

"A DIFFERENT JOURNEY TO THE SAME END"

N°41

GAY NEWS

15p

William Beckford

"As Much A Martyr As Wilde"



EUROPE'S LARGEST CIRCULATION FORTNIGHTLY NEWSPAPER FOR HOMOSEXUALS

GAY NEWS

Number 41

February 28 - March 13

The Value Of A Vote

TO state the obvious, there is a lot more at stake in today's general election than homosexual law reform.

All three main party leaders told Gay News during the campaign that none of their parties had an official policy about the laws against homosexuals. It was up to the 'consciences' of individual members to decide on this sort of question. So it is the individual MP who is the crux of the issue.

First, sympathetic MPs are needed to sponsor legislation and steer it through Parliament. The MP who undertakes this task will need a great deal of courage. The Earl of Arran, writing in *Encounter* magazine about his part in bringing the 1967 Sexual Offences Act on the statute book, told of sickening personal experiences he had with politicians avoiding him, subjecting him to personal abuse, and making his life difficult in all sorts of ways. Public ridicule he had expected (and received in generous measure) but such behaviour from his peers must have shocked him.

So what significance will the general election have in determining the outcome of the next Parliamentary battle?

After The Vote

Three results are possible? a Conservative government may be returned with a substantial majority, a Labour government may be returned with a substantial majority, or one of these two parties may be returned with a slender majority, threatened perhaps by a stronger Liberal representation in the House.

Now although none of the parties have an official party line, it has become clear to us from our own conversations with candidates, and reports from readers, that Labour and Liberal candidates have about the same degree of sympathy for the question, and that Tory candidates are more likely to be hostile. Forgetting for a moment, then, the larger issues facing electors, we would be more likely to see a new gay bill introduced in a House containing a large number of Labour MPs, than if we had a Tory administration returned to office.

It would be disastrous if there were a slender majority which gave neither Labour nor Conservatives a 'working majority'. From 1964 onwards, when Labour was faced with such a situation, you may remember how every MP kept one eye on Parliamentary business and the other on his constituency, ready to strike a campaign pose should a snap election be called. In this sort of atmosphere no MP is going to risk introducing a gay reform bill. It is no vote-catcher! It would even reduce the number of MPs prepared to vote in support of it.

As far as voting in a general election for homosexual law reform, your vote is ineffective. The issue is not 'on offer'. What other ways are open to us to influence affairs on the political scene?

Gay Groups

At organisation level, the Campaign for Homosexual Equality and the Scottish Minorities Group have both canvassed candidates nationally, and the Gay Liberation Front has made approaches locally. Their aim seems to be two-fold. First to help their members to choose which candidate to vote for, and second, to alert future MPs to the fact that there are members of the public who want action taken about the state of the law as it stands at present. So when a bill comes before Parliament, let no MP say he has not been warned.

The first of these two aims is unrealistic. And it is not unduly stressed by the organisations themselves. It would be lunacy to ask people to vote for the man who has the most helpful attitude to the gay struggle at this time. If there were a candidate who was standing exclusively on a gay rights platform, then it might be legitimate for someone to vote for him as a political gesture. But if you believe in voting at a general election, then there are several more important topics for you to make your mind up on in this year's fight when you come to decide between candidates.

A far more important function performed by contacting politicians is to alert them to forthcoming attempts to change the law. Let MPs know that there is pressure to get something done, and it will not come as a great surprise, a bolt out of the blue, to see a bill introduced. Nor will it surprise them if they are lobbied by a group during the next session of Parliament. The psychological effect could be enormous. Sprung on them suddenly, many would be tempted simply to laugh—surely they can't be serious. But they have been told quite firmly that we are serious, and that we intend action to be taken.

CHE, GLF and SMG will of course have to keep up the pressure if they are to get anywhere. And they need your support. This they recognise—and CHE in particular is looking for new members to back their efforts. Individual approaches to MPs by their constituents are also extremely important to add weight to the campaign. They do not have to be written only at election time to have an effect.

After The Election

When the election is over, CHE will have a very useful list of how MPs stand. They will be able to identify those from whom they can expect support, and those from whom they can expect hostility. They will have had the experience of fighting in an election, and they may come up with new ideas for next time, based on what they have learnt this time. This is a first time effort, a dry run for bigger things to come. But it does all the groups credit that in a three week campaign they have managed to get something organised to show that they are alive and in business both inside and outside politics.

Let us hope that gays who simply stood on the sidelines in 1974 will be in the fight next time.

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.

Gayless Towns

Bexleyheath,
Kent

Dear Gay News,

Can anybody say why nine towns in the UK with populations of over 100,000 people (and statistically therefore, with at least 5,000 gays) don't have a single gay pub-club-disco-CHE-GLF-Gaysoc group? The towns are Havant, Dudley, Salford, St Helens, Solihull, Torbay, Thurrock, Warley and West Bromwich.

The National Federation of Homophiles, if it has any use at all, could co-ordinate efforts to create a 'respectable' alternative scene.

Peter Kelsey

Reds Under Gay Beds

Henlade, nr Taunton

Dear Gay News,

It has become increasingly obvious over the recent past that all the efforts of Gay Lib, CHE, Gaysoc, etc etc, are only producing a 'back-lash' from police and authority alike against them. Just as militant action of anarchists in the country under the guise of Union action is producing.

The greatest enemy of 'gay' society today is the apathy and indifference of the gay world themselves.

Until the gay activists realise that they must first convert and convince their own that they need to be liberated and accepted, they will never attract the support and acceptance of society in general.

A J Swaab

Gay Broadcasting

CHE London Information Centre

22 Great Windmill Street, W1

Tel: 01-437 7363

and

26 Fitzroy Square, W1

Tel: 01-387 8336

Dear Gay News,

It may come as a surprise, but as one of the guests interviewed by Marsha Hunt (Capital Radio 29th January) I very much agree with the criticism expressed in your last issue.

One of the most important results from my point of view is that it does make an otherwise very lethargic gay minority sit up and grumble.

A concern over the 'happy amateur' approach is nothing new, for some time Campaign for Homosexual Equality has had a media group under the able guidance of Jackie and Jason, looking at how to make the gay response to the media more positive. This will be an important section of this year's conference at Malvern.

Like many things, the media group has suffered from lack of support. If we are not to appear too 'amateur' then we need help and training from those gays working within Radio or TV. Yet they offer no help, and are not prepared to come within a million miles of a microphone or camera to discuss homosexuality in a professional way.

This is very much the root of the problem. If people do not like the way homosexuality is being represented, the solution is in their own hands... to get up off their arses and do something about it.

CHE is looking very hard at the prospect of a weekly 'Gay Show' to be syndicated to all interested commercial stations and working on some trial tapes. I would like to invite through Gay News any interested gays with a flair for broadcasting or technical experience to contact me, or come to a meeting.

"Gay Broadcasting - Medium or Message" (sic), 8pm Monday 18 March 1974, Chepstow Arms, Chepstow Place, London W2, to voice their criticisms and lend a helping hand.

David Bell

Spartacus Guide

Euro-Spartacus
Posbus 3496, Amsterdam

Dear Gay News,

Thank you for the excellent and very fair review (GN39) which you recently published, of the SPARTACUS INTERNATIONAL GAY GUIDE 1974 edition.

One point I would like to make, however, regarding your suggestions to employ paid contributors. We ourselves visit and adequately cover most major cities in Europe, and some outside Europe every year. This works rather better than employing contributors. We also send out questionnaires and circulars to the bars listed, several times a year, and these are returned by the post office when a bar has disappeared. In addition, having the largest circulation of any Guide, we get enormous quantities of letters from readers, giving information, which we duly check out as far as possible. Approximately 75% of our total production costs go on research every year. We do have some efficient con-

tributors in a few cities, but when we tried to organise one in every city, we met a lot of difficulties. We estimated, however, that 80% of the information listed in the 1974 edition was checked within the last 12 months, by one means or another, and this is good by any standards. The remaining 20% consists mainly of places in the more remote parts of South America, Russia, Vietnam etc.

Finally, through your pages, may I appeal to anyone who has one of our Gay Guides to write to us with any information they can offer. All those who send us information receive a worthwhile token of our appreciation when the next edition is ready, in the form of a discount proportionate to the trouble they have taken and expenses incurred in helping us.

John D Stamford, Editor.

Gay OAP's

Stevenage

Dear Gay News,

I have been interested to note recent references in your excellent paper to the problem of gay people who have reached the ripe old age of 65. Their problems are of course by nature, a little more likely to be acute. Being usually unmarried, they cannot have the support and companionship of their children or of the family which they would have acquired by taking a wife. Loneliness is a problem faced by all gay people — how much more so in old age.

In addition we should note that gay OAP's have all passed a great deal of their lives in pre-Wolfenden days, and they find it very difficult to rid themselves of the inhibitions which protected them before the 1967 Sexual Offences Act. We should feel sympathy for the elderly gay who spends his time "cottaging", not really because he is looking for sex, but because it is the only way he knows of finding a kindred spirit to talk to.

Action is needed on two fronts to alleviate this condition. Individual gays should actively seek for lonely elderly people and offer them companionship. With the arrogance of youth they are too often ignored and sometimes insulted. Youths should remember that one day, if they are lucky, they too will grow old. A kind word, a shared drink, an invitation or a visit for a chat and a cup of tea would mean so much.

The clubs too have their part to play. All clubs should grant Honorary Life Membership to gay OAP's. Most cannot afford the fees. In addition it would be useful if clubs would provide a quiet room both for the elderly and for those younger who wish to withdraw from the noise of the disco for a chat or a read.

Talking of gay clubs — isn't it time there was a National Federation of Gay Clubs whose affiliated members would at least have visiting rights in all other affiliated clubs?

I hope these jottings give everyone food for thought, and that those who can, and that means everyone, will do something to make the lot of the OAP less lonely.

George Forster

PS: Some clubs may be able to offer part-time employment to suitable needy OAP's.

Wanted, Women

London N16

Dear Gay News,

I have only recently moved to London and I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to your paper. When I came here I only knew of very few gay places, but now, thanks to your 'Gay Guide', there are still many more which I have not got round to visiting yet.

I am fortunate that I moved to London with an affair of nearly four years duration, but I should think that your paper can provide the vital missing link between having somewhere to go and someone to go with.

I know from experience that it can be very difficult to break the ice with new gay people, especially when one is a stranger to a city. I feel sure that your Personal Ads must be a great help in lifting the terrible barriers of loneliness and isolation which can be the bane of the life of a gay person.

GN helps people to feel that far from being an 'odd one out' as society can often make us feel, we are really part of a large group of people who just want as much from life as everybody else.

One of the things which rather surprises me is that like many gay people, I know quite a lot about gay men but very little about gay women. I notice from your columns that a very small percentage of the material concerns lesbians. As we are all gay, why not feature a few articles about our gay sisters? What about some letters from them, let's give them a chance to have their say. It seems strange that gay women, who really must have very similar ways of looking at life as gay men have, do not contribute more towards GN. So come on girls, let's hear from you!

Kevin Kennedy

ED: We're glad someone else has said "Come on girls, let's hear from you".

The Terminology of Sex

London SW10

Dear Gay News,

Dick Bird (GN38, Letters) finds the word "homophile" a euphemism for "homosexual". What does he mean? "Homosexual" appears (OED) to have been coined in the late nineteenth century; it is a clumsy combination of the Greek for 'same' and the Latin for 'sex' ie 'same sex'



Illustration: Jean-Claude Thevenin

or 'same gender'. It implies of course, and was coined to mean 'sexual propensity for same sex' (especially relating to men, since in those days ladies didn't have sexual propensities). "Homophile" doesn't exist, and, though deriving from the Greek words meaning 'same' plus 'lover' didn't exist in Greek either. However, like Humpty Dumpty, we can invent words if we choose, but I cannot for the life of me see how a word (homophile) meaning lover of same (sex) can be a euphemism for another word (homosexual) meaning (a little more discreetly) exactly the same thing.

"Paedophile" (lover of boys) certainly did have an equivalent in Greek (and how), but by no stretch of the imagination can it be regarded as a euphemism for anything.

Robert Maxwell

Music For Old And Young

CHELIC Music Group
22 Great Windmill Street,
London W1V 7PH

Dear Gay News,

Let anyone should be deterred from joining the CHE Music Group as a result of reading the first problem in the Troubled Water page of GN39, may I make an observation, that surely the age of a lover of classical music is irrelevant? One can enjoy good music at the age of 37 or 77.

We have close on 90 members and it is correct in say that their average age is somewhere between 20 and 40, but several of them are OAP's who do attend all the functions regularly.

Most of the events cost the members nothing apart from their annual subscription. I attend as many functions as I can and have never yet been to one where there has not been an interval, which provides an opportunity for those present to get to know one another. The members who act as hosts generously provide refreshments at their own expense for those attending, and it is obvious that much thought is given to the provision and preparation of the food and drinks. I know I always stand in awe at the sight of it all!

A warm welcome is extended to all and no-one need ever feel lonely in our midst. I would say that if you enjoy an evening of good music in congenial company, then the Music Group is well worth joining.

Philip

Police Expose Not Boring

Dear Gay News,

Alan Swardlow's letter in GN40 was written in the dark of his Liverpool closet. Stories about gay people arrested outside pubs are not boring. They're enlightening. I enclose a small donation for the Gay Rights Fund.

F R Reynolds

A Position To Maintain

Dear Gay News,

May I put another point of view to that expressed by Mr Linney (GN38) under the heading "Gay and Happy". Has he considered gay people in other walks of life, viz policemen/lawyers/politicians/members of the church?

My own situation is a case in point. I am a company executive; an active member of the Church of England; a borough councillor; an active member of the youth movement of a political party; a manager of a youth club; Chairman of the Governors of a Secondary School; on several other educational bodies; and chairman of the local branch of a national charity. Further, my affair is a member of the same political party, a leading journalist and an active trade unionist.

How can we possibly appear in public as a gay couple without probably ruining our careers and most certainly putting an end to the voluntary work we do?

Please do not get me wrong; we are not jealous. Far from it, we are very happy and have no hang-ups, but Mr Linney should realise that he is in a profession where being gay is not considered unusual/freaky. He therefore sees things in a different light. Good luck to him — let us hope that the situation will alter soon for all of us.

Best wishes for the continued success of GN and all you stand for.

Michael

Sweetly Singing

London, NW8

Dear Gay News,

Listening to a record made in the twenties of Richard Tauber singing his well-known song "Girls Were Made To Love And Kiss", I was astounded to hear him utter at his most plaintive the line "Can I be blamed if God has made me gay?"

At first I laughed — later I realised how applicable it was to the '70s.

G Morgan

Party Leaders Wash Their Hands Of Us

GN Talks To Jeremy, Ted & Harold

LONDON: What will your party do about gay law reform if voted into office on election day? That was the question which Gay News put to Edward Heath, Jeremy Thorpe and Harold Wilson during the 1974 campaign.

We pointed out to each in turn that the Scottish Minorities Group had prepared a draft bill, and that the Campaign for Homosexual Equality was in the middle of preparing one. The two main points which we wanted to know how they stood on were (1) the reform of the law in Scotland and Ireland, where homosexuality is still a criminal offence; and (2) the lowering of the age of consent to the same age as for heterosexuals, throughout the United Kingdom.

We got the usual flannel — this is not a matter for official party policy, but for the consciences of individual Members of Parliament. But looking a little more closely at the answers, there seemed to be an underlying hostility towards attempts to reform the law in any way. As far as these three men were concerned, we were just a nuisance and they were not much concerned with the effect that legislation has on the daily lives of four million gays in the UK.

We had expected them to be non-committal. But judging from their answers, they were in fact hostile.

Heath

Before speaking to the Prime Minister, we contacted the Conservative Central Office in Smith Square. We tried twice.

The first time, speaking to Charles Bellairs of the Research Department, we were not even allowed to finish asking our question before he interrupted to say "it's up to individual members; there is no party



Photographs of Edward Heath & Harold Wilson by Colin Davey (Camera Press London)

policy on the matter."

The second time we were passed on to an anonymous gentleman who said that while one or two individual Tory MPs might have an interest in the subject, the Conservative Party as a whole was "not in the slightest bit interested."

So we spoke to Edward Heath. Was it true that the Conservative Party was "not in the slightest bit interested"? He did not deny it.

"These and other questions," he told us, "are left to the moral conscience of individuals. This sort of thing is not a matter for official party policy. Questions like these, divorce for example, are left to individuals, and this has always been the case."

But what about Scotland and Northern Ireland? Northern Ireland of course has its own assembly which should be dealing with laws like these. But isn't it an absurd anomaly for homosexuality to be legal in England and Wales, and illegal in Scotland when all three countries have the same Parliament responsible for their legislation?

"As far as Scotland is concerned," he said, "there are many differences between Scottish and English law." He didn't see the validity of the argument that the laws of the countries should be brought into line with one another.

Mr Heath's manner during his reply was brusque, without being discourteous, but as far as reform was concerned, he was entirely negative.

Thorpe

Equally negative, but more conciliatory in tone, was Jeremy Thorpe, the Liberal leader. He gave the matter greater consideration, and replied at greater length. But he too offered no prospect of Parliamentary assistance from his party.

He pointed out that Liberal MPs had, individually, voted in favour of accepting the findings of the Wolfenden Report, and had later voted in favour of the Sexual Offences Bill during its passage through the House of Commons.

"But we regard this a matter of conscience," he continued, "like hanging and abortion and the Common Market. It is not a subject for official party policy."

Referring to the questionnaire that CHE were asking all candidates to complete, he told us "I agree that MPs should be asked how they feel on the subject, and they should reply frankly. And indeed, when it comes to a vote, they should have the courage to vote one way or another, rather than abstain. You always see an extraordinary number of abstentions on questions such as these."

candidate's area, who had every right to expect a reply from someone standing to represent them in Parliament.

The questionnaire contained 14 questions, twelve of them about gay law reform (age of consent, the future inclusion of Scotland and Northern Ireland in the scope of reform laws, re-defining homosexual acts 'in private' so that the same standards would apply as they do at present in laws protecting public decency with regard to heterosexual conduct, recognition by the state of homosexual unions for the purpose of inheritance and taxation, and one or two others). There was one question about attitudes to equality of opportunity for women, and a final question about the Cinematograph and Indecent Displays Bill.

When the election was called, the National Council for Civil Liberties was caught a bit on the hop. But they gratefully accepted CHE's offer to help them disseminate material to candidates. Both organisations expressed their concern about the possibility of the erosion of certain personal freedoms were the Cinematograph and Indecent Displays Bill to become law.

Gay News hopes to bring you the results of CHE's survey in a future issue.

Following the joint meeting, the Scottish Minorities Group adopted much the same strategy as CHE. Most Scottish constituencies are clustered around the central belt of Scotland, running from east to west through Edinburgh and Glasgow. The scattered constituencies of northern Scotland are mostly safe Conservative seats. The marginal seats lie for the most part in the centre regions. SMG, with smaller resources than CHE, has therefore decided to concentrate its energies in the more densely populated regions. In this way it was able to contact candidates in most of the 70-odd constituencies. Again, the main point of the exercise was to alert future MPs to the concern that is felt about the exclusion of Scotland from the effects



As far as SMG's Reform Bill was concerned he felt that it was something on which Scottish people should make up their own minds. If Liberal proposals were enacted, there would be an elected Scottish assembly and this would be the right place for such a matter to be discussed.

But the sting came in the tail when he turned to CHE's demand that the age of consent should be lowered. "On the question of lowering the age of consent, I would look at this, but I don't think that a case has been made out for it yet." In the discreet language of general election diplomacy, this amounts to a direct "No. You can forget about lowering the age of consent for some time to come."

Liberal Party headquarters told us that a Gay Liberation Front candidate had been accepted by the Party, but so far no constituency had adopted him as their candidate. However, Michael Steed, chairman of CHE, is standing at Manchester Central as a Liberal.

Wilson

Finally we contacted the Labour party. We received the stock answer about official party policy. But we asked Elizabeth Arnott of the Labour Party Information Unit whether it was really a good enough answer. We were, after all, talking about the largest minority legislated against in this country.

"No," she said, "I don't think that is necessarily true."

We asked her which minority was larger and suffered from the sort of legislation we did.

"Well . . . I mean prisoners' wives suffer from a great deal of social stigma."

End of conversation! What can you possibly say to a remark like that? Elizabeth Arnott, we were told, is the person responsible for human rights at the Information Unit.

We tackled Harold Wilson, leader of the Opposition. We asked him what the Labour position was on the question, and (anticipating the same old reply) also asked whether he thought it was good enough to leave such decisions to individual MPs, when four million people were affected by the legislation — four million people on whose behalf he had once purported to govern.

"You anticipated my reply correctly," he said. "This is not a party matter. It is a matter for a free vote, where each member takes full responsibility for his decision."

But shouldn't a Government at least give private members an opportunity to debate and decide on these issues?

"Members," he replied curtly, "have the opportunity to raise the matter under the facilities providing for private members' legislation." Of all three leaders, Wilson's attitude seemed to be the least sympathetic.



He quite clearly had no time for such matters. Equally clearly, none of the three political parties will lift a finger to assist an MP to introduce a reform bill at this stage.

A lot more work needs to be done to alter the mood of the parties, and a good deal of pressure needs to be brought to bear. SMG and CHE have been trying to do this work during the election campaign, and will need to keep up the pressure once the new Parliament is sworn in.

Michael Mason

Gay Groups Challenge Politicos

MANCHESTER/SCOTLAND: The Campaign for Homosexual Equality and the Scottish Minorities Group held a joint meeting as soon as the general election was called to decide on their strategy.

Neither SMG nor CHE were under any illusion that homosexuality was going to become a major issue in the campaign — especially in an election like the present one. But both groups felt that if they were to stand any chance of pushing legislation through in the next session of Parliament, it would be a good idea to let MPs know in advance that there was some degree of interest in the country on this subject.

On the first weekend of the campaign, CHE finalised a letter to be sent out to all their members suggesting that they approach candidates in their constituencies to find out how they stood on gay law reform.

But the main activity took place through the local groups. Each group was given a questionnaire to send to local candidates, asking for their views on gay law and other related questions. Local groups were made responsible for candidates in a number of constituencies (ranging from two to twenty-seven constituencies per group). Each group was to send the questionnaire to candidates and then phone CHE Head Office in Manchester to confirm that they had sent them out. In this way, CHE covered every constituency in England and Wales.

The next step planned was for CHE to write from their Head Office to each candidate who had failed to reply by February 23rd, pointing out to him or her that there were probably 3,000 gay constituents in the

of the 1967 reform Act, to pave the way for a more effective campaign in the next Parliament.

This is really the first time that homosexuals have intervened in a general election. It is therefore more of a dry run for future elections, when more effective methods may have been devised. But it is greatly to the credit of both CHE and SMG that they have mounted their campaign at all when you consider the very short notice that was given of the election.

Focus On The Fringe

LONDON: The National Front and the Communist Party, between them, contested 98 seats in the General Election. The Communist Party had nothing to say about homosexuals as human beings, but they did speak about opposition to discrimination. The National Front position was more poignant, although its spokesman, West Bromwich East candidate, Martin Webster, is more progressive than most party members.

In fact Webster said that his opinions would probably be acceptable to those members of the National Front who are under 30 years old. Webster emphasised time and again that his party believes that the family is the basic unit, the first unit of society.

He said he didn't know "how important a priority it is" to reform the 1967 Sexual Offences Act, to lower the age of consent to 16. "If a girl is entitled to have sex with a 16-year-old boy or someone older, then it's illogical for a young homosexual to have relations with someone older . . . if a straight couple are caught in the park, penalties are different from those for a young and older homosexual couple caught in the park."



Martin Webster, National Front candidate at the West Bromwich bye-election

Penalties should be the same for everybody. Still, society is right to protect young people from seduction."

The Communists agreed with other party headquarters in considering that adult sex is a personal matter for the general public and for members of Parliament. The Party said they opposed "all forms of discrimination. And as regards the age of consent of homosexuals, this is a matter which needs discussion and consideration by responsible people in consultation with those concerned." Mr Heath couldn't have put it better.

Election Special continued on Page 4

Photograph of Jeremy Thorpe by Tom Blau (Camera Press London)

Election Special continued from Page 3

Campaign Notes

Susan Ward, Labour candidate in Kensington and Chelsea (which includes Earls Court) endorsed reform legislation proposed by both the Campaign for Homosexual Equality and the Scottish Minorities Group.

Ms Ward said she would vote for a bill to lower the homosexual age of consent to 16, and to extend to Scotland and Northern Ireland the legislation that governs in England and Wales.

"But realistically," she added, "I would have thought that there is not much chance of passage," for a private members bill. "It can be talked-out too easily by a few reactionaries. This is what happened during the last Parliament to the women's anti-discrimination bill."

The Chelsea candidate said that legislation in Britain "is at present an essential anomaly." She said the CHE and SMG bills face an uncertain future because "people are slightly afraid" of lowering the age of consent to 16, what Ms Ward referred to as "the Puritan view".

Harold Wilson's Parliamentary Private Secretary is Frank Judd, who is the standing incumbent at Portsmouth North. Judd refused to comment on either the CHE or SMG proposals.

Nor did the Conservatives' Carshalton candidate, Home Secretary, Robert Carr, care to speak about the issues to Gay News. Carr did say he would fill out the CHE questionnaire, but that some time would pass before even that could be done.



Robert Carr, Home Secretary since 1972

Leo Abse of Cardiff is standing for re-election in the Pontypool constituency. Abse, also a Labour candidate, said, "Since the time when I was able to pass the act which ended the absurd stigma of criminality for homosexuals, nearly seven years have passed. It's time now for a full review of the operation of the act in order that Parliament should be aware whether its operation is causing any unnecessary hardship or discrimination."

Michael Steed, chairman of CHE, is standing as Liberal candidate in Manchester Central.

Moving along to the Liberal incumbent who is standing at Galashiels, David Steel, we find a curious split in attitude. Mr Steel, a vice-president of SMG, said he would not support a bill to lower the age of consent to 16: "I think that is too young," he said. Predictably, he does favour extending present legislation to include Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Liberal candidate for South Aberdeen, Angus Robbie, encouraged SMG and CHE to



Angus Robbie, prospective Liberal candidate at South Aberdeen

increase their political activity. A member of SMG, he supports both the CHE and SMG bills.

Anthony Blond, a vice-president of CHE, is standing as Liberal candidate in Manchester Withenshaw constituency.

Transexuals' Hit Europe

WALSALL, STAFF: The Transexual Action Organisation (TAO) of Europe announced this week plans to form new branches in the Midlands, London and Manchester.

TAO is a 3-year-old American-born transexual liberationist movement. "Although TAO supports the goals of gay and women's liberation, it embraces the concept of a separatist movement for transexuals and transvestites," according to the official monthly publication 'Moonshadow'.

Membership in TAO is restricted to pre-operative transexuals under hormone treatment and post-operatives. But there is a Transvestite Unit for TVs and a Lesbian Unit for gay women who support the transexual liberation movement. The Mirage Unit is for non-transexuals who support TAO.

Queries should be sent SAE to Staffordshire TAO director Julia Tonner (TAO EUROPE, 51 Scrimshaw House, Pleck-Walsall WS2 9JE).

Telephone the London branch at 01-965 2520. Mail for the Manchester branch should go to 42 Harry Street, Salford 5, Manchester, or ring 061-789 8429.

Ms Tonner told Gay News that "many transexuals in Britain are apathetic because we have been conditioned by many of the doctors who will not put us in touch with each other - I should imagine it's as they don't want to confuse the different treatments prescribed by various doctors. There is a Gender Identity Clinic in London, at Charing Cross Hospital, Fulham Road, Fulham, run by Dr J B Randell. Classes include beauty counselling and speech therapy. Sex change operations are free under the National Health Service. But the waiting list is very long. At present it offers to be about one a month. Hospital costs can also be paid on a private basis and this does cut the waiting time greatly, and runs about £450-£1000.

"It's impossible to find hard and fast information on legislation and it depends mainly upon the police in the individual region as well as on the susceptibility of the transexuals involved. It's very hard to get birth certificates changed. Many transexuals are greatly put off by very heavy police persecution. But if you are living as a woman full-time and have no male clothing, there is not much they can really do. It's not necessary to register with the police or carry special identification cards, and I would personally abhor such a thing."

Ms Tonner said TAO cards are required in some parts of America and that some transexuals might appreciate the cards "as it would offer some sense of security if they are stopped by chance by the police." One American state, Alabama, recently passed a law which creates a separate statistical status for post-operative transexuals. In other words, if you've undergone a sex change there, you're a Neuter. Julia said, "some people in Britain are attempting to have a similar law passed.

"In Walsall, the police now turn their backs when I walk by as they know I will make a written complaint at the slightest provocation. But at the same time I will demand their fullest help if it is necessary, and although it is given a little half-heartedly, it is given."

BBC Air Lesbian Novel

LONDON: BBC's Book At Bedtime is currently broadcasting the story 'Well Of Loneliness'. The 17 part reading began on 21st February. BBC described the book as "a novel of forbidden love". The serial is nightly at 10.45.

SignOfTheTimes



Photograph courtesy of William Riffaugh News Service

LIVERPOOL: A reader kindly sent us this photo of Holiday Inn's welcome to the Campaign for Homosexual Equality's National Council, held recently at Liverpool (see report in GN38).

Meanwhile the local Liverpool branch of CHE has been having problems of their own in trying to find a meeting place.

The group had regularly met in the Pagoda, but it was announced that the Pagoda was to close, so they started looking elsewhere. Then news came that the Pagoda was to open from Wednesday to Sunday.

So, would the manager let them use it still? They couldn't get an answer. The hunt for new premises began.

And the hunt was successful. They are now to meet at a local coffee bar called the Gazebo (does someone up there have a kink about ornamental architecture - from a pagoda to a gazebo?).

Details for those who want to go: The Gazebo Coffee Lounge (upstairs), 21 Duke Street, Liverpool 1 (that's at the Hanover Street end of Duke Street). Meetings are held on the first Thursday and third Wednesday of every month at 8.00pm. There's a small entrance charge because of the cost of the place. But they are trying to keep it as low as possible.

GAY NEWS VACANCY

Peter Mundy is off to sample the delights of the Far East, so Gay News is urgently looking for someone to take his place. There are two parts to the job. First, you will be responsible for the sales and distribution side. This means making sure that street sales copies get out in time, and that everything goes smoothly with our distributors. Secondly, you will be responsible for selling advertising space.

Sorry, but this job is not one for the enthusiastic amateur. We badly need someone with sales experience, someone with a driving licence, but above all with a fanatical devotion to the sort of things that Gay News is trying to do. Does such a person exist? Ring us here at the paper on 01-995 1958 (or write) if you think you fit the bill. Ask to speak to Denis.

Judicial Homophobia

GOSPORT: A police prosecutor told Gosport Magistrates' Court recently that naval airman Donald McCallum had met a man in a pub and talked about homosexuality.

Twenty-seven year old McCallum, stationed at HMS Dedalus, Lee-on-Solent, was fined £60 by the Justices on his own admission of sending "indecent" written communications through the post - one containing photographs.

It has not been possible to ascertain why the Magistrates imposed such a savage fine

or took such a serious view of the posting of purely private letters, and holding an intelligent conversation in a bar.

Other cases brought before the Bench on the same day included one of serious drunken driving which resulted in a head-on collision between two cars, and a smash-and-grab raid on a local store. For these offences, fines did not exceed £50.

Magistrates take an oath to uphold justice.

R J Thomson

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Week to Week Diary

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FRIDAYS	Father Redcap, SE5

from March 15th

Full addresses for discos - see 'Anne's Guide' in Gay News

Licensed, dancing, fun, with top gay DJ Tricky Dicky

Hounslow~Still A Chance

HOUNSLOW: Chief Librarian of Hounslow, Ms Florence Green, is to ask her committee whether or not Gay News should be stocked in the borough's libraries.

When we spoke to Ms Green, she told us that her department was still smarting from wounds inflicted that morning when they had had their periodicals and books budgets slashed. "At the moment," she said, "we are looking to see what we can take off our lists rather than looking for new titles." But she said that since receiving another request for the paper, she had decided to put the whole thing before the committee.

It was put to her that the library had a statutory duty to provide the paper under the Public Libraries and Museums Act, which states that libraries must cater for both the general and special reading requirements of both adults and children. "They're very good at writing Acts of Parliament," she replied. "But we are the ones who have to carry them out." Were councils not supplying libraries with enough money to enable them to carry out their legal duties then? She had no comment to make.

The subject of Gay News was raised

informally last year. At the time apparently, the question was treated as a joke. Ms Green had to point out that she had better things to do than provide the members of the committee with light relief and that as the paper had been requested formally, such a request had to be treated seriously.

The next meeting of the library committee was due to have been held on February 28. But, as she pointed out, other things would be happening that day, and they would probably not examine the matter until April.

Meanwhile, Ms Green will be attending a meeting of all London's Chief Librarians, at which she hopes to have Gay News discussed. Some boroughs already stock the paper. She was unsure, however, what the general reaction would be to her broaching the subject. It seems that the Chief Librarians of London are a somewhat cautious and conservative group. In particular they are usually unwilling to discuss matters which fall properly within the responsibility of individual librarians, and in the end Ms Green and her committee are the ones who have to make up their minds.

A Quarterly Lunch

LONDON: Editor David Seligman announced this week that it is planned to produce Lunch, the independent gay magazine, on a quarterly basis in future. Up to now the magazine has been published monthly. The next issue is scheduled to appear in May.

Volunteer staff on the magazine are involved in an appeals campaign to assure its future. Seligman said printing costs "have virtually doubled in the last year."

He added that "if Lunch is to have an assured future, we're going to need an injection of capital. But we'll fight our damndest to keep it going."

Lunch was originally the house organ of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality, but last autumn it was taken over by its present staff, who worked hard to improve the layout and content of the magazine. Since then, Seligman said, circulation has "risen

by about 25%". The magazine is 2½ years old.

One of the problems has been to recover money from outlets which have stocked it. Without any deliberate attempt to defraud the paper, several stockists have taken many months to pay for copies sold. It would greatly help the journal's prospects if it could recover all its debts, and staff are at present trying this.

Donations would be very greatly appreciated, and they should be sent to BCM LUNCHMAG, London WC1V 6XX.

Centre For Gay Studies Envisaged

MANCHESTER: CHE boss Howarth Penny is gathering homosexual research, including theses, journal articles and texts. He says he'll publish it in book-list form, to stimulate further research.

"As a long-term plan, we should agitate for the setting up of a centre for Homosexual Studies, either in a polytechnic or a university."



The Pig and Whistle - higher prices for gays

The Price Of Being Gay

LONDON: The Pig & Whistle pub has been lining its coffers with a few extra coppers lately - at the expense of gay clientele.

The Pig & Whistle is a comfy pub in trendy Little Chester Street, behind Buckingham Palace. The place is gay from the basement to the attic every Sunday lunchtime. But with their pricing policy, one is tempted to say "stuff the Pig and Whistle off to another".

Gay News, armed with reader complaints, visited the pub on Wednesday 13th February and Sunday 17th February. The prices on Wednesday night and Sunday night for a Scotch, a pint of Harp Keg Lager and a glass of red Spanish wine were 18p, 24p and 22p respectively. But at Sunday lunchtime, the bill was hungrier: the same drinks cost 19p, 26p and 25p, even though the wine is priced at 22p on a wall-hung list. On weekdays or Sunday night, rum and coke and a pint of Tavern Special would cost you 46p at the Pig & Whistle. Sunday noon, that combination would cost you 52p. Further, no snacks are available Sunday lunchtime. (By the way, you can buy a bottle of that famous Spanish wine to take away for £1.10).

The pub is managed by Mr and Ms Ian Copeman. It's owned by Chef & Brewer Steak Houses, which is, in turn, owned by Berni Inns Ltd. Ms Copeman denied that Sunday lunchtime prices were any different from prices at any other time. When it was made clear to her that what she said was rubbish, Ms Copeman attempted an explanation: "If the prices are higher for gays, it could be because we employ casual labour, extra people to serve the large crowd. Or because they (the employees) are cheating us. We have two Irish girls specially for that day, a Dutch girl... we have increased the wage bill." She claimed that "nobody is victimising gay people".

The Chef & Brewer executive responsible for the Pig & Whistle is Peter Barrett. He was sent to the Pig & Whistle by the general manager of Chef & Brewer Steak Houses, Keith Perkins, after an initial interview with Gay News.

Mr Barrett at first denied that there was any difference in price because "that's against company policy." But his voice grew weaker and the flow of words diminished as the interview progressed. He was given chapter and verse by the reporter who went there: "Prices at the bars have been and are jacked up when the pub is gay."

"I can only apologise," Barrett said, "and say that this will not be the case in future. It is not our policy to alter prices like this. We have meetings with management regularly. And we will discuss this, it will not happen again."

Not long after Barrett called in his explanation, Mr Perkins rang up the newspaper to emphasise the company's position.

"I can assure you that this situation will be corrected," Perkins said. He went on to point out that Chef & Brewer Steak Houses provided many services and that gay organisations were welcome to use them. But back on the track: Perkins went to some trouble to make clear that Barrett was sent to the Pig & Whistle, and was on the scene to straighten out the racket.

We'll see.



Chef & Brewer Steak Houses

Switchboard Benefit Changes Venue

LONDON: North London Poly's Gaysoc benefit disco for the Gay Switchboard is still to take place on March 7th - but at a new location.

New venue is Ladbroke House, Highbury Grove, London N5. The nearest tube is Highbury and Islington, and buses 4 and 19

will take you there.

The disco starts at 8.00pm and it only costs 25p to get in. All profits go to the switchboard, so let's hope it turns out a really successful evening for everyone. See you there.

Gay Students March

LONDON: Gay students turned out on February 8th to support their union's demands for fair grants. Over 20,000 people took part in the National Union of Students demonstration, the largest turn-out the union has ever mustered. The gay contingent carried placards pledging their support to the campaign in general and to the demands being made for a fair deal for women in particular.



Photograph: Carl Hill



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Habeas Corpus In Drag



Photograph: London Express News & Features Service

LONDON: If you don't recognise the lady pictured above, look again. Under the make-up and costume lurks Alan Bennett of 'Beyond The Fringe' fame. He is to take over as a char-lady in his West-End success *Habeas Corpus*. The six-foot author is not too certain how convincing a woman he makes. He thinks his knees give him away. Star of the play, Alec Guinness, is handing over his role to Robert Hardy.

Gay Lib Office

LONDON: Just to put the record straight, we didn't make it clear, when we reported that the Gay Lib office at 5 Caledonian Road was to close to personal callers, that any letters sent to Gay Lib at this address will still get through to the right people. So you can keep on writing to Gay Liberation Front, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1.

When the Gay Switchboard opens, it will be able to put you in touch with GLF if you have queries that the switchboard can't answer itself.

Photograph of Lulu courtesy of Polydor Records

...And Everywhere That Lulu Goes

LONDON: So Lulu is back in the charts again, and with a David Bowie song, 'The Man Who Sold The World'. David produced the record. "I think the public see him as a strange figure," Lulu told the Evening Standard's Michael Wale. "In fact he is very manly. I find him very masculine. He has a beautiful face."

Michael Wale brought up the subject of "sexually willing young ladies, known universally as groupies" who hang around male groups and singers. There didn't seem to be a male equivalent, he suggested, but he thought that female singers had a particular attraction for gay men. Lulu agreed. "The same guys often come to the shows on different nights. They throw bunches of flowers on stage. Some of them are certainly homosexual."

"How do I feel about it? No, I don't prefer heterosexual guys to homosexuals coming to my shows. The fascinating thing about homosexual guys is that they notice everything about your clothes and your hair-do. It's fascinating to talk to them, they're always a laugh."

What about lesbians? Do they flock to her concerts?

"I haven't come across many lesbians, no, not many of that sort at all."



Oh! what a Lulu

Initials

by Dr B St-John Nevill

In these days of initials such as ASLEF, NUR, NUJ (which I recently heard pronounced "nudge" by a North London journalist), NUT, NUS, BMA and GLF (not, as one old lady believed, the Greater London Freemasons) it will come as no surprise to find that we have another set of initials to learn: NCEGRC.

You would be right to assume that 'N' stands for national. It generally does. In full, it stands for National Colleges of Education Gay Rights Committee.

NCEGRC is a gay organisation aimed at helping the student teacher. It campaigns on their behalf and also tries to deal with the problem of sex education in schools which all too often ignore any form of sexuality considered 'deviant'.

It is a truism that many gays find it difficult to tell their colleagues they are homosexual. Unfortunately, it will be some years before people in general will accept their friends' and workmates' homosexuality.

That is why such organisations as CHE, GLF and Gay News are doing such wonderful work.

Now, a new organisation has joined the fight against ignorance and prejudice.

They are prepared to face the facts, and the facts are that some professional people have the hardest battle of acceptance to fight.

For example, clergy of all denominations, doctors of medicine, and the most maligned example of all - schoolteachers. . .

Gayness in schoolteachers produces almost more bigotry, generalisation, gossip and stupidity than the most virulent form of anti-semitism.

An unmarried master who takes a particular interest in a boy, or boys aged around 16 is immediately suspect. If the same man were to take an interest in a female pupil of the same age, then there are sly winks from his colleagues and cracks like: "You're OK with that one. What a figure!"

It's the same story to a lesser extent for our gay sisters, but one never seems to hear of lesbian relationships ending up in courts, and the inevitable News of the World.

But once one begins to generalise, one could (to misquote William Gilbert) "... go on like that forever."

Most of the fear about gay teachers stems from old wives' tales.

Why do the public assume that if a schoolteacher is homosexual, then the concomitant of that is that he is a pederast, that he is dangerous with a capital 'D', and that he should be prosecuted and gaoled?

With those sobering thoughts in mind, NCEGRC was born. Its parents? Two student teachers: David Dancer and Andrew Eastwood.

They met each other in Manchester in August last year to discuss the possibility of setting up a committee to promote the interests of gay student teachers, and to deal with the problem of sex education in schools.

A National Union of Students' conference held in September, passed a motion mandating help from their executive to NCEGRC.

During the conference, a mature woman student at an RC college of education in Liverpool approached Andrew who was running a bookstall set up by NCEGRC.

The woman explained that she had been advised to look at some of the material on the bookstall to get herself informed.

After she had picked up, and put down - condemning both - a Lesbian magazine and Gay News, she said: "To be quite frank, we

don't want any queers teaching our children about sex, because they can only teach a perverted view of sex."

Andrew then tried to reason with her, using every argument he knew. He even mentioned the British Medical Association's new pamphlet, which gives gay teachers a favourable mention, and the woman laughed aloud when he read it.

She told him: "Scotland Yard has files and files to show homosexuals commit more offences against children than heterosexuals."

In the end, the woman agreed that logical argument would not change her opinion.

Yet the motion was passed with no dissenting voice; the woman remained silent.

A larger committee was set up. This time it jumped from two to 12 with Andrew and David asked to stay on as joint co-ordinators.

Since the birth of their 'infant', Andrew has accepted the responsibility of liaising with all kinds of organisations from CHE to GLF; from the Scottish Minorities Group to the Education Group of CHE.

David Dancer has undertaken the liaison with the NUS and has written hundreds of letters to such people as NUS executives, gay societies in colleges and universities - and even to the Gay Librarian's Group.

The committee's biggest worries are the inconsistencies from one college to another. For example, some colleges have made it clear that their gay students have nothing to fear; on the other hand, there is evidence that other colleges have threatened their gay students with expulsion.

But the committee believes the situation is easing and that in the majority of cases, gay students who have 'come out' are being treated no differently than their heterosexual counterparts.

The committee also believes they are at the beginning of something exciting in the field of education; they insist the pressure must be kept up.

NCEGRC is new, and like a new baby it needs help; some students are afraid to write and tell their experiences or to ask for help. . .

If YOU are a student teacher, or a student anywhere else for that matter, NCEGRC wants to hear from you.

The oldest trade union argument in the world sums up the situation: Unity is Strength.

Write to:
National Colleges of Education Gay Rights Committee (or NCEGRC for short),
c/o National Union of Students
3 Ensieigh Street,
London.

NCEGRC promises you will get a reply.

Dr Nevill who is 29 is a journalist and TV producer. He was at one time a TV interviewer, and interviewed everyone from The Beatles and Rolling Stones to Sybil Thorn-dike! He has spoken to about 40 CHE and similar organisations on: "The Attitude of the Press and Media to Minority Groups". He is London-based.

"If civic rights is your farthest perspective, then CHE with its friends in high places is better equipped to safeguard them."

David Fernbach in Lunch.

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David Fernbach in Lunch.

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G100

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Cheque/PO for £2.00 enclosed.

When you join you can enrol for the CHE Malvern Conference, spring holiday, May 24-27.

Ramsgate: The Last Episode

FARNHAM: The sensational Ramsgate Christmas holiday whitewash is finished! The skeletons have been flushed out of the closet and . . . SHOCK . . . money refunded.

Last week the final £15 was refunded to Gay News readers who responded to an advertisement for a holiday at a Ramsgate Hotel. The cheques were accompanied by a note from Peter Bolton, who organised the holiday from his restaurant here. His plans to buy the Ramsgate Hotel collapsed just before Christmas. And when reservations were not cancelled and deposits not refunded, complaints were made to Gay News about a naughty hoax.

Bolton said in his note that the holiday was foiled by "unforeseen circumstances". And he apologised.

Bolton and his colleagues tried for a month to evade questions, and to divert, confuse and dilute the damning questions which emanated from readers. The refund clincher was a reader's attempt to start a police investigation, a continued barrage of questions by Gay News, and letters to local police with copy to Bolton. The result was a surprise personal interview with Bolton, who had for four weeks spoken through an intermediary: "I promise to refund all the money seven days from this date (Tuesday 12th February)". The refunds were received on Tuesday 19th February.

The Thil



Apology

Ian Dunn wishes to apologise to the manager of the Kenilworth Pub, Rose Street, Edinburgh, for a possible assertion that the manager might be gay. (See article this issue page 20.)

EDITOR'S NOTE: *TERENCE* is a young man in the terminal stages of a psychosexual identity crisis. This highly confidential letter to him from **BOB STURGESS** was found by a hawk-eyed Gay News reporter in the gutter of Chiswick High Road. After ironing it and brushing away the mud, we painstakingly pieced together the following account of what goes on behind the scenes of one of this country's leading homophile organisations. The letter's omissions are significant and its ambivalence leaves much — by no means all — to the imagination.

Our lawyers have advised us that publication of this letter could involve us in substantial libel damages which, at 10%, would keep **BOB** in Pierre Cardin shirts for the rest of his life (which may be presumed to last into the second decade of the 21st century). We were further advised, in the event of publication, to state (as we do) that we have no grounds to suppose that this letter was written from anything but the most disinterested concern for *TERENCE's* purely psychological wellbeing.

After due collective consideration, Gay News decided, in the interests of its readers and in pursuance of its unrelenting search after truth, to publish and be damned.

Strictly Private

Dear Terence,

I'll come straight out with it; I'm very cross with you. Half an hour I waited for you outside Regents Park tube station with the east wind blowing right through my very thin (but sexy) Pierre Cardin shirt, and people coming up to me for a light, and pressing themselves upon me in the most delicious way, when I asked them if their first name was Terence. If I hadn't felt that you needed rescuing from yourself, I would have gone off with one of them after the first ten minutes to discuss Andy Warhol's aesthetic criteria.

Oh Terry, forgive me. Please. I take it all back. Your letter has just arrived. (It's just as well, as I had been about to say that your fear of losing your identity was no excuse for failing to keep an appointment.)

I can't understand how my first letter to you could conceivably have appeared in print. I didn't show it to a soul (apart, that is, from a few intimates). Of course it wasn't meant for publication; it was intended for YOU and your dear eyes alone — as is this one. How could you think otherwise? Once we've met, you won't.

Do try to forgive me, Terry. Let me make up by guaranteeing that no line — no word — of this letter, at least, will be seen by anyone but you; excepting, of course, my secretary, who is the very soul — and body, bless him — of discretion. Which is not to say that he doesn't blurt out things occasionally but then, we all do, don't we? After all, one of the points of belonging to a Movement like ours is that you can put up your hair and unbutton; a little teatime character-assassination never did anyone any harm, and gossip titbits are as much grist to our mill as was china-clay to Stafford.

Actually, it's something we're frightfully good at, and it has a high place on the (unofficial) agendas of important meetings and conferences, particularly at national level, binding us all together in lovely warm waves of inter-personal vituperation. And, in the gay clubs and bars, we don't talk about the economic situation, or whether the £ would have floated better if it had been made of expanded polystyrene. No, no, we talk about being in glove (gay love); we talk about ourselves, about the rough male kiss of blankets and about the peculiar way Sebastian relates — or, hopefully, doesn't relate — to Jo. With us, gossip has become one of the country's few remaining cottage industries that is happy to fill its Saturday night quota, without any prodding from behind by the Prime Minister.

Warm-blooded Fraternity

And one of the spin-offs from this terrific cohesion, dear Terry, is that we know, mirror image-wise, exactly what everyone is thinking about us; everything (literally) that Roger says about me — or Rudi or Felicity — is fed back to us within hours. Rather beautiful, don't you think? No fear of losing your identity once you're in with us, Terry; and if you've lost it beforehand, we'll give you another one.

Do you begin to see the advantages of entering our warm-blooded fraternity? It's true that the very few straights, who have actual contact with us as a body, tend to have rather distorted views about us (using joyful little epithets like: "ghetto-like", "inbred" and "hothouse"), but we don't see it; and, even if the rich socio-sexual soil, that we tend and fertilise so lovingly, does produce the flamboyantly high growth rate referred to above, it's better than their jaded nuclear set-ups. Well, isn't it?

The trouble, you see, with the tired old 'family unit' stereotype, is that it puts them all into little boxes and makes them so isolated, and they all get wildly neurotic, keeping themselves unto themselves all the time in those brutalised shivery little semis

down the Uxbridge Road. What do these pale, love-starved hets know of the joys of brotherhood and glowing communion offered by our Movement? (The reason they have so little to do with us is because they know what they're missing, and don't want it rubbed in). With our brothers and sisters all around us, what do we want with that whole doom-ridden paraphernalia of in-laws, divorce settlements and quick-clean nappies?

You ask about our structure. To be honest, I'm rather hazy about it, but so are a lot of other people. However, you won't go far wrong if you remember that the key words here are 'intra-cellular' (like the blankets that need all those holes to breathe through — and 'horizontal'. So if anyone asks about our structure, you just say: 'intra-cellular horizontal' and you won't be a million light-years from the truth. (I can't answer, of course, for your cryptograms, but the way I remember it is by picturing myself lying down with a fellow member under a breathing blanket.)

The Feminine Element

After our structure, the vital thing to remember is that we are all AT WAR. We have our own banners, our own badges and, when we're moving somewhere *en masse* in the Downing Street area, we don't just walk, we MARCH — not in so many words, you understand, but we do give the distinct impression of bringing all our left feet down together. And the women march with us and think nothing of handing out leaflets and telling over-flirtatious straights where they get off. I don't know where our image would be without the feminine element; our gals are tremendous fellers.

And don't think that we speak with our feet. Every other Sunday sees us foregathered at Speaker's Corner to see the crisp prejudice-smogged air cleft by the oratory of our Jackie Forsters and our Vivian Waldrons, implicitly demonstrating, in every telling apostrophe, how much more we have upstairs (and at first floor level too, come to that) than all those unliberated, sheeplike 'straights'. Picture us standing there among them — with upper lips as stiff as you like — within easy cruising distance of the spot where all those hapless buggers were hanged at Tyburn for being just that.

Things are a-stirring, Terry, make no mistake. Gone is the era when a treetop sparrow could look down and view the world in simplistic heterosexual terms. It's queer how the 1967 Act has given us Identity. We're on the move, Terry. Being at war gives us a terrific sense of purpose; we all know — officially at least — exactly where we're going. And those who didn't before, jolly well do now. By God, they do.

And we never stop. Ceaselessly, we parade our combined might to roll back the tide of ignorance and ostracism. We're in and out of Parliament, beavering strenuously away, under Mother's skirt, at the climate of opinion; lobbying MPs, gnat-biting democracy's Gulliver into further Private Member activity. You name it, we're in there doing it.

Nor do we stop at Parliament. The great publishing houses, too, have felt our sting. We're against amateur sexologists, for instance, and if the name 'Reuben' has inadvertently become known in every household, and his non-book become a best-seller, it's because of us; it's hardly our fault if he hasn't seen fit to donate the extra royalties, arising from all this free publicity, to our Premises Fund. Nor are we dazzled by Authority or Big Names, since our iconoclasm is VIP-proof. If we think we're right (which we know we are), we think nothing of telling everyone — from top magistrates to Jimmy (Speakeasy) Savile — not only where to get off, but when.

And now, dear Terry, the bread is beginning to come back on the waters, and we're at last being taken as a Force To Be Reckoned With. Why join the Regular Army when you can join us? We won't send you to Northern Ireland.

Support From The Rear

As an aid to mutual recognition (very necessary in hostile territory), we wear tiny pins in our lapels, which tell total strangers all about us, without letting on to anyone else. For gay myopes in the higher dioptric ranges, we have bigger badges, which can be seen at more than six inches and which sort of spell things out. Predictably, it is the larger version that has proved the more popular, as most gays shun glasses like the clap and often have the greatest difficulty, even at close range, in making out their neighbour's features, let alone his sartorial accoutrements. (Rumour has it that a high-powered sub-committee has just been forced to design a luminous battery-powered badge that gives a friendly shine at night, which is when we mostly operate). Since most gay establishments make a fetish of keeping down their electricity bills to single figures — if I may put it thus — people have landed up with the most improbable bedfellows, and sometimes found the British Dream turning into a British Nightmare. (One theatrical gentleman, who claimed, with the aid of a strategic spotlight, a wig and Leichner No 2 — to be 'in his early thirties', turned out, on closer inspection the following morning, to be in his late sixties; and that is not apocryphal).

Which brings me to the underside of the underneath. As you will appreciate, no campaign ever got off the ground without support from the rear; and I'm happy to report that what we have going for us behind gives us all a terrific boost. We split, divide and multiply, you see, and all these secret places are united by a fabulous communications network called the 'underground press' (part of which, at one stage, functioned from the top floor of one of the highest buildings in Paddington).

But even with such help, we couldn't keep up our head of steam unless we all gave each other lots of mutual support behind the scenes, just like those gorgeous, virile Spartans did in their battle tents. Like them, we awake refreshed from each other's navels and go forth to greet the New Dawn

from mattresses and waterbeds stretching from Hanger Lane to Dagenham East and from Burnt Oak to Tooting Broadway.

Our policy has always been to press forward regardless. Our tactics approximate most closely to the Scatter Principle of that great military strategist, Wunderknaber, who was gay himself, and whose consistently high pick-up scores so clearly demonstrated the superiority of the shotgun over the single-bullet rifle school. True, even the widest-ranging libido has its little setbacks, but the Keynesian gloss on the Law of Diminishing Returns is no stranger to us, and we've quickly learnt to cut our losses, pull out and concentrate on other Y-fronts. All we need now, to legitimise our state of military preparedness, is a licence from the War Office; but, if the bastards refuse it, we will be GLAD to remain illegitimate — and we'll barrack them until they relent. Why should we suffer from their hang-ups?

Friendly Whaling Boat

Believe it or not, all this terrific activity is directed towards helping YOU! Underlying our war effort, you see, is a very serious social purpose. Our social — as distinct from our political — aim is to pull in from the cold as many isolated lonely homosexuals like you as possible. A helpful image to me personally is to picture the Movement as a friendly whaling boat in wintry North Sea waters, dropping gaily coloured life-belts over the side to all the miserable people battling manfully against the elements to achieve their Identity. I've forgotten exactly how many isolated lonely homosexuals we landed last year, but it must have run into many hundreds of both sexes. Once they find their feet with us, they become different people; they open right out in the high-speed warmth of our good fellowship, and respond so beautifully. It's thrilling to watch; you really feel you're rising to the Challenge and putting in your tuppence-worth for a Better and Cleaner Britain.

You mention in your letter (Page 31) certain reservations about joining a homophile group (spelt, by the way, with a 'ph', not an 'f'). Well, I've news for you; you can dismiss them. Forget them. We have all sorts of exciting ways of dealing with your hang-ups (because that's what they are, even though you don't realise it) and, once you're in with us, we'll take them off you.

You say your grandma would 'drop dead' if she knew. Now, you've got to be realistic about this, Terry. According to Kinsey, everyone's grandma will drop dead eventually, irrespective of their knowledge of their grandchildren's sexual proclivities. No, what you're doing unconsciously, is preventing her from coming out; now that's cruel, Terry. Do you want her to die unliberated? The real Terry doesn't; it's the hung-up side of Terry that wants to keep her under wraps — and we specialise, remember, in taking wraps off people. (Are you beginning to see how joining the Movement will solve all your problems?) As it happens, we have a high-powered sub-committee working on grandmothers at this very moment. Just give us her telephone number, and she'll find herself invited to a chummy coming-out tea at Fortnums, guaranteed bomb-free, where the news will be broken to her gently, and she'll take the whole thing lying down, with a cream bun up her dentures. No-one ever drops dead at Fortnums.

Now, Terry dearest, I quite accept that you may not be the warrior type at all, and no blame attaches to you for that, since many young men of military age find quite legitimate fulfilment in more domestic pursuits, away from the hazards of the front line. It may be that you cook the most delicious lobster bisque, or that you have a way with cauliflower-au-gratin. Or it may be that the summit of your ambition is to send your lover out to the trenches in a warm glow of sexual and gastronomic euphoria. The Movement welcomes all forms of support — whether moral, amorous or culinary — and it would be a rash man (or woman, God bless her) who would deny that the Battle of Britain was won as much on the sheets of Earls Court as on the air-strips of Biggin Hill; bombs couldn't have been the only things those gorgeous young fighter pilots unloaded. (When speaking to groups, I often make this point, and it always goes down frightfully well).

Well, I've done my humble best to give you a factual account of the Movement and the way we run ourselves and each other. Although I haven't submitted it to Headquarters for official clearance, you can take it as a fair and accurate assessment of the state of play; and if anyone should dispute it, always remember, it's THEIR HANG-UP. I'll leave it till after we've met to decide how you can best contribute to the Movement; it's far better to pend any hard decision until after we've got the feel of each other, don't you agree?

You never told me your age, Terry dearest — or your views on David Bowie's aesthetic criteria. Let me know both in your next letter. Writing as openly as you do is very therapeutic, by the way.

Take care, and remember that glove knoweth no laws.



Here We Are Again

A friend suggested the other day that this column should be renamed "disaster corner". He spoke too soon though, because amazingly, GN has managed to survive a whole fortnight without one major set-back or any minor catastrophes. In fact, the situation's even bright, as one thoughtful person gave us a couple of Calor gas lamps. Many thanks Bill, they help enormously to combat our limited use of electricity.

Wanted: Your Contributions

May we remind you that it is an on-going part of GN's editorial policy to make space available for material sent in by readers and gay organisations. If you have written any gay orientated articles you would like to appear in print, please let us see them. Invited also are contributions from cartoonists and short-story writers, although we must ask that the latter be no longer than 2000 - 3000 words. Fiction is particularly welcome if it is relevant to gay life and not the average fantasy and/or tear-stained prose usually found in gay publications. And gay poets may be interested to know that we intend to publish considerably more readers' poetry than we have in the past.

So let's have your contributions. It is important to note though, that you should always keep a copy of anything you send in and if you want your manuscripts or cartoons returned, a stamped addressed envelope should be enclosed. And, like any other journal, the decision to publish rests with the editor.

Help Us To Help You

Lack of space forces us to omit information about gay organisations and groups. As it is likely that this problem will occur every few issues, we have decided to have lists printed which will contain all the info that we try to run in the paper, including details of gay social facilities ('Anne's Guide'). These will be available by post from GN.

A small charge will be made to cover our costs.

The copy deadline for the first edition is April 5, so will all readers and gay organisations etc, please co-operate with us and confirm (by letter only) that all the information appearing in issues of GN before that date is correct. It is also an ideal time to send in details of the many gay pubs and clubs etc that don't yet appear in 'Anne's Guide'. The success of this project is entirely up to YOU.

Street Boy

In the GN Mail Order advertisement in the last issue, it was incorrectly stated that the price of Street Boy - Swinging London was £3.50. It is in fact only £3 and any reader who sent off for a copy at that price will be receiving a credit note for 55p - the extra 5p is for the excess postage paid.

Doing It In Verse

The credit line for The Male Muse, reviewed by Roger Baker in GN40 under the heading 'Doing It In Verse', was inadvertently left off from the beginning of the article. It should have been stated that the book is an anthology of gay poetry, edited by Ian Young and published by The Crossing Press, New York. It is not generally available in Britain, but copies are being imported by GN and can be ordered from our Mail Order Service, price £2 plus 10% p&p.

Dates & Deadlines

The next issue of Gay News (GN42) will be published and available on the 14th March. Details of advertising deadlines and copy dates for that edition can be found under the credits section at the bottom of this page, and at the beginning of the Personal Ads columns on Page 17. It is important to refer to these dates to avoid disappointment, as they will be strictly adhered to because of printing schedules.

Denis Lemon

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.

Malvern To Hear Leading Light

LONDON: Nigel Goodwin, ex-actor and leading evangelist with The Festival Of Light, has accepted an invitation to speak at the 1974 conference of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality.

The conference is 24th-26th May at Malvern.

CHE said that Goodwin will join a Sunday night panel for discussion entitled "The Homosexual In Society". Goodwin was invited, according to a CHE spokesman, to present a viewpoint that may be unacceptable to homosexuals.

International concert pianist, Peter Katin, a CHE vice-president, will perform in the afternoon.

Troubled Water



THIS column is devised as a means of offering help, advice or information on problems relating to homosexuality. The letters are handled by Icebreakers, a team set up to man a telephone service, whereby isolated or unhappy gays can ring up any evening and discuss their difficulties, directly, with other gay people. The main characteristics of Icebreakers are that all its members are openly gay, have come to terms with their gayness, take no sort of authoritarian approach and the outfit is not related to any gay organisation - the entire range of gay groups, services and outlets is used. Strict confidence for letters and telephone calls is assured. The number is 01-274 9590, every evening between 7.30 and 10.30. All sexes are welcome to use this service.

The letters published in this column are selected from the many received each week. Every correspondent receives a personal reply as soon as possible; both letters and replies published may have been edited slightly. Unless specifically mentioned in the column, we cannot forward letters from readers to the writers who present their problems.

Send your letters to Dept TW, Gay News, 62a Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY.

Growing Up Gay

I go to a boarding school where, as far as makes any difference, I might as well be the only gay out of 300 girls. After a never-to-be-repeated set of circumstances led to a chance meeting with a third former who I knew by (bad) reputation, I find myself obsessed by her. I'm not trying to cradle snatch, there are only one or two years between us. I wrote to her anonymously and she replied at once saying she would meet me, but she either doesn't turn up or has a friend with her. Can you make any suggestions please, and let me know as quickly as possible before I do something even sillier.

Name and address withheld by request

— It can be very painful growing up gay. Quite honestly it would be better not to do anything further unless you can really get to know the girl and talk to her about it. After all, as far as we can gather, you don't even know if she is gay herself; and even if she is, if she has this reputation as a trouble-making junior, she might behave very mischievously. The one thing that really seems to be working in your favour is that you appear to have a very positive attitude towards homosexuality. It can't be very long now before you leave school, and most colleges and universities now have Gay Rights groups or GLF groups, in which very often the leading members are women. Or, if you ever come to London, there are lots of places where gay women meet - clubs, pubs, Sappho, Gay Women's Liberation etc.

Faulty Speech

I have a slight stammer in my speech, not a bad one, but a stammer nevertheless. This I find very annoying when I meet people in gay places, although people tend to be good about it. Whenever I try to form a relationship with anyone, I feel sure that my speech is my downfall. I am 20 this year, and the prospect of facing the rest of my life being unable to speak properly is really quite disturbing. Are there more gays with the same problem? Have you any suggestions as to how I can overcome this fault of mine, or how I can come to live with it?

David, SE5

— First of all you must see the problem of your stammer as a purely physical thing, unrelated to being gay. There is no reason why a stammer (and you say yours is slight) cannot be corrected by simple speech therapy. We think you should go along to your doctor and ask him to put you in touch with such a clinic. You do not say whether you have tried this, but if you haven't then do. It is possible) and this is only a conjecture - that the tension of gay places makes you perhaps more aware of your stammer than you might otherwise be, and maybe makes it worse. If you have noticed this, then it would be a good idea to go along to one of the gay organisations, like CHE or Challenge, where the meetings are friendly and untense, so you would find them relaxing.

Making A Start

I have only in the past few months come to terms with the fact that I am gay. This, of course, in itself, presents no problems; making contact with similar people however, does. I don't know any gay people and although not shy, I just could not walk into a gay bar, club or meeting by myself. Do I have to carry on a frustrated, wasted life... how can I get into the right circles? I ask this not in self pity, but in the hope that you may be able to advise me, or put me in touch with someone who would understand.

T P, Brighton

— We agree that walking cold into a gay place taxes the nerves of even the most experienced gays sometimes, and felt that this reader would have no

difficulty in finding his feet in the gay world once he had a little experience of it. He was given the names and telephone numbers of the Brighton contacts for CHE and Sussex GLF, both organisations being prepared to establish initial one-to-one encounters with new gays.

Finding Mr Right

I am a member of the local CHE group and go as often as I can if I have the time available and I can afford to part with a bit of money. I have a house, but it looks as though it will be demolished in two years or so, and for this reason I would be happy to move to another house which it would be worth spending a sum of money on to make it a good home. I have two people as lodgers, but they are both heterosexual men. I would feel so much happier if I could settle down with a quiet gay person who could help me form a new home. I have answered probably hundreds of advertisements without success. It turns out that as soon as they discover where I live, they don't want to know any more. I am a quiet type of person, not specially struck on the idea of a great deal of radio and television, although I can enjoy an outing to a musical concert now and again. I would be glad if you know of what positive steps I could take to make a fresh start, and if and how I could contact just the right person to share life and home together.

Name and address withheld by request

— It is frankly impossible to offer you some formula for meeting the right person to share your home and life. All any of us can do is to make use of every opportunity that presents itself for mixing with and meeting other gay people - and this you seem to be doing by attending CHE meetings. Placing and answering ads is often disappointing, but if you specify exactly where you live and what your main interests are, then only people who relate to these things should answer. Your comments on your house and living situation are a little vague, but if the house is yours to sell why don't you find a new place and move? This would give you a tremendous incentive to start life afresh and it often happens that when you actually stop looking so hard for the perfect partner, quite often someone comes along. A high degree of self-sufficiency is a great asset, and many people have found that having a few close and loved friends is sometimes preferable to investing yourself entirely in one person, or wasting life unable to do anything until this right person comes along. This would, of course, be a very personal decision; we mention it to indicate that there are other ways of handling the situation.

Gay Soccer

PORTSMOUTH: Since the licences of the Balmoral Public House, Portsmouth have kindly permitted sales of Gay News in the bar, several amusing incidents have occurred.

Latest giggle was a request for a copy of the paper from a slightly inebriated straight patron, who, on observing newspapers being sold, had a pressing desire to see the football scores! Result: hilarity all round.

R J Thomson

GAY NEWS

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

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Publication/Ad Deadlines & Copy Dates for GN42
Copy, Information etc - Saturday, March 2.
Letters and Display (camera ready artwork),
Personal & Classified Advertising, etc - Noon
Monday March 4.
Gay News No 42 is published on March 14

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Gay News is distributed throughout the UK by Moore Harness Ltd, 31 Corsica Street, London N5
Tel: 01-359 4127

Printed by F.I. Litho Ltd, 182 Pentonville Road, London N1.

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

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The Fool of Fonthill: Rich, Gay, And Merrie In Perilous Times

by Rictor Norton

With enormous wealth as his Aladdin's lamp, William Beckford (1760-1844) decided to make his Arabian dreams come true.

Before he died at the venerable age of 84, he had built the tallest tower in England, had assembled a harem of boys, like Yukio Mishima, had his own militia to protect his Fonthill Abbey estate of 6000 acres, had written the first Oriental-Gothic horror story in English literature, and had become the most scandalous connoisseur of hedonism in the world.

His society bemusedly tolerated most eccentrics, but they chose to ostracise this remarkable personality, dubbing him 'The Fool of Fonthill'.

Beckford's father was the richest man in England, with extensive holdings in the cloth industry, property, government bonds, and the West Indies slave trade. As a result, Beckford received a brilliant education with wide learning in French, Latin, Greek, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, philosophy, law, literature and physics by the age of 17. His private piano teacher was Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

He was being brought up as an empire builder, but his father died when Beckford was only 10, leaving him with no political ambition and a millionaire's taste for pleasure.

"Kitty" Courtenay

But even money cannot stop the mouths of gossip-mongers. When this self-styled caliph was 19, he fell in love with William

Courtenay, then 10 years old and regarded as one of the most beautiful boys in England. Beckford took Courtenay's aunt as his mistress as an excuse to be near Courtenay. Beckford and Courtenay saw each other frequently between Fonthill Abbey and Powderham Castle, Courtenay's home, for about six peaceful years.

But then, in 1784, a visitor to Powderham



William Beckford, aged about 40, by Hoppner

heard some "strange goings-on" in Courtenay's bedroom, with Beckford apparently in bed with the lad, and soon the newspapers started circulating rumours about the country squire and his beloved "Kitty", as the beautiful Courtenay was effeminately dubbed.

Most men would have fled immediately to the Continent, but (this time at least) Beckford braved out the storm. No criminal charges were filed, and King George III, who personally wished that Beckford could have been hanged, merely revoked Beckford's application for peerage.

Beckford and Courtenay were forced to separate to avoid further reprisal. Beckford finally went abroad, where he remained for the next 10 years, followed by an entourage so magnificent that during his travels he was often mistaken for the Emperor of Austria. Courtenay, now a Lord, secluded himself at Powderham, which he inherited after his father's death.

Courtenay, who had probably seduced the older Beckford, was exclusively gay and didn't care to hide it. In 1811, more charges were brought, this time official and against him rather than Beckford, so Courtenay fled to France, changed his name and lived in obscurity until his death 24 years later.

A Poor Honest Sodomite

Meanwhile, Beckford returned to England and shielded himself behind a 15-mile long, 12 foot high wall topped by iron spikes, surrounding his estate. He imported a dwarf from Portugal to be his doorkeeper, an abbé from France as spiritual adviser and lover, a physician from Italy as bodily adviser and lover, and a harem of Italian boy-servants for diversion. They had nicknames like Doll, Bijou, the Monkey, the Calf and the Turk. His favourite was 'Mademoiselle Bion', his pet name for a boy named Richardson. There was a brief and again scandalous, infatuation with Saunders, the most famous boy-acrobat of the day, regarded as a child prodigy.

Rumours abounded concerning wild orgies of the caliph and his harem, but we'll never know for certain how Beckford spent his days and nights, for very few visitors were

ever permitted beyond the 38 foot high doors guarding the entrance to the cathedral he called home.

Probably everything was quite innocent -- the ordinary revels of a wealthy man who was as interested in collecting antique *objets d'art* as fawn-youths. His great goal in life was to build a monument to his whimsical imagination. He hired the best architect in England to change Fonthill Abbey into a Gothic cathedral with the tallest tower in England, higher than that of Salisbury Cathedral.

A true medieval cathedral cannot be built in less than a century, so the architect met the rigorous timetable by cheating on materials and methods. As a result, the tower collapsed six times, each time being built with even more fantastic awkwardness. Beckford's only real grief was that he was never on the scene to witness the awesome spectacle of each tumble.

In 1810 occurred the infamous Vere Street Scandal, in which a boy-brothel was raided and many noblemen were imprisoned or had to leave the country. Beckford viewed "this sorry sequence of events", which culminated in the execution of John Egerton in 1816, upon which Beckford wrote, "Tomorrow they are going to hang a poor honest sodomite. I should like to know what kind of deity they fancy they are placating with these shocking human sacrifices."

Beckford periodically left England during these troubled years, visiting the gay subcultures of Venice, Paris and Naples, an uncaptured honest sodomite.

Caliph Vathek

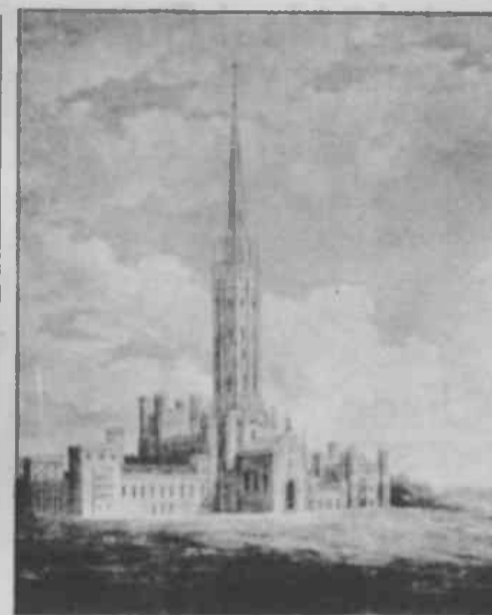
Beckford had become equally notorious for his novel *The History Of The Caliph Vathek*, published in 1786. Several unsuccessful attempts were made to suppress this thinly veiled fantasy-autobiography, a superb satire upon the human follies of the day, his own as well as his neighbours. Beckford portrays himself in his wickedest colours as the villainous Vathek, a caliph who is satiated with sensual pleasures and builds a tower so he can penetrate the forbidden secrets of heaven itself.

Prince Gulchenrouz, modelled upon Courtenay, "the most delicate and lovely creature in the world," is beloved by Princess Nouronihar, modelled upon Courtenay's aunt Lady Loughborough. Gulchenrouz periodically puts on her dresses, allowing for many a gay jest.

The most delightful character is Princess Carathis, based on Beckford's mother, a witch who's always mixing the powder of Egyptian mummies with frogs' warts, and running up and down the palace casting evil spells. She is finally swept away by a whirlwind, to spin around forever. The palace, of course, is modelled on Fonthill Abbey.

Vathek, in his insane jealousy, murders both Bouronihar and Gulchenrouz, but Gulchenrouz ascends straight to heaven to live in perpetual childhood with a bevy of boy-hours. Vathek goes on to sacrifice fifty lovely lads: "The fifty competitors were soon stripped and presented to the admiration of the spectators the suppleness and grace of their delicate limbs... At intervals they nimbly started from each other for the sake of being caught again and mutually imparting a thousand caresses." They are pushed over a cliff one by one, but are rescued by a magic genie and taken to join Gulchenrouz in his merry sports. Vathek finally ends up in hell, "wandering in an eternity of anguish" for his venture into 18th century S&M.

The deliberately decadent style of the novel -- an elaborate construction of refined sensibility, eroticism, moralism, satire, irony, fantasy and Gothic horror -- directly influenced the novels of Ronald Firbank and



The ill-fated tower of Fontwell Abbey

Joris-Karl Huysmans (particularly *Against The Grain*) and the poetry of Mallarme and Swinburne.

Beckford's sardonic humour has been much more difficult to imitate. Its greatest influence was upon French literature, for it was originally written in French, then translated into English with the collaboration of his lover, Samuel Henley. Its curious literary history resembles that of Oscar Wilde's *Salome*, which Wilde also wrote in French, then had translated into English by Lord Douglas.

By the 1820s, Beckford had spent so much money on Fonthill that he was forced to mortgage it. In 1823 he sold it to a gunpowder maker for about £1¼ million in modern currency. He then bought an estate near Bath and built what he called Lansdown Baghdad, with a much shorter tower. Now in his late sixties, he became respectably eccentric, rather than scandalously debauched, until his death.

Beckford's personality still remains enigmatic, even for his modern biographers. "He was," in the opinion of Alistair Sutherland, "as much a martyr as Wilde, and almost certainly a more interesting and civilised man." He was immensely intelligent as well as a hedonist, a serious artist as well as a social rebel, and more honest than eccentric.

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William (Kitty) Courtenay. Portrait by Romney

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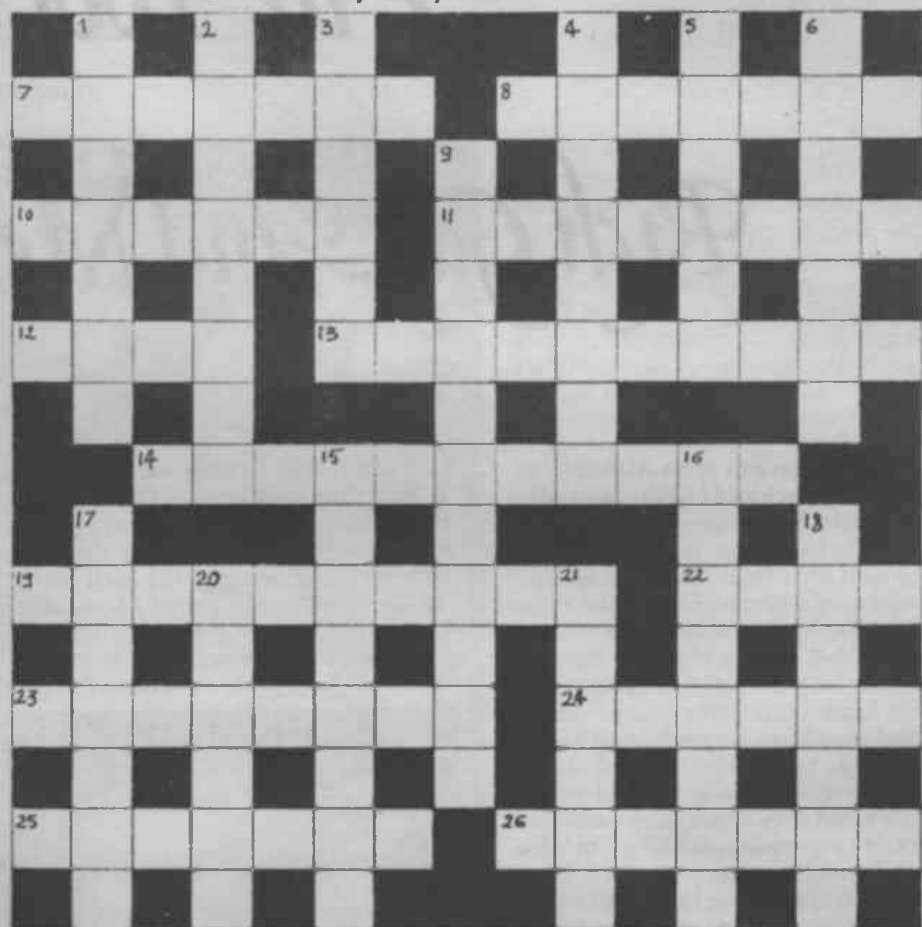


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Fireside Crossword No 2

by Barry Nonweiler



Clues - Across

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>7. It's not in, but ... (7)
8. It comes ... (7)
10. Quietly in the midst of the Scotsman's shirts ... (6)
11. The only thing to do, then, is stimulate by giggles (5,3)
12. Popular passage from a first novel on gays(4)
13. Male bi's sin indulged in by two females (10)
14. A pick-up made on commercial trip abroad? (6,5)
19. The "Piccadilly twist" - an acrobatic feat it might be (6,4)
22. Popular passage from the New Testament (first two-thirds cut) (4)
23. Lawful old men? (5,3)
24. Screaming queen has painter daunted first with a loud "Put me back!" (3,3)
25. Queen trapped in stile - typical of gay relationships (7)
26. Jeered at the Grocer found embracing aunt (7)</p> | <p>1. Talking like a thithy (7)
2. Love-making after the interval: who said there were only two? (5,3)
3. Something glutinous and salty to swallow - found perhaps on thighs, one hears (8)
4. Monagasse, probably, with long tool, raking in the cash (8)
5. The opposite of 7 - it's in after a joke on the hapless start (6)
6. Fairy penetrates his little sister: he's starting on an ego trip (7)
9. A mistress practising cupboard-love? (6,5)
15. What lack of KY might be to the course of true love running smooth (8)
16. Depraved commercial is indecent (8)
17. Strips off and reveals underskirt in disarray (7)
18. Penetrated and came inside (7)
20. Get her! Something long, tubular and sweet, top to bottom! (6)
21. Hit little Ronald back - perhaps, for taunting you with not being (6)</p> |
|--|--|

The solution to the above crossword will appear in GN42.

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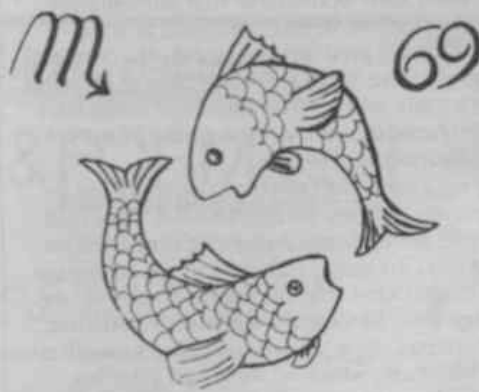
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Pisces & Friends

Friendships of PISCANS need special care. They should really only confine themselves to other Water-signs CANCER and SCORPIO. Far too often PISCANS hang on to the wrong Star-Gay, like GEMINI (fatal), or VIRGO (disastrous). If only they would allow the PISCAN head to rule the PISCAN heart, so much unhappiness would be avoided. It's little use telling them this, as PISCANS will just look at you with sad, tear-filled eyes, hurt to the very soul, and carry on with their original intention. Even so, a warning must be given, although it probably won't be heeded.

PISCANS are very deep, very introspective, with a built-in need to carefully think things out before making any decisions, of any kind. Where relationships are concerned, it's second third and fourth thoughts that count. Never first impressions or snap decisions. Sometimes it takes a PISCAN months (in some cases years) before deciding to have an affair. More often, they do enter into some kind of romantic liaison, carefully evaluating it as the months progress, then quite often severing all connections, having made up their minds at long last that it won't work. Unfortunately, the severance is so unexpected for the victim, that what had seemed to be a swinging affair crumbles about his (or her) ears. All quite disconcerting, and just one of the hazards of having anything at all to do with PISCANS.

Most of the other Star-Gays just cannot live with the two-way conflicting pull PISCANS seem to have locked away within themselves. Air-signs

(GEMINI, LIBRA, AQUARIUS) know instinctively just how harrowing the tides of love can be without a watery grave to drown them completely: they keep well away from Water-signs whenever possible. Fire-signs (ARIES, LEO, SAGITTARIUS) are far too active to really bother too much about tearful indecisive PISCANS, whilst Earth-signs (TAURUS, VIRGO, CAPRICORN) just soak up all the PISCAN moisture as if it never existed, and are too cool to take much trouble over anyone else's complicated problems anyway. It all comes back to fellow water-signs CANCER and SCORPIO, who really will listen to the PISCAN sorrows ("Oh, my poor fate!") and cluck sympathetically over the latest heartbreak, clutching the hot little PISCAN hand and smoothing the fevered brow. They even seem to take quite calmly the eruptive emotions trotted out at inconvenient moments - a trademark for PISCANS, if ever one was needed.

CANCER and SCORPIO will still cling when PISCES emotes all over them, simply because their own need is as great as the PISCAN'S. All of the Water-signs tend to hide their emotions beneath a reasonably placid surface, PISCES included - despite the tendency to well up with tears at the end of a weepie film (or at any other possible occasion for that matter) which has a quelling effect when they loosen up a bit. Imagine the polar cap melting, the Deluge, and an Atlantic storm all rolled into one, and you have a typical Water-sign reaction to most emotional events.

For those who can't face the constant, stressful, highly charged atmosphere surrounding any PISCAN, then stay away from them. SCORPIOS and CANCERANS, or any other Star-Gays who don't mind the rain, will love every sodden minute, glad of a possessiveness in which they can sink happily, contented, if somewhat distractedly, sure in the knowledge that Water-sign affairs statistically last longer. Perhaps there's a moral in that somewhere, for we more mercurial, elusive, uncommitted Star-Gays!

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The Fabulous Fifties

by Jeffrey Frankland

I fell in love with Jim Dale on the 6.05 Special. He wore his collar turned up at the back like all my schoolmates I adored.

When you're 14 the whole thing is surrounded by a head-swimming excitement and I was far too shy to try turning mine up too. I contented myself with gazing appreciatively at my more outspoken comrades.

To grow up in the fifties and establish your sexual identity in the era, first of all, of austerity and later on, towards the end of the decade, in a period when the sexual liberation of the sixties was being founded, was a confusing and bewildering process. But there was excitement and mystery too.

I suppose mine was the last generation to live through their teens with some innocence intact.

I had learnt to hand-jive — but never did it in public. I didn't dare to worship Elvis openly. My thrills were all vicarious. When those kids in Kilburn wrecked a cinema during a Hailey concert, I secretly exulted. I longed for a lucky break that would shoot me to stardom like husky Tommy Steele, and I mimed to his records in front of a mirror, till I was word perfect.

But James Dean was my real idol. He epitomised the rebellious good-looking teenager, the rebel inside me that never got to show himself to the world. His sudden death only added to his attraction, his inaccessibility. (It was a good time for stars getting killed, remember Buddy Holly?)

There was a boy at school who looked just like James Dean, except his hair was blonde. Dean's was a sort of, well, a different colour. His name was Ray.

Ray was my superior in everything that mattered in those days — captain of the football team, popular with girls, impossibly good looking. I got more O-levels than he did but that didn't make up for it.

I loved games because I could get a sight of him, naked,

unselfconscious in the showers. A vision of his muscular body haunted me. Even now, hovering at the thirty mark, I can recall his physical features in detail — the blue eyes, the blonde hair, long for those days, the slightly retrousse nose.

If James Dean was my idealised idol, my alter ego, my dream object, Ray represented the almost get-at-able, warm, living, flesh and blood reality. I worshipped him and let him know it.

It says a lot of the innocence of those days that the situation did not attract too much amusement. He was flattered by my attentions and did not try to get rid of me, even though he always made it quite plain that there was nothing doing.

Do you remember coffee bars? Mothers warned their sons never to go into the places, but still we went in secretly. I, more obedient than most, and not being interested in the constant manoeuvring towards girls that went on there, hardly ever visited our local espresso bar, and then only to be near to Ray.

I watched through long evenings of cold capucinos — you couldn't afford to drink the stuff hot or you'd have to buy another one — waiting for a sign of interest from Ray, a friendly word, a smile.

He would chat lazily throughout the evening, not needing to put himself out much for the girls, he was so good looking. I would sit wordlessly by him, adoring him mutely.

I remember one winter night in 1959. Sleet drove against the greasy windows, obscuring the Horlicks sign. Ray was there as usual, lording it over half a dozen girls and me.

That night his father died. I was horrified by Ray's callousness. To think that he could sit there enjoying himself while . . . I saw him in a new light, a selfish, self-seeking arrogant bore.

The sixties were coming. I was growing up.



Photographs of Elvis Presley and Tommy Steele by Camera Press London

The Kindest Cut

by Iain T Finlayson

Photographs: International Wool Menswear

Last month I visited my hairdresser. Oh, I tell you, there is nothing more sensual, nothing more suited to the golden somnolence of an afternoon in winter, than having one's head washed by a pair of strong and gentle hands massaging warm and scented shampoo through the hair while lying horizontally at the steamy swamp of the wash basin. It is a time for introspective reflection and the gentle digestion of a long and liquid PR luncheon. Then, wrapped in a jazzy green and beige Zandra Rhodes print gown, to be led by the apprentice Ganymede of the back-wash to coffee, a high-backed leather chair, and the attentions of Peter, the scissor wizard. As a preliminary, he takes a strand of hair between two fingers and considers it critically. Our glances meet, despairingly, in the mirror. He sighs wearily, and the reckoning is come:

"What have you been doing with it this time? The texture's shot to hell."
 "Nothing... much," I say defensively.
 "It's like straw. You've been at the bottle!"
 "Only for research. There was this article I thought I'd write about whether blondes have more fun... and I bleached it."
 "But it's not blonde now."
 "It looked so frightful I dyed it back to brown."
 "And then?" (Oh, he's implacable, this demon among crimpers.)
 "Then I thought I just hadn't given myself time to get used to it. So I bleached it out again."
 "But it's still brown."
 "I was right the first time. It still looked awful."
 "So you dyed it back again."
 "Yes, I did... Oh, God, it won't all fall out, will it?"

We are close to tears. Two years of devoted care and artistry to my head -- and now *this!* It is as if I had bought a Ming vase from a connoisseur, dropped it, and taken it back in fragments to ask whether it can be repaired. But professionalism triumphs. "It will have to be cut," he declares. "It could look quite chic."
 "Leave it to me."
 "Anything."

He shears grimly into the stringlike mop and, an hour later, it *does* look neat and chic. Cut to one inch all over, towel dried, and finger combed into a loose natural curl, my hair looks like the cap of petals worn by



Ann Dear, 3rd year student at Kingston Polytechnic designed and made this green suede suit with toning chevron striped knitting for lining and collar facings and the suede-edged cardigan.

a Greek statue. Like a decadent Hylas. It's enchanting, and I happily empty my wallet across the reception desk before walking out into the late afternoon sun in Grosvenor Square and down Brook Street to catch glimpses of myself in plate, glass windows.

Even now, I can scarcely believe my good fortune. After years of hard and dedicated work, carefully combing and determinedly straightening my naturally curly hair, I can now let it grow more or less as nature intended. All I need to do is wash and condition it twice weekly. Nothing else. I don't even comb it after washing, but just shake like a dog throwing off water. Over the next few weeks, it grows like an aureole round my brow and temples, but the cut still holds its shape and looks good. Miracle! But I am not alone in the delight of my discovery. At a recent fashion show the whole phalanx of fashion editors sat, a row of look-alike dolls, most of us with short and loose curls all



3rd-year Kingston Polytechnic student Pawel Wolkowski designed this casual cream leather suit with green/cream wool knit inserts.

happily released from the tyranny of our hair. This, then, is the new neo-'Hair' hair. Not so long or so undisciplined as the frizzed-out golliwog mops of the late Sixties, the new chic head is short, curled and a perfect shape. All most of us need now are the high and hollow cheek bones to go with it!

To complement this new Thoreauism and the Tallien-style of our heads, we need a casual, elegant and utilitarian mode of dress. A simple and practical outfit of open-necked shirt, V-necked jacquard pattern slipover sweater under a wide-lapelled jacket teamed with a pair of double-pleat, wide-legged trousers with turn-ups should fit the bill nicely. For girls, the recent Paris collections show that the simple waisted dress under a well-cut blazer jacket is a useful and madly attractive outfit. Or even the same outfit as I have outlined for men, but replacing the trousers with a skirt to just below the knee length. Trousers, ladies,

are reserved to leisure wear, and even then they are not much in vogue. In fact, you may soon have to cope with that ultimate horror -- the hobble skirt. But not quite yet.

The jacket is important as an item of fashion wear, besides being a useful garment. A few months ago, my favourite photographer, (*remember me, heartsblood?*) asked me to look out for a casual jacket suitable for cold outdoor photo-sessions. A sort of Polaroid assignment. He suggested a thigh-length brown and orange check lumber jacket. I countered with the notion of a corduroy or rough tweed with self-tie belt. (*Was that when it began to go wrong? Was it something I said, moon and stars of my life?*) Thinking it over, it occurred to me that an all-purpose, go-anywhere, put-over-anything casual jacket was just what I needed myself and, as it was mid-October, I assumed there could be nothing easier than to find such a useful garment. Predictably, it was not so simple. In my naivety, I had imagined that I could walk into any one of a dozen stores and find row upon row of multi-purpose long jackets ready and waiting to fit all manner and size of men who might need just such a useful article. It was like looking for tartan paint. (*I tried, baby. I swear I beat my brains and cut my feet to ribbons in the search. Honest to God, I did my best. Is that any reason why you shouldn't call me?*)

Ahem. Where was I...? Desperately, I lowered my sights from Regent Street and Bond Street to ex-army surplus shops where duffel coats cut like tubes hung drooping in their multitudes, pea-jackets for marines with 50 inch shoulders stood to attention in starched ranks, and thin Levi's jackets were ten a penny. (Owing to VAT, inflation, strikes and neo-Keynsian economics, the retail price of these has now increased.) Last month, however, I did find a longer

jacket, in a smoky grey/blue tweed by Daniel Hechter at Browns of South Molton Street for £45. Beside it hung a cream and brown tweed Norfolk jacket for £75. And last week, at the new Sabre collection for Autumn '74 there were beautiful long jackets in West of England wool faced and trimmed with corduroy. Just the thing -- and a year too late. Not for retail until Autumn '74. What this country needs, besides a good ten cent cigar, is a thigh-length, brown and orange check lumber jacket. To match my brown and orange check hair, perhaps.

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The Last Dandy

by Jean-Claude Thevenin



Warhol (the word right) and one time personal assistant Gerard Mulanqa



Joe Dallesandro in 'Flesh'

STARGAZER — Andy Warhol & His Films
by Stephen Koch, Calders & Boyars, £3.95

"The character of the dandy's beauty consists above all in the cold appearance which comes from the unshakeable resolution not to be moved; one might say the latent fire which makes itself felt, and which might, but doesn't wish to, shine forth."

Charles Baudelaire

If you mention the name Warhol, it will probably conjure up for most people that guy with silver hair and dark glasses who has something to do with Campbell's Soup cans, a television scandal and a few posters in the tube advertising one-word titled movies. To his most ardent followers and devotees, he is not only the most famous artist in the English-speaking world, he also represents the most successful attempt to transcend the distinction between life and art, and therefore the heir of the Dadaists, the last dandy.

The 'old' Factory was where it all started. It had once been a real factory, but on the fourth floor of the building was an immense L-shaped room. The walls were covered with silver polythene and helium-filled silver cushions floated in the air. And, under the flashing light of the stroboscope, the most fantastic party of the 1960s was going on. The guests included artists, hustlers and prostitutes, trendy pretty consumptive boys, poor little rich girls, transvestites, the very chic and the very unknown, and in the centre of this glamorous circle, you've guessed it, was the pale master himself, Andy Warhol, often dressed in S&M drag, high boots and leather jacket.

The chic freakishness of the place, the presence of sexuality in its most narcissistic — thus forbidden — expression, the use of drugs and the overwhelming glamour of it all was too much for most people to take. Society was staring at the Factory, scared and fascinated by the reflections in the silvered walls.

For Warhol, art, which is very literally Pop Art, was taking its roots in subcultures most people thought better ignored, in those glorious 60's days.

It was in those times that Warhol started working with a camera, and his first movies were just an extension of his paintings, the fascination with images, like his films 'Empire', which is

merely eight hours of the Empire State Building within the passage from day to night, 'Kiss', 'Sleep', 'Eat', all of them moving pictures, but where the camera is just still, withdrawn, absently witnessing what is happening in front of its mechanical eye, very much like Warhol himself.

'Chelsea Girls' was the last of these films, which Warhol called his 'art movies', and perhaps the first commercially viable one. It also announced the peak and end of an era, the dissolution of the Factory, the end of the decade and the fall from heaven of the old Factory superstars.

In 1968 Warhol nearly died from a bullet shot at him by his radical lesbian feminist friend Valerie Solanis. From then on, his world, his entourage, his way of living, even Warhol himself, were changed. A little later, the Factory installed itself in a new stainless office in the business quarter of New York under the direction of Paul Morrissey, until then Warhol's assistant. The notice on the door read 'Andy Warhol Films Inc'.

Everything about Warhol is contradictory; the films that most people have seen like 'Flesh', 'Trash', 'Heat', 'Women In Revolt', which could be described as 'sex farces' have not been, for the most part, directed by Warhol, but by Paul Morrissey. Yet they reveal a new *persona*, Andy Warhol, the Sex Politician.

Warhol's sexual politics have *apparently* two important axioms as their basis: women are the strong sex, men are perpetually the suffering, weak and despairing souls in search of their masculinity. This may explain why the two main masculine roles in Warhol's dramatology, are either the transvestite (ie the man who doesn't acknowledge his anatomy, his real body) or the homosexual hustler (who proclaims himself to be just a body.)

By his penetrating and detailed approach to the Warhol phenomenon, Stephen Koch in *Stargazer* supplies a great deal of information, clues and marks of recognition to help the reader who, like myself, needs a rational exploration of a contemporary myth — confusing because it exists only as the projection of a myth, because Andy Warhol is not only an image, but also a mirror. Just an anecdote to close on, not mentioned in the book. During the shooting of his last movie, Warhol was not watching from behind the camera. He was in another room.

Stargazer.



Paul Morrissey



Holly Woodlawn in 'Trash'

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A Wild And Wonderful Carmen



Katherine Pring in the title role of the Sadler's Wells production of Bizet's 'Carmen'

CARMEN — Sadlers Wells Opera at the Coliseum

In a memorable performance of Carmen, Katherine Pring has stepped into the heroine's part as though it were written and produced especially for her.

Every inch the hot-blooded Romany, she acted and sang with a breathtaking fiery passion. She demonstrated a fine sense of dramatic awareness, catching the right mood right through the opera, from her teasing and joyous braggadocio in the opening act to her bitter and moving death scene in the last. And on top of this immensely able

theatrical performance, she provided an enthralled audience with some very beautiful singing.

John Copley's production of Bizet's opera is an exuberant one, and has become a firm favourite at the Coliseum. The harsh Mediterranean sunlight of Act One shone a little less fiercely than I remember it from previous revivals, but the Coliseum is doing its bit during the power crisis, which may account for it. I couldn't help feeling that the power generated by Katherine Pring's performance could have put things back to normal again.

Given the exuberance of the opera, I had some misgivings about Tom Swift's interpretation of the role of Don José. His voice has been tested time and time again at the Coliseum without being found wanting. But in Carmen it seemed almost weak. There was a sense of unequal conflict when matched against the heroine, for his acting was not as expansive as hers. If this is to be remedied, though, it should not be done by restraining Katherine Pring.

Mention must be made of Alexander Gibson's conducting. This is the very first time he has conducted Carmen. But you would hardly guess from the confident and energetic way he drove the orchestra through the score. Carmen, with its entr'actes, gives one more of a chance to enjoy 'solo orchestra' than do many other operas regularly mounted, and it was pleasant to find these passages so enjoyably executed. If there is criticism to be made, it is surely that at times the playing was over-loud and the singers were not always given a fair chance because of it.

Strong in support were Anne Conoley as Mercedes and Margaret Curphey as Micaela, even though the latter might have 'sparkled' a little more without loss to the character. Dennis Wicks as Zuniga and Alan Opie as a blithe Morales, made up the male strength, with an assured performance, boldly sung, from Norman Welsby as Escamillo.

But Carmen, when staged successfully, is always the heroine's opera. And this point was made again quite clearly by Katherine Pring who has made it more her own than any recent singer has.

Carl Hill

Opera At Its Grandest

WAR AND PEACE — Sadlers Wells Opera at the London Coliseum

If traditionally Wagner's Ring Cycle has been a mountain peak every opera company dreams of scaling, then a second has entered into the repertoire in the shape of Prokofiev's War And Peace. A mere Matterhorn to Wagner's Everest, it must nevertheless be a daunting prospect for producers.

It is now a matter of common knowledge that Colin Graham's bold attempt succeeded spectacularly. And spectacularly is the key word here. This is a large scale staging, and from the start the emphasis is on grandeur. With no orchestral overture, no curtain, the chorus slowly assembles on stage until the full muster of over one hundred bursts fortissimo into a hymn to Russia.

The principals hold their own valiantly against this expansive background. Josephine Barstow as Natasha gave a touching portrayal of the young woman, passing from the girlish innocence of her wonderment at the beauties of nature in Scene 1, to the woman who has lived through the horrors of war and bloodshed. The maturer character was

QUICK SILVER

Interviewed in the March issue of the magazine 'Oui', Ingmar Bergman suggests that Bertolucci's 'Last Tango in Paris' is really a film about a homosexual love affair. He says if you think of the film in those terms it becomes far more interesting. "Except for her breasts that girl Maria Schneider is just like a young boy. There is much hatred of women in the film, but if you see it as being about a man who loves a boy, you can understand it." Bergman claims the homosexual relationship in the film was scrapped when worries about taboos set in.

Died: aged 90, Agnes G. Zimmerman, mother of singer and actress Ethel Merman.

Latest traditional fable to get the rock treatment is 'Treasure Island'. The rock opera version will tour schools in Louisiana in April, prior to commercial presentation.

a little more convincing — she does not quite have the Audrey Hepburn young girl touch. But then Audrey Hepburn does not have the clear voice of Josephine Barstow.

On the subject of clear voices, I would at this stage mention Derek Hammond Stroud as Napoleon, one of whose main assets is his clarity. A tragic character this, but above all a believable one. So many stage Bonapartes strut around pompously, seeing their role as that of a power-mad caricature. The Napoleon of Prokofiev and Hammond Stroud is a more convincing one altogether.

Prince Andrei Bolkonsky was portrayed a little woodenly at first by Tom McDonnell, but better things were in store. As he relaxed, it seemed, his voice grew fuller and he fell into a comfortable, attractive style of playing.

But for this member of the audience, the outstanding performance of the evening was given by Norman Bailey as Kutuzov, the Field Marshal commanding the Russian troops. Kutuzov is a peasant, a man of the soil, a man of Russia who has risen through the ranks of the army to his present eminence. With remarkable acuteness, Norman Bailey has caught the man, the respected hero of the motherland who never loses touch with the common folk of his land. His military genius is respected by the establishment, but his openness and humanity make him loved of the peasants. His singing is rich and sonorous — gruff in conference with his generals, romantic and lyrical in moments of reverie. This was a performance of great distinction.

John Brecknock as Anatol and Kenneth Woollam as Pierre were reliable in their parts, as were Anne Collins (Akhrosimova) and Ann Hood (Helene).

David Lloyd-Jones offered a splendid performance of the score from the orchestra pit. The marshalling of the musical resources must have presented as much of a challenge to him as was presented to the producer.

Unhappily, this work is unlikely to be seen outside London, at least in this production. But it has proved such a success that it is sure to be available at the Coliseum for some years to come.

Michael Mason

The Beste Of Bette

With very few new releases worthy of appraisal, I've been savouring the second part of the National Film Theatre's 'Fifty Years Of Warner Brothers' season, and particularly the films of Ms Bette Davis, which attract massive gay audiences. In so many of her films, Ms Davis seems to personify the Hollywood myth of artificiality that permeates so much of the homosexual life style. Artificially created beauty and emotions, and a preponderance of bitchy dialogue and over-decorative sets abound. The atmosphere of high camp and the obvious delight of the audience is the mark of a pure parody of a lifestyle.

Perhaps the film that is a typical Davis fable, and exemplifies the ethos of Kings Road and Earls Court is Mr Skeffington, circa 1944, directed by Vincent Sherman, in which she plays a wealthy socialite of great beauty, exquisitely manufactured by Warner Brothers make-up department. Coldly and unemotionally, she flaunts herself in front of her many admirers, diffidently, flippantly toying with them, her table decorations. Totally obsessed with her beauty, she never loves, barely even indulges in a circumspect kiss, and as long as there is an admiring man in one hand and a glass of champagne in the other, she remains totally oblivious to such adversities as the outbreak of war.

Eventually she finds a man sufficiently wealthy to marry, and on becoming pregnant is so worried about her friends seeing her "fat and ugly", she flees several thousand miles to California to have her baby.

The film progresses; well into her forties, long separated from her husband, the Warner Brothers make-up department triumphs again, as the fast declining, ever more desperate beauty visits the beauty parlour daily. Her flirtations are with ever-younger men, and a new sophistication has developed in her bitchiness as she protects her young stallions from youthful marauders.



Only in old age, scarred by diphtheria, rejected by her former admirers and denied self-pity by a psycho-analyst, can she welcome her husband back into her arms. Mr Skeffington, played by the redoubtable Claude Rains has lost his fortune, and blinded in a concentration camp, he believes his wife's beauty to be as omnipresent as ever. Histrionic tears, violins. The End. The audience emerges, slightly swollen eyed, desperately trying to memorise the best lines.

David Seligman

First Impressions



Albert Finney in Peter Nichols' 'Chez Nous'

CHEZ NOUS at Globe Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W 1

'Don't spill the beans' was the request from the management of Chez Nous, and I readily comply with their wishes. Actually, for any readers unlucky enough to have read a review which contains the two plot denouements in question, to a farmhouse in France, in order to escape taxation and live quietly. Their guests are friends of long standing. The two men were army buddies, and their wives girlhood friends. The camaraderie shared between them is established in the early

scenes, and the dialogue bristles wittily.

But first impressions are often wrong, and what appears on the surface to be a light comedy, turns suddenly dramatic. In a stirring scene of recriminations, each partner reveals their true self: the visiting architect is a boozing, philandering womaniser, whose wife has learnt to accept his sexual dalliances with a brave smile. He longs for a child of his own, and is jealous of the fact that his wife's child was by a former lover. She in turn, lives in a dream world, still waiting for 'the right man' to appear and take her away. The pediatrician, secretly resents his best friend's success with women, and berates his wife for her inane chatter. She, however, reveals that she is a compulsive talker, only to break the silences of their marriage. We are reminded that in so many marriages, compromises are made and people usually settle for much less.

Albert Finney brings his inimitable comedy playing to the role of the immature architect, and catches the pathos of the man. As his subjected don't let this deter you, as Peter Nichols' latest play is much more than a mere guessing game. The two married couples depicted are an interesting quartet, who at first glance, appear to be happy enough with their lot. A pediatrician, who having recently become a successful author with his first book, moves with his wife and family from London wife, Geraldine McEwan, whether languidly spraying insect repellent around her, or quietly hearing yet another confession of infidelity from her husband, is always perfect. Denholm Elliott in another superb portrayal as the doctor, adds just a touch of pomposity to the role. Pat Heywood, though listed under the title as the doctor's wife, is worthy of star billing for her warm and intelligent performance.

Peter Nichols has already proved with his first success 'Day in the Death of Joe Egg', that he is adept in treading the delicate line between comedy and drama, and aided by Robert Cetywyn's deft direction, he again handles the transition with great skill.

Barry Conley

The Screen Scene

Not altogether in a different vein to Mr Skeffington, Sidney Pollack's THE WAY WE WERE (Columbia-Warner) traces the lives of two all-Americans from college days in the 1930s through careers in post-war Hollywood, to comfortable compromised middle age in the early 1950s.

Robert Redford rises well to the occasion and gives his best performance as the handsome, self-satisfied writer, bursting with confidence, sex appeal, ambition, all the American capitalistic aspirations in fact. Steisand is the individualistic lefty with the unusual looks, the fire, the analytical mind that sees all is not right with the American Dream. 'Together' they have one of those clashing love affairs that's always rocked the American dreamboat.

It's nostalgic, romantic, but not unrealistic. The period atmosphere is charmingly recreated, and along the way there's a perceptive screenplay that mixes humour, emotion and sentiment with a fascinating, reasonably accurate depiction of the McCarthy purges in Hollywood. The Way We Were is understandably playing to packed houses, because it's one of those polished pieces of entertainment that, to borrow a well-worn advertising slogan, has something in it for everyone from seventeen to seventy seven.

THE SERPENT (EMI), directed by Henri Verneuil, is a complicated but refreshingly original espionage drama, involving a Russian army colonel (Yul Brunner) who defects to the West and is exposed as a spy by the CIA, who then uncover a complex Soviet spy network all over Europe. The CIA agent is played with evasive coolness by a harsh Henry Fonda. Dirk Bogarde hovers, is too English to be true, and emerges as the red in the English secret service. Rivetting performances from an experienced cast, some extremely innovative gadgetry, and a general air of sordid reality and disrespect for the espionage/spy game, create some aimable entertainment.

Peter Sellers' next film after the highly amusing 'Soft Beds, Hard Battles' now on release, will be 'The Optimists', about a former music hall star who becomes a busker.

David Seligman

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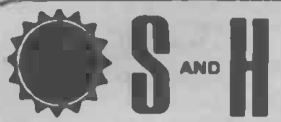
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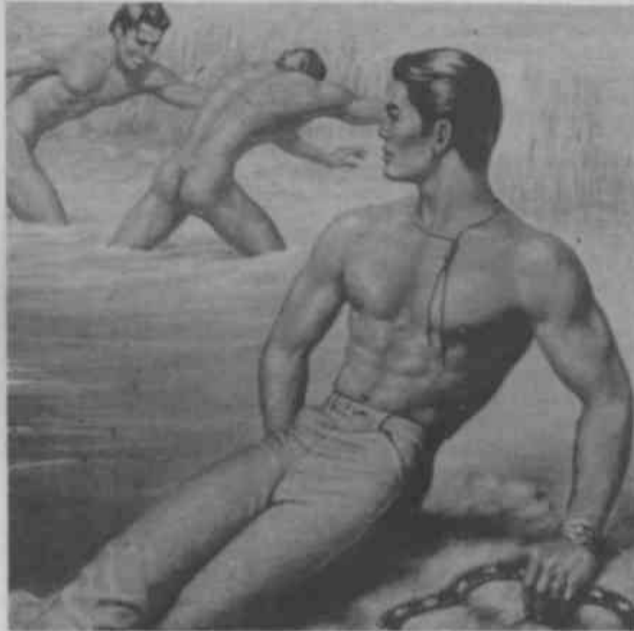
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4. STOP PRESS

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Seized last year and unobtainable since then, 'Street Boy - Swinging London' has now survived its Old Bailey trial and has been pronounced officially as 'not obscene'. 'Street Boy' is a very frank, very intimate and, at times, very erotic autobiography. The prosecutor thought the adventures and fantasies the hero enjoys were "grossly obscene". But the jury didn't agree, and after six hours deliberation, 'Street Boy' was released.

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Julian's Singles



Destined for the top ten is David Bowie's new single *Rebel Rebel* (RCA). Apparently still pre-occupied with paying homage to his past idols and influences, as first heard on the recent 'Pin-Ups' album, the song is an inspired imitation of the of the Rolling Stones' raunchy and provocative sound of yesteryear, including a near perfect take-off of Mick Jagger's vocal style. Bowie of course adds enough of his own unique magic and what would have been a disastrous send-up by any other artist, results in a magnificent performance which doubles as a stimulating piece of contemporary nostalgia.

Whilst compiling a budget album of old Contours material, Tamia Motown's Gordon Frewin discovered two classic examples of vintage Motown, neither of which have previously been issued in the UK before. The obvious solution was to release both the tracks, and subsequently *Baby Hit And Run*, an up tempo stomper, has been coupled with *Can You Jerk Like Me*. The latter, seemingly in-

spired by The Three Caps unforgettable 'Cool Jerk', features some splendid blowing by the brass section. The relentless pace of both the cuts is certain to make them instant hits in discos.

I Just Can't Get You Out Of My Mind (Probe) is the Four Tops' latest single. Taken from their excellent 'Main Street People' album, it is a fantastic dance number that has good chart potential. Soul fans will be interested in *Forever (People)*, the first collaboration between Baby Washington and Don Gardner. Written by Holland and Dozier, the song is a fine choice to start what may well be a long and fruitful partnership. Another recent soul release of note is *Soul Of A Blackman (Action)* by a gentleman called Aaron McNeil, who sounds remarkably like Ray Charles. Della Reese also delivers a polished performance on her version of Bill Withers' *Who Is She And What Is She To You (People)*.

Although a hit in North America and available in this country for some time now, *Three Dog Night's Let Me Serenade You* (Probe) has yet to make any impact in Britain. Recently though, it's been receiving an increased amount of air-plays, so perhaps this exceptionally good song will not go unnoticed after all.

To commemorate the death of Buddy Holly, who died fifteen years ago this month in an air crash, MCA Records has issued a maxi-single featuring three of his best-loved songs. Included are *Brown Eyed Handsome Man*, *True Love Ways* and the somewhat prophetic *It Doesn't Matter Anymore*. The last cut was originally released shortly before his fatal accident, and when news of the tragedy reached the public, the record immediately went to the top of the charts. It's one of Holly's finest performances and is a fitting reminder that he was an outstanding artist and songwriter, whose recordings significantly influenced the development of rock and roll.

Fresh Revolutions

The most exciting release so far this year from the WEA group of labels is Bonnie Raitt's new album *Takin' My Time* (Warner Bros). Few white singers possess such a rich, bluesy voice as Ms Raitt, but what makes her remarkable is the depth of feeling and sincerity she instils into the lyrics. Her mature but highly emotional approach to the excellent material she sings is literally spine-tingling at times. Add to this superb work of the back-up musicians (ace bluesman Taj Mahal plays on three tracks) and John Hall's sensitive, uncluttered production, and you end up with a masterpiece of a recording.

Each of the ten songs is a gem, but depending on individual tastes and reactions, you're likely to identify more with some cuts than with others. Tracks which particularly turn me on are *You've Been In Love Too Long*, (her latest single) *Everybody's Cryin' Mercy*, a tear-jerker called *I Feel The Same*, Jackson Browne's *I Thought I Was A Child*, and Bonnie's intensely moving version of Andy Newman's *Guilty*. There's a delicious calypso too, called *Wah She Go Do*, on which the singer offers sound and explicit advice on what to do if your lover isn't keeping you fully satisfied.

Takin' My Time is certainly Bonnie Raitt's finest album to date and even though the new year is still young, it will undoubtedly prove to be one of the outstanding recordings of 1974. I have my fingers firmly crossed that she'll be making some concert appearances in

Britain before too long.

If one wanted to be unkind, it could be said that 1990 (Tamla Motown) is Norman Whitfield's new album, featuring the Temptations. Of course, the arrangements and production are faultless and in clubs and discos many of the tracks are already immensely popular with dancers, but it is a shame that a group as talented as The Temps should become little more than a backing group. And, whereas I've always enjoyed sitting back and listening to their albums, this time the lyrics are so trite and/or banal, it is a completely forgettable experience. Perhaps next time Norman Whitfield will leave space exploration and other related themes to the Pink Floyd, and allow the Temptations to get back to making funky, first-rate soul music.

In case you haven't yet had a good listen to Paul McCartney & Wings' *Band On The Run* (Apple), I strongly recommend that you do so. It surpasses any of the recordings McCartney has made since the 'fab four' split up and while we're still waiting for the Beatles to get back together, it helps fill the enormous vacuum created when they stopped making music as a group.

Every track, whether an out-and-out rocker like *Jet* (recently released as a single) or a gentle love ballad such as *Bluebird*, is an experience in itself, although the overall unity of the album makes its total more than its various parts.

Denis Lemon

Flashback To The 60s

It's not only golden oldies which are being re-released nowadays. Over the last couple of months a number of albums have been issued which showcase some of the most important bands who made music in the 1960's. In retrospect, it is easy to realise the significance of these groups, although the worth of their recordings wasn't necessarily recognised first time they appeared. I strongly recommend anyone trying to build up a recorded history of the development of contemporary music to consider the following albums for inclusion in their collections.

Apart from the popularity of their first British singles, the Zombies achieved a much greater degree of success in America. And strangely, even in the States, it was with a track taken from their second (and last) album 'Odyssey & Oracle' (released a year after the group had broken up) that they had their biggest hit. The cut was *Time Of The Season*, and it's fitting that a two-record set comprehensively tracing their career should be called *Time Of The Zombies* (CBS). Featured are the group's first hits such as *She's Not There* and *Tell Her No*, and the majority of the tracks from their two albums. The latter, 'Odyssey & Oracle', takes up sides three and four and includes all the material that appeared on the original pressing. Two members of the group are still making fine music: Rod Argent with his band *Argent*, and Colin Blunstone, who is enjoying a successful solo career.

Simply named after the group, *Buffalo Springfield* (Atlantic) is another double album which contains an abundance of stunning recordings by one of the last decade's most under-rated rock bands. Amongst the best tracks are *Mr Soul*, *Rock & Roll Women*, *Broken Arrow*, *Hung Upside Down*, *Kind Women*, the incredibly produced and arranged *Expecting To Fly* and the band's biggest hit single *For What It's Worth*. There is also a previously unreleased nine-minute version of one of their finest songs, *Bluebird*.

It was when the group broke up that the various members of *Buffalo Springfield* really tasted success though. Neil Young established himself as a major solo artist. Stephen Stills was an integral part of Crosby, Stills & Nash, who were later joined for a short while by Neil Young. Stills is now leader of *Manassas*. Jim Messina and Richie Furay formed the very popular country orientated *Poco*. Messina later left to join forces with Ken Loggins and they have released three top-selling albums. Nevertheless, the music they made together as *Buffalo Springfield* remains as exciting and stimulating as it was when first issued.

When thinking back over the 1960's, it is impossible to forget the music that blossomed in San Francisco and the surrounding area during the 'flower power' era. Some of the bands from that time, like *Jefferson Airplane* and *The Grateful Dead* are now amongst America's top groups, but two that are sadly no longer together are *Quicksilver Messenger Service* and *Country Joe & The Fish*.

The latter were heavily into psychedelia and subsequently produced some of the most amazing 'acid' orientated music recorded during that period. Much of their material was very beautiful, especially the playing of lead guitarist Barry Melton and Country Joe's lyrics. A useful collection of some of their remarkable performances can be heard on *The Best Of Country Joe & The Fish* (Vanguard).

Of the many groups that helped create what eventually became known as the West Coast sound, only a few could equal the inventive and refreshingly different approach of the *Quicksilver Messenger Service*. A fitting memorial to the band is *Quicksilver - Anthology* (Capitol), a two-record set that features a well-balanced selection of tracks from their numerous albums. Although their work after 1970 is thoroughly enjoyable, the outstanding cuts are those made by the original members of the group between 1967 and 1969. When listening to these, pay special attention to the intricate and often dazzling guitar work.

By 1967, nearly every rock band seemed content to 'give peace a chance' and their apparent wholehearted acceptance of the flower and incense ideology was reflected throughout the recording industry. However, there was one notable exception and they were the New York spawned *Andy Warhol Factory*-inspired group, *The Velvet Underground*. Their music and lyrics were as far removed from love and peace as could possibly be imagined. Issued a short time ago was *Lou Reed & The Velvet Underground* (MGM), comprising tracks from the Velvet's first two momentous albums. Reed was a founding member of the band and although the record is obviously released to cash in on his recent rise to superstardom (on another label), it contains some of the most staggering rock material ever recorded. Highly recommended.

Denis Lemon

Briefly...

What can you say about The Carpenters that hasn't been said numerous times already? Their many successes speak for themselves and all that really needs saying is their refreshingly different and professional approach to music has given modern pop a much-needed shake-up. As is obvious *The Singles 1969-1973* (A&M) contains all their singles and tracks such as *We've Only Just Begun*, *Superstar*, *Rainy Days And Mondays*, (*They Long To Be*) *Close To You* and *Goodbye To Love* sound as enchanting as they did when first released. Beautiful album.

It's amazing how many ways record companies can find to repackage old material. RCA's latest venture is to bring out a series called *A Legendary Performer*, and the first album is devoted to Elvis Presley. Featured are some of his biggest hits such as *Heartbreak Hotel*, *Don't Be Cruel*, *Love Me Tender*, *A Fool Such As I* and *Can't Help Falling In Love*. Also there are four previously unreleased tracks including a live, almost send-up version of *Are You Lonesome Tonight?* And for your added pleasure there are excerpts from a couple of interviews. The collection is sure to delight devoted fans and marketing executives, and maybe convince a few of today's teenagers and weeny-boppers that there was some decent rock & roll before *Slade* and *Sweet*.

The Voice Of Jazz, Volume Six (Verve) is the latest release in Polydor's series of Billie Holiday recordings. All of the material featured was recorded in 1956 and includes versions of *Do Nothing Till You Hear From Me*, *Cheek To Cheek*, *Speak Low* and *April In Paris*. As with the previous volumes, the late Billy Holiday demonstrates why she so richly deserves the title 'the Voice of Jazz'

Denis Lemon

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.

ASHTON UNDER LYNE

Club: The Gaslight Club

BARNLEY

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: Avonue Bar, Rosemary Street

BIRMINGHAM

Pub: 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

Pub: The Merchants Hotel, Darwen St (D)

BLACKPOOL

Pub: Lucy's Bar, Talbot Square

BOLTON

Pub: Prince William, Deansgate (upstrs)

*Peel Arms Hotel, 423 Halliwell Road

BOURNEMOUTH

Pub: The Norfolk Hotel

Clubs: Gigs, The Triangle

BRADFORD

Pub: Junction Inn, Leeds Road

Club: Shangri-la, Piechall Yard

BRENTWOOD

Pub: The Prince Albert, Warley Hill

BRIGHTON

Pub: Spotted Dog, Middle Street

Greyhound East St (upstairs near only)

Cricketers, Black Lion Street (weekends)

Hove Lawns Hotel

*Heart & Hand, Ship Street

Clubs: New Curlain 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

Loreier 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 Warral 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 (Robert's Bar) St Mary Street

Royal Oak, St Mary Street

Clubs: Showbiz Club, Hope Street

CHELTENHAM

Pub: 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

DERBY

Club: Pavilion Club, 123 London Rd, Shardlow (7 miles)

DONCASTER

Clubs: Don 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 Baillie, St Stephen Street

EXETER

Pubs: Horse & Groom, Longbrook St

GLASGOW

Pub: Duke of Wellington, Argyll St

McCallis, Hope Street

GRAVESEND

Pub: The Kent, High Street

GUILDFORD

Pub: The Royal Oak, nr multistorey car park

HOLMFIRTH

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

HUDDERSFIELD

Pubs: The Grey Horse, Chapel Hill (Sundays)

Amster Dam (men)

IPSWICH

Pub: 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 1,2

The Denny Castle, Hackins Hey (off Dale Street)

Clubs: New Gears Paw, Dorrians Lane

Johns Gay Bar Royal, Wood St

Paqoda, 31 Colquitt Street 1,1

LONDON

Pubs: *The Hollons & *The Coleherne

are near each other in Old Brompton Road (tube Earls Court)

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

*The Green Room at the Wheel-Shop, 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, Batterssea Park Rd (D)

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

The Salisbury, St Martins Lane WC2(Liverpool 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 and Tues

Father Redcap, Camberwell Green, SE5

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)

Elmhurst, 131 Lordship Lane, Tottenham N17 (D)

Royal Oak, 82 Gifford Road W6 (D)

Club: The Peacock, 259 Old Brompton Road, SW10

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 4551

*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, Heme Hill SE24, (Wed, Fri, Sat)

*Shanes, Broadhurst Gardens NW6

The Escort, 89a Pimlico Road

Anne's Guide cont from Page 16

- Alan and Daves Disco, Ship & Whale, Gulliver St SE16
Tricky Dicky Disco (Fuss)
Hornsey Wood Tavern 376
Seven Sisters Road, N4
Tricky Dicky Disco (Mon & Tues) Kings Arms 213
Disco/night club (Liverpool St, tube)
Rest: La Popo's, 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 Caserole, 338 Kings Road, Chelsea, SW3
The Last Resort, 294 Fulham Road, SW10. Tel: 352 1625
La Richelieu, 277 New Kings Rd SW6. Tel: 736 4432
LINCOLN
Pub: Ye Olde Crown, Clasketgate (lounge bar)
LUTON
Club: *Pan Club, Bute Street. Open Nightly, weekend cabaret
MACCESFIELD
Pub: Waters Green Tavern
MANCHESTER
Pubs: Union Hotel Princess Street (D)
Rembrandt, Sackville Street
Trafford (back bar) Gt Bridge Water Street
Cavalcade, Wilmslow Road
Disbury (Sunday lunchtime)
Mechanics, Sackville Street
New York, Bloom Street
Clubs: Picador, Bradshaw Street, Shude Hill
Napoleon's, Sackville Street
MERTHYR TYDFIL
Pub: Red Cow Hotel, Giebeland Street
MIDDLESBOROUGH
Pub: The Grand Hotel
Club: The Rendezvous, above the Grand Hotel, Thurs, Fri & Sat
MORECAMBE
Pub: *Masons Arms ('Gays only' lounge)
Cafe: *Odd Spot "Rendezvous", Morecambe WE
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
Pubs: Royal Court Grill, Bridge Market
Eldon Grill (Variety Bar) opp Grays Monument
Grapes Vault, Grey Street
*Lord Chancellor, Great Market
County Hotel (Nancy's Bar) Westgate Road
NEWQUAY, Cornwall
Pub: King Mark, (Sat lunchtimes)
NEWPORT Mun
Pubs: Kings Head (lounge bar)
High Street
Waterloo, Commercial Street
NORWICH
Pub: Studio Four, behind Anglia Television
NORTHAMPTON
Pub: Princess Royal, 172 Wellingborough Road
NOTTINGHAM
Pubs: Duke & 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
Stage Club, George Street
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 Hermans Gollancz Hall, Clifton Street
ST ALBANS
Pub: Crown Hotel, Clarence Room, Fri night disco, Hotfield Road
ST HELIER, Jersey
Club: New Side Door, Cricketers Arms, Saine Street
SANOACH, Cheshire
Pub: Market Place Tavern (Thurs)
SHEFFIELD
Pub: The Cosack
Club: Amberley Club, 225 Attercliffe
Crimmon (Gays' Disco)
SOUTHAMPTON
Pub: Robert Burns, 9 South Front
The Fig Leaf, 159 St Mary's Road
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, GranaCa Rd
Jolly Sailor, South Parade
Duke of Devonshire, Albert Road
STOCKPORT
Pub: Duke of Clarence, Avenue Street
Portwood
STOKE-ON-TRENT
Pubs: The Antelope, Hanley
Club: One For One, 141 Marsh Street
North, Hanley
STRATFORD-ON-AVON
Pub: Queen's Head, Ely Street
SUNDERLAND
Club: *Rokoko, The Promenade, Roker
SWANSEA
Pubs: Dr. Iphins Hotel (C T Lounge)
Whitewalls
Three Lamps Hotel (top floor bar)
Castle Gardens.
THAME
Pub: The Jolly Sailor
TORQUAY
Pub: Merelwood Hotel, Meadfoot Rd
Meadfoot Inn, Meadfoot 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 Arch, nr disused gas works (Fri & Sat)
The Ship, nr Guildhall
WOLVERHAMPTON
Pub: Prince Albert, Station Drive
Club: Silver Web, Whitmore Street
YORK
Pub: York Arms



Love Knoweth No Laws*

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

Answering a Box Reply

- 1. Place your reply in a small envelope and seal it.
2. Mark clearly on the outside the Box Number to which you are replying.
3. Place this small envelope together with a 3xp 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 3xp stamp.

Advertisements for inclusion in issue 42 must be received no later than noon on Monday March 4th. They should be no longer than 35 words. As from March 5th, box numbers in issue 38 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)

Very lonely tall attractive gay girl, 22, seeks same/older for friendship. Possible to live with. London/Essex. Box 41/1
Girl, 22, lonely, recently aware of gayness, seeks friendship of gay girl 22-35 who will introduce me to the gay scene around the London area. ALA Box 41/2
I'm jolly, attractive, warm (truly!) Barely half alive without a woman, and my husband understands. I need someone intelligent, 25-50, not frilly feminine, who enjoys talking, laughing, arguing, cinemagoing, dancing - and living. (London/Brighton) Box 41/3
Affectionate 29 year female wishes to meet same. Manchester area. Phone 061-789 1545
Leicester: girl 24, intelligent, seeks friends. Interests: countryside, reading. Box 41/112

Mixed Personal

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

Gay boy (23) intelligent, affectionate, seeks sensible, sincere, loving girl, any nationality. Box 41/4
Young gay affair seeks similar gay girls for genuine friendship, socialising, travel. Any area but preferably London. Appreciate photographs. Box 41/5
Bisexual slim male 30, graduate, desperately seeks bisexual heavily built woman, any age, for occasional weekends. Box 41/6
Devoted boy lover 29, own flat, car, wishes to meet girl or lady similar interests. Lancs. Box 41/7
Transvestite, Midlands, slim, tall blonde, extremely good looking, very attractively dressed, make-up etc, very lonely, seeks to meet males, females, couples, groups. Have car, will travel. Let's enjoy ourselves. Box 41/76

Personal

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

Anybody interested in forming a commune for music loving young gays (all sorts) in London. Please write - all information appreciated - RDN Box 41/8
Denim fan (32) seeks 'Song of the Loon' type friendship with male under 30. Interests: classical music, railways (real and model) radio, travel. Own home and car. West Midlands but will travel. Photo please. ALA Box 41/9
SE Asian Student 27, living Central London, seeks English friend 21-30 for conversation practice and sharing visits to shows, pop concerts, sporting events; tree evenings and weekends. Box 41/10
Londoner, early 30s with straight good looks, seeks sincere and affectionate man 25-35 with view to lasting friendship. Interests: theatre, music, cinema, etc. Photo appreciated. Box 41/11
Amsterdam/Birmingham charter flights and short holiday information wanted. Box 41/12
Dave, 29, hirsute, Honda 250 owner, interests leather, bodybuilding, naturism, railways seeks similar in south Bucks area to share interests and possible summer holidays on south coast/Isle of Wight. ALA Box 41/13

Lonely guy, 27, tall and slim, non-camp, living in London, hopes for lasting friendship from someone 23-30 with whom to share music, travel, dining etc. Photo appreciated and returned. Box 41/14
Gay transport group now functioning London area. Send SAE for meeting details. Box 41/15
Shy attractive non-camp guy, 23, wants good looking friend of similar age. London area. Photo please. Box 41/16
Get together with other uninhibited over-thirties for parties etc. London. Box 41/17
Two guys 26 and 30 would like to meet other couples or singles for friendship. Photo appreciated. ALA Box 41/18
Slim, 22, interested in music, films, travel, seeks similar active male. Berks/Hants area. Photo please. Box 41/19
Guy 22 seeks good looking guy for permanent friendship, view to share accommodation. Currently living in Earls Court. Enjoy country, travel, (when in money) and cinema. ALA Box 41/20
Turkey and/or Persia. Can someone supply gay information. Box 41/21
Young man, London, 33 slim and quiet, seeks active, masculine and hairy male 35-40. Must be clean-shaven and non-camp. Permanent friendship. Photo appreciated. ALA Box 41/22
Young South Londoner still wanting to be saved by his knight in shining leather gear. Are you him? Photo, ALA Box 41/23
Sleepy fair-haired Libran 26 seeks a gentle waking person, any age, photo please (Brighton) Box 41/24
London NW6 man 38, sometimes active, wants to meet moustached, bearded, hairy bodied (or any one of the three) man of similar mood. Photo please. Returned if required. ALA Box 41/25
Inexperienced slim young guy living Brighton, wishes to meet slim guy under 25 for sincere friendship. Photo appreciated. ALA Box 41/27
At 24 I am shy, lonely and inexperienced and feeling a failure. Is anyone in London prepared to prove me wrong? ALA Photo appreciated. Box 41/28
London 36 year old keen to hear from younger chaps interested in photography, modelling, and other homely pastimes. Write with photo please. ALA Box 41/29
Good looking denim/leather boy (heavy vehicle track) wishes hear from young, scruffy, good looking brown eyed TIR driver, English/Continental type. Also M1 user. Scania, Volvo, Scammell, Daf etc. Box 41/30
Manchester young 40 male, 5'10" seeks same or younger non-camp looking. Own home, car, varied interests, view lasting friendship, shared life, if suited to each other. Photo returnable, phone number. Box 41/31
Slim youth seeks active young friend in Newcastle area. Box 41/32
Passable London professional guy 24, turned on by railways seeks soul-mate under 30. Box 41/33
Painter/designer London 45, cottage in mid-Wales, seeks Welsh or border county friends, interested in gardening and quiet country life. Box 41/34
Newcomer to gay scene 21, seeks friend to introduce me to my new life, London ALA Box 41/35
Good looking 25 year old, interests soccer, table tennis, seeks non-effeminate good looking guy, same age or younger, London area. BM Box 2636.
Active 35 would like to meet young man for lasting friendship. I will offer holiday in Malta to right person. Photo please. Box 41/37
Dominant male 45 (Kent) seeks friendship with affectionate young man. Box 41/38
Slim, reliable, strictly masculine man 21, not promiscuous, seeks similar 21-30 pref denims/jumper type. Enjoys theatre, cinema, discos, chess, pop, nostalgia and light classical music. Hope for lasting friendship. (London) Box 41/39
Chelsea 32 year old, same age or younger, like to meet other actives. Loves life. Wide interests. 25-40 photo please. Box 41/40
Londoner 29 short hair, own car, wishes to meet friend for outings to cinema, theatre, pubs. Tiring of the scene; wears leather and denim. Average looks and build. Box 41/41
Central South Coast. Lonely sincere businessman (slim 6ft) own car, home etc, genuinely needing affectionate one-person friendship with quiet, homely, straight looking guy around 40-50. First time advertiser. Box 41/42
Guy 26, 5'6" average looks seeks genuine, sincere friend 25-50. Looks not important, but honest. Have no transport. Pref SW London/Surrey area. Only genuine replies please. Photo if possible (returnable) ALA Box 41/43
London man, 38 seeks an educated Moroccan companion for friendship and requires assistance with Moroccan Arabic. Box 41/44
Gay holiday Barbados, month July '74. Six guys needed complete party, sharing large super-luxury waterfront apartment. Self catering but including flight and maid service, approx cost £185. Enquiries Box 41/45
Quiet guy mid twenties, central London flat, seeks younger affectionate friend 21-23. Box 41/47
I am 28, a bit shy sometimes, rather hairy, not bad looking, living North London, active interests. Would like to meet younger guy for friendship. Photo if possible. Box 41/48
Under 5'9", clean shaven, 21-23? Need a pad? Young guy offers home, holidays or crash pad nr London. Photo essential ALA Box 41/49
Small boyish models wanted by young respectable amateur photographer. Fees, photos, accommodation if necessary. Send details and recent photo. ALA Box 41/50
Portsmouth area. If you are a cheerful guy 21-33, enjoy living, why not give me a try. Photo please, which will be returned. Box 41/51
Oxford student 23, slim dark, seeks highly intelligent tall-wing non-camp guy preferably younger unhappy blonde with own pad. Box 41/52
Is there a young gay table tennis enthusiast? Details please with photo (return promised) Box 41/53
Kent. Lonely young man, 28, tall and slim, seeks lasting friendship, similar age. Photo appreciated. ALA Box 41/54
If you like "messing about in boats" full-time or spare-time, please contact Box 41/55
Slim guy 25 with varied interests, seeks new friends living Epping/Harlow area. ALA with photo. Box 41/56
London/Essex. Mid twenties fair-haired boy 5'10" slim shy and presentable. Looking for genuine discreet friendship. Photo essential and full details. ALA Box 41/57
Cornwall. Active likeable clerical worker 50, looks, feels younger. Attractive seaside home, car. Seeks discreet friend 30-45, weekends, holidays, companionship. Nationality unimportant. Photo returnable, appreciated. ALA Box 41/58
Watching and waiting? Good looking young man 24, creative, visual, intelligent, active, seeks the friend. Similar age. Photo please. London/the South. Box 41/59

22 year old guy, tall, dark hair, tired of "sincere adon!" and "double butch queens" would like to meet other well-built hairy guys like self (up to 40) London. Photo please. Box 41/60
Two Wolverhampton gays keen swimmers, holidaying Palma Nova from 7 June seek lonely gays wishing to join them or contact others there same period. Box 41/61
Young guy 24 S London would like to get into leather/denim. Any offers? Preferably well-built, blonde 27-30s. Photo please. ALA Box 41/62
Guy 21 Living South Manchester would like to make sincere friendship with another gay guy in same area. Interests film, theatre and music. Photo and details please. Box 41/63
Active 30 year old who doesn't like gay scene would like permanent friendship with 25-30 (not camp) living in London. Photo please. ALA Box 41/64
Active Libra 29 does not like gay scene wants permanent mate (nbt effeminate) in London. Box 41/65
Male 30 seeks friend with own pad for active friendship. Phone number. ALA London. Box 41/66
Attractive professional graduate 35, relaxed and straightforward, wide-ranging interests but particularly opera, own Chelsea pad, seeks friendship with good looking, reliable young man in mid-twenties, public school or graduate, to explore possibility of establishing something deep and lasting. London/Home Counties. ALA Photo exchanged. Box 41/67
Young slim short, dolly boy over 21 sought by 30 year old for sincere friendship, preferably liking motor cars. Harrow or Watford area. Box 41/68
Old friend would like news of James Whelan who lived Earls Court Road 1940/41 and at that time worked for GWR Paddington. Box 41/69
34 own pad and mobile seeks active well-built 22+ guy with no hangups. ALA with photo. Box 41/70
Good looking young guy seeks friends, all kinds, all colours. London. Photo please. ALA Box 41/71
Professional man 30, Islington. own flat, hectic fulfilled working life, but often rather empty personal life. Would like to meet similar 25-35. ALA Box 41/72
Wanted just an ordinary jolly youngster over 21 who would like an older experienced sincere, reliable guy for lasting friendship. Genuine replies please, with photo if possible. Can accommodate weekends. Midlands. Box 41/73
Fed up with phoney looking (26) seeks tall short haired guy for a sincere friendship. Especially like Americans. Photo guarantees reply. Box 41/74
Tall, slim, well built active guy 29, London. seeks muscular, long haired type under 35. Box 41/75
Edware? 26 seeks loving sincere friend 23-32. ALA Photo appreciated. Box 41/77
Two leather guys 23 and 27 wish to meet new friends. Photos appreciated. Box 41/78
South London guy 23, tall and slim, modern music lover, wants similar to fall in love with, but happy to make friends along the way. Photo appreciated. ALA Box 41/79
Nine-tenths unused Bear. 35. One owner. Gregarious, affable, serious, writing, research, antiques, crafts. Scorpien. Lover of latins. Mid-Essex cottage. Lacks 'Hunny' and job satisfaction. Civilised ideas from sincere similar considered discreetly. Box 41/80

If I do the butch jobs, will you help me around the house? Lasting friendship wanted with someone domesticated, 21-35. 38, considerate and well-preserved. London. Photo please. ALA Box 41/82
Active lecturer 40, Kent, seeks friend any colour, to share well fitted coast home and probably life. Non smoker preferred. Many interests. ALA Box 41/83
Lonely hirsute Londoner 36 wants friendship with young man. Humorous, kindhearted, sincere. Photo appreciated. Box 41/84
Where are the relaxed, shy, non-effeminate pub/club people? I'm 35, good looking, own W6 house and car, active, like music, theatre, talking, but am alone. Permanent friendship. Much needed. Photo appreciated. ALA Box 41/85
Two male lovers, one Negro one white, wish to meet other couples of any race, aged between about 26 and 36. Will travel most places. Box 41/86
Young man 38 seeks friends younger if possible in Leeds/East Coast area with view to genuine friendship. ALA Box 41/87
Blaspheming, booted, blue-jeaned baby boy 25, seeks similar, sensitive youth. Photo please. (Brighton). Box 41/88
Young man 38 seeks young person with ideas for business, no capital needed, just ideas and homely and sincere. Leeds or coast area. Box 41/89
Guy looking for friends London. Am 34, slim, 6ft, will correspond to non-Londoner. Interests all things. Box 41/90
Any young student over 21 Leeds or York area interested in writing or meeting odd day a week. Gen 38 self-employed and car. Box 41/91
African loving Violet, 21, shy reserved wants horizons widened by something a little exotic. Photos nice. Box 41/92

MUCH TRAVELLED MID-EASTERN guy 35, London pad, seeks stable friendship with unnumbered sincere, beautiful active, straight-looking younger guy 22-27 (preferably Scandinavian type). Hopefully share next phase of interesting life. Photo and details essential for reply. Box 41/93
Slim, fair 38 with small London flat, car, would like to meet out-of-town friend 30-45 for country interests, walking, gardens etc. Also like antiques, architecture. Box 41/96
Honest, reliable, good looking 39 year old would like to meet someone to care for. Fed up with usual scene. Just want to meet someone nice. Box 41/97

PLEASE, PLEASE, IS THERE A place in London where one can meet Finnish, Norwegian or Swedish students and American GIs? Box 41/98
Prof graduate, 23, good looking, sensitive seeks similar. Contact Ian 603 0164 (6-9pm only please)
Advisory Services. Can we help you? For people lonely, want somebody to talk to, we try to help you. 749 0016
Ronald and 995 1900 Peter.

YOUNG CEYLONESE POST-GRAD, good looking, own house NE London, would like friends of similar age 21-26. Share all with right person. Also bed-sit to let in house. Photos appreciated. ALA Box 41/94
Maurice Dillon: Medium wishes to contact someone of this name as there may be an important message for him from the Other Side. Phone 01-584 7238

Personal Ads cont on Page 18



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Personal Ads cont from Page 17

Outward Bound - Hampshire. Would anyone like to share life and flat - TV, phone, everything, no expenses, car provided. Apply in writing with photo to Giles Wilson, The Mill House, St Cross, Winchester.

I AM IN LONDON 2 or 3 nights each fortnight and am going to rent a flat. I would like to meet a young man in his early twenties, any nationality, who likes good living and all that which my not inconsiderable income can provide. I am good looking in a 'public school' way and will be 34 in July. My desire is to find a personable and diverting young companion for my evenings in a city I do not know. Write direct to BM/1567, London WC1 - just that will find me! A photograph would help and it will be returned.

Young guy looking for interesting pen/telephone link-up with guys 21-29 who also like mags, denim etc. Box 41/114

Young man 24, non-effeminate and am longing to live and share life with someone up to 35 who is resident on the South Coast, longing to move away from Birmingham. Box 41/81

Anyone like to give me a hand in promoting a side line which is becoming lucrative. Home counties, west of London. Not much loot to start with but share of nice house and car. Box 41/133

Wayward art student, lover of bad taste, with sense of humour, seeks similarly honest and truthful soul-mate. Photo please. Box 41/134

Amsterdam at Easter. Flat booked for one week. Vacancies to make up small party. Share costs. Huntington, 19 Newport Court, London WC2

Young (is 36 young?) television executive wants to meet good looking, interesting non-camp types for friendship. Full details and photo appreciated greatly. Also phone number. Box 41/142

PLEASANT GENUINE GUY Mid 30s, slim, dark, 5'9" seeks dishy butch active guy 22+ for outings, friendship - possibly share London home and holidays abroad - definitely no effeminates only genuine letters with photos and details answered. Box 41/143

At SMC, Southampton, 64-717 Cohen, Joni, Steeleye, Planxty, Sibellus, Tchaikovsky? Snap again! Maugham, Greene, Boll, Camus, Isherwood, Donne? So important! 21, unconfident. Box 41/144

Manchester. Peter and John (28 and 21) wish to meet guys of similar age. Box 41/145

Attractive, unassuming young man (23) London, seeks good looking friend. Photo please. Box 41/146

Man 40 central London seeks friend, preferably West Indian. Photo please. Box 41/148

South West London quiet guy 37, 5'7" slim build, own home with varied interests seeks active, masculine, well-built friend 35-50. Photo please. Box 41/149

23 year old student, long brown hair and slim would like to meet similar friend for long lasting friendship. Box 41/150

Any other gay skier going to Kitzbuhel March 2-16? Let's meet for coffee and survey local scene. Box 41/151

26 year old active guy, interested in leather, denim, wants to meet a slim guy of similar age with short black hair for a permanent friendship. ALA with photos. Box 41/152

Young guy(s) with sailing experience needed to join gay young (twenties) Scots to charter yacht, 2 weeks June-August, Greek Islands. Photo details please, or do you know of yacht to charter with gay skipper? ALA Box 41/153

Young quiet guy but without inhibitions seeks friends for mutual friendship up to 40. Have own place or can travel. Attractive but not effeminate. Photo with letter please. ALA Box 41/154

Manchester guy 21 seeks sincere guy of around same age for deep friendship. ALA Photo appreciated. Box 41/155

Lonely male (35) active, seeks another for lasting friendship. Bristol Bath area. Box 41/156

Male (36) not keen on gay scene wants sincere friendship. Stocky 16st heavy-built male (not effeminate). Will answer all letters, Midlands area. Box 41/157

Birmingham: intelligent, friendly, professional man, 30, just arrived Birmingham, needs friends, contacts and somewhere to live, soon. Box 41/158

Gordon: in Bolton Tuesday 12th February. You with brown hair, wearing anorak, me gold rimmed glasses and suede coat. Please contact me with photo. Box 41/159

I'm not unattractive (but no Adonis) 30, told look mid 20s, introvert, non-effeminate, ordinary, don't like gay scene, and very sincere. Seek straight type guy 21-30, slim, shy and responsible. Really genuine. Photo appreciated. N London ALA Box 41/160

26 year old London guy, tired of the promiscuous scene, would like to meet genuine person with whom to have a steady friendship, between the age of 28 to 38. Please enclose photo. Box 41/161

Are you genuinely sincere, bored with the rat-race and seeking friendship. I'm 37, 5'10", plain, not very interesting, extremely shy and withdrawn - just an ordinary working guy, but very sincere, straight appearance, bored with the present scene and one night stands, looking for someone 21-35 who is equally sincere, with whom eventually to share the future. Must be of straight appearance. ALA Photo appreciated but not essential. Box 41/165

STEPHEN BUTCHER: Very many happy returns. Love will always surpass politics and the years. As always - JF

Aquarian aged 29, average looks and friendly, seeks similar sincere travelling friend for one month continental holiday April/May. Interests art, architecture, local specialities. By train? Box 41/166

Harlow, Essex, social friends 23-35 wanted. Write with photo. Box 41/167

27 year old turn maker living in Central London, would like to meet young man 21-23 for close friendship. ALA photo appreciated. Box 41/169

Not uninteresting - not unattractive - not yet 40 - not yet liberated - not yet attached. Is there someone similar who found SH's article in GN40 sufficiently self-revealing to want to compare notes? Box 41/170

Straight looking 32 Londoner would like to hear from anyone around own age group interested in all forms of leather and/or denim scene. Box 41/171

Affair London 32/42 seek friends for genuine friendship and varied interests. London/North Essex. ALA Box 41/168

Birmingham, 30, quiet, like to meet similar, local. Photo appreciated. Box 41/172

58 lonely, intelligent, personable, much liked by the young, easy to get on with, wants to share affection, friendship with understanding sensitive young man 21-30 slim and attractive. Own home, Brentwood, Essex. Box 41/173

Irishman 28 seeks sincere non-effeminate friends of all ages and nationalities in London area. Please send photograph which I promise to return. Box 41/174

Early middle aged Englishman, con-sidered masculine in appearance and attitude, deceivingly so, seeks young oriental friend (considered feminine in appearance and attitude?) basically active. Personality matters. I'll know if you're the right one. So will you. Box 41/175

Young greaser, Bristol area, would like to meet others interested in leather, denim, bikes etc. Unfortunately no pad. Photo please. Box 41/176

Young artist, slim, good looking, wants heavy, active, good looking friends. Own flat studio. Box 41/177

TALL, DARK, LEAN, ENGLISHMAN, active attractive young 41, Kensington - many interests including music, conversation and clothes, seeks new friends age immaterial. If mature, tall/slim and own pad. Photo appreciated. Box 41/178

Is there a friendly active, muscular butch guy with own pad near W1. Can help married gay 38 working in a totally hot workshop, and I'm stifled! Box 41/179

Oriental? Affectionate mid-fifties seeks sincere oriental friends any age, not camp. For pleasant weekends or permanent friendship view sharing home and business. Photo if possible. Box 41/180

Exeter gay, attractive 22, seeks good looking friend in area. Photo appreciated. Box 41/181

Exeter young 35 offers private home to same age or over. All comforts, share life together. Box 41/182

SE Durham gentleman offers to share his comfortable country home with someone under 45 in return for small rent and assistance with domestic duties. Box 41/183

I would like any friendship, motor bike and leather gear. I have own flat and leather gear. Photo please. ALA Box 41/184

A little extra money? West country potter could use a representative for London area and/or Home Counties, possibly also Midlands. Limited production, but sensible commission. Possibly (art) teacher? Friendship could be nice. Box 41/185

Ibiza. East Midlands guys would appreciate information about bars and beaches. Thanks. Phone Pete (0602) 54407 or write Box 41/186

East Midlands guy 31 would like to meet/correspond with similar guy 23-33 who is also disillusioned with shallow gay scene. Peter (0602) 54407 or Box 41/187

Active 28 cynical with obstinate romantic streak, enjoys bitchy camp humour, seeks friendship, SW London pref. ALA Box 41/188

West Country. Affectionate but shy professional man (38) with own home seeks someone 25-38 for hopefully lasting friendship. Wide interests but not keen on gay scene. Photo appreciated but sincerity more important than looks. Box 41/189

North London area. Young guys for friendship. Non-effeminate only. Please reply with photo. Box 41/190

Edinburgh postgraduate (23) slim and unassuming, interests music, etc, seeks affection from similar, medical profession especially welcome. ALA Box 41/191

Weed (male, but not very) would like to meet bodybuilder or similar to help me acquire some muscles before summer comes. London Box 41/192

Settling down? Active, bearded, husky, over 40, seeks non-effeminate 21-30 (jeans?) guy. Willing to share later. Own place NE Surrey. ALA Box 41/193

Croydon. Own flat, car, etc, interests photography, travel, cinema, seeks shy/lonely/21-25 for friendship. European, Eastern, Oriental. Not effeminate. ALA Photo please. Box 41/194

24 year old student, long hair, shy, and interested. Fed up with gay scene, seeks genuine friendship with boy same age, east or central London. Photo appreciated. Box 41/195

Two gay men, forties, country cottage, S Wales wish contact other gays. Box 41/196

Young man 24 seeks handsome jockey/ rider 28 for friendship. Photo please (returned) South East. Box 41/197

Actors, crew, last call for interesting unusual (idea-wise) amateur film. Box 41/198

Wolverhampton gay professional, 39, active, seeks non-camp friends between 22-36. ALA Box 41/199

Manchester/Liverpool area, slim, non-effeminate, male, 29, unpretentious, pleasant disposition, seeks companion, any colour, 21-30. Possibly creative/musical/artistic/non-materialistic and possibly like me, initially rather shy. ALA Box 41/204

Steam railway enthusiast, 28, slim, non-effeminate, unassuming, agreeable personality (other interests musical/artistic) seeks friend 21-31 Liverpool/Manchester area. ALA Box 41/205

You are 21-27, perhaps hirsute, own flat, no photos for intimate occasions. Send Roger your phone number. Arrange a photo session. Get ten super prints free. ALA Box 41/206

Boots and leather guy, 26, has just come on the gay scene. Very willing to learn, would like to meet others of same interests. Photo if possible. Box 41/207

Blonde guy 24, wants young hairy chested mates with football gear/tattoos. Varied interests. ALA Photos. Box 41/208

Affectionate, intelligent, 26, London, varied interests, seek similar permanent mate 21-35 to share life. If you want same, write Richard, Box 41/209

Boxer wishes to meet others for sparring or correspondence. Photo returned. Box 41/210

David, 22, shy but would like to start living, seeks sincere friends of similar age London. Photo ensures reply. Box 41/211

Going camping at CHE's Malvern Conference? Contact Angela Needham, The Library, Bath University Bath for site details etc. SAE please. Box 41/212

22 year old interested in meeting French, German or Italian gays. Box 41/213

Young man London, good physique and appearance, reliable, friendly, seeks similar 21-35 in London. Photo requested (returned) Box 41/214

A would-be very good looking boy desperately needs a genuine benefactor who can afford to finance a cartilage operation on my broken nose, so that I can launch upon a major acting career without being patronised. Please help. London area. Box 41/215

Male, 43, wants part time domestic cleaning, leather guy preferred. Box 41/216

Male, quiet, tall, early sixties, own home, would appreciate genuine lasting friendship for outings, holidays etc. Non-effeminate, North London, Enfield area. Box 41/217

Attractive Lancashire lad living in London, with many interests, would like to meet active male (straight type) for lasting friendship. Any age but must be unaffected and genuine. Photo please. ALA Box 41/218

Reliable lonely 35 year old, tall, dark, slim, kind, short hair, own house, seeks sincere clean-shaven 21-27 genuinely needing affectionate friendship with fair rental, North London, Croydon area. Appearance important, but personality more so. Box 41/219

Tony Trackman. Have you died or what? Please contact John or Steven, 255 Worsley Road, Swinton, Manchester.

BOBBY CRUSH AT LA CHIC, 15th March, Nottingham 56777

If you're good looking and enjoy being photographed, please write with photo. Good fee. BM-Box 7919 London WC1V 6XX

Ifford Cavalier Social club invites membership men over 21. Phone Jack 01-554 5163

Friendship and free luxury room for active young builder willing to redecorate and clean. Ring 235 1078 lunch-time only.

We're a group of merry lads. Sometimes lonely but never bad. We'd like to form a Friendly Club. To meet and help and Brotherly Love. Our fellow men of every race. Be they holy or in need of grace. Tel: 01-878 3193

ALAN P MCGORRIN, LAST KNOWN address 58 Tulse Hill, London SW2 - will anyone knowing the current address of the above please contact Peter Mundy at Gay News. Important financial reasons.

Young Thai would like to meet young English guy for friendship. ALA Box 41/231

West Londoner 35, reasonable looks, reserved type, bi, wide interests, seeks friends similar age. Photo appreciated. ALA Box 41/232

Slim (likewise) pianist 23-29 wanted by active tallish Baritone, 37. Make music together (Baroque, Bel Canto, Liszt) and life-long friendship? London based (solo) but mobile. Returnable/exchangeable photo. Please write fully to David, Box 41/233

Young gay 20s seeks denim/leather mate aged 21-30. I have own place in London. ALA with photo. Box 41/234

Graduate seeks quiet, tidy domesticated guy (21-30) to share luxury flat in modern block close to Wimbledon Common. All facilities, colour TV, own room. Box 41/98

SOUTHAMPTON. TELEVISION Executive, 38, fresh from London, urgently needs share super flat or house near City Centre. Own room essential. Garage desirable. Top rate for right pad. References available and required. Box 41/101

Guy 22 seeks s/c flatlet/share flat in central London, 15th March - 8th April. No strings attached please. Box 41/102

Loughborough. Gay household forming. Write about self and concerns. Box 41/103

Wanted. Small flat or bed-sit central London. Reasonable rent by pleasant responsible guy. Box 41/104

Wanted. Guy to share room in flat NW6. Box 41/105

Basement flat. Lancaster Gate for short lets, weekends etc only. Fully furnished 0491-33493

Olde Worlde House, two bedrooms, sitting room etc, fully furnished and secluded for short letting, only weekends, weekly. 0491-33493

A cottage in Cornwall. Bed and breakfast £2. No restrictions. Ring Mike, St Ives 5652 (day), 5480 (evenings)

Harrow. Large sunny furnished room. Central heating. 5 mins from tube (metropolitan). Share facilities with owner. 864 1953

Accommodation for discreet gays £1.65 nightly. Breakfast optional extra. 01-472 3122

SW12. Two flats (£18/£21) also 2 beds (£8 each) in friendly house. Ring 673 1173

Highgate. Furnished flat. Sitting room, kitchen/diner, double bedroom, box bedroom, phone, shower, £20pw. Phone 562 3268 after 6pm.

Crawley/Sussex. Graduate (26) seeks mate to share comfortable flat. Photo appreciated. Box 41/135

Young gentleman aged 23 with pet cats, seeks accommodation between Staines, Guildford area. No ties, quiet working type. Suggestions, Guy 41/136

Young man 20s seeks other to share flat in SW London. Rent £30 pm. Box 41/137

2 young women (professional), civilised, responsible; plus super black cat, require decent unfurnished accommodation at fair rental. North/north west London. Move in April onwards. Box 41/138

Share comfortable mansion flat Chelsea Bridge area, SW11. Own room for discreet male £12.50 pw incl. Ring 01-622 9540

28, seeks accommodation central London to escape pervading family environment. Separate room, no strings and ungay appearance essential. Can only afford reasonable rent. Interests include literature and logic. Possibly suit person in similar situation. Box 41/147

Young lonely gay transferred to London office, requires shared accommodation (own room if possible) Friendly but no involvements. Box 41/162

Middle aged male interested in TV would like homey accommodation or resident post. Anywhere considered. Box 41/163

Newly decorated bed sitting room. H/C water, heating, use of kitchen, other amenities. Easy access to airport. 898 0414

Wanted. 3rd working guy. Share fully equipped s/c flat. Would suit non-effeminate, quiet, bisexual, 23-29, reasonable physique, clean, quiet, reliable, interests classical music, reading. Rent £5 pw. ALA Photo helps. E5 London. Box 41/220

Can I share your flat from June? Anywhere in London up to £8. I'm 24. Box 41/221

Teddington - young guy seeks slim, quiet, 25-38 year old to share super flat. Own room, use of all facilities, near SR station, but car useful. £40 pcm. Box 41/222

Male 33 with tabby cat, requires accommodation in Fulham, Wandsworth, Clapham or Putney due to firm's move. Box 41/223

Flat to share. Battersea Park, straight looking teacher, mid-twenties, wants one quiet, tidy type to share recently converted and very well furnished flat. Own room, phone, lux kit & bath. £6.50pw incl. Box 41/224

Bristol (North) luxury flat. One or two discreet non-smokers to share with owner (mid 30s) own room £10pw. Plus electric. No strings. Box 41/225

Responsible easy going guy early 30s, seeks similar to share comfortable Putney flat £8 weekly. Box 41/226

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 41/227

Gay 23 urgently seeks accommodation within easy reach of central London. Own room preferred but prepared to share with guy of similar age. Max rent £8pw. Full details please to Box 41/228

Central London guy 30s technical representative, car, pleasant, reliable, wants bedsit or share flat, reasonable rent or willing to look for flat with another. Box 41/229

Leather man, active type, offered pleasant large room (and privacy) in flat 20 minutes from West End (by road or rail) please write fully. Box 41/230

Young man 31, seeks two others, similar age to share fully furnished house in SW11, own double bedroom and lounge on separate floor, share kitchen bath-room and wc. Please phone 228 5665 any evening, ask for Peter.

Male 31, similar, share flat SE24, own room, £5pw, share expenses - phone 692 7445 after 7pm. No strings please.

3rd homely guy (20s) for comfortable ground floor flat Wandsworth Common. S.C. stereo, colour TV, CH, £10pw. 223 3810

SW13. Two girls to share flat. Phone 876 7785

1/2 gay people to share house with two others, Chiswick, near river. 994 8255

One or two discreet young guys denim and/or leather required to share large flat in Maida Vale. 289 1376

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.

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

Employment

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

Attractive transsexual male to female seeks part time or evening work preferably night club or similar, can type. Photo available. London area. Box 41/26

Employment Ads cont on Page 19

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

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

Accommodation

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

Boy, 21, sensible and friendly seeks own room in London flat with guy or girl. North of the river. No bed-stings attached. please. Box 41/46

Impassioned, intelligent, quiet, serious artist (28) seeks unfurnished/sparsely furnished large room(s) in quiet house, London. Box 41/99

Student 27 seeks reasonable accommodation central or north-west areas of London. Prefer own room. Reliable and domesticated. Box 41/100

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

Boy, 21, sensible and friendly seeks own room in London flat with guy or girl. North of the river. No bed-stings attached. please. Box

Employment Ads cont from Page 18

Companionable young men under 35 can earn minimum of £7.50 nightly doing strictly legitimate pleasant work. Knowledge of London essential. Write to Julian Ashcombe, 512a Radnor House, 93-97 Regent Street, London W1

Presentable, creative young man, experienced cook, clean driving licence, seeks congenial employment. Box 41/106 Gay girl student wants job Wednesday afternoon, Saturday, Sunday. Box 41/107

Young intelligent man wanted to help run London flat and house South France, by older writer/academic. Pleasant work, quiet home, cooking, travel, driving country, preferably not cigarettes. Own accommodation (might suit writer). Box 41/108

Urgent. Work wanted, active, non-afeminate, sincere, hard-working young man 26, 6', 168lbs, reasonable hairy physique, jack of all trades, will do anything legal: nude posing, painting and dec, h.c.p work. Box 41/109 or phone 01-985 9907 London E5

Male 28 seeks work, short of money anything legal considered. Box 41/110 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 41/111

Male, SRN, (23) requires legitimate employment. Box 41/164. Bookshop requires assistant. Excellent opportunities and pay. No experience necessary, 4 1/2 day working week, 3 weeks holiday. West London area. Box 41/165

Employment consortium opportunity. Independent unit, rent and capital. Own control. Good return. Young man with personality, 01-732 6724 evenings. Good looking? If you are then send us a recent photograph. We require a selection of models now! Write with see to Adam 1974 (phone number appreciated), 243 Regent Street, London W1R 8PN

Market Place

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

WHY EXPOSE YOURSELF to prying eyes? Look around in privacy at our extensive range of nude magazines at reasonable prices. Follow-Up Magazine Showroom, 200d Railton Road, Herne Hill, London SE24. Open 11.00 to 4.30 Mondays to Saturdays. Prospective models for Male International/Boys Express/Follow-Up Magazines are very welcome.

Private collector wishes to exchange boy magazines with other collectors. Box 41/139

Out now! It's Value Packed! Adam 73/74 the international gay all photo journal. Postal orders/cheques for 80p with see to Editor, CHD, 243 Regent Street, Oxford Circus, London W1R 8PN Free Earth Magazine / Access to alternatives - bimonthly, 72 pages per issue, 18p (post paid) or £1 for 6 issues, 50p for 3 issues, from Free Earth Magazine, 103 South Street, Lancing, Sussex (UK) Free Earth Magazine is affiliated to the Commune Movement. The sub for CM membership is 85p for 6 issues.

ANNE ELIZABETH OF GAY NEWS has an old car that needs a good home. A few minor repairs necessary... but she's very loveable, and responds well to kind treatment. 11 months MOT, taxed until July. Any reasonable offer considered. Ring 995 1958.

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-saiz, leatherwear, 35mm colour slides, catalogue 30p.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO STUDENTS. Production costs dictate 'Follow-up' gay sex/advice magazine is priced at 75p monthly. Students who are able to send directly from a University or Students Union address may now obtain 'Follow-up' for only 40p. This is a permanent and special arrangement for students ONLY. Write to Follow-Up Magazine, 200d Railton Road, London SE24

Starkers. (Newest under brief sensation) and see-through briefs/pouches. Selection illustrated leaflets 8p SAE. Pleasantry (regd) G/N, 3 Middle Street, London EC1A 7JA

Quaintance. Original photo reproductions 10 x 8" £2 each. Details SAE Larry Knight, 4 Hamilton Close, London NW8 8QY

Services

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

The Go-Between Removals and Deliveries local or long distance. Phone anytime 01-349 1838

Wanted. Kitchen and bathroom done. SW London. Box 41/140

Financial backer required for gay London Hotel in basic stages. Box 41/141

Highwayman Friendship Club for friends. Advertisements free, lists 30p. HFC c/o Glen Aber Park, Chester. 4 days in Amsterdam. From East Midlands Airport. Prices including return day flights, coach transfers from Airport to centre, 3 nights Bed and Breakfast in central 4 star hotel £34.00 Phone Alan after 6.15pm at Leicester 875879

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

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

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

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

MORTGAGES FOR GAY PEOPLE, jointly or on single income. Phone John Adam, Bristol 292966

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

Jeans/trousers made to measure. Paul 278 1641

Big bums and bellies banished! Yoga tuition. Ross Nilson, 01-602 0721.

Massage available Cross dressers, Drag, Denim, made to measure. Ring 551 1023 after 7pm

Steve, 23, LONG HAIR, qualified masseur/model, seeks work. 01-876 7785

Relax in homely manor house in peaceful countryside near Bath, electric blankets, log fires, good food. Trains met (Chippenham) 022-16 3299

Entertainment

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

BOBBY CRUSH AT LA CHIC. 15th March. Nottingham 56777

March 1st concert/disco in the debates chamber, Swansea University Union. Appearing: 'Avalal' backed by a superb disco. Starts 8.00 and ends 11.00 - price 30p at door and 25p in advance.

SOUTH LONDON GLF DANCE Sat March 16th. 8.00-11.30pm. Surrey Hall, Binfield Road, Stockwell, SW4. Rock group, Disco, lights, bar etc. 50p

Alternate Tuesday nights out in Earls Court: Cafe Society downstairs at the Troubadour with Hereward; March 5th and 19th, April 2nd etc. Coffee and food, nice vibe - boogie and song 9.30 till late.

General Information

GAY GROUPS

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

CHALLENGE. Phone any evening between 7 & 11. Dial 567 5085 and the operator will give you the number of the member of the evening.

FELLOWSHIP IN CHRIST THE LIBERATOR Details: FCL, c/o 61 Earls Court Square, London SW5

JEWISH HOMOPHILE GROUP further info write to Timothy Goldard, BM/JHG, WC1 6XX

MANCHESTER GAY MEN AND WOMEN. For details ring Derek, 061-445 2889

BATH GAY AWARENESS GROUP info from PO Box 86, Bath BA1 2YQ

GAY LIBRARIAN GROUP. 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. Tel: Chris 01-673 2703

MANCHESTER GAY ALLIANCE newsletter from Side Door, 7 Birch Hall Lane, M13 0XJ. Tel: Gurd 061-225 9779

WIMBLEDON GROUP social activities. Details from Tony (947 4940) or Geoff/John (947-4094)

HARROW GAY UNITY for info ring John or Dennis at 863 5717

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

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

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 offering help to all gay, bi and straight latin-speaking people. Write to GLC, PO Box 38216 Los Angeles, California 90038 USA.

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

EAST OF ALDGATE a social group for gay men and women. Details: SK Group, c/o Albany Trust, 8A Christchurch Ave, London NW6

GAY MARXIST STUDY GROUP Details 01-794 3368

REACH a nationwide homophile group of members of Christian churches. Reach, 27 Blackfriars Road, Manchester 3.

MANCHESTER GAY ALLIANCE write to Side Door, 7 Birch Hall Lane, Longsight, Manchester M13 0XJ

GAY CAMBRIDGE a young GLF/CHE group covering both the town and the university. Contact Bernard Graves, 29 John Street, Cambridge. Tel: Cambridge 52661.

LSE GAY CULTURE SOCIETY TALKS: All held in Room S301A, St Clements Building, 6.30-8.00. March 8th

Barry Davis: 'Sexuality in Weimar and Nazi Germany'

OTHER ACTIVITIES: we have a regular social meeting every Tues 1.00pm in Room S066 St Clements Building. All are welcome. Further information can be obtained from the Gay Culture Society, c/o LSE Students Union, Houghton St London W2 The Gay Marxist History Group can also be contacted at the above address.

GAY WOMEN

EDINBURGH GAY WOMENS GROUP details contact Ms M Laurie 4/15 Halesland Park, Edinburgh

WOMENS LIBERATION WORKSHOP Kingsgate Place Womens Centre, 1 Kingsgate Place, London W6. Open Mon-Fri 10.30am-10pm.

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

MOLIN DISCO CLUB (girls only) 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) station. Ring 674 4004 or 274 2733

SAPPHO meets every first Monday in the month at Euston Tavern, corner of Judd Street/Euston Road, London NW1

7.30pm upstairs room. Sappho 30p inc postage for single copies from BCM/PETREL London WC1V 6XX

CAMBRIDGE GAY WOMENS GROUP Details write Alison, c/o Last Exit Bookshop, Mill Road, Cambridge or Tel: 647557.

GAYSOCS

NORWICH GAYSOC contact Peter Thomas, Gaysoy, University of East Anglia, Norwich NOR 88C. Regular meetings every Thurs 7.30, University House Room 1.32

BRISTOL GAYSOC is for all young people. Regular meetings on Thurs evenings 7.30 in Gramophone room of the Students Union. Info write to Secretary, Bristol Gaysoy, Students Union, Queens Road, Bristol BS8 1LN

SHEFFIELD GAYSOC for all gay, bi and sympathetic men and women at educational institutions in the area. Write to Societies Pigeon Holes, Students Union, University, Western Bank, Sheffield, or ring Sheffield 306930

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

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

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY GAY GROUP contact Rod Hall, 18 Guthrie Street, Edinburgh 1. Open to all students. New members welcome.

LOUGHBOROUGH STUDENTS GAY SOC open to all students and staff of Loughborough colleges. For info ring Peter at Silaby 2048

ESSEX UNIVERSITY GAY LIB SOC write to University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex.

READING UNIVERSITY GROUP FOR HOMOSEXUALS. Open to all students. Details Rugh, Students Union, Whiteknights Park, Reading, Berks.

EXETER GAYSOC info from Gay Liberation Society, University of Exeter, Devonshire House, Stocker Road, Exeter, Devon.

GAYSOC for men and women in any school or college of London University. Undergraduate or staff. Write (enc SAE please) Gaysoc, JLU, Malet Street, London W1

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

DURHAM UNIVERSITY GAYSOC contact via Students Union, Dunsell House, University of Durham, Durham City.

GAYSOC for staff and students of the Open University. Write to David McLean, The Gdns, Brentwood, Essex.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE GAYSOC disco every 2nd Thurs from 10th Jan, 2nd Floor Lounge, University College Union, 25 Gordon Street (ent Gower Place) admission 20p

MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY HOMOPHILE GROUP meets every Thursday 8pm in meeting Room 4, Union Building, Oxford Road, Details Gord 061-225 9779

TRANVESTITE/TRANSEXUAL

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

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

NATIONWIDE TRANVESTITES Martin Rees, Transvestite Group, 58 Charles Street, Cardiff.

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

COUNSELLING/BEFRIENDING

Friend

is a nation-wide befriending and counselling service for gays in distress or with a problem. Write to FRIEND at: BRADFORD PO Box 47, Bradford

Yorks BD1 5YZ

CAMBRIDGE Cambridge Friend, c/o 44 Earls Court Road, London W8

CARDIFF 58 Charles Street, Cardiff, South Wales

CROYDON Second Floor, 53 High Street Croydon Heath, Surrey CR4 8RW

LEEDS Leeds Friend, c/o 44 Earls Court Road, London W8

LONDON 47 Church Street, London NW8 Tel: 01-402 6750 weekdays evenings 7.30-9.30pm

MANCHESTER P O Box 427, Spring Gardens, Manchester M60 2EL. Tel: 061-225 0058 evenings and always Thurs evenings.

MERSEYSIDE PO Box 7, Liverpool L8 2XN. Tel: 051-727 2589 or 709 6104

NORTH EAST Box A 16, 133 Great North Road, Gosforth, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Tel: Newcastle 33544 or 841403 or 877701

NORWICH P O Box 3 North Walsham Norfolk

SHEFFIELD P O Box 107 Sheffield

SUSSEX 9 Brunswick Sq, Brighton, Sussex. Tel: Brighton 739729 weekdays 9am-6pm or Brighton 61664 Friday evening 8pm-10pm

WEST MIDLANDS 161 Corporation Street, Birmingham 4 (call at Carrs Lane, Counselling Centre Thurs 7pm-9pm)

If you do not live within reach of any of these groups, please write to National Friend, 44 Earls Court Road, London W8 Tel: 01-402 6750 weekday evenings 7.30-9.30pm.

PARENTS ENQUIRY write to Ms Rose Robertson, 16 Hanley Road, Catford, London SE6 2HZ. Tel: 698 1815 any time

BRISTOL ICEBREAKERS info and counselling for south west. Tel: Bristol 556925 Mon and Fri 7.00-9.30pm or write to Icebreakers, PO Box 86, Bath, BA1 2YQ

BRISTOL GAYSOC BEFRIENDING GROUP for all Bristol students with problems or worries. Contact Jo, Gaysoc, Students Union, Queens Road, Bristol BS8 1LN

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

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

SOCIAL ACTION caters for all problems at Walnut Cottage, Moorland, Bridgewater, Somerset.

CENTRE London Gay Counselling Service at Centre, Broadley Terrace NW1. Ring 01-262 9595. Open Mon-Fri 7pm-10pm. Disco every Fri at 8pm-12pm. Coffee bar from 7pm.

BRISTOL Help and Info. Send SAE to Confidential Friend, CHE, Bristol, PO Box 171, BS99 7ND

MISCELLANEOUS

NEW YORK GAY SWITCHBOARD: PO Box 929 Madison Square Station, New York NY 10010. Tel: New York 924 4036 - open 6pm to midnight, 365 days a year. Info available on all gay subjects.

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

BETHNAL ROUGE a bookshop run by a collective of gay people. 248 Bethnal Green Road, London E2. Tube - Bethnal Green. Bus - 8

NEW JERSEY GAY SWITCHBOARD and info Centre. Contact Box 323 Princeton Junction, New Jersey 08550, USA. Service free of charge although an international reply coupon would be appreciated.

GAYPRINTS Faggots and the revolution etc has now changed address to Gayprints, Box GP, 197 Kings Cross Road, London WC1

MENTAL PATIENTS UNION Leeds and District branch. Contact Ian Everton, 153 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds

GENTLE GHOST HELP ADVICE AND INFORMATION, 33 Norland Road, W11 (2nd floor) or tel: 603 8983 Mon-Sat 10am-6pm.

SCOTTISH MINORITIES GROUP

NATIONAL OFFICE: 214 Clyde Street, Glasgow G1 4JZ 041-771 7600. Please address all communications to 'The Secretary'. An SAE is a great help.

BRANCHES OF SMG MEET IN: ABERDEEN: contact Rosemary Kemp, 16 Belmont Road, AB2 3SR or phone Denis, 0224 205761

BORDERS/CARLISLE contact Richard Webster, 2 Cowpasture Cottages, Newbiggin, Penrith

DUNDEE contact Len McIntosh 0382-452 433 or Tony 0382-25913

GLASGOW WOMEN contact SMG women (214 Clyde Street G41 4JZ

EDINBURGH contact Mike Coulson 031-225 4395 1pm-10pm or Ian Dunn 031-667 7473

EDINBURGH WOMEN contact VOC, 11 St Colme Street EH3 6AG

GLASGOW contact John Wallace 041-882 3536

ST ANDREWS contact Richard Batchelor 45a South Street KY16 9QR

INVERNESS contact John Matheson, 9 Castle Street, Inverness

EDINBURGH (Befriending) Weds, Sats & Suns only 6-9pm. Tel: 031-332 9149

IRISH GAY LIB MOVEMENT

BELFAST: Maeve Molloy and Margaret Ward (Queens University Belfast Gay Lib Society) phone Belfast 42124

COLERAIN: Don Gill and Pat Knight (New University of Ulster Sexual Reform Movement) NUU, Coleraine, Co Derry, phone Coleraine 4141 ext 319

DUBLIN: E Lynch (CHE); Margaret McWilliams (Sappho) Peter Bradley, Hugo McManus and Dierdra O'Mara (Trinity College Dublin Sexual Reform Movement). All these Dublin representatives may be contacted through the Students Representative Council, Trinity College, Dublin. Phone Dublin 772941

CAMPAIGN FOR HOMOSEXUAL EQUALITY

There are over 70 local groups, for details and membership information contact their offices at:

28 Kennedy Street Manchester M2 4BG. Telephone 061-228 1985

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

You can ring some groups direct at the numbers below:

BATH: Bath 4738 (Hugh)

BOURNEMOUTH: Bournemouth 24842 (Laurie)

BRADFORD: Shipley 51742

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

BRISTOL: Bristol 35035 (Trevor)

CAMBRIDGE: Camb 52661 (Bernard)

CANTERBURY: High Wycombe 39321 (Haydn)

HERTS STH: Hatfield 69172 (John)

KENT EAST: Thanet 42059 (Roger)

LANCASTER: Lancaster 2750

LEEDS: Morley 7686 (David)

LEICESTER: Leicester 706050 (Steve) Leicester 738832 (John or Clive)

LONDON Monday Group 01-385 1191 (Brian)

EAST LONDON: 556 5910 (Tony)

LONDON, STEPNEY: 01-476 7980 (Mike)

LONDON, HIGHBURY & ISLINGTON: 272 8523

LONDON MARYLEBONE: 352 9013 (Andrew)

MEDWAY: Medway 361576 Ken or George

MANCHESTER: 061-445 2889 (Derek)

NORTHANTS/BEDFORD Northampton 22861 (Alan); Bedford 53150 (Andrew)

NORWICH: Norwich 53903 (Carol)

PRESTON: Preston 39030

SOUTHAMPTON: 551335 (David) 6-7pm only

STREATHAM: 01-675 2886 (Doug)

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TYNESIDE: Newcastle 877701 (Jerry)

WIRRAL: 051-327 5178 (Jack)

YOUTH GROUP: 01-385 7246 (Mike or Jim)

WINDSOR: 51062 (Mike)

YOUNG GAYS meet regularly in London. The CHE Youth Group meets fortnightly around central London. Details from Mike or Jim at

Newsettes

● Bandit In Drag Charms Teller But Loses Cool

MEXICO CITY: A suburban bank robbery almost succeeded, after a man in drag conned a cashier into thinking he was a beautiful woman.

The bank teller, Antonio Ponciano del Mazo, was so smitten by 23-year-old Roberto Ruiz Hernandez that he left his window to ask the manager for the rest of the day off. In his absence, Hernandez stuffed a bag with banknotes worth £5,500.

When Ponciano returned to say he'd be free in an hour, Hernandez smiled and said he would wait outside. But as the would-be robber turned to leave, two policemen walked into the bank to cash in their pay cheques.

Hernandez explained after his arrest: "I just lost control when I saw the police, thinking the cashier found the money missing and pressed an alarm." He faces a year in prison.

Ponciano was reprimanded.

● Sidcup Up In Arms

SIDCUP: Local clergymen in this part of Kent are taking exception to a Jehovah's Witness pamphlet recently circulated in the area.

In GN38 we reported that a number of Nottingham readers had written to us complaining about the same leaflets being circulated there. Now thousands of copies have been distributed in Sidcup.

The leaflet accuses every Christian church and sect (except, of course, the sin-free Jehovah's Witnesses) of paying lip service only "to God and His word the Bible".

Other churches, say the Witnesses, support and glorify war, condone homosexuality and premarital sex, and demand money for religious services.

"It is strange," said Canon Stanley Allen, of St Johns Parish Church, Sidcup, "that the Jehovah's Witnesses should accuse all other religions of making errors without appearing to suspect that they may have made some themselves."

"They have worried and even frightened people with their propaganda, which is false anyway, but one never hears of them lifting a finger to help."

Sidcup's Methodist Church has also joined in the argument. He called the pamphlet highly misleading and said "I am interested in the truth, and it is on these grounds that I regret this sort of publication."

None of the local church leaders has been prepared to justify their alleged 'condoning' of homosexuality.

● Second Sheffield Prison Sentence

SHEFFIELD: Another victimless crime was brought to justice in this definitely anti-gay city. Anthony, a 33 year old youth leader, appeared at Sheffield Crown Court pleading guilty to three charges of committing a homosexual offence with a minor.

As warden at a Sheffield youth centre, Anthony became involved with a guy aged 17 who attended the centre for evening sporting activities. As defence counsel Mr Michael Walker told the judge, their attraction was entirely mutual, there had been no pressure on the younger man to take part in sex, and the offences with which Anthony was charged had been committed in private. They had a steady relationship and had been on holiday to Holland together.

Mr Paul Johnson, prosecuting, said that their relationship was illegal and that they had gone to Holland because there "it is legal".

The judge said that there was "clearly no element of corruption" in the case. But he then went on to give Anthony a 12 month prison sentence, suspended for one year. Anthony was also ordered by the court to pay £100 costs.

Mike Kaye

● Women Students Come Out Fighting

HATFIELD: Gay rights, contraception and abortion, and a re-appraisal of women's role in society are to be the subjects in a campaign launched by the women students of Hatfield Polytechnic.

The women are strongly behind the National Union of Students Campaign launched recently to fight for fair grants. In particular they are supporting the NUS demand that married women should be given the same assistance as unmarried ones. At present, presumably on the principle that a woman's place is in the home, any woman married to somebody not a student will not receive a full grant. If a woman is single, or married to another student, she will be eligible for a full grant.

But a major part of the women's struggle will be about homosexuality. Ms Georgie Scurfield told a local newspaper that "there are areas, for example, in the question of homosexual women, where we haven't done anything yet. There's no gay society here and I think that we will have to advertise that the NUS supports the acceptance of gay rights."

● Irish Senator Pledges Support For Gay Rights

DUBLIN: At Saturday's Gay Rights Symposium in Trinity College, Dublin, a definite proposal came forward from Senator Dr Noel Browne, a member of the Upper House of the Dublin Parliament. He pressed for a bill of rights for homosexuals to be introduced in the Republic at the right opportunity.

The audience of over three hundred people had speakers ranging from Catholic Theologians to the inimitable Babs Todd (Sappho) in what has been acclaimed as a major initiative on the part of Irish homosexuals. At time of going to press a full report was not available. However, we hope to carry details in the next issue. After the symposium, organisers commented: "We expected a hundred people, but the response was overwhelming and press coverage exceeded all expectations." A tremendous success and a tribute to the organisers.

Don Gill, Belfast

● The Kenilworth Pub

EDINBURGH: An article, 'The Crombie Threatened' which appeared in GN39, has caused some local controversy in Edinburgh and anger and embarrassment to the new manager of The Kenilworth in Rose Street, an Ind Coope owned house.

The article hinted that the new manager might be gay. I had identified the wrong man behind the bar as manager, hence the mistake in my report. Jimmy, the new manager, is not homosexual, and he wants you all to know the fact. Over threats of court action, he demanded - and got - a written apology from the author. Many readers will be familiar with this sort of hypersensitive reaction which is a sign that public understanding and empathy has a long way to go.

Jimmy, whose outlook is best summed up in his own words, "They (the homosexuals lesbians etc) mind their own business, and I mind mine." has allowed a group of local SMG members to meet in his pub each Wednesday as part of his general effort to make the Kenilworth once again well known and respected as a good bar for homosexual men and women in Edinburgh. Local readers are asked to support this development and to speak out if progress is unsatisfactory.

Gay bars don't just happen... they're carefully nurtured. After all, you pay your money so you should certainly expect good service.

Ian Dunn

● Welsh College Poll on NUS Mandate

CARDIFF: The National Colleges of Education Gay Rights Committee is in the process of polling colleges to assess the extent of support and commitment to the NUS Gay Rights Policy, according to David Dancer.

"There are about 31 colleges in Wales," said Dancer, "and each of them will be circularised, asking presidents where they stand on the mandate."

The action followed a request from the Cardiff branch of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality, who asked that some contact be made in Cardiff and at nearby Barry by the Gay Rights Committee. Dancer said "various organisations and Welsh Gaysoes have been asked to make direct contact with these unions."

● Vandals Wreck Ex-Gay Venue

SHEPHERDS BUSH: Distribution manager Peter Mundy has just come panting into the news office to tell us that a couple of Irish council workers are at present tearing down the public lavatories on Shepherds Bush Green.

According to gays living in the neighbourhood, the Shepherds Bush cottage was a favourite rendezvous until it was closed down about a year ago. We were even told of sentimental memories of happy evenings down there, despite the hideous surroundings and the stench of disinfectant. All sounds most unlikely!

However, whether we were having our legs pulled or not, any golden era that did exist down there has now been knocked firmly on the head.

● Male Sperm Outswim Females

BERLIN: A group of West German scientists say they've almost perfected a fool-proof method of determining sex in human procreation. Their researchers have managed to produce samples of human semen that contain more than 85 per cent concentrations of male-producing sperm.

This method is based on the separation of X and Y sperm, which respectively produces male and female babies. The separation of the two different kinds of sperm is achieved in a test tube, based on the different swimming abilities of the male and female agents.

The West German report says that the artificial separation of male and female agents also enables them to produce a highly fertile sample of sperm from men who are otherwise unable to procreate.

● American Gays Freer Of Stigma

NEW YORK CITY: Conspirators and oil company executives have replaced atheists and gay people as the lowest of social beings according to the Louis Harris Opinion Poll.

The pollster reports that Watergate and changed social values appear to have wrought significant changes in American attitudes.

"In 1967, homosexuals, black militants, student demonstrators, prostitutes and people who don't believe in God were rated 'dangerous or harmful to the country' by a substantial majority of the Harris polling sample - anywhere from 60 to 75 per cent."

"By late 1973, we couldn't find a majority to say that any one of these groups is dangerous," Harris said.

The current poll rates as 'dangerous' by the majority shown in brackets: "People who hire political spies (52%) generals who conduct secret bombing raids (67%); politicians who engage in secret wiretapping (71%); businessmen who make illegal political contributions (81%) and politicians who use the CIA, FBI or Secret Service for political purposes or to restrict freedom (88%)"

● South London GLF 'Get A Shake-up'

LONDON: South London Gay Liberation Front proposes to "set up several collectives or working groups in conjunction with the Oval House Youth Centre on various subjects and projects".

The Wednesday evening sessions (from 7.30) will take up "any subject or activity" that is desired, from poetry reading to rambling, photography to political action.

The February 13 session at Oval House was dominated by the general election.

"Several people present expressed the view that the last government's attacks on civil liberties etc would be repeated, but very much more viciously, by a new Conservative government. And therefore GLF should actively campaign against the Tories."

Although there was "much enthusiasm on a proposal to put up a gay candidate," GLF couldn't nominate anybody "as we had made no preparations." However, the decision was made to try and stand someone in a forthcoming by-election or council election, "as this would get enormous publicity to the gay issues."

South London GLF is encouraging gay constituents in the area to ask candidates 'certain basic questions', to write to the press, and they have organised groups to attend political meetings.

Donations of £10 were made to Ice-breakers and the miners' strike fund. And it was decided that at least one member would attend the Gay Marxist Conference at Leeds.

● Kensington Group Offers Welcome

LONDON: The Kensington Branch of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality have recently held their annual general meeting at which the present officers and committee were unanimously re-elected. One of the group's women members was co-opted onto the committee.

The Kensington branch holds two meetings a month at 'The Rose' in Fulham Road, one formal, one informal. The next meeting will be held at 'The Rose' on Tuesday March 5th, and readers in the area who would like to go along are assured of a welcome.

● Mary, Mary

LEEDS: The austere interior of Oxford Place Methodist Chapel on Monday, February 11, echoed the voices of Mr and Mrs Whitehouse, who alighted there for an evening's sweetness and light between engagements at Christ Church Potters Bar and Stirling University.

The audience was not very supportive, take away the gays and the other radicals who were there to criticise her, and few were left besides the motley assortment of old dears, and almost no evidence at all, of Mr and Mrs Average British Housewife who Mary Whitehouse claims to represent.

There was more discussion (if that's what it could be called) about homosexuality than anything else, a little bitter at times, and the whole thing brought at least one of the old dears to tears. It was all a bit sad. One gay skilfully provoked Mary into saying that homosexuality was a sickness, though she later denied that she said this and said instead that to think of it as normal was a sickness. She claimed that we members of Gay Lib were victims of propaganda and if we could really think about ourselves individually, we would all find a cure "just like that".

But on the whole, her speech was moderate enough. She claimed not to advocate censorship but merely to seek opportunity for the expression of a silent majority's views which had been pushed out of focus by the torrent of filth etc. She also said that she thought the use of women as objects to satisfy men's lust was "wholly unsatisfactory" and that she fought against the sexual and financial exploitation of individuals and relationships. We were on common ground there.

Mike Kaye

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