

8 MAY 74

"A DIFFERENT JOURNEY TO THE SAME END"

N°45

# GAY NEWS

15p

## OBSCENITY TRIAL:

# TRIUMPH

## No Case To Answer

**BATH:** You may have read in the national press, or seen reports on television, that Bath magistrates have decided that Gay News is not obscene. And what, you may well have asked yourself, was Gay News doing in court defending itself against obscenity charges?

It was a question we asked ourselves when we first heard that we had been seized by Bath police. But nothing about the whole farce astonished us once we heard that the Times Literary Supplement, The Spectator, Railway Modeller and The Lady were all seized at the same time.

It all started last year when, on October 31, armed with a warrant issued under the Obscene Publications Act, Detective Inspector Gordon Miles led a band of his men into a warehouse owned by Johnsons Central News Agency and seized £4000 worth of magazines and newspapers. The particular edition of Gay News which they seized was issue 34 which carried a front-page report on Alan Whicker's gay television programme, illustrated by a photograph supplied by Yorkshire Television. Strong stuff indeed!

Naturally enough, Malcolm Pearce (who runs Johnsons Central News Agency) protested to the police. As a result of his complaint, some of the publications were returned—including Railway Modeller! As Inspector Miles said in court, in the understatement of the year. "We made a mistake."

But not all the titles were returned, and Gay

News was one of over seventy titles which the police decided to take action against. And how did they decide which to act against? "We don't actually read them," Inspector Miles told Gay News. "You can tell without having to do that." Yes. Quite.

The next step was for Bath police to get permission from the Director of Public Prosecutions to proceed with the case. So was the Public Prosecutor sent a copy of the paper? Was he hell! All he got was the name of the paper, which was enough for him to give the go-ahead. "It would have been a bit difficult to have sent him all the magazines," said Inspector Miles. "They're rather bulky you know."

There's more. Gay News heard of the trial through the local newsagent. As it was he who was summonsed and not the publishers of Gay News, neither the police nor the DPP informed us that they were taking our paper into court on an obscenity charge. We could have easily read in our morning papers that Gay News had been put on trial—and that could have been the first we heard of it. As it was, Malcolm Pearce's warning enabled us to get legal advice. We could see no case for Gay News to answer, and our solicitors engaged Mr Ronald Grey from John Mortimer's chambers to appear in court for us to say as much.

As soon as the trial opened, he addressed the court, submitted that there was no case against

Gay News, and that the magistrates should rule that it was not obscene.

Now you may not credit it, but when the prosecution heard that Gay News was going to make such a submission they arranged for a delay in the start of the case. Why? Because the magistrates trying the case had not been given the opportunity to read the paper first. And it took the police a quarter of an hour to find the copy of the paper to give the magistrates. As far as we can find out, the prosecuting lawyers hadn't read the paper before coming into court either.

As soon as Mr Grey had made his submission, after the magistrates had had the chance to read issue 34, Mr Glen Bond, chairman of the bench, told the court without any hesitation that he and his colleagues, Ms Priscilla Cobb and Mr M J Lee, were unanimous in their decision that "there is nothing obscene in this publication."

The incredible thing was that it took six months, and Gay News faces bills of well over £1000, just to reach the point where the magistrates could make their decision—a decision that could have been predicted at any time if one single person, a policeman, the Director of Public Prosecutions, prosecuting counsel, or a magistrate, had actually sat down and read the paper.

We don't yet know whether we will be awarded costs out of public funds. We'll let you know.

★

Photograph: Helmut Leibel/Simon Piers (Camera Press London)

## GAY NEWS

Number 45

April 25 - May 8 1974

### Who Will Rid Me Of This Turbulent Priest?

Readers may well echo Henry II's *cri de coeur* when they have read the report of the Reverend Tony Cross' speech (page 4 this issue) which he delivered to a recent Friend conference in London.

The tone of the speech was set when he spoke of the "language and shoddiness of liberationist thinking. What we need is thinking, not slogans."

It is not the first time, nor will it be the last, that Cross has trotted out his famous 'Don't rock the boat' plea to the timorous faithful. The fact that it has been taken up by others with little or no thought is a phenomenon worthy of consideration. It seems to be a notion in which people like Cross have a blind faith, without feeling the need to justify that faith.

But how well do his ideas stand up to scrutiny?

The function that is going to overthrow prejudice and hatred towards homosexuals, argue the Discretists, is integration. Integration would involve the merging of the human aspirations of homosexuals and heterosexuals within a single society. Is this possible? Yes, says Cross. Look at the example set by my Integroups in London and Cambridge—with membership consisting of half male, half female, half gay, half straight. These groups provide a situation in which gays are free to 'come out' if they so choose. This is a form of education for both the straight and gay people who attend, and it is through this sort of education that society will move towards integration and enlightenment about sexuality. Other forms of groups will be devised, no doubt. Integroup may not be the right answer for everyone. But it is following the right path to end the problems that straight and gay people have in relating at present.

#### Wild Assumptions

Where do you start in replying? Perhaps the crudest objection is that the Integroup type of experiment presupposes a disposition to understand one another's problems. Those attending will no doubt have irrational misgivings about mixing with people of a different sexuality. But mere attendance is an indication of a willingness to explore the humanity of others.

Which is to miss the whole point entirely. The problems that face homosexuals are *not* fundamentally caused by the good liberal with an open mind (even though the 'good liberal' attitude does certainly aggravate things in the present situation). No, the attitude which the homosexual comes up against most often, and the one that limits his or her human potential most severely, is the generic contempt for anyone attracted to members of their own sex. This popular viewpoint, at its most grotesque, can excuse the behaviour of an individual whilst condemning all other gays—"Yes, I know David is a queer, but he's different. He's not like the rest of them." Nor does one have much faith in the educability of parents who can turn their own children away from home when they discover them to be gay. Of course, remorse for such disgusting behaviour may set in later. Some parents may regret their early, ugly reaction. At this stage it may indeed be that they are prepared to try to understand. So is the answer to legislate that all parents should battle on producing children until they bear a gay one? How, in short, are people to question their hostile attitudes to homosexuals when their only contact with us is on the crime page of the local newspaper? Education is only effective when the person learning is interested in what is being taught. Cross at no stage addressed himself to this point in his speech to Friend.

#### Liberation Caricatured

Nor did he seriously consider the 'shoddy' theories of sexism which have been evolved by numerous thoughtful people. The liberationist position he caricatured as insisting that everyone constantly declare their sexuality. In the face of such incomprehension it is perhaps necessary to state that 'coming out' means *not concealing* one's sexuality rather than taking out advertising time on commercial radio. Thus in any situation where it would be natural for a heterosexual to express his or her sexuality, the gay person should be as free to express his or hers. Thus you would join in a conversation at work between men talking about their girlfriends, by talking about your boy friend, if you were a boy. When mother asks daughter when she is going to find herself a nice boy and settle down, the girl should be free to explain that she wants to find a nice girl to settle down with (if she wants to settle!).

Cross does not like this idea. His plan is that people should come out in small social groups where it is the done thing to come out anyway. But the shutters go up again as soon as one leaves the meeting. The idea of rushing down a bolt hole where one can be honest with a dozen people, one evening a week, is to say the least a somewhat macabre one. Anything more than that Cross equates with "setting fire to the National Gallery" or joining what Marcuse describes as "the weird and clownish horns of rebellion which get on the nerves of the establishment."

Nowhere is there any recognition of what liberationists have achieved, even in Cross' limited terms. Besides their development of a closely-reasoned social critique, they have introduced the concept of 'coming out' (a concept which Cross himself now uses) as a positive step in asserting and realising one's human potential. By so doing, they have encouraged others outside the liberationist movement at least to question their decision to conceal their true personality.

But above all, it achieves nothing to reject ideas with which one disagrees, and to dismiss them without considerations as 'shoddy'. Such arrogant remarks do not betoken a thinking man.

## Your Letters

Gay News welcomes letters from its readers on any subject of special interest to homosexuals, including comment on items published in GN. Owing to space limitations, please keep your letters as short as possible. Letters must be signed, but the writer's name and address will be withheld if the writer requests it. Send to: Your Letters, Gay News, 62a Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY.

#### 15p of Rubbish

Edinburgh

Dear Gay News,

Not again! Not content with the Christopher Street interview (GN35), the Royal Wedding Souvenir (GN36), Bob Sturges' and Terence's letters (GNs 41&42), and not forgetting John Olday's sexist humourless cartoons, you have to give us 2 pages in GN43 on 'Homophobics'. If any of these had been funny it might have been worth filling up the odd half page with them, but to devote up to 10% of the paper to any of them is a waste of valuable space. I don't spend 15p on a 'newspaper' in order to read such rubbish.

Which, by slight mental gymnastics, brings me to the point that Gay News, far from being a newspaper for all homosexuals, is only of interest to the white middle-class 'normal' male gay. You have paid lip service to lesbians by publishing repeated pleas for articles, but do not appear to have commissioned any articles from women. (The small ads section is an interesting reflection of your attitude towards women: why not title them 'Personal' and 'Men's Personal'?) There have only been two articles on pederasty, one on S & M, a few references to transsexuals and transvestites. I have seen nothing on the problems of blind or otherwise disabled homosexuals, though, to be fair, you have written on older gays, who are ignored by most other gay publications. It is not enough to complain that no one sends you contributions on such subjects; it is your responsibility to write or commission them, rather than sit and wait for them to come to you.

Despite the fact that the greatest proportion of gays are working-class, all the articles are directed towards those who are accustomed to a fairly high standard of living—what gay on the dole could afford the clothes in Iain Finlayson's column or to put in a Personal ad, even if they could spare the money to buy GN in the first place?

There is so much that GN could cover—from articles debunking the many psychiatric analyses of homosexuality, to the importance of homosexuality to the Samurai, to tearing apart real 'Homophobics', etc etc—which would inform its readers that gayness does not stop at the local cottage or wrangling over the wording of the latest Law Reform Bill. The gay scene is introverted enough without its only newspaper digging further and further in.

I can understand that many of your ideas are hampered by lack of money or time to put them into effect, but I would be happier if you indicated in some way that you were aware that homosexuality was a much larger topic than Gay News at present deals with—at the risk of sounding clichéd, as large as humanity itself.

Michael Foreman

#### Nostra Culpa

Sappho Publications  
BCM/Petral  
London WC1

Dear Gay News,

I should like to correct the statements made in your article 'A New Day Dawns' (GN43).

International Women's Day is by no means new! On March 8th 1908 women workers in New York City demonstrated to draw attention to their appalling work and pay conditions and also for all women's right to vote. Two years later The International Socialist Congress in Copenhagen declared March 8th to be annually commemorated as International Women's Day dedicated to fighting for Equal Rights for All Women. It is now a Bank Holiday in all communist countries. The Women's Liberation Movement in America began 'using' the day six years ago and our first International Women's Day march in London was on Saturday March 8th 1971. We have since demonstrated on the closest Saturday to March 8th in 1973 and 1974.

It takes gay men some time to wake up to these facts it seems! In 1973 we asked the CHE Political Action Group to join us. They refused. No CHE women appeared either! Sappho has, naturally, been represented in all three marches.

Babs Todd

#### Camping At Malvern

3, Millards Hill  
Midsomer Norton  
Bath

Dear Gay News,

One of the problems experienced by many gays is that they live, sometimes, in fairly small communities some distance from the nearest group, gay pub, etc, often served by poor public transport, and to travel to the town just for an evening can therefore be both too expensive and too wasteful of

time. Opportunities to get together for weekends in suitable places would therefore be useful. One possibility is to go camping with groups of gay people. It's inexpensive to acquire basic equipment and to book special permission sites for a weekend.

Our first opportunity to enjoy camping together this summer occurs when CHE holds its conference at Malvern on May 24-27. Two sites have been booked by us in this fine agricultural area, and water, loos and milk will be provided by us—you provide everything else. Of course the idea of being under canvas or in a van does not appeal to everyone, but if you're interested in camping at the Malvern conference or at a later date during the summer, please write to me at the address above. I'll also be glad to give advice on basic equipment etc.

Angela Needham

#### Is Paris Still There?

London N4

Dear Gay News,

Reading John D Stamford's 'A Gay Man's Paris' (GN43), I wanted to rush over the channel to make sure it was all still there! The photos accompanying his article were delightful, but Stamford's Paris sounded like a Wigan-eye view of the city to excite the wet knicker brigade. Though it could hardly be described as a "cheap thrill" to "perhaps get by" on £8 a day.

Just in case some of your readers' modest means might lead them to conclude that 'Gay Par-ee' is not for them, let me reassure them. Paris can still be tolerable on £4 a day, although the Veuve Cliquot may have to be replaced by a humbler vintage. True, you may miss a message a day, male nude dancers, drag mimes to pop records—or would you really miss these examples of French cultural refinement? Alternatively, you might actually see Paris—for free, by walking along the boulevards, tiptoeing through the Tuileries, and for the price of a drink, sit at a cafe table and listen to the gossip (with a discriminating and sexy look in your eye ready to greet a passing pretty). Or does that all sound too boring to stimulate a jaded appetite?

Michael Launder

#### Drag Confusion

Dear Gay News,

I felt I must write and object to the title of the US drag competition that was reported in the latest issue of Gay News (43).

According to your article, this contest is heralded as the "Miss Gay America" competition. Surely this is pandering to the worst stereotype held about homosexuals—that they are all mincing queens who get their kicks by dressing up as females.

I do not wish to object to the staging of such drag competitions, nor do I wish to criticise transvestites. But I do think that we must at least be clear in our own minds that homosexuality and transvestism are two different things, and should not be so totally confused even from within our own ranks. The general public suffers from enough ignorance, confusion and stereotyping as it is, without us making things worse by claiming that a group of men dressed as women represents 'Gay America.'

David

#### A Soldier's Lot

Colchester, Essex

Dear Gay News,

I've been reading your paper as often as I can get it, mainly from London, because the newsgagents won't sell it up here. I have asked, but the answer was: "Fuck off, you dirty sod"—so much for liberated Colchester. Mind you, I haven't been to every newsgagent yet, just give me time. Anyway, I really like GN. It's a great paper and worth every penny of three bob.

I read somewhere recently about someone trying to start a gay group for Her Majesty's Forces. I don't think OUR Queen would approve of that, do you? Anyway I'm interested, because ever since it got around that I am gay, life is decidedly second-class for me. Not that it really bothers me, I am well able to take care of myself.

Last year I joined Campaign for Homosexual Equality, because I was genuinely interested. I managed to get into the Portsmouth group (my home town), but that has collapsed since, and I also wrote to the Bristol and Colchester groups, but no answer. Perhaps they don't like soldiers, though I can assure them we are human, and quite decent people really.

There aren't many gays in my regiment now, because they have either been posted elsewhere or have left the army, voluntarily or by 'force'. As far as I can see, most gays in the army are a pretty cowardly lot. They certainly don't want to know about being liberated, or even about various organisations that have been formed to help us. Well, I for one would like to know more about a gay group for service people. I've been thinking a lot about it, and have come to the conclusion that to succeed it would have to be run from outside, ie civvy street, as the forces that be are too powerful for us to combat from 'inside'. There is absolutely no understanding for us, and many gays are terrified of being caught out. The officers choose to ignore the subject with an embarrassed silence, or treat it as a music-hall joke, and even the good old padre seems to hold his hands up in horror. I am seriously thinking of chucking it in, though I know it can be difficult in civilian life too. Anyway, if anyone is interested in writing on gay lib for the forces, could they write through your paper to me? I promise on my lace trimmed combat suit to answer everyone.

Roger

ED: We will of course forward any letters received.



Illustration: Gary Cobb

#### New Group For Shiftworkers

CHELIC  
01-437 7363

Dear Gay News,

As a logical extension of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality's campaigning activities it is proposed that a section of the gay population not hitherto catered for by CHE should now be brought under our wing, ie shiftworkers.

Speaking from personal experience I realise how difficult it is for these people to participate in any organised gay activities because of the un-social hours worked by them. I refer especially to catering, transport, cinema and theatre, hospital and Post Office workers whose contact with the gay scene is severely limited.

The CHE London Shiftworkers' Group (SWG) will cover all areas of London, to be run by and for shiftworkers exclusively, but all ages and sexes will be eligible for membership. Members will be able to participate in social events, parties, outings, discussions of oppression in our respective jobs, etc—all of which can be arranged to fit our irregular hours!

Our first meeting will take place in CHE/LIC HQ, 22 Gt Windmill St, W1, at 4pm on May 6, and all interested shiftworkers are invited to attend.

Stephen Quillinan  
Acting Organiser  
SWG

ED: Before some readers seize pen and paper, we should in fairness point out that members of London GLF also ran a successful shiftworkers group.

#### Alternative Wimbledon

Dear Gay News,

We would like to take this opportunity of advising you of a Social Activities Group that has recently been formed in Wimbledon. So far, the meetings have taken place in the Billiards Room of the 'British Queen' public house in Haydens Road, South Wimbledon, on the first Wednesday of every month. The entrance fee is 20p.

We read of this group in the general information section of Gay News, which supplied two telephone numbers, one of which we rang and were invited to come along. We found that the atmosphere there was very relaxed and informal, and we were surprised at our own responsiveness towards the other group members. We were talking, joking and dancing with people that we had never met before, without feeling suspicious of their motives.

We should appreciate it if you could give this group some form of write-up in your columns, as the idea behind it is to form a local gay scene for those who have no real interest in the usual clubs, pubs and discos, but just wish to socialise.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to ring 01-947 4940.

Brian and Lyle

#### One Man's Meat . . .

London W2

Dear Gay News,

Regarding the controversy over the 'Colt Album' advertisements in GN, it seems to me that, if we are to have a paper which is homosexually orientated, then it should be the policy (indeed *duty*) of that paper not only to report news items which concern homosexuals but also to draw attention to items which are produced specifically for homosexuals, including items of literature and the visual arts regardless of their aesthetic merits or faults. What is pornography to one person may be sheer delight to another. Who am I to judge? Personally, whilst being able to appreciate the best in literature and art, I can also enjoy pornography . . . if it's the kind of pornography I like! Whether or not I like the Colt drawings is beside the point. Judging from the frequent references to them in your Personal Column it is fairly certain that a good many of your readers do like them and their availability should therefore be made known.

It so happens that I consider the poems you published a month or so ago puerile and worthless. I also consider the drawings by John Olday depicting small boys doing adult homosexual things as repellent and unfunny as I have always found Mabel Lucie Attwell, and in addition utterly irresponsible. But each to his own taste provided it does no positive harm. I would never consider demanding that you remove these things which I dislike. They are of homosexual interest and should therefore appear in your paper if you, as editors, consider their presence justified. It seems regrettable to me that, the more 'liberated' and legal we become, the more prudish and po-faced we grow.

Congratulations on the style, standard, variety and service of your paper.

Andrew Maybury

# Gays Contest Borough Election

**LAMBETH:** When voters go to the polls on May 2, they will be asked to vote for three candidates put up by the South London Gay Liberation Front.

The three, who will be standing for the Tulse Hill ward in the borough of Lambeth, are Malcolm Greatbanks (28) a teacher of English, Alastair Kerr (28) a lecturer in Art History at the London College of Printing, and Michael Mason (27) news editor of Gay News. The candidates believe that this is the first time that gay people have stood on a gay ticket in any British election.

But although they are standing as gay candidates, their election manifesto goes a lot wider than just gay issues. Their ward is in the heart of Brixton, an area which has a lot of other problems to deal with. They are mounting a two-part attack, on the rising homelessness figures, especially amongst the black population, and the increasing numbers of houses that are left standing empty by the present council. They are also pressing for more accommodation to be made available to single people, gay couples, and one-parent families.

On education, Malcolm told Gay News that Lambeth's schools are a disgrace. The local council says it has no responsibility—it's all the fault of the Inner London Education Authority (on which Lambeth council is supposed to be represented).

Other plans of the Gay Lib group include the provision of creches for working mothers, support for the local black community in the face of recent increased police pressure, and the introduction of comprehensive sex education which up to now has only dealt with the questions faced by heterosexual children and ignored other children. They also want to ensure that the last government's legislation for disabled people is properly implemented by the council.

The surprise move by the Gay Liberation Front has already attracted public attention. The local press responded by giving the story star billing as the main news story on page one. The two-line headline read "Gay Liberation candidates contest borough election" over a photo of Michal and Malcolm. The story was picked up by all three London radio stations and the evening papers, and also made the Daily Mirror. As a result, people have started calling at the Railton Road Gay Centre from which the campaign

is being run.

Election agent Frank Adams is also a member of South London GLF. He has been busy organising and was responsible for registering the candidates' nomination, duly signed, to the returning officer at Town Hall. The first paper he handed in was returned to him. The returning officer said that not all of the names were signed properly, that one of them looked as though it were printed. So all twelve signatures needed for each candidate had to be collected again on a new form.

The election manifesto was drawn up by the group's Political Action Group and approved at a full GLF meeting the following day with some alterations made at the suggestion of members.

Once the manifesto has been printed and distributed to all the houses and flats in the ward, canvassing will start. People are badly needed to help with this particular job. It's an easy job, said Michael Mason, but a lot of people are needed if it is to be done properly. A register of electors is broken down into streets or blocks of flats. Canvassers then simply call door to door and ask electors how they intend to vote. "Nobody tries to persuade people to vote for GLF candidates," Michael told us. "What we need to know is simply those people who plan to vote for us on election day so that we can make sure they actually get out to their polling station. I used to go canvassing with friends for a straight political party, and we had a great time."

On Thursday May 2, election day itself, the group will also need cars to ferry people to and from polling stations, and they are hoping that gay people in London will come down on that day (or later in the evening) either with cars or just to give moral support.

One of the candidates was told by the returning officer that only election agents and candidates' wives or husbands were allowed into the count and declaration at the end of the day. But he says there will be "all hell to pay if they try to keep my boyfriend out."

Finally, we asked Michael Mason what his plans were for Friday May 3rd. "I'll be working at Gay News as usual," he said, "except that instead of going home afterwards, I'll be going to a council meeting. And not as a reporter this time."



## Hope For Cornish Gays

Cornwall is a county of picturesque fishing villages and rugged moorlands, where the twentieth century has encroached slightly less than in most parts of Britain.

For gay people, the scene is slightly less lovely. In fact, the gay scene in Cornwall is practically non-existent. A glance at Anne's Guide in the last edition of Gay News will show that there is only one gay club listed for the whole of Cornwall; and that is only gay on Saturday lunchtimes! Devon, however, has a number of pubs and a couple of gay clubs. There are few large towns in Cornwall and so, for the majority of gay people, life offers little more than the occasional visits to cottages and a pervasive sense of isolation.

Cornish society, too, has a reputation for being hostile to gay people. As one young man, a hairdresser in the tiny holiday resort of Polperro, wrote in a letter to me, "I can't say how much good it does me, knowing that there are people somewhere who are willing and able to help me and my kind, out of what seems to be a wall of silence. I'm afraid while I'm in Polperro I'll have to keep my mouth firmly shut... the locals here would banish me from the village (not that it would matter socially, but I would lose my living)". This comment seems typical of the fear that gay people live under in small rural communities. CHE now has over 30 members in Cornwall and no more than four live in the same town; the rest are thinly scattered, and this makes it very difficult to arrange meetings for them. However, by means of news-circulars and letters, many CHE members have, at least, been able to break free of that feeling that they are the 'only ones'. Last year a successful weekend house-party was organised at a small guest-house run by two gay people near St Austell. After that, a group managed to get started in Devon, but, apart from an occasional bottle-party, the Cornwall members have not yet been able to start a regular meeting. This is partly due to the absence of any possible meeting-place, partly due to none of them feeling able to commit themselves personally to doing any organisation work. As convenor of the group, I am looking after people's problems and seeing to the integration of newcomers from the distant venue of Bristol. Convenorship by 'remote control' is distinctly unsatisfactory, but better than nothing. Before I took over, the members

had nothing more than the address of the head Office in even more distant Manchester.

Things are slowly but surely improving. New members continue to join, despite the fact that every one of Cornwall's local newspapers have refused to take ads from CHE. A meeting has been booked for May at a member's house in Truro and I shall be visiting individual members during my holidays in April. Despite their isolation, Cornish gays are friendly and hospitable; they like letter-writing which is just as well because there is really little else for them in such remote conditions. The Cornish group has only two women in it—one married and the other in the forces. There are several young people and their main worry is their parents. The average CHE member, however, is middle-aged and well-learned in the skills of coping with being gay but passing as straight.

Oppression, geographical isolation and a lack of facilities take their toll, however, on gay people. In Truro the Samaritans are referring gay people to me for help and one doctor has shown an interest in my work. Before the end of this year, I am confident that a gay group will be meeting regularly in Cornwall, possibly on an itinerant basis, but before that can be achieved there are a lot of problems to be overcome. If you want more information on Cornwall, particularly if you live there, please drop me a line: Trevor Locke, 33 Pembroke Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 3BE.

## Blackmailers Get 17 Years

**BIRMINGHAM:** The Crown Court here met out sentences totalling 17 years for two young Londoners convicted of blackmailing a Midland solicitor to the tune of £16,000 between 1969 and 1973.

Anthony R Sweet, of Hales Lane, Smethwick, was jailed for seven years. Peter C Mansell, of Sloane Gardens, was sentenced to 10 years.

The prosecution claimed that Mansell obtained £13,000 from Mr X and Sweet £3,000 over a 4½-year period. The money was said to have been paid after threats that the pair would make their love affair public.

The verdict was returned after the jury deliberated for 1½ hours.

Judge Kenneth Jones said Mansell was "a depraved young man... and a fluent and inveterate liar" who "showed no remorse."

# CHE Conference Speakers

**MALVERN:** Three more guests have been arranged for the Campaign for Homosexual Equality's jamboree at Malvern this May. They are Michael de la Noy of Albany Trust fame, Graham Chapman of Monty Pythons Flying Circus, and Kim Friele from the Norwegian homophile organisation Det Norske Forbundet.

Michael de la Noy will introduce the first speaker on Saturday May 25 when the conference opens.

Graham Chapman has agreed to join the panel of speakers for the public meeting which CHE are holding on the Sunday evening.

Kim Friele, Forbundet's general secretary, will close the conference. CHE tells us that under Kim's guidance, Forbundet has notched up some notable successes. She was largely instrumental in persuading the City of Oslo to guarantee a £38,500 bank loan for the purchase of one of Oslo's leading restaurants. In this building Forbundet's activities are housed under one roof and the members have a first class social and recreation centre.

Kim is the author of the booklet 'Homofili', financed by the Norwegian health and social security departments. She has also obtained £7000 backing from the government for a film intended for use in schools.



Monty Python's Graham Chapman

Photograph: BBC

## Repeal Gay Laws, Liberals Urge

**MARGATE:** At their Easter conference, Young Liberals demanded that laws restricting the rights of homosexuals be repealed.

Conference accepted a motion proposed by the Oxford University Liberal Society which deplored laws curbing gay activities and called for a number of changes including bringing the age of consent into line for both gays and hets. They also referred to the definition of privacy, and said that it should not matter if more than two were involved in gay sexual acts. They want members of the armed forces to be able to enjoy sex without fear of court martial, just as they want sanctions removed for similar conduct between merchant seamen. Finally they point to the absurd situation under which homosexuality is still an offence in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The motion urged all Young Liberals throughout the country to pressure their councillors to make sure that their local authorities do not take a prejudiced attitude towards homosexuals, and they called on the Government to introduce a Bill, like the Race Relations Act, which would protect citizens against prejudices because of their sexual preferences.

The motion was carried unanimously.

## Nobel Prize Winner's Reply



**SYDNEY:** Patrick White, author of *Voss* (amongst other novels) and winner of the 1973 Nobel Prize for Literature, has taken Martha Duffy to task over her review of his book *The Eye of the Storm*.

Martha Duffy's review appeared in Time Magazine, and the novelist replied later in the same publication:

"Sir - It is not my habit to write to papers after reading reviews of my books. But after coming across the one by Martha Duffy on my novel *The Eye of the Storm*, in which she refers to me as 'living in Sydney with several dogs and a male housekeeper,' I feel I must draw your attention to an incorrect, and I should have thought gratuitous, biographical detail. The distinguished and universally respected man who has given me his friendship and moral support over a period of 34 years has never been a housekeeper.

"I am that, and shall continue playing the role at least till I am paralyzed; it keeps me in touch with reality. - Patrick White, Sydney, Australia."

A new Patrick White book is to be published in June by Jonathan Cape. Called *The Cockatoos*, it is a collection of novellas on the themes of intimacy and possession. It will cost you £2.50 to obtain possession of your own copy.

## Hounslow's Final No

**HOUNSLOW:** Members of Hounslow Libraries Sub-Committee were told at a recent meeting that the Chief Librarian had turned down requests for Gay News to be supplied to readers who wanted it.

When Librarian Ms Florence Green was initially asked for Gay News to be stocked, she felt that there was insufficient demand for it. She did say, however, that if there were any further requests she would refer the matter to the Libraries Sub-Committee.

A second person who asked for it was told that there was not enough money for the paper to be purchased. Following this second rejection, the matter was taken up by local press and radio.

Ms Green duly reported to her sub-committee as follows: "In view of press and radio publicity I report my action under Delegated Powers in not acceding to the two requests that 'Gay News', a magazine for homosexuals, be purchased for the libraries. Copies will be available at the meeting. FOR CONSIDERATION."

Councillor Baker leapt in with both feet and said he felt that the committee would welcome Ms Green's actions. With a comment about the 'insignificant' number of readers who would be interested in the paper, he expressed his thankfulness that the committee could reject Gay News on the grounds of economy and did not have to discuss the merits of the paper.

The Chief Librarian's action was approved.

## Home For Parents Enquiry

**LONDON:** Parents Inquiry, the help and counselling organisation for the families of gay boys and girls, wants to set up a permanent headquarters in the Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, according to Danny Franco, a volunteer who works for the organisation.

Since it was founded four years ago, Parents Inquiry has been receiving more and more requests for help, following a great deal of national press and broadcasting publicity. They now feel that it is about time they had their own permanent home from which to operate.

Their first approach was to the borough's Voluntary Organisations Liaison Committee. In their letter they said: "The last few months have seen an expansion that we can no longer cope with without help from the established authorities, such as grant aid, premises and the use of facilities we do not have."

Whilst expressing personal sympathy with their work, committee chairperson Josephine Albert said that her committee could not provide assistance because Parents Inquiry was concerned with the whole of London, and she could only give assistance to local organisations in Kensington and Chelsea.

She did, however, suggest that they approach the London Boroughs Association for aid. Danny Franco was disappointed: "I feel this is a great shame as there are so many gay people in Chelsea who would benefit from such a centre. But we have chosen the Royal Borough quite deliberately and still hope to start up there with help from the London Boroughs Association."

To date, Parents Inquiry has helped 400 families since it started. Some inquiries come from parents who discover that their children are gay, but in most of the cases the initiative is taken by young people in the 15-19 age group who wish to sort out matters at home.

Photograph: Cecil Beaton (Lambeth Press Library)

## Out Of The Dark Ages

**SHEFFIELD:** Although Sheffield may appear to many gays in Britain as being in the 'Dark Ages' still, lots of things are happening.

The greatest step forward in this area was the formation of a FRIEND group. FRIEND was established in this area in September 1973, and in November of that year the telephone service began. From mid-November to mid-March, there were 245 enquiries, an average of about 15 per week. Many other professional bodies in the city, such as the Samaritans, psychiatrists and the probation service also use the facilities FRIEND offers. There still is no let up in the number of enquiries FRIEND is having, but at least we have the satisfaction of knowing that people in Sheffield, be they straight or gay, are becoming more socially aware of the oppression of the homosexual, and in this way Sheffield begins to emerge from the 'Dark Ages'. We also feel a lot happier that the problems of homosexuals are being dealt with locally by a service that understands these problems and can offer more concrete help than hypothetical advice.

For CHE in Sheffield, 'C' does stand for 'Campaign'. Besides drafting a leaflet for distribution in schools, to be published shortly, CHE has given talks to various groups in the city. We received a sympathetic ear from the psychiatrists of the two main mental hospitals in Sheffield, plus an offer of any constructive help and advice they could give. We have also given a talk to a Women's Institute and plan to talk to others. This may seem insignificant, but these people are ignorant of what homosexuality is all about, and our task is to present the real facts about homosexuality and to explode the myths about the subject. We also began a Social Awareness Group, and at the first meeting, people brought along their straight friends and relatives. Many people left that meeting feeling 'happier' now they knew the true picture of homosexuality. But our major campaign step came with an evening symposium held at Sheffield University. Before an audience composed of marriage guidance counsellors, social workers, clergymen, etc, our three speakers, Howarth Penny, Barrie Kenyon, and Al Stewart talked about the various aspects of homosexuality. The response was tremendous, and the reaction very favourable. Sheffield emerges even further from the 'Dark Ages'.

These examples of campaign action, along with talks to other groups (including the

police), radio interviews and press coverage, all help to better the plight of the homosexual in Sheffield. But we mustn't be smug with ourselves. There is still plenty to be done. We are planning another symposium dealing with the problems of married homosexual faces, and the problems of homosexual children. We are going to conduct a survey to find out what the average person (does he or she really exist?) thinks about homosexuals and homosexuality. We plan to leaflet towns in the area, and to continue our programme of talks to groups. We certainly have a few busy months ahead of us.

CHE in Sheffield certainly tries to offer an alternative to the commercial scene. Besides our well-attended fortnightly group meetings, we have a motoring group, a drama group which recently staged its first production, and are forming a music and a literature group. We have an abundance of outings and other events, but the biggest event, and success, was our disco held at the magnificent Sheffield City Hall recently. Over 180 people came along, and the nice thing about it all was that the Town Hall bosses knew what CHE stood for. After the event, we were invited back there as often as we liked, and needless to say, we are taking up their offer. Our next disco there is on Friday 10 May. Finally, we are now trying to get Gay News into the City Library, and it should be appearing there soon.

Dave Brown  
Convenor  
CHE Sheffield  
P.O. Box 107  
Sheffield S1 1EJ

## They Drop Out Of Trees

**TYNESIDE:** Newcastle's Evening Chronicle triumphantly proclaims "Vice Squad's Success" in a recent issue, reporting that Tyneside police are clamping down on homosexual activities in public lavatories.

Prosecution figures for 'indecentcy between males' in the years 1969 to 1972 varied between 13 and 39 per annum. With the formation of a vice squad, last year's figure was an unbelievable 174.

"We want to make it clear that there has been no purge and we have not hounded these people," said Chief Inspector Duncan, head of the 14-strong squad.

Bearing out the old adage that everything comes to him who waits?



The young Bowie from archive film

## David Bowie, Lindsay Kemp & Malvern

**MALVERN:** At 2.30pm on May 26, members of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality attending the Malvern conference will have a choice of five recreational activities — rambling over the Malvern hills, roaring off on a car rally, swimming, playing tennis or going to a film show.

The weather will probably decide who does what, but the choice of films will guarantee a large audience at the Winter Gardens. "Love You Till Tuesday" will delight David Bowie addicts. Made in 1969, it is rare archive material and a unique record of Bowie's early struggles for success. Produced by his then manager Ken Pitt, it shows how the groundwork was being laid and how the various facets of Bowie's talents were being nurtured.

Pitt asked Bowie for some special production material for the film and the result was "Space Oddity". Also in the film is Hermione (who inspired "Letter To Hermione") and Hutch (John Hutchinson). The latter worked in Bowie's various groups and was on the last tour.

The other film is "Lindsay Kemp Circus", the much-acclaimed production directed by Celestino Coronado and featuring the celebrated mime artist Lindsay Kemp and his faithful partner Orlando. Both films are 16mm colour and each runs for half an hour.

Alan Louis, the London DJ, will preside over the turntable at a dance/disco to be held on Saturday night.

## 'The Bankruptcy Of Confrontation'

**LONDON:** The Rev Tony Cross criticised "the language and shoddiness of liberationist thinking" in a speech before the Friend conference. "What we need is thinking not slogans," he said.

As an illustration of his point, the founder of Intergroup referred to the Women's Social and Political Union (1903-1914). "It was the Great War that gave women the vote," Tony Cross said. "All militancy led to was extreme depression on the part of government. In any case, what were secured were basic political rights, but the war for liberation still had to be fought."

Even today, he suggested, the majority of women "don't want liberation, largely because of the social sexual roles that they've adopted."

On the subject of coming-out, Tony Cross said there was probably "a moment of transition," which means "there is a time and place, and people to be considered before one makes a declaration of one's sexual identity." He said "the constant declaration of one's sexuality seems to me rash and extreme."

"Do we want everybody to think of us, to respond to and approach us primarily in terms of our sexuality? It seems a way of unnecessarily narrowing the world."

The clergyman picked up his attack on liberationists while speaking about the "double-sided aspect" of integration. One must be together in one's inner and social life, he said. "Unless we have that sort of objectivity, we're bound to get the liberationists who steal Vermeers without realising they're robbing humanity."

Tony Cross said one example of the kind of balanced integrationist experiments that are necessary is Intergroup. Intergroup is a three-year-old organisation consisting of three London groups and a Cambridge group. They're half male, half female, half gay, half

straight social groups that exist to promote integration. "There now is the need for the creation of social situations where a gay person is accepted and known as gay not just by gay people," he said.

Concluding, Tony Cross said: "I am anxious that gay people should adopt a manner of coming-out which involves neither setting fire to the National Gallery nor if possible what Herbert Marcuse calls without disapprobation the weird and clownish horns of rebellion which get on the nerves of the establishment, but instead to educate both majority and minority through the ever extending process of integration."

## 'Coming-Out Is Not Enough'

**LONDON:** A former member of Albany Trust told the third national Friend conference here that a declaration of gayness doesn't necessarily mean that a person is homosexual.

Ms Doreen Cordell, a social worker who contributed to the Access report published by the National Council of Social Service, addressed 33 people at Africa Centre earlier this month.

She said her campaign has been "to find the difference between true homosexuality and homosexual behaviour."

In this context, it was wrong, Ms Cordell advised, "to treat coming-out as a stage of development."

When a person declares his or her homosexuality, "for heaven sakes believe them. Then look for other causes. I don't think this [declaration] is always true."

When asked to define the 'difference' between gayness and gay behaviour, Ms Cordell cited a case of juvenile arrest. Four boys were found masturbating together, she related. They were charged under the 1967 Sexual Offences Act. "So they were condemned as homosexuals."

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# News Feature

## Inside Centre

Rather paternalistic, but in the nicest possible way. That's how Alternative London sums up Centre, the community, care and counselling project in Broadley Terrace, North London.

"It's probably a fair enough description," agreed Centre Director the Reverend P F Royston-Ball, SSC, CF.

'Father Peter' (as he prefers to be called—paternally perhaps) is an Anglican priest. He sees the project as fitting into his responsibilities for pastoral care. Not that anyone who enters Centre will be whisked off to the adjoining church straight away. But the Christian message is much in evidence.

Two of three throws of a stone from Marylebone Station stands the imposing Victorian building that houses Centre. Built in the Grand Church Hall style, the interior must have presented something of a challenge to Father Peter when he decided to use it for a community centre. The tall vaulted ceilings disappear into shadow, and when the rooms are not in use, a visitor can almost feel the weight of the silence.

### Communal Rooms

In opening a coffee bar, a great deal of trouble has clearly been taken to ensure that the surroundings are congenial. Long tables mean that people don't huddle off in corners in quiet coteries. The seats are comfortable, and the counter itself offers a good display of food.

Other effects are slightly more bizarre—around the walls are large posters of Bowie, Slade, David Cassidy, and a silk processional banner embroidered 'St Paul's School, Lisson Grove'. Over the box of Cadbury's Snacks on the back wall hangs a portrait of the Queen in uniform and on horseback, next to which is a card explaining "No wonder I'm confused. One of my parents was a man, the other was a woman."

When I took a cup of their excellent coffee, I was served by Jerry. Jerry is new to Centre, the project's first full-time paid helper. His joining, said Father Peter, had made life a lot easier. It means that there is someone around quite early in the day (from about 10.30am) six days a week (excluding Saturdays) if people should want to drop round. Jerry looks after the coffee bar as well as acting as a general caretaker for the whole place.

Down the passage from the coffee bar, Jerry showed me the Common Room, a smaller room than the bar. People use this room for sitting in quietly to read, and it is taken over from time to time for group meetings. There are plans for this room. Father Peter receives many requests for books for, by or about gays. He does not know of any comprehensive collection for such books, so he is hoping to start a large gay library to satisfy the demand. The books would be available to the people using Centre, to any counselling or befriending organisations for gays, and to the statutory social services, who in his opinion are severely hindered by their appalling ignorance on the question of homosexuality.

### Dances

Next to the Common Room is a large dance floor where Centre holds perhaps its most popular events, the weekly discos. The 'Paddington Palais' swings into operation every Friday night at eight o'clock. And although they have only been going a short



time, they attract between 120 and 180 people each week.

For Father Peter, the chief satisfaction seems to be that these events are attended by a very mixed crowd. People from every sort of organisation, CHE, GLF, Sappho, turn up to join the Centre regulars. "They seem to get on well," said Father Peter—and he seemed mildly surprised. He took some cheer too from the fact that a "goodly number of women" came, something which he didn't think happened with gay organisations like CHE or GLF.

People have beefed about paying 50p entrance to go to the discos, but Father Peter has no qualms about asking for the money. There is no membership fee for Centre, he pointed out. All the facilities are free throughout the week from Sunday to Thursday, there are no charges for using the common room, or for attending group meetings. So Friday night is benefit night. Centre does not enjoy income from covenants, and the state has not so far come up with anything in the way of grants, so to survive they have to charge for the discos since the coffee bar does not make anything like enough profit to keep the building open, and to carry on the work of Centre.

### So What's New?

Of course, coffee bars and discos are nothing new. So what does Centre have to offer people, why does it exist?

"Centre exists to teach us a greater sense of knowing and relating to other people, regardless of race, gender or sexual orientation; and to express love, peace and tolerance for Christ's sake.

"To this end we recognise in particular the needs of minority groups, especially those whom society at large fails to understand.

"Centre offers in particular homosexual men and women, their families and friends, companionship, counsel and social support in their search for understanding and acceptance." So reads the introduction to their weekly newsletter. All sorts of people respond. Students come with their problems—usually in their second term at college, observes Father Peter—and newcomers to London often end up at Broadley Terrace, young people many of them, looking for work and a place to live. Eventually Centre hopes to have a hostel for people needing a bed for the night, these young newcomers, or people just out of prison or drug clinics, the ones who need help to get on their feet, in a friendly atmosphere.

### More Like A Family

Centre is more a family than an organisation, claims Father Peter. People behave in a protective fashion towards one another, and if someone is down and has problems many people are ready to gather round and give a helping hand where possible. Many gays who go to Centre with problems feel estranged from their families, and Centre should be able to act as a substitute family for them.

They hope that this attitude will continue. At present it runs through most of the organised activities, the groups, the counselling, even the discos. "Uncompetitive" is how Father Peter describes them. "You don't have to spend £2 on a bouffant hair-do to come to the Friday disco. And you don't have to dress up." Kensington Yours and Mine attire is out as far as the Centre crowd are concerned.

For many people who arrive at Centre, however, it is difficult for them to accept

this sort of concern. For a lot of them it is difficult to accept that they are themselves gay, without the additional complication of having to work out a place in some kind of extended family.

Centre's main work in the past has been personal counselling and befriending. And this still plays a major part. To take on this sort of work, Father Peter insists that fully trained people are necessary. The counsellors, he says, are all qualified specialists. The befrienders also go through a special training course. As for the problems that both counsellors and befrienders must deal with, there are many different problems as there are individuals.

Many people come demanding to be 'cured' of their homosexuality. Others simply cannot cope with feelings of guilt and need



Rev Peter Royston-Ball

help for that reason. Many who come are just plain lonely, and simply need other people to talk to. And just as there are an infinite variety of problems, so there are many different ways in which people can be helped.

For the homosexual who wishes to be cured, the first step is to help him to the stage where he can ask, not "how do I become heterosexual?" but "how do I make the best of being gay?" From this point it largely depends on what sort of support others can give him. This support is often required by those who feel guilt too. Recent developments at Centre suggest that it is this sense of involvement with others that they are trying to achieve.

A number of new groups have been, or are being, set up. There is, for example, a self-awareness group for people in counselling. Individuals are recommended to the group by their counsellors.

By public demand, a drama group is to be set up. Regular Thursday night meetings are to be held, and new members are welcome. In the same vein, a musicians group is to be formed. Members will include instrumentalists and composers, the idea being that the group should make music rather than just listen to it. That group will meet on Sunday afternoons. And for film fans, every other Monday Centre will be putting on a film show

with well-known features being shown. Plans for this latest venture include the screening of 'Quo Vadis', 'Boys in the Band', 'The African Queen', and 'Sunday, Bloody Sunday'. Just which of these they will be able to get their hands on, you will have to check with Centre. Finally for chess or bridge fans, both these games are going to be played regularly in separate groups meeting on Tuesday evenings.

### Gay Women

Tuesday evenings also see the regular weekly meetings of the Centre Women's Group. This group, like some of the others, sprang out of the counselling work. Once again, all sorts of people join in, whether from Sappho, Kenric, CHE or no group at all. A number of women who attend are married with children, and Father Peter reports "some Women's Lib around the edges."

Discussions at the group apparently get quite lively, and carry on even when everybody finally adjourns to the coffee bar.

One of Centre's regrets at the moment is the difficulty in getting hold of women to counsel or befriend. There are two women in training for befriending at the moment, but none yet fully active. This, he said, had proved to be something of a problem because although men would accept either men or women as counsellors, the women who attended Centre were reluctant to accept men as counsellors.

On a happier note, Centre has begun to make the breakthrough they had hoped for and are at last getting referrals from outside bodies, from social workers who felt unable to deal with the problems of homosexuals, or believed that Centre could handle them better. Counselling now takes up five nights a week instead of two, as it did in the beginning. Even prisons have turned to Centre for assistance—and either letters have been written or visits arranged for counsellors to deal with prisoners' problems.

Besides the problems people experience through simply being gay, there are other difficulties that Centre tries to cope with. An increasing number of cases involving alcoholism have come their way, and they are enlisting the assistance of someone who can help in this particular field. Legal advice is also available, often angled towards the particular concerns of gays—rights on arrest, how two gay partners go about making wills in favour of one another, or how to arrange the joint purchase of a house. There is also legal advice available about marriage and divorce or separation.

### More Socialising

But if counselling still plays an important part in the activities at Broadley Terrace, it is clear that with the increasing success of things like the coffee bar, the discos and the social groups that are growing in membership, there is a swing towards community support for individuals. For somebody coming to terms with being gay, it can be just as important for them to have friends to follow up where counselling leaves off as to have a counsellor in the first place.

Centre's address is Broadley Terrace, Lisson Grove, London NW1. Between 10am and 11pm you can phone 01-262 9595. Counselling is available any evening Monday to Friday from 8pm, and you can make an appointment to save you waiting around. If you need to discuss a personal problem with a trained worker, you can phone 01-723 5889.

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## While Dad's Away The Kids Go Gay



**LONDON:** The children of Naval Officers who spend six to nine months away from home, cruising in *Polaris* submarines or other naval vessels, may become homosexual as a result. This is one of the findings of the recent report of the Naval Welfare Committee.

The Committee was of the opinion that "... when the father is effectively or actually absent, both boy and girl may falter in developing heterosexual attitudes."

The Committee proposes shorter terms of overseas duty and longer periods at home as a remedy.

Of course, their conclusions are quite wrong. Since homosexuality is illegal in the forces, then, if it were the case that force fathers produced gay children, the armed forces would have bred themselves out of existence long ago. There certainly could be no such thing as a 'family tradition' of generation after generation of children putting on the uniform.

Still, such truth as there may be in the report is encouraging to those people who believe that the aggressiveness that induces a man voluntarily to take up arms, is largely a result of the excessive masculine conditioning to which so many boys are subject. It should mean that the unpleasant desire to prove virility by killing people should skip every other generation at least.

Wives of sailors suffer too, says the report. Often they act as if bereaved when their husbands go away. "Being unconsciously again a child, a girl without a husband..." they often show "childish and adolescent traits."

"Unconsciously" must be the most abused word in pop-psychology. Its use in this context gives an indication of the attitudes of the writers. They seem to argue that since the woman is not a 'wife' when her husband is away, she must be a child, there being no alternative.

Later in marriage, the return of the seafarer to his family could be made easier if they had taken care to "keep father's place intact..." How this is to be done is not said, but if the wife and the children have, in his absence, "closed ranks and enjoyed life without an authoritative male" there will be problems. There is no consideration in the report of the desirability (or possibility) of a family accepting the 'authority' of a person the other side of the globe, or what aspects of service life would induce a man to expect such unreasonable deference.

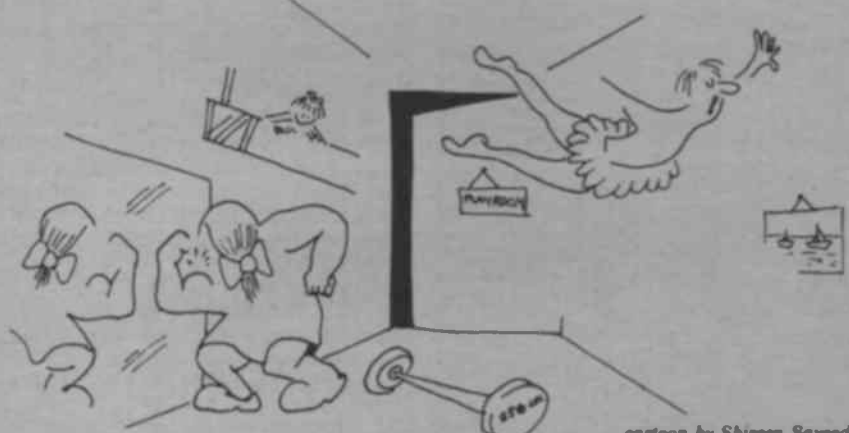
Also chronicled are examples of childhood disturbance among naval children, although the report admits that "many of the conclusions are highly speculative..." and much



more attention is given to boys than to girls." Much more attention is also given to middle-class boys than working class children, but then that is the purpose of the report: to discover how the next generation's officer material is being damaged by this one.

The remedies proposed are essentially reformist. No hint of the possibility that there might be something radically wrong with either service life or family life so much as creeping in. More leave and more counselling will solve it. In the meantime, CHE, Sappho and GLF might consider a recruiting drive around the married quarters of military bases.

(Many thanks to the *CND* magazine 'Sanity', in which the above story appeared, for permission to reproduce it.)



cartoon by Shireen Sayeed

## Just Because They're Old...

**BOSTON:** An American gerontologist says that homes for the elderly should encourage sex.

Dr Victor Kassel recommends that a special room might be set aside in nursing homes. "Sex is like a person's appetite for food, it varies with the individual, but generally it follows that if a person had a hefty sexual appetite in youth, that appetite will continue in old age." Kassel said the tolerance should extend to homosexuality and sex between unmarried persons by mutual consent.

He said that enlightened nursing homes recognise the therapeutic value of sex because "they, too, suffer from anxieties."

Kassel told hospital administrators and doctors at a conference here that laws regulating sex were written to protect the family. But when 80-year-old people want to have sex together, there hardly seemed a need for consideration of family. He said that too often people who care for the elderly were concerned about what others would say. Too many nursing home practices were instituted to satisfy families of patients instead of the patients themselves.

## TVS Publish Journal

**LONDON:** "The Trans-Sex Magazine of Today - For Tomorrow" is the subtitle of the new journal *2 in 1*, which sells for 3p.

The founding editor is Sam Cash, a transvestite. Executive editor is Della Aleksander, a sex-change. The journal is published by Trans-sex Trip Press, Isis Commune, Balham.

The editorial board says the purpose of the journal is to provide a forum for serious discussion and to publicise the work of the Transvestite Social Group, the Gender Research Association-International Liaison, and the Transsexual Welfare Office. The journal also promises to campaign for law reform.

Correspondence should be addressed to *2 in 1*, 10 Hosack Road, Upper Tooting, SW17.

## Your Paper Needs YOU

Anne Elizabeth our administration assistant is leaving us to go to Germany and we urgently require a man or woman to take her place. The job entails shorthand and typing, keeping the information listings and subscriptions up to date, and dealing with box replies.

Good salary, unpredictable hours and a friendly atmosphere. Please contact either Denis Lemon or Stuart Patterson on 01-995 1958 or write to Gay News, 62a Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY.

## Here We Are Again

Readers will probably have noticed that this new edition is slightly smaller and printed on a different type of paper. The size has changed because we have gone to a new printer and their production facilities differ from our former printers F I Litho, who unfortunately have closed down. The latter have printed GN since the first issue and despite the 'insoluble' problems that have sometimes occurred, we are extremely grateful to them for their help and encouragement.

GN is being printed on ordinary newsprint for a short while, as at present it is impossible to obtain paper of the quality we usually use. This is difficult not only for us, but also for all other publications as the current world-wide shortage of every type of paper is plaguing all newspapers and periodicals.

### Gay Billboard

Commencing in the news section is a column called 'Billboard'. Its purpose will be to act as a diary of forthcoming gay events, conferences, symposiums etc, excluding strictly social functions or regular meetings. Organisations or groups wishing to have items included, should notify news editor Michael Mason preferably two months but at least one month in advance of the date for the event. Information received will be up-dated each issue.

### Still Waiting

As a result of the energy crisis of a few months ago and the continuing paper shortage, many publishers are still unable to fulfill outstanding orders. Subsequently, GN's Mail Order Service is out of stock of a number of titles and we can but ask those people still waiting for orders to be patient for a little while longer. As soon as the books arrive, they'll be despatched immediately.

### New Look

Over the next couple of months, we are planning to give GN's review section a new look. Our initial intentions are to publish more capsule reviews, hopefully covering a wide cross-section of both the commercial and traditional arts. Another idea we are working on is to run on the relevant review page small features/interviews on authors, actors, film directors, pop stars, artists etc currently in the news. To help us with this new format, we would appreciate the services of experienced writers and we invite contributions of reviews and interviews.

### Gay Facilities Feature

Earlier this year it was mentioned in this column that GN would be undertaking a survey of social facilities in the UK catering for gays. Obviously, this is an enormous task, but one that we believe it is important to do. The first feature will be on London, with later articles covering the rest of the country.

During the next few weeks, GN's photographer Carl Hill will be taking pictures of London's gay pubs and clubs etc, and it would be much appreciated if proprietors of establishments he visits cooperate with him. Carl will identify himself with an official letter of introduction signed by myself.

### Dates And Deadlines

The next issue of Gay News (No 46) will be published and available on 9th May. Details of display advertising deadlines and copy dates for that edition can be found under the credits section at the bottom of this page. It is regretted that due to the increased number of personal and classified ads we are receiving, there will no longer be a deadline date for them. We'll endeavour to print as many as possible, but it will be a matter of first come, first served, and those not published will appear in the following issue.

Denis Lemon

## Troubled Water

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

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

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

## Aches & Pains

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



## Join The Gay Press Corp

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## GAY NEWS

Gay News is published fortnightly by Gay News Ltd, 62a Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY.

Telephone: 01-995 1958

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### Publication/Ad Deadlines and Copy Dates for GN 46

Copy, Information etc - Saturday, April 27  
 Letters and camera-ready artwork, Display Advertising etc - Noon, Monday, April 29  
 Due to the increased number of Personal and Classified Ads we are receiving, there will no longer be a deadline date. We will endeavour to print as many as possible in each issue. Gay News No 46 is published on May 9

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

Printed by Development Workshop Ltd, 1 Vincas Lane, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 3HQ  
 Tel: Diss (0379) 3374

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# LIVING TOGETHER

by Carole E Pugh

If you are living with a partner, or are seriously thinking of settling down, the chances are that you have not done enough to put your relationship on a clear footing and so safeguard yourself and your partner to some extent against the problems arising on death or a break up.

If you happened to be a married heterosexual couple, then the very act of getting married would cause all kinds of other shifts in your legal position to come into effect, however ignorant you were of the process. As far as English law is concerned, marriage is the union of one man and one woman for life (or until divorce), and thus there is in law no such thing as a homosexual marriage. Many heterosexual couples choose not to marry, since matrimony caters for the union of breadwinning husband with dependent wife, producing dependent children, and is not in tune with their thinking. However, rather than consider the emotional and philosophical points of view, I propose in this article to see what are the practical advantages that marriage confers, and how far an unmarried couple can duplicate these.

## Immoral Contracts

Once two people get married, a new framework for their existence comes into being. They will be considered by the State as a couple and will, for instance, receive certain tax advantages. This sort of effect cannot be reproduced in any other way, and only marriage will effect, for example, nationality, or the ability of one to testify against the other in a criminal court. At the same time, certain rights and duties between the parties arise. Some of these will not become obvious while the marriage lasts, but will be of assistance if the relationship should end. It might be thought possible to draw up a cohabitation contract, embodying all of these. Unfortunately the English common law makes illegal any contract which promotes sexual immorality—in a legal sense, meaning here that the law will not enforce the contract, not that there is an offence in making the contract—and I do not think even the most worthy of cohabitation arrangements would get by. You could try, though—I'd love to see a modern case on the subject.

If you're more interested in making practical arrangements than in being a dramatic test case, it is best to proceed piecemeal. People enjoying a happy relationship often find something sordid about thinking about the material side of it, let alone admitting that they might ever part. Let us start with death—it may not be pleasant to consider, but at least you can't deny that it will ever happen to you. One of the advantages of marriage is that the surviving spouse is first in line to receive the estate even if the other dies without making a will. If you, a happily unmarried person, were inconsiderate enough to die intestate and if you owned the flat in which you had lived for many years with a devoted friend, your relatives would be quite within their rights to come in and kick out the friend. I will set out the order of priority on death, and I trust that if you find that your death is going

to benefit nephew Fred, a member of the Festival of Light with whom you haven't exchanged a word in ten years, you will make your will at once. The order is: spouse; issue (meaning your children and your children's children); parents; brothers and sisters (or their children if they died before you); half brothers and sisters; grandparents; uncles and aunts (or children as above); half uncles and aunts. If you really haven't any of these, then the Crown will benefit.

## Making A Will

A will does not have to be made on any special form, but you must be careful, because if you make a mistake in the wording or the formalities, nephew Fred may still be in luck. Stationery shops sell will forms which provide a guide to wording, but if you are in doubt or have complicated provisions to make, see a solicitor. Will drafting is one of the things where you may find their charges reasonable (they hope to handle the estate after your death). You start by revoking all previous wills and testamentary dispositions (even if you haven't made any), and declaring this to be your last will; then you appoint an executor or executors to carry out your wishes, and you say what gifts you want to make. You must be really careful when it comes to the formal side of it, because if you get it wrong the will is of no effect: you should sign in the presence of two witnesses, and after they have seen you sign, they sign in your presence, adding their addresses and occupations. There should be a clause explaining that this has been done. The witnesses should not be in receipt of a gift under the will—if a beneficiary signs, the will remains valid



but the witness doesn't get the gift.

Another point to make is that, if you have any worries about your relatives, make sure that the will is made in circumstances which are obviously above board. Disappointed relatives may contest the will on the grounds of undue influence, or say you must have been out of your mind at the time. This may sound melodramatic, but when I was in the office I found wills aroused more ugly feelings than divorces. If you happen to be legally married and don't want to leave anything to your legal spouse, there is a chance that that spouse may invoke the Inheritance (Family Provision) Act to try to get a share, so in such case, take advice when you make the will.

Any kind of property can be left by will, and this includes many leases. You can work on the rough assumption that if you paid for it you can leave it. If there was a five-year lease, and the lessee died after two years, then the remaining three years term passes under the will. If you are at all doubtful, it is better to leave too much rather than too little, as the rest of the will remains valid.

## Death Duties

Even if you have defeated nephew Fred, there is still the tax man. Estate duty starts at £15,000. This may sound a lot, but once you have bought a house or flat your estate is soon over that level. For a married person there is a further allowance of £15,000 for the surviving spouse (thus estate duty starts at £30,000, in effect). Estate duty is a

subject for specialist advice in individual cases. I shall just mention the gift method of avoiding it. Certain small gifts are allowed free in any case, but normally if you give away part of your property you have to be sure to survive for seven years thereafter to



defeat the taxman entirely (although the amount of duty decreases after four years). I shall mention duty again later, in relation to houses.

Life insurance is a favourite method of providing for a partner. However, an 'insurable interest' is necessary before you can insure anyone else's life. A spouse has such interest, but not an unmarried partner. The solution is for each to insure his or her own life in favour of the other.

## Breaking Up

Having said a great deal about the inevitable end of a relationship, perhaps we should consider the living relationship, and what happens if it comes to an end in the lifetime of both partners. Against all experience, people expect the relationship to last forever and will not admit that it might not. If sensible arrangements have been made about property, that is one thing less to worry about if the worst comes to the worst. Breaking up can be made more bitter if petty squabbles develop over who owns what, and this can make the prospect of a dignified parting, later friendship, and even reconciliation less likely.

Most people will remember what they brought into a partnership. It is articles acquired while it is in existence which are more likely to cause trouble. If they keep their own purchases separate, it is not so difficult to sort out. Most people will in any case keep the receipts for important purchases, in case of complaint, and these will establish who owns what. Difficulties arise where, for example, one record player was sold because there was no need for two, and no one remembers what happened to the money . . . . In cases where the couple do not wish to assert separate ownership, and want everything to be 'ours', some kind of general agreement could be drawn up, saying that the contents of a flat are jointly owned, with a proviso that in case of difficulty in division items should be sold.



It is amazing how the most reasonable of people will behave when under strain, and these sensible precautions should not be neglected—they may save you some suffering later.

## Sharing A House

The most important factor after the decision to live together is usually the joint home. One may move into the other's house, or a new flat or house may be rented or bought. Each course of action has its own particular considerations. It is usually better for the two to be joint proprietors, with equal rights, rather than for one to be the guest of the other. If you are renting, however, you often find that the landlord insists on having only one name on the lease. Try pointing out to him that with two names on the lease he has two people to follow up for any arrears of rent or breakages etc. However, it is not easy to argue with a landlord's prejudices. At least both parties are in an equal position when both names are on the agreement.

If you are buying, it is best to do so as 'joint tenants' ('tenants' here is used even if the property is freehold). There are particular advantages, in that on the death of one joint tenant his share of the property automatically passes to the other(s) without the necessity for a will, and that there may be help from the court if the relationship breaks up. Joint tenants hold theoretically as trustees for themselves, and as trustee a joint tenant can ask the court to order sale of the property in the event of dispute. This is not likely to be abused, as going to court is a serious step.



If one person owns the house, the other will have no rights in it. It can happen that the non-owning party gives the other help in, say, paying off the mortgage. If so, it is better to do this in the form of a loan, because if money is handed over there will be no right to recover it or claim a share of the house. In the case of a married couple, the court can order a fair share of the house to be transferred to a non-owning spouse who has made cash or work contributions to the home, but there is no such safeguard for the unmarried. If a lot of money is involved, legal help might be a good idea at the outset.

## Gifts

I mentioned estate duty earlier, and where one partner owns the house and transfers half to the other as a gift there will be duty to pay if the original owner dies. There is no relief after seven years, not unless the original owner divides the house down the middle and does not go into the half he has given away except as an occasional guest. Again, in the case of spouses there is a special concession to allow the property to escape duty seven years after the gift, even though the donor has not given up all rights in the property. If the donee has made loans for the repayment of the mortgage or other reasons, then a share of the house could be given over in satisfaction of the debt, and this would escape estate duty as it would amount to a purchase rather than a gift. However, estate duty apart, the gift of half

Continued on next page



Continued from last page

of the house gives the recipient a heightened sense of security, and puts the parties on a more even footing.



Most people need a mortgage before they can buy property. In fact, a gift of half the property could not be made if the property was in mortgage, as the building society would not take kindly to losing half its security. If two people have decided to buy a house together, negotiating a joint loan might be difficult. When a married couple is involved, the loan tends to be based on the husband's income plus only half the wife's (because they are worried about her future as a non-earning mother) so if a male couple did manage to negotiate a loan, they might well get a better deal. Two women, however, would probably have a worse time than the single woman, and that is notoriously bad.

### Maintenance

The courts are coming to the sensible view that a young healthy woman with no children to look after should not, when her marriage ends in divorce, be entitled to be maintained by her ex-husband for life. However, in any sort of union it may happen that one partner sacrifices the chance of a career to keep house, or at any rate the career of one partner comes second to the other's when it is a question of whether to move away etc. This is the only place where I can see the equivalent of maintenance fitting in when there are no children to look after.

When a relationship comes to an end in such circumstances, there is nothing to stop the successful partner making a settlement on the other or paying an annuity. It is difficult to arrange for this in advance, however, for although once the association ends a contract—provided it is formally made under seal—to provide for the other is valid (as there is no further taint of immorality) any such contract made at an earlier stage fails for the reasons outlined earlier. Perhaps a business arrangement could be made, at the time, where one party is paid for housekeeping. This is not full compensation for loss of job opportunities, but is better than nothing.

I hope no one is feeling too insecure after all that, but in something as delicate as trying to live with another person it is as well to have a safety net—so that, if things go wrong, there is no need to work out the practicalities from scratch just when one is least able to cope with anything of the kind. And if you are lucky, live without a fight and die together, it won't have done you any harm. In making comparisons with marriage, I have tried to show how some advantages are legally impossible to duplicate, but some can with a little effort be copied. I haven't said anything about the



defects of marriage, because those need not worry the unmarried. Finally, I have talked about couples, but most of my remarks can be adapted to larger groups of people living together, where the problems of adjustment are even greater.

## PC Loses Temper

LONDON: A Chelsea policeman was involved in a fight with a Kings Road crowd who watched him attack a stalker, according to reports.

There are conflicting reports from witnesses as to what exactly took place. Witnesses told Gay News that on Saturday April 6 at lunchtime a man stripped from the waist down outside the Markham Arms pub in Kings Road. He mounted a bicycle and rode it up and down outside, to the delight of a large and ever-growing crowd of on-lookers.

Police arrived to put an end to the incident. The stalker was dragged off his bicycle, and he made a rush through the crowd with his trousers under his arm.

A scuffle followed in which the stalker was punched hard and knocked down in the road by a police officer. It is understood that his number is 511.

The mood of the crowd, which up to this time had been humorous, cheering on both stalker and police, turned very hostile when the policeman went into the attack. It was reported that a section of the crowd attacked the officer when they saw what he was doing.

Two members of the crowd were arrested and charged on the following Monday with assaulting the police, obstructing the police in the execution of their duty, and resisting arrest. The accused were named as Patrick Inglis (22) from Page Street, and his brother John (21) from Boltflower Road, Clapham.

The stalker was hospitalised, but he has not been charged with anything. A senior police officer from Chelsea station said he couldn't give any detailed information since the incident was the subject of an official investigation. He did confirm, however, that the constable "was involved with a section of the crowd."

## Ex-CHE Man's Call To Arms

NORTHAMPTON: A copy of CHE's general election survey questionnaire, a couple of shotguns, one official bigot, a little bad press and some gay pride—these are the ingredients of a story which ended in an 18-month prison sentence suspended for two years.

Richard Mayne, 35, ex-treasurer of the local CHE group, was charged by police with possession of two unlicensed shotguns.

Mayne said in a statement to police that he felt aggressive after reading some remarks made by Alderman John Barnes about homosexuality. Mayne was alleged to have said that he was going to "blow the alderman's head off."

Barnes had received one of the CHE questionnaires and made critical comments about it and hostile remarks about gays in the local Chronicle & Echo.

The judge told Mayne: "I am satisfied that what you said to the police was to get publicity in the same way as the suffragettes once did."

Mayne told the police he wanted to be armed when he confronted Barnes at the town hall.

Mayne was described by the prosecution as a principal CHE organiser who was passionately against any prejudice shown against homosexuality.

## Catholics Go Both Ways

WASHINGTON: Flying in the face of adversity, a priests' council have advocated sexual expression by Catholic gays. This pronouncement comes on the heels of one earlier this year by the American Council of Catholic Bishops that gays should change their sexual orientation (GN43).

The National Federation of Priests Council authorised a task force to formulate a critical and contemporary theological analysis of homosexuality. The objective is to develop recommendations for the church in forming practical attitudes towards homosexuality and homosexuals.

The priests' council, a federation of 130 affiliated councils, said gayness is consonant with Christ's teaching. The Council of Catholic Bishops had said homosexuals were a grave transgression of the goals of human sexuality and of human personality and were consequently contrary to the will of God.

The priests' task force was to include gay men and women as consultants.

Although the bishops' council guide seemed to carry more weight than the priests' council initiative, the former was not sanctioned by the National Conference of Bishops.



Michael, Ron, Andreas, Mark, Paul — See ALL of them — before you buy — at

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## But What About The RASH?

By John Riley

Some weeks ago our local Campaign for Homosexual Equality group was addressed by a doctor on the subject of VD. Fun to see the queens affecting a specious interest, as though VD were essentially an 'other people' phenomena—rather like Tory ladies hearing about the poor from an East End social worker. I found the whole thing riveting, and have been simply *haunted* by it ever since. My addenda have come in for hourly scrutiny, and when—it must have been last Friday—I noticed this RASH at the top of my legs (euphemism for crutch) I was quite convinced that the dreaded lurgy had struck.

The clinic is sign-posted, 'Special Treatment Centre', and I pondered the wry implications of that as I trotted upstairs and said "Good morning" to the little man. He motioned me into the office and took down my particulars. On the wall was a mesmerising graph, showing the incidence of new cases. The waiting-room was empty; the ashtray full.

The charge-nurse was cheerful and direct: "Drop your trousers." We both looked rather mournfully at my RASH. "Any other symptoms?" (Gracious! isn't that enough? I thought, being convinced that blindness and insanity were just a matter of time.)

"Now I want you to wee into these test-tubes, an inch in this one and the rest in here." The skill involved in this feat is prodigious, but by then I'd entered into the spirit of the whole thing and was, in any case, past caring. We took a blood-test and I was ushered into another room to see the

Doctor.

The Doctor asked lots of saucy questions and I was momentarily thrown by "Are you active or passive?" According to the rules of the game as I play it, no one who asks that question ever gets the chance to find out. However, it didn't seem quite the moment to treat the good man to my views on The Mis-appropriation of Gender Roles Within Deviant Sub-cultures, and so I contented myself with the Bracknellian "BOTH, if necessary." Once over that particular hurdle, and sensing that he really DID want to know, I regaled him with some of my best After-Eight stories—my case notes must read like a novel. He then spoke most interestingly about the dangers of "this sort of thing".

We were interrupted by the charge-nurse giving the 'all clear' on the tests, and the Doctor rose as if to dismiss me. "But what," I cried, "about the RASH?" "Well, you know what causes that . . ." (I mentally ran through the entire repertoire) ". . . nylon underpants!"

Of course this element of farce would not usually attend a visit to a VD clinic, but I am happy to relate a story against myself, if it will reassure GN readers that the staff of these clinics are helpful and understanding. The incidence of VD among homosexuals is unnervingly high. One cannot play erotic-roulette with statistics. Be fair to yourself and those who love you by taking the advice of the experts: 'If in doubt—see a doctor'—you won't regret it.

## 'Star-Gays' with Merlin



### Taurus

April 21 to May 20

For a sign whose basic characteristic is solidity, and a somewhat stodgy outlook on life, it's quite a surprise to find Venus as a major influence for TAUREANS. The Goddess of Love would find it difficult to penetrate so dull an exterior, one would think.

But another look, mostly beneath the surface, reveals a warmth and expression of emotion deeply locked inside a born romantic. The trouble is, TAUREANS won't wear their hearts on their sleeves, lapels, or anywhere else where it shows. It's right there though, beneath several layers of thick skin, ready to be penetrated by the right person, but ever open to things of beauty to which it can't help but respond.

Music, the arts, porcelain, rare books, good food. All of these, plus a friendly curiosity about people, without ever showing just how much they are interested. If you know maddeningly attractive guys or girls who don't care to talk about themselves, are quiet, gentle, rather slow in making up their minds, but who love music, food, an uncomplicated life—you will have found a TAUREAN without much doubt. When they do drop a veil or two, expect interesting conversation, some pretty stubborn attitudes about psychic and religious matters, and an entrenchment about politics. Careers are important to TAURUS Star-Gays; emotional relationships the stuff of life; but don't expect ambition to intrude on either. A steady pace with most opportunities grasped; a chaste kiss when no one is looking, is about all one can expect. TAUREANS take friendships seriously though, but take their time to develop them. Quite a long time. Until just as one is about to take the whole thing for granted, or a dead loss, it drifts

towards something deeper—even an actual relationship.

It's possible that few gay TAUREANS bother to read Star-Gays, as they are sceptical about astrology too. But in case curiosity lets them take more than a passing peep at the column *this* time, an absolute honesty about TAUREANS is more than essential. Muted enthusiasms, sincere ponderous statements laced with deflating directness, a passionate love for beauty, and a horrific, uncontrolled temper when goaded into anger! Honest enough? To be fair about TAUREAN anger, they do have to be *goaded* into it, and their eruptions usually come with plenty of warning. But like that ever-proverbial Bull in the china shop, there won't be a plate left if TAUREAN temper is unleashed.

Like some devil-may-care SAGITTARIANS, some TAUREANS are mechanically-minded, and some noted racing drivers are born under this sign. Earth is their element, and things close to and to do with the Earth appeal to them. Sometimes I wonder if D H Lawrence intended Mellors to be a TAUREAN to Lady C's VIRGO. Once the TAURUS passion is aroused it does get to be quite earthy too, in both novels and real life. And that stubborn, inflexible way they pursue the often unobtainable is so like a Bull charging at a red flag.

Prey to skin complaints, brought on by rich foods, often overweight through sheer indolence, TAUREANS are also captivating frank in their flattering remarks. Many possess startling good looks, which are enough to turn a number of Gay heads. And, as an AQUARIAN friend (reading over my shoulder as this is being written) so rightly says, "They have lovely eyes." They do indeed—usually brown and quite appealing. Which only proves ancient astrologers right again when they allocated Venus as the TAURUS ruling planet!

### Gays On Film

LONDON: Integrop has arranged a showing of the American film 'The Invisible Minority—The Homosexual In Our Society'.

The group tells us that it is a filmstrip in colour which has been produced for use with adolescents and adults in response to the need for education concerning homosexuality.

Author Derek Calderwood and photographer Wasył Szkodzinski travelled throughout the United States over a three-year period, interviewing and photographing homosexual men and women from all walks of life. The film includes spokesmen active in the Gay Liberation movement and those who have chosen not to be active, those who openly live a homosexual life style and those who constantly pretend to be heterosexual.

Through the shared experiences of these individuals, the film attempts to present a picture of one of the largest minority groups.

The programme, they say, presents the problems of the invisible minority as we/they face a society where the majority view homosexuals with confusion, fear and hostility. The emphasis throughout is on understanding all people as human beings of worth and dignity.

The film will be shown at the Unitarian Hall, Hoop Lane, London NW11 (five minutes from Golders Green tube station) on Thursday May 2 at 8.30pm. Doors will be open from 8.00pm.



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# THE ORIGINS OF THE MALE NUDE IN PHOTOGRAPHY

by Rictor Norton

Being a proud prurient person myself, I am appalled by the prudery of some of the readers of certain gay periodicals. I refer, of course, to the bourgeois controversy in certain letters columns concerning the photos and drawings of nude males in various gay publications. Would that there were more—even, now and then, a fully-illuminated frontal view.

Gay people have a penchant for self-justification, because we so often find ourselves confronting a society that stirs up our self-doubt, so I shall only briefly pause to list the reasons why I like beefcake:

1. Beefcake is ideologically important for gay liberation, because it exposes the sexist myth that only the female body merits artistic appreciation.

2. Beefcake enlightens the human imagination because it demonstrates that, in purely objective terms, the male torso (etc) is aesthetically superior to the female torso (etc) because of the greater incidence of angles (etc) and hence the greater interplay of light and dark (etc).

3. Beefcake refines one's autoerotic perceptions.

4. Beefcake is a unique art that needs no justification.

5. Beefcake is fun.

'Nuff said. Being a scholar as well as a masturbatory philosopher, with my deep down antiquarian conviction that nothing ever 'just happens' and that everything originates in something earlier, I assumed that S & H Publications didn't just pop on the scene, so I decided to do a little research.



## Beefcake In Cornwall

Not surprisingly, I discovered that it all began (with a few exceptions in Pompeian bedrooms) during the late Victorian era, along with other equally colorful developments in gay culture. To be precise, it began in Falmouth, Cornwall. There we find Henry Scott Tuke (1858-1929), sitting on his quay-punt and busily attempting, as he said in an 1895 interview, "to capture the truth and beauty of flesh in sunlight by the sea." To be accurate, he liked to paint naked boys bathing. Tuke settled in Falmouth in 1885, after a period abroad in Florence in the company of Arthur Lemon, with whom he studied the art of capturing on canvas the effect of sunlight upon uncovered boyflesh. Tuke wasn't particularly lonely on the Cornish coast when he returned, and while there he produced a substantial quantity of paintings of local youth, bathing boys, fisherboys, bathing boys, schoolboys, bathing boys, and more bathing boys—all against a romantic background of rocky coastline and picturesque sailing vessels.

By the time 1914 arrived, when people began to lose their taste for art, Tuke had acquired a reputation for himself as a painter of picturesque youth somewhat analogous to the reputation of Norman Rockwell in America. His paintings had such charm that often the Cornish coast would be enlivened by the visits of such notable personages as Oscar Wilde. A great many of Tuke's friends were homosexuals, but, to be entirely honest, there's no clear-cut evidence that he himself was gay or developed an especial affection for a favourite model. Henry Scott Tuke

occupies a special place in the mythology of sentimental middle-class values, especially concerning the British love of hearty boyhood, and his definitive biography has yet to be written.

If we need a precise date for the beginnings of beefcake, it would be 1888. In that year Tuke's finest and most deservedly famous painting *The Bathers* was exhibited in the New English Art Club. The exhibition prompted a lovely poem on Hyacinthus by Charles Kains Jackson in the *Artist and Journal of Home Culture*, a magazine edited by Jackson. The *Artist* had a popularity somewhat similar to the American *Saturday Evening Post* (the vehicle for Rockwell's illustrations), except that while it was disseminating 'home culture' it was also a major vehicle for the propagation of carefully veiled homosexual verse and short fiction—and eventually for discreet studies of the male nude. Jackson was a friend of Tuke, and often visited him, and there is good reason to believe that one of the figures in *The Bathers* is Jackson's fourteen-year-old boyfriend Cecil Castle (the other figures are Willy Rowling and Albert Pidwell; the painting is in the Usher Art Gallery, Lincoln). I cannot quite trace Tuke's interest in such goings-on, but the tale becomes progressively intriguing.

Jackson lived with Cecil in Tyneham House, London, in the infamous company of Frederick Rolfe, self-styled 'Baron Corvo'. Corvo was not at all averse to the delights of the male nude in art (and elsewhere), and he took a photograph of Cecil Castle, nude, lying on his stomach, which was printed in *Studio*, another *sub-rosa* gay publication edited by the homosexual Gleeson White—also a friend of Tuke. It was at Gleeson's home that Corvo met Tuke, and Tuke had given him some drawings of boys to stimulate Corvo's artistic interests. Corvo wrote to Tuke's most intimate friend—Charles Masson Fox—that Tuke's talents would be best served if he went to Venice: "One thing this world wants is some Tuke pictures of the Venetian lagoon and some Tuke pictures of mediaeval *gondoglieri* poised on *poppe* in Venetian canals. But 'Tuke has all he wants at Falmouth.' Hum! Arnold of Rugby held that no man ought to be a school-master longer than 15 years at a stretch!"

## The Metamorphosis Of Cecil

But Corvo himself had extracted all he needed from his many gay adventures in Italy, and when he was hired to create the fresco for the church of St Joseph's in Christchurch, he had on hand a good supply of nude photographs of his Italian boyfriends—which he would project upon the wet plaster (with a 'magic lantern') in order to draw the outlines for his religious figures. Jackson recalls watching in wonderment as Corvo projected upon the wall a photo of a nude boy "of seventeen years, yellow haired and blue eyed and of the most exquisite physical development . . . instantaneously photographed in mid-air, when leaping into the Lake of Nemi." This became the mural's 'Ascension of Christ'. Among the Nine Orders of Corvo's Celestial Hierarchy in this very fine fresco can be discerned the Archangel Michael, created by projecting upon the wall the nude photograph of Cecil on his stomach, upon the print of which Corvo had carefully drawn a spear, a shield, and a pair of wings.

## That Blend Of Blue

Part of this metamorphosis of beefcake was controlled by the aesthetic dictum that male nudes looked their finest on a background of blue (the most celestial colour, though Wilde preferred yellow). John Addington Symonds (distributor of his friends' photographs) in a book of essays titled *In The Key of Blue*, wrote: "Whether the flesh tints of the man be pale or sun-burned, his complexion dark or fair, blue is equally in sympathy with the model." (Symonds' longest-lived-with-lover was a Venetian gondolier, whom he often gazed upon against the background of the blue Mediterranean.) Corvo says in relation to his special boyfriend Toto (a nude photo of whom can be found in Brian Reade's *Sexual Heretics*), "That kind of blue, with Toto's kind of brown, is fine. I learned the blend of him." And in his letter to Fox about why Tuke should have gone to Venice, Corvo speaks of "young Venetians poised on lofty poops out on the wide lagoon, at high noon, when all the world which is not brilliant is blue, glowing young liveness with its sumptuous breast poised in air like showers of aquamarines on a sapphire sea with shadows of lapis-lazuli under a monstrous dome of turquoise, glowing magnificent strength' etc. That's a bit over-gemmed, and to understand what Corvo was rhapsodising about you must drop by the Tate Gallery to examine Tuke's other very fine painting, of four nude youths

in a boat on the sea, appropriately titled *August Blue*.

Enough for aesthetics, and back to the mundane. Tuke's *Bathing Boys* was so instantaneously famous that hundreds of amateur painters and photographers gambolled about trying to capture similar flesh tints, so much so that a mere two years later, in 1890, the Amateur Swimming Association ruled that henceforth bathing drawers must be worn for all racing events. Of course one needn't always stay on the beach. There was a very nasty scandal in Tuke's beloved port of Falmouth when the owner of a boys' training ship stationed there engaged in orgies on deck, and meanwhile took photos that are still circulating in certain quarters. Part of the scandal was that the boys of Cornwall weren't particularly coerced into such activities.

## Baronial Beefcake In Taormina

Enough of my foul-minded suspicions about Tuke's wholesome models, and on to a Sicilian line of inquiry. Corvo's photo of Cecil Castle appeared in the context of Gleeson White's essay on the male nude in art in *Studio*, and other illustrations that he used to prove his points were several photographs of nude boys by the Baron Wilhelm von Gloeden, whose studio was located in Taormina, Sicily. It's rumoured (with good reason) that during the wicked 1890s, none other than Kaiser Wilhelm himself was wont to voyage to Sicily, where he would anchor the Imperial Yacht in the picturesque bay of Taormina, perforce to sleep with one or the other of the Baron's boys. The rumour is very likely true (aside from the Kaiser's known tastes), for the lush Ionian coastline with majestic Mount Aetna as backdrop certainly invited such perignations, and the Baron's models often posed beneath a blue, blue sky.

Wilhelm von Gloeden, Baron of the Court of the Hohenzollerns, born in Schloss Volkshagen, near Weimar, in the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg, 16 September 1856, has some small claim to fame as a student of the male nude whose artistic achievement has not yet been surpassed by promulgators of beefcake.

The Baron claimed to have been an illegitimate child in the family line of the Kaiser, because of which he was persuaded to become an exile from his native land, and for which exile he received a regular stipend from Berlin—on condition that he never return. Being a Bohemian at heart, the Baron took up quarters in a modest villa at Taormina in 1876, with a lovely secluded garden-terrace where he would feed his birds and photograph his models. This terrace often appears in his photos, sometimes with a sprig of a fennel tree propped in one corner (or in a Greek urn) for its picturesque effect, often with an animal skin draped over the bench upon which would be seated an artistic nude. It's said that whenever a new model appeared uneasy at being photographed, the Baron would strip off his own clothes, don the leopard-skin, and together they would gambol about like young animal pups until the model lost his shyness.

Soon after the Baron arrived in the city that his fame would later transform into a major tourist attraction, he engaged the services of a fourteen-year-old boy (the Baron, being only twenty himself, cannot at this stage be called a proper pederast). This servant was Pancrazio Bucini, nicknamed 'Il Moro' because of the Arabic strains in his blood. Von Gloeden and Bucini were in a sense monogamous lovers, for Il Moro was still with the Baron when the latter died in



1931, and he inherited most of his master's photographs. Unfortunately most of these plates were 'accidentally' destroyed by Mussolini's Fascist authorities towards the end of the second World War, although several hundred are still preserved by Bucini's own heirs in Taormina today.

## Sunshine and Health: Onwards to S & H

By the late eighteen-nineties von Gloeden had established himself as the master of the male nude in photography. Tuke's paintings were still influencing numerous imitators (especially Thomas Eakins in America), and every other poet wrote a pederastic verse or two on boys bathing or "Playmates", the title of another of Tuke's paintings (exhibited at the Royal Academy). But Tuke couldn't keep up with Gloeden's output, and the vogue for painting was steadily superseded by the vogue for photography. Nearly every one of the Baron's photographs is a *Tour de force* when we realise that most of them were produced from 1895 to 1910, at a time when even a single photograph required him to set up a cumbersome contraption known as the wide-view camera, to evenly coat a thin piece of glass with a chemical solution (amateur English photographers were always dying of poisoning) before placing it in the camera, and to somehow persuade his model to pose for up to a full minute while the negative was developing. He nevertheless was able to produce perhaps 4000-5000 photographs for wide distribution.

His photographs (about 80% of which were of lightly-clad or unclad boylimbs) were circulated not merely among the extensive coterie of the 'Uranian School' of homosexual poets (see Timothy D'Arch Smith's excellent study, *Love In Earnest*, 1970), but in many of the 'physique and health' magazines spawned by the German *Körperkultur* (physical health/naturalism) and *Wandervogel* (Boy Scouts/hiking) movements. His more carefully draped studies were regularly reprinted in hundreds of travel magazines and brochures advertising the joys of a Mediterranean holiday. The British concept of what constitutes 'the romantic Mediterranean' was invented by the Baron. Mr and Mrs Alexander Graham Bell visited von Gloeden in 1898, and came away the proud possessors of several of his photos of native Sicilians, which they graciously presented to the National Geographic Society for its magazine (which since then always contains two or three shots of semi-clad boys). Other of the Baron's renowned guests are said to include Rudyard Kipling, Anatole France, Marconi, and Richard Strauss. Oscar Wilde dropped

# PHIC ART; OR, THE BEGINNINGS OF BEEFCAKE



rigidity in most of the Baron's photographs reproduced on these two pages is one of their finest testaments to his genius. I haven't selected those of his numerous photographs in the self-consciously posed 'Classic' manner, which were somewhat the equivalent of the glamour pics in fashion magazines today—with chrome and glass in the background instead of sarcophagi. Much of the time von Gloeden's models would be holding Greek urns, sitting atop ruined pillars, and wearing crowns of laurel leaves. Most of the togas are home-made (the Baron was also handy at needle and thread) and not particularly serviceable. I produce only one example of the diaphanous gauze/jewelled necklace type that he also liked. The archaic settings are one of the Baron's major flaws, but Gleeson White disagrees: "A series of great service to designers could be obtained from models posed in niches, spandrels, pediments, and other architectural spaces. I remember at a New York swimming bath seeing two lads who had climbed into the spandril of a wooden verandah, and sat there unconsciously mimicking some of the most beautiful figures the art of the Renaissance has left us." Perhaps Gleeson has a point, for my favourite spas and saunas and bathing establishments are those equipped with fountains, statues, pillars, spandrels etc.

### Beefcake In Conflict

White's series of essays were taken up by Robert H Hobart Cust in 1897, in *Photogram*, who argued vehemently that English boys were better models than Italian boys because the latter's "lazy life and their food, principally macaroni, produces a grossness which soon spoils them entirely for artistic purposes." He also disliked Italian shortness. To prove his point, he presents his own studies, such as "A Lancashire Foundry Lad." James A Rooth continued the controversy in the 1898 issues of *Photogram*, and kept on in the 1903 issue of the *Boy's Own Paper*, a supposedly boy-scout magazine filled with interesting diversions by a good many homosexuals. His argument was only that Sicilian boys charged less for their services and therefore were the better models. Rooth, incidentally, was Inspecting Officer of St Catherine's Light Infantry Cadet Corps.

Rooth and Cust also used photographs by Guglielmo Pluschow, the Baron's major rival in Rome. Pluschow's studies are perhaps more sharply delineated, which is really an indication that he handled light less effectively and less subtly than von Gloeden, and his boys are somehow 'harder' than the Baron's. His photos are also much more stilted, particularly one of two boys on a pediment who are virtually indistinguishable from the sculpture itself (*Photogram*, May 1897; see also his photo of two boys with large genitals in



by for a chat (and a look) upon his release from prison, and humbly presented the master with a signed copy of *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*.

The Baron's work was especially popularized through the medium of various magazines edited by Gleeson White: *Art and Artist*, *Studio*, *Parade*, *Pageant*, and especially through White's essays on the male nude in *Photogram*. White developed at some length his not very perceptive ideas "On Photographing the Nude", usually reproducing two or three of the Baron's photos to illustrate his points. In the March 1894 part of the continuing series we find the Baron's 'The White Pillar', a boy standing against a white pillar, of course. The first word of Gleeson's text was "Giving", and the first letter of this word was enlarged and superimposed on the photo in order to conceal the model's genitals with its lower curve: we thus see a naked boy behind the letter G, which certainly deserves to be circumscribed as a Gay Liberation icon. Other photos include 'At the Portal', 'On the Terrace', 'At the Sea', 'On the Beach', 'On the Rock', etc.

White underlined the basic defect of male nude photography, then as now: that professional models have "the rooted tendency to pose . . . they fall into their poses with a peculiarly ungraceful rigidity." This lack of

Reade's *Sexual Heretics*.) Pluschow, incidentally, was the Baron's cousin. He was finally arrested for the corruption of minors.

Other of the Baron's rivals were D'Agata, his neighbour in Taormina who paid his models more money; Vincensio Galdi in Rome; and, more admirer than rival, Count Jacques d'Adelsward Fersen (hero of Roger Peyrefitte's *Exile of Capri*), who fled to Capri following a scandal about his use of Parisian schoolboys for a *poses plastiques* exhibition, but who eventually returned, to edit *Akademos* with full-page illustrations.

### Beefcake In Full Bloom

By the mid-1920s, directly as a result of this combined influence of Tuke and von Gloeden through the medium of White's magazines, beefcake was fully born. The German homosexual magazine *Der Eigene* was founded in 1899 and continued till 1929, and by the late 1920s The Fortune Press and The Cayme Press had been founded, both of whose early publications were often illustrated. In 1929 The Ladsore Series Press published *Lads O' The Sun*, with 35 illustrations, and, to make a long story of tenuous connections short, in 1961 the *Grecian Guild Pictorial* was founded. In ensuing years appeared such items as *The Boy: A Photographic Essay* (1964), *Boys Will Be Boys* (1966), *Boyhood Magazine* (1967), and in due course we see numerous publications by such firms as The Athletic Model Guild, The Overstock Book Company (Richard (Richard Model Exclusives), Sunshine) & H(earth) Publications, Colt Publications, DSI, XXX Incorporated, etc. But the Baron is still with us. In 1968 Brian Patten's book of poetry *Atomic Age* used one of the Baron's photos as frontispiece (slightly airbrushed), and a couple of years ago Vulcan Studios of New York was offering for sale a set of six of the Baron's pics—at an outrageous price. Of course it's now a big business, and we can certainly lament the passing away of the Baron's eye for quality. That more and more photographs seem to be of the fully adult (and hirsute) male nude, is a superficial impression: the biggest sellers are still the boystudies.

I frankly don't know much of what goes on in the studios of photographers of nude males, particularly of young nude males, and I'd rather not make any generalisations about the matter. There's an extravagant villa near

San Francisco out of which has come thousands of photographs, in many of which the models, mostly over eighteen, look as though they've been picked up off the street, given a little bread and a little heroin, and told to take their clothes off. On the other hand, there's a wholesome ranch near Burbank, California, where models, mostly under the age of eighteen and many under the age of fifteen, are quite thoroughly enjoying a well-paid game, even though that game involves spreading their cheeks for a close-up shot. In respect of copulation photos—few of which are available in England as yet—we've come a long way from the Baron, not entirely for the worse, though not very convincingly for the better. The best publications are those by private individuals rather than publishing firms and magazines, and I look forward to the publication of the collection of the several hundred boyfriends of 'J.Z. Eglinton' (pseudonymous author of *Greek Love* and editor of the short-lived Oliver Layton Press), whose private scrapbook is bulging with delights.



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## Strange British Habit

**PANTOMIME, A STORY IN PICTURES.**  
By Raymond Mander and Joe Mitchenson.  
Peter Davies Ltd. £5.00.

Ray Mander and Joe Mitchenson are dashing first-nighters, at every play and opera. Their house is a theatre museum, stacked with books, pictures, objects, props and the lucky talismans of the legendary. To younger, tentative researchers—like myself—they show infinite kindness, patience and a graceful tact in correcting mistaken assumptions. Their authority is tremendous. This is their 16th book and, as with their others—on musical comedy, revue, the music hall—they manipulate their magnificent collection of pictures into an informative and sometimes astonishing sequence. (Astonishing? Well, why does Dorothy Ward as Principal Boy look just as glamorous in 1907, 1930 and 1957 when she was a staggering 67?)

As the authors point out, remarkably few books



Ada Reeve as Aladdin, Prince of Wales Theatre, Birmingham, 1892.

have been written about this exclusively British phenomenon. Their contribution is a straightforward historical description of the development of the form. They have gone back to basics and corrected some misapprehensions. So I think perhaps they would agree with me when I suggest that a great deal of work still needs to be done in this field. They have provided a stimulating, allusive source book. There is no comment or interpretation, which is properly the department of different sorts of writers. I am thinking here of David Mayer's fascinating article "The Sexuality of Pantomime" in the current issue of *Theatre Quarterly*. And, my goodness, Ada Reeve as Aladdin with a daring cigarette (Birmingham, 1892) looks as sexy and sleazy as Freda Jackson in *No Room at the Inn*. The transvestism of pantomime is a fertile field. But this book suggests other points of interest—the theme of patriotism for example, the mindless evocation of military glory and the humanoid-animal theme.

If, like me, you are into theatre nostalgia, the pictures are an enchantment. Who could be more melting than Phyllis Dare as Cinderella—apart from Zena Dare as Princess Beauty, of course? Dorothy Ward (to whom the book is quite properly dedicated) crops up every decade or less. There is Evelyn Laye as Prince Florizel (if looks could kill, my dear) and Jill Esmond, Fay Compton, Binne Hale, Joan Regan (who?—you remember), The Dolly Sisters, Yana . . . (who? oh, not again). My own essential favourites are included: Hy Hazel (no picture, sob, sob) and Pat Kirkwood. And there is the parade of great dames from the incredible Dan Leno through Clarkson Rose and Douglas Byng to Terry Scott and Julian Orchard. There are some sinister appearances, notably a horrendous picture of Julia James being scopped up by the gigantic hand of Jack's giant, predating *King Kong* by some 23 years. And I've discovered a brand new pin-up, a guy with the unlikely name of Wilfrid Douthitt who has what I can only describe as presence . . .

Interestingly, the pictures reveal that in recent years the emphasis in pantomime has shifted from female stars to male ones (both as principal boy and dame). In the final pages we have Edmund Hockridge, Jimmy Tarbuck, Cliff Richard, Arthur Askey, Norman Wisdom, Frankie Vaughan, Edward Woodward and Danny La Rue. This may merely indicate a dearth of ladies, of course. Danny La Rue contributes a foreword and supplies the other element the book as a whole lacks—the authentic voice of greasepaint and the live theatre. He writes gently and spontaneously about the excitement of pantomime and reveals something of his own techniques. A whole book from Danny La Rue would be super. Finally, let me tell you about a really lovely little lady called Minnie Terry who as Sylph Coquette in Cinderella (1893) had the deathless lines:

*Nimble are the tingers of fairies at work.  
They never tire and their task never shirk.  
She's so right.*

Roger Baker

## Love With A Vacuum Cleaner

**THE SEX LIFE LETTERS.** Mayflower, 75p.

This is a large collection of letters from the magazine *Forum* complete with editorial commentaries. It was first published in the USA, however, which explains why many of the comments on the letters are by Dr Harold Greenwald and Ruth Greenwald, and also why American spellings and inflections rest uneasily alongside references to the Cup Final and fish & chips.

*Forum* was a spin-off from the hot sex mag *Penthouse* and has achieved a fantastic reputation (even an article in *The Times*) for being liberated, down to earth and sensible about sex. Readers' fantasies and real experiences (once on paper there's little relevant distinction between the two) poured in; they were printed, po-faced, and replied to, po-faced. They are utterly hilarious.

There's the guy who fell in love with a vacuum cleaner ("I managed to work it into our foreplay") and now his wife wants to get a new one: "Am I strong enough emotionally to part company with old faithful . . .?" And the man who has invented a snorkel so that he doesn't have to keep coming up for air when sucking off his wife. And the fish-monger who, on half closing day, dives into a bath of ice in the back yard until he is blue, dries himself before a fire and tosses himself off with an ice cube up his ass.

There's the rubber and the leather, the silk and the calico, mint freaks and ground ginger nuts, voyeurs and exhibitionists all telling us how their particular kick evolved almost accidentally: "I went into the bathroom . . . to masturbate . . . and quite unexpectedly began rummaging through the washbasket." The vaginal orgasm is in confrontation with the clitoral orgasm, the circumcised cock is measured in detail against the uncircumcised. I can no longer gaze with equanimity on the grocery-laden basket of the woman in front of me at the Safeway check-out: "I have had to eat swiss rolls, jam roly poly, celery, cucumber and all types of fruit attached to various parts of her body . . . condensed milk is a good sticker."

A glorious celebration of non-conformity: the missionary position in the dark is the deviation now: "To be masturbated by long elegant toes is an out-of-this-world sexual experience." Or, on the other hand: ". . . she sits on the hood reclining back almost into the windscreen. I stand between her legs and make entry from the front. Of course the risk of a car coming and catching us in its headlights while we are in action is extremely stimulating."

### Conventional Attitudes

And where do the Greenwalds and *Forum* itself stand in this confessional free-for-all? Many letters reveal, or state, anxiety. Am I normal? Am I a pervert? Is this natural? Am I alone? Do others

do this?

Yes, they say, others do that too; lots of men stick ice cubes up their arses and thousands of men suck Smarties out of their wives' vaginas. Enjoy, enjoy.

Good advice, obviously.

Or so it seems. Consistent reading through the hundreds of letters soon indicates that the Greenwalds (who are psychoanalysts), while taking every revelation bravely on the chin, nevertheless regard them as deviations. Deviations from what? Well, a norm obviously. And that norm is straightforward, unadorned, heterosexual coital intercourse. Glibly, innocent desires for nylon are categorised as fetishes, people are continually being 'treated' and 'cured'. Moreover, the accepted norm is heavily tainted with an authoritarian, male-orientated view of female sexuality. *Forum* itself offers a long reply to a man wanting to know if cunnilingus is a perversion, and quotes Theodor Van De Velde who said if it continued to orgasm, then it was a perversion. And they quote also someone called Dr Yankowski who says: "The sensations of cunnilingus usually are inferior for the female to the sensations of coitus—owing largely to the comparative lengths of the average tongue and the average penis." I can hear from here the laughter of gay sisters the world over at this piece of ludicrous information.

A number of letters deal with homosexuality. Greenwald claims that homosexuality is curable, says "I have helped at least twelve people to become heterosexual," and welcomes GLF because he sees it as encouraging gays to go straight!

He sees homosexuality as a 'disorder' and claims great successes for psychoanalysis, psychotherapy, and for what he calls 'behaviour modification' (ie aversion therapy) in 'curing' this beastly thing. His list of probable 'causes' suggests quite strongly that homosexuality is the result of a child's close identification with mother, or lack of male model, thus perpetuating the erroneous idea that homosexual men are female or woman-like. Though in another passage he states that very butch gays get a higher rating on 'masculinity tests', whatever they are, than many straights. A married man who enjoys an occasional fling with a German waiter is told to try out some of their love-making techniques with his wife. Another husband is told that his bisexual wife might enjoy his participation in her lesbian love-making. I suggest that these attitudes, far from relieving anxiety (and not just on gayness) exacerbate it: "There's no harm in doing that—thousands do," they say, "but remember it is a deviation and second-best." Which subverts any possible real value this book might have. Nevertheless, it is probably the best wank-book of the year.

Roger Baker

## Kitchen Bookshelf

**DANISH COOKING** by Nika Hazelton.  
Penguin, 40p

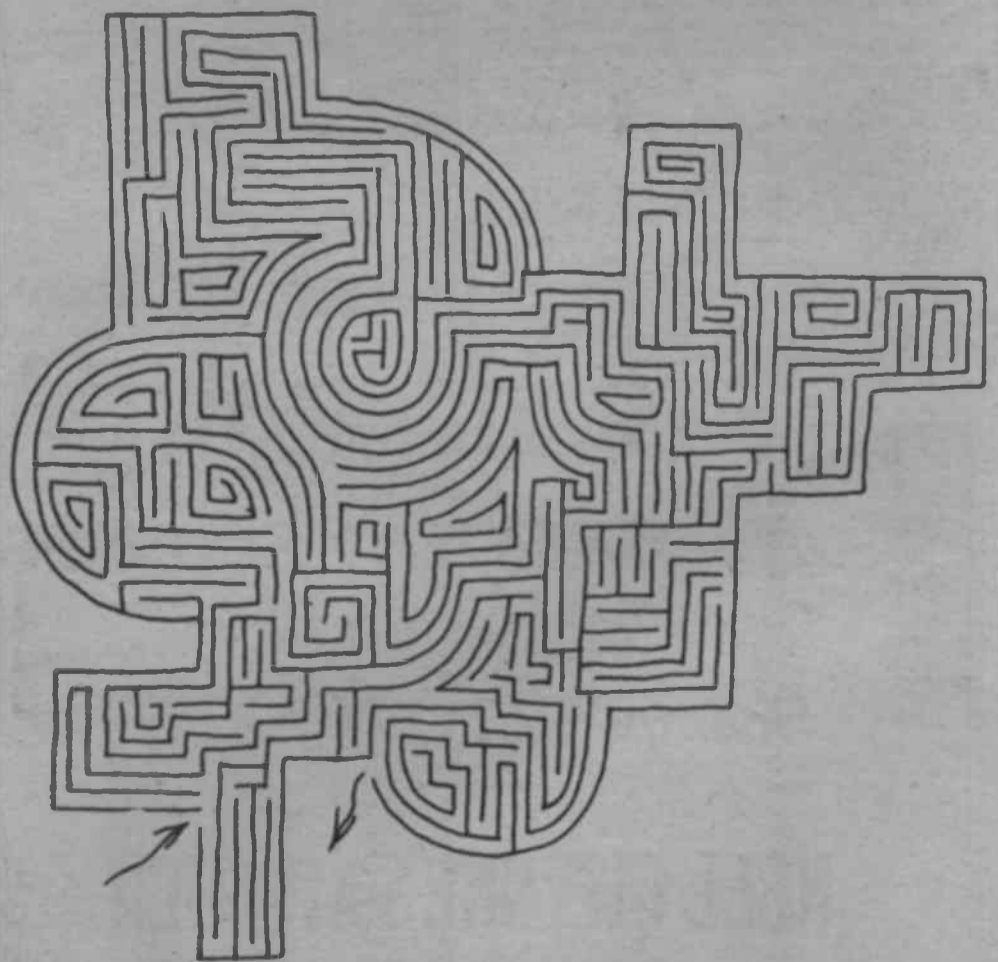
"One of the most admirable Danish customs is to serve hot foods on heated plates . . ." Good grief! These foreigners are devilish different. "When you set your table in the Danish manner, fold the napkins as artfully as you know how to . . . if you really want to do as the Danes do, decorate your table and your food with flags."

The reason for these side-splitting details is that quite obviously there is remarkably little to

say about Danish cooking. That isn't going to stop Ms Hazelton from producing a 223-page handbook; the Viking ship napkins, the radish roses and flags are so much padding. There's a lot of repetition too. The overall style falls somewhere between the arch and the hectoring, and very few of the recipes have any particular individuality. In the introduction we learn that "Copenhagen . . . is the gayest after-dark capital in Europe . . ." Especially if you stick a flag in your frikadeller.

Roger Baker

## A-Maze-ing



The above comes from Vladimir Kozlakin's *Mazes 2*, published by Pan Books, 50p. Entitled 'Art Deco', its Rated Time Limit is 6 minutes. Mazes have been popular since ancient times and even today they prove to be fascinating alternatives to crosswords and the like. In this second volume by Kozlakin, there is a total of 40 different ones, with Time Limits ranging from 2 to 45 minutes.

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'Golestan': In the garden of flowers

## Roses And Thorns

### BEJART AND THE BALLET OF THE 20TH CENTURY at the London Coliseum.

The visit this April of Maurice Bejart and the Ballet of the 20th Century was only the third that the company has made to London, and drew packed audiences to the Coliseum.

Bejart had brought two new full-length works with him, *Golestan* and *Stimmung*.

*Golestan* is of Persian ancestry. The story is taken from a book of the same name by Saadi, and the music is supplied by a group of Iranian musicians playing traditional instruments and led by a solo singer.

Opening in spectacular enough fashion, thirty-two delicious (where does he find them) young men, dressed in flowing white, dance on to the stage in what seem like endless serpentine curves, watched by *The Traveller* before whom this unusual desert mirage takes place.

As the men sleep, a magic garden of roses appears out of the desert. The roses are danced by women in apple green with rose-pink headdresses, and danced in a curiously angular fashion. The choreography throughout is derived from classical steps bent into new figures by surprise concluding twists of the body, or staccato movements that break up the conventional grace of traditional movements. Such Oriental gestures as there are stand out as token acknowledgements of the ballet's source, but it has not been Bejart's concern to produce an eastern ballet so much as a western ballet about an eastern tale.

As twelve of the more adventurous men enter the garden, the Light Bearer, danced by Jorge Donn, appears to reveal the True Rose (Suzanne Farrell), the eternal rose. The dancing of these two was one of the highlights of the evening, Jorge Donn's powerful movement contrasting excitingly with Suzanne Farrell's fragile and jagged part.

If this first item in Bejart's programme was largely tied to classical dance, *Stimmung* was unrepentantly 'Ballet of the 20th Century'.

The piece was originally written by Stockhausen for performance by six singers (two soprano, one mezzo, two tenors and a bass) of the Collegium Vocale of Cologne. In 1972 it was presented as a ballet for the first time with choreography by Bejart.

Stockhausen is not a composer who has pro-

vided me with hours of untold pleasure. I would go further and say that the prospect of a full-length ballet to his music filled me with deep misgivings. But I was in for a surprise. The music was fascinating, even, at times, very beautiful.

The word 'Stimmung', Stockhausen writes, is ambiguous. Originally it means 'harmony of pure intervals', and the vocalists adhere throughout to the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th and 9th harmonics of the fundamental low B flat. A singer introduces a sound 'modele'. Building up the rhythm and volume of the elements with which he is working, he introduces a 'magic name'. These names, names of old gods from various civilisations and cultures, are picked up and repeated by the other singers in the group—but always taking their lead from the modele singer. When he or she feels the time is right, the role is handed over to another singer to introduce a new lead.

As the magic name changes, so too does the atmosphere. And it is to the changing 'vibes' that the dancers react. Although no steps are improvised, they are given choices of steps at particular times. And these steps can be combined in different ways, and executed a different number of times, according to how the individual dancer reacts to the singers.

This kind of 'component improvisation' where artists build up a new performance from building blocks of prepared material is not, of course, a new phenomenon. But it was gratifying to find it so well used. The danger, as with using complete improvisation, is that an audience leaves with the impression of anarchy for anarchy's sake—and gets very little else from the performance. If there was a weakness, it was in the original building blocks which the dancers had learned. Somehow the dancing lacked fire—the movements were seldom thrilling even where the singing was. It was clear from *Golestan* that the Bejart company contains a large number of highly talented and exciting dancers, and yet much of the material they used in *Stimmung* verged on the prosaic.

Having said that, I must add immediately that the evening was not boring. It is a long work, and yet I did not find my attention wandering for an instant. Long may Bejart continue to create his intriguing ballets

Michael Mason

## A State Of Disillusionment

### EDEN END at the National Theatre, The Cut, London SE1.

The return of the prodigal, to his or her home, has been a favourite theme of many writers. To celebrate JP Priestley's eightieth birthday, the National Theatre have revived his 1934 play *Eden End*, in which he covers similar territory, telling of an eldest daughter's return home after an eight-year absence. With the current spate of revivals from established writers such as Coward, Rattigan and Maugham, it was inevitable to find Priestley among them. However, had it not been set in the north of England, one might easily mistake this for a Chekhov play, with its theme of disillusionment.

This production has many good points to its credit, perhaps its finest being Carmen Dillon's splendid set, in keeping with the times of 1912. Comparatively new inventions like the telephone and wind-up gramophone are employed by Priestley to good effect. That bygone pastime of singing round the up-right piano, and the daily routine of lighting the lamps help to set the scene.

Stella, the returning daughter, has toured the world as an actress, and her unexpected arrival is a last resort after an unsuccessful career and a broken marriage. Her father is delighted to see her, but admits to her his disillusionment with his career as a doctor. At one point he speaks of England as he visualises it will be in the thirties, little realising that the war ahead will change the pattern of life so much. Lillian, her younger sister, burdened with the family in Stella's absence, is unhappy to find her suitor renewing an old courtship with Stella.

Consequently, her motives in sending for Stella's estranged husband are understandable.

With her turbulent discontent and intolerant attitude, Stella is a selfish creature. Her motives for leaving again, are perhaps not so much a gallant gesture to give her old beau back to Lillian, as they are to escape further responsibility of family life. It is to Joan Plowright's credit that she manages to gain our sympathy at all. In recalling old times with her family, she creates a poignant moment as her face reveals great joy. Her tearful farewell to the old nanny, with her muffled cry of "Goodbye to everything", taking a last look at her home, is extremely touching.

Perhaps the only happy character present is Charles, Stella's actor husband. A likeable rogue, somewhat immature, who in Michael Jayston's hands becomes a warm human being. Paul Gregory as the son, has a drunk scene which he plays brilliantly. In his inebriated state, falling around the room, he communicates all the unsureness of a young man in the throes of first love. Louie Ramsey, whom I admired years ago when she was a vivacious ingenue in revue and musical comedy, has become an excellent dramatic actress. Her quietly controlled performance as Lillian conveys perfectly her disenchantment with her lot. Mention must be given to Leslie Sands' father, Gabrielle Daye's elderly nanny, and Geoffrey Palmer's suitor. Suffice to say that as with all productions at the National, the ensemble playing, this time under Sir Laurence Olivier's able direction, is first class.

Barry Conley

## Happy Families~USA

### CHILDREN at Mermaid Theatre, Puddle Dock, London EC4.

It's Independence Day, and mother (Constance Cummings), has invited her three children to the family house for their annual summer holidays. Her announcement, that she intends to marry an old beau, is met with mixed reactions. On her remarriage, by the terms of her late husband's will, the house reverts to the children. The eldest son, Randy (Bob Sherman), is one of those oversexed, all-American athletes, forever pawing his young wife. Barbara, the daughter (Toby Robins) recently divorced, admits to having a long-standing secret affair with the family's former gardener. Both Randy and Barbara await the arrival of Pokey, the youngest son, and correctly anticipate that he will ask them both to buy out his share in the property.

Though we hear about the daughter's lover, the mother's beau, the eight grandchildren, and Miriam, Pokey's Jewish wife, we never meet them. For that matter, we barely get to see Pokey, the difficult problem son. Obviously, if we did, everyone would have to communicate with each other. As it stands the four members of the family spend a good deal of time discussing these 'off-stage' characters.

Toby Robins displays a good sense of humour, mixed with an air of cynicism, in her intelligent performance as the divorced daughter. I kept expecting Bob Sherman's Randy to exclaim "gee whiz Ma", so perfect is he as this typical stock character. Sarah Marshall as his wife, is very good, especially in the scene discussing her own children with her mother-in-law. The ever-glamorous Constance Cummings, cleverly builds her part throughout the evening. Starting on a note of jubilant good humour, she graduates to impatience at her impossible brood, and finally to a beautifully controlled ten-minute speech of resignation, which climaxes the play.

Author A R Gurney Jr has enough plot lines to successfully fill several plays. Unfortunately, his excellent quartet have been given quite a few clichés to speak, though along the way there is some interesting dialogue, and great insight into what makes these characters tick. While *Children* remains a disappointment, there are enough good moments to convince me that the author will be heard from again, and to better advantage in a more balanced play.

Barry Conley

## The Screen Scene

The Easter holidays necessitated an unusually early copy date for this issue, so I've had to leave April's biggest attractions such as *The Great Gatsby* until the next issue. Left with a particularly mediocre bill of fare, I began to wonder whether a visit to the West End cinema was really worth the effort for the confirmed telly viewer. Can you enjoy a film after you've queued for an hour outside a high-priced cinema with no advance booking facilities? At the Warner Cinema, Leicester Square, where *The Exorcist* is playing, security guards have been employed to regiment the customers. Needless to say, their policing activities don't extend to removing the ticket touts, who operate in full view of the guards and cinema staff.

The kids were quite well catered for this holiday, though I'd exercise caution in taking them to *SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS* (EMI, director Claude Whatham). He's given Ransome's book a nostalgic treatment and created a celebration of what he feels is the sublime innocence of childhood, which I think will mainly appeal to those who were kids in the twenties and thirties. Rough and tumble adventures in the English countryside and the sort of benign upper middle-class characters portrayed by Virginia McKenna and Ronald Fraser, are very distant from the lives of today's weeny poppers.

They'll probably enthuse over *HERBIE RIDES AGAIN* (Walt Disney Productions, director Robert Stevenson), a comedy adventure with a topical urban setting about a motor car with a mind of its own. It's decorated with some extravagant visual gags that adults will enjoy too.

Adults, who often like to think they take the Cinema seriously, were provided with *MAHLER* (VPS, director Ken Russell). Naturally the film has little to do with the composer's real life. It's more of an excuse for Russell to indulge in a couple of hours of extravagant imagery of the supposed fantasies behind the music. There are multitudes of violence in Mahler's life a la Russell, including anti-Semitism.

Russell's view that writers and composers create only when they're tortured by inner conflicts, or have been abandoned by humanity, is more representative of his neurosis than anything else. Separating myself from the nauseating images and listening to Mahler's music, I was struck by a feeling of joy. It is worth noting that Mahler has been rejected by every American distributor great and small.

David Seligman

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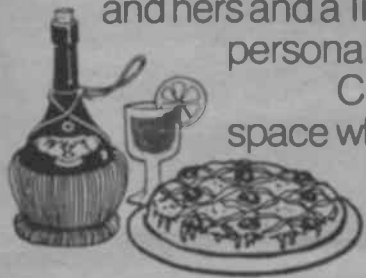
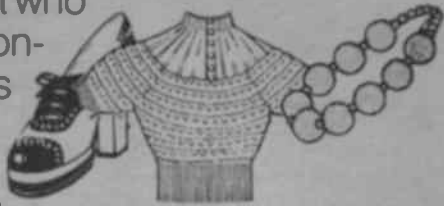
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Tony Martin, Anne Miller, Vic Damone, Jane Powell, Russ Tamblyn and Debbie Reynolds in MGM's 1955 production of 'Hit The Deck'

## Music From The Silver Screen

**HIT THE DECK**—MGM Silver Screen Series.

Ask the average public to name some famous composers, and Kern, Porter, Berlin, Rodgers & Gershwin readily spring to their mind. Very few will be likely to mention Vincent Youmans, the man responsible for such standards as "Tea For Two", "Time On My Hands" and "Without A Song". Sadly, he remains one of America's lesser-known composers.

One of his first stage successes, later filmed in 1930, was *Hit The Deck*, which MGM remade in 1955, and it is now re-issued on record. This bright selection of Youmans' songs are reprised by some of Metro's talented singers, namely Jane Powell, Tony Martin, Debbie Reynolds, Vic Damone, Ann Miller and Russ Tamblyn. With the exception of Tamblyn, all the others' careers are still going strong. Powell recently succeeded Reynolds on Broadway in 'Irene', Miller starred as 'Mame', and both Martin and Damone are actively engaged in nightclub engagements.

My own favourite track is Ann Miller's dynamic mambo "Lady From The Bayou Bayou", and the romantic voice of Tony Martin on "Keeping Myself For You" and "More Than You Know". Vic Damone is equally romantic in his duets with Jane Powell, "I Know That You Know" and "Sometimes I'm Happy", and Jane Powell reprises the latter song solo on another track. Her charming voice has always pleased me more than most film sopranos. Debbie Reynolds delivers "A Kiss Or Two" and "Join The Navy" with all her usual verve. The six stars join on "Why, Oh Why?" which has a slightly cynical lyric. The three male stars do a rousing "Hallelujah", and one song featured in the film, though not written by Youmans, is the well-known "Chiribiribee", with the dulcet tones of Kay Armen joined by the other stars. This film is lesser-known than many in the MGM reprise series, but nonetheless contains some very good songs by this roster of durable talents.

**THE BAND WAGON**—MGM Silver Screen Series.

Arthur Schwartz, like the previously mentioned Youmans, is another lesser-known American composer, who nonetheless has written some excellent standards, such as "Dancing In The Dark" and "You & The Night & The Music". Though his output is not as prolific as some, all his music has charm and taste, both in their lovely melodies, and the fine lyrics supplied in most cases by Howard Dietz.

*The Band Wagon* was their most successful stage musical, and the re-issue of the MGM film soundtrack of 1953 is a welcome return. The sleeve notes are particularly good, containing a history of the show, capsule plot-line of the film, and Schwartz' career. With its screenplay by Comden & Green, the sophistication of Fred Astaire and Jack Buchanan,

capable comedy supplied by Oscar Levant and Nanette Fabray, and the glamour and stylish dancing of Cyd Charisse, *The Band Wagon* was understandably a very enjoyable film and a big success at the box office.

This recording both begins and ends with the rousing "That's Entertainment", which is the natural successor to "There's No Business Like Show Business". It's a bright uptempo song with lyrics pertaining to 'show biz'. Over the years Astaire has had the good fortune to introduce a wealth of great songs on the screen. It's easy to hear why, as his charming, almost nonchalant approach to a song is very fetching, and here he gets a wide range to cover: the wistful "By Myself", the corny humor of "I Love Louise", the rhythmic "Shine On Your Shoes", and pairing with Buchanan and Fabray in the amusing "Triplets". Nanette Fabray's lively solo is "Louisiana Hayride" which was plagiarised in later years by Leroy Anderson to become "Sleigh Ride". Schwartz' lush melody "Dancing In The Dark" is played by the MGM orchestra, who also perform "The Girl Hunt Ballet" which Astaire narrates. The exciting voice of India Adams (who dubbed for Joan Crawford in 'Torch Song') fills in here for Cyd Charisse on one of those optimistic songs "New Sun In The Sky". My own favourite is also the composer's personal choice: "I Guess I'll Have To Change My Plans" sung by Astaire and Jack Buchanan. To borrow from Schwartz' own words, "The spirit of the entire film is contained in their effortless sophistication."

**MORE GREAT MGM FILM THEMES**—MGM Silver Screen Series.

Though the market is flooded with film theme recordings, I've yet to find a more diversified group than on this record. Many of the top film composers are gathered here, conducting their own music. Morricone's plaintive melody from *Guns Of San Sebastian* is followed by Lalo Schiffrin's *Burning Bridges* from *Kelly's Heroes*. DeVol's sombre military theme for *Dirty Dozen* is followed by two Miklos Rozsa themes. His repetitive dramatic style works well for these particular films, the typical 'Roman sound' for *Quo Vadis* and a Spanish theme for *El Cid*. Steiner's romantic theme for *Gone With The Wind* sounds vaguely familiar, though it isn't the well-known "Tara's Theme". Side two starts with Richard Rodney Bennett's suitably lyrical music for *Far From The Madding Crowd*. Two Jerry Goldsmith themes for *The Prize* and *The Last Run* are the most modern sounding of this collection. Lalo Schiffrin's flute bossa nova theme from *The Liquidator* and then *The Cincinnati Kid* are two of the most enjoyable tracks. The record ends with a long and very lovely selection of music from *More Than A Miracle*. Altogether an interesting and varied collection on one record. Barry Conley

## Soul Scan

Limited space prevents me from discussing in detail the merits of the following batch of soul albums, so please consider this conglomeration of capsule reviews, more as a series of observations rather than in-depth analyses of the records mentioned.

Best of the new soul music releases is Jackie Moore's long-awaited first album *Sweet Charlie Babe* (Atlantic). Apart from the title song, her other two American chart-topping singles are included, which any disco-goer will know are "Time" and "Precious, Precious". All three cuts retain the excitement they initially generated and fit into the overall format of the record, which throughout is an excellent showcase for Ms Moore's soulful talents. In my opinion the most remarkable performance on the album is "Clean Up Your Own Yard" cut at Philadelphia's much-revered Sigma Studios. Jackie Moore's gutsy interpretations of the 'tell-it-like-it-is' lyrics, along with the arrangement and production which utilise the finest elements of the 'Philly sound', results in a stunning musical experience.

Blue Magic are a five-man vocal outfit who specialise in a style that has generally become known as 'soft soul'. Whilst there is little to fault on their meticulously performed and arranged debut album, simply called *Blue Magic* (Atlantic) and recorded entirely at Sigma Sound Studios, the sound they create lacks the originality that distinguishes groups such as Harold Melvin & The Blue Notes or The Stylistics.

Featured on James Brown's *Soul Classics Volume 2* (Polydor) are another fourteen tracks that show why this legendary artist has a fair claim to the slightly pompous title 'the godfather of soul'. Amongst the 'classics' on this newly-issued collection are "Get On The Good Foot", "I'm A Greedy Man", "Get Up, Get Into It, Get Involved", "There It Is", "Talking Loud And Saying Nothing", Brown's powerful anti-dope song "King Heroin" and "Hey America". Incidentally, it is the first time the latter has appeared on an album. Like the previous volume, the British pressing is much better value than the American release, as Polydor's Malcolm Jones has again added an extra four cuts.

An excellent follow-up to the Stax label's compilation *Gold Soul*, released a few months ago, is *Flirt Of Soul*. Subtitled *Gold Soul Volume 2*, the album, like the previous set, contains fourteen 'golden' cuts from this leading soul company's vaults, all of them essential inclusions in the collections of ardent devotees of the genre. William Bell's "Lonely For Your Love", "Soul Clap '69" by Booker T & The MGs, Rufus Thomas's "(Do The) Push And Pull", "Respect Yourself" by The Stapel Singers, Mel & Tim's "Starting All Over Again" and The Dramatics' "Watcha See Is Watcha Get" are just a few of the tracks which make up this first-rate collection of vintage soul.

The first album by Tommie Young entitled *Do You Still Feel The Same Way* is well worth discerning soul enthusiasts taking the trouble to look out for. Issued on the Jewel/Paula Soul Power label in the States, it is amongst the initial batch of discs being specially imported by Contempo Records and nationally distributed by Pye. Ms Young, in the Cashbox poll last year, was voted one of the most promising k & b vocalists of 1973, after consistently making the US soul charts with a number of singles, the most successful being the title track of her debut set. She has a vocal style that is not too dissimilar to Aretha Franklin, but her approach relies less on gospel roots and concentrates on creating a more earthy, funky sound, perhaps best likened to the recent work of Millie Jackson or Ann Peebles. Apart from "Do You Still Feel The Same Way", I strongly advise anyone contemplating buying the album to listen to "Everybody's Got A Little Devil In Their Soul". A superb performance that



## Jobriath In Action

The photographs above and below of rock sensation Jobriath and his group The Creatures are from a recent American television spectacular. Beginning at the end of May, Jobriath is embarking on his first European and Scandinavian tour, and will be appearing in the capital city of each country he visits. His concert dates in London will be sometime in June. Accompanying Jobriath will be his five-piece band, three dancers and an enormous amount of equipment, including a specially designed plexi-glass stage, 10 changes of costume and backing tapes recorded in London last year with a 60-piece symphony orchestra. The show is costing £250,000 to stage. It came as no surprise to learn that Jobriath has been banned from performing in Spain.

Denis Lemon



is certain to convert the listener to the soulful charms of Tommie Young. A significant factor related to the record's accomplishments is the work of songwriter, arranger and producer Bobby Patterson, who I'm positive is destined to become one of the leading figures on the soul scene in the very near future.

Probably the last album of previously unreleased material by Gladys Knight & The Pips to be issued by Tamla Motown is *All I Need Is Time*. Although well up to the standard of their best work on that label, it comes over as a little too lush and syrupy when compared to their recent recordings on Buddah. An essential record for Gladys and the group's long-standing admirers though, with the title song standing out as one of the finest performances of their career.

No doubt about it, *Boogie Down* (Tamla Motown) is another magnificent album by Eddie Kendricks. As well as the gorgeously hypnotic funkiness of the hit single title cut, the other tracks are an evenly balanced mixture of similar material or beautiful ballads. The latter are particularly praiseworthy, reminding me of the many unforgettable love songs he was responsible for when lead singer with The Temptations.

Graham Central Station are a new group led by Larry Graham, late of Sly & The Family Stone. And on their first LP *Graham Central Station* (Warner

Brothers), that's who they sound like throughout the set, but without Sly's inimitable vocals. They may find a following amongst those people impatient for Sly's long-time coming new album, but are hardly likely to cause much of an impact otherwise. Future recordings by Graham and the other first-class musicians and singers he's gathered around him, may have more to offer if they can come up with an original sound.

I've taken my time getting round to writing about *Pain + Pleasure = Ecstasy* (Westbound) by the Ohio Players. Initially, I found it rather directionless, just investigating the possibilities of a number of themes already well explored by various other soul outfits. And as a concept album, it failed to jell into anything obviously substantial. Repeated listenings, due to the exceptionally high musicianship, arrangements and production throughout the recording, have changed my mind considerably. My first assumption that they were revisiting familiar themes was correct, but what missed was that they were taking them further and out of the confines of their original presentation. Finally, however, was completely won over by the basic funkiness of the project, even though it's a difficult disc to come to terms with immediately. The rewards, nevertheless, are abundant for those who persevere.

Denis Lemon

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## A & B Club Founder Dies

LONDON: Stan Cowley, secretary of the A & B Club for 22 years, died last month of cancer. He was 55.

Stan tormented the club at 27 Wardour Street in 1952. Initial membership was 100, the legal minimum for forming a members' club. Membership cost 10 shillings. Today the club has 4000 members.

Stan was best known for his wit and his extraordinary talents as a mimic. Members recall that if someone worthy of impersonation entered the club, Stan would have their accent and character off in about 10 minutes.

It was Stan who introduced the 35p bar and snack price which remains the same today. For 35p a member can have a double measure "with as much as you can throw in it" plus refreshments provided at the bar.

Although the club membership today seems high, the present management said the A & B has about 1000 regulars and you won't find it uncomfortably crowded.

Membership at the club—still at 27 Wardour Street—costs £1.

A & B, by the way, stands for Arts and Battledress.

## Gay Psychiatric In Disarray

NEW YORK CITY: For the first time in the 129-year history of the American Psychiatric Association, the 21,000 members will vote this month on whether to reverse a Board of Trustees' ruling. The APA Convention voted last December to cease classification of homosexuality as a "mental disorder."

But New York psychiatrist Charles Socarides, who circulated the petition demanding a referendum, calls the December Convention vote "the medical hoax of the century. It is flying in the face of the one fact we know, which is that male and female are programmed to mate with the opposite sex, and this is the story of 2½ billion years of evolution and any society that hopes to survive."

Psychoanalyst Robert Spitzer, author of the board's position paper on homosexuality, said the new definition removed "one of the justifications for the denial of civil rights to individuals whose only crime is that their sexual orientation is to members of the same sex."

The December ruling came after intense lobbying by gay groups representing the 11 million homosexual Americans. The National Gay Task Force called the decision an "instant cure." The Trustees declared the mental-disorder designation inappropriate because gay people function effectively in society.

## Advertiser Boycotts Gays

ANDOVER: The inappropriately named north Hampshire newspaper "Andover Advertiser" has renewed its refusal to accept advertisements on behalf of gay counselling and befriending organisations.

Both the Campaign for Homosexual Equality and the recently-formed Solent FRIEND group are anxious to ensure that gays living outside the large southern cities are fully aware of the services open to them.

Gay News contacted Mr F H Holmes, managing director of Holmes and Sons Printers Ltd, who are the publishers of the weekly paper, and asked why the two-year boycott was being extended.

Mr Holmes re-affirmed the decision not to "accept for publication in any form advertisements relating to homosexuality," but refused to be drawn further.

When GN pointed out to him that the advertisements were completely innocuous and were aimed at lonely, troubled people suffering from mental or emotional distress, Mr Holmes remained unmoved.

"I'm sympathetic to homosexuals," he apologised, "but they are sick people after all." While agreeing to differ with Mr Holmes on his biased and unqualified medical interpretation of homosexuality, it was obvious he was determined to keep his prejudices in disguise. When it was put to him that his ban appeared to have a moral rather than rational basis he was obviously irritated and not quite sure if he was standing on his head or his heels. He made it quite clear that the decision was a personal one and his answer was final.

A spokesman for London and Southern Counties Ltd, the advertising consortium responsible for much of the Advertiser's business, did not put up a verbal smoke-screen, and was quite explicit. "We do not have any policy regarding the acceptance of local advertising by newspapers with whom we have a business association," he said.

"They are completely autonomous, and it is for them to decide whether they consider it appropriate to carry or decline any advertisement. We naturally would hope that any such decision was made on a purely business basis."

Mr Holmes is thus exposed as enforcing his own prejudicial policy. The Andover Advertiser does not intend to advertise anything which Mr Holmes in his role of self-appointed custodian of public morals considers unsuitable, even if it is not offensive or obscene, but simply humanitarian. The first principle of a free press has clearly been violated.

R J Thomson

## Lobby Continues Against Code

SACRAMENTO: Hearings continue at the California capital here on a proposed reform to the state penal code. About 20 gay witnesses appeared at the first hearing last month to lobby against the legislation.

"Offences Against Sexual Morality, Public Decency and the Family" is the title of the restrictive sex section. This proposed reform would establish for the first time in California that homosexuality would be a fifth-degree felony, while adult consensual sex in private would be legal for heterosexuals only. This section was attacked by the gay lobby. Forty other people complained about other aspects of the reform bill, which has been ten years in the making. The penal code was first adopted 102 years ago.

Anyway, fifth-degree penalties prescribe up to five years in gaol and up to around £2,000 fine, although the law would permit the charge to be reduced to a misdemeanor which more than halves the penalty.

The proposed reform extends present restrictions against oral and anal copulation to include oral contact with the scrotum and anus.

The only person who spoke in favour of the proposal was its author, Senator Don Grunsky, whose attitude is crystal clear: "God created us to be heterosexual. I am a humanitarian and homosexuality is anti-humanity. The Bible doesn't say 'Adam and Bruce' because then we would not be here today."

Among the other witnesses was Dr Walter Barnett, University of California law professor and author of *Sexual Freedom and the Constitution*. He said, before the hearing, "This is a golden opportunity. It could be 20 years before we get another chance like this. Gay rights have never been achieved on the criminal level anywhere except as part of a massive overhaul. This is the ideal time for reform because the whole California code has been rewritten from scratch."

Some witnesses argued that although most American states prohibit gayness, they don't by any means stop it.

Hearing Committee Chairman Alan Sieroty questioned attorneys for professional associations of law enforcement officers before they testified. At one point he told Richard Iglehart of Alameda County and Harry Sondheim of Los Angeles County that if they want to save citizens' money, they should begin to consider support of consensual sex legislation and an end to the expense of arresting and trying to prosecute sex offenses.

## Gay Border On TV

CUMBRIA: After months of haggling, Border Television have at last agreed to put out a late night item on gay equality. The programme will be recorded on Monday April 29th and will probably go out at 10.30pm the same evening—without previous announcement in TV Times. There will be a hostile Church of Scotland minister, a 'neutral' doctor and a speaker representing Campaign for Homosexual Equality and Scottish Minorities Group—who this will be is not finalised at the time of going to press.

The Cumbria Group begs all gays in the Border TV reception area to watch this programme and to react by writing in to the producer of Border Month, Border Television Centre, Carlisle or by ringing him and the Duty Officer on Carlisle 25101. However it turns out, we want the television people to know there is a reaction from our side. Mary and her friends have been consulted about the programme—so please don't leave all the reacting to them.

Richard Webster

## A Hole Load Of Indecency

BIRMINGHAM: Police are "keeping a close watch" on the cottage at Wilton Road, Erdington, write a GN correspondent. This is hardly surprising, since it's directly opposite the police station.

The cottage has three cubicles, two of which are 'connected' by a foot-square hole, which Birmingham Corporation Public Works Department seems to studiously ignore.

Two men appeared recently at magistrates court. They were charged with gross indecency via the hole. One of the men testified that a plain-clothes detective gave him 1p so he could enter one of the cubicles. Then the policeman went into the "unconnected" cubicle and peered over the wall to watch.

The magistrates didn't bat an eyelid on hearing that ratepayers had unwittingly spent a penny in order to accommodate the offence.

The men were fined £20 each, fingerprinted and photographed.

## Bye Bye Darling

NEW YORK: The last blonde-blonde of the silver screen is dead. Candy Darling has died in a New York hospital from cancer of the colon.

Queen of New York TVs, Candy Darling was immortalised by Lou Reed in 'Walk on the Wild Side'. She was also associated with Andy Warhol, appearing in 'Women In Revolt' and collecting specimens for inclusion in Warhol's Interview magazine.

## Gay Switchboard Opens

BELFAST: The Gay Liberation Society here launched a switchboard at Queen's University on April 8. The number is 0232-24803, extension 7. The switchboard is open from 1-2pm Monday through Friday.

GLS said the switchboard would be staffed by volunteers of both sexes, homosexuals and bisexuals. The switchboard "is intended for those whose main difficulty is one of social and sexual isolation and consequent loneliness. Persons with legal or emotional problems beyond our capabilities will be referred to appropriate organisations with whom we are in liaison," GLS said in a statement.

The two-year-old GLS has branches in Coleraine and Londonderry. Other gay groups in Northern Ireland include the All-Friends Social Committee, the Sexual Reform Movement, Sappho, and CHE. GLS said there are at least 70,000 gay people in the north.

The new switchboard will ultimately be unnecessary, according to GLS. "The invisibility of our status will end by coming-out first to oneself, then to other gays, and lastly to the rest of society. At such a time society will no longer be able to consider our sexual orientation as out of the ordinary."

## 'Chemical Castration'

### For Sex Crime

MIAMI: Judge Alfonso Sepe said his intention in sentencing male sex offenders to 'chemical castration' was to reduce the likelihood of continued offences by lowering the sex drives of the defendants.

One case has been documented so far. Sepe has reportedly ordered the experimental treatment for at least three others. They were committed to a programme of regular injections with the artificial female hormone drug Depo-provera.

The "work" was done by a "family clinic" here that has been associated in the past with a foundation which specialises in sex-change counselling.

According to a report in a local newspaper, the one confirmed judicial referral to the clinic was convicted of sexual assault on his 14-year-old stepdaughter. The conviction by Sepe resulted in injections paid for at around £4 a shot by Florida welfare money. The subject was an indigent named Frank Ramirez.

The judge is said to have told the local paper that the clinic delayed treatment of other offenders because of difficulty in getting the drug. The drug has yet to be approved by the government for experimental use, according to reports.

The American Civil Liberties Union is investigating the matter, as well as the increasing use of behaviour modification drug programmes and other "control" techniques applied to prisoners and patients in mental institutions. Federal government attorneys said experimental work using Depo-provera without prior approval could lead to criminal charges, as well as malpractice suits against a physician.

## Call To Protect Young Gays

LIVERPOOL: The deputy president of the National Union of Students told the Easter conference here that the 1967 Sexual Offences Act must be repealed because it was "invidious and Victorian."

Alistair Stewart said one aspect that justifies repeal was the persecution of young people. "We must find ways of protecting the under-age homosexual," he said.

The NUS was active in trying to involve trade unions in support of gay rights, he added, as well as the National Union of Teachers. Stewart referred to the assurance received from Ms Margaret Thatcher, former Education Secretary, that there was no discrimination against gay people who apply for teaching jobs.

He told the conference that the number of gay societies had increased from 19 a year ago to 80 today.

## SMG Meets Council

### Hall Ban

INVERNESS: The town council Baths and Halls Committee here overruled a recommended ban on the use of Rose Street Hall by the Scottish Minorities Group.

Councillor James Cameron described the recommendation as "regrettable." An SMG letter saying that the discrimination was unwarranted was read to the council. The recommendation was the first occasion, said the letter, on which SMG had experienced the refusal of a let, solely because the group were gay.

In Glasgow, they held weekly discussion in Church of Scotland premises, in Edinburgh, in the RC chaplaincy. In St Andrews, they're held in Episcopalian premises and, in Dundee, the premises belong to the local Association of Social Service.

Councillor Ms Annie Rodgers said she didn't think it right "that that sort of people" should be allowed in a public hall. The committee agreed to the let.

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