towards Dr Berne (maybe my rebellious Child Ego was too aware of his nurturing Parent Ego or something). I think essentially it was because I was trying (as one always does in these circumstances) to relate his words to homosexual situations and liaisons. And it can't be done. Largely because Dr Berne places so much emphasis on the procreative aspect of sex. In almost all passages describing the delights of good sexual unions he adds, as a sort of final flourish, the ultimate satisfaction of depositing semen in the vagina. And his most vivid and dramatic language is reserved for fertilisation panegyrics.

He is also what we call rather male chauvinist. He has tried to avoid this by adding footnotes in which an Emancipated Woman comments on the text to which he replies. This device, far from showing how open he is to criticism from women, really underlines the chauvinist attitude. Finally, Dr Berne clearly doesn't rate homosexuality as a viable sex/love transaction. There is no reference to lesbianism (as of course there wouldn't be in such a masculine-orientated mind) and although he is brisk and healthy in his remarks on what others might call 'deviations' his main comment on male homosexuality comes in a section of exploitation of the penis in which he suggests that women are not really turned on by tight trousers, but "in homosexual circles, where the main object may be to find someone who is 'well hung' or has a 'big basket', with little interest in the hanger or the man who is carrying the basket, such advertising may be more acceptable and pay off". This is probably true for some people at some time, but like Dr Reuben (whose book Berne recommends for "useful though slightly prissy information"), Berne seems to be making a far too general statement, at variance with the sensitivity and punctiliousness he displays elsewhere.

Twosome Plus is sub-titled "a guide to cohabitation with exercises" and is clearly a spin-off from the general encounter movement. Barrie Hopson is Director of the Vocational Guidance Research Unit at Leeds University, and both have written about marriage, child-rearing, careers and "the development of human potential".

Their book is warm, cheerful, funny and friendly. From the outset they make it clear that they are not into marriage guidance routines and that they believe all relationships — straight, gay, commune-based — are equally viable and are open to the sort of potential they hope to release through the exercise. There is brief discussion of homosexual marriage: "in reality, homosexual behaviour is as varied and as potentially stable as heterosexual behaviour." They see no reason why homosexuals should not marry if they want to for marriage (in this sense) provides "a framework for the future" and is also "a public declaration of the intention of permanence. If this applies to all couples who are in love, it follows that it is no less true of homosexual lovers."

The exercises are fun to read and stimulating to do, they range from simple parlour games through to quite complex operations which, if followed accurately and honestly, are designed to reveal a considerable amount about the personalities of the couple involved in them. This is a highly recommendable book, it contains informed and refreshing attitudes and many stimulating ideas.

The Packaging Of Rape

THE PIN-UP. A MODEST HISTORY by Mark Gabor, published by Pan Books at £1.95

This superbly illustrated book takes in almost every aspect of the pin-up, from the Gibson Girl, so influential on fashion and sexual taste in the 1900s, to the beef-cake boys so popular in certain gay magazines.

It may be a new discovery to you to find that, although the movie industry has been the mainstream producer of pin-up publications, calendars, posters and so on, there are other extraordinary sources. For example, the *National Police Gazette*, first established in 1845, in order to expose the sins of America to the public, ended up as the number one pin-up magazine, until it collapsed in the 1930s.

The *Pin-Up*, though billed as a modest history, links beautifully the nude calendar picture of Marilyn to the graceful drawings of Mura and Cheret, taking in the ever so deliciously kitschy illustrations of Varga for *Esquire*, one of which is reproduced on the book's cover.

There is even a short sequence on gay, and more generally, male pin-ups, but men have only recently been depicted as sex objects and the tradition is, alas, too recent for many to have been included.

I am tempted to agree with Joan Nicholson's brilliant foreword to this collection in which she suggests that pin-ups are merely the expression of male domination of the female, that is, men like pin-ups because they feel they can dominate them. But even if "the germs of rape are inherent" in



The poster that backfired: this calendar photo was used against Marilyn when she became famous

this form, I can't help but admire the sometimes breathtaking combinations of talent and sensuality that artists and models provide so generously.

Jean-Claude Thevenin

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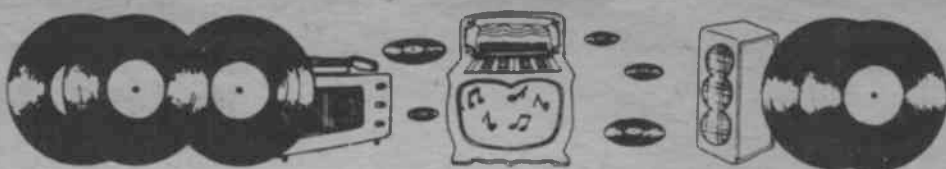
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A Gay Anthem . . .

The song *United We Stand* received a well deserved revival when a very emotional Rev Troy Perry quoted from the lyrics in the recent Alan Whicker TV special 'The Lord Is My Shepherd And He Knows I'm Gay'. The recording was also played in its entirety during the closing sequence of the programme.

Although a hit for *The Brotherhood Of Man* a few years back, its television exposure inspired some BBC Radio 1 DJs to give the record a new lease of life and the song, which surely must be the ideal gay anthem, could be heard regularly in the week that followed the programme. Someone at Decca Records realised what was happening and *United We Stand* has now been re-released on Deram (DM404).

The words are simple and direct and you don't need me to expound on their relevance. Suffice it to say, it would be pleasing to hear the record frequently played at gay discos and parties, and CHE and GLF may even consider it a fitting finale to any of their gatherings and especially their public meetings. An essential record for all gays.

Midnight Train To Georgia (Buddah 2011195) is Gladys Knight & The Pips first release in Britain since leaving Tamla Motown. It is a bluesy adult love song and is ideal material for Gladys, who demonstrates with her extremely soulful performance that her career is going from strength to strength. Her first album on her new label is something to definitely look forward to.

Stax have recently issued four 3-track singles of classic disco/soul material that has until now been deleted. Stax 2025207 features Booker T and the MG's *Time Is Tight*, Eddie Floyd's *Bring It On Home To Me* and *My Baby Specialises* by William Bell & Judy Clay. Do The Funky Chicken by Rufus Thomas, William Bell's *Happy and Hang 'Em High* by Booker T & The MGs are on Stax 2025187 and William Bell & Judy Clay's *Private Number*, Mrs Robinson by Booker T & The MGs and Johnnie Taylor's (*I Wanna*) *Testify* are revived on Stax 2025186. Outstanding cut on Stax 2025188 is Johnnie Taylor's memorable *Who's Making Love*. Also included are Booker T & The MG's *Soul Limbo* and *The Ghetto* by The Staple Singers. Between them the four singles represent some of the finest recordings released by Stax during 1968 and 1969.

People who saw and enjoyed 'Decameron '73' will be interested to learn that EMI have released a maxi-single (Columbia DB9017) which contains the three main songs from the show. Featured on *Anytime At All*, *Paradise City* and the extremely good *Something To Do With Love*, is Miquel Brown and the record is excellently produced by Ken Howard and Alan Blaikley (of 'Do You Like Boys?' fame).

One of the best singles issued in the last few weeks is the title track from the Steve Miller Band's forthcoming album *The Joker*. Miller is one of the finest contemporary rock musician/singer/writers around today, and with *The Joker* he amply demonstrates why. The flip side, a tasteful love song called *Something To Believe In* is equally good. Admirers of Miller and his latest band who can't wait for the release of the album can get these two tracks on Capitol CL 15765.

Best of the rest are two records that are already highly placed in the hit parade, *Photograph* by Ringo Starr (Apple R 5882) and Lynsey de Paul's *Won't Somebody Dance With Me* (MAM 109) The re-issue of Freddy Cannon's *Way Down Yonder In New Orleans* and Tallahassee Lassie (Bradley BRAD 309) may bring happy memories to ageing rock & rollers and Ken Parker's reggae version of the Curtis Mayfield song *We Must Be In Love* may attract favourable attention if it receives enough air-plays.



An Abundance Of Sound

PINUPS — David Bowie — RCA RS1003

With his tongue firmly in his cheek, David Bowie on his latest album, *Pinups*, pays homage to his early idols and influences by recording twelve classics of British pop from the mid-60's. And he doesn't have to resort to sending them up either — repeated listenings make it obvious that Bowie has a genuine affection for the material. He sounds as if he's having a lot of fun too.

What Bowie does in fact is stick closely to the originals but not without adding his own particular stylish magic and humour. The resulting performance of numbers such as *Friday On My Mind*, *See Emily Play*, *Sorrow*, *Shapes Of Things*, *Here Comes The Night* and *I Can't Explain* is not only pleasurable nostalgic and entertaining, but also emphasises that Bowie has still to fully explore the extent of his unique and seemingly boundless talent.

3 + 3 — The Isley Brothers — Epic EPC 65740

Vocal groups may come and go, but the Isley Brothers go on forever. They have been bounding in and out of the world's hit parades since the late 1950s with songs such as *Shout*, *Twist & Shout*, *This Old Heart Of Mine* and *It's Your Thing*.

In the singles charts on both sides of the Atlantic at present is *That Lady*, which is also featured on the group's newly issued album *3 + 3*. It is a consistently inventive set throughout, with cuts such as the Sly Stone influenced *Listen To The Music* and their versions of James Taylor's *Don't Let Me Be Lonely Tonight* and Seals & Croft's *Summer Breeze* particularly worthy of close attention.

The Isley's formula for success is continual experimentation with contemporary material and styles, which enables them to remain one of the funkiest and most original soul outfits currently recording.

O LUCKY MAN! (Original Soundtrack) — Alan Price — Warner Bros K46227

Having only recently seen the film 'O Lucky Man!' (David Seligman's choice to receive GN's First Anniversary movie award) I have waited until now before commenting on the soundtrack.

I agree with David that it is an exceptional film and undoubtedly responsible for part of its impact is Alan Price's score. The songs complement the antics on the screen precisely and Price proves that his Northern humour and awareness work in harmony with the ideas of director Lindsay Anderson.

Songs that still stay in my mind or help me re-live sequences of the film when listening to the soundtrack, are the title cut *O Lucky Man!*, *Changes* and *Poor People* but the entire production is a worthy accomplishment by one of Britain's most talented and unfortunately under-rated songwriters and performers.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS The Allman Brothers Band — Capricorn Records K47507

One of the finest rock albums released this year is *Brothers And Sisters* by the Allman Brothers Band. It is the group's first recording without the late Duane Allman, but despite the incredible blow to them his untimely death must have been, they have produced a totally brilliant set.

This review is somewhat belated, for the album has been high on the American album charts for some time and looks like repeating that success in Britain. Also, a track taken from it, *Ramblin' Man*, made it to the top of the singles charts in the States. It is a superb cut, both lyrically and musically, and is a perfect showcase for Richard Betts' fluid and extremely proficient guitar work. The album is dedicated to bassist Barry Oakley, who died in a motorbike accident similar to Duane's after only laying down two tracks. His melodic and exciting bass patterns can be heard to best effect on *Ramblin' Man*.

If the band can produce an album as good as this after experiencing so many catastrophes, one wonders what they'll do in hopefully what will prove to be a happier future. But until their next release, *Brothers and Sisters* is an outstanding example of American rock at its very best.

NEW YORK DOLLS — Mercury 6338270

In GN31 I reviewed the New York Dolls' first album and wrote a little about why I considered the group to be a significant development in rock music. Their recording has now been released in Britain and despite listening to the album frequently for some weeks, it remains an exciting personal favourite of mine.



As I said when first writing about the record, the Dolls' sound isn't pretty; it is a powerhouse of high speed energy and sexuality that is both loud and harsh, but will delight and thrill listeners more attracted to dynamics and dancing than aesthetic technicalities. An essential 1973 record.

WE'RE AN AMERICAN BAND — Grand Funk — Capitol EAST 11207

Grand Funk used to be described as one of the ultimates in rock & roll hype. Their music was tasteless rather than inspired, relying on extreme decibels of volume, repetitiveness and booming riffs to get through to their audiences. Commercially they were enormously successful.

We're An American Band is the group's first album to be produced by recording studio wizard Todd Rundgren, who greatly improves on the efforts of their former manager/producer/owner Terry Knight. The band have finally come up with some original ideas and learnt that subtlety can be as effective as ear-shattering volume. The title-track, a hit single in the States, is adequately representative of what is to be found on the rest of the set.

Now that Grand Funk have stopped imitating the 'heavy metal' sound of numerous British groups, their brand of American hard rock promises to be

a lot more palatable and enjoyable. And, commercially they are still enormously successful, across the Atlantic, at least.

SOUL IS . . . PRETTY PURDIE — Pretty Purdie — Philips 6369421

Although an established solo artist in his own right and an ace session musician, drummer (and occasionally singer) Pretty Purdie has failed to produce anything more than well recorded late night background music with his newly issued *Soul Is . . .* album. Disappointing, except maybe for after midnight smoochers.

THE DIMENSION DOLLS — Various Artists — London ZGU 131

The Dimension Dolls is a rave from the past featuring Little Eva, The Cookies, and Carole King and is guaranteed to enrapture lovers of early 1960s pop. Best tracks are *Don't Say Nothin' Bad About My Baby* and *Chains* by The Cookies, Little Eva's *The Loco-Motion* and *Keep Your Hands Off My Baby*, and Carole King's *Crying In The Rain* and the teen anthem *It Might As Well Rain Until September*. The latter is an all-time 'Family Favourite'.

The Dimension Dolls is deliciously early 60's, tongue in cheek camp. It is reasonably priced at 99p. Recommended.

JIMMY RUFFIN — Polydor 2383240

Former Tamla Motown star Jimmy Ruffin is a frequent visitor to this country where he is continually cultivating a growing number of fans. Recently released is his first Polydor album, on which he displays his own particular brand of sophisticated soul admirably.

Ruffin has stuck to a very middle-of-the-road approach, but that's not to say he doesn't produce some very satisfying performances. Impressive are his self-penned *You And Me Together*, *Boy From Mississippi* and *Thank You Girl*. His versions of Sly Stone's *Family Affair* and Labi Siffre's *Crying, Laughing, Loving, Lying* are also high points on a very balanced and polished set.

TIME FADES AWAY Neil Young — Reprise K54010

Ever since his days with the now legendary Buffalo Springfield, I have been excited and stimulated by the abundant talents of Neil Young, considering him to be head and shoulders above most other singer/songwriters. His second solo album, *Everybody Knows This is Nowhere*, remains one of my all-time favourite recordings and I don't hesitate in calling it one of the most significant rock releases in the last five years.

Of late though, his output hasn't matched his earlier work and Young's latest record, *Time Fades Away*, a series of live recordings from a recent concert tour, comes over as only being a very average album for an artist of his stature. The old magic reappears occasionally, on *Last Dance* and *LA* for instance, but the rest of the material fails to recapture the brilliance and originality he copiously displayed on previous sets.

Time fades away, so can interest, if repetitiveness and dreariness become the sole basis of an artist's inspiration.

KRIS & RITA: FULL MOON — Kris Kristofferson & Rita Coolidge — A&M AMLH 64403

It comes as no surprise to see that immensely popular singer/songwriter Kris Kristofferson (he also played the part of Billy the Kid in Sam Peckinpah's latest film) and Rita Coolidge are recording together. Both are exponents of contemporary country & western and as they have recently married, it was almost predictable that they should choose to record a collection of twelve romantic, sometimes tearful love songs and ballads.

Although the album is a little low-key, fans of both artists will be delighted by their performances on *Full Moon*. The back-up playing and production are faultless and the whole project will

probably not only satisfy their respective admirers, but also allow them to reach an even wider audience with their newly formed harmonic and emotional partnership.

PORTFOLIO — Richie Havens — Polydor 2480166

All the usual ingredients are on Richie Haven's new album *Portfolio*. A mixture of his own material, some excellent compositions from other writer/artist's pens and the full guitar/percussion sound one immediately associates with Havens. Despite the worth of various parts, mixed together they don't add up to a whole that is anything more than ordinary. And ordinariness equals dullness in my book, and one doesn't play records to be bored. A little more excitement and some new directions next time round please Mr Havens.

HAT TRICK — America — Warner Bros K 56016

Beautiful, romantic, human, sincere, tender — these are just a few of the words that spring to mind when trying to describe the impact of America's third album *Hat Trick*. It's a shame that the country the group derive their name from doesn't inspire one to use similar adjectives.

Whilst good in parts, America's previous releases failed to work as complete entities, unlike the new recording, which is a joy to listen to from start to finish. Without implying that any of the tracks are not of the same high standard, personal favourites of mine are *She's Gonna Let You Down*, their version of Willis Alan Ramsey's *Muskrat Love* and America's tour de force of the album, the title cut *Hat Trick*. The latter is a just under nine minute suite of inspired, loving imagery.

If first rate harmony singing, expert musicianship, unobtrusive arrangements, superb production, plus involving lyrics turn you on, don't miss out on America's finest achievement to date.

MAIN STREET PEOPLE — The Four Tops — Probe SPBA 6277

In the last issue I reviewed *The Four Tops Story*, a double album which acts as a retrospective look at the group's highly successful recording career on Tamla Motown. Their latest release, on Probe, is *Main Street People* and on it they continue to demonstrate why they are one of the most popular vocal teams in the world.

Impeccably produced by members of the group and beautifully arranged, there isn't a bad track on the record. Standout cuts are *I Just Can't Get You Out Of My Mind*, *Sweet Understanding Love*, *Whenever There's Blue*, *Peace Of Mind* and *Are You Man Enough* (from the soundtrack of 'Shaft In Africa'). The latter track when released a couple of months ago as a single deserved to get a lot higher in the charts than it subsequently did, despite being a firm favourite at all the discos I frequent.



Main Street People is a must for Four Tops fans, but will also delight anyone who can relate to an album that is both inventive, harmonic and well-recorded.

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Innovations In The Musical



Elizabeth Welch and the boys in 'Pippin'.

PIPPIN at Her Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket, London W1

Bob Fosse, Broadway's Golden Boy, received a much coveted Tony award for his staging of Pippin, and it's easy to see why. The past decade saw the end of the 'book musicals', and nowadays most songs presented have little connection with the plot. That's just as well with this particular show, for what there is in the way of plot is basically trite. Following Pippin's progress through wars, revolutions and temptations of the flesh, we find him at the end, content with the quiet home life rather than the glory of power. Stephen Schwartz, in his second musical, has written a superior score to 'Godspell'. The secret of his success lies in the varied rhythmic patterns he employs, rather than their actual melodies. His lyrics are often poetic, although they add little to the plot.

Fosse's choreography is deceptively simple. At first, many of the routines appear to be merely 'go-go dancing', but watch each individual dancer and it becomes apparent just how superior his work is to those dreary TV ensembles we see each week. His chorus is small in number, but each of the members justified his choice of them. Three additional assets to this production are Tony Walton's sets, the bizarre costumes of Pauline Zippodt, and Ralph Burns' excitingly dramatic musical arrangements.

Diane Langton as Pippin's glamorous step-mother, strides through the proceedings with a broad cockney accent which at first seems out of key, but later falls perfectly into place. During her solo song and dance she does literally Spread A Little Sunshine. That grand trouper Elizabeth Welch, scores in her one appearance with the song No Time At All, and though the audience failed to join her in the chorus when asked, they applauded loudly at the end of the song. The show's two prettiest tunes, Morning Glow and Corner Of The Sky go to Paul Jones, and whilst he was very endearing in the role of Pippin, I felt he could have done more with the songs.

Once in a while a performer comes along who projects across the footlights so much warmth to the audience that one immediately feels the empathy created. Such an artist is Northern J Calloway, who in the role of Leading Player, dominates the show with his exciting talent. An excellent dancer, lithe of body (dig those pelvic movements) and a resonant singing voice to match. In the opening song, Magic To Do, he is busily performing conjuring tricks, and the total effect of his work throughout is positively magical. In the coming years, Pippin may not become as memorable as some other musicals, but will long be recalled as 'the show which Bob Fosse staged in London'.

Barry Conley

Who's Got The Penis?

SECTION NINE at The Place, Duke's Road, London WC1

Did you hear the one about the scientist with a secret formula tattooed on his penis? In answer to the old adage 'There's nothing new under the sun', playwright Philip Magdalany proves them wrong with this highly original comedy. The scientist in question has gone beserk, and informs Washington that he intends to blow up the world. The pentagon is understandably in an uproar, and must find him before he carries out his plan. But he's in hiding, and his mistress, a government agent, informs the authorities he's switched his sexual preferences from women to men.

The government, limited for time, must hurriedly train three of their top straight agents in Section Nine with a crash course on homosexual behaviour, to find him, give him an erection, read the plans and save the world. The climax of the play, set in a Turkish bath, has a Mack Sennett touch to it, with agents from all the nations in various disguises, running in and out of cubicles to examine each other and find the missing scientist. When he's finally found, he demands that world power leaders unite and love one another. Nude drawings of Nixon and Heath among others, locked in sexual embrace, is the extremely amusing finale.

From an excellent case of ensemble playing, under Charles Marowitz's capable direction, I must mention Geoffrey Hutchings' meek and mild agent.



Colin Blakely (left) and Jonathan Kent in Philip Magdalany's 'Section Nine'.

so confused by the training programme that he isn't even sure whether or not he's had an erection or ejaculated. Barbara Whiting as one of the female agents, gives a performance that is a cross between Groucho Marx and Mae West. The play is showing for a few more performances through early December, and if you can, beg, borrow or steal a ticket.

Hot Ticket

HABEAS CORPUS at the Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1

Since it opened last spring, Habeas Corpus has been playing to packed houses, and has become as 'Variety' would say, a 'hard ticket'. Not wishing to face the indignity of standing in line, I waited for a visitor from abroad to book through an agency. On the night in question, the theatre was packed with tourists intent on watching one of our theatrical knights go through his paces, and as usual the curtain went up late.

The idea of cast members addressing the audience is a novelty that has served many a playwright well over the years. It can prove delightful, for example, in Thornton Wilder's plays 'The Skin of Our Teeth' and 'The Matchmaker'. It can also come a cropper when the person chosen to 'talk out' is mis-cast. Patricia Hayes, that usually reliable comic's foil, lacks the necessary warmth and spontaneous delivery, and her opening speech proves disastrous. She introduces each cast member, and only the interruption by Margaret Courtney—"I'll introduce myself, thank you. Elocution was always one of my strong points" carries any humour. As the play proceeds, we soon realise that once again, adultery is to be our evening's fare, with various jokes about false bosoms and imaginary fatal illnesses thrown in for good measure.

Sir Alec Guinness rolls his eyes to signify lechery, and is his usual loveable self, but the total effect is one of prostituting his art. He is ably supported by Joan Sanderson and Margaret Courtney. Ms Sanderson (who suddenly found herself a well known personality after her TV appearance in 'Please Sir') repeats all her stock bits and pieces. "Bah, sex, I'm not having any of it" she declares, and as we wait for the obvious reply "I'm not surprised," draws herself up to her full height and glares back, looking the image of Richard Wattis in drag. Margaret Courtney is also quite a formidable lady, with undertones of an earthy quality always apparent in her work. She is kept occupied chasing two men around the stage in her efforts to commit adultery, and somewhere in the proceedings sums up my feelings on this Alan Bennett comedy, as she exclaims "Hard cheese!"

Barry Conley

The Devils Ride Again

THE DEVILS OF LOUDUN — Sadlers Wells Opera at the London Coliseum

Around 1950 Aldous Huxley dug out of the past a bizarre and disturbing story of a seventeenth century witch trial, which took place in the small town of Loudun near Poitiers in Western France. The affair was a perfect example of the menace that fanaticism and bigotry present both to society and to the individual.

The relevance of the warning has caught the imaginations of a number of artists, so that the events have moved off the printed page into John Whiting's stage play, Ken Russell's film, and now into the Polish composer Krzysztof Penderecki's opera.

It was gratifying to find Sadlers Wells and Nicholas Braithwaite selecting this particular work for production at the Coliseum. The interest and controversy it had aroused on the continent had run before it and yet the work itself has never been seen in this country up to now.

The Coliseum version has been reduced from three acts to two, and the intermission comes between two halves almost entirely different in dramatic mood, intensity and musical invention. Act 1 follows the wordly priest Urbain Grandier through a series of episodes of amatory and profane indulgence. Tongues wag, as they will in a small provincial community, but at this stage the people who disapprove are powerless. Grandier is much loved, one might say often loved. Loved even by the Prioress of a local Ursuline convent, who is intent on attracting the priest to minister to her nuns. But the post, and implicitly the Prioress, is rejected. And the innocent fool incurs the wrath of forces too strong for him to oppose.

The music that accompanies the first act is memorable above all for the inventiveness of orchestral sound and singing lines. Josephine Barstow as the Prioress dealt in a most exciting and sure manner with an early and demanding aria that leaped and dived across huge intervals, testing the extremities of her range. She acquitted herself bravely, with clear intonation and a boldness that was demanded by the situation. The blind ferocity of which the Prioress would later be capable, was already pre-figured here.

Geoffrey Chard as the priest was no less confident in his part, though greater demands were to be made of him in the following act.

The large orchestra (42 strings, 32 wind instruments, plus an assortment of percussion, organ, harp, electric bass guitar, piano and harmonium) was used in the most disciplined and constrained way. The variety of instruments was employed, not to produce a large sound, but in endless combinations to produce a series of original and attractive orchestral colours. The 'new sounds' were perhaps the most distinctive attribute of this first half. It is worth saying, as well, that the music is always accessible. The listener does not sit through-out as if on broken glass attempting to cope with a Difficult New Piece.

The second act has far less to commend it.

The priest is pursued by the implacable forces of hate to face the machinations of political prosecutors, supported by the shrill denunciations of the nuns. As the persecution gathers momentum and achieves a level of hysteria, it is as though Penderecki grew angry (justifiably) but in expressing his anger lost control of the musical direction (unjustifiably). Thus the invention of the first act is nowhere to be found. The music adopts a mood that is to change little before the final curtain, a mood that is best characterised as 'unrelenting'. The singing was as good, with Geoffrey Chard coming into his own, but the pace slackened, and the composer's revulsion for the spectacle seemed to gain too strong a control over the drama.



"The broken priest Grandier (Geoffrey Chard) dragged away by soldiers."

John Dexter's production was well-conceived. The problems presented him by a huge cast, and an endless succession of brief scenes, were overcome simply with a minimum of fuss. A cruciform acting platform, dwindling in exaggerated perspective towards the back of the stage, and flats on which were projected coloured designs, from grey brown Gothic buttresses to intertwined naked figures, provided the basis. John Napier designed, and his work, as always, concentrated in providing the maximum effect with the minimum of tools. Some readers may have seen his simple design for Equus at the National. He was an obvious choice to help out in such a complex task as John Dexter had to cope with.

To Nicholas Braithwaite must go credit for not only a strong orchestral performance, but also for encouraging Sadlers Wells to mount the performance in the first place. For despite certain misgivings about the later parts of the work, it is one well worth seeing.

Michael Mason

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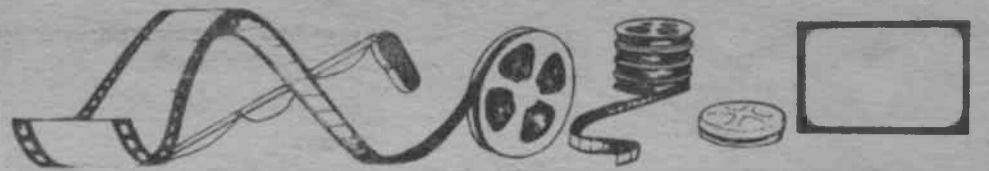
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Photograph: Greg Verris

Photograph: Donald Cooper



QUICK SILVER

Son of ace horror film director Freddie Francis, Kevin, has formed his own production company — Tyburn Films. Their first offering, 'Persecution' now shooting at Pinewood, stars Lana Turner and Trevor Howard.

Old queens never die. The film *Sixty Glorious Years*, starring Anna Neagle about the life and loves of Queen Victoria, first released 35 years ago reappeared in aid of charity at the Odeon Leicester Square on November 22nd. The Queen Mother was present.

Ken Russell's aptly titled autobiography 'An Appalling Talent' is swiftly climbing to the top of the best selling list, while American literary giant Jacqueline Susann has been popping at various publishers' receptions in London.

Recent cinematic deaths: Lon Chaney Jr aged 67; Cinerama Releasing who've decided that despite the popularity of their films 'Cabaret' and 'The Getaway', it's just not profitable distributing films for stay-at-home British audiences; the 'Granada' Tooting, much loved for its cathedral type interior and mammoth organ.

The London Theatre continues as ever to court disaster. According to a survey in recent issue of 'Time Out', the only play consistently causing those 'House Full' notices to appear, is Alan Bennett's 'Habeas Corpus' with Alec Guinness and John Bird.

Peter Finch renowned for his performances in 'The Trials Of Oscar Wilde' and 'Sunday Bloody Sunday' has married Eletha Barrett. They've been going steady for years, say publicists.

Screenplay writer for many of David Lean's films, and director of 'Lady Caroline Lamb', Robert Bolt, has quite a lot on his hands being married to actress Sarah Miles, who after recent outbursts on her unfair treatment by the Press, currently has her memoirs serialised in the 'News Of The World'. Mr Bolt meanwhile, speaking at the 'Evening News' film awards presentations, on the lack of money available to British film-makers, produced this astounding piece of logic: "If capitalists can't come up with the capital, what are they good for?"

Keeping It Up

THE drag scene tends to get the entrepreneurs it deserves, and there have been a few bummers over the past few years. Latest face to pop up belongs to Ron Fairway who seems to have been in the lunatic centre of showbusiness for far longer than his 32 years suggests. Millionaire today, where's the rent tomorrow, seems the story of Ron's life. But he looks well on it.

His epic for December is a jolly variety show he's putting on at the Victoria Palace on the evening of Sunday the 9th. And he's certainly gone to town to create a fancy line-up of acts. There's Mrs Shufflewick, transported from the cosy comfort of the New Black Cap; there's Hinge and Bracket, a drag double act that seems to be getting popular in clubland, one half of which, Perri St Claire gets a solo turn. Uel Deane (a lovely tenor) and Chaucer's Tales, a clean-shaven group that visually at least belies their name, are performing, all backed by the Grant Hossack orchestra and Roy Pannell dancers.

"It's going to be a great show, well lit, well produced," claims Ron. And the show is in aid of the Save London's Theatres Campaign, a cause dear to the hearts of all the performers who may find a deal of work in clubs and pubs, but all of whom like theatre work. "Nice warm theatre," Ron goes on (hopefully no power cuts), "you can smoke, relax, have an unbuttoned evening . . ." and he's right of course. As an additional attraction, the bill includes a special guest appearance of Jackie Lynn — great favourite down at the



Perri St Claire: one of the stars in 'Keep It Up'

Elephant and Castle — who is flying in from America specially for the performance. And Decca is releasing Mrs Shufflewick's latest record — live at the New Black Cap — round about the same time.

The show is called — perhaps predictably — Keep It Up; and subtitled, even more predictably — A One Night Stand. Comes on at 6.15 and 8.45. Prices from £2.50 to 85p. Tickets are available in advance from the box office.



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 "— tastes good."
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Three Old Faithfuls

Three old faithfuls of the box office, Paul Newman, Robert Mitchum and Elliot Gould, make a reappearance towards the end of a very lean year. Paul Newman giving his regularly monotonous performance is the star of John Huston's *The Mackintosh Man* (Columbia-Warner), which is rather like one of those late fifties British B thrillers with a script manufactured to employ some faded American star, frequently Macdonald Carey. Not that Paul Newman is faded. It's just the construction of the film that's familiar. Newman plays an American masquerading as an Australian who becomes involved with diamond robberies and a Russian spy, a Conservative MP of course. The film is laced with such grand guignols of the 1950s cinema as James Mason, Nigel Patrick and Noel Purcell, and indeed the characters are either toffs, Cockneys or Irish yokels. How one year for the return of such a simplified society. John Huston's brilliant films have ranged from *The Maltese Falcon* in 1942, to *Fat City* in 1971, so why he should have become involved with this debacle one doesn't know. His technical proficiency does ensure the action sequences carry a fair degree of excitement.

Robert Mitchum's contribution, *The Friends Of Eddie Coyle* (CIC) directed by Peter Yates, is a vacuum story that is enhanced by skilful direction and performances. Mitchum is the ageing bank robber, who is desperately trying to retire gracefully, with money in the bank, and the fuzz off his tail, finds himself working for both sides simultaneously, and needless to say, comes a cropper.

The fascination and originality of the film lies in the location setting, suburban Boston, the strong characterisations and portrayal of a local underworld. Yates is also particularly adept in creating stylish bank robberies, and he certainly doesn't fail here.

The Long Goodbye (United Artists) directed by Robert Altman, starring Elliot Gould as Raymond Chandler's Phillip Marlowe is certainly the pick of the bunch, a very fine film that further adds to the flagging position of Hollywood myths. Altman's private detective is superbly unglamorous. He's unshaven, cynically depressed and topically lonely. Even the girls who live in the adjacent flat at the top of a Los Angeles tower

block are too stoned even to greet him. His companion is a cat.

The Long Goodbye continues the American cinema's current exploration of the theme of changing values and the emergence of a society where individuality, loyalty etc are defunct. The story is concerned with Marlowe's disillusionment as he applies these old principles to the case of a supposedly missing writer, only to find he's being used as a pawn by his best friend, who's absconding with a vast amount of money and the writer's wife.



Elliott Gould and Nina van Pallandt in Robert Altman's 'The Long Goodbye'

The performances are exemplary throughout the cast list, particularly Gould's and Sterling Hayden's as the writer, who is clearly parodying a well known alcoholic American playwright. It's a competent exercise with marvellously sarcastic dialogue, that merges nostalgia, cynicism and parody of the old Hollywood values into an entertaining touching conglomerate.

David Seligman

Other Screenings

VAULT OF HORROR (Fox Rank) director Roy Ward Baker, like *Tales From The Crypt*, is episodic and based on comic strips by William Gaines. It distinguishes itself with a curious but skilful cast including ex minor movie queen Glynis Johns and Dawn Addams, and Terry Thomas, Daniel Massey and Curt Jurgens, and some extravagantly gaudy sets that tend to heighten the atmosphere of corrupting middle class morals that is the theme of the five tales.

They vary in style from extreme cliché (the horny old one about the cheated artist getting revenge on wealthy art dealers through Voodoo), to considerable ingenuity in the tale on greed. After dastardly murdering his sister for her money a character played by Daniel Massey sits in a grotesquely old-fashioned provincial restaurant complete with potted palms and octogenarian waiter, that is slowly transformed into a den of vampires whose leader is his dead sister.

In the latest of that tiresome long line of black versus white ghetto dramas involving heroin, cocaine, bent cops, and on this occasion a liberal white man's black secret agent called CLEO—PATRA JONES (Columbia-Warner), director Jack Starrett tries to play it all for laughs, but the script is far too weak to allow this ploy to come off. There's little exciting action visually, and even Shelley Winters ranting and raving as 'Mummy', the leader of an imbecile drug dealing mafiosa, is lamentably uninspiring.

I'm not usually much of an admirer of intellectual French films, but I must admit that *Day For Night* (Columbia Warner) director Francois Truffaut, has a great deal of communicative vitality. It's a film about the making of a film and it has a fateful, realistic poignancy in its portrayal of the confusion, and working and interrelationships of those involved.

Jibes at himself as omnipresent as Truffaut admits that in trying to create a fatal love story, the studio is dead; films are now shot in the street. Reality is the film's basis, albeit in an extended

form that envelops sarcasm. There are some immensely delightful caricatures: Jacqueline Bisset as the too beautiful to be true English starlet with an obligatory emotional immaturity that leads her to marry an older man; the narcissistic young actor whose broken love affair results in a greater performance than his in the film; the former Hollywood lover growing old gracefully,



Jacqueline Bisset and Jean-Pierre Leaud: two of the stars in Truffaut's 'Day For Night'

expressing his homosexuality through his wish to adopt a handsome young man; most delightful of all, Valentina Cortese as the faded middle aged and very alcoholic ex-beauty, reduced to playing the wronged woman, and charmingly fluffing her lines.

An eminently disrespectful film that successfully destroys its own myths, those of the glamour of film-making, with great success. One interesting point. Truffaut whether he is playing himself or another director, remains strangely aloof, being the only character who doesn't involve himself emotionally with anyone on the set.

David Seligman

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Derek's Guide

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* 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 Rd
- BELFAST**
Pub: Avenue Bar, Rosemary Street
- BIRMINGHAM**
Pubs: Imperial Hotel, Temple Street
The Trocadero, Temple Street
The Victoria, John Bright Street
Clubs: Grosvenor House, 326 Hagley Road, B17
*Nightingale, 50 Camp Hill B12
- BLACKBURN**
Pubs: The Merchants Hotel, Darwen St (D)
Castle, nr Merchants Hotel
- BLACKPOOL**
Pub: Lucy's Bar, Talbot Square
Club: Pepe's Club, Talbot Road
- BOLTON**
Pubs: Prince William, Deansgate (upstrs)
*Peel Arms Hotel, 423 Halliwell Road
- BOURNEMOUTH**
Pub: The Norfolk Hotel
Clubs: Gigs, The Triangle
Hotel East Cliff Towers, East Cliff
- BRADFORD**
Pub: Junction Inn, Leeds Road
Club: Shangri-la, Plechall Yard
- BRENTWOOD**
Pub: The Greyhound, Childerditch Common
- BRIGHTON**
Pubs: Spotted Dog, Middle Street
Greyhound East St (upstairs bar only)
Cricketers, Black Lion Street (weekends)
Hove Lawns Hotel
Shorts London Pub (Gaiety Bar) East Street
*Heart & Hand, Ship Street
Clubs: New Curtain Club, East Street (men)
*Regency Club, Regency Square
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
Rest: Olde Twitten, 62 Middle Street
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 Street (off Trinity Street)
- CANTERBURY**
Pub: The Queen's Head, Watling Street
- CARDIFF**
Pub: Royal Hotel (Roberts Bar)
St Mary Street
Royal Oak, St Mary Street
Clubs: Showbiz Club, Hope Street
Club Roma, 24 Churchill Way, (Thurs, Fri, Sat)
- CHATHAM**
Pub: The Ship
- CHELtenham**
Club: New Twenty Club, 20 High Street
- CHESTER**
Pubs: Foregate Bar, Blossoms Hotel, St Johns Street
Grosvenor, nr Blossoms Hotel
- CHICHESTER**
Pub: Old Market Tavern, opp Cattle Market
- CIRENCESTER**
Pub: Black Horse
- CLEETHROPES**
Club: Birds Nest, Kings Road, Bathing Pool (Sat only)
- COVENTRY**
Pub: Rose & Crown, High Street
- COWES, Isle of Wight**
Club: Regency Club, 30 Sun Hill
- 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**
Pub: The Three Tuns, Old Elvet
- EDINBURGH**
Pubs: The Kenilworth, Rose Street
The Abercromby Hotel
Abercromby Place
The Baillie, St Stephen Street
- GLASGOW**
Pubs: Duke of Wellington, Argyle Street
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 (men)
- 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 first Sat each month)
- LEEDS**
Pubs: Hope & Anchor, Call Lane
West Riding Bar (back bar)
Wellington Street
Cafe: Flamenco, New Briggate
Club: Charley's Briggate
Disco: Leeds GLF Disco fortnightly
Contact their office for location
- LEICESTER**
Pub: Dover Castle, Dover Street
- LIVERPOOL**
Pubs: Lisbon, Victoria Street L2
Bonaparte (private lounge)
Temple Lane L2
The Denby Castle, Hackins Hey (off Dale Street)
Clubs: New Bears Paw, Dorrans Lane L1
Johns Gay Bar Royal, Wood St L1
Pagoda, 31 Colquhitt Street 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 Lambeth Place (Vauxhall tube)(D)
The Salisbury, St Martins Lane WC2 (Leicester Sq tube)
Ship & Whale, Gulliver St SE16
William IV, Hampstead High St
*Royal Vauxhall Tavern, Vauxhall Cross (Vauxhall tube)(D)
Royal Mall, Upper St, Islington N1 (Angel tube)(D)
Watermans Arms, Water Lane, Richmond
Imperial, High St, Richmond
Golden Lion, Dean Street, off Shaftesbury Ave, W1
Henri's Bedford Head, 41 Maiden Lane, Covent Garden (Leather bar, Tues & Sat evenings only)
Union Tavern, 146 Camberwell New Road, SE5 (Oval tube)
Elmhurst, 131 Lordship Lane, Tottenham N17 (D)
Royal Oak, 62 Gientorne Road W6 (D)
Clubs: *DOK, Lowndes Court, W1 (Oxford Circus tube)
*Le Gigolo, Kings Road (Sloane Sq tube)
*Masquerade Restaurant & disco Earls Court Sq SW5 (tube Earls Court)
*Paint Box, 29 Fowley Street W1 (Oxford Circus tube)
*The Pink Elephant, 8 Newport Place, WC2 (Leicester Sq tube)
*Molin disco Club (see gen 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 Tacbrook 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)
Chaguaramas, Neal St WC2
Collage, 46 Churton Street SW1
Apollo, 3 Wardour St W1 (Dilly or Leicester Sq tubes)
Mandy's, 30 Henrietta St WC2
Yellow Bird, 11 Harrington Gardens SW7
Jonny's, 106 The Shopping Precinct, Shepherds Bush W12 (tube Shepherds Bush)
Discos: *The Catacombs, Old Brompton Rd (Earls Court tube)

- South London GLF disco, 8pm Sat at Hanover Arms (Oval tube)
- *Arabian Pub, Tricky Dicky disco every Wed, Cambridge Heath Rd E2 (Bethnal Green tube)
- Alan and Daves Disco, Ship & Whale, Gulliver St SE16
- Tricky Dicky Disco (Tues), Hornsey Wood Tavern 376 Seven Sisters Road, N4 (Finsbury Pk & Manor Hse tube)
- *Tricky Dicky Disco (Mon & Thurs (Kings Arms 213 Bishopsgate EC1 (Liverpool St tube)
- Rest: La Popote, Walton St SW3
Chaguaramas 41-43 Neal St WC2
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, Bitteswell, 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
Oldbury (Sunday lunchtime)
New York, Richmond Street
Mechanics, Sackville Street
New York, Bloom Street
Laughing Cavalier, Market St, Stalybridge, Ashton
Clubs: Picador, Bradshaw Street, Shude Hill
Napoleon's, Sackville Street
- MERTHYR TYDFIL**
Pub: Red Cow Hotel, Giebland Street
- MIDDLESBOROUGH**
Pub: The Grand Hotel
- MORECAMBE**
Pub: Masons Arms ('Gays Only' Lounge)
- NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE**
Pubs: Royal Court Grill, Brigg Market
Eldon Hill (Variety Bar) opp Regis Monument
Royal Turks Head Red Rover Bar, Grey Street
Grapes Vault, Grey Street
*Lord Chancellor, Great Market
County Hotel (Nancy's Bar) Westgate Road
- NEWQUAY, Cornwall**
Pub: King Mark, (Sat lunchtimes)
- 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, Mansfield Rd
Benlark Hotel, Midland Station
The Foresters (girls) nr Victoria Centre
Clubs: Marlo's Restaurant, Stanford St (off Castlegate)
Pavilion Club, 123 London Road
Shardlow (13 miles)
La Chic, 5-13 Canal Street
- OLDHAM**
Pub: Lighthouse, Lees Road
- OXFORD**
Pubs: Red Lion, Gloucester Street
Kings Arms, Holywell St (Sat lunchtime)
Disco: Oxford Gay Action Group Disco every Fri at Cape of Good Hope, The Plain
- PENRITH**
Cafe: Rendezvous, Sandgate
- PLYMOUTH**
Pubs: Lockyer Hotel, Oak Lounge (Back Bar) Derry's 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 Road)
Standard Bar, Portsmouth Stn
Rose of England (mixed) Spring St
- PRESTON**
Pubs: Bull & Royal, Cockpit Bar
Dog & Partridge, Friarsgate
The Wellington, Glovers Court
- READING**
Disco: Reading Gay Alliance Disco (Wed & Sat) at Railway Tavern, Stanshawe Road
- ROCHESTER**
Pub: Great Expectations Bar, Royal Bull Hotel, High Street
- ST HELIER, Jersey**
Club: New Side Door, Cricketers Arms, Seale Street
- SANDBACH, Cheshire**
Pub: Market Place Tavern (Thurs)
- SCARBOROUGH**
Pub: The Cliff Inn, Huntress Row
Club: The Bottleneck, Ramshill Road
- SHEFFIELD**
Pub: The Cossack
Club: Amberley Club, 225 Attercliffe Common (Gaysoc Disco)
- SOUTHAMPTON**
Pubs: Juniper Berry, Upper Bugle St (D)
Lord Roberts, Canal Walk
Clubs: Upstairs Club, St Marys St
Anchor Inn, East Street (girls only Sat)
Robert Burns, 9 South Front
- SOUTHEND ON SEA**
Pub: Queens Hotel (Street Bar) Hamlet Court Road
- SOUTHPORT**
Pub: Scarisbrick, Lord Street
Club: Concor Club, 18 Neville Street
- SOUTHSEA**
Pub: Captain's Table, Granada Rd
Jolly Sailor, South Parade
Duke of Devonshire, Albert Road
- 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: The 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

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North Lincolnshire guy 30 offers to share house with young man. Interests pop and politics. Photo with letter ensures photo and reply. Box 36/11
Guy late 20s, non-camp, own place south coast would welcome new friends. ALA Box 36/12
Domesticated colourful Strindberg lover, often impecunious, ex-globe trotter, multilingual Swedish guy 25, blonde urgently seeks share friendly space near central London. Willing to clean in return for lower rent. Box 36/13
I am 50, looking for active friend with own home London area any age or race, intellectual type. Possible joint Christmas holiday. Personality more important than looks. Box 36/14
Masculine 5 London 35, leather guy seeks similar 21-43 view permanent friendship. Photo please (returned) ALA unless flood! Box 36/15
Flash!! You're in the picture, no fees but prints supplied. I'm 30, live in London E7, seek active friend 21-35. Your photo and details will receive immediate reply with mine. Box 36/16
Merchant Navy officer 45, interests caravanning, photography, shorts, stamps and travel, seeks correspondents with similar interests. ALA when received. Box 36/17
Designer 30 (theatre) seeks handsome young artist/painter for friendship. Must be interested in theatre. Photo please. Box 36/18
North Derbyshire 30 year old seeks similar for sharing interests, walking, classical music. Box 36/19
Would any London guy 21-30 (non-efeminate) like to share occasional day visits to London by genuine, reserved Midlands guy? Photo appreciated. ALA Box 36/20
Deeply interested young gardener, very presentable, non-efeminate, interests sunbathing, swimming, physical fitness, seeks genuine friendship. Full personal details, interests etc and photo to Box 36/21
Ex-matlot, mid 30s, shy in bars, and clubs, seeks guy without hangups for friendship. Let's abolish Xmas boredom together. House in London. Photo appreciated. Box 36/22
Genuine and sincere, inwardly lonely 26 year old seeks young man for friendship. View to communicating understanding, inspiration and tolerance, leading to a sharing of lifestyle and living together. Box 36/23
Midlands gay guy seeks masculine, tall, dark guy for friendship and share house in country, 25 miles Birmingham. Photo please and phone number. Box 36/24
Male 30, keen to form small non-affiliated social group. Large comfortable room available for coffee, chatting, dancing. Possible theatre outings etc. Discreet gays all ages welcome. Returnable photo appreciated. Winchester area. ALA Box 36/25
25, 6foot, broad shoulders, slim hips, pretty face, seeks similar for friendship. Likes opera and ballet. Own flat Croydon but has car, will travel. Photo please. Box 36/26

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 3½p 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 37 must be received no later than noon on Monday December 3. They should be no longer than 35 words. As from December 4, box numbers in issue 32 will be discontinued and replies to them will not be forwarded.

"Hello Mother! Hello Father!"
Middle aged man seeks active friends over 21 of any race or colour. London area. Box 36/27
Interested in denim, then write to me. Also leather guys, I am 28. Box 36/28
I am looking for someone to love. London student teacher, 30s, affectionate, seeks younger friend. Cultural interests, for permanent friendship. Box 36/29
Chinese, over 21, living and studying in central London seeks sincere friends under 40 of any nationality. Interests: general, photo please, if available. ALA Box 36/30
Straight looking 26, interests fine arts, hunting, racing and bloodstock breeding. Good horseman with farming interest. Intelligent, well educated with a sense of humour. Would like to meet someone with similar interests. Box 36/32.
Is there a discreet, professional disillusioned male, 30+, who would like to share super flat, London Sw with two others. Box 36/33
Spending Xmas alone in London? So am I. Why don't we get together. I'm 24. ALA Box 36/34
Lonely at times? Non-camp marital refused two years manless, seeks active friend 30s/young 40s. Am published writer, keen music, opera, humour cycling. Warm, affectionate. Photo exchanged reliably. ALA Box 36/36
Young man (24) moving to London soon seeks new friends, especially skinheads, jeans boys, leather boys for friendship. Box 36/37
Active good-looking guy preferably ex-service 22-29 wanted for hopefully lasting friendship. Possible holidays together. I am 35, London based. Please write with photo and phone number. Box 36/45
Quiet active Scot, 43, 5'11", 12 stone 4 lbs, resident west Scotland, frequently in London, seeks younger friend who enjoys theatre, cinema, dining out, travel. Advertiser's main attractions affectionate nature and sense of humour. Photo please. ALA Box 36/38
Good looking active non-camp guy with no hangups 22-30 wanted to model for artist, afternoon or evening, good bread. Write with photo and phone number to Box 36/39
Deaf bachelor gay seaman 45, medium build, seeks friendship any age up to 45, slim and expect to share flat. Box 36/40
Anyone interested in both of me? One: professional female impersonator; Two: male non-camp aged 39. Regret cannot split. The real Jeckyll & Hyde need not apply. ALA Photo returned with mine. Box 36/41
Over 30? Slim? Clean and sincere? Male late 30s would like to meet you. Have flat 25 mins Oxford Circus or will travel - any nationality, colour. Box 36/42
Nottingham - masculine 26, has flat to share with denim domestic for permanent friendship. Photo please. Box 36/43
Trendy attractive student 24, North London, chief interests the theatre, seeks someone attractive of similar age who has a definite fascination in the passing parade and who doesn't make a full-time occupation of his homosexuality. Photo ensures a reply. Box 36/44
TV producer (28) living in London seeks new genuine friends aged 21-25, living anywhere in GB. Prefers slim, not too tall boys. Looks or shyness unimportant. Write fully. ALA Box 36/46
Personal ads continued on Page 18

Women's Personal

Suffolk girl 25 disillusioned with London "gay scene" seeks affectionate genuine friendship. ALA Box 36/48
Very lonely young lady (Alice in Wonderland type) seeks gentle natured friend for everyday living together. Box 36/49
Susan's antique is surely the Janus to Andrea's antipathy.
Active girl 23, London area, seeks intelligent, single female 23-30 for deep lasting friendship. ALA Box 36/124

Mixed

Bisexual young man 24, surrealist, astro sign Libra, slim, dark, sensitive and in need of a bisexual female to live with in London. I am living in Birmingham at present. ALA Box 36/50
Loving comradely friendship of congenial independent woman sought by bisexual middle-aged professional Londoner, active, tall, slim, nature worshipper, varied interests with prospective marriage based on mutual understanding and respect of each other's personality. Box 36/51
New Malden man (32) would like to meet girls 25-40, preferably gay, interested in discos, soul, reggae etc. Box 36/75
Professional gay guy late forties seeks friendship with gay or bi girl under 35. London area. Photo appreciated and returned with mine. Box 36/125
Gay male 30s, heterosexual tendencies, would like to hear from uninhibited couples or girls. London Box 36/126
Male, affectionate, liberated, 29 would like to meet bisexual female (feminine) send photo, will return. Box 36/147
Gay boy 22 wishes to meet gay girl, who would be acceptable to his Jewish family and friends, for a platonic friendship. Box 36/148

Personal

Michael, 36 slim wishes meet active friend. Photo please. ALA Box 36/1
23 yr old graduate, good sense of humour tough minded and with an exciting but demanding job, wants to share a flat/house with somebody lively and who really enjoys life. Preferably central London. Box 36/2
Devon or Cornwall, male 36 interested in arts, travel, seeks friend 21-30, Recent photo exchanged. Box 36/3
Manchester bachelor 43, own house and car would like to contact chinese, asian or any gay guy under 30. Shy type preferred, no obligation. ALA Box 36/4
London gay 23, with varied interests seeks non-camp friends under 30. Photo appreciated. Box 36/5
Blonde slim 25 average looking, varied interests living Kent, 26 miles London hopes for lasting friendship with active male 30-42 who needs love and affection. Genuine only. London-Kent. Box 36/6
22 year old clean shaven young male seeks active good looking guys up to 38 for friendship. Have accommodation central London. Photo appreciated. Box 36/7

Gay News Subscriptions

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE £2.10 FOR 13 ISSUES OR £4.00 FOR 36 (COPIES ARE POSTED IN A PLAIN SEALED ENVELOPE)
PLEASE MAKE CROSSED CHEQUES/POSTAL ORDERS PAYABLE TO GAY NEWS SUBSCRIPTIONS AND SEND TO:
62a CHISWICK HIGH ROAD, LONDON W4 1SY
TEL: 01-995 1958

NAME

ADDRESS

I wish my subscription to commence from Issue Number

(Single copies available 15p + 5p postage)

TRADE ENQUIRIES WELCOME

Personal ads continued from Page 17
 Northern, 40 attractive, wishes to contact lonely Italian for companionship on visits to London. Box 36/47
 Catford Intergroup invites new members to help enliven gay/straight integration. Contact Secretary, 14a Church Terrace, SE13 for details and news of our Christmas party.
 Contract/Duplicate Bridge? Accl or Precision Club conventions. Anyone interested? Makes a welcome change, also stimulating. Average Club player. 24 Cathedral Court, Newport, Mon.

Handsome virile young men can phone for free colour physique photo sessions in jeans etc by amateur photographer. Anthony 638-4367 evenings.

Market worker 35, own pad in central London wants contact other ordinary guys working in boots, jeans etc anywhere. Box 36/60

Strait looking Mediterranean guy 35, own pad central London seeks non-camp good looking active guy 22-27 for wining, dining and theatre etc. Genuine replies only please, with photo and phone. Box 36/61

West Midlands 32, professional man seeks friends, over 21, any area for corresponding and visits. Varied interests including concerts, classical music, swimming, driving, theatre and travel. Send photo please. ALA Box 36/62

Slough, Bucks guy boy over 21, seeks friends — please write. I can't be the only gay boy in Slough, surely. Box 36/63

38 year old leather fancier would like to meet others 21-35 for exchange of ideas, London/Southend area. Box 36/64

Bachelor 38 would like to meet very tall man 21-35 for friendship London/Southend area. Box 36/65

New Zealander 38, loving and affectionate, seeks non-camp guy for permanent friendship, London area. Interests hi-fi, music, opera, theatre and swimming. Photo please. ALA Box 36/66

Coventry District, amateur guitarist 30s, acoustic, electric, folk, ballad, pop, wishes for gay companion for practice. Photo if required. ALA Box 36/67

Presentable, sincere, quiet gay male (45) own flat — South, seeks active genuine guy 21-35 preferably for lasting friendship. Photo preferred and returnable. ALA Box 36/68

Leningrad in February. 3 day Thomson Holiday vacancy must be filled quickly. Preferably under 40. Photo appreciated. ALA Box 36/69

21-33 and want to settle down? How about a reliable, tolerant, affectionate and big-hearted 38-year-old? London area, photo appreciated. ALA Box 36/70

Shy lonely Londoner 27 seeks sincere friend 25-35 for ever lasting friendship. No effeminates please. Have two tickets for Messiah, Albert Hall Dec 9th. Photo appreciated. ALA Box 36/71

Nottingham, can travel/correspond anywhere, own flat. I am 25, hirsute, bored with clubs/pubs. I just need a genuine friend to share my life. There must be someone who feels like me. Box 36/72

Midlands, a friendship offered to married men by discreet 25-year-old bachelor. Box 36/73

Lonely, discreet affectionate professional man (38) living North Gloucestershire, desperately wants to meet similar for friendship. Interests include music, theatre, religion and travel (not keen on gay scene). Genuine replies only, photo appreciated. ALA Box 36/74

Gay guy 29 considered good looking, moving to Chester area. Seeks contacts with others up to 35. Too shy to visit gay pubs/clubs on own. No need however if company is right. Photo please. Box 36/86

If you're good looking and enjoy being photographed, please write with snapshot. Good fee (London) Box 36/87

Sidmouth bachelor, own house, car and phone wishes to offer graduate or similar 25-45 free weekends in return for companionship and useful help with new garden. Box 36/88

Are you 23-29 Cancer or Scorpio? Fair, clean, active, genuinely straight looking, seeking genuine friendship companionship? I am 35, Taurus, London pad, my interests travel, cinema, theatre etc. Only genuine replies with photo please. Box 36/89

Lonely Londoner, male 35, 5'11", fair hair, 10% stone, seeks friends 21-30 for sincere friendship. Interests - driving, dining, dancing etc. Photo if possible. ALA Box 36/90

London 35 seeks friends with own pad. Varied interests and sense of humour. Box 36/110

Blonde 27 5'6" active Londoner seeks friends. Photo if possible. Box 36/91
 Guy 26, interested in art and theatre would like to hear from young gay friends in Lincoln area. Particularly those interested in forming local gay lib group. Box 36/92
 Lanky guy 32 with own flat, finds London leather scene too social, and seeks those who prefer less chatter. Photo and telephone number appreciated. Box 36/93
 Bearded Londoner 36, 5'11", young outlook, non-effeminate, seeks young guy over 21 with own pad around London for genuine friendship. Nationality unimportant. Box 36/94

"Hello Mother! Hello Father!"

Ex-Australian 35, tall slim, interested in London, seeks friends 35 and under for occasional get-togethers. Please reply to Box 36/95

Shy lonely guy 21 likes folk music, walking, owns car and motorbike, seeks sincere non-camp friends, same age. Rural Leicestershire, but can travel. ALA Box 36/96

Loyal Scot, 44, music lover, speaks French, Spanish, Greek, has room in house and life for student or similar (active). Reply in confidence with photo (essential) Box 36/97

Skinheads Unite! Join me — Manchester (if you're not a skin don't bother) all letters wiv photos answered first. Box 36/98

Attractive guy London, slim, good physique, unassuming, reliable, seeks permanent friend 21-35, London. All letters with photo answered, mine in return. Box 36/99

Bournemouth — comfortable home offered in exchange for the friendship of an agreeable young man by businessman (49) Box 36/100

Graduate in London wishes gay friends the same age — 21-25. ALA but republicans need not write. Box 36/101

Guy 35 seeks slim affectionate boy for sincere friendship. Own flat/car. Photo please. Yorkshire area. Box 36/102

London: Could you be the one to keep me company this winter? If you are younger than me (25), shorter than me (6'), dark-haired (I'm fair and skinny), please write with a photo which I'll return. Box 36/103

Continental newcomer to West London, late thirties, active, straight appearance and still reasonably attractive, own pleasant flat, wishes to meet intelligent and sincere Londoner around 30 with broad interests not limited to gay scene. Recent photo please. Box 36/104

Andrew 21, kind and loving, seeks sincere friend 21-30 with lots of time and patience: object to build something really beautiful. London area. Photo please ALA Box 36/105

Active teacher (29) appreciative of the good things in life, seeks sincere, sensitive, intelligent, non-effeminate, male without hangups (22-27) who is looking for a lasting friendship. Photo and phone number appreciated if possible. Box 36/106

France — would anyone 25-45 like to correspond and perhaps holiday with trim, lively minded middle aged English architect living in country near Fontainebleau, wide and varied interests. Photos exchanged. ALA Box 36/107

Shy Welsh Pisces 22 seeks similar. Box 36/108

Is there a young dolly boy who would like sincere older friend for car outings, holidays, sharing good things of life. I am slim, trendy appearance. Photo appreciated. Every letter guaranteed answered. London/Essex. Box 36/109

Why not spend a Gay Week at a country cottage near Scarborough, Yorkshire, this Christmas? Reasonable rates (no more than £2 per head). Box 154.

Two men 38 and 43 sharing flat South London wish to meet guys 25-45 view friendship. Photo appreciated. Returnable Write Box 36/111

A bit overweight but still active. Railway enthusiast of 41 seeks genuine friends 21-35 West Midlands or London. Photo appreciated. Box 36/112

Leather guy 35, 750 superbike, looking for mates in South Wales. Age, looks not so important as personality. Box 36/113

Affectionate 48-year-old Londoner seeks lasting friendship with active 21-35 with usual interests. Prefer tall, slim types. Looks not important. Writer genuine and sincere. ALA Box 36/114

Young 40, bed-sitter bachelor wants to meet non-camp clean-shaven friends 21-30 for unhurried friendship. ALA with photo. Box 36/115

Country lover offers hospitality to new friends who should be active country lovers, seeking exercise and relaxation in friendly secluded Surrey house, less than one hour from London. Please write. Box 36/116

Two males, 21-37 seek gay companions 21-38, clean shaven, London and 30 miles out. Genuine, no time wasters. Box 36/117

Young man, London, attractive, slim, easygoing, absolutely reliable, seeks similar 21-35 London. View to permanent friendship. Photo please (return promised) Box 36/118

Attractive young man, good physique, wishes to join gay get-togethers, London, view permanent friendship. Box 36/119

West Sussex 28, would like to meet someone 21-29 possibly leading to flat share. Box 36/122

Pleasant looking Londoner, good physique, slim, non-effeminate, cheerful, reliable, seeks similar 21-35 London with good physique for permanent friendship. All letters with photo answered, mine in return. Box 36/120

North London 21 year old fellow would like to know if there is an active intelligent 28-40 year old man who would like to meet him, perhaps leading to lasting friendship. Photo if poss. Box 36/121

Cornwall, Falmouth, active male nearly exhausted needs help. Friends most areas, introductions. ALA photos. Also double/single rooms to let. Box 36/123

Lonely 27 year old Londoner seeks sincere friends for lasting friendship. Age or race immaterial, non-camp. Photo appreciated but ALA. Box 36/137

French guy 22 (Paris) seeks attractive white and coloured friends over 21, preferably London area. Interests rock music, films, fashion, languages, photo please. Reply to Bruno Piat, Maison du Japon, 7 Bd Jourdan 75690, Paris cedex (14)

Bored? Lonely? Make new friends at our Gay Party. Great time promised, top 20 dancing etc. All welcome. Let your hair down. Write for invite: Wilmot, 71 Chandos Ave., Sth Ealing, London W5

Under 35 and interested in films? If you would like to attend monthly screenings/social evenings, send sae Advertiser, 10-165 London Road, Croydon. (Sorry — no blue films)

New Gay Literary Journal needs writers, poets, artists designers, layout men and helpers for prestige not pay. Roderman Anzuros (editor) 20, Tidenham Gardens Croydon CRO 5UT. 01-681 2737

Cornwall, Quiet Christmas or any weekend — cosy unmodernised cottage. Share expenses, chores, companionship with friendly retired bachelor, who has friends of all ages, non-camp, ordinary types. Phone 02095-4580

Lecturer 39 6 ft, straight looking, wide interests (especially music) needs friends same age or younger. Manchester based but mobile. Box 36/138

New photo magazine to be launched in the New Year urgently requires young models. The accent will be on youth and beauty. If you think that you can meet our standards and would be interested in earning some extra cash, send a recent photo with full details to Box 36/139

West London young looking 34 businessman loves life, music, theatre. Seeks genuine friends and a loving friendship with 24-34 but not camp. Must have sense of humour. Photo please. ALA Box 36/140

Beauty with Brains... young, healthy educated well-bred — to share the interests of similar, opera/theatre, dancers physique, into straight square types. Box 36/141

Male 30, fair hair, fresh complexion seeks younger company for friendship. North London. Photo if possible. Box 36/142

I love to get gay letters. Would anyone like to correspond with me? ALA Box 36/143

Active 30 year old masculine guy, interested in leather, jeans and all similar attributes would like to get in touch with males with same interests for exchanging ideas. London area. Box 36/144

Morsham/Crawley. Lonesome young (30) reasonable looks, wide interests and sense of humour, seeks genuine friendship from nice sincere young man under thirty. Recent photo appreciated and returned with mine. Write Bob. ALA Box 36/145

Will GEORGE JOSEPH CHARLES GRANT (originally from Liverpool) or anybody knowing of his whereabouts please contact Box 36/146, c/o Gay News. Important beneficial reasons.

Reticent male 33, tall slim alone, seeks correspondence with similar to explore mutual interests. Box 36/150

London actor/director 40, own house, seeks younger friends. Also offers odd nights accommodation for out of town gays visiting London. Box 36/151

Birmingham photographer requires male models up to 28 years old, any nationality. Fee paid; full details/photo pass. Box 36/152

Can I help you? For people lonely, want somebody to talk to, I will try to help. 01-749 0016 Ronald.

Responsible affectionate Londoner 45, seeks flat Brixton area. Would share with similar home-loving West Indian 40-50. ALA Box 36/52

Businessman/professional 25-40 offered share of modern house near Walton, Surrey. Trains, buses within easy distance. £27.50 all in. Share telephone. Box 36/53

Non-discreet gay guy 23, Canadian student, into politics of liberation, searching for room in stimulating, warm home/flat in or near central London to £8. Start January. Box 36/54

Guy 28 non-camp seeks similar to share luxury two bedroomed flat, on the river at Chiswick. Transport available into West End most mornings. £10.pw. Box 36/55

Wanted to rent, close to A25 Redhill, Guildford area. Pleasant room for occasional occupancy by two very quiet guys. Box 36/56

Luton. Young man wanted to share comfortable self-contained flat, colour TV. Approx £7pw. Box 36/57

Two unattached guys 22 and 25, varied interests and likes, require accommodation together in South London. Easy access to town and Croydon areas. Willing to share. Box 36/58

Maida Vale. Large well furnished bedsit with own entrance. Share kitchen and bathroom with one other in large flat. Free car space. £8pw. No strings. Ring 624 9425 or 624 2496

Gay girl to share flat with all conveniences. Phone 683 3316

Male 21 would like to share flat in London or look for a flat on a share basis with someone else who is seeking same. Box 36/35

Young man (24) seeks room, flat, share in London some time after Xmas not with effeminate types. Box 36/76

Canonbury N1. Young intelligent, house-trained guy to share elegant Regency house. Own room, central heating, walled garden, fabulous kitchen. £40 per month. Box 36/77

Slim Scandinavian professional designer and student, 27, friendly and reliable, requires furnished flat or flatshare in Croydon, SW1 or Balham. Max £18pw. My main interests are arts, theatre and people. Box 36/127

35 year old requires flat or share, willing to seek a place with another. Interests varied: travel, theatre etc. Can cook, have car. Box 36/128

Young professional 21 seeks flat, large room or share, central London or close, preferably un/part furnished but all offers considered. Box 36/129

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

Landlords — phone your vacancies after 6pm 01-732 6724

Emergency 1 or 2 night pad available for over 21s. Other assistance given where necessary. Ring 01-691 0733

Single chap of 38 requires male companion to share house in Twickenham on companionship basis. Please phone Ian Scott, 01-892 5990

All male guest house Southsea, full or part board. Ring Portsmouth 811246 for brochure.

A cottage in Cornwall. Bed and breakfast £1.50. Ring Mike, St Ives 5480.

Lonely bachelor, slim, artistic, seeks local friend to share secluded home between Worcester/Malvern. Box 36/130

Genuine keen training body builder, young, blue-eyed blonde, 6'1", 190lbs, well educated, wide interests seeks share central London pad preferably with genuine muscle enthusiast or attractive guy. Also interesting friends, photo preferred. Box 36/131

Flat to share for sincere home loving guy who wants to share life also. Under 30 preferred. Medway, Kent, easy reach London. Please write fully. ALA Box 36/133

Gay guy wanted to share lovely Kensington flat £13pw. Box 36/149

Bedsitter — use of house to right gay actors home NW London. Also weekend accommodation. Box 36/153

Holiday accommodation, gay atmosphere, B/B £1.50. Come to East London and meet the genuine friendly Londoners. 106 Olive Road, London E13 or phone 01-472 3122

Black guy, 25, p/t illustrator, artist, urgently needs own room, under £8, central or near. Box 36/78

Married guy living Birmingham requires use of room/flat occasionally. Would assist with rent. ALA Box 36/79

Gay lady, quiet, exemplary tenant, urgently needs a reasonable size bedsitter on a fairly permanent basis as near to SW10 area as possible. Can only afford very moderate rent. No objection to being in gay male household. Box 36/80

Fabulous SW1 accommodation free, active types only. Photo and full details essential, in exchange morning domestic help required 9-12. Box 36/132

Room in comfortable SW19 flat. TV, phone, etc near to tube and BR main line. £6.80pw. Phone 947 3441

Second person required to share garden flat W5. £6pw. 739 7676 X 42

Reliable guy, twenties, to share flat in Camberwell, SE5. Own room. Rent £10pw incl. Phone evenings only after 7pm. Roger 274 9154

Attractive student, 24, seeks part-time (legal) work. Richard 01-995 2048

Luxury hotel Spain, seek young very presentable appearance — build, non-effeminate, willing workers. Interests gardening, cooking, domestic, swimming, sunbathing, massage, etc. Full personal details, interests, photo to Box 36/81

Wanted. Young man, Good horseman, to help with two horses, ride second horse, hunting. Accommodation and wage. Hampshire. Box 36/82

Travel agency in Wales — reliable person(s) required (with minimum 5 years experience if possible) to establish Travel Agency business in central Wales in delightful countryside, on salary commission or profit sharing basis as preferred. Box 36/83

Qualified masseur seeks part or full time work. Box 36/84

Any offers for (legal) work, evenings. Good looking 29 year guy in Chester has new house and massive mortgage to cope with and needs added income. Box 36/134

Gentleman, 23, driving licence, equity, excellent references, good education, widely experienced, mature and responsible nature seeks (legal) work. Box 36/136

Full and part time domestic work in private flats/houses available for young men/women living NW or Central areas. No evenings or weekends. Good rates and fares. Phone 624 9774/7979

Will some kind guy help middle aged one with Ealing garden and/or housework. Phone before 6pm 01-997 4113

Boy photographs for sale white stocks last. Colour prints of young boys in swim/shorts wear. NO nudes/pornos/duals. Postcard 15p, 5 x 7 are 60p each. State age required with PO/Cheque and correct size self-addressed stamped envelope to Studio, 31 Breakspears Road, London SE4. Sorry no callers please.

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

Grog, young qualified masseur, seeks genuine interesting work. 727 8322

Trousers, Jeans made to measure. Phone Paul 278-1641

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

GAYPRINTS — Faggots & The Revolution! Discussion documents from Front Homosexual d'Action Revolutionnaire. Price 12p. "The Joke's Over!" — a radical report on the Social needs of homosexuals Price 15p. Trade Terms; 1/3 dis on orders of 5 or more. Gay prints, Box GP. 197 Kings Cross Road, London WC1

Essan Massage for relaxation. Home visits by young masseurs. 733 4519

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

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

Winter weekends in the country. Full board in peaceful secluded country house near Bath. Heated bedrooms. Log fires. Good food. Trains met. 022-16 3299

Superb Youth. The Male Nude. In Photography, Publications, Fine Art, Sculpture etc. The World's Largest Selection! Established since 1954!!! Illustrated catalogue free from: John S Barrington, 86 Castelnau, Barnes, London SW13 (No callers please!)

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.

SAUNA IN AMSTERDAM The sauna for the younger set. DE PRINSEN-PRINSENGRACHT 381. Modern bar, colour TV, stereo records. Every day 12.00 to 22.00 Admission 7g (approx £1)

Sunday 12.00 to 18.00 Admission 7g Fri and Sat Nights — 24.00 to 8.00 Admission 10g (approx £1.30)

SEX!! Send 3/4p stamp for free lists of gay magazines, plus samples. J D M Enterprises, 15 Clifton Gardens, London N15.

Gay girls and ladies? London's latest gay girls (only) licenced club, music, dancing, welcomes new members. Details "Oasis Club", 5 Excel Court, Whitcomb Street London WC2. Phone 930-7296

Lurex stretch soft gents briefs £1.25. Leather G-strings £1. 3 velvet minis £1.50. Leather briefs £3.50. 10p lists to Exotique, Quarry Road, Tunbridge Wells.

THE TROUBADOUR (next to the Coleherne) downstairs 9.30-12.30 Tuesday December 11th. Hereward (residents) + Friends. Goodtime acoustic music, friendly atmosphere — alternate Tuesdays.

Yoga improves looks, physique, health, age regardless. Individual or group tuition. Genuine massage also available. Ross Nielsen 01-602 0721

Gay books and magazines. Large selection of photographic mags and books available, including Cute Kids, Naked Cain, Bare Beach Boys, Over 60 titles to choose from, send large SAE for lists. Sondine Ltd Dept GB1, 6 St James Parade, Bath. BA11 UL

ILFORDS only gay social club meets Wednesdays. Non-political/secularian, men only over 21. Write Box 36/135

The ideal Christmas gift. Personal stationary exclusive Waldorf. Boxed 100's and 200's with envelopes. SAE for samples and prices. Vvaly Traders, 12 Station Road, Loudwater, High Wycombe, Bucks.

Male therapist for body massage. Phone 229 5080

Leather/fashion wear catalogue. 30p PO to Richard Stone, 15 Clifton Gardens, London N15

Telefriends Nursing Service, London area. Experienced male nurses for prescribed and general treatments in your own home. Sessions by appointment. Phone 385 5939

Young masseur 'The Clark System', Kensington. Phone 373 2752

Relaxing massage by genuine experienced masseur. For appointment call 229-2308

The Fellowship in Christ the Liberator Metropolitan Community Church — London invites you to a Carol Service 7.30pm on Tuesday 11th December at Fulham Town Hall, Fulham Broadway (entrance in Harwood Road) in aid of Dr Barnardo's Homes.

Genuine Palmist, Clairvoyant, Ealing. Phone Mr L before 6pm 01-997 4113

Christmas presents? Give something gay... Line-up's Male Nude Calendar! 12 masculine revealing poster-size models, tastefully printed on gloss paper. Only £2.50 from: Line-up Magazine, PO Box 804, London W4

Male Nude Calendar 1974, from Line-up Magazine. Superb models, great shots, finely printed on glossy art paper. Large poster size (15" x 10") ideal present, only £2.50 from Line-up Magazine, PO Box 804 London W4

Black rubber jeans, shirts etc made to measure. SAE for catalogue to Walter Wright, 42 Croxteth Road, Liverpool L8 3SQ

Wanted. People interested in music and talent, newly formed record company needs financial, musical, songwriting, business or artistic involvements to help make a success of a new venture just launched by a young record producer, publicist and ex-record company executive; Please write to: Sequence, 7 Northbrook Road, London N22 or phone 01-888 6064

Relaxed South London masseur will cross water. Phone 699 1960

Jeanage Apollis! Mad about tiny tight briefs and swimwear? 12p (stamps) brings you my photo list. Larry Knight, 4 Hamilton Close, London NW8 8QY

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

The Molin Gay Disco Club. We are delighted to announce a new and better club at the Half Moon Hotel, 10 Half Moon Lane, Herne Hill, London SE24. Open 8pm. Girls only. Fri Sat Wed. Bus routes 2,19,3,68,196,172,37,40,184, also Brit Rail to Herne Hill Station. Car park at rear of club. Entrance to club in car park. Looking forward to seeing you. Old and new members welcome. Enquiries phone 674-4004.

General Information

Norwich FRIEND helps isolated homosexuals in East Anglia. Contact PO Box 3, North Walsham, Norfolk.

New York Gay Switchboard: PO Box 929, Madison Square Station, New York, NY 10010, USA. Tel: New York 924-4036 — open 6pm to midnight, 365 days a year. Information available on all gay subjects.

Edinburgh Gay Womens Group. For details of weekly meetings contact Ms M Laurie, 4/15 Hailesland Park, Edinburgh.

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, Romsay 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, NWS

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

BRISTOL GAY STUDENTS SOCIETY for all young people, male and female. Regular meetings, social events, guest speakers, theatre visits, awareness groups. Write to Trevor Locke, Gay Students Soc, University of Bristol Union, Queens Road, Bristol BS8 1LN for a programme of events. Tel Bristol 35035

CHALLENGE is a social group for gay women and men over 21. We have weekly meetings at 3 London branches and would be delighted if you would join us for a drink and a chat. Please telephone any evening between 7 and 11. Dial 567 5085 and the operator will give you the number of the member of the evening. Do call us.

FELLOWSHIP IN CHRIST THE LIBERATOR. Communion Service 8pm Sundays, West Kensington. Details: FCL c/o 61 Earls Court Square, London SW5.

HELP/INFORMATION/COFFEE at Bethnal Rouge, a bookshop run by a collective of gay people, 248 Bethnal Green Road, London E2. Tube — Bethnal Green. Bus — 8

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, Stanshawe 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

LONDON-NEW YORK-CALIFORNIA. CHE member organising a 6-8 week Trans-America Gay Holiday. Depart London Feb 24th on low cost flight to New York. All interested contact Jacques 6 Beaufort Gardens, London SW3

COVENTRY GAY GROUP meets fortnightly from Nov 13th every Tues 8.30pm in Rose & Crown, High Street Coventry

NORWICH GAYSOC. Info from Peter Thomas, Soc 2, University of East Anglia, Norwich NOR 88C

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.

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.

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.

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 for BCN/PETREL, London WC1V 6XX

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

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

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

SOCIAL ACTION projects and drug dependants care group caters for all problems at Walnut Cottage, Moorland, Bridgewater, Somerset

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

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

ISOLATED HOMOSEXUAL men and women can ring ICEBREAKERS 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

GAY MARXIST STUDY GROUP. Details: 01-794 3368

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

MANCHESTER GAY ALLIANCE is a loose alliance of the four homophile groups in Manchester — GLF, CHE, Gay Womens Group and University Homophile Group. Details of group activities and other gay happenings in our newsletter. Write for a copy to Side Door, 7 Birch Hill Lane, Longsight, Manchester M13 0XJ

MANCHESTER GAY ALLIANCE DISCO at Withington Town Hall on Fri 23rd November 8pm-12. Bring a bottle. Disco by Julian. Admission 15p at door.

BATH GAY AWARENESS GROUP meets Thursdays 8pm. Info from P O Box 86, Bath, BA1 2YQ

MOLIN DISCO CLUB (Giris only) now at Half Moon Lane, Herne Hill, SE24. Open from 8pm on Wed Fri and Sat. Buses 2, 3, 19, 37, 40, 68, 172, 184 and 196 plus Herne Hill (BR) Stn. Ring 674 4004 or 274 2733

ESSEX UNIVERSITY GAY LIBERATION SOCIETY. Write to University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex. GAYPRINTS. Faggots and the revolution etc has now changed address to Gayprints, Box GP, 197 Kings Cross Road, London WC1

TRANVESTITE SOCIAL GROUP. For info send SAE to Sam Cash, 10 Hosack Road, London SW7

GAY LIBRARIANS GROUP. Send SAE to GLG, 6 Worthington House, Middleton Passage, London EC1R 1XQ

READING UNIVERSITY GAY FOR HOMOSEXUALS. Open to all students Advice, information, befriending service, social meetings and action. Details, Rugh, Students Union, Whiteknights Park, Reading, Berks.

OZ — THE LAST ISSUE. The old team are back, with a lengthy piece from Jim Anderson on homosexuality. Good value at 30p for 72 pages. This last edition is on sale now.

EXETER GAYSOC. Info from Gay Liberation Society, University of Exeter, Devonshire House, Stocker Rd, Exeter, Devon.

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, Malet Street, WC1

ABORTION, CONTRACEPTION, ENTERTAINMENT, transport, legal services, 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. B599 7ND

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

GAY WOMENS LIB (North London) meet at the Crown and Woolpack, 397 St Johns Street, EC1 (Angel tube) 8pm on Mondays.

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 Hai, 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 meets every Wed in upstairs room, Lower Turks Head, Shude Hill, Manchester at 8pm. Contact John Ash, 1 Hunts Road, Irlam o' the Heights, Salford. Ring 061-736 2045 or ring Gary 061-434 2091

COME TOGETHER No 16 now available 15p plus 5p p&p, also back issues No 15 — 10p, No 14 & No 12 — 5p each. Gay Liberation Manifesto 10p. Psychiatry and the Homosexual 15p. GLF badges 10p, weekly newsletter (latest GLF news) — send SAE and 3p stamp. Send crossed PO's and cheques payable to GLF office and please include cost of envelope and stamps in your orders which should be sent to Gay Liberation Front, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1

TRANVESTITES AND TRANSSEXUALS GLF meets every Thurs 8pm at 76 Gladsmuir Rd, Archway, London N1 (3 rings)

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.

WARWICK UNIVERSITY GLF meets fortnightly on Tues 8pm in Rottes Hall, Univ of Warwick, Coventry. Contact 9 Stanley Road, Coventry or ring Cov 76008

NEWCASTLE GLF meets every wed. Info contact Mike Barnes, 10 Chester Crescent Sandyford, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 2

GLF DISCO every Fri 8pm at Prince Albert (upstairs) Wharfside Road, off York Way, near Kings Cross Stn. Admission 10p.

GLF GENERAL LONDON MEETING every Tues 8pm in All Saints Hall, Powis Gardens, Notting Hill (Westbourne Park & Notting Hill Tubes).

SOUTH LONDON GLF meets every Wed 8pm at Oval House, Kennington (Oval tube).

GLF ADULT EDUCATION GROUP meets every Thurs 8pm at Talma Road, Brixton, SW2

GLF NEW PEOPLES GROUP meets every Thurs 8pm. Details ring 837 7174

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 4BG. Telephone 061-228 1985

Or contact London Information Centre, 22 Great Windmill Street, W1 Telephone 01-437 7363 (Mon-Fri, noon to 10, Sat noon to 6. Closed Sundays)

You can ring some groups direct at the numbers below:

Bath: Bath 4738 (Hugh)

Bradford: Shipley 51742

Brighton: Brighton 778025 (Malcolm), Brighton 732550 (Roland)

Bristol: Bristol 35035 (Trevor)

Cambridge: Cambridge 52661 (bernard) Chilterns: High Wycombe 39321 (Haydn)

Harst Stn: Hatfield 69172 (John)

Kent East: Thanet 42059 (Roger)

Lancaster: Lancaster 2750

Leeds: Morley 7686 (David)

Leicester: Leicester 706050 (Steve)

Leicester: Leicester 738832 (John or Clive)

London Monday group 01 385 1191 (Brian)

London Information Centre: 01-437 7363

East London: 556 5910 (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 39030

Shropshire: Crasage 231 (George)

Southampton: Romsay 512959 (Ken)

Tunbridge Wells: T.Wells 33175 (Ross)

Tyneside: Newcastle 87701 (Jerry)

Wirral: 051-327 5178 (Jack)

Youth: 01-385 7246 (Mike or Jim)

Windsor: 51062 (Mike)

CHE Music Group Sat 8th December at Leighton House, Holland Park Road, London W14 at 8pm. An evening with Stuart Haslett (tenor) and Graham Johnson (piano) presenting songs from various countries covering the 16th century to the present day. Wine and Cheese included. Admission 80p.

Lewisham. If you live in South East London this is your local CHE group, weekly meetings, details from CHE London Information Centre. Tel: 01-437 7363

HELLO SAILOR DANCE. CHE Xmas Party on board the Royal Iris setting off from Pierhead at 8pm on Sat 15th Dec. Details and tickets £1 from Liverpool CHE, PO Box 7, Liverpool L8 2XN

DISCO AND BUFFET to launch a CHE group in Burnley on Sat 22nd Dec. Tickets 75p plus SAE — W Hunter 250, Ribblesdale Lane, Preston PR1 5EB

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, Colshill 623399.

STAR-GAYS

with Merlin



Sagittarius & Friends

November 23 to December 20

SAGITTARIANS have a delightful gift of trying to get on with everyone. They seldom have strong dislikes, and even when they do, an attempt to patch things up will always be made.

In view of their happy nature, it isn't too surprising that **SAGITTARIANS** will be strongly attracted to their opposite sign, **GEMINI**, over the next few months. But it will cause several eyebrows in other Zodiac signs to be disdainfully raised. Perhaps **SAGITTARIANS** are acting a little out of character, but the pull towards **GEMINIANS** will be something they just will not be able to control. The two Star-Gays already admire each other's qualities, becoming very indulgent with each other over the most outrageous activities. Even allowing liberties for which a well-deserved slap would be administered to any other Zodiac sign.

GEMINIANS will certainly welcome the lead up the **SAGITTARIAN** garden path, life opening out for them after the several years of restriction Saturn has given them. It will all burn out in due time of course, and both **SAGITTARIANS** and **GEMINIANS** will be off to pastures new soon enough. So just let them enjoy themselves, all you other Star-Gays, and forget your jealousies, just for once.

This column has been a little unkind to **LEOS** of late, and they must have thought some pretty unpleasant things about astrology in general because of it. Now the Lion can preen its mane, for **SAGITTARIANS** are their true and compatible partners, and the mutual admiration at present expended on **GEMINIANS** will always be directed away to a **LEO** if one is anywhere in the vicinity. **SAGITTARIANS** need a leader who will curb their excesses by directing them to even more exciting pastimes. **LEO** will always temper his direction with something to be learnt — it might be cultural, political, or involving welfare work. It could even be running publications with strong causes, like Gay News! **SAGITTARIANS** revel in the limelight directed at them through the **LEO** personality and interests. Those brilliant **SAGITTARIAN** ideas and experiments gain momentum from **LEONIAN** humanitarian attitudes to life, not to mention their organisational abilities.

That extrovert Fire sign, **ARIES**, is also compatible with **SAGITTARIUS**. But **ARIANS** are not very subtle about their love interests, being almost undemanding, even uncaring. This makes **SAGITTARIANS** so intrigued they will allow themselves to become entangled with the breezy, non-stop, rather scatter-brained bustle surrounding **ARIANS**, and they find they can't easily break away. The **SAGITTARIAN** ability to organise people their way, will exert itself even to a complete take-over — which brash **ARIES** will pretend hasn't happened — and then a fiery partnership can form. A little too fiery possibly, but the ensuing blaze can make a cold world seem very warm and friendly.

Despite the **GEMINIAN-SAGITTARIAN** link-up mentioned earlier, and however disturbing it might be to other Star-Gays, there will always be **LEO** and **ARIES** waiting for **SAGITTARIANS** to return to some semblance of near-normality. Hardly waiting in the wings, of course, but a little impatiently out in the wide open spaces. When the **SAGITTARIAN** arrows are next loosed, it will be away from the **GEMINI** Twins and towards the Ram and the Lion. Always animal lovers, **SAGITTARIANS** have two Zodiac pets to take into their hearts and homes. And if the species seem a little unlikely as house pets, there is always the world to roam with absolutely NO quarantine restrictions to worry about.

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NEWSETTES

West Germany Legalises Homosexuality

BERLIN: In a move to liberalise West German sex laws, the Upper House (Bundesrat) has given its seal of approval to new laws which provide, amongst other things, that homosexual offences between males are no longer illegal when both parties have reached the age of 18.

The vote of 28 to 13 in favour ended a three year campaign by opposition conservatives to defeat the Bill which was originally introduced by Herr Brandt's government.

The new law also legalises group sex, wife-swapping and the free sale of pornography to people over the age of 18.

Every Time Bar The Last

ISLE OF WIGHT: Police here have devised a simple system for summoning 43-year-old James Murphy to court. They leave a message for him in a pub.

The trouble appears to be that no-one is quite sure exactly where he lives, so a note informing him when he is next due in the dock is left for him. Moreover, said his counsel, D Paterson, this system has worked well on the previous 64 occasions when he has been due to face charges.

But this time Murphy, who was accused of indecently assaulting a youth of 16, failed to turn up.

"I can't understand it," said Mr Paterson. "He is such a regular attender at public houses. Promptly at opening time he is there and the message was left as usual."

Fury Over Homosex Lesson

WALSALL: There have been howls of protest from members of the Parent Advisory Group over Walsall's sex education programme for 13-year-olds, which includes the subject "Secret Problems We All Share - emotional changes, lesbianism, homosexuality and masturbation."

The group, which claims a membership of 800 has written in protest to Dr Talbot, Walsall's Chief Medical Officer, and to Margaret Thatcher, Minister of Education. "The executive committee of this group," they wrote, "were uncertain whether to laugh or weep when reading certain parts of it... Are you really suggesting to Walsall children that these are problems we all share at any age?"

In reply to the criticisms, Dr Talbot said his department had compiled a constructive all-round health education syllabus - not merely the sex programme, and that it was important to avoid children receiving incorrect information through playground gossip.

Gay Gordons

EDINBURGH: The Scottish Minorities Group held a press conference in the headquarters of the National Union of Students in Edinburgh to publicise their Sexual Offences (Scotland) Bill, and they have invited all Scottish MPs to a meeting at Westminster to consider the proposals.

The meeting is to take place in the House of Lords on November 28th and Michael Coulson, convenor of the SMG Law Reform Committee, hopes that after this meeting they will have found themselves a sponsor for the proposed legislation.

Gay Scene Spreads East

FOREST GATE: A new gay disco for London's East End has opened in the Duke of Fife public house in Katherine Road, Forest Gate. The disco is compered by Allen Barker, a drag artist from Ilford.

Licensee Alf Hales was asked by some of his customers whether he would allow a 'gay night' at the pub, and he agreed because, he said, "the way I look at it, who am I to deny them a little bit of pleasure?" His wife, Ethel also seemed quite happy at the idea. "Most people today accept it," was how she reacted.

At a preview before the official opening, over thirty gay and het couples joined in. Allen is hoping that after the official first night membership will carry on rising up to about 400 or so.

5 Years For A Hard Hustle

BRIGHTON: A meeting between two men at the local Curtain Club has led to a 5-year jail sentence for 30-year-old hairdresser John Weller.

Weller, who had 13 previous convictions, was found guilty of assaulting 52-year-old Laurence Kelly. It was alleged that the two went back to Mr Kelly's flat, where Weller attacked him, demanded money and said "I'm going to kill you."

Mr Kelly called his boxer dog, and a neighbour contacted police on hearing the commotion.

British Customs Burn Book

SAN FRANCISCO: Len Richmond, one of the editors of *The Gay Liberation Book*, has reported here that British customs seized 450 copies of the book and planned to burn them.

The copies were on the way to book stores here. Richmond, who co-edited the book with Gary Noguera, said customs did not explain why they banned the book. Male genitals are visible in only one photo, as well as in three line drawings.

GN's mail order book department has had copies of the book available at £2 each for some time, and will continue to supply it to anyone wanting a copy.

Registry Office, Hets Only

BIRMINGHAM: Two men have applied to the Birmingham Registrar for a marriage license. This was confirmed by Mr Frank Flowith, Chief Superintendent of the Registry Office here.

The application was made some months ago, and is believed to be the first such request in Birmingham. Mr Flowith said he was unable to give any details as any applications are confidential.

So when is the happy day? There wasn't going to be one, he told us. The application "was turned down because a marriage between two people of the same sex is illegal in Britain." For those who have taken part in a gay wedding ceremony, and may feel anxious, such a marriage is *not* illegal. It is simply not recognised by English law. So you won't find policemen on your doorstep trying to arrest you for it.

A spokesman for Birmingham Gay Lib commented: "Homosexual marriages are not part of Gay Lib. I am not sure that marriages are a good thing, although nobody would be stopped from doing this."

Three Party Talks In Norwich

NORWICH: With the formation of a new FRIEND group in the city, there are now three Norwich Gay Groups. CHE already has a local branch in operation and there is a Gaysoc at the University of East Anglia. CHE and FRIEND work fairly discreetly, in contact with local professionals like doctors and social workers. But the Gaysoc is more militant.

The three organisations are planning a meeting to discuss co-operation in Gaysoc's plans to "launch an assault on Norwich".

Danny's Hang Up

LONDON: Danny La Rue, crowned King of Drag by *The Times* Diary, called a press conference to announce to anyone interested that he was retiring as a female impersonator. "I'm 46," he explained, "and I'm hanging my tits up."

His costume for the occasion was less spectacular than usual, consisting of a pin-stripe grey suit and a white shirt with a red tie.

He will still be staying around show business though. One ambition of his is to become an impresario.

As far as future stage appearances are concerned, he opens in a new show at the Prince of Wales in December, but after that he said he intended going straight!

Sympathetic Echo

SOUTHAMPTON: The local newspaper, 'Southern Evening Echo' in its edition dated Thursday 8th November, devoted an entire feature page to the activities of CHE and the problems of male and female homosexuals as a minority group.

The articles, by local reporters, were written with unusual understanding and sympathy. Gay News scored a mention.

One article featured the aims of CHE, and outlined the legal and social anomalies which are enshrined in the formal community parameters to which homosexuals are expected to conform. Facts and figures were neatly presented and inserted in the article in such a way as to create maximum impact with humane reading. The problems of social integration and stigma, emotional loneliness and the need to educate the community at large on the homosexual way of life, were touched upon with a degree of understanding which could only have originated from a reporter who had the difficulties of social minorities at heart.

The second article took the form of an interview with "Jason", a lesbian, who spoke frankly about her childhood, family background and lifestyle. Her comments came over as a mixture of hope and fear. Hope for the future and fear of loneliness. A touching interview, well written, which will do much to throw light in a dark corner.

All praise to the 'Echo', its editor and its feature writers. Seldom do we read such an enlightened and responsible attitude to the cause.

Portsmouth Correspondent

Gay Pantomime Will Help Mentally Handicapped Children

BRIGHTON: The 42 Club, at 42 Kings Road, will present its annual gay pantomime for members, friends and families, for 7 days, starting on Sunday 2nd December, at the Wagner Hall, Regency Road, Brighton. Entitled *ALADDIN IS AT IT AGAIN, BOOM! BOOM!* it has been written and will be produced by Tony Stuart, with a professional cast, assisted by club members. Previous pantomimes and summer shows have provided over £1,000 for local hospitals, but this year's profits will go to the Foredown Hospital for Mentally Handicapped Children at nearby Portslade. Tickets for the pantomime will cost £1 each and can be obtained from the 42 Club.

Enfield CHE

ENFIELD: The local branch of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality in Enfield celebrates its first birthday this month. The group has built up a membership of about fifty men and women, and several other men are on the mailing list to receive copies of the monthly newsletter. Besides its monthly meetings, the group has some kind of activity arranged every week. Happy Birthday Enfield.

The Problem With Finsbury

FINSBURY: As if policemen weren't enough, patrons of the Finsbury Park Cottage are picking up a good-looking Irish guy - only to find themselves in the hands of a petty blackmailer.

It isn't usually until they get him home that the enterprising young lad tells them that he intends phoning the police unless they buy his silence.

The boy, who has apparently been in business now for about four months, is 5'10" tall, dark, has brown eyes, dresses well and is probably aged about 23. So beware the pretty Irish of Finsbury.

Apparently police interest in the establishment continues as well, making the whole place about as safe a contact place as the dock in the Old Bailey No 1 Court.

GLF's Personal Survey

LANCASTER: 20 members of the local Gay Liberation Front spent a recent Saturday morning questioning some 200 shoppers on their views about homosexuality.

Mr R Waterford of GLF said that the survey was particularly useful in that it allowed members of the group to talk to people they otherwise would not have met. "Everybody answered my questions amicably," he said, adding that a surprising outcome of the survey was the sympathy straight women expressed towards gay women.

Questions ranged from personal reactions to gays, the oppression and rights of gays, and medical treatment.

SMG Annual General Meeting

GLASGOW: Scottish Minorities Group's 4th Annual General Meeting takes place in Community House in Glasgow on Saturday 8th December 1973. Copies of the 1973 Annual Report and Accounts can be obtained by writing to the Secretary at 214 Clyde Street Glasgow G1 4JZ, enclosing a loose 3½p stamp. There are no highly controversial motions up for debate - but there is a tradition of last minute surprises at SMG big events!

The Unicorn is Extinct

BRIGHTON: Following our report in GN35 of the closing of the Unicorn Bookshop in Brighton, we have heard that the shop has been bought up "lock, stock and barrel" by Brighton Books in Market Street. Amongst the publications Brighton Books will continue to stock is *Gay News*, which is also available in Brighton from 'The Heart & Hand' in Ship Street, 'The Gaiety Bar' in East Street, and is also sold to members of the Regency Club.

Fired Teacher Sues For Damages

ALABAMA: A black school teacher here in a '99 percent white' rural school system has filed suit against the Sumter School Board claiming \$100,000 damages for being dismissed for alleged homosexuality.

A Tight 'Free Church'

GLASGOW: The Glasgow Presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland have written to the Rev David Levison, objecting to his attendance of the Scottish Minorities Group national conference of last month. The Church especially criticised a press comment attributed to the Rev Levison, who said it was the Church's role to "help them adjust to their condition rather than deliver them from it."

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