

"A DIFFERENT JOURNEY TO THE SAME END"

Gay Anthology P. 10.

N°40

GAY NEWS

15p

Gay Poets

« DOING IT IN VERSE »



Aubrey Beardsley

EUROPE'S LARGEST CIRCULATION FORTNIGHTLY NEWSPAPER FOR HOMOSEXUALS

GAY NEWS

No 40

February 14 - 27

Wanted: An Honest Answer

'Coleherne' has become a dirty word around this office for quite a few weeks now. That much must have become fairly obvious to our readers.

And it is going to stay a dirty word until the situation changes, until we at Gay News and the people who use the Coleherne as their pub get (1) an acknowledgement that they have been treated improperly by law enforcement officers; and (2) an assurance that somebody is going to put a stop to the harassment that has taken place.

Right. That much is clear. The next question is what is to be achieved in practice, given that the police operate behind a veil of secrecy, and are certainly not very open about any disciplinary action they take internally.

Last issue we reported on Michael Moores' acquittal at Marylebone Magistrate Court. Michael has made an official complaint, and that complaint is being investigated by a Chief Inspector. Michael is also bringing a civil suit against the police for assault. So this case is going to be pretty thoroughly investigated by the police themselves. And senior officers are not going to like the findings of those investigations. There will be internal disciplinary action — there must be if police discipline means anything any more. What may happen, as has happened in less clear-cut cases before, is that the public statement issued by police to the complainant reads roughly, "we have been unable to find sufficient evidence to substantiate your allegations." In all probability, there will have been some kind of internal action taken against offending officers, if only a stiff talking to. But in this case, such a reply to Michael Moores will not do.

Here is their chance. If an honest response is made to Michael's complaint, then we have the acknowledgement we need. It is important for the police to realise that gays are quite capable of responding to harassment in a legitimate way. It will not stop the rogue officer from taking it out on someone he thinks is a homosexual. But it may make the average policeman think twice before joining in the herd loutishness that leads to such incidents as have recently taken place.

If the police are straightforward enough to admit that they behaved culpably in the Michael Moores case, then obviously they must also make it clear that some action is to be taken. What action they take is, of course, up to them. No chance of any of us making suggestions, however much we might like to. But the end of any action they take must be to put an end to continual harassment at this pub.

London is not the United Kingdom. But this case is not merely a local affair. Why? Because the issue at stake is the enforcement of discipline in the police force. Such wide powers as have been invested in these men and women must be carefully controlled. And the sort of laxity we have seen of late cannot be tolerated anywhere.

London is also a sort of figurehead area for the police force. Whilst many local police forces, particularly in rural areas, seem to have no great respect for the methods of the Metropolitan Police — and have even admitted as much to us on occasion — there is still a sense in which it is looked upon as the chief police force, particularly by senior officers. From our own point of view, of course, many homosexuals flock to The Big City to seek refuge from small town prying, and the gay population in town is exceptionally high. Stopping the rot in the metropolis is a big task, but it is also one of the most important.

Awkward Questions

At the time of writing the miners have just announced that they are going to strike (and the next morning London snuggles beneath a blanket of snow. Is God on the side of the miners?)

Naturally the air is alive with general election fever. And by the time you read this piece, Edward Heath may even have called one.

If so, then this is our last chance to exhort you to take your gay part in the campaign, and to offer some thoughts on what all of us can usefully do.

Attend election meetings, if you possibly can, and ask candidates how they stand on the question of homosexual law reform. For two reasons.

First, you might even get a straight answer. If you do, then the most likely answer is 'No'. Few candidates are going to say 'Yes' and stick their necks out on matters of social reform at hustings time. But even if you get a negative answer, it is still useful to know who is definitely agin' us.

Second, by asking the question, you are letting the candidate know that there is some interest in the issue. Tell him that gay organisations in Scotland, Ireland, England and Wales are preparing draft legislation to lower the age of consent, and to extend the provisions of the 1967 Act to cover the whole of the United Kingdom. It might not come as such a surprise to him (if he is eventually elected) to find such a bill introduced into the House of Commons.

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.

Poor Performance

Kentish Town
London NW5

Dear Gay News,

Sporting gays who have followed the somewhat erratic progress of Dave Bedford's track career will, no doubt, be dismayed by his histrionic outburst at the Commonwealth Games in Christchurch.

After trailing 4th place in the 10,000 metre race, red-blooded he-male Dave attempted to explain away his poor performance by blaming fellow competitors.

QUOTE: "One grabbed my shorts and all I could see was a black hand reaching out. Perhaps he was a bloody queer."

The excitable Mr Bedford is, perhaps, unconsciously exercising a familiar Freudian fantasy. (On the other hand he might well be indulging in wishful thinking!) In either case his intemperate choice of words is both contemptible and unworthy of one chosen to represent his country.

Jack Jacobs

A Chance Missed

London SE15

Dear Gay News,

Did you ever hear such a load of crap as was broadcast on Capital Radio's Marsha Hunt Show on 29th January 1974?

After London Broadcasting Company's recent programme, I thought that another "education" session on Capital would be a good thing. It wasn't.

What, I ask myself, were the guests trying to achieve? I felt that the interview was not being conducted towards any positive point — a pity because Marsha Hunt's interviews are generally first class and she elicits from her guests exactly what the listeners want to know.

It would have been a golden opportunity for CHE to do a bit of campaigning (or isn't that what the 'c' stands for?) to Capital's cast and predominantly young audience — the very people we should be trying to educate about homosexuality.

Why was this opportunity missed? Were the gay representatives too full of their personal experiences to expound on the prejudices to which they and all of us are daily subjected?

It's probably a pity that GN wasn't represented — at least it might have had some relevant statistical and case data to hand (always impressive) and quantitative arguments are, ipso facto, more credible. Obviously there can't be one mouthpiece for all homosexuals ("... a spokesman for all British homosexuals said ...") but I do appeal to all those fortunate enough to get at a giant proportion of the community in one go (via press, radio, television, public speaking etc) to think before you speak. Think of the cause as a whole, not of yourself. Forget the ego-trip biographies (they're generally of interest to only one person) and get campaigning. Equality comes by education and no-one ever got educated listening to personal bedroom quirks.

Joe Barrett

Landmark In Gay History

Hoddesdon, Herts

Dear Gay News,

Just a line to say how delighted I was to read about Gay News being accepted into Richmond libraries (GN39). Fantastic news! Quite a landmark in 'gay' history. You must be feeling very happy indeed.

Veronica

No Axe To Grind

The Cavalier Club,
18 Wingate Road,
Ilford, Essex

Dear Gay News,

I write to advise you that after running six months, this social club is getting established in Ilford.

We owe a considerable debt to Gay News as from our initial advertisement onwards, many interested men in the area have joined us.

We are probably unique in the fact that we have "no axe to grind": are non-political, non-sectarian, and have no ambition to change any law!

Prospective members must be over 21 years old and activities include pastimes as other social clubs, ie whist and 'beatle' drives, quizzes, debates, talks and filmshows. Membership is open to all men irrespective of whether they happen to be gay or not.

We wonder therefore if you might in fact give the club a mention in your columns, as we believe we supply a need to many lonely people, particularly those who have no interest in gay pubs, clubs and discos, but merely wish to socialise.

The club is run on strictly non-profit making basis and the 20p weekly sub includes light refreshment.

Ronald Davies, Chairman

Sex Is Laughable

New Arts Theatre Club,
Great Newport Street,
London WC2

Dear Gay News,

I have just read your current issue of Gay News and found it very interesting, far more so than many of the minority specialist publications. I am currently writing a book and I am going to launch an appeal which I hope editors of magazines and newspapers will view with some sympathy. It is to be called *The Wit Of Sex*, to be published next Christmas by Quartet Books and I am inviting the public to contribute their favourite jokes. What I am looking for is material quite different from what is to be found in the many dirty joke books — I want mine to be really witty, and I am looking for epigrams, aphorisms, misprints, press paragraphs, quotes and jokes. "Sex is a grossly overrated pastime: the position is undignified, the pleasure momentary and the consequences utterly damnable." (Lord Chesterfield) is the sort of thing. "Life is like a cucumber: one minute it's in your hand, next minute it's up your arse" (ancient Greek legend quoted by Peter Bull in his book). "Masturbation is the working man's television" (anon).

These are the sort of things I find amusing and which I'm looking for. Please send any contributions to the above address.

Richard Huggett

And More Words . . .

London House,
London WC1N 2AB

Dear Gay News,

I was very pleased to see your sensible editorial 'Words Words Words', for the way people use words is very important. While we still need to have a special name for ourselves, I strongly believe it should be our own name with, as you rightly point out, cheerful overtones. The only choice is *gay*. There is no other word around, and inventing new words deliberately is almost impossible.

I go further than you, and ask us all to drop the word 'homosexual'. The reasons are simple. It is, first, a long mouthful of a word, with psychiatric overtones. We are not clinical cases and should reject clinical words. Then it makes it easier for everyone to forget gay women. For very often people mistake the Greek *homo*, which means 'same', for the Latin *homo*, meaning 'man'. Finally, it overemphasises sex. Why load ourselves with the burden of all the explanations? Forget the word.

There are many more ways we can bring the English language up to date, making it acknowledge us. Two important ones are to try never to say "they" when we mean "us". Think of the difference this would make when gay bishops and psychiatrists are making their pronouncements and writing their books! And again, never to say 'he' when we could use 'she and he' or just 'they'. See what I mean?

Finally, a puzzle. Why do so many gay people get upset by the slogan "Glad to be Gay"? Are you not proud to be British? Or, like me, proud to be Australian? It doesn't really mean anything, except that I'm not ashamed to be me. One has no say in where one is born or brought up. But we do like to affirm our identities, even when no-one has ever suggested being ashamed of them. How much more then is it necessary to affirm that you are, as I am, glad to be gay.

Jamie Gardiner

PS for OM's. Sorry the Post Office let us down last time. Try again. Ora et labora, et . . .

For The Record

45 Dorchester Court,
Herne Hill
London SE24

Dear Gay News,

I am preparing a book on the gay world and the changes that have taken place in it during the past thirty years or so. I wonder if any of your readers who have ideas on the subject (and who hasn't?) would contact me with a view to discussing their own view of what being gay means.

The book is not intended as a peep-show for straight society, but it is designed to assess how far the current liberalisation processes are truly liberating, and how far peoples' lives are still oppressed by guilt, shame and fear. I should like to hear from people with experience of the gay world, both past and present.

Jeremy Seabrook

TV's Dilemma

10 Hosack Road,
London SW17

Dear Gay News,

The letter published in GN39 regarding the Beaumont Society, prompts me to tell you that I myself applied to join this society some three years ago, and when I received the application forms etc also changed my mind. Instead I organised the Transvestite Social Group (TVSG) with the assistance of a few former members of the Beaumont Society.

Right from the start we took the stand that the sexual drive of the transvestite was his affair and stated quite explicitly in the duplicated journal '2 in 1' that I brought out with the valuable assistance of the well known Della Aleksander, that TV's came in all shapes and sizes, and some are hetero-



Illustration: Jean-Claude Thevenin

sexual, some bisexual and others homosexual. I am not basically homosexual myself, although a practising TV. However, this is the view that I have always taken.

I may say that I have built up quite a sizable group and made many contacts throughout the country. This, in spite of many frustrations and much opposition. My ads have been refused by the New Statesman and International Times. I have been lampooned and unnecessarily attacked by New Society who should have known better, and above all, because I did not exercise sufficient discretion, lost my home in Streatham.

Those TV's who'd like to associate with others can obtain information by writing to me at the above address.

Sam Cash

The Old, Old Story

Liverpool 17

Dear Gay News,

I'm getting a bit bored by the fortnightly cottaging and Coleherne stories. As local organiser of FRIEND, I know only too well the problems people have as a result of police action and certainly do not condone cottaging or agent provocateur activities. Can't we have an edition *without* these tales? At a recent Liverpool CHE meeting our guest speaker was Sir Joseph Cleary, chairman of Liverpool and Bootle Police Authority. As expected, police activity and 'unfair' arrests came up for questioning and the very fair Sir Joe offered to personally investigate any documented cases of unfair arrest in the area. We have had no such information and any GN reader in Liverpool or Bootle who is prepared to tell us in confidence of any wrongful arrest should contact us at CHE, P O Box 7, Liverpool L8 2XN.

Last time I was in London and visited the Coleherne, I was amazed at just how *much* obstruction of the pavement went on; the pavement outside the pub, and up the road, was certainly blocked by loud and very jolly gays. I was surprised that the police were so polite and patient. As for the Sunday lunchtime crowd in Groom Place (Pig & Whistle), I would imagine that the local inhabitants are thoroughly fed up with all the camperama!

Alan Swerdlow

ED: The Metropolitan force and the Lancashire force (which includes Liverpool police) are between them almost entirely responsible for the 160% leap in prosecutions of homosexuals since 1967. One can either take up this statistic with a sociologist to find out what is so special about London and Lancashire, or one can subject these two forces to closer scrutiny. Or has Alan noticed a 160% increase in gay activity in Lancashire?

If the Chelsea police were often "polite and patient" in their treatment of gays, we would not be running Coleherne stories. But until they treat gays in the same way as they treat any crowd turning out of a pub, someone, somewhere, must be prepared to point the finger. Read the Mike Moores case again, Alan. And carefully.

Charitable Attitudes

Queens College,
Oxford

Dear Gay News,

Here in Oxford we publicise our gay phone service by printing postcards in newsagents' windows. They are quite innocuous little things, except that they have that nasty immoral word HOMOSEXUAL on them. Well, it seems the vast majority of newsagents don't mind that. But the Oxford shops — we have tried four — refuse rudely or take our money and then fail to put up the card. Your readers might care to notice the limitations to Oxford's "Christian" and "charitable" attitudes.

Roland Jeffery

Welcome Closedown

Dear Gay News,

The closedown of TV at 10.30 is most welcome. I now have time to read GN, listen to Gay Radio (Sweden), dip my finger in the Marmite jar, make myself a bacon sandwich, play stud poker, pick pieces of fluff out of my navel, poke some Vick up my nose, shave my legs, squirt Body Mist under my arms, spray Scholl's foot-powder between my toes . . . and even write a letter to GN before I go to bed — then I dream that perhaps you will print my letter!

I have 50p to spare (after paying for food and rent) and I was thinking of buying a Judge Dread single. Which one of Judge Dread's rude singles do you recommend? I would like to know which one contains the filthiest words — "lewd lyrics" might be a better description.

S Taylor

His latest single, reviewed in GN38 — DL

Gay Switchboard Opens On March 4

LONDON: From Monday March 4, gays throughout the country will be able to pick up the phone and dial 01-837 7174 to get the information they want to know about the gay scene.

After months of hard work by a number of people, the project has got the go-ahead. To begin with, the service will be in operation seven days a week between 6.00 in the evening until 10.30. If there is a demand for it, and volunteers are prepared to help, these hours could be extended.

A wide range of information will be provided: news of the activities of gay groups around the country, gay pubs, clubs and discos, facts about VD, advice on legal problems. The accuracy and completeness of this information will be the responsibility of the whole gay community. When they start operating, they will want to hear everything that is going on. The address to send information will appear in the next issue.

So far some money has been raised, enough to get the scheme off the ground, but one of the big tasks in the early days will be to make sure of a steady flow of funds. Donations should be sent, for the time being, to Gay Switchboard, c/o Denis Lemon at Gay News. The Gaysoc at the Polytechnic of North London has promised to hold a benefit disco for the switchboard on March 7. It takes place at the Polytechnic, Prince of Wales Road, London NW3, starting at 8.00. Entrance costs only 25p and all profits go to the switchboard. Time Out magazine has donated advertising space.



But in its early days, it depends on you. The three basic needs are money, information and volunteers to help answer the phones. You should be able to help with at least one of these — especially if you plan to make use of the service yourself.

The switchboard will not be taking on the advice and counselling jobs which are capably handled by a number of other organisations. But if you do have problems you want to talk over with someone, then the switchboard will be able to give you the phone number of the appropriate body.

This could be about the best piece of news we have printed for a long time. We wish the new project the best of luck. Given the support it deserves, it will prove a valuable service to the whole gay community.

Book Cleared But State Destroys Copies

LONDON: After the book 'Street Boy Swinging London' was found not to be obscene by an Old Bailey jury, the defendants were amazed to find that nearly half the copies seized had been destroyed.

When police officers from the Serious Crime Squad moved in on the publishers, six thousand copies of the book had been printed, but none of them had been bound. The books lay in 16 page sections on wooden pallets, just as they had been delivered from the printers.

When the police arrived, they loaded the sections of the books onto a lorry and drove them down to a warehouse at the Department of the Environment in Marsham Street, London SW1.

The case came up at the Old Bailey (see report last issue) and the defendants were cleared. They were also awarded full costs. So they went to Marsham Street to pick up the seized copies with two vans (which they had to pay for themselves).

When they went down to the basement store, they found the sections had just been dumped in red plastic sacks. John Miller, one of the men originally charged, told Gay News that in the first place all the sections were out of order. There are ten sections of 16 pages for each book, a total of sixty thousand sections for the whole print run. And they all have to be sorted by hand.

But what has angered them most is the way the pages have been handled. The books had no covers to protect them against bad handling, and they now find that more than two and a half thousand copies have been so badly damaged as to be useless.

First reaction, said John, was to sling the whole lot away. The thought of sorting out the mess was just too depressing. But work has now started on rescuing what they can of the spoilt stock.

The book is to be published by Silver Publishing Company, and Dr George Hall told us that he hopes the book will be on sale from February 8th. But we understand that the binders are having great difficulty preparing it, and probably only a limited number will be available from February.

What remedy do the people concerned have? John Miller is waiting until he knows just how much damage exactly has been done. But once he knows for sure, he is going to take legal action to recover the money he has lost. He wasn't blaming the policemen, he told us. After all, they are not trained warehousemen. And they do not have the sort of specialised storage areas that are needed to store paper. He is angry with the people who ordered the raid in the first place, and he intends to take the whole affair through the courts once again.

Police Say Ramsgate Complaint Not A Criminal Matter

LONDON: A Gay News reader was thwarted by police in his efforts to start an investigation into the alleged Christmas Holiday 'hoax' at Ramsgate.

A classified advertisement in GN35 offered the holiday. But the holiday was cancelled just before Christmas, after the people who placed the ad decided not to buy the Ramsgate hotel. Trouble is that some of the money wasn't refunded and some of the bookings weren't cancelled.

Associates of the reader who did go to the police have decided that he should remain anonymous because he's an entertainer.

Police said that any action should be taken in the form of civil action. But the amount involved, £10, wouldn't make a civil suit feasible, unless there were other damages to claim. When confronted with a cashed cheque, London police said that the people who placed the ad probably experienced financial hardship and therefore did not intend to be fraudulent or to misappropriate the money. This is a little hard to swallow in the light of the fact that (1) The advertiser put down a £150 refundable deposit on the £35,000 property deal; (2) the advertisers currently own a restaurant in Farnham, Surrey; (3) the advertisers reportedly did not cancel all the bookings and (4) the advertisers have been and are presently,

unavailable for comment.

The ad was placed by the owners of Tirby's restaurant in Farnham. If complaints were made directly to Farnham police, their deposition would probably, but not necessarily, be the same as London police.

The next step is to write the advertisers a registered letter at 30 Downing Street, Farnham, c/o Duncan M Russell. It would be advisable to keep Farnham CID in the picture.

Scottish Candidate Urges Gay Action

ABERDEEN: Prospective Liberal candidate for South Aberdeen, Angus Robbie, told Gay News that "it is important that people in the Scottish Minorities Group and the Campaign for Homosexual Equality should be politically active."

36-year-old Robbie, who works in the careers office at Aberdeen University, is also keenly interested in development of North Sea oil — one of several issues to which he assigns a high priority.

Robbie is a member of SMG, the United Nations Association, the Anti-Apartheid Association, amongst others.

"The question of individual freedom is paramount," the candidate said, "and so is sponsorship of worthwhile minorities."

Robbie, married with three children, lives at 119 Broomhill Road, Aberdeen.

A Suitable Case For Treatment

LONDON: Latest offering in the homosexual chat show was Capital Radio's.

On January 29th the Marsha Hunt and Friends Show was devoted to a discussion of the situation of gays in society. Marsha Hunt had invited four guests into the studio to talk to her. They were David Bell, a school teacher and member of CHE, Jackie Forster, editor of Sappho and member of CHE, Jamie Gardiner from University College London Gaysoc, and Dr Nigel Bankford who is at present writing a book on the subject.

Unlike previous shows of this kind, there were no telephone calls from listeners to interrupt the discussion. This was potentially then, one of the best opportunities to get over the basic ideas involved in gay liberation, and what it means for both homosexuals and heterosexuals.

But Capital Radio were quite satisfied with the evening. Producer Brian Hayes told



Host Marsha Hunt

us that there had been more response from listeners than usual, and that, in general, the response had been favourable. People had enjoyed it and found it interesting. Brian also told us that Marsha had enjoyed doing the programme.

Meanwhile, back in the gay movement, some serious thinking is going on. These shows were at first greeted as a great step forward. New ground was being broken and gay people were being offered the chance to air their own views, instead of being talked about by medical and religious specialists.

Now, however, the mood seems to be changing a little. People are becoming more critical of the way in which the gay movement is being represented.

A concern to get away from the 'happy amateur' approach to broadcasting was reflected in the decision to hold a workshop at CHE's National Council in Liverpool recently. At this workshop, radio producer Jason Pollock covered a wide range of activities which local groups could be concerning themselves with. He was anxious that they seize the opportunity offered them by the new local radio network to get their views across, and he talked about conducting radio chat shows, TV shows, preparing press releases and similar public relations functions.

As a result of this workshop, he has been invited by a number of local groups to come and talk in greater detail to them. There are a lot of things he still feels could be learnt by groups who might well be faced with the chance to broadcast.



Jackie Forster, editor of 'Sappho'

Gay News found, however, an almost universal feeling that the opportunity had been wasted. The main criticism was that no-one seemed able to relate personally to what was being talked about. "They just went on about their personal things," said one listener. "It wasn't the real world they were talking about."

Another said he was irritated by the hoary old chestnut that continually comes up. "Why, whenever people talk about homosexuality, do they always have to bring up the Greeks and Romans? Why can't they talk about the times we are living in now?"

Freedom Of The Press

EAST ANGLIA: When we heard on the grapevine that Norwich FRIEND and Norwich Centre Group had been refused permission to advertise in the local press, we were fascinated. What had they been trying to advertise, we wondered. A call-boy service? A homosexual orgy? No. It turned out that their offensive and unacceptable advertisement merely told Norwich homosexuals that the two groups existed.

Norwich FRIEND is the local branch of the nation-wide befriending and counselling service for homosexuals with problems or in distress. Now as far as East Midland Allied Press and Eastern Counties Newspapers are concerned, they can keep their problems and stay distressed. For these are the two companies that control the Lynn News and Advertiser and the Eastern Daily Press respectively, the newspapers which have turned down the local groups' ads.

Neither J B Cooper, editor of the Lynn News, nor Peter Roberts, editor of the EDP, had heard of the decision. Advertising, they explained, is kept quite separate from the editorial side of the paper — standard newspaper practice. David Cook, in charge of the Lynn paper's advertising, was not available, but the editor came back to tell us that it was a group decision, that none of the newspapers in the East Midland Allied Press group would accept an advertisement from FRIEND or Centre Group.

So who was responsible for the decision? Titular head of advertising for the group is a Mr G Walker. But it appears that terribly important decisions about advertising (like the little FRIEND and Centre Group ads) are not left to the head of advertising. Mr Walker told Gay News that he was awfully sorry, but "my hands are tied." The Board of Directors had decided — no space for Norwich homosexuals. It wasn't his decision,

repeated Mr Walker. But he wouldn't comment on his own position. "My hands are tied," he told us again, plaintively.

Other newspapers in the East Midland Allied Press group include the Peterborough Evening Telegraph and the Peterborough Citizen and Advertiser, papers that have recently got good editorial mileage out of news stories about Councillor Charles Swift's efforts on behalf of local homosexuals. But neither of these papers will take advertisements for FRIEND or Centre Group either. In a recent issue we suggested in passing that Peterborough sounded like a good place for homosexuals to live. But we now discover that East Midland Allied Press and Mr G Walker have their offices at Oundle Road, Woodstone, Peterborough. We can only apologise.

Eastern Counties Newspapers, who own the Eastern Daily Press, were a little more philosophical about the whole incident. Mr Weston, who we were told would have been responsible for the decision, was not available (frequently) but his boss, Mr Boreham, spoke to us. He had not actually been told about the advertisements and their rejection. But he told us, wistfully, "the policy of this group, you must understand, is somewhat conservative."

Of course, the inevitable corollary of the freedom of the press to print is the freedom of the press to suppress. The decisions in the present case will effectively stop the Norwich gay groups from advertising in about two dozen local papers, in and around East Anglia.

Our Social Malaise: Lack Of Contact

Dr P N K Heylings, a Hull GP, has written an article called "The No-Touching Epidemic — An English Disease". Symptoms include masturbation, a preference for TV rather than conversation. The first step to regaining a grip on personal reality is literally to "get back into touch".

Photograph courtesy Capital Radio

IN 1904 - 1909 ARCHAEOLOGISTS UNCOVERED CANAANITE RUINS DEPICTING THEIR RELIGIOUS WORSHIP OF ABOUT 1500 B.C. CITY OF GEZOR PROF. MacALISTER, I.S.B.E.



THE EVIDENCE CLEARLY SHOWED WHY GOD TOLD ISRAEL, "THOU SHALT SMITE THEM, AND UTTERLY DESTROY THEM. THOU SHALT MAKE NO COVENANT WITH THEM, NOR SHOW MERCY UNTO THEM." — DEUT. 7:2
IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP THE FILTH AND BRUTALITY FROM SPREADING.

Religious Homophobia

AT a time when many Churches are just starting to react positively to homosexuality and treat homosexuals, not as sinners, but as fully-fledged members of the congregation with an alternative life style, *The Gay Blade*, a reactionary mini-comic book published as one in a religious series of Chick Publications, is a scurrilous attack upon our gay brothers and sisters. Published in California of all places, it's been written by JTC, and considering its odiousness, it's not surprising that the author of this travesty wishes to preserve his anonymity. Although it does draw some of its more factual information from *Life* and the *Saturday Review*, it relies most heavily upon the Bible, quoting chapter and verse. It presents the homosexual as the usual caricature, a limp-wristed, no-neck, chinless, haggard-looking, tortured, mincing faggot.

It's hard to know who it's intended for. Surely adults don't read comic books, not even in California. Or do they? And surely this mixture of sexual hysteria and religious mania would be beyond the emotional and intellectual grasp of children... even in California. Read by adults, *The Gay Blade* would merely serve to reinforce their anti-homosexual prejudices, and read by children, it would incite hatred of homosexuals and promote fear of their own homo-erotic impulses.

The Gay Blade was sent to Gay News through the post by an appalled GN reader, and it would be interesting to know how this publication came into his possession. GN contacted Mowbray's, the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge and the Scriptural Union, the three most important religious booksellers in London. None of them sell or have even heard of *The Gay Blade*, but a spokesman for the Scriptural Union wasted no time in informing us that Christianity is opposed to homosexuality from a biblical standpoint. Perhaps that's why gays interested in their individual rights are not likely to be Christians.

The Gay Blade commences with a wedding of course. They're all the rage this year. However, the Padre looks none too happy about the affair, and even the groom and the groom look as though they've made



IS THIS SOMETHING NEW UNDER THE SUN? — NO, I'M AFRAID NOT!

Bobby's

PRIVATE GUEST HOUSE
BED & BREAKFAST served until noon
50 Egremont Place — Brighton
Tel: Brighton 683961

Easy Reach of Station
Close to Seafront, Bars and Clubs
Personal Attention Friendly Atmosphere

a dreadful mistake as a gloom-ridden congregation rains his-and-his confetti upon this miserable-looking couple as they drive off in a 'Just Married' automobile. "Is this something new under the sun?" we're asked. "No I'm afraid not!" And that's just the first two pages...



Two hippy queens appear on page three, one of them wearing a 'gay revolution' T-shirt, and a trembling mother with a "Gulp!" bubble over her head, covers her little boy's eyes with her hands to protect him from the obscene. "The Gay Revolution is underway," we're told. "To most people it's a big joke. But is it, really? Out of Satan's shadowy world of homosexuality, in a display of defiance against society, they come forth, those who suffer the agony of rejection, the despair of unsatisfied longing, desiring, endless lust and remorse, crying that gay is good. Their tragic lives prove that there isn't anything gay about being gay..."

"Lesbianism received nationwide coverage on David Susskind's TV talk-show, with an estimated audience of 32 million viewers, and homosexuals are now invited to speak at clubs and religious meetings."

A gay girl says "I'm a lesbian, and I'm proud of it."

"Their cry is for equal rights. Militants boast that homosexuality is normal, healthy, even a desirable form of sexual outlet..."

HOMOSEXUALS ARE NOW INVITED TO SPEAK AT CLUBS AND RELIGIOUS MEETINGS.



THEIR CRY IS FOR EQUAL RIGHTS — MILITANTS BOAST THAT HOMOSEXUALITY IS NORMAL, HEALTHY, EVEN A DESIRABLE FORM OF SEXUAL OUTLET.

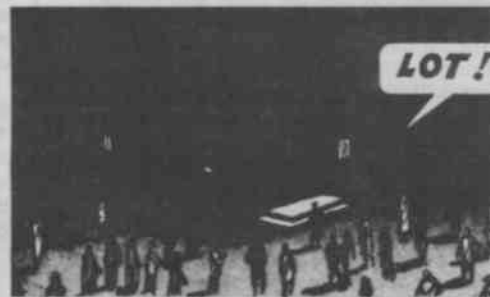
Their power structure is widespread. They occupy all kinds of jobs. Their identity for the most part is carefully hidden. Some have even been reported to be very active in Women's lib organisations and even hinted to be in high government positions. There is

an estimated number of homosexuals in the US that ranges from two to twenty millions. Has such a condition ever existed before? Let's see..."

Enter Archeology supported by the Bible. "Between 1904 and 1909, archeologists uncovered Canaanite ruins depicting their religious worship of about 1500BC. The evidence clearly showed why God told Israel, 'Thou shalt smite them and utterly destroy them. Thou shalt make no covenant with them nor show mercy unto them.' It was the only way to keep the filth and brutality from spreading." One archeologist exclaims, "Good Lord, I can't believe my eyes. We can't publish this. It's filthy!" And his companion declares, "I think I'm going to vomit!"

The Bible occupies the centre of the stage for a while, and first of all we tune in to Sodom to listen to yet another episode in the continuing story of sodomy. "God sent two angels to Sodom to remove Lot from the City. Lot saw the angels as they came through the gate and urged them to stay with him. This was a big occasion for Lot. He prepared a feast for them. At night,

AT NIGHT BEFORE THEY RETIRED, THE HOMOSEXUALS SURROUNDED LOT'S HOUSE.



THESE WERE GAY MEN, FROM EVERY QUARTER OF THE CITY, BOTH OLD AND YOUNG, WELL PRACTISED IN EVERY FORM OF PERVERSION.

before they retired, the homosexuals surrounded Lot's house. These were gay men from every quarter of the City. Both young and old, well practised in every form of perversion..."

TO PROTECT THE STRANGERS IN HIS HOME, LOT OFFERS THE CROWD HIS TWO VIRGIN DAUGHTERS... THEY REJECT HIS OFFER.



THIS LOT CAME IN TO LIVE WITH US TEMPORARILY — NOW HE PRESUMES TO BE A JUDGE!

"Some experts say homosexuality is a disease. Others blame family problems or hormone levels. It's like a demonic power that controls them. Only Christ can overcome it: if they receive him as personal saviour..." And it's pure Evangelism all

the way home.

SOME EXPERTS SAY HOMOSEXUALITY IS A DISEASE, OTHERS BLAME FAMILY PROBLEMS OR HORMONE LEVELS.



IT'S LIKE A DEMONIC POWER THAT CONTROLS THEM — ONLY CHRIST CAN OVERCOME IT: IF THEY'LL RECEIVE HIM AS PERSONAL SAVIOR.

It has frequently been stated that very few people understand the meaning of the words 'pornography' and 'obscenity' or understand fully that which is likely to

ON THE **DAY OF JUDGMENT, ALL OF THE LOST WILL STAND BEFORE GOD — ALL OF THOSE WHO DIED IN THEIR SINS.



"THE LORD IS NOT SLACK CONCERNING HIS PROMISE, ... NOT WILLING THAT ANY SHOULD PERISH, BUT THAT ALL SHOULD COME TO REPENTANCE."

II Peter 3:9

'deprave and corrupt'. Well, Mrs Whitehouse and her Festival of Light mob should read this travesty of truth and decency.

James Tyson

Spartacus International Gay Guide 1974 Edition

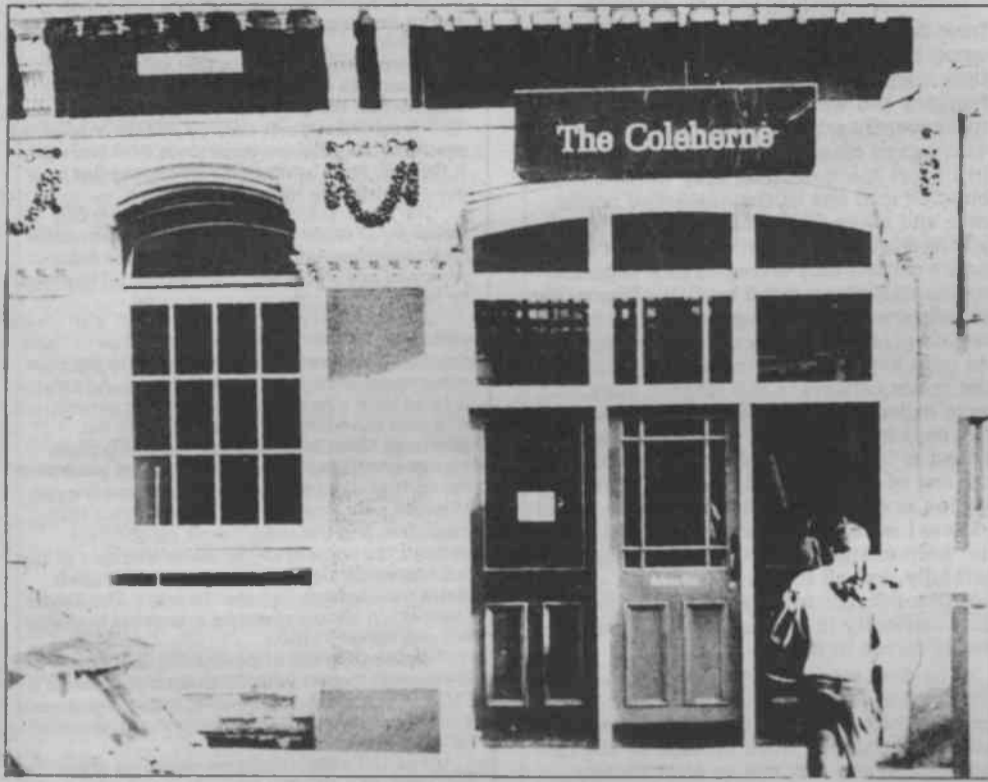
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Coleherne Behind-The-Scenes Probe



A deserted pavement outside the Coleherne

LONDON: Police decided last week that there will be no official public explanation of the Coleherne Pub arrests. But both New Scotland Yard and Chelsea Police acknowledged that there was something fishy about the recent expeditions.

Busted for footpath obstruction were Michael Moores, Lionel and David. Moores was acquitted and initiated a lawsuit against a policeman who thumped him in the station. Lionel and David pleaded not guilty. Their cases, one of which will include an allegation of police violence, will be heard next month.

A Fine Line

The Old Brompton Road divides the Chelsea and Kensington police. On one side of the boundary is the Coleherne and on the other side is the Boltons pub, where no arrests have been reported.

Both Chelsea and Kensington police claim they've received telephone complaints about closing-time commotion at both pubs. As far as one can determine, no complaints were made by people denied use of the footpath. Police refuse to make public the nature of the complaints, if indeed there were complaints. Chelsea police said their action at the Coleherne "must have been precipitated by complaints." And when pressed, the station officer said, "We've had quite a lot of complaints over a reasonable period of time about crowds gathering." Kensington police who have made no arrests outside the Boltons, said they've had "frequent and recent complaints, probably about noise."

M C Johnson, New Scotland Yard's Senior Press Officer, said, "There's been no change in attitude. There is no question of

this being a purge." However, Mr Johnson said he did not know why one police department would refrain from making arrests while another would press for arrests in a similar situation. Johnson said, "This is a matter of police deployment."

Ho-Hum-De-Dum

Manpower, as a financial resource, brings us to the question of finances: why does one police department spend more money than another when, in the first instance, the money is apparently wasted — misspent because the case was not only thrown out, but demands further expenditure due to a lawsuit against police. Two Chief Inspectors are currently engaged in investigations that stem from the Coleherne affair.

The 176,900 ratepayers in Chelsea-Kensington Borough are taxed by the Metropolitan Police just over £15 this year for law enforcement, courts, probation and after-care.

Gay News wanted to see police records that show how much money is spent on a case. An enquiry to New Scotland Yard elicited this response: "Records of cost are records of public expenditure and are therefore secret. Permission to gain access to this classified information must be directed in writing to the director of finance. But I can tell you that I think such a written request will most certainly be denied."

Another Yard spokesman vigorously denied that the Coleherne arrests amounted to a misappropriation of public funds. In fact, B G David, head of the Yard's Finance Department, said that Chelsea Police operations had nothing to do with public money: "This is not a financial matter, but depends on the operational deployment of manpower."

Chelsea police said the cost figures would be in care of Lord Hailsham, chancellor of the judicial system. But Lord Hailsham's office said, "We simply don't know where the cost records are. If the home office says they haven't got them, then that's it." (The Home Office, at first, denied having cost records.) Well, somebody must have them. "No, that's a presumption you're making." Are you saying they don't exist? "I don't know. They're not our departmental responsibility." Is it a secret? "We're in no position to say anything about that."

The appropriate division at the Home Office is F1. F1 told Gay News that each of the 47 police forces in the country has its own account. Copies, she said, are kept by each force and by New Scotland Yard. The Economic Planning Unit at the Home Office allocates each budget. The overall budget for the Metropolitan Police comes from ratepayers ("about 50 per cent") and from Parliament.

Public Relations

Chief Inspector Richard Wells is community liaison officer for Chelsea. But it just so happens that he's been appointed as one of the investigating officers in the Coleherne affair. Wells said this prevented him from making any comment on complaints about police action.

Power In Knots

So the stiff upper lip of your police is also buttoned.

What to do then if police confront you and tell you to move on? What if you're surrounded by police, as is alleged in one of the Coleherne cases? The pertinent section of the Highway Act says that nobody can be found guilty of footpath obstruction unless he or she is wilfully obstructing. This means that you must be able to exercise free will. In other words, if you're busted when crowded in and unable momentarily to move, it will be difficult for a court to accept that you were wilfully obstructing the footpath.

As for Chelsea Police, they're not subject to a Watch Committee, or any other local authority, representing ratepayers. Chelsea Council are told by police what police need, and ratepayers fork out an increasing amount of money each year, unaware of the degree of fiscal integrity. When given the opportunity to establish credibility with the country's largest minority, police have responded with terse evasion, pool-pooos and obstinate tolerance.

The reasonable posture for gays in the face of this obstinacy is for complaints to Gay News to be redirected to the well-financed police system. For example, two policemen reported to GN as B100 and B640, who allegedly provoked the January 23rd Coleherne arrests, should be officially reported to members of Parliament and the National Council for Civil Liberties. The complaints against police should be formally lodged with police; and letters written to newspapers and gay organisations.

A final police pronouncement: "It is our job to keep the pavements clear." At any cost it seems.

Sheriff Turns Pornmonger

COLUMBUS, GEORGIA: The sheriff in these here parts is 'anti-smut' campaigner Jack Rutledge. But the Muscogee County lawman has been pretty quiet lately; a court told him he's got to sell from the jailhouse porch a load of 'dirty' books he's seized.

Rutledge, soloist in the leading Baptist Church choir, was recently ordered to seize the contents of Broadway Book Mart, an adult bookstore that sold, according to the court, obscene novels and picture books. Among the books was a wide assortment of hardcore gay titles.

The sheriff rallied his men behind him and raided the place. But shortly after the seizure, the court saddled Rutledge with an order he didn't like: The contents of the bookstore must be sold to settle a £36,500 court judgement in favour of a former US Army soldier.

Enter Georgia solicitor Tom Hughey, who says that if Sheriff Rutledge goes ahead with the booksale, he may be charged with selling obscene literature . . . in which case, the sheriff's henchmen (read it deputies) could be ordered to serve themselves with a warrant and confiscate the contents of the sheriff's sale.

The whole hullabaloo blew through Rutledge's jailhouse door after the US Supreme Court gave 'local' authorities the right to govern what is considered obscene by community standards.

The Supreme Court decision was in answer to an appeal of a state court ruling that the bookstore's contents were obscene.

Now, about that Army soldier: 24-year-old Thomas Corcoran filed a suit against the bookstore, claiming he was held at gunpoint by a store clerk for allegedly stealing a book. So, the books were ordered to be sold in order to pay the damages.

Post Office Hang-Up

LONDON: If you want to know the Gay News phone number and you haven't got a copy of the paper with you, what do you do? Phone directory enquiries of course.

Of course? That might seem the most sensible thing to do. But apparently the 'helpful' young creatures on the switchboard decide for themselves which telephone numbers they are prepared to give, and which to withhold. At least that is the experience of one of our readers.

When he phoned to find out our number he asked politely for Gay News. But even before he had time to give the girl the address, she told him simply "I'm not wasting my time looking up that sort of number," and hung up on him. When he phoned back, he was answered by someone a little more helpful who found the number without any difficulty.

In the last three weeks we have had half a dozen complaints from readers who have had problems of a similar sort. They usually are told that the number is 'not listed', but two complainants, sure that we were in the book, phoned back again and got the number the second time.

A Post Office spokesman said that he could not comment on the particular incidents we mentioned because he did not have all the details. But, he said, the girls on directory enquiries were instructed by their supervisors that when they were busy they should decide whether a particular number would take a long time to find, and if it would, then they should decline to look for it.



Going Both Ways

SWEDEN: From Sweden comes the story of the boy/girl who just couldn't make up his/her mind.

Marianne Hersegard started life as a girl but eventually decided to ask for a sex change operation. The operation was carried out successfully and Marianne married a woman.

But after a time, she says, she found it impossible to cope with playing the male role that was demanded of her. So back she went to hospital, and Marianne is now a girl again.

Money For Gay Rights Fund

LONDON: Since publishing our report on Michael Moores' trial in the last issue of GN, we have received quite a post-bag from readers.

A couple of people have told us to lay off, and give the whole thing a rest. But the incidents reported have brought support from most of our readers. The question that is most frequently asked is "What can we do to help?" Up to now we have had to reply that there was very little, but we have put our heads together and would like to make the following suggestions.

First, a trust fund is to be set up. The money collected will be available to anyone in the United Kingdom who needs financial help with legal costs, in an attempt to protect the legal rights of all gays. Details will be settled later by the trustees, but in general a payment will be considered where legal aid is not fully obtainable, and where the person's legal adviser agrees that there has been an infringement of his rights.

The money is available not only for criminal cases, but for civil actions which might be brought against the authorities for an alleged breach of legal rights, for assault or whatever.

There will be two trustees. Denis Lemon, editor of this paper, and Richard Creed, a solicitor. As Richard Creed will be involved in the administration of the trust, he cannot act in court for anybody who applies for

assistance to the fund.

In the unlikely event of nobody applying for help, any money in the fund will be donated to charities working in the gay movement at the discretion of the trustees.

So the first and easiest way you can help is to put a pound note in an envelope and send it to the Gay Rights Fund, c/o Gay News, 62a Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY. If you want to give a bit more, make out your cheque or crossed postal order to 'Gay Rights Fund' and send it to the above address. If you send cash and would like a receipt, then please ask for one and include the address to which a receipt should be sent. Remember, what has happened to others may happen to you. It would do you a lot of good to know that if you found yourself in trouble there were a whole lot of people behind you to give what help they could.

We are starting the ball rolling with £25 from Gay News. There are three recent cases we know of which could well qualify for assistance. And we ask you to help as much as you can. Please.

If you are a regular at the Coleherne, you can help in other ways too. After a pleasant night out, you may just want to turn a blind eye on an incident you see happen. But stop a moment and think. Think what it means to the guy who is being arrested. He may find himself in the police station locked up

in a cell for the night. He may have no solicitor, may not be able to contact a friend, and on being released may find he has no witnesses. We are not asking you to do anything heroic. All we ask is that if you see an unreasonable arrest take place, if you see unreasonable force being used on the man, that you simply come forward and give a clear account of the facts as a witness. And write to Scotland Yard, write to the Home Secretary with your name and address. If the incident is serious, make a complaint at a police station.

Remember, we are not asking you to make trouble. We only ask you not to stand on one side when a person is being publicly mistreated. People have stood on one side in the past. But if you politely intervene with your friends and complain, you will earn the undying gratitude of the man who is caught on his own.

The Coleherne used to be the name of a pub. It has now become the name of a pavement. And that is something we want to reverse. Talking to customers and staff inside, there is a good deal of friendliness about the place. Inside, the pub is well run under its new management. No trouble there at all. And that's the way it should be outside as well.

Details of the trust fund, and progress to date will appear in the issue after next. So get those cheque books out!

Police Evidence Subject To Court Scrutiny Says Hampshire Police Chief

The Chief Constable of Hampshire, Sir Douglas Osmond, CBE, has denied harassment and misconduct on the part of the police towards gays throughout the County.

In response to an enquiry regarding the enforcement of the 1967 Sexual Offences Act, Sir Douglas replied: "Action in respect of offences under the Act is invariably subject to the scrutiny, in some form, of the Courts, and if any impropriety by the police is suggested then the Courts are in a position to investigate." So much for the official view.

Unsympathetic Solicitors

Local enquiries however, do not substantiate the Hampshire Police Chief's statement. In practice, homosexuals who have been brought before southern Courts have been reluctant to bring to the attention of Magistrates irregular methods of police operation and conduct, because they have either imagined or have been told by unsympathetic solicitors, that defence evidence of police malpractice and distorted facts would not be accepted by the Court.

Gay defendants have also feared that the draconian fines usually imposed for offences would be further inflated if they were to publicly challenge police credibility in open Court, as well as invite sensational local newspaper publicity.

Conversations with Hampshire gays who had been the object of police attention or brought before the Courts under the 1967 legislation, confirmed this assessment of the situation.

Concocted Evidence

When Colin K of Portsmouth left a city bar at closing time, little did he realise that within the space of 35 minutes he was to end up with a criminal record, the object of a local scandal, jobless and seven weeks on the dole - all because of a call of nature. Colin had obviously been under previous police observation and was known to be gay. His conviction hung largely on the concocted evidence of a plain-clothes policeman who told the Court that Colin had been in a cottage for over an hour, and had persistently tried to importune him. The prosecution adopted the well-known technique of using in evidence an element of fact, liberally embellished with exaggerations. This method has the merit, from the police point of view, of enhancing the chances of a conviction, while at the same time not stretching the credibility of incriminating evidence put before the Court.

Colin explained: "Although I'd six witnesses as to the time I left the pub, I decided that I wanted to get my case over because of the publicity. I realised that it would be my word against the police officer and it would be hopeless. It stands to reason that the charge was not true since I was back home in my flat at ten past twelve, and that was after leaving the police station." Colin came to his decision to plead guilty and accept the situation after taking legal advice when he was warned that he faced a fine of £75.00 if he insisted on "wasting" the Court's time by disputing the police evidence.

Employer Informed

"While I was at the police station," he continued, "a young vice squad officer explained that they had to get the quota for the night and it happened to be me who was chosen. The officer admitted that the charge was not true, but said that if his superior officer required him to endorse the charge



Sir Douglas Osmond, Chief Constable of Hampshire

then he would do so. After the case the police informed my employer - they do inform your employer you know - and I was sacked. It took me seven weeks to get another job because, when you make application for employment you're asked why you left your previous job. It's not all employers who want to know a queen."

Suicide

A different experience with the law was related by David D, a shopworker of 19, who was convicted of trying to procure an act of "gross indecency" at Southsea. "I was in this cottage and I saw a guy flashing it around. As soon as I looked at him I was arrested - I didn't even touch him or anything like that. Being young and living with my parents at the time I was dreading the Court appearance so I ran away from home and tramped the streets of London. My money was running out so I bought some tablets from a greaser and tried to do myself in. I was found stoned in a shop doorway and rushed to hospital. I'm glad I didn't kill myself though. I've come to accept that I'm gay and have made a new life with a friend in Southampton." Asked if he felt bitter at what amounted to being tricked into breaking the law, David replied quite positively, "I hate all policemen".

Haphazard Enforcement

The haphazard nature of local police enforcement of the 1967 Act was illustrated by Mark L, a schoolmaster, who was intercepted in the same Southsea cottage. Mark recalled: "I was told I was making a nuisance of myself. I was afraid of course - but I just had a lecture. It was all rather ally pally." Mark was obviously not on the day's quota.

Refined Harassment

The ultimate refinement in Hampshire police harassment was told by Paul G, a 22 year old Bournemouth chef. When Paul and a friend left a club in the early hours, it was not long before they needed a cottage stop. On emerging from the cottage they were approached by two men who had leapt out

from cars parked opposite and demanded to speak to them. Both became afraid that they might be the victims of a casual mugging and went to make off, but were subsequently seized by the two policemen who waxed eloquent about "fucking queers". In a short space of time, they were bundled into one of the unmarked police cars, and when inside, one of the officers left to search Paul's car. On arrival at the police station they were put into separate rooms and interrogated by CID officers, the object of which was to get them to admit to certain offences and incriminate each other. As both kept their nerve and failed to oblige the police officers in this respect, they were bailed to appear before their accusers five days later, pending what the police described as "further enquiries". Paul told me the rest of the story: "I returned to the station as required in a state of acute anxiety. I knew I wasn't guilty as accused and as I'd not been charged, the police were treading carefully, but all the same I was in a serious position because being gay and obvious I'd have difficulty in refuting any charges they might decide to bring."

The desk sergeant told me that enquiries were not completed and my bail was being extended for a further five days. I just couldn't return to work because of the apprehension and fear and so after visiting several coffee bars I plucked up enough courage to ring a solicitor. I made an appointment for the next day and later that evening returned home. On my arrival my mother told me that a uniformed policeman had called to say that I would not have to attend the police station again. The officer also explained that as he could not find me at my place of employment he came to my home.

"There's no doubt that if they'd decided to press charges we would have been in trouble," said Paul, who had discovered that his friend had undergone a similar experience. "Some senior officer decided that to charge us might be a risk and therefore an alternative policy of creating maximum anxiety and embarrassment was adopted."

Challenge Evidence

It is clear that irregular methods of detection and prosecution as well as harassment of Hampshire gays is a reality - despite official denials. And the police are not above bringing prosecutions under the 1967 Act either by employing agents provocateurs or 'slanting' evidence.

But Sir Douglas's comments are not entirely negative, for he has provided the answer to the problem of deleterious police activity, not just in the south, but the whole of England and Wales.

Homosexuals should and must challenge the evidence of policemen in the Courts, especially where it is clearly incorrect, and they should not be afraid too, of refusing to sign police statements or relating the circumstances of arrest to the magistrates. Gay groups and organisations should devote some time to locating local solicitors who are prepared to accept that all gay people are not depraved pathological liars and will fight a case for clients in Court with the utmost vigour.

It is by this approach that a climate of opinion will begin to emerge where, as Hampshire's Police Chief puts it, police impropriety will become the subject of scrutiny in the Courts.

R J Thomson,
Portsmouth & District Correspondent

Pointed Views

Pointed Views will be an occasional column that allows members of the GN team and outside contributors to comment on matters they feel particularly strongly about. The views and opinions expressed will not always be shared by the rest of the people involved in producing Gay News, and do not necessarily indicate the editorial policy of the paper.

A continual annoyance that sometimes blossoms into anger is the amount of shoddy exploitation the gay community has to endure. This is carried out not only by people outside the gay scene, but also by some gays, who can't get it through their heads that second rate just isn't good enough any more.

The latest example of what I mean is Gay Power by D'Wilde Publications. The front cover blurb describes the slim volume as "the most advanced gay magazine in the world". They must be joking!

Between the covers there are 48 8" x 6" pages which contain not one word of editorial content, apart from entreaties to subscribe or to purchase other material through the publishers. A large part is filled with a reproduction (without permission) of a now out-of-date UK section of an old Spartacus Gay Guide and the remaining pages feature photographs and drawings that are seeing the light of day for the umpteenth time around. Most are poor quality prints taken direct from magazines and the majority are republished without the consent of the owners/editors of the publications they first appeared in. The cover states the contents include "letters". The Trades Description people might be interested in that as not one appears inside.

For the privilege of purchasing Gay Power one is expected to part with £1 (subscription rates are £10 for 12 issues). But beware, copies are already available in some London porno shops, wrapped in cellophane and priced at £4.

After GN's advertising manager had shown me the 'mag', and also the misleading copy for a half page advertisement the publishers had wanted us to run in the paper, it was with little hesitation that I agreed with him to reject their ad.

I'm not at all worried about the infringements of copyright or the possible loss in earnings distributors or more worthwhile gay titillation material may have experienced if this publication had been hyped onto the market - they can take care of themselves without our assistance. What does outrage me is the publishers expected this travesty of a magazine to be accepted by the gay community and to make a pile of money into the bargain. Thanks to the quick wits of our ad manager, they won't be helped to promote it through the pages of Gay News. And it is to be hoped that this piece will alert readers who may hear of Gay Power through other sources or come across it in a porno book store.

Denis Lemon

TOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...

With a general election now definitely called for February 28, will the gay organisations be intervening in the campaign? And if so what plans have they made?

Howarth Penny, General Secretary of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality, spoke to us an hour after the announcement. "CHE will swing into action on Saturday February 9," he told us. The organisation has a list of candidates who will be standing and it plans to check out the final details on this list. All candidates will be sent a questionnaire which they will be asked to complete and return before election day. The results of this questionnaire will be published.

We asked him whether he thought candidates would find time to reply, wouldn't they merely acknowledge receipt of the form? A mere acknowledgement wouldn't be good enough, he said. There were plans for CHE members to attend the election meetings, and they would ask awkward questions if the candidate hadn't bothered to reply. Besides asking questions, they planned to 'zap' those who were really hostile to the aims of CHE.

Danny Mullen, chairman of the Scottish Minorities Group, will be going to Manchester to talk with CHE leaders about their plans. He said that a special meeting of the SMG Executive would be called following this meeting, probably around the 12th or 13th, and plans would be discussed in greater detail. The Scottish group will be aiming at the constituencies in the more densely populated parts of Scotland, in the broad band running across from Glasgow to Edinburgh. Local SMG groups will be helping out by attending election meetings and asking candidates about their attitudes to homosexual law reform in general, and the SMG draft bill in particular.

Danny Mullen said that the atmosphere would be much easier after the election, to introduce the bill. MPs were always a little cautious about sticking their necks out when an election was in the offing, but once they were elected, and had a clear five years ahead of them, they felt freer to support contentious legislation.

One thing that did concern him, he said, was that if the result of the election was close, another 1964 situation, then worries about an early election would still hang over members, and the Scottish bill would have to wait yet another Parliament.

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GLF Move Downtown

BRIGHTON: Sussex GLF have moved downtown from the Stanford Arms. The new venue for their weekly meetings and discos is Markwell's bar, a hotel basement in Kings Road.

The move comes as no surprise. GLF have long wanted to end their 'glorious isolation' at Preston Circus, more than a mile from the town centre. A spokesman for the group said: "The move is a big step forward for Sussex GLF. The premises are much nicer than those at the Stanford Arms and are completely self-contained. We hope that the proximity of our new premises to the town's bars and clubs will enable us to attract a much larger proportion of gay people living in Brighton to our meetings and functions."

In many ways the move is as much symbolic as geographical. The new premises, complete with an extensive dance floor, are adequate testimony to the business acumen and growing financial power of Sussex GLF. In Brighton, at least, GLF have ceased to be 'militant outsiders'. They are clearly anxious to win mass support for their ideas and to build a strong movement. Those who now control the group appear to have realised some time ago that this support could only come from the gay community itself. They

regard last year's seafront demonstration as very damaging to the image of Sussex GLF and are determined that nothing like it will happen again. Indeed, so concerned are they to be seen to be acceptable in the eyes of the gay community that they have appointed a professionally experienced public relations officer whose job will be to create a more favourable public image for the group.

Inevitably, the move has had its critics. A small group of radical gays, calling themselves 'The Lavender People' have shown their disgust by leaving GLF. They claim that "the move is significant because it shows the kind of group that Sussex GLF have become. They seem to have forgotten that GLF began as a revolutionary movement, created in opposition to the values of the established 'gay scene'. When the underground moves downtown, it becomes something else. Radicalism and respectability are incompatible."

The split, however, cannot belie the reality of Sussex GLF's achievement. In a phrase, they've arrived.

FOOTNOTE: GLF discos are now being held on Saturday evenings as well as Fridays. Admission 20p. Meetings will continue to be held on Tuesdays at 8.30pm. Dances (as announced) at the Royal Albion Hotel.

Sean Aubrey

Ah, Let Me See...

Do I Love You?

SHEFFIELD: "You have got to watch the ages..." This order from Mr Justice Cumming-Bruce to a gay defendant, who was spellbound no doubt, by such profundity.

The Crown Court justice went on to tell 37-year-old Charles Johnson "... of the gentlemen with whom you become involved."

The judge added helpfully: "Homosexuals should keep a careful note of ages in their diaries." Mr Cumming-Bruce explained that these homosexual notations should reflect the different ages of 'the gentlemen with whom you become involved' and that the ages should be "very carefully noted in the diary."

Such carefully-kept information would, of course, be of great assistance in saving police time and easing the work of a prosecutor.

Johnson pleaded guilty to getting it on with somebody aged 18. He was given a twelve month jail sentence, suspended for two years.

The judge, who decided that the case did not involve any element of corruption, concluded: "... and do it in private."

Virgin Princess & The Degenerate

by Steve Wolf

ED: Some of our readers pointed out that the following piece would be of general interest. Many thanks to The Advocate for allowing us to reprint it.

Der Fliegende Hollander gay men's collective lives on an antique sailing ship moored in Amsterdam harbour's houseboat colony.

By 9 o'clock on a typical evening last July, the top deck was already crowded almost to overflowing with gays standing, sitting or squatting on every available inch of space, all smiling, laughing and talking together with great gusto and animation.

Despite the many, many people aboard ship, numerous conversations could be distinguished above the soft background music of a Mozart wood ensemble and the distant toots of passing foghorns. Different groups were thrashing out the implications of Watergate or the Year of Europe or the latest devaluation crisis.

Gays discussing this year's *Ring* at Bayreuth bumped up against gays comparing the talents of David Bowie and Alice Cooper. While the probable outcome of the European Cup soccer matches was being hotly debated a group of canoeists was planning an expedition down the Rhine and a party of backpackers was mounting an expedition up the Jungfrau.

"I can't believe this place," the American visitor exclaimed in amazement. "I've never seen gays just relaxing and talking together like this. How did so many gays with similar interests ever get together and find each other?"

"Ach, 't isn't so unusual," replied Jan Van Bijlmermeer, a tall, thin, red-bearded collective member. "All it takes, most times, is a little help from your friends," and he gestured with his pipe towards two enormous signs printed in Dutch, English, German, French and Japanese:

"BEFORE creating sex together with their bodies, good brothers first create conversation together with their minds for one entire evening.

"BEFORE their minds create conversation together a second time, good brothers first create sex together with their bodies."

"But, but, but," the American visitor spluttered in furious indignation, "that's disgusting. Immoral. Telling gays to have sex with someone they only want to talk to. It's un-American."

"Ach, Van Bijlmermeer replied, "if our people only want to make sex, let them go to the baths. If they look for something else, let them try to find it here."

"But it's indecent to tell gays to have sex together just because they only want to talk together. You'll corrupt the kids that way. In America we respect our friends too much to degrade a good relationship by turning our best buddies' bodies into sex



objects. It's disgusting, that's what it is."

"Ach, you American gays all talk like little virgin princesses. 'Oooo, don't spoil our perfect friendship. Don't ruin everything. How can you respect me if we do those dirty things together?'"

"You talk like virgin princesses with your friends," Jan continued, "and then you fly here to Amsterdam and spend three days making orgies in the baths with people you'll never see again. You're so busy doing here with strangers what's too dirty to do with your best friends back home. You come

to Amsterdam and can't even spend an hour looking at our Rembrandts and Van Goghs. **Hooray For Specialisation**

"You backward foreigners, you don't understand our American efficiency," the visitor, exasperated, exploded. "In America everything is technologically specialised. Specialisation is the whole basis of our American success. Some people make good sex partners, and others are just good for talking to. Specialisation - that's the secret of American efficiency and know-how."

"Ach, you are so specialised," Van Bijlmermeer snorted, "that half of you American gays complain no-one wants to talk with them, only to make sex, and the other half complain that nobody wants to sleep with them, only be sister-in-laws."

"Why don't you all economise and get yourself only one set of friends, both for good sex and good talking eh? Then you two can come to Amsterdam together and by day visit the Rijksmuseum and by night see our very handsome ballet company."

"Come to Amsterdam and miss out on the group gropes, at the baths? You're anti-free-sex, that's what you are. You foreign Puritans, your trouble is you can't understand what the American swinging sex scene is all about. Group orgies in the baths, that's a groove, man."

"Ach, you American babies," replied Van Bijlmermeer, slowly puffing his pipe. "If someone criticises you for only making sex with strangers you call him an uptight-assed Puritan. But when someone suggests you make sex with your best friends, you call him an immoral degenerate."

"America is the most moral nation in the world. Just listen to our President's speeches. He's always saying how moral he is, and the rest of us all follow his example.

Let Sex Infiltrate?

"We're a highly moral nation, and we respect important institutions like friendship and the incest taboo. The incest taboo is the basis of all morality and civilisation. Everyone in America knows that. Our high level of civilisation would collapse - just like Europe's did - if we ever lowered our moral standards and let sex infiltrate inside

our respectable friendships."

"Ach, you Americans. You always boast of having the newest and most different in everything. Is not what we have on the Hollander new and different enough for you?"

"Not if the cost means going against our high American moral standards. This, this violation of the incest taboo, it's unnatural and perverse. It goes against human nature. Human nature established the incest taboo. It's primordial. It's against human nature for people to debase their respected friends as sex objects. And, thank heavens, human nature is one thing even you foreign degenerates aren't going to change."

"Then what do you call this," Van Bijlmermeer smiled, gesturing with his pipe, "the purple men from Mars invasion?"

It was 10pm, and the Hollander was even more crowded, now with groups of smiling, laughing, happily chattering gays. Everywhere gays were talking to each other, kissing and embracing old and new-found friends. The Mozart continued softly in the background, and brooding over the ship, lit up by strands of brightly coloured lights, loomed the two gigantic signs in Dutch, English, German, French and Japanese:

"BEFORE creating sex together with their bodies, good brothers first create conversation together with their minds for one entire evening.

"BEFORE their minds create conversation together a second time, good brothers first create sex with their bodies."

The first was only moderately disgusting. But the second was a complete and total moral gross-out.

Summoning up his vast reservoir of moral superiority, the American visitor strode indignantly off the Hollander. At dockside, a collective member handed him a free button: "Try something different this week. Make love with your best friends."

Thoroughly outraged, the American hurled the offensive button into the murky waters, gathered his rectitude about him, and strode manfully off towards the nearest baths.

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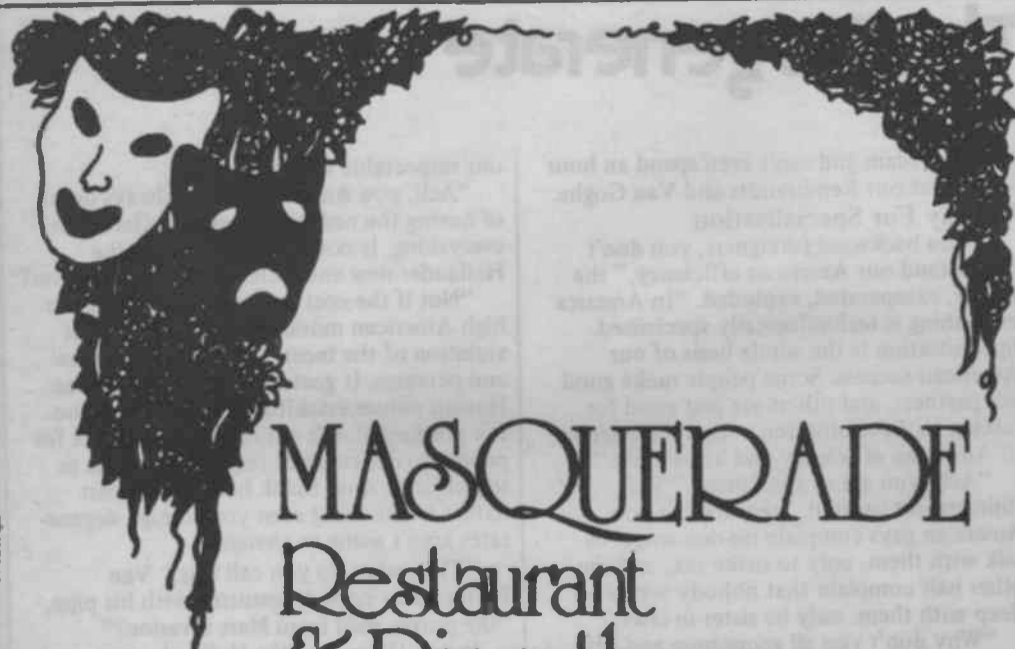
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Here We Are Again

Folding machines, energy shortages and rail strikes permitting, the publication of this issue should not have been hampered by any of the dilemmas that have played havoc with our schedules recently. The past problem with our printers seem to have sorted themselves out for the time being, and, apparently, we've even secured enough newsprint to last out for the next few months.

Mail Order Catalogue

As the GN Mail Order advertisement only features a selection of the gay orientated novels and non-fiction material kept in stock, it was decided to have a comprehensive catalogue of available titles printed. The first edition is now out and can be obtained free of charge by sending a large stamped addressed envelope to GN Catalogue, Gay News, 62a Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY.

There is a brief description of the majority of the books and it is planned to up-date the catalogue every two to three months. Subscribers will automatically receive each new edition.

New Face

Joining GN's editorial team as our reporter-at-large is American freelance journalist Bill Lemmer. Born 31 years ago in Illinois, Bill has spent the last 14 months in Britain. Previously, he spent five years here during the early 1960s. At present, he lives at Kingsbury, in North London.

Apart from freelancing (he is currently completing an investigation into Britain's gay movements for Time Out magazine) and generally being involved in the world of newsprint, Bill has edited his own newspaper and has written two novels, a play and a considerable amount of poetry. Also, he once played the part of the Mock Turtle in a way-off-Broadway production of 'Alice In Wonderland'.

Asked why he was keen to join GN, Bill explained that he regretted his previous lack of involvement in the gay rights struggle, owing to his commitment to the anti-war movement in the States. He felt that as an activist person and a gay, it was part of his life he had been missing.

The addition of such a conscientious and dedicated professional to the editorial team will benefit the paper a great deal. We are sure that readers will join with us in wishing Bill a happy and eventful time with GN.

True Story

The following is a true account of an incident that happened recently at a well-known gay discotheque in West London.

Having bought a copy of GN earlier in the evening, a reader found that it was a bit of a nuisance to carry the paper round when he went to his local late-night disco. He asked the cloakroom attendant if he could leave it behind the ticket counter. Obliging, the attendant agreed but, believe it or not, gave him out a cloakroom ticket for which our amazed reader had to pay.

That, in our humble opinion, is one of the meanest tricks we've ever heard about, and reckon it deserves a special mention in the 'misers' section of the Guinness Book of Records.

Capricorn & Friends

Merlin, who writes the 'Star Gays' horoscope column in GN, has asked me to let readers know that they can obtain copies of 'Capricorn and Friends' (which wasn't published because of the decision to revise our 1974 publication schedule). He will gladly forward a photocopy of the original article if those interested send a SAE plus a 3½p stamp to Merlin, c/o Gay News.

Grateful Thanks

Many thanks to Tony Jefferson of London N7 for sending a letter to the Evening Standard (published January 28) and rectifying their misleading description of GN. In a news story about Richmond Council's revised decision to allow Gay News into some of its libraries, the Standard wrongly called GN a magazine. Tony not only corrected this error, but went on to make some very complimentary observations about the paper and suggested anyone concerned about minority rights and liberties should read it. Such comments are much appreciated.

Office Hours

There still appears to be some confusion about the times the GN offices are open. General administration queries connected with subscriptions, personal or classified advertising, etc, can be dealt with only during ordinary business hours, which for GN are as follows: Monday to Friday 10.00am to 6.00pm and Saturdays 10.00am to 2.00pm. Although members of the editorial and design staff are very often working in the evening and over weekends, they cannot help with administration problems and it can be extremely inconvenient for them to be interrupted with matters they are unconnected with.

We understand that it can at times be very difficult getting through to the office on the phone. There is little that can immediately be done about this as the line is kept very busy with incoming calls. This problem has been aggravated recently by a fault on our line and the telephone engineers are still unable to find it. However, the situation does appear to have improved in the last few days, and we can but apologise for any inconvenience caused. Also, matters aren't helped by us only being able to use electricity for three days in the week. Candle power will never replace the electric light bulb.

The Dreaded Judge

Following the review I wrote of the latest Judge Dread reggae recording in GN38, a vast amount of correspondence has been received from his fans. The Judge's admirers take a delight in explicitly outlining the effect his brand of music has on them, and graphically describe the erotic ways in which they listen to his records.

Okay, you've convinced me that this artist possesses uncanny and inimitable powers. Those as yet unaware of Judge Dread's talents are warned that they experience his performances at their own risk.

Dates & Deadlines

The next issue of Gay News (GN41) will be published and available on the 28th February. Details of advertising deadlines and copy dates for that edition can be found under the credits section at the bottom of this page. It is important to refer to these dates to avoid disappointment, as they will be strictly adhered to because of printing schedules.

Denis Lemon

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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 our 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.

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.

GAY NEWS

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Gay Anthropologists

This draft is the result of several meetings of an international group of gay anthropologists during and following the IXth International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences held last September in Chicago.

The Issue of Homophobia

Anthropology, in spite of its broad tradition of scientific humanism, is permeated by Western society's attitudes of homophobia, that is, the fear, anxiety and antipathy occasioned by homosexuality.

The Personal Effects of Homophobia

As gay anthropologists, we are personally aware of the power of this homophobia which has even kept us from identifying ourselves to our colleagues; the absence of openly gay anthropologists is a direct and unfortunate consequence of a continuing homophobic milieu in the profession. Gay anthropologists, some of whose greatest contributions to the field could derive from their unique position and perspective, often steer away from the subject of homosexuality in their own studies. Others do not publish the results of their studies of the subject for fear of the effect on their careers or personal lives. Perhaps most invidious is the gay anthropologist's internalisation of these attitudes which, by operating as self-inhibiting mechanisms, and exaggerating the imagined consequences of public identification, deny to the discipline his/her* fullest contribution.

* (Although subsequent usage in the draft follows the traditional style, the argument is understood to apply to both male homosexual and lesbian anthropologists).

The Effects of Homophobia on Anthropology

More deeply significant, this homophobia is cause for major distortion and omission in anthropologists' perception and interpretation of cultural reality. The Western observer intuitively attributes psychological motivations to the observed which may be no more than projected products of the observer's own cultural conditioning. This is especially true with regard to homosexuality. Field researchers have viewed homosexual phenomena in other cultures, if at all, in terms of Western assumptions and definitions, themselves heavily value-laden against homosexuality. This in spite of the fact that issues of homosexuality, masculinity/femininity, sexual identity, orientation and role often have very different meanings in different cultural contexts. The problem is further compounded by the taboo which, until very recently, applied rigorously to any frank and open discussion of homosexuality, and which has effectively prevented any confrontation with pervasive bias in perception, interpretation and understanding.

The Opportunities

Anthropologists now have an opportunity to come to grips with this bias in the consideration of

homosexuality. We must use this opportunity to develop a more truly objective research into the totality of human sexuality. In this effort, the gay anthropologist has a unique contribution to make, if he is allowed to make it.

The gay anthropologist shares with a certain proportion of his informants, across many, if not all, cultural boundaries, his gay minority status. This unique, shared, life experience, like that of women in differing cultures, provides the gay anthropologist with an unusual opportunity to study cultures from a very different perspective than that generally available, in a sense from "underneath". This approach has not been investigated, it's potential significance cannot be over-estimated.

More generally, because his homosexuality allows him a vantage point not generally available in viewing sexuality, the gay anthropologist is in a singular position to contribute to cross-cultural study of human sexuality, a field which has been grossly neglected and which is of far-reaching significance. (Gay anthropologists, by emphatically placing their contributions in the context of total human sexuality, avoid accusations of "beating the drum" for their own subjective interests.) Such cross-cultural investigation could provide greater insight into the role of cultural context in issues of masculinity/femininity, as well as the basis for a more adequate taxonomy of contemporary Western sexual attitudes and behaviour.

There remain to be properly formulated, let alone answered, several basic questions: How is homosexuality varying defined in differing cultures, and what is the relationship of homosexuality, as well as sexuality generally, to differences in social and family structures, sex role and sex behaviour, child-rearing, impulse control, and over-all patterns of personality development.

Finally, the gay anthropologist has an unequalled vantage point in investigating and interpreting the emerging gay movement for liberation in our own culture, as well as the more general movement in Western societies against traditional sex roles. There is an overwhelming wealth of material in these movements' analyses and critiques of contemporary Western sex-role structure. Also, and equally important, the gay anthropologist stands in a significant position to make contributions to the progress of these movements.

In order to realise these opportunities, it is incumbent on anthropologists to engage in critical self-examination of their own repressive cultural inheritance. Much of this inheritance lies at a level deeper than the rational and intellectual, and requires sincere self-confrontation for one to achieve real objectivity. To facilitate this process, we invite comment and dialogue on the issues raised in this paper, and urge anthropologists, gay and non-gay, to raise them with their colleagues whenever relevant.

Please direct comments, criticism, suggestions to: Gay Anthropologists, c/o Henry Wlemhoff, 444 W Roslyn Pl, E3, Chicago, Ill, 60614, USA.

To Be Lonely And Gay

by Barrie Kenyon

We are apt to be pretty smug about loneliness. "If you're lonely and gay," we usually say, "get out and meet gay people". Like the *Titanic* on its maiden voyage, this is fine so far as it gets. In heterosexual society, loneliness is widespread - in spite of the clearly legal and abundant introduction-bureaux, clubs and societies of every type. It is hazardous indeed, though commonplace, to reduce loneliness to simplistic assumptions. How much more so gay loneliness.

Personal isolation covers a wide range of very different experiences. Most of us have known misery and despair, but individual lives are a poor index. Moreover, loneliness is surrounded by a curious taboo: if it is proclaimed (rightly) that "gay is good", we shall tend to regard any exceptions to the rule as unwelcome and inadmissible spectres. In an advanced industrial society such as ours, notwithstanding the intentions of the oil sheiks, people by and large expect to be happy and are conditioned to desire it. That is a key reason why loneliness seems so regrettable to us.

Many lonely people believe that they are alone because they deserve to be. The notion that, if you are unhappy, the fault is yours runs very deep. Guilt and shame, often self-induced, make everything only worse. And it is only too easy for the rest of us to avoid the lonely, whether through embarrassment, fear of getting involved, excuses about lack of time or the threat of being made financially worse off. And then there's sex: lonely people are particularly sensitive to being judged as desirable or undesirable sex objects.

But another group of the lonely claim their problems arise from a specific cause or causes. These can take many forms: the belief that childhood was too happy or not happy enough; a prison sentence; alcohol; a disease or accident; loss of looks; an unhappy marriage; the passing (literally or metaphorically) of former friends. Such lonely people, in other words, tend to think of themselves as victims of external or uncontrollable circumstances, and are quite distinct from the first group who feel it is their inevitable lot.

It is acknowledged that there is nothing particularly homosexual in the above contexts: why should there be? But society's hostile attitude to homosexuality throughout the ages has played a major part in inducing much personal loneliness and misery. The earliest of these is the automatic equation of homosexuality with sin: the whole misconception that gayness or gay practices are necessarily 'wrong' on 'religious' grounds is still alive and well. The next syndrome was that homosexuality was a vice or a crime, for long the vanguard of heterosexual bigotry with legal sanctions: still today, many lonely gays believe they are joining the criminal fringe by having gay sex, even leaving aside the age of consent and cottaging issues.

In the 1950s came the Wolfenden report and, with it, a new weapon of oppression. Homosexuality was now to be seen as a sickness, howbeit often an incurable one; it is amazing how many lonely homosexuals regard themselves as 'sick' to this day. Nevertheless, the syndrome most prevalent today is that homosexuality is 'bad-taste', a subject for mockery and opprobrium: it is probably the case that more lonely gays are terrified by this public and private threat in their lives than any other single external cause. And it is certainly very difficult for a homosexual with heavy stakes in the heterosexual world (job, family, friends, status) often involving years of deceit, to lead the life he or she wishes. At any rate, that's how they feel.

The kernel of loneliness, no doubt, is personal failure and inadequacy in the field of human relationships. But that will not take us very far: the phenomenon is too complex. As a helper in a gay befriending and counselling organisation (two greatly over-used and much prostituted adjectives), I



Illustration: Jean-Claude Thavenin

attempted a rough breakdown of the presented need (not necessarily the actual need) in fifty recent cases in one area of the country. There were thirty-one men and nineteen women; the requests for help were about evenly divided between telephone calls and letters. The variety is quite staggering:

- 6 lack of social and sexual friends
- 4 lack of social friends
- 4 lack of sexual friends
- 4 transvestite problems
- 3 need to talk to 'someone'
- 3 nervous of meeting other gays
- 3 worried about cottaging
- 3 legal problems
- 2 religious problems
- 2 worried about attraction to boys
- 2 medical problems (physical)
- 1 request to see a psychiatrist
- 1 post-affair bereavement
- 1 gay and homeless
- 1 trouble with parents
- 1 request for information about gay scene
- 1 worried about dislike of a sexual act
- 1 post-prison problems
- 1 prison-visiting requested
- 1 marital
- 1 request for someone to phone 'when necessary'
- 4 not specified

It is noteworthy that all the above claimed to be lonely. Of course, this was no formal investigation, there was no attempt or intention to retain records or data and absolutely no suggestion that personal problems are quantifiable, save for reasons of brevity. What is clear, however, is that homosexual loneliness can assume many manifestations and, one imagines, does not lend itself to the jejune generalisations so often encountered.

This is not the place to analyse the role of gay befriending and counselling services, if any, in alleviating homosexual loneliness, and that particular task has scarcely been begun. Probably, not more than one percent of the homosexual population ever even think of approaching these agencies or are in need of supportive help, except perhaps for a brief period. Indeed, the most amazing thing about gay men and women, by and large, is how well they manage in spite of everything. But that's not the point. An appreciation of loneliness, and what can be done about it is (or ought to be) every bit as much a part of the gay civil rights movement as harassment and discrimination, to which it is often allied. It will not be a simple assignment.

★★★★★★

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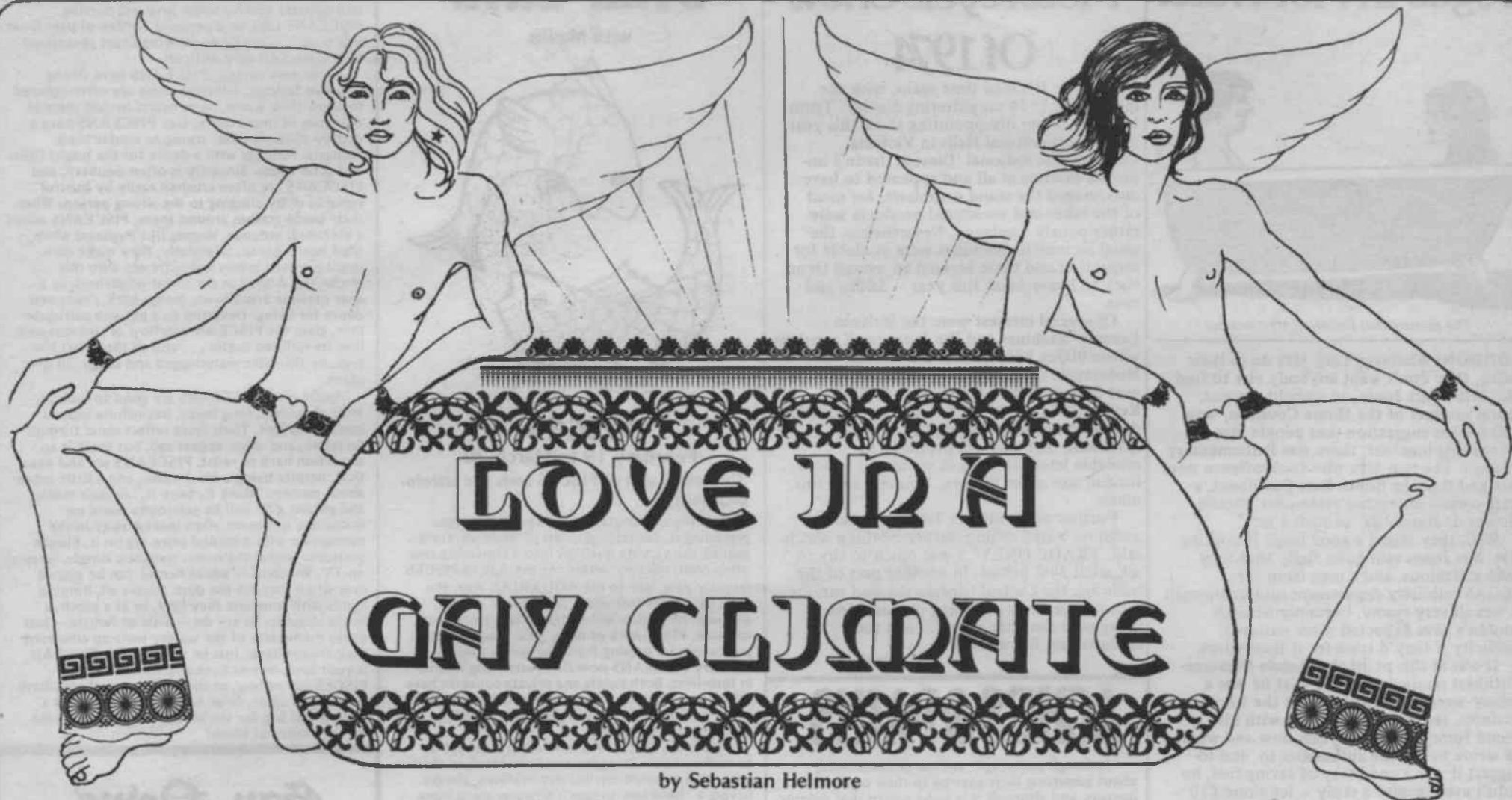
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by Sebastian Helmore

There can be no doubt that we are experiencing a 'Love Revolution'. One of the most moving scenes in Alan Whicker's recent documentary on homosexuality in the USA (ATV, 2 October) was for me, when we saw the meeting on the beach and the complete freedom people showed there to express their love for everyone around them. We British suffer very much from our stiff upper lip, that much is clear, and there was something refreshing in the way those American gays could touch each other without embarrassment. It was clear too that their lives were much richer as a result of having got rid of their inhibitions about physical contact.

This is one of the things I have learnt from my non-gay friends (although I admit they belong to the younger generation!) We should not be afraid of physical contact as a means of expressing affection. And we should not be afraid either of mere affection. By calling it 'mere' affection I immediately betray that I am still hung-up on 'love' — but at least now I recognise that I have many gay and non-gay friends, hetero- and bisexual who are genuinely fond of me and I am a fool if I do not value their affection.

Too many of us are hung up on love. We behave as if we spend all our time looking for the one perfect love-relationship which will occupy us completely and last forever. In consequence we spend every waking

moment in a frantic search that enables us to close our eyes to what else we are being offered. We underestimate the worth of the affection our friends offer us; we give the impression of sizing people up and then throwing them aside as useless for our purpose; and perhaps worst of all, we fail to offer any sort of affection to the many people who come our way.

Yes, the sight of those strangers on an American beach expressing their affection for each other has opened my eyes. Hung-up on love, I realise I've missed a lot of affection that has been offered me and have missed thousands of opportunities of bringing some sort of joy to the people who would have valued some sign of affection from me.

Since seeing that film and discussing this whole matter of physical contact and the expression of genuine affection with my non-gay friends, I have resolved to be a little less inward-looking. Physical contact puts a lot of people off — there is no doubt about that — and the British more than anyone else tend to run a mile at any hint of it — but there is clearly more place for it than I had thought.

The great fear of course, is that strings are attached. Touch me and you want me in bed. For many people this is true. The consequence of this way of thinking is that if I touch you back, you can have me in bed! Surely we've got to get away from this way of thinking? Gays more than anyone else are guilty of perpetuating this sort of puritanism. How many bars can you go into and kiss your friends without being thought outrageous? Only some. Can you always be certain that you can hold another gay tight at a dance perhaps, without him getting the wrong idea? Must physical contact always lead to sex? Until we can get away from seeing the two inextricably linked then we are going to be missing a lot of rewarding experiences. I want to be able to show affection for people without them thinking I want them in bed. If they understood this, perhaps they wouldn't be so keen to give the brush-off so often.

And yet, I'm still hung up on love. Perhaps I've got over my fear of being considered a sex-maniac; perhaps I am much less frustrated now that so many of my friends don't think twice about holding my hand or giving me the occasional genuine kiss; but I can't get away from this feeling that I still want someone to love me, someone to

whom I can give all of myself without restraint.

You'd think from the amount of talk among some gays that 'love' was the only thing. And I have a great sympathy with this. Perhaps it's because I'm a Christian, but I do believe that almost all of us are made for fulfilment in a total and exclusive relationship of love. The trouble is that most gay affairs seem to be short-lived. Three years is considered a triumph among men, although I know that our gay sisters manage better than that very often. So many gays have such a rapid turn-over of lovers, that one wonders whether they really know what they are looking for.

It's true, surely, that a lot of us have given up. We just don't believe any more that love is a genuine possibility for us. So we are left feeling insecure and prey to deep depression. Because we are afraid that we shall never find real deep, permanent satisfaction in a love-bond, we have given up hope and settle for as many *experiences* as possible. Quite often, we don't even want them to last, for fear they will show up our limitations. And yet, isn't there often a considerable amount of self-deception here? Don't we often pretend to ourselves at the start of what we know in our heart of hearts is going to be another short-lived affair, that this is the real thing? Aren't gays too eager to apply the name 'love' to any emotional relationship?

There must be some sort of balance somewhere. The answer it would seem to me, is in allowing for two sorts of love. Love for all men and women, of the kind those American gays have taught me about, is something we should open our lives to. If we don't close doors that lead to genuine affection, if we admit, much more than we have in the past, the validity of physical contact as a means of expressing affection and friendship, then we shall certainly be enriched by human love of a very real sort.

But at the same time, we must be careful not to debase the word 'love'. The word must have a deeper meaning too. In some secret corner of all of us is a sometimes unadmitted need for *one* person who will be the one to whom we shall give our all and who will return this love to us. It is a great mistake to imagine that such a relationship is going to be easy to find — and we must stop cheapening the concept by using the title for every emotional

affair.

If we recognise how difficult it is going to be to find love in this sense, then we shall be a little more wary. We certainly won't frighten away every new friend by making too many demands. Nor will we make the mistake of appearing to believe that love must be built on sex, that sex is the only enduring basis for love, that love is sex. Of course, we will admit to ourselves how much we value a perfect sexual relationship with the one we love, but will we be mature enough to recognise that every relationship changes its character. The emotional commitment inevitably becomes less and less, and there may even be times when sexual adventures outside the relationship seem almost inevitable, but there is more to fidelity than either of these two things.

If we were all a little more *mature*, less predatory, less orgasm-fixated, more open to affection, more willing to give something of ourselves to friends and acquaintances, then perhaps, we might learn enough about ourselves to see what our limitations are — and what riches we have to offer. Perhaps then we will be ready to show the perseverance and will-power which our declared intention of remaining faithful to our one lover clearly presupposes. The next question is what part does permanence play in this concept of love, in a gay climate... but that will have to wait until another time!

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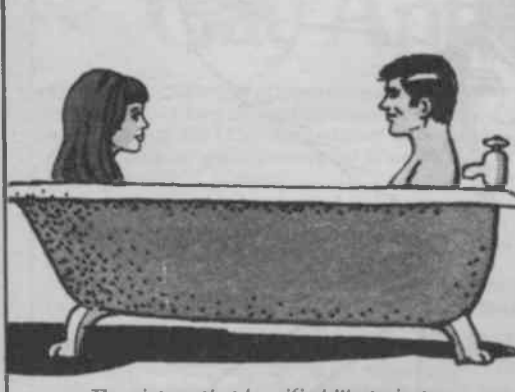
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The picture that horrified Westminster

LONDON: Whatever Tory MPs do in their baths, they don't want anybody else to find out. When Mrs Jones, an upright, decent, moral product of the Home Counties, won £10 for her suggestion that people save gas by bathing together, there was Parliamentary outrage. The two MPs who took offence were shocked that the South East Gas Board, a state-owned enterprise remember, should "lower its standards" in such a way.

Well, they raised a good laugh if nothing else. Mrs Jones said quite flatly that they were ridiculous, and a man from the SEGAS publicity department said he thought it was all very funny. Certainly SEGAS couldn't have expected more national publicity if they'd tried for it themselves.

It was at this point that James Demesne-Cuthbert phoned us to say that he was a teensy-weensy bit upset about the whole business. He had been bathing with his friend Henry for many years now and when he wrote to tell the authorities so, and to suggest it was a good way of saving fuel, he didn't even receive a reply - let alone £10 - and he said could we "let the boys from that Gay Liberation thing know, because it's unfair to gays."

He phoned again later to say that he was awfully sorry, but he thought he might in fact have sent his suggestion to British Rail because he had just received a letter from the Gas Board telling him they didn't issue season tickets.

 "The liberation of homosexuals can only be the work of homosexuals themselves."
 - Kurt Hiller, 1921

Motorcycle Show Of 1974

LONDON: It's bike time again, with the models for 1974 on glittering display. Truth to tell, a rather disappointing show this year at the Horticultural Halls in Victoria.

Certainly the national 'Dimout' hadn't improved matters at all and appeared to have discouraged the stand organisers, for most of the bikes and associated products were rather poorly displayed. Nevertheless, the usual incredible machines were available for inspection and there seemed an overall trend back to heavy bikes this year - 500cc and over.

Of special interest were the Bultaco Laverda machines and the Japanese Kawaskais whose 903cc 82hp Model 21 had the 1973 Motorcycle of the year trophies for machines over 500cc. Star of the show for me was Kevin Read (son of his famous motorcycling dad) who astounded everyone with his silver suit. The suit will probably be available later this year in simulated leather for full size silver Princes. Yummy! just too much.

Further on 'Jennifers Travels' I spotted a sign on a stall selling leather clothing which said 'TRADE ONLY'. I was much to shy to ask what that meant. In another part of the building, the Castrol Cinema showed various motorcycle films including one entitled 'Drag on a Summer's Day'. I left too embarrassed for words.

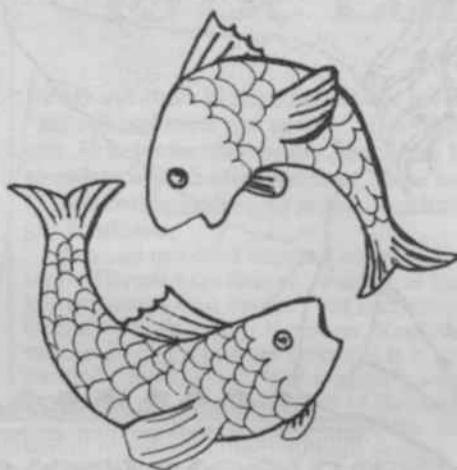
D C Hart

ACHES & PAINS

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

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Pisces

February 19 to March 20

The zodiac sign of PISCES ends the astrological year.

It is the culmination of all the eleven signs preceding it, containing facets of them all, transmuting the varying qualities into a confusing and often contradictory whole. As the Age of PISCES recently gave way to the AQUARIAN Age, the main PISCAN influences suffered an eclipse, although its effects will continue for many years to come. PISCANS of note, great singers, actors, politicians, are passing from the scene; more ordinary PISCANS now find restricting factors in their lives. Both public and private concerns have difficulties, making a more than usually troubled phase which PISCANS in general are finding worrying and upsetting.

However, PISCANS have an in-built ability to suffer endless struggles and heartbreak in their lives. Many endure terrible deprivations, always having a "hard row to hoe"; however good some periods are, not always compensating for the bad times. PISCANS need to be looked after, nurtured, tended like fragile plants. They cling to relationships, demanding instant attention, suffering hurt if ignored or greeted coldly. Within themselves, they are pulled in two different directions, as the Fishes (swimming apart) indicate in their zodiac symbol. Rarely saying what they deeply feel, they let their tensions rise slowly to the surface, where the suppressed emotions pour out at the most inconvenient time possible. Whether they are about to leave for the office, or are in a theatre foyer, or chatting to the gay curate, out come the most embarrassing revelations or innermost thoughts. Quite astonishing whoever is on the receiving end, and any luckless persons hovering in the vicinity.

PISCANS are a little dotty about animals. Any creature, animal or human, who is hurt will immediately receive lavish love and nursing. PISCANS take on a personal burden of pain from sick people, sometimes showing exact symptoms themselves. All very difficult.

Genuinely mystic, PISCANS have strong intuitive feelings, although these are often ignored to allow their warm, open hearts to rule them in decisions of importance. Gay PISCANS have a doubly difficult time: trying to equate their monastic leanings with a desire for the bright lights and good times. Sincerity is often doubted, and PISCANS are often crushed easily by hurtful remarks or by clinging to the wrong person. When their world crashes around them, PISCANS adopt a theatrical attitude, singing like Paggiacci while their hearts break. (Naturally, they make convincing, gifted actors and actresses with this attribute). A spell in the social wilderness, or a near nervous breakdown, brings back a renewed desire for living. Devotion to a pet as a surrogate love, gives the PISCAN overflow of unexpressed love its fulfilled outlet... and so they start the saga, by this time waterlogged and soggy, all over again.

Quite often PISCANS are good to look at. Wide shoulders, long limbs, beautifully shaped bodies and feet. Their faces reflect inner turmoil certainly, and often appear sad, but there is an attraction hard to resist. PISCANS are also practical, despite being a bit dreamy, and a little mean about money. "Bank it, bank it," is their motto, and golden gifts will be graciously worn on occasions, but more often locked away in the strong-box with a mental price tag on it. Simple pleasures appeal the most: romantic novels, weepies on TV, Westerns - where horses can be gaped over when they hit the dust. Above all, holding hands with someone they love, or at a pinch, a broad shoulder to cry on - male or female - just to rid themselves of the watery pent-up emotions they always have. Just be warned: if a PISCAN is your love, or you have any contact with a PISCAN girl or boy, or they with you, always have a supply of clean, large hankies to hand. And a waterproof bag for the used, soaked ones. There will be plenty of those!

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DOING IT IN VERSE

by Roger Baker

This is a collection of gay poetry, the first of its kind. Thanks then to Ian Young for getting this valuable and stimulating anthology together for our only slightly modified delight. In an introduction the limits are clearly stated. All the poems are in English, all are by living authors (with two exceptions — Jay Socin and Paul Goodman, to whom the book is dedicated) and all are confined to male relationships. "A similar female anthology could — and should — be better edited by a woman," Ian Young writes in a phrase that strikes me as lip service to politics.

However, this clarification should ensure that no-one can expect to find the gay poetry of Greece or Rome here, verses from *The Arabian Nights*, the work of Shakespeare or Verlaine, Cavafy or Carpenter. It means that the majority of poems are by young men, most of whom possess a North American accent and a lot of whom seem, judging from their brief biographies, to have been affected by the gay liberation movement. And of course, without the stimulus of that movement, perhaps the entire book could not have appeared.

Of the three major commentaries on *The Male Muse* that I have seen so far, two — in



The Body Politic and in *Quorum* — have been antagonistic. Michael Lynch in the Canadian newspaper and Lawrence Collinson in *Quorum* both attack on the grounds that so many of the poems just aren't very good as poetry. And they are both joined by the generally much more appreciative Andy Dvosin in *Gay Sunshine* for a complaint about "the thick procession of seventeen-year-old male virgins, tough but vulnerable hustlers and cab drivers, and blond, blue-eyed innocents in poem after poem. . ." Collinson refers to a preoccupation with youthism; Lynch calls them Masturbatory Poems of self-indulgent facility. Here's an example:

*O! sweet bare boy
bellyward on my bed,
your lips are wet
and your eyes are greedy.
I know why you moan
and flex those cheeks,
those full, ripe peaches
you crave a rough connection.*

(from *Ross* by Graham Jackson)

Lynch gags on peaches. Going on recent experience, I don't. Which just goes to show that one man's fantasy is the record of another's reality.

And these critics who couldn't wait to put-down the anthology brought some heavy guns to bear. Lynch fielded Sir Philip Sydney and Hart Crane. Collinson wheeled on Shakespeare and Donne while even Dvosin couldn't resist a brief appearance by Milton and Blake for a diversion on protest poetry. Which is like beating Peter Maxwell Davies over the head with Mozart and Beethoven. Very inappropriate. For scholars and those oppressed by the disciplines of Eng. Lit. must look beyond *The Golden Treasury* or *The Oxford Book Of English Verse*, blunt instruments both, for their comparisons.

To grasp the valuable poetical-political point this collection makes, it is necessary to look, not towards the golden chain of classic lyrical poetry, but to the age-old, vivid and explicit traditions of heterosexual erotic verse. Not to go to the Burns of: "O my Luve is like a red, red rose", but to the Burns of "Nine inch will please a lady". Not to the Auden of: "Lay your sleeping head my love", but to the Auden of: "... I lay still in the notch / of his crotch / inhaling his sweat. . ."

Some people will argue, most strongly, that there should be no distinction between 'gay' poetry and 'straight' poetry, that if a poem is successful then it should strike a common response from all readers that transcends their individual sexuality. Certainly, Auden's *Lullaby* and Shelley's heart-stopping: "Good-night? ah! no; the hour is ill / Which severs those it should unite. . ." and many other great lyrics must surely touch lovers of all ages and all sexes. But eventually one senses that a precise, explicit, erotic response has somehow been suppressed out (by the poet's sensitivity, by censorship — it doesn't matter) until, along with John Peale Bishop

*We ask and ask, until silence falls
Did Percy Bysshe have any balls?*

It is among the files of the known, accessible erotic verse that we find the balls — look hard enough and you'll find that even such odd bods as Herrick and D H Lawrence had them, in big hairy pairs. One finds a clear, carnal response; frank relish of the body, male and female; a surging joy in youthful lust and capacity; a sadness and a bitterness in the coming of old age:

*Too long we let our bodies cling,
We cannot hide disgust
At all the thoughts that in us spring
From this late-flowering lust.*

And though this strand of poetry is packed with a delight in sex, is full of rampant cocks and swinging balls, rippling nipples and eager cunts, it does also reinforce, most powerfully the conventional roles played by man and by woman. The media of the late 20th century has not exactly invented this uncomfortable division. And then, as now, the homosexual has fallen between the roles as an object of pathos or of ridicule.

*That you prefer it from behind
does not prove an ingenious mind.*

Heterosexual paranoia from Kurt Kastner. And this from Catullus, who wasn't always on about sparrows:

*Naso, you are many men's man; and yet
beside you no man's willing to be seen.
Naso, you are many men's man. "To let
— You Queen!"*

But through the centuries, gay poets have been expressing themselves in honest terms and some enchanting stuff exists; in *The*

Arabian Nights for example:
*Who says this fawn of boyish grace
Is lovely as a girl*

*Commits a blasphemy:
There is a difference.*

Ian Young might have elected to release this hidden gay heritage (he is well equipped to do so) to collect all this gay verse from the shelves of museums and the velvet-bound volumes on collectors' shelves. It would be a tremendous task, be a great contribution to our understanding of the past, and, almost incidentally, a lovely thing. But instead, he has taken immediate, vital action and rounded up the vigorously living. The poems in *The Male Muse* belong to the erotic tradition; they speak directly and without evasion of immediate human experience. Stephen Spender has written: "Erotic experience is simply part of the common human condition available to literature." Well, gayness is part of that condition, and here it is.

The critics are right about the parade of beautiful youths. Poems, I am sure, can be written about the rewards of age and physical desire among equals. But the majority of the poets published here are themselves young, and seek their inspiration in youth. An older voice intrudes here and there:

*Be gentle, Tim. I'm a tired
old fucker, and void of
scruples, my friends advise.
I don't comprehend your
17-year-old body beserkly humping
upon mine. . .*

(James Mitchell)

and again:

*I am surprised you lust for a grayhead like
me
and what a waste for me to grapple so
much pleasure
with sliding palms holding your thin body
firmly while you squirm, till it is time to
come.*

(Paul Goodman)

Some of the boys are to be bought (as in Jim Eggeling's witty *Buying A Rose In San Antonio*), admired or dreamed about. I think the overall impression is of a narrow-eyed wit ("Those three young workmen have had it up again. . ." begins one of James Kirkup's poems, misleadingly) and of passion, rather than of youthism. But at the same time, in these particular pieces, one does find re-asserted, the tarnished standards of the straight gayscene, particularly when an older writer is thinking of days gone by:

*. . . suddenly I know him, knew him for
Apollo
come from high Olympus,
the sun-god, the radiant!*

(from *Meeting At Millow*, Brian Hill)

Political content is present in some selections, notably the work of Ralph Pomeroy an example of a writer whose attitude and content is impressive enough to make me less critical of a style and form that do not particularly appeal to me. A Tardy Epithalamium For E and N is terrific though. The poet visits a well-married gay couple, he charts the progress of their dinner party and towards the end realises that he must go, "while you get to stay with each other".

*This makes me blue and close to tearful
and defiant even. So I kiss you both
gingerly
and head resolutely for the subway,
or resolutely for the bars.*

*Grateful for you
all the same.*

The socially uncomfortable life of the married pair ("outlaw lovers") runs parallel to a kind of envy for their togetherness. In *Gay Love And The Movies*, Pomeroy explores fantasy images of the screen as they apply to straights and asks:

*Where have we been all this time?
Where are we now, right now which
we're living?*

Robert Duncan's *Sonnet 1*, Robert Adamson's *Action Would Kill It* and particularly William Barber's *Explanation* are worth possessing. This last is direct and determined, unself-conscious and contains that feeling of matter-of-factness that can be so powerful in a political statement:

*We have burned the closet door in effigy
There will be no more watching for the feet
of policemen under the partitions.*

Nor

*the mediocrity of masses of shuffling gays
in the dark bars, ghettoed and ethnic.
I love men. I tell them so directly.
Whenever we encounter, there are no
categories.*

Ginsberg is represented, and if you like the plays of Tennessee Williams, you will



probably flip over his poem. Isherwood's *On His Queerness* is here, and other British poets represented include John Lehmann, Jonathon Williams (a swinging eccentric by the sound of him), Brian Hill, Michael Higgins, Thom Gunn and Oswald Blakeston. With the exception of Higgins, all are no longer young. Are there, I wonder, any young men and women here writing worthwhile gay poetry? It seems very much a North American flower. The willingness of papers like *Gay Sunshine* and *The Body Politic* to devote considerable space to gay poems must be a great stimulus. In this country, *Gay News* and the gay magazines do not.

Sappho and *Quorum* have published some good work, but in my experience the standard of submissions is dreadfully low, with a poverty of thought and a tired, derivative use of language. It is good to see this country represented in an anthology such as *The Male Muse*, a pity perhaps that this representation should be from the old guard (however good) rather than from the vanguard (however imperfect).

FOOTNOTE: Copies of *The Male Muse* by Ian Young are being imported by GN, and will be available shortly from our Mail Order service, price £2 plus 10% p&p

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Royal Ballet At Sadlers Wells Theatre



Photograph: Anthony Crickmay

Stephen Jefferies as The Joker in 'Card Game'

LONDON: Dance at long last finds its way on to the GN stage page, so you can stop writing those letters!

Just started at Sadlers Wells Theatre, Rose-

berry Avenue, is a two-week season of one-act ballets given by the Royal Ballet New Group. Well, the group may be 'New', but there are plenty of the old familiar names performing. Doreen Wells and David Wall, Vyvyan Lorraine and Deanne Bergsma, Desmond Kelly and Wayne Sleep are amongst those appearing in the strong line-up.

Hans van Manen's Septet Extra, to the music of Saint-Saens, received its British premiere on Tuesday night. The work was a popular one when it was presented by the Nederlands Dance Theatre at last year's Holland Festival.

The Grand Tour is likely to pull in the audiences as well. Joe Layton's affectionate caricature of the world of the 30s is set to the music of Noel Coward, and presents a galaxy of notorious characters, including the two Gerties (Stein and Lawrence), Bernard Shaw and The Master himself. Improbable? Maybe, but certainly enjoyable.

Le Grand Meaulnes continues its grand tour of the media. Following the cinema adaptation of Alain Fournier's novella into the film *The Wanderer*, Andree Howard picked up one scene and turned it into a ballet, *La Fete Etrange*. This piece can also be seen again here at Sadlers Wells Theatre.

The varied bill of fare is completed by Ashton's *Facade* (can you imagine *Facade* being left out of any one-actor season?) and the same choreographer's *Les Patineurs*, Johnny Cranko's *Card Game* and *The Lady And The Fool*, Kenneth MacMillan's *Las Hermanas*, and two Balanchine works, *Allegro Brillante* and *Apollo*.

The season ends on February 23rd.

Name Dropper

BRIEF LIVES at the Mayfair Theatre, Berkeley Street, London W1

Nightly at the Mayfair Theatre, audiences are being transported back in time to the London of 1697. Patrick Garland has compiled an unusual entertainment by adapting the various memoirs, letters and jottings of a historian of those times, one John Aubrey. The brilliant one-room set, built on several levels, is a cluttered mass of books, papers, stuffed animals, trunks and bric a brac, with an imposing four poster canopied bed in one corner. It is from here that John Aubrey rises at the start of an average day in the last year of his life. The simple chores of getting dressed and preparing a morning meal are performed with great insight into the habits of the elderly. Throughout, he chats to the audience about the famous, unknown and infamous people he has known in his lifetime. The stories themselves have great warmth and humour, so that one ceases to think of them as mere name dropping, and they become very real to us.

Roy Dotrice has played the role of Aubrey previously on both stage and TV, but this was one of those plays which I never got round to seeing, and I am very glad now to have had the opportunity of watching his virtuoso performance. During the entire evening he sustains perfectly all

the physical characteristics, humour and sometimes extremely touching sadness of lonely old age.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Party Piece

AT THE END OF THE DAY at the Savoy Theatre, Strand, London WC2

I recall the night of the last general election quite vividly. Watching the votes coming in on television, in company with a young Chinese communist, I can recall his extreme surprise as it became apparent that the Labour Government were fast losing ground. Memories of that night flooded back to me whilst watching Robin Douglas Home's latest play *At The End Of The Day*, which retells the story of that night, as seen from inside 10 Downing Street.

John Mills and Dulcie Gray manage to bring their own personalities to the roles of the Wilson family, whilst Michael Denison settles for a highly amusing caricature of Edward Heath in the closing scenes of the play. Home's piece has a certain topicality about it, in view of the current political rumours of another election, and like all of his plays, one is amply entertained at the time, though afterwards the initial impression becomes blurred.

Barry Conley

Section Nine Revisited



Red-blooded hets track down missing 'gay' scientist to a Turkish bathhouse in 'Section Nine'

HAD Philip Magdalany's play *Section Nine* appeared at The Aldwych two years ago, it would most certainly have been regularly picketed by the Gay Liberation Front. So deeply offensive is it to gay people, that it makes *The Boys In The Band* seem a model of sympathetic propaganda. *Section Nine* was the most successful of the plays put on by the Royal Shakespeare Company during their experimental season at The Place last year, and the only one to have been transferred to a larger house.

All the humour in the play (and it certainly has its funny moments) is based on the assumption that an audience will find the idea of being homosexually hysterically funny and the most appallingly humiliating thing that could happen to anyone. A top American scientist has tattooed a doomsday formula on his cock and turned gay. The Pentagon freaks out and three red-blooded hets are trained to be homosexual in order to track down the formula in, as it happens, a Turkish bathhouse.

The idea of turning hets gay is one of almost limitless possibilities — both as a parallel to the way in which society trains its members to be straight, and as a sick back-light on aversion therapy. But this is not, of course, Mr Magdalany's idea at all. He is more concerned with showing us how strong men faint at the thought of having sex with each other and how nasty it is that men have hair under their arms (living in north America, under the reign of Queen Deodorant, Mr M probably doesn't realise that women do too. However . . .) Apoplectic senators and grim generals are paraded with their stereotyped reactions, and the second act, with everyone (including the women) disguised as poofs, is naturally scraped threadbare for more gay jokes.

Kindly critics have suggested that the play attempts to subvert the two great conformities of America; patriotism and heterosexuality. Patriotism certainly takes a punch or two. But heterosexuality? Not for a split second. After all, when the towels are down, not a single character in the play is actually gay at all. It seems a great shame that the RSC with its fine reputation should spend its money and excellent actors on this very nasty piece of work.

Roger Baker

The Screen Scene



Bike cop John Wintergreen (Robert Blake) off duty in 'Electra Glide In Blue'

TWO American directors make extremely worthwhile debuts. Twenty-seven year old former record producer James William Guercio with a delightfully wry, Chaplinesque road movie, *ELECTRA GLIDE IN BLUE* (United Artists) and Gilbert Cates with a fairly savage indictment of middle-class American society with *SUMMER WISHES, WINTER DREAMS* (Columbia-Warner).

Guercio's hero is a diminutive, but intelligent and unusually sensitive motor bike patrol cop, played by Robert Blake, who aspires to make good as a detective. The film traces the dashing of the little man's illusions on his way to the top. He's faced with a chauvinistic, violent and painfully impotent (both sexually and mentally) sheriff, and his colleague on the motor bikes, touchingly played by that veteran road movie co-star Billy "Green" Bush, who's wicked laugh, penchant for horror comics and bullying hippies, doesn't mask his pathetic loneliness. He lives alone in a tiny caravan with a honky tonk piano, and eventually suffers a frightening breakdown.

All the characterisations in fact are rich, vivid and riddled with pathos, whether they be cops or hippies, but this is a road movie, and the beauty of the Arizona landscape, the cacophony of local atmosphere, and the excitement of the chases are all there too. Guercio's style has obviously burgeoned out of his most beloved film genres, silent comedy, bike movies, etc, and he uses parodies of these to great effect. *Electra Glide In Blue's* ending in fact, is almost a reply to *Easy Rider's*, as the policeman hero's motorcycle explodes when he's shot dead by a stereotype hippie.

Cates' film has Joanne Woodward as the archetypal middle-aged menopausal New York

housewife, ensconced in an excess of material wealth, and suffering from claustrophobic non-communicative relationships with her family. The only contented character in the piece seems to be her son Bobby. He's living in Amsterdam with his affair (male). The film is concerned with the stress of the woman gradually coming to terms with the fact that she has reached the stage in her life when she's irreparably stuck in a permanent groove, bound to a loving but dull doctor husband. Her son has chosen a radically alien life in Europe, and doesn't want to see his parents. Her sole role in life appears to be a patronage of New York's 'better' department stores on an almost daily basis. The breakdown that this realisation causes, is hastened by the death of her mother, ironically while they are both watching a screening of Bergman's *Wild Strawberries*. Mother, incidentally, is one of the film's greatest delights. The over made-up fur-clad Macy's customer, gorgeously parodied by Sylvia Sidney.

Summer Wishes, Winter Dreams is an evocative, emotional condemnation of a life style that is a futile existence, which is unlikely to be widely shown. It's worth looking out for.

It was a near-certainty that someone would make a film about President Kennedy or his assassination, and capitalist film makers being what they are, one half expected it to star Marlon Brando, since he seems to specialise in playing the head of large families, or dolphins, or be directed in black and white by Peter Bogdanovitch with Ryan O'Neal as President Kennedy.

Eminently refreshing then was David Miller's *EXECUTIVE ACTION* (Scotia-Barber) which had none of these adversities forced upon it. Instead it is a cool, severe, semi-documentary tract scripted by Dalton Trumbo, that doesn't leave a doubt in one's mind that the Kennedy shooting was the culmination of a right-wing plot by the CIA. Oswald was framed, a neurotic pawn of a sick political system that produced the CIA motives that John Kennedy would have allowed Asia to become communist controlled, and laid the way open for Kennedy Presidential control for up to six terms, twenty-four years, thus completely transforming their America into a genuinely free society.

The film states its case succinctly, and to add to its credibility Burt Lancaster, who plays one of the conspirators, has publicly announced he wouldn't have taken the part unless he believed the film, and as the closing moments indicate, fifteen of the shooting's eighteen witnesses died within three years, only two of natural causes.

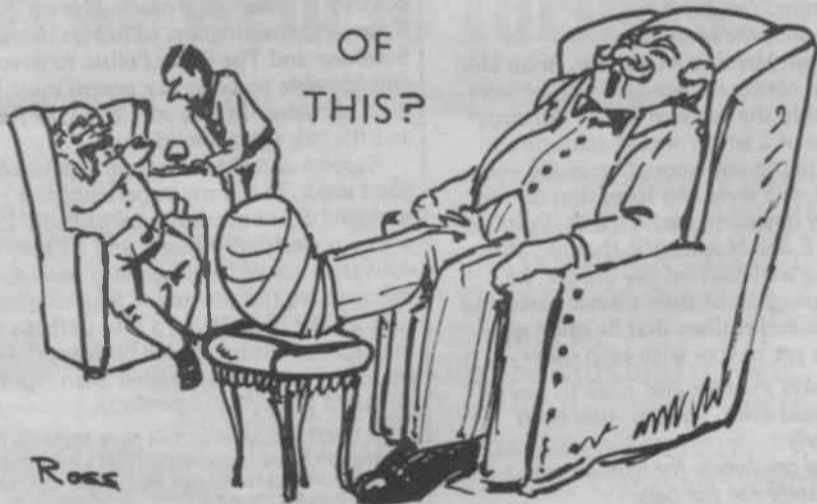
SOFT BEDS HARD BATTLES (Fox-Rank — director Roy Boulting) is a consistently amusing story of a Parisian brothel in wartime, whose occupants are co-opted by the French Resistance into murdering any German officer customers. Peter Sellers is much in satirical evidence, playing Hitler, a Gestapo officer, a General de Gaulle type French officer, and a bungling British spy amongst others. Lila Kedrova is a charming and sentimental Madame, and the brothel appears as palatial and lush as writers' minds generally seem to depict them.

David Seligman

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QUICK SILVER

If you love Lucy, you'll be pleased to know Lucille Ball will be in London for the premiere of her starring vehicle 'Mame' at the Warner Cinema in March.

Curious, isn't it, how many celebrities one glimpses in unlikely places, if like Quicksilver, one keeps one's eyes open. I recently saw former TUC general secretary George Woodcock at Leicester Square underground station. Elton John dancing the night away at Earls Court's 'Masquerade' club. While heaving a mighty laugh at one of the 'Black Cap's' classier drag acts, was actor and womaniser Peter Wyngarde.

Sophia Loren and Richard Burton have been teamed in Vittorio De Sica's latest melodrama 'The Voyage'.

Died: Samuel Goldwyn aged 91, a great Hollywood producer who specialised in 'family' entertainment.

His eccentricity is vividly depicted by David Niven in his highly entertaining autobiography 'The Moon Is A Balloon.'

Said David Cassidy recently: in five years time he'll be living on an island, a family man, his skin will be brown and leathery. Dave confesses he's already starting to go grey, and in five years time his hair will be very long and much greyer.

ALL GAY WOMEN SHOULD READ

Sappho

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Reform It! Oh, Reform It Altogether!

by

Iain T Finlayson

George Bernard Shaw, when writing regular music criticism, seldom burdened his articles or his readers with anything so prosaic or so useful as straightforward discussion of the latest concert or operatic performance. While disclaiming any pretension to Shavian capability, I feel that this column is beginning to take on much the same character in its approach to fashion as G B S adopted towards music. For a start, perceptive readers may have noted that it is becoming too damn literary (after all, who reads Meredith nowadays?) Others, less indulgent, may simply observe that it is merely too damn clever by half (who does he think he is anyway — Max Beerbohm?)

To redress the balance, I propose to endear myself to my readership by making a confession. There is, after all, nothing so nicely calculated to cement any relationship as the admission of some personal failure or decline (preferably moral) on the part of one's companion. In the event however, my confession may be less sensational than that for which you are now prepared — it is merely that I cannot wear clothes. Wear clothes successfully, that is. And it's not for want of trying — there are more grievous mistakes hanging in my wardrobes, along with other less savoury skeletons, than I care to think about. It is this series of sartorial errors which convinces me, more than my belief in the possession of personal good taste, that I am in a position to discuss fashion. My education, in the most literal sense, has been dearly bought.

There is nothing intrinsically wrong with my shape. Thin is in, so I am told, and 36-28-34 is no bad shape to be in. Could be better, no doubt, but not bad, not bad. Yet still the fact remains that I consistently fail to wear clothes with flair and panache. Model boys, six feet tall, pass before my eyes looking corn-fed and rangy in blue jeans and carelessly buttoned shirts. The same clothes on me simply look like blue jeans and a scruffy shirt. I do not, in short, transcend my clothes. That must be it. I remain relentlessly trapped within my integuments.

One fashion editor of my acquaintance looks smart and neat but otherwise unexceptionally dressed until there is an opportunity taken to study the effect at leisure. Only on close and lengthy inspection do the hours of care and work expended upon appearance become evident. Is that, then, the secret? Time, trouble and — sadly — expense? It is

just not possible to consistently dress well on a shoestring. In fact, one's very shoestrings themselves must be of first quality and carefully tended. Some few, as I have said, are able to transcend their clothes and it does not matter particularly what they wear. Nobody pays more than passing attention to what they wear because any further attention is riveted by their personal magnetism which clothes can only enhance and from which clothes can in no way detract. Let's get them firmly out of the way — they are gods, and how many of them do you know?

I tend to the view that, hard work and personal charisma apart, one of the secrets of dressing effectively is to keep clothes simple. Rational dress, in fact, and I am beginning to think that Dr Gustav Jaeger MD, Professor of Zoology and Physiology at the University of Stuttgart during the late 1880s, may have been onto a good thing. At this period of Dress Reform, and the impulse towards Rationalism, his name achieved public notice and notoriety as the inventor of the Dr Jaeger Sanitary Woollen System. Fashionable London, led by Oscar Wilde, flocked to the good doctor, and it is recorded by Frank Harris that George Bernard Shaw walked up Oxford Street clothed in a Jaeger "single garment of combination in knitted brown wool, complete from sleeve to ankle, in one piece"; and Harold Nicolson, in one of his sublime essays, gives a memorable vignette of the eminent philosopher, Mr Herbert Spencer, being driven briskly about town during his frequent bouts of irritation dressed in a similar one-piece woollie. The garment, however, was yet another source of gratuitous irritation to Mr Spencer and, pausing at abrupt and frequent intervals to take his pulse, he was driven back home to sulk in his shirt of Nessus.

The reason for my belated conversion to Jaeger-ism is that recently I have had cause to dash about town from hither to thither and back again, tacking from air-conditioned and centrally heated interiors to the wind and blustery rain of the metropolitan outdoors, changing from one extreme of temperature to another. By the end of the day, far from looking like the common ideal of the cool fashion-editor-about-town, I am a limp rag and so are my clothes. Dressed in a chic-ly ergonomic one-piece woollie, I should think I could be more composed. Really, it is very difficult. Women's dress has largely been rationalised and cut down to basics whereas

men are still more or less stuck in a style of dress which has not changed in fundamentals since the end of last century. The two or three piece suit is still generally adopted by most men on most occasions, and the heirarchical, paternalistic influences are still not yet fully abolished although it has recently become fashionable for both men and women to adopt a look of conspicuous indigence rather than the Victorian-style of conspicuous consumption. The present casual uniform of jeans and a shirt or sweater is eminently rational, admittedly. It is also cheap, modish and universal — all the signs of a fashion on its last legs.

The concept of reformed, rational dress is not, of course, a new one. China, for example, perfected one convenient style of dress suited to Chinese life and adhered to it pretty well without change for hundreds of years. Even today, Mao's millions all dress very efficiently and very much alike in everyday workmanlike blue uniforms and three hundred million Chinese cannot, surely, be wrong? (It used to be Frenchmen who could not be wrong — until we joined the Common Market.) Russia, no more noted than China for fashionable falbalas, once commissioned Mme (that's French for Ms) Schiaparelli to update their women by providing designs of outfits suitable for general all-purpose wear by the entire female population of All The Russias. A mode-boggling assignment, but one which the dazzling 'Scap' met with all her accustomed flair and ingenuity. It may not have been rational, but it was fun.

I have still not fully worked out why I cannot wear clothes, but I tend to the view that when we all dress rationally, and all very much alike, it may not matter quite so much. My next column will be written from Paris, when I hope to report the latest Collections, without a rational thought in my head. So may I apologise in advance to the shades of Dr Jaeger, and Ms Amelia Bloomer if I do not cry 'Reform it. Oh, reform it altogether' from the Ritz Bar or the Cafe Flore. After all, if the prophet is never to be heeded in his own country, I doubt very much whether he will be much regarded in France either.

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



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Julian's Singles



Making a stunning comeback is Lulu with an enormously appealing version of David Bowie's *The Man Who Sold The World* (Polydor). Contributing much to the record's chart potential are Bowie's back-up vocals and Mick Ronson's superb guitar work. They are also responsible for producing and arranging the song, which looks certain to give Lulu a gigantic hit.

Released to tie in with the Staple Singers' recent concert appearances in Britain is *Respect Yourself* (Stax). Previously one of their biggest hits in the States, the record meant little first time it was issued in the UK. Nevertheless, it is a classic soul recording and fully deserves to make the charts this time around. Another re-release that could easily become a surprise if not somewhat belated hit is *Funky Nassau* (Atlantic) by The Beginning Of The End. Like the former record, it was a top ten entry in America but until its recent popularity with some radio DJs, it had little impact in this country.

A new release on the re-activated Action label is *God Bless The Children* by Chuck Armstrong. He delivers a

strong soulful performance and the record may sell well if given enough plays in discotheques and on the radio. Likewise, Nicky Thomas' reggae version of William Bell's *Lonely For Your Love* (Horse) has similar potential. What A Festival and *The Way You Do The Things You Do*, two simultaneous releases by Eric Donaldson on the Dragon label may both prove popular with ethnic reggae enthusiasts.

Pye Records have at long last issued as a single the amazing *Love's Theme* by the Love Unlimited Orchestra. Until now it was only available on Love Unlimited's *'Under The Influence Of ...'* album and for a comprehensive raving on this totally original and utterly funky instrumental, see my review in GN38.

Neil Sedaka's follow-up to the extremely successful *'The Tra-La Days Are Over'* album, and his latest single *'Standing On The Inside'* is *A Little Lovin'* (Polydor). The song is an impressive up-tempo rock 'n' roll number, which uses a piano arrangement unmistakably influenced by those heard on Jerry Lee Lewis's early Sun recordings. Add to this Sedaka's endearing vocal and the record has all the ingredients that go to make a smash hit. And Neil, thanks for putting a bit of class back into the hit parade.

Last but by no means least is the beautifully sung, arranged and produced *Dark Lady* by Cher (MCA). Like Sedaka, she too always brings out first rate recordings which are well above the usual standard of most chart contenders. The song is a sinister tale of conjugal unfaithfulness and the double-crossing lovers eventually reap a grim reward. Doomy, theatrical lyrics, but an incredible performance.

Soul Into '74

Even if little else has got off to a good start in 1974, at least there have been an interesting, although not always successful, batch of soul records issued in recent weeks. For instance, two classics which no enthusiast should be without are the new albums on the Philadelphia International label from the O'Jays and Harold Melvin & The Blue Notes.

Ship Ahoy is the O'Jays latest, and it more than equals the superb performance heard on their memorable *Back Stabbers* album. Although a well balanced and exciting record from start to finish, the high point is the almost ten minute title track — a saga about the human cargoes which used to be transported across the Atlantic to America and the Caribbean Islands. In the wrong hands, material on this subject could easily have become embarrassingly banal and patronising, but between them, writer/producers Gamble & Huff and the O'Jays have created a musical experience that is dramatic, sensitive and meaningful. The gospel flavoured *Put Your Hands Together* (currently high in the US singles charts), *For The Love Of Money* and *Don't Call Me Brother* are other solid examples of why *Ship Ahoy* is indispensable.

Apart from producing Harold Melvin & The Blue Notes' *Black And Blue*, Gamble & Huff are also largely responsible for all but one of the songs that appear on this almost perfect album. The only failure is the group's opening number — a short but disastrous interpretation of *Cabaret*, that is totally out of context with the rest of the material. That cut aside, the group deliver a completely convincing, often brilliant performance. Outstanding tracks are a just over six-minute version of their current British chart entry *The Love I Lost*, the lengthy *Is There A Place For Me*, *It All Depends On You* and *I'm Weak For You*.

Like the O'Jays album, this collection of sophisticated but earthy soul by one of the most adventurous harmony groups around, is essential listening.

May I remind readers that a useful introduction to Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff's Philadelphia International label is *Phillybusters — The Sound Of Philadelphia*. It features an impressive number of hits by artists such as the Intruders, Billy Paul, The O'Jays, Harold Melvin & The Blue Notes and The Three Degrees.

Obviously, one of the first major Tamla Motown releases of 1974 will be the Temptations' forthcoming 1990 album. However, admirers of the group and the label's output in general, will be interested in a three-record anthology showcasing the Temptations' long and successful career. Despite personal changes and their association with various producers, the group have gone from strength to strength. Confirming this is the staggering amount of best-selling records to their credit. Also their influence is apparent in many areas of contemporary music. Incidentally, the Temptations' *Anthology — A 10th Anniversary Special* (priced at £5.25) is the first in a series of triple album sets, as similar collections are to be released featuring Marvin Gaye, Gladys Knight & The Pips, Smokey Robinson & The Miracles and Diana Ross & The Supremes.

Other recent Tamla Motown releases include albums by Gloria Jones, Willie Hutch and the first collaboration between Diana Ross and Marvin Gaye. On the latter, simply called *Diana & Marvin*, the two superstars don't attempt anything too adventurous, but nevertheless produce a thoroughly entertaining set.

Following the critical acclaim of his soundtrack score for *'The Mack'*, Willie Hutch's *Fully Exposed* is something of an anti-climax. Despite the faultless production and musicianship, only two of the eight tracks compare favourably with his previous work. These are *Can't Get Ready For Losing You* and *If You Ain't Got No Money (You Can't Get No Money)*. If Hutch is going to sustain the amount of interest currently being shown in his music, the percentage of successful material on his future records must be increased.

Tamla Motown's staff writer Gloria Jones' initial venture as a solo artist is *Share My Love*. Although her voice isn't particularly distinctive, perhaps because this is her first recording, she amply makes up for this with good phrasing and the depth of feeling she instils into the lyrics. Ms Jones was involved in the writing of all but one of the bitter/sweet love songs included and from the title cut which opens side one, through to the powerful closing track, *What Did I Do To Lose You*, she displays a considerable amount of talent and soulfulness. The inventive arrangements and Tom Thacker's competent production further enhances her performance.

Share My Love is an exceptional debut and deserves to gain the singer a small but enthusiastic following. A larger audience is likely to be attracted with subsequent recordings.

Curtis In Chicago (Buddah) is the soundtrack of an American TV special, and stars Curtis Mayfield, past and present members of The Impressions, and Gene Chandler. The record has little impact though, as it only features dull versions of the artist's past hits. Denis Lemon



Soul In Glad Rags

The Pointer Sisters In Concert

At the time of writing, only four weeks of 1974 have passed. And yet I have no hesitation in saying that on the night of January 27th I saw at the Victoria Palace Theatre, London, what was in my opinion, the best and most exciting concert of the year.

The group I saw, The Pointer Sisters, are four black sisters from the States who sing superbly. They also clown around a little, and wear stunningly original 40s and 50s clothes.

Their names are Ruth, Anita, Binnie and June. Their parents were preachers and in common with many of today's outstanding black singers, they started in church, as part of the choir, and later as an individual act, performing at church socials and summer bible schools.

I first heard their album *The Pointer Sisters* about six months ago, bought it, played it a few times, and more or less forgot about it. Recently I heard them on the radio, and began to play the album again. The London clubs started playing their single *Yes We Can Can*, and when I heard that they were due to appear here, I got myself a couple of tickets and waited for the day.

The concert started somehow aptly enough with a Punch and Judy show, followed by a balancing act. After an intermission, the curtain went up to show a dimly lit stage, occupied by three musicians, some potted palms and a hat stand. One spotlight shone on the wings, and Ruth came out, hung her fur coat on the hat stand and went to her mike, followed in the same way by Anita, Bonnie and June. A pause, some more spotlights, and the girls launched into *Cloudburst*, a marvellous blend of scat singing and harmony. A



country and western number next, followed by *Yes We Can Can*. More soul and jazz numbers followed, nearly all of them giving each girl a chance to show her individual talents. Their musical style is immensely varied. Dizzy Gillespie's *Salt Peanuts* with almost Andrews Sisters harmonies, and Bonnie's incredible solo number *Black Coffee*, a subtly humorous blues song, in which she had good opportunity to demonstrate her smoky, Holiday-like voice. They seem to be at times a combination of Annie Ross, Bessie Smith, Bette Midler, Sarah Vaughan and others, without ever once appearing anything but totally original. They can literally sing in any style there is, and they have a marvellous habit of reprising on nearly every song, but taking the music farther than you think it's possible to go.

The truly great thing about the Pointer Sisters is that, like Bowie, Elton John and very few other performers, they actually do a show, rather than just stand and sing. They wisecrack, talk about themselves, and dance and move dazzlingly. At one point in the show they gave the drummer an opportunity for a superb singing and playing solo, while they danced and the audience clapped, whistled and cheered. It was fresh, vital and altogether a superb concert.

At the beginning of this review, I said I thought that this was the concert of 1974. I may have to eat my words as after the show June told me they would be back in the summer, in which case I know the next will be even better, and tickets are sure to be scarce as gold dust. Maybe they'll book the Festival Hall.

Before they come back, they can be seen on the BBC2 series *'In Concert'* although at present, due to the 10.30 closedown, no definite date can be set for transmission. If you can't wait for that, buy their album. It's one of the very few that I consider to have something on it for everyone with the slightest interest in music. If you can buy only one album in 1974, make it *The Pointer Sisters* (Blue Thumb Records ILPS 9243).

Simon Chetwynd-Walder

Country Ways

Country & western music still only appeals to a limited number of record buyers in Britain, although this minority of people has been significantly increasing over the last few years. Subsequently, I think it worthwhile to occasionally devote a little space to say a few words about some recent C&W releases.

Just issued in the UK is a recording which above all others deserves the title *'C&W album of 1973'*. It is Charlie Rich's *Behind Closed Doors* (Epic) and features his American smash hit of the same name and *The Most Beautiful Girl*. The latter, also a single hit in the States, is currently receiving a large amount of radio needle-time and is likely to repeat the success it enjoyed across the Atlantic. Impeccably produced by Billy Sherrill, *Behind Closed Doors* is a first rate record by an outstanding artist who has been making memorable music since the 1950s.

Recently released is Ian Mathews' *Valley Hi* (Elektra) and it's possibly one of the finest country influenced albums ever made by a British artist, even if it was cut in America and superbly produced by Mike Nesmith. Best described as contemporary country as opposed to straightforward country & western, it represents all the finest developments that have taken place within the genre in the past few years. Amongst the high points are Mathews' version of C&W star Don Gibson's *Blue Blue Day*, his interpretation of Jackson Browne's *These Days*, Richard Thomson's *Shady Lies* and Steve Young's *Seven Bridges Road*. He also excels himself on his own composition *Leaving Alone*. The one non-country track is an endearing performance of the traditional folk song *Old Man At The Mill*.

Latest album by Johnny Rodriguez is *All I Ever Meant To Do Was Sing* (Mercury). There are certain similarities in his style to that of Johnny Cash and also Merle Haggard. In fact it is very much your average C&W singer and in

the States and Canada is guaranteed to have a number of his records on the juke box in any redneck bar. There is nothing particularly stunning about this new Rodriguez set, but that is not to say it isn't an entertaining and well-balanced recording that is certainly worth C&W fans investigating.

In complete contrast, The Statler Brothers new release, *Carry Me Back* (Mercury) is a somewhat tedious experience. The harmonies of this four-man vocal team aren't very adventurous, resulting in an extremely stale performance, which isn't helped by the weak and uninspired songs they chose to sing. In a way it is a perfect example of the limitations some country music has and subsequently inhibits people taking the time to discover the many exciting and stimulating recordings which are in fact available.

Ace country guitarist Jerry Reed rarely makes a bad album, even if there are nearly always a couple of fillers included. His new collection, *Lord Mr Ford* (RCA) is no exception, and whilst bound to delight his growing following in Britain, it isn't going to convert too many other listeners. Standout tracks are the humorous *Lord Mr Ford*, *The Lady Is A Woman*, *You Can't Keep Me Here In Tennessee*, and the two instrumentals *Two-Timin'* and *Pickie, Pickie*.

Finally, an artist who is apparently fast on his way to becoming a country music star in the States is Kinky Friedman. His first album to be released in Britain is *Sold American* but despite his growing reputation, I'll be surprised if his popularity stretches to this country. By singing lyrics liberally laced with black satire, he verbally attacks the reactionary attitudes of middle America and the southern states, but his brand of humour is only occasionally amusing and most of the time I find Friedman's performance rather tasteless. But, whatever turns you on. The music is good 'n' country. Denis Lemon

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ADDRESS

Assorted Reggae

The major outlet for reggae in Britain is Trojan Records, and of their recent releases, the following three albums are likely to have the widest appeal to reggae-heads. Reflecting the style of marketing as employed by K-Tel Records, is *20 Explosive Reggae Hits*, a compilation featuring an assortment of material, much of which has proved popular when issued on singles over the last few months. Amongst the best tracks — by a profusion of exponents of the genre, including the Maytals, Junior Byles, Pat Rhoden, Ken Boothe, the Messengers and Hopeton Lewis — are *Rasta No Pick Pocket*, *Reggae Makossa*, *Crowded City*, *What About Me*, *African Breakfast*, *Just Like A Shelter*, *It Was Written Down* and *Starting All Over Again*. My only complaint is, despite what is stated on the front cover, there are no cuts by U Roy.

The Marvels have been a consistently popular group for many years, and on their newly issued album, they amply showcase their numerous eclectic talents. Apart from first rate reggae tracks, they also feature interpretations of soul and 1960s pop material such as *It's In His Kiss*, *One Monkey* and a nostalgic melody of *Earth Angel*, *Sincerely* and *What's Your Name*. Their



treatment of the blues standard *C C Rider* comes over well too. Of the reggae numbers on the recording, simply entitled *The Marvels*, the outstanding cuts are *Voice Your Choice*, *Touch Me Baby* and a version of *United We Stand*.

Fans of the controversial Judge Dread will find little to fault on his album *Dreadmania*. All the material displays a propensity for risqué lyrics and apart from his hits *Big Six* and *Big Seven*, tracks such as *All In The Mind*, *Deception*, *Dr Kitch* and *Donkey Dick* prove to be equally entertaining. Naughty, often crude, but great fun for those uninfluenced by puritan ethics and conservative good taste. Denis Lemon

Vintage Liza

PORTRAIT OF LIZA — Liza Minelli — A&M AMLC 4003

A double Minelli album containing most of her customary songs cannot be a bad buy at a recommended retail price of £1.99.

The tracks are all taken from three previous LPs except for *Waiting For My Friend*, one of the better numbers. Four more were recorded live at the Paris Olympia, including *Liza With A 'Z'* in French. The more modern numbers

fare best, in particular *The Look Of Love*, and a superbly arranged version of Nilsson's *Wailing Of The Willow*. Of the standards which are up-dated, *Come Rain Or Come Shine*, *On A Slow Boat To China* and *The Man I Love* work beautifully.

Lazy Bones and *Stormy Weather* suffer badly from too much heavy treatment. However with only two really bad tracks out of twenty four, it's good value for money. Norman Pratt

Photographs of The Pointer Sisters taken by Brian Cooke

Anne's Guide

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

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

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

- ABERDEEN**
Pub: Caledonian Hotel (buffet bar)
- BARNSELY**
Pub: Queens Hotel (Venturer Bar)
- BARRY, Glamorgan**
Pub: The Barry Hotel (Lounge Bar) Broad Street
- BATH**
Pub: Garricks Head, Sawclose The Regency (opp Theatre Royal)
Club: *Valentines, 14 George Street
- BEDFORD**
Pub: The Barley Mow, Bromham Rd
- BELFAST**
Pub: Avenue Bar, Rosemary Street
- BIRMINGHAM**
Pubs: Imperial Hotel, Temple Street The Victoria, John Bright St The Vikings, Smallbrook, Queensway (Thur, Fri, Sat, Sun) Gays & friends only
Clubs: Grosvenor House, 326 Hagley Road, B17 *Nightingale, 50 Camp Hill B12
- BLACKBURN**
Pubs: The Merchants Hotel, Darwen St (D)
- BLACKPOOL**
Pub: Lucy's Bar, Talbot Square
Club: Pepe's Club, Talbot Road
- BOLTON**
Pubs: Prince William, Deansgate (upstrs) *Peel Arms Hotel, 423 Halliwell Road
- BOURNEMOUTH**
Pub: The Norfolk Hotel
Clubs: Gigs, The Triangle Hotel East Cliff Towers, East Cliff
- BRADFORD**
Pub: Junction Inn, Leeds Road
Club: Shangri-la, Piecehall Yard
- BRENTWOOD**
Pub: The Greyhound, Childerditch Common
- BRIGHTON**
Pubs: Spotted Dog, Middle Street Greyhound East St (upstairs bar only)
Cricketers, Black Lion Street (weekends)
Hove Lawns Hotel
*Heart & Hand, Ship Street
Clubs: New Curtain Club, East Street (men)
*Regency Club, Regency Square 42 Club, Kings Road
Pink Elephant, corner of Regency Square
St Albans Club, Regency Square
Queen of Clubs, Bedford Square Hove.
Longbranch Club, Grand Parade
Gay Cavalier, 62 Middle St
Rest: Olde Twitten, 62 Middle Street
Lorelei Coffee Lounge, 5 Union Street
Disco: Sussex GLF 8-11pm every Fri
Stanford Arms (upstairs back bar), Preston Circus
- BRISTOL**
Pub: Radnor, 30 St Nicholas Street
The Ship, Park Row, nr Red Lodge
Club: *Moulin Rouge, 72 Worrall Rd, Clifton
- BURNLEY**
Pub: *The Cross Keys
- CAMBRIDGE**
Pub: The Stable Bar, Green Street (off Trinity Street)
Rest: Scaramouche, Catherine Street. Tel: Cambridge 43570
- CANTERBURY**
Pub: The Queen's Head, Watling Street
- CARDIFF**
Pub: Royal Hotel (Roberts Bar) St Mary Street
Royal Oak, St Mary Street
Clubs: Showbiz Club, Hope Street
- CHEL TENHAM**
Pubs: Irving Hotel, High Street
Club: New Twenty Club, 20 High Street
- CHESTER**
Pubs: Foregate Bar, Blossoms Hotel, St Johns Street
Grosvenor, nr Blossoms Hotel
- CHICHESTER**
Pub: Cattle Market Inn
- CIRENCESTER**
Pub: Black Horse
- CLEETHORPES**
Club: Birds Nest, Kings Road, Boating Lake (Wed Sat Sun)
- COVENTRY**
Pub: Rose & Crown, High Street
- COWES, Isle of Wight**
Club: Regency Club, 30 Sun Hill
- DERBY**
Club: Pavilion Club, 123 London Rd, Shardlow (7 miles)
- DONCASTER**
Clubs: Dcn Jon's, Silver Street
Pub: Underground, off Silver Street
- DUNDEE**
Pub: Gauger, Seagate
- DUNSMORE Bucks**
Pub: The Fox
- DURHAM**
Pub: The Three Tuns, Old Elvet
- EDINBURGH**
Pubs: The Kenilworth, Rose Street
The Abercromby Hotel
Abercromby Place
The Ballie, St Stephen Street
- EXETER**
Pubs: Horse & Groom, Longbrook St
- GLASGOW**
Pubs: Duke of Wellington, Argyll St
McCall's, Hope Street
- GRAVESEND**
Pub: The Kent, High Street
- GUILDFORD**
Pub: The Royal Oak, nr multistorey car park
- HOLMFIRTH**
Pub: Royal Oak, Upper Thong, nr Holmfirth, Yorks
- HUDDERSFIELD**
Pubs: The Grey Horse, Chapel Hill (Sundays)
*Amster Dam (men)
- IPSWICH**
Pub: The Blue Coat Boy, Cattle Market Street
- HULL**
Pub: White House Hotel (Tudor Bar) Jameson Street
- LANCASTER**
Pub: Farmers Arms, King Street
Cafe: *Odd Spot Coffee House, Sir Simon's Arcade (CHE disco first Sat each month)
- LEEDS**
Pubs: Hope & Anchor, Call Lane West Riding Bar (back bar) Wellington Street
Cafe: Flamenco, New Briggate
Club: Room At The Top, 207 North St Charley's Briggate
Disco: Leeds GLF Disco fortnightly Contact their office for location
- LEICESTER**
Pub: Dover Castle, Dover Street
- LIVERPOOL**
Pubs: Lisbon, Victoria Street L2 Bonaparte (private lounge) Temple Lane L2
The Derby Castle, Hackins Hey (off Dale Street)
Clubs: New Bears Paw, Dorrans Lane
Johns Gay Bar Royal, Wood St
Pagoda, 31 Colquitt Street L1
- LONDON**
Pubs: *The Boltons & *The Colerhne are near each other in Old Brompton Road (tube Earls Court)
*The Champion, Bayswater Rd (tube Notting Hill Gate)
*The Green Room at the Wheat-sheaf, Goldhawk Rd (Goldhawk Rd tube)
*The Queens Head, Tryon Street (off Kings Rd) (Sloane Sq tube)
*New Black Cap, Camden High St (Camden Town tube)(D)
*Pig & Whistle, Little Chester St SW1
*Horse & Groom, near Pig & Whistle (Sundays only)
Cricketers, Battersea Park Rd (D)
*Elephant & Castle, South Lambeth Place (Vauxhall tube)(D)
The Salisbury, St Martins Lane WC2 (Leicester Sq tube)
Ship & Whale, Gulliver St SE16
William IV, Hampstead High St
*Royal Vauxhall Tavern, Vauxhall Cross (Vauxhall tube)(D)
Union Tavern, 146 Camberwell New Road SE5 (Disco Mon) Oval tube
Watermans Arms, Water Lane, Richmond
Imperial, High St, Richmond
Golden Lion, Dean Street, off Shaftesbury Ave, W1
Duke of Fife, 350 Katherine Rd E7 (East Ham tube)
Eimhurst, 131 Lordship Lane, Tottenham N17 (D)
Royal Oak, 62 Gienborne Road W6 (D)
Clubs: Sweet Lorraine, Lowndes Court W1 (Oxford Circus tube)
Vortex, Tachbrook Street
*Le Gigolo, Kings Road (Sloane Sq tube)
The New Oasis, 3 Excel Court, Whitcomb Street, WC2 Tel 01-203 4351
*Paint Box, 29 Fowley Street W1 (Oxford Circus tube)
*Masquerade Restaurant & disco Earls Court Sq SW5 (tube Earls Court)
*The Pink Elephant, 8 Newport Place, WC2 (Leicester Sq tube)
*Molin Disco Club (girls only), Half Moon Hotel, Half Moon Lane, Herne Hill SE24. (Wed, Fri, Sat)
- *Shanes, Broadhurst Gardens NW6
The Escort, 89a P milco Road (Sloane Sq tube)
Yours & Mine, Kensington High St W8 (Ken High St tube)
Rockingham, 9 Archer St W1
Toucan Club, 13 Gerrard St W1
Festival Club, 2 Brydges Place WC2 (Leicester Sq tube)
Louise, 61 Poland Street, W1 (Oxford Circus tube)
Craguaramas, Neal St WC2
Apollo, 3 Wardour St W1 (Dilly or Leicester Sq tubes)
Mandy's, 30 Henrietta St WC2
Jonny's, 106 The Shopping Precinct, Shepherds Bush W12 (tube Shepherds Bush)
Discos: *The Calcombs, Old Brompton Rd (Earls Court tube)
South London GLF disco, 8pm Sat at Hanover Arms (Oval tube)
*Arabian Pub, Tricky Dicky disco every Wed, Cambridge Heath Rd E2 (Bethnal Green tube)
*Molin Disco Club, Half Moon Lane SE24 (Wed, Fri, Sat)
*Ship & Whale, Gulliver St SE16 Thurs. (Surrey Docks tube)
Alan and Daves Disco, Ship & Whale, Gulliver St SE16
Tricky Dicky Disco (Tues), Hornsey Wood Tavern 376 Seven Sisters Road, N4 (Finsbury Pk & Manor Hse tube)
*Tricky Dicky Disco (Mon & Tues Kings Arms 213 Bishopsgate EC1 (Liverpool St tube)
Rest: La Popole, Walton St SW3
Chaguaramas 41-43 Neal St WC2
Simple Simon, 234 Old Brompton Rd SW5
Masquerade, 310 Earls Court Rd SW5
Le Faune 23 Praed Street W2
La Casserole, 338 Kings Road, Chelsea, SW3
- LINCOLN**
Pub: Ye Olde Crown, Clasketgate (lounge bar)
- LUTON**
Club: *Pan Club, Bute Street. Open Nightly, weekend cabaret
- MACCLESFIELD**
Pub: Waters Green Tavern
- MANCHESTER**
Pubs: Union Hotel Princess Street (D)
Rembrandt, Sackville Street
Trafford (back bar) G1 Bridge-Water Street
Cavalcade, Wilmslow Road
Dischury (Sunday lunchtime)
Medsbnics, Sackville Street
New York, Bloom Street
Clubs: Picador, Bradshaw Street, Shude Hill
Napolion's, Sackville Street
- MERTHYR TYDFIL**
Pub: Red Cow Hotel, Glebeland Street
- MIDDLESBOROUGH**
Pub: The Grand Hotel
- MORECAMBE**
Pub: *Masons Arms ("Gays only" lounge)
Cafe: *Odd Spot "Rendezvous", Morecambe WE
- NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE**
Pubs: Royal Court Grill, Brigg Market
Eldon Grill (Variety Bar) opp Greys Monument
Royal Turks Head Red Rover Bar, Grey Street.
Grapes Vault, Grey Street
*Lord Chancellor, Great Market
County Hotel (Nancy's Bar) Westgate Road
Imperial Hotel, Viv's Bar, Cloth Market
- NEWQUAY, Cornwall**
Pub: King Mark, (Sat lunchtimes)
- NEWPORT Mon**
Pubs: Kings Head (lounge bar) High Street
Waterloo, Commercial Street
- NORWICH**
Pub: Studio Four, behind Anglia Television
- NORTHAMPTON**
Pub: Princess Royal, 172 Wellington Road
- NOTTINGHAM**
Pubs: Dog & Partridge, Parliament St
The Roebuck, Manfield Rd
Bentink Hotel, Midland Station
The Foresters (girls) nr Victoria Centre
Clubs: Mario's Restaurant, Stanford St (off Castlegate)
La Chic, 5-13 Canal Street
*Pavilion Club, 123 London Rd, Shardlow (13 miles)
- OLDHAM**
Pub: Lighthouse, Lees Road
- OXFORD**
Pubs: Red Lion, Gloucester Street
Kings Arms, Holywell St (Sat lunchtime)
Disco: Oxford Gay Action Group Disco every Fri at Cape of Good Hope, The Plain
- PENRITH**
Cafe: Rendezvous, Sandgate
- PLYMOUTH**
Pubs: Locker Hotel, Oak Lounge (Back Bar) Derry's Cross
The Phoenix, (off Union Street)
Club: West Hoc Club, Cliff Road
- POOLE**
Pubs: The Jolly Sailor
The Lord Nelson
- PORTSMOUTH**
Pubs: *Balmoral Bar, Landport Terrace
Admiralty Tavern (Lounge Bar) Spring Street
- PRESTON**
Pubs: Bull & Royal, Cockpit Bar
Dog & Partridge, Friarsgate
The Wellington, Glovers Court
- READING**
Disco: Gay Alliance every Wed in Sir Hermann Gollancz Hall, Clifton Street
- ROCHESTER**
Pub: Great Expectations Bar, Royal Bull Hotel, High Street
- ST HELIER, Jersey**
Club: New Side Odoor, Cricketers Arms, Seale Street
- SANDBACH, Cheshire**
Pub: Market Place Tavern (Thurs)
- SCARBOROUGH**
Pub: The Cliff Inn, Huntress Row
- SHEFFIELD**
Pub: The Cossack
Club: Amberley Club, 225 Attercliffe Common (Gaysnc Disco)
- SOUTHAMPTON**
Pub: Robert Burns, 9 South Front
Juniper Barry, Upper Bugle St (D)
Lord Roberts, Canal Walk
Clubs: Upstairs Club, St Marys St
Anchor Inn, East Street (girls only Sat)
- SOUTHEND ON SEA**
Pub: Queens Hotel (Street Bar) Hamlet Court Road
- SOUTHPORT**
Pub: Scarisbrick, Lord Street
Club: Concor Club, 18 Neville Street
- SOUTHSEA**
Pub: Captain's Table, Granada Rd
Jolly Sailor, South Parade
Duke of Devonshire, Albert Road
- STOCKPORT**
Pub: Duke of Clarence, Avenue Street
Portland
- STOKE-ON-TRENT**
Pubs: The Antelope, Hanley
Club: One For One, 141 Marsh Street North, Hanley
- STRATFORD-ON-AVON**
Pub: Queens Head, Ely Street
- SUNDERLAND**
Pub: Roker Hotel, Upper Promenade Roker.
Club: *Rokoko, The Promenade, Roker
- SWANSEA**
Pubs: Dolphins Hotel (C T Lounge) Whitewalls
Three Lamps Hotel (top floor bar) Castle Gardens.
- THAME**
Pub: The Jolly Sailor
- TORQUAY**
Pub: Meadowfoot Inn, Meadowfoot Lane
Club: *Double Two Club, Rock Rd
- VENTNOR, Isle of Wight**
Pub: The Hole In The Wall, Market St
- WIGAN**
Pubs: White Lion
Derby Arms, Chapel Lane
- WINDSOR**
Pubs: The Three Tuns, nr Guildhall
Noah's Ark, nr disused gas works (Fri & Sat)
The Ship, nr Guildhall
- WOLVERHAMPTON**
Pub: Prince Albert, Station Drive
Club: Silver Web, Whitmore Street
- YORK**
Pub: York Arms

2. Mark clearly on the outside the Box Number to which you are replying.
3. Place this small envelope together with a 3½p stamp (unattached) in a larger envelope which should be addressed to: Gay News Box Replies, 62a Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY
4. More than one reply can be enclosed in the final large envelope provided each reply is accompanied by a loose 3½p stamp.

Advertisements for inclusion in Issue 41 must be received no later than noon on Monday February 18th. They should be no longer than 35 words.
As from February 19th, box numbers in issue 37 and earlier will be discontinued and replies to them will not be forwarded.

Women's Personal

- (5p per word, Box Number 50p, outside GB £1.50)
- Attractive bisexual girl (21) seeks intelligent, understanding, broadminded, gay or bi female (not butch). Sheffield area. Photo appreciated. Box 40/1 London butch, early 40s, lonely, looking for femme aged 30ish. ALA. Photo appreciated and returned. Box 40/2 Easy going 21 year old femme seeks similar. Genuine replies only. London Box 40/3
Gay woman 30, seeks companion for long holiday, india or USA and after. Box 40/4
Gay student, femme, attractive and sensitive, with many interests would like to meet other gay/bisexual girls 18-25 especially in Midlands or SW England. ALA Box 40/5
Active, disillusioned but warm-hearted Gemini girl 27, linguist, North London, interested in everything, seeks intelligent, kind, independent minded female friend, gay/bisexual unimportant for pursuing common interest and relaxed companionship. ALA Box 40/6
Leeds gay women. New group first meeting Wednesday 20th February at Leeds Trades Hall, upper Fountain Street off the Heathrow, 8pm.
Affectionate 29 Mancunian seeks lasting friendship with active 21-35 'femal'. Genuine. Phone 061-872 4272 ext 199 between 8.30am and 4.30pm. Weekdays only. No Virgo or Pisces.
Gay girl 25, tall, slim, intelligent, Manchester area, disillusioned with superficial commercial gay scene. Seeks gay girl for loving, long lasting friendship. Photo appreciated. ALA Box 40/167

THE GIRLS GUIDE 1974. Over 700 listings in more than 20 countries - including clubs, bars, discos, organisations, newspapers, magazines and much, much more for gay women. £2.00 from The Girl's Guide, 70 Pembroke Road, Kensington, London W8.

Italy. Woman 52, seeks chum for holiday in May preferably feminine. Box 40/218

Mixed Personal

- (5p per word, Box Number 50p, outside GB £1.50)
- Aquarian female, shy, integrating herself, needs like minded sensitive intelligent male. Box 40/156
Bisexual couple, 50, well preserved, recently moved into SE25, seek friends, sex or colour immaterial. ALA Box 40/157
Male 32 would like to meet girls (25-40) preferably gay interested in reggae, soul, discos etc. Ring Alex, 01-897 9121
I'm looking for a girl who's sincere. Is that you? London Box 40/7
Young guy (24) seeks bi or gay female for exciting friendship. Box 40/8
Attractive bisexual young Spanish man, nice personality looks for bisexual cultured young girl for sincere friendship. Only genuine replies. Photo please. Mine in return. ALA guaranteed. Box 40/9
Male gai, 22 (fluent English), Londres, voudrait connaitre femelle gale ou bi (up to 30) pour amitie. Box 40/10
Dutch guy seeks USA girl, object matrimony (fee arranged). Roland, 85 Kensington Gardens Square, London W2
Attractive non-camp bi man, young 30s, very gentle, thoughtful, cheerful, seeks bi girl. Please write. Box 40/11
Gay guy 21 (Newport Mon) wants to meet gay girl for friendship. ALA Box 40/12
Mixed Personal Ads continued on Page 18

Love Knoweth No Laws*

The editors reserve the right to refuse or amend any advertisement without giving a reason. No refunds can be made on advertisements which have to be altered or amended. No advertisement intended or appearing to intend to solicit for sexual purposes will be accepted. Advertisements are accepted on the understanding that they are submitted by persons over 21 years of age.

*Chaucer
Answering a Box Reply
1. Place your reply in a small envelope and seal it.

Out Now Lunch

the serious, radical gay magazine.

Latest issue includes an interview with Dennis Raikes, gay war hero, and an investigation of homosexuality in the theatre. Available direct from Gay News 25p+5p postage. Send crossed cheque/postal order to:

Lunch Sales, Gay News, 62a Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY

The Society Club

Don-Jon Bar

Silver Street
Doncaster
Tel: 60763

Don Sooley Welcomes You To The Gayest Night Spot In The North With Over 1200 Members

Mon-Sat 9pm-2am
Cabaret Fridays

The Amberley Club

225 Attercliffe Common
Sheffield. Telephone 444616

Open nightly 9pm till 2am
Sundays 7-11.30pm

The North's Best Gay Scene

Dick's Inn...

Presents A

GAY ROCK 'N' ROLL
Plus
GOLDEN OLDIES NIGHT
At The Kings Arms
213 Bishopsgate
London EC2
(nr Liverpool Street tube)
on
THURSDAY 21st FEBRUARY
BOYS JIVE COMPETITION

* * *

See Tricky Dicky Impersonate
Elvis, Little Richard, Roy Orbison,
Buddy Holly and Twinkle

An Evening Of Fifties Fun. All Cool Cats
Welcome. WEAR YOUR TEDDY BOY/
TEDDY GIRL GEAR.

* * *

The above gay disco is open every Monday
and Thursday

Mixed Personal Ads cont from Page 17
Two gay girls, early twenties, living in Banbury/Northampton/Buckingham area, seek two gay boys, similar age and area for purposes of appearances and platonic friendship. Box 40/14
Bi young man 28, seeks young bi girl friend (London or near) for friendship nationality and status immaterial, no hang-ups, just enjoying life. Photo. ALA Box 40/15

Personal

(5p per word, Box Number 50p, outside GB £1.50)

Shy gay guy 21, just moved to Newport Mon, wishes to meet similar guy for sincere friendship and possibly to share flat. ALA Box 40/13
German and continental friends, also young, slightly dominant English friends wanted by 28 year old young man (London or near). Photo. ALA Box 40/16
Where are you, Romeo? I'm 26, Aquarian, interested leather/denim, cricket fanatic, but basically just nuts. I want active friends anywhere, but if you live in Reading, Basingsstoke, Southampton, Aldershot or within 50 miles of London, then drop everything and write now to Paul. Box 40/17
Young gay, 21, seeks same for sincere friendship. Any age under 25. Photo please. Apply London, Ealing area. Box 40/18
Two young London men, 26-30 seek genuine 'out of town' friends of similar age. Interests cinema, music, art and travel. ALA Box 40/19
Stocky active brownie mate wanted by well built Londoner (39) own flat. Photo exchanged. Box 40/20
Sincere, reserved, inhibited, considered good looking, sense of humour heard it all before? I guarantee it's true! seeks London guy (non-effeminate) 21-35, any nationality, as friend. ALA with photo. Box 40/21
South London/Surrey, affectionate graduate, 37, with own home and transport, slim, reliable and homely, seeks firm friendship with smooth skinned 21-28. Good looks secondary to right personality. Box 40/22
Young guy 23 years, Midlands area, tall, dark, active, of discreet position in fashion, would like to hear from long-haired slim guy, 21-24 years, non-effeminate for lasting friendship. Willing to travel. Photo essential. ALA Michael Box 40/23
Lonely, dark, slim, short haired educated South Londoner 36, tired of gay scene, own house and car, seeks loyal and affectional friendship with cleanshaven 21-27. Box 40/24
Straight looking active 30 year old, own place, car, seeks 21/24 year old non-camp type, (jeans?) with view to lasting friendship London area. Photo please. ALA Box 40/25
Moderate pianist 26 seeks partner for chamber music, Cambridge area. Box 40/26
Student, slim, smooth, lightweight and 21, working in London and Cambridge, wishes to meet 21-24 year olds for wonderful friendship. Photo please. ALA Box 40/27
Male 22, tall, slim, good looking, non-effeminate, totally disillusioned with gay scene, needs similar good looking male to restore my faith. Only those who can offer genuine friendship and companionship need reply. Manchester area. Box 40/28
Attractive, sensitive guy (24) seeks close friendship with tall, active guy (including West Indians) Photo essential with details, phone no (London) Box 40/29
Manchester male, 28 active for lack of a better word, seeks someone to show him what he has missed, if anything, after a 5 year affair. Box 40/30
Young man (27) own flat London, attractive, seeks sincere guy 21-30. Photo please. Box 40/31
If you are short haired, straight looking, conventional in dress and manners, aged 21/35, please write to similar aged 25, not many of us left. Photo appreciated. Box 40/32
Guy 29 active, based in Birmingham, seeks new friends to share weekends etc. Photo please. Box 40/33
Would Oxonian contact owner black/tan spaniel, met Irving, Cheltenham who imperiently desires. Acquire further info Oxford. Box 40/34
Liberal 29 does not like gay scene wants permanent mate (not effeminate) Lives in London. Box 40/35
Lonely good looking Chinese student London, 22, seeks American, British, European boy of same age group for permanent friendship. Photo please, returnable with mine. ALA Box 40/36
Lonely male, non-effeminate (30) Hounslow area, seeks active butch 22-26 for genuine friendship. Photo essential. Box 40/37

Classified Ads

The box number service is not available to commercial advertisers. Where discovered, literature advertising commercial enterprises will not be forwarded to box numbers. SEMI-DISPLAY (Boxed Classifieds in bold type) £1.50 extra
ALL ADS MUST BE PREPAID
DISPLAY AD RATES - prices quoted on request - contact Ad Manager Peter Mundy

I'll be honest. Aquarian, 44, slightly chubby but reasonable looks, very straight, non-drinker/smoker. Chief interest music. Own home with spare room, car. Very affectionate, would like companion. Can you help? Box 40/38
Cheshire/Lancs, 34, slim, 6ft, own house, seeks sincere hirsute active man 38/50. Looks, build immaterial, any area if willing to travel. Photo appreciated. Box 40/39
Guy 21 wants information from young gay karting enthusiast/mechanic as I wish to start karting but have no knowledge of this sport. Box 40/40
Young man mid 20s seeks genuine friendship. All replies welcomed. (Surrey) Box 40/41
Lonely guy 26, seeks friends up to 30, looks not important as sincerity, London/South - ALA Box 40/42
Male 26, non-camp, needs love and affection. Is there an active good looking butch who needs someone to come home to, willing to move anywhere for right person. I am considered quite attractive. Box 40/43
West Country. Male 36 seeks another 21/30s to widen each others' experiences, photos exchanged. Box 40/44
Good looking amusing 22 year old seeks butch type man for good times and perhaps more. Box 40/45
Malcolm, (25) Aberystwyth, sincere, non-effeminate into Moody Blues, Neil Diamond, seeking new horizons in London, with similar male, 21-30 to share life with. Need and offer love and understanding. Box 40/46
North Londoner 30, own flat, slim, dark, very straight looking, quiet and discreet, who dislikes pubs and clubs, seeks cleanshaven friend similar age or 21-30. Photo appreciated and returned. Box 40/47
Tarot the life-enhancer, Jungian system, free consultation. Tom, 121 Westfield Road, Mayford Woking. Wok 62866
Youthful active slim Taurus (43) seeks gay/bi friend, 21-27, London. Photo essential. Socialist. Capricorn/Cancer/Scorpio. English/French speaking, any country, but West Indies, Mid/far East, Scandinavia especially welcome. ALA Box 40/48
Settling down? Active, dynamic Aries, tall, dark and 27 would like to meet compatible younger partner, central London. ALA Box 40/49
Active 30 year old who doesn't like gay scene much would like permanent friendship with 25-30 year old (not camp) living in London. Photo please. ALA Box 40/50
30 year old guy, fair hair, average build, seeks active friend between 25-35 dark latin type preferred. Flat+car, central London. ALA Box 40/51
Very attractive 24 year old transvestite/TS seeks professional or businessman 28-40ish for sincere friendship. I have own car and property. Photo appreciated and will be returned. Box 40/52
Much travelled mid Eastern guy, 35, London pad, seeks stable friendship with unencumbered sincere, beautiful active straight looking younger guy 22-27 (preferably Scandinavian type) hopefully to share next phase of interesting life. Photo and details essential for reply. Box 40/53
Please please, is there a place in London where one can meet Finnish, Norwegian or Swedish students and American GIs? Box 40/54
Young man 29 interested in foreign rail travel seeks similar for friendship and possible East European summer rail trip. Box 40/55
Young married man, 29 smart appearance likes opera, politics, foreign rail travel, seeks genuine friend 21-35. Similar interests not essential. London Box 40/56
Amiable Londoner, forties 5'10" seeks working class heavy built leather type mate for friendship and holiday etc. Photo appreciated. ALA Box 40/57
Businessman 34, own house, outskirts of London wishes to meet 25-32 year old butch, clean shaven, non-camp. I am slim, 5'11". Any nationality. Only genuine replies. Photo please. Box 40/58
Would that good looking cleanshaven young blonde wearing red shoes, blue denim, light blue coat, who was at Baker Street Station on Thursday Jan 24th at 6.30pm please contact the fellow next to you wearing red scarf, blue coat. Box 40/59
Ex skinhead would like to meet same, also want Dr Martain boots. Bring them along. ALA Box 40/60
Married gay guy seeks friendly, active, physical culturist with own pad within easy reach of W1 for private instruction in pc and wrestling. Shyness has put me off gymnasiums. I'm free most days 12.30-2.30 or 2.30-4.30. Photo appreciated but ALA. Box 40/61
Lonely 22 seeks guy for friendship Slough London area. Photo please. Box 40/62
Young 52 active seeks friends any age or race, living Jersey, but returning England end 1974. Interests leather/denim etc. ALA Box 40/63
Male late 30s own home South London offers friendship to active person over 25, must be quiet, home loving non-effeminate, type. ALA Box 40/64
Welsh guy 31, seeks younger gay friend for lasting friendship in Wales, or London area for weekend visits, any colour. Photo appreciated. ALA Box 40/65
Holiday, active friend wanted to share expenses. London to SW France naturist beach and back by car mid June 2-3 weeks, staying small hotel, good food, comfortable but not expensive. Photo supplied. ALA Box 40/66
A bit rough looking but sweet (28) seeks friends to go weight training. North Surrey/Middlesex/London. Box 40/87

Young Dublin gay, not bad looking, slim, non-effeminate, very shy, good natured, gentle, homely, unsophisticated, quiet, musical, seeks genuine and loving friendship. Photo appreciated, London SW aged 23/34. Box 40/67
Well built young working guy, London based with imagination and no hang-ups sought by handsome blonde, active Oxford student (22) moustache. Pissed off with local talent, to exchange visits. Photo essential and exchanged. Box 40/68
Young leather boyfriends required by very lonely 23 year old who loves all forms of denim and leather. I have a portly figure but good personality. If you exist, please let me know. All letters with photos answered. Do write, please. Box 40/69
Attractive Leo, 21, seeks tall, slim guy wearing blue jeans and a smile on his face. He must be good looking, active, have long hair and a sense of humour. Photo appreciated. Box 40/70
Urgent. Young slim guy, non-camp, needs bread, will model. Box 40/71
Young man likes sport and wrestling. Seeks others, any nationality. London/South. Box 40/72
Guy 25 North Bucks, vegetarian, leftish, likes cats, cycling, squash, theatre, cinema, travel, country pubs seeks others similar age and interests for tolerant friendship and expansion of horizons. Box 40/73
Guy 23 wishes to meet non-camp guy 21-25 for permanent friendship with view to buying a flat together in N London/S Hertfordshire and having a meaningful friendship and not just good times. Photo appreciated. ALA Box 40/74
Active 29 year old, good physique, willing to model for photographer. Anything legal undertaken. Brighton area. Box 40/75
Photographer, genuine amateur seeks young boyish models, fair fee offered. ALA with photo. Box 40/76
Young man, London, attractive, slim, 5'6", reliable, active, seeks someone 21-29. Photo please (returned) ALA Box 40/77
London area guy 24, with good physique likes leather and/or denim, seeks similar. Photo essential. ALA Box 40/78
Tall West Indian, 21 London public school, seeks active friend of similar age. Photos exchanged. Box 40/79
Presentable young minded but 40, passable looks non-effeminate, seeks friend around same age, looks unimportant as individuality and active. Usual interests. Own flat, Sussex Coast. ALA Box 40/80
Londoner, mid twenties, non-effeminate, clean cut seeks genuine friendship with similar (25-35) interests travel, pubs, cinema, photo appreciated, not essential. Box 40/81
Male 29 Nottingham wishes to meet one friend of my age or younger. Non-camp. Box 40/82
Chinese boy 21, very attractive, 5'8" slim, looking for someone good looking 21-28 to build a lasting friendship. If sincere please write with photo. London Box 40/83
South Coast guy, mid twenties, quite good looking, varied interests, seeks guys of straight though not necessarily conventional appearance, preferably under thirty for friendship or just good company. Herts Dorset, Wilts, etc. Photo appreciated. Box 40/84
Young handsome boy 23 seeks someone to stay weekends in London with. Please write, very lonely. Photo please. ALA Box 40/85
Noddy - original letter not received. Please write again. John - Matlock. Box 40/86

PLEASANT GENUINE GUY mid 30s slim, dark, 5'9" seeks dishy butch active guy 22+ for outings, friendship. Possibly share London home and hols abroad. Definitely no effeminates. Only genuine letters with photo and details answered. Box 40/88

Built? Tired of active life? Relax muscles! Discreet young bi - slim 33 can help. Photo essential. Box 40/89
Slim 5'8" Chinese designer aged 30 has wide interests, gentle but not effeminate. Own flat in central London. Would like to meet masculine, heavily built friends aged between 25 and 45. Photo appreciated. Box 40/90
Collin good looking, clean living young guy wants to make friends. Lives in Bexley/heath area (that's nearer than you think). Letters with photo answered with mine. Box 40/91
Theatre and concert going graduate (29) depressed by obvious Nottingham gay scene, seeks similar for friendship, perhaps more. Photo please. Box 40/92
Yorkshire motorcyclist keen on bikes, boots, black leather, young 40 mates wanted for runs, rallies etc. ALA Box 40/93
Exceptionally tall guy needed to respond to quiet good looking young man. Box 40/94
Would a Mellors, Birkin or Lord Jim who thinks of sharing the highlands or Cornish Coast with a hairy Beethoven Heathcliff, 30, London based, send photo. Box 40/95
Actor (youngish 40s) seeks fellow-actor friends resident in the North west. Photo (essential) and full details in first letter returned with mine if SAE is provided. Box 40/97

AFFECTIONATE MASCULINE GUY 6'1" and 34 with beard genuinely wants to love and be loved by tall slim built, warm person 21-25 living in or coming to London. Please send photograph. Will send mine by return. Box 40/98

Anyone for tennis? A couple of weekend amateurs would like to meet doubles partners. 789 0225

Felix Holt, Razumov or Ralph Touchett, passionately alive, looking in London for an Elizabethan Englishman of 27. Perhaps you're Virgo, Sagittarius or Aries born after 1934? Send photo and I'll reply. Box 40/96
Four attractive lonely guys early twenties sharing house in Cambridgeshire require genuine friendship with others 21-35. Photograph essential. ALA Box 40/99
Healthy late twenties guy seeks same for compatible friendship. South London. Photo please. Box 40/100
Very busy student 22, works nights needs non-effeminate friends of same age for weekends. Own pad London. All letters with photo (returnable) answered. Box 40/101
Gentleman requires good friend to share home outings etc. Sense of humour and interests variable. ALA Box 40/102
I'm 25, good looking (so I'm told) and intelligent. I would like to meet an intelligent person of about my own age for friendship and holidays. Box 40/112
32 gay guy wishes to meet guys from London and South England. Box 40/113
Blonde bi (23) seeks active bisexual mate London area (23-28) interests football, Tamla and boozing. Photo please. Box 40/103
Good looking man 27 seeks coloured guys (London) Box 40/104
Pleasant good looking (London) over 21 wants heavy well built active friends. Box 40/105
Young 34, bearded teetotal barman, enjoys theatre, music, good food and feeling content, non-camp seeks active person 25-40 to enjoy life (London) with. ALA Box 40/106
Yorkshire couple own pad, seeks new friends, interests varied and include photography. Would welcome letters from friends and models. Box 40/107
Young man seeks male friends North west Lancs. Box 40/108
Body building instructor wishes to meet young guys, into sports and photography. Photo appreciated. ALA Box 40/109

GOOD LOOKING GUY 26 into most things likes soul music, seeks masculine well built friend up to 30. Photo appreciated. Central London. Box 40/110

Can I help you? For people lonely, want somebody to talk to, I try to help you. 749 0016 Ronald.
Guy wanted as partner to help owner run guest house in Brighton. Own room colour TV etc. Write - K Chapman, "Bellver House" 16 Egremont Place Brighton.
Hampshire shoot: Is there a young gentleman who would like to share expenses? 600 acres - please write Giles Wilson, 69 Froxfield Green, Petersfield. Gay bricklayer 35 would welcome letters especially from those in building industry. Please write Alan, 23 Grayling Road, London N16

CAPRICORN 28 BLONDE, tall, non-camp, interests fashion, dancing, soul music and cinema. Seeks active black guy up to 30. Central London. Photo essential. Box 40/111

I am 23 years old, gay, live in Redbridge Essex, an Aquarian and would like to meet similar interested in youth service, motorbikes, religion, CHE and Dicks Inn discotheques. Write BM 8850 London WC1V 6XX.
Anarchist cabaret: Saturdays Feb 16th and March 2nd, 83a Haverstock Hill, London NW3 8pm sharp.
Cabaret of the Minorities: Saturday 23rd Feb and 9th March "Gay Chansons" 83a Haverstock Hill, London NW3 8pm sharp.
Singers, instrumentalists, professional coaching, accompanying. I'm 29. Your place or mine. 381 2165
Bachelor 39 would like to meet other fellows for friendship and go to concerts and theatres in London. Please phone Ian Scott 01-892 5990

Gay law student interested in meeting other London law students or young people who will be returned. ALA Box 40/134
Birmingham: Bearded 24 years bisexual tendencies seeks friends locally. Box 40/135
London gay guy (47) 5'10 1/2", brown eyes, brown hair, good condition, one owner, wishes to meet sincere friend same age or younger. Have own flat. Genuine replies only please. Send photo which will be returned. ALA Box 40/136
Blonde 30, into uni-style clothes etc. wants friends Ayrshire/Kirkcudbrightshire/Dumfriesshire. Have transport, can visit. Box 40/137
Covenarian (25) interests include history and theatre, wishes to meet friends with view to establish a permanent friendship. Box 40/138
Healthy lanky type 32 with own flat, finds London leather scene too social and seeks to meet with similar views. Photo and telephone number ensures quick reply. Box 40/139
Manchester male 28, non-effeminate, lean, unassuming, pleasant personality, (initially shy). Interests include arts, especially music (classical and jazz/ragtime/blues etc) and lost causes, eg steam locos, old buildings, seeks similar romantic 21-30. ALA Box 40/140
Composer (28) looking for friendship with youth, London area. Please supply photo. Box 40/141
6 foot, fair haired, 24, muscular and definitely non-camp guy wishes to meet similar leather type of any age and aggressive disposition. Box 40/142
Lonely 26 living north east, slim, easy going, seeks similar young man 24-30 anywhere with view to permanent friendship. Photo not essential, sincerity more important. ALA Box 40/143
Body building guy, 23, Blackpool, seeks long-haired 21-25 in Manchester or Liverpool area. Photo please. ALA Box 40/144
Londoner 40, slim 6' hopes that 1974 will bring me Mr Right! Own comfortable flat, many varied interests. If there is a man my age, tall, hairy and actively interesting who hasn't been snapped up yet, please write - maybe it'll be our best year ever! Box 40/145

ILFORD. NO AXE TO GRIND!! Social activities only at the Cavalier Club. Men over 21 invited to join us on Wednesdays. Box 40/146

Male, 37, visiting California April, would appreciate local intro/info. Box 40/147
Sincere affectionate guy (25) needs similar under 26 London/Essex. ALA Box 40/148
CALIFORNIAN 34 MASCULINE executive yet cultured type transferred to UK soon, seeks slim, sincere young friend, any race, for steady friendship. Travel possibility. Photo appreciated, returned. ALA Write airmail P O Box 26017 Los Angeles 90026

Straight looking active male (28) seeks friends (21-30) in the London area. Interests music (Motown to Manley), dancing and bridge. Photo appreciated. Box 40/158
Young guy 24 living in London, bored with the scene, but no hang-ups, would like to meet interesting guys of similar age. Photo appreciated. Box 40/159

Lancashire graduate 25 slim, quite attractive, dislikes scene, just wants an uncomplicated guy. If genuine and under 28, reply guaranteed. Box 40/160
Interested in tap dancing, tap dancing, music, reel or cassette. 21-35 genuine replies only. ALA Box 40/161
Lecturer mid thirties, tall, slim, active, reasonable looks, with wide interests and stable personality seeks friends 21-35, London area. Box 40/162
29 year old professional offers a very sincere and hopefully permanent friendship to someone 25-40, usual interests, Midlands or West preferred. Box 40/163
London - young man 35 sensitive, considerate, interested in things like architecture, books, cooking, films, music, travel, writing, yoga, would like to meet others 25-45. Photo appreciated. More concerned with good nature than good looks. Box 40/164
27 year old professional guy, active, wants friends 21-30 not interested in clubs/pubs. All letters from sincere guys with photos answered. London/Essex. Box 40/165
Genuinely good looking, slim, 28 seeks active, intelligent West Indian, any age for permanent friendship. Photo essential. Box 40/166

28 year old attractive guy interested in leather, denim, living in the north east would like to hear from others of similar age with same interests. Box 40/168
Fed up getting no replies? Living South London/East Sussex, Kent, aged 21-38, non-effeminate, engineer will guarantee reply. Have a car, will travel. Photo appreciated and returned. Box 40/169
Any active friend like to get together with 50 year old Southampton gay. Box 40/170
Turned on by tattoos? Well decorated, slim fella wants to meet similar, London and South. Photos and ALA. Box 40/171
Bachelor, slim, own business seeks local friend to share pleasant house between Worcester, Malvern. Exchange photos. Box 40/172

Who is looking for friendship with active intelligent non-camp guy in North London, 26, slim, not incredibly handsome but stable and genuine with wide interests. Hope to meet similar to enjoy life. Photo if possible. Box 40/173
Cyprus must have some gay life. Can anyone supply information please? Box 40/174
Inexperienced? Well-known novelist seeks material for new novel about problems of young people starting in the gay world. Confidence guaranteed. Reward: hospitality and advice (if needed) plus free copy of the novel. Box 40/175

Torbay area. Young man 27 moving to Paignton in a few weeks to set up business, seeks friends and contacts in the area. Box 40/176
Boy 21 needs to earn some cash in his spare time. Any ideas? Anything legal considered. Box 40/177
Young guy 28, well built, seeks friends same age or younger, London, Ilford, Southend area. Photo ensures reply. Box 40/178
Wycombe/Bucks 44, slim, fair, interest athletics, speedway, pop music, popular classics, dixie/trad jazz, seeks friends 21-40. Photo appreciated. Box 40/179
Young guy (24) S London would like to get into leather/denim. Any offers? Preferably well built, blonde 27-30's. Photo please. ALA Box 40/180

Shy young lonely man 21 would like to meet black West Indian male of same age for lasting friendship. Box 40/181
West London male 26 likes younger extrovert guys, chess, stamps, operas, Neil Diamond, countryside, jeans, honesty, Irish music, Irish people and very few clubs or pubs. Please write if interested to Box 40/182
Weekends - no fun? Lonely cancerian (25) average looks, gentle, shy, intellectual, would like to meet similar guys (23-28) West London, for outings, friendship good talk. ALA Box 40/183
Young man 34, seeks quiet intelligent cheerful black friend 21-45 for permanent friendship to share life together fully. Own house in SW London. Photo appreciated. ALA Box 40/184

Lonely professional middle-aged, own car, interests include music, cinema, photography, travel, seeks friends (21-50) any race, any location, for correspondence, meetings, holidays. Photo appreciated but not essential. ALA Box 40/185
23 year old, intelligent, sensible, catholic, reasonable looks, interests the countryside, the arts etc, seeks masculine partner for lasting loving friendship. Box 40/186
32, slim, need someone (21-30). Please write. (Crawley) Box 40/187
Windsor/Slough area, affectionate mid 20s seeks permanent friendship with 25-40 non-camp orient. Possibly share home with right person. Photo if possible. ALA Box 40/188
Indian and Asian friends wanted. I'm 22, Midlands based, own car, willing to travel. ALA Box 40/189

Guy 31, 5'9", active, interests music, theatre, travel, politics, wants to meet non-camp friends (21-31) London area. Photo appreciated. ALA Box 40/190
Ex navy (Cambridge) based, 38, seeks new friends anywhere between 21-40 years. ALA. Accommodation provided weekends. Box 40/191
Ayrshire: Young very butch 23 year old seeks slim, shy boy of around same age for permanent friendship. Preferably from around same area. Photo please. Box 40/192

Irishman 35, north London, interests music, TV, travel, seeks male friends 25-40 any nationality. ALA Box 40/193
Travel. Let's hitch or drive. Londoner seeks friend(s) India maybe? Box 40/194
Any young man interested in friendship with ex-commando write. Box 40/195
Asian seeks gay Asians. Box 40/196

NORWEGIANS - YOUNG GAY photographer wishes to document City of Oslo and surrounding areas in August and needs somewhere to stay. Can anyone please help? Box 40/197

SW19 shy new gay scene non-effeminate, clean-shaven, 26 year old office manager with many interests wishes to meet other friends. Why not drop me a letter with photo if possible. ALA and all photos returned. Box 40/198
Lissom London boy, 23, good looking and affectionate, seeks enduring friend of similar age. I love music, theatre, ballet travel. Photo ensures reply. Box 40/199
Wanted. Young guy with a preference for late night living, to share social life and possibly holidays with 21 year old living in Croydon and working erratic hours in cinema management. Photo if possible. ALA Box 40/200

Active normal looking guy 34 with own pad, interested denim and leather, seeks straight looking guy 21-30 London area with varied uninhibited interests, ALA with photo. Box 40/201

Personal Ads continued on Page 19

Personal & Classified Ads Form

Please insert in the next issue

Number of words @ per word + Box Number fee

Please find enclosed crossed cheque/postal order made payable to Gay News

Ltd for the sum of £

Send to Gay News Ltd, Classified Ads, 62a Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY

Name:

Address:

To ensure that your advertisement(s) appear under the correct heading(s) please tick the appropriate circle(s).

- Mixed Personal
Women's Personal
Personal
Employment
Accommodation
Services
Market Place
Entertainment

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Personal Ads continued from Page 18
David, early thirties, gentle and affectionate nature with average looks, radical, and humanitarian views. Interests literature and the arts, seeks compatible friend of similar age London area. Photo please. ALA Box 40/202

Badminton group forming East London. Any standard. 476 7980
Skiing Holiday? Fit, literate young man seeks similar to share unique skiing holiday. Cervinia, Italy, depart March 9th. 01-262 6308

Winter holiday? I'm looking for a prof/grad type (possibly late 20s like me) to share inexpensive sun drenched holiday in Canaries. Write with phone number to Box 40/203

Isolated gay males in Scotland may write in confidence to Brotherly Clergyman who offers friendship to lonely men. Secrecy guaranteed. Box 40/204

Young guy! Are you in need of summer holiday? With affectionate older guy! Write soon. ALA Box 40/205

North Leeds lecturer 35 seeks friend, interests music, books, arts. No hangups. Photo please if possible. Box 40/206

Stunned by break-up of 6 year affair - 6'11", affectionate, intelligent 32 year old seeks sensitive, active male whose ideal is to achieve a permanent and mutually fulfilling friendship hopefully leading to a flatshare. Box 40/212

JOHN PRITCHARD - won't you be my VALENTINE?

I'm 26, quiet, gentle, not bad looking and London based. Many interests including all music, travelling, outdoor life and people. If you're fairly together 21-25 who dislikes scenes (gay or otherwise) let's exchange facts and photos. ALA Box 40/213

COME AND WORSHIP WITH the Fellowship in Christ The Liberator Metropolitan Community Church London For further details please write FCL, 61 Earls Court Square, London SW5

Accommodation

(5p per word, Box Numbers 50p, outside GB £1.50)

Handsome young man 26, has nice room Central London for active well built working class/coloured man. Box 40/114

Own bedroom with use of all other facilities in modern flat NB, £50 per month. Garage available. Box 40/115

Luton: responsible but easy going young gay guy seeks similar to share modern s/g flat. £4 weekly plus expenses. Box 40/116

Bike guy (32) seeks accommodation in gay house, flat, first weekend of MTT races. Box 40/117

Any accommodation in Northampton or nearby for a week in March where a London leather guy and bike would be welcome? Box 40/118

Male 35 seeks another to share Hammer-smith flat, own room £10.50 per week. Box 40/119

Reliable considerate non-camp gay guy twenties, wanted to share comfortable W14 flat with quiet guy (23) Rent £11 pw. Box 40/120

Shepperton Middix (approx 17 miles London) businessman age 32 offers to room in pleasant riverside bungalow to quiet, respectable young man 21-35 at reasonable rental. Location makes own transport advisable. Box 40/121

Putney. Professional man 30s cultural interests, offers share of large attractive flat to 1/2 similar 21-30s. Own room(s) £5.50 or £7.50pw. Box 40/122

Young man 24 seeks accommodation London area would share flat or bed-sitter with same age or younger. Box 40/123

Nottingham: Professional guy 23, brilliant, friendly, successful, relaxed, attractive, vain, seeks s/c flat in city or SE. Willing to share with right person on a business basis, but no freaks, bores or supergays please. Box 40/124

Who wants a quiet comfortable room in Fulham maisonette? Tube 5 min CH & CHW. Non-smoker preferred. £8.50pw Box 40/125

Lecturer (35) moving to Manchester/Stockport in April, seeks house/flat share for companionable life and avoiding loneliness. Reasonably domesticated. Box 40/126

Young man wanted to share young singer's comfortable London flat. Own room newly decorated with TV and use of phone. Someone kind and sincere who loves music, seeking a home and genuine friendship. Rent 6gns pw. Box 40/127

Flat mate to share luxury flat NW4 district. Own room colour TV. All facilities, no restrictions. Garage available from Feb 16th. phone 349 9988 after 8pm

WEST END. GRAD/PROF MAN over 26 (non-smoker) to share similar's warm comf house. CH, sun-terrace etc. £68 pcm. 262 6308 or if out, write with phone no to Box 40/215

Buckinghamshire, 40 minutes from Marylebone, one very small room inclusive heating, electricity, bath, going for £4, larger for £8pw. Only prerequisite you must like cats and feed mine when I'm on tour (3 weeks twice or three times a year) Photo might help me make up my mind. Will be returned. Box 40/128

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

Flatshare offered 01-732 6724
Warm Welcome at Wembar Hotel, 19 Warwick Road, London SW5 in the heart of Earls Court gay scene. Phone 01-373 9950. Reasonable prices. Weekly terms.

YOUNG MAN, EARLY TWENTIES, with good sense of humour, works in music business, requires flat share in Central London, interests include theatre, photography. Own room please. Phone Chris 373 2734 between 7-9pm

Leather guys touring mid Wales. Make your overnight stay or stop longer and meet other mates in converted water mill. BB £1.50. Phone Reg, Capel Bangor 629

Young teacher wants furnished accommodation in New Cross - Dartford £11pw max. Peter, 21 Watling Street, Bexley Heath

Birmingham. Young man 20s wishes to share his comfortable s/c flat. Own rooms 021-523 5429

SW12 2 flats, £18 and £21 also 3 bedsits £5/£8 Ring 673 1173

Accommodation wanted urgently within easy travelling distance of Westminster Guy 24 interests pop music, and sport, wants to share with other gay(s) of similar interests and age. BM Box 2636 London WC1V 6XX

Second male for 2 bedrooomed new maisonette N7. All usual amenities including colour TV etc. On business basis only. £12pw. Phone 272 7893

Bachelor 39, requires another chap to share house with him in Twickenham. Please phone Ian Scott 01-892 5990

Accommodation available for gay guys on holiday in London, please supply photo. I am 28, a music graduate. Battersea area. Box 40/150

Room to let in no hassle Putney pad as from February. £10pw inclusive. Box 40/151

Artist 35 offers share in house to right person. North Harrow area with easy access to London. Central heating, television, own room £10pw. Box 40/152

Birmingham. Gay professional (24) unable to get mortgage. Requires £9000. Any legal agreement considered. Conditions negotiated. No reasonable request refused. Box 40/153

Music student, bisexual 27, urgently needs somewhere to live, study, practice - central London - reasonably cheap. Hopefully with musicians/artists. Box 40/155

Actor (35) requires inexpensive B/B in Newcastle, Sheffield, Swindon, Brighton and Birmingham. Until Mid-April. Box 40/208

3rd male, active and not over 25, wanted to share large flat with 2 others aged 26 and 32. Own room situated Hornsey NB. Must not be camp. Box 40/209

Responsible bloke 33 seeks flatshare/room convenient Hammersmith. Temporary or weekday arrangement considered. Box 40/210

London. John, 42, requires accommodation share flat with one other. 30-45 must have own room. ALA Box 40/211

Urgent!! Two responsible guys desperately require self contained furnished/part furnished flat north London. Phone Kevin Flendenning 01-493 3841 office hours.

Share a flat in Camberwell. Lounge, kitchen, shower, own room. Suit 1/2 young men. Near Union Tavern, Fathr Red Cap. Dave. 437 7866 Ext 149 daytime.

B/B in Barnes from £1.25. Ring 876 7785

Employment

(5p per word, Box Number 50p, outside GB £1.50)

Domesticated discreet gay over 21, theatrical, seeks f/t employment Feb (accommodation almost essential) Hard working, sincere, rural Midlander, prefers city life. Non driver. Clerical experience. ALA Box 40/129

Assistant required domestic and shop. Light duties, full or part time. Live in trade taught. Young man, any nationality Box 40/130

Smart salesman (24) would welcome rewarding offers. London Box 40/131

Male 23 requires part time work. 10-4 pm Weekdays. Clean driving licence North London area. Box 40/132

Glasgow - free accommodation suitable student or similar (university nearby). In return keep flat dusted etc and let dog take you for walk! Details photo and phone number if possible. Box 40/133

Young photographer, some freelance experience, seeks position with studio or crew. Box 40/154

Wanted young barman - not too camp to run own bar in club/hotel in South Wales valley. Live in. Working class type of trade. Theatrical residents. Send photo and details. Vacant now. Box 40/214

South of France. Discreet presentable well-spoken young man with driving licence required for garden and general domestic duties April/November 1974. Self contained apartment provided. Write with photo and full details to Box 40/215

The Antique Shop, Kew Gardens, requires Man Friday, 940 7370

Market Place

(10p per word. No Box Number service available)

Anne Elizabeth of Gay News cannot afford to run her car either financially or for the sake of her figure. Is there a bicycle going dead cheap or even free? Ring me on 995-1958.

THE GIRLS GUIDE 1974. Over 700 listings in more than 20 countries - including clubs, bars, discos, organisations, newspapers, magazines and much much more for gay women. £2.00 from The Girl's Guide, 70 Pembroke Road, Kensington, London W8

28"-30" waist? Male model has few spare pairs new Finnish blue stretch cripplene slacks: £4, bargain. Larry 01-286 5705

Private collection of male nude photos being sold off in £2 batches. Photos and models in all colours, shapes and sizes. State over 21. Cash only. BN/2001 London WC1V 6XX

Gay films for sale. 8mm 200' standard movies. B/W £10, colour £12. Also projector and screen for sale. All information from Box 40/216

New gay bookshop open now, 84 Nunhead Grove, London SE15. For the most up to date colour slides and male publications both from the continent and America. Also available, the best of our own British publications. Come in and just browse around in our friendly atmosphere. Open from 10am to 6pm Mon to Fri and from 10am to 2pm on Sat. Late nights Tuesday and Friday - open till 10pm.

Male Nude Magazines: Exciting Men £1: 'Male Only' £2, 'Boys Exclusive' £2 (lists SAE) Johnny - BM/FBGH, London WC1V 6XX

Boy Studio, 44 Earls Court Road, London W8. Photo-shots, leatherwear, 35mm colour slides, catalogue 30p.

Services

(10p per word. No Box Number service available)

I am gay, 23 years old, and will consider printing your CHE/GLF/SMG gay dance/disco tickets with gay colours from 0.7p each. Write BM8850, London WC1V 6XX

FOR PEOPLE WHO UNDERSTAND HAIR and YOU, try Daniels, 01-584 2475

Relaxing massage by genuine experienced young masseur. For appointment call Mike, 603 8748

Telefriends Nursing Service, male home nurses, West London. 385 5939. Please ring before 10.30am.

Big bums and bellies banished! Yoga tuition, painstaking and considerate. 01-602 0721. Massage available.

I am gay, 23 years old, and will consider duplicating your CHE/SMG/GLF Newsletters from 1p per side white foolscap. Write BM8850, London WC1 6XX

DATAMATE WILL INTRODUCE YOU to gay partners. Write for details 23 Queens Avenue, Muswell Hill, London N10

Motor Insurance - special discount terms for GN readers. Phone Bath and Wessex Finance, Bristol 292966

Penfriends! Discreet introductions SAE for details, to Great Expectations, PO Box 148, 31/33 Court Yard London SE9 5DD

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

Additional finance required for gay club in London. Equity participation and other benefits to selected investors. Solicitor and accounts refs. Write in strict confidence E I Ltd, 8 Chepstow Villas, London W2

Keep fit at London's Dance Centre. 12 Floral Street, WC2 every Saturday 1.00pm. Studio Five at John Gordon's modern conditioning dance classes. Beginners welcome.

Massage by young male therapist. 229 6565

LIGHT REMOVALS, also delivery service. Anytime, anywhere. 01-460 0977. Strictly legitimate business.

Experienced masseur gives soothing massage: home/hotel - male/female. Phone Ron 472 1939 Mon-Fri, 6.15pm-8pm or all day Sunday

For gay penpals. The Gaytime Friendship Society (AAC) BCM/GFS Mono House, Red Lion Square, London WC1. For details, send SAE stating age. Genuine massage service, home visits, 223 3810

Young psychologist. Free initial consultation. Reasonable fees. Sympathetic listener. 01-574 1740

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

Genuine massage offered by young qualified male. For appointment ring 289 2753

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

STEVE, 23, LONG HAIR, qualified masseur/model, seeks work. 01-878 7785

Entertainment

(10p per word. No Box Number service available)

Cafe Society: Troubadour 9.30pm. Hereward Kaye, Raphael Doyle, Tom Robinson (guitars, percussion, vocals) + Nick Smith (Fender bass) Tuesday February 19th.

WEST LONDON GAY LIBERATION FRONT DANCE 1st March. Fulham Town Hall (opp Fulham Broadway Station) 8pm-12. Bar till 11.30pm. Group - Mantra. Disco - Lights.

CHE MUSIC GROUP. Diana Brunlett and Hilary Coates, violin and piano recital on Sat 2nd March at Leighton House, Holland Park Road, Kensington W4 at 8pm. Music by Tartini, Beethoven, Stravinsky and Brahms. Admission 75p including refreshments.

LADIES GAY CLUB - Now open under new management. Completely restyled for dancing to up to date sound. Licensed 7-11pm, 7 nights a week. 'The New Oasis', 5 Excel Court, Whitcomb Street, London WC2. Phone 203 4961

GLF DISCO run by GLF Caledonian Road Office collective. Prince Albert, corner of Wharfedale Road and York Way, N1 (Kings Cross tube) every Friday, 8-11pm. Admission 10p

General Information

NORWICH GAYSOC - contact Peter Thomas, Gaysoc, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR8 8BC. Regular meetings every Thurs 7.30, University House Room 1.32

TRANSVESTITE/TRANSEXUAL CONFERENCE. The conference will be held at Leeds University and Polytechnic the weekend of March 15/17. Speakers include up to now, Mrs C F Cordell (social worker) and Dr Theo Schlitt. There will be a disco on the Saturday night. For further information please write to Leeds TV/TS Group, 153 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds LS2 9JT

PARENTS ENQUIRY. Help, counselling, legal advice. Write to Ms Rose Robertson, 16 Hanley Road, Catford, London SE6 2HZ. Tel: 698 1815 any time.

BRISTOL ICEBREAKERS Gay info and counselling service for the South West. Tel: Bristol 556925 Mon and Fr 7.00-9.30pm or write to Icebreakers, PO Box 86, Bath, BA1 2YQ

READING GAY ALLIANCE Disco every Wed in the Sir Herman Gollancz Hall, Clifton Street

BLACKBURN TV/TS GROUP contact George Giles, Blackburn 53012 after 5.30pm

LEEDS GAY WOMEN New groups first meeting Wed 20th February at Leeds Trades Hall, Upper Fountain Street, off the Headrow. 8.00pm.

BRISTOL GAYSOC BEFRIENDING GROUP provides a sympathetic ear for gay students with problems or worries. Service extended to all Bristol students. Contact Jo, Gaysoc, Students Union, Queens Road, Bristol, B58 1LN for an informal meeting.

EDINBURGH GAY WOMENS GROUP. For details of weekly meetings contact Ms M Laurie 4/15 Halesland Park, Edinburgh.

ROOTS: Edinburgh's radical directory. Over 250 organisations listed, many with descriptive paragraphs - your guide to the alternatives in Edinburgh (and the rest of Britain) Oct May 21. 20p (+3p postage) from Roots.

SOUTHAMPTON AREA. Gay men and women welcome to new group. Details from Ken, Romsey 512959

UNIVERSITY OF SURREY GAYSOC contact David Reeks, Student Pigeon Holes, University of Surrey, Guildford.

MENTAL PATIENTS UNION research group needs written evidence on the effects of electro-convulsive therapy, brain surgery and psychiatric drugs. All information will be treated confidentially. Details to MPU, 97 Prince of Wales Road, London NW5

ALTERNATIVE FREE LIBRARY needs donations of radical/liberated gay papers and magazines. ESPECIALLY back issues. Please write Geoffrey Leigh, 30 Woodside, Wimbledon, London SW19 7AW

ABORTION, CONTRACEPTION, ENTERTAINMENT, transport, legal service, jobs, alternative? Work, food, hitch-hiking, cheap furniture, communications, shelter, late night services, accommodation, free services, ad infinitum. Contact Nutshell

Information Service, phone Birmingham 772 2483, 24 hours every day (ask for Nutshell as we share a line with St Basil's Centre)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GAY MARXIST STUDY GROUP Details: 01-794 3368

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

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

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

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

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

GAY CAMBRIDGE, a young GLF/CHE group covering both the town and the university. Meets every fortnight, weekly in university term. Contact Bernard Greaves, 2 John Street, Cambridge. Phone Cambridge 52661.

OXFORD GAY ACTION GROUP. Oxford 45301 between 7 & 8pm. Meetings every Sunday at 8pm in The Marlborough, St Thomas Street.

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

and would be delighted if you would join us for a drink and a chat. Please telephone any evening between 7 and 11. Dial 567 5085 and the operator will give you the number of the member of the evening. Do call us.

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

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

CENTRE. London's Gay Counselling Organisation, offers a warm welcome to homosexuals at Centre, Broadley Terrace, NW1. Ring 01-262 9595

Open Monday to Friday 7pm-10pm. Free medical, legal and general advice for men, women and youngsters. Disco every Friday at 8pm-12. Coffee bar from 7pm.

FRIEND is a nationwide befriending and counselling service for gays in distress or with a problem. Write to Friend, 44 Earls Court Road, London W8 or ring 402 6750 Mon to Fri 7.30pm-9.30pm when a visit can be arranged.

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

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

ISOLATED HOMOSEXUAL men and women can ring ICEBREAKERS at 274 9590 between 7.30 and 10.30 every evening of the year to talk over their problems with other gay people.

MOLIN DISCO CLUB (Girls only) now at Half Moon Lane, Herne Hill, SE24. Open from 8pm on Wed Fri and Sat. Buses 2, 3, 19, 37, 40, 68, 172, 184 & 196 plus Herne Hill (BR) stn. Ring 674 4004 or 274 9590

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

YOUNG GAYS meet once a week around central London at the CHE Youth Group. Phone Chris 01-673 2703 for further information. Our meetings are part social and part spectator and discussion. We have parties and take part in political campaigns.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE GAYSOC. Disco every 2nd Thursday from 10th Jan. 2nd floor lounge, University College Bldg, 77 Gordon Street (ent. Gower place) Admission 20p

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY GAYSOC meets every Tuesday in the Union Building. Contact via Students Union, Newcastle University.

DURHAM UNIVERSITY GAYSOC meets regularly in Durham. Contact via Students Union, Dunelm House, University of Durham, Durham City. GAYSOC FOR staff and students of Open University. Details, write to David McLean, 4 Westminster Gardens, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4SP

MANCHESTER GAY ALLIANCE Newsletter lists 38 meetings to be held in Manchester during February. Copies from Side Door, 7 Birch Hall Lane, M13 0XJ or phone Gord

Newsettes

● Chiswick Holds Out Against Gay News

CHISWICK: Despite the recent decision to stock Gay News in its public libraries, taken by the Richmond council, neighbouring Chiswick still refuses to stock it.

Gay News may be 'local industry', but it has no place in the local library, says Ms Florence Green, the borough's Chief Librarian.

In response to a request made recently, she replied: "Only one other borough in Greater London besides Richmond supplies this newspaper, which I recognise would be of interest to a minority of library users. There would, however, be a considerable amount of objection to its inclusion and it would offend many members of the public. I sought opinion about its provision over a wide sphere and the general conclusion was that most people interested in it would be able to obtain it themselves and that society as a whole was not yet ready to accept sympathetically its supply out of public funds."

To our knowledge, Gay News is available in Richmond, Islington and Putney libraries.

When she turned down the last request for Gay News to be stocked, Ms Florence Green told the press that if she had any further applications for Gay News to be stocked, she would bring the matter to the attention of the library committee.

● German Gays To Sue Council

AACHEN: The German Activist Group here accused the local administration of illegally refusing to allow a public information stall about homosexuality. An Aachen official said that people don't want to be "bothered with homosexual problems on their way home." The official said "it's obtrusive when gays admit being gay in public."

Gay information stalls have not previously been forbidden in Germany.

West German Radio reported the local council ruling, saying that it regarded information about sexual problems as important and useful.

● Whose Right Of Way

CLEETHORPES: Gay clubs seem to be springing up all over the place nowadays. And business seems to be booming in Cleethorpes where the town's Birds Nest Club has decided to open three nights a week instead of just one. You will now be able to drop in on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

And while they are busy changing the opening times, they also seem to be changing their writing paper. The old address was Kings Road, Bathing Pool. It's now King's Road, Boating Lake. Let us pray fervently that the swimmers have been warned by the time the sailors are let loose.

● Police Crack Down On City Gays

SOUTHAMPTON: The normally discreet and inactive attitude of the Southampton city police towards gays has been dramatically reversed.

During a recent fourteen day period, seven prosecutions for 'importuning' and 'gross indecency' were brought before city magistrates - three in one day. No explanation has been offered for the sudden intensification of police activity, but the crackdown is widely believed to reflect the changed attitude of senior CID officers, who are becoming alarmed at the increase of 'vice' offences, especially indecent assaults on women and children.

Of the seven prosecutions only one defendant elected trial by jury at the city's Crown Court, the remainder accepted a hearing before magistrates.

R J Thompson

● Students Push Gaysoc Off Campus

YORK: Gay Rights motion or no Gay Rights motion, the students at York University have pushed the university's Gay Society off the campus, claims a spokesman for the society.

Trouble started last term when the society was started up, and since then gay students have had to put up with abuse and ridicule from their colleagues.

"Many people are openly hostile to us, others are more underhand," claimed the spokesman. He gave instances when posters advertising the society's meetings and socials had been torn down, or had been covered in obscene graffiti. And when they held dances, he said, people came in just to laugh.

He also mentioned one incident in which a group of gay girls had been harassed by a university rugby crowd in the coffee bar on campus.

The result of this aggression by straight students has been to force the Gaysoc to hold its meetings in a local hotel in the city, for the time being at least.

● Ohmygosh, Look At Me!

DELMAR, California: Gay men are more likely to be dissatisfied with their bodies and cock-size than heterosexual men, according to a reader-survey by the magazine *Psychology Today*.

The survey found that 55 per cent of all men and 45 per cent of all women were quite satisfied, if not extremely satisfied, with their bodies in general - face, arms, voice, abdomen, weight and so forth. But, whereas 33 per cent of straight men gave their bodies an above-average score, only 25 per cent of gay men did so. Further, 45 per cent of gay men had low, below-average images of their penises on a two-item measure: satisfaction with sex organ size and appearance of genitals. Only 25 per cent of het males gave themselves below-average ratings. The survey found that 10 per cent of male respondents and 5 per cent of women had at least one homosexual experience. Also, gay women's feelings about body appearance were not significantly different from straight women.

There were 62,000 volunteer responses to a 109-item Body Image questionnaire.

● Exhibit For Gay Teachers

BONN: The HAB gay group here has arranged an exhibition of pictures and documents about homosexuals. The exhibition is part of a campaign to advise educators on how to teach children the facts of homosexuality.

An organiser said that these problems are not usually talked about in German schools or "they are presented to pupils in connection with sadism, prostitution, exhibitionism etc."

● Coffee (Camp) Style

PORTSMOUTH: The manufacturers of "Camp" bottled coffee, motto "Ready aye ready" would be a little surprised to learn that Les, a barman at Pompey's Gay Balmoral Bar, is engaged in a spot of free brand advertising.

Les's bar apron is faced with a large facsimile of the well known colonial style bottle label, depicting a kilted soldier being served 'Camp' coffee in front of his tent by your actual pukka Indian servant.

With the aid of some adhesive tape, Les has made alterations and deletions to the label, wording which has caused some amusement to the Balmoral's patrons. The advertisement now reads: "I am ready aye ready, 'Camp' and essence. The coffee isn't bad either..."

R J Thomson

● Door Re-Opened To Gay Rights Bill

NEW YORK CITY: The gay rights bill to prohibit discrimination has been introduced into the new four-year session of the city council. The bill would make illegal job, housing and public accommodation discrimination.

A coalition of gay organisations has tried for two years to get the bill passed. The fifth attempt failed last December. But the new bill is sponsored by 20 city council members, only two shy of the 22 votes needed for passage. The earlier bills were never sponsored by more than four council members.

Alan Roskoff, chief lobbyist for the bills, says the number and calibre of sponsors appears to guarantee its swift passage.

● Portsmouth CHE Folds

PORTSMOUTH: The Portsmouth branch of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality, formed over a year ago, has finally folded.

Following the report in GN39, convenor David E has confirmed that the offer of a suitable meeting place has not materialised and this factor, combined with apparent apathy on the part of local gays, has led to the failure of the group.

David, who ran the group on strict CHE lines, is obviously disappointed at the outcome.

It is a matter of considerable concern throughout the Portsmouth district that the final link for organised gay activities, including much needed counselling work, has now been severed. Although local conditions have not been conducive to the functioning of a CHE group, the disinterested attitude of the local gay community must be of even greater concern.

R J Thomson

● On Your Knees

DENMARK: Latest branch of the international Metropolitan Community Church to open is in Copenhagen.

The Reverend Bjorn Marcussen, in London over Christmas, told the Fellowship in Christ the Liberator that he had plans to start a ministry in the city when he got back to Denmark. He intended to maintain close contact with the church in London.

Now FCL tells us that his plans have become a reality and that the Copenhagen branch held its first service on February 3.

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● Lesbians Urged To Use GLF

COLOGNE: German television recently carried a feature by Herr Siegfried about the problem of gay women. The 45-minute programme described and filmed lesbian discrimination. Siegfried encouraged gay women to fight for their rights in a gay liberation group.

● Leather Weekend

LONDON: The city's Motor Sports Club played host to MSC Amsterdam over the weekend February 1-3. There was a reception for the Dutch guests on the Friday evening and on the Saturday night a well-attended party was held at MSC's headquarters in Covent Garden. The evening was a great success and to commemorate the occasion, an MSC London pendant was given to the president of the visiting club, who reciprocated by presenting their hosts with an inscribed plaque. The final event was a farewell party on the Sunday afternoon before the Amsterdam members left for home.

Although only in existence for a few months, MSC London has fast become the largest leather orientated club in the world.

● Students Overrule College Principal

NOTTINGHAM: When students arranged a lecture on Gay Rights in Nottingham, they were told that it couldn't be held because homosexuality was a subject blacklisted by the Department of Education and Science, and couldn't therefore be included in the curriculum.

The lecture was to have been one in a series of Principal's Lectures, and was designed for second year students at the Nottingham College of Education, Clifton. But when he heard of the plans, K A Baird, the college principal, used his veto.

He told students that they would have to hold their lecture outside the college building, and in their own time, because of the DES prohibition. Even when the students union got confirmation that there was no such blacklisting of the subject, Mr Baird still refused to allow the talk to take place in college time.

So the students decided to carry on with the lecture exactly as planned. They invited Alistair Stewart of the National Union of Students Executive Committee to speak to them, and advertised the meeting in a college hall during college hours.

At 4.35 on January 22 about 300 students were assembled to hear Al Stewart talk. Anne Harrild, president of the students union, explained that only 150 people had been expected, but clearly many students were boycotting other lectures to listen to this one. Unfortunately, she told us, Al Stewart was held up and did not arrive until two hours later, but he still found an audience of 200 students to address.

So far the principal has taken no action over the matter. Students confidently expect him to let the whole incident pass.

Since the lecture, there has been some interest in setting up a gay students society, but the plans have not yet been drawn up.

● Dancer on 'Fascist Student Leaders'

LONDON: David Dancer responded this week to Wanda Goldwag's suggestion that all of the National Union of Students Executive are "neo-fascists".

David co-directs the National Colleges of Education Gay Rights Committee, with Andrew Eastwood.

When the question is asked, 'Why, if NUS is pro-gay, did National Secretary Steve Parry lose his cool with Peter Tatchell?', the answer, according to David Dancer, goes like this:

"Perhaps the answer could be that translating a mandate and the concept of 'Gays being Equal' into practical reality is not going to be all plain sailing. We have to overcome years and generations of prejudiced conditioning, and the deep-rooted fears may take years to overcome. Getting hysterical about 'Fascist Student Leaders' isn't going to improve their confidence in us, it will not help the majority of non-gay students to see us as rational human beings. And many isolated students will stay isolated because they've heard that NUS is apparently against them."

And that, we hope, is the last word about the 'Berlin Affair'.

● Bulletin For Student Teachers

PORTSMOUTH: Editor John Riley has put out the first issue of the National Colleges of Education Gay Rights Committee Bulletin.

Article titles in the first monthly issue include "Are you an only one?", "Authoritarian Backlash", "Coming out - How it's done", "First Teaching Appointments - where to go".

Riley's address is QEOM Hall, Furze Lane, Portsmouth, Hants. If you want to be on the mailing list, that address is NCEGRC Bulletin, c/o NUS HQ, 3 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DU