

N°42

GAY NEWS

15p

CHE

NEW ACTION BRIGADE

LONDON: The Campaign for Homosexual Equality will soon have a well-oiled war-machine, if members agree to the proposals put to the CHE National Council held recently in London.

At the heart of the plan will be a register of CHE Activists. This list will contain the names, addresses and telephone numbers of those who are prepared to work publicly for the campaign, together with details of any skills the activists might have which would be of particular value (broadcasting experience, public relations, etc).

At the same time, pressure would be taken off those for whom CHE is a social organisation, enabling them to meet other homosexuals in a more relaxed atmosphere than you can find in gay pubs and clubs and other traditional gay meeting places.

The move is intended to avoid the split threatened in the organisation recently between activists and non-activists. For some time there has been mutual criticism by the two sides, non-activists saying that the more militant members are rocking the boat, and the activists countering that CHE calls itself a campaign and more people should be out doing exactly that.

Both parts of CHE's work are seen to be of equal value by the people who proposed the new scheme. On one side they see the need for a very tightly-knit and efficient nucleus of maybe 200 or so activists prepared to confront hostile sections of the public. On the other, they want to see an attractive members' organisation offering gay people a real alternative to the present commercial scene. And they hope to cater for women who in the past have been largely ignored by private enterprise. Thus there are plans afoot for things like package holidays (where tour organisers won't raise their eyebrows when two women or two men ask for a room with a double bed), arranging exchanges with foreign gay organisations, and generally trying to widen the horizons of the traditional gay scene.

It was recognised that a prime function of CHE was to offer friendship and support to individuals who had not yet fully come to

terms with being gay. A great deal of strength could be got from the encouragement of a local group. The plans for extending the social side of the campaign would assist members to offer more help in this particular area.

As far as activist plans were concerned, there were a number of roles for the group to play. First of all, Manchester office needed a list of people who could be called on at short notice to carry out speaking jobs. If a radio station called to try to get someone for a programme going out the same evening, CHE should not be caught out as it had been in the past, but should be able to get on the phone to make sure that there was somebody in that studio and that the opportunity was not missed.

Second, where there were incidents of prejudice or discrimination against gay people, then CHE should be able to jump in straight away to make its presence felt. If the press or broadcasters published anti-gay matter, the people responsible should receive a full post bag of protest letters immediately. If a gay was kicked out of a job, the company concerned should be picketed. Constant anti-gay prejudice on radio or television programmes could be dealt with American-style by zapping the studios.

Third, the group of activists would also be useful internally. They could help with setting up new local groups, would be able to promote a CHE literature of discussions, analyses, research, information into gay and related issues. They are also very clear that the activists' group is not a separate group that meets in one place regularly, but is a nationwide network of workers—people who could remain members of their own local group and work within that group. In this way the threatened split could best be avoided. And by working within a local group, activists might act as a catalyst and attract others in the group to come out and join in the campaign.

Last year, David Bell, Howarth Penny and Glenys Parry wrote a paper (as individuals, rather than as members of the executive committee) called 'CHE . . . The End?' in which they argued the case for forming the new activists group, and at the same time going all out for mass membership for the larger organisation.

This was followed by a second paper called 'CHE Activists . . . The Beginning?' in which they put forward more details, following discussions privately with the executive committee and further discussion between Howarth, Glenys, David and Liz Stanley themselves.

It was basically these ideas which were put to the National Council in London, and the scheme received overwhelming support in principle from delegates, though everybody is anxious to see fuller details of what the sponsors have in mind. Details will be ready in time for the Malvern conference, when all members of CHE will have the chance to vote on the proposals.

Gay Switchboard Dial 01_8377174



Photograph: Carl Hill

LONDON: Pictured above are some of the faces behind the voices you will hear every night between 6.00 and 10.30 on the Gay Switchboard telephone. They were gathered at the University of London Union for a press conference to launch the project.

Only three days later, on March 4, they were getting down to the real work of actually running the service.

At present, people who want specialised assistance with some problem, will be referred to someone suitably qualified and experienced. But the organisers hope that such questions as "Where is my nearest gay pub?" or "Is there a group near me for lesbians?" they will be able to provide quick information for. Of course, their success in this depends very much on the assistance that is given them by all gay groups. They hope that everybody will send them as much information as possible about what they are doing, where they meet, and so on. If you are organising a gay event of some kind, then Gay Switchboard is one of the very first you should tell about it.

Gay News phoned them up the first night they went into action. We asked them (anonymously, of course!) if they could please tell us the address and phone number of Gay News. They could and did, and got it right. Even down to the postcode.

Anyway, while we were on the line we asked them how the first night had gone. Tim Perrott told us that they had had about fifty or sixty calls since opening, and they had been surprised at the number of different things they had been asked. "Our information system was really being stretched to the limits," he said. But it has given every-

one concerned a lot to work on in the future.

A number of those who phoned did so to offer help in answering the phone, and others asked where they could send donations to. Both kinds of help are still very badly needed, say the switchboard volunteers, and they were very grateful for the offers. They hope they will get more. Donations should be sent to Gay Switchboard, Box 69, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1, and you can volunteer to help on the phones by ringing the switchboard during its working hours (6.00 to 10.30pm).

But besides the offers of help were a whole mass of calls from people who were after hard information. One of the most encouraging features, said Tim, was that many of these calls were from people living in the suburbs, many of whom had never had any contact with the gay scene, either in pubs or clubs or in gay organisations. They had heard about the service on the radio in most cases (Radio London, London Broadcasting and Capital had all given the scheme air-time). And they had decided to try phoning to see what it was all about. One call came through from Liverpool, so obviously the word is getting about.

So if there's anything you want to know, or anything you want other people to know about, phone 01-837 7174 seven nights a week, and the switchboard will do its best to help.



Glenys Parry of CHE

Photograph: Carl Hill

GAY NEWS

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«C» Is For Campaign

Well, after months of rumour and speculation, the activists within CHE have published their proposals for tightening up the effectiveness of the organisation's campaigning activities. And the proposals will no doubt be welcomed by activists and non-activists alike.

The proposals are by no means radical. They pose no threat to CHE as it exists today. And yet there was a great deal of anxiety about how they would be received. Because of the recent polarisation within, into activists on the one hand and non-activists on the other, the proposers of the Activists Register were afraid of two possible reactions.

First, they did not want to be accused of 'rocking the boat', an all-too-familiar cry from the closet, which runs along the lines of "don't make a fuss in public about the situation of homosexuals or you will upset straight people." This is a somewhat dictatorial attitude, and many would object to being told to stay in the closet and lead quiet and respectable double-lives pretending to be straight. But CHE has always campaigned to some extent. The new plans are merely an administrative move to improve efficiency.

Secondly, and perhaps more justifiably, they were anxious lest they were accused of creating a split in the organisation. But a careful reading of the plans will allay this suspicion. The activists will remain firmly attached to local groups, they will not be forming a new group that meets regularly in a separate place. The idea is to form a network of communications so that CHE's man- and woman-power can be used to best advantage.

And yet the fears were clearly there when the scheme was presented to National Council. The first speaker was over-apolgetic, and the second launched into a lengthy, self-justifying harangue which threatened to alienate some of the support that was clearly there. It is to be hoped that the overwhelming vote in favour of the scheme in principle will dispel the anxieties of those who propose the plan at Malvern conference. The ideas need, and deserve, to be offered to the membership with confidence and enthusiasm.

Besides improving the effectiveness of CHE, there are additional advantages to the plan. Far from splitting the organisation, the net result may in fact be to cement over the cracks that have been apparent recently. For many who have not wished to campaign it has proved difficult in the past. They have felt the need to justify their position, in the face of constant pressure from more militant members to get out and do something. And in this way a mutual antagonism appears to have arisen. By recognising the two functions of CHE, the militant and the socially-supportive, everyone is offered a positive role. Everyone now has something to do, whether it is to help other gays within the group who have not yet come to terms with their homosexuality, or whether it is to get out into the public arena to challenge prejudice and discrimination.

Having welcomed the new ideas coming out of CHE, it is worth remembering that the gay rights movement is only half of the battle.

We have still to ask, not *what* is being done to gays by society, but *why*? You cannot change the What without understanding the Why. The main source of answers to these questions has been the Gay Liberation movement, rather than the gay rights side. And it is vital to the success of the whole gay movement that these questions continue to be asked and argued about. The groups involved are numerous, Gay Marxists, Radical Feminists, GLF groups of every political hue. The critiques are diverse, theories of sexism written from every political perspective continue to be prepared and published. The saddest thing is that they are all too often ignored by the gay rights movement. The arguments involved are too complex to be slickly disposed of in a half page of Gay News. They merit a different kind of approach altogether. They certainly merit consideration.

Having said that, it would be unrealistic to expect CHE to become the forum for this kind of exchange of ideas. The ideas will remain the preserve of the radical gay groups. So where do the two wings of the gay movement come together?

It could be argued that gay activists working on gay rights causes are upsetting the public's complacency about homosexuality, and in the long run contributing to the undermining of general confidence in a society based on false premises of male supremacy. This was clearly the challenge posed by the radical feminists. And yet it is also implicit in the activities of CHE.

What CHE and the gay rights movement must at least be prepared to do is to grasp a basic understanding of sexist critiques advanced, and avoid at all costs seeking reforms for homosexuals which implicitly accept society's sexist ethos. The women's campaign which they have launched is, in this respect, far more important potentially than many members may imagine. There is a great deal to be gained from examining CHE's own attitudes in the past to women members which have often seemed uncomfortably close to the attitudes held by society at large.

In short, the London National Council at which both the women's campaign and the activist plans were discussed at length was one of the most important CHE has ever held.

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.

The Duty Of MPs

London W2

Dear Gay News,

Your reports on the reaction of the leaders of the three main political parties indicate that they are all of them wrong on the subject of homosexuality in our society. It is not, as they declare, a matter for individual conscience and decision.

A Member of Parliament is the representative of all the people in his constituency irrespective of their, and his, political allegiance. A Government is responsible for legislating and, in that legislation, for having regard for the views and interests of the minority as well as the majority.

Consequently it is the duty of MPs and of the Government of the day to ensure that no minority is subject to persecution or alienation. There are aspects of the present situation which require reform and there is no need to underline to your readers what they are. That is not a matter of individual conscience so far as Parliament is concerned. It is a question of social justice.

The Campaign for Homosexual Equality submitted an admirable questionnaire to all the candidates at the General Election. It is to be hoped that their answers will be collated and made known. Whilst it is unlikely that Homosexual Law Reform will find a place in immediate legislation, in view of the critical state of our national affairs, it is imperative that those who are actively fighting for this should continue the struggle. We must, as Gaitskell said, fight and fight and fight: and, as Churchill said, we shall never surrender.

Ian Harvey

Ever So Liberal

Farnworth
Bolton

Dear Gay News,

It is absolutely incredible that Jeremy Thorpe should feed you that old rubbish about homosexual law reform by claiming that "it is not a subject for official party policy."

Mr Thorpe—who is a former member of the Executive Committee of the Homosexual Law Reform Society—is perfectly aware that Gay Rights have previously featured as official Liberal Policy. Indeed, the party was pledged to reform long before the 1967 Sexual Offences Act.

A resolution calling for implementation of the Wolfenden proposals was carried overwhelmingly at a meeting of the Liberal Party Council held in London on 27 February 1965 and became official party policy. Among those present and voting in favour was Mr Jeremy Thorpe!

Thorpe's present unwillingness to back further reform could be due either to limited vision or to the fact that he feels himself to be a prisoner of the high office which he now holds within the party. If the latter is the case, it is high time we had a further move from the Liberal Party Council. Gay Liberals—Right on!

Allan Horsfall

'Revolting' Ad

Surrey

Dear Gay News,

Is it really necessary for advertisements in GN to contain such vulgar and tasteless photographs? I refer especially to the ad on Page 15 in GN 41—"The Colt Album". I realise these advertisements play a very important part in making GN possible, but to see them in almost every issue I find quite revolting.

PLEASE PLEASE no more of this rubbish!

All the best for the good you do in producing an entertaining and informative newspaper.

Chris Field

ED: What do other readers think?

Suppressed By The Law

Dear Gay News,

After the General Election, my hopes are high that in the next Parliament something will be done for homosexual brothers and sisters throughout Britain.

I speak as a gay brother who is directly suppressed by the law. My present age is eighteen (I have been a 100-per-cent gay since puberty), and at the moment I'm having a wonderful relationship with a man much older than myself.

Throughout the relationship though, there pervades feelings of anxiety and fear of being 'found out' by the police; and the consequences that would follow.

Surely the law must recognise that a person's sexuality is his or her own prerogative to decide upon, and lower the age of consent to 18? Surely it would be better to have a well-adjusted gay rather than a maladjusted eunuch?

Homosexuals like myself are put into a claustrophobic dilemma as to whether or not they should keep to the law and remain celibate till 21 (which is impossible in the virile teens when one's sexual libido is at its peak); whether they should keep to the law and try to 'get it on' with the opposite sex (which personally I would be quite impotent at trying to do), or whether they should break the law (being careful not to be caught), and have a fantastic, beautiful, passionate, caring and consummate relationship with someone of their own sex (which is what I am doing!).

It is obvious that the latter would be the choice anyone would make, as everyone of us, whether we are gay or het or bi, needs love, emotional security, and sexual outlet.

I remain anonymous at present, not because I'm unliberated, but because of the law; and I finish by asking any other young gay who has read this, to write lots of lovely letters to GN about his or her worries concerning the law. Bi-Love and Peace.

Anonymous

So, Why Vote?

London N7

Dear Gay News,

The GLF's support of the Labour Party, as reported in GN41, contrasts rather interestingly with a point of view expressed in 'Spartacus' (remember 'Spartacus?') at the time of the 1970 election. 'Spartacus' was glad that the Tories got in, because Labour had been adopting a progressively more repressive and anti-homosexual attitude. Now what do you know? GLF went Labour to win because of Tory repressiveness.

Surely all this means is that people are using their homosexuality as a justification for political views that are held a priori? Certainly for my part, as a confirmed 'don't know' of many years standing, I can very conveniently 'reason' that, since none of the parties is likely to do much for homosexuals, I shouldn't vote for anyone. At any rate, I didn't....

Yours apathetically,

Tony Jefferson

Look Beyond The Ghetto

Dear Gay News,

The election results, which show no real confidence in anyone, are to my mind symptomatic of the age in which we live. An age that knows neither what it wants nor where it is going.

This can be particularly true of the gay scene. I feel that so often gays have no clear indication of what they really want in life beyond who to go to bed with for one night!

This is by no means intended to criticise the scene, for I have often felt this way in the past. I myself am 29 and have always been gay.

I think that gays can often get into this butterfly-type existence by confining themselves entirely to the gay scene. So many gays for example will only go drinking in gay pubs. I think that they should try to make some friends and have some interests outside the gay scene, for only when they remember that they have their part to play in the world outside the gay scene will they ever get a more well-proportioned view of life within it.

Marvin Kennedy

Youth's The Season

London NW10

Dear Gay News,

Regarding my letter in "Troubled Water" (GN39) and Phillip's answer in GN41, may I point out that of the current six CHE Music Group concerts, three require at least 80p for admission, which is hardly "most of the events cost the members nothing." Even cinemas have reduced prices for OAPs. As for transport, most of those I saw seemed to have cars, while I had to leave an hour before the concert to be sure of arriving on time.

The letter (also in GN41) by Mr George Forster states the position of OAPs exactly, and I agree with everything he says. In John Gay's 'Beggars Opera' there is a song which goes "Youth's the season made for joys", and again—"Let's be gay while we may", which certainly did not apply to those who were young in pre-Wolfenden days. I think the 20-40-year-olds are slightly selfish.

L S J Sired

Icebreakers Impressive

Essex

Dear Gay News,

I very recently made a phone call to Icebreakers. I had to prime my resolve with alcohol.

The courtesy, helpfulness and light-hearted optimism of the operator on call, whose name was Peter, could not have been more impressive. He was most polite and forthcoming with both information and opinions when solicited. If this is the usual standard of the Icebreakers, I wholeheartedly commend them to all, especially to the sceptical, the difficult, those hoping not to be scoffed at.

You must by now have had many commendatory letters about them—mine is rather special because I am 50 years old and almost never find reasons to write them.

'Agucheek'

ED: Icebreakers are a group of gays who offer a befriending/advice service for isolated homosexual men and women. They also answer the letters sent to GN's 'Troubled Water' column. To contact them directly, ring 01-274 9590 between 7.30 and 10.30 any evening.



Illustration: Jean-Claude Thevenin

Buck Passing

Milton Keynes

Bucks

Dear Gay News,

You asked us to write to our prospective MPs for their views on lowering the age for consenting adults from 21 to 16, and for legalising homosexuality in Scotland and Ireland.

I received only one reply from Bill Benyon who was later re-elected MP for this area. His replies were:

1. He was against lowering the age of consent.
2. The people of Ulster and Scotland must decide.

This smacks of buck passing. How the hell can the people decide if like the Common Market they are never asked their views?

Catherine Kightly

Election Outcome Good For Gayness

Twickenham
Middlesex

Dear Gay News,

How lucky the election was called at the time it was: how much better the position is now than previously; how wrong was Gay News (41) to consider a government with a clear majority would be best for gay liberation!

It all depends on the government. Better to stay in one place than move backwards.

The most important single result of calling the election was that it put the kibosh on the Cinematograph and Indecent Displays Bill, which would have cramped the style of Gay News and probably threatened its very existence. Newsagents would have been afraid to stock it had the Bill become law.

When the dissolution of Parliament was first expected, in mid-January, this Bill had nearly completed the committee stage. In the next three weeks while Heath dithered, the Bill went through all its remaining stages in the Commons and could have received the royal assent in a matter of days. A big leap backwards was just saved by the going.

My local Tory MP, Toby Jessel, a good constituency member, told me candidly on the eve of the poll: "I support this Bill." But in the new political situation there will be no such Bill to support. Admittedly the stalemate cuts both ways: at the moment there can be no progressive legislation either.

The continued publication and growing sale of Gay News is the greatest single asset of the gay liberation movement and is of overriding importance to the gay population. The economics of the newspaper industry are a threat to the livelihood of all working journalists. In the case of a young publication like Gay News the difficulties are far greater.

It is therefore the duty of all gay people to support the paper to the greatest possible extent, to recognise that its staff can only work for it at great personal sacrifice, and to help safeguard its future.

Of course the fight against gay oppression is easier in Parliament when the Government is stronger, but what good is a private member's Bill, except for some momentary publicity, if the Tory Party is in power? Despite the typically ambiguous replies that Wilson may have given personally to Gay News on the subject of gayness, the last Wilson Government had many reforms to its credit. Among other things, racial discrimination became illegal—a cause with which gay people have particular sympathy, being concerned with a form of oppression that is similar to their own.

Lord Brockway, when MP for Eton and Slough during previous Tory administrations, introduced his Racial Discrimination Bill five times over, but it got no further than a formal first reading. But the Wilson Government, although lacking the courage to bring in its own measures for the historic reforms that were enacted, gave the all-important Parliamentary facilities to the late Sydney Silverman, for the ending of capital punishment; to the Liberal David Steel, for the Termination of Pregnancy Bill, and to Leo Abse for the first step forward in legalising homosexuality—the monumental advance that was necessary to pave the way for the real reforms still to come.

Now is the breathing space in which to prepare for the long struggles that lie ahead. What fools were those political commentators who said the electorate would decide the government for the next five years! Heath packed it in after less than four years of the last government, and anyone who thinks the present government will last five years wants his brains tested. The stalemate could be foreseen the moment Heath threw in the sponge, despite the hysterical Tory boasting I backed my own political judgment with a bet at Ladbroke's, which I won at a handsome price.

The outcome of the election is as good as could have been expected. The prospect should improve before long.

Jack Ellis

Gay Women -The Big Campaign

LONDON: Delighted by a number of successes with its education campaign, the Campaign for Homosexual Equality is to turn its attention to the problem of gay women.

The 'problem' in the first instance is "where are they all?" Women make up little more than 10% of CHE's total membership, and clearly the organisation has not yet begun to attract them in anything like good enough numbers.

So two questions pose themselves. What is it about CHE that puts women off, and second, what is CHE going to do about it?



Liz Stanley - CHE's Women's Organiser

Liz Stanley, the energetic women's organiser of CHE, has compiled an invaluable aid called simply enough 'Women's Campaign Manual'. It aims to do three things, says Liz. First, to provide basic information about gay women, their problems, their needs, their ambitions. Second, it highlights certain special topics of major concern to women and sheds some light on them for the uninformed gay male - gay women with children for instance, bisexuality in women which seems to be far more common than is bisexuality in men with society structured as it is at present. And thirdly, perhaps most importantly, it suggests courses of action for CHE groups to take, in order to provide facilities for women who might want to join.

The publication of the manual follows a resolution passed at last April's CHE conference, in which the members recognised that they had fallen down on the job of attracting women to the campaign and agreed to work harder in future to provide for them.

The manual has taken a long time to produce, says Liz Stanley, "because group leaders didn't give it priority." This, she feels, was a bit short-sighted of them because as she points out in the manual, "If there were as many women in CHE as men, it would have 6,000-plus members and no financial problems."

The manual itself was launched at the recent National Council of CHE held at the University of London Students Union off Tottenham Court Road. Delegates were given copies in the morning, and in the afternoon there was a women's workshop for both male and female members. A number of group convenors attended.

The first topic raised was a recent feature article in *The Guardian* about CHE. Despite the length of the article, there was no mention of women members. The article mentioned homosexuality in children, saying that "it is not until puberty, when a boy becomes conscious of other boys around him, that problems become apparent," but it did not consider girls. And the article talked about cottaging - an exclusively male problem - but ignored gay women with children - an almost exclusively female problem. The workshop did not want to make too much of the particular article. What they did note in passing was that it seemed to be symptomatic of CHE's general attitude. Women were not maliciously ignored, but it seemed that they were often 'forgotten'. This was the sort of difficulty that had to be overcome if CHE was really to do anything about women.

Individual groups told the meeting of their experiences. One of the most encouraging reports came from the Birmingham group where they now have meetings attended by almost equal numbers of men and women. The group convenor attributed their success largely to the efforts of their women's organiser who had energetically campaigned for the recruitment of members. Once a small group of regular women members had been established it made it a lot easier not only to attract new members, but also to keep them once they had started coming to meetings. The Highbury and Islington group bore this out. One woman who came along to a meeting never attended again. The group's convenor got in touch with her to ask her why, and she explained that with all the male members she felt as though she was 'intruding'.

The Women's Campaign Manual promises to become an invaluable aid for those in the gay movement who have for so long been working in the dark as far as their gay sisters are concerned.

Copies can be obtained by writing to 'Women's Campaign Manual', CHE Manchester, 28 Kennedy Street, Manchester 2, enclosing a large, self-addressed envelope with a five-penny stamp on it for a single copy.

Life For Gay Murder

LANCASTER: Anthony Craig, a 26-year-old labourer from Blackburn, was sentenced to life imprisonment at Lancaster Crown Court for the murder of John Kirby (see report in GN 36).

Passing sentence, Mr Justice Milmo told Craig: "You have been convicted of a particularly brutal murder, a murder which arose out of your plan to roll a queer, as the phrase goes. I can find no mitigating circumstances."

It had taken the all-male jury three-quarters of an hour to reach their verdict at the end of the five-day trial.

Anthony Craig had pleaded not guilty to the murder of 32-year-old accountant John Kirby, whose battered body was found early last November in Corporation Park, Burnley, a local cruising area.

Mr Ivor Taylor QC, for the Crown, said that Craig had "poured out his heart" to police officers while he was being held in the cells, and had confessed to the murder. Craig had met Kirby in the town: "He tapped me up in King Street and I only meant to rob him." Craig was seen entering Corporation Park by a police constable. The constable said there was a man with him, but he could not recognise him because he had been shielded by Craig.

In the park, Craig said, Kirby had "kicked up rough and hit me in the eye," when Craig had demanded £5 from him. "I hit him with a brick and he went down on the ground and I took 2p off him."

"As he lay there I started off down the park and then I realised that he would recognise me again. I went back and hit him on the head with a large stone."

"I guess I panicked. If I had kept my mouth shut, they would never have been able to prove it."

Ivor Taylor told the court: "It seemed that Mr Kirby, who we admit was a practising homosexual, had heard of the nasty practice called 'queer bashing'. He did not carry money in the obvious places, which is why Craig could only find 2p when he robbed him."

When, on Sunday November 4th, John Kirby's body was taken to the mortuary, £7 in notes was found inside one of his shoes.

CHE Puts GN In Croydon Library

CROYDON: The library here will have a copy of Gay News at least until June, thanks to CHE Croydon.

The CHE press officer here, Jim Sewell, said the library was contacted last summer about subscribing to the newspaper. In a reply, the chief librarian said the libraries committee might consider the request this June. So CHE offered, and the library accepted, a six-months' gift subscription.

CHE has had less success in dealing with the Surrey County librarian, R F Ashby. His reply said that the county library maintains a "neutral stance in matters where public controversy is aroused.... No public library can lend itself to the support of or opposition to any particular point of view." So the librarian said it couldn't stock Gay News.

Sewell said the logic of this argument completely escaped him. "So I wrote to the librarian suggesting that the fact that the library stocked a newspaper such as the Daily Telegraph did not necessarily imply that it endorsed its opinions."

But since then, Sewell reports, there has been a deafening silence from Esher, where the Surrey County Library is located.

Berni Fails To Delete Gay Pubs

BRISTOL: The marketing director of Berni Inns Ltd says that unless the names of certain pubs are deleted from the Euro-Spartacus International Gay Guide, renewal of license applications may be denied by local authorities.

Michael A Bogod told Gay News that Berni Inns will continue to take action against the Gay Guide "so that we will have something to show the licensing committee that this is being forced upon us."

"This" is the listing of two London pubs, for instance - The Pig & Whistle and the Salisbury - as places where gay people gather.

"By emphasising minority groups, you also emphasise that other people are less welcome," Bogod said. "I would hate to have this happen. No people are more welcome than others. All people are welcome; I mean it. That includes gay people. It always has."

Bogod wrote on 1st February a letter to John Stamford, editor of the Gay Guide, asking that 11 pubs owned by Bristol-based Berni Inns be deleted because they were not gay. Stamford's response was "unpleasant and aggressive," according to Bogod.

Stamford said in one paragraph of his letter: "When Berni Inns makes an official policy of refusing admission to known homosexuals or lesbians, and posts notices in these bars to that effect, we will then take a close look at the effect and remove the bars if appropriate, but as long as gays are welcome at the bars concerned, and make a point of going there, we will leave them in, in order to present an accurate picture to our readers."

That statement, Bogod said, "is wholly negative."

Stamford conducted a survey of the 11 pubs and found that the following probably aren't gay: Tavern in the Town, Chester; The Cliff Inn, Scarborough; The Harte and Garter, Windsor. "We can, and will, amend some of the entries," Stamford wrote, "adding the M (mixed) code, and other useful information, and will omit the three which are not at all gay, after further checking to be quite certain."

The editor also told Bogod that "our book is sold only to gays. It is unlikely that heterosexual men and women will buy it, especially at the price of £2.25 per copy." Stamford made the comment in reference to a concern Bogod expressed about reputa-



The Salisbury, St Martin's Lane, London W1

tions: "If the premises get a reputation for being particularly suitable for a minority group and only for that minority group, our business would suffer very considerably." Besides, Bogod argued, "I have a copy of the guide. And I'm certainly not gay. And I know someone else who has a copy. And he's not gay. That's two people who are not gay who have copies of it."

Nor does Berni Inns care if a listing is qualified with a code mark like M: "An M doesn't affect that many people."

"My problem is that by acting in a responsible way [his letter to Stamford was 'reasonable and responsible'], we lay ourselves open ... to being put into this nonsensical situation."

Bogod said that further action would take the form of "polite" requests for cooperation. "But there's nothing, literally nothing, we can do. He's in Holland, putting out this thing."

The marketing director did say that one pub, already, is being challenged in its attempt to renew a license. But Bogod refused to say whether this pub was the Pig & Whistle, or any other.

Breaking Press Silence

ASHFORD: When your local newspaper refuses to report news about homosexuals what can you possibly do? Send an official complaint to the Press Council - that's the advice of Mr Groves, a Gay News reader from Ashford in Kent.

For six months now, he tells us, he has been sending news items about gays to newspapers in the Kentish Express and Kent Messenger group, with covering letters regretting the lack of any press coverage. He has sent several letters for publication which have appeared in print - but never letters about gays. In January he sent a letter about the Cinematograph and Indecent Displays Bill which was duly published - but not before references to Gay News and Forum had been carefully edited out.

His latest attempt came at election time. Having written to all candidates about their positions on gay law reform, he sent a copy of this letter to various local newspapers. Radio Medway picked up the story, so did the Ashford Advertiser, so did the Rider. But the Kentish Express and Kent Messenger studiously ignored it - they don't want their readers to know about that sort of thing.

Mr Groves by this time had had enough. So putting pen to paper, he wrote to the



Mr Groves - press buster

Press Council. "It is not the failure of the KM group during the past months which is of paramount concern to me," he said, "but their attitude and action towards gay news items in the future."

We all wait with bated breath to find out what the council's reply will be.

Gay Ads Ban Lifted

SALISBURY: The Salisbury Times & Journal, once a bastion of provincial press homophobia, has agreed to carry future advertisements inserted on behalf of gay counselling groups.

As part of a probe into the refusal of southern newspapers to carry gay ads, GN's local correspondent contacted the Editor of the Salisbury Times & Journal, Mr W Sanders, who readily agreed that the paper's advertising department had instructions to refuse ads connected with homosexuality.

After pointing out the inoffensive and humanitarian nature and purpose of the ads, Mr Sanders spoke with a representative of the Salisbury Samaritans, presumably to satisfy himself that everything was on the level. He then informed GN that he was prepared to accept advertising for the newly-formed Solent FRIEND group, which has

been organised in conjunction with the Southampton branch of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality.

The result is a major breakthrough in advertising the services of gay befriending organisations in north-west Hampshire, the New Forest, Southern Dorset and Wiltshire areas.

A spokesman for the Southampton branch of CHE expressed both surprise and delight at the outcome of GN's negotiations with the Salisbury Times. For the first time a huge rural community will be aware of the services offered by FRIEND.

But GN was equally delighted because it represents a further advance in pushing back the frontiers of provincial press homophobia and censorship.

Richard Thomson

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We look forward to welcoming you to The Paintbox (Club Tokyo).

CHE Last Council Before Malvern

LONDON: The Campaign for Homosexual Equality has held its last National Council before the Malvern members' conference, at which delegates were told about arrangements for the conference. Members who have not registered so far were urged to do so quickly.

Two major issues were raised, both of which are reported at greater length elsewhere in this edition; the proposals for setting up the CHE Activists group, and the Women's Campaign.

Council was also told about proposals to amend the CHE constitution so that members of the executive would only be elected for terms of two years instead of three as at present. There would be annual elections, half the committee retiring each year. To help members vote this year, there would be a hustings session at Malvern at which candidates for the committee would be given the chance to speak to the conference about their ideas.

Reporting back on CHE's questionnaire sent to all candidates in the recent general election, no details were yet available. But Manchester office said that 80% of the local groups had contacted candidates as requested, and there had been about a 50% response rate from politicians who had been sent the questionnaire.

Martin Loney of the National Council of Civil Liberties spoke briefly to delegates, offering his organisation's support for what CHE was doing. He pointed out that as the main campaign organisation, it was CHE's job to make the running, NCCL could only assist. But that assistance would be there when needed. He appealed again for details of individual cases where human rights had been infringed. NCCL were often told that gays were discriminated against, and harassed by the police. But until they were given hard facts about particular incidents, their hands were tied, and there was very little they could do to help.

Glenys Parry gave the report on the Education Campaign, and mentioned the formation of a GaySoc within the Open University. This was a significant step, she said, because a large number of students of the Open University were schoolteachers. If they were to receive GaySoc news in their correspondence it might well influence their attitudes and help change the atmosphere within some of the country's schools.

Peter Naughton, CHE's Treasurer, put forward a plan to charge a single subscription for CHE membership. At present people have to pay two subscriptions, one to their local group and one to the national organisation. There were two difficulties with this. First, a number of members had never been told about the need for two payments. They thought that by paying their local group dues they had automatically joined the national organisation, and then were annoyed when they did not receive membership cards and regular copies of the Bulletin. Secondly he pointed out that it was a lot easier for someone to make one payment than to have to write out two cheques, or make two separate payments. There was some argument about this plan. In the end, delegates were asked to report back to their groups and to ask for a decision to be taken at Malvern.

During the afternoon there was a finance workshop at which a finance committee was set up to help the Treasurer, and a number of plans were discussed for raising money. In particular, the workshop wanted to find £150 quickly to cover the cost of publishing a teaching package which had been prepared, and had been in great demand following the Guardian article about CHE. It seemed crazy to many delegates that there was not enough money around to publish the package and cash in on the interest that had been aroused. So an on-the-spot whip-round was started to get the ball rolling, and a suggestion was made that each delegate go back to his group to ask for a contribution to this project at once.

The next National Council, it was agreed, would be held in Birmingham towards the end of September.

Union Troubles

LONDON: Brixton police say they haven't a clue who's been breaking into cars and stealing their contents near The Union Tavern in Camberwell New Road.

Car thefts have increased, especially on Sunday nights, when the pub is at its gayest. Police in Brixton report "nearly 800 motor vehicle crimes so far this year." The Brixton station claims it's too understaffed for the public to expect that thieves should be caught.

"It only takes a few minutes to happen," Brixton police said. "It's useless for us to try to catch these people unless the public can help with some information. It's really an impossible situation."

Gay Teachers in Denmark

DENMARK: The Danish organisation 'Forbundet' has sent a questionnaire to local authorities throughout the country asking how they stand on employing homosexual teachers.

40 authorities returned the questionnaire but, say 'Forbundet', only five had given a straightforward answer to the question they had been asked.

Only three said that they hired teachers solely on the grounds of their professional qualifications. These were Olatykke, Koge and Grasten. What teachers do in private life, they said was no concern of theirs. Two authorities, however, Gentofte and Hasle, said they would not employ a homosexual to teach children.

Though the results of the survey were somewhat poor, the fact that the question was asked in the first place has attracted some publicity. The conservative Danish newspaper 'Berlingske Tidende' asked the director of the school board in Gentofte why he was so set against employing gay teachers. In reply, he said that homosexuals were sick, and he would be failing in his duty if he employed people who might seduce 10, 11 or 12 year old children. Even the conservative 'Berlingske Tidende' commented "This is not mere tasteless discrimination, it is simply a ridiculous attitude."

However, back in 1963, the Danish Education Minister Helveg Petersen had warned homosexuals not to try to take jobs as teachers. If times have changed since then, nobody seems to have told the local school boards. So 'Forbundet' has been applauded by gay teachers who think it time that the whole question was raised again for discussion by the press and the general public.

Teachers were somewhat encouraged last November when Education chief Petersen, speaking at a congress in Copenhagen, retracted his 1963 statement. In reply to Pffarrers Sobyte, a priest well-known in gay circles who conducts gay marriages, Helveg Petersen said his thinking at the time had been coloured by an incident which had taken place a few months before his first statement.

In 1962, he told the congress, a popular teacher was sacked when it was revealed that he was a homosexual. His homosexuality was revealed by a colleague who broke into the teacher's flat and discovered a collection of photographs. The teacher had been sent to prison for a week, even though he had done nothing illegal. He then lost his job. And the colleague, who had illegally broken into his flat, not only escaped punishment but was promoted shortly after the episode. It was to avoid this sort of situation, said Petersen, that he had advised gays not to apply for positions as teachers.

Such a thing could not happen today, said Pffarrers Sobyte. At least he hoped not.
Gay News—Germany

GLF Spur TheCrisisCarnival

LONDON: South London Gay Liberation Front told Gay News that a dozen or so of their members "dominated the march" at the Brixton Crisis Carnival early this month.

Among the placards carried by the GLF were "Heath Out" and "Sod Off Sailor", along with "Love Is Good With Any Sex".

A Benefit Dance is being sponsored by the South London GLF to continue to help coal miners. The dance is at the Surrey Hall, Binfield Road, on Saturday, 16th March at 8pm to the sounds of The Swifts.

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Photograph: Michael Mason

The Pig & Whistle - prices are now the same for gays

Prices Cut ~At A Stroke

LONDON: Prices for beer, spirits and wine have changed suddenly at the Pig & Whistle Pub in Belgravia. Sunday lunchtime prices, when the place is gay, have been lowered. The prices are now the same as for non-gay clientele.

The prices had been jacked-up from one to three pence per drink. Complaints to Gay News resulted in an investigation into price-fixing.

The Pig & Whistle is run by Chef & Brewer Steak Houses, which is, in turn, owned by Berni Inns. Although Chef & Brewer at first denied that prices were raised at Sunday noon, they issued an apology later the same day. And the Sunday after the pub had been exposed, prices were back to normal.

At a license re-application hearing on 26th February, at least one local resident objected to the Pig & Whistle. The pub manager and his wife said the complaint was based on the fact that the pub was gay every Sunday noon.

Ms Ian Copeman, manageress, told Gay News that when the resident's complaint was turned down by the licensing authority, the resident then objected to noise. This objection was also thought to be groundless, and the license was renewed.

Gays Against The Front

MANCHESTER: Thousands of leaflets attacking the National Front were circulated by homosexuals in Manchester at the election.

The leaflets were distributed in Openshaw and said: "The National Front is an organisation of fascists. Fascism is the enemy of the working class—as it aims to weaken and destroy that class." It pointed out that according to the National Front the enemy of the workers is not the ruling class but Jews, blacks, or homosexuals, or any other group it can pick on.

"As homosexuals we are already oppressed in this society and regarded as 'deviant' or 'queer'—unlike, of course, the business man, the property speculator or the profiteering landlords who are regarded as 'normal'.

"As homosexuals we are not prepared to stand by and be put into concentration camps as German homosexuals were by the Nazis. This is why we urge all working people of Openshaw, not just the thousands of homosexuals who live in the constituency, to reject the National Front."

KY Famine

SLOUGH: Johnson & Johnson Ltd of Slough tell us that the KY famine is due to problems in getting supplies of tubes.

Trying to buy tubes of KY in Boots chemists throughout London, the answer is always the same, 'Sorry, we haven't had a delivery for weeks.' The man at Boots in Piccadilly seemed to think that it had something to do with the oil crisis.

But Mr Lewis at Johnson & Johnson's Slough headquarters told Gay News that they had had problems in getting the metal tubes to put the stuff in. But, he reassured us, there was no need to worry, "We're back on full production now."

So all goes smoothly. And we can once again look forward to those sleepless nights. Or can we?

"We are expecting to run into difficulties again in the middle of March with our tube supplies," said Mr Lewis. Will that mean another famine, we asked? No, he said. J & J have arranged to import from America to see them through the period.

Our business manager at Gay News managed to track down one large and six small tubes in a grubby chemist's in Acton. He is considering putting them up for auction at Christie's, with the proceeds to go to the Gay Switchboard.



Colonel Gaddafi allegedly fiercely hostile to gays

Colonel Gaddafi Crowned Queen

TURIN: 'La Stampa', the leading Italian newspaper, printed an extraordinary story about Libya's Colonel Gaddafi recently.

According to the two journalists who wrote the story about the Libyan leader's recent visit to Paris, Gaddafi is a homosexual. And if that wasn't bad enough, they continue, he has ten wives!

The Italian gay rights organisation FUORI is annoyed by the story. Gaddafi, they claim, is even more fiercely hostile to homosexuals than Fidel Castro. There have recently been a number of reports about a purge in Libya involving the arrest of numerous gay citizens. Those arrested are reported to have been sent to labour camps similar to those set up in Castro's Cuba.

Gay News—Germany

Gay Picket Commission Building

ONTARIO: More than 35 gay women and men picketed the offices of the Ontario Human Rights Commission in Toronto. The picket was organised by the Gay Alliance Toward Equality (GATE) in protest against the OHRC refusal to take a position on proposals submitted by GATE in a brief to the Commission in August 1973. It was not until February (nearly six months later) that they even discussed the brief.

Specifically, the brief asked the OHRC to recommend to the Provincial Government that the Human Rights Code be amended to include the term 'sexual orientation', thus outlawing discrimination against homosexuals. The second proposal was that the Commission establish a study group to research and investigate cases of discrimination based upon 'sexual orientation'.

As a result of the picket, eight people representing such organisations as GATE, the Metropolitan Community Church, the lesbian paper 'Long Time Coming' and Canada's largest gay liberation paper 'Body Politic', held a meeting with Mr Robert McPhee, Director of the Commission.

Asked about the Commission's discussions, McPhee said "The Commission did discuss the matter again and reached the point of giving me absolutely nothing to report back. It's as simple as that. They discussed—but they reached no conclusion and took no position."

McPhee said his Commission only reported to the state legislature. They could not themselves write the law. And he told the gay representatives that they should try to persuade the legislators.

But it was pointed out to him that in August 1973 the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission had recommended the inclusion of 'sexual orientation' in the Saskatchewan code, and their recommenda-

tion had been acted on. And they mentioned previous occasions on which the Ontario Commission itself had initiated policy changes.

McPhee had no answer to that. He agreed that "The Commission is the policy centre. If there were to be recommendations for changes in policy to the government, certainly the Commission is the proper body to make those recommendations." But then he continued "But the political considerations whether sexual orientation should be in the code or not is not one that we would have very much input on."

He was also challenged on the way the brief had been delayed six months before the Commission reached a decision. "I think it's been perhaps their failure to give you a firm answer on what your position is vis à vis your brief. I think that's the crux of the problem," said McPhee. That's what he had been asked about though. Why the failure?

"What Mr McPhee is saying," commented Ron Dayman of GATE afterwards, "is that the Commission refuses to deal with problems of oppressed minorities. What they want is a clear indication that the public is behind any proposed revision of the Code. At this point we might ask what the function of the OHRC is if it is not, in fact, to work for the alleviation of discrimination by changing, rather than reacting to, public opinion."

GATE has been told that they will probably have an opportunity to meet the entire Commission in the near future. Meanwhile they have launched an extensive campaign for the inclusion of sexual orientation in the Human Rights Code by asking politicians, trade union leaders and community organisations for their support. "We intend to keep the issue before the public," said Ron Dayman.

Police Break Up Gay Games

LONDON: What started off as a harmless prank ended up with the police being called, and an official complaint being made by Stephen Aldridge.

Early in the morning of Sunday February 24, Stephen and four of his friends were walking back from London's West End to Earl's Court. Their stroll took them through Hyde Park, and in high spirits they started fooling around.

A passing taxi driver got worried by what he saw. He thought Stephen was being beaten up, stopped his cab, and called to Stephen to jump in the back. Stephen told him not to worry, it was just a game. But the cabbie was not satisfied.

Driving off, he stopped a policeman, told him that there were "four poofs beating up a guy," and then drove the policeman back to the scene of the 'crime.' Soon after the cab arrived (this was at about 5.30am) a police car drew up with another two police officers.

Poor Stephen had quite some explaining to do. But having told them that he and his friends had just been fooling around he was amazed to hear the first police officer order

them down to the station. Naturally he asked why. No reason was given. He was just told to come down to the station.

When he asked for an explanation first, the police order was re-phrased "Get in the back, you little cunt." The policeman then grabbed Stephen by the hair, tore his jacket, and then dug his fingers into Stephen's arm and pushed him into the car.

"I know what you lot are like," said Stephen, "and I want a friend to come with me."

One of the four friends was eventually allowed to accompany Stephen, and the two of them were driven away to the police station in Wellington Arch.

Curious to find out what they were going to be charged with, Stephen and his friend were astonished to find that having had their names and addresses taken, they were simply sent on their way.

As Stephen left the station, the officer said "Sorry about your hair," but that didn't satisfy Stephen, who has now lodged an official complaint. All four of his friends have offered to give evidence.

CHE Regional Council

LONDON: In an attempt to bridge the gap between grass roots members and national officers, Wallace Grevatt of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality executive committee convened a meeting of the new South East Regional Council. Local groups of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality from Reading to East Kent were represented at the council, which was timed to take place immediately before the National Council in London on March 2nd.

The proceedings were informal. The day was divided into three sessions. First, reports

were given about what the local groups were actually doing. The second period was given over to a discussion of possible local and regional developments in the future. And the third session gave representatives an opportunity to air their views about national policy. Many of the subjects on the agenda for the National Council were discussed at this meeting.

General opinion was that the day was well-spent, and it is planned to hold a similar meeting in about six months time.

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Gay Women With Children

MANCHESTER: Gay women who marry can be either homosexual or heterosexual; similarly, gay women with children can be either homosexual or bisexual. Being homosexual has never yet prevented a woman from becoming pregnant if she has sex with a man.

- From observations of many groups, it would seem that a far higher percentage of gay women, compared with gay men,
- have heterosexual sexual experience
 - may be bisexual
 - are more used to, and know more men (i.e. than gay men do women)
 - are or have been married
 - have had—even if they are not actively bringing up—children.

Life for a gay woman with children is not usually easy. She may decide to stay with her husband and lead a complete double life in order to keep her marriage intact and stay with her children; some don't leave because they can't earn enough to keep themselves and their children or because they don't want to bring up their children on social security.

Some women leave their husbands and live without their children—some are brought up by the husband who re-marries or lives with another woman, others have children who are brought up by either set of grandparents. This sort of arrangement is quite frequently forced by a husband who knows of, and rejects or fears, his wife's gayness—this is blackmail in anyone's terms: "give me or grandparents the kids or we'll bring it out in court that you're a les, and then they'll take them away from you."

Other women divorce or separate from their husbands without their homosexuality or bisexuality ever being known by the husband and keep their children. They may still lead a more or less double life, or they may bring up their children while living in a gay relationship. Some women have been divorced or separated and have lost custody of their children—not because they ill-treated them or were unfit mothers in any way, but because they were gay. This is still seen as reason enough to deprive children of their mother by the strange and perverted world we live in.

Lastly, a few women have told their husbands, to be met by understanding acceptance and love: the complete acceptance that enables them to live their homosexuality as much as their heterosexuality.

Obstacles

The problems and heartaches of someone deprived, for no good reason, of their children may be imagined. However, those gay women who bring up their children still face tremendous problems and obstacles to happiness.

She still fears she will lose custody of her children: any husband who later finds out about his wife's gayness, and who decides he wants custody of his children, can still use her gayness to take custody away from her.

Many gay people fear, dislike and stereotype bisexuals: mainly, of course, for the same reasons people react like this to homosexuals; stereotypes feed upon ignorance. So myths about bisexuality ("they're just in it for kicks") can exist, and often bisexuals are rejected by homosexuals of both sexes.

Many gay women don't want to have a close, or permanent relationship with a woman who has children: they may not want the responsibility; they may think children shouldn't be brought up by gay people.

A lot of gay people—and a lot of gay women with children—believe that children



shouldn't be brought up by gay people. Obviously this feeling comes from two sources. First, the feeling, deep inside and often unadmitted even to oneself, that homosexuality is sick, is bad, is inferior; and secondly, that perhaps the children will become gay themselves and this shouldn't happen.

Obviously, if we really believe that 'gay is good' and not inferior, then we shouldn't mind if children "become gay" somehow by living with gay people (that this might happen is, of course, open to many doubts). Of course, not many people really do believe this.

Custody Cases

As previously stated, a number of gay women have been deprived of the custody of their children for no reason other than that they are gay; at the moment there are a number of women who are fighting custody cases.

Gay parents, of either sex, who are either divorced or separated, are asked to write and let us know their experiences in gaining or losing custody of their children. We badly need information in order to be able to give information and advice to people now. All information will be treated as confidential in that no personal details will be used in advising people.

Please write to me, Liz Stanley (Custody Cases), CHE, 28 Kennedy Street, Manchester 2.

Crush Collapses At The Crunch

NOTTINGHAM: Entertainer Bobby Crush cancelled his appearance at the city's new gay nightclub La Chic the other week, after his father thought he might be 'bothered.'

Club Manger Gordon Bennet said that the 19-year-old Crush was re-scheduled to appear at Muster's and the Blue Boar later this month.

Crush's father-manager saw a Thames Television serial called Special Branch. The episode, 'Double Exposure', was about a Scotland Yard investigation into murder at a gay club.

Your Letters Continued

Under The Carpet

Bromley, Kent

Dear Gay News,

Rictor Norton says (GN41) that Beckford was "immensely intelligent," a "social rebel," and "more interesting and civilised" than Oscar Wilde. Yet he was not, apparently, intelligent enough to know the poverty, cruelty, pain, and murder, on the slave ships, on the sugar and cotton plantations, and in the cotton mills, that were the basis of the money he spent so lavishly on his pleasures. Wilde as a socialist and spokesman of the underdog would surely have been incapable of battenning on human suffering in such a manner.

Ken Forge

PS: This is *not* an academic point, so long as we try to sweep issues of class and race under the carpet, social justice for gays or any others suffering oppression, is pie in the sky.

Rictor Norton replies: A short sketch leaves much under the carpet, though not deliberately swept there. Beckford "hired" twenty MPs to vote against the anti-slavery reform bill because he owned sugar (not cotton) plantations, and in this respect he was an oppressor. On the other hand, he "hired" these same MPs to vote in favour of bills to relieve the poor, to abolish debtors' prisons and capital punishment, and against the Sedition Meetings Act which Pitt's Cabinet was using to prevent workers from organising. This contradictory politics is part of the paradox that makes up his intriguing personality.

A La Mode

London SW2

Dear Gay News,

Knowing just how dangerous repression can be, I feel I must write to tell you just how much I enjoy your fashion features. Many people, I suppose, would regard my preoccupation with clothes as frivolous—far too often I'm prepared to spend as much as £2 on a new pair of jeans; but the tempting lists of goodies your correspondent compiles—smoky tweed jackets at £45, creamy ones at £75—sound quite irresistible (good enough to eat?).

However, into each life a little rain must fall, and my problem is that if I get both jackets this week I won't be able to afford the services and enchanting conversation of the young man that creates those chic cap-of-petal loose curls that are now so obviously *de rigueur*, let alone being able to renew my GN subscription for a third year. After all, if Iain has been reduced to the squalor of dyeing his own hair even I can see the red light—he'll be making his own bread next, I imagine.

Perhaps I could earn a few pennies writing helpful articles for you—I am, in fact, an expert on cooking lampreys, cleaning boots with champagne and gilding lilies. Also young enough (so my friends tell me) to take your advice on what might interest your readers. This letter?

David

Clinging To Convention

Alpes Maritimes

France

Dear Gay News,

Alan Swardlow's letter in GN 40 serves only to confirm further what I had once merely suspected about some of the workers in FRIEND and similar organisations—that they have, as Dennis Altman says of many other gays in *Homosexual: Oppression and Liberation*, internalised their oppression and are the victims of guilt and self-hatred.

Alan would not of course agree with this, but an analysis of his letter provides quite sufficient evidence.

"I certainly do not condone cottaging..." Why not, Alan? All the arguments against cottaging boil down to the one basic argument: that the activity links sex and excreta (as does the body itself) and both are naturally "dirty" functions, particularly in gay sex! Cottaging is a worthwhile and satisfying (sometimes) sexual option in its own right. Whoever says otherwise is subscribing to the values that straight society wants to force on to gays.

No more GN stories of provocative police action in cottages and elsewhere? Why not? Every single manifestation of the oppression of gays, by the police or anyone else, should be brought to public attention. If the victims were Jews, or Blacks, or heterosexuals *qua* heterosexuals, we would hear about it quickly enough, and in the straight press too. Publicity about these matters is one of the

few ways open to gays to fight oppression and to change social attitudes and, hopefully, society itself.

And a "very fair" representative of the police? It sounds to me almost like a contradiction in terms. At an occasion such as a Campaign for Homosexual Equality meeting, would one expect such a man to appear *unfair*? Some of the most outwardly charming people I've met exploit others mercilessly. A man talking about his job and a man *doing* his job are two quite different creatures. (Vide the Nuremberg Trials.) In any case, it is not the actual number of arrests that is most important, but the threats and warnings by the police and the fear these engender in the gay cottagers.

As for gay gatherings on pavements, etc., Alan was "surprised" that the police were "so polite and patient." Why shouldn't they have been? I am never surprised that the police are polite and patient at similar gatherings of straights. How strange that Alan should make such a distinction!

What I do find surprising—and disturbing—is that a person who apparently clings so determinedly to the conventions of straight society should be in the position of being able to inflict his intolerable moral assumptions on those gays who seek help from his organisation.

Laurence Collinson

Fun Time At Het Disco

Manchester M20

Dear Gay News,

Quite justifiably, gay people complain of discrimination and of lack of social facilities generally, but I wonder if sometimes this discrimination only exists in our imagination, because we expect it. Perhaps the facilities are there, waiting for us?

Recently, I and three other friends, two of whom are gay (males), went to a 'straight' disco in Manchester. (Woolton Hall of Residence, Manchester University, off Wilmslow Road, Fallowfield. Fridays and Saturdays, 8.30pm, 30p entrance.) Compared to all the gay discos I've been to, the facilities there were positively lavish—light show, licensed bar and a large, warm, comfortable dance hall.

During the evening I danced with my gay friends among boys and girls who were too busy enjoying themselves to give us a second glance—so everyone enjoyed themselves!

Several questions have occurred to me since then. Why don't more gay people go to 'straight' dances—It's not forbidden? Or if gay people were noticed there in numbers would the harassment begin?

John Fountain

"Voice" Goes Gay

BRIGHTON: 'Brighton Voice', the town's do-it-yourself community newspaper, will carry gay articles in future, writes Brighton correspondent Sean Aubrey.

The decision was taken at a recent meeting of the 'Voice' collective when an article by Sean was accepted for publication in the February issue. It was also agreed to include a four-page pull-out on gays and the law in the March issue which is to be devoted to general law enforcement in Brighton.

Sean told us that he was delighted that a community newspaper would contain material written by and for gays. "We are after all a part of the community," he said, "a fact that seems to have completely escaped more established papers. This is the first time that any local newspaper has contained such an article. A hell of a lot of gay people live in Brighton, but you'd never guess that from the pages of 'The Argus'."

He points out that the only time gays are mentioned it's usually on the crime page in a "sad and tired tale of some poor fellow who's been arrested for cottaging."

Hopefully, Sean's article in the 'Voice' will encourage other gays in Brighton to write further articles. 'Voice' has apparently established something of a radical reputation for its condemnation of bad housing, unscrupulous landlords, and other evils of Brighton society. Published monthly, the paper has a circulation of about 1500 after ten issues. It costs 4p.

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All Those Concepts And That~ A Reply To Bob From Terry

EDITOR'S NOTE: In our last issue we published Bob Sturgess's confidential letter to Terence, which revealed perhaps rather more than the author intended about the motivations and attitudes of "one of this country's leading homophile organisations." Somewhat to our surprise, Terry (as he now calls himself) has sent a reply to this office from which it appears that he has decamped (sorry about that) to the other organisation, and much of what he says is equally indicative.

We had certain doubts about publishing the letter in view of the poverty of its vocabulary and the weakness of its grammar, but after due collective consideration we decided that editorial impartiality compelled us to present the other side.

Dear Bob,

Cor you don't arf write long letters! Well you know me, I didn't know what you was goin' on about, arf the time. All those long words. All those concepts and that.

Thing is, see, about the other night, you waitin' at Regents Park and that, thing is, I met this other bloke, see? Harry. An' he took me to this other meetin', didn't 'e? Well I can't remember wot they was called, all these initials and that, you know me, just an ordinary secondary mod boy brought up in the shadows of the Crouch End clock tower (what was it you said I had? Gamin charm? Dunno about that).

Anyway, we went to this meeting—you'll know the lot I mean, they was called by three letters like your lot. They was a nice crowd of fellers. Bit bearded and beady, but then, like I always say, takes all sorts dunnit? Quite like a few beads, meself. I told Harry about you and your lot, and he said, what did I want to get mixed up with that crowd for? And I said, wot I told you, you know, about how for months I thought your lot supported the South American revolutionary movement because of your initials and that wotsisname, you know, Guevara. And Harry fell about. Laugh! I though 'e'd never stop.

You'd like Harry. Course 'e's knocked about a bit, but then you know I always like 'em a bit older than me. I suppose 'e's got what you might call rugged good looks. Sort of cross between Robert Redford and Humphrey Bogart, if you know what I mean. And he can talk, like you can. You'd like Harry. Second thoughts, no, you wouldn't.

Anyway, I showed Harry your letter, and asked him to, kind of, explain most of it, you know. He says it's got some funny things in it, about your lot being at war, and marching with banners and

that. He says he wonders where you were doing all that? And we showed your letter to some of the other blokes at the meeting, and one of them said, he didn't see you at the demo that was held after that bloke in Chile, wotsisname, Allende, was murdered and the democracy overthrown by all them colonels. But Harry's lot was marching. And you weren't on the anti-Portuguese demo after the news of them massacres in Mozambique, were you? Harry's lot was there. And one of the other blokes said, and how do you stand about South Africa? and Greece, somebody else said—well I think it was Greece, I can't tell one of these countries from the other.

Harry says he remembers being on the first mass rally against the Industrial Relations Bill—when it was a Bill, back in 1970 or whenever, and he says one of the things he'll always remember is this super gay guy, really dishy, all blond hair and a sort of smouldering look around the eyes, at the rally in Hyde Park along with some of his mates, demonstrating. And all these hundreds of thousands of trade unionists were lined up, ready for the off, and this gay boy held his banner high above his head—"Gay power says Ban the Bill" or something, it said, and he ran, fast as Dave Bedford and pretty with it, he ran up and down the lines with these great butch engineers and lorry-drivers and that, shouting out about banning the Bill. And they looked at his banner and at him, his blond hair streaming in the wind and his legs flashing past in blue jeans, and they cheered him. Not sending up. They cheered. Harry says he'll never forget it. Etched on his memory, he says (I said he talks like you sometimes).

Then Harry read out your bit about your lot talking about yourselves, and about the rough male kiss of blankets and all that, and he said it sounded like third-rate Hemingway and just as dated. And he said your lot were about as socially relevant today as the Bloomsbury set were in the 1930's. (Think he said Bloomsbury. Does that sound right to you?) All that twittering on about Sebastian relating to Jo, he said. One of the other guys in the crowd said he thought your lot had scarcely advanced the cause beyond the point it had sunk to in the late 1950s. The whole social and political scene was jumping then, he said. People were beginning to think and to talk and to protest. There was the whole massive CND thing, and marches against South Africa, and people objecting to the self-satisfied smug brutishness of Macmillan and his never had it so good. And what was happening on the gay scene? Piss-elegant queens in West End gay clubs jangled their bracelets over the keyboards of white pianos and said Play Something from South Pacific darling, and hard-faced queens trampled each other to death to get at the guardsmen in Shaftesbury Avenue. (Harry said he could never understand why the Coldstreams didn't start Guardsmens' Lib. If ever there was a case of sexist exploitation, that was it.) Anyway, it was the most narrow-minded and inward-looking gay period you can think of. Even in the 30s, says Harry, there were left-wing people like Auden and Spender and Isherwood who took the proper attitude over the Spanish Civil War, even if they didn't come right out and adopt a gay political attitude to it. At least they were

concerned. But the fifties! Gawd help us, says Harry, you can stuff them up your jumper (he doesn't always talk like you, you see).

Anyway, I must close now. This is to let you know we all had a good laugh over your letter, them as could understand it, and 'oping this finds you as it leaves me,

Yours,

Terry

PS I told my old gran about you taking 'er out to Fortnums, and she says you can stuff your bleedin' Fortnums. She says she'd rather 'ave fish and chip tea with her mates in the High Street caff any day.

PPS Harry said I shouldn't bother writin' to you at all, but I said well fair's fair, and your lot must be feeling a bit down now that Heath's got properly kicked up the arse.

Ad Lib

by John Riley

It's always such a relief to turn to the Ads page; away from all the complications of where exactly the unfortunate young man was standing when the officer walked in, and as far as possible from all those split-infinities in the editorials. 'All human life is there', as a lesser journal used to claim.

My browsing is punctuated by exclamations: "Silly queen", "Get you" or "Hm!" Really dear, you do NOT say "Depressed lonely bachelor wishes to meet . . .", we all have our downs, but put a better face on it; better results, I'm sure. And I'm sorry, but the only answer to "I can't be the only gay boy in Congleton" is "probably!"

The ads contain some startling propositions: "Spend a weekend in Wales at my quiet, unmodernised cottage . . ." I hope you all spotted the catch in that one! If I'm going to spend a weekend anywhere, I want to be awakened by the smell of coffee and the news that my bath is running, not "Here is the milk pail, you can sluice down in the backyard." I was also intrigued by a recent ad, inserted by a young man up north, who listed the most commonplace interests including TV. I'm quite certain he really meant television and can imagine his bewilderment when he peruses all those strange photos of 'Me in my Mae West get-up'.

I can quite believe the rumour that the ad which produced the record number of

replies read simply, "Ordinary bloke seeks someone to come home to."

Now that, my dears, has class. It immediately kindles a response in every gay breast . . . or thereabouts. The juxtaposition of 'bloke' and 'home' is little short of poetic and enough to send anyone's hand reaching for the Queens Velvet. Far too many ads are too specific. It figures that if you describe yourself as 'active' you will lose 50% of your audience at a stroke . . . and if you say 'passive' you lose 91%. It also seems to me daft when I read 'seeks similar'. You need only insert 'Masochist' to get the point. What can they possibly do together except swap yarns?

Now it happens that GN38 carried an ad that had "Come to Momma" written all over it. So I put a pencil mark round it and slept on it for a day or two. Well, you know how uncomfortable that gets . . . and in the end I had to write off.

It is the most difficult thing in the world to write objectively about yourself; to sound interesting without seeming boastful; to be candid without sounding cheap. You can't just say: "I'm really awfully nice, take me". And what he means by 'usual interests' may not include (incredible as it seems) Tiepolo, Wagner and Jane Austen.

I finally composed a couple of pages which didn't seem too misleading, but that was only the beginning, for then I had to find a photograph. There's quite a nice one of me leaning against the Acropolis—but I don't want him to think I'm a size-queen . . . or the one besides the pool in Albufeira of me draped around Alphonso—but it would be too mortifying if he wrote back asking me for the address of my friend! The only decent one is the studio effort I had taken for my 21st. I really haven't changed a bit; except now my face has more character. If only the wretched little man hadn't done them in sepia tint. Eventually I got together all the holiday snaps for the last seven years and parcelled them off to the box number with a blank cheque for postage.

Haven't heard anything yet, but I have discovered that our postman is the dishiest thing ever in uniform. Wonder if he seeks someone to come home to.

★ ★ ★



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Here We Are Again

We would like to thank the people who responded to the announcement in GN 40 that the paper was setting up a Gay Rights Fund and sent in donations. The amount so far paid into the trust fund's National Westminster account is £39.50. A good start, but further contributions are necessary if the fund is to be effective over any length of time.

As outlined in the issue before last, the money collected will be available to anyone in the United Kingdom who needs financial help with legal costs, in an attempt to protect the legal rights of all gays. A payment will be considered where legal aid is not fully obtainable, and where the person's legal adviser agrees that there has been an infringement of their rights.

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

There are two trustees, myself and Richard Creed, a solicitor. As Mr Creed will be involved in the administration of the trust, he cannot act in court for anybody who applies for assistance to the fund.

If you are one of the people who in the past has wanted to help protect the legal rights of gays, but have never found a positive way of doing so, you can now give your support by sending a donation (crossed cheques or postal orders please) to the Gay Rights Fund, c/o Gay News, 62a Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY. A receipt will be sent if requested, and full details of the trust fund's progress will appear in forthcoming issues of GN. In the unlikely event of nobody applying for help, any money in the fund will be donated to charities working in the gay movement at the discretion of the trustees.

Gay Switchboard

On behalf of the Gay Switchboard, we would also like to sincerely thank the people who have sent donations to this new project. We're biased, but firmly believe that the setting up of the switchboard is an extremely significant development and will be of much benefit to the gay community. A news report on its launching appears elsewhere in this issue.

GN's Mini Gay Guide

As mentioned in this column last issue, we're planning to bring out shortly a cheaply-priced mini gay guide to Britain. It'll primarily feature all the information that is listed in the paper, and will be designed to easily fit into the pocket, wallet or handbag. Up-dated editions will be published two to three times a year.

The copy deadline for the first edition is April 5, and it is important that all readers and gay organisations etc, cooperate with us and confirm (by letter only, please) that all the information appearing in this issue and in GN 43 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'.

Gay Days Gone By

Over the last few months, we have published a number of articles about gay life in the previous decades of this century. They have appeared under the heading 'Gay Days Gone By'. These personal reminiscences have proved enormously popular, and we would like to remind older readers that any contributions they care to submit to this series are extremely welcome. Not only are they entertaining and informative, they also put into perspective the changed legal status (since 1967) and increased social acceptance of homosexuals, and may possibly help a little to bring about a greater degree of tolerance and understanding between young and not-so-young gays.

Personal Callers

A number of people have told us they have experienced a certain amount of difficulty in finding our offices. So for the convenience of anyone planning to visit GN, this is how you find us. Although the frontage of the paper's offices is on Chiswick High Road, the entrance is after the first house on the left-hand side of Merton Avenue. Look down the right-hand side of that house for a green gate and the Gay News sign. The nearest tube station is Stamford Brook (District Line), and the offices are open 10.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Fridays, and 10.00am to 2.00pm on Saturdays.

Dates And Deadlines

The next issue of Gay News (No 43) will be published and available on the 28th 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

Troubled Water



one has to be fairly well-off. Every facility provided for the gay is being exploited by those who provide it. What does a person like myself do to get out of a deep depression in a place like Gloucester? Being 37, plain, dull and extremely shy, I am at the point of despair. When in a gay pub, I feel extremely awkward, and to add to my problems I suffer from an acute inferiority complex. I would not dare approach someone, in case of being snubbed. The only good qualities I consider I have would take time to prove - i.e. sincerity. Surely there must be someone somewhere who is interested in a person older than themselves? How I would love to meet someone younger than myself and settle down for keeps, but I despair of ever doing so. Due to the small-town atmosphere and a very narrow-minded family and normal friends who consider gay obscene and dirty, plus hours of work, it is not possible for me to join any club or organisation. If it was known here that I was gay, I would just have to leave town, and I don't particularly want to.

P.J. Gloucestershire

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.

Possibility of Embarrassment

This is a letter explaining my problem, one which I don't know if there is anything that can be done to help. You see, I have developed an inferiority complex during the past four years or so, due to an operation I had in 1967 when I was almost 13 years old. Due to swelling of one of my testicles I had to have it taken out. I didn't think of the possible anxieties it was going to cause in future years because being in the adolescent stage I found sexual relief in solitary masturbation and the occasional bit of innocent fun at school of which I needn't elaborate on. But really, it wasn't until during the last few years that I developed this feeling that I must be a bit odd just having one testicle and therefore am afraid to have sex with anyone, whether casual or by settling down with someone. I only came onto the gay scene last year, got to know quite a few people, and began going out every night to gay pubs, clubs, occasional excursions to the coast, and kept up with all the new 'fads'; but despite having sex twice last year, I got to the stage where I would be attracted to someone, but then would dismiss any idea of further contact because of the inevitable act of sex, and the possibility of great embarrassment if the other partner noticed what I always fear they might notice.

So about four months ago I decided to resign myself to solitary masturbation, with the aid of some magazines and books I have. According to people I met when on the gay scene I am very good looking and probably they wouldn't believe my story should I have told them, but I just felt I had to tell someone and should you publish this letter, let people know that what they take for granted, and that's sexual contact with someone, is difficult to become reality for a person like myself, without a great deal of anxiety and worry. Thank you for your time in reading this letter.

(No name or address supplied)

— It is our bet that every single man reading this letter is thinking to himself: "Poor kid—fancy getting himself worked up like this about something so trivial." And in realistic terms that's just what it is. But, of course, the emotional overtones of the situation are tremendous, especially in a society that associates (wrongly) things like 'virility', 'competence' and 'being a man' with the balls. We could write paragraphs of supportive chat, pointing out that people go to bed with people, not sets of genitals, that another gay in bed with you might show interest or curiosity but would certainly not laugh or put you down in any way, that there are many gays with infinitely more damaging—and visible—results of necessary operations....

But finally, the only way to restore your self-confidence and esteem is, frankly, to start going to bed with people. You are young, good-looking, obviously sociable and clearly virile, so you should find no difficulty and you do have a lot to offer. If you leave yourself in this state any longer you are going to find it more and more difficult to take the plunge as it were, so start right now. And if you'll feel happier, bring the subject up yourself; you will get, as we say, curiosity but nothing else. If you do get a bad reaction, then the other person just isn't worth your while. We think too that it would be a great help to you to talk about this (we gather you have never done so) with other gays, so we do urge you to ring Icebreakers one evening and perhaps meet some of us.

Someone Somewhere

As a result of a weekend in London I obtained my first copy of Gay News for many months. The first thing that struck me was that everything tends to lean to youth and good looks. Surely an extra effort should be made to cater for, and encourage, the older generation. The second thing is that to be successful in the gay scene, apart from youth etc,

Aches & Pains

Since we started this column, there has been a steady stream of letters to the doctor, most of which request no publication. They are being answered as soon as possible, but there will inevitably be some delay. This is his first report:

I am surprised, and somewhat disturbed, at the number of gay people who are dissatisfied with their physical make-up or appearance. Letters on this subject range from those who want a complete sex-change (this question is being referred to Icebreakers) to those who want to enlarge their breasts or reduce their paunches, or, most commonly, to remove body or facial hair. One correspondent wishes to increase his hair. These letters are being answered, but it needs to be said that the extent and pattern of hair growth is genetically determined, i.e. it is decided before you are born, and there is nothing you can do to alter this. This is why none of the advertised cures for baldness work. The only other factor affecting hair growth is change in gland activity, which usually leads to increase of body hair as you get older; artificial interference in gland action is not recommended, as it can cause various complications. Increase in breast size can also be achieved by giving female hormones (oestrogens), but these again are dangerous in that they are associated with thrombosis.

In general, I would advise gays to make the most of what natural endowments they have, without attempting drastic interference. Here are three other recent letters of interest:

Chris writes: *Is Amyl Nitrite (poppers) harmful or even dangerous? As a layman I should think that any drug which increases the heart rate would have a deleterious effect if used over a long period.*

Answer: I don't know of any research on the long-term effect of poppers. They were originally introduced for the treatment of heart pain (angina), but their effect is so transient that most patients (and doctors) prefer tablets which work better. Because they momentarily dilate the blood vessels they are said to prolong and intensify orgasm if

popped at the crucial moment. The danger, apart from a headache, is that repeated use could put a strain on a weak point in the circulation, and might lead to haemorrhage, perhaps of the brain. Surely, with the right partner and the right technique, you don't need artificial stimulants?

A.W. writes: *I understand that the rectum is 5 to 6 inches long, the last six inches being the anal canal. This being so, how can a penis which is the same size or bigger enter without causing injury?*

Answer: The rectum, being a muscular organ, can be stretched. The only factors limiting penetration are the depth of the pelvis (the bony structure of the hips and lower spine) and the sphincter, or ring of muscle surrounding the anal canal. This is very adaptable, and with plenty of lubrication and patience can accommodate almost any size of penis. Injury only arises if there is clumsiness or haste. In this case the muscles may be torn. Safest guide: If it hurts, stop him!

John writes: *Despite any amount of lubrication, when I adopt a passive role I feel quite sore and bleed for a minute or two afterwards. I reckon to be in good health generally and all other functions are working satisfactorily.*

Answer: The most likely explanation is piles. These can be quite small, and internal, but still give rise to bleeding. Only a proper medical examination can decide, however, and I would strongly advise you to see a doctor about this.

In a future issue I hope to deal with the subject of impotence (difficulty in achieving or keeping an erection). This is one of the most difficult and distressing complaints, and there have been many letters about it.

Mike Heberden

ED: *If you have any medical problems which you think are related to a gay life-style, send them to Aches and Pains, c/o Gay News, 62a Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY. Please keep your letters brief, and if you do not want your letter published, state so clearly. A stamped addressed envelope should be enclosed with letters which require a personal reply. Naturally, all correspondence will be treated in the strictest confidence.*

Austrian Gays And The Law

AUSTRIA: Following our news story on Austria in GN39, Michael Holm, Editor of the Swedish magazine Revolt, has written to us to clear up the exact legal standing of homosexuals in that country.

Two years ago the Austrian Penal Code was amended to legalise homosexual relations between people over the age of 18. However, he points out that, at the same time, other laws were introduced which have led to the sort of trouble we reported.

First, male prostitution was made a criminal offence punishable by two years imprisonment. Female prostitution is not illegal.

Second, any person who in text or illustration encourages 'homosexual indecency' or indecency with animals will be punished, given six months in prison. Thus the notion that homosexual acts are 'indecent', though

legal now, is still enshrined in the Austrian criminal law.

And third, any person who starts an association which facilitates sexual contact between persons of the same sex - even if this is not the main purpose of the association - or belongs to or advertises an association of that kind, is punished with six months imprisonment or fined. And yet the Austrian constitution guarantees everyone the freedom of association. Obviously gays are excluded from the term 'everyone'.

Under this last provision, Austrian counterparts of such organisations as our own Campaign for Homosexual Equality or Gay Liberation Front would be illegal. And of course you wouldn't be reading about the situation in an Austrian equivalent of Gay News which would be breaking the law by publishing.

Illustration: Jean-Claude Thevenin

Gay News Oldies

Back copies of Gay News Nos 1, 7, 9, 11 and 13-19 price 10p each and 20-24 and 28-41 price 15p each are available from Gay News Oldies, 62a Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY

Orders for 10 or more are post free, otherwise please add 5p per copy for post and packing.

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Gay News No 43 is published on March 28.

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Nottingham - Queen Of Cities All - In Aspic

by Roger Baker

Nottingham wasn't called the Queen of the Midlands for nothing. It had the prettiest girls and the tallest policemen (or was it the other way round?), and in the late 1950s the city enjoyed, too, the reputation of being only second to Brighton as the gayest spot in the country. Stories of the delights of Manchester or the magic of Walsall were dismissed contemptuously, as we moved in our own small, hectic and often intense circuits.

And yet I managed to live in Nottingham for four years before I discovered that there was any organised public gayscene. Revelation came one morning in March 1959 when I was accosted on the stairs by the young, slender boy who had moved into the bed-sitter next to mine. How did we go about getting milk delivered, he wanted to know. Well, one thing led to another and the following Saturday evening there I was, making my debut in the Dickens Room at the George Hotel.



Goose Fair is still the major event of Nottingham's year, and becomes the gayest weekend in the country. The fair is no longer held in the Market Square—in fact this picture, taken in 1925, was probably the last time. The council house (designed by Sir Christopher Wren) was being fleshed.

I cannot claim it was a liberating experience. Frankly, I was terrified and clung to Patrick, drinking far too many half pints of bitter. I see that in my diary I wrote: "Although I knew the bar was queer, I must admit to being genuinely surprised by the odd types that appeared." The word 'gay' does crop up in the diaries, but in general conversation the word was always 'queer'—is it a queer bar? is he queer?

On the day the Wolfenden Report was published, and grabbed the headlines, a girl in the office informed me that she could always tell when a man was queer. Putting on a gossip voice I asked her if I knew any of these queers she'd spotted. I didn't, apparently. Which was curious. My party pieces had been Coward's *Nina from Argentina* and a mimed strip routine done to *Zip from Pal Joey*, ruthlessly performed whenever two or three were gathered together. Looking back, it seems that superficially at least, there was an easy intermingling of worlds. Later in the year Patrick and I shared a flat in West Bridgford with a straight sports reporter from the paper I was working on. Sunday morning breakfast combinations were sometimes alarming. One major party we threw included a contingent from the paper, a large catch from the gay bars, a handful of (now very famous) actors from the Nottingham Playhouse and half of the Derby County football team. Something for everyone.

The summer of '59 was the hottest since 1759; there was a journalists' strike for a month; the Russians put a rocket on the moon; we swam in the Trent and I interviewed Gene Vincent—who is dismissed by my diary as 'a dismal youth'. Diary supports memory of a sort of coming-out, or at least a coming-to-terms. There are tentative references to "this sub-camp life of mine" alongside a marked aversion to what I perceived as the camp-bitch chat of the gay bars.

Certainly the gay scene was closeted and self-congratulatory, also aspirant—aspirant to some vague never-never land of 'smartness' revealed in leather-topped bars cutting corners off the small front rooms of century-old labourers' cottages; of studding innocent chicken breasts with cloves and rings of

pineapple; of possessing the latest long-playing record (usually *West Side Story*); of professing friendship with stars of stage and screen; flaunting the latest Vince catalogue; of sending Christmas cards to the Duke and Duchess of Windsor; of *not* going out on Saturday night, and making special journeys to remote cinemas for *A Star Is Born*. Many a bewildered bus conductor was expected to be impressed (and laid) by a gin and tonic and a hearing of Gwen Verdon's record; and someone informed me one evening that Princess Marina was a *constant* visitor and simply *adored* standing in the kitchen making chips. At the time I think I almost believed him.

Routines were quickly fixed. The aspirant part of Nottingham, the smart area in which to live, was—probably still is—The Park, which, until the mid-19th century was just that, a wooded area just beyond the castle. Later, wealthy lace manufacturers built their Gothic-fantasy houses there in concentric circles, vast mansions clinging to the hillside and with large, resplendent gardens. We poor shoppings had our attics at the lower end, along Lenton Road and Hope (so aptly named) Drive. It was a short walk into town on summer evenings and a cheap taxi ride on rainy ones.

First stop was The George where, on Saturday and Sunday evening the Dickens Bar was exclusively male gay. At this time, I think this was probably the only gay men-only bar in the country (I'm open to correction, here, of course). It was a small room, with a tiny serving hatch and a framed cheque signed by Dickens on the wall. One would arrive about 8pm and stay, possibly, until 9 or 9.30. Then—"Shall we go down?" murmured very casually. "Oh, well, why not?" came the indifferent answer. Rituals designed to cover a desperate urgency to get to The Flying Horse before closing time.

If The George was slightly formal, a bit uptight and certainly tense, The Fly was rather different. Here there was a large, often very mixed bar where the local rugby teams and Young Conservatives would congregate at one end and the queers at the other.

This was where, made bold by drink and excited by the dense crowd, scores were made, party invitations whispered around, decisive snubs delivered. If strangers were in town—a crowd from Sheffield? Derby? Leicester?—then the evening was bound to be a success. We would rarely move from Nottingham; why should we when everywhere else was so dreary? And anyway, they all flocked to us.

Perhaps on the way down from The George, we would call in for a quick drink at the Queen Elizabeth in Bottle Lane, a narrow, cobbled street. This eventually became a favourite pub. Not by any means as dubious or as criminal as some of the older pubs in the lace market and down by The Meadows, the Q.E. nonetheless had a certain mixture of slags and villains lending it a dangerous and erotic atmosphere.

Brutally tiled and with a blasting juke box, the pub was kept by Kay and Charles and their son David. Kay was (still is) a tall, elegant Welshwoman, black hair piled up, a ringer for Merman. Kay received (and held) confidences, replied with good sense and maintained immaculate order. Saturday mornings in the back room, with Kay on lager holding court, carrier bags from Burtons and Pork Farms dumped on the floor, are among the happiest memories.

If, by closing time on Saturday night, there were no scores, no invitations to a smart party in The Park—or even in West Bridgford for godssake—then there were the coffee bars, slightly derelict left-overs from the boom of the early 50s. There was a string of them near the old Playhouse—the Sargasso (all fishing nets), El Toreador and Il Trovatore. If there was a touring musical at the Theatre Royal then you might find someone there who had missed the bars. Sunday morning inquests on Saturday night adventures were held in the now much quieter bar of The Fly, faces smug, hurt or furious.

There were other outlets, of course. The cottage at Canning Circus was notorious, and the Scala Cinema in Market Street was a good match for The Biograph. It was open, unsupervised and tended towards the orgiastic, especially on half-day closing when young men from the linen department of Griffin & Spaldings would flock to see Steve Reeves in *The Giant of Marathon*, or

The Blob.

Nottingham's often conflicting smart sets would occasionally try to adopt different pubs—and we really did have the most attractive collection to choose from. A couple of weekends maybe—but then back to the routine of The George and The Fly. We learned that The Black Boy had been a notorious queer bar in earlier years. Patrick and I explored the gloomy Victorian place one evening, to find potted palms, dusty rooms and much mahogany. There was always Yates Wine Lodge on Long Row, with Gaston the hatchet-faced violinist and his pianist, a lady with pillar-box red hair.

In 1959 and 1960 Nottingham started to become conscious of itself as a very sexy city. In 1960 Lady Chatterley was pronounced a decent woman; our other local author, Alan Sillitoe, sprang us into national fame with his remarkable *Saturday Night & Sunday Morning*. Both that novel and *Sons and Lovers* were filmed there. Yes, we knew we were at the butch, virile heart of the land; we too could be Albert Finney, wear sky-blue jeans and lean over the parapet of the castle rock and translate Douglas from Derby into Shirley Anne Field.



Nottingham is famous for having the tallest policemen in the country. This one is six feet eight inches—and Cassius Clay leaped to compare.

Alan immortalised Goose Fair, and we did our best to celebrate with ever bigger, ever smarter parties in cavernous, polished games rooms where lace manufacturers once played billiards, in the basements of the big houses of The Park. Long-playing records and rock and roll had revolutionised queer parties by now; some still danced with an air of Fred and Ginger, but the rest of us always clung together, even to Tommy Steele and Marty Wilde. At Goose Fair, friends who were making it in London ("Have you been to The White Bear?") made almost royal visits, full of delicious gossip and a style that made our eyes pop. Once Flossie made six identical little frocks in sweet-pea colours.

It was a very male scene; I knew no lesbians personally until later. I was nervous of them I think. There was a couple lived near us in The Park who would throw items of furniture through the (closed) windows of a Sunday afternoon. Patrick had a lesbian friend; she wore a leather jacket and carried a flick-knife. They congregated in a pub somewhere behind Victoria Station we understood. Plans were often made to drop by for a drink in the evening, but something always came up at the last minute

As I have already said, some of the more introspective passages in my diaries indicate an awareness of repression, an uncertainty, a definite delight in a coherent social framework coupled with a sense of frustration at

its triviality. I certainly could not have articulated these feelings at the time or even begun to translate them into political terms (I see that at the General Election of 1959 I recorded that "I voted for my Tory candidate as a good, public-spirited boy" which makes me want to throw up!).

Gay life seemed free and easy, as they say; there were no brushes with those tall policemen, never any fear of being 'caught' as it were. In fact during three years of court reporting on the *Nottingham Evening Post* I only recall having to sit through one homosexual case—a minor cottaging offence which I didn't write up. Moreover, I think we would have been surprised to have it pointed out to us that we were illegal, and of what could happen to us. There would be a dim awareness somewhere at the back of the mind, but it seemed not to affect our behaviour patterns. I remember some of us looking at a small ad, for the Homosexual Law Reform Society in *The New Statesman* or *The Spectator* (we had just tuned in to Katherine Whitehorn), and a remark—made in all seriousness—"If we wrote off, do you think they'd put us in touch with some men?"

It is easy to see how threatening the forces of gay liberation are to such a world, even something mildly reformist. The values of a straight-gay scene are hard won, and when acquired are embraced, cherished, formed into an almost impregnable defense. Today I see it almost as a period out of time, glazed as in aspic, unconnected with the tacky business of living; it was evasive and, even those apparently so well-integrated parties, a phoney. "Shoulders back and smile willingly", Claude used to say when faced with disaster. That is a principle I no longer adhere to, and see no virtue in, but it probably sums up the tone of those times.

My diaries—scandalous, libellous, obscene—which I kept for five years remind me of much joy, many things I would have been poorer without. There was so much activity, so much sex (Patrick and I took on an entire Spanish dance company one afternoon). The people who formed the focus of our tiny world are precious, good and true friends. There were others, now scattered, some dead, some very much alive. Kay is now retired, a widow; the George and The Fly have been torn apart and put together again with the green shield stamp decor of the mid-60s. Patrick holds Hampstead in his thrall.

My life in Nottingham ended in December 1960 when I left to seek a new life in London—and the hell of those years is a quite different story. Appropriately, the last major event that transfixed us all in 1960 happened on November 27, and was a concert given in Leicester by Judy Garland. "I was standing on my seat cheering with the rest", my diary says. But, for once, I hardly need it to recall the revelation of that superb three-hour performance. I had seen Sutherland's first *Lucia*, the concert Callas gave at the Festival Hall and rated Garland their equal for sheer professionalism and musicianship, not to say audience rapport. It must have been the camp event of the decade with the entire gay world of the Midlands descending in their finery on that dreary de Montfort Hall. We, of course, took thermos flasks of iced gin and tonic.

Photographs from 'Owd Yer Tight (1967), an amazing collection of Nottingham tit-bits by Emtys Bryson

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After the article on gay poetry appeared (GN 40), we received quite a lot of verse from readers. So we feel encouraged enough to devote a page to their work now and then. Predictably, all the poetry that has been submitted so far comes from men. But we are resisting the temptation of calling this page *The Male Muse* (borrowing the title of Ian Young's anthology) because we would dearly like to be able to publish the work of gay sisters too. We hope that they too will be inspired to send us their work. Poetry that deals explicitly with the gay experience may serve the important function of helping to assert a definite sexual identity, unhidden and unashamed, both for the writer and the reader. By publishing it *Gay News* will be helping, in yet another and not inconsiderable way, to project positive attitudes to gayness.

R.B.



Penis Adonis

When the cock doth crow
WE ALL WANT TO KNOW
Is it masculine or female?
Is it dream-man and just semen?
Is it tall, small, fat or skinny?
Does it snort, bark, neigh or whinny?
Does it come when it's called?
Has it two eyes and is one walled?
And Age is so important
It's so important that it's potent
Does it wear a vest?
Is it smooth or do you make hay
In the hairs on its chest?
Does it scream 'I love you' or is it muttered?
Which side of the bed is buttered?
Do you prefer to use a towel
Or just a tissue of lays?
There are so many things to do
When you do your own thing these days!

Stephen Boswell

Exceeding The Stated Dose

white nights
have tumbled through
black days
loneliness
was only the half of it
the pattern on the wallpaper
the light-bulb in the hall
in your twenty one years
you certainly came of age
I love you because
you have wisdom
where others pass the time of day
and where there is Hell
you don't look away

Stephen Boswell

Never Say Bo To A Ghost

I phone you
you tell me
you are washing
your arm-pits
and your girl-friend
is keeping your bed
warm
I tell you
I like the smell
of your arm-pits
and you don't
have to wash
them for me
come to think of it

you don't

Stephen Boswell

The Biograph

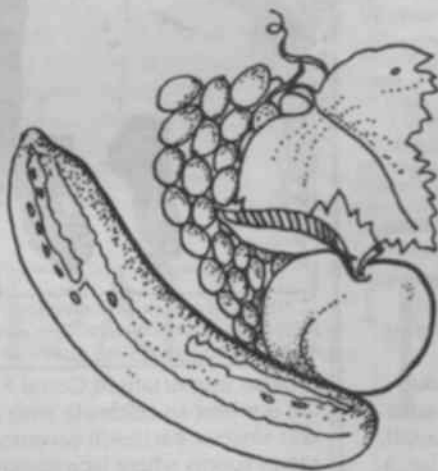
You don't come to the oldest cinema of all—
1905: see *Guinness Book of Records*—
Out of historical interest any more,
But by way of Victoria Station where
You don't always go to catch trains.
Letters to the editor complain that a great
Monument has turned homosexual brother.
Touching, these heterosexuals, with their Versailles,
Their guided tours of boudoirs and solicitude for art.
The drunks doze and grunt and argue with each other—
They couldn't afford a bed around the corner
And wouldn't be welcome at the House down the Road.
But here is a Hall of shadow and mystery,
The faces too huge to be real at the window-screen.
Here is the place of skulls, the spattered
Velveteen seats propping the heads in rows
Like a lovely bunch of coconuts.
Here is a house of illusions, somewhere to dream.
The air is big as a Rubens with fantasies—
They rise like genies at each rub of the lamp,
Fleshed, nude, heavy, graceful as the mind they tangle,
Shot through with lights, sharpened on fear,
But unloosed and lustier than the grape and cramp
Below. Frescos of giants with whips, runts with studs,
And towering pharaohs, and arms that save, and
Legs that stride and mount and love
Casting arum lilies among the deco chandeliers.
Last night there lay
five-hundred dreamers by my side
And a thousand dreams.

Michael Manser

The Cottage: 2.00AM

The young give up.
Old men give up less easily
Knowing their chances are fewer,
Already fewer, less than a probability;
A wish only, stiff against doubt,
And last of the magic three.
It's a new day technically,
Wincing in by clock and cistern a century ago,
Yet they cling to last night—
Always more kind, last night—
It clings to them. Dark blood around the wound.
They hope faces into the crosses of the wall-tiles:
Something like what they were, or
Any mortuary shadow.
But crosses are minus signs, and vertical bars.
Knives stick out of their stomachs,
Their glance quick as one humiliated by warts,
Not knowing if they want you to see they bleed
Or do not want you to see they bleed alone.
The young are away,
Fay, free for a while, light as minutes.
There is so much time!
The old stay at the urinal, the auto-da-fe,
A possibility only, stretched against averages
Which slip like piss down the wall.

Michael Manser



For B.G.

The significance of cucumber
does not escape her, nor the feel
of apples cupped in that large hand.
Prickle-haired gooseberries, smooth avocado,
Rich-lipped plums and the promising tomato,
the sweating pear, deep-clefted peach
that catch her eye, and stir her thoughts perhaps
are swiftly hid away in plain brown wraps.

Fruit offends and those who see it gasp.
Her breast swells, reaching over melons;
and as she stretches, her sleeveless dress
reveals a tuft of water-cress.
He rubs a Russet, frankly, on his pants
suggesting Cox, or Golden Delicious.
He smiles. She reddens—sniggers—takes her time,
not dreaming his potato-hands are mine.

I know how long the beetroot takes to boil,
I've found how easily its wrinkled skin will peel
from warm and tender vegetable flesh;
I have traced the soil along the spine
and nosed the carrot fronds below, lifted
grapes from cotton wool, torn currants from their stems.
So be happy lady, go your way, feel free
to flirt among the greengrocery.

Roger Baker

Rapport

Marie du Plessis
did you feel like this

lying in your wide bed
star-fished to the ceiling
planning tomorrow's luncheon

while somewhere between your careful flesh
and the stucco frieze (it needs dusting)
a young man leaped and pounded?

Roger Baker

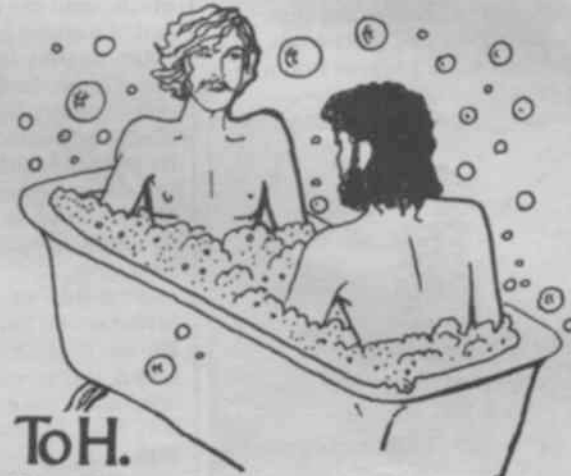
Bath Time Haiku (for A.M.F.)

Our cocks are shrunken
soft and snoozing through this cool
rational debate,

but warm water makes
each float upward, eye to eye
eager to engage;

our eyes meet, don't blink,
infer no lusty signal;
theirs just wait. And wink.

Roger Baker



To H.

I've sat in your living room,
nervous thin
on an Oriental rug like tattooed skin,
and pretty,
listening.

I've lain on your bed,
eager warm
on a blue sheet like a sheet of tin,
and cold,
trembling.

In dream it's otherwise:
I slaver you,
let go.
Consumed by falling brightness,
I sleep in snow,
wake to find I am a slave
alive at last in a narrow grave.

John D Dolan

On The Beach

I watch that man
in a short sleeve shirt
shoved under his shorts
who is old enough to discriminate.
His walk is vigorous
and behind sunglasses—
which menace as he intends—
I hope there are eyes that do not glitter
or feed too long on what's about him.

He wades in shallow water
where if I went too
I'd have something to do.
I don't.

What is it about me that is a dead give-away?

He will come on over
with small talk like glue.
He will know in minutes flat
that he can do as he wants,
that all I'll manage
is abeyance.

I feel like a butterfly
fluttering on this towel.

I feel already
his cold shadow
and all of him
right here on the sand.

John D Dolan



TILL DEATH US DO PART?

by Sebastian Helmore



Illustrations: Jean-Claude Thevenin

I've just been watching a gay relationship end. Philip will be twenty-one next month and Charles was just twenty-one some time last year. What went wrong? When they decided to live together, about three years ago, they seemed to be quite clear about what they were expecting of each other. They certainly *hoped* it would last, and for a time all was going well. The truth is that I don't know the whole story, and I suspect that none of their friends really do. So I can't begin to say what went wrong. All I know is that like thousands of other gay relationships, theirs has failed. All that can be done now is to pick up the pieces.

And that really is sad. Don't we all know how so many gay affairs end in jealousy, bitchiness, mutual recriminations, and sometimes even real hate? Many don't, and I think it is a measure of people's maturity, if they can accept that circumstances and people change and this means they must change too, rather than scream and kick like a child deprived of its lollipop!

Half the trouble stems, I believe, from the myth of romantic love encouraged by our television and cinema screens. It is terribly easy to be influenced by these fairy-tales of love at first sight, dewy eyes and passionate embraces, thwarted love winning through and living happily ever after. Anyone with eyes open to the reality of life around him knows this just isn't what it's like. The very lives of the film-stars who portray these ideal romances show, I would say, how they are tricked into believing their own lives could be like that. Their frequent divorces and affairs, each one as tempestuous as the last, prove the point.

Perhaps Philip and Charles fell for this one. Perhaps they believed that as long as their *feelings* remained intense, they should stick together. I don't know and can't judge, as I said. But I do know that a crisis in their relationship was reached when Charles confessed to Philip recently that he hadn't felt anything for him for eighteen months. That would be a crisis in any

relationship I agree. But the way to remedy it is not to say "Right—no feelings, no relationship" but to look carefully at what else there is besides the emotional commitment.

Am I unfeeling? My own chap, I know, wishes I could be more intense about 'us', but I have tried to persuade him that an emotional response is neither the only thing worth bothering about nor worth having if it's faked. He himself is more emotional than I, and that makes it harder for him, but he sees now that when I say I want to stick to him until he drops me, I really mean it. And I do. It's not that my feelings play no part at all. They do. I am genuinely fond of him. He just wishes I could sigh the lonely nights away without him, and the trouble is that I don't.

Gays should learn to value feelings for what they can and cannot offer. The proof of my commitment to my chap is the fact that I stick to him, not that my heart throbs at the thought of him. Do people really prefer intense relationships to ones that last? If they do, then a lot of gays set about finding them the right way! But I believe that there are plenty of more serious people who honestly want to find a lasting relationship. They obviously want some emotional involvement and return, but they are mature enough to see that it is the determination to retain one's relationships through thick and thin that not only helps them to endure but also actually strengthens them.

Some five years ago I was privileged to take part in a private religious ceremony between two friends of mine. I have the form of service in front of me now. It says: *Today we are come together so that C and K, in a simple ceremony, can bear witness to their love for each other, and swearing to be faithful and true, give themselves to each other without restraint.*

The operative words are "faithful and true". Those two friends of mine honestly intended to stick to each other through thick and thin—and to be open and honest too. The time came (and I suspect it is inevitable in most gay relationships) when they

felt that the nature of the emotional tie between them had changed so much that their relationship should change its character too. Now, although they each have their own affairs, they can still fall back on this deep bond between them. I believe that this relationship has proved lasting and more enduring than many of the transitory affairs each has enjoyed since, simply because they were honest about what they could, and wanted to offer and were determined to remain faithful to each other come what may.

And so they promised to "keep only to him, as long as we both shall wish it". That's not the same as "till death us do part" but I believe it is no less valuable. In the end, they have shown their ability to show a faithfulness that means more than 'no one else touching my (or is it your?) body'. That sort of possessiveness lies at the root of much destructive jealousy. They certainly wanted that for as long as possible, but when the day came that they no longer both wished it, they accepted the fact (and it was harder for one than the other of course!) and struggled hard to find a form of faithfulness to each other that was worth having.

The tongue is to blame for a great deal of the destructiveness in gay relationships. Gossiping really is dangerous, but the trouble is everyone enjoys it so much that it would be foolish to hope that we could create a gay world where no one ever talked about anyone else behind their backs. No, we're too human for that! But at least people can make some attempt at not being *constantly* bitchy about others. The odd bitchy remark can be made in fun, and if it is done carefully, can wound no one and help the conversation bubble along. But it seems vital that no remark is made with malice. Here is the great danger. I don't mind my friends saying as I walk into the local gay bar, "Hold your handbags tight, darlings. Here comes Sheila!" I can see that as pure fun without malice. But I can sense at once if a remark is made with some, however slight, intention to hurt me.

So we should try to avoid saying things that might hurt, and then if we appear to have damaged someone's feelings, make some effort to show no harm was meant.

And then there is something one can do to defend oneself against this sort of vulnerability. To be honest, in many cases there is no alternative but to avoid certain company. I know that I have cut myself off from several people whom I used to value as friends but who I came to see more as destructive elements in human relationships. People who go in for malicious talk deserve to lose their friends. The pity of it is that so few realise why they are being deserted. But more than just avoiding that sort of person, one can cultivate both a determination never to retaliate if one has been hurt and a hard enough skin to laugh off what is only meant in fun.

So often, one thing leads to another. I said to a friend of mine recently, who seemed to be more interested in choosing his friends for other than personal reasons, "I don't choose my friends according to the number of university degrees they have". That was, on reflection, malicious and too near to the truth. To get his own back, understandably, he replied, "No. I know you prefer sixteen-year-olds from the cottages". That hurt. Possibly because there is a very slight element of truth. But the lesson brought home to me is that bitchiness breeds bitchiness and eventually destroys people's confidence in the strength of their friendships.

So I am hoping that Philip and Charles, now they have broken up their home together, will see that unkind talk can only be a mistake and bring further unhappiness. By making an effort to accept each other in different circumstances and by resisting firmly the temptation to speak maliciously of each other, they should find a happy way of continuing their relationship: one that does not deny the strength of feeling they once had for each other, nor the undoubted happiness they once shared.

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Ross

A Happy New Year? "Star-Gays" with Merlin

By way of a change, 'Star-Gays' looks at all the Zodiac signs in a survey of aspects for the Astrological New Year, which begins on March 21. As far as the stars are concerned, the year starts with the Spring Equinox, and the sign of ARIES, ending with the last winter sign, PISCES:

It's certainly logical to start a year when the earth is awakening from its Winter sleep, and ARIES brings a breath of life, and a sign of relief that the dark days are past and Spring has arrived. ARIES Star-Gays will have a two-part survey in later editions of this column, but a word now to the April-born who have romantic notions this year: do please choose wisely this time, and discriminate between infatuation and true relationships of the heart and mind. The other Spring signs, TAURUS and GEMINI, have little to worry about on that score. TAUREANS will opt for beautiful cooks, whilst GEMINIANS, once intruding Saturn has stopped re-traversing their sign in mid-April, will find the love of their lives at last. It's been a long wait. All Spring groupings should be careful in business matters, as any change will be far-reaching in its consequences for the rest of this year and well beyond.

Summer signs CANCER, LEO and VIRGO, will travel more, erupt more, and work harder. Saturn moves back into CANCER after Easter which means work restrictions for CANCERIANS, and a more cautious approach to life in general. LEO Star-Gays should keep a tight rein on tempers, money, possessions and lovers; they may lose the lot if they lose their cool. VIRGOANS will be reflective, steadier, more inclined to serious matters than hitherto. They might end up living out of suitcases if work, rather than pleasure, takes them out of town.

LIBRA, SCORPIO and SAGITTARIUS are the three Autumn signs. LIBRANS may find themselves uncharacteristically off-balance, with a few shaken ideals to re-shape and weigh up carefully. Not a really happy time for them. SCORPIOS should try to take a quick look at what or whom

they are passionately stinging. The object of their attack could well be the one person long wanted as a friend, who wouldn't take very kindly to indiscriminate action of that kind. Kindness, yes.

SAGITTARIANS would do well to stop flitting about or chasing that attractive guy in distant places, when right next door is someone well worth a lot of extra attention. Lower your sights a little—whatever they say, the grass is always greenest beneath your own feet!

Winter brings with it CAPRICORN, AQUARIUS and PISCES. Alas, poor CAPRICORN—little but hard work this year, with more hard work in view at the end. But don't despair, a helping hand is likely for most CAPRICORNIANS in the guise of a shapely assistant, the vital statistics depending on their own gender. AQUARIANS will need to exercise a little more of their human qualities and become less remote. Later in the year tremendous chances crop up for them, but these can be missed if introspection is allowed to creep in at the moment of opportunity. PISCESANS are still having a sad, troublesome time, and will continue to do so for a year or two yet. The influence of the dying PISCAN Age will eclipse PISCAN control in world affairs. But as a compensation individual PISCANS will feel more able to come to terms with their sorrows.

1974 will be a major year of change in many directions. "The old order changeth and giveth way to new"—applying to politics, religion, principalities and powers. Social changes coming about up to the Spring of 1975 will be shattering, and this applies to Star Gays also. A more restrictive attitude by those in authority is, I'm afraid, much aspected in the stars for this period. As this is but the swing of the pendulum from those so-called 'permissive' years of the '60s, it won't last long. While it does, be discreet, diplomatic, and loving and we will all emerge relatively unscathed, ready to fight a few battles in the near future. Meantime—HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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PETE WICKER

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Solution

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The above is the solution to GN's 'Fireside Crossword No 2' which appeared in the last issue (No 41).

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Deep Down Inside You're Shallow

by Roger Baker

STREET BOY—SWINGING LONDON,
by Richard Green. Silver Publishing
Company, £3.00.

This curious book has been the subject of a prosecution for obscenity, but an Old Bailey jury found it not obscene (GN39). Frankly, I would like to have seen it suppressed on literary rather than moral grounds. The argument seems to have been that since it describes the homosexual experiences of a teenage rent boy, the book would have incited all lads who read it to rush screaming into Piccadilly in search of forbidden fruit.

Actually it should make all lads who read it rush screaming into Hatchards in search of Fowler, Roget and the Oxford English Dictionary. Rarely can such a load of illiterate, repetitive junk have been foisted on the world. The passages of graphic sex (of which there are many) are related in a flatly mechanistic way which prevents one nearing the action—even if the spelling mistakes, misplaced lines, impenetrable grammar, contempt for continuity and logic were not barrier enough.

The book is so stacked with double standards, confused moral attitudes and direct contradictions that the ground shifts continually beneath one. It is, for example, extremely difficult to find out who it is aimed at. Certainly the major content is entirely homosexual; yet ultimately it seems to be a hymn to heterosexuality (called normality), nice girls back home, virginity, the Stock Market and the Young Conservatives.

We discover very little about life on the streets. Richard hasn't been at it very long before he scores a lord who sets him up in a luxury flat. By the end of his story, 19-year-old Richie is a successful insurance salesman, a successful investor and the owner of a highly profitable block of property in Notting Hill Gate. In the opening chapter, Richard Green says his intention is to open the eyes of 'young chaps' to "what might be

expected if they ... decided to use their sex to make a living...."

He also refers to "the sordid world of male sex ... which some people hide behind the word 'homosexuality'." The word 'homosexuality' is something Richard fears beyond measure. Over and over again he describes (within his limited powers) the excitement and emotional highs he gets from sucking and fucking and having both done to him. Yet he continually rejects the idea that he is gay, refuses to kiss, dismisses one client contemptuously as "a homo" and sternly preaches the uplift of chaps "helping each other". Originally this means mutual masturbation at school. A master at school demonstrates his own erect cock to a class of undressed boys and applies electrodes to it; this man is later 'helped' extensively by two of the boys before his marriage. After such an orthodox sex education, it cannot be wondered that Richie 'helps' every male he sets eyes on. "Rarely did (the men I picked up) give me satisfaction..." he writes, yet the pages are crammed with satisfactions for Richie. His favourite word is 'deep'; all his encounters are 'deep'; some are even 'deeper' and when with his virginal girlfriend the experience is not only 'deeper', but 'wider' too.

About halfway through the book, for absolutely no good reason whatsoever, one of Richie's friends, Marion a whore with a heart of gold (characterisation is brilliantly original) refers him to her psychologist. This is baffling. Nasty, opportunist Richie seems to know exactly what he is doing but of course any hint of homosexuality automatically means a psychologist is necessary. What effect the sessions had on him is not clear. Nothing about him or his attitudes changes, if anything he gets even more 'deeply' involved with the men he scores.

However, a book such as this must have some justification, and Richie's psychologist pops up to contribute a foreword which is intended to lend an air of authority to the

saga and elevate it to "a psychological document of immense value" (it sez here). He is called Laurence Ray, MD, DipPsy, PhD; is described as former Dean of the American Academy of Psychological Research and—get this—"is currently deeply involved in his International Consultancy in Psychology." And he writes with all the prejudiced ignorance one associates with pre-Wolfenden days.



He writes: "There are those who are born homosexuals and their femininity develops at an early age. Thus you have a sissy boy who develops into a 'gay' youth who seeks only the companionship of other unfortunates who now appear to the ordinary eye in increasing numbers. We have always recognised that there were such men, often very brilliant men, who make a worthwhile contribution to society, and many, many,

others who are quite properly the objects of pity."

So there you are, all you gay men who are reading this—if you are not 'brilliant' and making a 'worthwhile contribution to society' you are "quite properly the objects of pity." Does it not make you, for a moment, re-think your views of what books should indeed be banned? For a moment. Because one must resist all attempts at censorship, even when it means agreeing to the publications of such pernicious attitudes as these.

Laurence Ray continues in a very self-congratulatory tone and says "it is remarkable that his adjustment to quite normal happiness has been accomplished by two women—this good-hearted prostitute and his earliest real girl friend who gave her virginity to him" blah blah blah

This "quite normal happiness" we find, on getting to the end, involves marriage ("What a glorious conclusion!"), but also knowledge that Richie is going to return to London to visit his aristocrat when "help" is needed, and also that he is going to continue a passionate relationship with a schoolboy. Who is fooling whom? The situation is hypocritical in the extreme. Richie is not settling down to a straightforward married life: nor is he accepting a straightforward bi-sexuality; he is certainly not liberated, sexually. He is having the superficial best of all worlds and the internal stability of none. And this, Laurence Ray feels is a perfect finale.

It strikes me as odd that this introduction is written in exactly the same style as the autobiography itself; the same spelling mistakes occur, the same impenetrable grammar, the same ambiguous phrases, even the use of the word 'deep'. I suggest the whole thing is a phoney from start to finish, and if such people as Laurence Ray and Richard Green exist then they should stand up and show themselves.

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The Screen Scene

Nineteen seventy four is a mere two months old, and it's becoming blatantly clear that the cinema is finally freeing itself from the commercial doldrums and the aesthetic virtuosity of the late sixties and early seventies, as cinemas everywhere record booming admissions.

Surveying the West End, it's practically impossible to find a film which doesn't fall into the Kung Fu or American Police categories. The banality of the Kung Fu dramas has reached unreasonable proportions even accounting for the blank-faced telly-nurtured audience for whom they are made, with the advent of a black karate chopper, **THAT MAN BOLT** (C.I.C., director David Lowell Rich). Mr Rich's film or ninety-minute commercial doesn't quite match the lunacy of **MR HERCULES AGAINST KARATE** (United Artists, director Anthony Dawson, (nee Antonio Margheriti), an Italian clash between the chop and the muscle, meat and fish, starring Fred Harris. The director and leading man's names have been adapted to appeal to American-oriented international markets. Credits say all.



Lesley-Anne Down and Jack Watson in a scene from *Beyond The Grave*. Looks nasty....

Britain's crumbling film industry's staple product and only output these days seems to be the horror movie, which probably explains why both acting and technically-wise, the genre is attracting more talent than it deserves. If you enjoy horror films, though, don't miss **FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE** (Columbia-Warner, director Kevin Connor), which employs the multifarious talents of Ian Carmichael, Peter Cushing, Diana Dors, Margaret Leighton, Donald Pleasance, David Warner, Nyree Dawn Porter and others. The plot about several middle-class nasties getting their just deserts after doing the dirty on ageing curiosity-shop proprietor Peter Cushing is none too original, but spotting the cast and enjoying their delicious performances is a little like watching a show of shows of British acting. There are also some quite

inventive stunts with mirrors and flying furniture; good fun I suppose.

Well, despite my opening comments, there were one or two drops of oil in the tank, and **SANTEE** (Columbia-Warner, director Gary Nelson), is one of them. A leisurely old-fashioned Western that lacks extreme violence or any attempt to denigrate the myths, with bags of cow-poking atmosphere, adoration of the scenery and meaty expert performances.

There's Glenn Ford as the rancher cum bounty hunter with a chip on his shoulder, dear old Dana Wynter looking well preserved as wife, hard riding, and sentiment galore. The climax is a well-staged old style gunfight, after which one's held in suspense for an awful long time as to whether the goodie survived, and I haven't been as entertained as I was by Santee, for months.

Then there's good old Michael Winner, whose latest offering **THE STONE KILLER** (Columbia-Warner) has just hit the screen. Poor old Michael, I almost sent him a wreath, because he's become a sort of critic's punch bag. Along with John Schlesinger and Nicholas Roeg, he's just about one of the most vibrant and talented British directors around at the moment, and just as the critics severely over-praised Roeg's *Don't Look Now*, they've slain *The Stone Killer*. Good old Alex Walker of the London *Evening Standard* who's normally quite an objective fellow, can't seem to stop launching personal attacks on the violence in Mr Winner's films and tempting him into confrontations on the telly. And then there's Marjorie Bilbow, quite a gentle old critic really, the bastion of the trade paper *Cinema/TV Today* (nothing to do with Transvestism), who suggested on BBC Radio London's film programme the other day, that Mr Winner wasn't really a director at all. Why doesn't he confine his activities to producing she said, after the man's been making highly successful films in all genres, for the last twenty years. They never treated Michael Curtiz like this, and he made *White Christmas*.

Film buffs and those of you with long memories will particularly remember his two brilliant assaults on hypocrisy within the British lifestyle, *The System* and *I'll Never Forget What's His Name*, both starring Oliver Reed. The latter was really about Mr Winner abandoning his leftish pretensions and selling out to make a fast buck like everyone else in the film industry.

It wasn't long after *I'll Never Forget What's His Name* before he found himself in America, where his large-scale violent thrillers have had more than an edge of truth in them, and a style of observation only an outsider can create. For example, the vaguely homosexual assassins in *The Mechanic*, the insidiousness of racial hatred in *Chato's Land*, the nasties of the CIA in *Scorpio*.

Now *The Stone Killer*, which differs from current police dramas in that it paints a very sour picture of the American cop who puts the boot in first and asks the questions later. It doesn't excuse his violence for a moment, but seems to put it down to the man getting his kicks, if you'll excuse the pun. It's a slick, cynical picture that tells the story of a relentless cop played by a stoney-faced Charles Bronson, putting down a mafia conspiracy. The chases are exuberant, the location shots characteristic of the slick, immoral, rotten urbanity of New York and Los Angeles, where the film is set.

David Seligman

Quiet Waltz

WALTZ OF THE TOREADORS at Haymarket Theatre, Haymarket, London W1.

My enthusiasm for the plays of Jean Anouilh began many years ago. At that time, one or two of his plays were annually produced in London, and I revelled in his world of bizarre characters and strange situations. In recent years, apart from a stunning production of *'Dear Antoine'*, there have been few of his works performed here. All the more reason for the elation I felt on reading of the revival of *Waltz of the Toreadors*, considered by many to be his masterpiece.

Sometimes when re-reading a book by a favourite author, I have found it sadly dated. The same feeling can apply to revivals of plays, and at times I felt this reaction to *'The Waltz'*. What shocked and surprised audiences in 1956 seems now very mild. However, after considering the pros and cons of this production I realise that my admiration for Anouilh's playwriting has not dimmed and that my disappointment lay elsewhere.

The leading role offers a wide range to an actor, but unfortunately Trevor Howard's performance at times lacked the fire and fury necessary to the

part. As his harried wife, Coral Browne is far more in key to the style of the play, but in relationship to Howard's subdued performance appears to be overplaying.

The plot tells of an ageing general engaged in writing his war memoirs. His faithful mistress of 17 years' standing, has arrived to claim him for herself. His invalid wife, forever calling to him from her bedroom, intrudes even into his private thoughts. During his life he has had many women, but none have compared to his mistress.

In the final moments of the play, the author sets a poignant moment, as the old general sits alone with his thoughts. His mistress has run off with his young male secretary, and his wife has shattered him with a long list of her infidelities. Suddenly the new parlour-maid comes in. She is very young, and very pretty, and as the curtain falls he is about to pursue her in search of another conquest. In that telling moment Howard is perfect, with a lecherous smile on his face, and we realise that life will continue for the old boy—in the Anouilh style.

Barry Conley

Eastern Promise

MADAM BUTTERFLY—Sadlers Wells Opera at London Coliseum

East is East and West is West and one of the few occasions on which the twain meet is in Puccini's opera *Madam Butterfly*.

How much 'meeting' there is, and how much 'confrontation' is largely the decision of the producer. Of course he is bound by the plot to a great extent—the central conflict lies between the two cultures, the American way of life of Pinkerton, and the Japanese life-style of Cho-Cho-San which she in large part renounces to marry her American sailor.

For the rest, Colin Graham in his new production has taken great pains to recreate the formality and ritual of traditional Japanese culture, taking advice from an adviser, Michiko Aoki, on the manners of the east. He has, however, avoided the clear danger of going too far with an eastern style of presentation that would so obviously clash with what is essentially a work of very western music.

He is helped greatly by John Fraser's useful set of *Butterfly's* house shown first from one side in Act One, and then from the back in subsequent acts. The sliding screens which form doors and walls worked smoothly, offering simple 'scene changes' in the middle of an act to assist the producer.

But if the setting and production were satisfactory, some of the individual performances were less so. Ava June as *Madam Butterfly* was not in strong voice. Granted that conductor David Lloyd-Jones turned the orchestral volume up too high at times, there was still something lacking in the heroine's part. One critic remarked that Ava June took *One Fine Day* "quite slowly, as a confidential soliloquy, as if she were thinking out its implications as she went along." Now *One Fine Day* is not by a stretch of the imagination a 'confidential soliloquy.' It is a jubilant expression of *Butterfly's* devotion to Pinkerton, ironic, the audience knows by now, but sincere as far as the heroine is concerned. If it came over slowly and confidentially, as it did, then it was misjudged. And there were other occasions on which Ava June did not manage to thrill, surely something which Puccini allows his singers plenty of scope for.

Pinkerton as performed by Robert Ferguson was also not entirely at ease with the music. There were signs of strain when he was called on to sing out, though he seemed to be in much better form when he re-appeared in the final act. As for the dramatic character, he did not quite carry off the



Ava June in the title role with Robert Ferguson as 'Pinkerton' in the new Sadlers Wells Opera production of Puccini's *Madam Butterfly*

brashness of a young Lieutenant, settling rather for a more sedate Captain figure.

But Sharpless, the American consul, was handled beautifully by Derek Hammond Stroud. A comfortable characterisation this, supporting *Butterfly* like a benevolent and concerned uncle. Always there when help was needed, and yet human enough to be almost helpless when asked to inform her of Pinkerton's second marriage. As for his singing, one must commend him yet again for being the model of clarity and precision. It seems to me, looking back over the operas at the Coliseum in which he has appeared, the one thing that stands out is his utter reliability. Whether the rest of the cast is weak or strong, Hammond Stroud will always turn in a substantial performance, effortlessly and unobtrusively. He is seldom one to grab the headlines in any review, but it is a pleasure to pay the occasional tribute to one who has given such consistent and valuable service to the Sadlers Wells company.

Although, as I mentioned above, David Lloyd-Jones often allowed the orchestra to play too loudly for the comfort of the cast, and the strings came to grief in the fugal passage at the beginning, the score was accorded a competent treatment and at times provided some of the thrills which were missed on stage.

Michael Mason

Butterfly Girl

THE COLLECTOR at St Martins Theatre, West Street, London WC2. Showing until 23rd March.

John Fowles' book *'The Collector'* was a best-seller in several countries, and the film version which followed was highly acclaimed, though a financial failure. It was inevitable that a stage version would follow, as the claustrophobic situation of the story is ideal for the theatre. Unfortunately, David Parker, faced with the job of adaptation, had a difficult decision to make. Obviously, audiences new to the plot would be confused if the play began with a man arriving carrying a gagged and bound female without explanation.

So the inauspicious opening finds a tall, dark and handsome man pacing a room, reading out



Marianne Faithfull makes a welcome comeback in *The Collector*

items from a book, rather in the nature of a shopping list. It's soon gathered that a kidnapping is to take place, but things don't improve when he does return carrying the gagged and bound girl in his arms. Miranda's reactions on waking seem a bit too theatrical. How would anyone react to such a situation other than how she does? Nobody's fault really—it's just too early for so much dramatics. However, after this rather bad start, things improve soon afterwards when the two protagonists start to communicate.

Clegg, an introverted psychopath, has won the football pools, bought a remote country house, and furnished the cellar. Until how he has contented himself with collecting butterflies, but with his newly-acquired wealth, his collecting mania becomes more ambitious. Instead of butterflies, he's now after bigger things for his cellar—a 'real live girl'. Miranda, once she gets over her initial shock at being capture, decides to play the game according to his rules, allowing herself to remain a prisoner for twenty-eight days as agreed. She makes one or two feeble efforts to escape, but is caught before she can succeed. Finally, after getting to know Clegg better, she whiles away the time in attempting to educate him. It is in the conversations between them here, that the play springs to life.

Simon Williams ably manages the several transitions from meek suitor back to powerful captor. At times he is a little overshadowed by the strong personality performance of Marianne Faithfull as Miranda. On the basis of her work here, Ms Faithfull proves herself a capable actress, who no longer needs the publicity surrounding her past, and that includes an 'in' joke where she plays the Rolling Stones record of *'The Last Time'*. To re-iterate, once that shaky start is over with, it's quite a compelling play, right up to the anticipated dramatic climax.

Barry Conley

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In brown and cream donegal, the jacket is short and ventless, with squarer flatter shoulders and a half-belt at the back with ruching above. The trousers are fuller and straight which looks better with the shorter jacket. Club 92 by Aquascutum.



The button 2 jacket features suede elbow patches and pleated patch pockets with shaped flaps to button. The distinctive touch of suede is also used for all the button holes. The collar has its own fold-back throat tabs and the jacket features side vents and polka-dot lining. By Daks.

The above photographs feature the essential country look for Autumn '74 from four of the best British ready-to-wear companies specialising in traditional, classic clothes.

Home News From Abroad

by Iain T Finlayson

February is the month during which harassed and hopeful manufacturers, like temporary nomads, pack and unpack their goods and their tents on the first trek round the twice-yearly European menswear fashion fairs. From Pitti Uomo and SAMIA in Italy, SEHM at Porte de Versailles, to Cologne Fashion Week and thence to our own dear Earls Court for IMBEX, which showed the season's British menswear products in toto alongside a representative selection from Europe, Canada, Cyprus, Korea and a host of other countries.

This time, I don't know why they bothered. The message, as ever, was 'Rien ne change. C'est plus la meme chose'. Which is fair enough, in it's way—art/fashion does imitate the sad realities of life—but, primed with the expectation of dazzle, panache and fashion flair in the face of adversity—excitement, even, for God's sake; is that too much to ask?—I was merely reminded of the deathless words which thrilled over the magic of the first electric wireless cable:

'Along the wires, the electric message came: He is no better. He is much the same.'

A similar bathetic message from the recent fashion beanfeasts was just as unhelpful and equally dispiriting. The exciting medium of fashion is once again used to publicise very little in the way of news, and what there is of innovation comes mainly from Paris and Italy rather than from British manufacturers. The ready-to-wear collections in Europe are taking full advantage of the death of Couture to present dazzling lines for mass consumption and push the benefits of design talent into this field. Only in this country, surely, could a firm such as Dunn's make a selling line of the fact that their merchandise will never go out of fashion because it is never *in* fashion! Their advertising actually states this with pride and in the knowledge that, for most men in this country, this is a convincing argument for buying their suits year after year.

At one point on my weary tours, I thought I had finally struck gold. The Scottish Braemar company had a riveting collection of cashmere and shetland knitwear on display. I approached in high excitement, only to be told that they employed an Italian designer. I congratulated them on their foresight and good sense, but left a little rattled by the information. Was Carnaby Street/

Kings Road simply a kaleidoscopic flash in the pan? Amid the tat, there were some worth while designers at work; but has our indigenous design talent so deteriorated, fizzled out after a short burst of creative frenzy, that only a handful of top line fantasists remain worthy of the name fashion? Certainly, on the face of it, this seems to be the case. The new menswear collection by Kenzo Takada for Jap is the only range I have seen lately which involves an element of fresh thinking and the courage to really create a new shape. I hope manufacturers copy and pirate his designs like mad—that will detract nothing from his own sales and would be a well-deserved compliment to one of the best designers around. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery and, even in a watered-down version, I'd like to see the Jap line worn everywhere this summer and not just up and down the Brompton Road.

The Italian flair for design is seen to best advantage in fairly classic styles, but there is always an interesting extra element of imagination in the overall lines and effect of the Italian look. Where they become badly unstuck is in striving for conspicuous effect; but their imaginative handling of unexpectedly successful colour coordination is unsurpassed in modern fashion both for men and women. To be fair, Britain is also successful with subdued, subtle earth colours in tweeds; and Liberty prints, of course, are uniquely beautiful. Where we tend to fall down is in our failure to innovate essential shapes and lines to make the most of the best of our fabrics.

For an overall, effortless casual chic (giving credit to the Italians for a better formal look), the French remain in control, albeit

casting fretful glances over their natural shoulder lines at the more recent Italian Collections. New Man jeans and velvet trousers are indispensable, while their casual blouson jackets achieve a high standard of design and tailoring. Jupiter showed exquisite casual blouson suits cut to the body and perfect trench coats; while Bril of France had a competent selection of suits in clever materials for younger men. Solid self-colours and the occasional plaid fabrics were most successful, but the beautiful Donegal flecked tweeds and herringbones were a refreshingly new and important note throughout this year's collections as a whole.

Away from IMBEX, at the Carlton Tower Hotel, Yves St Laurent presented a collection of ready-to-wear suits, jackets and coats for countrywide distribution in the coming Autumn. Hitherto, his clothes have been available only from Rive Gauche shops and this new range has been confected with the British market in mind. And that, I regret to report, just means it is not as good as the French Rive Gauche range. Admittedly, the range is cheaper—£60 to £80—compared with the Rive Gauche stock, which is not to be sniffed at. The line concentrates on wider shoulders, high-peaked lapels, hip-hugging shorter jackets and top-pleated wider trousers falling to twenty-four-inch bottoms with turn-ups. It fails in the choice of materials, which simply make this otherwise good line look like gent's natty suiting in tiny checks, mud colours and a particularly offensive petrol blue. But the coats, classically casual in beige twill or more formally elegant in navy and black wool, were very successful. Pièce de résistance was a great, green loden cape which will be just the thing for bearded mystics on Haverstock Hill. But I could have

done without the perky black beret as a top-note to the look, and so, come to that, could the model. I'm not griping about the collection—indeed, I am grateful for the advent of the darling of Couture into the ready-to-wear market in this country. I simply consider that the fabrics used are, by and large, a mistake because they are thought to be suitable for a British market. Those last five words are the kiss of death to fashion.

Still in France, for some reason I kept coming smack up against the Hom under-wear stand. I'd like to think the reason is not Freudian but simply that I tend to disorientation. I've no sense of direction. The traditional tanned models in coloured polyamide underpants paraded about on a raised stand and, some half dozen times, coming sharply round the corner, I came face to navel with three naked torsos. It was very unsettling and, after a bit, I had to adopt an air of nonchalance, avert my gaze and whistle brightly as though I knew what I was doing and where I was going. "Never mind the quality, feel the width," cried the salesman (or was it the other way about?). So I did—very nice, too. Highly recommended, as ever.

The Dutch Van Gils company have a very smart (is that word still used?) range of casual suits and sharply-tailored coats and jackets in pretty checks and beautiful cream, white or my favourite camel wool. They may look a little slick outside the environs of W1, and the chiselled, bronzed features of the very matey models doubtless blunted my critical faculties a little—but I was much taken by the range of garments.

Finally, I find I can be a little kind to the British. Ben Frankel, the resident designer for 'Trend' at Simpson's of Piccadilly, has designed a very clever and very good-looking Summer Collection. It is bang up to date, intelligently and fashionably designed for a casual, loose and comfortable look. Each garment can be matched to any other for a complete overall effect and I have seen nothing better anywhere. More details nearer the palmy days of late Spring, but I urge you not to buy a thing for Summer until you have looked at the Frankel Collection. Thank the Lord for one bright spot. How nice to end on an up-note, after all.

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When Eno Comes...

HERE COME THE WARM JETS—Eno—Island Records

Amongst the albums issued recently, I'd certainly describe Eno's first solo recording as one of the most stimulating and original.

Just for the record, Eno is the beautiful and sexy animal who escaped from Roxy Music early last year. I fell for his purple eyeliner and diamond chokers at the first sight I caught of him (live on stage with Roxy).

But Eno has been doing his own thing in the last few months, and after the release of an interesting but rather inaccessible instrumental album, produced in collaboration with Robert Fripp, Eno comes up with Here Come The Warm Jets, and I've been playing it non-stop for the last three weeks.

Obviously Eno doesn't try to make us forget about his association with Roxy Music, but he now treats electronics and keyboards with a more personal and refreshing touch. It is pleasant also to discover that he can sing and that he has selected the session men from amongst the best around.

Baby's On Fire, also released as a single, is the up-tempo track most likely to make the album known, as it is highly representative of the atmosphere and quality of the album, with its humorous lyrics and Robert Fripp giving an amazing sound on guitar.

I wouldn't go so far as to say that this is a 'concept' album. Nevertheless, I found there was a progression throughout the record, which is often missing from contemporary albums, that makes



it more enjoyable.

I found the second side a real treat with Blank Frank as the hottest number, followed by Dead Finks Don't Talk, a minor masterpiece with vocal harmonies reminiscent of the Beach Boys, superbly arranged by Paul Thompson, Cherry Jones, Nick Judd and Eno himself.

Some Of Them Are Old provides a smooth transition to the musical peak of the album, the title cut Here Come The Warm Jets. On this track the hypnotic repetition of the same harmonies on bass and synthesiser builds up an accelerating tempo and brings the album to its logical, orgasmic conclusion.

If the prospect of 42 minutes of brilliant arrangements, surrealistic but pertinent lyrics, and real novelty seduces you, then Eno will be the right thing for your turntable.

Jean-Claude Thevenin

Soul Food

It's regrettable that the considerable talents of soul-singer extraordinaire Al Green continue to be ignored by the majority of record-buyers in Britain. And his lack of recognition isn't helped much by poor promotion and a limited amount of radio exposure. It is hard to believe that in America he's enormously popular, but in this country has yet to score more than a couple of hit singles, despite bringing out consistently first-rate recordings, all of which rank amongst some of the finest releases in the soul genre in recent years.

As Green's latest album *Livin' For You* (London) is no exception, and for my money is the best set he has released to date. The title song was a chart-topping single in the States, and the rest of the material is of the same high standard, although for me the outstanding cuts are a stunning version of *Unchained Melody* and the lengthy closing track *Beware*. Contributing much to the record's success is the back-up playing by some of Memphis's most respected session musicians (particularly the sparse but effective drum work of Howard Grimes), the well-thought-out arrangements and Green and soul veteran Willie Mitchell's crisp production. Consequently, *Livin' For You* is an album you should try not to live without.

Wish I could say the same about the *Dramatics'* second album *A Dramatic Experience* (Stax). Sadly, it isn't a patch on their previous collection, which featured their memorable hit singles 'Whatcha See Is Whatcha Get' and 'In The Rain'. The overall theme of their new set is an anti-dope message, and although the five-man Detroit-based vocal group mean well, the 'socially relevant' tracks come over as being embarrassingly pretentious, and in no way equal the excellent songs by Curtis Mayfield on the same subject. Most of the remaining cuts are instantly forgettable. Even the lavish Stax arrangements don't stop them sounding like fillers. And *Fell For You*, which closes side one, finishes with one of the messiest endings I've ever heard. Saving the record from being a complete disaster is *Now You Got Me Loving You*, on which the *Dramatics'* performance is comparable to their earlier hits. But no album is worth buying for just one track.

Since leaving the Supremes and establishing herself as a major solo artist, Diana Ross has made some very satisfying recordings. Her last collection 'Touch Me In The Morning' is perhaps her best set so far, although her collaboration with Marvin Gaye on 'Diana & Marvin' proved to be a particularly worthwhile venture. However, her new album *Last Time I Saw Him* (Tamlam Motown) is surprisingly mediocre, and one is left with the distinct impression that it was very hastily put together and with little thought given to the choice of material. Apart from the title cut and I Heard A Love Song (But You Never Made A Sound), the remaining tracks are extremely trite and lack lustre, and her version of Charlie Rich's *Behind Closed Doors* is nothing less than awful. Hopefully, more time and effort will be spent on her subsequent recordings, thus avoiding a singer as gifted as Ms Ross having to waste her talent on releases as disappointing as *Last Time I Saw Him*.

The faults of the previous album certainly don't apply to *The Three Degrees'* first LP on Philadelphia International. As with nearly all of the releases on the Philly label, it is a superb example of contemporary soul, and is impeccably produced by Gamble & Huff. Simply entitled *The Three Degrees*, it features a total of eight cuts, and each has something to recommend it. Best tracks though are *Dirty Ol' Man*, *Can't You See What You're Doing To Me*, *Year Of Decision* and the recording's *tour de force*, the just-over-seven-minute *If And When*. The latter, arranged by Lenny Pakula, is one of those marvellous orchestral production numbers that are fast becoming Philly's trademark. But it isn't just the backings that are great.



The Three Degrees, sounding like an ultra-funky version of the early Supremes, perform some beautiful harmony work, concentrating on a group sound, rather than the usual leader and chorus format. Definitely a record worth taking the trouble to hear, and one can safely assume that there will be even better things coming from them in the future.

James Brown's backing band, the JB's, have a new album out called *Doing It To Death* (Polydor). An apt title, as the material featured consists of five over-long and very repetitive soul-cum-jazz cuts, which one could easily mistake as backing tracks if it weren't for James Brown's occasional vocal and his exhortations to "get it on". It may sound fine played extremely loud at a disco, but is somewhat boring and uninspired otherwise.

Bloodstone, like Al Green, have also failed so far to make much of an impact in the UK. But in the States it's a different story. Their first single 'Natural High' was a huge hit, and the album the track was taken from made the upper reaches of the LP charts. *Unreal* (Decca) is the group's second album, and like their previous release is a thoroughly enjoyable set. They specialise in highly polished, fully-orchestrated soft soul. Their approach, though, is distinctly more earthy than that of the Stylistics or Harold Melvin & The Blue Notes, but without being as gritty as The Chi-Lites. Incidentally, Bloodstone, unlike any other successful American soul outfit I know of, record all their material in England, and the admirable production work of Mike Vernon and the full but uncluttered sound he achieves in getting is especially deserving of praise.

Simon Country (Polydor) is a collection of country and western oriented songs by soul singer Joe Simon. An interesting departure from his usual choice of material, but one that is completely successful, as Simon's rich deep voice is ideally suited to the imagery of country gems such as *Five Hundred Miles*, *Do You Know What It's Like To Be Lonely*, *You Don't Know Me* and *Before The Next Teardrop Falls*. My only complaint is that the album is extremely short, a mere nine tracks with a total playing time of just over 29 minutes. Poor value but pleasurable soulful and best heard after the midnight hour.

Denis Lemon

Julian's Singles



Eddie Kendricks' follow-up to 'Keep On Truckin' is *Boogie Down* (Tamlam Motown). The former was his long-awaited and thoroughly deserved breakthrough into the British charts, and like that cut, his new single has every chance of giving him another smash hit. It certainly contains all the necessary ingredients; a smouldering Motown rhythm section, effective use of brass and strings, splendid production and the song is written by the same team responsible for 'Truckin'. Add to this Kendricks' sweet passionate vocal, which glides and soars over the urgently funky arrangement, and the result is one of the best dance records released so far this year.

I've Got To Use My Imagination has already been an enormous hit in the States for Gladys Knight and The Pips, and if there is any justice it will also be a chart-topper in this country. The cut is taken from their first Buddah LP 'Imagination' and, as with her previous single 'Midnight Train To Georgia', is one of the outstanding tracks on the album. Featured throughout is a prominent, up-tempo afro drum arrangement, which is an ideal background to Ms Knight's soulful performance and, like the singer's interpretation of the song, emphasises the blatant but totally joyous sensuality conveyed by the lyrics.

Two new singles from the specialist soul label Contempo (distributed by Pye Records) are by Oscar Toney Jr and Ultrafunk. The latter perform a vibrant instrumental version of Stevie Wonder's *Living For The City*, coupled with a just over eight-minute work-out of Bill Withers' *Who Is He And What Is He To You?* Oscar Toney's release *Is It Because I'm Black* is an excellent piece of tough, gritty soul. Particularly memorable is the earthy lead guitar work and the tight, funky rhythm provided by Ultrafunk. In complete contrast, the flip is a lush, soulful version of the old Walker Brothers' hit *Make It Easy On Yourself*. Of the two records, Toney's has the most chart potential, but both discs are certain to be instant disco hits.

Initial UK release for Australian middle-of-the-road singer John Christie is *Everybody But Me* (Polydor). A pleasant enough recording but a little too unadventurous and ordinary to mean much to British record buyers and their increasingly sophisticated tastes. *Give It Up* (Tiffany) is the first single from Airborne, a vocal group comprised of four guys currently serving in the Royal Air Force Parachute Regiment. Like the previous record, their approach and material is rather old-fashioned, but the cut features some superb harmony singing and consequently has an outside chance of making the charts.

Singer/songwriter Leslie Duncan has remained unnoticed by most people for far too long, but perhaps her new single *Watch The Tears* (GM Records) will make up for the lack of recognition she has endured in the past. Taken from her new album 'Everything

Changes', the song is a fine example of her distinctive style and creative talent.

Leatherhead are a new British group who sound like a cross between the New York Dolls and Queen. Their first single is a raucous heavy rock number entitled *Gimme Your Money Please* (Phillips), the lyrics of which relate the dubious joys of being mugged. Noisy, brash and completely tasteless.

Johnny And The Juke Box by Pearly Gates and The Rubettes' *Sugar Baby Love* are attempts to recapture the Shadow Norton/Phil Spector sound of yesteryear. Both are gloriously tacky but neither equals the original records from which they derive their inspiration.

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: Avenue Bar, Rosemary Street

BIRMINGHAM
Pubs: Imperial Hotel, Temple Street

The Victoria, John Bright St

The Vikings, Smallbrook, Queensway (Thur, Fri, Sat, Sun) Gays & friends only

Clubs: Grosvenor House, 326 Hagley Road, B17

*Nightingale, 50 Camp Hill B12

BLACKBURN
Pubs: The Merchants Hotel, Darwen St (D)

BLACKPOOL
Pub: Lucy's Bar, Talbot Square

BOLTON
Pubs: Prince William, Deansgate (upstgs) *Peel Arms Hotel, 423 Hallwell Road

BOURNEMOUTH
Pub: The Norfolk Hotel

Clubs: Gligis, The Triangle

BRADFORD
Pub: The Prince Albert, Warley Hill

Junction Inn, Leeds Road

Club: Shangri-la, Piecehall Yard

BRENTWOOD
Pub: The Prince Albert, Warley Hill

BRIGHTON
Pubs: Spotted Dog, Middle Street

Greyhound East St (upstairs bar only)

Cricketers, Black Lion Street (weekends)

Hove Lawns Hotel

*Heart & Hand, Ship Street

Clubs: New Curtain Club, East Street (men)

*Regency Club, Regency Square

42 Club, Kings Road

Pink Elephant, corner of Regency Square

St Albans Club, Regency Square

Queen of Clubs, Bedford Square

Hove

Longbranch Club, Grand Parade

Gay Cavalier, 62 Middle St

Rest: Olde Twitten, 62 Middle Street

Lorelei Coffee Lounge, 5 Union Street

Disco: Sussex GLF 8-11pm every Fri

Stanford Arms (upstairs back bar), Preston Circus

BRISTOL
Pub: Radnor, 30 St Nicholas Street

The Ship, Park Row, nr Red Lodge

Club: *Moulin Rouge, 72 Worrall Rd, Clifton

BURNLEY
Pub: *The Cross Keys

CAMBRIDGE
Pub: The Stable Bar, Green Street (off Trinity Street)

Rest: Scaramouche, Catherine Street, Tel: Cambridge 43570

CANTERBURY
Pub: The Queen's Head, Watling Street

CARDIFF
Pub: Royal Hotel (Roberts Bar) St Mary Street

Royal Oak, St Mary Street

Clubs: Showbiz Club, Hope Street

CHELtenham
Pubs: Irving Hotel, High Street

Club: New Twenty Club, 20 High Street

CHESTER
Pubs: Foregate Bar, Blossoms Hotel, St Johns Street

Grosvenor, nr Blossoms Hotel

CHICHESTER
Pub: Cattle Market Inn

CIRENCESTER
Pub: Black Horse

CLEETHORPES
Club: Birds Nest, Kings Road, Boating Lake (Wed Sat Sun)

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

DONCASTER
Club: 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 Balliol, St Stephen Street

EXETER
Pubs: Horse & Groom, Longbrook St

FERNDale, South Wales
Pub: *Salisbury Hotel

GLASGOW
Pubs: Duke of Wellington, Argyle St

McCallis, Hope Street

GRAVESEND
Pub: The Kent, High Street

Anne's Guide cont on Page 17

Briefly...

The Beach Boys In Concert (Warner Bros) is a reasonably-priced 2-record set that contains live versions of the group's most memorable material. Amongst the 20 songs featured are *Good Vibrations*, *Help Me Rhonda*, *Wouldn't It Be Nice*, *Don't Worry Baby*, *California Girls*, *Surfin' USA* and *Sloop John B*. Even though they are live performances, the Beach Boys' glorious and inimitable harmonies are unimpaired, and the double album is an entertaining collection of contemporary nostalgia.

The Phosphorescent Rat and Manhole are two recent releases on the Grunt label. The former is the fourth album by Jefferson Airplane off-shoot band Hot Tuna. It's West Coast sunshine music at its very best and is the most pleasing recording they have issued to date. The latter is the first solo LP by another Airplane member, singer Grace Slick. Although it will delight admirers of her work with that band, it is unlikely to appeal to many other people.

Nine is Tim Hardin's first album on GM Records and was recorded entirely in London. Since his first two albums, which contained some of the most beautiful love songs I've ever heard, Hardin's career has been a little less than eventful, but it's pleasing to report that

his new recording is the best for some time. Nothing startling, just a well-balanced set of good songs, apart from yet another version of James Taylor's *Fire And Rain*. People who remember 'Don't Make Promises' and 'Reason To Believe' should definitely give Nine a listen, and if tracks from the record are given enough plays on the radio, Hardin is likely to make some new conquests.

Jackson Browne's second album release is *For Everyman* (Asylum), and really deserves to have much more written about it than the few lines I can manage here. But that I'll leave to the national music papers and content myself with saying that few other singer/song-writer records issued this year are likely to equal its unique beauty. Every track is a gem, but *Take It Easy* (previously a hit single for The Eagles), *I Thought I Was A Child*, *These Days* and the title cut *For Everyman*, between them relate better than words why I'm so enthusiastic about this extremely talented artist.

After all the fuss about Bob Dylan's new album *Planet Waves* (Island), actually listening to it is an enormous anti-climax. Like his previous three LPs, it isn't a patch on the recordings he made before 'Nashville Skyline'. Sad to see an artist of Dylan's calibre bringing out such inconsequential trivia.

Denis Lemon

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Anne's Guide cont from Page 16

- 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 (CME 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 Brigate
Disco: Leeds GLF Disco fortnightly, contact their office for location
- LEICESTER**
Pub: Dover Castle, Dover Street
- LIVERPOOL**
Pubs: Lisbon, Victoria Street L2
The Danby Castle, Hackins Hey (off Dale Street)
Clubs: New Bears Paw, Dorran Lane
Johns Gay Bar Royal, Wood St
Pagoda, 31 Colquitt Street L1
- LONDON**
Pubs: *Watermans Arms (Upstairs Bar), Water Lane, Richmond
*The Boltons & *The Colchester are near each other in Old Brompton Road (tube Earls Court)
*The Champion, Bayswater Rd (tube Notting Hill Gate)
*The Green Room at the Wheat-sheaf, Goldhawk Road (Goldhawk Road 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 W1
*Horse & Groom, near Pig & Whistle (Sundays only)
Cricketers, Battersea Park Rd (D)
*Elephant & Castle, South Lambeth Place (Vauxhall tube) (D)
The Sailsbury, St Martins Lane WC2 (Leicester Sq tube)
Ship & Whale, Gulliver St SE16
William IV, Hampstead High St
*Royal Vauxhall Tavern, Vauxhall Cross (Vauxhall tube) (D)
*Union Tavern, 146 Camberwell New Road, SE5 Disco Mon and Tues
Father Tedcap, Camberwell Green, SE5
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, 62 Glenthorne Road W6 (D)
Clubs: The Peacock, 259 Old Brompton Road, SW10
Sweet Lorraine, Lowndes Court W1 (Oxford Circus tube)
Vortex Tachbrook Street
*Le Gipsy, Kings Road (Sloane Square tube)
The New Oasis, 5 Excel Court, Whitcomb Street, WC2
Tel 01-203 4961
*Paint Box, 29 Fowley Street W1 (Oxford Circus tube)
*Masquerade Restaurant & disco Earls Court Sq, SW5 (Earls Court tube)

- *The Pink Elephant, 8 Newport Place, WC2 (Leicester Sq tube)
*Molin Disco Club (girls only) Half Moon Hotel, Half Moon Lane, Herne Hill, SE24 (Wed Fri Sat)
*Shane, Broadhurst Gardens, NW6
The Escort, 89a Pimlico Road (Sloane Square tube)
Yours & Mine, Kensington High St, W8 (Ken High St tube)
Rockingham, 9 Archer St, W1
Toucan Club, 13 Gerrard St, W1
Festival Club, 2 Brydges Place WC2 (Leicester Sq tube)
Louise, 61 Poland Street, W1 (Oxford Circus tube)
Chaguaramas, Neal St, WC2
Apollo, 3 Wardour St, W1
Mandy's, 30 Henrietta St, WC2
Jonny's, 106, The Shopping Precinct, Shepherds Bush, W12 (tube Shepherds Bush)
Discos: *The Catacombs, Old Brompton Road (Earls Court tube)
South London GLF disco, 8pm Sat at Hanover Arms (Oval tube)
*Arabian Pub, Tricky Dicky disco every Wed, Cambridge Heath Road, E2 (Bethnal Green tube)
Molin Disco Club, Half Moon Lane, SE24 (Wed Fri Sat)
*Ship & Whale, Gulliver St, SE16 Thurs (Surrey Docks tube)
Alan and Daves Disco, Ship & Whale, Gulliver St, SE16
Tricky Dicky Disco (Tues) Hornsey Wood Tavern, 376 Seven Sisters Road, N4
*Tricky Dicky Disco (Mon & Thurs) Kings Arms, 213 Bishopsgate, EC1 (Liverpool Street tube)
Rest: La Popote, Walton St, SW3
Chaguaramas, 41-43 Neal St, WC2
Simple Simon, 234 Old Brompton Road, SW5
Masquerade, 310 Earls Court Rd, SW5
Le Faune, 23 Praed Street, W2
La Casserole, 338 Kings Road, Chelsea, SW3
The Last Resort, 294 Fulham Road, SW10, Tel: 352 1625
Le 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
- MACCLESFIELD**
Pub: Waters Green Tavern
- MANCHESTER**
Pubs: The Mechanics, Chorlton St
Union Hotel, Princess Street (D)
Rembrandt, Sackville Street
Trafford (back bar), Great Bridgewater Street
Cavalcade, Wilmslow Road
Didsbury (Sunday lunchtime)
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 (IGays only) lounge
Cafe: *Odd Spot 'Rendezvous', Morecambe, WE
- NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE**
Pubs: Royal Court Grill, Bigg Market
Royal Turks Head, Punchinello Bar
Eldon Grill (Variety Bar), opp Greys Monument
Grapes Vault, Grey Street

- County Hotel (Nancy's Bar) Westgate Road
- NEWQUAY, Cornwall**
Pub: King Mark (Sat lunchtimes)
- NEWPORT MON**
Pubs: Kings Head (lounge bar) High Street
Waterloo, Commercial Street
- NORWICH**
Pub: Studio Four, behind Anglia Television
- NORTHAMPTON**
Pub: Princess Royal, 172 Wellington-borough Road
- NOTTINGHAM**
Pubs: Dog & Partridge, Parliament St
The Rosebuck, Manfield Road
Bentink Hotel, Midland Station
The Foresters (girls), near 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: Lockyer 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
The Wellington, Glovers Court
- READING**
Disco: Gay Alliance every Wed in Sir Hermann Gollancz Hall, The Millton Street
- ROCHESTER**
Pubs: Ye Olde Ship Inn, 347 High St
- ST ALBANS**
Pub: Crown Hotel, Clarence Room, Fri night disco, Hotfield Road
- ST HELLIER, Jersey**
Club: New Side Door, Cricketers Arms, Seale Street
- SANDBACH, Cheshire**
Pub: Market Place Tavern (Thurs)
- SHEFFIELD**
Club: The Cossack
Amberley Club, 225 Attercliffe Common (Gaysoc Disco)
- SOUTHAMPTON**
Pubs: Robert Burns, 9 South Front
The Fig Leaf, 159 St Mary's Road
Juniper Berry, Upper Bugle St (D)
Lord Roberts, Canal Walk
Clubs: Upstairs Club, St Mary's St
Anchor Inn, East Street (girls only Sat)
- SOUTHEND ON SEA**
Pub: Queens Hotel (Street Bar)
Hamlet Court Road
- SOUTHPORT**
Pub: Scarisbrick, Lord Street
Club: Concor Club, 18 Neville Street
- SOUTHSEA**
Pub: Captain's Table, Granada Road
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: Queens Head, Ely Street
- SUNDERLAND**
Club: *Rokoko, The Promenade, Roker
- SWANSEA**
Pubs: Dolphins Hotel (C T Lounge)
Whitewalls
Three Lamps Hotel (top floor bar), Castle Gardens
- THAME**
Pub: The Jolly Sailor
- TORQUAY**
Pubs: Merlewood Hotel, Meadford 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, near Guildhall
Noah's Ark, near disused gas works (Fri & Sat)
The Ship, near Guildhall
- WOLVERHAMPTON**
Pub: Prince Albert, Station Drive
Club: Silver Web, Whitmore Street
- YORK**
Pub: York Arms

2. Mark clearly on the outside the Box Number to which you are replying.
3. Place this small envelope together with a 3p 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 3p stamp.

Advertisements for inclusion in issue 43 must be received no later than noon on Monday March 18th. They should be no longer than 35 words.

As from March 19th, Box Numbers in issue 39 and earlier will be discontinued and replies to them will not be forwarded.

Advertising Rates—Price Increases

Due to the further staggering escalation of production costs, we are increasing all advertising rates as from issue 43. The new rates will be as follows:

Women's Personal	all 10p per word.
Mixed Personal	50p Box number
Personal	
Accommodation	
Employment	
Entertainment	10p per word
Meetings	
Market Place Services	20p per word

Women's Personal

10p per word, Box Number 50p, outside G B £1.50.

If like me, you are gay, then why not write to me. We could if you want, arrange to meet. I live in Essex and am 38. Box 42/5.

Gay woman 27 seeks similar for genuine friendship, London. Box 42/6.

Anyone interested in helping isolated gay girl to start a gay group for women in Harlow/Hertfordshire Area. Box 42/7. I'm looking for someone sincere. Is that you? London. Box 42/8.

I am 24, tall, slim, active, poverty-stricken artist, slightly extrovert, who needs an older woman with a sense of humour to take a firm hand and restore my sense of responsibility. Photo appreciated but not essential. ALA Box 42/9.

Happy Birthday Jean darling. Lots love, Bella xxx.

Liverpool gay girl, 30, attractive, intelligent. Preferably local girl for genuine friendship. Box 42/28.

Sincere Plymouth woman (own flat) early 30's—wishes to meet feminine friend with view to permanent friendship. Photo appreciated. Box 42/127.

London Butch, 34, seeks fem, for lasting friendship. Photo appreciated. ALA. Box 42/128.

Very lonely—29, female wishes to meet same. Manchester 061-789 1545, 5pm nightly, all weekend.

The Girls Guide-1974. Over 700 listings in more than 20 countries—including clubs, bars, discos, organisations, newspapers, magazines, and much, much more for gay women. Send £2.00 only or order COD from: The Girls Guide, 70 Pembroke Road, London W8. No callers please.

Mixed Personal

10p per word, Box Number 50p, outside G B £1.50.

Boring lunch hours? Let's meet for a drink and chat. West End. Box 42/2.

Gay Male T.V. seeks gay girl to share nice flat in Plymouth. Friendship and understanding appreciated. Box 42/3.

Bisexual man, 35, wishes to meet bisexual girl age 20-30 for friendship. Herts/North London. Box 42/4.

Bisexual, transvestite, early twenties, brunette, pleasant appearance, looking for friends, male or female, homosexual or straight, Rugby/Coventry area. Box 42/68.

Young BI male seeks same female for living and friendship. Sussex. ALA Box 42/97.

BI young man, 25, seeks BI girlfriend for friendship. Nationality immaterial. London area. Box 42/98.

Personal

10p per word, Box Number 50p, outside G B £1.50.

Sincere 34-year-old would like to meet person 21-34 with a view to sincere friendship. Own house and business (travel) SW London. Fed up with the scene and clubs. Likes travelling. Prefer straight-looking guy. Box 42/1.

Well-built male, nearly forty, own flat, near City Centre, seeks friends, any age, within 30 miles of Manchester. ALA Box 42/10.

Male, 30, desires to start small, unaffiliated social group Winchester-Southampton area. Large comfortable room available, coffee, chatting, dancing etc. Possible cinema, theatre outings. No fees, all ages. Photo appreciated but not necessary. Box 42/11.

London guy (21) seeks new friends everywhere. Photo and phone number appreciated but not essential. Box 42/12.

Nottingham. Young man, 25, seeks young friends 21-25. Box 42/13.

Businessman, 42, smart and attractive, wishes to contact well-built West Indian guy for permanent friendship. Photos exchanged. Box 42/14.

EX NAVY (CAMBRIDGE) 38, based, seeks new friends anywhere 21-40, ALA. Accommodation provided anytime. Box 42/15.

Lonely businessman 43, well-built, 6'2", seeks young friends over 21 who would appreciate an older person. Must have own place, Romford/Brentwood/East London area. Sincere replies only, please. Photo. Box 42/16.

Scottish gay, 29, tired of gay scene, seeks similar 21-35 for genuine friendship. Box 42/17.

Birmingham lonely guy, 26, seeks male friend to form a close friendship with, between 25-30, interests denim etc. Photo appreciated. ALA Box 42/18.

Have you a beard and/or moustache, active and aged 28-38? Please write to me. I'm age 35. Manchester area. Varied interests. Photo appreciated. Box 42/19.

Manchester student, 23, attractive, sceptical of the gay scene has lots of affection for male of similar age. Box 42/20.

Two friends seek new friends any age and nationality. Photo and phone number if possible. Box 42/21.

Young guy from London now living near Ashford in Kent, seeks young friends in Kent. Box 42/22.

Stocky 21-year-old, not turned on by pubs and clubs, interests include booze, football, kake and colt drawings, seeks a genuine mate to have a good time with. Only genuine replies please. Photo appreciated, returnable. As I've been let down in the past. Box 42/23.

Thickset gay London Scot, 38, seeks active working-class type mates over 30, well-built, hairy, greasers, yobbos, muscular drivers and/or cyclists. Photo please (returnable). Box 42/24.

Muspha, 26, attractive personality, wants to meet someone 28-30, active for lasting friendship. Write with photo. Box 42/25.

I'm 6'11", dark, goodlooking, with no hang-ups. Write with photo. Collin. Box 42/26.

Southsea gay guy (42) wishes to meet a sincere friend 21-42. Nationality and looks not important, any area. Photo appreciated. ALA Box 42/27.

Intelligent South Londoner, aged 27, quiet and unassuming, seeks similar friends. Box 42/29.

Tall, slim active 30yr old, seeks genuine friendship, similar age—tired of drifting. Interests varied incl music. Lincs. Have care. ALA. Non-camp. Box 42/30.

Male gay couple (late twenties) seeks gay friends 21-39. South Lancs. Photo appreciated. Box 42/31.

Lost in London? Guy, 36, relaxed, no hang-ups, offers genuine friendship to younger person. Town and country (Sussex) pads. Box 42/32.

I want to run away with a sincere butch. Am 39. Possibly Southend area. Sincere only please. ALA. Box 42/33.

Male, late 40's, living Herefordshire, seeks active friend. Box 42/34.

Male couple 30-35 seek friends Herts/Bucks area, to enlarge social life. Box 42/35.

London professional man, middle-aged, seeks sincere friend to share cinema, theatre outings and life, if compatible. Box 42/36.

London Asian 34 would like to meet friends 21-40 for lasting friendship. Colour or race not important. Box 42/37.

Male graduate, 33, good-looking, slim, looks for meaningful friendship with attractive young man 21-35. Manchester area. Photo appreciated. Box 42/38.

Reputedly attractive student desires lasting friendship with masculine fellow 21-25 Nottingham or Blackpool. Photo essential. Box 42/39.

Glasgow shy gay guy, 23, 5'2", 9st 7lbs, warm, sincere, looking for someone of same frame to form loving friendship. Box 42/40.

Young amateur photographer needs models. Don't worry, it's fun. No fees, but free prints. Photo please. Box 42/41.

Actor, young-looking, 30's, affectionate seeks intelligent young friends (pen friends too, particularly sailors). Full letter ensures quick reply. Photo please. London. ALA. Box 42/42.

Young attractive gay guy, active, 5'8", reliable, seeks friend 21-29. Photo please. ALA. Box 42/43.

Attractive bisexual actor (26), passionately fond of music, theatre and film, would like to meet sincere and attractive new male friends of similar interests. Write with photo please. Box 42/44.

West London, 24, good-natured, no hang-ups, into ripped denim, leather etc. Photo appreciated. Box 42/45.

Northamptonshire. Male couple spend Sunday-Tuesday in the country near Peterborough (London week). Would like to meet others. Box 42/46.

Chunky, blue-eyed designer, 32, wishes to meet, non fox-fur types, near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. Your photo returnable with genuine replies. Box 42/47.

Young, slim, married 40s, nervous of breaking into gay scene, would like to meet anyone equally nervous, over 21, for moral support. Box 42/48.

Muscular active man, 25-45, wanted by young well-built man 21. Own home South Coast. West Indians welcome. Reply with photo please. Box 42/49.

Do you live or visit Isle of Man, straight-looking, sincere, seeks genuine friendships. Box 42/50.

Yorkshireman, mid-30's, seeks Yorkshireman, 21-30. I like records, books, cinema, theatre, travel. I dislike effeminate, fat guys, gay scene. I am 5', reasonable-looking. Now tell me about you. Photo requested and returned. Box 42/51.

Adventure-loving? Robust? yet sensitive? (21-39). Then perhaps you're seeking musical, attractive student (24), non-camp, well-built, cuddly, for compassionate friendship. Bristol. ALA. Box 42/52.

Hirsute 23 interested denim/leather seeks 30ish leatherman. Photo essential. ALA. Box 42/53.

Young man would like to go on holiday with another considerate young man, somewhere hot and soon. Any ideas or suggestions? Box 42/54.

Manchester A-U-L guy early 30's, wants to meet friend 25-30 to share home and interests. ALA. Photo with interests appreciated to Box 42/55.

Two lonely gays in mid-20's, NW London seek two real chaps to share social life, interests include theatre and cinema. ALA. Box 42/56.

Derbyshire. Mature lonely, interests music, driving, general, seeks slim, sincere gentle young guy over 21 for lasting friendship. Box 42/57.

Slim, young, London guy, would like to meet young, handsome, active man 21-30 for friendship. Box 42/58.

Trendy Londoner (31) who really enjoys life, seeks friendship of younger guys over 21. I am 5'3", fair hair, 10lb stone, well-built and non-effeminate. Please write as I am very lonely. Box 42/59.

Gay couple, late twenties seek the same for weekend get-together. Please send photo. Box 42/60.

Wanted. Someone by 21yr old male. ALA with photo, mine in return. Box 42/61.

Bearded Scorpion, 22, seeks new non-effeminate friends, 22-28 in London. Photo appreciated. Box 42/62.

Leathermen—Where are you? I'm 22—dig all leather/denim scenes. Want to know more. Butch mates please write. Photo if possible. Box 42/63.

Young man (29), own flat, South West London, attractive, seeks sincere guy 21-35. Photo please. ALA. Box 42/64.

Quiet Home-loving graduate (38) seeks friends in London area. Own House SW London. Photo appreciated and returned. ALA. Box 42/65.

Brighton guy, slim, dark, 29, keen on leather/denim, seeks motorcyclists or others with similar tastes. Box 42/66.



HOW TO GET IT REGULARLY

Subscribe To Gay News

YES — I WANT IT REGULARLY. PLEASE SEND ME 13/26 ISSUES IN A PLAIN SEALED ENVELOPE STARTING WITH ISSUE No (SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE £2.10 FOR 13 ISSUES AND £4.00 FOR 26, INCLUDING FIRST CLASS POST).

PLEASE MAKE CROSSED CHEQUES/POSTAL ORDERS PAYABLE TO GAY NEWS LTD AND SEND TO GAY NEWS SUBSCRIPTIONS, 62a CHISWICK HIGH ROAD, LONDON W4 1SY.

NAME

ADDRESS

Love Knoweth No Laws*

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

*Chaucer

Answering a Box Reply

1. Place your reply in a small envelope and seal it.

Personal Ads cont from Page 17

Epsom. Gay guy, 38, affectionate, home-loving, non-camp, lively personality, own small pad, seeks friendship with guy 21-38 - any nationality. ALA Box 42/67. Young active straight-looking Yorkshireman (31) seeks younger non-camp partner with view to settling down. ALA. Genuine. Box 42/69.

Ugly happy-go-lucky. good-natured 14 stone bisexual, ex MN Seaman, age 35, would like to meet young shy guy over 21 who feels he want fathering. Photo please. Box 42/70. The Alternative Oil of Ulay—Mud. Box 42/71.

Birmingham, male, Gemini 47. Non-effeminate. Interests include photography, music, reading, meeting people, travel. Seeks active friend for permanent friendship. Photo appreciated. ALA. Box 42/72.

Motorcyclist 30, interests include leather/denim, etc, seeks non-camp friends in 5 London-Croydon area (or anywhere). Own pad. Photo appreciated and returned. ALA. Box 42/73. Libran, 23, Scorpio rising, good looks, body, background moody, selfish, arrogant, wilful yet lovable, seeks handsome well-built guy 21-23 with bright eyes, hairy chest and terrific personality. Box 42/74.

Young 23 wishes to meet similar young man. Hobbies, soccer, camping and hiking and various active sports. "Donny Osmond" looking types preferred. Photo essential with full details etc. London ALA. Box 42/75.

Do you enjoy sharing? Hobbies, holidays and life. Not beautiful perhaps, but 21-30, slim, whom no one seems to notice. My offer is a share of a comfortable home and interests. Box 42/76.

Young man 31, dislikes gay scene London, seeks active guy who thinks lame. ALA with photo. Box 42/77. Guy early 40's returned to good position London (over 3 yrs USA). Tall, slim, fair, seeks friendship with another similar age, must be active type, smart suits or leather, very discreet. Kensington area. Photo appreciated. ALA. Box 42/78

Bristol Area. Busy lonely professional chap, mid-forties, hates usual gay scene would like to contact others similarly placed possibly to form social group. Cultural interests and enjoys civilised life. Secretarial help also required. Box 42/79.

Good-looking intelligent, mid-thirties, hairy, Pisces, seeks gentle easygoing friends who are reasonably sensitive in friendships. Are into sexual politics and are mad about Van Morrison. Gerry 01-511 0584.

MARDIGRAS & CLOWNS BALL, Porchester Hall, May 11th.

Age 26, seeks sincere life-long active friends. Lonely. ALA. Martin Rees, 5 Upper Church Street, Bargoed, Glam, Wales.

David/Bristol, Troubled Waters GN39. Full of sympathy. Could probably help. Box 42/86.

BLUE-EYED PISCES, 26, SUFFERING from too much sleep because of lack of well-built bright-eyed handsome hero. A photo would give me something to dream about. Central London. Box 42/97.

Blonde 28, tall, active, varied interests seeks nice West Indian guy up to 30. Photo essential. Box 42/98.

Young lively lad over 21 wanted by 27-year-old Londoner for friendship. Photo returned with mine. Box 42/99.

Active 41, many interests, somewhat shy and lonely seeks intelligent friends (21-35) Midlands or London. Photo please. ALA. Box 42/100.

Dave—Box 38/29—Your reply arrived too late to meet. Offer still open. Suggest other dates (not 20th) sending photograph. Box 42/101.

Nottingham. I am 36 with various interests. Seek active young man over 21 for friendship. Photo appreciated. ALA. Box 42/102.

London man, 30, attractive, straight appearance and manner, but slightly effeminate underneath, seeks active man for genuine friendship. West Indian and Latin types particularly welcomed. Box 42/103.

Ex-Lorry Driver, prospective student, 29, 5'11", 155lbs would like to meet other non-effeminate denim types. London/Kent. Photo please. Box 42/104.

MARDIGRAS & CLOWNS BALL, Porchester Hall, May 11th.

Libran, 6'4" active Londoner, very well built, 34 year old. Plenty of friends but lonely. Likes pop music, theatre, country, happiness. Anyone about same age, that's been through love affairs and played the scene and now feel like stabilising themselves without traumas, with someone compatible, it's worth the gamble, believe me it's taken courage putting this ad in. Please write as I am genuine. Box 42/106.

26yr old slim, blonde, discreet, Kent. Varied interests, feels the need to settle with active male 28-42 for hopeful permanent friendship. Any area considered for genuine person, affectionate, reliable only please. Box 42/105.

Guy 26, North East England, wants sincere friendship with similar guy 21-26. Photo please and details (no camps). Box 42/107.

Teacher, musician (London-Surrey) mid 40's, would like to contact 21+ presentable man for sincere friendship. Photo please. Box 42/108.

If the advertiser in GN36 wishing to meet someone with his interests namely hunting, bloodstock breeding, racing and farming, would care to write to me he can be sure my interests at least are the same. I am also straight-looking. Box 42/125.

Asian friends, any age over 21, wanted by mature English guy. ALA. Box 42/109.

Young guy, new to London, broken affair, sad and lonely, seeks young friends to forget the past, sincere. Many interests, mainly sports. Photo please. Box 42/110.

Racing drivers, team managers, was with competitive saloon car team till move to N London. Seek position mechanic, wind screen cleaner, nut tightener. Young, keen, not just a hanger-on. Also gay racing friends. Box 42/111.

BODYBUILDER—MUSIC—THE ARTS' Young keen weight trainer, ex-model, professional guy tall and fair, well-educated, ambitious. Interested in more than just the usual. Wide interests as above etc. Seeks similar or really interesting/attractive guy to share/enjoy future (London). Box 42/112.

London based male, 29, interested to meet others into all fields of architecture—progressive landscape, horticulture, squash, badminton, and swimming. Box 42/113.

Opera fan (28), 5'10", slim build, wishes to meet sincere guy around the same age with views to lasting friendship. Please send photo. I'll send mine in return. ALA (London area). Box 42/114.

MANCHESTER AREA' YOUTHFUL friend sadly missed. Flat-dwelling bachelor, 40, bald, dislikes crowds, has found television poor substitute. Would welcome youthful guy over 21 needing friendship. Write fully. ALA. Box 42/115

Middle-aged man desires the friendship of younger man over 21 of strong character. ALA. Lives London area. Box 42/116.

Professional guy, 30, living in South Devon, would like to meet an intelligent, easy-going, uncomplicated younger guy 21-30 for genuine lasting friendship. I like music, chess, theatre, reading, and dislike the obvious gay scene. Please write, with photo, if possible. Box 42/117.

Graduate, 30, seeks affectionate friend interested travel, writing, arts. Box 42/118.

If you like 'messing about in boats' full-time or spare-time please contact. Box 42/123.

Painter/designer, London, 45, cottage in mid-Wales, seeks Welsh or border County friends, interested in gardening and quiet country life. Box 42/124.

Young Painter, good-looking wants heavy active attractive friends. Own fabulous studio. Box 42/119.

JOHN PRITCHARD—WE'LL MEET again, don't know where, don't know when. Adieu. Peter.

Young man offers friendship and room to young builder willing to redecorate. Ring 235 1078 lunchtime.

JEREMY—PETER MUNDY AT GAV News is anxiously trying to get a complete set of Jeremy Magazine—Offers please, to Box 42/126.

Young, slim, sensitive, friend (over 21) sought by youngish, reliable, active man, with London home, who believes he has much to share. Photo or telephone number appreciated. Box 42/129.

Friendly young painter, feeling a little isolated, but with pleasant home in Woking would welcome young models, artists and new friends. Box 42/130.

Young London man, Maida Vale, own flat, seeks genuine friends. Photo appreciated. Box 42/131.

Gemini, 40, slim, active, blonde, warm personality seeks one compatible soul with good physique and own pad. Interests theatre, arts, London area. No hang-ups. Over 30. Box 42/132.

Londoner, early 30's, wants to meet active students (21-29) from Mediterranean and middle-Eastern countries. Photo appreciated. Box 42/133.

Attractive, well-built, 36, non-camp seeks active males for friendship. London. Box 42/134.

Oriental? Lonely? Gentle, affectionate, mid-fifties seeks friends any age over 21 to correspond with, to help, for sincere friendship, weekends etc. Box 42/135.

South Coast bearded 32, seeks muscular butch colt type friends, London, South. Interests bodybuilding, photography, naturism, swimming, travel. ALA. Photos first returned. Box 42/136.

Are you 21-30, lonely and disabled. Seek loving friendship with understanding straight-looking guy who lives South Coast. Please write with photo. Box 42/137.

Slim, Irish guy, 32, seeks lasting friendship from someone 23-28, non-camp. Photo and phone no. appreciated. ALA. Box 42/138.

Young publisher with newly decorated Kensington Flat wishes to entertain and hopefully build a steady friendship with a good-looking young man over 21. Box 42/139.

Nigeria: seeking advice, information, insight about the gay scene there. Box 42/140.

Young London active guy seeks life partner to love forever. Box 42/141.

Shy, friendly, 30 and gay, love to meet friends, 21-30, Central Scotland. Accommodation available. Photo essential for guaranteed answer. Box 42/142.

Cornwall affair 28/30 seek gay friends any age over 21 for social friendships. Box 42/143.

Birmingham guy, 21, dislikes gay scene, seeks friendship with quiet young man same age. Box 42/144.

Litrat/ attractive young man seeks similar (around late 20's) to share holiday and after. Write with phone number to Box 42/145.

Attractive, clean-limbed young man, into denim/leather would welcome chance to make new friends. Write with phone number to Box 42/146.

Worcestershire. Young 33-year-old seeks friends any age between 21-30 for lasting friendship. Like denim and leather. Own flat and car. Reply with photo please. ALA. Box 42/147.

Reasonable-looking 33 yr old, seeks friend, over 21 but under 30, with a view to corresponding and visits. Wide interests. Reply with photo please. ALA. Box 42/148.

Croydon guy, 21, slim non-effeminate, shy of gay scene seeks young sincere friend of same age for lasting friendship. Photo appreciated, returnable. ALA. Box 42/149.

Lonely male, 36, own flat in London, tastes—music and theatre, would like to meet someone with similar interests. Looks and age not important but would prefer Oriental or Asian. Box 42/150.

Army, Navy, RAF, MN. How about a Gay Forces Association for present and ex-servicemen? No definite plans yet—perhaps for a start contacting old friends: possibly changing our 'concert party' image. All suggestions welcome. Michael Box 42/151.

Are there any other gay trad, folkies anywhere in Britain? Please write to Paul, Box 42/152.

Gay male, aged 40, living in comfort, West London, remains lonely and would like friendship of younger male over 21. Interests opera, music, theatre, travel, people. Photo appreciated. Box 42/153.

College grad, Birmingham, 23, 6'1" non-effeminate, likes drama, travel and music, needs similar friend. Photo returnable. ALA. Box 42/154.

Birmingham, young (of course) 44, non-pub-or-clubber, own home, would like to hear from anyone nearby, 25-40, for chat, drink and friendship. Box 42/155.

Two young men, slim, early thirties with house in Yorkshire wish to contact young men 21-30 for weekends and nights. Photo please. Box 42/156.

Hamptonians come together. Remember Ernie? Contact Box 42/157.

Attractive, unassuming young man, London, sincere, reliable, seeks another, 21-35, good physique, London, permanent friendship. Please send photo (returned). Box 42/158.

28yr old, 140 lbs, blue-eyed and brown hair, 5 feet 7 inches, seeks older friend 40-55; I live in London but can travel, sincere ad. Photo appreciated—returned. Box 42/159.

Do you live in Central Scotland? Active man, early forties, interested in music and freelance writing seeks someone 21-40 for lasting friendship. Photo appreciated. Box 42/160.

National journalist, 50, active supporter of gay liberation movement, wishes to contact Chinese or other Oriental for correspondence or friendship. Box 42/161.

Reasonable-looking Londoner (31) intelligent, Christian, interests music, theatre, reading etc, seeks sincere affectionate guy 21-30 for genuine friendship. Photo appreciated, but ALA—I promise. Box 42/162.

—Rayman (25) seeks similar 21-28 for friendship. Interests cinema, theatre, music. South London. Box 42/163.

NW6 active young 40, educationalist wants friends any age. Leather, denim etc. Music, theatre, books, food, politics. Photo appreciated. ALA. Box 42/164.

Wanted. Warm, faded levis 28" waist. Box 42/165.

Young man, 22, seeks older man for friendship. Box 42/166.

SW London male 47 seeks companions 21-47. Box 42/167.

Young gay, any nationality could help me in a nice little job, friendly homely and remunerative. Learn photography as well. Box 42/168.

Football fan, late 20's, straight-looking, seeks similar for friendship only. Box 42/169.

Derby professional guy (30) seeks local friends, non-effeminate 21-30's, photo appreciated. Box 42/171.

Advertisers and Readers invited to help each other to learn why so many gay friendships do not last—leaving people lonely. Graduate author research worker studying and writing on this would appreciate confidential information and private discussions intended help individuals and book being written. Box 42/178.

I'm good-looking, uncamp, 29, longish haired, arty S Ken pad, bored club cruising. Are you attractive young amusing type over 21? Photo appreciated. Box 42/179.

London leather guy seeks friendship with 'Colt' type figure. Photo please. Box 42/180.

What have the following in common: Yes, Floyd, Queen, Bowie? Answers with photo to tall, dark, butch London guy (27) wishing to collect mates with Monty Python humour and zest to life. Box 42/181.

I'm 27, tall, dark, slim and also extremely silly. If you're also tall, dark, slim and the other thing, please write enclosing photo. Box 42/182.

ACROSS THE REALMS OF GOLD of India, Nepal, Ceylon and beyond to Australia and New Zealand, I'm 31 and leaving for an overland adventure in May and want young gay company with me. It will be tough and sometimes rough but there will be much for us to remember. All it needs is a little courage. Photo if possible. ALA. Box 42/183.

Sailor seeks intelligent active mate to share sunny days and starry nights at sea and in strange foreign parts. Don't regret what might have been, grab this chance now. Box 42/184.

Manchester. Over intellectualised bachelor (38) needs information, guidance towards new emotional awareness of homosexuality. Pleased to hear from anyone willing to communicate. Box 42/185.

Israeli good-looking age 40, looking for real friend to settle with. Send photo and information today if you are 22-27, nice-looking guy. Write to: Shai, POBox 1142, Rehovot/Israel 76 243.

Young companion sought for quiet sunbathing, swimming, Mediterranean holiday in June. Reply with photo. Box 42/195.

Gay man, 40, intelligent, wide interests, seeks bi-males up to 40. Should preferably be hirsute. Box 42/199.

YOUNG LIVELY 21 YEAR OLD would like to correspond with active looking guys of same age into Diana Ross, dancing and socializing. Photo essential. Box 42/210

Young reveler (Libra unattached) living on the continent (fishing village), interested in clubs, rock/jazz, clothes, socializing, travel, yachting and making money, wishes to correspond with others. Box 42/201.

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 42/202.

Lonely young men 21-26 may like to write to start very genuine friendship with 38 year old Londoner who enjoys the better things in life. Photo appreciated which will be returned. Box 42/204.

Scotty Rocker 25, O.K. seeks guy 21-30 for wrestling practice and maybe flat share. Photo exchanged. ALA. Box 42/205.

24yr old living in London would like to meet new friends 25-30. Photo please. ALA with photo. Box 42/207.

Affectionate forties wants lasting friendship with slim gentle chap 21-37 Kent or London. Photo useful ALA. Box 42/208.

Male mid-40's requires young man prepared to be part-time house boy in exchange for accommodation in quiet Coastal Village. Person preferred 21-29, slip and affectionate. Box 42/209.

Spiritualist Group forming. 603 4962. Who says I'm not beautiful and sincere? I'm also not conceited. I love music, David Cassidy and guys. Hate laquer and Sammbas. I'd die if I heard from a beautiful hunk of a guy (well almost). ALA with photo. Box 42/212.

Advisory Service. Can we help you? For people lonely, want somebody to talk to, we try to help you. 749 0016 Ronald and 995 1900 Peter.

Bachelor 39 would like to meet other fellows for friendship and go to concerts and theatres in London. Please phone Ian Scott 01-892 5990

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

CALIFORNIAN 34 MASCULINE executive yet cultured type transferred to UK soon, seeks slim, sincere young friend, any race, for steady friendship. Travel possibility. Photo appreciated, returned. ALA Write airmail P O Box 26017 Los Angeles 90025

Good-class accommodation offered in modern three-bedroomed house near Wimbledon. One twin and one single room available in gay house. All amenities including colour TV etc and large garden. Double room £25 pm. Under 34's preferred but any nationality. Box 42/87.

Young guy working in Coventry seeks accommodation one/two nights a week when in London. Box 42/88.

Oxford accommodation consisting small bedroom plus shared flat facilities. Suit young lad or student willing to clean as part payment. Box 42/90.

Wanted. Self-contained flat or large bedsit for guy, cheap rent in preferably gay household. Box 42/91.

Own bedroom and communal living/ dining room (with two others) in Brixton. Non-camp guy, all facilities, including shower, £5 per week. Box 42/92.

Attractive 21yr old graduate, easy-going and interested in music theatre, films etc, seeks own room in Central London flat, sharing with other(s) of similar age and interests. Box 42/93.

Super holiday cottage, North Wales, Snowdonia. One mile sea (no camp or effeminate types), auto washing machine, fridge, TV etc. Domestic help £40 pw. Box 42/95.

We simply provide bed and breakfast for £2 per night. Ring St Ives, Cornwall 6906.

Young music man, genuinely seeks quiet flat/room in N.W. 3 area, where he can work in peace. 897 1897.

All male guest house Central Bristol, permanent or holiday accommodation. Quiet professional types. Phone 0272 421712.

Young guy, secure job, varied interests, seeks share of flat in Central London. Please phone Steven 839 1478 daytime. Cornwall Old world cottage. B&B £1.50 seconds from beaches. St Ives 7672.

Room wanted for gay guy, 28, quiet, good cook, no bad habits, Knightsbridge, Chelsea, Victoria areas. Phone 668 1714 evenings.

Single bed sitter for quiet guy about 30. Share kitchen and bath. 603 8676.

Progressive Mexican Lecturer, 32, with taste for civilised living, seeks accommodation (reasonable rent) in Central or Northern London for 4 weeks, beginning early March. Phone 01-455 4443.

Student from Athens, 19yrs old requires good flat, much preferable in the country part of London (car owner). Write with full particulars: Tito, 70 Leighton Road, London NW5.

Accommodation offered Continental student in return for small amount domestic work. Modern house, Sussex Coast. Must like animals. Reply with photograph. Box 42/120.

Young guy requires room in friendly flat, central or South. Phone 360 2235.

Guy 25-35 required to share house in Northolt. Own room near Central line. £5pw. Phone 422 9266 after 6.00pm.

Graduate seeks 1 or 2 guys (25-35) to share 3 roomed Kilburn flat. Rent £7pw including expenses. Ring Dick 01-459 4568 evenings.

Maisonette in NW8 to share. Own large room. £50pcm Tel 286 1252.

2 guys quiet, clean, non-effeminate require unfurnished self-contained flat NW London. Lounge, b/room, K&B. Rent to £50pm. Willing to redecorate. Reference supplied. No strings. 794 3427.

Boy to share Earls Court Mansion flatlet with gay girl 23 (no strings). Own room adjoining bathroom, toilet, £9pw. 373 0708 after 6pm.

Non-camp guy to share Putney flat with one other. Box 42/186.

Vacancy end of March. 2 furnished rooms, suit two professional friends, male or female. Share bath room and kitchen. Happy, quiet house with garden, Ealing area. 15 mins walk from Central/Piccadilly/District and British Rail. Box 42/187.

I'm looking for someone to share a flat with. No complications. Just someone who is easy to live with and has a liberal sort of attitude. Central or near Central London. I'm 20. Box 42/188.

Guy wants to share accommodation, London, with others. Have car, pleasant personality, will fit in well. Box 42/189.

Guys wanted to share house in Barking. Phone, heating all provided. Close transport. Reasonable rental. Box 42/190.

SE3, friendly guy, 28, seeks similar share luxury flat, own room, rent £12 per week. Box 42/191.

Socialist bearded guy, 23, wants own room in flat or commune. Central London. Max rent £8pw. Box 42/192.

Luton: responsible but easy-going young gay guy seeks similar to share modern s/c flat. £4 weekly plus expenses. Box 42/193.

Discreet guy, 22, urgently requires share flat own room, North London preferred. Box 42/194.

Camdenwell. Living room, two double bedrooms, kitchen, wc, bath, ch, phone, £24pw or £6pw bedsit. 733 0374.

Male, 31, similar, share flat Brockley SE4, own room £5pw, half expenses. Phone 692 7445 after 7pm. Business arrangement please.

Urgently wanted by careful tenant, bedsit or unfurnished attic in Hammersmith area. Not centre point prices please. Box 42/200.

Shepperton Middix (approx 17 miles London) businessman age 32 offers room in pleasant riverside bungalow to quiet, respectable young man 21-35 at reasonable rental. Location makes own transport advisable. Box 42/203.

Flat mate required for guy mid-20's, SW1. £15pw. Box 42/211.

Teacher, 24, needs accommodation St Albans area. St Albans 56147.

Large beautiful Messers house in Hampstead. Would you like to share it with me? Your own bedroom, bathroom, use of house. £15 pw. Please telephone 01-794 3469.

A cottage in Cornwall. Bed and break- fast £2. No restrictions. Ring Mike, St Ives 5

Market Place

20p per word. No Box Number service available. Dog needs good home. 4 months old. Mother Jack Russell, father 7 We are moving, can't take him with us.

BEAUTY-FULL YOUNG MEN' Handsome, athletic, above average in every way!!! All nationalities, ages from 17 to 24, are featured in the successfully re-born MANIFIQUEL, FORMOSUSI, FRIENDSI and SUPER-STUDI 36-page 8" x 8" glossies, monthly, 4 issues available by return: £1 each!

LIGHT REMOVALS AND DELIVERY SERVICE' 50 miles around London. From £4.90. Ask for Johnny on 542 5048. Legitimate business.

Qualified psychologist. Free initial consultation, 01-574 1740. Young male masseur available. Phone Mick 841 6613.

DATAMATE finds you gay mates. Send SAE to 23 Queens Avenue, London N10.

Have a Caravan Holiday this year. Complete privacy, special rates to all gays. At Instow, North Devon and Barmouth, North Wales. Send now for brochure to: Gay Mike, 6 Needlers End Lane, Balsall Common, Nr Coventry, Warwick.

8mm Dual Projector, screen, gay films, sale or exchange what have you. Box 42/198. "Top Bottom" Seven really beautiful back views, £1.00. Larry Knight, 4 Hamilton Close, London NW8 8QY. Make friends in Israel and all over the world, information and sample, US \$5 or £2, by sending to "Orgill", P O Box 1142, Rehovot/Israel.

Services

20p per word. No Box Number service available. Young guy, Clark System Masseur, needs rewarding part-time work. Phone Greg 727 8322.

GIVE-AWAY AIRFARES to Greece, Spain, Italy, Vienna, Malta, Cyprus, rest of Europe; Morocco, Tunis, India, Far East, Australia, New Zealand, Africa. Jet-Away, 5th Floor, 62 Oxford Street, London W1. 01 637 1971/980 3298.

Stimulating Stories beautifully written to your own personal taste by professional writer. Erotic prose guaranteed to interest you. Details from Alan Jay Dream Machine, Box 42/197. Individual tuition in Yoga. Ross Nilson, 01-602 0721. Also expert massage available. Relaxing massage by genuine experienced young masseur. For appointment call Mike 603 8748.

Gaytites. The Gay Friendship Bureau for sincere homosexual men and women-Rosalind King, P O Box 40, Harrow, Middx HA1 3SL (Must be over 21).

Penfriends! Discreet introductions SAE for details, to Great Expectations, P O 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. Greg, young qualified masseur, seeks genuine interesting work. 727 8322. Genuine massage offered by young qualified male. For appointment ring 289 2753. Make friends world wide. Good looking guys from all continents seek pen pals/friendship. Details and sample photographs free. Hermes, Berlin 11. Box 17/91, Germany.

LIGHT REMOVALS, also delivery service. Anytime, anywhere. 01-460 0977. Strictly legitimate business. Massage-by young male therapist. 229 6665.

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

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

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

Entertainment

10p per word. No Box Number service available. Cafe Society—Friendly coffee house, boogie downstairs at Troubadour, Earls Court. 9.30 Tuesday 19th.

Meetings

10p per word. No Box Number service available. Threats To Sexual Freedom. Speakers: Renee Short, MP, Antony Grey, Dilys Cossey, Caxton Hall, London, Tuesday 2nd April, 7.45pm. First of four public meetings on theme, Threats to Freedom. Free programme from the organisers: National Secular Society, 698 Holloway Road, London N19. Phone 272 1266.

Campaigning Can Be Fun! Come for a holiday weekend at the Second Annual CHE Conference, Winter Gardens, Malvern 24th-27th May. Disco—Workshops—Concerts—Fringe Events, Register NOW! Send £1.00 registration fee, students 50p and SAE to Conference Organiser, Wallace Grevat, Mill View, Wray Lane, Reigate, Surrey.

General Information GAY GROUPS

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

CHALLENGE is a social group for homosexuals over 21. Meets weekly. Ring 01 567 5085 for the number of the member on duty.

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 ALDGETE a social group for gay men and women. Details: SK Group, c/o Albany Trust, 8A Christchurch Ave, London NW5.

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 S101A, 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

MANCHESTER GAY WOMENS GROUP meets regularly in central Manchester. All homo sexual and bisexual women are welcomed. Please phone Sue at 061 881 3683 for details of meetings.

EDINBURGH GAY WOMENS GROUP details contact Ms M Laurie 4/15 Naitland 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, Heme Hill, SE24. Open from 8pm on Wed Fri and Sat. Buses 2, 3, 19, 37, 40, 68, 172, 184 & 196. Plus Heme 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: 64757.

GAYSOCS

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

NORWICH GAYSOC contact Peter Thomas, Gaysoc, 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 Gaysoc, 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. Everyone 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 Sibley 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, ULU, Malet Street, London W1.

DURHAM UNIVERSITY GAYSOC contact via Students Union, Dunelm House, University of Durham, Durham City. GAYSOC for staff and students of the Open University. Write to David Mclean, 4 Western Gdns, Brantwood, Essex. UNIVERSITY COLLEGE GAYSOC disco every 2nd Thurs from 10th Jan, 2nd Floor Lounge, University College Union, 25 Goudon 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.

TRANSVESTITE/TRANSSEXUAL

TRANSVESTITE/TRANSSEXUAL 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/T Group, 153 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds LS2 9JT.

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

NATIONWIDE TRANSVESTITES GROUP now forming. All enquiries to Martin Rees, Transvestite Group, 58 Charles Street, Cardiff.

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

COUNSELLING/BEFRIENDING

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.

Friend

is a nation-wide befriending and counselling service for gays in distress or with a problem. Write to FRIEND at: BRADFORD P O Box 47, Bradford Yorks BD1 5YZ.

CAMBRIDGE FRIEND c/o 54 Mill Road, Cambridge. CARDIFF 58 Charles Street, Cardiff, South Wales.

CRUOR Second Floor, 53 High Street Thornton 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: 051-225 0058 evenings and always Thurs evenings.

MERSEYSIDE P O 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 841401 or 877701.

NORWICH P O Box 3 North Walsham Norfolk. SHEFFIELD P O Box 107 Sheffield S1 1EJ.

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.

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, P O Box 171, BS99 7ND.

MISCELLANEOUS

NEW YORK GAY SWITCHBOARD: P O 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, Wimbeldon, 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 INTEREST 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 11 St Colme St, Edinburgh EH 9 6TG, or contact Convener 031 556 9473. 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. COLERAINE: 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). CHILDRENS: High Wycombe 39321 (Haydn).

HERTS STM: 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. SHROPSHIRE: Cressage 231 (George). SOUTHAMPTON: 551335 (David) 6-7pm only.

STREATHAM: 01-675 2886 (Doug). TUNBRIDGE WELLS: Tun. Wells 33175 (Ross).

TYNESIDE: Newcastle 877701 (Jerry). WIRRAL: 051-327 5178 (Jack). YOUTH GROUP: 01-385 7246 (Mike or Jim).

WINDSOR: 51062 (Mike).

BLACKPOOL CHE. This new group can be contacted through the CHE Manchester head office.

STOCKPORT/MACCLESFIELD CHE. This new group can be contacted through the CHE Manchester head office.

WEST MIDLANDS CHE (BIRMINGHAM) meets Carrs Lance Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham 4 on the last Wed of each month at 7.30pm. Ring Denis 5752673 (STD 0902 752673) or June at Coleshill 62339.

NORWICH CHE - Write to Peter Bishop, Flat D, Oak House, Trowse, Norwich, Norfolk NOR 01W.

CUMBRIA/BORDERS CHE/SMG joint group now meets regularly in Carlisle on 2nd Friday of each month. For info contact Richard Webster, 2 Cowpasture Cottages, Newton Rigg, Penrith. Tel: Penrith 4118.

IPSWICH CHE. Anyone interested please write to Charles Almond, 119 Cauldwell Hall Road, Ipswich IP4 5BN.

NEWPORT CHE meets fortnightly in Newport Civic Centre on Tuesdays at 8pm from August 7th. Gay girls most welcome. Gay News on sale.

CHE SURREY GROUP. For further information contact either Charles: Byfleet 48716 or Myrtle: Haslemere 51882 or Frank 01-399 7495.

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

WANDSWORTH/RICHMOND CHE for men and women. Incorporating surrounding areas. Meetings twice monthly. Charlie Mickelwright, 46b Charlfield Ave, SW15. Ring Denis 51882 or Frank 01-399 7495.

CARLISLE, CUMBERLAND, THE LAKES. Will anyone interested in joining a new group in this area please get in touch with Richard Webster, Tyneside CHE, 17 Oxford Terrace, Gateshead NE8 1RQ.

TEESSIDE HAS A CHE GROUP with regular meetings in Middlesbrough. Social and campaigning activities. Send address for recent newsletters and further information to CHE, 132 Borough Road, Middlesbrough. HARINGEY CHE meets 2nd Monday of each month. For info send sae to Fred Olliphant, 25 Kinver House, London N4.

HOMOSEXUAL WOMEN, find out more about CHE groups from a woman. Every Tuesday 6-10pm at 22 Great Windmill Street, W1. Telephone: 01-437 7363.

CHE LIVERPOOL GROUP information from CHE, P O Box 7, Liverpool L8 2XN. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 8pm in the Pagoda Club.

SOUTH DEVON CHE meets fortnightly on Wednesday at 8pm in Newton Abbot. Further information from Manchester HQ.

CARDIFF CHE meets every Monday at 7.30pm in Chapel Arts Centre, Market Road, Canton, Cardiff 566419 (Mike).

COVENTRY CHE new group starting, first meeting March 13th. Info phone Walsgrave on Sowe 4336.

CHE MUSIC GROUP presents 'Alis Musicae', a live concert at Leighton House, Holland Park Rd, Kensington, Sat 30th March at 8pm. Music of four centuries by famous composers for voice, keyboard and wind instruments. Admission 75p includes refreshments.

CHE POETRY GROUP meets last Fri in month at Lamb and Flag Pub in Rose St, WC2. This month's theme—Return of Comic Verse.

LONDON YOUTH GROUP meets once a week. Phone Chris at 01 673 2703 for further information.

NEWPORT (MON) Info via Mike Bevan, or Richard Dymond, 36 Llanthwy Road, Newport, Mon. The group meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month at 8pm at the above address.

GAY LIBERATION FRONT

GLF INFORMATION: Although the office is closed, all postal enquiries concerning GLF should still be sent to 5 Caledonian Road, London N1. 'Glad To Be Gay' badges are again available by post from GLF, 5 Caledonian Road, N1. 15p each, post free.

SOUTH LONDON GLF meets every Wed 8pm at Oval House, Kennington (Oval tube). GLF ADULT EDUCATION GROUP meets every Thurs 8pm at Talma Road, Brixton SW2.

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

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

WEST LONDON GLF now meets at the Princess Royal pub (saloon bar) behind Fulham Town Hall in Moore Park Road, Tube: Fulham Broadway. Meetings start 9pm.

SATURDAY IS FUN NIGHT. Put on your glad rags and journey down to the South London GLF disco in the Hanover Arms, opposite Oval tube. Starts 8pm. GLF AWARENESS GROUP meets every Fri 8pm. Phone Central Office for details.

TRANSVESTITES AND TRANSSEXUALS GROUP meets every Thurs 8pm at 76 Gladsmuir Road, Archway, London N1 (3 rings).

RELIGIOUS GAY LIB GROUP: meets on Sundays. Details: 01-278 1701. LEEDS GLF office open Mon-Fri 7:30-9:30pm at 153 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds 2. Ring 39071 ext 57. Meetings every Fri 8pm at Trades Council Hall, Upper Fountain St, Leeds.

SUSSEX UNIVERSITY GAYSOC meets from time to time. Contact through students Union, University of Sussex, Falmer, nr Brighton.

BANGOR GLF - group now forming. If you live in North Wales, please contact Simon del Nevo, c/o UCNW Students Union, Delniol Road, Bangor, Caerns, North Wales.

CARDIFF GLF is at RIB, 58 Charles St, Cardiff 44441. Advice on drugs and legal matters, entertainment and cheap food.

WARWICK UNIVERSITY GLF meets fortnightly on Tues 8pm in Rookes Hall, Univ of Warwick, Coventry. Contact 9 Stanley Road, Coventry or ring Cov 7600A.

NEWCASTLE GLF meets every Wed. Info contact K Wilson, 24 Dipton Ave, Farwell, Newcastle Upon Tyne 4.

DURHAM GLF Info contact Tom Mellish, c/o Sunderland Polytechnic Union, Wearmouth Hall, Sunderland, Co Durham.

CHESTER LE STREET GLF Contact via Mike Barnes, 1 Fenwick Terrace, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne 2.

MANCHESTER GLF 6th Forum, Sun March 24th on the 'Nuclear Family vs Gays' in Open Lounge, Students Union Building, Oxford Road. Write for details to Rex Bernette, Flat 3, 102 Hathersage Rd, Manchester 13.

DUNDEE GLF. Anyone interested please contact Tony Hughes, 15 Bellefield Avenue, Dundee. Ring 0382-25913.

DARLINGTON GLF is now forming. Anyone interested in joining please write to Ken Poilard, 5 Chancery Lane, Darlington DL1 5PR.

BIRMINGHAM GLF 021-643 0996. Peace Centre

Newsettes

● German Army Goes Gay

HAMBURG: Reports from Hamburg say that homosexuals are no longer to be excluded from the armed services. Nor is homosexuality to be regarded as a disciplinary matter any more.

This follows the recent decision by the German Parliament in Berlin to lower the age of consent from 21 to 18.

As yet there has been no official confirmation from Bonn about the new policy for soldiers. It is not known, either, whether the German gay liberation movement sees this as an advance or a defeat.

Gay News—Germany

● Mystery Blaze in Gay Night-Spot

LONDON: At four in the morning of Thursday February 21 a fire broke out and caused extensive damage in the entrance way of the Masquerade Club in Earls Court. There was nobody inside the club at the time.

It is not yet known how the fire started, but it is thought that someone may have poured petrol or paraffin through the letter-box of the locked door and tossed a match in afterwards.

The fire was brought under control quickly by the fire services, but the club was forced to close for four days. Not all the damage has been set right yet, but the club is fully open for business again.

Eric, the owner, was away on holiday at the time.

● Israel Votes Against Reform

JERUSALEM: Uri Avnery, a member of Israel's parliament, has failed in his attempt to reform the laws against homosexuality. The bid was foiled by parliament, despite the support of leading Israeli journalists, newspaper publishers, authors, party leaders and other politicians.

The aim of Uri Avnery was to legalise homosexual acts, and followed a public opinion poll in 1971 which showed that 45.5% of the public thought homosexuals should no longer be punished, 39% thought they should, and 15.5% were undecided. It had been generally believed that the reform measure would be passed, but in the end the opponents within parliament won.

The Dutch organisation COC has for some time been concerned about the plight of homosexuals in Israel. Following the rejection of the new laws, they are planning a letter-writing campaign to contact the 120 members of the Israeli parliament. COC said that Israeli gay organisations had called on gays in other countries to support them in their fight.

Rough estimates put the Israeli homosexual population at about 150,000. Help for them has already been promised by psychiatrists in Israel, and it is hoped that the country's gay organisations will be able to get more publicity so that homosexuals will have someone in their own land to contact.

Gay News—Germany

● Court Says Transsexual Can't Marry

LEEDS: Joseph Vance of Landsdowne Place is free on two years conditional discharge, after he tried to marry a widow.

Vance and Ms Nancy Proctor filled out a notice of marriage at the Preston Register Office last summer. A couple of days later, when they returned to be married, the registrar refused to conduct the ceremony. The registrar said he had made "certain enquiries."

A Crown Court found the 26-year-old Vance to be a widow, too. The Court said Vance was examined by a doctor and "found to be a woman in every sense of the word."

Vance said in testimony that he was a male nurse. That he had changed his name by deed poll and paid stamps at the male rate on his national insurance card. He said he and Nancy had formed a sexual relationship: "In my view it was a normal one," he said.

Vance said the relationship has fallen apart.

● Sinful Living

PORTSMOUTH: How would you like to wake up one morning and find that instead of being a respectably married gay you'd been living in sin?

This predicament has befallen a newlywed Portsmouth couple who were joined together in the best Troy Perry style at an official but private ceremony in January. A local clergyman gave the wedding an authentic touch.

However, all has now been finally exposed when appearing before Portsmouth Magistrates' Court last week was a gentleman charged with impersonating a priest.

Yes, you've guessed it. The bogus vicar performed the wedding rites. Your correspondent has also discovered why he was so anxious to avoid speaking to Gay News.

R J Thomson

● UK Gay Community?

ISLE OF WIGHT: A colleague who reckons he's in the know was surprised that the Isle of Wight gay community, which is not renowned for its militancy, should have considered entering a candidate under the Gay Liberation Front banner for the general election.

Apparently he was relishing the thought of reading the election manifesto and observing the possible impact on the rather conservative (with a small c) island population.

However, there is no doubt that the last few years has seen the growth of considerable interest in the island as a haven for gays of both sexes. There is now a flourishing scene in East Wight, and the grapevine has it that the first all-gay community to be established in the United Kingdom has already been proposed by the locals.

Perhaps southern England's holiday isle is not so sleepy after all.

R J Thomson

● Swiss Court Bans German Mag

BERN: The importer of the German magazine "Pikbube" (now known as "BEN") has been fined by the Swiss courts for bringing indecent material into the country.

The 500 franc fine (about £70) was imposed by the judge, not because he objected to the photos of little boys or the contact ads, but because of the editorial content of the magazine. He decided that the importer should not be imprisoned, but should only receive a fine.

Gay News—Germany

● Soviet Official Line on Gays

MOSCOW: Asked about the Soviet Union's official policy towards homosexuals in their country, the Minister of the Interior said that broad guidelines had been laid down in an international conference in Geneva in 1924.

At this conference, he said, it was accepted that homosexuality was partly a sickness—and agreement had been reached on how homosexuals should be treated. Soviet law empowers the courts to sentence a man to up to eight years imprisonment, but most cases in which prison sentences are given involve sexual conduct with minors.

As in the United Kingdom, and West Germany, there seem to be no legal restrictions on lesbian relationships.

Gay News—Germany

● Action in Liverpool

LIVERPOOL: It seems that gays in Liverpool are responding to the local Campaign for Homosexual Equality's appeal for people to join in the activities of the branch's Action Group.

In the latest newsletter, the group reports that they have been invited to the Liverpool Parish Church Lunch Club to give a talk there, and have also given a talk to sixth-formers at a local comprehensive school.

They are still working on the Education Campaign, formulating a policy for bringing the campaign to Liverpool. They are preparing a questionnaire which will be put to the general public out on the streets in April sometime. And they are also going to publish a factual information sheet about VD.

● Teaching Coppers the Law

MANCHESTER: Two cool girls drove a policeman into a quandary here the other day, when they decided to have a kiss and a natter. In public!

The girls left a fortnightly gay women's meeting in central Manchester and walked to their car. Inside the car, their kiss and cuddle was interrupted by tapping on the window. A policeman told them they were going to be arrested.

The girls patiently explained to him that the 1967 Sexual Offences Act applied only to men. And while the girls smooched, the policeman conferred with the station. He was told that he had made a mistake.

But he returned and tried again to arrest the girls. They told him he was being silly and drove off. The policeman followed them for half an hour.

As far as anyone knows, this was the first time that police have tried to arrest gay women in Manchester.

● Public Concert For CHE

LONDON: Something of a breakthrough has been achieved by the Campaign for Homosexual Equality. The international concert pianist Peter Katin, who has been a hard-working supporter of the Campaign, is to give a public concert in aid of CHE and with the assistance of the Arts Council.

The concert will be held on May 10th at St Johns, Smith Square starting at 7.00pm.

Local CHE groups are urging their members to buy tickets to support the evening, and are advising them to look for advertisements and book early.

● Highland Fling

DUNDEE: Following last year's decision by the Laing Hotel not to allow Dundee Scottish Minorities Group to hold any more discos on its premises, the hunt for a new site has been stepped up.

The Dundee group tells us that it has now found somewhere, and that the first disco will be held on March 16 in the Tayside Halls.

The disco is being organised in conjunction with SMG's first national forum, to be held at 3.00 the same day in the Tay Centre Hotel. Appropriately enough the forum will be discussing 'Premises—The Impossible Will Take A Little Longer.' The forum will be chaired by Ian Dunn, the convenor of the premises and social committee, and Dundee is hoping to welcome SMG members and branch representatives from all over Scotland.

Disco details for those who want to go.

Tickets cost £1 and include a buffet supper to be served between 8.00 and 9.00. The disco has obtained a late licence till 11.30, but, because of the licensing laws, tickets must be bought in advance from SMG Dundee, and last admission will be at 9.00. The address of the Tayside Halls is 65 Broughty Ferry Road.

If discos are not your scene, it is understood that some delegates to the national forum are trying to arrange a block booking for Dundee Repertory Theatre.

● Oxford Disco

OXFORD: The city's gay discos have moved to the 'Stage Club', we hear.

The regular Friday disco at the 'Cape of Good Hope' has been suspended for about six weeks so that fire doors and escapes can be fitted, so a new place had to be found for a while.

The 'Stage Club' is tucked away behind Oxford's New Theatre. Most of the week it is strictly straight, but in future Oxford's gay crowd will be taking it over on Wednesday nights from 8.30 to midnight. The 40p admission charge includes a sausage and chip snack at about 10.30 as well as the disco.

We are also told that bar prices are cheap, and certainly 12p for a whisky doesn't sound too bad.

● New Friend

SALISBURY: The counselling services of the south's gay community have been significantly expanded with the formation of a new group called Solent Friend.

Based in Salisbury, and founded with the active help and support of the Southampton Branch of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality and the Salisbury Samaritans, the group has a staff of six befrienders, including a member of the clergy. It also has the advantage of being able to call on expert psychiatric advice, as another interested person is a qualified psychiatrist.

Although only in the embryo stage, the group is already in business. Anyone wishing to make initial contact should telephone Mr D Porter the convenor of the Southampton CHE Group on Southampton 551335 for details.

R J Thomson

● German Rope Trick

HANOVER: German police in Hanover announced that they had arrested an eighteen-year-old window cleaner for molesting little boys.

The window cleaner was arrested after he was seen taking a bundle from the boot of his car and putting it on the back seat. The bundle turned out to be a nine-year-old boy, tied up with rope.

Later the same day, the police put out a statement saying 'Kill the first story. They were just playing a Wild West game.'

Wild sounds like an under-statement.

Gay News—Germany

● Funny People

LONDON: A third of the Sunday People's front page on February 24 was given over to a story about the forthcoming gay marriage of 40-year-old Eugene Lee-Hare, a former actor.

With their customary sense of proportion (Enoch Powell's speech urging Tory voters to vote Labour got half the space and a less prominent position), the Sunday People told how three-times wed Eugene plans to marry 20-year-old Michel Eicher, a Swiss fashion model. The couple plan to go through a legal marriage ceremony in Munich.

As if that wasn't enough for reporter Terry Lovell, he had to get the 'aristocratic' bit in as well (you know—decadence in high places). So he reports that Eugene's third wife was Pia Maria Fabroschi, Countess de Tolomai, and that she had just had a son. Not his, says Eugene, "The father is a member of a well-known aristocratic family." It must have been a severe shock to him! "I discovered that she was seeing this aristocratic chap. My God I was shattered." Pia is living with Edward Somerset, they say. And Mr Somerset claims to be a cousin of the Duke of Beaufort.

Oh, and of course Michel (the male model, you may remember) is all right himself. He's related to a countess.

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