

# GAY NEWS

"A DIFFERENT JOURNEY TO THE SAME END"

N4S

15p

**MALVERN:** At this year's 750-strong annual gathering, Campaign for Homosexual Equality members stamped and cheered their wholehearted support for demands to lower the age of consent to 16.

But lowering the age of consent was only one of several sweeping changes proposed by the organisation's Law Reform Commission. Recommended reforms of nineteenth-century Irish and Scottish laws were just as enthusiastically received. And members pledged themselves to fight for the repeal of criminal laws against gays in the Armed Forces and Merchant Navy.

Only twelve months ago delegates had seemed hopelessly at odds with one another over their priorities. Many came to Malvern this year fearing that nothing would be resolved and that law reform would be shelved for another year.

"But as it turned out," said one member of the law commission, "everyone was determined to get agreement and to work bloody hard to get it."

CHE's Executive Committee now has to get a reform bill drafted in proper legal form so that the political battle can start in earnest. Entering into the spirit of the rally, the EC deleted the clause asking them to prepare the bill by October 31 this year and promised conference instead to have it ready by September.

Members of the Scottish Minorities Group had been amongst those last year who had been bitterly disappointed by the law reform vote. They had seen it as a failure on the part of CHE to give practical support to the hard fight Scottish gays had been putting up. But they were delighted by the way things had gone this time. In a gesture of solidarity, it was SMG's Michael Coulson who introduced the detailed proposals to conference on behalf of the Law Reform Commission.

When conference was asked to vote on the report, there was not one single vote against it, and nobody abstained.

With this unanimous mandate, CHE Chairman Michael Steed promised that all the proposals for immediate legislation would be included in the draft bill, and that CHE would carry out a fierce and determined campaign on the basis of the bill.

He pointed out that in introducing any bill into Parliament it was often necessary to make changes here and there in the light of negotiations with sponsoring MPs and other interested groups. But he drew thunderous applause from delegates when he said that the case for law reform in Ireland would be pressed as far as constitutionally possible, and that there could be no compromise whatsoever over demands for Scottish reform and consent at 16.

"We will never support the age of 18," he promised. "Neither will we accept dirty deals in the middle of the campaign." These particular demands were simply not matters for negotiation.

For details of the proposals, see story page 5 - *New Sex Laws*.

Malvern  
Conference  
May 24 - 27

# EQUAL MEANS SIXTEEN



"We Shall Overcome" - 700 voices proclaim their determination in song, led by Chairperson Michael Steed (above left), an emotional end to an unforgettable four days.

# GAY NEWS

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## A new pride

The unity of purpose and intensity of emotion demonstrated by Campaign for Homosexual Equality members at Malvern was strong enough to move mountains.

What emerged from this extraordinary conference may yet turn out to be a new and positive direction for gay politics in this country. And if this is so, it hasn't happened a moment too soon.

CHE in the past has had the organisational capacity to initiate change. Its work in the education field cannot be lightly dismissed. But it has appeared to lack the fierce determination needed to change radically the situation of gays in the UK. This determination it now has, as delegates showed time and time again at Malvern over the bank-holiday weekend.

A number of incidents indicate the change that has come over the organisation.

First, there was no sign of the timidity which members had once shown about asking for an age of consent of 16. "Equal means 16, so 16 is what we are demanding"—and nobody asked whether it might not be 'more politic' to ask for an age of 18.

Second, the proposals for setting up a group of public activists went through without opposition. Women and men will be out in front, openly fighting for the furtherance of CHE's aims. This sort of scheme would have had an oceanful of cold water poured over it a couple of years ago when CHE was terrified of upsetting anybody.

Third, there seemed to be a real determination to encourage women to join the ranks of CHE—but even more significantly there was a clear recognition, voiced by speaker after speaker, that gay women were doubly oppressed—as women, and as gays—and that CHE must listen carefully to women's demands, just as it expected society to listen to its own.

Fourth, the conference greeted a comparatively radical, 'gay liberationist' speech from their Norwegian guest Kim Friele with what can only be described as ecstatic enthusiasm, according her two standing ovations.

Fifth, Dr Martin Cole received quite a rough ride when he went on at length about the 'causes' of homosexuality. Criticism was initiated by a GLF contingent who attended conference (an encouraging sign in itself that there is room for cooperation between different organisations), but CHE members were quick to join in the debate themselves. "We are not here to talk about causes," they said. "First, there is no agreement on what causes homosexuality—or what causes heterosexuality for that matter—and your comments are pure speculation. Second, causes are of no interest to us. We are homosexuals, and if that is a problem to anyone it is a problem to heterosexuals who can't accept us; we demand that society recognises that simple statement."

These are but five examples of what appears to be a new spirit in CHE. The organisation seems to have found a self-confidence that it has never had before, advancing demands whose justice is undeniable. And perhaps even more significantly, members themselves appear to have found a greater degree of individual self-confidence, a belief in themselves as human beings, and as homosexuals. The 'Glad To Be Gay' buttons really seemed to mean what they said.

Will the mood last? Certainly the solidarity of the meeting must have given many people the strength to leave Malvern ready for the fight to come. The organisation's determination will be put to the test when it opens its law reform campaign—but given the experience of Malvern anything is possible.

## Exploitation

A word of advice to CHE, if we may. You have before you a set of proposals on law reform which you can be proud of. They are the direct result of long hours of hard work on your part, and they have the unequalled blessing of your conference. In short, they are a valuable asset.

So now go out and exploit them—milk them of their last drop of campaigning and publicity value. And start today.

Drafting will start shortly. But when drafting is complete this September, there must be clear plans for the public launch of the Bill, and the earlier you start working on that side, the better.

By starting early you can start ambitiously, cutting your plans back later if necessary. But at this stage you can afford to ask how much it costs to hire the Albert Hall, you can write to John Lennon asking him to re-form the Beatles for a one-night stand on publication day, and you still have time to look for money to enable you to take a full-page advertisement in each and every national newspaper.

A small group of people can achieve wonders if they are given enough time. CHE is fortunate in having a number of people with the wit and imagination to make a huge success of the launch.

But if politicians find a copy of your Bill slipped quietly on to their desks, and nobody outside their cosy little offices seems to be paying any attention to it—the press remains silent, the public is totally ignorant, the churches are too busy getting ready for Christmas—then you will have thrown away a great deal of hard work and dedication.

The law as it stands is an outrageous affront to every last homosexual in this country. There is not one single proposal in your law reform demands that cannot be justified right down to its last syllable. So don't keep it to yourselves. There is still plenty of time to prepare yourselves—but tomorrow there will be less time, even less the day after...

## 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 letter as short as possible (200 words maximum). 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.*

### 'Out of the closet'

Doncaster

Dear Gay News,

Regarding the letter from 'RAF Officer' in GN47 I was in his situation for ten years from leaving school until I got fed up with lying and living a double life so I told my CO. As I was in a high security job a fairly dramatic investigation followed, but overall the RAF was quite mature over the situation.

Since then I have been happy for the first time in my life and I remember my life in the closet with many shudders. One of the reasons my name has gone forward for the Executive Committee of CHE elections is that I think we should attack the attitudes of the Forces and Merchant Navy on gayness.

The big difference between 'RAF Officer' and myself is that I can sign my name openly.

John Bennett

### 'Science of God'

York

Dear Gay News,

I can sympathise with Rictor Norton (GN47, 'Other Angels') in wanting to remind us once again of the "officially stated anti-gay attitudes of the Christian Church" and would willingly join him in exposing and condemning them. But I take him to task when he says that "anti-gayness is practically one of Christianity's theological tenets." This doesn't make much sense. Theology is the "Science of God" and, for Christians, the study of His revealed religious truths. The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church succinctly describes its purpose as "the investigation of the contents of belief by means of reason enlightened by faith."

The majority of GN readers are probably non-Christians and I hope that they will indeed have other angels to take them to another paradise. And they will most likely think that a discussion on "what is essentially part of Christian faith and what is not" to be of no real significance. It is however of very great importance to the minority who are believing Christians.

Fabian Cowper

### Refreshing change

54 Tetley Drive  
Birkenhead BD11 2NB

Dear Gay News,

In view of the number of cases you have to report of local newspapers refusing FRIEND adverts, I thought you would probably like to give a bit of space to reporting a paper which has done the opposite.

The Bradford branch has no connection with any personnel on our local paper. However, when we phoned in an advert for a FRIEND phone answering service the reply was that they couldn't accept it over the phone because they had to have some assurance of our bona fide in offering such a service. Very sensible. So we wrote the advert in on headed paper and gave a couple of names as referees. That was it. A few days later the advert appeared and has appeared again since with no further questions asked.

They didn't check with our referees, so they used their own knowledge and resources to check us. We have been able to help several people with the safe anonymity of the phone to give them confidence. One last point, the first world of our advert is "homosexual."

David Green  
FRIEND Organiser  
Bradford branch

### All given the same label

Newport, Mon

Dear Gay News,

I am sorry to bring up a subject already well-worn, but wondered if anyone else shares my opinions about cottaging.

The general public, reading their evening newspapers, are perhaps more familiar with this aspect of gay activity than any other. The resultant damage this does to our credibility as ordinary and contributing members of society must be considerable. If those who engage in this activity were the only people affected by it, this would not matter to us as a whole. However, we all know that this is simply not the case. We are all given the same general label—"obnoxious".

I will agree that in some areas where there is no established gay community there may be some excuse, as there is for those who have difficulty in adjusting, and prefer the secretive nature of cottaging. In many areas, on the other hand, there are ample facilities provided, but still this activity persists.

What can we do as a body and as individuals to help alleviate this problem? Collectively, through the various gay organisations, we can discourage others and disassociate ourselves from any connection with cottaging, and personally ensure that we avoid any activity along these offensive lines. This may sound easy to say but difficult to bring about. I agree, but we have nothing to lose by trying.

Christie Howell-Everett

### Homophobic violence

8, Little East Street  
Brighton BN1 1HT

Dear Gay News,

I would like to submit for *Gay News* an account of an incident which happened after a meeting of the Brighton Women's Liberation group last Tuesday (May 21). As there has been no general meeting since, those involved have been undecided on what action to take further than asking for support from other left-wing users of the pub concerned.

Brighton Women's Liberation group rent an upstairs room in the Prince George, Trafalgar Street, Brighton, for meetings. Just before closing time on Tuesday 21st, after an emotionally strenuous meeting, a lesbian member of the group was physically thrown out of the pub for upholding her right to put her arm round another lesbian member. The door was blocked by bar staff as other members tried to reach her, and a lesbian was involved in a violent fight while egged on by insults from the bar staff. When it was pointed out by a heterosexual woman that these were women who were being hurt and insulted she was told that they "were not women" but "were things—man woman, whatever," and the bar staff implied that in consequence they felt no guilt for their treatment of the women.

The self-styled "real men" (to quote one) of the bar also found an object for their self-righteous aggression in a bisexual man who was also present, goading him with traditional insults to his 'virility' which fortunately did not drive him to the violence that they would only too gladly have retaliated in force.

Outside the pub the group gathered round the lesbians, while a decision was made by those present to stop hiring the room for meetings in protest, and attention was drawn to the need to give solidarity to the women, particularly as the landlord had shown masked hostility to the whole Women's Liberation group before and could have been employing divisive tactics in view of nationwide tensions over homosexuality in women's groups. It was agreed that the attack should be borne by the whole group of us, many of whom had been hugging and holding hands after the meeting.

Approaches to the local evening paper did not seem advisable, as reaction could easily favour the landlord, among Brighton readers. However, two left-wing groups who also use the upper room in the pub have backed it in support of the treatment of the Women's Group. While a publican has the ultimate right to decide to refuse to serve customers, no prejudice, apart from racial prejudice, on his part, can yet be fought unless there is sufficient solidarity to prove the unadvisability of his adopting such practices as happened this week.

Di and Jethro Williams

PS: For further information if required, contact this address, or Sandy and Mo, Brighton 776868—lesbians, or Jan, the secretary of Brighton Women's Lib, at Shoreham 81680.

### Gay separatism

80, Mayes Road  
Wood Green  
London N22 6SY

Dear Gay News,

After realising that 'The Phoenix of Sodom' (by Rictor Norton, GN47) was not written 'tongue-in-cheek', we felt compelled to protest against the direction in which the whole gay movement seems to be moving. It appears to us that if the words heterosexual (straight) and homosexual (gay) were to be consistently interchanged throughout the article, then the document would become the epitome of the very kind of blind prejudice and bigotry that gay activists are apparently out to destroy. For example, how would GLF, CHE, et al, react to chants of "Straight is good! Straight is great! Straight is twice as good as gay!"?

Mr Norton's article, and indeed the whole tone of GN47, has only served to finally convince us that the gay movement is working towards the wrong ends. Activists (whatever their particular 'beef' with society at large) should be striving for a world in which people are seen as people first, and the fact that they are black, Jewish, vegetarian, bisexual, homosexual or whatever should be purely secondary, if not incidental.

Clearly harsh victimisation does exist against many minority groups, but surely separatism is not the best way to achieve liberation. We are both bisexual, but we refuse to be categorised solely on the basis of our sexuality. To describe a person a 'gay', 'bi' or 'het' is discrimination in itself. Neither gayness, bisexuality, nor heterosexuality is a way of life in itself. Encouraging gays to create a separate faction only serves to promote divisions within our society.

For such reasons, and many more that cannot be expanded here, we feel that the 'gay scene' has little to offer us as individuals, but we do hope to see a more free-thinking movement evolving which will embrace all facets of human experience and compassion. To this end, we hope you will publish this letter, along with our address, in the hope that like-minded people and critics may contact us.

David Loveridge  
Josephine Gilbert

### Discourteous treatment

Knightsbridge  
London SW1

Dear Gay News,

In two or three recent issues of your splendid publication, which I have taken regularly since it first started, I wrote to some box numbers and enclosed photographs



Illustration: Garry Cobb

as requested, and in one case a stamped addressed envelope for its return. I have not received one photograph back or even the decency of a reply when in all cases the words ALA were added to the ad.

I suspect that I am not the only one that has received this treatment, and if there are others, then I am sure they feel the same as myself—eventually when one reads an advert that appeals to them it means that they're not to be very keen on sending more photographs, which cost money. The Personal Column is going to be treated with a lot of mistrust, thereby damaging the fact that there are probably genuine advertisers who will answer all letters or return the photographs if they're not interested.

Please do not get the idea that I am a bitchy old queen. I'm a bit disappointed, yes, but this is the chance one takes in these adverts, and if one doesn't get a reply, well, that's life. The only complaint I have is that is someone is not interested in the letter or person, it would at least be a common decency to return the photograph so at least it could be sent to another advertiser without having to lay out cash for more photographs.

Charles G Brown

### 'Been through hell'

Dear Gay News,

Are we now experiencing a programme for HM Police Force—Public Relations Department? I had, due to apathy, allowed the letter 'Biased and Unconstructive Sarcasm' in GN46 to go unchallenged, as I was sure somebody would deal with it appropriately, but seeing it supported by yet another letter in GN47 ('PC Sees Both Sides'), I decided enough is enough. During the past 1½ years I have been through hell.

My friend was so haunted by the gentlemen in blue that his final escape was made over Westminster Bridge. Since then my 'relief' has been alcohol, which has resulted in two contacts with the said Force. On both occasions I had a copy of *Gay News*, which incidentally was not mentioned or returned.

Would either of the noble characters who have written to your paper kindly explain why I was perfectly all right (admittedly having consumed a considerable amount of alcohol) when I was taken into 'protective custody', but ended up with severe laceration of my scalp, a fractured tip of my finger, bruises (of a nature and extent which appalled my doctor), called a "filthy queer", blood-saturated clothing, buttons ripped off my shirt, not allowed a solicitor and made to stand for four hours in a cell. Even the chair was removed and my shoes torn off without untying the laces. I got an absolute discharge in court.

I am only one person 5ft 5ins, there were several of them, sometimes together, sometimes alone. I normally drink at home alone, rarely going out. I am quite sure I am not an isolated case, or was not unlucky just to meet the 'few' who would, and much better if they had, burnt me at the stake.

Please do not publish my name or address, as I feel after what I have been through that they are capable of doing anything.

### Completely shattered 'Clique Mentality'

Kings Cross, WC1

Dear Gay News,

After a prolonged absence from the gay scene, I recently decided to try out some of the discos recommended in the *Gay News* 'Guide'.

Just for the record, I'm 24, with average good looks, longish hair, and, generally, a very cheerful sort of person.

I went to four pubs within the space of ten days, visiting two of them twice.

I've got a job that for one reason or another, has prevented me from having much gay social life, and so, as a consequence, I've no gay mates to go out with to these pubs.

No one in any of the places I went to, spoke to me. Literally no one. All the attempts I made to start conversation were either ignored or drowned out in a flood of camp. Everywhere I went, was full of 'in-crowd' cliques that seemed totally obsessed with their own goings-on.

I've tried every way that's possible since then, to understand that sort of behaviour—that it is as difficult to welcome a stranger as to be one, etc—but it just won't hold. Being gay brings enough problems without having to suffer from the quite vicious clique mentality that seems to pervade so many gay pubs and discos.

Perhaps some of the patrons of the Hornsey Wood Tavern, Kings Arms, Ship & Whale and the Father Redcap, would like to defend their attitudes to an outsider?

As it is, a week or so of going round those places has left me wanting to reach for the aspirin. How's that for camp?

Alan Bernard

# Don't ask ~ demand!

## The theme of Malvern

The most rousing and uplifting address of the CHE conference was given by Kim Friele, whose simple message was—don't ask for law reform, go out and demand it. "You can get your law abolished if you scream loud enough," she told delegates.

Kim, who comes from Norway and took part in the successful campaign for changes in the law over there, is General Secretary of the Norwegian homophile organisation, Det Norske Forbundet.

She explained that the law in Norway a couple of years ago had been the same as it is in Scotland and Northern Ireland today—sexual intercourse being totally illegal between two men. The situation for women was different however—there was no law relating to them, because the ideas of Queen Victoria were thought to be true, that women had no sexual feelings! "You might think she was a man!" said Kim.

Now the law had been abolished and the age of consent for everyone was 16.

Delegates attending the closing speech of the conference were delighted with Kim's comments on 'the problem of homosexuality'—"It is not 'the homosexual problem'," she stated categorically, "Homophobia is the problem—out there," (pointing to the door of the hall).

The only reason gays talk about the 'causes' of homosexuality, she said, was because society felt that gayness was 'a little less normal' than heterosexuality. This attitude she deplored.

She also urged people to stop talking about 'curing' homosexuality. "We have abandoned psychiatrists in Norway—we don't want anything to do with them. The only expert on homosexuality is the homosexual."

Moving on to the question of tolerance, Kim called it disgusting. "If there were no discrimination, there would be no need for 'tolerance'," she said. "I will have none of that tolerance. I won't be accepted in spite of being a lesbian."



Although Norway's law had been changed, until general attitudes dropped the idea that homosexuality was a little less normal than heterosexuality then "they can do what they like to us," she said.

"We've got to change attitudes. I will not integrate—I want to live on my own terms."

Kim's comments on sex education relating to the homosexual were received with applause by the gathering. She stated that members of her organisation had taken over this important field in Norway. "We must educate the children. We have put people out of work and are now teaching on this."

One warning she gave to members was that they should not spend too much effort fighting each other. "You can get your law changed," she assured them.

After wishing CHE members the best of

luck with their campaign and urging them to keep in contact with Norway, the entire company stood to applaud Kim Friele and show that she had captured their hearts and imagination.

A gift of a pair of candlesticks was presented by Kim on behalf of the Norwegian association to Wallace Grevatt, conference organiser and member of the Executive Committee.

Stirring advice was also given the conference by Ruth Addison, recently re-elected chairman of the National League of Young Liberals. She urged members to take on society "head on." "We are looking for revolution—let's go forward together for success."

Ruth, the opening speaker at the conference, felt that it was not just important to

get law reform on the age of consent but considerable social changes as well. Liberals were asking whether an age of consent wasn't "a rather large sledgehammer to crack a large number of small nuts."

This society, Ruth added, operated very much on the family system. "If you deviate they find difficulty in dealing with you."

"If we want to have a society in which we can live as we wish, then we will have to get our representatives to make the appropriate political pressure—therefore it is very important to seek political allies."

One thing to avoid however, Ruth continued, was to go into the fight as token homosexuals (just as there were token women and token blacks). "You have to go into the political movement to change attitudes."

Another area where CHE could help in particular was in educating young people. The young Liberals had a large school membership, Ruth said, and she had carried out research on the sex education given in schools. "Not one gives information about homosexuality—young people are growing up ignorant about sex."

Another plea to go out and fight was made by Al Stewart, Deputy President of the National Union of Students. He told the conference, when giving his report, that it was not necessary to wait for the right time for law changes. "We didn't get increased grants by waiting."

His union would give every support to this fight, he continued. It was ridiculous that because of outdated legislation one could be interred in Northern Ireland both for bombing people and for loving them.

"The NUS wants to give a particular commitment on law reform," Al stated. This was because the average age of the union's membership was under 21. "I want them to come out and fight for this."

He felt that CHE and NUS should "join hands" on the issue. "Let's make 1974 the year for law reform."

## CHE sack Vice-President

Michael de la Noy, an Honorary Vice-President of Campaign for Homosexual Equality, caused an angry storm amongst delegates by releasing an advance of his speech to the press.

Mr de la Noy, who had been invited to open conference and introduce Ruth Addison from the Young Liberals, took the opportunity to criticise the report of the working party on law reform.

"You will see," he said, "that on the one hand the working party seem to be saying in their report that 16 should now be the age of homosexual consent . . . but they suggest that between the ages of 12 and 16 there should exist 'a rebuttable presumption that consent was not present'. This, if I may say so, is merely legal verbiage, and I think delegates need to be absolutely clear that what such a proposal would in effect create would be an age of consent of 12."

Such a suggestion would never reach the statute books, he believed. "To antagonise Parliament by insulting the intelligence of its members is seldom the best way of getting it to do what you want."

Members of the working party were furious at what they claimed were deliberate misrepresentations of their report. "This proposal," said one, "was intended to leave the courts with reasonable discretion. At present, a 21-year-old who has a 20-year-old lover of five years' standing could be convicted of a criminal offence if they sleep together. We want to avoid this situation when the age of consent is lowered." He went on to criticise Michael de la Noy's statement that the proposal would mean preferential treatment for male homosexuals. "It just goes to show how much attention he paid to what we wrote in our report. Our proposals are about the age of consent for all sexual activity whether heterosexual or homosexual, and we talk about 'young persons', not 'young homosexuals'. We are after all a campaign for equality."

But it was not just members of the working party who resented the release of the speech. An emergency motion was presented by Babs Todd, seconded by John Saxby, and supported by eleven others. The motion, as amended later, read:

"That conference notes that a press release was issued by Michael de la Noy, a Vice-President of CHE, making inaccurate statements and airing his personal views on informal proposals for Law Reform, which were prepared for discussion at this conference.

"It notes that this release was circulated to the press without consulting or notifying



Michael de la Noy: controversial speech

any appropriate CHE officers.

"It apologises to Ms Ruth Addison, whom Mr de la Noy had been invited to introduce, for the insulting way in which her address was pre-empted. Conference censures these actions of Mr de la Noy and calls on the Executive Committee to remove his name from the list of Vice-Presidents."

In the debate that followed, Harold Pollard (another Vice-President) told members, "We are not denying him the right to criticise. What we are saying is 'We think you have been improper in the way you did it'." Derek Johnson urged conference to keep the matter in proportion. "One Peter Katin is worth one thousand Michael de la Noy's."

When put to conference, only four out of 750 delegates voted against the motion.

Michael de la Noy has hit back fiercely. He told *Gay News* "I regard that motion as an outrageous insult to a Vice-President who has never done anything but try and further the aims of CHE. I totally repudiate any suggestion that I have insulted anyone." As to his not having consulted or notified any CHE officers before issuing his speech to the press, he said "I don't have to ask anyone's permission."

### CHELIC/Switchboard statement

Suggestions of rivalry between Gay Switchboard and CHE's London Information Centre (CHELIC) were squashed by a joint statement put out over the signatures of Griffith Vaughan-Williams, CHELIC chairperson, and Tim Perrot, chairperson of Switchboard.

They pointed out that they were not in competition. One service provided information about the activities of CHE in London and the rest of the country, as well as acting as a social centre, whilst the other provided a more general service giving information about pubs, clubs, meetings of every type, and sources of various sorts of help—medical, legal and so on.

Gays needed both of them. But neither of them could be of any use without a constant flow of information from the gay community.

## Public reaction

Although one local councillor deliberately boycotted the civic reception given in the Winter Gardens, Malvern, at the start of the CHE conference on Friday evening, support from other councillors and council officials was excellent. A quarter of the council was present, together with permanent council officials including the chief planning officer.

The Chairperson of Malvern Hills District Council, John Arnott, thought that the response was good considering that many councillors had left that evening for an early start to their bank holiday.

The absent councillor in question, Derek Baddeley, had objected, prior to the reception, to the £300 which was to be spent on the evening. He felt the fact that the reception was to be at the ratepayers' expense indicated that Malvern condoned "this particular organisation." He stated at an earlier meeting of the council that this was totally wrong.

But chairman of the Amenities Committee, Ron Holland, disagreed. His committee had read CHE's conference programme and had thought it "enlightened and showing a genuine attempt to sort out a social problem of our times."

Coverage in the local evening newspaper was certainly coloured—their headline to the conference story being 'Homosexuals given cool reception.' They described the considerable number of councillors present as a "handful" and accused absent members of having made excuses for not attending.

A disheartening feature of the conference was the almost total lack of support from townspeople at the public meeting held on Sunday evening. *Gay News* reporters found one couple in the crowd who were residents. The other new faces, however, included a holidaying social worker and his wife and some other tourists.

The meeting was addressed by Dr Martin Cole, known for his sex education film 'Growing Up'; Rose Robertson, who founded Parents' Enquiry; Nigel Goodwin, who runs an arts workshop in London and has appeared on Festival of Light platforms; and gay schoolteacher, David Bell.

Dr Cole was the object of strong criticism and questioning from the body of the hall, especially critical being the contingent of GLF members in the front row.

After excusing himself for being heterosexual and possibly patronising because of this, he gave his ideas on the causes of a person's sexuality.

He put forward the theory that there were two types of homosexual—those with hormonal imbalance and those who had been

reared by members of the opposite sex in early life. This brought an ironic enquiry from a member of the audience as to whether being teased by a member of his own sex had caused Dr Cole's heterosexuality.

Dr Cole urged those present to bring pressure to bear on politicians, as their future in this society would be influenced by political action. "I think your future will be very exciting and rewarding," he concluded.

Nigel Goodwin's message to the assembly was one of love and he illustrated his point with two poems. His largely irrelevant remarks were received rather coldly by the assembly.

This was certainly not the case for Rose Robertson, who received a standing ovation for her words on Parents' Enquiry. The tumultuous applause indicated the love CHE members have for this woman and her organisation. The warmth and generosity of the gathering was further endorsed by the collection for PE taken at the meeting which realised £86. Collections later in the conference brought this to around £120.

In his address, David Bell charged people in the public eye who were afraid to come out with "moral cowardice." He mentioned one figure in the pop world in particular, and this brought the crowded hall's approval.

Jackie Forster was chairperson for the evening introducing and thanking the speakers, and Gideon Wagner sang the song he had composed especially for the conference.

The evening ended jubilantly when Rose Robertson said: "Thank you and I love you all."



Rose Robertson: standing ovation

## Women—we need you!

The message that emerged clearly from CHE at its conference was that the men were ready to fight to keep the women members.

With Angela Needham of Bath Gay Awareness and Bath CHE in the chair, delegates were asked to approve a substantial allocation from the CHE advertising budget to be set aside for women-only advertisements. They were also asked to continue the women's campaign, and to recommend the setting up of separate women's groups in place of the mixed men/women groups that operate at present.

Liz Stanley, CHE's women's organiser, told the meeting that she and Glenys Parry were committed to men and women working together, but they had come across problems with the women's campaign.

First, there had been problems of communication between the Executive Committee and local groups. This wasn't a new problem, she said, it had cropped up in other CHE activities. But she pointed out that it was a problem both ways. If local groups felt they were not getting enough information from EC, she felt equally that information was not being given enough by the local groups. There had been occasions when she had written to groups for information and had received no reply whatsoever.

Secondly she wanted to see the women's campaign pursued more actively. The CHE Activists were being asked to help in a big way with this campaign in the future.

And finally women needed more money, particularly for advertising. An advertisement that called on men and women to join CHE usually provoked a response only from men, so women-only advertisements were essential if CHE meant business.

Glenys Parry wanted the meeting to adopt a radical line. "It's time CHE took women seriously," she said, and warned that it was in danger of falling prey to tokenism. The activists at least were prepared to take a stand for feminist principles.

The motion which was agreed by the gathering resolved that the "women's campaign must continue for as long as women fail to join CHE in reasonable numbers, and should be a particular concern of CHE Activists. It further recommends that CHE's advertising policy should be reviewed to include a significant proportion of advertising for women only (50% of all advertising placed by the National Office) for the year May 1974 to May 1975."

The original motion put by the women had asked for 25% of all advertising to be devoted to women-only ads, but the figure was amended to 50% by the conference.

A further amendment asked that members



Liz Stanley: committed to CHE

"as a matter of urgent priority, should recommend the setting up of separate women's groups within the structure of CHE as being the demonstrably best way of involving women in CHE and in the process of their own liberation as shown by the experiences of the CHE Manchester Women's Group."

It was this motion that caused most of the debate. Jackie Forster said that women-only groups would be hideously divisive. CHE's women's group in Manchester was a farce and had collapsed (a statement that was vigorously denied by the group's members, who told Jackie she should come to their meetings and see) and that Sappho had been picking up the pieces.

Theresa Connay wanted separate groups. "There was a split in GLF," she said, "because women felt they were being put down. CHE is being offered the chance to avoid that split."

Other speakers told conference of the value of having women in local groups. A number of men said they needed to have women members if they were to get any insight into their special problems. Of course, women could not be expected to attend meetings if there were never more than one or two of them present in a male-dominated group. But the answer to that was to increase women's membership, not split into separatist groups. They took the point that women had extra oppression to fight against, and accepted the need for women to have separate meetings besides the mixed sex ones. So finally it was agreed that the motion should be changed to propose the setting up of separate meetings instead of separate groups.

One of the most telling speeches came when members were asked to think carefully about their attitudes to their gay sisters. "We in CHE claim the authority as homosexuals to say what homosexuals need from society, and how society needs to change to accomplish this." It would be nothing less than hypocrisy if CHE men then refused to listen to what they were told by its own women. The only people really qualified to speak about the way to end the double oppression of lesbians as women and as homosexuals were gay women themselves.

As she left the chair to hand over to the next chairperson, Angela Needham was delighted by the way the voting had gone. "I'm happy to hand over," she said, "I love you all," and she ran to the end of the platform to embrace Liz and Glenys as conference applauded.



Jackie Forster: 'hideously divisive'

## NCCL takes up gay rights

not intend to concern itself with law reform, but hopes to set up a charity which will employ people to defend gay people who During the CHE conference it was announced that the National Council for Civil Liberties had agreed to set up a gay rights committee. The convenor and chairperson of the committee is Guy Thornton.

Guy told *Gay News* later that it has been an uphill fight getting the NCCL to accept that there is a need for such a committee. Their argument has been that the council has enough work already and that the area of gay rights is adequately covered by other organisations such as CHE.

But now, after a two-and-a-half-year fight, the battle has been won. Other NCCL members who are to work on the committee are Bob Thompson, Michael Schofield, Mike Thomas and Nettie Pollard; Ike Cowen and Bernard Greaves have been co-opted onto the committee from CHE. It is also hoped that a member of leebreakers can be included.

The committee intends to work in close cooperation with CHE and hopefully cover areas of work not dealt with by the latter at present.

Tentative ideas include legal help, monitoring the press, the collation of statistics on gay convictions and aiding gay prisoners. On the legal aspect, the committee does

want to fight cases of cottaging and "gross indecency."

Another area of work will be the psychiatric field, which the council has been involved with in the past. Cases will be taken up which involve any harassment of gays into having psychiatric treatment.

Guy, who has been involved with NCCL for about five years, is convening the first full meeting of the committee at the end of June.

### Bisex workshop

A motion on bisexuality, put to conference by Andy and Val Lovie, was carried by delegates. It appealed for a workshop to be set up to investigate the situation of the bisexual within homophile associations and the implications of relating to both sexes in society as a whole.

In their report, the Lovies spoke of the no man's land that bisexuals found themselves in. This related to the fact that the gay world seemed to have a distinct norm just as heterosexual society had.

The homosexual faced hostility from heterosexual society but bisexuals also faced hostility from the gay world. They were felt to get the best of both worlds, and this was resented.

## Gay rambblers take to hills

In glorious sunshine, 200 gay rambblers mingled with bank holiday crowds as they wandered—many hand-in-hand—over the Malvern Hills on Sunday.

The ramble was just one of the numerous social events organised at Malvern for conference delegates.

The nine-mile range of hills, running north to south, is described as an area of outstanding natural beauty. It is said that fourteen counties can be seen from the summit—weather permitting though whether many CHE members actually counted them is open to debate!

Sunday afternoon was a very full one socially as well as the organised ramble, members could take time off to take part in a car rally, and play tennis, bowls or go swimming. Later there was a piano recital given by Peter Katin.

There were two football matches held over the weekend. The first was between unisexuals and bisexuals, the latter team winning, and the second match, held the next day, was for anyone at all who wanted to kick a ball around a field.

A disco/dance was held on Saturday, the live music coming from Pewkes Band. Polly Perkins also appeared during the evening, which was enjoyed by all delegates attending. The centre of the hall was crowded with happy, dancing people and cheers went up when balloons were released on the company from the ceiling.

At the stroke of midnight, a revue, given by 'What Four?', was staged in the Abbey Hotel. Members of the revue company delighted the audience with their impersonations of Marlene Dietrich, Mae West, Lena Horne, Shirley Temple, and Fred Astaire and Ginger Rodgers.

The curtain went up at the opening of the act to reveal the group—Rex, Chris, Pedro and Jeanne—deeply engrossed in the personal ads of *Gay News*.

Sketches included a condensed version of 'No, No, Nanette' and 'Cinderella'. The latter caused much hilarity, when the fairy godmother asked Cinderella for a pumpkin to turn into a fairy coach. "And what will he be able to teach me," enquired Cinders.

The well-oiled CHE machinery ensured that all social events ran smoothly. The periods of rest from conference business helped make the weekend complete.

### Media workshop

Amongst materials on show at the media commission was a dramatic display in which the works of Jean Rook (*Daily Express*) and John Field (*News of the World*) were mounted beside a rare copy of Streicher's anti-Semitic Nazi paper *Der Sturmer*. A caption over the top read "Streicher, Rook, Field—aren't they playing the same game?" A Nazi flag, captured by a young English homosexual in World War II, provided an appropriate backdrop.



The workshop met to discuss the treatment of homosexuals by newspapers, radio and television. Audio-visual materials had been assembled to encourage discussion.

There were two ways to achieve a more balanced presentation of homosexuality—subversion and protest. Both tactics could be used to effect. Conference unanimously agreed to establish good relations with the media at both local and national level through invitations to meetings and the regular supplying of information on local CHE activities. And it also agreed to seek centrally, through the public relations media group, and locally, through group activists, to counteract the biased portrayal of homosexuals by sustained protests to the media at all acts of discrimination.

A proposal came out of the workshop that a gay symposium for journalists should be held in London in the near future. All sympathetic journalists and broadcasters would be welcome whether they were gay or straight. This idea also won the approval of conference.

## International congress planned

A fringe meeting on the International Gay Scene was held on Sunday night to which speakers from five countries had been invited.

Marc Daniel, author of *Les Homosexuels*, a board member of the organisation Arcadie and a sex counsellor at the Ecole des Parents, came especially from Paris to give information on the scene in France.

Holland was represented by Ko Sterken, a member of COC, the Dutch gay organisation, while Kim Friele spoke on the Norwegian homophile organisation, Det Norske Forbundet. The guest speaker from Sweden was Helmut Kristianson.



Kim Friele: Norwegian thunder

The United States was covered by Rictor Norton, who has taught on homosexual literature and lifestyles at Florida State University and is soon to have two books published—*The Homosexual Literary Tradition* and *The Return of the Repressed*.

Linked to this meeting was the announcement made later to conference by Derek Ogg, senior president of Edinburgh University Students' Association, that an international gay congress was proposed to be held. The suggestion was received with enthusiasm by delegates.

### 'New Look CHE'—plans

Lengthy debate took place at conference on the future structure of Campaign for Homosexual Equality. One particularly controversial area discussed was a possible combined subscription scheme.

The commission set up to consider this question came back to conference with the suggestion that CHE should adopt the principle of a combined subscription scheme and instructed the Executive Committee to implement the scheme after details had been agreed at a conference of group treasurers.

The scheme means that each CHE member will pay only one sum of money, which includes her or his subscription to both national funds and her or his local group.

This idea was adopted by conference with one amendment, which ensures the scheme's flexibility. It gives the EC power to make provision for the special circumstances of individual groups and able to agree a scheme of group payment with any local group, provided no such scheme confers the rights of national membership on any person who has not paid a national subscription.

Mike Gibbard, giving the structure commission's report, explained that the commission had resolved that the organisation should broaden its social side, which would include activities such as package holidays, organised by CHE Enterprises. He looked forward to a time when every major city and town in Britain would boast a CHE club.

The suggestion from the commission that a campaigning arm—to be called CHE Activists—be set up, was approved by conference. The Activists will be members who are willing to devote their time and energy to public campaigning activities with no guarantee of confidentiality. They will be responsible to the EC and ultimately to conference.

It was agreed that a member of the EC be appointed with special responsibility for local groups. This member is to report to conference next year on the relationship between local groups and the national organisation.

**THE RAILWAY TAVERN**

**CABARET READING**

**Miss Dusty Layne**

**party sat. 15th. june**

**8pm - 1am**

**35p.**

## New sex laws

One of the major success stories of this year's Campaign for Homosexual Equality conference was the agreement reached on detailed law reform plans.

At Morecambe last year it was hoped to prepare the basis for a draft Bill. But a last-minute amendment sent the whole matter back to a working party for further consideration. Moreover, the working party was given a huge brief—to discuss and report on the whole field of the criminal law as it applied to sexual conduct, heterosexual as well as homosexual.

The working party accepted the brief, and their report referred to a wide range of topics: paedophilia, incest, the display of sexual material, privacy and nudity, the age of consent and soliciting, to name only some of them.

With this vast area before them, it seemed very unlikely that the Law Reform Commission (which was to meet at Malvern to discuss the report) would be able to come up with any hard proposals. The commission's first meeting seemed only to confirm these doubts. But the group appointed by the commission to prepare a draft report to conference worked overtime to draw up concrete recommendations. Members of that drafting group included Bernard Greaves, chairman of the working party, and his predecessor Ike Cowen, and Scottish Minorities Group representative Malcolm Crowe.

What they produced was a report that divided up the campaign into three parts—matters for immediate legislation, basic principles for more long-term reform, and items which required further study by the working party before decisions could be made on them.

### Reform details

On the last day of conference, Bruce Anderson, commission chairman, introduced the report and asked conference to agree it. Before the vote was taken, however, the contents were explained to delegates part by part.

Michael Coulson of SMG itemised the matters for immediate legislation. It was these items which would be included in CHE's draft Bill when it is published in September (GN comments in *italics*):

a) From the age of sixteen, people should be able lawfully to engage in sexual activity, whether homosexual or heterosexual, except where there are clear reasons for not permitting it on grounds other than age. (*eg where a person was forced to commit a sexual act.*)

b) It should be an offence to cause an annoyance to any other person by persis-

tently soliciting such other person for a sexual purpose in a public place, and it should be required that in any proceedings for such an offence a person should not be convicted unless it is proved that at least one member of the public (ie not a police officer) was offended by his or her conduct and had made a formal complaint, and that it should be a defence to prove that such a member of the public incited or encouraged the commission of the offence. (*The exception of police complaint is intended to prevent agent provocateur tactics.*)

c) That the words 'in private' should be given this ordinary meaning—an act is done in private when all persons present endorse or consent to it and where there is no reasonable cause to believe that it might be observed by others who might object to it.

d) The prohibition by law of homosexual acts between males applying to members of the Armed Forces and the Merchant Navy should be repealed. (The existing disciplinary codes would not be affected.)

e) Any enactment or bylaw, or any rule of common law, which prohibits any indecent or unbecoming conduct, or any conduct likely to annoy or offend others or to lead to a breach of the peace, however such conduct is described, shall not have effect so as to prohibit any conduct between persons of the same sex in circumstances where similar conduct between persons of opposite sexes would not be an offence.

f) No charge shall be brought, and no offence shall be alleged under the provisions of any other statute or rule of common law where the particulars of the offence are covered by the terms of any section of the proposed Bill. (*To prevent the courts finding ways round the new reforms.*)

g) The changes proposed should be put in force throughout the United Kingdom. (*England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland if constitutionally possible.*)

These then are the reforms which will appear in the Bill. The Executive Committee was also instructed to cooperate with the Scottish Minorities Group and the Union for Sexual Freedom in Ireland in preparing the final document.

### Future plans

In the longer-term part two of the report, presented to conference by Ike Cowen, there are a number of recommendations to be incorporated in future legislation.

First, the 'age of consent' should be replaced by an 'age of protection'. Under 'age of consent' law, anyone who engages in sex with a person under age is guilty of an offence even if the young person gave free consent. But a new principle would be introduced by the 'age of protection'. The

court would assume that an under-age person had *not* given consent, but the defendant would be entitled to bring evidence to show that the youngster had in fact consented. And if, after hearing such evidence, the court was satisfied that the youngster had engaged in sex freely, and knowing full well what he or she was doing, then the defendant would not be guilty of any crime.

Two other principles to be incorporated in future law are, first, that any sexual act freely entered into by both, or all, parties should be held to be lawful, except where there are good reasons for not allowing it on other grounds; and second, that the public has a right to be protected from uninvited sexual advances persistently directed towards the same person.

Part three of the report, presented by Bernard Greaves, lists a number of topics that need further study by the law reform working party. Included amongst these are paedophilia, law reform in the Channel Isles and the Isle of Man which have their own parliaments, the definition of indecent assault and rape, and the law relating to the display and circulation of explicit sexual material.

### Timetable

When the report was put to conference, the EC asked for a four-part section to be added, outlining the action to be taken on the part one recommendations.

First, a preliminary draft of the Bill should be ready in time for CHE's National Council meeting in September.

Second, this draft Bill should provide the basis for CHE's law reform campaign, and it should be pushed at this year's party political conferences. It should also be used in the event of an autumn general election, and candidates should be asked where they stood on it.

Third, CHE would then approach MPs, members of the House of Lords, and organisations (such as NCCL) who might be interested in supporting the campaign.

Fourth, the EC would insist on the inclusion of Scotland in any Bill, and Northern Ireland if constitutionally possible.

Conference applauded the EC timetable, and it was accepted as an addition to the report.

There was very little debate on the proposals. CHE had been waiting for something concrete on which to base a fight against the present "legal imposition of second-class citizenship upon homosexuals." The report had described it as "a scandal requiring urgent action" and members clearly agreed. There was no mistaking their determination to fight for an end to second-class status when they voted unanimously for the long hard battle to come.

## Tearful delegates salute Joe Leckey



Many of the delegates who heard Joseph Leckey give his report on the gay situation in Ireland on Sunday had tears in their eyes at the end of his heart-rending address and all stood to honour him with great applause.

Joseph, from Queens University, Belfast and a member of the Union for Sexual Freedoms in Ireland, was promoting an emergency motion, which received the unanimous support of CHE members present.

In giving its whole-hearted support, the conference pledged the full backing of CHE in the campaign for radical reform of the sexual offences legislation in Northern Ireland, along the lines of the bill shortly to be introduced into the Northern Ireland Assembly. It also urged the executive committees of CHE and SMG to lobby MPs, peers and other public figures to support this bill and all members of both organisations to write to the press in favour of the bill.

Joseph told the hushed company just what sort of pressure the gay community in Ireland was under. He spoke of two social events which had been held—a disco in Coleraine and another in Dublin, to which there had been no opposition. These did not seem much over in England but were great achievements for Ireland.

He also spoke of the gay information centre set up at the University at Belfast, which had received hundreds of calls each day. However, it had been closed down by opponents of the scheme and so an appeal from the Union had gone out to England. Sixteen telegrams of support had been received the same afternoon. "This meant so much," said Joseph.

He posed the question as to what CHE could do to aid the oppressed Irish in connection with gay rights, and answered it himself by telling the crowded hall that the very fact that CHE existed was a great help.

Gay conferences had been held at Coleraine and Dublin, and since the Union for Sexual Freedoms in Ireland had been set up, this organisation had held a conference in Belfast. The areas covered by the Union were very wide, and included divorce, sex education, family planning and abortion, as well as gay rights.

Speaking of the prepared bill, soon to be introduced to the Irish Assembly, Joseph admitted that it hadn't "a hope in hell" of getting through. "But we will push and push again," he said. And the intensity with which he made this remark had the hundreds of delegates spellbound.

Joseph concluded by moving the motion with the message that the Irish had to say "to hell with love and peace—what we're saying is love and struggle."

(Note: The plight of Irish gays has been recognised in Norway, and Forbundet, the Norwegian homophile organisation, is to make June 27 an Irish Day. This was announced by Kim Friele in her address at the close of the conference. All love and good wishes will go out to the Irish on this day, the fifth anniversary of the Stonewall riots in the United States.)

### Befriending

Discussions took place at a meeting of the commission on befriending concerning the financial difficulties in which Friend now found themselves.

Out of these, the commission recommended to conference that a national fund-raiser for Friend be appointed, that each CHE group contribute a minimum of £5 per year to Friend, and that CHE members—especially women—be urged to volunteer for service as befrienders. This motion was approved by conference.

Rising out of a question from Ian Buist (Wandsworth-Richmond CHE), Ted Clapham, who gave the Friend report, said that the organisation had been discussing with the Charity Commission the possibility of becoming a charity. As discussions were still going on, he was unable to answer the question clearly. "Charity status would give financial benefit, but I cannot comment further." He said nothing about the suggestion that Friend might split from CHE in order to obtain charitable status.

A collection taken in the conference hall raised £100 for Friend.

## Michael Steed retires

Michael Steed, who will shortly be retiring as Chairperson of Campaign for Homosexual Equality, delivered the keynote speech to delegates on the conference's opening morning.

Dealing at length with the subject of law reform, he told conference that it was becoming a matter of urgency, and that it was important that this year's assembly should settle the proposals on which CHE would campaign. "We must agree to agree on reform plans, whatever they turn out to be."

There was a fundamental difference between the changes that had been accepted in 1967 and the changes that were being called for now. "The last change was a matter of stealth. It was the removal of a blot on the statute book. The next change must be a very different one—one to remove a blot on society. Just as we wonder how our ancestors ever tolerated slavery, so in future centuries will people look back and wonder how we could ever have so brutally treated our homosexual minority."

Later in the morning he was back at the microphone to propose the adoption of a new constitution for CHE. The new constitution, he told mem-

bers, finally makes CHE a fully democratic body. In the early days the organisation had been run by a



central committee answerable to no one. In 1971 the Executive Committee had become a democratically elected body, but full power had been

left in its hands. The new constitution made annual conference the final policy-maker to which all executive committees would be answerable.

A suggestion that all members vote through a postal ballot was turned down by the conference which, by its vote in favour, assumed its new function as the sovereign body of CHE.

Michael Steed was back again to close the assembly on Monday afternoon.

He told members that pressures of work meant he could no longer continue as chairperson. He needed a rest, and he had taken the decision before Malvern to meet the ten-day deadline for his resignation. "I'm glad of that deadline," he said, "for after this weekend, I think I might have believed that I had the energy left to carry on." He had been to many conferences; union conferences, party conferences, "but I have never seen a conference which has depended so much on volunteers, people doing it because they really believed in it." That more than anything else, he felt, was what had made Malvern such an astonishing and unforgettable weekend.

Then grasping hands with those around him, he led members in singing "We Shall Overcome" in a moment of deep emotion for all those gathered in the hall.

## Young & Old

A campaign will be launched shortly by CHE to fight for the human rights of young gays under the age of 21. And at the other end of the age scale, an Executive Committee member is to be appointed to look after the needs of the older members of CHE, following London West End group's report to Age Concern, and a report to conference.

The Youth Campaign was proposed by Trevor Locke from Bristol. Law reform to reduce the age of consent to 16 was important, but in the meantime there were other things that needed to be done. Rose Robertson's Parents Enquiry was doing vital work in helping the families of young homosexuals, and CHE should be giving her not only moral support but money. It should also be putting pressure on central and local government to get the grants and aid needed to provide a wider service.

If members wanted to campaign, time and money again were needed to publish leaflets on the problems faced by young people. Student and youth counsellors should be sent a study kit on under-age gays and bisexuals. Youth organisations should be contacted, posters printed, and more young people encouraged to join CHE.

The Executive Committee was against the idea of starting up the campaign at this particular time. Bernard Greaves pointed out to members that they were already committed to an education campaign,

a women's campaign, a campaign within the National Health Service and the medical world in general, and after conference they would be starting on the huge campaign for law reform. There was a shortage of money and time, and there was a danger that if they took on a Youth Campaign as well it would go off at half-cock.

But Trevor Locke was not satisfied. "We don't want to put extra work on the shoulders of Howarth Penny and the executive," he told conference. "I am asking you, the individual members, to give of your time and your money if you really want to do something." From the vote that followed, it appeared that the members *did* want to do something, and the campaign was approved against the wishes of the EC.

Later on a report was published about the problems faced by elderly gays. Younger gays, it said, were "insufficiently aware of the problems of old age. Some of these, such as loneliness and emotional frustrations, are direct results of being shunned by the younger gay community, who think that involvement in any way will lead to sexual involvement and fail to realise that what is required is simply acceptance and comradeship. In other words we are human beings first and sexual beings second."

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## Irish gays stride on

**BELFAST:** Sexual politics in Northern Ireland took another stride forward in May with the Belfast symposium on 'Aspects of Sexuality' and the first AGM of the Union for Sexual Freedoms in Ireland.

The symposium was well publicised in advance with press statements and wall posters (even the army barracks in Belfast were postered). We were sharp enough to get two spots on Ulster Television. The first, a five-minute news interview with Paul Shaw, was marred by over-interrogation on the subject of child molesting! We thus approached our bigger television venture 'The Gordon Burns Hour' with considerable caution. The programme, a local Saturday night chat show devoted its full 72 minutes to the symposium. Out of thirty participants we provided ten including the President of Queen's University SRC (an ally), abortion law reformers, clergymen, doctors, marriage guidance counsellors, Molly Parkin, and Howarth Penny of Campaign for Homosexual Equality. The only antagonist was a woman nervous of creeping homosexuality—"5% was fine but what if it was 6% next year!" All participants assented to the need for law reform in Northern Ireland.

The symposium was attended by nearly 200 people. Selma James spoke on the 'Power of Women', and Nancy McKeith on medical self-help for women. Steve Dunne

gave an illustrated lecture on the 'Anthropology of Homosexuality' and the day was saved on the gay side when, with our major speaker unable to appear, Angela Needham of Bath CHE, coincidentally in Belfast, stepped in to give a rousing speech on gay rights, stressing the need for a balanced sex education programme in schools. An amusing respite during the conference was a complaint from a member of the audience on its restricted view of sexuality. "Where," she queried, "was mention of rubbing up against lamp-posts, incest, standing with your legs apart on buses, dogs?" We closed with a bouquet of rhododendrons to Paul Shaw for topping the poll for the national award for services to Irish Gayness.

The disco (our second ever) rounded off the day and was attended by nearly 200 persons plus two streakers, and graced by several distinguished persons including members of the Assembly.

The USFI AGM on Sunday was somewhat unbusinesslike due to 'over-tiredness', and the main agenda was put forward to June. A civil liberties barrister encouraged the southern comrades to take a test case against the laws there on grounds of unconstitutionality, and urged us in the north to make use of Lord Vic Feather's newly-appointed Human Rights Commission.

Jeff Dudgeon

## CHE meets CLO

**LONDON:** In a recent confrontation of initials, CHE (Campaign for Homosexual Equality) London Monday Group were addressed by CLO (Community Liaison Officer) Chief Inspector Richard Wells of the Kensington and Chelsea Police Division.

Chief Inspector Wells, whose area includes Earls Court—London's gay centre—tried to give the group some idea of what his work entails. He spoke of the care which has to be taken in the community when the police find themselves involved with minority groups. And in the questioning that followed he gave a picture of police attitudes towards various groups including the gay community.

Speaking later to *Gay News* he explained the CLO link as a "medium of communication between a large police service and minority groups in the community." One of the problems which the police faced was being caught in the cross-fire between different sections of the community. Thus if heterosexuals chose to complain about

homosexuals breaking the law, then whether the heterosexual was motivated by respect for the law or by fear and prejudice, the policeman was left in the front line to take action on the particular complaint.

"Whatever the police do," he continued, "someone will be dissatisfied. The Community Liaison Officer is there as a buffer between the groups. The police are often unhappy about being caught in the cross-fire."

"I hold a big brief for training now that the behavioural aspects of police work are being taught. It's not just powers of arrest and physical training nowadays. They teach recruits the Why and not just the What." He thought that teaching the mechanics of social interaction would be of great help to future generations of policemen.

He enjoyed the opportunity of speaking with CHE members. "It was a warm and convivial evening," he said. "I hope it might serve as an example of the useful exchanges which are such an essential part of the CLO role."

## Dundee comes out in style

**DUNDEE:** Yes, there we were, stationed between the Peoples Dispensary for Sick Animals and the British Rheumatism and Arthritis Association (BRA)—the Scottish Minorities Group (Dundee) on show to the public! As affiliate members of the Dundee Association for Social Services we were invited to take part in the Dundee Voluntary Organisations Festival on Saturday 11th May in the city's Caird Hall.

Over 55 organisations took part, including the well-known ones like Samaritans, Gingerbread, YMCA, and less-known ones like the Brittle Bone Society and the Society of St Vincent de Paul. The 'Festival of Care' attracted over 10,000 members of the public who were able to see at first hand the wide range of services offered by voluntary organisations in the city.

Our own stand was designed and set up by an artist, one of our members, and he included in the display the NUS Gay Rights Poster, a copy of *Gay News*, photos taken at the Edinburgh University Teach-In on Homosexuality last year, and a poster showing the aims of SMG. For general distribution we had a supply of SMG Introductory Leaflets and our own branch's leaflet 'Is Homosexuality a Problem . . .?' and, of course, copies of *Gay News* for sale. Public reaction was mixed—some people just couldn't believe their eyes—but we were encouraged by the number of well-wishers who came to offer support and encouragement, and we were surprised by the open-mindedness of many others. We made contact with local councillors, spoke to the Lord Provost and exchanged ideas and information with officials of the other organisations. Hostile reactions were fewer than we expected. We overheard someone comment "Yeuch—pathetic" and



Jim Innes, local SMG chairperson

someone else 'I'd support the rest, but definitely not THAT!', but unhappily none of them gave us an opportunity to speak to them or tell them more about ourselves.

We feel this was an important breakthrough for SMG, nationally as well as locally. It's probably the first time information on the group on a large scale has been made available to such a wide cross-section of the population. It was a useful experience in public education, hopefully it provided an opportunity for increasing membership, and significantly, it gave those of us who took part valuable experience in coming out.

Len McIntosh

## Bristol education group

**BRISTOL:** This West Country Education Group was set up to enable the national education campaign, run by the Campaign for Homosexual Equality, to get under way in Bristol.

The group has now started to publish a newsletter about themselves and their activities.

They report that they have received support from all gay groups in the area including CHE Bristol, the University Gay-soc, and South West Icebreakers. Their meetings, which have been held weekly since the group started on February 13th, are open to anyone who might want to turn up, whether they just want to listen in, or whether they can actually join in and help.

The group's main project at the moment is their Teacher's Information Kit. They will be producing fifty of the kits and sending them to all schools in Bristol catering for young people between the ages of 11 and 19. The kit will include information sheets and booklets on homosexuality, together with a covering letter inviting schools to approach them for further information. Their plans for the future include a course on homo-

sexuality and the gay movement designed for adult education, and a one-day symposium on sex education for teachers. They are also involved in the continuing work in further and higher education.

One of their battles at the moment is over a Roman Catholic sex education manual. The manual says: "Homosexuality is a sickness . . . A homosexual usually doesn't want to be the way he is. He knows, of course, that when he has sexual relationships with other men he's doing something unnatural." (*Your Child and Sex—a Guide for Catholic Parents*, Kelly, 1964). The group describes these statements as totally untrue. The Catholic Church may have its own beliefs about homosexuality but it is very wrong to misinform young people in order to try to bolster up moral convictions. Sex education for Christians of any denomination is always a tricky area, says the group, but they are determined to make sure that such education as there is is based on fact rather than on fiction.

The group holds its meetings every Wednesday at 8pm at 33 Pembroke Road until the end of June.

## Police (rough treatment) ignored

**SOUTHEND:** As the sequel to an eventful night which Lee Tracy, popular London female impersonator, had after finishing a drag show in Essex last November (reported in GN 36), he appeared at Southend Crown Court recently.

He was found guilty of driving with excess alcohol in his blood, using insulting words and behaviour, and assaulting a police constable, while he was acquitted of assaulting an inspector. Lee denied all the charges.

It was alleged that Lee swore at the police officers who stopped his car, and that he would not take a breath test properly. Also that he hammered an inspector's chest

and butted a constable in the head.

Lee told the court that he blamed his stage make-up for his rough treatment by police. "If I had not been in make-up and admitted I was an active homosexual, these things would never have happened."

He further said that while he was in the cells, police taunted him about being "queer" and he rose to the bait. He made a suggestion to a constable who hit him in the face.

The court fined Lee £60 and disqualified him from driving for twelve months as well as giving him a suspended prison sentence of six months.

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## New NUS gay rights man



LONDON: It's nice to know that we're on the ball! When *Gay News* rang Neil Robertson, who is to be the new gay rights man of the National Union of Students, he hadn't heard that he had the job, though he wasn't surprised. He has been working on gay rights within the Scottish Executive of the Union for some time.

Neil, 21, who is at Strathclyde University, Glasgow, engaged on his BA in English and Politics, hails from London, though his parents are Scottish. He has been there three years, was the vice president of the University's student union last year and is the sabbatical vice president this year, as well as continuing his work with the Scottish Executive.

His main work with the Scottish Executive apart from gay rights has been involved with services—such as travel and uniprint—and this is the role he is to fill with the National Executive.

Neil told *Gay News* that one of the interesting parts of the new job would be the switch from dealing with gay rights from the Scottish point of view to that on a national level. This will be completely different for him, as he has, by and large, been following the ideas of the Scottish Minorities Group. While broadening his scope, he will, in his words, have to do his "imitation of a yo-yo," with much travelling between Scotland and London.

During the summer, Neil intends to take time meeting people involved in the Union at national level and anyone involved with gay rights, so that he is able to appreciate the subtle differences between his present job and the new one.

The man who has handled this part of the NUS work during the past 12 months is Al Stewart, who was elected Deputy President on April 2nd. Among his new responsibilities will be welfare, which encompasses an overseeing brief for gay rights.

Both men take up their new positions on July 1st.

## MP rebuffs CHE

NEWPORT: Roy Hughes, Newport's MP, recently declined an invitation from the town's Campaign for Homosexual Equality group to receive a delegation of members because he felt "that nothing constructive could be achieved by such a meeting."

The CHE group made the invitation as part of their quest to seek out the opinions of Gwent MPs on the question of lowering the age of consent and other relevant matters.

Mr Hughes, in refusing a meeting, went on to refer to certain correspondence that has taken place between himself and the group. This has been less than minimal, the group states.

Because of this situation, members have resolved that a petition be drawn up, again requesting an interview. This will shortly be circulated, and hopefully will bear fruit.

## Fleet Street and the Archbishop

LONDON: In their coverage of the appointment of Dr Donald Coggan as the new Archbishop of Canterbury, the Fleet Street newspapers who felt his comments about the Anglican clergy and homosexuality (made last April) were worthy of mention, were the *Daily Express*, the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Sun*. Old friends, at it again!

## Gay day of action

EAST ANGLIA: A gay day of action is being held at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, on June 15. Speakers are to be Angus Wilson and Norman Pittinger; there will be a film on Jean Genet, a workshop and a disco. Information can be obtained from Peter Thomas, Waveney Terrace, University of East Anglia, Norwich.

## Open University Gaysoc

LANCS: Open University Gaysoc is stepping up its efforts to recruit gay students.

David McLean tells us that there must be about 5000 gay students enrolled on courses, so they may be potentially the largest Gaysoc in the country.

In a bid to advertise the group's existence, the organisers are asking for time on the monthly TV programme and weekly radio programme 'Open Forum'. 'Open Forum' is given up to matters of general student interest in an attempt to create some kind of 'campus' feeling amongst people who are studying individually up and down the country, and who have little personal contact with one another except for the summer courses held at universities.

Before the Gaysoc is granted air time, though, they must get the go-ahead from the Open University Council and the BBC. To get this official approval, they have first to draw up a constitution and elect committee members, a process which is getting under way at the moment.

Local branches exist at present in Basildon, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Rochdale. There are coffee evenings held in Nottingham and London (one for men, one for women). And the first monthly newsletter has just been published. Further details can be had from David McLean, 26 Medley Street, Rochdale, Lancs OL12 0RQ, and you can speak to David at the Campaign for Homosexual Equality Malvern Conference if you're going. He says he'll be the one wearing an Open University Gaysoc badge.

## Larry Grayson opens cottage



NORTON-JUXTA-TWYXCROSS: What, you may well ask, links gay comedy with the new loo in Norton-Juxta-Twycross village hall? Well, in two words—Larry Grayson! At a recent ceremony, Larry ceremonially opened the new lavatory block in the hall of this little village near Ashby, Leicestershire. The secretary to the trustees, Ms Betty Henton, said that as the up-to-date facilities had cost many times the original price of the hall, it had been decided that a ceremony was justified. So, Larry was invited to do the honours which he did after cutting the ceremonial ribbon—christening the new loo in the most appropriate way!

## Illegal bar at gay meeting

READING: Police officers made a routine check of the Sir Herman Gollancz Hall, in Clifton Street, Reading, where a gay function was being held, and discovered an illegal bar.

Appearing at Reading Magistrates Court, Dennis Norman Johnson, bar manager at Reading University's Student Union Building, was found guilty and fined £30 with £32 costs, after denying selling intoxicating liquor without a justices' or canteen licence.

Jill Wootton, of Oxford Road, Reading, was given an absolute discharge, after admitting aiding and abetting sale of the liquor.

Johnson told the Court that he applied successfully for a special exemption order last November, when students wanted to hold a function. He was later told by the Magistrates clerk that as he was not a licensee and the Students Union was a registered club, this was not necessary.

Johnson further explained that he had been approached by John Carter, of the University's gay group, about running a bar, and had told him that, if the union's executive agreed, he would do so. "But I told him the only way I could do it was on the understanding that the meeting should be confined to members of the union and their guests," said Johnson.

He had not been aware that the meeting had been organised by Reading Gay Alliance—he knew only that the groups would be working in conjunction with each other. Mr Bevan Thomas, defending, said that Johnson had been a victim of circumstance, caught in the middle of a function organised by the university group and the Gay Alliance.

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## Scottish students meet on gay rights

EDINBURGH: This day meeting was arranged by the Scottish Office of the National Union of Students as the result of a regional conference resolution in Dundee on the question of gay rights and the NUS campaign. The venue was Heriot-Watt Students' Union, Grindlay Street, Edinburgh.

Perhaps the sharpest disappointment for the organisers was the low turnout - at its peak only 25 people were present. This was due mainly to the time of year (May is exams month), and partly due to what can only be described as 'low prioritisation'. In other words, people just don't see gay rights as a very important issue just now, at least as far as Scotland is concerned.

Because of the small numbers, it was widely decided to adjourn to the nearest coffee house for a more informal start to the seminar. Stuart Paul, Deputy President, NUS, opened discussions with a description of the NUS gay rights campaign. Stuart, well-known as a student politician here in Edinburgh (he was President of Heriot-Watt Students 1971-1972), told his audience: "I don't know as much as you do about the situation of gay people." In saying this, Stuart was only speaking the truth - he is not gay and is only obliquely connected with the gay rights campaign.

Mike Foreman, President of Edinburgh University Gay Group, described the particular problems encountered in setting up a Gaysoc in Scotland. The Edinburgh Students have persuaded their Students' Association to hand over the brief of the NUS gay rights campaign to the local group. It is to be hoped that this move will not lead to massive apathy on the part of the Students' Association. After the seminar, I gathered from Mike that he is considering a draft of an amended version of the NUS 'How to Set Up a Gaysoc'. Mike wants to concentrate on how to keep a Gaysoc alive and self-sustaining.

I stepped in to speak for Ian Christie on the topic of 'The Law'. I hope I managed to avoid a tedious resume on 'How SMG Drafted Its Bill'. My main aim was to outline some of the tactics we in Scotland are using in order to win measurable social and legal advances. Stuart Paul and David Dancer contributed to the following discussion. There was a natural bias towards young homosexual men at this part of the seminar.

David Dancer covered a great deal of ground. He is waging an almost single-handed campaign, it seems. As Coordinator of the National Colleges of Education Gay Rights Campaign, he sustains a most pleasant approach, though one or two present thought his hopes were perhaps pitched a bit too high. But then David is one of a still relatively small number of gay activists in Britain who have come out the tough way, and this has naturally led to an optimistic frame of mind about what social and structural changes are immediately possible. David also mentioned that there had been a shake-up in some of the Church of England Colleges as a result of the Archbishop of York's statement about the numbers of priests who were homosexual. At the colleges in question, there had been as many as 25% of trainee priests who had been refused ordination.

Bob Thomson, the final speaker, gave a more or less personal statement on the position of minorities in Scotland. Bob is the tireless secretary for the Council of Civil Liberties in Scotland. It was a great pity that most people had drifted away by this time.

In short, this was a most worthwhile attempt by NUS in Scotland to further their gay rights campaign. The small attendance should only spur NUS to hold a follow-up seminar, possibly in Glasgow, next year, and at a more appropriate time of the year. Unless NUS circulate all Scottish Unions with a report on this seminar, colleges will remain in ignorance of what was discussed. I noticed Neil Robertson, Vice-President of Strathclyde Students, Yvonne Strachan from Aberdeen, Margaret Wallace from NUS Staff in London, a representative from Notre Dame College of Education in Glasgow and someone from St Andrews. Well, big trees from little acorns grow... provided NUS will help to till the soil!

Ian Dunn

## 'Facts and fallacies'

TYNESIDE: A new pamphlet on homosexuality has been prepared by gays in Tyneside Campaign for Homosexual Equality. The booklet, called *Facts and Fallacies*, exposes popular misconceptions about homosexuality and sets out the objectives of gays for the removal of discrimination.

The pamphlet makes positive suggestions for improving the situation of gays in society, lists organisations which offer help and gives further reading.

Copies can be obtained from Tyneside CHE, Box A16, 133 Great North Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE3 2DQ.

# Lesbian first

CANTERBURY: On Friday 26th April the University of Kent opened its doors to an unprecedented event, the First National Gay Women's conference. The support and pride that the 300 or so women drew from each other can be gauged from the fact that by Sunday 28th the meeting had changed its title to the First National Lesbians Conference. One sister was greeted with loud applause when she said "the word gay is on the one hand male-orientated and on the other hand grotesquely euphemistic."

'What is Lesbianism?' was the title of the opening workshop on Saturday morning. "What have we got to share?" asked Cathy McFerren, one of the conference organisers. "How do we come to this common understanding?" Many groups reached the same answers. Lesbianism is more than just sex between women, it is a political statement in the face of our heterosexual society which sees marriage, family and material acquisition as the only desirable goals. Lesbianism is a total life-style, infinitely preferable to the one offered most women by a male dictatorship. The popular myth that a lesbian is a woman who can't get a man is shattered by women who state quite clearly that their preference is for another woman. The question of not only making a choice like this but confronting others with that choice is recognised by many lesbians as a challenge to heterosexuals who constantly reinforce their choices in terms of 'my wife/husband', 'our house', 'our kids' etc. As one speaker put it, "there has been insufficient challenge to the assumption of the heterosexual norm." Lesbianism may well not just challenge but ultimately destroy those cherished norms.

The morning continued with workshops on lesbians and GLF, lesbians and CHE and lesbians and the Women's Liberation Movement. That there are still proportionally fewer women than men in CHE (600 out of a total membership of 3,500), and that women have almost entirely deserted GLF, may be an indication that neither of these groups have much to offer female members. That left only Women's Lib. Did that fit the bill?

## Women's Liberation

Not by any means it seems. Lesbians within the Movement are seen as an inflammatory group. Straight sisters, threatened by the presence of other women who seem to have achieved total liberation in every area of their lives, defend themselves from the uncomfortable feelings this arouses by oppressing lesbians almost as much as society oppresses all women, regarding them solely in terms of their sexuality. Many lesbians feel that they have been fighting hard in the struggle for liberation often on issues such as abortion on demand and free contraception even though these issues may have little or no relevance to lesbian life-styles. Some feel compassion for their straight sisters who draw support from the movement and then return to relationships which are still male-dominated. Dishonesty, it seems, is more glaringly blatant in the male/female partnership. Lesbians called on all women to reassess their own sexuality, "Lesbianism should be considered by all women as the only real alternative."

Separatist Women formed an additional workshop. 'Separatism', they say, is self-definition. Your priority is other women. You cannot compromise by living with men. Separatism is building up a whole new world, a world totally without males whether they are six months or sixty years old, to develop a female history, as self without the aid or infringement of men. On the question of male children these lesbians argue that boys, by virtue of their sex, are already in an advantageous position and that no matter how one may attempt to bring them up, outside influences will soon make them aware of their 'superiority'. What happens to women in this movement who have male children? These women face an intolerable dilemma. At some point a choice has to be made between their male children and their beliefs; as a boy grows older, society's pressures on him to become a 'man' necessitates the eventual division of these 'men' from their separatist mothers.

## Lesbian mothers

Lesbian Mothers are another group totally ignored in our culture. The workshop on this issue started with a discussion on custody rights after divorce. It seems that it is very much up to the individual magistrate or registrar whether or not custody of the child(ren) is given to a lesbian mother. Several women said that their children were now with their ex-husbands. Why this was so was difficult to ascertain although one woman said her children had chosen to stay with their father. Lesbians who opt to keep their children face the same problems as any other unsupported mother, the main problems being financial ones. Although several lesbian couples present were bringing up children together, none spoke of particular



Cathy McFerren: organiser

difficulties and on the whole their children did not seem to have any trouble accepting their relationships, any question of 'difference' being directly created by their contact with those outside their family.

There might be some problems when a lesbian mother forms a relationship with another woman who has no knowledge or no particular interest in children, but there again there is little difference between a new woman in the house and a new step-mother/father anywhere else.

Two women involved in the separatist movement spoke at length about their relationships with their sons. This brought a more sombre note to the meeting, but there seemed to be little anyone could do to help these lesbians. Most said that they should withdraw from the movement, a suggestion which I do not think these women found helpful.

Other workshops included: 'Lesbians and the Revolutionary Left', 'Lesbians and the NUS', 'Lesbians in Literature and History' and 'Concepts of Role-Playing and Sexuality'.

## Disco

On Saturday evening a disco was held at Elliot College, the bar was closed just after nine by the staff, apparently in protest at us, and the nature of our conference, but this did not deter most of those who attended. Many went outside the college to buy their booze. The Women's Liberation Workshop Band provided the main part of the evening's entertainment and although they did attempt to wind up their show at one point there was so much applause and foot-stamping that they stayed on much longer than intended.

It's difficult to describe the atmosphere during the disco. It was warm, friendly and loving. It is refreshing to see women enjoying themselves in a totally uninhibited way. Whatever disagreements had arisen during the day, everyone seemed determined to forget it all to enjoy themselves.

Glancing up at the windows which overlooked the disco from another floor, we were surprised and more than a little amused to see a crowd of male students peering in. The expressions on their faces were indescribable. Only a short time before, a man had wandered in and was immediately ejected by several angry women before he had time to explain that he was one of the porters who had come to find out what time our dance would be finishing.

The final plenary session on Sunday morning started with a prolonged discussion on lesbian demands to the Women's Liberation Conference at Edinburgh this coming June. After this, workshops reported back and those who had organised the Canterbury conference were warmly applauded. A petition was signed by everyone protesting against the closure of the bar, and a collection was made for the band. The whole event wound up with a picnic lunch.

All that remains for me to do is to mention once again the organisers who worked so hard to make it a success, especially Cathy McFerren and Sherry Mayrent. Thanks also to Jill Ervin, Bryonie Evans, Vic Wood, Anne Bond, Dave Lockhard and the Student Union Executive who gave their support and encouragement to this venture.

Anna Duhig

## 'WOMEN TOGETHER'

a report of a meeting between women from the gay movement and the women's movement. CHE's first-ever pamphlet, available from CHE, 28 Kennedy Street, Manchester M2 4BG. 20p including postage and package for individual copies.



# The S&M Trip You only hurt the one you love

by Len Richmond

Despite the American orientation of the following piece, we felt that it raises a number of questions equally relevant to members of the British gay community.

Curiously, a topic of major importance to the gay community and to American life in general, has seldom been written about.

A very large S&M community lives in San Francisco. I would estimate that at least ten percent of this city's gay males have at least experimented with acting out sexually sadistic-masochistic fantasies.

I have myself. It's disturbing for me, a gay liberation orientated male, to realise that there are certain elements of the submission-dominance, pleasure-pain phenomenon that arouse me sexually. Politically, I condemn the idea of one person dominating another, but emotionally, I cannot deny the erotic value of some of these bedroom games.



Fifteen percent of San Francisco's gay bars are S&M orientated. Some of these cater to people who are heavily or exclusively into sadomasochistic sex, others appeal to those gays who are more into masculine clothing and manner than true S&M. Among the best-known of the S&M bars are the Ramrod, Febe's, The Bootcamp, The Roundup, The Rearup, The Noname, The Red Star Saloon, Folsom Prison, The Wild Goose, and The Pendulum.

Tramp is a gay man of 28 who used to be a hustler. He's now an S&M devotee, and he explained to me that he "teaches S&M to novices who want to learn the art and structure of acting out sadomasochistic fantasies." Tramp lives in an old victorian house in the Castro district, that he has transformed into his S&M Palace.

He showed me his 'Trip Room' as he calls it. A large waterbed dominates the center of the soundproofed, windowless room. S&M pornography decorates the walls. On one long table he displays an assortment of S&M "toys", restraints of all kinds, vibrators, lubricants, poppers, and other tools of the trade.

This is the room where he "teaches" S&M, and it is here that he lives out his fantasies. I think that there is something quite exciting and fascinating in all this. Many of us live with very secret sexual desires that we dare not expose to our friends, much less act out.

Tramp completely lives out his sexual fantasies. He plays his games out in full regalia, in a room that he has designed, down to the smallest detail, to satisfy his lust. Complete passion plays are acted out in this room, with almost nothing left to the imagination. Tramp told me that he experiences a high degree of sexual abandon in this room that few people can ever imagine.

Tramp explained that, "If the fantasy being played out (between consenting adults) one particular evening is rape, the victim might be tied down on the bed with hospital restraints. The victim in this little play is struggling as if his life depended on it."

"Imagine how the masochist feels when he is tied down securely, gagged, and he looks up and sees that five men are going to take their turns on him, one by one, doing any-

thing that they feel like to him, within limits of course."

I asked him if in the excitement and passion of the moment, things don't sometimes get out of hand and go farther than the "bottom man", the masochist, really wants it to.

"Yes, of course, that happens sometimes. But only among amateurs who don't know what they're doing. Who haven't learned that they must always be in control of the situation. I always sit down with my partner ahead of time and set the rules. I talk about my fantasies and he tells me about his, then we mutually agree on what we want to happen once we get into my trip room. Otherwise you might have a disaster on your hands. That's why I teach S&M. It's an art."

I realise that I'm writing about a subject that frightens and upsets many people, in much the same way that homosexuality is disturbing to some people, or for that matter, sexuality itself. We live in a very sexually repressive society, and as a result most of us harbour our own very secret and personal sexual fantasies.

Even those of us who lead very active sex lives, still realise that there are "certain" things we don't do, and for most of the population, S&M is one of the great taboos. However, if you think on it, you will probably realise that you have some S&M fantasies, that is to say, something about the dominance-submission, pleasure-pain phenomenon has erotic meaning for you.

After all, our culture abounds with non-sexual sadomasochistic relationships. Many of those who lead sadomasochistic lives outside the bedroom, might be better off acting out those games sexually.

For instance, Tramp explained to me that he feels it is much better for "humans to act out their violence symbolically, with willing partners in mutually enjoyed sex scenes, than for people to express those sadistic tendencies with unwilling partners in a non-sexual circumstance. A history of the expression of unconscious S&M may be found in almost any military, police, or other authoritarian institution. I don't think it's so very far-fetched to imagine that the Chicago policeman who is beating the long-haired demonstrator with his phallic-club, might not be enjoying some erotic response from the incident, unconsciously or not."



Tramp and other S&M advocates feel that it is far better to acknowledge the psycho-sexual nature of much violence, and bring the matter up from the unconscious and into the 'trip rooms', where it is mutually enjoyed.

(Reprinted from the Berkeley Barb by permission of Len Richmond, who is also the co-editor, with Gary Noguera, of The Gay Liberation Book (available from Gay News Mail Order Service for £2 + 10% p&p) and producer of gay radio programmes in San Francisco.)

## 'Star-Gays' with Merlin

May 21 to June 20



### Gemini & friends

Although GEMINIANS are mercurial, they do need emotional stability in their lives. They experiment wildly with other Star Gays, flirting their way through the Zodiac, but always seeking an intellectual response; to GEMINIANS, even the dishiest number palls if the attraction hides only a vacant mind.

ARIEN vitality, with their slightly scatty ideals, quite attract GEMINIANS, but clearing up the tangles ARIENS leave behind are another matter. TAUREAN indolence and their dislike of sensual enjoyment puts off GEMINI, who finds CANCER-IANS cold, too possessive, and a bit naggy. LEO will dominant GEMINI, or try to, but an understanding of purpose establishes a brilliant, high-powered union, always provided GEMINIAN stamina keeps pace with LEO'S constant energy. With VIRGOANS, GEMINIANS could share a talent for endless conversation, until the GEMINIAN interest flags through nervous exhaustion. SCORPIO would demand a constancy GEMINIANS could rarely fulfil, whilst GEMINIAN moods and tactless outbursts would hurt SCORPIO too much to forgive and forget. CAPRICORN & PISCES are really bad news. Too little intellectual interest for GEMINIANS in the one, and too much watery emotion and indecision in the other.

Glittery SAGITTARIUS fascinates GEMINIS. Very often they lead each other into unusual paths, with strange, new experiences and ideas taking them both away from their more usual environments. SAGITTARIANS are quite good for GEMINIANS this year, and several successful partnerships are likely to form, despite an initial incompatibility.

LIBRANS won't like a flirtatious rival in GEMINI, but will love their wayward extremes of seriousness and frivolity. It balances LIBRAN natures, which they appreciate. AQUARIANS need GEMINIANS. They understand each other perfectly and have almost every interest in common. As they also respect each other's need to be alone when certain moods take over, the facade both put to the world, the bond becomes a necessity. They know, even if other Star Gays don't, that there is a depth of character in each that only another AQUARIAN or GEMINIAN could possibly appreciate.

"Another Geminian"—the only answer for GEMINIANS if an AQUARIAN or SAGITTARIAN isn't around. Another Twin, someone to share everything. Absolutely ideal! GEMINIANS spend a good deal of time in their lives searching for someone who will fit in, like a separated half, with their own incomplete selves. The need for a brother, a Twin, is so strong it even supercedes any physical attraction. They look beyond mere looks (which are tempting), look right into the heart of their prospective loves, and if they find a mirror image of themselves, that's it. Perfect understanding, even better than an AQUARIAN in some ways. They can argue, fight, love, sulk, love, laugh and indulge in those hours-long conversations well into the small hours. Short of standing narcissistically before a mirror, they couldn't get a better response.

One really does wonder why GEMINIANS bother with the rest of the Zodiac pack, when they have each other waiting all the time. And sometimes I reflect that the Zodiac pack wonder the same thing. Which is not at all flattering to any GEMINIAN ego!

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IN THE NEXT ISSUE.

# WALT WHITMAN, PROPHET

by Rict

Every so often I say to Whitman, I say "Walt, you're a damn fool. If you're so much of a prophet, why didn't you realise that 'the word En-Masse, Democracy' would become the American nightmare of middle-class conformity?" Walt just seems to ignore the question, stoops down to pluck a blade or 'leaf of grass and hands it to me as a token of some sore, and says "I teach straying from me, yet who can stray from me? / I follow you whoever you are from the present hour, / My words itch at your ears till you understand them."

And itch they certainly do. The real point is that Whitman is a prophet—it's just that his vision is still too grand for the world to accommodate.

I doubt that any national poet has ever been so thoroughly a man of his nation as Walt Whitman. To discuss Walt Whitman is to discuss what is finest and truest about the American Dream, for Whitman is the American Dream. His volume of poetry, *Leaves of Grass*, enlarged and refined from 1855 to 1892—in other words, covering America's transition from an agricultural economy to an industrial power by way of a civil war—contains the myth that is America. It also reflects the ways in which America has systematically mutilated its most valid ideals, and Walt Whitman's personal life suffered much at the hands of the



Walt Whitman photographed during the early part of the Civil War.

American taboo against sex and homosexual love. Yet Whitman remained a steadfast patriot, and retained till the end that cheerful optimism that still enables many to see in America the 'bright promise' of the future. I still think that Whitman was exceedingly naive in his faith in such American ideals as the bountiful richness of motherhood, the joy of manual labour, the belief in 'progress', the necessity of capitalistic enterprise, etc, but he has nevertheless produced several handfuls of poems without a belief in which I would lose my own faith in the inevitable success of gay liberation.

Whitman is America's greatest embarrassment, because if what he says about democracy is true, then the American ideal of universal equality is inherently homosexual, and I share his belief that homosexual love is

the physiological basis of democracy. Whitman is a much more subversive and radical poet than even Jean Genet, and American schoolchildren for the past half-century have been carefully protected from exposure to America's greatest poet. I didn't really read Whitman until I had completed nearly seventeen years of formal education, when I began participating in the gay liberation movement in 1971. Walt Whitman and Gay Liberation are nearly synonymous for me, and the revelations of both have significantly altered my life because they're so closely aligned. I was at a GLF meeting one evening, and the rap session had unfortunately turned into a sharing of each others' sorrows, and the unbearable weight of all our oppressions was threatening to smother us. One man said that the oppressions of society were so immense that we might as well give up in despair. In a burst of anger and grief a butch lesbian shouted at him for his defeatist attitude, stood up, and, tears in her eyes, recited these lines from Walt:

*A leaf for hand in hand;  
You natural persons old and young!  
You on the Mississippi and on all the branches  
and bayous of the Mississippi!  
You friendly boatmen and mechanics! you roughs!  
You twain! and all processions moving along the  
streets!  
I wish to infuse myself among you till I see it  
common for you to walk hand in hand.*

It was odd. I had studied literature all my life, but never knew till then how important a poem could be.

It's been said that Walt Whitman was a bohemian, which is true insofar as he never settled into a routine occupation, but it also reveals how much of a solitary man he was, probably not by choice. Born in Long Island, New York, in 1819, he did the usual things till he wisely decided to quit school at the age of eleven. For a while he ran errands for a lawyer, then a doctor, and then became an apprentice typesetter for a Brooklyn paper. From 1834 to 1841 he served as a schoolmaster in seven different schools in various small villages in New York, and occasionally contributed articles to various newspapers. In 1841 he tired of the dull country life and returned to New York City, where he worked for a succession of newspapers as typesetter, reporter, feature writer and editor. He was caught up in the swirl that was Broadway, its cafes and theatres and nightlife, and became something of a dandy, as described by one of his newspaper colleagues: "He was tall and graceful in appearance, neat in attire, and possessed a very pleasing and impressive eye and a cheerful, happy-looking countenance. He usually wore a frock coat and a high hat, carried a small cane, and the lapel of his coat was almost invariably ornamented with a boutonniere."

He attended art exhibitions, the Egyptian museum, opera, viewed the ships in the great harbor, and walked among the multitudes down the broad avenues. His two favourite pastimes were to occupy the seat next to the young and ruggedly handsome omnibus drivers, sharing gossip and reciting poetry as they drove down Broadway, and to cross back and forth on the Brooklyn ferry and mingle with the rough deck hands. He had a voracious appetite for the multitude of experiences available in New York, yet he was primarily a loner in a crowd, a spectator rather than a participant, because he was still repressing himself:

*Crowds of men and women attired in the usual  
costumes, how curious you are to me.  
On the ferry-boats the hundreds and hundreds that  
cross, returning home, are more curious to me  
than you suppose.  
And you that shall cross from shore to shore years  
hence are more to me, and more in my  
meditations, than you might suppose...  
I was one with the rest, the days and haps of the  
rest,  
Was call'd by my nightest name by clear loud  
voices of young men as they saw me approach-  
ing or passing,  
Felt their arms on my neck as I stood, or the  
negligent leaning of their flesh against me as I sat,  
Saw many I loved in the street or ferry-boat or  
public assembly, yet never told them a word.  
(Crossing Brooklyn Ferry)*

In 1848 he visited New Orleans, and discovered the exciting Latin sensuousness of the French Quarter. It was supposed to be for a long stay, but he returned abruptly after three months, and at the same time was fired from his position as editor of the *New Orleans Crescent*, reasons for both of which remain unknown. A romantic story, no longer in fashion, had it that Whitman had an affair with an aristocratic Creole woman which created a scandal. The story is partly supported by his best-known 'heterosexual' love poem, but in 1925 the original hand-written manuscript of this poem was discovered, and it revealed that Whitman had reversed the sex of the beloved in order to make it presentable for publication. Critics still like to ignore this important discovery, and the heterosexualised version is still printed in all anthologies, but

I quote the manuscript version:

*Once I pass'd through a populous city imprinting  
my brain for future use with its shows, archi-  
tecture, customs, tradition,  
Yet now of all that city I remember only a man  
I casually met there who aetain a me for love  
of me,  
Day by day and night by night we were together—  
all else has long been forgotten by me,  
I remember I say only that man who passionately  
clung to me,  
Again we wander, we love, we separate again,  
Again he holds me by the hand, I must not go,  
I see him close beside me with silent lips sad and  
tremulous.*

(Once I Pass'd Through A Populous City)

It seems likely that this was his first homosexual experience, that he didn't quite understand it though he wasn't repulsed by it, and that he ran away to avoid its full implication, and perhaps to avoid a scandal. He returned to Brooklyn to work for the *Freeman* newspaper, but resigned within less than a year, and returned to his family in Long Island and helped support them as a carpenter, with only an occasional contribution to newspapers. Sometime between then and 1855, when *Leaves of Grass* was first published, he experienced some sort of emotional crisis that transformed the journalist into a poet, though there are few or no documents about what actually happened, or why the dandy ceased to be a city man and became almost a hermit in his attic room writing poetry. Some biographers maintain that Whitman literally experienced a mystical 'conversion' similar to those of Christ, St Paul, and Mohammed, and throughout his poems he refers to himself as an 'avatar' and a reincarnation of various deities, particularly those who embody Eternal Love.

Whatever the reasons, Whitman became a prophet, and in 1855 America was presented with the most unique book of poetry ever produced in that country, before or since. He announces—his typical stance is 'to announce'—his grand theme in the first poem:

*One's self I sing, a simple, separate person,  
Yet utter the word Democratic, the word  
En-Masse.  
Of physiology from top to toe I sing  
Not physiognomy alone nor brain alone is worthy  
for the Muse, I say the Form complete is  
worthier far,  
The Female equally with the Male I sing.  
Of Life immense in passion, pulse, and power,  
Cheerful, for freest action form'd under the laws  
divine.  
The Modern Man I sing.*

(One's Self I Sing)

The Modern Man is of course none other than Walt himself, and his song is a barbaric yawp:

*Walt Whitman, a kosmos, of Manhattan the son,  
Turbulent, fleshy, sensual, eating, drinking and  
breeding,  
No sentimentalist, no stander above men and  
women or apart from them,  
No more modest than unmodest.  
Unscrew the locks from the doors!  
Unscrew the doors themselves from their jambs!  
Whoever degrades another degrades me,  
And whatever is done or said returns at last to me.  
Through me the afflatus surging and surging,  
through me the current and index.  
I speak the pass-word primeval, I give the song of  
democracy,  
By God! I will accept nothing which all cannot  
have their counterpart of on the same terms.  
(Song Of Myself)*

Walt Whitman shattered the world of tennis and tea, the stuffy drawing rooms of decorous morality. And for celebrating reality, a reality which included sex, he was to be branded as an obscene writer throughout his lifetime (the State Department later fired him from a civil service job and attempted to ban the book), few publishers accepted later editions of the work, and Whitman himself even succumbed at various times to suppressing and expurgating various passages. But in the 1855 edition he had not yet ripped open his own closet door to celebrate his basic message, homosexual love. Sometime in 1858 or 1859 he experienced his second love affair, this time with a man one of whose initials is 'M' (Whitman often censored his own notebooks, leaving just the bare obscurities). This affair apparently was a completely frank acceptance of himself as a homosexual. From various passages we can tell that it was an affair of passion rather than mere tremulous lips, an abandonment to joy rather than a timid reticence. Unfortunately the intensity of Whitman's love was not reciprocated by M ("I loved a certain person ardently and my love was not return'd, / Yet out of that I have written these songs."), and their final separation nearly resulted in Walt's suicide. But it also resulted in Whitman's realisation of the true meaning of his prophecy, and produced the *Calamus* cluster of poem in the 1860 edition. It was a severe crisis, and Whitman in effect came out:

*I will therefore let flame from me the burning  
fires that were threatening to consume me,  
I will lift what has too long kept down those  
smouldering fires.*



Walt Whitman photographed in the late 1860's with his fiery earthiness of his nobility."

*I will give them complete abandonment,  
I will write the evangel-poem of comrades and  
of love.*

His symbol for homosexual love is the calamus plant, *calamus acornus*, colloquially called the 'sweet-flag' which he refers to as "the flag of my disposition, out of hopeful green stuff woven." It is a hardy perennial that grows by ponds in the mid-eastern States, and has three-foot high tufts, long pointed leaves, yellow-green spikes, and hugh sprawling rhizomes (tubers or 'roots') that closely resemble penises in various stages of tumescence. It's virtually the token of a secret fraternity:

*In paths untrodden,  
In the growth by margins of pond-waters,  
Escaped from the life that exhibits itself,  
From all the standards hitherto published, from  
the pleasures, profits, conformities,  
Which too long I was offering to feed my soul,  
Clear to me now standards not yet published,  
clear to me that my soul,  
That the soul of the man I speak for rejoices in  
comrades,  
Here by myself away from the clank of the world,  
Tallying and talk'd to here by tongues aromatic,  
No longer abashed, (for in this secluded spot I can  
respond as I would not dare elsewhere.)  
Strong upon me the life that does not exhibit  
itself, yet contains all the rest,  
Resolv'd to sing no songs to-day but those of  
manly attachment,  
Projecting them along that substantial life,  
Bequeathing hence types of athletic love,  
Afternoon this delicious Ninth-month in my  
forty-first year, [ie September 1859]  
I proceed for all who are or have been young men,  
To tell the secret of my nights and days,  
To celebrate the need of comrades.*

(In Paths Untrodden)

Of course this was more than a century ago, and it's not at all true that Whitman really could tell us the secrets of his nights and days. He often kept himself busy changing pronouns, suppressing passages, and even omitting whole poems from later editions. As late as 1890 John Addington Symonds openly asked Whitman if he was gay, and Whitman in a panic (it was an odd query from a total stranger!) wrote back that he had six illegitimate children—none of whom have been traced after the most industrious researchers ever engaged in by American scholars!

Edward Carpenter visited Whitman in Camden in 1877, and later wrote that Whitman did not dare to openly declare his homosexuality for fear of public reprisal: "He knew that the moment he said such a thing he would have the whole American Press at

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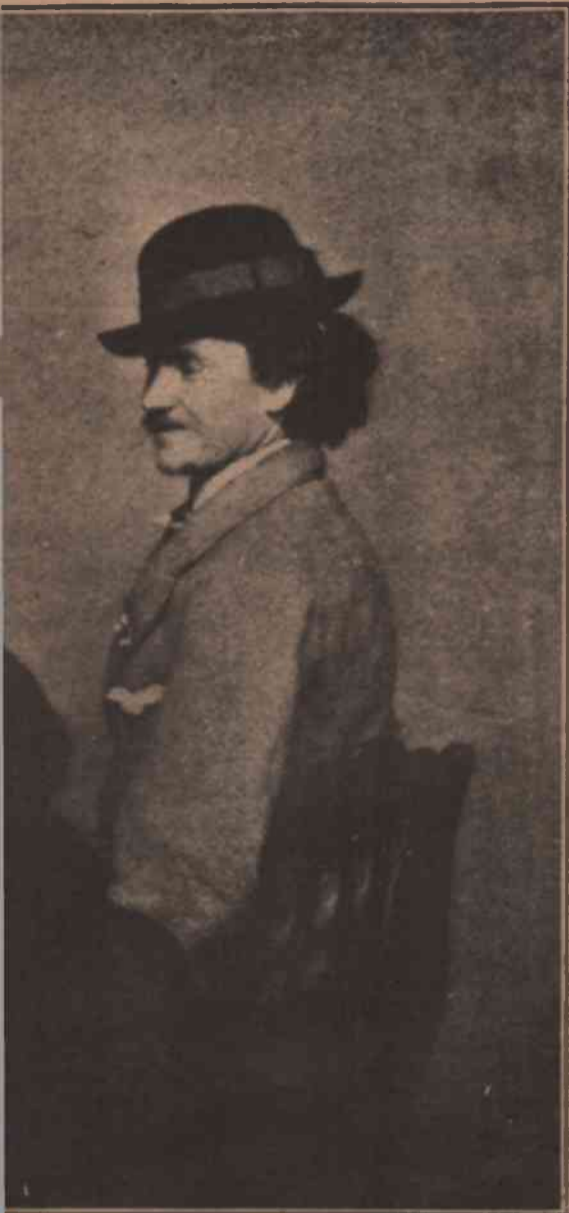
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# MEET OF GAY LIBERATION

r Norton



Peter Doyle, of whom he said "Pete fascinates me by the

every city of these States inland and seaboard, And in the fields, and woods, and above every keel little or large that dents the water, Without edifice or rules or trustees or any argument.

The institution of the dear love of comrades. His belief in friendship was still taking form when the Civil War broke out in 1861. Whitman didn't volunteer, partly because he was then 42 years old, partly because of his Quaker upbringing and belief in non-violence. During previous years it was his custom to visit sick bus drivers in the New York hospitals, and he became a male nurse for the next four years, and even continued as a nurse until 1867. When he entered the makeshift tent-hospital on the front lines in Virginia, he saw outside the entrance a pile of freshly amputated arms, hands, legs, and feet waiting to be carted away.

Back on his pillow the soldier bends with curv'd neck and side falling head, His eyes are closed, his face is pale, he dares not look on the bloody stump, And has not yet look'd on it . . . I am faithful, I do not give out, The fractur'd thigh, the knee, the wound in the abdomen, These and more I dress with impassive hand, (yet deep in my breast a fire, a burning flame.) Thus in silence in dreams' projections, Returning, resuming, I thread my way through the hospitals, The hurt and wounded I pacify with soothing hand, I sit by the restless all the dark night, some are so young, Some suffer so much, I recall the experience sweet and sad, (Many a soldier's loving arms about this neck have cross'd and rested, Many a soldier's kiss dwells on these bearded lips.)

Whitman went around the wards distributing oranges and tobacco, dressed the soldiers' wounds, wrote letters to their families and friends, daily attended the sick and dying. He was a man of tremendous personal magnetism and health himself. In an earlier poem he said "Wholly divine I am inside and out. Whoever I touch or am touched by becomes holy," and in some strange way he became a Christ-like healer of the sick. Perhaps we can disregard those who believed that Whitman was literally a saint, but there nevertheless remains the testimony of surgeons that his presence almost miraculously eliminated fevers and brought men from the brink of death. 'Adhesiveness' was the cause of his healing powers, as he notes: "The men feel such love more than anything else. I have met very few persons who realize the importance of humoring the yearnings for love and friendship of these American young men, prostrated by sickness and wounds. To many of the wounded and sick, especially the youngsters, there is something in personal love, caresses, and the magnetic flood of sympathy and friendship, that does, in its way, more good than all the medicine in the world. Many will think this mere sentimentalism, but I know it is the most solid of all facts."

Whitman fell in love with many of these men, whether it was 'chaste' or not doesn't much matter, including a certain Tom Sawyer and Lew Brown, with both of whom he proposed a domestic threesome after the war, but eventually they went their own ways, and later with Elijah Fox, whom he also wished to live with after the war, but Elijah eventually got married. All the conventions about men being 'merely buddies' were dropped on the front lines and in the hospitals during the war, physical expressions of love and tenderness were viewed without the batting of an eye, and unions were consummated with a wink by commanding officers who had more important things to worry about. But after the war, things 'returned to normal' and friendships were blotted out of memory along with the horrors.

The experiences of the war resulted in the full formulation of Whitman's philosophy of adhesiveness, or erotic fraternity, most eloquently expressed in the following passages from his prose work Democratic Vistas:

"Intense and loving comradeship, the personal and passionate attachment of man to man - which, hard to define, underlies the lessons and ideals of the profound saviours of every land and age, and which seems to promise, when thoroughly developed, cultivated, and recognized in manners and literature, the most substantial hope and safety of the future of these states - will then be fully expressed.

"It is to the development, identification and general prevalence of that fervid comradeship (the adhesive love, at least rivaling the amative love [ie heterosexual love] hitherto possessing imaginative literature, if not going beyond it) that I look for the counter-balance and offset of our materialistic and vulgar American democracy and for the spiritualization thereof. Many will say it is a dream and will not follow my in-

ferences: but I confidentially expect a time when there will be seen running through it like a half-hid warp through all the myriad audible and visible worldly interests of America, threads of manly friendship, fond and loving, pure and sweet, strong and life-long, carried to degrees hitherto unknown, not only giving tone to individual character and making it unprecedentedly emotional, muscular, heroic and refined, but having the deepest relation to general politics. I say democracy infers such loving comradeship as its most inevitable twin or counterpart, without which it will be incomplete, in vain and incapable of perpetuating itself.

"Something more may be added, for while I am about it, I would make a full confession. I also sent out Leaves of Grass to arouse and set flowing in men's and women's hearts, young and old, endless streams of living, pulsating, terrible, irrepressible yearning, surely more or less down underneath in most human souls this never-satisfied appetite for sympathy and this boundless offering of sympathy - this universal democratic companionship, this old, eternal, yet ever-new exchange of adhesiveness, so fitly emblematic of America - I have given in that book undisguisedly, declaredly, the openest expression. Besides, important as they are in my purpose as emotional expressions for humanity, the special meaning of the 'Calamus' cluster of Leaves of Grass, (and more or less running through the book and cropping out in Drumtaps), mainly resides in its political significance. In my opinion, it is by a fervent, accepted development of comradeship, the beautiful and sane affection of man for man, latent in all the young fellows, north and south, east and west, - it is by this I say and by what goes directly and indirectly along with it that the United States of the future, I cannot too often repeat, are to be most effectively welded together, intercalated, anneal'd into a living union."

After the war, in 1866, Whitman met Peter Doyle, a nineteen-year-old Irish bus conductor in Washington. They were inseparable for the next few years, and every day Whitman would wait for Doyle to finish work, and they would take long walks in the moonlight, sometimes sleeping together under the stars. On Sundays they would spend the day together strolling on the banks of the Potomac, and sometimes Whitman brought Doyle some flowers. In 1869 Whitman wanted to move in with Doyle, but the plan never went through. Doyle was illiterate, and Whitman taught him spelling, geography, and arithmetic, and they daily shared their lives till Whitman settled with his family in Camden in 1873. Even then they corresponded regularly, and sometimes they visited New York and Canada together, and they never really separated until Whitman's death in 1892.

We really don't know whether or not there was sex between them, though we know that they often kissed and embraced and sometimes slept together naked (caressa, a kind of 'naked chastity' that Socrates seems to advocate in the Symposium). Whitman at the beginning pursued Doyle with remarkable fervour, and felt humiliated by the possibility that his love would not be returned in like fervour, as in this extract from his notebook for July 15, 1870: "Resolved: To give up absolutely & for good, from this present hour, all this feverish, fluctuating, useless undignified pursuit of 164 too long, (much too long) persevered in, so humiliating it must come at last & had better come now (It cannot possibly be a success) . . . avoid seeing her, or meeting her, or any talk or explanations." Whitman habitually camouflaged his own notebooks, and all the words 'her' were actually scribbled over the words 'him' that were erased but which are still clearly visible in the manuscript (in the Library of Congress). The object of this note, 164, is a simple numerological disguise: the 16th letter of the alphabet is P, and the 4th letter is D, thus 164 = PD, or Peter Doyle. The page following this note has been torn out of the notebook, which may have contained a revealing detail about the success of the pursuit. All we know for certain is that Whitman and Doyle never separated, and in 1873 Doyle came to live near Whitman to daily attend him while he was recovering from a stroke.

In 1889, when Whitman was trying to recover from the last stroke which would eventually kill him, he was visited by Horace Traubel and Tom Harned, who noticed the photograph of Whitman and Doyle, taken in the late 1860s. They laughed about the expressions on their faces and their staged pose, and Whitman asked "What do I look like here?" Harned replied, "Fondness, and Doyle should be a girl." Whitman laughed and said, "No don't be too hard on it: that is my rebel friend, you know . . . That fond expression [on Whitman's face], as you call it, Tom,

has very good cause for being: Pete is a master character. A rare man: knowing nothing of books, knowing everything of life: a great big hearty full-blooded everyday divinely generous working man."

In spite of his robustness, and probably because of his internal struggles and efforts to make a hostile society understand him, Whitman grew old prematurely, and suffered strokes at an increasing pace. Towards the end he further developed his mystical themes, borrowing from the Bhagavad Gita, and brooded on death and the possibility of reciprocated love in the afterlife with 'The Great Camerado,' his god-like amalgam of all the gods. He resigned himself to the hope that eventually others would take up the flag of his disposition, that someday the world would finally attain some understanding "Of me myself the jocund heart yet beating in my breast, / The body, wreck'd, old, poor and paralyzed the strange inertia falling pull-like round me, / The burning fires down in my sluggish blood not yet extinct, / The undiminished faith in the groups of loving friends."

In 1888 he read again, with Horace Traubel, a letter he had received from his great British disciple Edward Carpenter in 1876, in which Carpenter wrote: "the distance remains immeasurable . . . As soon as I remember what the end is however great the



Walt Whitman photographed by I Gurney & Son in 1865.

distance I do not doubt. Dear friend, you have so infused yourself that it is daily more and more possible for men to walk hand in hand over the whole earth. As you have given your life, so will others after you freely, with amplest reward transcending all suffering for the end that you have dreamed." And Walt replied to Horace: "Edward was beautiful then - is so now: one of the torch-bearers, as they say: an exemplar of a loftier England: he is not generally known, not wholly a welcome presence, in conventional England: the age is still, while ripe for some things, not ripe for him, for his sort, for us, for the human protest: not ripe though ripening. O Horace, there's a hell of a lot to be done yet: don't you see? a hell of a lot: you fellows coming along now will have your hands full: we're passing a big job on to you."

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his heels, snarling and slandering, and distorting his words in every possible way. Things are pretty bad in this country [England]; but in the States (in such matters) they are ten times worse." Whitman knew the temper of his times, and knew there were some taboos which not even he, the advocate of openness, could yet challenge: "I dare not tell it in words, not even in these songs" - "Here I shade and hide my thoughts, I myself do not expose them, / And yet they expose me more than all my other poems." In spite of numerous half-veilings and words unsaid, he can still be quite direct, as for example in his account of the promiscuity that immediately followed his coming out: "I share the midnight orgies of young men. I pick out some low person for my dearest friend, / He shall be lawless, rude, illiterate, he shall be condemned by others for deeds done, / I will play part no longer, why should I exile myself from my companions?" Whitman's notebooks of this period are filled with descriptions of bus drivers, ferry-boat men, and other 'rude, illiterate' men that he met (picked up?) in the streets of Manhattan, often with notes of their home addresses.

Whitman was seldom completely at ease with himself as a homosexual, in spite of efforts at self-acceptance. Sometimes, as in "City Of Orgies" in which Manhattan is compared to Sodom, he says that "lovers, continual lovers, only repay me"; and yet at other times he says that just holding hands or kissing is enough. He certainly had no person or organisation to look to for support, and read about the homosexual Sacred Band of Thebes "with bitter envy."

But despite the contradictions of his own internalised guilt ("Do I contradict myself? Very well, I contradict myself. I am large, I contain multitudes."), he was determined to institute his convictions about the importance of erotic fraternity:

Come I am determin'd to unbare this broad breast of mine, I have long enough stifled and choked. . . . I will plant companionship thick as trees along all the rivers of America, and along the shores of the great lakes, and all over the prairies. I will make inseparable cities with their arms about each other's necks, By the love of comrades.

I hear it was charged against me that I sought to destroy institutions, But really I am neither for nor against institutions, (What indeed have I in common with them? or with the destruction of them?) Only I will establish in the Mannahatta and in

## Revue livens up Malvern delegates spare time



Above (left) Mue West and (right) Marlene Dietrich as played hilariously by the CHE revue team - pictured below in slightly more conventional attire.



Photographs: Carl Hill

## Here we are again

CHE's Second Annual Conference, held over the Whitsun holiday at Malvern, was much more than its title implies. It was an astonishingly positive, joyous experience, the like of which only those who attended can fully appreciate.

Writing this the day after the conference, it is still difficult not to be emotional when looking back at what occurred. The overwhelming communion of solidarity, constructive energy and love which unfalteringly built up from the official reception on the Friday evening, through to the closing speeches and the final moments when all the delegates rose to their feet to sing "We Shall Overcome", sadly can't be described with mere words. Nevertheless, the strength and confidence with which we all left the quiet Worcestershire town can be shared with the rest of the gay community; in the way we talk to our friends about what happened, in our future actions, in our uncompromising demands for rapid changes in the discriminatory legislation that effects homosexuals and the prejudicial attitudes of much of society.

Read the news report on the conference in this issue, show it to your friends and acquaintances, discuss it with them, and in any way you can, help continue what emerged from the Malvern assembly. Of course, not every aspect of the gathering could be as positive as others, but the overall results and the far-reaching implications have revitalised what CHE was formed for - **CAMPAIGN**, with the latter always spelt with capital letters.

This has been one of the most stimulating events I've ever been a part of, and may I offer my sincerest thanks to the conference's organisers and the 750 delegates for making me extremely proud and glad to be gay. Whatever our affiliations, we must go on from Malvern and never look back.

### New faces

Joining GN's editorial team as our reporter-at-large is Jeff Grace. Originally from Cornwall, Jeff has had various occupations during his 18 months in London, but previously he worked in a journalistic capacity on the *Cornish & Devon Post* for six years. Jeff now lives in Queens Park and recently celebrated his 25th birthday. Commenting on why he wanted to work with us, Jeff explained: "After a lay-off from journalism for about two years, I welcomed the opportunity to join a paper in which I could have a personal interest. And I wanted to be a part of a paper that has become a leader in its field."

Faced with the problem of replacing the effervescent Anne Elizabeth, who recently left us to go to Germany, we decided it was an appropriate time to reorganise and expand the administration department. Consequently, Maggie Donovan and Catherine Hiscox have become new members of the *Gay News* team. Maggie is responsible for subscriptions, all classified ads and box replies, whilst Catherine will be keeping GN's Mini Guide up to date, as well as undertaking general administration/secretarial work.

### Customs seizures

A number of readers have suggested that we should warn potential customers of overseas mail order companies that they stand a good chance of forfeiting postal orders and cash if they attempt to send such items out of the UK. HM Customs & Excise "by virtue of sections 56 and 277 of the Customs and Excise Act, 1952" have the right to seize "articles prohibited to be exported under the Exchange Control Act, 1947."

If you want to obtain continental goodies, and are willing to risk having them confiscated by the Customs on their arrival in Britain, it is important to remember that only International Money Orders should accompany your orders. They're available from all good Post Offices.

### Dates and deadlines

The next issue of *Gay News* (No 49) will be published and available on 20th June. Details of advertising deadlines and copy dates for that edition can be found under the credits section at the bottom of this page and at the beginning of the Personal Ads columns on page 17. It is important to refer to these dates to avoid disappointment, as they will be strictly adhered to because of printing schedules.

Denis Lemon

## North Eastern Women's Group

NEWCASTLE: The North Eastern Women's Group was founded in 1970 to provide a social outlet for homosexual women in the North East. The pub/club scene does not appeal to everyone and the group's aim is to act as an alternative or supplement to this.

The group holds regular meetings every six to eight weeks, usually at the Sallyport Tower in Newcastle, where we can meet, talk and dance. Members also meet informally from time to time.

The group has no political affiliations and is not actively concerned in any campaign, although individual members may participate in the campaigns of other, more politically active, groups such as the Campaign for Homosexual Equality and Gay Liberation Front. We are affiliated to the Albany Trust and are founder members of the National Federation of Homophile Organisations, and in addition to maintaining contact with other homosexual groups in the area, we also act as a referral agency for groups throughout the country.

The group is administered by a committee of five, elected annually by the members, and has a constitution. Prospective members may attend a maximum of two meetings as guests before deciding whether they wish to join.

The group is the only one in the North East exclusively for homosexual women.

Further details can be obtained from Sharon, Chester-le-Street 5648 or Judy, Newcastle 811016.

Sharon Murray



## 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.



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**Advertising/Copy Deadlines and Publication Dates for GN48:** All copy, letters, information and classified advertising - Noon, Monday, May 27. Display Advertising - contact Ad Manager. *Gay News* No 48 is published on June 6.

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## Why don't we like us?

WITH DOWNCAST GAYS - A Pomegranate Booklet, 20p.  
FORUM - June issue, 40p.

There are two fronts along which the movement towards gay liberation can work. One is external. It is exemplified in the attitudes and approach of Campaign for Homosexual Equality. It involves petitioning for legal reforms, writing letters to newspapers, chipping away at prejudice, putting responsible spokesmen on television who come across somewhere between defensive and apologetic.

However, now and then someone may be heard to mutter that a lot of education could be done among gays themselves. The person who has let slip such a remark usually blushes and hastens to deny that he is in any sense betraying his tear-stained brothers and sisters. That is the second front, though. And that is, precisely, what the latest Pomegranate is about.

The first booklet to appear under this imprint was *Psychiatry and the Homosexual* which was well received by the latter and less so by the former. It implied a solidarity of gays against an external oppression (ie psychiatry). The new booklet is subtitled: 'aspects of homosexual self-oppression'. It looks inwards, it is "written by gays to be read by gays," and in defining self-oppression and isolating the many examples of it at work, the authors are sharply critical of many aspects of the gayworld and the postures of its inhabitants.

Essentially self-oppression consists of an approving acceptance of the definition of homosexuals by the heterosexual world. The implications of this are immense, and the booklet goes a very long way towards dragging them out into the open. In the same plangent, incisive and often very witty style that characterised the first book, the deceptions and distortions that repress the spontaneity and freedom of gay people are exposed. "It is a basic mistake to accept heterosexual conventions as God-given criteria by which gay people may be judged. Instead we should use the insights that we have gained as homosexuals to criticise a sexist and hypocritical society."

This is the crucial thesis. I find it stimulating (some may find it upsetting) to find the authors rejecting these het conventions and replacing them by an objective assessment of the homosexual. There is no need, they assert, for the homosexual to try to justify his existence by claiming to be witty, or sensitive, or artistic, or even an active ingredient or revolution by our existence. "There is nothing in homosexuality for which there is any need to compensate."

By perpetrating negative attitudes towards gayness, by hiding, apologising and pretending, gay people are, the authors argue, doing the work of our oppressors for them. Hypocritical closet queens, who are in a position to come out effectively but do not, are given a rough working over with EM Forster winning the Closet Queen of the Century award (a very well-argued passage). Liberal tolerance is rapped over the knuckles as well as the loaded use made by some commentators of such concepts as 'bisexuality' and 'choice'. There are some sharply witty reversals—why has no one argued the positive value of short relationships, for example. Or, if queer-bashers are repressed homosexuals, are Paki-bashers repressed Pakistanis? Or, those who claim they would lose their straight friends if they revealed their gayness are asked what Jew would value the friendship of an anti-Semite. All good stuff, to be read and thought upon, deeply.

The assistant editor of *Forum* asked *Gay News* if it would consider "doing a review or whatever" of the current issue which contains an article by Dr Norman Pittenger called 'The Art of Homosexual Love'. Basically, I feel that when gays are asked: "What do you actually do?" it is a question that deserves a full and frank answer. The usual evasions: "I don't ask you what you do in bed," or "What I do in bed is my own business" are good examples of self-oppression, for they ignore the oppressive assumption that the entire world is heterosexual and help to continue whatever distorted ideas the baffled het may be cherishing. For this reason I guess it is in theory a good thing that *Forum* should try to answer the question.

I do wish, however, that they had chosen someone else to explain it. Norman Pittenger is Senior Resident at King's College, Cambridge, and author of *Time for Consent*, which is a Christian study of homosexuality



Dr Norman Pittenger: misplaced liberal tolerance

and homosexuals. He is, also, a tremendously entertaining and wise speaker. I have no idea whether the distinguished old gentleman is gay himself or not. The overall tone of his contribution gives me the impression that either he is not gay, or that he doesn't want anyone to know that he is. It is a crass and comic piece of work, full of misplaced liberal tolerance, justification and special pleading: "They have been living together in the same flat for 15 years now, and if their relationship was between people of the opposite sexes, it would be called a stable and loving marriage." Male prostitutes should be "pitied rather than condemned for the unfortunate situation that they are in." "A surprising number of homosexuals are highly masculine" (my italics). We are told "the gay man is likely to be more genitally conscious than his heterosexual brother... simply because society has forced him to suppress his more overt interests and has brought about a concentration on the most obvious and immediately observable sexual characteristic." Dr Pittenger doesn't tell us whether the heterosexual man is likely to be more tit conscious than his brother, or why. Male prostitutes, by the way, "dress provocatively and perhaps toy with their penises while urinating." We are told too—as a natural uncontrovertible fact—that the loneliness of gays "becomes more acute as they get older."

Oh yes—what do we do in bed? Dr Pittenger runs through a series of embracing, claspings, mutual masturbation, sucking and anal intercourse. It's all very superficial and coldly mechanical. *Forum* readers must remain ignorant of what women do. He does come up with a technique which is, to me at least, new. Apparently "many homosexuals find the greatest satisfaction" from lying naked together and holding each other close: "Gay men often find that they are brought to a climax if they hold each other for long enough." As written, I don't believe this. Demon lover and I tried it but had to stop in a welter of giggles and bruised ribs before the earth moved for either of us.

The overall tone of Dr Pittenger's article is one of sympathetic pity for these lonely, anonymous creatures. It really is time that straights or pseudo-straights stopped writing about gays like they were something in a zoo. *Forum* adds a list of gay organisations and help services which is complete and includes the information that you can get therapy on the NHS which is designed "to turn you off your own sex and turn you on to the other."

Roger Baker

Note: With *Downcast Gays* is available by post from Pomegranate Press, 165 Gloucester Avenue, London NW1. Price 20p + 5p p&p per copy. *Forum* can be obtained from most newsagents.

## Underground, overground

UNDERGROUND FILM—A CRITICAL HISTORY, by Parker Tyler, Pelican Books, 75p.

In this book (first published in 1969) Mr Tyler generally examines the development of film aesthetics and focusses his attention on the American underground films of the sixties. He discusses in some detail films like *The Cabinet of Dr Caligari*, *Un chien Andalou*, *L'Age d'or*, and *Le Sang d'un poete* and thereby stresses the important influence that Surrealism has had over recent underground films, but he finds the results all too often tedious and infantile.

He regrets the stultifying effect of what he calls the "drug attitude" and is not taken in by the theories of the anti-art brigade. He sees two main trends emerging in these films—one voyeuristic and anti-technical (eg Warhol), the other abstract, plastic and more often than not psychedelic (eg Brakhage)—and he places them in an historical context. However, he does not really provide us with a sufficiently broad background of either the international underground scene or of the contemporary avant garde with which useful comparisons might have been drawn—very little mention of Godard's influence for example. Significantly, we get no hint at all of a rising agit-prop cinema for underground politics are ignored throughout. Mr Tyler's ideas on the nature of film as an art are interesting enough, but clearly this is the somewhat blinkered view of a 'distinguished American poet and critic' who seems to have seen far too many boring new films.

By the way, the address of the London Film-Maker's Co-op is given on page 240 of the paperback as Robert Street, whereas it should be 13a Prince of Wales Crescent, NW1.

THE FILM DIRECTOR AS SUPERSTAR, by Joseph Gelmis, Pelican Books, 75p.

The title of this collection of interviews with sixteen film directors from the underground, the avant garde and the commercial cinema of the sixties is, I think, very misleading. Polanski says that all film directors are superstars, but what he means surely is that they are usually artistic dictators. Certainly not one glittering superstar emerges in these rather pedestrian conversations. They are rarely revealing and only occasionally



Andy Warhol: underground superstar

surprising, but at least Mr Gelmis gets most of the directors to give us some idea of their work methods and their experiences on recent film making.

But before you buy the book look down the list of the sixteen and see if there are any of your favourites amongst them. Remember too, this is Kubrick before *Clockwork Orange*, Bertolucci before *Last Tango in Paris*, Coppola before *The Godfather*, and Warhol before *Flesh, Trash, and Heat*... and there's no Fellini, no Godard, no Bergman, no Truffaut... not even Ken Russell!

Howard Wakeling

## If the shoe fits...



Styles of men and women's shoes from 1690 to 1715

A HISTORY OF SHOE FASHION by Eunice Wilson, Pitman Publishing, £2.50.

Yet another book on the transient, but exciting, art of fashion. Ms Wilson is a professional shoe-designer who has collected information on shoes and the techniques of shoe-making throughout history.

If the presentation and style of the book could have been made a little more attractive (most of the drawings are the author's own), the contents, based on the affinity of shoes with clothes and their complementary evolution, are quite fascinating. *A History of Shoe Fashion* is a unique and original book, and constitutes an enlightening reference work for anyone interested in fashion and costume.

Jean-Claude Thevenin

## Kitchen Bookshelf

THE GEORGE BERNARD SHAW VEGETARIAN COOK BOOK, by Ms Alice Laden. Pan Books, 35p.

EAT WELL AND BE SLIM, by Marika Hanbury Tenison. Pan, 40p.

In some ways the great GBS was a bit of a nut—in this case, a nut cutlet. His sudden embrace of vegetarianism at the age of 25 he explained by quoting Shelley: "Never again may blood of bird or beast / Stain with its venomous stream a human feast." But the editor of this engaging little book, R J Minney, suggests that poverty was probably a more significant cause. Whichever, GBS remained a ruthless vegetarian for the rest of his very long life. Ms Laden (brave soul) was his housekeeper from 1943, and all the recipes in the book are exactly as GBS enjoyed them. The introduction is delightful with little pen-cameos, such as the old man waving bye-bye to Greer Garson with a huge piece of cake covered in marzipan and thick icing.

The recipes are what one might call 'old-style' vegetarian, many fully familiar and probably part of the repertoire of non-vegetarians, others going into the nut cutlet routine. But let nobody imagine that by following the implied diet in this book they are going to be like Shaw—i.e.: as thin as a rake, living to 94 and writing brilliant music criticism, marvellous Wagnerian commentaries and a handful (at least) of truly great plays... For the old wizard was curiously and dangerously addicted to sugar, cakes and all manner of sweet things. Ms Laden recalls him simply eating white sugar by the spoonful, and the puddings he liked were luscious in the extreme.

Healthy diet, as we now know, means cutting carbohydrates to a minimum—and they include sugar, flour, cakes and pasta. This is the principle on which Marika Hanbury Tenison's handbook is based. It is always interesting to discover how the professional food writer/cook remains lithe (some don't, especially the male variety), and this collection of recipes is commendable as Ms Tenison keeps one eye on the cost and the other on girth control.

Roger Baker

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## Every woman needs one

By Iain T Finlayson

## On the scent



This pretty picture dropped through my letter box the other day, accompanied by details of the *Espada* range of supersmell for men. Editorial objectivity having thus been successfully seduced, I'm happy to tell you that the *Espada* range of cologne, after-shave, soap-on-a-rope, and anti-perspirant is available at very reasonable middle-range prices from most branches of Boots.

The scent is a blend of wood and amber warm notes together with a refreshing aroma of citrus oils. It lasts for ages, yet is never overpowering. On being told *Espada* looks as good as it smells, I had to ask whether they meant the packaging or the model! Either way, you may never wear anything else.



The Wardrobe by Herbert Johnson: Hand-knitted Shetland cardigan and slipover in cream with a contrasting band of blue/rust/lawn. From a selection of cardigans, slipovers, and pullovers, all hand-knitted and all colour interrelated. Ground colours: cream, lovat, stone. Cardigan: £20. Slipover: £15.



"Gitunes" by Ben Sherman in Polyester/cotton, available in "Gitunes" blue only. Retail price approximately £5.95.

Once upon a time I used to work opposite a pretty girl who, upon my arrival in the office every morning, would subject every detail of my appearance to an intense, speculative gaze. It was like having to sit facing the Mona Lisa whose expression, as has been remarked, suggests that she has just dined off her husband. This mutual look of secret satisfaction coupled with a faint, knowing smile indicating that she at last had the goods on me, so watch it fella, unnerved me slightly until I cottoned on that the lady was not so much critical as fearful.

Every morning, at my imminent approach, she would sit and wonder what in the name of God I could do to unsettle her *this* time. The Mona Lisa bit was simple self-defence—the principle of the eternal female whose lot it is to appear cool and knowing in the face of the more parent male bewilderment at the forces of nature stacked against him.

I was possibly the best-dressed man in the office, took her out for occasional lunches, talked to her briskly about metaphysical matters of some weight and never asked her back to see my etchings. Quite unintentionally, I bowled her off her feet and my less than total response to her arousal caused her no little heart-searching and moments of glum despair until she reached the obvious conclusion and upped and married a man from the *Daily Express*.

The point of all this is to demonstrate the fascination which a certain type of homosexual can hold for many women. The man in question is what is generally thought of as a stereotype—rather boyish, interested in the Arts and ephemera, fairly gentle and well-informed, charming and amusing company. Just the sort of man Mummy always wanted Daughter to marry. This man is genuinely interested in women. He likes women and enjoys their company. Like work, he can sit and look at them for hours. He is comfortable and at ease in their company largely because they tend to be a mirror-image of the feminine side of his nature. She approximates to his feminine doppelganger, reflecting part of himself which is usually repressed while he himself can remain predominantly masculine in her company.

This blend of the feminine and masculine in every human being is put to very efficient use in the fields of fashion and beauty. The male couturier, the make-up artist, the hair-dresser, are all able to stand, as it were, two paces back from a woman to see her more objectively than can another man with a more overt sexual interest in

her, while at the same time they retain an intuitive knowledge of her femininity. They are able to see the woman more or less in her own self-image and the most successful relationships between couturiers or beauticians and their clientele stem very largely from this finely-balanced duality of vision.

The cosmetician, the pretty boy who does her hair, the dressmaker, are all men with whom she can feel at ease in a non-sexual situation. She may flirt and no doubt be flirted with, but both know perfectly well that it is a game. She will gossip, confide, and even feel comfortably flattered by and attracted to him without fearing the hassle of a full sexual relationship developing. She is appreciative of his interest in her and his desire to see her as a perfect representative of her sex. She is feminised and, in the process, acquires greater power over heterosexual men while the homosexual helping her to achieve this conversely lessens her power over him accordingly. A very masculine lesbian can become, however improbably, a threat to his masculinity no matter how feminine he may appear in attitude and appearance. Homosexuals of this type being discussed generally wish to feminise women and, paradoxically, attempts to de-feminise women usually stem from alleged heterosexual men who, quite innocently, feel more readily able to relate to women who approximate more closely to their own masculine self-image. In fact, they are attempting to create less feminine women—women who will reflect that with which they are most familiar: their own sex.

It is said, usually with some self-satisfaction, that sodomy and incest have always been generally socially acceptable among the English upper classes. More likely, the fact is that it is more overtly referred to whereas other classes prefer to be rather more discreet about the matter. What is clear, however, is that some homosexuals, usually talented in one or more aspects of the Arts, and preferably pretty, gravitate towards those people who, they feel, embody the life-style which devotion to Art (but more often debased as 'Glamour') is popularly supposed to require. In such circles, women are regarded as objects to be adorned and (from a distance) adored. A common cry among these women is that most men they meet are homosexual and that their fate is often to become 'fag-molls'. Beauty, youth and fashion become intensely competitive as women dress to please the men who in turn dress them to please their own aesthetic sensibilities. But when women leave the beauty salon, the fashion catwalk, the hair-dresser, they leave alone, the boys still in the back room doing what they have always done together. Dietrich may have known them, but even she had sense enough to stay out front.



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

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Superb Shaw

PYGMALION - Albery Theatre, St Martins Lane, London WC2

Shaw's marvellous Pygmalion is back in London for the first time in twenty-one years. In the interim, it served as the basis for the musical My Fair Lady, and much of that show's enormous success was due to this Cinderella story of the transformation of the cockney flower girl into a lady of class and etiquette.

Probably in 1913, when the play was first produced, the very idea that anyone of such low breeding could masquerade successfully in this manner may have seemed unlikely. By today's standards, the moment when Eliza forgets herself momentarily, and utters the famous "Not bloody likely", is tame, though I swear I heard a gasp or two in the audience on the night I attended.

The role of Eliza offers a challenge for an actress in conveying the three phases of womanhood she undergoes during the play. Diana Rigg is equal to the demand, and is splendid in all facets of the part. Her strong personality makes the bedraggled guttersnipe of the early scenes seem grotesquely comic. One has only to walk through a London street market even today, to hear similar distortions of the English language. Her clockwork movements and slow studied speech patterns at Mrs Higgins 'at home' are equally droll. Returning from her triumph at the ball, she has emerged into a graceful woman, now able to speak and think for herself, so that her impassioned cry of "What's to become of me?" fails to convince. However, her confrontation with Professor Higgins in that dramatic final scene is quite magnificent.

Alec McCowen is undoubtedly one of our finest younger actors, belonging to that magical group who



Alec McCowen as 'Professor Higgins' in Pygmalion

conceal their own personalities in order to become completely the characters they are portraying. Seeing him as Higgins is like discovering him all over again for the first time. He manages to make this stubborn, bad-tempered person likeable nonetheless. Ellen Pollock, with her years of experience in so many Shaw plays, is excellent as his mother. Invaluable support comes from Jack May as Colonel Pickering, Bob Hoskins as Eliza's father, Hilda Fennimore as the housekeeper, and Margaret Ward as the impoverished society lady. Under John Dexter's brilliant direction, this is a stunning production in every respect.

Barry Conley

The Norman Conquests

TABLE MANNERS at Greenwich Theatre, Crooms Hill, London SE10.

Alan Ayckbourn proved with his previous four successful plays that he is an adept master of the absurd. His latest ambitious undertaking is a trilogy of comedies concerning three couples in a country house during one explosive weekend. The first offering Table Manners is set in the dining room, and the additional plays which join the repertory later this month, will show the same characters from the vantage points of the living room and the garden of the house. Each play will give the audience an interdependent view of the situations amongst these characters. Having laughed almost continuously through the dining room piece, I can hardly wait to meet these people again, in order to learn their reactions to happenings that occurred off-stage in this first play.

Norman, an unkempt librarian, married to Ruth, is having a casual affair with her sister Annie. Their plans to slip away for a dirty weekend on the coast are thwarted by the arrival of Annie's brother and his wife. The remaining two characters are Tom, Annie's naive admirer, too preoccupied with his veterinary career to notice half of what occurs around him, and Ruth, Norman's wife.

Table Manners relies a lot on the everyday meals that take place in the dining room. Both breakfasts depicted have one character or another not speaking to the others, and the high spot in hilarity involves an evening meal, where we see the visiting sister-in-law frantically trying to seat everyone in their correct places, so that Tom and Annie aren't placed together.

Ayckbourn's characters are all slightly larger than life, and Eric Thompson has handled the proceedings with a deft touch, so that each of his six players get the very best out of their roles. If Penelope Keith tends to dominate this particular play, it is all to the good. She is a splendid actress, portraying neurotic woman, never far from a nervous breakdown (and who can blame her, wed to such a jovial bore). Whether passing out compliments which tend to sound like disparaging criticisms, ordering all and sundry to sit at table as she wishes, or quietly sitting with a smile on her face (immediately after brother-in-law Norman has

propositioned her as well), she is at all times quite magnificent. It is a comedy performance of perfect timing, which I have not seen the like of in ages, and shall long remember.

Tom Courtenay gives Norman's character some endearing qualities, in his efforts to please the others, and continue to seek the unobtainable. As Annie, Felicity Kendal's pert performance and nervous quality in handling the situation is beautifully done. Penelope Wilton has one marvellously funny moment as she sits myopic without her glasses, pouring hot water onto her corn flakes by mistake. Michael Gambon as Tom the vet, and Mark Kingston as the joke-telling bore, both give sterling support.

LIVING TOGETHER - Greenwich Theatre

The second in Alan Ayckbourn's trilogy of comedies, takes place in the living room, and involves the same six characters and situations to be found in Table Manners. At this halfway stage, the author seems all set to pull off the hat trick and present three separate comedies which all have a similar plot, but enough interesting character delineation, and often hilarious situations, to warrant one seeing all of the three plays. It's like an intriguing Chinese puzzle, where one is aware that as a player leaves the living room of this piece, he is bound to be making an entrance elsewhere in the house, and walking into one of the other plays.

In this play, one's insight into the characters deepens as we watch their attitudes to one another. Annie's behaviour towards Tom, her gormless suitor, is particularly cruel, as she discusses with Norman, Tom's hesitancy in giving a direct answer to any question. Sarah is even more intolerant towards her husband, as he attempts to explain a game of his own invention to the others. She reaches another peak of nervous intensity when pouring coffee for them all.

Norman continues his pursuit of Annie, and the author at one point treads that narrow line between comedy and drama as the two are interrupted by both Sarah and Norman's wife. The latter woman later succumbs again to Norman's charms, and at the close they seem to be fully reconciled—but we shall see. Once again director Eric Thompson has kept up a brisk pace with his six first-class players.

Barry Conley

Nerve ends

NEXT OF KIN - at National Theatre, The Cut, Waterloo, London SE1.

Scratch beneath the surface of anybody and you'll discover a fulat or fear you didn't know existed. In John Hopkins' brilliant new play Next Of Kin a good deal of surface scratching occurs among the family gathered for Sunday tea. An aura of unrest is apparent from the start, as the hostess prepares for their arrival, admitting to her husband her dislike at having them as guests. No sooner have they all gathered than he mysteriously disappears from the house, triggering off a series of revelations within this motley crew.

A particularly interesting aspect of the play is that, with one exception, all are basically unsympathetic people. As their weaknesses are revealed one's interest gains momentum. The eldest daughter and her husband, intent on having her mother come to live with them (a negative woman, incapable of making the simplest of decision), have

ulterior motives. The bitchy younger daughter announces that her husband is not the father of their child. The younger son and his wife, in whose house the action occurs, have both monetary and marital problems of their own. The eldest son, unfaithful to his wife, and over-attentive to his sister-in-law, though a rogue, is the only honest member of the immediate family.

I particularly liked Lynn Dearth's brittle portrayal of the younger daughter, dropping sarcastic remarks and home truths along the way. Antonia Pemberton's bossy no-nonsense eldest daughter and Dawn Grainger's honest rogue are both excellent. Gemma Jones, saddled with the difficult role of the enigmatic hostess, displays a remarkable adeptness in gaining our sympathy in the final act with her impassioned cry for help. Harold Pinter's direction brings out the very best from his excellent cast.

Barry Conley

Now showing

The American ambassador's French kidnappers in the political thriller NADA (Connoisseur Films, director Claude Chabrol), bear a close resemblance to Sam Peckinpah's desperate, ageing outmoded cowboys of the Wild Bunch. Like Peckinpah, Chabrol confers hero status on his desperados. Their drunken plotting in a shabby bar syndrome, has been superceded by police technology and the middle-class, middle-aged complacency of former accomplices.

The film is a masterpiece on many levels. It succeeds as a taut thriller, as it traces the conception and execution of the kidnapping and the resultant police chase. As a satire on the nuances of high-ranking police and government officials, their methods and ideological make-up, it is scathingly amusing. Finally, most pertinently, it fascinated me particularly as a complex character study of men who carry an awareness of the uselessness and boredom of the accepted lifestyle into their actions.

If you've been too busy going to the cinema during the last few years and have missed Benny Hill's riotous and satirical television shows, pop along to THE BEST OF BENNY HILL (EMI, director John Robbins). Hill and Robbins have successfully transferred the best of the shows to the big screen with some added cinematic effect. Although I'd seen some of the sketches before, I laughed heartily throughout.

BUSTLING (United Artists, writer/director Peter Hyams) is one of those amoral cynical American cop dramas that underlies the confused desperation of, in this case, two vice cops. Played with exaggerated conviction by Robert Blake and Elliot Gould, their naive sincerity in closing massage parlours that are really brothels and drug rings comes horribly unstuck, the local police hierarchy being typically in the pay of a crime syndicate.

Unlike most police movies, Busting sets out to be very funny, and good humour from Chaplin onwards has always signified pathos and sadness. Everyone in the film is a victim of confused

idealism; the cops bully evidence out of high-class call girls, who after all are about as valuable to the community as good doctors. The dope dealer fakes a heart attack so that he can dispense his wares in the safety of that most sacred of institutions, the hospital. One of the funniest scenes in the film is a raid on an authentic-looking gay bar, as a result of which one of the cops is brutally attacked by the customers. This is followed by a court scene the following morning where judge, police and gays seem equally ridiculous. No one knows why they are there, or why the police embarked on the raid in the first place. This sort of scene exemplifies the film's ethos of not really taking sides but laying emphasis on the fact that cops, gays, dope dealers and all of us are living lost misguided lives. A subtly profound film that has received scant attention from most critics. I unreservedly recommend it.

It's a great pity that Busting is showing in a double bill with I ESCAPED FROM DEVILS ISLAND (United Artists, director William Witney, producers Roger and Gene Corman), a lamentably turgid mixture of 1940's B picture and made-for-television movie styles, with updated violence. Jim Brown and Christopher George surmount seemingly insuperable odds to escape a 'Papillon' type prison. Perhaps the film's one salient point is its innovative acknowledgment of prisoners' suppressed homosexual lifestyles. The so-called 'fancy boys' are sporadically amusing as they cavort around with eye make-up, smoke cigars and generally behave in a fashion liable to send many an audience into fits of mocking laughter.

THE LAST DETAIL (Columbia-Warner, director Hal Ashby), is an affectionate adult fairy tale about a young sailor (Clifton James) being initiated into life by Jack Nicholson and Randy Quaid, the two sailors assigned to escort him to prison. They get him drunk, find him a prostitute, treat him to an infinite number of hamburgers and have a brawl. The dialogue and their actions are extremely funny, but the film lacks any real profundity.

David Seligman

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## Forgotten melodies

Listening to the latest releases in the Ben Bagley 'Composer Revisited' series, I would like, for a change, to concentrate on those often unsung heroes of the popular song, the lyricists.



### RODGERS & HART REVISITED (Volume Two) - Various Artists - RCA

Though not up to the high standards set by Volume One, any record that includes a Lorenz Hart lyric is always worth listening to. On the very first song he rhymes as follows: "I'll go to hell for yer, or Philadelphia, any old place with you," which is a sample of his sense of fun. "Blue Moon" makes an appearance, but with its two original sets of lyrics used before, Hart hit on his now famous words for the standard which gave it such a poignant meaning. Gloria DeHaven, with her sensual vibrato voice, makes her two appearances on "Sleepyhead" and "Ship Without A Sail", the best things on the album. Dorothy Loudon has only one song, a beautiful ballad "Bye and Bye" which is also a typical Hart lyric in romantic mood. Much as I admire the stylish singing of Bobby Short and Blossom Dearie, with the exception of their big finale tune "I Like To Recognize The Tune", they are not too well served on this album.

### ALAN JAY LERNER REVISITED - Various Artists - RCA

Lerner, whose name is synonymous with Frederick Loewe, ever since they wrote *My Fair Lady*, is odd man out in this collection of composers series, as he is in fact a lyricist, who has collaborated with several composers during his long career. His lyrics are always serviceable, with words that make their point, though lacking that extra spark inherent in writers such as Lorenz Hart, Ira Gershwin and that master of sophistication Cole Porter. All the music featured here comes from three vehicles. Kurt Weill's *Love Life* (1948), one of his last scores before his death in 1950, was not as successful as others in his American period, but does include the amusing "Progress", "Love Song" and a dazzling performance of semi-camp by Dorothy Loudon on "Mr Right". An early collaboration with Frederick Loewe, *The Day Before Spring* (1945), has some delightful music, the best being "I Love You This Morning" and "This Is My Holiday", both featuring the delectable Blossom Dearie, and a haunting melody "You Haven't Changed At All" sung by Nancy Walker and Roddy McDowell. *Royal Wedding* (1951) with Burton Lane's music, was a Fred Astaire film set in London at the time of the wedding of our present Queen. I recall it best for the usual mistakes that Hollywood made, an absurd London bus, thick pea-soup fog, etc. Astaire had a super solo dance titled "Sunday Jumps", and a lyric to it appears here for this bouncy tune, sung with pep by Nancy Walker. "Open Your Eyes" is a pretty waltz featuring Miss Loudon. "Every Night At Seven" proves that Roddy McDowell doesn't necessarily sing in pitch, but has a pleasing style in spite of this. "You're All The World To Me" sung by Blossom Dearie completes the set.

### GEORGE GERSHWIN REVISITED - Various Artists - RCA

I've always been crazy for Gershwin, and at an early age came to appreciate the lyrics of his talented brother Ira. I won't deny the fact that none of the songs featured here come up to the standard of their famous hits, but the charm of their early period, dating back to 1919, is very much in evidence. Two songs discovered after George's death, to which Ira added lyrics, which were featured in a Betty Grable musical *The Shocking Miss Pilgrim*, are equally delightful, and one is grateful for their being unearthed. It's pointless to pick out any individual tune as the four artists, Barbara Cook, Elaine Stritch, Bobby Short and Anthony Perkins, are splendid on every one. Definitely one of Bagley's best.

**Dr SYLVA, BROWN and HENDERSON REVISITED - Various Artists - RCA.** This last album qualifies as Bagley's worst. I can appreciate that these men wrote some great standards like "Birth of the Blues", but even with the talented Ms's Dearie, DeHaven and Loudon again present, there is nothing I can find to recommend this album.

Barry Conley

## short plays



Ketty Lester's classic hit re-issued

After being unavailable for many years, Ketty Lester's unforgettable sixties hit "Love Letters" has at long last been re-released on the Contempo-Raries label. When first issued, the record met with phenomenal success all over the world, partly because of Ms Lester's interpretation of the song, but mainly due to the unique arrangement, particularly the echoing piano sound. A true classic. Making the disc especially good value is the excellent number on the flip side, "Hey Little One" by Dorsey Burnette. Basically it's a slow, dreamy love ballad, but the uncluttered effective backing, as well as Burnette's fascinating vocal, results in a captivating performance.

RD Taylor has in the past been responsible for some of the most unusual hits to appear on the Tamla Motown label. A new single featuring two previously unissued tracks has recently been released and it is certain to please Taylor's many ardent devotees. The cuts are "Let's Go Somewhere" and "There's a Ghost in My House", and the latter has already entered the charts. It's about time that Motown got together a 'greatest hits' collection by this extremely distinctive and talented artist.

Kevin Ayer's initial release on the Island label is a highly entertaining and commercially appealing number called "The Up Song". The engaging lyrics, sung over a chug-a-lugging, bubbly backing, exudes more than enough of Kevin's tongue-in-cheek charm to give him his first hit single.

International singing star Demis Roussos' latest bid to break through to British record buyers is "Forever and Ever" (Philips), the title track of his recently-released album. The cut combines an extremely romantic ballad with an arrangement featuring the haunting, evocative sound of bouzoukis and strings, and it could easily give Roussos, previously a member of Aphrodites Child, his first UK chart entry as a solo artist.

Lovers of deep soul will want to hear Roshell Anderson's "Know What You're Doing When You Leave" (Contempo). Issued on the Sunburst label in the States, the song was one of America's biggest soul hits last year. An impressive recording.

"I Don't Want Nobody (To Waste My Time)" is the initial release on Contempo by five young West Indians who collectively call themselves New Experience. A reasonable debut, but if the group want to establish themselves as a major soul outfit, they'll need to use more imaginative arrangements and better material.

On "Without a Doubt" (Warner Bros), veteran soul/r&b artist Major Lance has come up with one of the strongest cuts he's released in quite some time. Definitely a disco hit, and may very well appeal to a much wider audience.

Carly Simon's "Haven't Got Time for the Pain" (Elektra), taken from her recently-issued *Hotcakes* set, is a moving performance of a beautiful song. As an album track, it is faultless, but I'm afraid it's not likely to mean much as a single in Britain, despite its merits.



Michael Crawford: star of Billy

A value for money double A side is the RCA single that features two of the most popular songs from *Billy*, sung by the musical's star Michael Crawford. Side one features a medium/fast rock called "The Lady From LA", on the flip is "I Missed The Last Rainbow" a cute wispy ballad. The disc is a must for people who have seen the show.

Smokey Robinson has got love problems as is obvious by listening to his new single "A Silent Partner in a Three-Way Love Affair" (Tamla Motown). Pretty song, tastefully arranged and performed, but not really hit parade material.

Previously scoring with the contemporary country classic "Delta Dawn", CBS Records' latest country star Tanya Tucker has a new single out called "Would You Lay With Me (In a Field of Stone)". A pleasant enough recording, expertly produced by Billy Sherrill, but with very limited chart potential. A must for country music fans though.

The ambiguous lyrics of Jobriath's flashily tantalising "Street Corner Love" (Elektra) will undoubtedly attract a lot of attention. I know how I interpret the song, but readers must hear the record themselves and form their own opinions. Incidentally, his forthcoming European tour has been postponed and isn't likely to take place till much later this year. A pity, as Jobriath's true worth can't be gauged until we've had a chance to see him give live performances.

"All in Love Is Fair" is one of Stevie Wonder's finest compositions and it receives a superb treatment from Barbra Streisand (CBS). To say the lyrics are meaningful is an understatement, and Barbra's dazzling artistry takes the song to a new level of emotional intensity. Irresistible performance.

"S-T-O-P (Stop)" by The Lorrelli (CBS) is a bouncy soul number, but is a little too ordinary and doesn't have an original enough sound. Should go down well in discos, though.

"We Can't Get Enough" (Polydor) is a medium paced, clumsily orchestrated, instantly forgettable debut single by a US soul outfit who call themselves Bingo. Disappointing too is "It's Forever" by the Gamble-Huff produced soft soul group The Ebony's (Phil Int). It's regrettable to see a talented vocal team wasting their time on such weak material.

More interesting is the exciting, hip-shaking sound Earth, Wind & Fire capture on their latest release "Mighty Mighty" (CBS). It may not get into the charts, but nevertheless is an essential cut for discos.

Acting as a trailer for Blue's forthcoming album *Life in the Navy* is "Lonesome" (RSO). To my mind, it isn't a particularly good choice for a single, but it at least shows that the group are still producing chunkily satisfying music and magnificent, well-balanced harmonies.

Bob & Marcia haven't done too well chart-wise since their initial hits of a couple of years ago. And the situation isn't likely to improve for them if they continue to release singles as dull as "I Like To Live the Life" (Epic).



Frankie Stevens: potential hit-maker?

Newcomer Frankie Stevens sounds a little like Tom Jones on his debut single "Vanilla O'Lay" (CBS). It has a catchy melody and Stevens' powerful voice is well-suited to the song, which is one of those numbers that grows on you the more you hear it. Plenty of radio exposure could give him a chart-topper.

Denis Lemon

## Soul scan

After a somewhat uneventful period, it is good to see The Chi-Lites back in the charts again with "Homely Girl", which to my mind is one of the best soul recordings released this year. The cut is on their new album, simply called *Chi-Lites* (Brunswick), which also features nine other faultlessly constructed tracks. Particularly outstanding are "I Never Had It So Good", "Marriage License" and "Stoned Out of My Mind".

Since their early days when they went in for heavy, psychedelic soul such as "Power to the People", the group have developed a sweeter, more subtle approach and their current work, as clearly demonstrated on *Chi-Lites*, equals anything being put out by the top league soft soul outfits.

On their own records, the group of musicians responsible for the unmistakable "Philly sound" heard on all the material that appears on Gamble & Huff's Philadelphia International label, are collectively known as MFSB (Mother, Father, Sister, Brother). Serving as the title track of their second album is their recent hit single "TSOP (The Sound of Philadelphia)", which gave them chart success both in Britain and North America. "Love Is the Message", the Stateside hit that preceded "TSOP", is also included.

MFSB incorporate many different styles and influences into their music, the most prominent being soul and jazz. This results in an intriguing collection of sounds, even if the ensemble at times seems to be producing little more than high class muzak. Nevertheless, a thoroughly enjoyable set, that will especially please admirers of grandiose orchestrations and impeccable musicianship.

Following his rewarding involvement with Al Green and Ann Peebles, veteran soul producer Willie Mitchell has now turned his attention to promoting another protege on his Memphis based Hi Records label. The artist in question is Syl Johnson. Listening to the recently released album *Back for a Taste of Your Love* (London), it soon becomes apparent though that Johnson hasn't been allowed to stray far from the hit formula Mitchell used to establish Al Green and Ms Peebles, and ultimately this is the recording's downfall. We've heard it all before.

Apart from the excellent title track, the rest of the set is cliched and dull. Even the tight, gritty funkiness of the rhythm, brass and string sections isn't strong enough to save the LP from being exhaustingly tedious. Perhaps on his next album, Syl Johnson will not allow the dictates of his esteemed producer to stifle his obvious talents.

Bill Withers on his new album *Justments* (A&M) is as impressive as ever, and his performance serves to remind me that only a handful of other artists can project the same amount of intense sensitivity and sincerity as this superb singer/songwriter. He is supported by a fine collection of backing musicians, who provide flawless accompaniment for songs that rely heavily on the right mood being created. Tracks that stand out as obvious highlights on this immensely gratifying set are "The Same Love That Made Me Laugh", "You", and "Railroad Man".

Latest release in Tamla Motown's excellent *Anthology* series is a two-record set that contains the recorded highlights from Marvin Gaye's long and prosperous career. His first hit dates back to 1962, when "Stubborn Kind of Fellow" gave him his first chart entry. Other cuts from the early 60's are "Can I Get a Witness", "You're a Wonderful One", and "How Sweet It Is (To Be Loved by You)". The late 60's are represented by "I'll Be Doggone" and "I Heard It Through the Grapevine" etc, as well as the best-selling duets he recorded with other Motown artists, eg "It Takes Two" (with Kim Weston), "You're All I Need To Get By" (with Tammi Terrell). In the 70's, Gaye has gained an even greater degree of success, and amongst the material showcasing his recent achievements are "What's Going On", "Trouble Man" and "Let's Get It On". Side 4 finishes with "You're a Special Part of Me", from the recent album he co-recorded with Diana Ross. In total there are 32 tracks, which amply show why Marvin Gaye fully deserves the amount of acclaim and commercial success he has enjoyed over the last thirteen years.

A must for fans of one of Tamla Motown's most sophisticated artists is *Diana Ross Live*. The surprisingly high quality of the recording complements the wide range of material she sensuously performs.

Denis Lemon

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## Top sounds

Dick's Inn—London's Gay Discos

- 1 When the Fuel Runs Out - Executive Suite (Cloudburst)
- 2 TSOP (The Sound of Philadelphia) - MFSB (Phil Int)
- 3 The In Crowd - Brian Ferry (Island)
- 4 Got To Get Ya Back - Sons of Robin Stone (Atlantic)
- 5 Help Me Make It Through the Night - John Holt (Trojan)
- 6 Year of Decision - Three Degrees (Phil Int)
- 7 If You're Ready - Staple Singers (Stax)
- 8 Tom the Peeper - Act 1 (Mercury)
- 9 Help Yourself - Undisputed Truth (Tamla Motown)
- 10 Circuits Overloaded - Inezz Foxx (Volt Import)

— Camp Re-Vamp —  
Music, Music, Music - Teresa Brewer (Philips)  
Compiled by Tricky Dicky, week ending 1/6/74



## GN's Mini Guide

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

\* indicates Gay News on sale.

(D) applies to pubs with regular drag shows.

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

### ASHTON UNDER LYNE

Pub: Laughing Cavalier, Market St, Stalybridge (Thurs)

Club: Gaslight Club, 211a Stamford St

### AYR

Pub: Caledonian Hotel (upstairs public lounge)

### BARNESLEY

Pub: Queens Hotel (Venturer Bar)

### BARRY, Glamorgan

Pub: The Barry Hotel (Lounge Bar) Broad Street

### BATH

Pub: Garricks Head, Sawclose The Regency (opp Theatre Royal)

Club: \*Valentines, 14 George Street

### BEDFORD

Pub: The Barley Mow, Bromham Rd

### BELFAST

Pub: Avenue Bar, Rosemary Street Europa Hotel (Whip and Saddle Bar), Great Victoria Street

### BIRMINGHAM

Pub: The Victoria, John Bright St

Club: \*Grosvenor House, 326 Hagley Rd

\*Nightingale, 50 Camp Hill, B12

### BLACKBURN

Pub: The Merchants Hotel, Darwen St (D)

### BLACKPOOL

Pub: Lucy's Bar, Talbot Square

Club: The Red Dragon, North Prom, opposite Metropole

### BOLTON

Pub: Peel Arms, 423 Halliwell Road

Club: Labour Club, 16 Wood St (upstairs bar)

### BOURNEMOUTH

Pub: The Norfolk Hotel

Club: Gigg's, The Triangle

### BRADFORD

Pub: Junction Inn, Leeds Road

### BRENTWOOD

Pub: The Prince Albert, Warley Hill

### BRIGHTON

Pub: Spotted Dog, Middle Street

Club: Cricketers, Black Lion Street (weekends)

Rest: Move Lovers Hotel

Club: \*Heart & Hand, Ship Street

\*Regency Club, Regency Square

42 Club, Kings Road

Club: Pink Elephant, corner of Regency Square

St Albans Club, Regency Square

Queen of Clubs, Bedford Square

Howe

Club: Lonebranch Club, Grand Parade

Gay Cavalier, 62 Middle Street

Rest: Olda Twitten, 62 Middle Street

Lorelei Coffee Lounge, 5 Union Street

Disco: GLF disco fortnightly from 7th June at Marlborough Hotel, Princes St (off Old Steins, opp Royal Pavilion)

### BRISTOL

Pub: Radnor, 30 St Nicholas Street

Club: \*Moulin Rouge, 72 Worrall Rd, Clifton

### BURNLEY

Pub: \*The Cross Keys

### CAMBRIDGE

Pub: The Stable Bar, Green Street

Rest: Scaramouche, Catherine Street, Tel: Cambridge 43570

### CANTERBURY

Pub: The Queen's Head, Watling St

### CARDIFF

Pub: Royal Hotel (Roberts Bar) St Mary Street

Club: Showbiz Club, Hope Street

### CHELTHAM

Pub: The Beaufort Arms, London Road

Savoy Bar, Savoy Hotel, Bayhill Rd (Sundays)

Club: Irving Hotel, High Street

Rest: El Toro, Fairview Road

### CHESTER

Pub: Foregate Bar, Blossoms Hotel, St Johns Street

### CHICHESTER

Pub: Cattle Market Inn

### CIRENCESTER

Pub: Black Horse

### CLEETHORPES

Club: \*Birds Nest, Boating Lake (Wed, Sat & Sun)

### DERBY

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

### DONCASTER

Club: Don Jon's, Silver Street

Pub: Underground, off Silver Street

### DUNDEE

Pub: Gauger, Seagate

### DUNSMORE, Bucks

Pub: The Fox

### DURHAM

Pub: The Three Tuns, Old Elvet

Nevelles Cross Hotel

### EDINBURGH

Pub: The Kenilworth, Rose Street

The Abercromby Hotel

Abercromby Place

The Baillie, St Stephen Street

### EXETER

Pub: Horse & Groom, Longbrook St

FERNDALE, South Wales

Pub: \*Salisbury Hotel

### GLASGOW

Pub: Duke of Wellington, Argyle St

The Strand (Downstairs Bar), Hope Street

### GRAVESEND

Pub: \*The Kent, High St

### GREENOCK

Pub: The Jolly Sailor, Clyde Square

(Saloon Bar, Weds only, 8pm onwards)

### GUILDFORD

Pub: The Royal Oak, near multi-story car park

### HASTINGS

Pub: The Palace Bars, White Rock, Hastings

### HELSTON, Cornwall

Pub: The Bell, High Street

### HOLMFIRTH

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

### Huddersfield

Pub: The Commercial Hotel, High St

The Grey Horse, Chapel Hill (Sundays)

Amster Dam (men)

### HULL

Pub: White House (Chicken and Cocktail Bar), Jameson St

Royal Station Hotel, Paragon Square

Centre Hotel (Lounge Bar), Paragon St, Hull

### ILFORD

Club: The Cavalier Club, Ilford Lane

### IPSWICH

Pub: The Cock & Pye (Saloon Bar), Upper Brook Street

### ISLE OF WIGHT

Pub: The Hole in the Wall, Market St, Ventnor

The Plough, High St, Shanklin (Public Bar)

Club: Regency Club, Sun Hill, Cowes 5188

Medway Queen Night Club, Newport 5460 (D)

Rest: Ryde Queen Boatel at Wight Marina, Newport 4751

Stable, 105 High St, Old Village, Shanklin

### LANCASTER

Pub: Farmers Arms, King Street

### LEEDS

Pub: Hope & Anchor, Call Lane

West Riding Bar (back bar) Wellington Street

Cafe: Flamenco, New Brigate

Club: \*Room at the Top, 207 North St

\*Charleys Club, Lower Brigate

Disco: Leeds GLF Disco fortnightly, contact their office for location

### LEICESTER

Pub: Dover Castle, Dover Street

### LIVERPOOL

Pub: Lisbon, Victoria Street L2

The Denby Castle, Heckins Hey (off Dale Street)

Club: New Bears Paw, Dorrans Lane

Sadies, Wood St (off Hanover St)

### LONDON

Pub: \*Watermans Arms (upstairs bar), Water Lane, Richmond

\*The Boltons & \*The Coleherne are near each other on Old Brompton Road (tube Earls Court)

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

\*The Green Room at the Wheat-sheaf, Goldhawk Road (Goldhawk Road tube)

\*The Queens Head, Tryon Street (off Kings Rd) (Sloane Sq tube)

\*New Black Cap, Camden High St (Camden Town tube) (D)

\*Pig & Whistle, Little Chester St SW1

\*Horse & Groom, near Pig & Whistle (Sundays only)

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

Cricketers, Battersea Park Rd (D)

The Salisbury, St Martins Lane WC1 (Leicester Sq tube)

Ship & Whale, Gulliver St SE 16

William IV, Hampstead High St

\*Royal Vauxhall Tavern, Vauxhall Cross (Vauxhall tube) (D)

\*Union Tavern, 146 Camberwell New Road, SE5. Disco Mon and Tues (D)

Father Redcap, Camberwell Green, SE5

Imperial, High St, Richmond

The Swan, Lee High Rd, SE13 (D)

The Lord Raglan, St Martins Lane Grande, EC1 (Disco)

Pub: Ward's Irish House, Piccadilly Circus

\*The Royal Mail, Upper St, Islington (Angel Tube) (D)

Golden Lion, Dean Street, off Shaftesbury Ave, W1

Duke of Fife, 350 Katherine Rd E7 (East Ham tube)

Elmhurst, 131 Lordship Lane, Tottenham N17 (D)

Royal Oak, 62 Giensthorne Road W6 (D)

Club: \*Peacock Club, 259 Old Brompton Road, SW10

\*Chagarramas, Neal St, WC2

Sweet Lorraine, Lowndes Court W1 (Oxford Circus tube)

Vortex, Tachbrook Street

\*Le Gigolo, Kings Road (Sloane Square tube)

The New Oasis, 5 Excel Court, Whitcomb Street, WC2

Tel: 01-203 4961

\*Paint Box, 29 Fowley Street W1 (Oxford Circus tube)

\*Masquerade Restaurant & disco Earls Court Sq, SW5 (Earls Court tube)

\*The Pink Elephant, 8 Newport Place, WC1 (Leicester Sq tube)

\*Mollin Disco Club (girls only) Half Moon Hotel, Half Moon Lane, Herne Hill, SE24 (Wed Fri Sat)

\*Shanes, Broadhurst Gardens, NW6

The Escort, 89a Pimlico Road (Sloane Square tube)

Yours & Mine, Kensington High St, W8 (Ken High St tube)

Rockingham, 9 Archer St, W1

Toucan Club, 13 Gerrard St, W1

Festival Club, 2 Brydges Place WC2 (Leicester Sq tube)

Louise, 61 Poland Street, W1 (Oxford Circus tube)

Apollo, 3 Wardour St, W1

Mandy's, 30 Henrietta St, WC2

Jonny's, 106 The Shopping Precinct, Shepherds Bush, W12 (Shepherds Bush tube)

Disco: \*The Catacombs, Old Brompton Road (Earls Court tube)

Disco: South London GLF Disco alternate Sats starting June 1st at Brixton Gay Community Centre, 78 Railton St, SE24. 01-274 7921. 5 mins Brixton Tube and BR stns. Bus 2 (not 28) passes door.

\*Arabian Pub, Tricky Dicky disco every Wed, Cambridge Heath Road, E2 (Bethnal Green tube)

Mollin Disco Club, Half Moon Lane, SE24 (Wed Fri Sat)

\*Ship & Whale, Gulliver St, SE16 Thurs (Surrey Docks tube)

Alan and Dave's Disco, Ship & Whale, Gulliver St, SE16

Tricky Dicky Disco (Tues) Hornsey Wood Tavern, 376

Seven Sisters Road, N4

\*Tricky Dicky Disco (Mon & Thurs) Kings Arms, 213

Bishopsgate, EC1 (Liverpool Street tube)

Dicks Inn, Fether Redcap, Camberwell Green, SE5 every Fri

Centre, Broadway Terrace, NW1, every Fri, 8pm-12 midnight

Disco in aid of the Gay Switchboard, every Sat at Prince

Albert, corner of Wharfedale Rd and York Way N1. Adm 15p

GLF, Prince Albert, corner of Wharfedale Rd and York Way N1. Adm 10p, every Fri.

Rest: Nell Gwynnes Kitchen, 43

Crawford St

La Popote, Walton St, SW3

Chagarramas, 41-43 Neal St, WC2

Simple Simon, 234 Old Brompton Road, SW5

Masquerade, 310 Earls Court Rd, SW5

La Faune, 23 Praed Street, W2

La Caserole, 338 Kings Road, Chelsea, SW3

The Last Resort, 294 Fulham Road, SW10. Tel: 352 1625

La Richelieu, 277 New Kings Rd, SW6. Tel: 736 4432

Coffee Bar: The Macabre, 23 Mead St, W1 (opens 11.45am)

The Coffin, Members only, Disco

### LLANDUDNO

Pub: Rembrandt Bar, Washington Hotel (on the sea front)

### LINCOLN

Pub: Ye Olde Crown, Clasketgate (lounge bar)

### LUTON

Club: \*Pan Club, Bute Street. Open nightly, weekend cabaret

### MACCLESFIELD

Pub: Waters Green Tavern

### MANCHESTER

Pub: The Mechanics, Chorlton St

Union Hotel, Princess Street (D)

Rambrandt, Sackville Street

Cavalcade, Wilmslow Road

Didsbury (Sunday lunchtime)

New York, Bloom Street

Club: Napoleon's, Sackville Street

### MARYPORT

Guest House: 45 Crosby St, Maryport, Cumbria (men only)

### MERTHYR TYDFIL

Pub: Red Cow Hotel, Giebeland Street

### MIDDLESBOROUGH

Pub: The Grand Hotel

Club: The Rendezvous, above the Grand Hotel, Thurs Fri Sat

### MORECAMBE

Pub: \*Masons Arms ('Gays only' lounge)

### NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

Pub: Royal Court Grill, Big Market

Royal Turks Head, Pouchinello Bar

## Personal Ads continued from Page 17

**Wanted:** loveable and affectionate guy 21-32 able to respond to the warm friendship of professional Londoner aged 32, handsome, with varied interests. ALA, those with photo first. Box 48/28.

**Doctors.** Can we refer callers to you for sympathetic advice? Please write (in confidence) to Gay Switchboard, 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1.

**Urgent, before I go insane.** 22yr old non-smoker living in SW London needs young friends over 21 who enjoy living and like to get away occasionally. Photo appreciated. Box 48/30.

**Attractive quiet slim 23,** recently lost affair, seeks nice non-camp cheerful boy over 21 to share happy times, life and perhaps home. Torquay/Exeter. Box 48/31.

**Kilburn guy 22** seeks friends into leather/denim. CA Andy after 7pm 624 9961 (ground floor flat).

**Switched-on Englishman,** low resistance, seeks black transister to activate circuit. Box 48/32.

**Would anyone who saw two boys attack** a middle-aged man and the subsequent police action on Shepherds Bush Green at 1.30 on the 10th of May please contact Box 48/33.

**Preston guy, 33,** would like gay friends in same area. Likes pubs and clubs. Object friendship. Photo appreciated. Box 48/34.

**Man 38, North London,** not keen on gay scene seeks younger guys over 21 for friendship. Box 48/35.

**Young man, 24, slim, beautiful, affectionate and sincere,** and lonely, genuinely seeks mature man 40-50 for wonderful loving companionship. Box 48/36.

**Respectable young man, 24, slim, handsome, non-afeminate, English,** wishes to stay with similar 1 or 2 weeks during July/August. Brighton area preferred. Box 48/37.

**ILFORD CAVALIER SOCIAL CLUB** meets Wednesdays. Information Tel: Jack, 01-554 5163.

**Non-camp male, 47,** seeks quiet young friend 21+ for sincere friendship. Nottingham area. Box 48/38.

**Will young London boy over 21** brighten writer's business trips? I'm 29, affectionate, successful, attractive and spend a few days in town each month. Photo please. Box 48/39.

**Help! Dolly boy 28** needs French-speaking dolly boy over 21 for crash course in French. Urgent and genuine. ALA. (NW London and Herts). Box 48/40.

**Very discreet tall, young, slim, attractive Chinese** seeks married man (good build) 21-40 years for friendship. Photos appreciated. Box 48/41.

**30, own flat North London,** interests sporting, not keen on gay scene, appreciate honesty, sense humour, looking for young gay friends over 21. Box 48/42.

**Was your photo on page 18** of Jeffrey No 6? Please contact an admirer who is genuine. Box 48/43.

**Active white guy** seeks black boy over 21 for friendship. Box 48/44.

**Ilford guy mid-30's** needs 21+ active friend, any nationality. Possibly flat share. Interests: tennis, badminton, music, cinema. Car owner. No phone. ALA. Photo please. Box 48/45.

**South Wales guy 28, moustache,** seeks genuine mate (straight appearance) for friendship. Box 48/46.

**Active disabled guy,** with car and flat, aged 40, needs affectionate boy 21-30 to share and look after each other. West London area. Box 48/47.

**Graduate, 25, working in the City** seeks similar guys for friendship. Box 48/48.

**Is there anyone interested?** Attractive, slim, 5'5", Capricorn, 20's, tired of insincere people, and of being alone, seeks a similar firm young man 21-30 (perhaps Virgo) for deep lasting friendship. Lincoln/Grimsby/Doncaster area. Box 48/49.

**21-year-old, working in London** and living alone in bedsitter, looking for father-figure friend, perhaps to share with. Box 48/50.

**Trendy law lecturer, 23,** in denims, Essex, would like to make new friends. Box 48/51.

**Young gay executive living Leigh, Essex,** working London would like to share his flat and life with similar person age between 22-28. Likes music, theatre, travel. Photo appreciated, all returned. Box 48/52.

**If you are lonely, sincere, attractive** and want lasting friendship please get in touch. Photo appreciated. Box 48/53.

**Gay 36, London,** seeks active Sikh, Negro, Indian, Pakistani or Arab for friendship. Photo please. ALA. Box 48/54.

**38 Londoner, varied interests** include leather, seeks friends with own pad. Box 48/55.

**Young wrestler** seeks similar. Photo. Box 48/56.

**Sheffield/South Yorkshire. Professional** guy 32 seeks contact with other males (28-45) this area who wish to establish personal friendship. Box 48/57.

**Interesting couple, twenties,** seek active friends London/Essex. Photos returned. Box 48/104.

## Classified and Display Ads

The box number service is not available to commercial advertisers. Where discovered, literature advertising commercial enterprises will not be forwarded to box numbers.

**SEMI-DISPLAY (Boxed Classifieds in bold type) £1.50 extra.**

**ALL ADS MUST BE PREPAID. DISPLAY AD RATES—prices quoted on request—contact Ad Manager Bernard Mears.**

**Bearded artist, 38,** seeks active companions, London area, evenings, weekends, holidays etc. Photo appreciated. Box 48/58.

**Warm-hearted somewhat stout person** aged 35, main interests music, cinema, social work, seeks mature intelligent friends locally and elsewhere. Write Christopher, 24 Nursery Close, Oxford.

**Londoner 30** wishes to meet Chinese boy 24-27 for friendship living in London and companion to Malta in September. Photo please. Box 48/83.

**26, North Midlands,** can travel, own pad, wants introduction to leather scene. Box 48/84.

**Rugged 42** seeks friendship with quiet Manchester male 21-28, interested in driving, canals, walking, photography. Evenings, weekends. Photo ensures reply. Box 48/85.

**Free holiday offered** to clean good-looking male 21-25, by young 36 year old, in return for companionship. Photo if possible. Box 48/86.

**Glasgow. Scene-disliking graduates,** 25-30, sought by similar. Box 48/87.

**Schoolteacher, 24, Wolverhampton/Worcester based,** requires friends. Box 48/88.

**Londoner 26, intelligent, sincere.** Interests: music, cinema. Seeks non-car-puncher guy over 21 for lasting friendship. ALA. Box 48/89.

**Are you aged 21-35,** lean, lanky and ugly? Then you are my ideal for everything. I'm 47. Box 48/90.

**Travelling alone to Bangkok, Singapore, Sydney, Melbourne, September.** Any information gratefully received. ALA. Box 48/91.

**Gay, 29, buying bike,** interested to meet other London area for weekends, races, bike building. Box 48/92.

**Affair 25/26 North of England** want to meet others, single or affairs, of similar age for friendship. Photos please and interests. ALA. Box 48/93.

**Active S Kensington denim guy 33,** good build and appearance, general interests, seeks friends 25-35. Photos please. Box 48/94.

**North London man, 31,** seeks a sincere friend 21-26. Interests opera, music, theatre etc. Box 48/95.

**Young man, 31,** interested in steam railways, seeks companion for rail trip to Poland August. Box 48/96.

**I'm very sad, Can anybody help?** Box 48/97.

**Young artist, goodlooking,** wants well-built, non-camp friends. Own fabulous studio (London). Photo essential. Box 48/98.

**21-year-old market worker** not into pubs/clubs seeks mates same age for good times. Photo. ALA. Box 48/99.

**Birmingham, sincere, lonely,** not keen clubs, seeks similar 21-29. Box 48/100.

**Hong Kong gay male, 21, good-looking,** non-afeminate, seeks sincere boyish guys 21-22 in South London. Photo please. ALA. Box 48/101.

**Very attractive blond boy** wants to meet very attractive negro boy over 21 for friendship. Photo please. Box 48/102.

**Guy 21, sincere, slim, non-camp,** seeks similar London/South area with view to lasting friendship. Photo appreciated but ALA (promise). Box 48/103.

**Solicitors.** Can we refer callers to you for sympathetic advice? Please write (in confidence) to Gay Switchboard, 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1.

**Attractive arts graduate, 36,** London flat, many interests, seeks friendship. Box 48/105.

**Slim, trim, Manchester male, 32,** own house, seeks other non-afeminate 21-35 for friendship, holidays, fun and enjoyment of arts. Box 48/106.

**Gay 27, good-looking,** shortly starting work near Crawley, seeks new non-camp friends this area, also W London. ALA. Photo if possible. Box 48/107.

**Guy 31** wishes to share his home with young man over 21. Willingness or ability to drive preferred, not essential. Box 48/108.

**Can someone help me? I am 21, attractive** and slim, very lonely after broken affair and want someone who wants me. Genuine replies only. Photo ensures replies. Box 48/109.

**ARE YOU WARM AND LOVING** with good sense of fun, 21-35? If yes, please write. I am 33 with own house near South Coast. Box 48/110.

**Chinese student, pleasant disposition,** desirous of genuine friends, preferably chubby or stocky. Age immaterial, photos greatly appreciated. Box 48/111.

**Shy guy, 27, interests folk music,** languages, disillusioned by gay scene seeks sincere friends 21-35 S London. Box 48/112.

**Are you an active cultured country-loving** lonely 25-40? I am 25 living near Bath and would like to meet someone to share happy evenings and holidays with. Box 48/113.

**Manchester. Under 30, over 21** interested in lasting friendship and anything other than pubs and clubs? Then please write with photo. Box 48/114.

**Amputee? I wish to meet sincere, young** (21+) sensible, good-looking, slim, arm or leg amputee for correspondence, outings and hopefully lasting friendship. I have car and flat and not myself disabled. Box 48/115.

**London architect, 30, country house** owner (Kent), own car, other attractions, seeks compath for delightful weekends etc from someone 21-30. Slim, tidy, reputable, creative, non-smoker preferred. Phone number and photo (optional). Box 48/116.

**Mateiot** seeks mates 21-50 for enjoyable weekends, my place or yours. Box 48/119.

**Couples.** If you have a long-standing relationship than I should like to interview you. Sociologist Chris Martin, c/o 63 Panworthor Road, London, SW16 6RF.

**Wrestling devotee, tall, muscular, 29,** 14 stone, wants to meet similar for grappling sessions. Intelligent, likes good music, varied interests. Box 48/117.

**Man 27, short, fair, well-built, own place** S London, wants to meet denim/leather types and others with similar interests. ALA. Box 48/118.

**Goodlooking wants friend/s.** Busker, 'Burcco, SK 14 7MA.

**Young Londoner, 28,** wants to meet young Australians over 21 before he migrates down under. Box 48/120.

**If you are sensitive, considerate and** loving, why not come and meet slim guy 30 who has flat in South London to share. ALA. Box 48/121.

**DO YOU HAVE AN HOUR OR TWO** to spare every other Tuesday? If so, Gay News would appreciate any volunteers to assist on subscription night. Please phone Stuart, 995 2017.

**Sun-loving ocean yachtsman** and skier with agricultural background seeks similar non-obese, active and cheerful guy for companionship and travel, offering sincere affection and friendship. Photo please, definitely returned. Box 48/130.

**TV producer/journalist, 29,** London-based seeks new genuine friends in early 20's living anywhere in GB. Prefers slim, not-too-tall boys interested in the arts, religions, travel, etc. Looks or shyness unimportant, sincerity vital. Write freely. ALA. Box 48/131.

**Exciting lovely young man** seeks active male friend. Box 48/133.

**Young guy 28** seeks another 21-30 for lasting friendship. Photo & phone for fast reply. First ad. Box 48/134.

**Liverpool area, 40's, young,** seeks friendship with guy 30+, weekends, social outings, holidays etc. Box 48/135.

**Guy late 20's, South Lancs area,** seeks friends similar age, varied interests. Box 48/136.

**Cambridge researcher, 40,** seeks quiet black American (USAF Milkenbury?), West Indian or African for permanent friendship. Age, looks unimportant if well built. Box 48/137.

**Short-haired denim lad, young 40's,** seeks similar, South Manchester. Box 48/138.

**Manchester guy, 35,** seeks another gay of similar age for friendship. Photo please. ALA. Box 48/139.

**Office executive for pop and classical** record companies, 50, seeks loyal and sincere guy 25-40. Box 48/140.

**Glyndebourne Touring Opera. Guy 33** wants accommodation Southampton September 24-28, Oxford October 1-5, Bristol October 15-19. Fairly central. Paying guest and probably tickets for opera. Box 48/141.

**Chelsea boot boy** will meet others for outdoor/indoor wrestling. ALA. Photo exchanged. Box 48/142.

**Slim 55, flat handy Kings Cross,** offers hospitality, colour television, bath, drink, to manual worker, brickie, labourer, driver or hairy ex-mateiot over 25. Box 48/143.

**Would scruffy coatman (issue 43)** and dog breeder (issue 42) kindly write to Box 48/144.

**AESTHETIC MUSCULAR BODY-BUILDER 200 lbs,** young, good-looking, blond, blue eyes, 6' tall, ex-public school, cultured, wide interests: arts, occult, weight-training, fashion. Sophisticated life-style, sincere, loving. Would like to meet really nice interesting guy. Box 48/145.

**Wrestling partner** required with knowledge of wrestling who likes a good hard fought match, for guy 5'9 1/2", 13 stone, London area. Box 48/146.

**Uncomplicated Sagittarius, 39,** into nudism, sunning, skinny dipping and classic arts needs friends 25-40 outside London scene to escape with and do beautiful things together. Love and peace. Letters with returnable photo helps. Box 48/147.

**Dynamic economics student** graduating to live in Sheffield requires similar to maximise joint marginal utilities. Box 48/163.

**Fellow Old Brentwoods 1958-66,** let's meet again. Box 48/148.

**Manchester, non-afeminate, ten-stone** male, 31, amiable, optimistic, incurably romantic (interests include arts, particularly music) but thoroughly disillusioned with club/pub scene seeks similar 21-31. ALA. Box 48/149.

**White, non-afeminate, young 30,** pleasant disposition (own car), wide interests, especially music, seeks coloured companion 21-30 (perhaps initially shy like me) hoping for profound friendship. Manchester/Merseyside. ALA. Box 48/150.

**Gay 30 near London** seeks active mates 25-45 weekends etc. Exchange photos. Box 48/151.

**Is there sincere Asian student** to spend three-week country holiday delightful Canadian/US border town as gentleman's companion? Box 48/152.

**Mainly active Londoner, 43, 6' tall,** offers overnight, weekend accommodation to long-distance lorry drivers and straight guys, single or doubles, who prefer older friend. I enjoy drinking, smoking, etc. Genuine. Photo please. Box 48/153.

**North France, 58, French, English, Polish,** alone, seeks correspondent 55-65 moustached well seen, mutual visit, photo appreciated. Box 48/154.

**Inexperienced guy, 58,** wishes to be introduced to gay scene by guy with active interests, London area. ALA. Box 48/155.

**Handsome active professional man** in late 30's with West End practice seeks younger man over 21 for mutual friendship and respect to make life complete. Photo preferred but not essential. Box 48/156.

**Amazingly poor graduate 21** wants human being with brain to accompany him to films/plays, Sheffield area. Box 48/167.

**Swedish guy, 26,** visiting London in July, wants to meet nice guy. Box 48/157.

**Handsome guy, 24,** at sea on the gay scene, wishes to meet new faces anywhere. Box 48/158.

**Fantastically wealthy graduate, 21,** wants human being with brain to accompany him to films/plays, Sheffield area. Box 48/159.

**Happy, self-confident, vivacious student** visiting Denmark July or August. Room for one/two more. Car provided. Also visiting America late August-September. Anyone else coming too? Box 48/161.

**COME AND WORSHIP** with the Fellowship in Christ the Liberator, Metropolitan Community Church, London. For further details please write PCL, 61 Earls Court Square, London SW5.

## Accommodation

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

**Guy or girl under 30** to share gay house, E11. Own room, phone, TV, etc. £24 per month plus gas and electricity. No camp. Box 48/59.

**Temporary vacancy in gay house, E11,** 26 June-20 August. Own room, phone etc. £7 weekly including gas and elec. Trustworthy person. Box 48/60.

**Discreet man, 20s-30s,** wanted to share compatible flat of Fulham Road. Phone 629 9622, ask for Advertiser. Double £12 and single £7 bedsits available: 5 Charing Cross share kit, and bath. Please phone before 9am only. 292 7277.

**Domesticated young male** to share spacious house Harrow, nominal contribution to expenses. Box 48/61.

**Brighton, licensed small hotel b&b** from £2. 0273-67710. 2 Atlingworth Street. W4 & W6. B&B from £1.50 per night, and/or self-catering Holiday Flats. 01-995 9283

**Single self-contained flatlet, c/h c/h/w** in W4 plus small wage in exchange for housework help. No strings, strictly business. Box 48/62.

**Young man wanted to share s/c flat** in Norwich. Not over 30. Box 48/63.

**Accommodation and use of all facilities** in new 2-bedroomed flat, N7. Central heating, colour TV, lift, etc. Business arrangement only £12 per week. 272 7893.

**Turnham Green: rooms** available in quiet house. Suitable for a couple (£70 per month inclusive) or single (£42.50 per month inclusive). 995 2202 evenings. Willing to accommodate free for limited period young provincial/Scottish guys who are moving to London area or on holiday. Box 48/64.

**Discreet young graduate** wanted to share Shepperton flat £8 pw. Box 48/65.

**Required urgently rented accommoda-** tion, two girls, two children. Preferably, Nottinghamshire, other areas considered. Box 48/66.

**Wanted room flat to let for 3 months only.** Box 48/67.

**Late 20's Scottish Public School** professional wishes room/share flat SW13/7. Older man preferred. Max £12pw. Type/shorthand if rent higher. Box 48/68.

**Young guy seeks share West London.** Must have own room. Box 48/69.

**Young SRN (male) non-camp** requires accommodation around SE London from July for a year. Willing to help light chores. Away most weekends. Box 48/70.

**Manor house. Second guy (20's)** for own room and share modern self-contained flat. 800 3586.

**Birmingham—Streatly Village.** Own room in super duper maisonette, £10pw. Fitted carpets, c/h, tel, garage etc. Share with one other. Suit young man 21-30. Car advisable. Refs req'd. Box 48/126.

**Luton: masculine but gentle guy** seeks similar, easy-going and non-camp, to share small modern flat. £5 weekly plus some expenses. Box 48/127.

**Comfortable room in pleasant SW7 flat** available for clean, quiet and respectable young man. £11pw includes all facilities. Ring daytime, 274 1544 Tom Clark.

**Camberwell/Oval. Large bedsit, c/h.** Share kitchen, bath. £9pw. 733 0374. Immediately vacant, in large maisonette 5 mins Fulham B'way Tube, quiet sunny room, £8.75 inclusive ch & chwr. Ring 01-381 3894 only between 6.30-10.30pm.

**Accommodation in peaceful and secluded** country house near Bath. Good food. Trains met. 022 16 3299.

**Slim, denim guy, 28,** seeking accommodation, willing to share, very domesticated. ALA. Box 48/168.

**Young guy wanted to share luxury flat** with two others £8.50 pw, own room. Wallington, near Croydon. 688 8661, 9-12am Mon-Thur. Brian.

**Young medical student** would like own room in shared London flat, anything considered. I appreciate honesty and humour. Hampstead maybe? Box 48/169.

**Colchester: Which young Asian** would like to share with blond guy, 29, very tall, interested in classical music, own house. Box 48/170.

**Accommodation—Room, kitchen** and bath to let for young chap in gay house East London £6.50. 01-478 2308 evenings.

**Exeter 38 masculine naturist** seeks guy to share home, all comforts. Box 48/171.

**New Malden, clean luxury house.** Double bedroom suit one guy or two friends 25-35, £40 pm single, £60 double. Tel: Paul 949 1384 after 7pm.

**Own room offered to young guy** in comfortable Southfields house. £5.50 pw. Phone 01-874 9425

**Crash pads, flat-share etc.** Anywhere in Britain. Offered or wanted. Contact Gay Switchboard. 01-837 7324, 6-10.30pm.

**70p per word, No Box Number service available.**

**Mouthwatering magazines!!** SAE to Johnny, BM/FBGH, WC1V 6XX.

**ONLY THE VERY BEST!** The best nudes—in every way! Glossy 6x8, 39 pages each: MANIFIQUEL and FORMOSUS! £1 each or 4 for £3! Also FRIENDS! (28 dual studies) £1 and SUPER-STUDS! £2. Also Free Catalogue of books, USA magazines, exceptional photo and colour slide sets, movies etc. Only above-average modelist! Plus information on strictly limited Editions!! From JOHN S BARRINGTON, 86 Castelmaw, London SW13 (No callers please).

**Make your loo complete.** Hang an original re-drawn Thethil cartoon, 5"x7". Only 50p each from 'Thethil', c/o Gay News Ltd, 62a Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY. Please specify which cartoon by stating issue number it appears in.

**XTRA-ORDINARY! X-CLUSIVE!!** Only the best of Super-Models-in-Action! If you want up-to-date information on X-clusives!! £1 each or 4 for £3! Also FRIENDS! (28 dual studies) £1 and SUPER-STUDS! £2. Also Free Catalogue of books, USA magazines, exceptional photo and colour slide sets, movies etc. Only above-average modelist! Plus information on strictly limited Editions!! From JOHN S BARRINGTON, 86 Castelmaw, London SW13 (No callers please).

**20p per word. No Box Number service available.**

**DO YOU TRAVEL?** We cannot guarantee your travel in the next world but we can send you any part of this world for a price you can afford. Contact MGD Travel 01-834 2442/3. 207 Victoria Street, London SW1.

**Tell Gay Switchboard** about the gay places you want to on holiday. 01-837 7324, 6-10.30pm.

**Cornwall.** Old World cottage seconds from beaches. B&B £2. St Ives 7672.

**SW London, single room & kitchen** available weekends, 20mins West End. £1.25 per day. Box 48/128.

**Young writer, 28,** going into Purdah (farmhouse, South of France) seeks younger guy, perhaps student, to keep midnite oil burning mid-July to end of August. Photo appreciated. Please write to P Curwen, 36 Earham Street, London WC2.

**St Ives, old Cornish cottage** near beach. B&B. Tel: St Ives 7626.

## Employment

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

**Financial Manager needed:** Gay News Ltd requires someone to take on a highly responsible job within our organisation. He or she will have full responsibility for day-to-day financial control including all income, all expenditure, PAYE, credit control and keeping the books up to date. The person selected will also be responsible for making monthly financial statements and reporting to Board meetings on matters of a financial nature.

It is also anticipated that the person selected will act as Office Manager.

We can't pay the sort of salary the job deserves but we can pay £2,000pa to start with, and will review the position after 3 months.

Contact: Denis Lemon on 01-995 1958 or write giving full details to Gay News, 62a Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY.

**Dog stripper** poodle clipper required for Farnham Surrey up to £25 weekly depending on ability. Box 48/72.

**YOUNG MAN, 28, WELL-BUILT,** muscular, seeks position as valet/house-boy/friend. Experienced in domestic duties, driving etc. Smart appearance, reliable. Further details on request. Box 48/73.

**Houseboy/valet, 21** or thereabouts, student perhaps, for mature man's holiday flat, 2 weeks during summer, probably West Country/coast. Box 48/74.

**FULLY EXPERIENCED AND TRAINED** bar men required for famous south coast members club. Personable, smart, honest young men will receive an excellent salary, bar bonus, and pleasant working conditions. Apply Brighton 28016.

**Amateur photographer** requires amateur models, all races. Photo (returnable) and SAE ensures reply. Box 48/75.

**Young, non-camp, presentable SRN** (male) seeking interesting part-time or full-time jobs in June around Surrey. Any job considered. No weekends. Box 48/76.

**Enthusiastic painter/decorator** seeks small private contract work North London. Very reasonable charges. Box 48/122.

**Imaginative photographer** wanted by 24 year old, Birmingham area preferred. Box 48/123.

**Pretty boy wanted for photos.** Larry Knight 01-286 5705.

**I'm John (26) 6' 2" with eyes of blue,** seeking interesting employment in my spare time. I'm free all day Wednesday and Thursday plus Tuesday and Saturday evenings. London area. Box 48/124.

**Young? Good looking? Enjoy being** photographed? Write with photo. Good fee. Chris, BM 7919, London WC1V 6XX. Comfortable country home offered to part-time houseboy. 027-074-368 after 6pm.

**Peter, 18,** seeks employment/holiday accommodation abroad August-September. Box 48/125.

**Beautiful, boyish-looking young guys** required urgently for photographic modelling. Photo essential for initial acceptance. Fees on arrangement. Box 48/129.

**Full-time shop/office jobs.** 01-732 6724

**Graduate, 32, tall, fair, good-looking,** would like to assist another already in business. Quiet, responsible type. Anything considered. Older man preferred. Box 48/160.

**Black models** wanted. Good pay. Box 48/162.

**Wanted guy (Guards, Para, RM)** military guy for advice on military traditions, uniforms, military training, etc. Box 48/164.

**Broke young Londoner** will consider almost any job. Box 48/165.

**Continental male** available for nude modelling. Box 48/166.

**20p per word. No Box Number service available.**

**Mouthwatering magazines!!** SAE to Johnny, BM/FBGH, WC1V 6XX.

**ONLY THE VERY BEST!** The best nudes—in every way! Glossy 6x8, 39 pages each: MANIFIQUEL and FORMOSUS! £1 each or 4 for £3! Also FRIENDS! (28 dual studies) £1 and SUPER-STUDS! £2. Also Free Catalogue of books, USA magazines, exceptional photo and colour slide sets, movies etc. Only above-average modelist! Plus information on strictly limited Editions!! From JOHN S BARRINGTON, 86 Castelmaw, London SW13 (No callers please).

**Make your loo complete.** Hang an original re-drawn Thethil cartoon, 5"x7". Only 50p each from 'Thethil', c/o Gay News Ltd, 62a Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY. Please specify which cartoon by stating issue number it appears in.

**XTRA-ORDINARY! X-CLUSIVE!!** Only the best of Super-Models-in-Action! If you want up-to-date information on X-clusives!! £1 each or 4 for £3! Also FRIENDS! (28 dual studies) £1 and SUPER-STUDS! £2. Also Free Catalogue of books, USA magazines, exceptional photo and colour slide sets, movies etc. Only above-average modelist! Plus information on strictly limited Editions!! From JOHN S BARRINGTON, 86 Castelmaw, London SW13 (No callers please).

**20p per word. No Box Number service available.**

**DO YOU TRAVEL?** We cannot guarantee your travel in the next world but we can send you any part of this world for a price you can afford. Contact MGD Travel 01-834 2442/3. 207 Victoria Street, London SW1.

**Tell Gay Switchboard** about the gay places you want to on holiday. 01-837 7324, 6-10.30pm.

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

**Brighton licensed small hotel. B&B** from £2. Tel: 0273-67710. Court Craven Hotel, 2 Atlingworth Street, Brighton.

**All-male gay guest house** Southsea, full or part board. Ring Portsmouth 811246 for brochure.

**A cottage in Cornwall.** Bed and breakfast £2.00. No restrictions. Ring Mike, St Ives 5652 (day), 5480 (evenings).

**Warm welcome at Wembar Hotel, 19** Warwick Road, London SW5. Phone 01-373 9950. Reasonable prices.

**Bournemouth Holidays.** Homely B&B discreet gays welcome. 11 Suffolk Road. Tel: 02022 5284.

**Discreet Holiday weekend accommoda-** tion B&B. Quiet coastal resort SE Sussex Over 21's. Singing, sharing. Details on request. Box 48/71.

**Cornwall. Holiday accommodation,** 68 Station Road, St Blazey, PAR-2063.

**20p per word. No Box Number service available.**

**DO YOU TRAVEL?** We cannot guarantee your travel in the next world but we can send you any part of this world for a price you can afford. Contact MGD Travel 01-834 2442/3. 207 Victoria Street, London SW1.

**Tell Gay Switchboard** about the gay places you want to on holiday. 01-837 7324, 6-10.30pm.

# Personal & Classified Ads Form

Please insert in the next issue. . . . .

.....

Number of words. . . . . @ . . . . . per word + Box Number fee . . . . .

Please find enclosed crossed cheque/postal order made payable to Gay News Ltd for the sum of £. . . . .

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

Name . . . . .

Address . . . . .

.....

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

Mixed Personal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Women's Personal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Men's Personal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accommodation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Holiday Accommodation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Services	<input type="checkbox"/>
Market Place	<input type="checkbox"/>
Travel	<input type="checkbox"/>
Entertainment	

## Meetings

10p per word. No Box Number service available.

IBM gay employees meeting July 6th. Details Romsy (Hants) 512959.

## Entertainment

10p per word. No Box Number service available.

Ladies only—The smallest ladies-only bar ever! Open 7.00pm until late late, 7 nights a week. The Oasis Room, 5 Excel Court, Whitcomb Street, WC2, opposite Royal Trafalgar Hotel.

**SOUTH LONDON GLF** Carnival Dance, Saturday June 8th, 8.00-11.30pm at The Surrey Hall, Binfield Road, SW4 (Stockwell tube, turn left). Steepleband, Disco, Lights, Bar, etc. Admission 75p at door. A benefit for South London Gay Centre.

## Services

20p per word. No Box Number service available.

All building and decorating work big or small by Hill & Rumball, 969 3307. 24 hours service. Talent wanted for escort agency. Telephone 581 2713.

**Penfriends.** Discreet introductions. For details send SAE to Great Expectations, PO Box 148, 31-33 Court Yard, London SE9 5DD.

Leather gear made to measure, also alterations. 749 3104.

Lonely? Gay private introductions arranged all areas. Confidential, discreet. Dorothy Sanger, Dept 14, 138a Pogmoor Road, Pogmoor, Barnsley, Yorkshire. "Sugarshack" Caterers, camp parties. Jana-Maria 589 3685 evenings.

Flatter yourself—impress your penpals—with an EDEN photo. Write Eden, 5 Bidden Road, London W12 9RJ. Sample photo 20p. No callers please.

**Go-Between Removals and Deliveries.** Phone 01-249 0280/01-549 3275. Qualified psychologist free initial consultation. 01-574 1740 Housfield.

**LIGHT REMOVALS** also delivery service. Anytime. Anywhere. 01-440 0977. Strictly legitimate business.

Makes friends worldwide. Good-looking guys from all continents seek pen pals, friendship. Details and sample photos free. Hermes, Berlin 11, Box 17/91, Germany.

## Masseurs

30p per word. No Box Number service available.

Experienced masseur gives soothing massage: home/hotel—male/female. Phone Ron 472 1939 Mon-Fri evenings only or all day Sunday. Genuine massage offered by qualified male. For appointment ring 289 2753.

**VISITING SERVICE!** Genuine qualified masseur. Call 01-828 6877.

Young male masseur available, own apartment Central London. Mick, 229 5971.

Masseur/Youth teacher. Ross Nilsen, 01-402 0721.

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

Roger 22 masseur 579 3714.

Young masseur English 'The Clark System' also visits. 373 2752.

Relax under my hands with a massage. Tony 352 0137. Visits only.

**MIKE 21, YOUNG-LOOKING MASSEUR** professional model. Call mornings 01-578 0320.

Young qualified masseur seeks work. Tel: Paul 602 5111.

Greg now massages at new central location—your place? Tel: 727 8322.

**STEVE, 24, LONG HAIR, QUALIFIED MASSEUR/model,** seeks work. 01-876 7785.

Massage by young male therapist. 229 6565.

Young male masseur available. Tel: Mick 841 6613.

**YOUNG QUALIFIED MASSEUR** seeks interesting work. Must be a genuine case. Ring David 578 8287.

Message by young qualified masseur. Enquiries phone Aaron 01-229 6936.

## General Information

### GAY GROUPS SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

**BIRMINGHAM GLF** Summer Flower Dance (bring your own pansy) at Dabeth Civic Hall, Sat June 8, 7.30-midnight. Disco, group, late licence. Come as you please.

**GAY SWITCHBOARD** disco to help finance the switchboard. 15p every Sat upstairs in Prince Albert, Wharfedale Rd, off York Way, Kings Cross. All profits to gay switchboard.

**GLF DISCO** run by GLF Caledonian Rd Office Collective, Prince Albert, corner of Wharfedale Rd and York Way, N1 (Kings Cross tube) every Fri, 8-11pm. Adm 10p.

**CHE POETRY GROUP** meets the last Friday of every month at 8pm above the Lamb & Flag on Rose St, W2.

### GAY WOMEN

"WOMEN TOGETHER" a report of a meeting between women from the gay movement and the women's movement. CHE's first-ever pamphlet, available from CHE, 28 Kennedy Street, Manchester M2 4BG. 20p including postage and package for individual copies.

**NORTH EASTERN GAY WOMEN'S GROUP**—Meets regularly in Newcastle. For details contact Sharon at Chester-le-Street 5648 or Judy at Newcastle 811016.

**MANCHESTER GAY WOMEN'S GROUP** meets regularly in central Manchester. All homosexual and bisexual women are welcomed. Please phone Sue at 061 881 3683 for details of meetings. SAPHO meets every first Monday in the month at Euston Tavern, corner of Judd Street/Euston Road, London NW1. 7.30pm upstairs room. Sapho 30p inc postage for single copies from BCM/PETREL, London WC1V 6XX.

**CAMBRIDGE GAY WOMEN'S GROUP.** Details write Allison, c/o Last Exit Bookshop, Mill Road, Cambridge or Tel: 64757.

**EDINBURGH GAY WOMEN'S GROUP** details contact Ms M Laurie 4/15 Hatfield Park, Edinburgh.

**WOMEN'S LIBERATION WORKSHOP** Kingsgate Place Women's Centre, 1 Kingsgate Place, London W6. Open Mon-Fri 10.30am-10pm.

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

**MOLIN DISCO CLUB** (girls only). Half Moon Lane, Hare Hill, SE24. Open from 8pm on Wed Fri and Sat. Buses 2, 3, 19, 37, 40, 68, 172, 184 & 196. Plus Hare Hill (BR) station. Ring 674 4004 or 274 2733.

**HOMOSEXUAL WOMEN** are welcome in CHE. Find out more about CHE groups at 22 Gt Windmill St, London W1. Tel: 01-437 7363.

**LEEDS GAY WOMEN'S GROUP** meet every Wed at the Viaduct Pub, Lower Briggate, Leeds. Contact Jane and Jenny, c/o 9 Roundhay Grove, Leeds 8.

## COUNSELLING / BEFRIENDING

**PARENTS ENQUIRY.** write to Ms Rose Robertson, 16 Hanley Road, Catford, London, SE6 2HZ. Tel: 691 50 80/81/82/83.

**BRISTOL ICEBREAKERS** info and counselling for south west. Tel: Bristol 556925 Mon and Fri 7-9.30pm or write to Icebreakers, PO Box 86, Bath, BA1 2YQ.

**FRIEND** helps homosexual men and women who are lonely, frightened, have a problem or are in trouble. For help contact your local group at:

**North-West England**  
**MANCHESTER**—PO Box 427, Spring Gardens, Manchester M60 2EL. Tel: 061-225 0058, 061-445 9629 (evenings).

**MERSEYSIDE**—PO Box 7, Liverpool L8 2XN. Tel: 051-727 2589, 051-639 9208, 051-709 6104. Evenings only on rota—try each number!

**North-East England**  
**BRADFORD**—PO Box 47, Bradford, West Yorkshire BDJ 5YJ.  
**LEEDS**—c/o 44 Earls Court Road, London W8.

**TYNE/TEES area**—Box A16, 133 Great North Road, Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE3 2BQ. Tel: Newcastle 841401, Newcastle 33544 (evenings).

**SHEFFIELD**—PO Box 107, Sheffield, South Yorkshire S1 1EJ.

**WEST MIDLANDS**—161 Corporation Street, Birmingham 4, West Midlands. Calli Carrs Lane Counselling Centre, Birmingham, Thursdays 7-9pm.

**Wales**  
**CARDIFF**—58 Charles Street, Cardiff. Calli Tuesdays, 7.30-9pm. Tel: Cardiff 44441 (Tues 7.30-9pm).

**East Anglia**  
**CAMBRIDGE**—c/o 54 Mill Road, Cambridge.

**NORWICH**—PO Box 3, North Walsham, Norfolk.

**Greater London & Home Counties**  
**LONDON**—47 Church Street, London NW8. Calli, weekday evenings, 7.30-9.30pm. Tel: 01-402 6750 weekdays, 7.30-9.30pm.

**South-East England**  
**CROYDON** area—Second Floor, 53 High Street, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR4 8RW. Calli Sundays 2.30-4.30pm.

**SUSSEX**—9 Brunswick Square, Brighton, Sussex. Tel: Brighton 61664 (Friday evenings 8.00-10.00pm).

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

**FEMALE ICEBREAKERS** welcome all gay women for a chat and coffee every other Fri. Tel: 01-582 8762.

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

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

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

**BRISTOL** Help and Info. Send SAE to Confidential Friend, CHE, Bristol, PO Box 171, BS99 7NO.

**CENTRE COFFEE BAR/SOCIAL CLUB** Befriending and Counselling Help. Open Sun-Fri from 10.30am-10.30pm. Tel: 01-723 5889 or write to Centre, Broadley Terrace, London NW1.

## SWITCHBOARDS INFORMATION

**BRITAIN'S FIRST GAY SWITCHBOARD:** 01-837 7324. Every evening 6.00 to 10.30. Your hot-line to the gay community. What, when, how, where.

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

**NEW JERSEY GAY SWITCHBOARD** and Info Centre. Contact Box 323, Princeton Junction, New Jersey 08580, USA. Service free of charge although an international reply coupon would be appreciated.

## GAY GROUPS

**IPSWICH CENTRE GROUP.** Details from Charles Almond, 119 Cauldwell Hall Road, Ipswich IP4 5BN. Tel: Ipswich 70928 (evenings).

**GAY CAMBRIDGE**—c/o 3 Round Church St, Cambridge.

**TRANSPORT ENTHUSIASTS GROUP**—Monthly events London area. Details tel: 01-402 8053.

**NORTH EASTERN GAY ALLIANCE** has information and a newsletter available from NEGA, 24 Dipton Ave, Newcastle-on-Tyne, NE4 8DT.

**OXFORD GAY ACTION GROUP** Oxford 45301 between 7-8pm. Meetings every Sun at 7.30 in the Stage Club, George St.

**WIMBLEDON** gays come together at WAGS. Details from Tony (547 4940) or John/Gabriel (542 0302).

**MANCHESTER TAO** contact Mr B and Mill L Stotherd, 167 Withington Road, Whalley Range, Manchester 16. Meet every Sun at 7pm.

**STAFFORDSHIRE TAO** contact Ms Julia Tomner, Director TAO Europe, 51 Scrimshaw House, Mick-Walsall, Staff.

**KENT GAY INFORMATION**, 160 Faversham Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent.

**NORWICH CENTRE GROUP** details Peter Bishop, Flat D, Oak House Trowse, Norwich, Norfolk, NR9 0LW. or tel: or North Walsham 2628 18111.

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

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

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

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

**YOUNG GAYS** meet once a week around central London at the CHE Youth Group. Tel: Chris 01-673 2703.

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

**HARROW GAY UNITE** for info ring John or Dennis at 863 5717.

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

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

**LSE GAY CULTURE SOC**—May 10, Bob Cant on Annie Besant; May 31, Lasha Fullack on Victorian Sexuality. Meetings in Room S101A, St Clements Bldg, London School of Economics. May 18, Preliminary Workshop on Gay History, 10am-5pm at LSE. Contact Jeffrey Weeks, 24 Ivor St, London NW1. Tel: 01-627 0068.

Further information can be obtained from the Gay Culture Society, c/o LSE Students Union, Houghton St London W2. The Gay Marxist History Group can also be contacted at this address.

**CAMBRIDGE INTEGROUP**—Gay/Straight integration. Tel: Cambridge 64599, John.

**GAY COMMUNITY CENTRE OF SOUTH LONDON** Coffee Bar, books, papers and people. Open 7-11pm Mon-Fri, 11-11pm Sat, 2-11pm Sun.

78 Railton Road, London SE24 (Brixton tube). Tel: 01-274 7921.

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

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

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

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

## GAYSOCS

**DAY OF ACTION CONFERENCE** on the 15th June at the University of East Anglia. Information Contact address: Peter Thomas, Waveney Terrace. University of East Anglia, Norwich NR8 8BC. ALL WELCOME.

**SUSSEX UNIVERSITY**—Meets from time to time. Contact through Students Union, University of Sussex, Falmer, near Brighton.

**GAYSOC** for men and women in any school or college of London University, undergraduates or staff. Write (enc SAE please) Gaysoc, ULU, Malet Street, London Central 1.

**UNIVERSITY OF SURREY**—Contact Andy Wilson, Student Pigeon Holes, University of Surrey, Guildford.

**READING UNIVERSITY GROUP FOR HOMOSEXUALS**—Details RUGH, Students Union, Whiteknights Park, Reading, Berks.

**GLASGOW STUDENTS GAYSOC**—Contact SMG (Students), 214 Clyde St, G1 4JZ.

**DIDSBOURY GAYSOC**—Discreet meetings arranged. Contact Gay Rep, Students Union, Didsbury College of Education, Manchester M20 8RR.

**WAKEFIELD/BARNESLEY**—Bretton Gaysoc now forming in all welcome. Write to Tickers, Barton Hall, West Bretton, Nr Wakefield, Yorks.

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

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

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

**BRISTOL GAYSOC** is for all young people. Regular meetings on Thurs evenings 7.30, Gramophone room, Students Union. Info from Secretary, Bristol Gaysoc, Students Union, Queens Road, Bristol BS8 1LN.

**SHEFFIELD GAYSOC.** Write to Societies Pigeon Holes, Students Union, University, Western Bank, Sheffield, or ring Sheffield 306930.

**LOUGHBOROUGH STUDENTS GAYSOC** open to all students and staff of Loughborough colleges. For info ring Peter at Sibley 2048.

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

**EXETER GAYSOC.** Info Gay Liberation Society, University of Exeter, Devonshire House, Stocker Road, Exeter. Devon.

**DURHAM UNIVERSITY GAYSOC.** Contact via Students Union, Dunselm House, University of Durham, Durham City.

**GAYSOC** for staff and students of the Open University. Write to David McLean 4 Western Gdsn, Brentwood, Essex.

**SUNDERLAND**—Contact Tom Mellish, Students Union, Wearmouth Hall, The Polytechnic, Sunderland, Co Durham.

**NEWCASTLE NCC**—Contact Johna Virtue or Judi Hawkshaw, Pigeon Holes, Northumbria Counties College of Education, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE7 7XA.

**NEWCASTLE POLY**—Contact Gay Rep, Students Union, The Polytechnic, 81 St Marys Place, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

**NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY**—Contact Gillian Moon, 61 Brighton Grove, Fenham, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 4.

**ORK**—Contact Javid Hal, Derwent College, University of York, York.

## SCOTTISH MINORITIES GROUP

**NATIONAL OFFICE.** 214 Clyde St, Glasgow G1 4JZ. 041 771 7600. Please address all communications to the Secretary. An SAE is a great help.

**BRANCHES OF SMG MEET IN—**INVERNESS: Contact John Matheson, 5 Castle St.

**ABERDEEN:** Contact Denis Wilson, 0224 20576.

**DUNDEE:** Contact Lem McIntosh, 0382 452433.

**EDINBURGH**—Contact Ian Dunn, 031 667 7473. Women contact the Secretary, c/o VOO, 11 St Colme Street, Edinburgh EH3 6AG. Befriending contact 031 332 9149 Weds, Sats & Suns only, 6-9pm.

**ST ANDREWS:** Contact Richard Batchelor, 45A South St, KY16 9QR, 933481 3914.

**GLASGOW:** Contact John Wallace, 041 882 3536. Women contact SMG Women, 214 Clyde St, G1 4JZ.

**CARLISLE**—Contact National Office

**IRISH GAY LIB MOVEMENT**

**BELFAST**—Queens University Gay Lib Society. Contact Paul Shaw, Belfast 42124.

**COLERAINE:** Don Gill and Pat Knight, New University of Ulster Sexual Reform Movement, NUU, Coleraine, Co Derry, phone Coleraine 4141 ext 319.

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

**HOMOSEXUAL INFORMATION** and befriending society can be contacted by writing to Cara, Gay Liberation Society, Students Union, Queens University, Belfast.

## TRANSGESTITE / TRANSEXUAL

**TRANSEXUAL ACTION ORGANISATION** for transsexuals under therapy only. Contact Angela Nicol, 01-965 2520.

**TRANSGESTITE SOCIAL GROUP.** Send SAE to Sam Cash, 10 Hosack Road, London SW17.

**CAMPAIGN FOR HOMOSEXUAL EQUALITY**

There are over 70 local groups. For details and membership information contact the offices at:

**BATH**—28 Kennedy Street, Manchester M2 4BG. Tel: 061-228 1985. Or contact London Information Centre, 22 Great Windmill Street, W1, Tel: 01-437 7363, Mon-Wed 3pm-10pm, Thurs and Fri 6pm-10pm, Sat 12-7pm.

You can ring some groups direct at the numbers below:

**BATH**—Bath 5013 (Norman), or Midsomer Norton 413465 (Angela).

**BOURNEMOUTH**—Bournemouth 26842, Laurie.

**BRIGHTON**—Brighton 778025, Malcolm, or Brighton 732550, Roland.

**BRISTOL**—Bristol 35035, Trevor.

**CAMBRIDGE**—Cambridge 52661, Bernard.

**CHILTERN**—High Wycombe 39321, Hayden.

**CROYDON**—01-642 3692, Richard.

**ENFIFI** 0-01 888 0800, Michael.

**HASTINGS**—Hastings (0424) 426997, Rick.

**HERTS**—Hatfield 69172, John.

**KENT**—Thanet 42059, Roger.

**LANCASTER**—Lancaster 2750, LEEDS—Leeds 7686, David.

**LEICESTER**—Leicester 706050, Steve, or Leicester 738832, John or Clive.

**EAST LONDON**—556 5910, Tony.

**LONDON, STEPNEY**—01-476 7980, Mike.

**LONDON, Highbury & ISLINGTON**—272 8523.

**LONDON MARYLEBONE**—352 9013, Andrew.

**LONDON YOUTH GROUP**—01-673 2703, Chris.

**MEDWAY**—Medway 361576, Ken or George.

**MANCHESTER**—061-445 2889, Derek.

**NORTHANTS/BEDFORD**—Northampton 22861, Alan; Bedford 53150, Andrew.

**PRESTON**—Preston 59908, Wilf.

**SOUTHAMPTON**—551335, David, 6-7pm only.

**STOKE**—Stoke on Trent 25596, John or Mike.

**STREATHAM**—01-675 2886, Doug.

**TYNESIDE**—Newcastle 87701, Jerry. WIRRAL—051-327 5178, Jack.

**WANDSWORTH**—Wandsworth 51062, Mike.

**WOLVERHAMPTON**—Contact Denis, Wolverhampton 752673.

**SHEFFIELD—CHE,** PO Box 107, Sheffield S1 1EJ. Meet on 2nd and 4th Tues every month at the Friends Meeting House.

## GAY LIBERATION FRONT

**GLF INFORMATION:** Although the office is closed, all postal enquiries concerning GLF should still be sent to 5 Caledonian Road, London N1.

**GLF GROUPS:**  
**NEWCASTLE**—Meet every Wed at 8pm in the Golden Fleece pub, Marlborough Crescent.

**DURHAM**—Contact Sam Green, 41 The Avenue, Durham City.

**ADULT EDUCATION GROUP**—Meets every Thurs 8pm at Talma Road, Brixton SW2.

**GAY WOMEN**

## No news is bad news

**SHEFFIELD:** Whether or not *Gay News* should be displayed in Sheffield's Central Library has had the City Council in somewhat of a quandary. Members of the Libraries and Arts Committee deferred the crucial decision, and at this stage in the discussions a cloak of secrecy was thrown over the matter, with press copies of their minutes being censored.

Since then the council have again discussed the question, which arose out of a request from the Secretary of Sheffield Campaign for Homosexual Equality. During the second discussion, the CHE branch was accused of discourtesy by Councillor Ms Enid Hattersley. She made the accusation after the director of libraries, John Bebbington said that he had written three letters to the local secretary requesting copies of *Gay News*, but had received no reply. The council's decision not to display *Gay News* came after members had given the request "careful consideration."

## School manager on sex lessons

**CHESHIRE:** County Councillor and local school manager, Gerry Sampey, has pledged himself to expose any school which is teaching about homosexuality to pupils. He gave this promise as a result of the Young Liberals' motion calling on the education minister to re-assess the sex education of children. Councillor Sampey said that he would inform parents of such sex-education activities at any school of which he were manager.

## Psycho-warfare can be fun

**NEW JERSEY:** An interesting new tactic has been tried out on the campus of Rutgers University, New Brunswick. The University's Homophile League announced its intention to conduct a survey of students to try to find out how many were gay. They declared April 19 'National Gay Day' and said they would be asking gays to wear blue jeans on that day to identify themselves for the survey. The Homophile League would be sending out people to stand at strategic places on the campus to count blue pants.

The whole thing was a hoax mounted by the League. But their ads were run in the college paper: "If you're NOT gay, and all you got is blue jeans—better start streaking, honey."

Well, US students who don't wear blue jeans every day of the year are an even smaller minority than left-handed homosexual bottle-washers—so a whole heap of people started getting worried about their macho-images. And they began to experience for themselves the sort of petty anxiety that gays have to live with every day of their lives. And for National Gay Day, straight students found they were having to conform to a social pattern that conflicted with their own personal inclinations.

Estimates suggest that the number of students wearing blue jeans fell by a third on Gay Day.

And some of the letters that followed from the outraged hets made clear the Homophile League's point (even if the letter writers missed that point entirely). It was "unfair to make your fellow students fearful of their reputations when all they want to do is wear blue jeans." And another writer who said that the survey would be inaccurate. "Don't expect me to change my behaviour to accommodate to yours... gimmick-designed to permit people to painlessly advertise their sexual preferences... straight people wear blue jeans whenever they please."

*Gay News* would love to hear from any Gaysoc in this country which would like to try a similar experiment.

## Appeal fails

**LEEDS:** Eighteen-year-old Stephen Geoffrey Wray, who committed homosexual acts with a man and then blackmailed him, has lost his appeal against a three-year prison sentence. Wray, an unemployed chef of the Villas, Langwith, was jailed at Leeds Crown Court in February after pleading guilty to blackmail, impersonating a police officer and attempted theft from a gas meter. The appeal judge stated that the blackmail offences were carefully engineered and were serious, and that the sentence was not wrong in principle or length.

## Love is love...

**LANCASHIRE:** "Love is love, no matter who it is between" is part of the advice given by 'Simon' of *Look Now* magazine to two Lancashire girls who describe themselves as "desperate." These 16-year-olds, who until recently have had boyfriends, now find that they love each other.

'Simon' tells them not to be frightened and points out that because of their age and experience of relationships it is as unlikely that they will stay together forever as it would be to stay with boyfriends recently met.

He advises them to keep open minds. If they remain happy together, but find they have social problems to overcome, 'Simon' advises them to contact the Samaritans.

## Long live homosex!

**PORTUGAL:** "Long live homosexuality, long live the revolution"—this has been the rallying cry of the Homosexual Revolutionary Action Movement in Portugal. The group claims 1,000 adherents in Lisbon and Oporto and is demanding official recognition. It wants the repressive criminal statutes against gays abolished, the practice of homosexuality freed and the right of free assembly for homosexuals. The movement claims that the colonial wars are mainly responsible for a big increase in both male and female homosexuality.

## Film didn't go far enough

**LONDON:** Gays attending the first British showing of an American-made filmstrip telling of the homosexual's dilemma got into heated discussion afterwards with the heterosexuals who attended.

Dudley Cave, secretary of Integroup who gave the film showing in the Unitarian Church Hall, Golders Green, told *Gay News* that he felt the gays in the audience though that the film didn't go far enough. Mr Cave said that the gay liberationists in the audience felt that it didn't push the militant angle forward. The film, which was primarily produced to be shown to heterosexuals, gave a series of frank interviews with gays from all walks of life. Integroup hope to show the film at colleges and to sixth forms to help students learn about homosexuality. Mr Cave concluded: "Integroup's aim is to educate and therefore get acceptance, but the taboo nature of the subject makes our work very hard." The group meet at the hall on the first Thursday of every month.

## Dentist restored to register

**SOUTHPORT:** A dentist with convictions for indecency and importuning has been restored to the dental register, after he told the General Dental Council's disciplinary committee he believed he was now in "full control" of his homosexuality.

Henry Mathews, of Southport, told the committee in London that since his name had been erased in 1972, he had been earning £5 to £10 a week as a door-to-door salesman.

## Warning!

**LONDON:** Londoners take note: We hear there has been considerable police activity at Hammersmith/Putney tow-path and in the Piccadilly area recently. A steady flow of arrests have been made at Hammersmith and not all arresting officers at Piccadilly have been in uniform!

## Now... call me Ms

**LONDON:** The Foreign Office has finally come into line with *Gay News* policy, with their recent decision to allow the title Ms on passports.

This decision comes only a month after an earlier Government ruling that women must call themselves either 'Miss' or 'Mrs'.

Women's Liberation campaigner, Ms Julia Tant, said after the decision: "This will put us on an equal footing with men, whose title Mr does not denote whether they are single or married. Now no Government department can ban the title Ms."

## Good start

**CHESTER:** The Chester Campaign for Homosexual Equality group got off to a good start at its recent inaugural meeting. Over 150 persons attended the social and disco held at the Bear and Billett. Anyone wishing to get in touch with the group should contact Leslie on Chester 24523.

## TV's social club

**WALSALL:** Birmingham's transvestites will find a haven in a quiet suburb of Walsall when conversion of an Edwardian house there is complete for the Trans-Set social club. Members will be able to enjoy a "feminine atmosphere" in the house, and it is expected that many more than the 60 founder members will want to join the club once it is known about. Peter Marriner, group secretary, says that there are probably thousands of transvestites in the West Midlands not known to Trans-Set members. The club, the first of its kind outside London, will be non-profit making, in contrast to the one place in Birmingham willing to admit TVs, which charges guys £1.50 just to change and leave their clothes there. There will be no 'sex-therapy' in the house, but legal and medical information will be supplied to members. Average age of members is 40, the youngest being 22 and the eldest in his sixties.

## Gay Liberator

**DETROIT:** Bouquets, congratulations, etc, go to the *Gay Liberator*, which with its April issue celebrates four years' coming out. It began way back in April 1970, sponsored by the Detroit Gay Liberation Movement, which began life three months earlier, and thus is the oldest surviving gay liberation paper. For those of you who haven't seen it, this monthly chronicle for Michigan state runs news and feature articles and includes a small column of free ads. Power to your typewriters Detroit Liberator—we'll see you in four more years!

## Chemical castration

**FLORIDA:** Following on from the report in our last issue of the effects that the film *Clockwork Orange* has had—it appears that the medical profession in the States are catching up too. Civil Liberties Union attorneys have warned against a possible trend in Dady County Florida courts, where a judge has ordered several male sex offenders to submit to injections of Depo-provera, a synthetic female hormone, to lower their sex drive. This apparent 'modification of behaviour' has reminded the attorneys of the Kubrick movie. Attempts to "chemically castrate" males, as the process is known, were first made by Nazi doctors on prisoners in Germany. Then, as now, many of the victims were gay.

## £40 for Parents' Enquiry

**WANDSWORTH-RICHMOND:** An on-the-spot collection of £40 was made for Parents' Enquiry at a meeting of Wandsworth-Richmond Campaign for Homosexual Equality, so impressed were members by the talk given by Ms Rose Robertson about the group which aids parents of gay children.

Ms Robertson, who founded Parents' Enquiry four years ago, pointed out that most mothers and fathers tended to assume as a matter of course that there was only one valid way of life for their children and were often shattered to realise that instead, their life-style was going to be quite different.

But fortunately, she said, attitudes were changing, and parents were no longer coming to her group to seek 'cures' but wanted to know how they could adjust to the situation.

"Every boy and girl" Ms Robertson went on, "has a right to reach their full potential as a human being."

After the discussion, John Farquharson said that members of the CHE group would do all they could to support Ms Robertson's work.

It was decided that the group would approach the directors of social services in both Richmond and Wandsworth for support for particular projects sponsored by Parents' Enquiry.

## Jail sentence upheld

**NORWICH:** Appeal Court Judges have ruled that Derrick Rowland Boardman (45) should serve his three-year jail sentence imposed for homosexual offences against Arab pupils of his exclusive Cambridge language school. A plea by counsel for Boardman's early release from jail to support his aged mother was rejected by Lord Justice Orr, sitting with Mr Justice Brabin and Mr Justice Stocker. Lord Justice Orr said that Boardman had a previous conviction of a sexual offence against an eleven-year-old and that the present offences were grave. They involved a headmaster-pupil relationship, and the sentence, imposed at Norwich Crown Court last July, was not unduly in principle or excessive.

## Worried mum

**WELWYN:** It still happens!—We hear that a worried mother has written into a Welwyn Garden City newspaper asking for advice concerning her husband, who is threatening to throw his 20-year-old son out of home, after learning of his 'gay tendencies'. The answer given—a sound one for any anxious parent—is that Rose Robertson at Parents' Enquiry should be contacted.

## Porn on New York TV

**NEW YORK:** With the advent of cable television, porn has arrived on the New York box. This system, which is sponsored by viewers rather than advertisers, is striding into erotic areas where sponsors have feared to tread. Apparently, one of the most explicit sexual acts is by a group called the Nymphettes, two girls and a guy, who appear naked while displaying pornographic pictures. Included in the porn tapestries are scenes showing lesbian lovemaking, masturbation, sodomy and voyeurism.

## Italians predict gay revolution

**ITALY:** A natural consequence of divorce, according to some political leaders in Italy, would include homosexual marriages and an outbreak of lesbianism among Sicilian wives. Mothers have been further warned that divorce will make their sons homosexuals. As the Italians have voted for the continuation of divorce, maybe we can look forward to the merry chiming of bells at countless gay weddings!

## Biografitti

**LONDON:** In the past we have reported arrests at London's busiest small cinema—the Biograph, Wilton Road, SW1—and recently there have been told of large numbers arrested there, although most of these reports have been unconfirmed. Following up one story, we eventually learned from Scotland Yard's press bureau that two people were taken into custody on May 20, charged with "gross indecency." Not much of a story! But the trouble we had in getting this information was not helped by the manager of said cinema—he wouldn't give his name—who told us: "I'm not interested in your paper, I've nothing to say." Thanks a lot!

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