

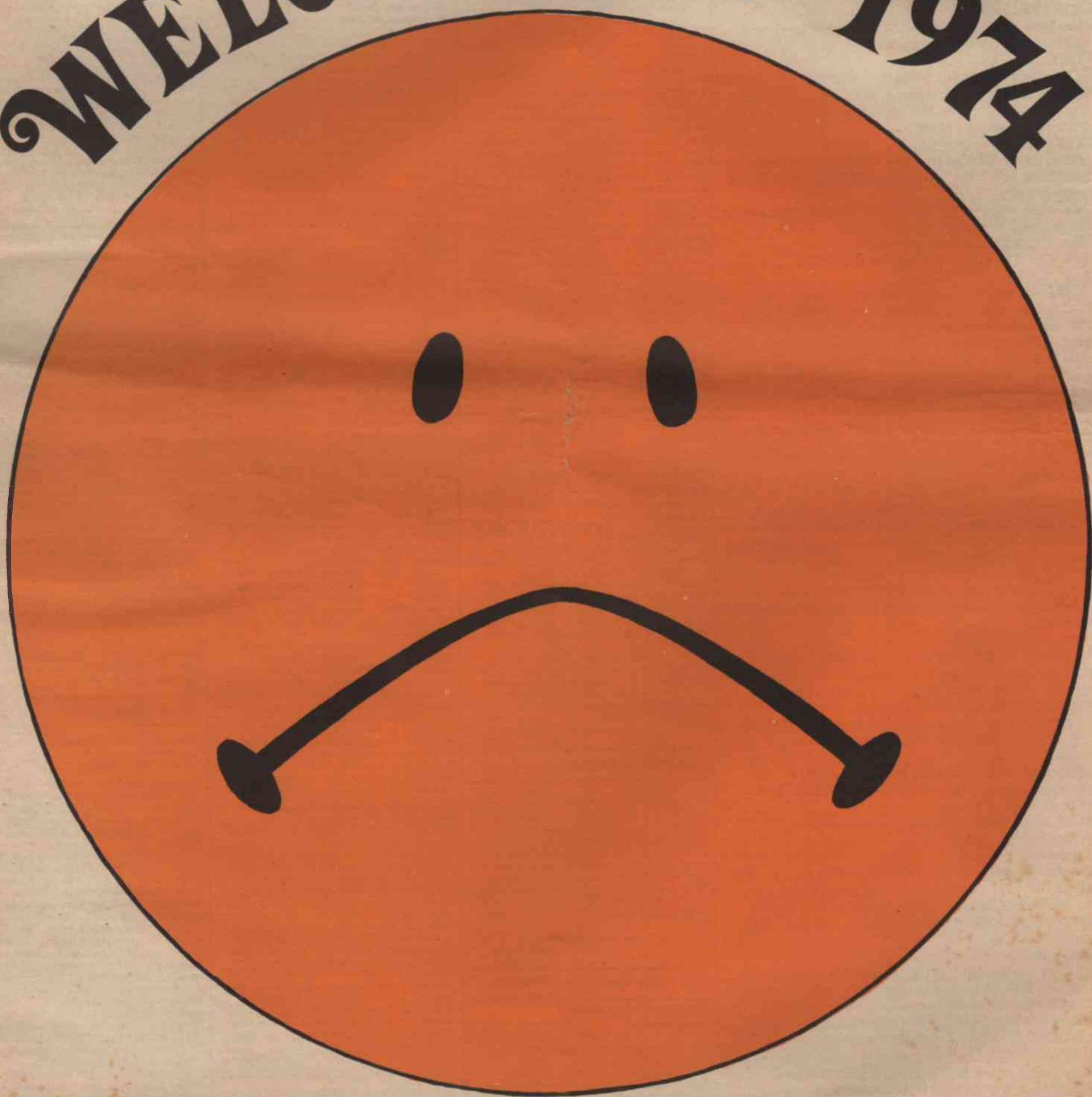
N°38

GAY NEWS

15p

"A DIFFERENT JOURNEY TO THE SAME END"

WELCOME TO 1974



GAY NEWS

Number 38
January 17-30

...And A New Year To You Too

EDITOR: Hello, hello. Happy New Year. A merry and gay 1974 to you, old friend.

REPORTER: Huh?

E: The New Year, you know. Starts at the beginning of January. A whole twelve months of it.

R: That's nice.

E: It's a challenge, that's what it is. Our chance to make the world a better place for gays to live in. Twenty-five editions of a new and revitalised paper. Lots of change, lots of new ideas.

R: Yeah?

E: Yes, I mean, look at this first edition. New style headlines, new page layouts, a new look to it. Wow!

R: New price?

E: NO! How can you be so cynical. I mean, we have to change with the times.

R: The Times has gone up a penny.

E: No, fool. The *times*, the age we live in.

R: Oh.

E: And I've been making whole heaps of New Year resolutions. Lots and lots and lots of them. About the paper and what we're going to do with it this year. About maintaining the highest journalistic standards, our professional and ethical integrity. Standards to be pursued with resourcefulness and sincerity in the weeks ahead. None of your "I think I can fix an interview if..."

R: I never did. He just offered me coffee.

E: I don't want to know. It's the readers I'm thinking of, how to improve our services to them. Oh! it's so exciting.

R: Is it?

E: Oh yes, indeed. I mean to begin with we're going to do an in-depth survey about attitudes towards homosexuality held by members of various political parties. In the light of...

R: What light... what heat... what the hell.

E: ... as I was saying; in the light of the eagerly anticipated general election. A who-to-vote-for-guide for readers.

R: Very exciting.

E: But that's not all, that's not even *half* of it. We shall be fostering a greater awareness of our gay cousins in Europe, to promote a greater understanding of our common problems.

R: ... only a year after joining the Common Market.

E: I shall be off to Holland to investigate in-depth the state of gay organisations over there, and to bring readers up to date with an in-depth survey of the gay social scene, particularly in Amsterdam. It'll be hard work, I admit.

R: More like a dirty weekend in a sauna bath.

E: What? Sorry?

R: I didn't say a word.

E: Oh well anyway; I'll be going to Dublin too, to sort things out over there. Talk to the people who are launching the Irish gay struggle, speak to a few of the politicians about social attitudes, try and bring readers a survey...

R: In-depth?

E: Exactly, an *in-depth* survey about the Emerald Isle. Yes, and Belfast too, of course. I thought it would make a good piece that one. Gay News fearlessly interviews bisexual Catholic priest in the rubble of a bombed gay club. The walls crumble around them as tongues of fire lick through the ruins. The odd stray bullet ricochets whiningly past them. A wounded dog whimpers in the deserted street outside, as the menacing rumble of tanks grows louder and louder... I thought you might like to do that one. Get out of the office for a bit. Get a change of scene.

R: Thanks.

E: Don't mention it.

R: I won't.

E: Happy New Year

R: *****

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 keep your letters as brief as possible. We regret that it may sometimes be necessary to shorten your letters.

Gay Promiscuity Less Disruptive

Hampstead, London NW3

Dear Gay News,

Dr West said (according to GN36) that the only figures available about homosexuality were from people who had been arrested by the police or become patients of a psychiatrist; and were better than nothing. But in my research (*The Sociological Aspects of Homosexuality*, published by Longmans in 1965) I was able to report on a group of homosexuals who had not been convicted, nor been patients.

This is what I said about them: "The typical homosexual seems to have few of the vices that people ascribe to the stereotype of a homosexual. This stereotype is the result of studies made in prisons and clinics and is not very accurate. When compared with the ordinary man, the typical homosexual has few marked differences apart from his choice of sexual partner."

West also said that I have demonstrated the promiscuity of homosexuals. In fact I reported that among the gay men who were neither convicted, nor patients, over half were not promiscuous. About the others I wrote:

"But promiscuity is not a homosexual vice. The mass media often represents sexual promiscuity as being quite a normal state of affairs and encourages an attitude where passion is more important than affection. It is possible to argue that homosexual promiscuity is less damaging socially than fornication or adultery. No illegitimate children, fewer broken marriages, less chance of VD except for those who seek anal intercourse, no cruel advantages taken of defenceless women, all these can be listed to show that homosexual promiscuity is less disruptive than is heterosexual promiscuity."

I wrote that ten years ago. Things have altered since then and naturally I have changed my ideas about some things. But even that long ago, when it was fashionable for liberals to feel sorry for gays, I was insisting that homosexuals were not sick and I wrote: "Homosexual patients are not typical homosexuals and doctors should not generalise from their experience with patients."

Michael Schofield

'Homophile' - A Closet Queen Euphemism

London W4

Dear Gay News,

"Homophile" (letters, GN37) should come out of his closet.

The word 'homophile' is a stupid cowardly euphemism - and one only uses euphemisms when there is something wrong with the ordinary word. I see nothing wrong with the word 'homosexual' and Gay News would be selling out if it dropped it from the front page.

We should be proud to be gay and that means proud to be homosexual. We should not hide behind a closet queen euphemism.

In the memorable phrase in a letter in an earlier GN, 'homophile' should wear his pansy with pride.

Dick Bird

Remarkably Perceptive

Dear Gay News,

The article by Fr Fabian Cowper - with the two poems by TS Eliot and WH Auden (GN37) - was a remarkably perceptive analysis of familiar thoughts and feelings at Christmas time. Fr Cowper writes with sensitivity and sympathy while at the same time making logical suggestions and giving helpful advice. The ability to do this is by no means common. Can Fr Fabian Cowper be persuaded to contribute further articles please.

Sorry, I have to remain anon.

A Loyal Reader

If It's Gay News, It's Offensive

West Kensington, London

Dear Gay News,

I know it's the Christmas Season and Christians are encouraged to be charitable, but I am forced to write after seeing a cover as cliched and hackneyed as your Christmas issue. But to really move onto a distasteful subject, I refer to the preceding issue which carried the headline "Is Gay Offensive?" - my answer is yes, if it's Gay News. The Editorial reeked of gay self-hatred and spinelessness.

Why do the bulk of your headlines carry question marks? Do your writers have confidence in anything, not necessarily the gay cause, even. The only wit and style I have come across in your paper was the 'Quicksilver' column, and in the past few issues that too has become as dull and leaden as ghetto pieces, such as "Is Gay Offensive?"

Everyone is entitled to their inadequacies, but inadequacies can only be overcome through braveness and - please can we have a shred of it - a sense of joy.

Gay News is enjoying a success it doesn't deserve, one buys it because it's the only thing of its type around. For Christ's sake, stop taking yourselves so seriously, see the objective, and give us a little fun along the way.

Jannie Blackley (Ms)

Less Isolated

Harlow, Essex

Dear Gay News,

I have been a subscriber to Gay News from the first issue and am writing to state that your 'Christmas Special' was one of the most satisfactory editions yet.

As I spent the Christmas period alone, I found it helped a great deal to make me feel not quite so isolated. For this I must send you my most heartfelt thanks.

I sincerely hope that 1974 will be a very successful year to all responsible for such a worthy and needed publication.

Alan Stone

Speaking Personally

Campaign for Homosexual Equality,
28 Kennedy Street
Manchester M2 4BG

Dear Gay News,

Thank you for the superb interview and super cartoon in your last issue (GN37). There are however, one or two points which I think I should clarify.

All the views I expressed in that interview were completely personal and were not in any way an indication of official CHE policy. I only wished to give an indication of the way in which I would like to see the organisation develop.

Secondly, my comments were in no way intended to be critical of Paul Temperton, without whose hard work and loyalty to CHE during his time as General Secretary, the organisation would not have made the sort of progress it has so far. I am sorry that some people read the interview as a put-down of Paul's efforts.

I trust that the above will clarify the situation and allay the fears of those who seem to think I was planning a one-man coup.

Keep up the good work.

Howarth Penny,
General Secretary

Don't Leave Gay Rights To Someone Else

Balham, London SW12

Dear Gay News,

Well done Scottish Minorities Group. It's a pity that other groups don't emulate the painstaking efforts that you are putting into your proposed Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act (ED: see GN37).

It's also a pity that my MP (Ernest Perry) wasn't aware of the visit SMG made to Parliament. I wrote to him twice asking him to state his position on bringing Scotland and Northern Ireland in tune with England (legally speaking), eg on gay sex education, job discrimination and the age of consent. His eventual reply seemed to indicate that he was uninformed but willing to consider the legal reform. He said he had supported the 1967 Act "and think from what we have found out since that certain alterations are required." He went on "I am not sure that I support the reduction in the 'age of consent' without evidence, that they are mentally responsible and aware of what they are doing. Courts are notorious for varied decisions."

To get to the point of this letter, Howarth Penny's idea of a 'Fighting Group' to get to grips quickly with a situation as soon as they arise is a good one. He suggested that they could co-ordinate to send protest letters as soon as any nasties cropped up in the media. But surely an action group isn't needed to do that? Writing a letter takes so little time, involves the minimum of inconvenience and costs virtually nothing. Now supposing everyone who reads this were to write just one letter of protest about anything that appears in this issue of Gay News. Several newspapers, courts, colleges, police stations, etc would get thousands of complaints; and they would just have to take notice.

In order to create a climate for change, these groups of people who at present put us down MUST realise that they are not dealing with insubstantial vermin that they can kick under the carpet, but a vast body of people in all strata of society who care about their rights. So get all those pens out and don't leave it to someone else, because if you do then change is going to take that much longer.

Eric Eagle

Should Know Better

Pershore Road,
Birmingham

Dear Gay News,

I should like to protest strongly against the utterly false account of Freud's views on homosexuality given by Dr George Weinberg in the interview published in GN 37.

Quotation from Dr Weinberg: "Whatever Freud learned as a little boy became the attitude of psychoanalysis, only he presented it as a science. Whatever he was



Illustration: Jean-Claude Thevenin

taught, he believed and he taught it. His theories that homosexuals were stunted, sick, inferior also came from the local prejudice. Homosexuals were jailed, were punished and condemned by the Bible."

Quotation from Freud (in a well-known letter to the American mother of a homosexual son): "Homosexuality is assuredly no advantage, but it is nothing to be ashamed of, no vice, no degradation; it cannot be classified as an illness. Many highly respectable individuals of ancient and modern times have been homosexuals, several of the greatest men among them (Plato, Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, etc). It is a great injustice to persecute homosexuality as a crime - and a cruelty too. By asking me if I can help, you mean, I suppose, if I can abolish homosexuality and make normal heterosexuality take its place. The answer is, in a general way we cannot promise to achieve it... what analysis can do for your son runs in a different line. If he is unhappy, neurotic, torn by conflicts, inhibited in his social life, analysis may bring him harmony, peace of mind, full efficiency, whether he remains homosexual or gets changed."

It is particularly unfortunate that such a false and tendentious account of Freud's views on this subject should be propagated by someone who is himself a psychologist and should certainly know better.

Vincent Homolka

On A Point Of Information

Bath

Dear Gay News,

I feel I should write to correct a false impression which the letter of David Storey (GN36) may have given other readers.

It is true that, alone among the Australian states, South Australia has at least attempted some reform of its anti-gay laws. A private member's Bill, broadly based on the UK act of 1967, seeking to allow homosexual acts between consenting adults in private, was passed by the Legislative Assembly; however, the Legislative Council (the upper house) refused to pass the Bill until certain amendments were made. Chief among these was that homosexual acts, wherever committed and by whom, would remain illegal, but that it would be a DEFENCE if the persons concerned could prove that they were consenting adults, and that the act had taken place in private. A mitigating circumstance, in fact! Thus emasculated, the bill was duly passed. Consequently, homosexual acts continue to be an illegal offence throughout Australia.

I heartily endorse Mr Storey's main point, however, that gays who are legally responsible at 18 should be considered also physically responsible at 18, not at 21, as the law now stands.

Ian Hayward

ED: You will see in this issue more details about Western Australia's decision to legitimise homosexuality.

Accusations Unfair

National Union of Students
3 Endsleigh Street,
London WC1H 0DU

Dear Gay News,

I would like first to thank you very much for attending our NUS one-day Conference on Gay Rights and then for giving it such an excellent write-up (GN35)

It is a shame that this wretched Berlin Affair (GN35,36 and 37) has so clouded the work which NUS and its members have been doing in the Gay Rights Movement. Mr Steve Parry was duly censured at our recent Margate Conference for his actions in speaking and voting against the carrying of Peter Tatchell's banner and for subsequently tearing the banner down. The censure was supported by the Executive and by Steve himself. The issue was thoroughly debated at Conference to the satisfaction of the majority of delegates. Most of the gays at the Conference seemed satisfied with the outcome even if Peter didn't. I think that to suggest a whitewash took place is most unfair and a slur upon my character and honesty. I can well understand Peter's sentiments, but surely, people do make mistakes and we do have to forgive them, don't we? Even if they are members of the NUS Executive.

Let us all hope that the campaign continues unimpeded by these sad events and that we can all work together on what I personally believe to be one of the most important aspects of the NUS work - Gay Rights.

With love and solidarity,

Alastair Stewart,
NUS Executive

More letters on Page 8

Irish Gay Beginnings

Full Report On First Ever Irish Gay Conference



IRELAND: For Irish homosexuals the border question has little or no meaning — at least as far as their homosexuality is concerned. For neither the North nor the South allows gay to make love, whatever their age, wherever they do it, however many or few people are present.

It was in acknowledgement of their common problems that the first ever Gay Rights Conference in Ireland was organised by the Sexual Reform Movement on an all-Ireland basis.

The conference took place in Coleraine, at the New University of Ulster. It was an informal affair, and people who attended have commented on the warm welcome they received from the organisers and in particular from Don Gill of the SRM. The conference ranged over the whole area of sexual oppression, alternative sexuality, rather than examining any particular topic in depth — as one might well expect at a pioneering meeting of this kind.

About fifty people attended. Most were from Northern Ireland (mainly from Coleraine and Belfast). But there were half a dozen representatives from the Republic, and four delegates from England, including Al Stewart from the National Union of Students, two members of Exeter Gay Liberation Society, and a delegate from the Society of Friends' (Quakers') Homosexual Fellowship. About one third of those attending were women, and more than two thirds were students.

Don Gill presided and introduced the speakers.

First to speak was Al Stewart, who told the conference about NUS activity following the Gay Rights motion which initiated the student campaign. Talking about tactics, Al Stewart preferred to treat the problems faced by gays in the wider context of civil rights for all oppressed people, rather than seek change for gays alone. He pointed out that it was useless having national negotiations if negotiators were not supported at what he believed was called 'grass roots level'.

At this point a member of the audience intervened to speak about pederasts. He believed that Mr Stewart had suggested that they might make unsuitable teachers, and he opposed such a view. He claimed that psychological problems for the child involved with a pederast arose not from the relationship itself but rather from the subsequent fuss made about it by the outside world. He asked that gays be not so concerned with their own difficulties that they forgot about the oppression of other minorities like transvestites and pederasts, and he argued that there should be a complete rethinking of all human relationships.

Not everybody agreed with him, though. Several speakers supported the right of parents to ensure that their children should not be taught by a pederast.

The next speaker was the Quaker delegate. He pointed to the Quakers' record on the question of gay rights, mentioning the Society's 1964 publication 'Towards a Quaker View of Sex' which had advocated justice for homosexuals, and the recently published booklet 'Homosexuality From The Inside' which had been produced by the Friends' Homosexual Fellowship. He claimed to reconcile Christianity and homosexuality, and said that he was struck by the number of letters the Fellowship had received from gays with religious hang-ups and felt it of great importance to show such people that a reconciliation between their religious beliefs and their sexual orientation was possible. Briefly, he suggested that they should realise that both homosexuality and Christianity were about loving other people. He spoke also of the difficulties experienced

by older gays who had grown used to hiding their sexuality and were now trying to adjust to the changed climate.

Naturally, the attempt to reconcile religion and gayness split the conference. For those who looked back on the attitude of the church towards homosexuals down the ages, there never could be a reconciliation. But the Anglican Chaplain to the University pointed out that a negative attitude to sex was not part of the original Christian message, but a later addition much to be regretted. If one wanted eroticism, he said, one need really look no further than the Bible's Song of Songs. And he mentioned the distinguished modern theologian Norman Pittenger's book called 'Time for Consent'. But at this point someone from the audience got up to point out that the book was not sold openly, even in the book shop owned by the book's Belfast distributor, a shop which sold religious publications. This speaker claimed that he had posed as a Professor and telephoned the shop to order 40 copies for his class. The result, he said, was that 34 copies were left unsold under the counter, with the owners torn between their prudery and their desire for financial gain.

Terry Bruton of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association then explained why NICRA was showing an interest in gay rights, when civil rights were seen usually as affecting the whole population rather than just minority groups. He gave, as an example, the practice of internment which although it affected only a few people directly — those who were locked up, and their families — nevertheless implied something about the whole way in which their society worked. Similarly gay rights were a part of civil rights, and NICRA supported the theory, and would in future offer practical support to the cause. This message of support was very warmly received. Terry gave advice on tactics, based on his own political experiences, and told delegates to look for short term gains in the first place, rather than bay for the moon. It was important for as many gays as possible to come out into the open boldly, and seek acceptance, rather than to let one or two people shoulder the whole burden.

Fred Broughton, who spoke next, is a member of the Scottish Minorities Group studying at the New University of Ulster, and as a cost-saving exercise SMG appointed him their delegate. He told the conference about the activities of the group, both its social and local meetings, and its political work. Political action at the present time concentrated mainly on law reform. He mentioned the draft bill the group had published, to amend the Scottish law on homosexuality, which he hoped would be introduced as a Private Member's Bill.

The next part of the conference was the drawing up of a public statement about the Irish Gay Liberation Movement. Naturally there were no end of speakers who had amendments to suggest, and a lot of discussion followed. But eventually the following resolution was agreed on and adopted unanimously:

"This conference of women and men of varying sexual preference note the problems facing women and men who are sexually oppressed. We note the particular problems facing people in Ireland, with the effect of the 19th century legislation on sexual offences, the umbrella nature of the Northern Ireland Emergency Provisions Act, and the influence exerted, directly or indirectly, by the established Churches. We resolve to work in the future for the establishment of human rights for the sexually oppressed in society, noting that problems exist in all areas of civil liberties, these liberties being continuously ignored and rejected by the authorities at present controlling our society.

"We resolve to elect a steering committee of 6 to (a) keep activists aware of developments in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, (b) organise future meetings and (c) establish firm links with other groups active in gay rights and civil liberties (NICRA, CHE, GLF, NUS, SMG, etc). We also note and welcome the support given to this first ever meeting in Ireland by the Student Council of the New University of Ulster, the Registrar of the University, Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association, the National Union of Students, Queens University Belfast, and NIRSO, and friends and supporters from Britain."

The conference then elected the steering committee. Eight people will in fact sit on the committee, Don Gill (NUU SRM), Pat Knight (NUU SRM), Margaret McWilliam (Sappho, Dublin), Edmund Lynch (CHE, Dublin), Maeve Molloy (QUB), Margaret Ward (Belfast), Peter Bradley (Trinity College Dublin SRM) and Hugo McManus (Trinity College Dublin SRM).

Last to speak was Pat Knight on the double oppression of gay women: oppressed both as women and as homosexuals. No

argument about the second point, she said. But she said that as far as their oppression as women was concerned, contrary to what one would expect, and hope, gay men were not less chauvinistic than heterosexual men. Gay men dominated meetings, and placed their sisters in a subordinate role in much the same way as women in general were expected to play a subordinate role in society at large. Some sisters from Belfast disagreed with her, and asserted that if a woman allowed herself to be dominated in such a way she had not learned the lessons of liberation at all. It was pointed out that liberation is a process and not an event, that it has small beginnings rather than happening all at once, and if male gays are not aware of this, and act in the normal aggressive way as all males have been encouraged to do in our society, they will unconsciously crush the spirit of liberation before it has established itself in the woman. Some saw this as a good argument for women holding closed meetings when they could together develop this spirit of liberation.

Discussion on this continued after supper, but the discussion was somewhat inhibited by the number of people who were anxious to get away in order to go to the gay disco in nearby Portrush at 8 o'clock.

A vote of thanks was unanimously taken for all the effort put in by Don Gill in organising the conference, and making it such a success. And one and all adjourned to Portrush for what proved to be a very lively disco.

The Union of Students in Ireland (the equivalent of the British National Union of Students) was represented by Peter Bradley of Trinity College Dublin, a member of the new steering committee. He saw the conference as a very important event:

"It was the first practical step on the road to lifting sexual oppression in Ireland — which means of course, the oppression of individual men and women, among them, it goes without saying, members of USI. The discussion was good and the number taking part very satisfactory indeed considering this was the first conference. The fact that the disco was held in a public place, not in a private club, but a hotel open to the public, was of great significance in the Irish situation. I am told this too was a 'first'."



Don Gill of the Sexual Reform Movement

Peter thought it a shame that USI did not appear as one of the organisations actively supporting the conference. But he pointed out that even in Britain, the NUS had only had a gay rights policy since April 1973, despite the supposedly more liberal attitudes of Britain generally, and of students in particular. He thought it would need considerably more guts for an organisation in Ireland to take a stand on gay rights.

The National Council of USI had received a report on the matter in May 1973, and Peter hoped that USI might yet take some kind of stand on behalf of gays. He wants them to make a statement of support for the Irish Gay Liberation Movement, and for students to work with the movement in its campaign. There should be a member of USI's National Council with special responsibility for gay rights, though ideally two would be appointed — one a woman, one a man. One of their most important jobs would be the setting up of Gaysocs in Irish colleges. Education and research would take high priority in the general campaign, but strategy for large campaigns should be left in the hands of the all-Ireland steering committee.

"It may be thought," concluded Peter, "that with problems in Ireland and abroad, the Union of Students in Ireland has more important things to do than worry about homosexuals. But as Terry Bruton implies, where one is oppressed, all are affected. Let us add sexual oppression to the list of things we will work and fight to abolish."

Gay Blackmail...

or,

The Unacceptable Face Of Private Eye

LONDON: The Scourge of Capitalism, the Hampstead Establishment Myth-Deflater, Private Eye, seems to be suffering from a most excruciating form of knicker twisting.

Richard 'Some-of-my-best-friends-are-anonymous' Ingrams isn't too happy about these homosexuals. When elevated to the giddy heights of the editorial pages, they are transformed at a wave of his fairy wand into poofs, pansies or queers. (There are rumours that he is about to get really satirical and refer to Africans as coons or niggers).

So to maintain some form of editorial balance, the Campaign for Homosexual Equality is permitted to advertise in the Personal Ads Column. But Sappho magazine also advertises in Private Eye. So the Eye has come up with the most amazing solution to redress the balance.

Free illustrated compatibility book for those seeking loving partners. All categories. Discretion guaranteed. Send 4 x 3p stamps: R.P.I.P., 23 Arcadian Gardens, London N22 5AG.

Blackmailer uses 'Private Eye'

In the same column of the ads, in their latest edition, they carry one from Dennis Stanbury of the Happiness Club — whose gay blackmail rackets we exposed in Gay News 28, and in whom Scotland Yard took such an interest. This time he is peddling an illustrated 'compatibility book' for those seeking 'loving partners'. He of course promises that all correspondence will be treated with discretion, just as he discreetly demanded money from members of his Happiness Club. But in the interests of Press Freedom, and other sacred liberties, it is good to know that the Eye will continue to carry personal ads from the unacceptable creatures of capitalism.

GLF To Close Head Office

LONDON: The startling decision to abandon their Caledonian Offices was taken by the Gay Liberation Front at a crowded meeting on January 6th.

With only four regular members of the office collective left, it was becoming increasingly difficult for the organisation to provide an efficient service. Mail was left unanswered, and people who phoned the office often had trouble getting through.

David McLellan, a member of the collective who works at Housman's Bookshop above the GLF basement office, told us that the office would remain open until February 16th. GLF would be paying rent to Peace News, the landlords, until that time when it was hoped that a new tenant would be taking over.

There is no confirmation yet, but it is believed that another gay organisation will be taking over. So it is perhaps too soon to scratch the Caledonian Road address from your little black notebook.

After The Ball

IRELAND: The Coleraine meeting was only the start. That's the message delegates and organisers alike took away with them when the gathering ended.

And plans are already under way to take the campaign out to the general public. Coleraine itself will be holding public meetings outside the university in Portstewart, Portrush, Coleraine town and hopefully Derry. Dubliners will be concentrating their efforts on the Upper House of the Dail (the Republic's Parliament). Dublin Campaign for Homosexual Equality has taken on the job of dealing with the Council of Ireland. And in the North again, Coleraine plans to contact the Northern Ireland Assembly — once there is a functioning Assembly to get in touch with!

All this hard work is to start in earnest in February and March. We wish them luck.

Under Plain Cover

Gay News receives many letters from would-be subscribers anxiously enquiring whether the paper is sent under plain cover in a sealed envelope. There is a great deal of paranoia still about having copies sent.

It therefore amused us to receive a letter from a friend in Northern Ireland which began:

"Dear GN — First of all, thanks for the two copies of GN that you have sent so far. Actually I am not used to receiving large, bulky, unmarked packages and they tend to cause some paranoia, so I would welcome it if you just wrote Gay News on the back to let me know that it is safe to open..."

Welsh For 'Gay'

"Unnatural, corrupting, against the law of God, vile, immoral, ungodly, against the law of nature, nightmarish, grotesque, nauseating, sin, sickness, perversion, deviation, abomination, horror, sexual perverts."

Gay News regularly receives newspaper clippings from an agency, and tucked in each bundle of stories, there are always a couple of letters to the editor of this or that local newspaper.

They are usually the result of some recent news story, perhaps the Campaign for Homosexual Equality has been allowed to hold a meeting in the town hall, or the Gay Liberation Front has leafleted a shopping centre. Usually, by the time copies of the letters reach us, the whole episode is months out of date and they are simply dropped into the editorial Out-Tray.

But it occurred to us that they might be of interest to readers. So we've tried an experiment.

Before Christmas we published a story about Newport CHE. The group had arranged to meet the Newport Education Committee to discuss possible discrimination against employing gay teachers, and to raise the question of gay sex education in local schools. A local councillor learnt of the plans and lifted her hands and voice to the heavens in a series of histrionic gestures of moral outrage. "Call it off! Call it off!" she howled. But the council remained calm and agreed to proceed with the meeting as arranged.

What we were interested in was to see what local reaction would be. And so we obtained copies of the letters that were printed in the local paper, the South Wales Argus, a daily paper with a circulation of about 560,000 readers. And we are re-printing those letters.

Letter 1 from Valeria A May, Liscombe Street, Newport.

I read with horror of Newport education committee's decision to hold meetings with the Newport branch of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality.

There are enough difficulties for parents without our children being bombarded with homosexual literature. It is about time someone said: "This we do not want."

The majority of people in Newport are family men and women and these councillors are failing in their duty and not representing the people who put them where they are.

Newport councillors, free and enlightened, should be told homosexuality is against the law of nature and against the law of God and they are leading the people to damnation.

I hope Mr E H Loudon, chief education officer, has better things to do with his time than meet such people. If these things are allowed, Newport will not be a fit place for children to be brought up.

Letter 2 from D M Twiggs, no address given:

Surely the main concern of Newport education committee should be the welfare of the schoolchildren, and a firm 'no' ought

to have been given to the request by the homosexual campaigners for permission to give talks and distribute literature to the schools.

The children's minds, already overburdened with sex from all directions, could surely be spared the knowledge of the unnatural practices of some adults, and their corrupting influence.

My thanks to Councillor Mrs V Brydon and her two colleagues for their stand on this matter.

What God condemns, do not let man, whether religious leaders or educational leaders, condone.

So there you have it. The sweet voices of provincial common sense, decency and reason hold their own. If nothing else, this should be a salutary reminder particularly to those who live in the larger cities, in the comfortable embrace of liberalism, just how long and hard is the road ahead.

And let us say that although we have given these people's names and addresses, it is not worth writing to them. They learn their own peculiar standards and moral values in their own ways. And none of them have ears to hear or eyes to see gay people.

Letter 3 from P B Watson, Lansdowne Road, Newport:

I wish to support Councillor Mrs Veronica Brydon on her views regarding the proposed meeting of the Newport education committee with Newport branch of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality.

Councillor Cyril Summers might do well to look up in the Bible at the end of Romans, chapter 1, where we are left in no doubt that this perversion of sex is not only "vile", ungodly and immoral, but is sure to bring nothing but harm to any society, and certainly to groups of young and easily-influenced children, and young people with whom it comes into contact.

I certainly do not want my children to have any contact at all with sexual perverts.

Letter 4 from V P Ryan, Coldstream Close, Croesyceiliog:

Newport branch of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality, it appears, are vociferous in their demands for employment as school teachers.

A councillor parent who opposed them received support from only two colleagues.

Let it be said unequivocally that the preponderance of homosexuals in this country, as well as abroad, are homosexual by choice, not by an accident of birth.

In the same way as youth in general has rebelled against conformity by the comparatively harmless adoption of long hair, outlandish garb and even a language that is in the main incomprehensible to the older and much-despised generation, these people have revolted against normality, decency and acceptable moral behaviour in choosing a nightmarish and grotesque way of life.

Let them therefore reap what they have sown, and abandon their hypocritical

claims to be treated as normal and acceptable.

How can they in their totally immature and hideous way of life, demand to have a hand in the moulding and education of the young and innocent?

There are genuine and hapless homosexuals as we all know, and may God help them — or have I said a rude word?

Anyone who saw a recent television programme on American homosexuals, "The Lord is My Shepherd And He Knows I'm Gay", could not fail to be sickened and horrified by a display of complacent, smug and even exultant deviations from all that is decent and worthwhile in this life.

As a footnote — I wonder how a homosexual schoolteacher would define the word 'gay' to a class of ten-year-olds.

Letter 5 from Jack Ricketts, Liscombe Street, Newport:

I think that it is time some plain speaking was done on this issue of employing homosexuals as schoolteachers.

Any person who served in the armed forces saw these people in action, the sly squeeze of the arm, the comforting arm around one's shoulder, the touch of appreciation.

The very thought of these "perverts" being let loose among the children of Newport nauseates me. Oh no. Councillor Cyril Summers, they are our children and we are not prepared to expose them to this type of corruption.

Come on, you parents of Newport, let us hear your views, form an action committee, march on the civic centre with banners, this issue is more serious than a lot of you realise.

Letter 6 from Richard E M Davies, Sheridan Close, Newport

I sincerely hope that the chairman of the education committee, Councillor Cyril Summers will not entertain the idea of employing homosexuals in our schools. I would like to be certain that my child was being taught by someone of moral standard.

Homosexuality, or to give it its right name of sodomy, is an abomination to any decent person. Councillor Summers, being also a religious leader in Newport, should know that in scripture it is condemned. This was the sin and the reason why God wiped out Sodom and Gomorrah. Man calls it sickness. God calls it sin.

It is a filthy habit that should never have been given its liberty in this country. The scripture says righteousness exalts a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people.

But of course, in this country today many have thrown out the belief in the word of God and moral standards are low, whether it's homosexuality or call girls.

Because of this vile sin. Paul the Apostle, drew the attention of the Christians in Rome to it and in the first chapter of his epistle to the Romans, we read three times "and God gave them up, because they didn't like to retain God in their knowledge. They left the natural use of the woman and burned in their lust — one toward another, man working with man that which is unseemly."

Gay University For America

SAN FRANCISCO: At last, something many people have dreamed of, in San Francisco of course, a gay University. At last an opportunity for gays to express themselves in an educational environment. The front cover of the prospectus says that "The purpose of Lavender University is to provide gay women and men (and others exploring gay feelings) the opportunity to share their knowledge, skills, and experience in a supportive educational and social environment." Can you for example see yourself in the 'cuddle huddle' which is an "interest group for people who want to develop the art and experience in the joy of cuddling" and goes on to say "Practice will be for both cuddling in groups and in pairs, and cuddling with or without verbal communications." When tired of cuddling, you might like to try jogging for exercise and fun. Then, when you are fit, you can go off to Astrology and Primo massage, which advertises itself, saying, "Baby yourself and others with a caring massage and then some talk about where the planets were at your birth."

More seriously, there are classes on designing gardens, handwriting analysis, and mysticism; several encounter groups and gay writers get a chance to express themselves in the gay writers' workshop. Some of the classes are for gay men only or gay women only. Surely a delight for all!

The Lavender University is run under one name, but the courses are splintered across San Francisco. To join a course, you have to telephone the relevant number and apply direct. The tutors are mostly university

graduates who want to share their knowledge with other gay people. Some are not like the lady called Cactus Silverwoman who runs the crayoning class, and says "We'll go from there together. I know as much as you."

What are the chances of getting a gay university here? We asked the Department of Education and Science, and providing it has a Royal Charter, the Department says that it would be treated like any other university. A chance for some ambitious person.

Guilty Plea Costs £100

ASCOT: On police advice, Paul Lawrence pleaded guilty to a crime which never happened and was fined £100.

A man who was arrested and taken to Bracknell Police Station was told that he would be spared publicity if he pleaded guilty. The man, Ivor John Dean appeared in the Forest Magistrate's Court, Bracknell, and pleaded not guilty to committing an act of gross indecency with another man.

The magistrates found him not guilty and dismissed the case against him. Mr Edward Liddell prosecuting, said that Mr Dean had been seen by two detectives in a public lavatory in Bracknell High Street committing an act of indecency.

The other man, Paul Lawrence, told the court that he had appeared earlier that morning, and had been found guilty and fined £100. He said that he had been in the lavatory when Mr Dean came and stood by him. Mr Dean had said something which he did not hear and the offence had taken place. D Con Martin Sawyer and De' Con-

stable Leslie Savage told the court that they had been in an attendant's room adjoining the lavatory, keeping a watch on it, through a grid. Lawrence had entered the lavatory and some ten minutes later Dean came in. They had arrested both men when they saw an offence taking place. Mr Christopher Kite defending Dean asked both detectives if they had a clear view of the lavatory through the grid.

They said that they did, but at Mr Kite's request the magistrates visited the lavatory to see for themselves.

Mr Dean told the court that he was a gas fitter who had been working in Bracknell on that day. He and a friend had gone to Bentalls for lunch, looked around the store and had then become separated. Mr Dean had gone over to the lavatories and had seen Lawrence there, but took no notice of him.

As he turned to leave, the two policemen entered and said that they were arresting him and the other man. He was taken to Bracknell police station where he was told that he would not get so much publicity if he pleaded guilty and admitted the offence.

In his summing up Mr Kite said that his client was a victim of circumstance who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

He had remarried eight months ago after being a widower for some years and had no reason to commit an offence.

The last few months had distressed Mr Dean beyond belief, and he had come near to a nervous breakdown, but he had pleaded not guilty in an effort to clear his name. Mr John Findlay, chairman of the magistrates told Mr Dean: "We have in fact taken the trouble to visit the scene of the alleged incident and we are happy in our own minds that the case against you should be dismissed."

SMG Picks New Crew For '74

GLASGOW: The Scottish Minorities Group held their fourth annual general meeting just before Christmas, at which the results of the Executive Committee elections were announced. This was the first time that elections had proved necessary. In the past there have always been enough vacancies on the committee to satisfy those who put their names forward as candidates. But this time there were only ten vacancies and eleven candidates proposed. Five members of the old committee were not due to retire, and therefore continue without re-election.

The new members of the committee, elected for the first time, are Ian Christie, Graham Hamilton, Bob Orr and Jean Poulson.

The following were re-elected for a further term of office, Tony Bromley, Alastair Davidson, Ian Dunn, Jim Halcrow, Len McIntosh and Danny Mullen.



Danny Mullen remains SMG Chairman

Committee members not due to retire are John Breslin, Bruce Briggs, Michael Coulson, Lionel Harrison and David Miller.

At the first meeting of the new committee which was held on December 19th, Danny Mullen was confirmed as National Chairman for 1974, Alastair Davidson agreed to continue as Deputy Chairman, and Jim Halcrow remains Treasurer. Bruce Briggs accepted the post of Secretary, formerly held by John Breslin.

Sex Reform Act Passes Assembly

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Premier Tonkin of Western Australia voted for the State Government's legislation to legalise acts of homosexuality between consenting adults in private.

It was passed by the Legislative Assembly. The second reading of the Criminal Codes Act Amendment Bill was agreed to by 28 votes to 17. The government needs the support of at least five of the 19 opposition members in the Council to get the Bill passed. Mr Dadour said it was estimated ten percent of the population had homosexual tendencies, of these possibly only a third were complete homosexuals. Many were forced to be bisexual because of existing present laws and social conventions. An American survey had shown that 37 percent of all males had an overt sexual experience between adolescence and old age. Ten percent were exclusively homosexual between 16 and 55.

It had been almost impossible to determine the number of homosexuals in Australia because of the unwillingness to take part in surveys. Many homosexuals prefer secrecy. Disclosure could often jeopardise their careers and they were often open to blackmail.

Mr Dadour said that homosexuals would not need to be continually hiding through fear of persecution.

Extramarital relations could hurt more people than homosexual relations, but there was no law against such relations. The law existed to protect society and the individual and should be a deterrent as well as preventative and rehabilitative. The existing law was not doing this. The legislation was a step in the right direction.

Mr W A Manning said that to legalise homosexuality was to give it the seal of approval. He said "by this bill we are seeking to degrade and promote the negative attitude of men and evil tendencies in the community."

"When we promote these things by giving them the seal of approval, we are doing something that is particularly wrong."

The deputy leader of the opposition said that the Bill would remove the guilt and stigma in the minds of homosexuals.



Rococo splendour. The 1000-seat auditorium, massive dome, and ornate proscenium of the stage betray the opera house beginnings of the building purchased by the Los Angeles Metropolitan Community Church for \$300,000

MCC Buys \$300,000 Opera House

LOS ANGELES: The Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles has contracted to buy a Pentecostal church which used to be an old opera house before its conversion. MCC has been without premises since January, when fire destroyed its Union Street church. The \$300,000 (about £125,000) will buy them a prestigious building with a seating capacity of 1000, wall-to-wall carpeting, and red velvet upholstered seats. \$70,000 cash has already changed hands, and a further \$30,000 cash is to be paid in three months time. The outstanding \$200,000 will be paid over the coming years.

The new pastor of the church will be the Rev Lee Carlton, who has taken over from Rev Troy Perry. Troy Perry is to devote himself in future to his duties as moderator

of the international Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

Early negotiations were kept quiet, because the owners of the church, preachers Mr and Ms Lee, were anxious about the reactions of their congregation to the church's being sold to a gay group.

The money for the purchase came mainly from the insurance which MCC received after the January fire. The church has been on the move ever since, holding services in three different places. They are very happy to have found a new permanent home. Asked about a porno movie theatre right next door, and whether it might not disturb some of his congregation, Bob Ennis, MCC's public relations man, hesitated and then said, "We shall overcome."

Psychiatrists Back Down

WASHINGTON: 'An historic act' was the verdict of psychiatrists and leaders on the decision by the American Psychiatric Association to strike homosexuality off its list of mental disorders. The decision follows years of campaigning by the Gay Rights Movement.

A spokesman for the APA, which is the nation's main psychiatric association, said that new knowledge and changing attitudes dictated the move which reverses a medical opinion going back nearly a hundred years.

The Association's Trustees have urged an end to the 'cruel' private and public discrimination in jobs and housing and other areas. They have asked 42 states and the District of Columbia to repeal "irrational laws against sodomy or 'unnatural' sex acts" (as Illinois, Connecticut, Colorado, Oregon, Hawaii, Delaware, Ohio and North Dakota have done since 1961.)

However, the trustees have refused to say that homosexuality is normal — the recommendation of its task force on nomenclature. And they inserted a new psychiatric disorder called "sexual orientation disturbance" for the many homosexuals who either want to change their orientation or adjust to the one they have.

Leaders of gay groups invited to a news conference hailed the action as a 'psychiatric turnaround' and 'the greatest gay victory'.

"This represents the culmination of a decade-long battle," said Dr Franklin Kameny, former civilian astronomer and head of the Mattachine Society of Washington.

The psychiatrists conceded their claims, "We were prompted by the homosexuals' pressure, but what we're doing is psychiatrically sound," said Dr Robert L Spitzer of Columbia University who led the group that rewrote the nomenclature. By a 15 to 0 vote, the trustees agreed. Both Dr Spitzer and the gay leaders voiced disappointment that they struck the word 'normal' from the task force recommendation calling homosexuality "a normal variant of human sexuality". The trustees also amended the task force finding that homosexuality itself does "not constitute a psychiatric disorder", so as to read "does not necessarily constitute" a disorder.

An APA statement said of the new views, "This is not to say that homosexuality is 'normal' or that it is as desirable as heterosexuality."

The American Psychological Association last year removed homosexuality from its 'abnormal psychology' category. The American Medical Association's Trustees urged this month that the AMA back the American Law Institute's model Penal Code to legalise all private acts between consenting adults. The AMA decided to wait for a fuller report next year.

MP Pledges Opposition To Gay Bill

Michael Clark Hutchinson, Tory MP for Edinburgh South, doesn't like homosexuals — or 'these chaps' as he prefers to call us.

The Scottish Minorities Group, in its campaign to get Parliamentary support for its Scottish law reform proposals, has approached a number of Scottish MPs to get their views. Hutchinson's views, they say, are quite clear. He sees no need for a change in the law and intends to vote against the SMG Bill when it is introduced. His reasons, he says, are that the present law is "not causing any trouble" in view of police policy not to prosecute in cases of homosexual offences which would be legal under the English 1967 Act. And he wants legal sanctions to be retained anyway because young men are at risk from a number of "these chaps".

SMG put it to him that the law as it stood was 'bad law' since the authorities had said that no prosecutions would take place under it where both parties were over 21. But he refused to take the point. His only reservations were in the event of blackmail cases being demonstrated under present Scottish laws. If people were being blackmailed, he said, he might be prepared to abstain. But although SMG told him of one or two cases, he has apparently decided that blackmail does not, in fact, occur, and he therefore intends to carry out his original threat to oppose the Bill. Some sixty-odd letters in



Michael Clark Hutchinson, Tory MP for Edinburgh South

support of the proposals have been sent to him, but he appears unwilling to take much notice of them.

Photograph courtesy Conservative Central Office

U.S. Civil Service May Change Rules

WASHINGTON: Following Donald Hicker-son's reinstatement in his job after a federal judge ruled that there was no connection between his work and the fact that he was gay, the US Civil Service Commission has proposed new regulations to replace the old blanket ban on hiring or retaining homosexuals in federal agencies. The ban had been declared unconstitutional by a federal court. Under the proposed new regulations, the federal government must show a connection between a person's homosexuality and his performance on the job.

It lists specific factors to be used in judging whether charges about a person's past or present conduct are sufficient to refuse to hire the person.

- These criteria are:
- (a) Whether the individual's conduct would interfere with or prevent effective performance in the position applied for or employed in;
 - (b) Whether the individual's conduct would interfere with or prevent effective performance by the employing agency of its duties

- and responsibilities;
- (c) The circumstances surrounding the conduct;
- (d) The recency of the conduct;
- (e) The age of the applicant or appointee at the time;
- (f) Causative, social, or environmental conditions; and
- (g) The absence or presence of rehabilitation or efforts towards rehabilitation.

If the rules go into effect as proposed, barriers against gays in federal employment would be significantly relaxed, but not completely eliminated.

Mr Frank Kameny, head of the Mattachine Society of Washington, who for years has been goading the Civil Service Commission to change its policy was cautious in evaluating the proposal.

"The mountain has laboured mightily and brought forth a mouse," he commented.

But he also said that if the commission and other federal agencies apply the new regulations "in good faith", the whole problem will probably be taken care of.

Gay Switchboard - New Developments

LONDON: Plans for starting a Gay Switchboard are still progressing. The proposal for such a service was first discussed at length in GN31 and since then a number of meetings have taken place between gays who would like to see the Switchboard actually happen.

Actions taken so far have been the formation of a Launching Committee, the appointment of a Treasurer and the opening of a bank account. The search for premises continues, although there is a good chance that suitable accommodation has already been found. A number of donations have been received, but it is hoped that further financial assistance for what is to be a free service will be forthcoming from the gay community. Donations (crossed cheques and postal orders) should be made out to 'Switchboard' and sent for the time being to

Gay Switchboard, c/o Denis Lemon, Gay News, 62a Cluswick High Road, London W4 1SY.

It is planned for the Switchboard to become operational by the spring, and those people who have offered help in running the service will be contacted as soon as confirmation comes through on premises. Any other volunteers should write to the address given above.

The Gay Switchboard, which will undoubtedly be an important asset to the gay community, will be an independent and non-political organisation, although representatives of the various gay organisations are largely responsible for seeing that it becomes a working reality.

Denis Lemon

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Parents' Enquiry Takes To The Air

LONDON: Radio London's 'Platform' on Friday January 4, gave their programme over to Parents' Enquiry who are concerned with the problems of homosexuality. Parents Enquiry exists for those teenagers and parents who may want help on the subject and this programme was good publicity for the organisation.

A panel took telephone calls throughout the programme and many of the old topics were raised. The switchboard was jammed and all the callers except one were sympathetic towards gays.

Included on the panel were Rose Robertson (founder of Parents' Enquiry), Tony Cross, Danny Franco, Norman Westwood and a seventeen year old gay called Jim. The chairperson was the Rev Leonard Barnett. The subjects covered were numerous, including the use of the word 'gay' as opposed to 'homosexual' and how attitudes towards gays have changed in the last two or three years, "the entire tone of the letters we are receiving has changed, we do not now get asked how to cure human beings of being human beings."

There was a lot of discussion about confiding in parents and concealment, said Tony Cross, "It's a very typical situation and I think one is in a considerable dilemma to know whether one advises a person of fifteen or sixteen to readily communicate with parents".

The subject of reconciling Christian faith and the problems of homosexuality came up and Tony Cross said: "If you look in the Bible for help on a great number of those moral questions and social questions which really perplex us today, you will find precious little help. On the business of women's rights, nuclear war. What we start from are our basic Christian insights and principles and I really believe we have a whole area that the church has got to face up to. Our Lord had very little to say about the matter." Rose Robertson commented, "Paul was writing as a man of his time in the first century. It's time we had a rethink on condemning thousands of young people into a no-mans-land where they are unable to meet people of their own kind because the law says they cannot do this until they are twenty-one."

"What the Bible condemns are three categories of homosexual sin. Plain sensuality sexual assault and prostitution. What the Bible does not say anything about, or scarcely anything about, is the possibility of loving relationships including the expression of love in a sexual way between people of the same sex."

On the point "how do you know at fifteen or sixteen that you relate to your own sex?", it was said "I can't see that it is a valid argument that because you are sixteen and heterosexual you know what you're doing, but because you're sixteen and homosexual you don't know what you're doing."

What about the bisexual? "My immediate thought," reacted Danny Franco, "was of David Bowie, who was brave enough, or stupid enough, whichever way you want to look at it, to admit he was bisexual and I'm assured by young people who chat to me about him that his following has increased."

"There are a lot of bisexuals that I've met and I tend to feel when talking to them that

their state, the fact that they can relate normally to both sexes, appears to be the normal and natural state; how correct that is I'm not sure."

The programme also dealt with the subject of experimental homosexuality among boys in early adolescence.

Jim, the 17-year-old gay, had his father ring up during the programme, who said that his main worry as a parent is that gays "may form wrong relationships - simply because it's been driven underground."

Rose Robertson replied: "You have made such a valid point and you have really hit on one of the basic reasons for us considering one of the incidents of homosexuality to be a family situation. You see it is very easy for society generally to say 'well, young people are going with older men and doing something which is wrong', I would go along with that if the relationship is going along the wrong way."

Then the person in disagreement came on the line.

George Peck exclaimed: "Not to put too fine a point on it, I've heard tonight the biggest load of rubbish in my life. To my mind you have contradicted yourself all the way along the line. You seem to favour the idea that 'queerness', as I call it, because that's what it is to me, that it's a natural thing because people want to do it, therefore they should be allowed. Is that what you say?"

"No."

"Is that what you imply?"

"No."

"Then what do you imply?"

"We imply that," answered Rev Barnett, "under certain circumstances, the circumstances of mutual love and affection, it may be permissible and indeed right for people of the same sex to associate with each other. But it is not a sexual free-for-all, in no sense whatsoever are we advocating any such thing."

Rose Robertson: "I can endorse Rev Barnett's statements absolutely. When the caller refers to 'queerness', he is using a popular term. I mean 'to be queer' is to be feeling ill. It has nothing to do with human beings." Then chairperson Rev Leonard Barnett went on to say that new figures show that one person in eight is predominantly homosexual and not one in twenty as is commonly believed. Continuing, he said, "As a minority, they have every valid reason to be what they are and to act out their lives in the way they wish."

Rose Robertson concluded: "For you who are one of the nineteen (non-homosexuals - accepting the figure of one-in-twenty) this business of relating, this ability to love your own sex, is of course, quite wrong for you. It is not natural and it is not normal for you. What is natural and normal for you is to relate to the opposite sex. And gay people do not deny you that right. What right have you to deny the one in twenty that they will relate to one another and love and make stable relationships with the same sex?"

The programme lasted almost two hours. Well done Radio London for again giving air time to gays and gay subjects.

Parents' Enquiry is a gay counselling/help service for parents and their children. They can be contacted by writing to Parents' Enquiry, 16 Honley Road, Catford, London SE6 2HZ.

Gay WAC Defies Army

SAN ANTONIO: Dierdre Greene decided not to wait for the army to have a clean up of 'undesirables' such as prostitutes and homosexuals and declared herself gay.

She journeyed to Washington to confront Pentagon brass with her gayness and force the army into a test case.

She contacted Frank Kameny, a defender of government rights for employees. Greene also talked to the Army Inspector General's office. She states they indicated that no action would be taken. So to get her story in the open, she ended up going to the 'Army Times'. A Washington paper also allegedly printed the story.

Greene says that after she returned to her post, there were only a number of minor charges laid at her door, such as poor personal appearance. In nearly three years as a WAC, she has had no disciplinary record of any kind before.

She has been refused National Guard and Reserve Status, and has been given to understand her reinstatement will not be welcome. Major Claudia Ramsay at the Pentagon would only say that Greene's case was under investigation. No complaint has been made against her by her commanding officer.

Kameny accused the army of being on the defensive and merely trying to get Greene out of their hair. "At this stage," says Kameny, "the case could easily vanish without any significance at all depending

on what she decides to do. No matter what, the army's hesitation and discretion shows just how much on the defensive they are."

Kameny has advised her to make a re-enlistment application if only to get her refusal on record. On his advice, she has also refused to take psychiatric tests, complete any questionnaires or sign anything to waive her rights.

Getting no reaction back at Fort Sam Houston, Greene again made a weekend trip to Washington. This time she reported to hospital before she reached AWOL (absent without leave) status, and made a visit to the Judge Advocate General's office before returning to San Antonio.

Greene says that she has to have a hearing soon on the charges stemming from her being AWOL at which point she will bring up the reason for her absence and again assert her homosexuality. She feels that the army does not want the homosexuality issue brought up at all.

An American Civil Liberties Union attorney in San Antonio, Gerald Goldstein, has been contacted and attorney Harry Ander of New York, Greene's home state, will stand by to handle the case from a civilian point of view. A Captain from Fort Sam Houston has been appointed as legal counsel; Greene says that she "wants at least one homosexual on the jury."

CHE And The Bill

MANCHESTER: The Campaign for Homosexual Equality, in an attempt to stop or amend the proposed 'Cinematograph and Indecent Displays Bill' are conducting a campaign involving their members writing to MPs along the lines of a prepared statement, drawn up at National level. CHE told Gay News of their objections to the Bill.

Cinematograph and Indecent Displays Bill

"The Cinematograph and Indecent Displays Bill is regarded by CHE as a most dangerous and pernicious piece of legislation to be resisted at all costs. The Hansard reports of the First and Second Readings of the Bill show that even parliament is unaware of the implications of many of the clauses such as the alarming increase in the powers of the police and the serious curtailment of freedom for citizens of this country to read and see what they wish.

As the Bill has now reached second reading and cannot be stopped but only amended, we have written to members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee asking that, at the very least, the following clause is included to protect the rights of homosexuals. 'In deciding whether any given material or article, or any advertisement, is indecent so as to be brought within the provisions of this Act, the court shall not apply, in respect of anything relating to relations between people

of the same sex, any different test from that which would apply to a relation between persons of different sexes.' We have also asked that any prosecution under the Act should be subject to the approval of the Director of Public Prosecutions and that right of trial by jury be included.

We have asked all our members, via the group convenors, to write to their own MPs, the Home Secretary and any Peers they might know and express their opposition to the Bill on the lines of the official statement issued by CHE. Should any reader of Gay News wish to write to their own MP, a copy of CHE's statement can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope marked CID Bill to CHE National Office at 28 Kennedy Street, Manchester M2 4BG. We must act quickly if it is not to be passed as it stands. CHE is also working closely with SMG and NCCL in their fight against the Bill. Finally should the Bill, unamended, become law, CHE will be mounting a further campaign to render it inoperable. But more of that anon."

MPs to contact:
Your own MP; Mark Carlisle; Arthur Davidson; William Deedes; Norman Fowler; Will Hamling; Alan Haselhurst; Dame Patricia Hornsby-Smith; Sir Gilbert Longden; Alexander Lyon; Michael McNair-Wilson; Hugh Jenkins; R C Mitchell; Michael Shersby; David Walder; Philip Whitehead; Ms Doris Fisher; The Home Secretary, Mr Robert Carr.

Holiday Inn Hosts CHE

LIVERPOOL: "Welcome to CHE" said the sign outside Liverpool's Holiday Inn on 15th December. The occasion was the quarterly meeting of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality's National Council, consisting of delegates from CHE's local groups, plus the Executive Committee. Despite petrol and train difficulties, the majority of groups were represented.

Though a steadily growing proportion of existing members are now renewing their annual subs, the EC are still worried at the relatively slow rate of enrolment of new members. One of the reasons is that, as CHE develops more and more flourishing local groups, people join them and leave it at that, so that increasing grass-roots activity is not reflected in additional cash at HQ for campaigning at national level. The meeting discussed an EC suggestion for solving this problem by levying a joint subscription, of which either local groups would send part to HQ, or HQ would send part to a local group, but no final decision was taken.

A working party on the membership question, set up at last Spring's Conference in Morecambe, also reported with their ideas on why people join or don't join homophile groups, and what they generally expect from them. Briefly, they concluded that most people join 'for the benefits they can derive in their own lives, rather than out of concern for the welfare of gays generally', and that such benefits inevitably come from involvement in a local group rather than membership of a national organisation.

Several speakers, most notably EC member Dennis Nadin, were strongly opposed to this state of affairs, and felt that CHE should be a single-minded campaigning organisation. Whilst not decrying the musical evenings, rambles and so forth, which many groups organise, he felt that CHE should be directing its energies elsewhere, and if that meant it became a much smaller organisation numerically, then so be it. Other speakers regretted the fact that CHE appears to be fostering rather than discouraging a ghetto

mentality by setting up all sorts of 'gays-only' interest groups, but John Bescoby (Tyneside) and Trevor Locke (Bristol) emphasised that we had to look at the situation realistically: many gays who turn to CHE, particularly in country areas, do not have the self-assurance and confidence necessary to play any part in campaigning for gay rights, but involvement in a group which has some activist members and runs social events as well, can quickly spread that confidence. This seemed to be generally the sense of the meeting, but it was not clear how the various debates at Liverpool about membership are to be translated into action.

Earlier in the meeting, each group had reported on progress with the current education campaign. A large number of schools and colleges had been contacted, and in a few cases, talks given. Manchester headmasters had been told by their LEA not to accept CHE speakers, but otherwise little active hostility had been encountered. Most groups seemed to feel that this particular campaign is only just gathering steam, and that efforts should not be spread into other fields at least until the Malvern Conference next May.

The issue of the apparently anti-gay vendetta of magistrates at Exmouth was aired at some length, but despite some persuasive argument from Trevor Locke, the meeting generally felt this was something the EC should be left to deal with as they thought best.

In the evening, Liverpool CHE maintained their reputation for giving everybody a good time by hiring the m.v. 'Royal Iris' (from the Passenger Transport Executive) for a "Hello Sailor" cruise on the Mersey. I don't think many people saw much of the scenery, but 300 or more gays of both sexes danced to either a disco or live band, and a few couples were seen heading for the lifeboats without waiting for a storm.

The next National Council meets in London in March.

Peter Norman (CHE)

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Photograph: O'Mahony Studios



Drag In The New Year

Pictured above are the winner and runners-up of the 'Miss Winter Wonderland' competition, held during Jean Fredericks' New Years Eve Gala Ball at Porchester Hall, Queensway, London. Standing (left to right) are 'Mr Rita' (2nd Prize), Paul La Dare as 'Evelyn Laye' (3rd prize) 'Bluebell' (1st prize) and host and compere Mr Jean Fredericks. The winner received a cheque for £25.

The competition aside, the Gala Ball proved to be a conducive and entertaining way of seeing the new year in, and attracted a large fun-loving crowd of revellers, including members of the Gay News team. Live music was provided by 'Wedgewood', a rock group from the East End, and stimulants were available from a reasonably priced bar.

Mr Fredericks' next presentation at Porchester Hall is on February 16. It is a St Valentines Ball and the drag theme is 'Come As A Movie Personality'.

MPs Anonymous

LONDON: The following comment appeared in the Roman Catholic weekly newspaper 'The Universe'.

"The National Union of Students officially supports the cause of homosexual equality. It encourages the formation of what it calls 'gay student societies'. There are now more than 70 of them. And it promises legal aid if colleges oppose them.

The next time students write to me demanding extra grants (and they make their demands more frequently than any other group in the country) I will want to know how much of it is intended for the propagation of homosexuality."

This little pearl of wisdom appears in a column called 'The Westminster Scene', written by a Member of Parliament. We would love to tell you which MP, but politicians are such shy and reticent creatures, shunning the harsh light of publicity, that the author parades his convictions under the name of 'Justin'. As gay constituents of his may be interested to know what their MP feels, we should love to hear from anyone

who can put a real name to the secret figure 'Justin'.

To save the poor man the trouble of writing to all those students who want a reasonable grant, we have worked out for him how much of their grant will go towards "the propagation of homosexuality". With well over two million students in further education, at institutions which qualify them for a grant, we have assumed that at least a million will actually receive one. The annual budget for the Gay Rights Campaign is £200, which means that a student will pay a fiftieth of a penny per year towards it. The MP may see fit to demand in the House that any increase in grants should be decreased by a fiftieth of a penny, in view of the campaign to which the money is being applied. The Minister would doubtless give serious consideration to such a view.

'The Universe' claims to preach to a weekly congregation of 170,000 - none of whom evidently sees much wrong in a man stating such personal opinions as these without putting his name to them.

Michael Mason

Dublin Meeting For February

DUBLIN: A Gay Rights Symposium is to be held in Dublin as the pressure for sexual change increases throughout Ireland. The meeting is the first of its kind to be held in Eire, and marks the opening of the public gay struggle in the South.

The symposium has been arranged by the Sexual Reform Group, and it will be held at Trinity College Dublin on Saturday February 16th.

It is hoped that speakers will include Rose Robertson (Parents Enquiry), Al Stewart (National union of Students), Sen. Mary "The

Pill" Robinson, Terry Bruton (Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association) and Rev John Bach (Church of Ireland Chaplain to the New University of Ulster).

The organisers are hoping for a large turnout for this most important first meeting, and they are looking to friends in Ulster, England, Scotland and Wales to support them in the beginnings of their fight. Readers planning to attend can get more information from the Students Representative Council, Trinity College Dublin, DUBLIN, Eire.

Do Your Eyes Give You Away?

HUNTINGDON: Science now claims to be able to tell whether or not a person is gay, using methods more reliable than the old folklore tests (does he lisp, or walk with a mince, does she wear suits and ties, or smoke cigars, are their favourite colours purple and green, etc).

The machine which sees through the most closetted of us is called the Pupilometer. The principle on which it operates is simple. It has been shown that the larger the dilation of the pupils of the eye, the more interested a person is in what he or she is looking at.

So show someone two pictures, one of an attractive woman, the other of an attractive man, measure the diameter of their pupils for each photo, and you can tell what turns them on.

So far, so good. If you've never been quite certain about that beautiful thing in the next office, here's the answer to your prayers. But there's a sting in the tail. The machine was not designed to simplify gay social life.

A good friend of the paper sent us a copy of the company's sales leaflet. And under the heading 'Applications', the makers suggested its possible use in psychological examinations to obtain a "measurement of the tendency to alcoholism, homosexuality, etc, by prospective employers as a determination of personality deficiencies."

Well, they weren't getting away with that. So we rang the manufacturers, Aim Biosciences of St Ives, Huntingdon, to ask them what the hell they meant by 'personality deficiencies'.

We mentioned the British Medical Association booklet on the subject, and

asked them why their company thought that the medical profession didn't know what it was talking about. Ms Hammond, the person at Aim Biosciences responsible for enquiries about the machine, told us that the handout had been written by the man who had originally developed the machine, and that she couldn't comment on what he had written in his original.

GN: Could you tell me who was responsible for putting out the leaflet this time then?

Ms Hammond: I was this time.

GN: I see. Had you read it?

Ms H: I had read it, yes, but I didn't think it was saying that specifically.

GN: But it did say it, didn't it?

Ms H: I wouldn't have thought it would have been aimed specifically at pointing that fact out. I think it was just points that were thought of where it might have been used.

GN: But it seems to be included in the section on personality deficiencies.

Ms H: Not deficiencies, no I don't think so. Is the word deficiencies there?

GN: Yes.

Ms H: Oh, well I'm very sorry. I didn't really think it was in there. I thought it just said 'personality'. Well then I agree, unfortunately that it was biased in the wrong way.

GN: And is it likely to be changed in any future issues of the leaflet?

Ms H: It will be now you've pointed it out. I'm very sorry, I didn't realise that word was in there. Yes it will be changed - actually that could be cut out very easily.

It now remains to be seen whether the directors of the company will circulate all those to whom it sent the original pamphlet, pointing out the 'unfortunate bias' contained in it. We'll let you know.

No-one Holds The Reins

A Report of the Annual General Meeting of the National Federation of Homophile Organisations

I make no apology for the title since I think it shows clearly the reason why in the past year things have gone sadly amiss between NFHO, Scottish Minorities Group and Campaign for Homosexual Equality. When Michael Lauder wrote his open letter in GN22 under the title of 'Who Holds The Reins', many of us saw this as symptomatic of the awful inter-organisational sniping which has done so much damage to the homophile movement during the past year. The truth is that no single group has either the right or the power to speak on behalf of every homosexual in this country as Michael Lauder seems to presuppose.

NFHO deeply regrets the loss of CHE and SMG because all homophile groups need each other if we are truly to represent the social and political interests of the thousands of people who turn to us each year. Disunity is tragic because it has led to a failure to meet peoples' real needs for help, and perhaps more importantly at this time, a failure to stand effectively in the face of an unfavourable political climate.

The Government is at present pushing through a Bill to please the troglodytes in and out of Parliament, the "Festival of Light Brigade", who want to turn the tide of freedom. The Cinematograph and Indecent Displays Bill will do much more than curb hard porn - it will render the survival of any gay publication almost impossible since it gives the police wide powers to circumvent the Obscene Publications Act and effectively denies the right to trial by jury. This is the thin end of a wedge of oppression which a disunited gay world will find hard to fight. Next year the Sexual Law Reform Society hopes to publish a wide-ranging report which will need the support of every homophile organisation working together.

On the social and counselling side, division is a tragedy. A disciplined approach is vital. We need to ensure that no matter what the name of the gay organisation someone approaches, the kind of help he receives must be uniformly good. NFHO is determined that through its member organisations there will be a high standard of help available. Only in this way can non-gay professional people who are willing to help be sure that they are not getting involved in something that is not going to turn sour on them. Gay organisations setting out to provide counselling and social facilities have got to earn the respect of the community at large. They will not do it if they are seen always to be squabbling among themselves. NFHO has a vital role to play as a clearing house for information about facilities of every type available to gays throughout the country and the setting up of this is a first priority next year. But it must be a complete information service and carry details about every group. The homophile movement needs a clear policy on helping isolated people who live miles from the nearest gay group; this we are going to work on, using the expertise of member groups serving scattered populations. You can be isolated in London but help need never be as far away as it is for a person living 20 miles from the nearest town.

No ONE holds the reins: anyone who tries will find the horses pulling the chariot scattering in fear of losing their freedom. We all need our freedom to pursue the things we are good at, as groups catering for different interests and with different purposes. This does not mean that we can just go our own ways - if we try we shall lose all the advantages and possibilities gained by the 1967 Act. Only when the ordinary members of CHE, SMG and NFHO groups can pursue a united course of action, without feeling threatened by gay politicians, will any of us achieve anything worthwhile.

Raymond Foster
General Secretary NFHO

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Here We Are Again

WELCOME to 1974. A rather belated greeting, as this issue of GN reaches the newsstands a week later than was advertised in the last edition. The limitations of a three day working week proved to be a particularly difficult problem, and made an immediate effect on our publishing schedule. On a more cheerful note though, by the time of going to press we have worked out alternative production arrangements to cope with the present national crisis, and subsequent issues won't be delayed unless the current situation drastically deteriorates.

Many Thanks

We would like to sincerely thank the many people who sent us Christmas cards and other seasonal messages of goodwill. They were much appreciated.

Your Help Wanted

Derek Jardine left us in December and for the time being, Anne Elizabeth is responsible for GN's pub and club guide and the other information listings. Aply renamed "Anne's Gay Guide", we hope that more readers will co-operate this year and help increase the number of gay social outlets included in this column. We are told that there are still many rendezvous not mentioned, but the only way to rectify this matter is by you writing and telling us about the entertainment facilities in your area.

Forthcoming Projects & Features

During the next year, GN intends to devote an issue to an extensive analysis of the commercial gay scene in London. This will be the first of a series of projects which will be examining gay life throughout Britain. We shall also be visiting Dublin and Belfast to find out the realities of being a homosexual in Ireland, and a major feature on Amsterdam, in relationship to the facilities available in London, will also be appearing. The question of 'coming out' will take a larger precedence in our pages this year. And, if there is to be a General Election, GN will be endeavouring to find out the attitudes of politicians to gayness and which parties are likely to support gay law reform.

In the near future new articles by Bob Sturgess, Rictor Norton and 'Incognito' (author of 'Gay In The Twenties') will be published, as well as a practical look at the legal position of gays involved in long term relationships.

A continuing policy will be to keep an eye on the level of prejudice, ignorance and discrimination displayed towards homosexuality in our society, with special attention paid to the actions of the police, the courts and the medical profession. Employment and housing problems will also come under close scrutiny if they involve any degree of homophobia. It may even be possible to persuade more gay women to write for GN.

Apart from the serious aspects of the paper, we'll try to combat some readers' criticisms by attempting to be more entertaining and humorous. Despite our 'intensity', we are basically a fun-loving group of individuals.

Dates and Deadlines

The next issue of Gay News (GN39) will be published and available on 31st January. Details of advertising deadlines and copy dates for that issue can be found under the credits section at the bottom of this page 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 because of printing schedules.

Denis Lemon



Gay News is published fortnightly by Gay News Ltd, 62a Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY
Telephone: 01-995 1958

Editor: Denis Lemon
News Editor: Michael Mason
Contributing Editor (Features): Roger Baker
Art Director: Jean-Claude Thevenin
Advertising/Circulation Manager: Peter Mundy
Business Manager: Stuart Patterson
Admin Assistant, Subscriptions, Box Replies, Listings: Anne Elizabeth
Typesetting, Art Assistant: Sandi Rutenberg
Art Assistant: Glen Platts
Guest News Assistant: Gordon Scott

Regular Contributors

Sean Aubrey, Barry Conley, Denis Cohn, Brian Dax, Richard Thomson, Iain Finlayson, Jackie Forster, John Gough, Carl Hill, Howard Llewellyn, John Montgomery, Rictor Norton, David Seligman, Pete Wicker and Ian Dunn (Scottish Correspondent)

Deadlines & Copy Dates for GN39

Copy, Information, etc - Saturday January 19.
Letters and Display, Personal & Classified Advertising etc - Noon, Monday January 21.

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Gay News is distributed throughout the UK by Moore Harness Ltd, 31 Corsica Street, London N5
Tel: 01-359 4127
Printed by F.I. Litho Ltd, 182 Pentonville Road, London N1

Gay News is the registered trade mark of Gay News Limited.

Your Letters continued

Magistrates Prejudice Quite Improper

Woodsetts, Nr Workson

Dear Gay News,

With reference to the news item in GN37 headed "Queer Bashing Gang Strikes Again", it was, of course, quite improper of the Exmouth Magistrates to allow their own prejudice against the offence to influence the punishment awarded.

I have written to the Exmouth Bench and to the Exmouth Journal drawing their attention to a statement by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham, in his address to the Annual General Meeting of the Magistrates' Association in October this year in which he said:

"Look at the objective facts. Probe the background of the offence. Do not be misled by specious or purely sentimental pleas in mitigation; but equally do not let your prejudice, if you have one, against the offence lead you to deal unduly harshly with the offender."

I have also asked for their comments on the fact that they apparently find an offence against the sense of decency of adult persons more "detestable" than an offence of indecent assault against two young children. I will let you know what reply (if any) they make.

H E (Ike) Cowen,
Hon Legal Adviser to
Campaign For Homosexual Equality

Evidence Insufficient To Justify Complaints

Dear Gay News,

I am disturbed at the way in which you appear to be using the treatment in court of gays compared to that of hets. In a recent issue of GN you compared the case of a young man and his lover with that of a father, son and 16-year-old girl. In GN37 you compare the fine on two gays at Exmouth with that on a het. While this tactic may well bring support to the idea that gays are treated worse than hets in court, and while a cold appraisal of the full facts may justify that belief, the evidence which you gave was insufficient to justify a call to gays to complain en masse to the Exmouth bench.

The crimes of Gross Indecency and Sexual Assault are not as clearly defined in law as say speeding. You gave no evidence of the nature of the offences. It is possible that the two gays were out of sight of everyone else, but they might have been committing their offence in full view of a young boy who had come to use the conveniences. Similarly the marine may have picked up the girl, taken them to a secluded spot and forced his attentions on them or the girls may well have approached the marine and offered to "drop them" for a few pence. The above possibilities are by no means the extremes under which the offences could be classified as they were and if the more serious possibility was true for the gay offence while the less serious true for the marine, then the relative severity of the offences would not necessarily be out of line with the severity of the fines.

In fact there are six main factors which play a part in the size of a fine, you have only touched on two of them: - the presumed bias of the bench (based on a study of its treatment of similar offences compared with the treatment nationally) and the absolute severity of the offence as defined in strictly legal terms. I have covered the third factor above - that the same named offence can cover a variety of actual circumstances of widely differing severity. The other factors are - (a) the past history of the offender; clearly a persistent offender will be liable to a more severe sentence than a first offender. (b) The ability of the offender to pay the fine; a fine of £100 would be less severe for a well-off person than a £60 fine for a person of moderate means. (c) The need to deter others; if gross indecency in public conveniences of a particular town is on the increase to the disgust of the rest of the populace who wish to use the conveniences for normal purposes it would clearly be right for the bench to use severe fines to try to put a stop to the rise in the offences by others. By contrast if the offences against young girls is generally done by people who need medical help rather than punishment, then swingeing fines aren't needed.

The absence of any comment in your report on the other four factors which would affect the appropriateness of a fine limits the value of your reports as a serious piece of evidence on possible court bias against gays. And I cannot believe that any magistrate who is so biased is likely to change his conduct after getting a horde of letters of complaint which have been written with only the partial evidence from your report as their catalyst.

Veritas

Support Your Local Newsagent

Kingston-on-Thames

Dear Gay News,

I have been with you since issue 13 and I consider that GN has helped me overcome many personal hang-ups. Now several of my straight friends know of my gayness and they know me better for it. So "liberated" am I now that I no longer feel it necessary to subscribe and have the paper smuggled in plain brown sealed envelopes. I'd far rather support my local newsagent by going in personally and chatting about how many copies he sells. Believe me, it is a very brave newsagent who dares sell a gay newspaper in Kingston and I feel people should support him all they can.

So I write this letter to say even though I am not subscribing, I am still with you but in a more "liberated" fashion.

Keep up the good work - today the world, tomorrow W H Smith and Sons!

Thomas Hough

A Divine Right To Happiness

Preston, Lancs

Dear Gay News,

The recent tragic events which have taken place in Blackburn (GN36) serve to remind us yet again of the extent to which we are all in danger because of the repressive attitude of society towards homosexual people. Those who are so naive as to believe that there is no prejudice are as much a danger to themselves, as are the "queer bashers" and others who constantly harass our numbers.

Read any copy of Gay News and you will find examples enough to justify Campaign For Homosexual Equality and the struggle of the dedicated gays within the movement against the intolerance, harassment and discrimination which exists even in these 'enlightened' days. Must we continue to put up with the constant attentions of the police, discrimination by employers, sick taunts by comedians, and the constant erosion of the few rights we have by the so called 'guardians of public morality', who treat us as second class citizens or worse?

The writer is of the opinion that the Blackburn tragedy would not have happened if gay people were not forced to resort to seedy bars, public lavatories and back street clandestine assignations. This has been our lot for many miserable years, and in spite of the short-reaching 1967 legislation we are still a target for blackmail and the worst possible types of exploitation. The Church is, it would seem, little better than the state, since they sit smugly on their dignity and preach that there is still room for the repentant homosexual.

During the past few weeks I have met a number of gay people who have just 'come out', several of them brought to the very brink of eternity by years of isolation and loneliness. Others have lost many vital years, and theirs will be a particularly hard struggle, yet in many ways they are fortunate, since there are still those countless numbers who, unless they are able to do something about it, must remain in the shadows. Their lives are balanced on a tightrope, always in sight of the gas meter, and with a shilling at the ready, some may have the good sense to phone the Samaritans, but for many, the years roll on without hope.

This state of affairs can no longer be allowed to continue. Every gay man and woman in this country has a divine right to happiness which can only be found in a deep and meaningful relationship with another. In a nutshell, love, "the love that dare not speak its name". To achieve our aim, it is vital that we as a group and as individuals, stand up for the rights which have been denied us for so long.

Freedom, Fraternity and Equality.

John C Plant

Karefree Youth?

Dear Gay News,

It's over! Bodies relax into a homogenous heap and a warm, contented, sleepy feeling grows. As the eyes lose their focus and close, the last thing seen is the white tube with the blue lettering, and the thought yet again crosses the mind "what does KY stand for?"

Mark Gloucester

Gay and Happy

London SW19

Dear Gay News,

History is being made - I am writing for the first time in my life to a newspaper! Two reasons for this, one I can't sleep, the other I want to put a question to the readers of GN. Are there no happy, well adjusted gays with no hang-ups? Gay News is a very good paper but for one thing; apparently, nearly all the articles, letters and stories are written by or about sad, oppressed homosexuals who are either too miserable or too concerned with politics to get on with the ordinary joys of life.

I am 24, my affair is younger, our parents know we are gay, our friends know we are gay (straight friends that is), we live together and enjoy life together. Never have either of us been sacked, refused work or beaten up because of our sexual desires. Admittedly, I have worked for quite a while in the entertainments business where gayness is fairly well accepted but are we both paragons of virtue or just damn lucky? I think not, if only other gays and, I suppose, straights, would not try to justify their actions or try to make others accept their beliefs, then I think that the world would be a much happier place. Gay people's oppression - at least a lot of it, I am quite sure - arises from themselves. How many of your advertisements contain the phrase 'non-camp', 'no queens', 'no screamers'? Gay people mocking gay people! What a silly world we live in.

All the best for a successful New Year.

R A Linney

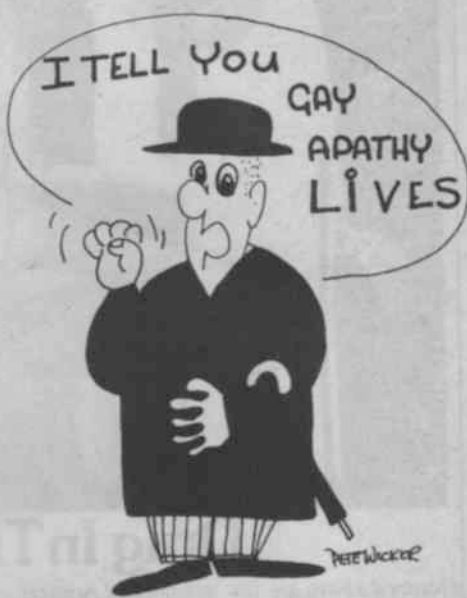
Absolutely No Comment

From London University's Gaysoc News-letter: "I must end by apologising for the cancellation of the disco which was advertised for the 12th or 14th of December. If this were Gay News, I'd explain that there'd been 'insuperable technical difficulties'; as it's not, I can be honest and admit that we've just made a balls-up."

Golden Opportunity

Gay News's typesetter is going abroad shortly, and we shall need a replacement. Must be an accurate typist, with reasonable speed and brilliant spelling, preferably experienced on an IBM Composer, otherwise will train. Also good opportunity to take on highly paid freelance work. Own office, interesting work, fun atmosphere. Please contact Sandi c/o Gay News, 62a Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY or phone 01-994 4613.

Thehil



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.



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

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A Short Gay Guide To Poland

by 'A Polish National'
Edited by James Tyson

The question "Is homosexuality legal in Poland?" is probably the one most often asked me in England. And all my friends look a little surprised when I tell them that Poland was one of the first countries in the world to legalise homosexuality just after Napoleon legalised it in France. The legal age of consent is eighteen for both sexes, and one is free to make love with either heterosexual or homosexual partners of that age according to one's preference, provided your partner is consenting and the act takes place in private.

ORGIES

Orgies are also permitted in private, provided all the participants are of like mind. But you must be very careful: you could be accused by a dissatisfied participant who feels that the orgy is indecent. It happens very seldom, but there have been several cases: for example a woman once accused her husband of indecency when he ran naked from the bathroom to answer a telephone, and two female candidates at the Faculty of Arts were offended by a professor showing them drawings of a naked man!

Organisations such as Campaign for Homosexual Equality and Gay Liberation Front are forbidden, just like any other political organisation. This is purely a political issue, and the gay life in Poland is not as open as it is in England. Poland is a puritan country, but not more so than England. The intellectuals are very liberal and the squares are not, but nobody is surprised at seeing two men kissing at a railway station or in the street. If the kiss is very passionate, they might stare and smile, but that's all. This is purely a cultural difference between our two countries. Undoubtedly you may have seen Eastern diplomats embracing and kissing on television. It goes without saying that they are not arrested by the police. You are quite free to invite your lover to your hotel room. If he wishes to stay the night, that is perfectly in order with the hotelier, provided he pays and there are two beds in the room. If you have a single room, your friend may stay depending upon the understanding of the hotelier.

CRUISING

The places where gay people meet in Poland are similar to those in many other countries. Loitering isn't forbidden, and the hotel staff will give you the address of the nearest steam bath. Cafeterias in town centres are visited by many gay people just as gay people meet in pubs here. Remember that staring isn't impolite in Poland. If somebody looks at you and smiles, it may be that he would like to make friends with you. However, some people will behave in a similar manner because they want to buy foreign currency from you: be careful because some of them are thieves, and it's always much better to change your money with someone you know well.

Try to make friends with somebody as quickly as possible. Polish homosexuals meet very often in private houses because they prefer to meet socially for a cup of tea and a chat. And if you wish to visit somebody, you needn't ring him beforehand. Just drop in on him casually, in which case he may be in a position to invite you to join him for a meal.

ATTITUDES TOWARDS WESTERNERS

Many Polish people are very hospitable. They are very interested in travel, and they welcome foreigners, chiefly because most of them can't afford to go abroad themselves and so few of them speak a language besides Polish. Going to the West is difficult, even

for those who have money, because it isn't easy getting foreign currency from the bank, and Polish money has no value in the West.

Unfortunately, they see many people coming from the West who spend a lot of money in expensive — but not necessarily very good restaurants — and pretend to be rather grand and affluent, so some people in my country have entirely wrong ideas about Westerners. Some of them even try to exploit foreigners. It will take a little time for you to learn how to distinguish between the honest and the dishonest Poles.

TOURISM

How much a two week excursion would cost depends on many factors, and it's so complicated that you should obtain the information from a travel agency. But two weeks in Poland shouldn't cost you more than £70 if you go on a package tour, and £100 if you go it alone. Student holidays can be much cheaper, and this shouldn't cost more than £45.

There are certain things you ought to see in Poland. Warsaw for example. I can recommend the Old Town, The New Town, the Lazienki Palace and the Wilanow Palace. And you should visit the opera because tickets are very cheap by London standards. Cracow is also a beautiful city, and you should see the Royal Castle and the Old Market. All the streets of the Old Town are very beautiful. Then sixty miles to the south of Cracow you have the mountains, which are very rocky and very beautiful. Zakopane is well known as the winter capital of Poland, and it's a fantastic place for skiers. Unforgettable are the Pieniny Mountains, and a two or three hour trip on rafts driven by highlanders on a very fast flowing river called the Dunajec is the biggest tourist attraction in Poland. If you visit Wroclaw, you shouldn't miss a performance at the Pantomime Theatre — a theatre for gay people, and a superb one. The coastline of Poland provides a very enjoyable holiday by the sea. You can meet many gay people on the beaches in the summer.

In conclusion, I would like to make a suggestion to all the gay people who intend visiting Poland. Probably you'll feel lonely and lost at the beginning, as I was during my first visit to England. It is essential that you make friends with an English speaking person as soon as possible. Why not wear a badge like the one I saw in London, 'Glad To Be Gay'? English-speaking Polish gays will help you upon seeing this, as I shall, too, should I meet you! See you in Poland!

NITTY GRITTY GN POSTSCRIPT *

When the sight-seeing is over, here are a few spots in Cracow and Warsaw that might be worth a visit.

CRACOW
Europejska
Rynek Glowny 35 (560 82)

Hawelka
Rynek Glowly 34 (247 53)

Jama Michalika
ul. Florianska 45 (215 61)

Rio
ul. Jana 2

Staremury
Pijarska 21 (257 02)

Sukiennice
Rynek Glowny

Pod Jaszczurami
Rynek Glowny 8 (560 13)

Apollo Cinema
ul. Solskiego 11 (507 19)

WARSAW

Kamienne Schodki
ul. Ryner Starego Miasta

Kawiarnia Roxana
Aleye Jerozolimskie/Kroczo Street

Kawiarna Bar Amatorska
Nowy Swiat 21

Sauna
ul. Krakowski Przedmiescie 20

Sauna
ul. Starykiewicz Square

*Extracted from the *Spartacus International Gay Guide*.

OLD AND GAY

by Tom Clarkson

"YOUTH'S a stuff will not endure . . ." But age does. I'll say it does! You're there. You're *you*. And you don't have to compete. When I look back to the loneliness and frustration of my own youth when the law was harsh and nobody understood, I feel an immeasurable sense of relief, achievement even, to have survived into a time when anything goes.

Of course, being a writer and a painter, activities which have nothing to do with time, I realise I am especially fortunate. I write youth, I paint youth, though not youth only. You could say I live youth vicariously, but what's wrong with that? Is not much of life, at any age, lived vicariously? But I hope I don't make the mistake of pretending to be young. The young friends I have like me because I am sympathetic — they like me for *myself*. It must be so, because what else have I got to offer? If sex comes my way — and as long as you are alive it can happen — then I regard it as a bonus and am grateful.

My advice to all gays who are not yet old is cultivate interior resources. Read, enjoy the arts, travel, get outside yourself as much as you can, and don't confine yourself to a gay ghetto. Everybody is sexual, sexual in different ways, and different sexually at different times. Be natural, be yourself, and you will be surprised at the response, often from the most unlikely sources. I never met anyone who was utterly and completely straight. And don't cut out women. We came from women. A world without women would be like a world without flowers. And don't neglect the married, of whatever sex — they can make wonderful, reliable friends.

The trap all gays should avoid at all costs is the half-world, the idea that one doesn't belong to the whole-world. Gays, by their very nature, have often a greater capacity to appreciate the whole of life than straights. But not if, out of defensiveness, they keep themselves different. Because that way, when youth is past, and you're too tired, or it's too cold, to go cottaging, you will be nowhere, there will be nothing. The respon-



Author and artist Tom Clarkson with one of his paintings

sibility you refused, the imagination you neglected, will put up No Sale.

I love it now, perhaps watching more than taking part, yet still contributing — teaching is a big part of that — still sharing. Still yearning a bit, thank God, but no longer desperate. It's great — it's really great!

But how old are you? it may be asked. Sorry, I forgot. And there isn't time to tell you! I've got an appointment with the most charming masseur!

ED: Tom Clarkson is an accomplished novelist as well as a painter. His published works include: *The Pavement And The Sky*, *Love Is My Vocation*, *The Wounded and A Certain Summer*, and at the end of this month, *The Dirty Workers*.

Gay News Oldies

Back copies of Gay News Nos 1-11 and 13-19 price 10p and 20-24, 27-37 price 15p are available from Gay News Oldies, 62a Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY.

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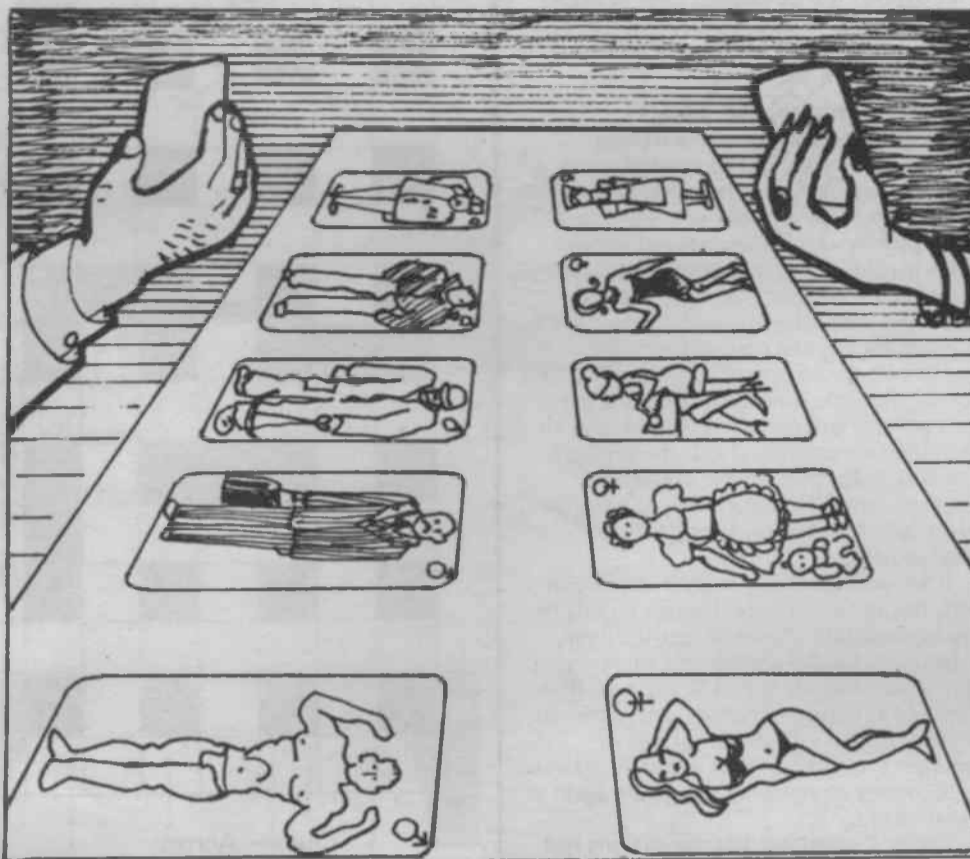
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MASKS & MYTHS

A Personal View Of The Parts We Play

by Roger Baker



Role-playing gets a bad write-up in the gay press; it gets a bad write-up in homosexual dialectics generally. The stringent inculcation of roles, and expectations, on to children and adults is blamed for society's gut-rejection (as opposed to intellectual toleration) of homosexuality. The theory is, briefly, that men have one role, women have another, and the gay person falls between the two, thus subverting expectations and leading to social confusion and sexual anarchy. I have yet to be convinced that either social confusion or sexual anarchy are undesirable. However.

Before we think about specifics, perhaps a suggestion about the wider background of role-playing would be appropriate. The words — or concept — of role-playing has theatrical associations: a part someone assumes for a given period of time. The implication is that the role is not the real person, but an assumed mask, or cover, which enables the individual to handle certain situations. Sometimes this might be so. In fact, that booming light industry of awareness, encounter and analysis groups seems dedicated to just that — finding the real you.

But it may not occur to the T-group freaks that the real you may emerge as a selfish, brutal, mannerless creep and that the facade which the consciousness-raising group is painfully stripping away might in fact be a vital epidermis which, like a person's real skin, serves as protection as well as attraction.

Everyone Plays A Role

When we speak of roles, I think we should look beyond the obvious characteristics and think in wider terms about the places all individuals occupy in society. This brings into play concepts like expectations, life styles and those hidden mechanisms that stop people doing certain things and impel them to do others. Everyone plays a role simply in order to maintain a place in an organised society. There are professional and social roles; personal roles and sexual roles.

There should be little need to say much about professional and social roles. Most people are aware that the job one has tends to fix one in a role that can be restrictive. The rising young executive may prefer to eat in the staff canteen, but is forced by his role to eat in a special part reserved for rising young executives (The OK Corral, as it is known in Thomson House). A homosexual may feel his career frustrated when he finds he is in a line where promotion comes only to married men.

Restrictions relating to class may seem, in the panssexual world of London, to be diminishing, but they remain apparent in the provinces, and the further north you go, the more a sense of class is felt. The appearance of a wealthy, educated younger generation tends to defy these strictures and the gayworld, particularly, is supposed to cut through them anyway. But experience tells another story. The organised, commercial and socially-orientated gayworld of the provinces seems to consist of an aspirant middle-class aping the affectations and pretensions of a never-never land where Noel is king and Hermione queen (still). The bus drivers, building workers, policemen and lorry drivers who may, in economic terms be wealthier, are playmates and bedfellows, but they don't go to see the London Contem-

porary Dance Theatre at the Royal.

By personal roles I mean mainly family relationships: son, daughter, mother, father, grandparents and so on.

"Kindly Aunts"

The majority of people slip into these roles without question and assume from them all kinds of ideas, responsibilities and attitudes that are not necessarily comfortable or appropriate for the individual. Concepts like "dutiful son", "obedient daughter", "kindly aunt", are accepted and lived out accordingly.

It is, of course, convenient, a relief even, to have one's interpersonal behaviour patterns pre-set. It's nice to know who and where you are; mother and son treat each other in one way, father and son in another; grandfather and granddaughter have a different ritual of conversational exchange, know what subjects are allowed, which not. Nice and convenient. But it does mean that within families, people of different generations, hardly ever see each other as independent individuals. Thus a daughter might say something to her father which is perfectly acceptable to men of her own age, even to men friends of her father's age, but which to her father may seem rude, insubordinate or downright offensive. She has stepped out of her 'daughter' role.

When a homosexual emerges in a family situation, then certain roles are tested and anxiety arises. A gay son may be dutiful — giving his mother a salary-cut for his keep; helping his father mow the lawn or clean the car. He may always keep his exchanges well within the allowed parent/child limits. But eventually he will be observed apparently to derelict one important function of the 'son' role, which is to get married and start a family. Always the ground bass will be murmuring: "When are you getting married?" and the high soprano of aunts counterpointing with: "Found the right girl yet?" Every male homosexual has experienced this at one time or another. To his contemporaries (inside and outside the family), and to other friends, he can give the simple answer. Across the generations within the family he cannot — or finds it extremely difficult.

Audience Participation

There is a flip side to this situation too. To play a role successfully, the co-operation of two people is needed; an actor and his audience. So, the son is not merely failing to fulfil his expected role, but he can be preventing his parents from fulfilling the roles they understand to be theirs.

This too, is a commonplace theme in homosexual anxiety: "My father doesn't speak to me any more. I have a sister, but my father says it's my duty to carry on the family name..." Or: "I am quite adjusted to being gay but my mother is disappointed

that she has no grandchildren". (This pressure is not confined to only children either).

We ask for the homosexual to be allowed the freedom to carve out his own life. Some of us are trying to persuade the homosexual that it is possible and justifiable to have a good, rewarding life without the 'responsibilities' of a family situation. But if this is to happen, we must also try and persuade others that they too must carve out their own lives and cease to rely on other people filling out their own fantasies and expectations for them.

Examples could be multiplied indefinitely. The problem is by no means confined to the gay community. These often cruel demands made by one generation upon the next affect everyone. How many girls grow into a sour middle-age because they have been taught that it is their duty to stay with a widowed mother? How many young men have had to pass up job promotion because they, or their wives refuse to move from within spitting distance of the family cot?

The homosexual person must be allowed to assert an individuality as an unmarried individual (preferably a homosexual unmarried individual), and demonstrate that she or he has opportunities and is a complete being. But this cannot be done unless gay people themselves are happy with, and assured of, the naturalness and rightness of their own sexuality.

The homosexual who continues to live with his parents out of some confused idea of loyalty or duty, is merely carving out a life so ridden with tension derived from anxiety and secrecy, and which denies his natural instincts, that he will always be frustrated and miserable. This applies to straights too.

Male-Female Roles

Generally speaking, it seems that role-playing has little, if indeed anything, to do, with genital sexual contact. But the two major roles that society foists upon its members are derived from biological/genital function: the roles of man and woman.

Enough has been written and spoken on this theme by now, how men are the masters, leaders, breadwinners, predators; how women are passive, pretty, home-makers and so on. Many people, unnerved by the manifestations of Womens Liberation, will try to assert that these roles are natural, instinctive and god-given.

But as in many other departments of our lives, technology is mastering the limitations of biology; woman's role need no longer be restricted by her effusions of blood and milk. By some curious irony our society seems bent on refusing to acknowledge these developments in any realistic way. And in fact, the world we live in appears today, to go to inordinate lengths to reinforce male/female role-playing to an extent never before

achieved. The basis for the division is moving from a biological one to an economic one. Outwardly the effect is exactly the same; the motivation changes and sexual liberation and a freedom from restrictive role-playing remains far away.

Throughout history, from the days of the bible itself, a highly realistic and practical expediency on the part of governments (whether that government consisted of ten old men in a tent or 200 old men in a palace) have been sold to the populace under another guise, usually a religious one. For example, the long term of abstinence known as Lent (a period all tribes in the Mediterranean bowl observed, irrespective of religion) was a hygienic law. It was a necessary period of abstinence to purify the population, safeguard its health, before a dangerous change of season which could bring plague and disease. Unruly, ignorant nations would hardly comprehend the true reason. But sell it to them as a divine need, tastefully decorated with moral precepts relating to sacrifice, and there you are.

Relate this to our situation today. It is no news that a large part of the economy depends on the family unit, the destruction of which would disrupt economic principles even at consumer level. As a bachelor, I find it very irritating to have to pay slightly more per ounce for tuna in a small can, than for tuna in one which is too large for me to deal with alone. The single eater pays more — another penalty for nonconformity.

Nuclear Families

It is necessary to keep those neat little consumer units; the nuclear families living like self-sufficient atoms in tower blocks must be kept going. Now even though mother has a B Sc in electronic engineering, has discovered a benign contraceptive pill and assured adequate pre-school care for her kid, there are still great pressures brought to bear to try and prevent her from using these new strengths and freedoms. In the face of male chauvinism, job discrimination and social disapproval for trying to step outside an allotted role, the woman must be convinced that her correct, socially acceptable role is to stand smiling and proud at the table while her husband and little boy (two men in my life) sup up her amazing talent for adding half a pint of hot water to an Oxo cube.

These images are reinforced by the assertion that such a role is natural and instinctive. The passive, submissive woman and the dominant, active man, are occupying their correct places and to move out of them is a defiance of *natural* law. Such reinforcement used to be very simple; a brisk word from god in the ear of the right prophet usually did the trick. But since today the adventure stories of the Old Testament carry little weight, the shining example of Adam and Eve and their problem children can be used no more.

So just as religious law once made Lent acceptable to a population, now political necessity for social order makes dishonest life-styles psychologically acceptable through the perpetration of untested myths.

The myth of romantic love is the supportive mystification thrown over the commercial bond of marriage. A large percentage of the population — mainly women, but also many men — feed on a diet of romance. But

Continued on Page 12

'Masks & Myths' continued from Page 11

quite quickly a girl discovers that love is not a matter of sunsets and demure blushes, but that the way to show her man she loves him is by keeping the kitchen sink free of more than 1,000 known germs.

Hetero Barter

The important effect of all this is to make us see that heterosexual marriage — as a social ritual — is based on a bartering basis. This is not just a question of money (marriage as licensed prostitution) but of making meaningless exchanges to affirm the notion of romantic love. Thus, the mink coat is given by a husband to his wife to show how much he loves her. Or is it payment? For sex? For household management? For looking after the children and not using her B Sc?

Or might it be to assert his own prowess in his career? Or is it conspicuous consumption?

Or is it to make his wife more decorative? To make her a more impressive possession to parade before his peers?

For mink read mixer or mints, as you please.

There are a couple of things gays can derive from this perspective. But I should emphasise again that here I am looking at marriage as a social phenomenon, from a distance. Every individual union between two people, whatever form it takes, is unique. The creation of personal relationships loving and developing is something that can happen independent of the social, role-playing pressures under discussion.

First, that to look at relationships on the bartering level imposed by role-playing is counter-productive outside the economic framework of conventional marriage. Marriage is based on the fact that it is engaged in by two people who are trained to be socially different and who have, of course, the necessary genital differences. A gay relationship need have no concern with these things. It is much easier to relate to a different sort of person in our social structure than to a similar person, simply because the lines are written, the cues given, the play can proceed. Two people who are sexually and economically equal must view things from a very different point of view.

Mythical Romantics

Second, there is one thing that a lot of gay people could profitably learn from a heterosexual example — and that is that romantic love is a literary and social myth.

Now I say always 'romantic' love because I wouldn't want anyone to imagine that I'm suggesting that love doesn't exist. It seems to me that heterosexual couples may pay lip service to the concept of what money can't buy me, of what walked right in, of what is the sweetest thing. In fact many believe it for a while. But soon the quality of the relationship, of the marriage, changes. This doesn't mean that the person who is 'loved' ceases to have any appeal or affection. Quite the reverse, in fact. The whole idea of a honeymoon was to enable couples to get lust and carnality out of the way before entering the serious business of building a life.

The brevity of too many gay relationships can be blamed on the fact that the couple entering into them hold the wrong sort of expectations of each other. The sea-change from physical passion at the beginning into a different sort of sexual relationship when the honeymoon is over, is too difficult for many, too boring for others — and there's no aphrodisiac to match a new body. One person may make certain role demands on

his mate that the other is not up to.

But more important here is the situation of those gays who are always dependent on romantic love, on the knight in shining armour syndrome. This reveals itself in some undesirable ways.

A fixation, for example, on only one physical type. "I only go for blonde Scandinavian boys". "I couldn't go to bed with anyone over 30" and so on. This sort of self-restriction is an unhappy thing. I'm certainly not suggesting that everyone should want to go to bed with everyone else, which is patently absurd. But a lot of gays would be a lot happier if they opened their eyes to a far wider range of possibilities and stopped sitting there waiting for the guy to step down out of the Hom ad.

Sincere, Genuine, etc

Second, there is the ever-searching person who invests far too much, far too soon, on any individual he meets who fancies him. This attitude is revealed in those *Gay News* ads that demand respondents should be sincere, genuine, etc. An extortionate demand I've always felt. It takes two people for successful role-playing, as I said, so pity the poor guy who has this sort of role thrust upon him willy-nilly. And, part of the same syndrome, are those gays who will not enter into a relationship at all until they are convinced that the person is The Person for them in the romantic, idealistic sense. Too many people deny themselves opportunities for love, growth, development.

(I know little of gay women in this context. But my experience through talking to gay women, rather than living with them, suggests that social concepts of role-playing play a very important part in their relationships. As a lesbian a woman seems either to collapse totally into the social role of feminine creature, or react violently against it, becoming more manly than man, again in social terms).

Earlier I suggested that role-playing had little to do with genital sex. Though the role a person assumes derives basically from whether they are male or female, their sexual role does not necessarily follow as a logical development from that. Thus a male or female can quite easily fulfil society's expectations of them as a male or female, yet be homosexual. After all, thousands do. Or try to.

The social role may dictate the way in which sex is handled. Thus, a wife, conditioned, even unconsciously, to a barter-relationship, may agree to sexual intercourse on a careful rationing scale, and she can wield a deal of strength in this way. Conversely, a husband, if he feels the strength of his role, may demand sexual relationships (conjugal rights) whenever he feels like it, without considering his wife's feelings at all.

Gay Roles

And it seems that many homosexuals relate their genital roles to their social roles. At its most obvious, a gay man thoroughly conditioned to enact society's concept of a man, may totally reject the idea of being a passive partner in homosexual intercourse, simply because it is unmanly. That is, he relates sexual passivity to the role of woman, forgetting, or not being aware that a woman's role in heterosexual intercourse can be far from passive. Such a person has taken on the male chauvinistic view of women and is trying to project it onto himself and other men.

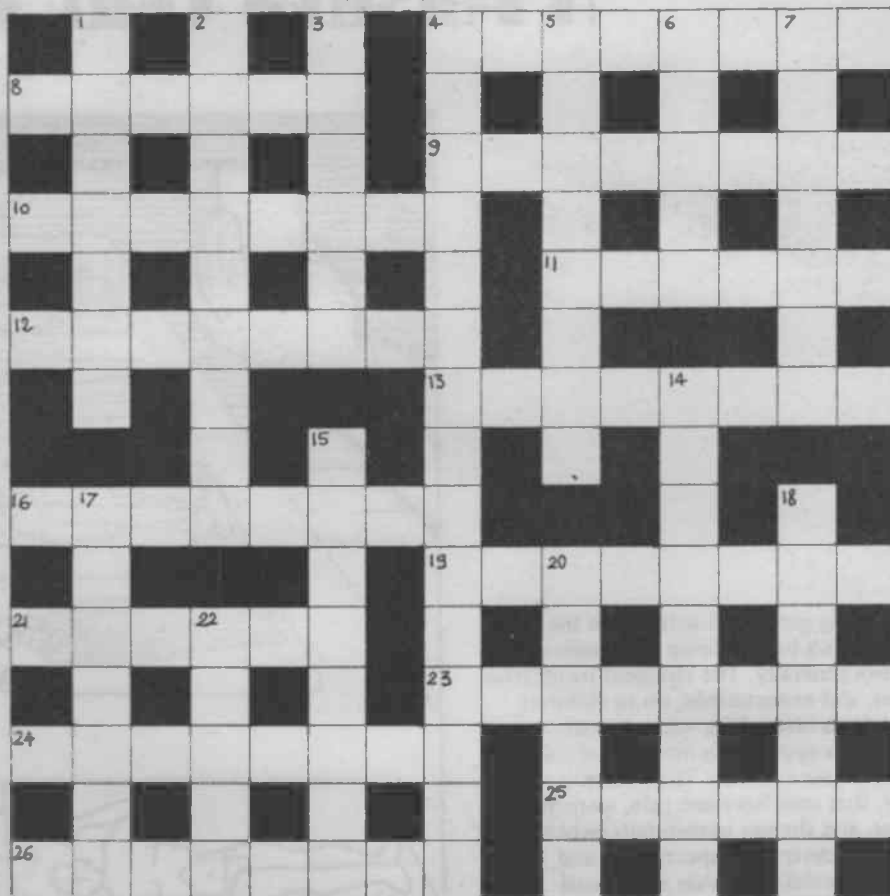
I was amused by a comment in an issue of the magazine *Jeffrey* last year. The writer was arguing for a recognition of gays and included the phrase: "If we behave like men ought to behave, then we have nothing to worry about." Oh dear, I thought, one way men are not supposed to behave is to make love to each other, or have any sort of physical-sexual contact with each other.

It was clear what the writer meant. Don't be camp, don't wear make-up, don't kiss in the streets. But he failed to see that a major source of homosexual anxiety is an attempt to respond to conflicting signals. Signal one says: be gay, enjoy your homosexuality, have a good sex life. Signal two says: behave as men are supposed to behave, which is in direct opposition to signal one.

No-one can respond to both signals simultaneously, but the attempt to respond to both at different times and in different degrees is certainly the cause of the greatest unhappiness to homosexual men and women — for the signals aimed at girls are equally strong. The more strongly a person responds to signal two, which is the social-role-playing signal, the greater the repression of their homosexuality leading to distorted behaviour patterns such as the schizophrenia of a double life.

GN's Fireside Crossword

By Barry Nonweiler



Clues — Across

4. Boy scout's affected ardour (4,4)
8. Fall for teat, OK? (4,2)
9. Wears undershirt in arty disarray, like what drag-artist does (8)
10. Mixed-up rent have a minced pie for opening anus (8)
11. 'E met Pole in ghastly surroundings, love (6)
12. Cottage in the Emerald Isle (5,3)
13. "It's a way to earn a bit on the side" as CHE say in trouble. (4,4)
16. Term for a brothel — "Sweat-Smell Street" by the Spanish, look (8)
19. Apply razor stimulation perhaps — a possible way to lose one's pubic hair (5,3)
21. Petal's basic diet (6)
23. Those dark stains that blot one's copy-book (3,5)
24. Takes all his clothes off and creates a stir — nut! (8)
25. Not often Roger's first — unusually early! (6)
26. Turning round the other way was a disappointment. (8)

Clues — Down

1. Piss elegant upset IRA, piss elegant drink (7)
2. Made cooler? Or made randy again? (9)
3. Waning flow displaced b-bowel (3,3)
4. Country nursing home for sick rent-boys? (7,8)
5. "The Prick Platter" — it could be a flesh-pot of course (4,4)
6. Fingers first — fishes, grapes (5)
7. R.T. dears, sets one back a bit (7)
14. Achieved only partial climax and went to pieces (4,5)
15. Birds get frost-bitten boobs (4,4)
17. Appalling behaviour at Rouge bust (7)
18. Should a high offer follow 25? (2,2,3)
20. Turkish capital in the bank — a rare bit (6)
22. Wizenod old fruit does public relations on a French female (5)

The solution to the above crossword will appear in GN39

STAR-GAYS

with Merlin



Aquarius

January 20–February 18

The last of the three Air signs (GEMINI and LIBRA are the other two) is one of the most easily liked of all zodiac signs. AQUARIANS are nice people, but they do need special understanding if they are not to be tragically misunderstood. Introspective, and yet humanitarian and out-going, this contradiction causes them to be thought remote from world problems or everyday concerns. On the contrary, they are only too aware of both, and deeply troubled by such problems. Enigmatic, but good mixers; popular, but withdrawn. Alone in crowds, but enjoying it, and bemoaning the fact that no-one really understands them. The AQUARIAN habit of appearing to listen attentively to the most inane gay chatter,

all the time really miles away in thought, endears them to friends who regard AQUARIANS as ideal conversationalists. Make no mistake though, AQUARIANS might appear only to put words in where the conversation is flagging, but they suffer fools unwillingly, arguing to great effect when aroused. It's just that a natural courtesy will often allow rudeness to appear to be a social asset, only freezing anyone who offends the AQUARIAN personal code.

Few AQUARIANS are conscious of time or give it much importance. They can be wrapped in their thoughts for hours, letting the world pass by, people around them coming and going unheeded. Because of this, some AQUARIAN relationships are compatible, particularly where other Air signs are involved, as AQUARIANS needn't necessarily be in the vicinity all the time, and jealousy seldom intrudes when any minor infidelity is exposed! On a broader scale, the AQUARIAN mind is more concerned with humanity and what can be done to improve the world by their own contribution. The AQUARIAN symbol is, after all, a water-carrier — nourishing the earth.

Wisdom, ancient or modern, is a particular AQUARIAN interest; linking religion with modern science is another aspect of the AQUARIAN mind. An aspect which demands truth in all things, researching into origins of mankind, yet keeping in mind theological niceties as demanded by world opinion. AQUARIANS also possess the courage to put their unorthodox views into practice wherever possible and where they won't easily be rejected.

AQUARIANS are ruled by the planets Saturn and Uranus. Saturn being concerned with past matters whilst Uranus is occupied with the future. In the present Age of AQUARIUS, these factors will form foundations for the later stages of the era. All AQUARIANS who are developed in the hidden arts inherent within themselves, will be actively engaged in relating sciences of the past to those of the future, to the eventual advantage of mankind in general. This is the purpose of the new astrological Age, in which AQUARIANS, and naturally gay AQUARIANS too, will play a most strange and important part. Watch your AQUARIAN friends, and keep them as friends, for they will prove to be the rock on which our future will be built. And what better than such personal solid foundations of one's own, in these shiftless, uncertain times! Actors, scientists, archeologists, religious leaders, or just that remote but attractive guy you always liked but could never get to know. AQUARIANS all, and the world of tomorrow belongs to them.

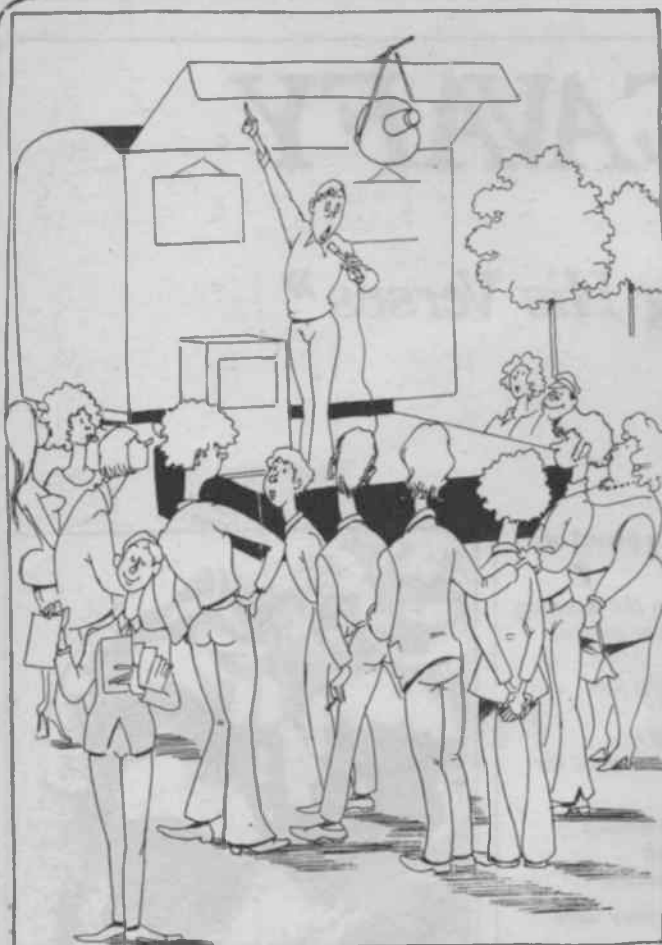
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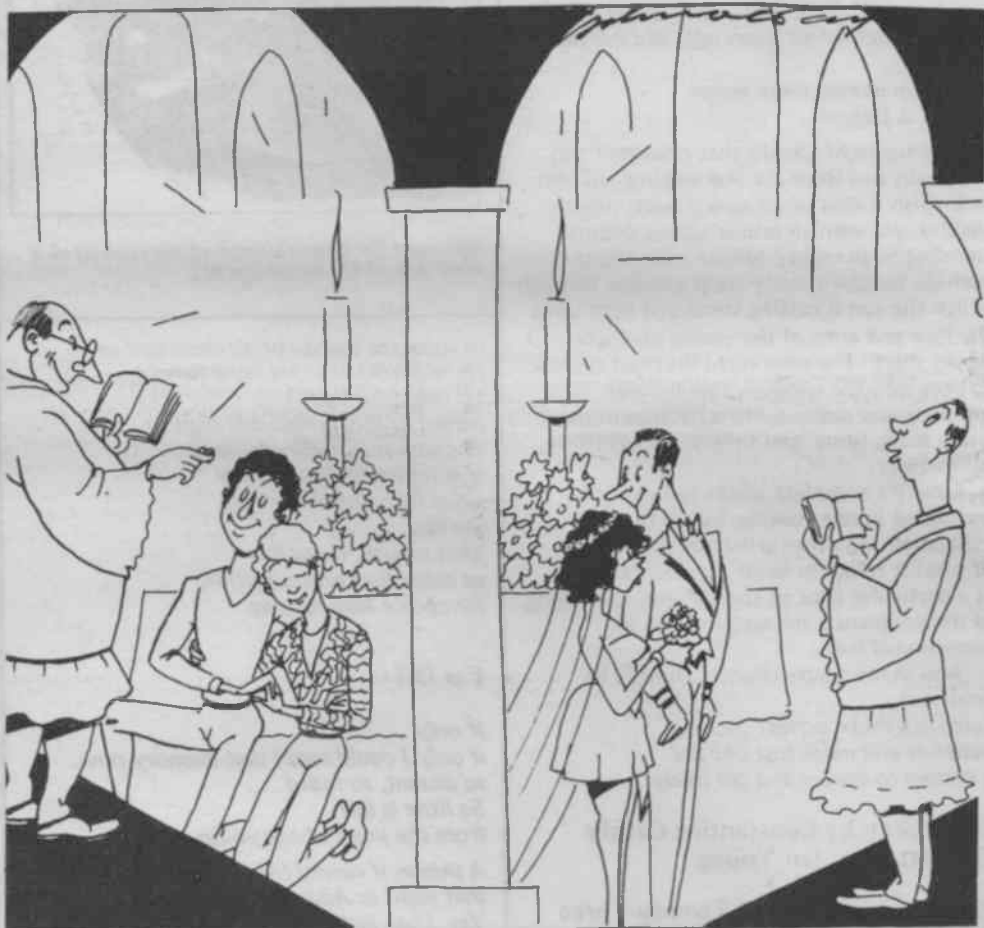


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CONSTANTINE CAVAFY

“Young Men Even Now Are Repeating His Verses”

By Ian Young

“Most readers know Constantine Cavafy only as a legend encountered in Lawrence Durrell’s *Alexandria Quartet*.” Peter Bien’s statement, written nine years ago, is probably still true, in spite of the fact that a number of good English translations of his poems have been published. Yet Cavafy is slowly becoming one of the most widely read of foreign poets, perhaps because of the directness and economy of his writing, and its accessibility to translation.

He is a major figure in 20th Century writing — and also in the history of gay literature. Though there have been many homosexual poets between the turn of the century and the present, only two have been major poets of homosexuality: the German poet Stefan George and Cavafy.

A learned, well-travelled cosmopolitan man, he had a great (though not uncritical) admiration for the Graeco-Roman and Byzantine civilisations and their heritage, and many of his poems are infused with a knowledge of the past. Some deal with historical figures or incidents. Others are more personal reflections of his own life. But the spirit of Greek love is never far away.

Cavafy was born in Constantinople in 1863, of a well-to-do Greek family; his father dies when he was seven, and his mother took him and her other children to England, where they stayed for seven years and where the young Constantine began to read and love English and French literature. Later, as a teenager, he lived again in Constantinople, and finally settled in Alexandria, Egypt at the age of 22. Shortly afterwards, he began to write.

He was fortunate to find an older lover, Pericles Anastasiades, who was interested in his literary talents, encouraged him in his writing and accepted his frugal methods of distributing his work.

Though Cavafy published no books of poetry while he lived, preferring to distribute his works on broadsheets among his friends, he craved wider recognition, especially among the young. He collected around him a coterie of young disciples who met at his favourite cafe to read his works and enjoy his conversation. He described his situation in a poem ironically called ‘Very Seldom’:

*An old man; bent up and exhausted
... he meditates
The holding he still has in youthfulness
Young men even now are repeating his verses
... Even now are moved by his revelations
of beauty*
(trans J Mavrogordato)

Something of a recluse, Cavafy worked by day as an official in the Ministry of Irrigation. At night and evenings, he was a well-known figure in the streets and cafes of the city. His apartment at 10 Rue Lepsius became legendary: the dimly-lit rooms with

their ornate, Byzantine furniture allowed the poet, always hyperconscious of his ageing, to remain in shadow whenever a beautiful youth entered. In the light of those candles, one of his poems attains a secondary meaning:

*The days of the future stand in front of us
Like a line of candles all alight...
The days that are past are left behind,
A mournful row of candles that are out...
I look before me at my lighted candles.
I don't want to turn round and see with
horror
How quickly the dark line is lengthening,
How quickly the candles multiply that have
been put out.*

(transl. J Mavrogordato)
Whatever the settings of Cavafy’s poems — the Ancient World or modern Alexandria — he focuses on particular small incidents or events and makes them not only evoke a particular time, place and state of mind, but also illuminate aspects of human experience and sensibility that have existed in any era or location. His poems sometimes seem like a series of glimpses into other worlds — and into our own: a telegraph boy looking at himself in the mirror of a rich man’s hall, a crowd, silently assembling in a public square, the quiet interior of a Byzantine church, a painted wine bowl, the memory of a night of love.

A number of his poems deal with his regret at opportunities lost, at brief encounters that will never come again:

*As I was going down the infamous stairs
you were coming through the door, and
for a second
I saw your unfamiliar face and you saw me...
Our bodies sensed and sought each other;
our blood and skin understood.
But we both hid ourselves, flustered.*
(transl E Keeley & G Savidis)

Cavafy’s romantic and sexual life was by Alexandrian standards, discreet. While he never hid the fact of his homosexuality, his temperament did not impel him to be blatant. Yet he seems to have felt a very deep frustration at his own reticence, and at the social discrimination that encourages such reticence and isolates the homosexual from his fellows and his community. He wrote:

*At least let me now deceive myself with
illusions
so as not to feel my empty life
And yet I came so close so many times.
And yet how paralyzed I was, how cowardly;
why did I keep my lips sealed
while my empty life wept inside me,
my desires dressed in black?
To have been so close so many times
to the eyes of love, the lips,
to the body dreamed of, loved.
So close, so many times.*
(transl E Keeley & G Savidis)

Not all his opportunities were passed up:

To Remain
*It must have been one o'clock in the morning,
or half past one. In a corner of the tavern;
behind the wooden partition.
Aside from the two of us the shop was
completely deserted.
A kerosene lamp scarcely lighted it.
Dozing, at the doorway, the waiter dead for
sleep.
No-one would have seen us. But already
we had excited ourselves so much
that we became unfit for precautions.
Our clothes were half-opened — they were
not many
for a divine month of July was scorching hot.
Enjoyment of the flesh between
our half-opened clothes;
quick baring of the flesh — the vision of what
occurred twenty-six years ago; and has now
come
to remain among these verses.*
(transl R Dalven)

The figure of Cavafy that emerges from his books and from the few writings on him in English is that of an ageing poet, slightly shabby, yet with an unmistakable dignity, standing in an empty Alexandrian street, perhaps besides a dusty shop window through which the sun is casting streaks of light onto the face and arms of the young man who works there. The poet turns his head slightly to peer into the window, sees his own knowing and melancholy reflection in the grimy glass, turns, and slowly, thoughtfully, walks away.

Cavafy’s complete works can easily be contained in one volume, but in them he delineated, no other artist has, something of what it is like to be of a particular place at a particular time in history, and something of the poignancy and timelessness of homosexual love.

And in his poem ‘Hidden Things’, he predicted:

*Later in a more perfect society,
someone else made just like me
is certain to appear and act freely.*

Two Poems by Constantine Cavafy
Translated by Ian Young

Picture of a Youth of Twenty-Three
Painted by His Friend of the Same
Age, an Amateur

*He studies it carefully now,
the painting he completed
yesterday noon.
He has painted him
in a coat of deep grey, unbuttoned,
no vest or tie,
a rose coloured shirt open at the collar*



Alexander the Great (founder of Alexandria) on a silver coin of Thrace (ca 286BC)

*to show the beauty of his chest and neck.
His hair falls over his right temple,
his beautiful hair
parted in the fashionable manner.
The sensuous feeling is there
that he wanted to portray
when he painted the eyes,
the lips...
That mouth, those lips
so made for consummation,
for choice love-making.*

Far Off

*If only,
if only I could recall that memory now,
so distant, so faded...
So little is left
from the years of my youth.
A skin as if carved from jasmine
that night in August — was it August?
Yes, I can just remember his eyes...
they were blue, I think...
Yes, blue... A sapphire blue...*

© Ian Young, 1973

ED: Many thanks and much love to Ian Young, Quorum and Gay Sunshine for permitting us to reprint the above article.

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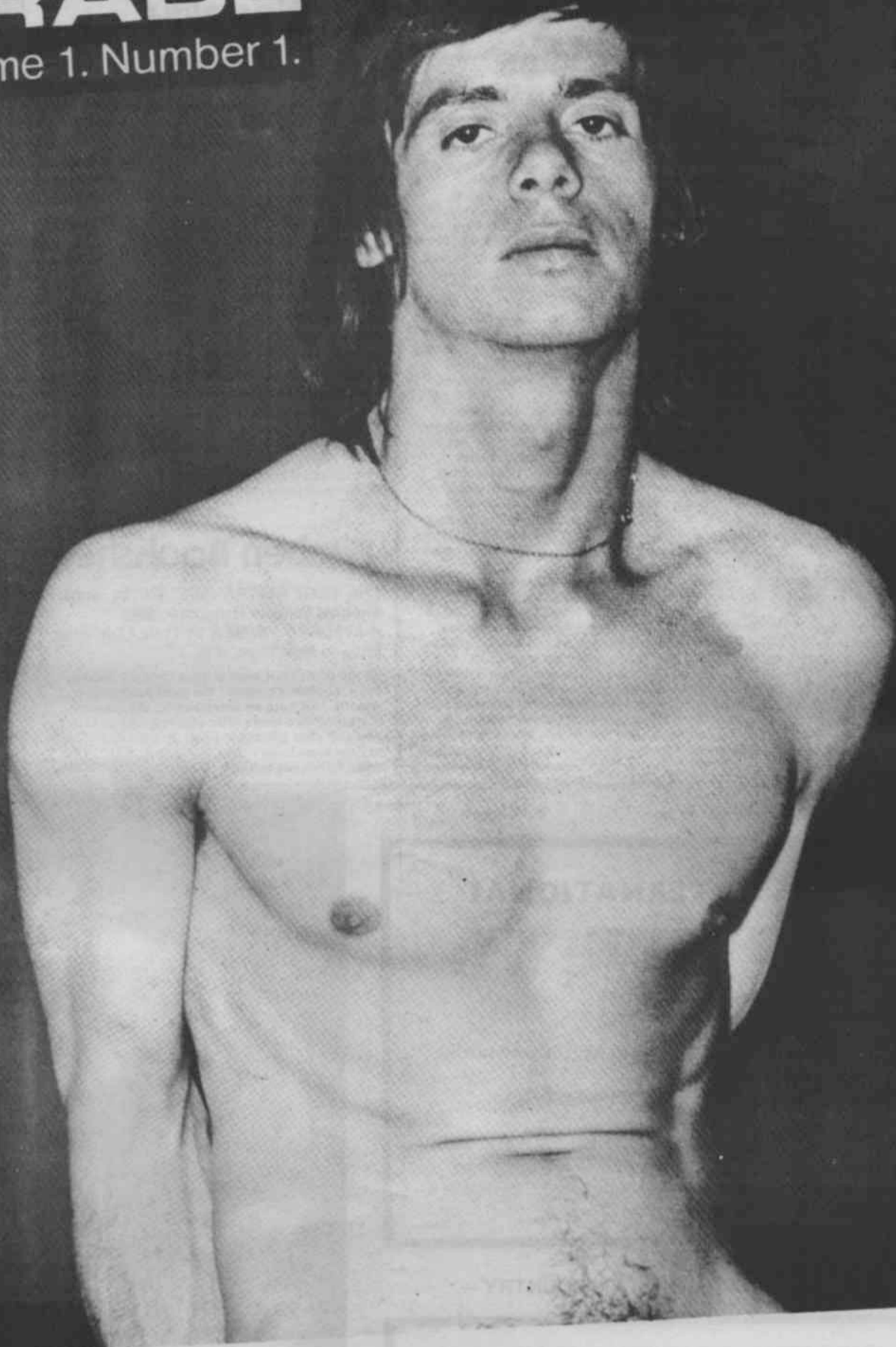
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World Of His Own

AGAINST NATURE by Joris-Karl Huysmans, Penguin Books 40p

The extravagant follies and riotous living of his youth led the Duc Jean des Esseintes to experience a revulsion at the coarseness and triviality of the human society in which he was forced to live.

In his book *Against Nature*, Huysmans describes his hero's decision to retreat into a life of seclusion, more demanding in its isolation than that of the Trappist monk. The Duc constructs an elaborate cell for himself, outside Paris, which he decorates and stocks with meticulous care, so that he can achieve for himself an exquisite and refined existence, full of intellectual and sensual adventure, without ever having to move from the house.

The burden of the novel is to recount, one by one, the delights of mind and flesh which Des Esseintes creates for himself, and to depict the corresponding ennui and physical pains which he suffers. From the colours with which he decorates his home: "What he wanted was colours which would appear stronger and clearer in artificial light. He did not particularly care if they looked crude and insipid in daylight, for he lived most of his life at night," to the smell of each room: "inhaling the smell of tar which had been introduced into the room before he entered it, he would examine a series of colour prints on the walls, such as you see in packet-boat offices and Lloyd's agencies", each detail is planned to create exactly the right effect. By setting up a room in the right way, he can avoid the dreary necessity of travel, "since he believed that the imagination could provide a more-than-adequate substitute for the vulgar reality of actual experience."

In his library are collected books of the major (and minor) Latin authors, spiritual works by theologians and secular writers, works by Flaubert and Baudelaire, amongst the literary giants, works by lesser mortals like Busenbaum and Liguori. And all these writers he reviews and considers in contemplation, seeking in them clues to the personality of their authors.

In this cloistered atmosphere he lives out a life of pain, fighting against disease and neurosis; and there is a feverishness in the way in which Huysmans describes Des Esseintes' preoccupations, and a feeling of deliquescence in the language the writer uses. It is, in an extraordinary way, a diseased book appealing to the morbidity and weariness of its readers. In the Duc's preoccupation with religion (fostered by early contact with Jesuit teachers) there is more despair, for his interest is in the aberrations of the church, in the pathology of catholicism.

Like very rich food, the book is hard to digest. Robert Baldick, (who has provided this admirable translation) recommends his readers to take the book in small doses, and it is sound advice. But in small doses it is a fascinating and disturbing work. Wilde enthusiasts may care to know (if they didn't already) that it was this book which he referred to in *Dorian Gray* when he spoke of "the

strangest book that he had ever read. It seemed to him that in exquisite raiment and to the delicate sound of flutes, the sins of the world were passing in dumb show before him. Things that he had dimly dreamed of were suddenly made real to him. Things of which he had never dreamed were gradually revealed.

This reissue by Penguin may be of interest to many who have not come across the book before.

Michael Mason

Hush Hush Sweet Norma

I, NORMA LEVY Published by Blond & Briggs, 50p

Many people will remember 1973 as the year of the big anti-climax. Just when the stage looked set for Britain to come up with an equal to Watergate, down came the shrouds of official silence and what could have been the juiciest sex scandal since the Profumo/Keeler Affair turned into a rather tame expose, that eventually did little more than end the political careers of two titled members of the establishment.

Once Fleet Street had been successfully muzzled and a couple of leading Sunday newspapers had figuratively had their bottoms smacked by the moral indignation of leader writers and the Press Council, the Lambton Jellicoe/Norma Levy story died a death. All the populace could do was get back to the age old game of wondering who was doing what with whom in parliamentary circles.

Blond & Briggs are now attempting to rekindle our curtailed interest in last year's disclosures of governmental indiscretion by publishing a presumably ghost-written paperback entitled *I, Norma Levy*. The blurb on the cover explains "This is her story . . ."

For 50p we learn of Norma's Catholic upbringing in Ireland, her parental troubles and how a job as a stripper in a Manchester club led her in time to becoming a top London call-girl. Her particular speciality was handling "the eccentric ones", in other words, clients who more often than not wanted to be dominated and all that implies. According to Norma, this was a common feature of the sexualities of many peers, aristocrats and industrialists. Haven't I heard that somewhere before?

We are informed about the 'parties' organised by Donald Nixon (President Richard Nixon's nephew) for international financier Robert Vesco and the time she slept with President Soekarno. But apart from revealing some previously unpublished details of her relationship with Lord Lambton, she gives very little else away. Admittedly, there are lots of titbits concerning anonymous clients such as her frequent habit of entertaining visiting Arab statesmen or the kinky session she had with the son and heir of one of the household names in British business. Unfortunately though, she sheds no further light on why the government

acted in such a paranoid fashion once rumours spread that it was more than just Lambton and Jellicoe who were involved in the 'vice' scandal. Ultimately the book is no more than a disappointing piece of sensationalism.

Whilst respecting individuals' rights to privacy, especially in their sex lives, it is a pity that *I, Norma Levy*, is little more than a pin-prick in the side of bigotry and pomposity and not a sharp thorn that tears a hole in the hypocritical and undemocratic wall of silence that prevents the truth from being known. It would appear that the only security at risk were the seats of certain politicians in the Houses of Parliament.

Denis Lemon

Woodstock Nostalgia

THE SEASON OF THE WITCH by James Leo Herlihy, published by Pan Books at 45p

As the cover of this paperback will remind you, J Leo Herlihy is also the successful author of 'Midnight Cowboy', a novel which hit the best seller charts while Schlesinger's film adaptation was brightening up the international screen.

As in 'Midnight Cowboy', two-thirds of this novel is set in New York, but the similarity stops there, as the approach, as far as the characters are concerned, is quite different.

The Season Of The Witch is the diary of 17-year-old Gloria (later, the Witch of the title) who gets bored with her provincial town existence and her mother's lack of understanding and she decides to run away. She goes to New York with her 'soul-lover' John, who is trying to escape the draft, and, incidentally, is gay . . .

This is '69, Woodstock Nation and Vietnam, and a couple of teenagers discovering a new sense of freedom.

The book sums up in a stimulating, often funny way, all the theories people were developing and trying out in the late 60's about 'Love, Peace and Revolution'.

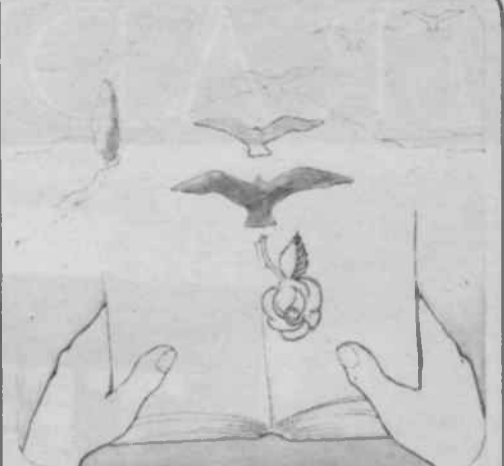
If you're ready for a nostalgia trip in these not so far away times, you'll find J Leo Herlihy's book immensely readable and enjoyable.

Jean-Claude Thevenin

Kitchen Bookshelf

THE VEGETARIAN EPICURE, by Anna Thomas. Penguin Handbook, 50p
A KITCHEN PRIMER by Craig Clairborne. Penguin Handbook, 40p

IN the context of main-stream cookery books, Anna Thomas's contains the most astonishing remark. In a note on entertaining, she suggests that some two hours after you've finished eating, you and your guests are likely to get hungry again, so have something ready to produce. She then adds: "This two-hours-later course is especially



recommended if grass is smoked socially at your house. If you have passed a joint around before dinner to sharpen gustatory perceptions, you most likely will pass another one after dinner, and everyone knows what that will do — hunger can strike at any time". She's right: my mates call this post-grass hunger "the munchies".

Ms Thomas does not include grass as an ingredient in any of her recipes, but this is the first time I've seen a reference to smoking among anyone's notes on entertaining. And the book is certainly the best introduction to vegetarian eating I've come across. It's free from defensive paragraphs and from mealy-mouthed exhortations. There is no attempt to create substitutes for meat in the form of extracts or simulations. The recipes and menu suggestions just ignore meat. Removal of the conventional centre point of a meal does not, here, leave an embarrassing hole. Emphases are placed elsewhere. There are convincing vegetarian menus for Christmas and other festival food.

Craig Clairborne has been food editor of *The New York Times* since 1957 and since then has become a respected television performer and cookery writer. Professionals who opt for public appearance have a deal of kitchen dexterity, and Clairborne here reveals his own; he tells how to crack eggs, chop onions, how to keep the kitchen neat and hundreds of other things. Very useful and inventive. His recipes employ basic techniques and have the virtue of stimulating experiment and elaboration according to personal whim or taste. Good value.

Roger Baker

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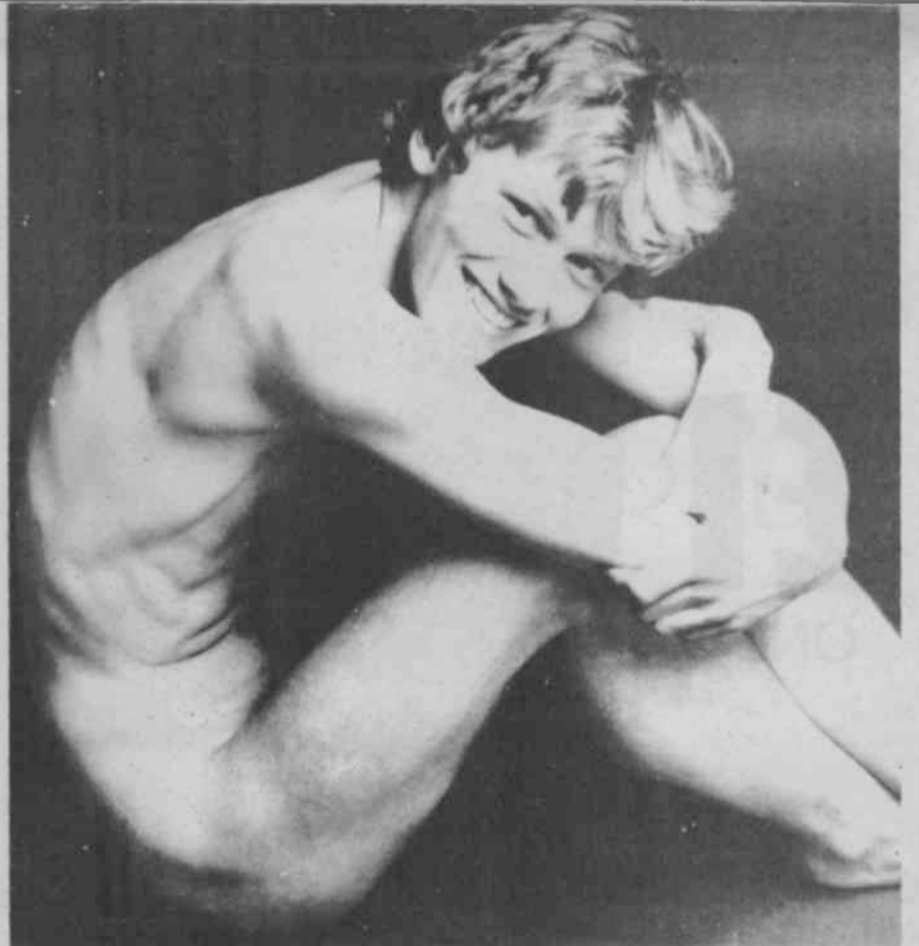
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Not Quite A Gentleman

By Iain T Finlayson

Peter Templer, one of the main protagonists in Antony Powell's roman fleuve 'The Music Of Time', is regarded throughout with recurring mistrust simply because 'there was always a slight impression that he was too well dressed.' The inbuilt extrasensory perceptions of Society operate equally efficiently from within as from without the individual personality. Max Beerbohm, in 'Zuleika Dobson' pinpoints the essential agony — 'ever since I can remember, I have been beset by a recurring doubt as to whether I be or be not quite a gentleman'. It is a doubt that has beset a good many others and been largely responsible for the narrow limits demarcating the dress of an English Gentleman from that of any other (usually inferior) society.

The zenith of perfection in dress was achieved, at the cost of some considerable application of time, expense and trouble, by Beau Brummell who did not, as is widely supposed, dress ostentatiously. A determined understatement and conservative manner of dress was the *raison d'être* of the Beau's appearance. It is this English style of discreet elegance which has been so relentlessly, and ineffectually, pursued by so many would-be

elegants. Peter Templer, already referred to, just missed achieving true elegance by a hair's breadth because his clothes were, however marginally, noticeably smart. The dividing line between elegance and dandyism — between being a gentleman and being a cad (or, worse still, a bounder) — is so fine as to be scarcely perceptible at first glance; but it exists nonetheless and those who cross it are doomed to be ever just that bit beyond the pale and to be regarded as that most pitiful of creatures — not quite a gentleman.

'Le style anglais', then, has for long enough been a pit into which multitudes fall daily in attempting, with greater or lesser degrees of failure, to create a desirable image for themselves. The French are particularly prone to error in this regard, but continue to strive unceasingly to affect the mode (if not the manner) of the English. Their efforts are fated to disaster simply because they disregard one vitally important matter — the Englishman has a leg. The French, in general, do not have a leg. This natural endowment of the English gentleman is referred to in Meredith's 'The Egoist'. It is there that Mrs Mountstuart Jenkinson remarks, of Sir Willoughby Patterne, "You see, he has a leg"; and the flower of Society flocked to wonder at his possession of such a limb. For this was no mere leg. It was a 'modulated instrument'. Sir Willoughby Patterne had a leg 'like Cicero had a tongue'. Such gifts as a beneficent Nature can endow had been bestowed upon Sir Willoughby and, by implication, upon Englishmen as a whole.

This English leg requires to be clad in a fashion appropriate to its superior qualities. It is not clothes alone which maketh the (English) man, but a combination of natural attributes and choice of suitable materials cut in a certain ordained manner which will best enhance the superiority of the English physique. And here is the pit into which lesser mortals (not being possessed of a leg) are prone to topple — such a leg, though fine, must never be ostentatiously fine. It is a good leg, it is a well-turned leg, but it is a discreet leg. It is a leg to be finely and appropriately clothed. It is a leg to be clothed with utmost discretion.

The art of English dressing, then, is to be in ever present danger of paying, on the one hand, too little attention to dress, or on the other, a little too much attention. It is

debatable which is the greater social error.

I have taken time to discuss the subject of dressing like a gentleman because that happens to be the currently fashionable mode. Discreet checks, country tweeds, a faint air of just having wandered off a grouse moor, and an understated elegance are unmistakably voguish. This being so, fashion, for most of us, is a constant battle. The success of the English gentleman lies in the fact that he does not care. The rest of us *do* care — and that is why we consistently fail to emulate him with any great success.

However, nil desperandum, and the clothes illustrating this column may, at very least, help us an inch or two along the way to projecting a reasonable facsimile of gentle breeding. Aquascutum's new Spring range features their quintessential English clothes which, as ever, are best suited to possessors of a leg like that possessed by Sir Willoughby Patterne. These are classically understated and reliable clothes which look good and keep their style for years in the face of every determined onslaught by fashion in its efforts to outdate them. Much the same considerations apply to the firm of Burberry which goes on making variations each season on the basic classic trench coat and macs year after year. Miraculously, against all the odds, a Burberry can be almost guaranteed never to go completely out with the mainstream of fashion.

Simpson's of Piccadilly tend to much the same success with their simple, unfussy, gentlemanly clothes — although their 'Trend' department is a useful hunting ground for more fickle fashion. Jaeger, too, with their inimitable ranges of beautifully designed and well made woollies and natural fibre clothes, could very likely go on forever, turning out faultlessly classic clothes for Englishmen. A common criticism is that such clothes as these tend to be more than a little boring. It is true that they are not wildly flamboyant, will never be considered decadent, or permit you to win the title 'Mr Lurex '74', which is all to the good. Fashion decrees that English style is the

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

current mode, and it is paradoxical that you are more likely to stand out in a crowd by being elegantly dressed than if you are defiantly outrageous in your clothes.

The only real problem to be encountered in the shops these days is the formidable battle the Englishman must wage against hordes of Continentals, Americans and more recently and mysteriously, the wave of Japanese, who flock in their multitudes to buy the best of English fashion. When, oh when will the French — and every last one of the others — learn that their mad pursuit is in vain, that they do not have a leg, and that all they can ever hope to be is not quite a gentleman? The rest of us learnt that sorry lesson a long time ago!



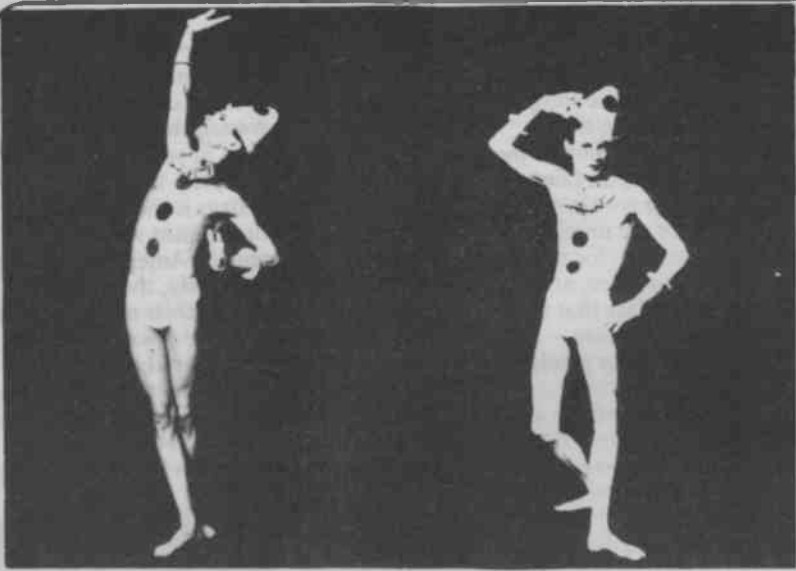
Photograph: Rodex Ltd

Slimmed down, unfussy treatment of the original trenchcoat style, this all-weather coat takes on new life in a selection of fabrics including permanently-proofed cotton fabric and pure new wool. By Rodex of London, for Aquascutum of Regent Street.



The CHAGUARAMAS regrets the disappointment caused to members and friends during its recent troubles. We are open as usual and expect to be back to 'normal' by mid January

Chaguaramas Club
41-43 Neal Street London WC2 H9PJ
phone 01 836 0938



A Space-Age Minstrel

JOBRIATH — Elektra 75070

To some people (no names please) he is the ultimate in hype, the unscrupulous plagiarist (his voice and singing style have an uncanny resemblance to both Bowie and Jagger) who just happens to have had a great deal of promotion. Some people just don't like to be presented with *faits accomplis*. But for me (and fortunately for a few others) Jobriath is the next big star — in the cosmic sense, to appear in the somewhat uncertain skies of the 70s.

On his first album, Jobriath juxtaposes cosmic presence and nostalgia, space suits and transparent Pierrot costumes, harsh electric sound and sensitive piano; and all this with great conviction.

Without mimicry or pretension he lives out his fantasies in his songs. The opening track *Take Me, I'm Yours* is a sound fantasy about that little bit of S&M involved in any love relationship, and Jobriath makes of it a glittering gay anthem. Another cut on the first side worthy of note is *World Without End*, with its hint of a politico-moral statement:

"Sit back and watch a revolution
On the late night news."

Movie Queen is in my view a simply genial guide to how you use camp to make a perfectly meaningful love song. But the high spot of the album is *I Maman*, the French meaning intended. It is a classic love/hate song. Jobriath wrote it as a ballad from a gay boy to his mother:

"If I should love you
I would love you
The way a man loves a woman.
My body claims my mind and soul
So let me be
What I am

I'm an elegant man . . .
. . . Pierrots and spaceous clothes
Are what I am."
Rock Of Ages is a cute dancing track, a short history of rock 'n' roll, says Jobriath: "A Little Richard goes a long, long way."

The album closes on the clever *Blow Away*. Clever, because apart from an implicit reference to fellatio, one can find half a dozen other meanings to the lyrics and dream away with the choirs.



Anyway, we'll see very soon whether Jobriath keeps all the promises of this neatly arranged album. He is to open a new era in rock concerts by appearing at the Paris Opera House in February.
Jean-Claude Thevenin

Full Circle

BARBRA STREISAND AND OTHER MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS — CBS 69052

With her first album, Barbra Streisand proved herself a singer of unrivalled artistry. Her unique singing voice burst upon the public, and as at that time much of her material consisted of unknown songs, I marvelled that her albums sold in such amazing quantities. After her film debut, several tunes became associated with her, and her repertoire veered to more popular lines. By the late sixties, when several young and talented singer/composers gained popularity, Barbra was quick to utilise many of their songs in her albums 'Stoney End' and 'Barbra Joan Streisand'.

Now, with her latest album, *Barbra Streisand And Other Musical Instruments*, which ties in with her first TV special in five years, she has come full circle in using material both popular and unknown.

Piano Practising which opens the record, is another excursion showing her dexterity with lyrics sung at a frantic tempo. Gershwin's *I Got Rhythm* which lasts some fourteen minutes, is one of those tracks that grows on you after several listenings. On screen it took the form of a travelogue, with la Streisand bedecked in costumes of many lands. The lovely Gershwin song is used as a framework to include several other songs such as *One Note Samba*, *Glad To Be Unhappy*, and the inevitable *People and Don't Rain On My Parade*.



What should have proved an interesting excursion for her, but proved merely pretentious both on disc and TV alas, are her versions of *By Myself* and *Come Back To Me*. Missing from the album, no doubt due to contract difficulties, are her duets with guest Ray Charles. Mr C, in my opinion, has more soul, funk, or whatever, in his little finger, than most of today's much lauded newer soul stars, and surprisingly Streisand's voice blended well with his.

The highlight, both on the record and TV, came when she sat down to sing Harold Arlen's *I Never Has Seen Snow*. This lovely song from the musical 'House of Flowers' is virtually unknown here, and her rendering of it, with that unique combination of clarity of voice and perfect phrasing, is a wondrous thing. I must admit, unlike her previous albums, this one requires several playings to get fully acquainted with it, but on the strength of the aforementioned Arlen tune, and her closing *The Sweetest Sounds* (with angel chorus yet) I've been playing it a lot of late.

Barry Conley

Soul Food

One of the most exciting recent soul releases is Denise La Salle's *Doin' It Right* (Westbound 6309102). And that's exactly what she does do. Containing a total of 13 tracks, there isn't a dull moment on the album. Included is her first big Stateside hit, *Trapped By A Thing Called Love*, which is just one of eight self-penned numbers the singer features. Of these, *Breaking Up Somebody's Home*, *A Man Sized Job* and *Now Run And Tell That* are particularly impressive. There are also excellent versions of *Do Me Right* (previously a hit for the Detroit Emeralds) and Bill Withers' *Lean On Me*. The funky backings accompanying Ms La Salle's vocals, especially the lead guitar playing and the horn arrangements, contribute enormously to making *Doin' It Right* a cut above the average soul album.

Gold Soul (Stax 2362034) is a compilation album that features a first rate selection of hits by the cream of the label's roster of artists. Amongst the 14 tracks are *Soul Limbo* and *Time Is Tight* by Booker T & The MG's. *Private Number* by William Bell and *Judy Clay*, Rufus Thomas's *(Do The) Funky Chicken*, *I Stand Accused* by Isaac Hayes. Other highlights are *I Forgot To Be Your Love* and *Happy* by William Bell, *The Bar-Kay's Black* and two all-time soul classics by Johnny Taylor, *Who's Making Love* and *(I Wanna) Testify*. Much of the material on *Gold Soul* was released on maxi singles a couple of months back, but if you haven't got them, the record is an economical way of capturing on one album some of the best cuts from a golden period in Stax's history.

Gladys Knight & The Pips' first album on their new label is *Imagination* (Buddah 2318083), and although well up to the standard of their Tamla Motown releases, it doesn't quite live up to my expectations. The major fault seems to be the choice of material, which all too often is either weak or unsuitable to Gladys' soulful vocal style. However, *Midnight Train To Georgia*, *I've Got To Use My Imagination* and *Where Peaceful Waters Flow* are completely successful and clearly demonstrate why Ms Knight is one of the finest singers on the current soul scene.

The Staple Singers' *Be What You Are* (Stax 2325103) is one of the best collections of new material they have released in recent years. Although not including a masterpiece like *I'll Take You There*, which was on their previous album, it contains no disappointments and is thoroughly entertaining throughout. Outstanding cuts are the title track, *Touch A Hand, Make A Friend*, *I Ain't Raising' No Sand* and a devastating piece of funk entitled *Tellin' Lies*. Recommended to those people who like their soul food to have a very definite gospel flavour.

Slaughter's *Big Rip-Off* is another ultra-violent, black hero movie of the type that seem to roll out of the film studios with increasing regularity nowadays, ever since the enormous commercial success of 'Shaft'. James Brown, 'the Godfather of Soul' (as he is credited on the sleeve) is responsible for the soundtrack score and it serves as his latest album release (Polydor 2391084). Supported throughout by the JB's, and featuring Lyn Collins on one cut, the record stands on its own as a valid collection of soul music, a must for Brown's many admirers, and a number of tracks are likely to prove popular in discotheques.

Isaac Hayes' latest release is simply called *Joy* (Stax 2325111), and the album's title is the best overall way of describing its impact. As usual all the expected ingredients are included; symphonic orchestrations, earthy rhythms, good lead and background vocals, soaring strings, etc etc, and as always they all jell together to form a substantial whole. Of the five cuts, only *I Love You That's All* (the shortest track) is a failure. It is a pretentious, supposedly hip send-up, that concerns Isaac and a girl friend arriving at the singer's pad rather drunk and proceeding to 'get it on'. If it ever had a point to make, it must have disappeared down the hole in the middle of the record by the time it reached me. The rest of the material though is superb, and fully deserves the success it is bound to enjoy on both sides of the Atlantic.

Denis Lemon



Reggae Delights

Nicky Thomas, a young Jamaican who previously had a sizeable hit with *Love Of The Common People*, has a new album out called *Image Of You* (Horse HRLP 701). The record mostly features fast moving reggae numbers with plenty of pulsating electric bass, which makes it a stimulating experience for both armchair foot-tappers and dancers alike.

Another artist from the Caribbean who has also had successful records in both Jamaica and within the black community in Britain is John Holt. His latest album



is *A Thousand Volts Of Holt* (Trojan TRLS 75) on which he primarily specialises in singing reggae versions of contemporary hit songs. John has a smooth, soulful voice that is well suited to the material he is interpreting. If given enough promotion and air-plays, he's likely to gain a much larger following in this country. Best tracks on the album are *Killing Me Softly With Her Love*, *You Baby*, *Which Way You Going Baby*, *Morning Of My Life*, and *Mr Bojangles*.

Shortly before the end of December, three compilation albums were released, which between them contain some of the finest and best selling reggae cuts issued during the last year. First: *20 Dragon Hits* (Dragon DLRS 5003) features tracks by some of the most popular artists in Jamaica, including Ken Parker, Eric Donaldson, Tommy McCook, Jackie Brown, Big Youth and I Roy. Second: *Soul To Soul/DJ's Choice* (Trojan TRLS 74). This collection offers the listener songs such as *DJ's Choice* and *Wake Up Jamaica* by Dennis Alcapone and *The Jungle Skank* by Natural Youth. Lastly, and best of the three albums, is *Trojan's Greatest Hits Volume 3* (Trojan TBL 208). Priced at only 99½p, this collection is worth every penny. There is a total of 14 cuts and amongst the most exciting are *Star Trek* by The Vulcans, the Chosen Few's *Everybody Plays The Fool*, *Blue Moon* by the Plutonics, *Judge Dread's Big One*, and *Oh What A Feeling* by Tito Simon. Other goodies are *At The Discotheque* by the Pioneers, *John Holt's The Further You Look*, *Private Number* by Bob & Marcia and *Nicky Thomas's New Morning*. Without a doubt the last album is an absolutely essential addition to any reggae record collection.

Denis Lemon

Showbiz Releases

PIPPIN — Original Broadway Cast — Tamla Motown STMA 8014

From the opening track, *Magic To Do*, right down to the finale, the original New York cast recording of *Pippin* is an exciting blending of good tunes brilliantly orchestrated by Ralph Burns. Stephen Schwarz's score for this show, in my opinion, is superior to his earlier 'Godspell' and the varied rhythmic patterns he employs enhance both melody and lyrics. Ben Vereen, who plays the Storyteller, sings everything with great attack, and his personality certainly comes across well. In perfect contrast, John Rubinstein as Pippin, has all the romantic quality necessary for his two hit love songs, *Morning Glow* and *Corner of The Sky*, and the two men's voices blend together beautifully on the exciting song *On The Right Track*. The late Irene Ryane (of 'Beverly Hillsbillies' fame) sings *No Time At All*, and one can easily understand why it became the big show stopper of this musical.

The album has a double sleeve to include several photographs of the production, as well as all the lyrics to the songs. Full marks to Motown for a first-rate souvenir recording.

Barry Conley

A DROP OF THE HARD SHUFF . . . — Mrs Shufflewick — Decca SKL 5155

Comedy routines on record are always difficult, if not impossible to adequately review. What makes some people roar with laughter can easily leave others cold. That said, my comments on Mrs Shufflewick's new album are primarily addressed to his many admirers, and as such I find *A Drop Of The Hard Shuff* . . . hilarious.

Recorded live at one of London's leading drag venues, 'The New Black Cap'

in Camden High Street, the recording very much captures a typical Shuff performance. A few of the jokes don't quite come off, others are wickedly blue, but he's always entertaining, if not side-splitting. To catch his live act is to watch someone whose humour and presentation are in the finest tradition of Music Hall.



For my money, Mrs Shufflewick is the funniest drag/comedy artist working in Britain today and even on an off night can usually put to shame a lot of other so called comedians (particularly those who go in for camp patter on the television). In these depressing and gloomy times, *A Drop Of The Hard Shuff* . . . goes down a treat.

Denis Lemon

Julian's Singles

A great double A-side reggae release is *Molly c/w Dr Kitch* by Judge Dread (Trojan TR 7905). The latter song is a version of the infamous calypso originally recorded by the Mighty Sparrow a few years back. Like some of Judge Dread's other discs, it has no chance whatever of being played on the radio or on 'Top of the Pops'. Sexist bad taste at its triumphant best. Less likely to offend the ears of Auntie Beeb is *Molly*, a catchy little ditty that has good chart potential.

Two other reggae singles worth having a listen to are *Nose For Trouble* by Winston Groovy (Explosion EX 2086) and *A Little Bit Of Soap* by the Pioneers (Trojan TR7906).

For his latest single, Tamla Motown have coupled together two of the best tracks from Smokey Robinson's recently released solo album, his first since parting company with The Miracles. The A-side is *Just My Soul Responding* (TMG 883) and on the flip is *Sweet Harmony*. The latter (a smash hit in the States a couple of months ago) is a vocal tribute to Smokey's former group.

Get It Together (title track from their forthcoming album) is the Jackson Five's latest single (Tamla Motown TMG 878), and it is a harder hitting, more disco orientated number than one usually expects from this group. It is a refreshing change to hear the JS getting a little more funky.

Briefly...

Released at last is *The Pointer Sisters'* first album (Island ILPS 9243), although it was previously available as a specially printed import and reviewed in GN30. Simply called *The Pointer Sisters*, the record introduces an amazing four-girl harmony team who specialise in vocal styles that range from the 1920s to the 1970s. They are currently taking America by storm and judging from the increased amount of attention they are receiving in the UK, they'll probably do the same in Britain. Not surprisingly, they are already extremely popular in many discotheques.

Sabbath Bloody Sabbath (WWA 005) is another thoroughly hair-raising album by Black Sabbath. Sure to delight their numerous admirers, but unlikely to do much for anyone else.

Let's Get It On (Tamla Motown STMA 8013) is another contemporary masterpiece by Marvin Gaye, and is in

the same league as his memorable 'What's Going On' recording. Dedicated to the joys of sex and copulation, the title of cuts such as *Let's Get It On*, *You Sure Love To Ball* and *Just To Keep You Satisfied* speak for themselves without any further comment from me. It may all sound rather pretentious, but thanks to Gaye's awareness and good taste, *Let's Get It On* is a beautifully conceived and executed concept album that completely deserves the acclaim and commercial success it is currently enjoying.

The Voice Of Jazz, Volume 5 (Verve 2304115) is the latest release in a 12-album set of recordings by the late Billie Holiday. As I have said in reviews of the previous four records, the series is a particularly fine tribute to an extraordinarily talented artist and Volume 5 amply continues to demonstrate why Billie was the greatest of all jazz singers.

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WILLIE HUTCH
Fully Exposed
STML 11247

The man who scored The Mack is back with his own solo album. And at last his full musical potential is being exposed for all to hear. There's exciting new material, and some Willie Hutch classics like California My Way and I'll Be There, all written, performed, and produced by this dynamic artist.



JACKSON FIVE
Get It Together
SMML 11243 Available on Tape

Nobody gets it together quite like the J-5. And this new album offering is no exception. Its release coincides with the dramatic conclusion of their spectacular Japan/Hawaii Tour and, as its title so clearly indicates, the album includes their latest hit single.



EDDIE KENDRICKS
Eddie Kendricks
STML 11245 Available on Tape

After leading The Temptations through scores of gold records, Eddie Kendricks now surfaces as a successful solo artist with one of the most exciting albums out of Motown this year. As well as the chart climbing "Keep On Truckin'" the album contains some beautiful moments of tenderness and joy with ballads like "Each Day I Cry A Little."



MARVIN GAYE
Let's Get It On
STMA 8013 Available on Tape

The Passion (Let's Get It On). The Pleasure (You Sure Love To Ball). The Pain (If I Should Die Tonight). These are some of the emotions laid bare in this Marvin Gaye album about love - the album of the year, introduced by the single of the year, which was certified platinum in the U.S. six weeks after its release.



DIANA ROSS & MARVIN GAYE
Diana & Marvin
STMA 8015 Available on Tape

Two of the music industries biggest stars together for the first time. The idea works beautifully, Marvin and Diana complement each other perfectly. On a set of some old songs and some brand new they create a romantic mood that reflects the mutual admiration the two have for each other. An exciting concept that has been flawlessly executed.



THE TEMPTATIONS
Anthology

(3 album set - 37 hit tracks) M 782
Temptations Anthology is destined to become a collector's item. It's filled with the songs that have become music legend. In all there are 37 milestone Temptations hits in one 3 album package. Inside, there's an exciting 12-page illustrated booklet, filled with many rare historical photos of the Temps, as well as a specially written history - from their beginnings as The Primes, through all their changes, right up to the present time.

Tamla Motown-You've never heard it so good



The Screen Scene

Christmas and New Year is traditionally the most distasteful time in cinema when that legion of mindless families who go to the cinema once every school holidays, have to be catered for. Animals and children abound and it's often hard to tell the difference. The dolphins in Mike Nicholl's *Day Of The Dolphin* (Avco Embassy) for example, appear to be far more intelligent than Tatum O'Neal in Peter Bogdanovich's dry, unproductive foray into 1930s depression-ridden America, *Paper Moon* (CIC). It's hard to decide which was the banal-est of them all. Was it Redford and Newman as two incompetent gangsters hamming their way through George Roy Hill's *The Sting* (CIC)? It didn't so much hurt as bore. While the National Film Theatre was screening a 'Fifty Years Of Warner Brothers' season, encompassing many of the great gangster films of the thirties, *The Sting* and *Paper Moon* seemed very inferior to the originals, cardboard replicas in fact. They tried to imitate that which is past, rather than parody, for which they might be forgiven.

Mike Nicholls is a pretentious director, whose main skill is his ability to latch on to the current trend of liberal adolescent thought. If you revisit *The Graduate*, which is still showing ad infinitum, six years after its initial release, you'll see what I mean. It's rather like watching newsreels of the 'Twist' or the 'I'm Backing Britain' campaign. As much as I admire George C Scott's performance and *The Day Of The Dolphin's* basic ethic, the production line hash laced treacle is spread just a little too generously.

Scott is a scientist who's trained dolphins to speak English and trust human beings. One of his employees, an ex-criminal and a homosexual — what else? — devises a method of capitalising the developed intelligence and trust of the dolphins to aid his plan to explode the boat carrying the President of the United States.

It's interesting to compare the hippie idealism of *The Day Of The Dolphin* to the harsh desperate middle American backlash ideology of three recent adult releases. In Gordon's War (Fox-Rank) a black ex-marine returns to Harlem from Vietnam to find his wife dead from a drug overdose, so he takes the law into his own hands and forms a task force to smash the rackets. The film seems to excuse his extreme acts because he's given himself to America in Vietnam, and the social workers, police etc are corrupt or powerless.

Having discussed its philosophy, I must of course say it's not a totally serious film. Critics of film violence, I'm not one of them, would call it gratuitous. It shouldn't be ignored though, because it relates very strongly to a very desperate now situation.

Ted Post's *Magnum Force* (Columbia-Warner) on the same wavelength as Gordon's War, is a sequel to Don Siegel's *Dirty Harry*. Clint Eastwood is there again as Inspector Harry Callaghan,



Clint Eastwood in 'Magnum Force'

beautifully sardonic, ultra cool and elusive, fighting a one-man battle against a group of colleagues who are popping off all the city's big time criminals, believing that the sophisticated techniques of lawyers are rendering the courts ineffectual. Hal Holbrook is unremittingly tough as the officer who's lost faith in the Law, (one can see why one critic called the movie neo-fascist), but it does reflect an idea already circulating in peoples' minds, not just create propaganda.

It is also a delightfully entertaining film, ironic as well as exciting. The violence and the chases are powerful and originally staged, and the performances outstanding. The atmosphere of high speed, hot, dirty San Francisco landscape is rich and lucid.

Finally, even I blanched once or twice during *Walking Tall* (CIC), the supposedly true story of Sheriff Buford Pusser, who killed off gaming, illegal whisky and prostitution rackets in 1950s Tennessee. People get crudely shot in the eye, and clubbed over the head, but one's superficial shock of the violence is one that emerges out of being entertained. Phil Karlson directs credibly.

David Seligman

Riot Of The Senses

FLOWERS — A PANTOMIME FOR JEAN GENET at the Bush Theatre, Bush Hotel, Shepherd's Bush Green, London W12

To Messiaen accompaniment, four near naked young men writhe free of their sack cloth bedding in a prison cell, groping the air for an escape from their confinement. This immediate establishing of a sense of erotic anguish sets the mood for much of what is to follow.

Lindsay Kemp deals in fantasy and sensualism. His creations make perfect vehicles for the plasticity of the mime in which he and his companies excel. With gesture and music, comedy and song, he runs his audience through a whole spectrum of emotional reaction. There is comedy in abundance, but the humour is always uneasy and restless. Behind every laugh raised is sympathy for the pathetic creatures of the drama. He has taken figures from Jean Genet's 'Our Lady Of The Flowers' and incidents from the book too. But this is no straightforward dramatisation, an adaptation for the stage.

Instead, Lindsay has translated the whole into the language of movement and mime, always suggesting, never stating, the events that end up destroying the characters.

For the steadily growing band of Kemp fans, the energy of the performance will come as no great surprise. As always, Lindsay is accompanied by The Incredible Orlando who turns in a consistently powerful performance in the parts he plays.



The flower of them all. Lindsay Kemp, mime extraordinaire, in floral tribute to Jean Genet

But it was thrilling to see a comparative newcomer to the circle in the person of David Meyer who delighted the audience with what was clearly a physically demanding performance sustained throughout with no indication of the fatigue from which ordinary mortals would suffer. He has a remarkable stage presence and a pleasing dignity of bearing. Clearly a strong addition to Lindsay's armoury of talent.

But for stage presence, it will be a long time before anyone can challenge Lindsay himself. Every movement is deliberate, every gesture so carefully thought out, that almost nothing he does on stage is superfluous. And this surely is one of the strongest attractions of his art. The impact of such an economic performance is certain to strike any audience. If you have never seen him before, watch for his first entrance and you will see exactly what I am getting at. You will not need to be told which one is Lindsay Kemp. And that is the mark of something just a little bit bigger than simple talent.

Highlights of the show for me were Divine's funeral, to a recording of Mozart's *Miserere*, with the profane gyrations of a nun's chorus supplying a gruesome backdrop: a gem of a scene in which Orlando seduces Lindsay's newly wed husband; and the final scene which I am not going to begin to describe. That is for you to discover.

And I urge you to see this production before it ends on January 26th. It is an experience that will remain with you for a long, long time.

A final word of advice — judging from the numbers who tried to get in on the two nights on which I have been to see the show, you might be well advised to book. Most people don't bother, so you can almost certainly book the same day you want to go.

Michael Mason

A Vintage Year Was 1960

ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERWORLD — Sadlers Wells Opera at the London Coliseum

Thursday, January 3rd 1974 was quite a day for Sadlers Wells Opera. In the morning they announced that the Government had finally approved their change of name, so that from August this year they call themselves the English National Opera. And next season, they told us, Hans Werner Henze will be producing and conducting the British Premier of his recent work 'Bassarids'.

Continuing in party spirit, the same evening saw a revival of the company's successful production of 'Orpheus In The Underworld'. Wendy Toye's 1960 realisation of Offenbach's popular operetta has served Sadlers Wells Opera well for many years. But it is now as old as some quite drinkable vintage ports, and the dust has started to settle.

It is difficult to point the finger at any particular aspects of the production which fail to convince in 1974. But the main victim of the passage of time has been the style of humour. Some of the 'contraption' jokes seem too contrived. Stone porticoes running around the stage, the draped cupboard concealing the three-headed Cerberus, there was just a bit too much trundling for my taste.

But there were a number of individual performances to remember. Both Ann Hood as Calliope and Terry Jenkins as Orpheus, were new to their roles and did them more than justice. Not only in her singing, but in her cunning determination was Ann Hood a match for the other characters. A wilful woman, sophisticated, elegant in a pre-war cocktail party sense, she gushed out her lines with great panache. Terry Jenkins did equally well with his part, singing heroically, but comically thwarted in everything, by his mother, by the lift engineers, a true child of tribulation.

Add to these two the ever-dependable comedy of Eric Shilling as Jupiter, ably supported by his wife Juno (Sheila Rex), and you have the foundation for a good evening's entertainment. Anna Conoley successfully turned Diana into a real hockey mistress type of character, accompanied by a team of hearty virgins, much to the delight of the audience (who by and large showed little delight, reserving most of their appreciation for those moments when you absolutely *have to*



applaud — or walk out. Dreary lot they seemed that night).

Less than convincing were Trevor Vaughan, who, it must be said at once, had to step in at the last moment to cover for Kenneth Wollam as John Styx. The lugubrious Styx can raise much merriment, but all he seemed to do was lay on the gloom on this night. Maurine London's Eurydice was altogether too brassy. I was irresistibly reminded of Barbara Windsor of 'Carry On' fame whenever she appeared on stage.

Michael Manning, of the Movement Group, danced the part of Bacchus furiously. A delicious memory this, a high note on which to draw the performance to a close. Admirable too was the orchestral work under the direction of Noel Davis. The overture was played like I have never heard it played before, with great gusto and a careful, but natural attention to the drama of the music, best of all in the Can-Can (does the Gallop mean anything any more?) where fleet-footed strings took turns with stampeding brass to thrill the listener.

Frayed at the edges it may have been, but there is still much to enjoy in Orpheus.

Michael Mason

FOOTNOTE: The company's regional tour takes them to Bristol, Manchester and Birmingham. The Bristol and Birmingham programmes both include a complete performance of the Ring Cycle. Not to be missed on any account.

Spaghetti At The National

SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY at the National Theatre, The Cut, Waterloo, London SE1

A modern Neapolitan comedy, directed by Italy's foremost director — at first not a typical choice to be performed at our National Theatre. However, ensemble playing has always been the forte of their productions, and this comedy provides seventeen players with interesting character parts. 'Character' is the operative word, as we have learnt from watching Italian films that they are a volatile race, and wisely the cast play their roles always slightly larger than life.

Unlike the British, who accept their Sunday joint without discussion, the Italian family seen here, spend a good deal of time discussing the various sauces and ingredients that form their meals. The first act, set in the family kitchen, has, for added realism, the smell of Italian cooking, and various foods are prepared before our eyes. The highlight of this scene is undoubtedly Joan Plowright's sudden tirade against everyone in sight. As the mother, and cook in charge of preparing the next day's meal for at least ten people, her patience is tried to the extreme. Her exit was greeted with wild applause from the audience, who were obviously in sympathy both with her and Women's Lib.

The middle act, during which the Sunday meal takes place, is again highlighted by one of her outbursts. This time she has been accused by her husband unjustly, of infidelity with a neighbour. It's a frightening moment, as she bares her soul to her husband, family and guests around her, and at this time the comedy changes its course to other directions. The presence of Zeffirelli is felt throughout, both in his handling of the players and the pace he sets. By comparison to the fast comedy of the first part, the final act is played much slower, and there is a beautifully controlled reconciliation scene between husband and wife which rings true.

Joan Plowright's mother has all the explosive behaviour required for the role, although her accent at times reverts to the North of England. It is a difficult part, and her obvious love for her husband and family manages to shine through her outbursts. Frank Finlay cleverly underplays the role of the father, and at all times makes his



Joan Plowright and Laurence Olivier in Eduardo de Filippo's 'Saturday Sunday Monday'

presence felt. After leaving the theatre, a host of memorable cameos remained in my thoughts. Among them: Laurence Olivier's genial grandfather, Mary Griffith's redoubtable aunt, her nervous 'mother's boy' son played by Martin Shaw, Denis Quilley's typical Italian neighbour, Clive Merrison's comic tongue-tied suitor, and Anna Carteret's busy maid. The enthusiastic applause at curtain time confirmed my own opinion of this delightful piece.

Barry Conley

QUICK SILVER

London critics have named Angela Lansbury best actress of the year. Dolores Grey recently took over her role in 'Gypsy'.

Joanne Woodward plays the emotionally torn mother of a son who's left home for Amsterdam with a homosexual affair, in Columbia's 'Summer Wishes, Winter Dreams' which premieres in the West End shortly. And following the success of the London Film Festival's discovery 'Janice', another festival hit, Daryl Duke's 'Payday', about a drugged, boozed-out country and western singer's (Rip Torn) corrupt excursion through the denizens of America, will hit the West End shortly. At previews it's had as great an impact as 'Easy Rider'.

On 'top of the world', the Carpenters will tour England for the first time from February 19th to 27th.

New commercial radio station Captial Radio has purloined one third of Radio One's listeners in its first three months of operation, despite the fact

that it can only be heard in the London area.

This year's Royal Film Performance on March 25th will be Richard Lester's 'The Three Musketeers', which stars ex-tortured-music-lover Richard Chamberlain, Oliver Reed, Michael York, Christopher Lee and Raquel Welch, amongst others.

MGM may have gone out of the movie business, but the opening of their 2,100 room 'Grand Hotel' in Las Vegas recently, resembled an old-time movie premiere. Cary Grant, Gordon MacRae, Shirley MacLaine and Fred MacMurray were all present. The hotel in fact, could be one of MGM's old sets. It's decorated with more than 600 crystal chandeliers, and has the world's largest casino, a 140 yard long orgy of dice tables, roulette wheels and 1,000 fruit machines.

Two magical quotes: "If I did 'Cinderella', the audience would be looking out for a body in the coach." from Alfred Hitchcock. "Whenever I'm caught between two evils, I take the one I've never tried," from Mae West.

Photograph: Mick Rock

Photograph: Dominic

Gay Oxford

'74

DISCOS: Every Friday, Cape of Good Hope, The Plain. 8-11pm 25p.

From January 23rd, every Wednesday. The Stage Club, George Street. 8.30-12.30pm. 40p Free Food and cost price drinks.

OXFORD GAY ACTION GROUP — Oxford 45301. 7-8 pm any evening for information and advice service.

GAY NEWS — available from the East Oxford Advertiser, 34 Cowley Road.

Personal Ads continued from last page

A Christian Gay Community? A place, company, a sense of belonging. Who wants to try to make a household where shared ideals, talk and action are vital: age, appearance etc immaterial. Provincial. Michael Mark. ALA Box 38/229

Lonely bachelor, slim, artistic, business making garden ornaments, architecture, seeks local friend to share home between Worcester/Malvern. Box 38/231

Gay caledonian, active, young 45. 5'9" 11 stone, own home London seeks contact pleasant, amiable younger chap over 21 anywhere. View to permanent friendship. Weekends, holidays. Usual interests. Recent photograph appreciated, exchanged. ALA Box 38/273

Accommodation available, London. Box 38/166 or phone 01-732 6724 evenings.

Cambridge student, bisexual, seeks crash pads near Central London. Slim, smooth, 21-24. Photos please, returned. ALA Box 38/209

Mike, 21, cute, fresh face, qualified masseur/experienced model. Worked music world London/DJ Greece. Seeks BONA FIDE work. 01-5780320

Magazines: "Exciting Men" £1, "Taurus" £2.25, "Boys Exclusive" £2. (Lists see) Johnny, BM/FBGH, London WC1V 6XX

Classified

General Information

Owing to an extreme shortage of space in this issue, we are unable to print all of the General Information, and also we are again forced to omit the gay organisation information, apart from the telephone numbers of their head offices.

Accommodation

Employment

Music

Newsletters

● Get It On

LONDON: An opportunity for gay rights leaders to have their say on television. London Weekend Television are proposing an experimental series of late evening TV programmes called "Speak For Yourself" for showing in the London area. Groups and individuals who consider they would benefit from better understanding or who have a subject they believe would be of interest to a London audience will be invited to produce their own programme in their own way.

● Club 'A Threat To Morals'

PETERBOROUGH: The Rev George Hopper, Park Road Baptist Church has bitterly attacked the idea of opening a club for homosexuals. He says that "it is a step towards lowering general moral standards." He adds that it could lead to blackmailers trying to contact homosexuals. "Once they know where the club is they could infiltrate premises with the intention of blackmail," said the minister.

City Council leader Mr Charles Swift has met a group of homosexuals and discussed the possibility of finding suitable premises for the club. He explained that the club would be exclusively for homosexuals and lesbians over the age of eighteen. Mr Swift emphasised that he is helping purely on an individual basis. "No money will come out of the rates to start up a club" he said. Despite this, Mr Hooper and other clergymen are unimpressed. Canon George Price claimed a club for homosexuals was a "retrograde step". The Rev Philip Cauwood said that Mr Swift's efforts should be commended. But he felt a club could lead to outside trouble. Mr Cauwood, assistant director to the local Samaritans, doubted if homosexuals would go to the club.

● Nixon Queries on Gay Lib

WASHINGTON: In the wake of the passage of the District of Columbia's Title 34 Human Rights Law which grants broad civil rights protection to gays, there has been an attempt to find President Nixon's attitude towards gay rights.

The content of the White House statement is bland and non-committal and East Coast gay rights leaders viewed it with some disappointment and derision. The text of Nixon's statement was authorised by John Caulson, deputy special assistant to the president in response to three questions raised by 'The Advocate' of California. What is the president's position (1) On the DC Title 34 Human Rights Law as a whole; (2) on its specific gay rights aspect; and (3) on the gay liberation movement across the country.

The White House replied: "The president supports the United States constitution, including the 14th amendment which guarantees equal rights under the law to all Americans. We feel it is up to the States and localities to legislate in this area and for the courts to uphold or strike down and interpret the laws. This is an ever changing and expanding area of the law.

"We are sure there are groups in society who feel their rights have not been fully recognised. They should work through their state and local legislative bodies and through the courts to bring about what they believe to be equal protection under the law for themselves."

When asked if the White House had anything explicit to say about homosexuals or gay rights, Connie Thumma, an aide in the office of White House Press secretary Ron Ziegler, answered that the above statement covered the subject.

● Notts Police Object

NOTTINGHAM: Following local police objections, La Chic, the town's new gay club, has withdrawn its 3,000 membership cards.

The trouble was over a line on the card which said that the club had the "full approval" of the Chief Constable, Rex Fletcher. A police spokesman said that it was "completely wrong to refer to the Chief Constable without his permission."

The club has recalled all the cards issued to members to delete the offending line, and the police say that they do not therefore "anticipate that any proceedings will be taken".

Co-owner of the club, Geoffrey Vickers, told a local reporter: "We were given a licence without any objection from the police or magistrates, but we accept the advice of the authorities that we were wrong in this instance. It was an innocent mistake."

La Chic set something of a precedent earlier this year when it was granted a licence by local magistrates empowering it to turn away people who were not homosexual.

● Goodbye Mother, Goodbye Father

LONDON: The CHE Players, or CHEERS as they are now known, have had to cancel their production of Butch Black's play 'Hello Mother! Hello Father!'. Troubles began for the group when the management of the Portculis Theatre (which had earlier agreed to the play's performance in their theatre) changed their minds and told the company to find a new venue.

But the decision to abandon the project altogether has been taken because of cast difficulties, after actors had agreed to take part and then walked out on the production. So the play, which was due to open at Notting Hill's Mercury Theatre on January 17th, will not be seen unless another company takes an interest. Author Butch Black said he had received enquiries about the play from other sources and hoped that it wouldn't be too long before it was staged.

● Morty Manford Seeks Full Term As GAA Head

NEW YORK CITY: Morty Manford, the 23-year-old veteran activist who assumed the presidency of New York's Gay Activist Alliance in the midst of a tumultuous organisational crisis two months ago, was nominated for a full one year term as president at GAA's annual nomination night on December 6. He appears headed for re-election by a landslide margin despite token opposition from 20-year-old John Vouriotis.

In accepting nomination for a full term, Manford indicated his pleasure with the revitalisation that has taken place in GAA in the last two months and predicted better things for the year ahead. He also revealed that the City Council's passage of intro 475, the gay rights bill originally proposed by GAA three years ago may only be days or weeks ahead.

There are increasing indications from politicians in the know, Manford reported, that Mayor elect Abe Beane - who has said he has 'qualms' about portions of the bill, has given Democratic Party leaders the word that he would like the bill passed before December 31st so that outgoing Mayor Lindsay, a supporter of the legislation, can sign it and thus spare Beane the onus of signing it or vetoing it in his administration. STOP PRESS: Despite behind the scene assurances from councillors, the New York council has voted down Intro 475 - for the fourth time.

● Witnesses - But Not Under Oath

NOTTINGHAM: A "scurrilous and offensive" pamphlet is being pushed through letter-boxes in the Nottingham area. Entitled 'Has Religion Betrayed God and Man?', the leaflet attacks all religions other than the Jehovah's Witnesses as being immoral and corrupt. Not surprisingly, it is published by the Jehovah's Witnesses.

A number of readers have written to complain about the section of the leaflet headed 'Have the world's religions upheld high morals?'. The passage continues: "The Bible says 'Make no mistake. No fornicator . . . none who are guilty either of adultery or of homosexual perversion, no thieves . . . or swindlers, will possess the kingdom of God.' 1 Corinthians 6:9,10, NE.

"Are the world religions free from guilt? No; even among religious people those practices have increased at a shocking rate. Ask yourself: Suppose everyone lived like members of my religion? Would that eliminate crime, dishonest business practices and immorality? When in fact did you last hear of a religion removing members who insist in practising such things? Instead, what is happening is shown in the news clippings on the left."

The clippings referred to are about a conference of Episcopal Priests who said that homosexuality was not wicked, and the remarks of Dr Donald Coggan, Archbishop of York, that many clergymen were homosexual.

Gay News contacted the Witnesses, who confirmed that they considered homosexuals to be on a par with thieves and swindlers. They would make no comment when we pointed out that in the original Greek of the Bible, the word homosexual is not mentioned. But they were able to assure us that no Jehovah's Witnesses were homosexual! Which must be very comforting for them to know.

● Schizoid American Gays?

GENEVA: According to the World Health Organisation's computer in Geneva, American psychiatrists are almost as quick to send people to mental homes as Russian ones. And in the USA, a lot of weight is attached by psychiatrists to 'passivity, social inadequacy and homosexual preoccupation', when diagnosing a patient. In their study, the WHO found that of 140 committed patients said to be suffering from schizophrenia in Russia, 59 of them were suffering from forms of 'schizophrenia' not recognised in other countries. The equivalent figures in the USA were 30 out of 132.

● Hot Competition

LOS ANGELES: Film-maker Pat Rocco is to run a competition with a difference for amateur and professional film-makers. The aim of the competition is "to encourage and stimulate the growth of quality films that feature the beauty of the male body and spirit".

On a less metaphysical level, the rules permit 'Kissing, fondling, erections and mutual or self-masturbation,' but the organisers cannot accept any film with 'any pornographic action.' Competitors must pay a \$5 entry fee if amateur, and \$10 if professional.

Rocco plans to show all the entries at the Troupers Hall, Los Angeles, on the night of the competition. If there are too many, there will be a further screening the following night.

● Southern Correspondent

GOSPORT: GN's correspondent for central southern England is Mr Richard J Thomson. He may be contacted (in writing ONLY, please) at 99 Leesland Road, Gosport, Hampshire, PO12 3NE.

Richard tells us that he has been on the gay scene for longer than he cares to remember. He first did the rounds in London whilst attending London University. Since then he has travelled extensively throughout Europe and the Middle East.

Gays from Bournemouth to Bognor are invited to drop Richard a line if they are arranging events, or better still, making news that will be of interest to GN readers.

● Gay Backed Candidate Wins Mayor's Race in Houston

HOUSTON: Attorney Fred Hofheinz Jr defeated City Councilman Dick Gottlieb for mayor of the South's largest municipality by a margin of only 3027 votes, less than two percent of the total vote cast in the December 4 election.

Hofheinz received wide support in the gay community while Gottlieb was generally regarded with indifference. The black community apparently gave Hofheinz his greatest support.

The size of the gay vote is difficult to estimate, but is generally thought to be well in excess of the 3027. The gay vote may have been around 20,000 of the total 244,243 of the total votes cast.

There are several instances in the campaign of gay support for Hofheinz. Integrity, a local gay activist organisation, circulated a flyer urging a vote for Hofheinz. Integrity reported that Hofheinz had appeared before them during the primary campaign and "endorsed gay rights".

The organisation also claimed that Hofheinz told them he would seek an end to police harassment of gays. "He is receptive to establishing a liaison between police and the gay community in order to eliminate some of the misconceptions which now exist," according to the group.

● Canterbury Bells

CANTERBURY: Phone bells, rather than church bells, have been ringing around Kent University recently. With the help of a member of staff, the students have set up a gay phone line for people on campus. Peter Davey, whose phone is being used, describes the venture as an informal counselling service, not so much to give hard advice to callers, but to lend a sympathetic ear to anyone who feels anxious or depressed about their gayness. The service is intended for both men and women. If men want to talk to someone of their own sex, Peter can be contacted on extension 679 during the day, or on extension 7403 in the evening. And women can speak to Gill Irvin, who can be contacted through Keynes IPS.

● Gay Pastor Arrested

SEATTLE: The Rev Robert Sirico, a pastor with the gay-oriented Metropolitan Community Church, has been arrested in front of a gay club charged with "jaywalking and walking in a roadway."

● Inverness To Have Own Group

INVERNESS: The Scottish Minorities Group are trying to form a branch in Inverness where gays can meet, socialise and discuss their problems. The plan has the backing of the police and the Social Work Department.

Mr John Rennie, Deputy Director of Inverness Social Work Department said that he had come across several people in the area who had problems being gay, "I think it would be a good idea for such a group although I think it will take a while to catch on here. People are more hush-hush about this sort of thing in the North," he said.

The group, with six members so far, should be starting some time this month.

The Scottish Minorities Group have branches in Aberdeen, St Andrews, two in Edinburgh (one for women), two in Glasgow (one for women) and a branch in Carlisle and Dundee.

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