

N°37

GAY NEWS

15p

Special

"A DIFFERENT JOURNEY TO THE SAME END"



PEACE

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

GAY NEWS

Changes

Gay Liberation means change. No argument so far. But what has to change, how and in what direction? There are as many answers as there are homosexuals. Except on rare occasions when everyone sees one particular issue as more important, more urgent than any other. Which is exactly what is happening right now.

The problem is the law. It's not a problem which has really bothered us much since 1967 when the Sexual Offences Act was passed. We have all been more worried about doctors, the press and broadcasting, education authorities, and public attitudes. Rightly so. And there has been real progress on all these fronts. But the law meanwhile has stood stock still, and we are due for a change.

The 1967 Act is obnoxious on two main counts. The first is the age of consent. Now it doesn't matter whether the age eventually agreed on is 16, 21 or 47. What *does* matter is that it should be the same for gays as for hets. Since the age of consent for hets is unlikely to be raised to 21, this means in practical terms that a draft bill should lower the gay consent age to 16.

The second count on which the 1967 Act stands accused is its limited scope, excluding Scotland and Northern-Ireland from its provisions. In Scotland there is a general policy not to prosecute in cases involving consenting adults in private. But it is only a policy, and it is only 'general', so that the Crown may prosecute in certain circumstances, although they do not say what circumstances. There is absolutely no such policy in Ireland where the law is rigorously enforced, and where sentences are severe.

What evidence is there for claiming that law reform has become a 'live issue'? In this issue we carry three pieces. The first deals with the Scottish Minorities Group visit to the House of Lords, where, after a year's damned hard work, they presented a draft reform Bill backed by evidence of public, press, television and religious support for their campaign to sweep aside the medieval Scots laws against homosexuals. Yet despite their strong case, they were told (by members of both houses) that they stood no chance unless there were calls for a change in the law governing England and Wales. They were advised to strengthen their evidence, and to seek English support for an all-round reform move aimed at the new Parliament that emerges from the 1974 General Election. The second piece is a report of the first Northern Ireland gay conference, marking the launch of a campaign whose main priority, says the Ulster Sexual Reform Movement, is to get the law changed. And finally, the third piece (and perhaps the most encouraging, in view of the attitudes of MPs and peers to the SMG Bill) is Howarth Penny's interview in which he promises that CHE will be presenting their long-awaited draft reform bill to the Malvern conference at the end of May — a statement which puts an end to the anxieties of those who had expected nothing more than another vague and negative report from the Law Reform committee.

So the attack is gathering steam. In 1967 the campaign was fought by sympathetic bystanders, social workers, clergymen, some of whom may have been gay, but weren't letting on. This *new* campaign will be fought by homosexuals themselves: 'come-out' gays who are fighting for what they see as their rights under the law, fighting for the things that matter to gay people themselves, rather than for a few reformist tit-bits which do little more than satisfy the collective liberal conscience.

So, Gay News is serving notice of what the public can expect in 1974, and reminding waiverers in the gay movement of what we owe to gay brothers and sisters who live outside England and Wales, or are under the Magic Age. In our last edition of an old year, it is good to have something positive to look forward to in the new one.



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.

Politics and Progress

Ealing, London

Dear Gay News,
Recent issues of Gay News have posed the question of Gay involvement in politics and GN35 published an account of the unrewarding experiences of the GLF delegate attending the World Festival of Youth in East Berlin.

I believe that involvement, at the present time, should be with individual, sympathetic politicians, rather than attempted involvement with political parties or systems.

Much of the very real progress achieved over the past twenty years has been due to individual politicians in Parliament.

Political parties remain primarily interested in the voting potential of the majority. Minorities can often be ignored — and we are a minority.

The Right is generally against us. But, sadly, there is little evidence that the Left is prepared to think very differently.

However, having spent my youth against a background of oppressive laws associated with social stigma, I now marvel, week by week, that I can buy Gay News, meet my friends in gay pubs and young, radical gays are prepared to publicly take up the cause and endeavour to further the progress already made.

Peter

Men Aren't The Only Sex

Sappho Publications BCM/PETREL London WC1

Dear Gay News,
Ref THE KISS cover GN35. You *can't* be advocating that oscillation is another exclusively male gay province? Can you?

Where were two women kissing?
Where was the woman kissing the man?
Where was the man kissing the woman?

I appreciate the cover was a tie up with the article on Page 3. But what a missed opportunity to illustrate that ALL people have kissing in common but some have to pay for it unjustly.

GN is not above being unjust. Your Editorial GN33 about the Government's Green Paper on anti-discrimination "it is important that the Bill as it stands should be blocked," because sexual orientation isn't included. OVER MY DEAD BODY! Many lesbians have been tangling with the wording of this bill as well as the two private members bills before both houses, not to mention Joyce Butler's attempts over several years now. In sisterhood with straight women we have been lobbying, demonstrating, writing to MPs. Where were the gay men during this skulduggery? You advocate frustrating women's causes, including gay women, because gay men's age of consent and elementary freedoms aren't included. Perhaps a few hours out of the saunas, cottages and commercial scene could have remedied that!

The narrowness is not in the aims of the Bill but in male gay aims and perspective. You endorse this with your cover of THE KISS; by excluding reports of women being cashiered from the services and the police; court cases about rape; court cases against custody of children for lesbian mothers. You completely disregarded the article in Sappho Vol 2 No 8 which was a debate between a male and female gay about the gay and women's struggle.

Your declaration on the cover "newspaper for homosexual men and women" will have to go. GN is purely for GM.

Gaily kissing all mouths,

Jackie Forster

A Lesson For All

Dear Gay News,

I am leaping to the defence of Keith Harrison's "Eric's Story" in GN35, against Nick Skinner's intemperate (both in language and substance) attack in GN36.

I found Eric's Story, and also incidentally the other stories, in Keith Harrison's series to be both compassionate and true to life.

Eric was the boy who got married in the belief that his homosexuality would disappear. It did not and he was then faced with the appalling situation of being gay but being unable to talk about his gayness to the one person who might have been able to help him in his crisis of loyalties — namely his wife.

Nick Skinner in his letter blandly asks "surely talking to his wife could have lightened his load?" The answer to that is that if he had gone into marriage having told his wife about his gayness then there would have been the essential honesty in the relationship that might have helped. But he didn't and so there wasn't.

Why the story was so good (pace Nick Skinner) was because it had a lesson for all of us whether married or not. Where there is deceit and lack of honesty in a relationship, whether with spouses, parents or lovers, that deceit and lack of honesty will cause increasing problems because the real person underneath is always disguised and destroyed by the lies. Only by breaking free of the deceit and lack of honesty can one hope to be both gay and happy.

In Gay Lib jargon, we must all "come out" and accept our gayness, not in the sense of behaving like camp queens and ostentatiously drawing attention to ourselves, but in the sense of openly showing that we are not ashamed, that the real love relationships in our lives are with people of the same sex. That is what Eric in the story failed to do and certainly in my experience, what a lot of other people (and perhaps all of us to a certain extent) fail to do.

Richard Creed

I'm Not Sick — Are You?

Dear Gay News,

May I congratulate you on your paper. As a visiting Californian to London for the past three months, I found each issue informative newswise, as well as helpful for places to go, especially Derek's Guide.

My only disappointment, but a big one, was to see occasional flights into guilt-ridden and/or maladjusted fantasy such as 'Eric's Story' (GN35). This kind of negative wallowing trivia surely does not improve the stereo-type image most straights have of us. And it's not only bad public relations, it's negative, unhelpful and unhealthy. I'm not frustrated or sick — are you?

Dal

Exploiting Gays

Liverpool

Dear Gay News,

I cannot be the only gay who takes exception to Larry Grayson. The current 'window dresser' television commercial and newspaper advertisements are the bloody limit.

Can't you get him to do an interview and put some sort of perspective on his activities?

Otherwise, as he is exploiting gays for profit, perhaps he might make a donation as expiation to GN, Campaign for Homosexual Equality or the Albany Trust.

He can't continue to camp it up without some reaction!

Alan Swerdlow

ED: GN suggests that gays who are angered by the antics of Larry Grayson take a leaf out of Mary Whitehouse's book and complain to the newspapers and television companies who profit from this camp buffoonery.

Homophile Liberation

Birmingham

Dear Gay News,

Your question in the last issue, "Is Gay Offensive?" prompts me to a reply. Is gay not offensive but homosexual is to me. Along with others I respect the quality of your paper and welcome the link it provides for homophile people throughout the country.

Gay News, however, does offend me in its policy of propagating a narrow Freudian view of personality, and indeed, blazons it across the front page. Many of us, I believe, do not feel the essence of our being is adequately described by the word homosexual. It's an exclusive term focussing attention on only one important aspect of ourselves, which is not the be all and end all. Love is what it's all about, and the word homophile expresses it exactly.

I suggest the majority of people, straight or gay, resent the narrow description of themselves as homosexual or heterosexual. The Dutch often get it right and most commonly talk and write about homophiles. Why can't we? Let's hear from others who are offended by such a narrow and constricting definition of themselves, and know that we are liberated by *love* for men.

Homophile

GN, Fit For Who?

Dear Gay News,

I like to think that GN is almost as appealing to my parents and straight friends as it is to myself. I feel proud of our paper until I see sketches such as the one on page 14 in GN35.

On that page is a sketch of three gay men enjoying sex practices, it's purpose to advertise a magazine called 'The Colt Album'. Is this kind of material something we should have in a newspaper trying to gain recognition in a predominantly straight world or for that matter any reputable newspaper. Please keep GN fit for the whole of society and not just the gay portion.

In complete contrast is a photograph on the same page advertising a mag called 'Superb Youth'. This photograph shows the artistic beauty of the human body. Something to be proud of, an asset to GN.

I like to be proud of GN, but feel that any sketches depicting sex practices should be left out, and instead let us enjoy these pleasures in bed. Leave the details to our imagination.

Jeff Blundell

Keep On Keeping On

Dear Gay News,

Compliments: 1. Your news coverage is very good considering your limited resources. 2. Your record/film/theatre reviews are worthy of national press standards (yes — that is a compliment) 3. Your fact finding features are both informative and a springboard for action for individuals or groups to take further.

Criticisms: 1. Far too much space in the past has been taken up by flabby, inconsequential, self-indulgent rubbish — there's no point in trumpeting about extra pages if they don't have the substance of a curdled custard. (Remember that newsprint shortage). 2. If you can't find articles good enough to publish, then extend the letters page — many people find it the most interesting section of the paper. 3. And let's have more articles on the politics and sociology of gayness — let's have an article by a Gay Marxist for example.

Incidentally why not produce a few posters saying 'Gay News Sold Here' for newsagents to put in their windows? It would save the bother of scanning racks upon racks of tatty sex mags and encourage more people to come in and ask for the paper.

One superficial point — get rid of that stomach-turning combination of black/white and single colour front page. Your first issues were obnoxious, your recent ones barely tolerable.

In conclusion, keep it up. Communication between gay people and between gays and heterosexuals is an essential prerequisite for the advancement of gay rights.

Keep on campaigning. Keep on advancing. Keep up the standards.

Eric Eagle



Illustration: Jean-Claude Thevenin

More Liberal In The Country

Horsham, Sussex

Dear Gay News,

I read the article on male secretaries in GN35 with some surprise. I have been a male secretary ever since leaving the Forces fifteen years ago, first in London, then here in the "sticks".

Only once when applying for a job, was I directly asked if I was homosexual, and when I replied yes, was turned down flat. Nowhere else have I had this experience, and all my jobs have been taken on a permanent basis.

I noticed that your enquiries centred on London, so I decided to ring around a few of my suppliers and customers here in Sussex to find their reactions. Of twenty Personnel Officers or Executives canvassed, only three thought they would not like the idea of employing a male secretary. When asked if they would be worried if such an applicant was gay, only the same three raised any objection at all. Seven people even went so far as to say they would prefer a man as secretary, but couldn't get them.

It would seem, then, that we are more liberal in the country than in the wicked city. But please don't all rush down here for jobs — while there is plenty of work there just is nowhere to live. Just thought you'd like to know.

Peter R Girling

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Semi-Public Libraries

LONDON: Two London libraries have turned down requests by their readers to stock Gay News.

There was a row at Richmond-upon-Thames amenities committee when two papers were proposed for the library there. Gay News was one, and the other was 'Spearhead', the monthly magazine of the extreme right-wing National Front. 'Spearhead', said Labour Group Leader Cllr Dr Tony Hart, "is more of a political handout than a newspaper or information paper." But the Tory view was that the committee should not 'censor' a publication for which there was a demand. The magazine had been requested by a reader in a letter to borough librarian Derek Jones. So it would be put in the library. If there was no demand for it, it would be withdrawn.

When Gay News came up for consideration at the same meeting, Labour and Tory members alike accepted librarian Jones' recommendation that the library should not stock it, and it was rejected without any discussion. Like 'Spearhead', the paper had been requested in a letter to Jones. Nevertheless, the committee agreed that there could be no demand for it in Richmond.

Later we spoke to Derek Jones. We wanted to know what the difference was between 'Spearhead' and Gay News, and why one was accepted and the other rejected when both had been requested by readers' letters. He explained that where there appeared to be little or no demand for a publication, the committee seldom felt justified in spending money from its limited periodical budget. But 'Spearhead' was an exception because it was a political paper, and the committee was far more sensitive about appearing to censor political views. He told me that after reports of the meeting had been published, he had received an offer from a member of the public to take out a subscription to Gay News, and the paper would then be donated free of charge to the library. This offer, he said, would be put to the committee early in the New Year.

From his own personal point of view (which he said didn't matter because it was the committee which made decisions, not him), he found that the "contact sheet is a bit kinky". He felt that many of the ads were too sexually explicit. Now that there are "an increasing number of places where gay people can meet, pubs, clubs, restaurants and so on, perhaps your ads may not be absolutely necessary."

Closer to Gay News' doorstep, comes the decision from our local borough librarian of Hounslow, Ms Florence Green. The selection process is different in the borough of Hounslow. Here it is up to the librarian him- or herself to decide what goes in and what doesn't go in, as these powers have been delegated by the libraries sub-committee. A Chiswick resident had requested that Gay News be stocked. Ms Green wrote to him informing him of her decision, and said in her letter: "Whilst it would be welcomed by a significant minority of library users and have a useful function in this section of society, its introduction would undoubtedly cause considerable controversy. There is not yet sufficient understanding or tolerance to allow such a publication to take its place with others and the storm of protest at its acquisition could easily lead to a censorship of both books and periodicals."

If Ms Green has any further applications for Gay News to be stocked, she will bring the matter to the attention of the library committee.

On the positive side of the fence, the Gay Librarians Group is considering publishing a pamphlet, advising gays of their ordinary rights as far as local libraries are concerned. GN spoke to Dermot Quirke, secretary of the group, who referred us to the Public Libraries and Museums Act which requires local authorities to "provide a comprehensive and efficient service for all persons desiring to make use thereof" (section 7(1) of the Act), and to cater for "the general requirements and any special requirements both of adults and children" (section 7(2)(a) of the same Act). Dermot suggested that if your library doesn't provide adequately for its gay readers, it is in breach of its statutory duties.

But he has found that the librarian is usually a very reasonable sort of person. He mentioned the case of Wandsworth Library where the borough librarian was approached about two books for children. The books aimed to provide kids with information about sex, but it included the customary misinformation about homosexuality. When it was pointed out to the librarian that parents were very unlikely to provide information about homosexuality to their children, and that it was therefore very important that sex education books were accurate on this subject, the librarian took the point and withdrew the two books from the open shelves.

Lambeth's library at Brixton has for some time now displayed CHE posters in its general information display cases. And there are many other libraries who will respond to gay readers' reasonable requests.

Dermot Quirke told us that his Gay Librarians Group would very much appreciate information on the attitude of your own library, whether friendly or hostile, and will gladly advise readers on legal or tactical problems you may encounter in approaching libraries. They would also like to hear from gay librarians or any others, interested in joining the group. You can write to Dermot Quirke, 31 Ryde Vale Road, London SW12 9JQ.



Lambeth Council displays CHE posters at its Tate Library

Gay Paree

PARIS: To mark the 20th anniversary of its foundation, Arcadie - the leading French homophile organisation, which now has over 15,000 members in France and abroad - held a three-day symposium at the beginning of November on the theme "Homosexuality Without a Mask".

A predominantly male audience of about 350 people heard addresses by academic, legal, medical, religious and political speakers, from France, Italy, Britain and Holland on various aspects of 'coming out' and its recent implications for individuals and for society, in their countries. Four 'round-tables' held discussions during the conference and presented reports and recommendations for future action in France covering homosexuality in relation to the evolution of society, education, public life and public opinion.

In his closing address, M Andre Baudry, director of Arcadie, spoke of his ambition to see the time when such an organisation was no longer necessary. But with homosexuality still virtually a closed subject to French radio and television, barely mentioned in the press and regarded much askance by the powerful authorities of the Catholic Church, it is apparent that the strong feeling of oppression

and frustration expressed by virtually all the French speakers at their comparatively limited ability, in present circumstances, to live openly with a gay life style, calls for many more years of hard and unremitting work by Arcadie and others to improve the lot of the French homophile.

Nevertheless, one immediate and noteworthy result of the symposium was an unexpectedly large echo in the French press. Nearly all the leading newspapers, serious and popular, published long articles about it, and all were sympathetic. And a television programme is scheduled for the end of November - the first to be seen in France on the topic of homosexuality.

In itself, the symposium was a noteworthy landmark, bringing together as it did for the first time in Paris, an international gathering of people who lent the weight of their support and their own countries' experience to our French brothers and sisters who are struggling for recognition against a public ignorance which appears to be considerably greater and more entrenched than that in most other Western European countries nowadays.

For visitors to Paris, or well-wishers, information about Arcadie's journal and social activities can be obtained from its offices and club house at 61 Rue du Chateau d'Eau, Paris Xe (telephone 770-1806).

Antony Grey



The SMG delegation arriving in Parliament Square. Left to right, Danny Mullen (SMG Chairman), Michael Coulson (Convenor Law Reform Committee), Jim Halcrow (SMG Treasurer)

Scots Campaign Travels South

WESTMINSTER: It is an unusual sight to see Gay Liberation Front and Glad To Be Gay badges in the Houses of Parliament. But they were much in evidence when the Scottish Minorities Group sent a delegation to meet MPs and peers to discuss proposals for homosexual law reform in Scotland.

Scotland, which was left out of the provisions of the 1967 Sexual Offences Act, is still a place where any homosexual act constitutes a criminal offence. The SMG draft Bill, entitled the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act, aims to change all that.

This is the second time this year that SMG has paid a visit to Westminster. Last March they were disappointed by the reactions of members of both Houses, who said that the group had not done enough ground work for a reform bill to be introduced. So the Minorities Group went away and worked on their proposals for six months. And it was the fruits of these labours that they brought back for the politicians to consider.

The delegation consisted of four members of the law reform committee, Michael Coulson, convenor of the committee, Jim Halcrow, national treasurer of SMG, Ian Christie, a member of the committee and delegation leader Danny Mullen, who is SMG's chairman. CHE and Gaysoc representatives also attended as observers.

Before the meeting, Danny Mullen told Gay News that he hoped a sponsor for the Bill would emerge as a result of the meeting. But he was pessimistic about the chances of this happening. Nevertheless, the afternoon would hopefully provide them with some useful feed-back about the work they have done in the past six months, and enable them to assess just where they stood.

The brief they had compiled was impressive. Since March they have written and published a draft Bill which sets out the group's demands in detail. The effect of the Bill is that it will no longer be an offence for adults to engage in homosexual practices in private, provided the parties consent and have the legal capacity to do so. In general terms, these demands represent a move to bring Scotland into line with England.

But there are some very important differences between the SMG Bill and the 1967 Act. Most obviously, the age of consent is lower. The group has asked for 16 as the general age at which a young man can consent. An exception is made in the case of sodomy, where they ask that 18 be set as the age. A second and significant difference is to legalise public demonstrations of affection between gays, where similar heterosexual acts would be legal, for example, public kissing. This introduces into the Scots Bill the principal of homosexual and heterosexual equality before the law, a principal which is not found in the English law. In the same way, the Bill proposes that advertisements for homosexual clubs, penfriend services etc, which would be lawful for heterosexual clubs etc, would be legalised.

In support of their legal proposals, SMG had gathered a large amount of evidence to demonstrate the changing climate of public opinion in Scotland, including varying degrees of support and encouragement for their efforts from the Church of Scotland, the Quakers, the National Union of Students, Glasgow Corporation, as well as the media.

BBC Scotland devoted twenty-five minutes of peak viewing time to the SMG campaign, and soon afterwards, when Margot

MacDonald, the new Scottish Nationalist MP was interviewed by the BBC, she was asked where she stood on social legislation including the SMG Bill. In addition, The Scotsman newspaper has always treated their campaign sympathetically and invariably prints letters from the group. The Daily Record (Scottish equivalent to the Daily Mirror) has reported them fairly, and even the Scottish Daily Express, which used to be hysterically opposed, now treats them seriously. And of course, the Glasgow Herald has published an editorial which supported their campaign.

Further encouragement was given SMG when Norman Wylie, the Lord Advocate, wrote them a forthright letter informing them that it was official policy *not* to enforce the law in simple cases involving homosexual acts between consenting males in private. And that action would be taken only in cases where other things had to be taken into consideration. This has become a key plank in SMG's platform, for they point out that a law which is not enforced is better removed from the statute book altogether.

The meeting itself had been called by Lord Archibald of Woodside and Tom Oswald, Labour MP for Edinburgh Central, and was held in a House Of Lords committee room. All 71 Scottish MPs had been invited, as had a number of peers, and the turn-out was much better than on the previous occasion SMG had presented their case. Amongst those present were Lords Archibald, Beaumont, Boothby, Arran and Macleod, Mervyn Stockwood, and a number of (mainly Labour) MPs.

It soon became clear that the group from the House of Commons felt that a Bill would stand no chance of getting anywhere in the lower house in an election year. Nor did the peers believe it would find a sponsor at the moment in their house. But they were clearly in favour of having the subject debated as the first step in the Parliamentary campaign. This was the way in which the English reform act was first introduced into Parliament. A great deal of advice was given to the SMG delegation about the sort of efforts they should make next. It was suggested that they should attempt to elicit some kind of support from the Scottish Roman Catholic Church. They should also try to find peers prepared to speak in favour of the Bill if a general debate was to be planned.

And there were demands from all sides for new English legislation to be promoted. If there are no demands heard soon from gays for the lowering of the age of consent from 21, there would be much less chance, if any, of the Scottish Bill being taken seriously. Both CHE and GLF have expressed themselves as opposed to the present age, but it appears that they have not done so forcibly enough yet.

SMG was given plenty to think about as it left the meeting. Their pessimism about finding a sponsor turned out to have been justified. And yet they clearly have Parliamentary support in some quarters, which expressed itself positively and encouragingly.

★ ★ ★

A Penny For Your Thoughts

An Interview with Howarth Penny, newly appointed General Secretary of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality

In Gay News 36, we reported that Howarth Penny had been appointed the new general secretary of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality. GN spoke to him to find out how he sees his new job, and what plans he has for the future:

GN: First of all, Howarth, congratulations on your new job. Give us a bit of background about yourself.

HP: I spent about eight years in the computer world, consultancy, programming, that sort of thing. And then I joined the Civil Service, your actual faceless bureaucrat, in the Department of the Environment housing section. Terribly boring. You think you can do something to help people with their problems, but with all the red tape, there's very little you can really do. Anyway, CHE happened, and I got pretty involved in it. And then this new job came up.

You've been a member of the London Monday Group.

I started off in it, yes. It was all a fluke, I ever got to CHE in any case. My parents were out in Egypt for a while, and my mother was reading her copy of the Observer — one of the papers that wasn't censored out there — and she saw a small ad for Lunch. So she had a subscription sent to me (my parents have known I'm gay for about eight or nine years) and in one copy I saw a little piece by John Saxby. So anyway, I thought there can only be one John Saxby, and I knew him from work, so I said when I next saw him "what's all this CHE lark?" and he said "come along and find out," and here I am.

You've found out in a big way! How long have you been a member?

About eighteen months — when the Monday group was still dear old London Group 10.

In that eighteen months, what are the positive things that have struck you about CHE?

Mostly it's been the effect I've seen CHE have on people. I've seen people coming to the Monday Group being terribly withdrawn. Not really sure of themselves as people, let alone ready to accept being gay. And you watch them develop and the change is absolutely amazing. That's one of the positive things about CHE, getting gay people to know one another.

CHE nationally, well apart from the Education Campaign and the Morecambe conference — with all the 'Good Resolutions' passed there! — it really doesn't seem to have done much. It's done a lot in the background, making noises at papers, taking up cases of discrimination, but it's all done too quietly. Too quietly, which is going to have to change. We not only have to do things, we have to be seen to do things. Because unfortunately, the image people have of CHE, if they don't know what's going on in the background, is all too true.

'Campaign' Scares People

Local groups seem very much concerned with social activities rather than with campaigning. Well, basically we've got to campaign within the gay world first, because there are 3500 members at the moment — which is nothing compared with the number of gay people there are in this country. I think the very name Campaign scares a lot of people off. Most gays in this country are not going to come out, they're still very closeted. So I think we've got to start emphasising the social side of the local groups at least. Of course, there's a group of avid campaigners who just get on with it. But our Membership Working Party report showed that 99% joined CHE for social reasons — brackets, for sex.

But can a membership drive come first? Won't you find you put all your efforts into getting members and find you've got nothing to offer new members except joining in a membership drive? Well, of course there are other things going on, the Education Campaign, the Women's Equality Discrimination thing. But we've got to do both together. Let people know what we're doing. But CHE's parlous financial situation means we've got to get members.

One of the problems we have at Gay News, and I suppose potential new members would have, is getting in touch with local groups. They all have such very secret addresses.

Yes, well a lot comes back to this closet thing which I find very difficult to understand, because I came out a long time ago, and I'm still alive, folks, and I haven't been chuntered off to gaol or anything. But a lot of people are afraid, and until they get over this fear, and see that people can come out safely, they're not going to make their addresses and phone numbers known. And this applies to group convenors who are quite happy to be known as gay within their own local group, but if anyone else finds out — horrors! I was surprised to find out just how many convenors use Manchester office as their address. It's really off-putting. If you've got the urge to start a group, surely you should follow through on that and have the courage to come out. And I don't believe this "Ah, but there are special problems". Yes, OK, teachers have problems at the moment, but if they continue to sit in their closets, they're going to continue to have problems, until education authorities realise they have got thousands of gay teachers.

Would you say then that a necessary qualification for a group convenor was that he was prepared to publish his name and address?

Yes, I'd say that group convenors have to be prepared to come out. And they'll find it fantastic when they do, that all the problems they have been mulling over just disappear. It's what I found.

"We'd Be Great As A Bank"

Going back to the CHE image, this is surely the job of the main office, to get CHE heard outside just the local press.

Yes. There isn't enough communication at all; and I see my function not so much as a typewriter pounder as Paul Temperton was, but very much as a communications agent. And not only between central and local organisation, but between national office and the press. We've got to become more publicity conscious. At the moment we only send out a press release when something ultra-startling happens. We've got to develop this outward looking as well as inward looking side. In fact I think the whole style of the organisation is going to change shortly.

In what particular direction?

Well, if I have anything to do with it, in lots of ways. I mean, we'd be great as a Bank — but not as an organisation with the aims we've got. We've got to be more flexible. People come to us with ideas, and if they go to a local group they get done next week. But if people come to national office, it takes two to three months just for the papers to get through to the committee. By which time the person who had the original idea isn't interested any more. And then you've got to start pushing. I mean, you can't run a campaign like that. You've got to have people who can grab the ideas as soon as they come up and go out and do something about them.

A separate group from either the national office or local groups?

Yes. A sort of fighting group. But still very much concerned with the main organisation, and they'd all be members of local groups. But in very close communication with one another. So that if a nasty appears in The Sun on Monday morning, Tuesday morning there are 200 letters on the editor's desk. And you can't organise a local group to do that. By the time you've organised it, it's too late.

Don't many local groups feel very isolated? How are you going to change that?

Well, first I do think local groups feel isolated and cut off, and feel that there is a group of people who meet somewhere else in the country and nobody gets to know anything at all. So the first thing I've got under way already is that our Bulletin is going to appear regularly, on the fifteenth of every month, do or die. The haphazard publication date we've had up to now is just hopeless. And there have got to be interim news sheets. Not just what national office is doing, but what local groups are doing. I mean down in London, we never knew what they were doing in Durham, and they didn't know what London was up to. So there has got to be more inter-group communication. And that's where I come in.

New Regional Structure

Is this going to be done on a regional basis? Well, there is a regional structure coming in. Each member of the executive is going to be responsible for groups in a particular area. That's already started. It might help groups to know that there is at least somebody from national office who takes a direct interest in what they're doing. I mean it's clear from the way the national organisation's money has fallen off. You can't really blame people for not contributing if they can't see that they're getting anything from a national organisation.

At the national level, you've got the Education Campaign slowly gathering steam. What other campaigns have you got lined up?

We're hoping to start on the social services and the medical profession next. With the social services we want to let them know that CHE exists so they can put people in touch with us. And we hope that we can help them through FRIEND, which is sort of affiliated to CHE. We want to give gay people who need help a bit more sympathy than they get with the social services at the moment, where he or she will just get pushed off to a doctor or a psychiatrist. And they just end up thinking they're sick, not realising that it's society that's sick. So social services and medical people have both got to be tackled. I'm not sure what the priority will be, we're discussing that, but by the time Malvern conference comes around, we'll have a campaign mapped out for either or both of them, ready to take off. The education campaign is an on-going thing. There's been a three month drive, really just to get people started on it, but obviously

it will go on for years to come.

Gay groups in other countries have recently been putting a lot of effort into squeezing legislation and public money out of their governments. Is this a campaign CHE might be interested in?

Yes, and this goes back to the fighting group I was talking about before. They have obviously got to be prepared to outrage a few people. CHE has been treading gently up to now. But that approach is quite obviously not working. There's a big barrier in this country, ever since the 1967 Act. When it went through the House, MPs thought: "Right, we've done our bit for them. We don't have to do any more."



But of course the 1967 Act is totally inadequate. We had Leo Abse up to speak at the Monday Group earlier this year, and it was the first time he had spoken to a gay group since his Bill went through! If we don't make a noise now we're not going to get noticed for twenty years.

Are you happy with the present age of consent? No, because it's completely discriminatory. I don't think it has necessarily to go down to sixteen, but it's got to be the same for both straights and gays. And until we've got that, we haven't won.

Draft Bill For Malvern

At Bristol, CHE was criticised by Michael Coulson for dragging its heels on law reform and leaving the Scottish Minorities Group to do all the running. Will you be producing a draft Bill soon? When the working party reports, which I think is coming up in the next two or three months, we will get a draft Bill ready for Malvern. Then we'll be ready to go ahead and push this. The SMG Bill was rather difficult because it was only applicable to Scotland and it was difficult to see what pressure we could bring in England. But we've given a lot of support behind the scenes, and we are supporting their lobby.

So when you move to Manchester, what are the first things you'll be changing? The most immediate things are administrative, I'm afraid. The organisation is like Topsy. It's just grown, and I don't think anybody's really stopped to look at it. It's just been a question of coping. But there are things like the Bulletin, getting that out regularly. Then we've got to start pushing for members. And when CHE is firmly established on a financial and membership basis, then we can really start pushing for things like legislative changes. It's not going to happen next week, but I hope it's going to happen a lot more rapidly than it has up to now. I don't like wasting time.

Interviewer: Michael Mason

A Merry Christmas

WITH

Tricky Dicky

Friday 21st December
"GLITTER BALL"

at
Queens Hotel
Westcliffe-on-Sea
Essex

10pm-2am. Licensed.
Prizes for glittery costumes.
Tickets 60p — £1 at door.

Sunday 23rd December
"CHRISTMAS CRUISE"

7.30pm-11.30pm
from Westminster Pier
Boat is covered, heated,
weatherproof.

Four hours of Fun
Tickets £1.50.
Licensed.

Dick's Inn

Christmas Eve 24th Boxing Night 26th New Years Eve 31st

XMAS PARTY NIGHTS — at Kings Arms

213 Bishopsgate EC1 Tickets 60p
Licensed — 8.30pm — 12.30am

All Functions — Novelties — Hats — Balloons
Camp Prizes and Dances

GAY PARTY — Saturday 22nd December
at Father Reacap, Camberwell Green SE5

Tickets for all occasions — R Scanes, 203 Clayhall Ave, Ilford, Essex

Trade Union Support For Gays

BIRMINGHAM: In its continuing campaign to highlight institutional prejudice against homosexuals, and to win support for gay rights demands, Birmingham Gay Liberation has asked the city's trade union movement to back its campaign against discrimination.

A GLF spokesman said, "What we want to do is meet local Union leaders and shop stewards to discuss with them the whole question of discrimination against gay people."

"We want to know whether they will help us in cases where homosexuals are treated unfairly, or even sacked by employers, because they are gay."

Mr David Perris, secretary of the Birmingham Trades Council said today: "The Trades Council is opposed to discrimination against any minority group and this applies to male and female homosexuals as much as anyone else."

"If an employee was discriminated against because of, say, his colour, we would expect

the trade unions to vigorously pursue his case with such actions as seemed appropriate. Exactly the same situation should occur if a homosexual employee was discriminated against because of his or her homosexuality.

"Obviously there are areas of employment where we could have reservations, such as in the employment of teachers. I am not saying that homosexuals should be barred from teaching — I am saying we would have to look carefully at the situation."

"But in general terms trade unions exist to safeguard the rights of their members and this would apply to homosexuals as much as to anyone else."

Footnote On Libraries

ISLINGTON: A footnote to our Semi-Public Libraries story inside this issue — the Central Reference Library Islington, at 68 Holloway Road, London N7 is to stock Gay News. Ms Green and Mr Jones of Hounslow and Richmond Libraries may care to listen out for public reaction.

★ ★ ★

Judge Orders US Government "Stop Discrimination"

SAN FRANCISCO: A federal district judge in San Francisco has ordered the United States Civil Service Commission to reverse its official policy on banning homosexuals from government posts.

Judge Alphonso J Zirpoli passed down his judgement in a case brought by Donald Hickerson, 24, and the Society for Individual Rights. Hickerson had been dismissed from his post as a clerk in the Department of Agriculture in 1971. The judge ordered that he be reinstated and that he be paid \$13,000 back pay. He refused to accept government claims that merely employing a homosexual "brings the government service into public contempt". He said there had been no attempt made by the government to show that Hickerson's work was poor, or that there was any relationship between his job as a clerk and the fact that he was homosexual.

State policy is embodied in the Federal Personnel Manual Supplement which says: "Persons about whom there is evidence that they have engaged in or solicited others to engage in homosexual or sexual perverted acts with them, without evidence of rehabilitation, are not suitable for federal employment."

It is felt in some quarters that the government will not appeal against the decision. There has been pressure brought on them over the years to change this particular clause of their employment policy, but the authorities may have been reluctant to do so because of the possible public reaction. This way, they could simply comply with the

court ruling, rather than be forced to make a public and contentious statement about their initiating such a change. In Washington DC the general counsel of the US Civil Service Commission, attorney L Mondello, said that if the Justice Department and his staff can agree, there will be no federal appeal.



Donald Hickerson re-instated by US Govt.



Some of the members of Sussex Gay Liberation photographed near Brighton War Memorial, on Remembrance Sunday. The arm bands are pink ribbon and the badges a pink triangle on blue background. This is now the badge of Sussex Gay Liberation.

Ceremony Held For The Unknown Gay

BRIGHTON: Twenty-five members of Sussex Gay Liberation held a brief ceremony, dedicated to the gay victims of Nazi persecution, in the Old Steine on Remembrance Sunday. The controversial ceremony, which included a gay power salute, took place against a stirring noise background from nearby military bands, and began: "Gay sisters, gay brothers, we are gathered here to remember the gay dead of World War II. In doing this, we are conscious that there are those in this society who would prefer to forget that gay people also died." There followed a long prayer of remembrance, after which the group recited the gay anthem, *United We Stand*. The group presented a wreath of pink flowers, arranged as a triangle, a grim reminder of the brand-mark by which the SS identified gay prisoners in the concentration camps.

Scottish College Bans Gaysoc

EDINBURGH: When two full-time students at Stevenson's College of Further Education approached their Students Representative Council, they found that no action had been taken over the National Union of Students Gay Rights Campaign. So Sean Polson and John Young decided to set up a Gaysoc.

With the blessing of the SRC, the two students put up posters to advertise the first meeting. But they were torn down within fifteen minutes by college janitors who had been ordered to destroy them. And the SRC reports that they were approached "informally" by college principal David Dick who told them "you can't have a Gay Society here because there are 16-year-olds at the college."

So the SRC phoned NUS Edinburgh to find out where they stood. "The authorities haven't a leg to stand on," they were told by the NUS office. "The Gay Rights Campaign affects all Colleges, including colleges of further education." Next day the SRC approved the constitution of the Stevenson College Gaysoc by 8 votes to 3 with one abstention, and confirmed John Young as acting chairman. Principal Dick said simply "I won't approve of the existence of a Gay Society under any circumstances," and he taunted the students with comments like "Now boys, you're not all turning out like that are you?" Dick has also stated that he intends contacting the Edinburgh Education Authority, telling them how he feels and asking them for their views.

Next move was the refusal by the college establishment to accept a booking for a room for Gaysoc to hold meetings. The request was flatly turned down by Dr Leonard

Munday, Vice-Principal. "Not on! You're not having homosexual students meeting in this college. There are young people at Stevenson, and we're responsible for their welfare." So what about gay 16-year-olds? "We're not interested in medical problems," said Munday.

When Gay News contacted Stevenson College, the principal was away for a week. So we spoke to Munday, asking him what was going on. "I can't comment on it I'm afraid. It's a delicate situation. But we are not going to have a Gay Society here." Why not? "I can't comment, I'm afraid. But we have a lot of young people here." Asked whether he was aware that Gaysocs now have official NUS backing, he replied "I'm afraid I can't comment over the phone." He paused and then said "Do you realise that a Gay Society is a society for homosexuals?" in apparent disbelief that anyone could take the idea of a Gaysoc seriously.

We admitted that we knew what Gaysocs were! And finally asked if he would allow students to display the official NUS Gay Rights poster. "No," he said. "I won't."

Meanwhile, the NUS is to take up the case, as one of the first cases of direct action against the Gay Rights Campaign on the part of college authorities. NUS will be contacting the college, and talking to governors of the college, a number of whom are Edinburgh Town Councillors. At the college itself, the Socialist Society has invited Ian Dunn of Scottish Minorities Group to speak to them. The meeting will be held on Thursday December 13th at 5pm and the subject is "Homosexuals and the Revolution" Will the Socialist Society be able to advertise this meeting on college notice boards? We shall all have to wait and see.

Stirrings In Ulster

COLERAINE: The first ever Gay Lib Conference has been held in Northern Ireland. It took place at the New University of Ulster at Coleraine, and brought home to gay activists for the first time how harsh were conditions for homosexuals in Northern Ireland.

Don Gill, of the Ulster Sexual Reform Movement, said that there were an estimated 200,000 homosexuals in Ireland. And in the north, it is estimated that over one hundred have been jailed since 1970 for homosexual offences.



Ulster gay Don Gill pictured earlier this year at Bristol Gay Rights Conference

Northern Ireland, like Scotland, was left out of the Sexual Offences Act 1967 which eased the law in England and Wales. But

Don says that the situation may in some ways be even worse than in Scotland, because in Scotland at least there is a policy of not prosecuting people who engage in consenting private acts. No such relaxation of the law applies in Ulster.

But so far, the dilemma of Ulster gays has been ignored by the rest of the British activists. For most people today, Northern Ireland simply means street fighting and the Unionist versus Republican struggle. The other social and economic troubles of the province were entirely overlooked.

Don called for law reform, but he said that whilst law reform was a priority, it was essential that society's attitudes to homosexuals, both in employment and the family were changed.

GN's Christmas Hols

☆☆☆

May we remind readers that Gay News only publishes one issue in December, and this is it. The next edition to appear will be available from January 10, 1974. The GN staff are taking advantage of this lull in activity to take a holiday and subsequently the office will be closed from Saturday December 22 to Sunday December 30 inclusive. All box number replies etc received before the former date will be dealt with.

The editorial team will be leaving for their seasonal vacation a little earlier than the administrative staff, and the last date they can be contacted in on Friday, December 14th.

See you all next year. Have a super Christmas.

Merry Christmas
To All Gay News Readers
From
Grosvenor House
Birmingham
TEL: 021-429 4678

JONNY'S

London's latest and brightest Gay Club

Disco with rave DJ and Lightshow 2200-0100 hours
Dinners by our chef 'Louis' 2000-2400
Bar prices - the lowest in London. Choice of many wines.

106 The Shopping Precinct
Shepherds Bush, London W12

Under the personal management of JONNY WILLS
whose many friends will be very welcome.

Photograph : Sean Aubrey

Photograph : George Mendenshall (The Advocate)

Photograph : Carl Hill

Apollo Complaints~New Move

BOURNEMOUTH: Edition No 35 of Gay News reported complaints from readers who had ordered Apollo Publications from a Mr D Gritton at 131 Richmond Park Road, Bournemouth, in response to previous GN ads, but had not received the goods or the money in return.

District correspondent Richard Thomson, called on Mr Gritton at the request of GN's Editor, Denis Lemon, to investigate readers' complaints at first hand.

Your correspondent put the substance of the complaints to Mr Gritton, at his front door. Mr Gritton, who is in his late thirties/early forties, at first declined to comment.

Pressed further, he stated that he was "out of stock" of Apollo publications, and a pregnant silence indicated this as the reason for not fulfilling orders. When asked whether stocks would soon be available and outstanding orders cleared, he replied, simply, "No".

"You realise," your correspondent insisted, "that money is involved, and if you take money for goods that are not realised, a certain construction may be alleged and put on your activities."

Mr Gritton remained silent for a moment and then commented: "If people write to me I'll answer. I'd like you to put something in the paper to explain," he added.

I indicated that people HAD written, but

had not received a reply. In response to another question Mr Gritton agreed that he had received a letter from GN asking why orders had not been sent off, but had not replied to that either. I suggested to him after another long pause, that he should offer a full explanation to our readers as soon as possible. "If people write to me they will receive satisfaction," he repeated, but did not indicate that money would be returned. Pressed on this point, he declined to answer.

It's your correspondent's opinion that Mr Gritton does not have an office staff or sophisticated distribution facilities, although whether he works alone is open to question. His explanations however, are far from satisfactory, and cannot be dismissed by his obvious nervous disposition. He was clearly worried when I called, but gave the impression that he was sincere and working as a 'front' for someone else.

Dissatisfied GN readers should initially take Mr Gritton at his word, and write again, requesting the goods ordered or a refund of their money, being careful to keep a copy of the letter. Unless satisfaction is obtained by our complainants in the near future, further investigation and possible legal action may have to be considered.

Richard Thomson
Portsmouth and District Correspondent

Even More From Peterborough

PETERBOROUGH: In the last two issues, readers will have seen reports of Cllr Swift's remarks that it was about time the city did something in the way of providing facilities for its homosexual population.

Following this encouraging public statement comes an equally encouraging editorial in the Peterborough Standard, under the heading 'Homo Sapiens'. It reads: "Never reluctant to stick his neck out, Cllr Swift has come in for some severe hammering over the past couple of weeks for his suggestion that a club should be opened for homosexuals."

"Some people assume the cost will fall on the rates, although this has been denied. But there is no doubt that, whoever pays for it, there is an instinctive reaction on the part of most people against the idea of local government getting mixed up, however tenuously, with homosexuals."

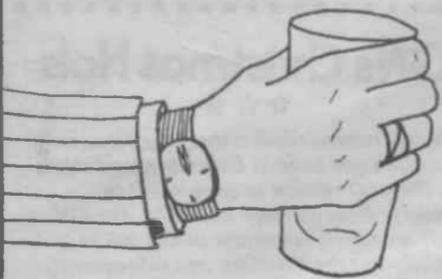
"Under certain conditions, homosexual acts between men have not been illegal for

several years, (they never were for women because, as the story goes, when Queen Victoria was asked to sign the statute forbidding them, she refused to believe that there were such people as lesbians and would have nothing to do with it).

"Even so, it's going to be a long haul before homosexuals are generally acceptable, if they ever are. Meanwhile, his promiscuous heterosexual brother who wrecks a marriage here and there and plants an unwanted baby on the State is hardly disapproved: he might even be regarded as a bit of a lad."

"Logic is hard to find in this matter. If homosexuals are abnormal, shouldn't they rank for some kind of assistance (perhaps not financial, but at least official recognition) in the same way that other handicapped people do? If they're not, what's all the fuss about?"

Peterborough sounds like a good place for people to live if they're gay!



"Wheeeee! I'm going to a fabulous Christmas Gaiety Party and a New Year's Eve Masked Romp!"

"Really? Where dear, where?"

"Yellow Bird of course. It's fabulous! Bona music, lovely big..."

"... oh never mind all that again, you said it all in the last advertisement. Just tell me when, when!"

"The Christmas Party's on Thursday, Dec 20th; the new Year's Eve party is on..."

"... yes, I know when New Year's Eve is dear... (dizzy queen) how much will it cost to get in?"

"A pound each for admission... did I tell you the New Year's Eve Party is in mask?"

"Mmm-hmm. That makes your chances even better, doesn't it? Ta-aa dear, see you at the Yellow Bird."

"Me and my big mouth."

YELLOW BIRD, London's newest and nicest gay nightspot.

11 Harrington Gardens, London SW7 (a few minutes walk from Gloucester Road tube station).

Principal Vetoes Gay Poster

REDHILL: Students at Redhill Technical College are so angry about the actions of their college principal that they are contemplating strike action.

The trouble blew up when members of the students union tried to display the National Union of Students Gay Rights poster. The poster carries a photo of two members of the Gay News staff walking down a street hand in hand (cover photo of Gay News 27) with the caption "You know of one homosexual, or two or three... why hide it?"

Rather than place the poster in the students union room, which is small and used only by a handful of students, Roger Martin, former treasurer of the union, pinned it up on the notice board outside the canteen. In fact he tried pinning it up three times, and three times it mysteriously disappeared.

Roger said: "We then went to see the college principal, Mr David Jones, basically to introduce the new president (who has since resigned). The discussion turned to this poster and we discussed whether or not we could put one up. He said that he would continue to reserve the right to decide what posters went up on this so-called public notice-board."

The matter was discussed by the majority of tutorial groups at the college, and there were calls for militant action. A petition was drawn up which attracted more than 300 signatures. Students can't see what there is to worry about in the poster.

June Mycroft, A level student: "I take no offence at this poster. I take no objection."

Paul Hartley, 17: "I don't agree with taking the poster down. He (the principal) just wants us to turn a blind eye to it all."

Chris Down, 17: "I cannot see his point of view of removing this poster."

Angus Maule, 17: "The college is here for

Queer Bashing Gang Strikes Again

EXMOUTH: Reports have reached us about an organised queer-bashing gang which operates in Exmouth, not at night in quiet parks and back streets, but from the bench of the local magistrates court.

Two men in their thirties were brought before the bench on gross indecency charges, following their arrest in the town's Manor Gardens public lavatory. They both pleaded guilty and were sentenced to a fine of £100 each. They were then told that, if they didn't pay the fines quickly, they would be sent to prison for three months. Mr Jack Creedy, chairman of this notorious bench, said that the severity of the sentence reflected the magistrate's feelings towards the offence; in the circumstances, something of an understatement.

But what really sets this case of judicial savagery in true perspective, is the report of a case on the same day in which a Royal Marine was fined a total of £60 for two

You know
one homosexual
or two or three...



Why hide it?

NUS Gay Rights Campaign

NUS Gay Rights Campaign poster (illustration supplied by Gay News).

the benefit of the students and I believe this might certainly help a few people in the college just as other posters possibly do."

Helen Symes, 16: "There is nothing disgusting and wrong with this poster. If it offends some people they can just close their eyes."

offences of sexually assaulting little girls, the first aged seven, and the second aged five.

Bristol University Union are up in arms about the episode. They are also angry about the way in which the local paper, the Exmouth Journal, handles gay court cases. Even the most trivial offence is reported with the full name and address of the accused. In issue 32, Gay News reported how a 17-year-old boy was driven from home by the publicity given to his case in the same paper.

The Bristol students are urging people to write strong letters of protest to Jack Creedy, Chairman of the Magistrates Bench, The Secretary of the Press Council, the Editor of the Exmouth Journal, and the Home Secretary. They also suggest people write to their local MP and the General Secretary of the NCCL.

NUS Committee Member Censured

MARGATE: The National Union of Students conference at Margate heard the long awaited interim report on progress made in the gay rights campaign delivered by Alistair Stewart, member of the executive committee with special responsibility for the campaign.

He told students of the letter the NUS had received from Ms Margaret Thatcher claiming that homosexuals were "certainly not discriminated against by being put on the Department of Education and Science black list, list 99." Nevertheless, Mr Stewart repeated that many cases of student teachers being victimised in colleges of education had been brought to the Union's attention. The plight of student teachers was one of the most important problems which the NUS campaign should be dealing with.

Following this report, which was accepted, Mr Stewart went on to move acceptance of a second report which he had prepared on the 'Berlin Affair', involving Peter Tatchell and members of the NUS Executive Committee.

Peter had complained of the behaviour of two members of the executive in particular, Steve Parry, who had assaulted him, and Judy Cotter, who had obstructed him when he wanted to contact foreign delegations. The report said that as far as Judy Cotter was concerned, firstly she was in a hospital bed on the day that the final demonstration took place, and was therefore not involved in the scuffles and arguing that broke out. And secondly, she had not failed in her duties to arrange for Peter to meet the Cuban delegation, because it was not her responsibility to arrange meetings between groups,

but only between full delegations.

As to the charges against Steve Parry, the report found that Parry had indeed torn down Peter's banner - and Parry admitted this himself.

Peter Tatchell was dissatisfied with the report. He pointed out that if the executive committee members had taken a more principled stand, much of the violence and the threats he had received would not have occurred.

In reply, Alistair Stewart said that both Steve Parry and Judy Cotter had also come to his aid, and that Peter should acknowledge this, and accept some criticism himself for his failure to work through the British delegation steering committee at the festival.

After lunch, two motions were debated. The first was a motion of censure against Steve Parry, and the second was one which sought to have either all, or just his international responsibilities removed from him, in other words as good as calling for his resignation.

The censure motion was moved by Irene Jamieson of Middlesex Polytechnic, and Steve Parry both on his own behalf and on behalf of the executive, accepted the vote of censure. He himself voted for the motion, which was carried by an overwhelming majority.

The motion to strip him of his responsibilities was eventually lost on a card vote of 251,107 to 190,068. Observers felt that had the debate not been drawn out to such a length as it was, the gay students might have held more of the conference's sympathy and won this second motion as well.

HAS THE BOAT STOPPED ROCKING IN 1973?

by Roger Baker



The 1973 Gay Pride March in London attracted 300 gays. In New York, 13½ thousand participated in a similar event.

Photograph: Gay News Photo Library

ED: Roger Baker joined Campaign For Homosexual Equality in 1970 and from September of that year he was convenor for London until the following September. He was first co-opted, then elected, onto the Executive Committee and was Press Officer. He resigned from the first because he found the committee meetings irrelevant to the things he was involved with and therefore a waste of his, and the committee's time. He stopped being press officer because, he says, that's a specialist job he was never equipped to do effectively. He says: "When people hear me moaning about CHE's failures they say to me 'why don't you just leave?' I think that is the worst sort of evasion. There's a lot wrong with CHE, but I still support it fully, partly because I've learnt a lot from my connexion with it, and partly because I still think it has the potential of being a most powerful element in the gay movement." At the moment he claims that CHE is in disarray, but suggests that from this very confusion a new and more dynamic group could spring.

It was, I think, the July bulletin of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality that crawled through my letter box and fainted on the doormat on November 10. It's a long slog from Manchester. It was encouraging to learn that CHE had appointed a public relations consultant — but I wondered why I found that out by reading *New Society*. It was good to learn that Howarth Penny is to be CHE's new general secretary. But I wondered (again) why the first announcement of this was in the Scottish Minorities Group Newsletter. It was flattering to be asked to go along and speak to a large and well-established CHE group in east London. But I did a double-take when they asked me to talk to them about CHE!

These little incidents are symptomatic of a complex of bewilderment and non-communication that can only be discouraging. *New Society* commented: "CHE's membership even now totals only 3,500 and is hardly growing" — and no wonder. It seems that the upsurge of enthusiasm generated by the Morecambe conference in April was illusory and only led, ironically, to a de-escalation of activity and support. On a local level, this year's London CHE Winter Fair raised significantly less money than last year's.

Because CHE is a formal organisation it is easy to document its failures and to spot which parts of its sprawling bureaucratic machinery need oil. But CHE's apparent loss of dynamism is not peculiar; during 1973 the whole of the gay movement in this country seems to have suffered in a similar way. The year has been punctuated by a series of downers.

Was not *Gay News* — infected by the spirits of Morecambe — all set to mount a National Coming Out week? And what about

that major non-event, Gay Pride Week? How did the gay movement support sisters lobbying the anti-discrimination Bill? There was, too, the fracturing, if not total collapse of the National Federation of Homophile Organisations (though who could live long with a name like that?) The National Union of Students gay rights bill was broadly welcomed and applauded, but its instigators are going to need all the strength they can muster as their efforts are now being beleaguered by the outraged bourgeois morality of both Left and Right, not to mention being subverted from within by the more radical gays (Leeds Broadsheet, December). Undoubtedly the spirit (be it pride, anger, awareness) that forced so many of us out of our closets in 1970 and jetted us through the following two years, has somehow, somewhere evaporated. Even Gay Liberation Front, which did more than anything towards raising the consciousness of the people and the press in their perception of a gay cause, has withdrawn into small, seemingly unconnected cells.

Leave Us Alone

It would be naive to pretend that gay people do not have more outlets today than they did three years ago, and the gay movement must be thanked for getting that far. One can think of *Gay News*, *Lunch*, *Come Together*, *Friend*, *Centre*, *Icebreakers*, *Parent's Enquiry*, *Challenge*, the Gay cultural group, *St Katherine's*, *Bethnal Rouge*, *CHE* London Information Centre, *Sappho* and the Fellowship in *Christ the Liberator*. One may disapprove of any or all of these outlets; but the important fact is that they exist. And exist publicly.

In addition there are hundreds of gay groups, under one name or another, dotted all over the country. A member of CHE's executive committee remarked to me recently: "Homosexuals will never lead a revolution in this country, either political or social. All homosexuals want is to be left alone." It seems to me that most of the groups just listed serve precisely that purpose: they have created situations in which homosexual men and women can get together and be

left alone. The ghetto of the church hall has arrived. I even make the heretical suggestion that *Gay News* also placates this covert minority, by allowing a vicarious involvement in realities. As Maureen Duffy remarked: "There is no need to commit incest. Oedipus has done it for you." So why go on a demonstration when *Gay News* does it for you in the safety of your own home.

To welcome these new gay socialising outlets in one paragraph and snub them in the next may seem illogical. Their value, while limited, should not be underrated. Without both *Bethnal Rouge* and *Challenge*, the painstaking accessibility of *Icebreakers* or *Friend* is likely to be frustrated by want of follow-up. My argument is simply that the gay movement seems to have come to a full stop at this level and the real issues — discrimination, brutality, prejudice, legal anomalies etc — have become parrot cries, devalued among the clatter of tea cups and the glamour of nail polish. Surely the pulse of the gay movement throbbed with more than a social need?

Broad Backsides

Will then, the political and activist elements of the gay movement be buried with the rest of the detritus of 1973? Unless some new, unifying force appears, it seems likely. And won't those sitting hand-in-hand on the telounger with the mother-who-knows all snoozing in front of 'Christmas Night with the Stars' be pleased. The boat is a bit fuller (those giggly ads in *Gay News* and a bit of heavy cruising at *Centre* on a Friday night), but at least it's stopped rocking.

I am convinced that the word 'organisation' means death to endeavour. It seems to me that within CHE for example, a great deal of potential has been dissipated before the great god Socialising. For three years or so now London CHE has been investing money raised at dances and fairs to create a club, vaguely projected along the lines of COC in Holland. There has been no perceptible demand for such a club, and should it

ever happen it could only, with the best will in the world, become an ineffective rival to those that already exist in London, Nottingham, Roker and wherever.

The money is being kept warm under the broad backsides of committees while elsewhere within CHE much leaner-hipped boys and girls are desperately trying to mount effective campaigns that a few pennies would help along amazingly.

Certainly I'm not going to pretend that the famous club fund has remained inviolate: subsidies have gone out in the past to *Lunch*, *Gay News* and to *Chelic* (with, I'm told, strings). But had there been a real demand for a CHE boys' club, the place would have happened within a year. By now, CHE could have produced a whole library of pamphlets on gayness for libraries and schools. But somehow priorities get turned upside down and the campaigners are allowed to struggle on in an atmosphere of discouragement.

During the last two years or so, a major question among dedicated CHEmen has been: why has the drop-out rate been so high? I think the same thing has affected GLF as well, but not being an outfit that depends on subscriptions from members the question might be rephrased as: why aren't the meetings so well attended?

In my experience a great many people joined CHE, attracted not so much by the prospect of a glittering new social life or more opportunities for trolling, but simply by the solid worth of the organisations' aims and objects. When it became obvious that no-one seems to be doing anything about these in any realistic way, then indifference sets in fast. A great deal of energy and enthusiasm for campaigning has been lost in this way. But it still exists, waiting to be harnessed. And one way of doing this is for a new ginger group to arise.

To be at all effective, such a group would have to be constructed on a national basis, yet remain detached from the self-defeating mechanisms of bureaucracy. Communication and mutual help between cells would be essential (many people would, I am sure, be enthusiastic about activist methods if they knew how to go about them). Such a group would certainly have to be radical in outlook and employ techniques of confrontation, but at the same time be able to use, even exploit, the established channels of communication and publicity — in its early days GLF seemed to have a natural talent for doing this.

A useful analogy would be with the Gay Activists Alliance and the role it played in New York. The GAA's major successes seemed founded upon that group's ability to produce instant but coherent protest when necessary to punctuate longer-term projects and a continual dialogue on the social inference of homosexuality. GAA operated in one city; a similar outfit here would have to be prepared to operate on local as well as on national levels. It could happen here, and moreover, I think it could emerge at first from the discontented ranks of CHE.

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Here We Are Again

As this is the last issue of GN to be published in 1973, the Gay News team would like to take this opportunity to thank all our readers, contributors, helpers and retail outlets for their continued support and/or help during the last year and to wish them an extremely Happy Christmas and an Eventful New Year.

We would particularly like to acknowledge the assistance of our local correspondents, who between them, in recent months, have significantly expanded the range of the paper's news coverage. These correspondents give up many hours of their spare time to follow up and write news stories, and to keep us supplied with up-to-date information. This they do ungrudgingly and without seeking any financial remuneration, apart from the occasional expenses.

Much gratitude also to the people who sent in donations at the beginning of the year when GN was experiencing grave financial difficulties. We hope the issues of the paper that have subsequently appeared have helped repay their generosity.

Peace & Goodwill

I suggested in this column last issue that if you are likely to spend Christmas alone or with a few friends, why don't you invite someone you know is going to be on their own to share the holiday with you. At the best of times, loneliness and isolation are terrible things to endure, at Christmas they can become intolerable, and you only have to phone the Samaritans to find out what all too often happens to individuals who despair of their Yuletide situation. Peace and goodwill to all is an important part of the 'Christmas message' - let's make the words mean something more than just a prettily printed statement on a Christmas card or an illuminated sign in a department store window.

The Newsprint Shortage and GN

As was painfully obvious, the condition of GN36 left a lot to be desired. This was because we had finally been affected by the acute shortage of newsprint that is currently plaguing the majority of newspapers and magazines in Britain and North America. The presentation of the last issue was seriously impaired and because of the lighter newsprint our printers were forced to use, many people were under the impression that there were less pages in the edition than usual. There were in fact the regular 20 pages that make up an average issue of GN.

Other factors that played havoc with GN36 were that the printing was well below the standard we aim for, and the printers' folding and collating machines objected to the thinner newsprint. This not only caused delays in getting copies to retail outlets and subscribers, but, because of the printers' inadequate machinery, meant that there

was a regrettable shortage of copies, as a number had been made unsaleable and it was impossible to have replacements printed.

What are we going to do in the future? Firstly, make every effort to return to good quality newsprint as soon as possible. At the time of writing, we're told that there is enough of the paper we previously used to ensure that this issue doesn't resemble the last one. Secondly, endeavour to make sure that the printing and folding (even if unable to obtain the type of newsprint we ideally want) is managed better than on GN36. And finally as a last resort, ask readers to bear with us until the present production difficulties and obstacles are overcome.

Forever Changes

Readers will notice a number of layout and design changes in the first edition we publish in the new year. The inside pages of GN have been the same for some time and we hope that you'll agree with our policy that a few modifications every now and again prevent the design of the paper from becoming stale. Your comments and criticisms will of course be welcome. The front page logo and banner will remain the same though.

Box Number Replies - A Reminder

The personal ads department have requested that I remind readers that when replying to box numbers they should place the sealed reply/replies in one larger envelope and enclose an unattached 3½p stamp for each reply. Failure to enclose the correct postage can cause delays in forwarding.

Scorpio & Friends

Merlin, who writes the 'Star Gays' horoscope column in GN, has asked me to inform readers that if they would like to obtain copies of 'Scorpio & Friends' (which wasn't published because of the delay in producing GN35) they can do so by sending a SAE plus a 3½p stamp to Merlin, c/o Gay News. He will gladly forward them a photocopy of the original article.

Dates & Deadlines

The next edition of Gay News (GN38) will be published and available on 10th January 1974. Details of advertising deadlines and copy dates for that issue can be found under the contents section on Page 2 and at the beginning of the Personal Ad columns on Page 21. It is important to refer to these dates to avoid disappointment, as they will be strictly adhered to in the future.

Denis Lemon

Make-Up For Christmas

or 'How I Decided To Start The Paint War All Over Again'
by Jean-Claude Thevenin

I know that there is still a lot of prejudice about men wearing make-up. But having used cosmetics myself, and seeing the ever-increasing number of gorgeous guys around who are experimenting with them, makes me believe that the trend towards emphasising one's ambi-sexual image is of some sociological significance, as well as being aesthetically interesting.

So here is some very basic advice for beginners who want to treat themselves to a new image for the end of year festivities.

The materials you need to make a good job of it are easily bought at any supermarket or chemist; and as cosmetic prices depend mainly on the packaging rather than the quality of the actual make-up, you'd be better off buying the cheap brands. If you are afraid of getting dirty looks from the sales girl, then go with a friend - it's more fun. At Biba's make-up department you can try everything which makes it easier to choose, if you are lucky enough to live in London.

So, do you have 10 minutes to spare before the party? Put some music on. Pour yourself a drink and sit yourself in front of your most flattering mirror. You'll have cleaned your face, of course, so begin by massaging your skin with a moisturising cream (Ponds is excellent and cheap - Nivea will do).

To smooth your features, and to make the cosmetics easier to apply afterwards, powder your face generously. A transparent powder is ideal.

Now for some colour. Take your blush-on, or any red fard (your sister's lipstick?) and apply it generously to the upper parts of your cheeks. Then, using a tissue, wipe the red off till you get the colour you want (when it comes to make-up, the only real criterion is whether it looks good to you).

Take a rest, sip your drink, and then start on your eyes carefully. The basis of eye make-up is the coloured shadow you will have bought. Avoid dark colours if your eyes are hollow or your eyebrows are very thick and low. And I wouldn't advise trying to match the colour of your eyes exactly, as a subtle contrast tends to be more satisfactory under an artificial light. Which means that if you have blue eyes, you might use a shade of green or purple, or orange (audacious, but a stunning effect is guaranteed!) Powder shadow is the easiest to apply. Use a little brush or a cotton-bud and colour all around your eyes, then wipe off delicately till the colour is almost transparent. Wow...

By now you should have some idea of what you're going to look like. But the next step is to heighten your natural glamour ten times by applying mascara to your lashes. Rather than using black, try a brown one, or green or blue, or even grey; and buy Brush-On mascara - it's much more practical and efficient than the tablet one.

To start on the upper lashes, hold the brush parallel to your lids and stroke upwards so that your lashes curl. Then the lower lids, brushing downwards. Don't flutter for a few seconds, then take off the excess with a wet cotton bud or a tissue.



Illustration: The Body Politic (Toronto)

And if you fancy a slightly more dramatic look, use a black or brown eye-pencil to darken the outline of your lids...

By now you should appreciate something of the dual nature of make-up, working both on a mental and physical level. The few minutes of detailed concentration, together with paying that special little attention to oneself, makes it a perfect way of relaxing. Obviously the hints given above are just to get you to play around with your looks in a new way, but if you like the game, it won't be long before you discover your own special ways of enhancing your features. Make-up is a way of expressing oneself, in an agreeable combination of eroticism, self-knowledge and relaxation. This may be why the use of make-up by men is almost as old as civilisation itself - it is only recently that the custom has been blown aside by the chill wind of high Western morality, and the frowns of the puritans.

Just as they frowned on long hair, bright clothes, high heels and jewellery. Walked down the High Street recently? I wish you all the most colourful, glittery, gay and happy Christmas parties.

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.

Photograph: L. Hudson

New Club For Notts



Geoff Vickers (centre), owner of 'La Chic', greeting guests on the opening night.

NOTTINGHAM: A new club has opened in Nottingham for local gays. The club is called La Chic, and its opening was sympathetically covered by both the local press and Radio Nottingham.

GN talked to local magistrate Ms Lamotte, who was present at the opening, and asked whether she had seen anything on the first night which made her regret granting the club its licence. "No comment," she said. "It's early days yet and I wouldn't like to pre-judge the issue. But everyone seems to be enjoying themselves and that's a good thing, isn't it? So long as they don't hurt anybody in the process."

Also present was the duty inspector from Nottingham police. We asked him whether he was happy with what he had seen. He told us "I am delighted. I'm always happy to see people enjoying themselves."

Later, there was some trouble at the door when a bunch of local heavies, not gay themselves, decided they wanted to take a look around. There was some fighting, but the whole situation was taken care of quickly and efficiently by the club's staff, and gay guests were not troubled in any way.

Troubled Water

Gay News is the focal point of the gay community. Each week the paper receives many letters, a high proportion of them from gay men and women seeking help, advice and information on problems relating to their homosexuality. We feel that publishing a selection of these letters, along with replies, can be of interest and assistance to all our readers. It is salutary that those who regard themselves as adjusted and happy should gain a little insight into the situation of their less fortunate brothers and sisters. And since no problem is unique, it is likely that readers with similar problems may also be helped.

Problems received by Gay News are handled by Gay Icebreakers, which is a group of gay men and women who man a telephone service whereby any isolated or unhappy gay can call in any evening to talk things out with other gay people. The main characteristics of Icebreakers are that all its members are openly gay and have come to terms with their gayness; that they do not take a patronising approach; that they are not related to any gay organisation and in fact use the whole 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 10.30pm.

Everyone is welcome to use this service - it is for example, interesting to note that Icebreakers are receiving calls from heterosexual people who want to know about homosexuality because they have suddenly come across it in a son, daughter, boy-friend, girl-friend or wife. Write to: Dept TW, Gay News, 62a Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY.



IN order to provide a platform for the artistic expression of minority groups, several local artists are currently organising an intimate cabaret.

Recent test recitals have both established enthusiasm for the plan and recruited set designers, producers, writers, etc.

There are many more gifted, yet unknown creative artists who would join - all we need is for sponsors or friends of the curtailed arts to subscribe.

We have a number of chanson recitals, exhibitions and literary readings which are currently being offered in limited private settings. For further information, contact: John Olday, Tel no: 01-888 5541

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An Interview With Dr. George Weinberg

Earlier this year, members of the Gay News editorial team had the privilege of spending some time with Dr George Weinberg, celebrated author of *Society and the Healthy Homosexual*. He was in London during the summer to work on a new literary venture and despite his busy schedules, found the time to write an article for us, which appeared in GN32 under the heading 'The Madness of Myths and Homophobia'.

All of us at GN who have read *Society and the Healthy Homosexual* are convinced that it is one of the most important works written on the subject of gayness. It will be published on this side of the Atlantic by Colin Smythe Ltd early next year. Dr Weinberg has been a frequent contributor to the US publication *Gay* and has long been involved in the movement to educate the public on the issue of homosexuality. He is at present a practising psychologist in New York.

Gay News sincerely believes that gay men and women around the world are indebted to this courageous and outspoken man. We are proud to present the first interview with Dr Weinberg that has been published in Britain or indeed Europe.

Denis Lemon

It's almost predictable. Dr George Weinberg could find himself face to face with a brand new national morals outcry.

And equally predictable is the rock-solid defence he'll be able to build to crush such a public collision.

Dr Weinberg is the author of what's surely destined to become as discussed as *Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Sex*. His book is called *Society and the Healthy Homosexual*. It is coldly a 'stand back and tell it like it really is' document. Warm if it's supposed to be warm and frank to the point of being alarming, but completely non-condescending and wholly honest.

Dr Weinberg deals with homosexuality as a subject rather than a medical or psychiatric problem. He decries prudes and gay predators. It is important to gays because it shows gayness as a matter of fact... a way of life, and it's important to non-gays and gay-haters because it understands their opposition.

At the end of the summer Gay News spent some time with Dr Weinberg, discussing his book and his whole attitude to homosexuality.

Why The Book

"I have wanted to write something like it for quite some time," he said.

"I wrote it because of the tremendous Human Rights issue... the issue of people having the rights to do with their bodies whatever they want.

"Just as in the last century slavery was a critical issue, and the right of women became important, the right to do what you want with your body is a fundamental moral question of our time.

"It is a concrete question, it is a legislative question, it is a question of immense importance to all of us. Millions of people were punished in this century for masturbation, and people still are being punished for acts that harm nobody. Look, if there is any area where we are to question whether there's a wrongdoing without a victim, it's the area of sexual freedom.

"The gay issue here is the critical issue. Not just for homosexuals, but for all mankind.

"My other reason for writing the book was a very personal one. I knew many homosexuals. I grew up with a lot of them, and I heard stories of their fear, of them being mis-shapen, their fear of being brutalised. I still remember someone telling me how he was so terrified that police were after him that he climbed up out onto a window ledge and how he risked his life 12 storeys up to get into another apartment to escape. He was terrified and I just don't feel there is any licence for this.

"I thought the value in my writing the book was because I felt qualified. So many people who speak out against the gay issue are the people full of the biases of their own neighbourhood, and someone speaking knowledgably on the subject could make a difference.

Dr Weinberg has watched the birth and evolution of the Gay Liberation movement in the United States as closely as his time allowed him to.

"I began speaking on the issue myself in about 1965 before the word 'gay' was invented... back when everybody called themselves 'homophiles'. But after that year, I saw a real growth in the movement. One of the largest campaigners in the United States was a nationally respected astronomer, who was thrown out of his job because of his self-proclaimed homosexuality.

He set about launching a long term attack on the Federal Government, bringing cases to court, and this sort of involvement helped spur the growth of gay activist groups all over the States. It's been very exciting to see this, and very liberating to a great number of people."

Dr Weinberg's analysis of homosexuality in society is not just an idle opinion. As a clinical psychologist with a private practice, he gained a decade of repute for almost specialising in homosexual psychological problems.

The Non-Gay Fortune

"When some people came to me, they had often paid 10, 20 even 30-thousand dollars trying to rid themselves of their homosexuality and they ended up with self-hatred, so I started working with them on their fear of guilt and regret, and I found it was easy to help people get over those senses. Pretty soon people were saying that they didn't hate themselves any more for being homosexual, that they were really enjoying it, and that they were freer to do other things.

"I got that sort of reputation, probably because people seemed to like that way of treatment. They dropped out of the more traditional methods of treatment. It's funny, it's an easy problem to deal with. I wish that all problems were as easy to cure as homosexual guilt."

Dr Weinberg shares - to a point - the views of Joseph Hansen, author of *Fadeout and Death Claims*, who believed many gay people got a certain amount of enjoyment out of self-persecution... that they almost enjoyed feeling and being guilty about their gayness.

Pain Lovers

"There certainly are people who enjoy blaming others for their situation. I knew a playwright who was homosexual. He blamed his parents, saying that they twisted him up and made him a mess, and I think there are a lot of people like that who'll grab at any opportunity for an excuse. I think it's a shield more than a blatant statement of fact.

"At one time Tennessee Williams went to a famous psychiatrist to try and get rid of his being homosexual, and he walked out on him. He was one of those 'shield needers'. Yes, there are people who'll blame circumstance. Some psychiatrists seem to like using the 'blame the parents' angle, but of course this is unnecessary and usually always untrue."

Assimilation is one of Dr Weinberg's biggest banners. Not an excuse for gayness, but acceptance of whatever it stands for.

"A big area in the fight for any sort of integration is to give credit to heterosexual people who are pro-human rights. There's been a tendency to accuse some heterosexuals of being closet queens and fag-hags. But in the United States for instance, many homosexuals have found strong allies among women who've recognised the oppression of gays. The women seem to see that in some cases, gays are oppressed just as much as themselves. They recognise that many parts of society recognise gays as incomplete people... almost half people if you like. This is an outrage, and gays should team up, but generally, they don't seem to want to, they accuse the women of being fag hags, which is an awful term.

"I mean the very word 'hag' describes a shrivelled up woman who can't make it on her own. I think it's vital that the women's movements and the gay movements get their heads together because they are fighting exactly the same role oppression."

Total Freedom

It becomes clear after reading Dr Weinberg's book that he is heavily backing sexual revolution.

"It's more than that though," he said, "It's the total freedom of humans to live out their dreams as far as possible in this short span of life we've got. The only limitation there should be is that there should never be any harm to anyone else.

"If an act is not doing harm to others, then that act should not be prohibited. I think Sarah Grimke, the women's rights worker, had a very important statement to make when she said that whatever it was morally right for a man to do it was morally right

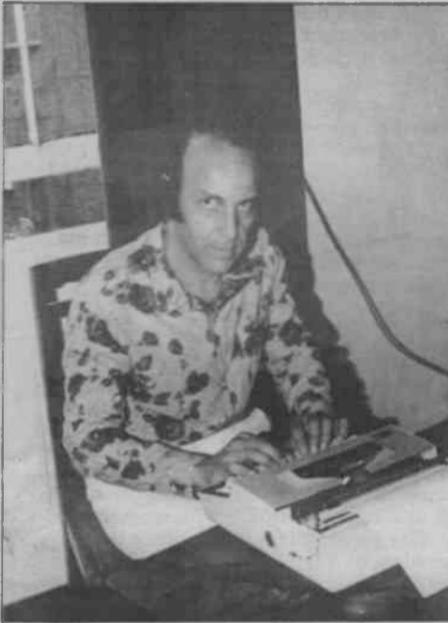
for a woman to do.

"Now stop and think about that for a moment. It says very clearly that if it is morally right for a man to make love to a woman, then it is just as morally right for a woman to make love to a woman.

Whatever You Want

"It gets into the clothes issue too. I mean, you should be able to clothe your own body with whatever you feel like wearing. I don't like the word 'transvestite' a lot, because it implies that there is a correct dress for one sex and a correct dress for another, and one person is crossing some line if there is any sort of interchange of garments.

"It's all to do with a perfect freedom



Author and psychologist Dr. George Weinberg

right. Future ages will look back on this and say it was outrageous that people should try to interfere with the freedom of others.

"I'd just like to press one little argument here too. You know that many homosexuals are compared with animals, saying that 'an animal is better than you', and other great statements like that. We know this is a bit of a laugh, because homosexuality is very widespread throughout the animal kingdom. But there is one place where human beings are unique, and that's where no animal condemns another animal for its sexual behaviour. An animal isn't that sophisticated, whereas humans condemn each other for their sexual behaviour.

"If the word 'natural' was ever to be used, it should be considered 'unnatural' for humans to condemn each other for what they do sexually.

"It's not needed, and it's full of grief."

Then There's Society

Of course, one of the greatest gay problems is suffering the too-frequent blows of non-understanding society when it discovers not only gayness in its midst, but the gay struggle to survive.

"People just don't want to give up positions of power," said Dr Weinberg. "If I am a psychologist and I wear a suit and tie and everyone in my profession does, then the first person who goes into practice and doesn't, finds himself mistaken for a man in the street; there's a tendency in his own ranks to have him hated.

"There are many advantages that society doesn't have by not being gay or not being black, and not being a woman. People don't like to see other people being generous, or giving up any power positions. It is undermining to many people.

"It's a little like the way some unhappy married couples don't like to see other couples split up and get divorced. They want to preserve the status quo to get whatever advantages they can milk from it."

The 'permissive society', growing fast, without much hindrance, is a double sided issue with Dr Weinberg.

"First," he said, "I think censorship is deplorable. If any person in search of truth can't find it because of censorship, that's an incredible intolerance. The very freedom of censorship is vital.

"Then there's the human body. Be it male, female, old, young, fat, tall, short, it's beautiful, and its nudity should never be prohibited. I mean, it's all a great ideological dream. Consider that of all the psychiatrists and psychologists in the United States, only about two percent of them have

ever seen two people having sex. Consider that. It means that the greatest judgment of sex is from personal experience. Think of the marvellous advantages of just seeing a variety of people having sex. I'd like to consider it a basic prerequisite for any profession where he or she discusses sex. It may sound a bit hard, but I do think there's great value in seeing orgies, in seeing loved-ones having sex with other people. If that didn't happen, you'd always copy yourself, and little else.

"Once you allow censorship, you allow a terrible evil to come. I was personally engaged in a battle against censorship in the United States. We had a publication called TV Guide, in which I worked as a consultant, and we were fighting the whole censorship issue. The strongest force for censorship in the United States is professional psychology, which pretends on the basis of a few ludicrous experiments that it should have the right as a profession to say, for instance, how much violence should be shown. Everyone knows that the reason for violence, for instance, is not that we get offended when we see James Bond knocking somebody down. It's the terrible frustration we feel because of bad values, and they make us feel impotent, unimportant, hopeless, and we express ourselves by greed and violence. Violence is a secondary reaction.

Freedom, But Can't Do It

"On the other hand, we're far from liberated in our use of the new freedom. I mean, we're still prey to this ridiculous cosmetic demand that people should look beautiful in a highly particular way so that nearly all of us feel eclipsed by a few beauties, and the sense of being shrivelled or fat or old or ugly prevails, and after you come out of the usual run of porno movies, you feel more helpless and hopeless than before, unless you're one of the privileged ones.

"In movies, the right place for nudity is never the place where nudity appears in most films, and the ideal would be to show it as a matter of fact. This was the great magic of Michelangelo. He could depict people nude and they weren't cosmetic beauties. They weren't the right weight or they didn't have the right sized breasts, and their shoulder size or penis size didn't matter. "Pornography has been a dreadful disappointment, but we can't get it off the ground with respect unless we start properly where we are."

Lesbianism - For Men

But there's the odd question about the great man following given to Lesbianism. Why?

"I can only tell you what I think. I've watched it happen all my life. I even watched it happen at high school.

"I remember we passed along those pictures from hand to hand, and the picture of two women making love would never leave the first person who got hold of it.

"I've tried to conjecture, but I can't feel sure about it. Maybe they feel that it's not really sex. That when a man comes into the room, he's going to break it up and fuck them, and that'll be the end. People who don't understand it seem, maybe, to think it's a sort of pre-sexual play between the two women, and that it's not the real thing. To most of these people, sex is defined as penetration, and as neither woman has a penis, then they can't culminate, so they figure it's sex play. It's stimulating, but they see it as something other than real sex."

Teaching Sex

The great taboo on the question of gay education in schools has been a burning local issue for some time. It bothers Dr Weinberg too.

"Sex education, if it is to be right," he said, "should be people getting up and talking about what they enjoy, and other people learning and enjoying it. That's all there is to sex. There's really only one principle in sex, and that's try things and see what you like. If you like what you find, try some more, and if you don't, then don't keep trying what you don't enjoy. Keep pushing towards new things and things that you have enjoyed. There can be no other principle than that. I am very much against organised sex education because I believe it would surely fall into the wrong hands and there would be all sorts of rules and regulations. I remember getting a certain amount of heterosexual sex education. I remember I was told you grab the nipples, that after the left nipple came the right nipple and then you kind of stimulated the sex organs and got the person primed up

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like a pump, and then you entered and then you tried to think about something else so that you wouldn't have an orgasm too quickly and then it was over. So for years, I had these fantasies that I was fucking polar bears or something like that, until I was 13 or 14 when I had incipient experiences.

"See, maybe there are things you do and enjoy that are considered warmups by somebody else, but are considered very satisfactory to you. I've had hundreds of people come to me who've said they've enjoyed oral sex, but they've felt horribly left out by missing out on the tremendous sex advantages others had. Of course they're wrong.

"If they like what they're doing, if it turns them on and gives them the feeling, the kick, the satisfaction and the mutual joy they're looking for, that's exactly what it's all about.

"I feel sure that sex education is going to formalise the experiences. Ideally, if sex education was in my hands, I'd advocate that people try whatever they enjoy. Try them more. Report if you find something really good. Tell everyone about it.

"But that wouldn't happen. The way it might go now would be rigid and almost chilling. There would be a few individuals, men or women, who'd give the explanation which includes that bit that the man should be three years older than the woman and that he should initiate, and that the woman should come next, and he should do it by the book.

But Nothing For Gays

"One of the great advantages about being gay to a lot of people is that there has not been a sex education scheme about homosexuality, so that when you cross that line, you're free to experiment. Having made that break, you're on your own.

"As for young children, maybe there should be a few videotaped lectures by people with very differing opinions. There should be no censorship whatsoever. Let there be opinions of course... one person should condemn sex before marriage, another one, though, should command it. Somebody should stick to the traditions, and somebody else, just as qualified and respected, should give total support to all sexuality, bisexuality, homosexuality, using every organ of the body. Remember, I don't think that sex education will ever help people make the right decision, if sex education stays the way it is now. I think it is better not to be educated at all than to be

educated by people who will legislate what's right and wrong, what order sex should take."

Hangups. How.

Denis Lemon put it to Dr Weinberg that hangups about sex were usually induced by parents. Parents who worried when they began worrying about normal sexual development. Parents who discovered about in-family homosexuality, parents who threw dramas when they discovered that their daughter was seeing too much of Tommy.

"It's correct to say," agreed Dr Weinberg, "that family traumas do account for a lot of sexual maladies. Then there's the problem of the parents who create sexual problems because they insist on their 17-year-old daughter being home by, say, midnight. Not always the foundation for a problem, but often the path to severe penalties.

"That's another enormous problem," said Dr Weinberg. "The idea of penalties attached to the wrong form of act is the noxious part of sexual education. I would even include in here the sense of role that we are taught. A man is to dress like a man. A woman is to dress like a woman. A man is to be aggressive, he is not to cry. He is to be strong, sturdy. A woman is to cry and to be frail and weak. A man is to be the aggressor in sex. The woman is not. A man is to acknowledge his desires, a woman is not. Anything that is a violation of this is considered dangerous and wrong, and I believe that the education towards sexuality is a sort of narrowing process. It teaches people not to love other people.

"Look, when I was 16 years old, I almost wouldn't look into the face of another boy and say it was beautiful. Or even enjoy the relationships with men in a way that I should have enjoyed them. To say I loved somebody then... if I wrote a letter to a boy and told him I loved him, was in my mind something that could have almost got me into prison.

Lots of Love

"I for one had a great deal of love for men at this time, and I've tried my own homosexual contact but I can't get with it. That makes me extremely upset because I feel I've been in some way deprived of that taste possibility... that sense of intimacy... that sense of immortality that I should be able to enjoy with men. Why should I be able to enjoy it only with women?"

Gay News put to Dr Weinberg the problem of VD... the way that society seems to shun its existence, despite often-published statements that it has become the second most common illness to influenza.

"Well," he said, "as you've implied, it's evidence of a sexual act. Society these days seems desperate for penalties to attach for sexual acts, and the unmentionable is always worse than the mentionable.

Shhh... It's Dirty

"This is why VD is one of those non-talked about subjects. It makes it more ominous, more threatening, more to be feared than if you did talk about it. The idea of direct consequences has been used time and time again as a deterrent to freedom. The fear of freedom is based on a fear that if you're free, you won't contribute to the great society. You won't be motivated in the way it's hoped you will.

This is why masturbation, marijuana, homosexuality and a number of other activities are condemned, because a person who can go off and enjoy himself may not need £15,000 a year. He might live very well on two thousand, and that's even considered a great danger. That people will be able to enjoy their lives with less."

The Book

Down to the book. Dr Weinberg made it clear that nobody could expect a book like this to be as widely sought after as a book condemning homosexuality. The book, as I see it, is simple. It really asks questions, because nobody can really give reasons. I think it's an understanding book.

"I don't go along with the theory that when I understand what I am, then I will be something different... I think that's wrong. When you understand what you are, you'll still be who you are. If I understood how I was losing my hair, and I really understood the exact physical dynamics of it, I'd still be losing my hair.

"So the knowledge of being gay doesn't change anything."

Homophobia

George Weinberg has branded his particular knowledge of guilt and fear about homosexuality as 'homophobia', and the first chapter of the book deals with it.

"I know that a great number of people know it is wrong to condemn a group for activity harmful to nobody. I've defined that sort of thing as homophobia. It's the phobic fear or hatred of people who engage in homosexual acts. For instance, if a person is in an elevator and feels an acute anxiety attack because there is a homosexual in there with him, the person is a homophobe.

"Now, suppose I tell you that there's a man living on the ground floor of a block of flats, and that upstairs on the fourth floor two lesbians are having a happy, busy life, and that they're entertaining friends, working hard for a living, and on occasions together, having homosexual experiences. The man downstairs can't sleep, he gets up, he has palpitations of the heart, wants to call the police and says his life is being shortened by their existence.

"Who's sick? The man downstairs or the couple upstairs? Who has the problem? Who should be condemned?"

"Well, the person downstairs needs the help. He's taking the tranquilisers. He's doing the worrying. Not the lesbians. And this is homophobia. I'd hope that homosexuals use the word and make it a word. Because there are homophobes... it is the phobia of homosexuality. It goes for parents too. There are some parents who want to punch their son and throw him out of the house because they discover he is homosexual. Well, they should also think that there may be something wrong with them, not their son.

"Look, if you're worked up into anger, if you want someone out of a job or an apartment or a way of life because they're doing something that harms nobody, certainly not you, then you've got to be disturbed.

"I designed the book to give to homophobes. There are all kinds of them, just as there are many variations of homophobia.

"Society has a mass sort of homophobia about two people who live together and don't produce children. Individual difference seems to be a threat to a lot of people. The very idea that people can go their own way bothers people. Envy of the sex life that gay people supposedly have is also a problem.

The Gay Nightmare

"You know, there's the great fantasy that homosexual people have sex with whoever he or she wants at any time. It's totally false, but that's the heterosexual's picture of it. Also that there is a person who is not trying to live forever by having children to carry that name into the next few generations. That's a real worry for some people.

Special Psychoanalysis

"Whatever Freud learned as a little boy became the attitude of psychoanalysis, only he presented it as a science. Whatever he was taught, he believed and he taught it. His every attitude was a neighbourhood learning.

"His theories that homosexuals were stunted, sick, inferior also came from the local prejudice. Homosexuals were jailed, were punished and condemned by the bible.

Today, psychoanalysis as a theory condemns homosexuals as a mis-shapen product of their home lives. And for years, psychoanalysts have taken thousands of pounds

from homosexuals, offering and giving them some sort of treatment without doing them a damned bit of good."

But, as Denis Lemon pointed out, there is the whole 'treatment' phobia. He said that in many cases, treatment from doctors seemed expensive, and too often useless. He said that as far as he knew and believed, such treatment was just about impossible. What did Dr Weinberg think about treatment... people who really came in and wanted a solution to a gay problem.

"Oh," he said, "that's easy. The first thing I ask is the reason for them believing it's a problem. They might tell me they're sick. They say they're sick because somebody tells them they're sick. They also feel guilty when they do something homosexual. It starts to become clear that the problem is simply guilt, fear and regret. The remedy I suggest is that they start meeting gay people. Start talking to people in gay groups. Try to have sex with gay people. Make sure you don't atone for it. Make sure you don't laugh at gay people. Make sure that in subtle ways you pretend you are not homosexual. If all that happens, then it usually takes a couple of months, but you have a confident, happy person. Homosexual, because that's what he's happiest at being, and that's what he is. But certainly happy.

Gay Ladies Too

"Gay women are not nearly so hung up about being homosexual. They are much freer about emotions and sex. She is not so brainwashed about the phobia. If a woman comes to me, she wants to, but she knows I'm not going to ask her to give up her lover. Gay women usually get into deeper, more lasting relationships than gay men, and they often discover their homosexuality after they find they have a lover.

"Society has a lot to do with it. It says that if a man puts on lipstick when he's eight, it's queer. But society lets women play a man's role because it lets her play ball or be boyish in many ways without any condemnation.

And The Parents

"If parents come to me with a problem about, say, their teenage son or daughter, I usually ask them first why they think it's bad. Often, they say the child is deprived of a happy normal life. That he or she won't have children, why did it happen to them, and so it goes.

"Then I might ask them if they marched in Gay Pride Week, saying that society was unfair to their son or daughter. I ask them to make it clear that it's an impossibility for their son or daughter to make a living. The parents, if they continue their worry or persecution, are the worst enemy their son or daughter has, and that sort of therapy is usually helpful.

"Telling the parents about the 'problem' isn't that clear cut. Nobody should cut up their parents if it is really going to do just that. But seldom it will. Parents should never be told for sadistic reasons. It's simple. If a child and a parent love each other, then why let a society stand between the two. Why shouldn't the child gamble on working out the life with that parent? Only too often, a gay person winds a cocoon around himself, he invents stories and excuses. If only boys and girls realised how many parents would accept the fact of their homosexuality, they'd be proud to tell them.

"In some cases, some parents are delighted... the parents who have that other marriage phobia... that they are going to lose their son or their daughter to marriage, are delighted to know that they will never lose their children. After all, what is love? It is a sense of you and I. We are for each other. And to hell with society's great conspiracy. Look, if a parent loves its son or its daughter, then who the hell cares about what that person does in bed?"

The Youth Cult

Denis put the question of the Youth Cult to Dr Weinberg, suggesting that it was no more prolific in the homosexual circle than it was in the heterosexual circle.

Said Dr Weinberg: "Well, the ideal of 'til death do us part' means that people aren't looking for new lovers nearly as much in the heterosexual culture. So that people are resigned to the lover they have, and the incidence of cruising falls. Cruising is more prolific amongst gay men. Next among heterosexual men, then come heterosexual women and last of all, by lesbians. It's not a simple situation.

"I believe that homosexual men are more aware of ageing and death than other people. Mainly because of the fear of being cast out, being alone, looking old, not being wanted any more."

There is no neat way to sum up Dr Weinberg's ideas, but he is convinced that behind all the problems lies fear. In his analysis, the homophobia shared by so many members of straight society is a greater problem than homosexuals' own anxieties about themselves and their sexuality.

Transcription: Tim Skinner



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WE REGRET THAT WE WILL BE CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY,
BOXING DAY AND NEW YEARS DAY

Daniel's Story

by Keith Harrison

'So he's gone off with someone else for definite then, has he? You're well rid, if you ask me. Plenty more where he came from. It's the normal ones you should try to hang on to. I've been through the same routine myself. I know just what they're like. It's funny really, how I met mine I mean. He was a bus conductor. I was getting on the bus one night, and I accidentally trod on his foot. He looked straight at me and I looked right back at him and we both knew. I said I was sorry and he just winked. He had a lovely smile, he had such good teeth. He wouldn't accept my fare. I kept noticing him around a lot after that, what with him working on the buses, but we only knew one another by sight . . . will you just look at that over there? If I'd known it was going to be a pensioner's benefit night I wouldn't have bothered coming. I know I can't afford to be choosy, but there are limits, aren't there? I think she's too proud to wear her specs. See how she's squinting? One look at her and you feel like you're a chicken all over again . . .

One night I bumped into him on the street. He'd just come off the late turn and I think he must have had a few in the pub on his way home. Anyway when he saw me he stopped and tried to chat me up. We ended up down a dark alley, kissing and that. He took me back to his flat and we were still at it at half-past five the next morning. I lived with him for three years after that. It wasn't easy. He was always off after something, you know the kind. It never lasted long though, and there was always this here mug to come home to. I'd have done anything for him — and he knew it. We often went round the pubs together. He liked the quiet places, but I like to go somewhere where something's going on. I go to my local Monday nights, they have a good entertainment on. There's a boy there with a really great body on him. Nice slim waist, and always wears those tight sweaters. I tell you, I can't keep my eyes away from him. They don't know at the local that I'm gay, and I don't think he is so I have to be careful. He knows bloody well I'm always staring at him and he always looks back and smiles. Last Monday I got myself ready as usual, only I was in a hurry because I'd got home late from work. When I got round there, sure enough he's wearing a really fabulous white tight sweater and I got a lovely smile from him. I went and got myself a drink at the bar and then I felt this hand on my shoulder. I just knew it was him. This is it at last, I thought. "I always thought there was something a bit queer about you," he said, "Don't you know your fly's undone?" He pointed at my pants and he was grinning all over his face. I didn't know where to put myself. I felt down for the zip and it wasn't there. I'd been in such a hurry, I'd put my pants on back to front and my backside was hanging out of an open zip fastener. I had to nip in the gents and change them round. I had a good laugh with him about it though . . .

Now this place tonight would've been right down his street. So quiet you could hear a pin drop. I remember we were in a pub like this one night and I got feeling bored as usual. Come on I said — let's go and find a place with a bit of life in it. "If you



go out of that door, you go on your own. I'm finished with you." Well, he'd talked that way before, so I took no notice. He'd always come back eventually, so off I went on my own. Why not, I thought, he goes off by himself often enough. Now it's my turn. He never came home that night, or the next. Five nights after, he came back to the flat. I thought: I *knew* he'd come back. "We're finished," he said and he took the cufflinks he'd bought me from off the dressing-table and slipped them into his pocket. That shook me. When he made me give back the lighter he'd bought me, I knew he meant it. I tried pleading with him but he didn't want to listen to me. He just kept on packing things into his case. When he left, he went off without saying a word. It was awful. It made me ill. Do you know, I still fall for insincerity? I can't stand it when they make a date and promise faithfully to keep it. There I am, thinking about them all week, wondering what they're doing at various times in each day. When the time of the date finally arrives, they never bloody turn up. I don't know why. They always seem to mean it when they make the date and I always seem to believe them. I think some boys get nervous and others just lose interest of course. You can meet a lot of boys in a few hours, can't you? The world's number one mug, that's me.

I never found out where he went, and I've never seen him since. I think he moved right away from town; I reckon he'd got something all lined up and waiting. I've still got his photo. Lots of his photos. It still hurts to look at them, and I don't think I'll ever really get over it. They say a clean break's best, but it doesn't stop you eating your heart away afterwards. Well . . . will you look over there. She's actually clicked, hasn't she. Seems like the old-age pensioners are doing better than us . . .

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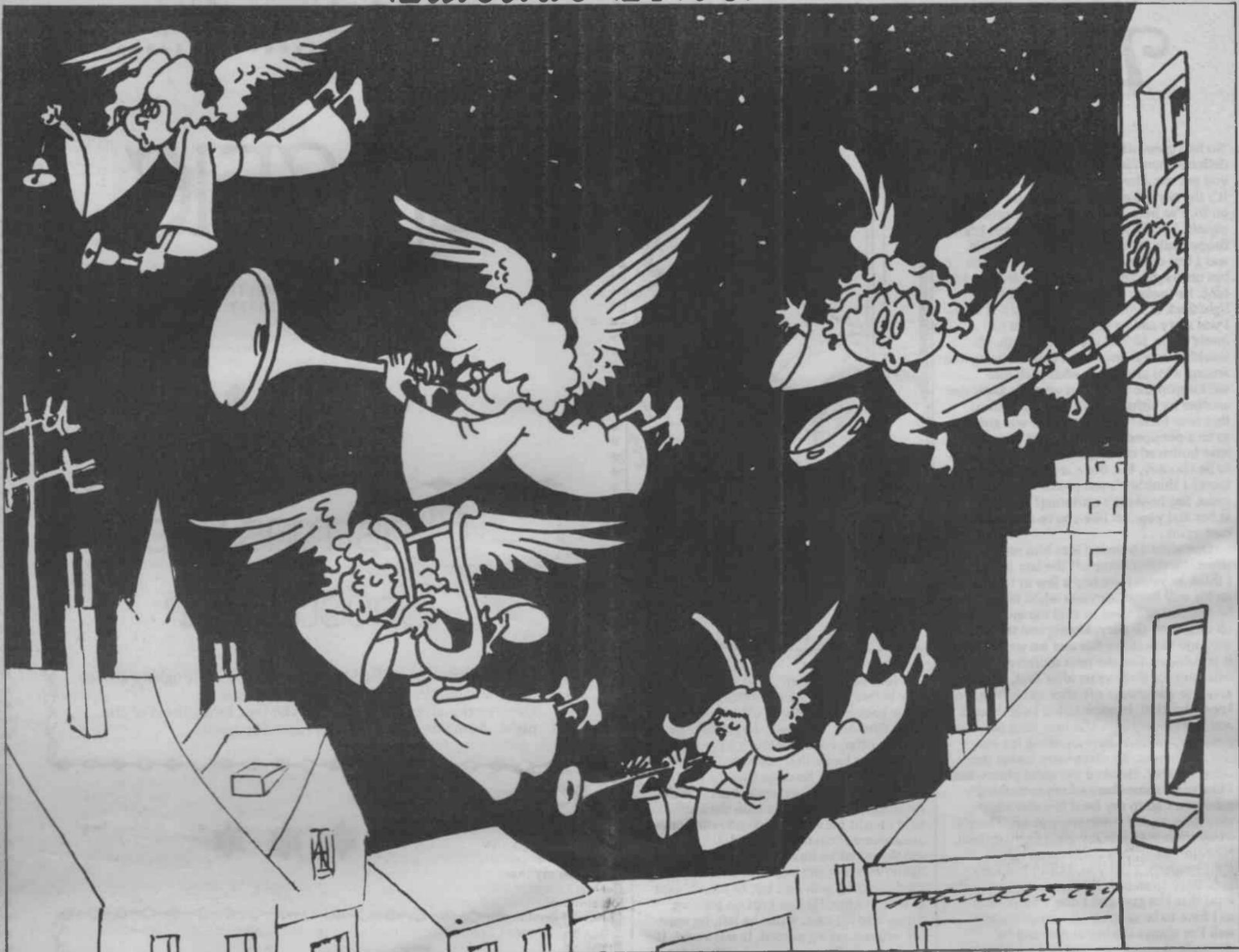
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'Waste of time, old man - he likes it!'

Cartoons: John Olday

★ Norman ★

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★ Bernard ★

wishes all his customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

...AND A PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE

Christmas Alone?

Christmas Trees

*The child wonders at the Christmas Tree:
Let him continue in the spirit of wonder
At the Feast as an event not accepted as a
pretext;*

*So that the glittering rapture, the amazement
Of the first-remembered Christmas Tree,
So that the surprises, delight in new
possessions
(Each one with its peculiar and exciting smell)*

*So that the reverence and the gaiety
May not be forgotten in later experience,
In the bored habituation, the fatigue, the
tedium,
The awareness of death, the consciousness
of failure*

*So that before the end, the eightieth
Christmas
(By 'eightieth' meaning whichever is the last)
The accumulated memories of annual
emotion*

*May be concentrated into a great joy
Which shall also be a great fear, as on the
occasion*

*When fear came upon every soul:
Because the beginning shall remind us of the
end*

And the first coming of the second coming.
T S Eliot

Christmas can be a sad time. It is for too many gays. A time for gloomy wondering (and wandering) and regret and nostalgia — mainly because it might have been a time of great joy and love and perhaps because it used to be. Though even this nostalgia has a positive role to play, as Eliot suggests, thinking about the first things and the last.

Christmas time — such a heavy build-up to it during the weeks before — vast expense — so much food and too much booze, to force ourselves to enjoy it. All for three days of "happiness" — days that are for some reason so different to every other in the year. We step outside our normal day to day existence. They must be important, otherwise why do we carry on like this — whatever way you think of it, the whole thing hits us all, no-one can escape.

It's a time of going "back to our roots", to the womb, to the family and reminding ourselves that something, perhaps intangible, counts most for us, and maybe this is it. We see the gathering of the clan, of dispersed married brothers and sisters and cousins and the arrival of unattached aunts and uncles and the reappearance of granny. An all-pervading sense of OUGHT — we ought to be with our relations — we ought to be happy with them — we ought to be happy in ourselves. We must be prepared to become uninhibited, unbuttoned, ready to play party games, tell endless stories and anecdotes, visit neighbours and eat and drink ten times a day.

If the entire nation decides that it ought to be happy and goes out of its way to be so as at no other moment (and out of all proportion to the efforts that are made at other times to be sensitive to the average citizen's happiness and wellbeing) then it is not surprising that a good number of people are carried away by it all and in fact do find a real joy in the family and the frolics. But I maintain that there are far more people who don't enjoy Christmas than is realised.

Three kinds in fact: (1) those who are in it but wished they weren't; (2) those who aren't in it but wished they were; and (3) those who are not in it and don't want to be — but can think of no suitable alternative either. I would think that an over-high percentage of gays fall into these categories. Those in the first will not have found the strength yet to get out of the scene and psychologically free themselves from their parents. They need support in this. Those in the second just need to be educated and told exactly what they are 'missing'. And those in the third category need to settle down quietly beforehand, and work out an alternative to what can seem to be for so many, three ghastly suffocatingly heterosexual days. For apart from being centred on the family where relationships and expectations are overwhelmingly heterosexual, Christmas is also a time when we are bombarded by the media in a particularly concentrated way — public posters, commercials of all kinds, straight TV programmes — all go to town now. And it is in these things that the gay can find himself depressingly hemmed in and his non-existence pretty well taken for granted.

Christmas is a time when we also go 'back to the roots' in our thinking. We get concerned about who we are and what matters most to us — and above all who matters

most to us. It is the only short time in the year when we all get off the bandwagon of daily routine life (and we all have to get off it) and this in itself promotes this wondering. Though often as not, I suppose, this healthy wondering is smothered under a cloud of smoke and lost in a drunken dream. Like anyone else, the gay longs to celebrate what is most important to him with the people he loves or (preferably 'and') with people who accept him as he is. If his family do that, well, that's just fine. And the gays too who have worked out something of a programme with their friends so that it becomes a time of sharing and expressed love — they're alright too. But what about the very many others who are not invited places and are not in a situation to organise a get-together themselves or are shy and retiring by nature. Christmas is surely a time when you should look around to see if there are any potentially lonely gays about. Many of the ones you think will probably be alright will in fact not be. Get in touch beforehand — in good time — ask them round for a drink or a meal or to a telly programme or for a trip out somewhere, to the country — anywhere, it doesn't matter. But for goodness sake, don't forget each other. I have often been told by a gay "how depressed I was at Christmas — you just wander about outside in the hope of something happening or meeting someone worthwhile — but everything's dead."

Another perfectly sane way of coping with what might look like being a fairly empty Christmas is to rejoice in the peace and quiet — yes, just be alone. Accept it with thankfulness. Snuggle up with your book and your booze and be comfortable while you listen to music and enjoy just being. Needless to say, being a Christian at this time ought to make coping with it all easier. Apart from the services which are usually beautiful at this time, and the companionship and often real friendship that go with them, our belief in the ultimate reality lying behind it all gives assurance and inner peace and joy which helps us to get out of the madness of it all, and, if need be, cope with being alone. We believe that Christmas tells us that man is not left alone, that the Spirit does break through — that love reaches through to us so that we can see the beauty and goodness of people and the world around us. But it can be a time for everyone to get a better idea of what is most important to them. "We demand a Miracle" writes Auden. Those of us who are Christians believe it has been given and is being given. And that it is given to everyone from time to time during their time of wondering and always where there is love and care of another.

A happy Christmas to all GN readers, and may each be granted his or her miracle this Christmastime.

Fr Fabian Cowper OSB



We Demand A Miracle

*Alone, alone, about a dreadful wood
Of conscious evil runs a lost mankind,
Dreading to find its Father lest it find
The Goodness it has dreaded is not good:
Alone, alone, about our dreadful wood.*

*Where is that Law for which we broke our
own,*

*Where now that Justice for which Flesh
resigned*

*Her hereditary right to passion, Mind
His will to absolute power? Gone. Gone.
Where is that Law for which we broke our
own?*

*The Pilgrim Way has led to the Abyss.
Was it to meet such grinning evidence
We left our richly coloured ignorance?
Was the triumphant answer to be this?
The Pilgrim Way has led to the Abyss.*

*We who must die demand a miracle.
How could the Eternal do a temporal act,
The Infinite become a finite fact?
Nothing can save us that is possible:
We who must die demand a miracle.*

W H Auden

Home for Christmas— A Necessary Balance



What are you doing for Christmas?" they ask. A trace of anxiety perhaps? "Going home to my parents," I say. "How can you stand it?" they ask.

"I go home very rarely, it's the least I can do — at Christmas." A touch of defiance? But why? I like going home at Christmas. You can't deny your childhood, pretend it didn't exist.

"How can someone as camp as you go home and play it straight?" they ask.

"I don't play it straight. I don't play it gay. I play it me."

"It must be awfully boring for you."



How can it be boring? The utter luxury of being able to watch television all the time. To be cooked for — that's a change. To see friends and relations one only sees four or so times a year. Haven't the children grown? Of course I get restless after a week; but then I get restless after a week anywhere away from London. I know when I've had enough — in Madrid, Rome, or Paris — when I start getting up very early and go hunting for *The Times*.

Mother's line has changed over the years. It isn't "When are you going to get married" any more. It's "If we sold this house, and you sold your flat, we'd have enough money to buy a big house near London where we could have separate flats..." Not on your life.

Of course they see me as odd — family and friends — not because they imagine I'm gay particularly, but because my job and the way I live is so very different from that of anyone else they know. After all, I've met Danny La Rue, and David Frost and Shirley Bassey. Do my male cousins envy me my freedom I wonder? Would they change their jobs and kids for a bachelor existence in London? I doubt it.

Going home for Christmas is salutary and an essential balance. Home is a small village in the Midlands; a church, a few pubs; a few

farms; a plot of boxes (executive homes, from £9,000). Salutory to enter a situation where people really do go to church every Sunday and there's usually a hassle over the church flowers, where Edward Heath is admired, where black people are just never seen but are spoken of in terms of fear, where petrol shortage hits really hard because public transport has diminished to nothing, where the royal wedding really did, genuinely, cheer everyone up.

It's alright dashing around talking about gay liberation, the oppressive society, civil rights and the death of marriage. Going home does not destroy these ideals — in many ways it supports them. But it shows up just how insular life in London is, especially the active gay life — not the gay life in the clubs and bars, that is repeated all over the country. It makes rash and radical slogan-making seem so out of touch.

Reality is the homosexual farmer, all tweeds and twill, in the bar of the village pub, his Rover outside, drinking too much; it is the still lively middle-aged woman struggling along on the poverty line, her only emotional outlet the grandchildren who have learned to see love and affection in terms of presents; it is the young wife wondering whether she can afford a down payment on shoes from the Janet Fraser catalogue. Gay liberation, women's liberation are for the leisured and the uninvolved. Almost a hobby really.

Such attitudes are pervasive; living in this atmosphere all the time would probably make them stick, become part of one's outlook. The arguments against disruption of the status quo are strong. Fortunately one gets away quite soon and a sense of balance reasserts itself. It isn't easy to contest 2,000 years of misinformation in a week. But to confront the results of such teaching can be nothing but stimulating and thought-making. Better than continuing the gaylife pattern without a break. Christmas at home is a double-edged holiday. You cannot reject a way of life and work towards an alternative, without experiencing it.

Julian Simms

Back To Christianity



In conventional society, being described as a 'practising Christian' seems much the same as being described as a 'practising homosexual'; both epithets produce an embarrassed silence, and the subject is hastily changed. Both conditions are, I suppose, those of minority groups and minorities often

share similar problems although for different reasons. For instance, Christmas presents difficulties for Christians as well as for gays, Christian or not. It is as though a Christian festival has been taken out of the hands of the Churches and believers are left bewildered in the middle of boozy office parties and shops stepping up their sales campaigns. For the gay boy or girl the problem is often one of the demands of family life, of whether or not he or she ought to spend Christmas with the family or with those he or she wants.

But what can Christmas mean for people?

To get things straight from the start, let me say that we Christians do not own Christmas. Before we begin moaning once again about the secularisation of the festival, it is worth remembering we only share this season with our fellow human beings who are at liberty to put whatever interpretation they choose upon it. After all, the reason why we celebrate the birth of Jesus on December 25th was because people were already celebrating something fairly similar on that day already. "While the heathen," said John Chrysostom in the fourth century, "were busy with their profane rites, the Christians might perform their holy ones without disturbance."

Conventionally of course, Christmas has always been a family affair and for the Christian it is the time for celebrating the birth of Jesus into the world of men. God, so Christians believe, entered a human family by the usual process of birth at a particular historical point in time and lived a human

life. Even if the so-called 'nuclear' family was not under such criticism today it is hardly surprising if gay people are not exactly enthusiastic about heterosexual family life. But the point of Christmas is really this: that God came to people as they were and not as any particular philosophy, religion or convention expected him to — which is the point of the Magi story in Matthew's Gospel. The family of Mary and Joseph is holy because God came to it and not because of any indigenous merit in monogamy and for that reason alone this family has been held up as an example and model of human family grouping. But it is only one example and the New Testament has many others. The history of Christianity in the Bible is a history of the growth of an extended family; from Bethlehem to the 12 apostles — 12 young men living their lives together with their leader — to the Seventy and the Jerusalem church 'holding all things in common'. All these groups are considered holy because of the presence of God within them and not because of any particular human ingredient.

What about Christmas 1973? What can a Christian do now? First he or she must realise how committed a Christian is to all the varied forms of social life around. Whatever a person's belief he or she sees Christmas as some kind of social occasion, a time to be enjoyed with other people. The very least Christians can do is to make sure no one near them is left out and lonely over the holiday. A dull day spent eating and drinking in front of the telly is no celebration but a party can be, and it can also be holy. If a party is impossible, then why not go and help at a local hospital on Christmas Day, all the staff are on duty and will need a lot of help.

Christmas is not merely a time to remember an event which happened roughly 2,000 years ago, it is also a time to let God in to all kinds of worlds each year, into all kinds of societies, groups and families so that they too may become holy.

Michael Day



All I Want For Christmas

by Iain T Finlayson

Once upon a time, there were three Magi who took it into their heads to follow a star (like Verlaine, who was always chasing Rimbauds).^{*} When they got to where they were going, they paid a tribute of gold, frankincense and myrrh; and that, children, is how the Great Christmas Consumer Boom was born. Nowadays, nobody bothers to follow stars any more — they can't even see them against the glow of the lights along Oxford Street. The holly and the ivy are now bought in bright polybiomethylacetate six-packs and Santa Claus sits in his twinkling polystyrene grotto on the Third Floor, pinching children's bottoms and promising them the earth for Christmas.

It has become obligatory to hurl such cynical abuse at the trappings of Christmas, but even the most synthetic fun seems to make people a little happier. A time of year when we feel we should be having a good time does, somehow, predispose us to set out, however grimly, to have a good time. All we need is an excuse, laced with a bit of meretricious (a very meretricious and a happy New Year)^{*} commercialism, to get us in the mood and then bonhomie and simple humanity does manage to transcend the tinsel. Howzat for a neat piece of rationalisation!?

I tend to be blatantly avaricious at Christmas. My natural Cupidity is stimulated by pretty window displays and the simplest advertising hook lands me like any gullible fish attracted by the gleam of fine feathers and silver paper attached to the fly. As regards presents, it is indeed the thought that counts, but I consider that there needs to be a great deal longer and harder thought than has hitherto been applied to the choice of presents I have received to date. There are as many bottles of Old Spice, fancy woollen gloves, patterned socks and skimpy scarves lying about in drawers as I have had Christmases. So, for the benefit of

^{*} Neither of these jokes, alas, is original. But they were irresistible.

friends and loved ones everywhere, I propose to take this opportunity to tell you what I want for Christmas this year. To make doubly sure, a list of suitable suggestions is available on application or may be consulted, indeed studied, at leisure.

First of all, I'd like the Burlington Arcade, please. At a pinch, though, I would settle for a comprehensive selection of cashmere sweaters from any of the innumerable boutiques running the entire length of this completely enchanting covered walk connecting Cork Street with Piccadilly. The most desirable sweaters are patterned on the front only in Argyll checks or diagonal stripes, and the best looks come in polo-neck or V-neck. Failing this, I admit a weakness, which should be noted, for soft camel hair sweaters and a matching set of cardigan, roll-neck and crew neck garments in this desirable fabric would pass muster. And perhaps the same again, in black cashmere or stunning white? No perhaps about it; the word was only used for the sake of politeness.

Across the street, you will observe Fortnum & Mason. From there I'd like the biggest possible bottle of 'Jicky' cologne by Guerlain. It is an original perfume first introduced at the end of the last century, and the warm, spicy fragrance still maintains appeal today. If you happen to spot bottles of 'Vetiver' cologne or 'Habit Rouge', both by Guerlain, you might make an immediate purchase. 'Vetiver' is a crisp, very dry, outdoor scent, while 'Habit Rouge', although just as dry, is a sweeter and lighter cologne. Oh, and pick up a hamper of assorted provisions on your way out. One of the tail-coated assistants will help you to spend as much as possible. I leave the choice of food and drink to your imagination which should be permitted to run riot. And don't stop for coffee or an ice cream soda in the Soda Fountain on the Ground Floor — you are unlikely to be able to waste the time, because Turnbull & Asser, shirtmakers, is just across Jermyn Street to your right.

Turnbull & Asser, you will need to know, specialise in making silk shirts to order from

materials reserved exclusively to their use. I have fairly definite ideas about the type of shirts I should like — there is, for instance, a selection of silk crepe dress shirts which may be bought plain, frilled, or pleated according to fancy. There is a variety of colours from which to choose, but please stick to white or cream. I need a couple of butterfly bow ties too, of course; one in black woven silk and another in black velvet, please. You may be too late in placing your order for the shirts



to be made up in time for Christmas. If this is the case, there is a perfectly adequate selection made ready to wear. I'll take half a dozen. One of the assistants will hold open the door for you and perhaps call for a taxi to take you to where you next require to go.

When you arrive at Yves St Laurent's Rive Gauche shop for men in Bond Street, make your way immediately to the basement where you will find a black velvet blouson evening jacket to team with black barathea trousers which feature a wide black silk stripe down the outside leg. I'm not perfectly sure whether I prefer this or the more conven-

tional Gatsby-styled black dinner suit with wide, high-peaked lapels faced in black silk. Better get both, I suppose. You will also note a dark blue velvet blouson flap-fronted jacket which would match perfectly with a pair of New Man brushed cotton velvet jeans from Brown's of South Molton Street. That happens to be your next stop, incidentally, so bear that in mind.

Brown's, as will be instantly evident, also sell muted, jewel-coloured sweaters in the most ravishing selection of marls, stripes, checks, and contrast textures by Missoni. I'd like the one with the square neckline, if there are any left. People tend to lose their minds and all sense of proportion when they see Missoni woollens. I trust you will do the same and, in your fit of temporary dementia, buy with abandon.

Don't stop now — you're doing so well. You have just time to nip back to Piccadilly to Simpson's which has a stock of Ben Frankel casual suits on the second floor. The fabrics used are in the season's most fashionable colours and textures — peat brown and greys in checks and herringbone tweeds. They would match up perfectly with the shirts you bought earlier... What was that you said? What am I giving you for Christmas this year? Well, I rather thought I might try to get shot of all those fancy woollen gloves, bottles of Old Spice and patterned socks I've had lying about in drawers...

PS: All I really want for Christmas is my very favourite misty-eyed, short-haired, astoundingly beautiful Aquarian who has just acquired a complete recording of Prokofiev's 'Romeo and Juliet' and who may be persuaded to play it to me some evening right through non-stop in full Bang and Olufson stereo. And don't bother to gift-wrap. I'll take him as he is.

FOOTNOTE: Iain hopes to be of some help to any readers who have particular dress or appearance problems. Contact him by writing to Iain Finlayson, 'Rags', Gay News, 62a Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY. Please enclose a 35p stamp for forwarding your letter, and a stamped addressed envelope for Iain's reply.

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THE ANNUAL SEX CHANGE

by J H Darrell



he English Pantomime is the theatre's biggest annual Freak. Fellahs become Dames and dames (in the American sense) become Boys at

the wave of a tinselled wand.

Far removed from the sophisticated camp of such clever 'drag' artists as Danny La Rue and Dick Emery — both brilliant in their own style — the pantomime Dame plays it for laughs, pure knockabout comedy which exploits the mannerisms and foibles of the not-so-young fair sex. Long before George (Eyebrows) Robey, straight through to Arthur Askey, these Christmas He/She's have had us rolling in the aisle with laughter.

Thank God for them — laughs are valuable at any price.

But the Principal Boy is another thing entirely. Women playing men's parts has been common since the early operatic stage. But in 1880, the lighter form of public entertainment known as Pantomime firmly established the typical Principal Boy as a sex symbol. Complete with mini-length, mannish tunic, military style plumed hat, tights, high-heeled shoes and of course, the most important feature, long shapely legs, she epitomised all that was heroic and noble in the male, at the same time exposing much that was female. It was all very daring, kinky and slightly 'obscene', in an age when women's clothes were designed to cover the body and not reveal it.

At Drury Lane theatre, Augustus Harris laid down the future pattern for these Girls/Boys in his beautiful singing star, Harriet Vernon — "a magnificent creature of ample figure".



Harriet Vernon

But ample figures were soon to be whittled away if the ladies wished to remain working Boys. The emphasis shifted away from size to shapeliness. (Not that Ms Vernon was actually fat but merely very well-rounded.)

With the more boyish figure came such stars as Vesta Tilley, one of pantomime's all-time 'greats'. She started in "Robinson Crusoe" at the age of 13, reaching Drury Lane (the "Golden Gate" of panto at the time) years later, adored by everyone and known as the London Idol. Her male impersonations, complete with top hat and tails, must surely have inspired the young Marlene Dietrich's male impersonation in the film "Morocco".

The pattern never varied, but the type and personality did.

Down-to-earth, vulgar, often crude but always witty and lovable, Marie Lloyd (the Cockney sparrow) contrasted greatly with the elegant Gertie Miller. This lady played her first Boy in 1892 and was considered the most beautiful Boy in panto history. But it was Marie Lloyd, friend of Royalty, who captured the hearts of the public with her noisy, lower-class songs, typified in such favourites as "Any Old Iron" and "Down At The Old Bull And Bush".



Marie Lloyd

A combination of Gaiety Girl Gertie and Music Hall Marie produced one of the best known and best loved of yester-year's Principal Boys: Lottie Collins. Her international fame began with her taking a chance on a song which had proved a miserable flop in America. Her gamble was justified for, when she introduced the song at the Grand, Islington, it received a thunderous reception. Overnight she became the darling of the Halls and had to double between the Grand and the more exclusive Gaiety Theatre. The song considerably lengthened her life in pantomime and for years to come, both in and out of it, this one song was to earn her a fortune. She collected as much as £200 a week in America alone and was worshipped on both sides of the Atlantic. The song? "Ta Ra Ra Boom De Ay".

Pantomime has never been exclusive to light entertainers. Many 'straight' actresses like to shed the heavier mantle of the dramatic stage in favour of playing a pantomime Boy. Fay Compton stands out as one of the most successful of these ladies. And that old war horse "Where The Rainbow Ends" for years has annually provided many stalwart actresses, from Margaret Lockwood to Hayley Mills, with the Women's Lib right to fight and kill the dragon for Merrie England in the role of St George.

Nowadays it is the stars of the Pop world and the TV screens who carry on the old tradition, making the annual sex change for the pleasure of ourselves and our families.

The Family Panto . . .

Let's face it — Christmas without panto would be like Morecambe without Wise.



Vesta Tilley

Christmas At The Paintbox

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Friday 21st December
From 8.30pm to 2.30am
Tickets £1.20 in advance
Comper Mr Lee Tracey

Special guest star
THE SILENT KNIGHTS

Competition to choose
Miss Xmas 1973
Excellent prizes

CHRISTMAS EVE PARTY

Monday 24th December
From 8.30pm to 1.30am.
Come and have a drink —
the first one on the house.
Comper Mr Lee Tracey

Cabaret of the night
MR LESLIE WARREN

BOXING DAY PARTY

Wednesday 26th December
From 8.30pm to 2.30am
Tickets £1.00 in advance
Comper Mr Lee Tracey

Special guest star
MR MARLENE
accompanied by Leslie
Warren at the piano
Competition to choose
The Snow Queen
Excellent prizes

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

Monday 31st December
Welcome 1974 from
8.30pm to 3.00am
**OUT WITH THE OLD —
IN WITH THE NEW**
See the New Year in with
the PAINT BOX.

Tickets £1.95 in advance
Including Buffet Dinner
hats—trumpets—rattles—
blow-outs—noses—etc
Comper Mr Lee Tracey
Cabaret
THE FUNNY AFFAIR
+ Special Guest Star

DON'T MISS THESE GREAT NIGHTS!

THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF THE PAINT BOX
WISH YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR

An Affair To Remember

PORTRAIT OF A MARRIAGE by Nigel Nicolson, Weidenfeld and Nicolson £3.25

Possibly the most over-exposed book of the autumn. For some, the exposition of a famous scandal; to others, useful insights into a minor literary figure; to us, it must be considered as a contribution to the literature of homosexuality.

In case you ducked the heavies and skidded on the glossies, a swift recap. Tall dark handsome Victoria (Vita) Sackville-West is married to sweet cuddly Harold Nicolson. They have two little boys and two big houses. Vita falls in love with dashing debby Violet Keppel. Their relationship grows in intensity, its tensions driven to fever pitch when Violet marries crisply attractive Denys Trefusis. In 1920, at the age of 28, Vita writes a detailed account of her life and liaison with Violet, changing the names and hiding the manuscript. It is found after her death in 1962, by her son, who publishes his mother's autobiography with an interpretive commentary of his own.

To justify his title, Nigel Nicolson takes us beyond 1920, right up to his parents' deaths, filling out the story with an account of Vita's later crush on Virginia Woolf and referring to his father's own quite strong homosexual component. "He was not driven to homosexuality by Vita's temporary desertion of him, because it had always been latent... with his strong sense of duty... he felt it to be less treacherous to sleep with men in her absence than with other women."

This has the familiar ring of the typical put-down of gay men projected by tolerant straights and uneasy bisexuals. And Harold Nicolson may well have restricted himself deliberately to sex-only relationships. Vita, however, was much less repressed — once her homosexual nature had been revealed to her. In the most telling passage of her autobiography she speaks of "the drunkenness of liberation — the liberation of half my personality". Unlike her husband, she did not rationalise the revelation into impersonal encounters. Violet had a powerful effect on her and she faced the issue head-on.

She had, she decided, a dual personality "in which the feminine and the masculine elements alternately preponderate". All her femininity was only brought out by Harold: otherwise she was dominating and masculine. Her transvestite nature is a major theme of the autobiography. Vita made, apparently, a remarkably convincing man and went about publicly in London and Paris so disguised and thoroughly enjoying it, delighting in the idea that people would not relate the wounded soldier, Julian, they were talking to, with the rather scornful woman they met at dinner last night. She explains that she decided to write about the experience because, among other things, "I know of no truthful record of such a connection..."

— and eight years later she, along with Virginia Woolf and others offered to stand bail, should it prove necessary, for Radclyffe Hall.

Vita's defence is touching and perceptive, worth quoting at length:

"I hold the conviction that as centuries go on, and the sexes become more nearly merged on account of their increasing resemblances, I hold the conviction that such connections will to a large extent cease to be regarded as merely unnatural, and will be understood far better, at least in their intellectual if not in their physical aspect... I believe that then the psychology of people like



Vita Sackville-West in 1919.

myself will be a matter of interest, and I believe it will be recognised that many more people of my type do exist than under the present-day system of hypocrisy is commonly admitted..."

She goes on to say that she feels that such people and what they get up to will still be deplored but will at least be recognised "if only as an inevitable evil".

She adds: "The first step in the direction of such candour must be taken by the general admission of normal but illicit relations, and the facilitation of divorce, or possibly even the reconstitution of the system of marriage. Such advance must necessarily come from the more educated and liberal classes. Since 'unnatural' means 'removed from nature', only the most civilised, because the least natural, class of society can be expected to tolerate such a product of civilisation."

Which is something to ponder, especially today.

More than once Vita was ready to desert Harold for ever and live with Violet. But she didn't. Despite the novelettish fancies and boulevard comedy moments in her autobiography, not to say a self-consciousness and lack of proportion, there emerges a potent picture of a woman coming to terms with her homosexuality with no outside help, no terms of reference or example.

But it must be insisted that Victoria Sackville-West was lucky. Lucky to be rich, to have a kind and totally undemanding husband, to be able to govern her own writing and gardening life with no concern for others (she was uneasy and cold with her children), to have, in fact, the best of two worlds. Her protected status allowed her to view social pressures and society gossip with disdain. Nigel Nicolson says in the foreword: "If their marriage is seen as a harbour, their love affairs were mere ports of call. It was to the harbour each returned; it was there that both were blessed."

Roger Baker

Celluloid In Print

FILM REVIEW 1973-74 by F Maurice Speed. Published W H Allen. Price £3.50

F Maurice Speed's Film Review is an old established annual film book that I can vaguely recall from years ago. As usual, he begins with an introduction that includes a frightening picture of the state of the cinema industry. Did you realise that in 1962 there were 2437 cinemas in this country, and a year ago the number had decreased to less than 1500? He also makes some interesting comments on permissiveness in the cinema, as well as discussing female directors and the revival of films by Chaplin and Valentino.

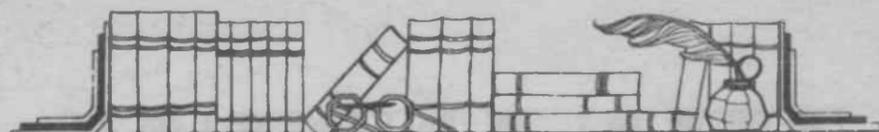
The first section has a collection of articles ranging from recent deaths, film books of the year, to the British character actor, and a comprehensive study of some forgotten films. This served

to remind me how much the public have missed in not having the chance to see John Houston's 'Fat City' and Dalton Trumbo's compelling 'Johnny Got His Gun'. A pity the film bookers refuse to take chances, and continue to play safe with endless revivals of 'Dirty Dozen' and the like.

The last two thirds are devoted to pictures from the year's releases in films. It is here that I would take Mr Speed to task. A photo of Mary, Queen of Scots, refers to the lady as Elizabeth I's sister, and elsewhere a photograph of an Italian actor is credited to Sean Connery.

Still, the photos are widely assorted and once you cease trying to connect 'Bedknobs and Broomsticks' with 'Shoes of the Fisherman' (to name just one odd pairing on one page) you can sit back and find it enjoyable light reading.

Barry Conley



Couldn't Put It Down

by Roger Baker

THAT shelf of my ladderax labelled Gay Studies has not been amazingly extended this year, but some of the additions are impressive. Pride of place must go to Dennis Altman's *Homosexual — Oppression and Liberation* (Angus & Robertson). It still seems to me to be the most important contribution to thought on gayness so far. Possible drawbacks are that it was first published in 1971 and has not been updated, and that it is only concerned with America. But the extent and depth of Altman's analysis make it valid, probably for a decade or more. One can also see how some of the trends he picked up have developed — particularly relating to pop culture and gayness. And it is instructive to see how often an American accent is heard over here.

As a pendant, Bruce Rodgers' funny gay lexicon *The Queen's Vernacular* underscores the intention of Altman's book. This dictionary of homosexual slang reveals, beneath the shrieks and giggles, the inward-looking nature and ruthlessly stereotyped attitudes of the conventional gay ghetto.

Dip into it and enjoy the frank confrontation with sexuality, the ingenuity of reference and acid examples of terminology in action. But agree too, that one should support any movement that would free homosexuals (or indeed, any minority group) from such an oppressive mythology.

Home-grown books on gayness are few and far between, nothing of the stature of Altman has appeared over here and it still seems amazing that the gay liberation movement has not yet produced a writer. (Maybe it has, and it is the publishers who are weak-kneed about such projects). One could claim, I guess, that both GLF and (indirectly) CHE have inspired two excellent pamphlets. *Psychiatry and the Homosexual* is brisk and well-written with some radical things to say; the passage on sex and children is good and refreshing. *Homosexuality From The Inside* by David Blamires (a Quaker and member of CHE since 1970) also analyses oppression, but in a much milder form — though the gentle tones must not deceive, his viewpoint is astringent. Colin MacInnes' *Loving Them Both*, a supposed study of bisexuality and bisexuals is derisive. Mervyn Harris also flirted with sociological half-truths in *The Dilly Boys*: pseudo-literary prick-teasing.

Fictive Devices

Moving into fiction (though both Harris and MacInnes could arguably be placed here), top marks to Joseph Hansen for *Death Claims* (Harrap), a fast and neat detective story in which the conventional form is cunningly subverted by having the sleuth, Dave Brandstetter, gay. Hansen's first Brandstetter novel, *Fadeout*, was successful last year; the second indicates that the series could continue. Hope so. In straight detective fiction, suspicion usually falls on some stereotyped gay at one point or another (it used to be foreigners).

Briefly...

A NEW DICTIONARY OF MUSIC
editor Arthur Jacobs, Penguin 50p

It is a pleasure to welcome a new edition of Penguin's excellent pocket reference book on music; a sort of 'Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Music But Never Dared Ask'.

There are thousands of entries, and this is the book's main selling point. In a paperback of 400 pages, the entries are necessarily brief and to the point. Thus 'Beethoven' and 'piano' rate no more than half a page each. Arthur Jacobs has been more concerned to provide very basic notes on any subject you might care to look up, rather than concentrating at length on the most important composers, the most important operas, and so on. If therefore you come across the word 'dulciana' in a musical context, you turn to this book, find it described as 'type of soft organ stop', and if you really do need further information, you at least know roughly where to look on your local library shelves.

The only music dictionary I know that is as useful as this, and comes in a reasonable single volume size, is the *Oxford Companion* — a much more detailed book, but also twenty times the price! So the Penguin dictionary is really without a rival in its class. I wish it luck.

KISS ME GOODNIGHT, SERGEANT MAJOR by Martin Page, published by Hart-Davis, MacGibbon at £1.60

Martin Page has combed the memories of World War II servicemen to bring us a selection of the songs of World War II that "Vera Lynn did not sing." A quick glance through will show you why.

From the ballad of Venal Vera, who extracted information from privates as they extracted pleasure from her, to the legendary account of

Hansen proves the antidote is demonstration not mere protest.

I enjoyed Leo Madigan's *Jackarandy* (Elek). Maybe gay novels are getting to be better written, but this struck me as sensitive and imaginative. Background colour of the gay scene is convincing, and Madigan has some useful observations on the nature of sexuality. A good word for Laurence Collinson's *Cupid's Crescent*, a moral fable with a message for all of us and a sting in the tail. In his first novel for eight years Angus Wilson in *As If By Magic* (Secker and Warburg) allows the gay theme to predominate more forcefully than before (though he has never actually shirked it!) in a comic and bitter portrait of an ageing pederast. The whole thing made me uneasy, but everyone tells me I'm wrong.

Nigel Nicolson's *Portrait of a Marriage* is fascinating, and reviewed elsewhere in this issue. A word for *Twosome Plus* (Blond & Briggs), Charlotte and Barrie Hopson's guide to cohabitation — with exercises. One of the few books of this kind that naturally assumes homosexual relationships to be as valid as heterosexual ones. There has been a tidal wave of excellent paperback cookbooks this year; perhaps the most commendable is the *Whole Earth Cookbook* (Deutsch) by Sharon Cadwallar and Judi Ohr, which could radicalise your eating habits and with them your complexion and health. And a super guide to eating in London called *Fuel Food* which costs 95p and lists the best restaurants where you can eat for £1 and under. It has been compiled by Mike Bygrave (ex-*Time Out*) and Joan Goodman. Four of my own favourite restaurants are here exposed to the public gaze, so I commend their taste and resolution in hunting down really good places.

Perhaps my favourite book of the last few months has been *Love In The Saddle*, published by *Private Eye* after it had been serialised in the magazine. Like all good satire, it is sufficient unto itself, sending up with wit and originality, the pathetic fantasies of romantic fiction. And it is almost incidentally that it provides a lethal antidote to the hollowest fanfares of the year.

the anatomical deficiencies of Hitler and the rest of the German High Command, all the unprintable ditties are collected here in print.

Some of the humour is simply because of the risqué language, but much of the writing in this book is genuinely witty and funny. Nevertheless, the NAAFI, concerned as it is with maintaining decent moral standards in the forces, has banned it from its shops!

To leave you with a brief snatch, the *Airman's Discharge Song* sings as follows:

Soon I will get my discharge,
And I shall say to Sarge,
You can stick the Air Force up your arse.
It's dirty, but it's done,
It's dirty, but it's fun.

Just so this book, dirty but fun. Michael Mason

THEATRE REVIEW 1973 by Eric Johns, published by W H Allen. Price £4

The first volume of what I hope will become a yearly event has arrived in time to make the ideal Christmas present to give anyone interested in the theatre. The first part of the book includes a whole gallery of photos from the past, ranging from the early thirties to the present day. Articles are devoted to Dame Sybil Thorndike in her nineties, nudity in the present day theatre, the Shakespeare 'Roman' cycle at Stratford, and many other worthwhile subjects. The obituaries cover all stage personalities who died during the year, and is particularly useful to myself as I'm continually surprised on discovering someone's death at a later date, which I never read of at the time.

The second half of the book is perhaps its most useful section, in that it contains a complete summary of all major productions staged throughout Great Britain during the period May 1972 to May 1973. Brief analysis of the plot, cast lists, and many interesting photographs — one could hardly ask for more. All in all an excellent compilation. Barry Conley

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The only Christmas release this year that hasn't made me want to heave is a thundering, rock song by Slade called *Merry Christmas Everybody* (Polydor 2058422). It is of course in a similar vein to the group's usual output — noisy and very heavy — but doesn't rely on unconvincing and corny schmaltz for impact. An extremely danceable record that is certain to be popular in discotheques in the next few weeks.

Ex-Faces star Ronnie Lane has just had his first solo record released. It's a maxi-single (GMS 011) and the A side is *How Come?* and if there is any justice left in the pop world, it should be an



enormous hit. The melody is very catchy, the vocal is in a laid-back style similar to Rod Stewart's and the backing by Lane's new group Slim Chance is superb, especially the accordion playing. The two tracks on the flip side are fine too, particularly the Dylanish *Tell Everyone*, which features some gutsy sax work.

Admirers of Bette Midler and The Pointer Sisters will be delighted by the re-issuing of the Andrew Sisters' original version of *Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy* (Capitol CL 15766). Another boogie woogie classic, *Beat Me Daddy, Eight To The Bar*, is on the flip side, and is a further treat for contemporary nostalgia freaks.

John Keating's latest release is an electronically interpreted rip-off from Bach called *Beyond The Universe* (EMI 2102), and that's probably where classical purists wish the pressings of the record were. It is in fact a rather pretty recording. Seasonal madness could well put a novelty disc such as this in the charts, if given enough plugs on the radio.

Strider's new single, *Esther's Place* (GMS 012), is the best cut they have so far released. A well produced hard-hitting song that allows the band to display some individuality and separates them from the many mediocre rock bands unfortunately currently flourishing in Britain.

Although an unpopular choice with the group, *Jet Boy* (Mercury 6052402) by the New York Dolls is an excellent example of their dynamic hard rock sound. The track is taken from their recently issued album, simply called 'New York Dolls'. Personally I would have chosen *Looking For A Kiss* as the single. Gripes apart, the combination of powerhouse music and lead singer David Johansen's screaming vocals on *Jet Boy* demonstrates fully this distinctive group's potential.

One of the best releases from the new Philadelphia International label is *Dirty Ol' Man* (SPIR 1880) by the Three Degrees. A punchy, beautifully recorded disc, it has already proved to be a hit in discos. The three girls who make up this vocal group create a sound that is not unlike the work of the early Supremes, but with oodles more solid funk.

Millie Jackson is an incredibly neg-

lected and under-exposed artist. Her new single *It Hurts So Good* (Polydor 2066263) is an earthy soul ballad in the best tradition of that musical genre. The cut was featured in the film 'Cleopatra Jones' and is one of the few highlights of an otherwise dismal movie. A must for soul enthusiasts.

Finally, Star (AMS 7094) lifted from Stealers Wheel's second album 'Ferguslie Park', has all the ingredients to come storming into the charts. First rate lyrics and beautiful harmonies, as well as Lieber and Stoller's inspired production are the various parts that will undoubtedly ensure this song's commercial success.

The Soul Of 1973

In the States, and increasingly so in Britain, soul music is achieving a greater degree of popularity and respect. The genre often used to be dismissed as having little spontaneity and originality apart from its obvious power of getting people to dance, but these criticisms are now very far from the truth. More and more creative artists are continually emerging (or re-emerging) and as this is the time of year for reflecting, it would seem an opportune moment to write a little about the two albums issued in 1973 that have impressed me most in the ever-widening and evolving categorisation known as 'soul'.

The first is *Under The Influence Of* by Love Unlimited (Pye NSPL 28179). This three-girl group first attracted attention in the UK last year with a couple of hit singles. Since then they have changed labels and joined forces with singer/writer/arranger/producer Barry White, who himself made the charts recently. Under White's influence, the group have expanded their sound and impact enormously, largely due to White's striking orchestrations and his talent for writing good melodies with strong lyrics.

The album is worth buying for the first two tracks alone, although that doesn't mean the other material is not completely enjoyable. The opening cut, *Love's Theme*, is a just over four minute instrumental and, as its popularity in discos has already proved, is one of the tightest pieces of funk to reach turntables in a long while. Soaring strings swoop and dive over a red hot rhythm section, with an up-front electric bass, wah-wah and rhythm guitar combination that makes it impossible to sit still. Try this track out on people who profess they can't dance, then watch them lose their inhibitions. Next there is the title cut, *Under The Influence Of Love*, on which the girls come into their own and deliver a devastatingly soulful performance. Throughout the album the gradiose arrangements enhance the vocals; listen to the harpsichord on *Oh Love, Well We Finally Made It* and the sax on *Yes, We Finally Made It*. Love Unlimited derive their sound from various sources, particularly the Diana Ross-fronted Supremes of a few years back, but their style is more overtly hard-hitting and closer to the basic roots of the music. Exemplifying this trait is *It May Be Winter Outside (But In My Heart It's Spring)*.

Under The Influence Of... by Love Unlimited is more than just another trendy soul album, it's a masterpiece of artistry and technique. Lashings of soul too.

The *Rolling Stone* magazine "Rolling Stone" commenting a short while ago on a notable aspect of the current international music scene, said that even if a record was a chart-topper in America, it was no indication that it would repeat its success in Britain. A true enough statement and not necessarily a bad situation, except when occasionally some extremely good recordings are totally ignored. This is the case with the recent work of Dobie Gray, who you may remember had a hit single in the mid-1960s, on both sides of the Atlantic, with *The 'In' Crowd*. In the States earlier this year, he made a successful come-back and topped the

singles charts with *Drift Away* and the album on which it was the title track was also a best seller. Both meant absolutely nothing in Britain. Maybe the lack of air-plays and promotion had something to do with its neglect.

It is with no hesitation that I chose *Drift Away* (MCA MUPS 489) as the other most impressive soul album to be released this year. Although a pleasing record to dance to, it is best suited to late night listening, when one wants to relax completely and drift away from the frantic, neurotic world we live in.

The title cut is a contemporary classic, with Gray's soothing and soulful voice gliding over lyrics that are only too easy to identify with. But one fantastic track isn't enough to make a record exceptional and this is why *Drift Away* differs from so many recordings and is comparable to the previous album by Love Unlimited. All the material is equally effective, whether it be a ballad, a gentle rocker or a number so laid back it is an under-statement to use that term to describe it. Just listen to *Drift Away*, then turn the record over and play *Rockin' Chair* and follow it by skipping a few tracks to *Eddie's Song*.

Dobie Gray merits a lot more attention than he is currently receiving and it would be a sad reflection on record buyers in this country if the work of such a gifted artist was allowed to fade into obscurity.

Motown Magic

As usual at this time of the year, Tamla Motown have released another record in their *Motown Chartbusters* series. And, as expected, Volume 8 (STML 11246) features a collection of the most memorable and successful numbers the label have issued over the last twelve months. There is a total of sixteen tracks, and amongst the best are *You Are The Sunshine Of My Life* and *Superstition* by Stevie Wonder, *The Temptations' Papa Was A Rollin' Stone*, the Jackson 5's *Skywriter*, *Neither One Of Us* and *The Look Of Love* by Gladys Knight & The Pips, *Junior Walker & The All Stars' Take Me Girl, I'm Ready and Way Back Home*, *Touch Me In The Morning* by Diana Ross and Marvin Gaye's current chart-topper *Let's Get It On*. I'm surprised though that cuts by Eddie Kendricks and Willie Hutch aren't included. All the same *Motown Chartbusters Vol 8* is an excellent set and will make an ideal Christmas present for fans of this particular brand of pop music.

One of the most significant Motown releases in 1973 is *Smokey Robinson's* first solo album since retiring from the *Miracles*. Titled *Smokey* (STMA 8012), it amply demonstrates the creative brilliance of this superb entertainer. Few



artists can equal the sweet tender soul he instills into the material he sings or the continuing originality of the songs he composes. A newly emerged talent at Motown, Willie Hutch, shares production credits with Smokey, and needless to say the over-all balance of the record is faultless.

It is difficult to single out a particular track for special attention, as all succeed in doing what they set out to achieve. For instance *Sweet Harmony*, a moving tribute to the on-going *Miracles* and a top selling single in the States, is a

perfect example of the delights in store. *Holly* and *Just My Soul Responding* are also impressive, but no more than the rest of the cuts. Without being a concept album, the various themes and evoked emotions blend together to form a totally unified whole that is an absolute joy to listen to. To be a little corny, snuggle up with your favourite lover late one night, dim the lights, then you'll know exactly what I mean.

Philly Soul

To repeat what nearly every other pop writer seems to have been saying, Philadelphia International Records is emerging as the Tamla Motown of the 1970s. Now that the label, run by writer/producers extraordinaires Gamble and Huff, is being distributed and pressed in Britain by CBS, we will have a chance to judge their distinctive sound fully, as more of their artists' material will be available now than in the past.

The first album to be released is a compilation called *Phillybusters - The Sound of Philadelphia* (SPIR 65869) and that's exactly what it is. Eleven tracks by the cream of Gamble and Huff's impressive roster of artists and one cut from fellow Philadelphian Thom Bell's Tommy label, which Philly (as it's bound to become known) will be issuing in the UK. Many of the cuts have already been chart hits, some on both sides of the Atlantic; they include *If You Don't Know Me By Now* and *I Miss You* by Harold Melvin & The Blue Notes, *Me And Mrs Jones* by Billy Paul and *The Intruders' I'll Always Love My Mama*. Other highlights are M F S B's ultra funky version of *Family Affair*, *The Three Degrees' Dirty Ol' Man*, *Bobby Taylor's I Can't Quit Your Love* and *Tossin' And Turnin'* by Bunny Sigler. Incidentally, side one opens with one of the classic soul cuts of 1972, *Back Stabbers* by the O'Jays. A highly recommended set, that is an excellent introduction to the Philly sound and will also make an ideal Christmas present for any soul music addict.

Four other albums have also been simultaneously issued on the new label. Of the two I've spent some time listening to, *War Of The Gods* by Billy Paul (SPIR 65861) and *The Intruders' Save The Children* (SPIR 65865), the latter is far superior. (The other two releases are *Ship Ahoy* by the O'Jays and *Black & Blue* by Harold Melvin & The Blue Notes and both are well worth investigating).

The Intruders' album features an extended version of their hit *I'll Always Love My Mama* and an almost seven minute interpretation of *Save The Children*, which previously was a chart entry for Marvin Gaye. Other standout cuts are their original treatment of Paul Simon's *Mother And Child Reunion*, *To Be Happy Is The Real Thing* and *Hang On In There*. Into luxurious harmonies and impeccable arrangements rather than heavy soul, *The Intruders* are a welcome addition to the current music scene, which often lacks professionalism and an awareness of the tender side of record buyers' natures.

On the other hand, Billy Paul's *War Of The Gods* is a pretentious and disappointing flop. His voice, which isn't strong to begin with, is completely unsuited to the material and is all too often way off key. Even worse are the lyrics which are nothing more than a collection of pseudo social-conscious orientated ramblings. The only saving grace is Gamble and Huff's magnificent production work.

Despite my criticisms of the last album, the variety of achievements on the other recordings make Philadelphia International Records a significant new soul label.

Briefly...

Shortage of space prevents me from saying more than a few words about the following albums which are all liable to be big sellers over the Christmas period.

There is no need to comment on Roxy Music's *Stranded*, apart from saying it is possibly the best and most commercial album they have released. Featured is the group's current hit single *Street Life*, although the *tour de force* of the set is the bizarre *A Song For Europe*.

Roxy's lead singer and writer Bryan Ferry has recently had his first solo album released. Titled *These Foolish Things*, it is a perfect showcase for the peculiar talents of someone who has quickly become one of the leading figures in the British contemporary music



scene. The recording is seemingly a tribute to his various influences, but you've never heard these pop standards interpreted quite like this before.

Included is his hit single *A Hard Rain's Gonna Fall*. The outstanding cut though is the title track, *These Foolish Things*. Despite thinking that *Rock On and Lamplight* were two of the finest singles issued in 1973, I find David Essex's first album disappointing. Deriving its title from his first big hit, *Rock On*, it fails to sustain the impact or inventiveness of the two previously mentioned cuts, which are both included on the record.

The much promoted *Ferguslie Park* by Stealers Wheel is a good, often stunning, follow-up to their excellent first album. Like their initial release, the record is impeccably produced by Lieber and Stoller, and once again the material is superbly eclectic. All of which results in a first rate recording that is undoubtedly one of the finest sets issued this year.

Featuring his hit single *Photograph*, Ringo Starr's new album, simply called *Ringo*, is a lightweight, fun recording that is likely to appeal to kids, mums and dads, and hip groovers alike. Backed by a profusion of superstars, he competently works his way through a collection of fair to middling material, that is saved from being just average because of Ringo's ability to instil his simple but good natured personality into each of the songs. The lavish packing makes it an ideal Christmas present.

With *Catch A Fire*, the Wailers established themselves as one of the leading exponents of reggae. Their new album, *Burnin'*, is even better, possibly because it is a looser, less intense set than the previous release. Apart from new numbers, the group have also included the compositions they first recorded when still based in Jamaica, such as *Put It On, Small Axe and Duppy Conqueror*. Best of the new material is *Burnin' And Lootin'*, *Rasta Man Chant* and *Get Up, Stand Up*. Devotees of this musical genre need look no further than *Burnin'* to find the best reggae album released in 1973.

Available again is Phil Spector's *Christmas Album*. Many superlatives have been used to describe this record, the most satisfying one in my opinion is stupendous. Quite unlike anything recorded before or since, the album is an incredibly produced selection of Yuletide favourites such as *White Christmas*, *Frosty The Snowman*, *Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer* and *Winter Wonderland*. The Ronettes and *The Crystals* are amongst the artists interpreting this seasonal fare.

Denis Lemon

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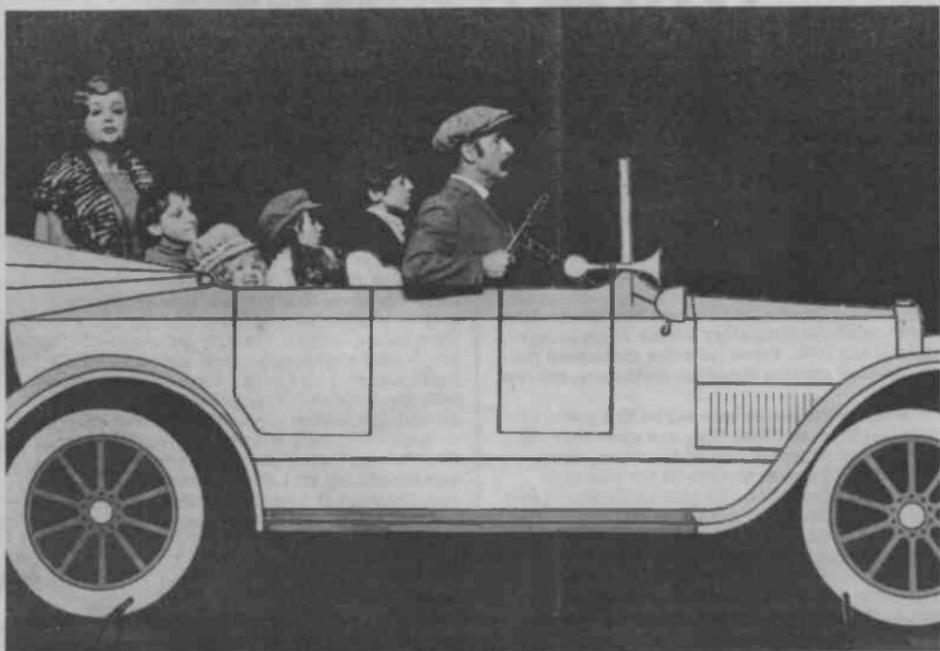
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The North's Best Gay Scene



Christmas Fare At The Theatre



Angela Lansbury and members of the cast of 'Gypsy'.

It's time once more to compile a short list of suggested shows for Christmas, on the assumption that trains, buses and travelling in general permitting, some of you might fancy a visit to the theatre as part of your holiday activity. Chances are that you'll get to most of them without trouble, as the two weeks around Christmas are usually the quietest at the Box Office.

Firstly, for those planning to take any parent or elder relatives, you won't go wrong with *Crown Matrimonial* at the Haymarket Theatre. Now in its second year, it deals with the abdication of Edward VIII, and naturally would interest those who recall the uproar when he vacated the English throne for the woman he loved. In this category also, as safe and entertaining, there's Rodgers & Hammerstein's *The King And I* at the Adelphi Theatre, with Sally Ann Howes doing full justice to this great score.

For lovers of drama, I've no hesitation in recommending Peter Shaffer's *Equus* at the National Theatre. This story of the blinding of six horses by a stable boy, and his psychiatrist's analysis of what led to the deed, is stunningly directed by John Dexter. Seats are reasonably priced, and it is easily the most exciting straight play staged this year.

In the list of musicals, *Gypsy*, which this paper voted 'musical of the year' is still at the Piccadilly Theatre. The marvellous Angela Lansbury will be with us until December 15th and two days later Hollywood and Broadway star Dolores Gray takes over. Admirers of Ms Gray will be interested to see what she makes of the role of Rose. At her Majesty's Theatre, Stephen Schwarz's *Pippin* is worth the visit, for Bob Fosse's splendid staging and the dynamic presence of Northern J Calloway. Three long running musicals still with us, are *Godspell* at Wyndhams Theatre, *Jesus Christ Superstar* at the Palace Theatre, and that tribute to the fifties *Grease* at New London Theatre.

Laughter, a quality much needed by us all these days, is in abundance at the Criterion Theatre (back dress circle seats are still a reasonable price) where *Absurd Person Singular* portrays the battle of the sexes nightly. Molnar's *The Wolf* at the Apollo Theatre is another fine comedy with star

performances from Leo McKern, Judi Dench and Edward Woodward. Here again, back dress circle seats are quite cheap. Lastly, one of Noel Coward's best comedies is still playing in town: *Private Lives* is in its second year at the Globe Theatre, and is well worth a visit.

Barry Conley



Peter Firth in 'Equus'.

In Search Of Love

DESIGN FOR LIVING at Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Road, London WC1

Gilda, Noel Coward's heroine in *Design For Living* is a creature of indecision. When we first meet her in a humble Paris flat, she is living with a struggling artist. Having just spent the night with his best friend, a writer, and been discovered by the artist next morning, she decides to switch lovers. Two years later in London, the writer has become a successful playwright, and Gilda seems content. But her artist, now also a success in his profession, returns, and after one night of reconciliation with him, she leaves both men next morning, for pastures new. The mutual love and friendship shared by the two men is probably deeper under the surface than would have been allowed when this play was



Jeremy Brett (left), Vanessa Redgrave and John Stride in Coward's 'Design For Living'.

written in 1933. Without being cynical, one can well imagine them getting together in the physical sense, during the period when Gilda has left.

After Paris and London, it seems only right that the final act be set in New York, in an ultra-smart apartment, where Gilda has entered into a marriage of convenience with an art dealer friend. The fact that she herself has become a successful interior decorator would indicate that whilst the careers of all three have gone well, their love lives seem to remain in a quandary. When both her lovers arrive, immaculate in dress suits, one almost expects them to go into a dance routine. Alas, we are faced with some more indecision before our heroine decides to leave with them both to form a 'ménage à trois'. Here the play ends, and I can't help but think that their activities after this point would prove of more interest than what has gone before.

But during the course of the evening there are several opportunities when Coward amuses in his inimitable fashion, such as when Gilda and the playwright read the critics' review of his new play. Their London home is where we meet Miss Hodge, one of Coward's comic daily women, played to perfection by Hazel Hughes. It is here too, that 'the Master' has written what is surely the absurdest of press interviews. The reporter, a most unlikely type, played in dead-pan style by Neil Wilson, comes to interview the playwright, obviously without having done any research beforehand, and the treatment he receives is fully justified.

Peter Bayliss, as the art dealer husband, cleverly manages to retain our interest in what is essentially a dull role. John Stride as the playwright in the role originally played by Coward, adds his own personality to the part, and comes closest to the style of the play. I found Jeremy Brett's artist a wooden figure, but in fairness, the role is less flamboyant than Stride's. There remains Vanessa Redgrave, looking lovely in her thirties fashions, with that incandescent glow I first noted when she made her West End stage debut many years ago. Obviously the role of Gilda, the free soul, would appeal to her personally, but in spite of her lovely presence, and the several engaging comedy moments sprinkled throughout the play, I found Gilda rather a bore.

Barry Conley

Hungarian Soufflé

THE WOLF at the Queens Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1

Jealousy is the theme of Molnar's *The Wolf*, set in the Budapest of 1911. Unlike Shakespeare's 'Othello', which deals with the subject as a tragedy, the leading character's reaction to his wife's flirtations in this piece is played for high comedy, and very funny it is too. A father's nursery story to his child becomes an allegory to real life when he finds his wife accepting greetings from an admirer.

The entire first act set in a restaurant, is an amusing scene on behaviour in public, allowing Leo McKern the opportunity to ham outrageously as he eavesdrops on other diners' conversations, yelling all the while at the waiters, and reducing his poor wife to a state of near hysterics. This sets the scene well for the long second act in which the author proceeds to mix reality with illusion and the general proceedings take on nightmare proportions to the jealous husband.

It would be unfair to divulge too much of the plot of this Hungarian soufflé. Suffice it to say that Leo McKern makes a welcome return to the London stage with a stunning display of comedy playing. He is equally well matched by the delightful Judi Dench, who changes from suburban housewife to glamorous coquette in that fabulously funny second act. Edward Woodward is her 'dream lover', and Valerie Lush (Auntie in 'And Mother Makes Three') makes an admirable outraged countess. Highly recommended.

Maugham's Museum Piece

THE CONSTANT WIFE at the New Theatre, St Martin's Lane, London W1

The first thing one notices about this revival of Somerset Maugham's drawing room comedy is its obvious parallels with *Women's Lib* and male chauvinism. Written in 1926, I should imagine the play was considered ahead of its time when first presented, with the ending showing the sedate married heroine going off on holiday with an old admirer, and informing her husband of this transitory affair, and that she will return in six weeks time. Until the last act, Maugham's heroine has acted with decorum, accepting her husband's double-standards with a surprising calm. Her change in character, now a career woman, and openly accepting her admirer's advances, is to me more believable than Nora, Ibsen's heroine from 'A Doll's House', probably because Maugham allows for a year to elapse during which these changes begin.

Ingrid Bergman's choice of starring vehicle is in itself something of a museum piece. For all its

interesting dialogue and similarity to life today, Maugham seems somehow dated. But I can appreciate Bergman's eagerness to deliver such lines as "some women can't pass a telephone and resist picking up the receiver" and this dramatic gem: "I'm tired of being a modern wife — a paid prostitute who doesn't deliver the goods". Unfortunately, unlike her TV image in interviews, when she laughs easily, on stage in this comedy she often appears uneasy, and at the performance I attended fluffed her lines several times.

With her hair marcel waved, and lovely costumes evocative of the period, she is a graceful lady in keeping with her glamorous surroundings. Her height is cleverly diminished by the towering appearance of John McCallum as her husband, and several scenes with Dorothy Reynolds as her mother, who is also tall. Ms Reynolds has not been cast merely for her height, as she makes each of her appearances count, with her superb portrayal of this wise society matron. Pauline Jameson, like Ms Reynolds, knows her way around a drawing room, and scores favourably. Admirers of Ms Bergman, and there are many judging from the packed houses, will not be disappointed. For the more discerning, be prepared to take the proceedings lightly and you'll still have fun.

Dame Edith Returns

AN ENTERTAINMENT starring Edith Evans and Friends staged at Richmond Theatre

RECENTLY at Richmond Theatre a memorable evening took place, when Dame Edith Evans returned to the stage after several years absence. She made her entrance dressed elegantly as always, following an exciting opening of Rachmaninov played by two on-stage pianists Antony Lindsay and Simon Young, during which, slides were shown of her successes through the years.

It is apparent when watching her that sixty years of experience is poured into her stage craft. Every nuance of that magical voice works to further her effect as she ran through a delightful set of poems and monologues. Several milestones in her career were lovingly dealt with; Shaw's 'The Apple Cart', Fry's 'The Dark Is Light Enough', the Nurse in Shakespeare's 'Romeo & Juliet' and Queen Catherine's trial speech from 'Henry VIII'.

Some effective poems by Virginia Graham were featured, as well as the poet laureate John Betjeman's delightful 'Diary of a Church Mouse'. Certainly two of the highlights of the evening were her reading of 'Mrs Moffat' by Christopher Hassall, and the very moving poem 'Patterns' by Amy Lowell, which closed the first half.

The two excellent pianists covered a wide range of material from Ravel to Walton during the evening. It is to be hoped that Dame Edith may be persuaded to bring her entertainment to the West End in the near future so that a wider audience may enjoy her superb artistry.

Barry Conley

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A Film Critic's Christmas



My Father Christmas hangs out in an amusement arcade on Sunset Boulevard, and I've written to ask him for a film star. I'm not choosy. He can send me Richard Chamberlain, Jeff Bridges, Jan Michael Vincent or even Billy Fury. I don't mind as long as he has a large red velvet bow in his hair, and is wearing a velvet purple jacket, and velvet yellow trousers. After all peeling off the exquisite wrappings is half the fun, isn't it?

I asked him to send some presents to loved ones. President Nixon gets an oil powered tape recorder, David Bowie a copy of the GLF manifesto and Danny La Rue an all expenses paid scholarship to the acting school of his choice. The manager of the Biograph cinema gets a year's supply of faulty flashlight batteries, and Johnson and Johnson get the blueprint design of a tube that opens by having its lid unscrewed, and doesn't need all passion spent in puncturing a hole through a layer of metal.



Like millions of others, I shall be spending a self-indulgent Christmas Day stuffing myself with unreasonable amounts of food

and drink. What I would really love to do if I had the monetary resources or organisational ability, would be to hire an enormous cinema such as the Odeon Leicester Square, and hold a Christmas Day party for film freaks. The foyer would be converted into an immense lunchtime buffet, and then in the afternoon everyone would file into the cinema for a mammoth eight hour programme of some of my favourite films. For example Billy Wilder's 'Sunset Boulevard', Val Guest's 'The Runaway Bus', Robert Aldrich's 'The Legend of Lylah Clare', and John Schlesinger's 'Billy Liar' or 'Sunday Bloody Sunday'.

Although this point was made by Denis Lemon in the last 'Here We Are Again', and is probably reiterated elsewhere in this issue, Christmas is an agonising time for many homosexuals, who are no longer welcomed by their families, or who cannot face the strain of pretence in an unsympathetic atmosphere. So when you're drawing up that Christmas dinner invitation list, think of the people who might be sitting alone in front of the telly in a cold flat. If you're as lucky as me and spending Christmas Day with a loving, accepting family, remember that even a phone call on Christmas morning can make the world of difference to someone.

David Seligman

QUICKSILVER

Joseph Strick's 'Janice', about a long distance truck driver's groupie, one of the biggest hits at the recent London Film Festival, will open commercially soon at London's Bloomsbury Cinema.

'Variety' describes a new band whose leader appears in full drag, as "a good soul act, as the black transvestite wails well in high pitch."

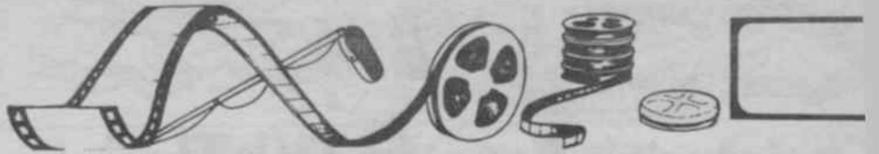
Jerome Weidman, president of the Authors League of America, has sent a letter to the board of education at Drake, North Dakota, protesting at their recent burning of copies of Kurt Vonnegut's 'Slaughterhouse Five'. Weidman also urged the board to abandon their plans to burn works by James Dickey, Ernest Hemingway and John Steinbeck.

Phyllis Diller recently became the first comedienne to serve as 'Grand Marshall' of the 'Miss Rodeo America' contest.

Ken Russell has been in a vociferous mood. Speaking recently to film union chiefs he dismissed the idea of nationalising the film industry, and shouted that he had made a film once in the EMI studios at Elstree and "the sets all fell down". Meanwhile, shooting of Mr Russell's new film 'The Hot Cold War Man' starring Oliver Reed and Claire Bloom, has been postponed after Hemdale withdrew their financial support.

Bryan Forbes, director of the 'Raging Moon', suggested unions arrange a total blackout of BBC and ITV to force the government to provide more money for the British film industry, which in its utter desperation has sunk to the making of 'Kung-Fu' dramas. The first Hammer/Shaw Brothers joint production, 'The Legend of the Seven Golden Vampires', starring Peter Cushing and Julie Ege is now shooting in Hong Kong.

Died: Aged 45 of cancer, actor Laurence Harvey, who has distinguished himself in many films and plays over the last 20 years. His frequent acting partner Elizabeth Taylor, has been admitted to hospital in California after severe stomach pains. Publicists insist it's not cancer.



1973 At The Movies

LEO, the MGM lion belched its last all expenses paid gin laced roar, confirming that in the eyes of Hollywood moguls, the concepts of large budgets and big names die hard. The growth of shoddily designed twin and triple cinema complexes widened the filmgoer's choice of programme but made a visit to the cinema a little like watching television in an antiseptic fridge. Rewarding films monetarily or aesthetically were a rarity and Bruce Lee's death probably saved us from a future third remake of Carry On Chopstick. Bertolucci mistakenly cast Brando in his work or: a modern cold love affair, seething with the symptoms of uncommunicative urbanity, and allowed him to transform it into a self-congratulatory tribute to his exaggerated acting style. Petrol rationing threatened the existence of modern American moviedom, the road movie.

Worthwhile movies were as rare as a gallon of Esso Golden Blend Nine Star, and when they did appear they either fell foul of the critics, Mary Whitehouse, Stephen Murphy or the way their posters depicted them. The year's outstanding film was Lindsay Anderson's 'O Lucky Man!'. Probably the last definitive British film, it confirmed that British 'civilisation' or any other has become a loveless anarchy in which businessmen, politicians, and the armed forces ruthlessly vie for power and money, and who can tell the difference between them?

Two films made a final plea for humanity and affection: Martin Ritt's 'Sounder' brought tears to



'Sounder' - a plea for humanity.

all our eyes, and importantly, to the eyes of middle class right-wing whites, as it depicted the emotional pain of the black man in America. David Greene's brilliantly choreographed rock opera 'Godspell', vibrantly filmed on location in New York's urban squalor, made a moving plea for the creation of a 'Beautiful City'.

Disgust for our environment certainly seemed to be the pervading theme this year. Ross Hunter's 'Lost Horizon' wasn't nearly as bad as critics and

posters suggested. Visually expansive by 1970s movie making standards, its line in schmaltzy sentimentality was often moving. Its failure at the box office was due to a flagrant misinterpretation by its publicist of its basic ethos, that ravaged urbanites are all waiting to be transported away from the bus queue to Shangri-La.

Alan Pakula's 'Love and Pain and the Whole Damn Thing' movingly chronicled a love affair of today, between an asthmatic middle class American youth stifled by his academic background, and a spinsterish school teacher from Bournemouth, suffering lamentably from strained Englishness; they meet while on a bus tour of Spain. Fair comment on our society. Timothy Bottoms and Maggie Smith were endearingly comic and pathetic. Ms Smith was ecstatic too in George Cukor's 'Travels With My Aunt' which confirmed that convincing, decorative escapism is possible on lower budgets.

Arch cynic Billy Wilder, on a similar theme to Alan Pakula, that of plunging victims of reality into the fantasy they must so much yearn for, had Jack Lemmon in 'Avanti!' as a raddled zany American business man whose suburban morality is swiftly peeled off by a buxom Juliet Mills. She's pissed off



Juliet Mills in Billy Wilder's 'Avanti!'.

with minis and Mr Wilson, and they have a luxuriant affair amidst the humorous labyrinths of Italian bureaucracy (Mr Lemmon is trying to ship his dead father's body back to the US), which appears in Mr Wilder's eyes to respect only meal times and siestas.

The well-tryed theme of modern American cinema, the individual's inability to survive in modern frozen pea society, was entertainingly and originally depicted in Sam Peckinpah's 'The Getaway' and Don Siegel's 'Charley Varrick'.

Finally, food for thought, Jack Gold's 'The National Health', full of acid, funny dialogue, but with serious undertones, was an analogy of England in a terminal ward of a large suburban hospital.

David Seligman

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How Wide Can You Get

In 1952 THIS IS CINERAMA was a novelty in that it was the first wide screen film the public had seen; Cinemascope although copyrighted by 20th Century Fox, was not yet in regular use. Cinerama was three times wider than the regular 35mm screen and was laced with stereophonic sound, and was such an innovation that the content of the films was immaterial. This was divided into travelogue type segments, an opera sequence, a roller coaster ride, Spanish dancers, a military tattoo, an aerial tour of the Grand Canyon etc, all accompanied by a commentary suggesting that the invention of the Cinerama process heralded a new era of success and innovation in the movies, rather like sound in the early thirties.

Of course we now know that this is absolute hokum. Cinerama films such as How The West Was Won did little to stem the tide of declining audiences, and the prohibitive cost of the process together with the introduction of simpler 35mm wide screen processes such as Cinemascope and Panavision, led to its early demise.

In short, then, This Is Cinerama is a complete anachronism, in both its content and entire ethos. To make matters worse, the three 35mm strips of film in being re-processed into one 70mm strip have been horribly blurred and distorted, resulting in most of the colour resembling something like brown washing up water.

David Seligman

Callas Comes In From The Cold

THE real performance didn't begin until five to ten. By that time Madame Callas had been persuaded to an encore — a rather speedy version of O Mio Bambino Caro — and the singing was over. Time at last for the ovation proper, the self-indulgent, self-generating escalation of audience hysteria. Callas and di Stefano, hand in hand like two elderly children, took a gentle stroll around the platform, some people were on their feet already and a few late chrysanthemums were scattered from the balcony.

Stage two was marked by the entrance of the press photographers — Fellini extras in belted white raincoats and flashes. More and more flowers rained down, more cheering, now the whole Festival Hall audience was on its feet. Still hand in hand the singers continued their easy perambulations. Most people in the stalls left their seats to stand packed six deep round the stage, reaching out to touch the diva's dress, the diva's hands.

Few would be applauding the present reality. But, as with Lotte Lenya and Marlene Dietrich, one is acknowledging a contribution to experience that age does not wither, nor time decay. From 1949 until 1964, Callas was undoubtedly the world's greatest exponent of music-drama; her presence enabled the repertory to be widened amazingly; to her can be traced back many of our present attitudes to opera, its production values and delivery. The worshippers that gathered on the coldest night of the year heard a mysterious, shadowed reflection of the voice that was; but the Callas charisma remains undimmed.

She looked sensational, never more slender, in a shining white dress with a dark blue, floating cloak caught at one shoulder, ideal shape for cutting the mistletoe. But though Norma was one of her major assumptions, we heard nothing from

that area of her repertory. Duets from Don Carlos (tedious), from Vespri (interesting) and Carmen (superb) seemed chosen to flatter that part of the voice which remains and to avoid exposing a sadly weakened middle register. The final phrases of her solo Suicidio (from La Gioconda — in which Callas made her Italian debut in 1947), the central section of the duet from Cavalleria Rusticana and parts of Voi Lo Sapete from the same opera, revealed once more the authentic, spine-chilling authority and artistry characteristic of Callas at her best.

Madame's reappearance, was due, we gather, to the persuasion of Giuseppe di Stefano, who shared the recital. As far as I'm concerned he still knocks spots off most other Italian tenors around. The velvet is threadbare (listen to him in Verdi's Requiem under Toscanini), but the phrasing, ardour and passion remain. Both artists — but perhaps more especially Callas — should be judged dramatically as well as musically. It seemed a shame to deprive them of the trappings of the opera house, and of an orchestra. Ivor Newton, doyen of accompanists (good gracious, he played for Tetrassini and Melba!) was quite splendid, making orchestral tunes shine and setting some decisive rhythms.

Overall it was a bit of a rip-off. Seats were phenomenally expensive (I paid £5 for mine at the back of the hall); the programmes were perfunctory and cost 25p; the artists managed to get through ten numbers in two hours, leaving the stage empty between each one, thus milking applause a little early I thought. But the ovation was thrilling. If Callas had merely walked on, sat on the edge of the stage and sung 'O The Rainbow', it couldn't have been nicer.

Roger Baker

Derek's Guide

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

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

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

- ABERDEEN**
Pub: Caledonian Hotel (buffet bar)
- BARNSELEY**
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 St
Viking (downstairs), Smallbrook
Queensway (Thurs Fri Sat)
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, Piecehall 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 Lawn's 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
Gay Cavalier, 62 Middle St
Rest: Olde Twitten, 62 Middle Street
Lorelei Coffee Lounge, 5 Union Street
Disco: Sussex GLF 8-11pm every Fri
Stanford Arms (upstairs back bar), 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

- CLEETHORPES**
Club: *Birds Nest Club, Kings Road, Boating Lake (Wed & Sat)
- 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
- EXETER**
Pubs: Horse & Groom, Longbrook St
The Ship, Martins Lane
- GLASGOW**
Pubs: Duke of Wellington, Argyle Street
McCallis, 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 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 Colquitt 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 own 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 Mail, Upper St, Islington N1 (Angel tube)(D)
Watermans Arms, Water Lane, Richmond
Imperial, High St, Richmond
Golden Lion, Dean Street, off Shaftesbury Ave, W1
Duke of Fife, 350 Katherine Rd E7 (East Ham tube)
Union Tavern, 146 Camberwell New Road, SE5 (Oval tube)
Eimhurst, 131 Lordship Lane, Tottenham N17 (D)
Royal Oak, 62 Gienthorpe Road W6 (D)
Clubs: *DOK, Lowndes Court, W1 (Oxford Circus tube)
*Le Gigolo, Kirgs 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 (girls only), Half Moon Hotel, Half Moon Lane, Herne Hill SE24. (Wed, Fri, Sat)
- *Shanes, Broadhurst Gardens NW6 The Escort, 89a Pimlico Road (Sloane Sq tube)
Yours & Mine, Kensington High St W8 (Ken High St tube)
Rockingham, 9 Archer St W1
Vortex, 62 Tachbrook St SW1
Toucan Club, 13 Gerrard St W1
Festival Club, 2 Brydges Place WC2 (Leicester Sq tube)
Louise, 17 Poland St W1 (Oxford Circus tube)
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
La 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
Didsbury (Sunday lunchtime)
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, Giebeland Street
- MIDDLESBOROUGH**
Pub: The Grand Hotel
- MORECAMBE**
Pub: Mason's Arms ('Gays Only' Lounge)
- NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE**
Pubs: Royal Court Grill, Brigg Market
Eldon Grill (Variety Bar) opp Greys Monument
Royal Turks Head Red Rover Bar, Grey Street
Grapes Vault, Grey Street
*Lord Chancellor, Great Market
County Hotel (Nancy's Bar) Westgate Road
- 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 Wellingborough Road
- NOTTINGHAM**
Pubs: Dog & Partridge, Parliament St
The Roebuck, Mansfield Rd
Bentink Hotel, Midland Station
The Foresters (girls) nr Victoria Centre
Clubs: Mario's Restaurant, Stanford St (off Castlegate)
La Chic, 5-13 Canal Street
*Pavilion Club, 123 London Rd, Shardlow (13 miles)
- 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 Valletot
Club: West Hoc Club, Cliff Road
- POOLE**
Pubs: The Jolly Sailor
The Lord Nelson
- PORTSMOUTH**
Pubs: *Balmoral Bar, Landport Terrace
Admiralty Tavern (Lounge Bar) Spring Street
- PRESTON**
Pubs: Bull & Royal, Cockpit Bar
Dog & Partridge, Friersgate
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: Condor 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

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 box numbers, place your sealed reply/replies in one larger envelope and enclose an unattached 3x4 stamp for each reply. Failure to enclose correct postage can cause delays in forwarding. Send it to GAY NEWS BOX REPLIES, 62a Chiswick High Road, 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 38 must be received no later than noon on Monday December 31st. They should be no longer than 35 words.
As from January 1st, box numbers in issue 33 and earlier will be discontinued and replies to them will not be forwarded.

Women's Personal

- Gay girl early 30s, attractive, seeks feminine attractive girl 28-32 for friendship. South Devon. Photograph appreciated. Box 37/1
- Gay girl 25, seeks same for genuine friendship. Recent photo will be returned. SW London area, Wimbledon etc. ALA Box 37/2 (Married Lesbian, Married Lesbian, not bisexual, offers family home, Devon Coast, to lady 30/50 to establish permanent friendship. Advertiser recovering from bad let-down. Box 37/3)
- Gay girl 28, coloured, attractive, seeks girl for lasting friendship, any nationality. Likes dancing and music. Box 37/4
- Sincere career woman, 33, own flat, wishes to meet girl same age/younger, SE London. Box 37/5
- Gay girl, 21, seeks similar, London area. Box 37/107
- Discreet marriage of convenience only genuine required by busy professional woman. No time wasters please. Box 37/108

Mixed

- Sheffield bisexual requires similar male and female companions in 30s. Attractive straight appearance, boating interest necessary. Permanent. Box 37/6
- Bisexual male 24, 6 foot, long blonde hair, beard, seeks bi or gay male and wife or bi female. Any age. Photo or not. Please write. John. Box 37/7
- Bisexual married couple, both 24, would like gay males for close friendship. Photo appreciated. London. Box 37/8
- Somewhat gay male, Oxford University lecturer aged 35, seeks somewhat gay female for tolerant companionship and possibly marriage. Box 37/9
- Young guy (25) smart, seeks female 30-40 for friendship. Box 37/10
- "The Royal Art! Astrological Theoretical researching gay synastry wants birth data for analysis. Also wishes to contact others interested in Astrology. Box 37/185

Personal

LONELY AT CHRISTMAS? A SPARE SEAT AT YOUR TABLE? If you can take a guest on Christmas Day or if you are faced with being alone, and would like to spend the day among sympathetic people, please contact Box 37/159, stating interests (eg music etc) phone numbers and any other helpful information you might think useful. I will try to put you in touch with someone.

- East Anglia or London, slim, 28 years, own house, seeks active friends with view to lasting friendship. Age up to 30 years. Interests music, photography, cinema, travel. Box 37/11
- Couple 30 and 26 would like to meet others, same age or single guys for friendship. Photo appreciated. ALA. Box 37/12
- Modern white guy 23, seeks West Indian and afro guys for friendship. Box 37/13
- London: guy 24 seeks Welsh tuition. Please contact. ALA. Box 37/14
- Long haired leather guy 22, London, interested in trendy leather, seeks similar leather/denim guy. Box 37/15
- Young man 28, rather hairy, powerful personality but attractive, into most things intelligent, seeks nice people 21-30 for friendship, town and country life. Own pad, mobile. Box 37/16
- Two gay guys 23/28 looking for other couples similar ages for friendship. Chichester, West Sussex area. Photo appreciated. Box 37/17
- Brighton gay 34, seeks male of similar age for lasting friendship, non-effeminate please. ALA Box 37/18
- Two lonely males middle twenties with own flat, wish to meet other young guys 21-25 in Leicester area. Box 37/19
- Britten Birthday Concert, Albert Hall, 25th November. Were you there too - or watching? If you're keen handsome, age 21-26, please write. Mahler enthusiasts also. Box 37/20
- Oriental friends wanted. I'm 22, Midland based, own car, willing to travel. ALA. Box 37/21
- Young thoroughly modern diesel and electric railway enthusiast wishes to meet others, anywhere. Box 37/22
- Active, lively friends 21-35 especially London area sought by London guy 38, own flat. Also steady friend as possible flatshare. Interests Theatre, records, cinema, holidays, Malay/Thai friends also welcomed. Photo please. ALA Box 37/23
- I am 31, dark and slim with a London flat. I am gentle, intelligent, well-adjusted and without kinks, and seek similar (25-40) for friendship. Photograph appreciated. Box 37/24
- Young skinhead (goodlooking and butch) seeks similar and/or young leather/denim guy. Photo essential but definitely returned. Box 37/25
- New to leather world would like to meet leather set in London. ALA Box 37/26
- West London bachelor, early fifties would like to hear from sincere males over 30. Box 37/27
- Male 32 with happy memories of beautiful Jamaica would like to meet younger (21-30) Jamaicans, West London area. 01-998 8282
- Can I help you? For people lonely, want somebody to talk to, I will try to help. 01-749 0016 Ronald.

"Hello Mother! Hello Father!"

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

Terry and Peter wish Ron, Tony and all at the Double Two a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

- Male 33, S London needs young friend 21-25, non-effeminate with reasonable looks for lasting friendship. I have own car and flat London area. Photo willingly exchanged and returned. Box 37/28
- Attractive 22 year old, very hairy chest, seeks young guys any area. ALA. Photo please, returned with mine. Box 37/29
- Gay male (38) with flatlet off Brighton seaford, seeks active male friends. Box 37/30
- Young Chinese 25 wishes to meet friends. Photo please. Box 37/31
- Young amateur photographer requires models for Xmas crackers. Sorry no fees due to inflation. Prints in return. Send photo and see. Love, Malcolm. Box 37/32
- N London guy 29 seeks others aged 21-35. Also couples for friendship. Photo please. ALA Box 37/33
- Two guys 23/27 wish to meet other friends similar age, any area. Photo please, returned with ours. Box 37/34
- Attractive non-camp professional Oxford graduate, 22 seeks attractive friends 21-40 London. Photo and phone number appreciated. ALA Box 37/35
- Very lonely guy 23 (Bristol) looking for someone similar age for sincere affectionate friendship. Interest mainly theatre/music. I can't hold on much longer. Please help soon. Box 37/36
- Nottingham 26 years old, non-camp, Bikas denim. Genuinely wants to meet one good friend of my age or younger. Photo please if possible. Box 37/37
- Guy wanted 21-28 whose interests include serious wrestling and music, by similar in London area. Box 37/38
- Body builder 40, Essex, seeks friends for workouts, wrestling and leather interests. Box 37/39
- Bournemouth guy, mid twenties, quite good looking, seeks nice looking intelligent young guy (under thirty) for friendship. Photo appreciated but ALA. Box 37/40
- Young guy (21) recently arrived in London from North of England, seeks to meet active guy of similar age 21-28 for friendship. Photo please. ALA Box 37/41
- David, early 30s, discreet non-camp professional guy travelling extensively in UK wishes to contact guys under 30 for friendship on occasional visits. Interests music, the arts, photography, travel and cooking. ALA with photo. Box 37/42
- I am 30, Indian origin, England resident for many years, my own house etc, would love to hear from genuine people around my age group - who have a life besides gay life or 'no life at all'. ALA Box 37/43
- North London guy 37, average looks, seeking active friends London area. Any race or background, but sense of humour important. ALA Box 37/44
- Not quite devastating to look at, occasionally camp, 25, lazy, thin, brown hair, sometimes drunk in Manchester. What butch beauty will sweep me off my feet? Box 37/45
- Desperately lonely guy 23 (Bristol) seeks someone about same age who is kind and sincere for everlasting friendship. Will someone please help. ALA Box 37/47

Personal Ads continued on Page 22.

Gay News Subscriptions

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE £2.10 FOR 13 ISSUES OR £4.00 FOR 26 (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 21.

Motor cyclists wanted to form group in the Bournemouth/Southampton area. ALA Box 37/46
 Body builder, interested in finding training partners — pals all ages/interest in body building must be real. Box 37/48
 Good looking young 30 year old, slim build, active, seeks faithful good looking friend 25-30 for permanent friendship. No camp please. Photo appreciated. Surrey. Box 37/49
 If you're young, non-camp and don't think 36 is one foot in the grave, please get in touch. Box 37/50
 Birmingham, 30, not keen on club and pubscene, like to meet similar. ALA Photo appreciated. Box 37/51
 Young man 23, Nottingham, wishes to meet similar attractive males for friendship. Photo appreciated. Box 37/52
 Bachelor 51, tall with own house, South Coast. Seeks active, hirsute, friends, age, race, creed no barrier. ALA Box 37/53
 Masculine, active leather instructor wanted by inexperienced 24-year-old, 5'10", average looks, Place N London. Photo would help. Box 37/54
 Theatre and opera fanatic, early twenties seeks close friend to share these pastimes. Age 21-35. Photo appreciated. ALA Box 37/55
 Will be on my own New Years Eve, Kilmarnock area (33 years old) Box 37/56
 Young guy (21) wants gay friends similar age. London. ALA. Box 37/57

Lonely guy seeks sincere guy Somerset/anywhere. Friendship/correspondence. Please write. ALA Box 37/58
 At 30 I'm still peering around the closet door. I want out. If you're a guy aged 21 and over, Birmingham area, with similar hang-ups — maybe we can help each other to a Happy New Year. Box 37/59

Buckinghamshire. Make the sun shine again for attractive 30 year old after broken affair. Own home, no transport. Friends wanted 21-40, interests include theatre, cinema. Photo appreciated. ALA Box 37/60
 Young 24 year old, 5'3" wants 26-36 active guy to share life with (Bedfordshire). Photo please. Non-effeminate. Box 37/61
 Young man 28 requires lessons in Judo, Karate or similar forms of self defence. I own a car so moderate distance in or around Essex no problem. Private lessons preferred. Box 37/62

Gay male 28, married, living in Essex, brown hair, eyes, glasses, non-effeminate interests include motoring, swimming and judo, seeks active sincere male own area for friendship. Photo appreciated. ALA No effeminate please. Box 37/63
 Married guy late twenties, living near Chelmsford, not effeminate, interests include cars and films. Seeks active male friends in own area. Photo please. No effeminate. Box 37/64
 East Midlands graduate 28, attractive, seeks good looking intelligent guy 21-30, interests America, music and movies. Photo please. Box 37/65
 26 year old gay male wants to meet others in Northants area. Also would like coloured friend in London. Photo please. Box 37/66
 Londoner early fifties 5'11" slim, wishes meet quiet active short haired type, over 30. Enjoy most activities except gay scene. Box 37/67

Clean shaven, good looking 22 year old male longs to meet other London males 25-40 for real friendship. Central London pad. ALA Box 37/68

Luton, Beds, 45, lonely. Would like to meet friend. ALA Box 37/69
 Are you discreet, friendly active guy 23-40, not caring for gay scene, camps or kinks and seeking friendship? Richmond/London bachelor 40s, interested arts, languages. Would like to meet you. Foreigner helped with English. Box 37/70
 Jeanned guy 24, slim, 5'8" seeks young lean guys London. Box 37/71
 Wrestling novice 24, slim, 5'8" seeks lightweight guys, London. Box 37/72
 South Lancs/Cheshire male (39) seeks similar for sharing interests. Music, theatre and travel. Box 37/73
 Bachelor 47 own pad, will be lonely over the 10 days at Xmas — will you be? Young gay fellow 21-25 for company. Box 37/74

Winkle picker boots wanted. Anybody know where I can get them made? Toni (Spike) Skyrme, please write. I'm still turned on by them. Box 37/75
 London NW6, lonely, age 40, seeks younger guy up to 38 for friendship which will be lasting. Photo appreciated. Box 37/76

South Manchester, company executive, young 39. Own detached house, would like to meet 21+ for convivial friendship this Christmas, also with a view to lasting friendship. Character is more important than looks. ALA Box 37/77
 Hey you! Are you interested in fast cars and speed boats? Mike 29 has both and is looking for a 21-25 who is good-looking and enjoys life. Drop him a line with photo and phone number if possible. ALA Box 37/78
 Amateur photographer requires young model, no fees but photo in exchange. Write with photo to Box 37/79
 Young 40 (active) seeking to build a beautiful stable friendship with genuine guy over 30. No one-night stands please. Box 37/80
 Graduate 24 Manchester slim, dislikes scene, needs similar guy. ALA Box 37/81
 Would Trevor B of Strood write J C of B S, full address not known.
 "Sing Birdies, where are the gay nooks in Madeira m'dears?" George Williams, 22 Great Windmill Street, London W1 Box 37/82

Young Gay male seeks position in all female household of a domestic nature. Box 37/99
 Good looking male seeks friends. Please write honest replies. ALA, WB, Avoca, Portmore Road, Portstewart.
 Rather shy 32 gay male seeks young friends London area. Race or colour unimportant 01-998 8282
 Cornwall, Falmouth, active male nearly exhausted, needs help. Friends most areas, introductions. ALA photos. Also double/single rooms to let. Box 37/101
 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. 37/102
 TV producer (29) living in London seeks genuine new friends aged 21-25, living anywhere in GB. Prefers slim, not-too-tall boys. Looks or shyness unimportant. Write fully. ALA Box 37/106
 Will George Joseph Charles Grant (originally from Liverpool) or anybody knowing of his whereabouts please contact Box 37/102. Important beneficial reasons.

Tall, good looking 22 year old guy, dark, clean shaven, wants to meet similar looking fellas up to 39 for friendship. Central London pad, Photo appreciated. ALA Box 37/109
 North Birmingham active guy (31) with own accommodation seeks educated compatible friend with sense of humour and reasonable appearance. Can you write giving details with photo. Up to 35. Box 37/110
 Graduate 28, tall, slim, quite attractive, enjoys arts, theatre, ballet, travel, Sensitive, sincere, feels life should be shared. Not camp. Seeks similar 23-29 who believes in a lasting friendship. London area. Photo appreciated. Box 37/111
 Attractive affectionate boy 24, moving to London wants to meet long-haired, way-out guys 21-26 for happy friendship. Photo please. Box 37/112
 North Midlands, very shy straight looking guy, considered good looking, seeks active guy 30-40, for lasting friendship. Genuine replies only please. All letters with photo answered. Mine in return with phone number. Box 37/113
 21 year old straight looking, wishes to meet others of similar age and type. Photo appreciated. Box 37/114
 Young man, S London, seeks permanent friendship with similar sincere non-camp, 21-28. ALA Box 37/115
 Leather guy, well preserved 32, with own London flat, seeks similar or younger types wishing to brighten long winter evenings. Photo and phone number appreciated. Box 37/116
 Any HGV long distance drivers, Gt Britain/TIR, interested in weekends in the country — Midlands area — where real welcome with home comfort would be appreciated. Age and appearance not important. Must be absolutely honest. ALA Box 37/117
 Gay Caledonian, active, young 45, 5'9", 11 stone, own home London — seeks contact pleasant amiable guy anywhere. View to permanent friendship, holidays, usual interests. Recent photo appreciated and exchanged. ALA Box 37/118
 Are you shy? Railwayman 35, 6', wishes to meet younger person, pref 5'10" or less. Interests: music, old films, meeting people, tight smart gear. Photo please. ALA (any area) Manchester. Box 37/119
 Lancs, thirties, non-camp, seeks active, straight looking guy 28-35 for friendship, bearded, moustached, hirsute, heavily built guy. Photo appreciated. Please write. Box 37/120
 Affectionate 21-25 invited to contact one slightly older, youthful, fresh-faced; own vehicle and accommodation near Bath. Discretion/sincerity returned for a Merry Christmas and hopefully Happy New Year(s). RSVP with photo (returnable) to Box 37/121
 Glasgow leather guys write to Box 37/122
 Male 31, London, seeks Malaysian male from Trengganu, Pahang or Kelantan for friendship, also to teach me Bahasa Malaysia. Box 37/123
 Quiet active 38 looking for genuine friend for holidays and lasting friendship with view to share flat. Box 37/124

Young musician (22) seeks similar (London). Photo appreciated. "If music be the food of love" etc. ALA Box 37/125
 Male 35, 6'2" non-effeminate, would like to meet similar for friendship. Bishop Stortford, Herts area. Box 37/126
 Young guy! (over 21) are you in need of friendship from affectionate older guy? Genuine. AKA Box 37/127
 Worldwide search by Londoner (40) for younger guy over 21, any colour. Someone nice to come home to, needing affection and understanding. Don't hesitate, write! ALA Box 37/128
 Skiing this winter? Clean limbed young man seeks other(s) to go with, or would join existing group. Write, with phone number to Box 37/129

"Hello Mother! Hello Father!"
 Creative writers! Literate, attractive, young playwright in early 30s seeks other(s) view mutual interests and friendship. Write with phone number to box 37/130
 Few more young actors wanted for interesting unusual amateur film, London. Photo, details. Also crew. Box 37/131
 Somerset graduate (37) seeks to share interests in music, theatre and countryside with others similar age. Box 37/132
 London shift worker (evenings) 24, considered attractive, wishes to meet someone on similar time wavelength. Photo please, returned with mine. Box 37/133

Likeable young London-based guy 25 employed in entertainment and with own flat/car/mustache, seeks attractive young non-camp friends. I am into all types of music, film, theatre sport. Photo please. Box 37/134
 Boy new to leather scene needs mate to show him the ropes and for Amsterdam visit. Box 37/135
 Professional graduate 28 interests arts, music, architecture, travel, seeks deep lasting friendship with loving guy. Advertiser has average plus looks, considers personality more important. London/Home counties. ALA Photo exchanged. Box 37/136
 London graphic designer, 39, straight, lean, shy, humorous, seeks contemporaries. Interests wise: Byron—Thom Gunn, Mozart—Wagner, Old churches—Brunel. Disinterests: sport, God, pop, pot, chickens — not sugar-daddy potential. Hates: Royal Weddings, Daily Telegraph. Box 37/137
 I've honestly got what it takes to maintain a happy and lasting friendship because I'm different! If 21-35, write with photo. You might even be agreeably surprised. London ALA Box 37/138
 Londoner, mature forties, would like to meet mature active men 35-70 to become friends. Beardless, affectionate, a good sense of humour. If possible a get-together for Xmas. ALA Box 37/139
 London area guy, 34, wants to meet active, interesting guys with sense of humour and no hang-ups. Preferably 21-30. Please write soon with photo if possible. ALA Box 37/140
 Professional 33, normal looks, would like to meet similar man, 50-65 with interest in physical culture, for genuine friendship and perhaps train together. Race, class immaterial. Photo returned with mine. ALA London/Home counties. Box 37/141

Young male (over 21) perhaps shy, effeminate, sought by guy 30s — straight appearance, told not bad looking. Own modern flat London, car, active. Hopes for lasting friendship. Possibly share flat. Photo, phone number appreciated. ALA Box 37/142
 Sincere gay guy 31 urgently seeks friends either camp or non-camp. Photo if possible. ALA Box 37/143
 Slim masculine guy 30, London, wants heavily built active friends 25-50. Interests include leather, denim, wrestling. Box 37/144
 Leather guy, ex-navy, good physique, tan, wants pillion holiday with bike owner, 1974. Share expenses. Box 37/145
 Good looking body builder seeks guys keen on physique art (Like Colt and Kake). Slides and movies. Box 37/146
 Dave is 30, deceivably butch looking, slightly deaf. He is also good looking, home loving, Sagittarian and needs someone of similar age who could cope with him. Own Brighton flat. Photo appreciated. ALA Box 37/147
 Collectors of male nude photos, slides and movies are invited to contact me, as I am weeding out my surplus ones for exchange or sale. Box 37/148
 Motor cyclist 38 active, NW London, wants short-haired lightweight pillionist around 25. Interested in appropriate gear. Photo and details please. Box 37/149

California 34, masculine executive yet cultured type, seeks slim sincere young friend any race for steady friendship (over 21). Travel possibility. Photo appreciated, returned. ALA. Max POB 26017 Los Angeles 90026 Airmail.
 I am debonaire and a trendy 40. Need company of a 21-25 for 5 days in Ostend at Xmas in party of 6. No screamers please. Just a nice ordinary guy who is lonely. 789-0225 evenings or weekend.
 Jon. Thanks for the most exciting four weeks of my life. Petal.
 Active 28 wishes 25-35 of good physique. Photo please. Box 37/168

Knight of Cups seeks Page of Swords. Box 37/160
 London 6ft good looking 30 year old seeks active friends 25-35 view permanent friendship. Interests theatre, cinema and arts. Photo please. Promise to return. ALA Box 37/161
 Young slim artist seeks heavily built active friends. Photo essential. Box 37/162
 Mid thirties straight looking 5'8", dark slim, seeks friends especially TV, Photo appreciated. Bolton/NW area. Box 37/163
 Good looking Asian wishes to meet sincere gentleman for genuine friendship. Box 37/164
 London man, fifty, lonely, seeks companionship, intelligent, 35/45. Interests arts etc. Photos exchanged. Box 37/165

Young man (27) seeks active friends 27-39 with no hang-ups. North London area. Box 37/166
 Heavily built bachelor, NW London, 26, interests judo, football, and music, seeks friendship with sincere non-effeminate guy preferably same age or younger. Box 37/167

Queens Head, Tryon Street, Chelsea.
 Joan, Len, Tim, Ean, Bill, John, Vicky, Susie, Peter and all the lovely Gay News readers at the Queens Head. Best wishes for a happy Christmas. Love Norman.
 Coalman seeking a genuine mate in another coal lorry driver or coal miner. Drop me a line soon. Box 37/169
 Nottingham, Young man 26, with usual interests, including denim, needs a permanent friend. Photo please. Box 37/170
 Manchester gay graduate/professional social group. Send brief personal details for information. Box 37/171
 Attractive, intelligent, long-haired London guy, 24, slim 5'10" university drop-out. Acid graduate, interests travel, music, zen. Prefers easy going non-materialistic life-style. Seeks similarly inclined, slim, young, attractive companion with sincere loving nature. Any nationality. Photo please. ALA Box 37/172
 London media-man, handsome and slim 24, with wide cultural interests, particularly music and theatre, seeks lissom, affectionate boy for wonderful friendship. Photo please. ALA Box 37/173
 Chap around 40 living in Chiswick would like to hear from someone to form a good friendship. ALA Box 37/174
 Ipswich/London area — pleasant-looking young 28 seeks friends, own age range. Photo appreciated. Box 37/175
 Bishops Stortford/Harlow area. Must have some good looking active guys around my vintage, 26. If so please write so that we can get together. Photo appreciated and returned with mine. ALA Box 37/176
 Slim and happy, attractive guy mid-twenties, wants to meet slim young man for friendship. Photo if possible. Mine by return. ALA Box 37/177
 Are you fun? A computer systems analyst and a graphic designer want to meet some nuts! We are both 26, Londoners, with interests from progressive music through cinema to cats. Your photo guarantees ours. Box 37/178
 Vic. Remember Wendover 6th October? Would like to hear from you. John. Box 37/179

Under 35? Long hair? Small beard (preferably)? Do you like motorcycles and freaking out in the country? Do you want to live in a semi-ruinous medieval castle surrounded by moat and field miles from anywhere in the West Country? If so, then you're my dream! Write to me Box 37/204

American male 23, looking for a place to stay weekends and Christmas holiday in Cambridge or London area. Will exchange photos. Box 37/186
 Young clean 24 very, very lonely seeks older person (30-40) hirsute, intelligent and stable. Interests reading (Gide, Genet, Woodhouse) music and feeling happy, not incredibly beautiful, but sincere. Write and I'll answer. Promise. Box 37/187
 Young jeans fan aged 22 lives in Hampshire seeks active friend of similar age for long-lasting friendship. Varied interests. Any area. Photo if possible. ALA Box 37/188
 Young guy (24) works day and night but is free later, seeks a friend 27-35 to share his few moments together. Likes good food, music etc. Photo appreciated. Box 37/189
 Young man who needs to raise capital will consider all suggestions that are legal, as the saying goes. Box 37/190
 Lonely guy 22 wishes to meet guy 22-29 non-effeminate for lasting friendship. Photo please. ALA Box 37/191
 Lonely bachelor seeks congenial companionship. Not camp but interested in Arts, reading, travel etc. Must reside in West Midlands or Birmingham. Box 37/192
 Ski party, mixed sexes, Souze D'Ouzx two weeks 13th January £80, urgently needs four integrated gays, any skiing standard. Box 37/193
 Guy living in Southern Africa (21) considered very good looking, wishes to correspond with presentable guy who is intelligent and genuine with view to eventual meeting. Photo please. Box 37/194
 Keen to meet straightforward, uninhibited non-camps. Especially London; East Sussex; West Kent. I am 5'9", 143 lbs in prime of life (40). Box 37/203

Short term let. December—March. Double room in comfortable, furnished, freshly central flat. £6.50 pw each incl. Use of phone and garden. Two girls preferred but others welcome. Cat lovers only. Box 37/86
 Male 28 requires permanent accommodation from 1/2/74. Preferably share flat with one other — 30-45. Must have own bedroom. Central, north or west London. Box 37/87
 Lounge, bedroom, kitchen available North London early March 74. Suitable two established gays (professional women/white collar men) furnished or unfurnished according to choice. Permanent let at mutually satisfactory rent. Strictly business basis. ALA Box 37/88
 Guy 21 clerical worker, looking for own room in a flat, Olympia area, cheap rent. Box 37/89
 Norwood SE19. Third wanted to share house, own small room. Non-camp professional 21/30s. £4.50, share expenses. Box 37/90
 Reliable young flatmate 24-34 wanted by Ray 38, to share his North London flat and for sincere happy friendship. Photo appreciated. Box 37/91
 Guy 19 seeks gay flat near central London. Own room preferred. No strings. Box 37/92
 Gay couple (happily married) have room to let in large NW3 flat. £30 monthly, exotics welcome. Box 37/93
 Croydon, clean 21-38 to share mod flat with similar. Colour TV, hi-fi, own room. £7pw. No campers. Box 37/94
 Nice guy requires crash pad in or around London for occasional weekends. Box 37/95
 Comfortable room in small house available for quiet mature business man making short visits to London. Very convenient location. £2 per night. Box 37/96
 Active 38, flat owner, Ilford area, seeks young man to share in exchange some domestic/secretarial duties. Any nationality. Box 37/97
 Accommodation available for gay male 21-30. WB, Avoca, Portmore Road, Portstewart. Box 37/98
 Gay, early 30s, wishes to share his modern 2 rooms, bathroom and kitchen flat in Surrey with guy 23-30. Very reasonable terms to right guy. Phone Dave, Redhill 67700
 2 non-camp guys share large flat, colour TV, phone, shower, £9pw each. Islington. 837-2038 after 7.30pm
 25 year old male requires someone same age group 21-25 to share double bedsit, Epsom Court, ring after 8pm. Adrian, 373 0821.
 Flatshare offered 01-732 6724
 Well spoken Indian seeks two straight looking guys to share part of his house. Please telephone Worthing 66641 — Chm
 Responsible affectionate Londoner 45 seeks flat Brixton area. Would share with similar home-loving West Indian 40-50. ALA Box 37/103
 Young guy requires room in London, preferably in liberated house or flat. Box 37/150
 Streatham, South London, 20 mins city. Superior furnished bed-sitter, sep kitchen, H&C, fridge, cooker, meters. Quiet area, select house. Convenient all travel and shopping. £8.50pw. Baths, showers, utensils inclusive. Suitable quiet business gent. Box 37/151
 Hitchin/Letchworth/Stenagen. Flat urgently required by two guys 30/32. Box 37/152
 Home offered in Croydon by two attractive males (38&21) to educated, intelligent young man. Must be clean and handsome, seeking permanent engage. Luxury flat, MGB, colour TV. We dig pop, films, travel, write poetry, novels. Photo please. Box 37/153
 Young American seeks accommodation in exchange for light domestic duties. Will pay modest rent. References. Box 37/154
 One or two persons wanted to share house with two others in SW19. Own room. Box 37/155
 St Johns Wood; Flat to share with male 26; own big room, £50pcm. 286 1252
 London N4. Large s/c furnished flat suitable 2/3 males only. £20/24pw. Phone 340-2334 evenings.
 Retired female impersonator seeks accommodation. Varied interests. Can drive, gardening, domesticated. Phone Sam, 01-673 2975 any time.
 Marble Arch. Professional man over 27 (non-smoker) offered share similar's comfortable home. CH, sun terrace etc. £78 monthly. References. Phone 01-262 6308

"Kamp-Town, Brighton"
 Newly furnished and decorated modern flatlet near seafront and shops — suitable for 2 persons — private house with lots of privacy — pets welcome — fitted carpets throughout — storage heaters — large lounge cum bedroom — kitchen/diner with shared bathroom £12.50pw. With private bathroom £15 pw. Phone Brighton 776401 after 5pm.
 3rd guy (20s) to share SW11 ground floor flat £10pw plus expenses. Phone 223 3810.
 Wimbledon SW20. Convenient Waterloo (18mins). Flat share offered guy similar interests, theatre, travel, photography. £7.50pw. Phone 946 1832

Anybody know of a large flat/flatlet in Ealing Broadway? Preferably near tube. Sought by two respectable gay guys, both professional employment. Box 37/158
 Fabulous SW1 accommodation free in exchange for morning domestic help 9-12. Active types only. Photo and full details essential. Box 37/160
 Maidenhead: Accommodation to let for young male graduate or student in comfortable bachelor household. From £8 per week. Box 37/181
 Southport Lancs. Young man (22) would like to share flat with same in Southport. Photo please. Box 37/182
 Own room, with use of all other facilities in brand new maisonette, N7. Colour TV, central heating, fitted carpets, phone etc. Share on business basis. I am 29. 272 7893 evenings.
 Sunny Peckham. Bedsit to let from middle December. Any nationality. Also flat-share offered over Christmas and New Year. Any nationality 21-25. 01-732-6724.
 SW11. Own room s/c newly converted flat available Jan. Suit moderately domesticated, music loving young male. £7.50. 288 5576 after 8pm.
 Architect 28, living Herts, working Hounslow, wants accommodation from Mon to Thur night Hounslow area. URGENT. Box 37/195
 Does anyone know of a reasonably priced hotel in Barbados March-April 1974? Box 37/196
 Small room available Chelsea flat £5pw from small young American or Canadian. Box 37/197
 To let Epsom large private house. One double, 2 single bedrooms, lounge, kitchen bathroom. Modern fittings. Pref 4 girls sharing, £9 each including gas and electricity. Phone 01-393 0087 after 7pm.
 Accom. Ads continued on next page.

Under 35? Long hair? Small beard (preferably)? Do you like motorcycles and freaking out in the country? Do you want to live in a semi-ruinous medieval castle surrounded by moat and field miles from anywhere in the West Country? If so, then you're my dream! Write to me Box 37/204

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Under 35? Long hair? Small beard (preferably)? Do you like motorcycles and freaking out in the country? Do you want to live in a semi-ruinous medieval castle surrounded by moat and field miles from anywhere in the West Country? If so, then you're my dream! Write to me Box 37/204

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Accom. Ads continued from last page.
Third male to share East London area flat. O/R, newly decorated and carpeted. Ring evenings 504-5392

GO GAY IN BARBADOS. Visit the Mayville Guest House and do your own thing. Special rates for gays. Plain, but good food, prepared by your hostess, Hazel; truly the most understanding landlady one could wish to meet. For full details contact Hazel Thomas, Mayville Guest House (30 seconds from sea) St Lawrence, CHRISTCHURCH, Barbados or phone 01 (London) 274 5293

Employment

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

NEW START IN 747 Sales engineering career starting in around £1750-£2200 basic salary + BUPA + commission + pension scheme. Electrical/Electronic engineer preference formal qualifications. Upper age around 30. Box 37/201

Houseboy. Young man accustomed to hard work required as houseboy. Write with photo and experience. Box 37/156
Chairman of public company seeks 25-35 discreet well spoken presentable young man as personal assistant. Driving license essential. Based in London. Write with photo and details giving phone number to Box 37/157
Scotts student (18) seeks summer work, July-Sept. Anything legal, anywhere, considered. Box 37/183
Gay conveyancing clerk, fed up with pretence in straight office, seeks gay employer (work only) London or partnership in small antique shop. Box 37/184

Professional young photographer preparing book on the unusual but beautiful, needs models, drag artists, muscle builders, tattoos, hairless, etc. £5 per hour. Studio central London. Photo please. Box 37/98
Conscientious domesticated male 39 GN33 personal 35, employment, having received no offers seeks any area from Bristol to Cornwall. Advertiser, Flat 7a, Central Avenue, Paignton, Devon. Qualified masseur seeks part or full time work. Box 37/104
Luxury hotel Spain seeks young very presentable appearance, build, non-feminine, willing workers. Interests gardening, cooking, domestic, swimming, sunbathing, massage etc. Full personal details, interests, photo, to Box 37/105

Hardworking, responsible and pleasant looking article clerk (25) seeks transfer of article to a Chartered Accountant. Box 37/200
Gentleman, 23, full drivers licence, quality member, good education, excellent references, widely experienced, bored, frustrated and unfulfilled in life, seeks opportunities for interesting employment. Box 37/198
Working manager required for small Pizza bar and cafe opening shortly in business area of Humberstone Town. Suitable for ambitious young man prepared to build up business. Box 37/202
27 year old requires part-time work. Hours to fit in with my modelling work. Box 37/199

Classified

Boy photographs for sale while stocks last. Colour prints of young boys in swim/trunks 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 Breakspurs Road, London SE4. Sorry no callers please.
For gay penpals. The Gaytime Friendship Society (AAC) BCM/GF Mono House, Red Lion Square, London WC1. For details send SAE stating age.
Greg, young qualified masseur, seeks genuine interesting work. 727 8322

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

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.

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.

"I'm going to change my job!"
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"Who's there?"
"CMP. Got loads of jobs for Programmers, and Systems Analysts at around £2-3/1k."
"Get you!"
"You could come with me. You've got about 2 1/2 years' experience."
"CMP?"
"Yes, stands for Computer and Management Personnel. They're part of Computer and Management Education Services."
"The Software Problem Solvers!"
"Right!"
"I'll ring 'em first. Got their number?"
"01-930 5914."

Relaxing massage by genuine experienced masseur. For appointment call 603 8748 Telefriends Nursing Service, London. Please ring before 10am. 385 5939
Look disher by Spring! Start yoga now. Benefits any age. Ross Nilsen, 01-602 0721. Genuine massage also available.

Events at Christmas
Xmas Day, free admission 8.30-11.30pm Boxing Day, 75p admission "Fancy Dress" 8.30 till 2am (Buffet supper incl) New Years Eve, 65p admission "Drag" 8.30 till 2am (Buffet supper incl) Including Mannequin Parade.
Cash Prizes.
Birds Nest Club, Kings Road, Boating Lake, CLEETHORPES, Lincs.

Super studs! No 1 athletic above limited edition. £1.00 from John S Barrington, 86 Castelnau, London SW13

All gas central heating beautifully installed by experts. Gas Board approved. CORGI, London and South East. Free advice, 01-568 8626. No deposit, ten year finance 10%

A Gay Sex Magazine? This is what "Follow-Up Magazine" is becoming! In our second year of publication, "Follow-Up" is getting down to brass tacks and becoming more controversial and direct in its approach to sex problems. Why does an attractive young man "expose" himself in public? Who dares to discuss Homosexual Children? With nudes and penfriends and advice columns on sexual and social problems, "Follow-Up" is well worth trying at 75p. If you don't see it in your local bookshop, send for a current issue NOW! Studio Publications, 200d Ralinton Road, Herne Hill, London SE24. If you are happy at the idea of appearing in the nude in a Sex Magazine, why not send a recent photo of yourself at the same time? We are always looking for good models for "Follow-up" and for "Boys Express" magazines.

Magazines: "Exciting Men" £1, "Taurus" £2.25, "Boys Exclusive" £2. (Lists see) Johnny, BM/FBGH, London WC1V 6XX
Good looking glamour boys, under 5'10", with own way-out gear, wanted for my 'Glad Rags' colour photo series. Modest fee. Larry Knight, 01-286 5705

Why expose yourself to staring eyes? In the privacy of an entirely gay bookshop you can look around our wide range of gay magazines at reasonable prices! Call at 12 Rymer Street, near Herne Hill Station, 10 minutes from Victoria!

Genuine palmist Clairvoyant. Phone Mr L before 6pm 01-997 4113
7" contoured vibrator/massagers. £1 postpaid. Pleasantries (regd), Postal Division GN/11, 24 Cranbourne Street, London WC2H 7AA

Need rewiring? Lighting and electrical work, also interior decorating service 388-3358 (evenings)

Penfriends. Discreet introductions. See for details to Great Expectations, PO Box 148, 31/33 Court Yard, London SE9 5DD
Male therapist for body massage. Phone 229 6565

Open up your minds, make extra cash. Pin money Digest keeps you informed of latest schemes. Out quarterly. For sample copy send 50p to R Greatbatch, PO Box 779 London W5 4EL

New Gay Disco Club for men and women "THE UPSTAIRS ROOM" Festival Inn, 47 Dorset Road, Stockwell SW8. Tel 01-735 2932. Fully licensed disco, best music with resident disc jockey. Open Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 7.00pm to 11.00pm. "Christmas extensions", Christmas Eve, Boxing Day and New Years Eve.

Christmas & New Year Information

HELLO SAILOR DANCE. Liverpool CHE Xmas party on board the Royal Iris setting off from Pierhead at 8pm on Sat 15th Dec. Tickets £1

XMAS PARTY DISCO by East London CHE on Tues 18th Dec, 8-11.30pm at the Angel (side entrance, first floor), Ilford High St. Admission 25p. All welcome.

MANCHESTER CHE FANCY DRESS party and Dance, Fri 21st Dec at Withington Town Hall, Lapwing Lane, Manchester. Fancy Dress optional with prizes for the most original. Tickets £1 with SAE from Derek Jones, 24 Lapwing Lane, Manchester M20 8NS. Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to CHE.

PRESTON CHE XMAS PARTY on Mon 24th December 8.30pm at the Concor Club, Neville Street, Southport. Bar & Disco till 2am. Prizes food etc. Tickets £1 from Preston CHE, P O Box 64, Preston, PR1 1LU

MANCHESTER CHE NEW YEARS EVE PARTY at Colin & Brians, 296 Palatine Road, Northenden, Ring 998 1191. Starts 8.30pm and costs 75p inclusive of food and wine.

CHRISTMAS AT CENTRE, Broadley Terrace, Lisson Grove, St Marylebone, London NW1 (tubes Marylebone, Edgware Road and Baker Street).
CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE and concert at Centre on Wed 19th Dec, 8.15pm. Refreshments later in Coffee Bar. XMAS DISCO on Fri 21st Dec 8pm at Centre. HIGH MIDNIGHT MASS OF CHRISTMAS at 12 midnight, Christmas Eve in Christ Church, Bell St NW1. DISCO on Fri 28th Dec at Centre. NEW YEARS EVE DISCO and Supper party on Mon 31st Dec. Advance tickets £1.

Gay Chilterns welcomes you to a Christmas Party on Friday 14th December from 8.30pm till late at 'The Beech Tree', Maxwell Road, Beaconsfield (entrance through lounge bar). Admission 60p to include food. This replaces party planned for the 15th December.

Sean's Christmas Guide to Brighton

- 14.12.73 - Longbranch Club - Mark Fleming in Cabaret.
- 18.12.73 - Regency Club - Annual Christmas Party - members and guests.
- 21.12.73 - Stanford Arms, Sussex GLF Christmas disco, New Curtain Club - Draw Night.
- 23.12.73 - Forty Two Club - members Christmas Party
- Christmas Eve - New Curtain Club - late night extension. Queen of Clubs - late night extension.
- Christmas Day - Regency Club open 1.00-3.00pm and 8.30-11.30 pm. Christmas lunch at Twitten Rest.
- Boxing Day - The Regency, Longbranch Forty Two and New Curtain Clubs have late night extensions etc.
- New Years Eve - Royal Albion Hotel Dance and Buffet. Cabaret: "The Chilternburgs". Music, Sussex GLF disco Regency Club - Gay 'Twenties' party.
- St Albans Club: Fancy Dress party - members and guests. Forty Two Club - 'Saints and Sinners' night
- Longbranch Club - Cabaret Queen of Clubs - late night extension.
- New Curtain Club - late night extension
- New Years Day - New Curtain Club - late night extension.

General Information

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 402 6750 Mon to Fri 7.30pm-9.30pm when a visit can be arranged.

BRISTOL GAYSOC BEFRIENDING GROUP provides a sympathetic ear for gay students with problems or worries. Service extended to all Bristol Students. Contact Jo, Gaysoc, Students Union, Queens Road, Bristol, BS8 1LN for an informal meeting.

BRISTOL GAYSOC is for all young people. Regular meetings on Thurs evenings 7.30pm in Gramophone Room of the Students Union. Info write to Secretary, Bristol Gaysoc, Students Union, Queens Road, Bristol BS8 1LN
SHEFFIELD GAYSOC embraces CHE, GLF and those who don't go in for organisations too. Discussions, campaigns, and exciting social activities. Not just for the University, but for all gay, bi and sympathetic men and women at educational institutions in the area. Write to us via Societies Pigeon Holes, Students Union, University, Western Bank, Sheffield 10 or ring Sheffield 306930

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 Halesland 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, Romsey 512959
UNIVERSITY OF SURREY GAY SOC contact David Reeks, Student Pigeon Holes, University of Surrey, Guildford.
MENTAL PATIENTS UNION research group needs written evidence on the effects of electro-convulsive therapy, brain surgery and psychiatric drugs. All information will be treated confidentially. Details to MPY, 97 Prince of Wales Road, NWS

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: 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. BS9 7ND

ABORTION, CONTRACEPTION, ENTERTAINMENT, transport, legal service, jobs, alternative? Work, food, hitch-hiking, cheap furnishing, communications, shelter, late night services, accommodation, free services, ad infinitum... Contact Nutshell Information Service, phone Birmingham 772 2483, 24 hours every day, (ask for Nutshell as we share a line with St Basil's Centre)

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. Community Service 8pm Sundays, West Kensington. Details: FCL c/o 61 Earls Court Square, London SW5.

HELP/INFORMATION/COFFEE at Bethnal Rouse, a bookshop run by a collective of gay people. 248 Bethnal Green Road, London E2. Tube - Bethnal Green. Birs - A

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

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

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

CENTRE, London's Gay Counselling Organisation offers a warm welcome to homosexuals at Centre, Broadley Terrace, NW1. Ring 01-262 9595. Open Monday to Friday 7pm-10pm. Free medical, legal and general advice for men, women and youngsters. Disco every Friday at 8pm-12. Coffee bar from 7pm.

FRIENDS' HOMOSEXUAL FELLOWSHIP. A Gay group for Quakers. Details from Michael Hutchinson, 15 Dalketh 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. 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.

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

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

NATIONWIDE TRANSVESTITE 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 Sibley 2048
LEICESTER GAY AWARENESS GROUP. Ring Leicester 706500 (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, NWS
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 dependents 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 ICEBRAKERS at 274 9590 between 7.30 and 10.30 every evening of the year to talk over their problems with other gay people.

MENTAL PATIENTS UNION. Leeds and District Branch meet every two weeks. Contact Ian Everton, 16 Quarry Mount Street, Leeds 6

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 Hall Lane, Longsight, Manchester M13 0XJ

BATH GAY AWARENESS GROUP meets Thursdays 8pm. Info from P O Box 86, Bath, BA1 2YQ
MOLIN DISCO CLUB (Girls 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, Wivehoe Park, Colchester, Essex. GAYPRINTS. Faggots and the revolution etc has now changed address to Gayprints, Box GP, 197 Kings Cross Road, London WC1

TRANSVESTITE 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 GROUP FOR HOMOSEXUALS Open to all students Advice, information, befriending service, social meetings and action.

Details: Rush, 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

OWING to an extreme shortage of space in this issue, we are unable to print the gay organisation information, apart from the telephone numbers of their head offices.

CAMPAIGN FOR HOMOSEXUAL EQUALITY:
Manchester - 061-228 1985
London - 01-437 7363

GAY LIBERATION FRONT:
01-837 7174

SCOTTISH MINORITIES GROUP
041-771 7600

The majority of this information remains unchanged from the last issue

Brighton Correspondent

BRIGHTON: GN now has its very own correspondent for the area. He is Brighton-born Sean Aubrey. Sean is twenty-five and has been active in local gay organisations for nearly two years.

Persons who are organising gay events locally for which they would like GN coverage, and any other persons having news of gay interest are asked to contact him (in writing ONLY, please) at 67, Vere Road, Brighton.



December 21 to January 19
Sandwiched between the bubbling hot spirits of SAGITTARIUS and the mystic humanitarianism of AQUARIUS, is a very disturbing and dark sign, CAPRICORN.

No bright, cheerful, uplifting or inspiring qualities here, but gloom, seriousness and introversion. There is a place in the Zodiac year for even these qualities, and yet it's still one of those eternal puzzles that they should occur in the sign which starts off by celebrating Christmas and then goes on to bring in the New Year, progressing well into the first month of the winter season. Part of the answer lies with Saturn, the bringer of old age. The planet which rules CAPRICORN, and is also much concerned with the present rulers of this country. These planetary influences are disrupting the economy, bringing far-reaching changes; but as many of them will be of eventual benefit, there is a place for Saturn as well.

How does all of this affect the gay CAPRICORN? For a start, it's not a very gay CAPRICORN at all. Prone to skin complaints, rheumatism, inhibitions, unromantic notions, and a deep desire to get you in a corner to discuss money matters rather than love. Hardly the most fascinating of the twelve Zodiac signs, unless you happen to be another CAPRICORN. There is a slightly brighter side to CAPRICORN. Their incessant Saturnian depressions do lift to reveal a very practical nature, with an inbuilt ability to reason out their mostly self-inflicted problems. Ambition, which all CAPRICORNIANS possess, will influence most of any decisions they make.

CAPRICORN subjects are tied to their families and parents, a trait only equalled by CANCERIAN. A CAPRICORN Star-Gay will most certainly rush home for Christmas if possible, or insist that Mother comes over for the week, against all opposition from partners. Family rather than lover always has to come first.

CAPRICORNIAN success appears in their later years, the earlier period tending to be slog, only varied by longer hours of work, and more slog. As CAPRICORN people are often very moral as well, this leads to very self-righteous and dull gays indeed. Fortunately, CAPRICORNIANS can be diverted from work and family, career ambitions, or the pages of the Financial Times, and dragged off to a theatre or comedy film. They are then quite diverting companions, always provided they don't drop off to sleep or insist on heading for the nearest bar, where they appear to have shares in most of Scotland's distilleries.

To be a CAPRICORN is something of an occupational hazard, which few of them can handle or even understand. As other Star-Gays find it difficult too, CAPRICORNIANS become very tense and resort to still more work. But they are really the salt of the earth - after all they are an Earth sign - reliable to a fault. They live to a great age, spreading their somewhat dour influences about them, finally becoming respected, cared for and sometimes loved.

Just think of those elderly, spritely, monied, retired friends living by the sea; kind, affectionate, throwing stately dinners and, very occasionally, a nearly-wild party. You will most likely find amongst them a gay CAPRICORN, reaping the benefits of his early investments, out to enjoy life at last, before deciding to opt out of living altogether. And making sure that if it can't be taken with him, there's nothing left to leave behind!

It takes a lot of confidence to call a typesetting firm BLOT. We have that confidence. And for good reason.



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NEWSETTES

■ Sodom and Gomorrah Billed for Malvern

MALVERN: The cat is out of the bag. News has trickled through to local residents that a crowd of screaming fiends from CHE are to descend on the town, molest every child within a two-mile radius of the men's lavatories, raping young greengrocers' assistants, and generally causing debauched mayhem, under the camouflage of holding their annual conference there.

Mr R J Bosley of 38 Graham Road was quick to remind us that "homosexuality as we understand it today is, to put it bluntly, a form of legalised male prostitution." His letter to the weekly Malvern Gazette continues: "Over the years the Winter Gardens has been graced by many distinguished personalities, including Sir Edward Elgar and Bernard Shaw. Nobody, I feel certain, wants to see this historic building contaminated, as it will be if next year's plans go ahead. Even in this permissive age, not all of us have warped minds, and we try to live up to a set standard of morals."

Doubtless the Campaign for Homosexual Equality will take due notice of Mr Bosley's letter — and continue with their plans exactly as before.

■ Only Kippers Need Curing

EXETER: The Exeter Gay Liberation Group is angry about "advice and treatment" which the University's medical officer is offering to gay students. Gay Lib say they are offering fun and friendship as much more useful alternatives.

Questioned about his 'treatment' offers, the medical officer, Dr Johnson, said that many students, and particularly those who were planning to enter the church or the teaching profession, were anxious about their sexual preferences. He claimed he could put them in touch with doctors, who would help and 'cure' them.

But the Gay Lib group insists that gays who are anxious in this way need the sympathy and support of all people to discover that gay life can be just as satisfying and fulfilling as the 'normal' heterosexual life style.

■ New South Coast Club

BRIGHTON: Latest addition to the town's gay scene is a new club called 'The Gay Cavalier'. The club at present occupies the same premises as the gay Twitten restaurant, in Middle Street, and is under the same management. Ray, who arrived from Birmingham in June and runs the restaurant with his mother, stresses that the late night entrance fee (40p to members; 50p to their guests) includes the price of a "really good" snack-supper. Subject to Council approval, he hopes to develop the Twitten's basement to provide separate and spacious club facilities for 'gay cavaliers' and friends.

■ Carlisle MP Impressed

CARLISLE: The Border Country Scottish Minorities Group is alive and well, is the news we hear from Richard Webster. As well as an extremely successful party, they held a businesslike meeting attended by more than twenty people recently, at which Ian Christie explained the provisions of the SMG draft reform bill. Besides attracting local members, a number of hets attended, including Janet Husband, secretary of the Council of Social Services, two local Samaritans (including the Director) and Mr and Ms Lewis (Ron Lewis is Labour MP for Carlisle) who came with the local Labour Party agent.

Ian Christie was on form, and the discussion that followed was lively, helped along by a remark from the grey-haired Samaritan woman who commented it was high time gays in this country emulated the militancy of American gays in fighting for our rights.

Ron Lewis was not going to be drawn into the discussion, "I'm only here to listen". But after the evening was over he declared himself "extremely impressed with a very worthwhile evening."

To contact the group, write to Richard Webster at 2 Cowpasture Cottages, Newbiggin, Penrith, or phone Janette Husband on Carlisle 25177.)

■ Mersey Friend

LIVERPOOL: The Merseyside branch of FRIEND had a poor response when it contacted social work agencies in the area. One Liverpool branch of the Social Service invited FRIEND to send a speaker to talk things over, but the rest either did not bother to reply, or said they were not interested and did not recognise FRIEND's existence. Fortunately, a large number of gay people in the area do recognise their existence, and the organisation has been able to help with every problem under the sun, whether legal, medical, employment and so on.

■ Board To Check All Discrimination

LONDON: The Government has been urged to set up an anti-discrimination board to handle complaints of all forms of discrimination.

The suggestion comes from the Runnymede Trust in a reply to the Government's Green Paper on equal opportunities for men and women. The reply is the work of Ms Katya Lester who has gone much further than the government proposals, suggesting that there should be legislation to cover all forms of discrimination including sex, race, religion and age. This legislation would be backed up by a board somewhat similar to the present Race Relations Board. But the new board would have additional powers, enabling them to compel witnesses to attend, and demand disclosure of records.

Gay News asked Ms Lester whether the report, which will be published shortly, dealt specifically with homosexuality. She replied that she had not mentioned homosexuality, admitting that the thought hadn't occurred to her. But she hoped that it would be taken as implied in the section relating to sex discrimination.

The Home Office is at present examining a number of reports submitted to it, following the publication of the Green Paper.

■ Gay Group Floundering?

BRIGHTON: Is the local Campaign for Homosexual Equality group about to join the Great Auk and the Dodo as an extinct species? This is the question that is currently plaguing the dedicated but undermanned committee of Brighton CHE. Writing in their November newsletter, under the heading "Our Plans for Nineteen Seventy-Four", they point out attendances at recent meetings have been "minute" and the group is still without a convenor. They conclude: "We suppose the reason for all this is that Brighton has such a thriving gay scene that younger people look to the pubs and clubs for their gay social life; CHE can't begin to compete, and what would be the point?" That perhaps is one of the questions members of Brighton CHE need to ask themselves.

■ McGovern's Services Bill

WASHINGTON: Sen George McGovern and others have introduced a Bill in Congress which will forbid the military services from indicating reasons for discharge.

This means that any sacked gay serviceman would not have the reason stated on his discharge certificate.

■ Orleans Blaze Confession Phony

NEW ORLEANS: The local district attorney's office has refused to accept charges of murder and arson against Raymond Wallender. 32-year-old Wallender had previously 'confessed' to starting the fire in the Up Stairs Bar which killed 32 gays and their friends.

But after 12 days of close questioning by police, the law office has decided that he was not the man they were after. There were a number of discrepancies in his story, which did not fit in with police and fire department evidence. There was no trace amongst the debris of a lighter which he said he had used to start the petrol fire, and the New Orleans fire department has denied that traces of petrol were found in the woodwork at the point where the fire is believed to have started.

First Assistant District Attorney John Volz said that Wallender had begun denying his confession almost as soon as he got to New Orleans, but he had been held for further questioning. He would probably be released after a preliminary hearing in a magistrate's court.

■ Gay Girls Soccer Match

LONDON: A team of gay girls will be taking over Brockwell Park, Herne Hill, London SE24 when Molin's Disco field its players in a match against the Virgin Bells Hockey Team. Kick-off is at 12.00 on December 16, and proceeds from the game will go to old age pensioners and children suffering from spina bifida. There'll be a booze-up after the game.

■ End Ban, Demands SMG

GLASGOW: In an effort to lift the ban on the sale of Gay News in the most popular Glasgow pub, The Duke Of Wellington, the local SMG group launched a petition which was signed by 91 gay and non-gay patrons. The pub is owned by Scottish and Newcastle Breweries Limited who have said that "members of the public were offended by the newspaper sales". Glasgow SMG has found no evidence of this. They wrote to S & N a month ago, but the brewery has failed to give a satisfactory reply. Bailie Gunn, scourge of SMG at the time of the Second Annual Conference in Glasgow, told an SMG meeting at which he was guest speaker: "I, too, go to the Duke . . . to meet a friend."

Ian Dunn

■ Larry Grayson and Window Dressers

LONDON: Now that Danny La Rue has hung his tits up, it appears that Larry Grayson is to step into his shoes as leading show-biz specialist in making money out of public contempt for homosexuals.

His latest venture is to sponsor vinyl window blinds in advertisements for Storeys. Under the heading 'Larry Grayson loves Window Dressers', there follows a string of cheap jibes in the vein of: 'Oooh, they're so pretty, and there are so many gay designs to choose from', and 'All you do is give them your measurements (window measurements, that is).'

The advertisement appeared in the Liverpool Echo.

■ Gay Time Waster

NEWCASTLE: James Robbins, a gay 40-year-old, was put on three years probation with psychiatric treatment for wasting police time. He was also fined £75 for sending obscene material through the post, and ordered to pay £25 costs.

Following the murder of an eleven year old near Newcastle, Robbins wrote anonymously to the police claiming to know the murderer, and saying that the man frequented public lavatories in Chester-le-Street, Durham, Newcastle, South Shields and Teesside. He continued writing 'helpful' letters for about a year, and the police, acting on his information, patrolled cottages and interviewed 276 people, many of them gay.

Defence counsel said that Robbins was jealous of the amount of time his boy friend, a photographer, spent cottaging, and he wanted to make public lavatories so well patrolled that his friend would decide it was safer to stay at home.

The police cottage patrol exercise involved five different police forces in 3,693 hours of work, which the Newcastle magistrates referred to as a 'waste of time'.

It seems however that in most other parts of the country, the police are able to waste their own time quite freely in visiting lavatories to catch homosexuals. Magistrates have never suggested before that time thus spent was 'wasted'. Are things looking up?

■ Government Doubts Over Human Rights

LONDON: The National Campaign for Civil Liberties has called on gay organisations to help with its campaign to persuade the Government to renew the rights of individuals to petition the European Commission of Human Rights at Strasbourg.

The Convention on Human Rights was ratified by the United Kingdom Government in 1951 but the right for individuals to petition the Commission for alleged breaches of the convention was not conceded until 1966. And the right to petition expires on 13th January 1974.

There are signs that the Conservatives are considering letting the right expire without renewing it. As recently as 24th October 1973, the Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Anthony Royle, refused to state the Government's intentions, despite a series of Parliamentary questions from Mr Fred Wiley, Mr David Steel and Sir Elwyn Jones.

The NCCL says "The importance of the right for individual citizens to seek redress against breaches of the convention committed by its own government cannot be underestimated. It is probably the most advanced form of human rights protection in the world today."

It would be a simple process for the government to renew the right. So far they have given no reasons for wishing to have it revoked, but it appears possible that it may be allowed to lapse.

The Campaign for Homosexual Equality and the Scottish Minorities Group are concerned about the future of the convention, and they will be giving active support to the NCCL in this campaign.

■ Pro-Gay Schoolbook Blast

TEXAS: A fifth-grade school text book which makes several pro-gay statements is being vigorously opposed here by parents of children attending the school. The book states that America's treatment of gays was "revolting, shameless hypocrisy."

■ Police Draw Blood

LONDON: The Eros Cinema in Piccadilly Circus is still subject to police scrutiny. And the velvet gloves appear to be off.

A reader, who was watching a film there a week ago, reported that he heard shouts coming from the men's lavatory. An instant later, two guys were dragged out shouting, across the front of the screen. One shook himself free of the plain clothes man who had grabbed him, and ran upstairs. The police gave chase, and took the man outside. When our eye-witness left, he found one of the men in the passage outside lying on the ground with a stool on top of him, and blood streaming down his face.

The two plainclothes men later took both men by van to Vine Street police station.

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