

# GAY NEWS

N°50

15p  
FORTNIGHTLY

GOLDEN JUBILEE

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EDITION

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# A LOT TO CELEBRATE

## London remembers

LONDON: Wendy Lynham, a 40-year-old housewife from Bucks, didn't approve at all. "Not in a royal park. It's disgusting," she told *Gay News*. John Carpenter, a 28-year-old fitter from Wandsworth, was a bit calmer. "It doesn't worry me," he said, "so long as they leave me alone."

For the three hundred gays who joined in the celebrations on Sunday June 23, it was a special occasion. For this was the week of the fifth anniversary of Stonewall, the birthday of gay liberation. And the meeting in Hyde Park was London's celebration of the fact.

The afternoon was arranged at fairly short notice by the South London Gay Liberation Front. As it turned out, it was a relatively quiet affair. People sat around on the grass with food, music and wine. One or two couples danced, men with men, women with women, but for most it was an afternoon for spectating rather than participating.

Kids out playing in the park joined in, whilst their parents watched suspiciously from a safe distance. Families sitting in nearby deckchairs melted into the trees as the afternoon wore on. But there were no banners, no placards, and many passers-by had no idea who was gathering or why.

A police car approached the group, and eyes flicked in its direction. Trouble? But as the car drew nearer, people could see a ginger curly-haired ten-year-old in the passenger seat. So everyone jumped to the conclusion that the driver was searching for missing parents rather than gay blood!

It gay days are to start again, a little more advance publicity might help them along a bit. So if you have plans, let us know.



Photographs: Time Out

## GN's second birthday and Stonewall's fifth

It's anniversary time. You may have noticed the magic number 50 at the top of this page under the name of the paper. We are two years old this issue.

But it's just our rotten luck that an even more important anniversary is being celebrated now by homosexuals in many different countries across the world. We refer, of course, to the fifth anniversary of Stonewall, generally accepted as the birthday of the gay liberation movement.

We've found to our surprise that many GN readers know very little of the events of June 28, 1969, in New York, so we thought that this would be a good time to remind you of what Stonewall was all about.

Stonewall Inn at 53 Christopher Street, Greenwich Village, was a small gay bar just like any other. Late on June 27, Deputy Inspector Seymour Pine of the New York City Police Department raided the bar with eight plain-clothes detectives, a small gay raid just like any other. Some of the customers got a bit awkward when the police started shoving them around, and the cops began to make arrests.

Three guys in full drag were bundled into a paddy wagon. They banged on the sides of the van as they were driven off. The next person to be pounced on was a lesbian sister. The crowd from the bar had not dispersed, but stood on the sidewalks booing and whistling. The lesbian put up a struggle, but in the end she too was pushed into a car.

It was at about this time that the gays got angry. There were shouts of 'pigs' and 'faggot cops'. Someone threw a coin. Then others joined in, throwing nickels, dimes and quarters. A bottle was thrown, then a hail of bottles.

The cops dive into the bar for safety, locking the door behind them. The crowd descends on the bar, smashing in the boarded up windows, battering on the door,

and yelling fit to bust. They get the door open, and fling cans and bottles in at the cops. One cop gets a cut eye from a flying coin. His friends rush to shut the door.

Pine gets to the front of the fight in the doorway. He grabs hold of one of the crowd, Dave Van Rank, and drags him inside, and the door is slammed shut. The cop who got cut yells "You're the one who did it" and as the others hold Dave, the injured cop slaps him half a dozen times, then punches his mouth in. They handcuff him as he passes out.

Outside, the crowd gets angrier, cobblestones are torn up and join the rain of bottles. A parking meter is uprooted and used to batter down the Stonewall door.

Then liquid is squirted through a window, and a lighted match follows. The liquid is lighter fuel. And the roar of flames is heard over wailing sirens. Reinforcements.

Stonewall was the culmination of a series of incidents involving police harassment of gay bars, beatings of gays on the streets. There seemed to be some kind of wave of police action, more or less physical, against gays that June. The Stonewall crowd showed just how angry gays were getting.

It might have stopped there. It might just have gone down as a nasty drunken brawl in a back street bar. But it didn't. The news spread like wildfire. The triumphant crowd from Friday night returned on Saturday. And they took to the streets, hugging one another, kissing, holding hands, daring anyone to challenge their right to love. We won last night, we'll win again.

Chanting and singing, the crowd set off down Christopher Street—straight into the arms of New York's Tactical Police Force. Stories vary. The police cleared the crowd. The crowd cleared the police. Everyone just ran round in circles. Whatever happened went on to about 3.00 or 4.00 on Sunday morning.



Sunday evening, the gays were back again. Quieter this time. Sunday was the time for asking questions. What had Stonewall meant? Where do we go from here?

Allen Ginsberg and Taylor Mead happened on the streets that Sunday evening. Ginsberg beamed happily everywhere, even at the waiting police. He paid a visit to Stonewall, joined in the dancing throng. "You know," he said later, "the guys there were so beautiful. They've lost that wounded look that fags all had 10 years ago."

Within a month, meetings were being held to plan a new militant organisation. They called it the Gay Liberation Front...

RIVER THAMES: Sailing down the river (and back again!) on Sunday week, were 80 members of Campaign for Homosexual Equality.

The three-hour River Thames cruise to Greenwich from Westminster Pier had been organised by CHE's media group. London Weekend Television cameras went along—primarily to film a discussion for CHE's access television presentation in the 'Speak for Yourself' series (mentioned in our last issue).

But the film team also took time to capture on film the members enjoying themselves in this nautical setting. A disco had been organised on the top deck, while members chatted happily and gazed at the riverside sights of London in the comfortable lounge below.

And, of course, most of the 'sailors' took advantage of the peculiar licensing laws which relate to Thames river cruisers!

The discussion was filmed below deck, steered on its course by Roger Baker, editor of *Quorum* and feature writer for *Gay News*. Taking part were Maureen MacLachlan and Yolana Sutherland, a gay couple who have lived in London for just over a year; Margaret Launder, the mother of a gay son; and Eddie Smith and Chris Connor, who have been ten years together, living in Richmond.

Before embarking at Westminster, the LWTV team had been filming at Speakers' Corner, where Jackie Forster, CHE executive council member and editor of *Sappho*, speaks regularly.

## Thames cruising



Photograph: Jeff Grace

## GAY NEWS

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July 4 - 17

### Coincidences

Ring the bells—pop those champagne corks—put out the flags . . . We all have a great deal to celebrate, and intend doing so in fine style!

For, not only is it *Gay News*'s second birthday with this issue 50, but also there are a coincidental number of other celebratory occasions to be shouted about.

Like—the fifth anniversary of the Stonewall uprising, which took place in the United States. The real birthday of gay liberation?

Like—*Spare Rib*'s second birthday. They are going into their third year too! A specially happy one, let's hope. Like—the second anniversary of the getting-together of Denis (our esteemed editor) and Jean-Claude (art editor extraordinaire).

Like—the third anniversary of the merging of souls between Michael (our extremely pretty news editor) and Carl (the Armstrong-Jones of the gay world).

Of course, both pair-bonds have had their ups and downs, but it's better that we don't go into those at too great a length!

And finally, let's mention those of the team who celebrate their birthdays around this time—Jean-Claude, Glen, Rictor, Barry Conley and Iain Finlayson. Unfortunately, none of them would allow their age to be commented on—what *have* they got to hide?

### 'CAMPAIGN' for HE

Campaign for Homosexual Equality have been catching on fast of late about the significance of the first word of their handle—CAMPAIGN.

It's great to hear that a meeting has been held to discuss the line that CHE are going to take in promoting their excellent law reform bill later this year.

The realisation has been dawning within the ranks that the organisation is going to need professional help—and that it is going to have to fork out quite considerable sums of money to get it.

Figures which have been banded about put the price-tag on this important piece of promotional work at between £6000 and £7000. No doubt these figures will cause a few gasps in the financial sector of CHE but undoubtedly, if the work is handled competently by a pro, then it will be worth every single new penny.

Naturally, it isn't our job to suggest how CHE can raise this sort of sum. But we do humbly point out the fact that Malvern grossed in the region of £21000 as a direct result of this year's CHE conference. So, with 700 members attending, that means—averaged out—that each CHE person spent about £30 in the name of their organisation.

Admittedly, they got their money's worth from the various social activities.

But would it be too much for CHE to ask members to fork out—£5, £10 or even £20—to go towards paying for an imaginative up-front person and all the trappings that go with the job. After all, they'll all benefit in the end . . .

## GN's second birthday awards

### OSCARS

Gay Group:	SOUTH LONDON GLF (for ILEA campaign, general and local election campaigns, opening Gay Community Centre, assistance with Icebreakers, organising Stonewall Gay Day)
Gay Activist:	GLENYS PARRY (CHE activists, education campaign, women's campaign)
Contribution to Gayness:	ROSE ROBERTSON (Parents' Enquiry)
Special Award:	WALLACE GREVATT (CHE Conference organiser)
Garland Statuette:	DR DONALD COGGAN (Archbishop of Canterbury elect)
Jean Rook Award:	JOHN FIELD
John Field Award:	JEAN ROOK

### Critics' choice

Stage (Barry Conley):	Lindsay Kemp and the cast of FLOWERS
Film (David Seligman):	SUMMER WISHES, WINTER DREAMS, directed by Gilbert Cates, starring Joanne Woodward (Columbia Warner)
Opera (Michael Mason):	Sadlers Wells' RING CYCLE
Record (Denis Lemon):	BETWEEN TODAY AND YESTERDAY by Alan Price (Warner Bros)
Television (consensus):	Alan Whicker's THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD AND HE KNOWS I'M GAY (Yorkshire Television)
Drag (consensus):	HINGE AND BRACKET

## 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*

### Does Albany Trust still exist?

Chiswick W4

Dear Gay News,

Some weeks ago, I wrote to the Albany Trust as I felt that they were worthy of support for their past efforts for gays in this country. I told them that I was considering subscribing to them and would like information about their activities and what their plans were for the future.

I heard nothing and assumed that the Albany Trust no longer existed. Imagine my surprise when I saw a letter in the *Guardian* from Antony Grey of the Albany Trust telling the paper's readers how short of money they are. I am not surprised if they do not reply to people wanting to contribute.

Since I wrote my letter I have made further enquiries about the Albany Trust and so far as I can see, they are not supporting anything worthwhile in the gay community. Indeed, I believe that they have not even contributed to Gay Switchboard.

Can you at *Gay News* give me any information about this Trust? If it still exists, it seems to me it should be devoted to the Gay Movement and not just to paying the salaries of the Trust's staff.

Richard Creed

*ED: The Albany Trust has disappeared from its last address and nobody seems to know where it has moved to, if it still exists. We would be pleased to hear from Antony Grey.*

### No mention of gays

Hampstead

Dear Gay News,

So now we are to have a Sex Discrimination Board. No mention of course about discrimination against gays. Anyway, should it not be a Sexual Relations Board—it sounds much more exciting!

Brett Stratton

### Don't keep it to yourself

Dear Gay News,

Having experienced a similar incident to that described by Richard Cameron in GN47 whereby we were robbed by a gang who used a gay decoy in a local cottage, we feel that we must counter what Richard says regarding the police.

In our experience the local police have been extremely helpful and sympathetic when we contacted them immediately after the robbery. The simple matter is that as long as gays who are robbed do not go to the police the criminals (for that is what they are) will do exactly the same thing again and again.

Our apprehension as to the reaction the police would have when contacted were groundless when we discovered that they were far more keen to catch the criminals than worry about the Sexual Offences Act.

We would say to all gays who are robbed etc, go to the police. Of course we recognise that as long as the Sexual Offences Act remains law many gays will be afraid to do that and/or suffer embarrassment or (and here we have to admit this possibility) eventually receive adverse publicity leading to employment/accommodation problems. This has to be balanced with the fact that as long as gays keep quiet other gays will suffer the same thing.

The only real answer is at the end of our long hard struggle, when homosexuality is regarded as no more significant than the variation in the colour of peoples' eyes. We do however want to let other gays know of our police experience.

John & Geoffrey

PS: We have left out our address as we are in a vulnerable profession!

### Forbid discrimination

Wandsworth/Richmond CHE  
London SW15

Dear Gay News,

Congratulations on your coverage of the Malvern Conference (GN48). For all of us who were there it was an important stage in the march towards our goals. I am sorry, however, that you did not see fit to mention the decision by the Conference to adopt as CHE's policy the passage of legislation to forbid discrimination against any person, in employment or in the provision of services, on grounds of sexual orientation.

I believe we have a good chance of getting such a law passed, and that it will free far more of us from fear of living openly than the changes we also want to see in the criminal law. Now that we have a policy, it is for every CHE group and every individual who shares our concern to approach their MP's and seek their support for such a change, before the Government finally decides what shape its own proposed legislation to ban discrimination against women should have.

Ian Buist

### Quiet time in Warks

17 South Street  
Rugby  
Warwickshire

Dear Gay News,

Since moving out of London to live in Warwickshire my other half and myself find life completely different. Although we enjoy the quiet and peace of the countryside there is very little going on in the gay life here.

You are always asking for women to write to you, but how can one when no one in the area is interested in doing anything. Perhaps if you publish this letter things might start happening—people might get in touch with us and we can get a group off the ground. So it was very nice for us when we went to stay with some friends in St Leonards, Sussex, for a few days where we found the Hastings CHE group functioning. This letter is just to say "Congratulations" to the new group and thank them for the warm welcome that we received as outsiders. We spent a relaxing evening in the Candle Room at the Palace Bar wine, dining and dancing (the food display was plentiful and good). We also had the pleasure of walking off with a bottle of wine won in the raffle. But what happened to all the gay women in the area apart from ourselves, there were only four others. Next time I hope more of them go along and support their local group. They are planning barbecues and rambles amongst other things. So again thank you Rick Nash and other members of the CHE group.

Also a big thank you to all at *Gay News* for providing us with a vital link to the gay world.

Sheila A Whyment-Lester

### Gay Lib Fun

London SW4

Dear Gay News,

It was sad to read of the cold shoulder Alan Bernard encountered visiting various pubs (GN48), it's something a lot of people must come up against when trying to find their feet in Gay London: I certainly did.

Being fairly new to the scene, I've heard a lot talked about the decline and fall of GLF as if it was extinct; all I can tell you from first hand is that they are running regular and excellent events in London today, which make coming out a pretty easy and painless affair. My advice to Alan is to dig out his A to Z and hot-foot it up to the GLF disco at the Prince Albert in Wharfedale Road about 9.30 most Friday or Saturday evenings. It's not the plushiest joint in town and there are easier places to get picked up (The Catacombs etc) but for fun, friendliness and people who will talk to you, the GLF discos take a lot of beating. Or keep an eye out for those outstanding dances run at Surrey Hall, Stockwell, from time to time by South London GLF. For a quiet friendly evening out you can always drop in any night at the Brixton Gay Community Centre at 78 Railton Road. Nobody will ram politics down your throat at any of these places (which may or may not be a good thing depending how you see it!).

Forget those pubs for the time being Alan, and come out and have some fun with GLF.

Tom Robinson

### Warm welcome for visitors

Pavilion Club  
123 London Road  
Shardlow  
Derby DE7 2GP  
Tel: Derby 792581

Dear Gay News,

On behalf of the above club, I would be extremely grateful if you could possibly spare us a little of your valuable space to advise the fact this gay club is *NOT* closing down and that the rumours to this effect which are at this moment going around the gay scene particularly in the Midlands are most definitely untrue and without foundation.

We have been very happy to offer our hospitality to many visitors who have read of us in *Gay News* and we hope to do this for quite a few years yet. All visitors can be assured of a very warm welcome in a club whose friendly atmosphere is second to none in the country.

J K Stuart (Hon Sec)  
for and on behalf of the  
Chairman and Committee

### Cavalier treatment

Sheffield CHE  
PO Box 107  
Sheffield S1 1EJ

Dear Gay News,

Further to the report in *Gay News* about getting the paper in Sheffield Central Library, this is what has happened so far. The Chief Librarian sent me a letter to acknowledge that I'd written to him and that he would put our request to the Library Committee. He then asked for fourteen copies of *Gay News*, and five days later, after his initial letter, the papers were forwarded to him. On the same day as the copies of GN were sent, I received a reminder about sending the magazines, but seeing as they had been dispatched (with a letter enclosed), I saw no reason to reply to this letter as the correspondence had crossed in the post.

However, and quite mysteriously, the Library never received the copies of GN, and the next we heard was that the Committee had turned down our application (I read about it in the local evening paper, *The Star!* and dear Councillor Enid Hattersley made her unnecessary remarks.



Illustration: Garry Cobb

I contacted the Library immediately, took another 14 copies of GN to the Library, asked if they would reconsider their decision because of the mix-up and left the matter in their hands. (All this took place on a Friday exactly a fortnight after I had originally sent the first 14 copies). Three days later, I had the second lot of papers returned to me saying that the Council would not allow our application, but giving no reason as to why.

Since the Council's decision, I have written to them explaining that gay people are members of the community and that they have every right to have their views expressed in public as have the heterosexual majority. I also pointed out, and this seems to have been forgotten by the Council, that gay people also pay rates and so should get some service from the council rather than be ignored. I am still awaiting a reply a fortnight later. Perhaps the letter has gone missing? Besides expressing our views in the local press, we have decided to present the Library Committee with a petition with, we hope, three hundred names on it. This might make them think.

Dave Brown

Convener

PS: A fact I forgot to mention. The Council weren't in fact paying for GN to go in the Library. We (Sheffield CHE) offered to pay for a yearly subscription!

### Times have changed

London W11

Dear Gay News,

Congratulations on reaching your second Birthday. It has given me great pleasure to see this paper grow from strength to strength over the past two years, ever since David Seligman sold me issue No 1 in Hyde Park.

I started to go and help in the office every other Tuesday evening, from about issue No 4. In those days it meant carrying heavy bundles up the 79 stairs of 19 London Street. The subscription copies were all done by hand—there being less than 200. Then we had to take them down and post them in various letter boxes, all over the Paddington area.

Gradually, the number of subscriptions increased, and we were really overcrowded in that tiny little office, stepping over each other and getting in each other's way. Then, as now, we had a very good little group of helpers who, along with the full-time staff, all worked as a team to get the paper out on time. Sometimes, if the copies were late coming from the printers, it would be almost midnight before we were finished.

Then, at long last, a move to new premises—Redcliffe Square—much more space, but still all in one office, except for a little room set aside for Jean-Claude and his drawing boards etc. One big improvement was the fact that there were only a few steps to go down this time.

The first Birthday came and went—remember, at the beginning a lot of people said *Gay News* would last for only a few weeks! Even *Spartacus International Gay Guide* (3rd edition) said that we were likely to finish before long. How wrong they all were, thank goodness.

The number of subs kept on improving and we were glad of all the help we could get.

Eventually, we arrived at Chiswick High Road, with even more room—five rooms in fact, and at long last a machine for addressing the envelopes and wonder of wonders, some self-seal envelopes.

During the power crisis we had fun and games doing the subs by candle light. One week, we took everything to the home of another helper who very kindly let us use his living room and kitchen. Once again the issue came out on time.

Still the amount of subscriptions have been increasing, to the present time, where there are nearly 2,500—not bad in two years I would say.

During that time, I have seen many changes in both staff and helpers, and we have had some great times together, with many quips and jokes, to help our work along, to say nothing of numerous cups of tea, and occasionally cakes—*fairy* cakes of course!

A very recent addition to the office furniture I am glad to see, is a franking machine which will be a great help. Looking to the future, I hope the paper will get bigger and better, and will continue to be the best gay newspaper on the market anywhere in the world. Perhaps it will not be too long before we can see *Gay News* on the shelves of such stationers as W H Smith.

Peter Ward

*ED: Lovely glowing compliments! But it also gives us the chance to tell readers just how much we owe to our regular helpers like Peter who give up so much time and energy for the paper. We would never be where we are today without them—love and thanks to all of them.*

# CHE rush first draft bill

MANCHESTER: Ike Cowen, legal adviser to the Campaign for Homosexual Equality, has drawn up a rough draft of the Bill which CHE is planning to publish this autumn. It will be discussed by the Campaign's executive shortly.

With commendable speed, he has prepared the eleven-page typescript from the recommendations approved by delegates to the annual conference in Malvern. "I have nevertheless not hesitated to go beyond that brief when it seems to me that to do so would be acting in the spirit of Malvern," he writes. "I have no doubt that the collective common sense of the Executive Committee will pull us back from positions that are too exposed." He describes this first draft as "very tentative."

Explaining his approach to the task, he writes that he decided at an early stage that to try to amend the 1967 Sexual Offences Act would prove too difficult in terms of drafting. What he has therefore decided to do is to replace the old Act in its entirety with a 'scissors and paste job', taking the

useful bits of the 1967 Act, parts of the Scottish Minorities Group Bill and adding the new ideas thrown up by the working party.

Amongst the innovations he has made "in the spirit of Malvern" are the eradication of archaic and pejorative terms such as 'gross indecency', 'lewd homosexual practices', and their replacement with more neutral terms; an attempt to define homosexual practices with a little more precision; and "the replacement of the word 'buggery' with the less objectionable and more exact term 'sodomy'."

The basic principle of the Bill seems to be enshrined in section 1 where he has introduced the idea that homosexual activities are lawful with some exceptions rather than the idea of the 1967 Act that homosexual acts are unlawful with some exceptions. "This seems to me to be an important principle. We must remember that we are not begging for tolerance, but demanding justice."

# Headmasters on homosex

HERTFORDSHIRE: Praise is certainly due to the *Hertfordshire Mercury* for their recent article, on the 'Feminine Focus' page, about sex education in schools.

Veronica Gregg has contacted the headmasters of four schools in the county to find out their reaction to the Young Liberals conference resolution that sex teaching should include lessons about homosexual relationships.

Mr I Laydon, head of Broxbourne School, commented: "Certainly, in terms of normal sex—if one makes that distinction—it is part of the curriculum." His school approached the subject via "the normal reproductive nature of sex within the science and biology area of the school syllabus." Sex education was kept on a matter-of-fact and unsensational level.

Mr Laydon seemed reluctant to single out the particular topic of homosexuality as the basis of a lesson. He said: "I would prefer it to arise out of spontaneous discussion. There is, I think, many an aberration within sex which can well be left."

Head of Hoddesdon's Sheredes School, Mr Maurice Holt, told Ms Gregg that the "plumbing" side of sex was covered during the first year. It was introduced as naturally as possible by members of the science staff—both men and women.

The emotional side of sex could only be tackled later on in school.

Mr Holt called the Young Liberals' proposal the sort of prescriptive statement which political bodies make and which could not

be taken as a programme for educational action.

"Most kids do get quite adequately 'treated' but you have some with particular hang-ups and, rather than try to legislate in terms that evoke the majority, the school has got to give the others the right kind of guidance."

Sele School's reaction was somewhat cautious. Deputy Head, Michael Vaughan, asked what a political party was doing, concerning itself with aspects of teaching. He stated that his school had marriage guidance counsellors working on all aspects of the problem.

The most encouraging attitude came from Mr K Robson, Head of Cheshunt's Turnford School. He said: "What I have said to my children and will say in our own school is: 'There are people who haven't the same sexual feelings that most people are born with, and they are attracted not to members of the other sex but to their own.'"

He added that he would try to explain that there was nothing "abnormal" about homosexuality and that "it could be any of us who are like this." He would tell them: "You may or may not come across it. If you do, don't treat these people with any kind of revulsion." —Bravo!

Included in Ms Gregg's page are articles on CHE's sex education programme and the Unitarian Church's showing of the film 'The Invisible Minority: The Homosexual in Our Society.'

# Thornley murder youths charged

LONDON: Three youths appeared at Bow Street Magistrates Court, on June 21, charged with the murder of Roger Thornley, which took place on May 13 on Hungerford Bridge (see report GN49).

They were Robert Emmanuel Donovan (aged 17), unemployed, and Patrick James Donovan (18), his brother, also unemployed, both of Dartington House, Springfield Estate, South Lambeth, and David Baillie (17), a clerk of Pattison House, Red Cross Way, London SE1.

The youths were remanded in custody. At the time of writing, the three were due to appear again at Bow Street on June 28, when a further remand was expected.



Victim Roger Thornley

# Campaigning YLs

LONDON: Strong pressure is to be put on Liberal MPs and peers to enlist their help in amending the present legislation relating to homosexuality.

Steve Atack, the newly-appointed organiser of the Young Liberals' gay rights campaign, explained to *Gay News* precisely how this is to be done.

The Young Liberals' mode of attack on law reform will deal with four main topics: the age of consent (16); the extension of the Act to include Northern Ireland and Scotland; the inclusion of merchant seamen and members of the armed forces; and the removal of the "privacy" clause.

Firstly, letters are going out to all Liberal MPs and peers, asking for their views on the subject of gay rights, and enquiring what they intend doing about law reform.

Secondly, the campaign has drawn up a draft motion which is to be sent to all Young Liberals branches in the British Isles. This will implore members to fight for law reform within their constituencies (whether held by a Liberal or not).

And thirdly, the Young Liberals will be moving an emergency motion at the Party Assembly in Brighton, which will call on Party members to act on the suggestions for law reform.

With this amount of pressure on them, Steve thinks that Liberal MPs will find it difficult not to take action.

While using their political skills in this way, those involved in the campaign intend to liaise closely with all other gay groups. On a personal note, GN asked Steve whether he was gay himself. He answered in the affirmative, with the comment: "I suppose that ruins my chances of getting in the government." Well—we certainly hope not!

# Sexologist apologises

BIRMINGHAM: Dr Martin Cole, who addressed the public meeting at CHE's conference in Malvern, has written to Wallace Grevatt, conference organiser, in reply to a letter of thanks that Wallace sent him after the spring bank holiday event.

Dr Cole, writing from the Institute for Sex Education and Research in Birmingham, of which he is co-director, states: "The evening at Malvern had a profound effect upon me which I think was entirely beneficial."

Speaking of the opposition which he experienced from the meeting and especially from the strong GLF contingent present, Dr Cole says: "It was entirely my own fault that I should have engendered such antagonism, because on reflection it was inevitable that my presentation should have been misunderstood in those rather special circumstances."

He goes on: "I have now a much clearer and more meaningful appreciation of the differing but nevertheless overlapping roles of the 'political' and 'scientific' components, which I don't think I could have gained in any other way."

Dr Cole concludes: "I do hope that you will be able to convey to those you know my apologies and sadness at being a little misunderstood."



It will be interesting to hear Dr Cole's new approach, when he next addresses such a gathering.

# Gay journalists meet

LONDON: There was a refreshingly representative attendance at the initial gay symposium of journalists, held in Bloomsbury's Museum Tavern on June 19.

Members of national daily and local weekly newspapers and magazines had been invited by Campaign for Homosexual Quality's media group to discuss homosexuality and the press.



Attending journalist Veronica Harvey

Out of the meeting, a letter has been sent to the National Union of Journalists asking its assurance that it would fight any discrimination on the grounds of (1) sex (either against a woman or a man) or (2) sexual orientation (bisexuality, heterosexuality or homosexuality). This was signed by several of the NUJ members present.

The meeting, with Griff Vaughan-Williams (NUJ and CHE member) in the chair, agreed to a story being phoned through to the Press Association for general release covering the evening.

It was generally felt that gay journalists should make more contact with their colleagues, that gay organisations should get in touch more with the press, and that gay people generally should react by complaining when something ridiculous on homosexuality appeared in a newspaper.

Denis Lemon, editor of *Gay News*, said that media group members should visit CHE groups to explain why press contact is so important.

It was also mooted that gay organisations (with particular reference to local CHE groups) had no idea how to construct an acceptable press release.

Jackie Forster, editor of *Sappho* and CHE Executive Council member, though it worth asking members of the press to attend meetings to instruct CHE members in the construction of releases.

On the suggestion of Michael Mason (*Gay News*), members were asked to write to the editor of the *Journalist* to the effect that it was time that brothers and sisters in the union became aware of the bitterness they were creating by their treatment of stories on homosexuality. While they would never refer to 'niggers' or 'yids'—because of the NUJ's code of conduct—they still called homosexuals 'queers', 'poofs' and 'perverts'.

It was agreed that the next such meeting should take place on July 17 at the same venue. An advertisement is to be taken out in the UK Press Gazette announcing the next gathering, to which all interested journalists—including those in radio and television—are invited.



Fashion writer Iain Finlayson at the symposium.

Photographs: Carl Hill

# Round the clock service

LONDON: At a recent meeting organised by Gay Switchboard, CHE's London Information Centre and Switchboard agreed to a joint experiment to test the demand for a twenty-four-hour gay phone service.

For three months later this year (exact dates still to be decided) either the Switchboard phone or the CHELIC phone will be on call round the clock at weekends.

Griff Vaughan-Williams of CHE told *Gay News* that a careful log would be kept of the type of calls received, though no names would be recorded. "If we monitor calls in this way, we will be able to see if late night users need help with personal problems, are potential suicides, or if most people who ring want information."

If the trial proves a success, then the two organisations are confident that it will be possible for them to operate an all-night weekend service on a more permanent basis.

CHELIC is open for calls at present from 6.00pm to 10.00pm (Monday to Friday) and

midday to 7.00pm (Saturday), and their number is 01-437 7363. Gay Switchboard is open for calls seven nights a week from 6.00pm to 10.30pm and their number is 01-837 7324. (Please note recent change in number if you haven't seen it before).

# Harrow Gay Unity

HARROW: Vivian Waldron is to visit Harrow Gay Unity to talk about the work of Friend, the CHE gay advice and counselling service.

His talk will start at 8.30pm on Monday July 29, and will be held at HGU's regular venue, the club room over the lounge bar of the Goodwill To All. The Goodwill is at the junction of Harrow View and Headstone Drive.

There are no entrance or membership fees, and HGU says that all gay women and men are very welcome to their meetings.

# GLF at Red Lion Square

LONDON: Six members of South London Gay Liberation Front joined with demonstrators at Red Lion Square, WC1, on June 15 in a counter protest to the National Front meeting, called to oppose the government's proposed amnesty for illegal immigrants.

The gay contingent was further swelled by half a dozen or so GLF members who had gone along independently. Luckily none of them was hurt in the resultant clashes between demonstrators and police.

Bill Thomeycroft (S London GLF) told *Gay News* that he had been caught in the crush which had resulted when police split the demonstrators into two groups.

GN asked whether demonstrators had been told beforehand of a plan or signal to attack the police. Bill answered "No," adding that certain press reports had suggested that this had happened. "But this was impossible because of the crush."

The demonstrators had been pushing because the police diverted them to the left, into Old North Street, when it had been

intended that the marchers would turn right. Bill said that it was terrifying being in the middle of the demonstrators. People were crushed together and it was difficult to breathe.

When the marchers moved on to Theobalds Road, the National Front demonstrators were on one side of the road and the left-wing amalgam on the other, with the police between them. There had been no question of fighting between the two groups just a lot of slogan shouting - yet the police on horseback rode straight into the counter demonstrators, and several of them were injured. Bill has written to his MP to protest about the police's actions.

Malcolm Greatbanks (S London GLF) told *Gay News* that the crush had resulted from demonstrators trying to keep their ground by linking arms. This they did because the police were continually trying to push them back. "It was very scary - some people were pushed against the barriers and injured, but we weren't among them."

# Beating for 'suspected poof'

CHORLEY: A judge criticised a school for not taking disciplinary action over "a nasty case of bullying" in which four pupils beat a boy because they suspected him of being gay.

"Six of the best" would have done them good, Lord Justice James said in the Court of Appeal, London. If the school which he named as Holy Cross, Chorley, Lancashire, had taken action, the law need not have been involved.

But the victim's father had informed the police, and the boys - two aged 15 and two aged 16 - were sent to detention centres at Preston Crown Court in April for assault causing actual bodily harm.

The boys won their appeals against the sentences, of which they had already served six weeks. The court substituted conditional discharges.

Lord Justice James told how the boys decided they would chase and bully another pupil, aged 14 or 15, because one suspected him of being "sweet or a poof." He had been taken into a changing room and tied up on a coat hook with rope. One jabbed a flagpole into his stomach and another hit him over the head with a wet knotted sock. He suffered facial bruising and his wrists were chafed.

A *Gay News* reporter phoned the headmaster of the school, Mr V Hourahane, to enquire whether, in view of the Judge's remarks arising out of the incident, he intended to include homosexuality in any sex-education lessons given at the school.



Lord Justice James criticises school

Our reporter rang persistently every day for a week, culminating on the Friday with five calls during the school day. Strange as it may seem, Mr Hourahane, was engaged on every occasion, and although his secretary promised to get him to ring us back, he didn't do so.

# Homosex - still a slur

LONDON: Three Appeal Court judges have ruled that it is still a slur on a man's character to say he is a homosexual or practices homosexuality - even though Parliament in 1967 legalised private gay acts between adult males.

Lord Justice Stephenson, sitting with Mr Justice MacKenna and Mr Justice O'Connell, was giving the court's reasons for dismissing an appeal by Roger Bishop, of Blackpool, against his conviction at the Old Bailey in February of burglary. He had been jailed for nine months.

Bishop argued that the trial judge should not have allowed the introduction of his previous convictions in evidence. This had been done because Bishop had impugned the main prosecution witness' character by claiming he had been invited to the flat he was accused of burgling for homosexual purposes.

# Billet-doux

ISLE-OF-WIGHT: Clear evidence that Isle-of-Wight police are using informers to help convict cottaging gays emerged from a recent fiercely contested court case before island magistrates.

A sailor, Mr Allan Southwell, told the bench that he was in a Ryde cottage cubicle when a piece of folded toilet paper landed by him inviting participation in an "indecent act." Mr Southwell did not respond and a second piece of paper was thrown into the cubicle, which in turn was followed by a third containing a pre-emptive message worded "Yes or No."

Mr Southwell left the cottage and returned one minute later with two police officers, who were conveniently nearby.

Police constable M Ayres told the justices that he saw the accused, Mr Christopher Rose, an assistant ship's steward crouched down looking through a hole in the door. Under questioning Mr Rose had also admitted watching men through the hole, but denied being the author of the notes. No pen was found on him.

Mr John Ellis, prosecuting, read a statement from a handwriting expert who said that he could not identify the writing as Rose's, although it may have been disguised.

In subsequent cross-examination Rose agreed that he had homosexual tendencies and marital difficulties.

Ms Marjorie White, for the defence, submitted that it would be unsafe for the court to convict on the prosecution evidence since it was circumstantial. "No pen was found, the handwriting was different, and while Mr Southwell was out the offender could have left," she said.

Despite the considerable element of doubt and a not guilty plea, the Magistrates convicted Mr Rose on charges of insulting behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace, and attempting to procure an act of gross indecency. He was fined a total of £50 and ordered to pay £19 costs.

Gay holidaymakers should watch out - there's an informer about!

Richard Thomson

# Christians change towards gays

LONDON: Christian attitudes towards gayness have undergone considerable change since St Paul said "no homosexual shall enter heaven."

In a report which has recently been compiled by a five-member study group of the Council of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, liberal attitudes shine through - although the report does state that the document is not to be taken to represent a denominational view. It is presented as containing facts and opinions which merit consideration by the General Assembly and its member churches and fellowships.

The introduction follows general introductory lines towards homosexuality, even though they describe the bisexual as "a less common variant."

In attempting to explain how homosexuality comes about, the report lists the age-old causes - imbalance of hormones, sustained emotional stress, imbalance of character strength of parents, situations in which heterosexual relationships are difficult to establish, occupations where females are less available, and the association of immature individuals with confirmed homosexuals.

The problems arising from being homosexual, in the study group's opinion, include intolerance by society, the fact that the public are only aware of the activities of the few law-breaking homosexuals who have an intrinsic news value, the blackmailer and discrimination in employment.

The report concludes by listing its suggested remedies, which are not anything new, but . . . They are: enlightenment of the public by responsible elements in the mass media, bringing the facts to the notice of those responsible for care and guidance of young people, emphasising the responsibility of parents, bringing liberalising pressures to bear on public bodies where discrimination persists, collaboration of Churches to lead the way in adopting more liberal and tolerant attitudes, and the encouragement of medical and social research into the cause and nature of homosexuality.

# Porno film show costs DJ £1000

LONDON: Chris Denning, former disc-jockey for Radio One, Radio Luxembourg and pirate-station Radio London, appeared at the Old Bailey recently on a total of twelve charges relating to under-age boys.

Eight of the charges were for "publishing obscene articles" - in fact showing eight boys pornographic films - and for this Chris received fines totalling £1,000. Three of the charges related to indecently assaulting a fourteen-year-old boy and the other was for attempting to procure an indecent assault, for which he received two years' probation.

Chris, 33, who is now running his own record promotion company, told *Gay News* that the case began almost a year ago.

He has surmised that the case probably arose after one of the boy's parents had discovered a book which the boy had taken from Chris' home.

After the trial, the Judge commended one of the police officers involved, PC Barry Poore, for the zealous way he had handled the case. The Judge considered that he had gone far beyond the call of his duty.

# Cottage closure controversy

LONDON: For this story, we'll start with the facts. Hounslow Council has decided to close the Kew Bridge cottage at six in the evening, instead of eleven, as at present.

After receiving this piece of information, via a press release from the Council, *Gay News* rang the local police to ask what "trouble" had prompted this action. They were unable to help.

David Rangecroft, of Scotland Yard's press bureau, however, was. He told us that the police had asked the council to close the cottage at night "following a couple of allegations of assault on the attendant."

QK so far. Then we rang Tony Randle, the council's borough engineer, who had stated at a public works committee meeting that the toilets were being frequented by "undesirables."

He declined to speak to us and directed our enquiry to the council's press office. Peter Doble, press officer, told us that most of the evidence, on which the engineer's recommendation had been based, had come from the police.

"For some time the police have been informing his [Randle's] department of all sorts of different things - drug-taking, homosexuality and vandalism," he said. A survey had been made by the police [they didn't mention it] and the council, and when it was decided that this was in fact the case, an early closure had been recommended.

We told Mr Doble what the police had informed us and he replied: "This is what I have been told. The attendants couldn't control the place in these hours."

Who's the big, bad, cottage-closing wolf, here?

# Anti-gay beats retreat

STOCKHOLM: "Our experience is that homosexuals are so tied up with sex that they let this cloud over more important questions," says Frank Baude, chairman of Sweden's extreme leftist political splinter group, the 'Marxist-Leninist Communist Federation of Revolutionaries'.

"But if we have homosexuals in our party who work like communists should, then we have no reason to put them on the firing line."

This was an about-face from Baude's earlier sensational threats to throw out any gays he found in his party membership list.

"Homosexuality is a product of class society and the oppression of women," Baude still insisted, taking part in a panel discussion debate in the Swedish west coast port city of Gothenberg.

Kurt Schiller

# Peerage for Wolfenden



LONDON: Sir John Wolfenden was made a peer in the Queen's Birthday honours list, announced on June 15.

Sir John - one of four new entrants to the House of Lords - headed the committee which studies the law on homosexuality and prostitution. The findings of this committee were the basis of the 1967 Sexual Offences Act.

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# Aussies act on gays

AUSTRALIA: Some revelations made to Australia's first Royal Commission into homosexuality has apparently shocked the 'normal' majority of West Australians, who prefer to avoid the subject of gays.

The Commission, appointed by the Labour government before it was ousted some time ago, sat for four days to hear evidence from homosexual men and women and heterosexuals. And despite the threat of further persecution, many gave evidence publicly, allowing their names to be published.

A 23-year-old lesbian told of "closed-door" gay parties involving up to 200 gays in Perth homes. She stated that Perth lesbians were leading a "twilight existence" for fear of being publicly exposed.

The first gay man to give evidence, a bank officer, told the Commission that Australian gays were frequently blackmailed and physically assaulted.

A schoolteacher stated that homosexuals were treated as second-class citizens. "Talking about homosexuality in this country is largely taboo," he said.

He felt the education system needed broadening to allow students access to literature and to discuss homosexuality. "I don't find homosexuality repugnant . . . it is interesting, and I don't find heterosexuality repugnant . . . it is not interesting."

The first Church witness before the Commission saw the situation in which homosexuals saw themselves "as a persecuted minority" as dangerous.

Photograph: Bill Potter (Camera Press London)

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# Drag Ball picks Cleo '74

PORTSMOUTH & SOUTHSEA: It was a gala night at Nero's Club Southsea recently when at a drag spectacular Miss Cleopatra 1974 emerged in lascivious splendour.

A mixture of unrestrained luxury and competitive euphoria, whipped up to a sugary effervescence by the inimitable host Mr Tony Page, kept the whole evening on the bubble.

At the magic hour of nine there began a veritable procession of gorgeous girls, in all shades of high and low camp, while others managed with a suitcase. By ten-thirty the main arena was ablaze with coloured chiffon and sequins, accompanied by an aroma faintly reminiscent of the blending department of a chic Parisienne parfumerie.

Unlike Cleopatra, Anthony failed to make his mark, although there was on occasion a faint but discernible whiff of Aqua Manda.

To the sound of blaring disco, the flash of psychedelic lights, and the tinkle of fully charged gin and tonic glasses, the competitors waited en fete, like well-groomed fillies straining for the off.

Appropriately on the stroke of midnight, the music faded to reveal a resplendent Tony Page dressed in black see-through ensemble and clutching the ubiquitous microphone.

The girls were marshalled, hors de combat, to one side of the splendid colonnaded mock Forum, but well away from the distraction of an imposing statue of a gladiator wearing nothing but a trident, and flashing his diminutive manhood from a somewhat over-developed abdomen. (Current bitch had it that some wicked queen scratched SPQR on the left cheek of his bum!)

One by one, the twenty contestants from all over the southern area, including London,

were encouraged to display their undoubted cosmetic and transvestite talents to the judges and assembled throng.

Hopes rose and fell in well-padded breasts as the five arbitrators complete with the incomparable Lee Sutton, kept the suspense, as well as the gin, flowing by reducing the parade to six possibles. Tony Page stripped with cool savoir faire to the beat of sensuous music while the final choice was made.

Miss Cleopatra 1974 turned out to be Lucille Ball in the curvaceous shape of Peter Mynors. The historical confusion was academic since everyone agreed that Lucy was a smasher and deserved the £25 first prize even if the costume was vintage 20th century.

Runner up was the slim and superbly attired oriental Mr Odkanobdee, who hails, but sadly does not originate from, Southampton. And third, but by no means least, the sultry Mr Dominic Stewart deserved every penny of the £5 prize, for stealing the show with his black tulle evening gown and voluptuous smile.

The competition over, eliminated contestants were free to retract their claws and discard tits and high-heels for a quick chariot inspection, or indulge in an excursion to the Senators' loo for mutual commiseration and a swift flush to remove the last traces of mascara.

Another hour of dancing, followed by the ostentatious glitter and swish of departing gowns and the sight of dropped arches ended an evening which needs no justification by hackneyed superlatives.

Nero may have painted and fiddled while Rome burned, but he certainly did Miss Cleopatra '74 proud.

Richard Thomson

# Victorious Norwegians

An interview with Kim Friele

Kim Friele is General Secretary of Norway's successful gay organisation Det Norske Forbundet. Following her speech to Campaign for Homosexual Equality's national conference, Kim spoke to Howard Llewellyn, GN's Cardiff correspondent, who first asked her for her impressions of the Malvern conference:

"I think the conference can be viewed from two aspects, the social, and the political as a reflection of the movement's progress, its present situation and future outlook.

"However, what I say must be qualified by the fact that four days at the conference is too short a time to obtain a realistic view of the movement, particularly when it was only possible for me to talk to fifteen out of the seven hundred and fifty delegates.

"The conference was a nice experience. It means a lot for homosexuals to be able to meet on such an occasion. As compared to the four days at Malvern, DNF's annual meeting only lasts one day and so I wonder how efficient Malvern really was. Although the conference meant a lot publicly, did not such large numbers make people passive, and inhibit their participation? Granted the executive committee worked hard, but about 65% of the ordinary members did not say anything. Had they participated then a lot more would have been achieved."



Kim Friele speaking at Malvern conference

As a visitor, Kim found it difficult to see what the aim of the conference really was. "Was it to agree on the chair policy, and the policy of the future?" But her main regret was that the meetings had steered clear of politics. What CHE had to decide was what it meant when it called itself a campaign for equality. "Equality with what?" she wondered. "Today's society?" Not a worthy aim, said Kim. Contemporary society will not accept us, merely tolerate us. "Tolerance is not enough," she insisted. "Reforms are not enough. We have to change society." It distressed her to hear people saying 'we must be good, and fit in so that others will accept us' or 'let's have equality, but not if it means upsetting people'.

"Homosexuals," she retorted, "can't afford to remain in isolation from other oppressed groups. We have to know how society functions in order to find out what creates oppression, what creates homophobia."

A surprise for the whole Norwegian delegation was the extent to which women in England were oppressed. Role-playing seemed to have a much stronger hold in this country than it did in Norway, where the general climate was much more egalitarian. Six out of every ten members joining DNF nowadays were women, mostly recruited from the ranks of women's liberation. Having gained strength as women, they felt able to come out as gay. Kim was saddened by the barriers between gay men and women here. And she said that she could not understand why some gay women turn on gay men instead of the society which oppresses all of us.

Besides the women joining DNF, there are a great number of radical male students, part of DNF's 'new generation'. There had been one or two of the inevitable clashes between conservatives and radicals, but a split (such as occurred in Denmark) had been avoided. Even though there are differences of opinion between the groups at DNF's weekly political meetings, the differences remain friendly and don't impair the unity of the movement. How did Kim account for the stability of DNF, when so many other gay groups have broken down through clashes between

various factions?

"Well, because of the lack of gay pubs and clubs in Norway, the only facilities available to gays are those offered by DNF, and so one either joins the movement or stays out in the cold.

"Gays see DNF as their 'trade union', they can identify with it even if its composition varies from conservative Christians to Marxist Leninists. We don't force politics on people, but we can create awareness. Even for our resolution refusing to support the institution of marriage we got wholesale agreement. We maintain that the institution is built, and is dependent on, sex roles and that such roles are responsible for all our present sexual oppression. Here our attitudes are more radical than those of the Swedish movement which supports the idea of homosexual marriage—Sweden is likely soon to recognise marriage between homosexuals. We also resolved at our annual conference that the difficulties of being homosexual and bisexual have nothing whatever to do with sexuality itself but arise from the attitudes of society. Homosexuality is therefore the problem of heterosexuals."

One of DNF's major successes has been in persuading the Norwegian government to introduce gay sex education into the school syllabus. Kim explained "a new regulation has been made by the Education Department with regard to sex education in schools. Now, not only are lessons given on biological sex but discussion has to be included on 'feelings', sexual orientation and alternative lifestyles. At present, the teaching of alternative lifestyles is only compulsory in schools in Oslo but eventually it will become compulsory throughout all schools in Norway. Because of the lack of teachers with knowledge on sexual orientation, DNF has been invited to give talks to high schools all over Norway."

Bearing in mind that law reform was only achieved in April 1972 in Norway, how did this extraordinary success story start?

"Well we started by giving talks in the universities, the schools of social work and the Pedagogic Centre—which is responsible for all the further education of teachers. For school pupils we produced a booklet called 'Homofili', talked about it on television and radio, and sent a copy of it to the headmaster, the chairman of governors and the pupil council of each school. We offered the schools free copies of 'Homofili' and within one and a half months we were asked to send out 10,000 copies."

'Homofili' has now been translated into English and there are hopes that it will shortly be published in this country. But pamphlets are not enough on their own, said Kim. The gay movement also needs speakers who they can brief, and send out to schools to talk to children.

"Above all, the speakers we choose must be proud to be gay. As for a brief, we forbid—because of their irrelevancy and negativeness—the specific mention of causes and treatment of homosexuality, and that of seduction. Of course, if the pupils ask about such topics we will discuss them."

And how have Norwegian psychiatrists reacted to this?

"Oh, they tell all the gays coming to see them to join DNF. After all it is society's failure to recognise an alternative life style that has led to the situations homosexuals have found themselves in—which is why, when we enter a school class to give a talk we announce: 'We have come to talk to you about your problem, the problem of homophobia'."

Howard Llewellyn

# CHE Executive elections

MANCHESTER: The results of Campaign for Homosexual Equality's executive committee elections were received at the Gay News editorial office within half an hour of them becoming known.

The seven members of CHE who have been voted in for a term of two years are: Ike Cowen (who has been responsible for drafting the organisation's law reform bill); Bernard Greaves (law reform working party member); Wallace Grevatt (Malvern organiser); Trevor Locke (particularly interested in youth and student aspects); Angela Needham (Bath feminist); Glenys Parry (participated in Activists, women's group and education); and Paul Temperton (ex general secretary).

Those members who have been elected for one year are: John Bennett (Friend counsellor, member of Reach); Barrie Kenyon (of Friend); Peter Naughton (treasurer); and Richard Webster (GN correspondent and group convener, Cumbria).



Angela Needham and Wallace Grevatt

Mike Thomas, the returning officer, told GN that there had been a return of 750 votes—which is a 20% poll. About this number was expected from a postal vote. The ballot was conducted by the Electoral Reform Society.

A new chairperson will be chosen at the first meeting of the new executive committee to succeed Michael Steed, who announced his retirement prior to Malvern conference.

# La vie est gaie

LONDON: If you want to find the gay life in Paris, you might try asking the French Government Tourist Office. Or then again, you might not.

In their publication 'The Traveller in France' number 258 they write "What about entertainment? ... while for a look at the weirder side of life, Le Monocle, in the Boulevard Edgar Quinet, with its mixture of lesbians, transvestites and other curiosities, still draws the crowds."

That upset members of the Norwich Centre Group. They grabbed their pens and wrote to editor of the magazine Pauline Hallam. A reply was quickly forthcoming:

"Thank you for your letter ... calling attention to what is a very carelessly worded paragraph in our magazine.

"Miss Hazel Evans who wrote the article and has visited Le Monocle, shares my regrets that this item should have caused offence to your members. It is a fact, however, that this particular club does set out to be deliberately 'camp' and, although not without interest, we felt it prudent to warn intending visitors of the tone of the establishment.

"May I assure your members that there is no law against homosexuality and lesbianism in France, provided that this takes place between consenting adults and that displays of affection do not become a public spectacle.

"The French have always prided themselves on being a liberal minded people, and I do not think that your members would encounter undue prejudice."

A copy of the reply was also sent to Miss Hazel Evans, and Peter Bishop of the Norwich Centre Group expressed the hope to us that "in future she will choose her words more carefully."

On the subject of word-choosing, if we may carp, Pauline Hallam "felt it prudent to warn intending visitors" and thought that gay people would not encounter "undue prejudice"! So if anybody thumps you, you've got it coming to you.

# MANCHESTER ORIENTATED—SORRY

In GN48 in our report 'Women, we need you' we quoted Jackie Forster as saying that "CHE's women's group in Manchester was a farce and had collapsed, and Sappho was still picking up the pieces." Jackie was, in fact, referring to the CHE women's group in London, not Manchester. Our apologies to Jackie for getting her wrong—and to all CHE sisters in Manchester whose group is as strong and active as ever.

# 'Religion & The Homosexual'

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Photograph: Carl Hill

## 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 handle 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 of 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.

### Sick Society

I am a married man of 43 with two grown-up sons. I have always been homosexual. Before I was married I had a good sexual relationship with another boy which lasted for seven years. This was at a time when to be homosexual was one of the ultimate evils. Our families found out about us and under pressure we broke up. Also, under the same pressure I eventually married, having been advised, and half believing, that marriage would eventually be a cure for my homosexuality. Now, as my sons have grown up, relations between my wife and myself are becoming increasingly strained. I am now as much homosexual as I have ever been. I have obtained some relief from cottaging but this has always seemed to me a soulless substitute for a true relationship. What, if anything, can I do to salvage the rest of my life without hurting my wife and children? There must be many others trapped in this way by the sick society they were brought up in. There should be some kind of anonymous society for people like myself where we can work for a future where no other man or woman will ever experience the racking I have had to undergo for the sake of the innocent people in my family.

(Name and address withheld on request)

Sooner or later you will have to confront the situation realistically, which will mean talking frankly to your wife about it. This may mean a definite break, or it may mean the possibility of evolving some sort of compromise whereby you are free to enjoy a more open homosexual life while your wife is reassured that she will not be abandoned or that her security will not be threatened. Though, as you must realise, the possibility of a 'true relationship' is not compatible with marriage to someone else. This is not something you will be able to work on alone without reference to anyone else. A first step might be to discover for yourself the possibilities of the gay world apart from the cottages which, while serving an immediate purpose, are no particular consolation to someone in your position. So we do urge you to go along to some CHE groups, and explore the other outlets advertised on the back pages of Gay News. There is a significant proportion of married gay men and women in the groups.

### To tell—or not?

There are two problems I have. First when making love, and during lovemaking, my penis is very hard. But when time comes for intercourse, my penis goes soft. Can you help? Second, I work with two boys, one is 20 and the other 23 and I am fond of both. I go to lunch and sit with them, and after lunch we go for a walk together. You see, they are brothers and I fancy all two of them. But they are both straight. Shall I tell them I fancy them and break off the friendship or just leave things as they are? I am dying of desire for them.

M W, London N5

We are not really qualified to help with the first problem, so drop a note to the 'Aches & Pains' column giving a bit more detail about the situation—your age, when it happens etc. As to your other question, well it is probably unlikely that the two boys would allow you to have sex with them—at least not both at the same time. If you value their friendship, as you seem to, why don't you just let them know you are gay in a general way without bringing them into it at all. In these circumstances they will possibly still like to be friends with you. You will be able to be honest with them in conversation and if they want to break off their friendship, then it is no loss to you, as you wouldn't want friends who dislike gay people, would you?

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### Appeal

I am a disabled gay aged 37. My primary disability happened seven years ago when I was mugged and kicked about the head which caused brain injury and I spent some time in hospital receiving treatment for this. Since this time I have not worked, owing to emotional disturbances and severe bouts of depression when I have attempted suicide. I feel completely isolated and rejected by society as a whole, even people I thought were friends have discarded me and the Samaritans have not been much help, particularly now that I need practical help. For now I am sexually impotent owing to a drug I must take for the remainder of my life to offset depressions. I am afraid to go out to places where my sexual needs may be relaxed as I could not endure another mugging. The only way I can get any pleasure is through books and magazines featuring the male nude, of which I have but one. It would be a great help to me if some understanding gay could send me some of those they have no further use for, to ease my situation. Can you be of any help to me in this direction? I may add I am a genuine person.

George Crutchley, 89, Lancaster Place, Bloxwich, Staffs

We posted half a dozen magazines with our reply to George, and we hope others will respond as well.

### Working alone

I am a twenty-three year old residential child care officer. For the past five years I have worked in various fields of social work, but in each occupation I have had vast difficulties in not being able to admit my homosexuality openly (a common complaint?). My work is far more to me than any cash rewards, yet one honest remark about my true feelings can lead to a very difficult situation when you are dealing with the parents of children in care, and even the other staff. The retaliation is powerful, perhaps even the termination of my contract. In the days before Gay News and the vast growth rate of CHE I ran an advertisement in local papers offering free advice for 'gay yet sad'. The response was, as is always, staggering and wherever possible I would make contacts for them with CHE groups in their areas. The officer in charge happened to read an opened letter and confronted me with this 'repulsive pornography'. The effect was devastating, not that the hand-capped rejected me but the other staff made it impossible for me to continue my work. I could go into details of boycotts but it now seems so trivial. I had a friend and a child care job to go to, but again my homosexuality is not understood. I have searched it seems a lifetime for employment in this, or a similar field, where either my life as a homosexual would be of value, or at least be accepted to allow me to continue my work without fear of retribution and possible dismissal or obstruction to my career.

Ken S, Cheshire

The situation you outline is familiar, and your experiences have been shared by many people who work in similar or related fields to yourself. We are very impressed by your awareness and by the fact that you have been actively trying to do something about the situation, for yourself and for others. This consciousness is always the first step in any move to improve a situation. And, clearly, this consciousness has brought it home to you that it is important to live and work openly as a gay man, a desire we applaud and support of course. But we are wondering if you are in fact, working too much alone? Obviously you are in touch with the CHE network, but there is no inference in your letter that you have the immediate support of friends, within or without your own field of work. To fight for the rights of gay people is ultimately something that really does need a supportive atmosphere. Might it not be a good idea for you to get in touch with other gay social workers, to exchange information and experience with them? You may already know, that as a result of CHE's Malvern conference, a network of gay social workers and probation officers is being established by CHE (under the guidance of Michael Launder) which should produce some supportive action. Michael is at the moment helping to produce a gay-orientated issue of *Cause* the radical magazine for social workers. You can find out about it from Flat 3, 55 Highbury Park, London N5. We do urge you to make contact with others; solidarity is important and together you may be able to produce material to convince your oppressive colleagues of the undeniable rights of gay people in all situations.

### Am I too awful?

I've had a real problem as far as ever I can remember. I'm 27 and gay. I don't like the gay scene much. Now what I am going to say may seem a bit horrible. I love (to be frank) to piss and shit into my underpants. I do this about once or twice a week and it gives me great sexual satisfaction. Let me say that I am very clean; I have dilly buths and am particular about my clothes that they are clean. I wear fresh underwear (T-shirt and briefs) every day. It may hardly seem possible that I do what I do. Is there only one man in Britain like me? I'm so lonely. It's a job to come to terms with this problem, but it would beasier to have a

friend the same. I'm so desperately lonely. I would envisage anyone like me being desperately lonely too—because you just don't fit into any normal gay scene, let alone any other scene! Could I put an ad in Gay News? Hope I'm not too awful to reply to.

Name and address withheld by request.

—It's a shame, but it isn't possible to advertise in *Gay News* along the lines you envisage; the paper does have to be very careful in these dubious days. But there is no reason to think you are unique in your taste; shit and piss fetishism is acknowledged and well-documented. You do not seem to feel guilty or anxious about the validity of your activities, and of course there is no earthly reason why you should be. All the antipathy to shit-frolics is purely cultural. But we wonder if it may not be to your own advantage in the long run to try to widen your range of sexual outlets. You say you are lonely and you know that few people will share your taste. So the loneliness will probably continue. There is no need to abandon your delight in shit at all, but that alone is not going to help you relate to other people and find friends. Every-one has certain sexual activities which are particularly enjoyed and can usually be best enjoyed alone—such as masturbation, fetishism of various kinds, voyeurism etc—but to concentrate all your energy and satisfactions into one outlet must be limiting.

### Self denial

In 1971 I gave up my job to nurse my ailing and elderly mother. There was no one else to do it and I couldn't allow her to go into a home. She recently died and while I was nursing her I was in receipt of a day and night attendance allowance from the government. I do not regret one minute of the time I gave up to look after her, but now I find I am alone, I am 48 years of age, out of a job and finding it very difficult to adjust to this situation. No one seems willing to employ me. Apart from the heart-ache of losing a devoted parent which I knew would happen one day, but which in my heart I wouldn't accept, the loneliness is unbearable. While nursing my mother I became a sort of semi-recluse and withdrew into myself, but now I realise I must face the world and make a new life for myself. But how and where? Some days I feel as if I have reached the end of the line. I am having treatment from my doctor for my nerves and he says get out of the flat and mix with people, and keep trying until you find a job. I do some days, but I find it all so disheartening. I know this isn't a sexual problem as such, but I would be grateful for any advice.

Name and address withheld by request.

—First and foremost it is essential that you fully acknowledge your bereavement. In our society it is considered inappropriate to show grief—one is supposed to act as though nothing had happened. This is entirely wrong, and dangerous. Bereavement, even when expected, is always a shock and the individual really does need a good six months to convalesce. So don't be too hard on yourself by worrying too much about not getting a job. Treat yourself as though you were recovering from an illness, which in a very real sense you are. This is nothing to be ashamed of. The answer to your problem really does seem to be the existence of CHE which has a very active group in your area, also a branch of Friend. Make contact there; someone will come and see you first if you prefer that, and then you can start attending the group meetings and your life will begin to take on a new vitality. Your letter does contain many messages for other gay people. Mainly the danger of devoting yourself exclusively to another person at the expense of the rest of your life—after all you are the one who has to carry on. Also it pinpoints another problem for gays and that is the difficulty of sharing a bereavement, whether it is a realisation or a lover. These are the moments when isolation is really extreme. The supportive atmosphere of a CHE group can certainly help here.

## 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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## Here we are again

Almost gave up writing the column for this edition. After trying to get it together for over a week, all I ended up with was a pile of scrawled attempts, none of them getting over what I wanted to say. And that, quite simply, was to say a sincere thank you to readers and GN's contributors, local correspondents, distributors and general helpers for the support and encouragement you've given us over the last twelve months.

Not too difficult a thing to write you might think, but my habit of over-elaborating continually got the better of me, and the results were as tedious and indulgent as the rambling analysis, called 'The First Year', that I contributed to GN25.

So I've kept it simple, and anyway, perhaps all I really need to say now that GN is commencing its third year of existence, is that for as long as *Gay News* can be of service to the gay community, we'll keep publishing the paper and endeavouring to make it increasingly effective and entertaining. Much gay love.

Denis Lemon

## Seeds of anger in Belfast

NORTHERN IRELAND: British Embassies throughout Europe were picketed on Thursday June 27, as part of the world day of protest declared by Forbundet, the Norwegian homophile organisation, to highlight the plight of Irish homosexuals.

In addition, Belfast Gay Liberation Society had prepared a letter to the Prime Minister, which at the time of going to press they intended to hand in to 10 Downing Street on Saturday June 29. It was also planned to hand a copy to Mr Merlyn Rees, at Stormont Castle, simultaneously.

The letter made a plea for the law in Northern Ireland relating to homosexuality to be brought into parity with that of England and Wales. It further asked that the Director of Public Prosecutions in Northern Ireland be directed to issue a ruling to the effect that "it was not today the policy of the Crown Office to take proceedings when cases are brought to its notice of homosexual acts between consenting adults in private."

The letter concluded: "The law in Britain has been reformed by legislative or administrative decision; here in Northern Ireland, homosexuals are given no protection in law. We demand that since responsibility in this matter has totally devolved upon the United Kingdom government, that you quickly terminate this absurd and vicious legal anomaly."

The focal point of Thursday's protest in Norway was a meeting with the Justice Minister and a march to the British Embassy in Oslo, where a deputation was received.

A telegram was to be sent to HM the Queen, supporting these protests, which read: "Please intercede for homosexuals in Northern Ireland. 1967 legislation does not apply here. Belfast Gay Liberation Society, Queens University."

Also, telegrams begging support were being sent to the heads of the three main churches in Ireland.

Full reports of the protests and a special feature on Northern Ireland, by *Gay News* editorial staff, will appear in our next issue.

## GAY NEWS

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Editor . . . . . Denis Lemon  
News Editor . . . . . Michael Mason  
Reporter at Large . . . . . Jeff Grace  
Contributing Editor (Features) . . . . . Roger Baker  
Contributing Editor (Features) and Typesetting . . . . . Rictor Norton  
Art Director . . . . . Jean-Claude Thevenin  
Art Assistant . . . . . Glen Platts  
Advertising/Circulation Manager . . . . . Bernard Mears  
Business Manager . . . . . Stuart Patterson  
Subscriptions, Classified Ads and Box Replies . . . . . Maggie Donovan  
Admin Assistant, Listings . . . . . Catherine Hiscox  
Regular Contributors: Sean Aubrey (Brighton & District Correspondent), Peter Burton, Denis Cohn, Barry Conley, Elizabeth Cornu, Brian Dax, Ian Dunn (Scottish Correspondent), Andy Dvosin (New York Correspondent), Iain Finlayson, Jackie Foster, Veronica Harvey, Mike Heberden, Sebastian Helmore, Carl Hill, Derek James, Howard Llewellyn (Cardiff & District Correspondent), Leo Madigan, 'Merlin', John Montgomery, Barry Nonweiler, John Riley, David Seligman, Richard Thomson (Portsmouth & District Correspondent), Richard Webster (Cumbria Correspondent) and Pete Wicker.

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# Lesbianism

by Martha Shelley

Martha Shelley's important lesbian manifesto was first published in the American counter-psychiatry magazine *Radical Therapist* (which has since changed its name to *Rough Times*). To Martha and the *Radical Therapist* Collective we send our love and thanks for allowing us to reprint the article.

A collection of some of the most important features from the magazine have been published by Penguin in a paperback called *Radical Therapist*, price 60p, which was enthusiastically reviewed by Roger Baker in GN49.

If hostility to men causes lesbianism, then it seems to me that in a male-dominated society lesbianism is a sign of mental health.

The psychiatrists have also forgotten that lesbianism involves love between women. Isn't love between equals healthier than sucking-up to an oppressor? And when they claim we aren't capable of loving men, even if we want to—I ask you, straight man, are you capable of loving another man so deeply that you aren't afraid of his body or afraid to put your body in his hands? Are you really capable of loving women, or is your sexuality just another expression of your hostility? Is it an act of love or sexual conquest? An act of sexual imperialism?

I do not mean to condemn all males. I have found some beautiful, loving men among the revolutionaries, among the hippies, and the male homosexuals. But the average man—including the average student male radical—wants a passive sex-object-cum-domestic-cum-baby-nurse to clean up after him while he does all the fun things and bosses her around—while he plays either big-shot executive or Che Guevara—and he is my oppressor and my enemy.

Lesbianism is one road to freedom—freedom from oppression by men.

To see lesbianism in this context—as a mode of living neither better nor worse than others, as one which offers its own opportunities—one must abandon the notion that deviance from the norm arises from personal illness.

It is generally accepted that America is a 'sick society'. There is an inevitable corollary to this statement, which has not been generally accepted: that people within our society are all crippled by virtue of being forced to conform to certain norms. (Those who conform most easily can be seen as either the most healthy, because adaptable, or most sick, because least spirited.) The black is struggling to free himself not only from white oppression, but from the sickness of self-contempt and the sick roles he has been forced to play. Women are struggling to liberate their minds from sick sexual roles. It is clear that the self-abasing, suffering, shuffling black is not someone with a personal neurosis, but society's victim—and someone who has been forced to learn certain techniques for survival. Few people understand that the same is true of the self-abnegating passive housewife. Fewer understand this truth about the homosexual.

These techniques of survival help us meet certain needs, at the expense of others.

For women, as for other groups, there are several American norms. All of them have their rewards—and their penalties. The nice girl next door, virginal until her marriage—the Miss America type—is rewarded with community respect and respectability. She loses her individuality and her freedom to become a toothpaste smile and a chastity belt. The career woman gains independence and a larger margin of freedom—if she is willing to work twice as hard as a man for less pay, and if she can cope with emotional strains similar to those that beset the black intellectual surrounded by white colleagues. The starlet, call girl, or bunny whose source of income is directly related to her image as a sex object gains some financial independence and freedom from housework. She does not have to work as hard as the career woman, but she pays through psychological degradation as a sex object, and through the insecurity of knowing that her career—based on youthful good looks—is short-lived.

The lesbian, through her ability to obtain love and sexual satisfaction from other women, is freed of dependence on men for love, sex, and money. She does not have to do menial chores for them (at least at home), nor cater to their egos, nor submit to hasty and inept sexual encounters. She is freed from fear of unwanted pregnancy and the pains of childbirth, and from the drudgery of child-raising.

On the other hand, she pays three penalties. The rewards of child-raising are denied her. This is a great loss for some women, but not for others. Few women abandon their children as compared with the multitudes of men who abandon both wives and children. Few men take much interest in the process of child-raising. One suspects that it might not be much fun for the average person, and so the men leave it to the women.

The lesbian must compete with men in the job market, facing the same job and salary discrimination as her straight sister. On the other hand, she has more of a chance of success since her career is not interrupted by childbirth.

Finally, she faces the most severe contempt and ridicule that society can heap on a woman.

A year ago, when Women's Liberation picketed the 1968 Miss America Pageant, the most terrible epithet heaped on our straight sisters was 'lesbian'. The sisters faced hostile audiences who called them 'commies', 'tramps', 'bathless', etc, and they faced these labels with equanimity; but they broke into tears when they were called lesbians. When a woman showed up at a feminist meeting and announced that she was a lesbian, many women avoided her.



Others told her to keep her mouth shut, for fear that she would endanger the cause. They felt that men could be persuaded to accept some measure of equality for women—as long as these women would parade their devotion to heterosexuality and motherhood.

A woman who is totally independent of men—who obtains love, sex, and self-esteem from other women—is a terrible threat to male supremacy. She doesn't need them, and therefore they have very little power over her.

I have met many, many feminists who were not lesbians—but I have never met a lesbian who was not a feminist. Straight women by the millions have been sold the belief that they must subordinate themselves to men, accept less pay for equal work, and do all the shitwork around the house. I have met straight women who would die to preserve their chains. I have never met a lesbian who believed that she was innately less rational or capable than a man; who swallowed one word of the 'woman's role' horseshit.

Lesbians, because they are not afraid of being abandoned by men, are less reluctant to express hostility towards the male class—the oppressors of women. Hostility towards your oppressor is healthy—but the guardians of modern morality, the psychiatrists, have interpreted this hostility as an illness, and they say this illness causes and is lesbianism.

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## Madigan's log

I buy my copy of this paper at the booth on the corner of Oxford Street and Tottenham Court Road. As I asked the other day for *Gay News*, an elderly lady in a woolen coat with flat heels to her shoes took sudden interest. She peered over my arm as the vendor handed me a copy and said "Oh, isn't it nice that they print a happy paper; there's nothing but bombings and bloodshed in most of the dailies." I didn't disillusion her and I don't think her pension ran to a 15p outlay on gaiety for she waddled off along Oxford Street, but the incident set me thinking again on the incongruity of the word "gay" in the context we use it. "Straight" is an equally giddy misnomer. Has anyone got a plausible defence for these cheap inelegant disparities?

I hear Bette Davis is currently doing lecture tours of the US, showing snippets of her movies and talking about her career. Apparently she is attuned to the stamp of her following because her opening line is "Are there any hairdressers in the house?"

Also in the US, San Francisco specifically, waiters are picketing a gay restaurant because the staff there want to form a gay waiters union in opposition to the recognised body. There might be more in the local politics than meets the eye but surely, on the face of it, this sort of sectarianism has got out of hand. Liberation should equate with integration, not isolation. It is almost an axiom that minority groups are given to self-damaging excesses. Zealous partisans lose all judicial faculties and go leaping about on the pogo stick of their rights alienating themselves yet further from the society they are endeavouring to sway. It will be a victory for common sense if the current campaigns for homosexual equality in this country are conducted with dignity and reason. Blatant exhibitionism will simply sour the public at large and estrange the mass of thinking homosexuals. It furthers nothing to harass and outrage society no matter how prejudiced it might be. Persuasion—strong, dignified, reasonable, mellow persuasion—this is the weapon.

And another point, personal perhaps, but I feel obliged to make it. We should not be looking for a licence to lust. There is a natural morality; there are limits to sexuality. I am still sore at the writer in this paper who spoke of our "inalienable right to fuck small boys on the court-house lawn." Another writer made a point when he said we tend to overlook the fact that children too are sexual beings. Doubtless, but so are old folk, and so, for the matter of it, are pigs and there is something questionable about fellows who moon round after ninety year olds, or pigs, to share their desires with. Childhood is a time of experimentation, not



exploitation. Leave kids to kids and pigs to pigs and when we're old I daresay we'll discover what arrangements will apply to that state.

Of the twenty or so people I've asked if I can use their name in this column only two have said "Sure, go ahead!" And these two were the only individuals in the bunch who, as far as I know, are not practicing homosexuals. The attitudes of the rest ranged from timid to gutless. If a person's name is mentioned in a gay publication I don't see why it should be construed that they are necessarily gay. And does it matter anyway. I had my name (and photo) in the *Jewish Chronicle* a couple of years ago—and my foreskin's still intact, if anyone's interested.

When I used to take a fella back aboard in port I'd pass him off as my cousin. It was OK at the beginning of a trip in, say, Hamburg, but by the time there'd been a Dutch cousin in Rotterdam and a French cousin in Le Havre and a Greek cousin in Piraeus and a black cousin in Mombasa the lads had got the message. It became a standard joke on most ships, particularly on one when a fresh-faced student from the Auckland university came aboard with his girl-friend asking for me. He was in fact an uncle's son and couldn't understand the familiar ribbing he got from the lads who wouldn't believe it for a moment.

Anyway, the other week I got a letter from a Japanese cousin in a port called Mojiko whose English always was a bit shakey. The letter reads: "Hey Leo cousin eh! Ha ha! How you going? When come back Moji eh? Cold in Moji, you come back make warm eh! Ha ha!" Cute that!

Leo Madigan

## Bedroom theatre

You and I, being 'normal', 'well-adjusted' human beings, consider anything to do with dominance, submission, and conflict distasteful. Don't we? 'Other people' are aggressive, but we're not. Are we? Why is it then, I wonder, that all human and animal life pulsates incessantly with aggression? An intriguing question.

The fact is that while we preach 'Peace on Earth; Goodwill to All Men and Women' (amended, courtesy of Women's Liberation), we do not always practice it. There is often a difference, if not a distinct contradiction, between our conscious and our subconscious desires. Len Richmond, in his article on S&M (GN48) makes several points with which I agree, particularly that "it is far better to acknowledge the psychosexual nature of much violence, and bring the matter up from the unconscious and into 'trip rooms', where it is mutually enjoyed."

The ambivalence of human behaviour suggests that, very often, we are unable to tell the difference between fantasy and reality. Throughout history, people have oppressed, intimidated, tortured and murdered other people; and today this behaviour shows no sign of subsiding. (Whether it's full-scale war in the Middle East or the situation in Ireland, or teenage violence and 'mugging'). Every time 'reasons' (excuses) are found to defend the aggression. Few people will admit that they enjoy being aggressive. Fewer still will admit that they enjoy inciting aggression in others. Instead, they convince themselves that they are fighting for 'principles'/'ideals'/'right'/'God'/'good against evil' etc. The Nazis excused their actions as being 'for the fatherland', and 'anyway, they were only obeying orders'. On a different plane, a great many people live out sadomasochistic relationships on a psychological level in their homes and offices. There is a family in the street where I live who are into S&M in a way which probably outshines anything de Sade or Masoch ever dreamed of. They spend their days ranting and raving at each other, issuing orders and disobeying them, alternately cuddling and kicking their cats, and generally raising havoc. They are victims of their unconscious desires, about which they feel guilty and over which they have no control.

We are all capable of inflicting and enduring a certain amount of violence, be it mental, emotional, or physical. Inherently and biologically, we are naturally aggressive, and we need to satisfy our purely animal, competitive and egotistic desires. Intellectually, we reason that many of these desires are 'wrong'; and we have evolved a social structure which makes it difficult for us to go around torturing and raping, or inciting to be tortured and raped, without some fear of retribu-

tion from 'the law'. We may even be lucky enough to get down the high street without being knocked down or blown up. This, in my opinion, is a preferable state of affairs to the total anarchy of the jungle, since anarchy makes no provision for people (like myself) who have no wish to harm, or to be harmed by, anyone. However, no amount of statutory rules and regulations can rid us of our natural aggressive instinct; and without this instinct we would be vegetables. So we have to sublimate it. Some people do this by watching violence in films and on television; others do it by trying to ban such films. Some play football or go to wrestling or rock concerts; others go into big business to exploit people, and have dramatic scenes with their bed-mates or secretaries. Some go around beating up Pakistanis and homosexuals; others join the police or the army.

The stigma of guilt which the majority attach to aggression makes them unable to consciously accept its existence, or to admit that they need to 'work it out of their systems' at all. It is only a minority who accept its presence within themselves and who are therefore better equipped to channel and control it. Some people are aware that aggression can be psychosexual, and of these a few (both homosexual and heterosexual) enjoy acting out ideas and fantasies involving dominance, submission, and conflict—fantasies which many people have but never find the courage even to talk about.

The conscious assimilation of aggressive impulses into sexual activity should not, of course, be treated without some considerable care and forethought. S&M, as Len Richmond says, is an art. It is an art which requires intelligence, imagination, and an understanding of how, in moments of high eroticism, pain and pleasure can become one and the same. It is an art which requires the development of relationships which break down more barriers and pretences than most, since total faith, trust, and honesty are essential. In my opinion, S&M fulfills a psychological need for the freedom of one's childhood. If ever you want to see (non-sexual) S&M being enjoyed in a totally uninhibited way, just watch children playing. Improvising fantasies comes naturally to them. In a less sexually repressive climate, if sex were not accompanied by guilt, perhaps people would not lose their ability to consciously act out their fantasies. There are many people who derive great enjoyment from role-playing, in their everyday lives. In some cases, I believe they are aware that their enjoyment is psychosexual, but they feel guilty about it and are consequently frustrated. Maybe if they were to try developing an awareness of themselves, they could discover the pleasures of 'bedroom theatre', and would not need to go around inflicting their roles and fantasies upon unconsenting persons in reality.

Tony St John

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## Star gays with Merlin



CANCER & FRIENDS

June 21 - July 20

With Saturn influences wending their way through CANCER for the next couple of years or so, CANCERIANs are not going to have an easy time with other Star Gays. Just how much they are affected will depend on their individual planetary aspects, but generally speaking stand by for a lot of pain with CANCER friends for a while, and help out as much as possible.

Passing through CANCER, Saturn makes CANCERIANs indulge rather too much in almost everything, including overspending and a lot of sexual activity, partly due to frustrations and lack of success in most fields. A curious combination, as CANCERIANs are just not going to find life at all exciting, despite their indulgences. Just difficult, and for a slight respite, nothing will come to them easily! As CANCER Star Gays don't really like taking advice, they might just heed a warning: try not to change things when difficulties crop up, just manoeuvre away as usual rather than uncharacteristically risk a head-on clash. Leave travel well alone, unless vitally necessary; don't risk business ideas working out despite problems—they won't. Be careful of that snappy tongue, and above all watch over-spending and health. Having issued those Cassandrian warnings, there is a little bit of a silver lining still showing. Some Star Gays will still look after CANCERIANs, and if those who won't are avoided, the greater number of CANCER people will pull through somehow, and sit back with a sigh of relief when Saturn fades from their sign in the later 1970's, and poor LEO gets it in the neck instead.

Suggestions for CANCER Star Gays: rule out ARIENS for a while. They will be striding far ahead when CANCERIANs are still recalling how Granny did it all those years before. VIRGOANs are a touch too practical about basics, and will lash back with quite a vicious tongue—to CANCER's hurt surprise. LIBRANs will sulk if CANCER frankness about flirting upsets them, as it will during the next year or two. SAGITTARIANs would stray from tetchy CANCER, who would be left minding an empty home. AQUARIANs are a bit too eccentric for moody CANCER; and GEMINIANS, having just had a basin-full of Saturn themselves, won't want to know any more for a while, so stay away from them too. Much better to stay with the strictly compatible Star Gay signs, especially those who won't mind their shoulders continually cried upon.

PISCENs will provide both the compatibility and possessiveness which CANCERIANs need. Home is so important too—be it ever so humble, there's really no place like it for them both. TAUREANs aren't so bad either. But they are a little more solid about their emotions and tend to forget the over-sensitivity of weepy CANCER. One of the most remarkable combinations is CANCER with LEO. How a Lion ever finds enthusiasm to play with a Crab who is just as likely to nip the Lion's paws, is one of Astrology's mysteries. But the magnanimous nature of LEO really does give CANCERIANs an ego-boost and, no doubt about it, the LEO Sun does indeed reflect in the paler light of CANCER Moon. Far from Water sign CANCER quenching the LEO Fire, it's very much a case of Fire warming Water, to the mutual comfort of both.

SCORPIO and CAPRICORN are among the strongest of Star Gay hopefuls to help out with sympathy and understanding in the CANCERIAN immediate future. SCORPIO will cheer up the reticent CANCERIANs, making them come out of their shells (and moods), sharing also a mutual love of religious ideals without making too indigestible a meal of it. CAPRICORNIANs are good for providing things for the home, and won't mind slaving in it either. A bit stodgy though, and CANCERIANs would have to pinch themselves occasionally when money dominates the conversation, even during that candle-lit dinner party. At any other planetary period, two CANCERIANs together would spell out absolute bliss—for each other, if for no one else. Reluctantly, for the next few years at any rate, even this tenacious combination would come unstuck. Too much adversity, a lot of pain, not too much business success, would all depress them to a stage when both would seek a watery grave—together though—rather than face extreme unpleasantness with no visible means of moral support.

Later, when Saturn has had its fling, and those awful lessons have been well and truly learnt, have another look at your own sign, all you shattered CANCERIANs, and pick up the pieces together. No one else will understand quite so much as another CANCERIAN and, besides, you can both cling together, nipping each other happily, sure in the knowledge that no one will try to get beneath your shells without being more than certain there is a "House to Let" sign hanging on the door!





## Was it all worthwhile?

Fascinated to read, in the last issue, the late James Pope Hennessy's remark about *Gay News*: "It's all very well, but I don't see why homosexuals feel they should have their own newspapers any more than people who like aubergines." Charitably, I must assume it was the way in which he said it that made it such a ripping joke. But while such a tediously oppressive remark is beneath contempt (especially from a self-styled bugger) it does make a useful standpoint from which to have a quick look at *Gay News*'s second year of existence. For one way of judging the paper's success is to see how far it does serve the gay community in a unique and essential way.

Indeed, this time last year, Pope Hennessy's sneer might have caused some self-doubts. Life was difficult. Mistakes were made, there were constant staff difficulties, office accommodation was problematic and growth seemed slow. Was it, in fact, all worthwhile? But always there was a firm belief, not merely that homosexuals should have their own newspaper, but that they needed their own newspaper.

The record of this last year has confirmed this belief, and had readers not confirmed this need, then *Gay News* would probably have faded away. Now there are efficient offices, a stable and I would say, first-class reporting team, wide distribution, official confirmation that the paper is not obscene and, despite the ever-present financial problems, every prospect of greater growth. I'm beginning to sound like the company chairman, which I ain't. But nobody can sell anything that isn't wanted, whether it is soap or apple-pie filling.

The gayscene at large remains split, and there will always be those who buy GN simply

for the personal ads and lists of pubs and clubs. There will always be those, regrettably, who find the prospect of an exclusively gay paper very frightening. But the mass of information and news that GN spills out month by month is bound to have an effect on everyone who sees it.

Consider, for example, those news pages which have become such a valuable part of the paper, including the always fascinating back page. I would hazard an estimate that at least 80% of those stories that appear in GN are items that would either never appear in the straight press or which, if they did, would be distorted, sent up or mentioned but sketchily. The gay person has no identity in the world at large. The enthusiastic might have tracked down stories about CHE's Malvern conference or Alan Whicker's television movie about gaylib in America. But other events, such as the breakdown of NFHO, the arrival of Gay Switchboard, the demonstration at Hendon, the growth of the gay movement in Ireland, the work of the CHE activists, what the party lines on gayness were (or were not) during the general election, the real implications for us of the Cinematograph and Indecent Displays Bill and even what little hairy Howie Penny is actually like—all these would have passed unknown.

There are still thousands of gay men and women who know nothing of the gay movement at all. The effect of GN on a lonely person in Manchester or Richmond, being able to see what is happening at large and also finding out that there are activities on their own doorstep, is not to be underestimated.

This is all vital. Another important function of GN has started to emerge this

year as well. That is what, in terms of popular journalism, is called "the exposure story." GN has chased the rip-off merchants connected with the so-called Happiness Club, with dubious mail-order firms, the question of the vanishing Gay Guides, has hassled with Berni Inns over their extraordinary double standards, has explored just which councils will let flats to gays and has looked at discrimination in certain employment areas. These things, of peculiar relevance to gays, are explored nowhere else.

Linked with this, is GN's constant reporting of harassment by the police which upsets so many people. I don't think anyone connected with GN is anti-police just because they are police. What is important though, is the continual reminder that here and there the police (and other figures of authority) do seek opportunities to harass gays just because they are gay, and in circumstances where heterosexuals would, were they behaving in a similar way, be left alone. Because these incidents are not reported or commented upon elsewhere, the police can come to feel they have society's implied approval and while this continues social oppression remains.

GN has also this year started making another important contribution to gay consciousness and that is its exploration of what I can only call (though I cringe writing it) 'gay culture'. Homosexual mythology is rampant with half-truths and vague ideas about gayness in the past, in literature and the arts generally. But hardly any work has been done towards really examining the relevance of gayness to gone ages, or how seminal writers subsumed it in their lives or controlled it in their work. So the splendid articles by Rictor Norton and the occasional

appearances by Ian Young and Peter Burton help tremendously to redress the balance.

And while talking about individual contributors, I also find the cartoons of Pete Whicker delightful with their sardonic comments on major themes, and the pieces by John Riley who seems to me one of the very few people who can be genuinely funny about the gay situation without putting it down by sending it up. The free-ranging anarchy of John Olday and the smooth authority of John Montgomery are welcome elements too.

Involved in gay culture are the occasional interview pieces—with individuals such as Ginsberg, Joseph Hansen, Michael Holm and George Weinberg. These items don't always come off with the polish of a *Sunday Times* colourmag item, but they usually have a frankness and vitality that carry them along.

I can't like everything in *Gay News*. I find the recently redesigned front page less effective than the previous ones, and good as the record, opera and theatre reviews sometimes are, I still feel that GN should concentrate here in items that are relevant to gayness and which would, like the news items, be ignored or skimmed over by other papers. The overall standard of illustration could be improved; maybe sometime soon a professional photographer will feel able to give full-time service in the way that the writers do. Picture coverage is important and many features might be more impactively covered in photographs rather than in words.

But everything can't happen at once. *Gay News* has now proven beyond question, its importance and validity as an expression of a section of the community that is never heard anywhere else.

Roger Baker

## Aye...Ye're still an awffie big Jessie, Jimmah

"Scream, scream, SCREAM!  
Pecht and fashed ye'll be  
Wi' a muckle Scots quean!"

With Denis Lemon's parting kiss at Malvern still moist on my lips I willingly set about writing this two-year overview of major events in Scotland which have occurred since the first issue of *Gay News*. For the record, I have been GN's Scottish Man-on-the-Spot since that memorable day in June 1972 when, one week after the infamous House of Lords deliverance concerning the gay contact ads in *IT*, *Gay News* appeared with contact ads as a champion of freedom and a vital means of communication and information for Britain's widely-scattered gay community.

Scotland, for 300,000 homosexuals, remains very much as I described it in 1972. Certainly Edinburgh is the mecca for the gay person who appreciates living in a city of international repute, and with the world's largest area of continuous Georgian Town Planning from 1750 to 1840. To the Kenilworth and the Abercromby have been added the Baillie and (very quietly) the Arthur's View. This latter is a new hotel at 10 Mayfield Gardens and should prove to be a pleasant South Side alternative when the Abercromby finally closes down later this year.

Edinburgh was the location for Britain's first officially sponsored University Teach-in on Homosexuality, which GN described as "one of the most positive gay events held in

a long while"—surely an accolade superceded only by the recent CHE Malvern Conference in May. The Edinburgh Branch of Scottish Minorities Group reached a peak of activity in 1972 and 1973 and the Branch is now a full member of the Edinburgh Council of Social Service. The Dundee Branch is similarly a member of its Social Service. Throughout Scotland, SMG holds virtual—but benign—monopoly over the commercial gay discotheque scene. The regular Saturday night Discos in George Square, Edinburgh, in fact ceased in June 1973 but new premises have been found in the Zetland Halls, Pilrig Street (off Leith Walk), and these are being run every second Friday in 1974. A lease on 'full-time' premises close to Princes Street was rejected by SMG in May this year simply because it was offered on a 6-months' basis only, which was considered to be of too short a duration. However, the realisation of premises in Edinburgh and Glasgow seems very close, and in this venture, SMG will pay close attention to Det Norske Forbundet's lessons which have been learnt in Oslo.

Glasgow caught the national press headlines in September 1973 when SMG held its Second Annual Conference which was officially opened by Bailie Janey Buchan on behalf of the Lord Provost. A spin-off from this was the regular bookings for gay discos which Glasgow Corporation now accept from SMG. Nearly 300 people of all sexual persuasions now come along regularly to

each disco. Progress in other towns in Scotland is agonisingly slow, however, and SMG is even now engaged in a struggle with Dundee Corporation in order to ensure that SMG is adequately accommodated for its 1974 Public Conference to be held in October. At least there are many more SMG contacts throughout Scotland and also separate and successful women's meetings. This is a real advance in two years.

Law Reform is an issue which has occupied many columns in *Gay News*, and a word on it is in order here. SMG has clearly made the running in the UK in this field, and two months ago the Group was overjoyed to receive a letter from a Conservative Peer who was willing to speak to SMG's Bill in the House of Lords and, specifically, to move its Second Reading in the House. This development has somewhat been superceded by the Law Reform Resolution adopted at Malvern in May. CHE, in a major policy switch, voted to adopt the step-by-step approach and, even as I write this, the Draft CHE Bill is being discussed by gays in England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland. The fruits of these labours will ripen in September. Meanwhile it is perfectly possible that SMG will be able to persuade the House of Lords to hold a short debate this year based on the Scottish initiatives taken since 1972 in the field of homosexual law reform. More and more people are now realising that Scottish issues should and must be settled by

an elected Parliament in Edinburgh. However, in the fields of the Church and the Law, SMG's activities have had solid impact, as back numbers of GN show.

Within the next twelve months, Edinburgh is to be the centre for two major events. Women's Liberation are holding a large Conference here in July, with strong involvement from lesbian women. This is to be followed by a Gay International Congress, the initial planning of which is being carried out by Kim Friele of Det Norske Forbundet, Derek Ogg of Edinburgh University and myself.

Finally, I'd like to put in a plea for greater involvement in the growth of *Gay News*—especially if you are a reader in Scotland. Hard sales for each issue have increased enormously over the last two years, but only 500 are sold in Scotland. This is surely deplorable: the newspaper relies on your commitment if it is to grow. Please press for it to be on sale at your local gay group, or through your newsagent. A recent illustration of the growing strength of GN was provided when the Manager of the Kenilworth Pub created a loud stir as the result of a news item which appeared in February. Fine! *Gay News* is the voice of the gay community—a voice we never had before and we never got very far by being soft-spoken apologists.

The ads in Issue One seem wild and unrestrained these days: but that sporan tondler is still seeking for similar!

Ian Dunn



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## NEW YORK NOTES

by Andy Dvosin

The person writing this is 32, a city worker by day and a student by night, and has lived here in New York City all his life. My small apartment on the West Side of Manhattan overlooks one of the famous trysting places in the city, the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, known to generations of faggots as the Wedding Cake, because it resembles a monstrous version of the little white pedestal on which the mannikin bride-and-groom stand. I plan to write an irregular chronicle of moods and happenings in the gay community of New York City.

With the Harkness Ballet here in April, New York had its first really and truly gay ballet, and it was wonderful. The ballet is called GEMINI, and it is a male pas de deux set to the music of Mahler.

For years one had participated in the oppressive absurdity of sitting amidst ballet audiences composed largely of gay males, watching similarly gay males on stage enact the most antiquatedly heterosexist rituals that comprise the vocabulary of classic ballet, likewise choreographed by gay males. A touch of reality was long overdue, and had begun to manifest itself with the emergence of several quasi-gay ballets. First there was the Netherlands Ballet's Monument to a Dead Boy, which seemed to take its inspiration from some of the darker pages of Dr Irving Bieber's prose. Monument featured a succession of traumatic vignettes which, we gathered, supposedly added up to the Making of a Ho-mo-sex-ual: brutal and loveless parents, rape at the hands of school-mates, failure to make it with a woman. Compared with this nonsense, the Louis Falco Company's Huescape was much better, but was still evasive at its core: its two males, although attracted to each other, still both sought (one successfully) a woman who hovered nearby. Now what, really, were the creators of these ballets doing? Of course they knew that in real life it is hardly ever a woman who breaks up a gay male relationship. The women in both Monument to a Dead Boy and Huescape were transparently there as heterosexual window-dressing.

tendernesses that are also part of love, but that will doubtless come in later gay ballets, now that the door to the closet has been fully broken open. But the ballet's finest moments were just as beautiful and moving, made one's breath and blood run just as fast as they had the first time.

In one of his reviews of the Harkness, *New York Times* critic Clive Barnes made a crack about the "effeteness" of many of its male dancers, adding that he was not concerned with what they did in their private lives but how they projected onstage. Yes, surely: many of the male dancers in the Harkness, and in most other companies, would be instantly spotted as gay anywhere, offstage or on. Which is why it would be so much more convincing if they danced an entirely gay repertory. The question is, would the large gay segment of the audience support a high-level company of this type. It could be tried at least.

### Transvite?

Just a few words about Intro 2, the NYC Gay Rights bill, defeated again last month by the City Council for the fifth time in four years. I came into work the day after, radiating a generalised murderous rage towards straight colleagues. But the feelings passed, life continued as before, bill or no bill.

The vote this time was 21-19, with two abstentions. Previously the bill, which prohibits discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations because of sexual orientation, had never made it out of committee. This year it became the first bill to be defeated on the general floor of the City Council since 1938.

That fact alone should give an inkling of how the City Council works and who sits on it. Your average Councilman is a hardworking jobber, mortician or real-estate lawyer who, when he attends sessions, passes on bills of minor patronage and votes special days in honour of the city's pickle-vendors.

An example of the prevailing level of competence and awareness occurred at the bill's original hearings in 1970. Councilman Michael de Marco (the bill's chief opponent), unable to pronounce the word "transvestite", unembarrassedly and freely resorted instead to his own shortened version: "transvite". As if to emphasise the different worlds Councilman de Marco of the Bronx and the bill's gay proponents lived in, the hearings were periodically enlivened by members of STAR (Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries) making—in full view of the councilmen—frequent trips to the women's bathroom. A fracas erupted between enraged guards and STAR members, forcing a temporary adjournment of the hearings. That was four years ago, when gay lib was footloose, freaky and unrestrainedly angry. Now that more responsible types have taken over the business of liberation, even the *NY Times*, august voice of the city's liberalism, is after four years of silence moved this year to write a grudging and laconic editorial advocating adoption of the bill.

This year it seemed that the thousands of hours spent lobbying, picketing, leafletting and sitting-in at the houses of key Council members might be about to pay off. Once voted out of committee, the bill seemed assured of passage. But a hastily assembled backlash composed of monsignors and orthodox rabbis, parents concerned about Proselytisation In Our Schools, and the leaders of the firemen's and policemen's associations applied enough pressure to scare wavering councilmen, never too brave and this year up for re-election, into narrowly defeating the bill once again.

When I mentioned the next day to my closest (and almost totally apolitical) friend that I was angry enough to go down to City Hall and break windows, his answer was fierce and surprising: "Yes, and I'd have taken off work and gone down with you." And indeed one noticed gay acquaintances who before were politically aloof suddenly taking an interest in the bill's passage: its being good enough for page one of the *Times* apparently legitimising it in their minds. Contrary to the old leftist idea, it is success and not oppression that radicalises. This year's Christopher Street Liberation Day March, which I will report in my next letter, is likely to be the biggest so far.



Durrell Barnett (standing) and Christopher Aponte in Gemini

Gemini changed all that. The curtain goes up to the harp and strings music of the Adagio from Mahler's Fifth, revealing only a black backdrop on which a stationary swirl of stars, nebula-like, rests. Stage lights pick out on the floor two bodies, curled embryonically, and placed as far apart on the stage as it is possible to get. They rise and dance, at first apart and then together, culminating in a repeated series of slow, large and exultant lifts. These lifts, and the sinuous slithering of one male dancer around the erect torso of the other, brought home as never before the essentially sexual meaning of a ballet duet, only the visual shock and pleasure of seeing two males do it was overwhelming. Remarkably, it was the less muscular-looking of the two men who did all the lifting, and this was wonderfully appropriate in a gay ballet, since it reminded one that in real life, so often one can deduce nothing about gay couples from the visual facts alone.

The ballet ends as the two men, again down on the floor, lock into each other with the overlapping triangles of their legs, as the Mahler music fades into silence. On a second viewing the impact was less overwhelming: one began to see that a certain acrobatic view of love dominates Gemini, and that missing from the ballet were those small, ardent

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# ALL OUR YESTERDAYS

"OK—which one of you is in charge of the news stuff?" says Big Ed.

"That's me," quip I, just like that. Spontaneously, you know.

"Well, we're two years old. That's news. Get writing."

I mention the incident, not because it is of any real interest, but because I haven't a clue where to start and I'm just stalling for time.

"At the begging," I hear them cry. How unimaginative. Still . . .

Gay News number 1 was the beginning as far as most of our readers were concerned. But it was far from the beginning for the original GN team. First they had to find printers, money, writers, money, an office, money, sales outlets and money. After months of struggle they found all of them—except money—and Gay News issue 1 appeared on the book stalls—Jimmy Saville gawped bilious green out of the cover of England's first "national homosexual newspaper". Twelve pages of assorted goodies for a mere 10p. Precious little news mind you (Gay Views might have been a better, and certainly more honest, name) but we did tell readers all about the setting up of the National Federation of Homophile Organisations—eight months after the event had taken place. Heigh-ho. And the editorial took the whole of page 2 with a couple of pics and an ad from Spare Rib.

Issue 2 and our crisis of identity was already showing. We now called ourselves the "independent national fortnightly homosexual newspaper," an ambiguous description which was changed by issue 3 to " . . . fortnightly newspaper for homosexuals." Issue 2 also contained an interview with stalwart of London's trendy gay scene, David Hockney. Our guide to gay spots listed eight pubs outside London, and we broke the news that the laws on homosexuality were changed in 1967. We got classy on the back page with the announcement that Lady Harewood was moving house. Her ungrateful son Martin "doesn't like the idea. He likes the roof terrace at Primrose Hill and loves camping round the house," she said.

Issue 5, and we ran our first news story about Chelsea police and The Coleherne pub in Earls Court. The article ended "There will also be continuing reportage of future developments at The Coleherne in Earls Court." And to prove that we are as good as our word we were still waxing indignant about the troubles at that pub in issue 49!

By issue 6 we were starting to get a fair bit of news. Roger Baker wrote about a new group being started by a London mum which he said had "truly immense potential." The mum was called Rose Robertson, and the group in question later came to be known as Parents' Enquiry. And the paper contained sixteen pages that issue.

Hell hath no fury like a gay ripped off, and howls of protest accompanied the publication of issue 7 which reverted to twelve pages, a little unfair when you consider that the Gay News staff were wondering whether to go 'rent' at the Dilly to try and keep the paper going. We were in debt to the tune of about 50p per reader! But what's a couple of thousand quid between friends.

We also claimed to be the "independent national fortnightly newspaper for all homosexuals," a temporary aberration, though, and we dropped the "all" for issue 8.

We also relented and published 16 pages again (still for only 10p). Lord Longford made the front cover reading a porn mag, and appeared again on page 3 stark naked, clutching to his aristocratic bosom an equally disrobed Cliff Richard—a scissors and paste job which won us a cautionary visit from the office of the Director of Public Prosecution. They had received a complaint from J Martin Stafford, member of CHE's Executive Committee, later described as the Enoch Powell of CHE, who had demanded that the DPP suppress Gay News. He also wrote to Lord Leapfrog suggesting the same thing. There's nothing like cheap schoolboy humour for upsetting cheap schoolboys!

Thirteen, legend has it, is a harbinger of gloom, disaster, and a whole catalogue of ills. It was also our Christmas edition. Determined to enliven the festive season, we printed a twenty page special, complete with a game of gay snakes and ladders to give our readers something to read when they went away. Unhappily, it turned out that most of them had already gone away when we appeared on the news stands. So if anyone wants to make a bulk purchase of several hundred copies of our first Christmas Special . . .

By issue fourteen we were running to four pages of news, but it was still coming largely from London. Bath, Stafford, Marlow, Reading, Ireland and Trent were the only other places to appear in datelines.



The GN team, looking very together recently. Pictured are: standing (from left to right)—Michael Mason, Jean-Claude Thevenin, Denis Lemon, Bernard Mears, Glen Platts, Rictor Norton; sitting—Jeff Grace, Maggie Donovan, Stuart Patterson, Catherine Hiscox; lounging—Carl Hill.

The biggest news story then, as it had been for many issues, was that Gay News was desperately short of cash and each breath might be its last. We devoted our editorial to that particularly pressing problem.

But somehow, the money kept trickling in. Never enough, never soon enough to clear up all our debts. But just enough to keep us struggling on. We still feel lots of big thank you's deep down inside for all you lovely people who sent us donations at the time. You don't know just how much it meant to us—both because it kept us going financially and also let us know that there were still some people who wanted us to carry on.

And carry on we did. We printed quite the most boring interview of our history in which Joe Dallesandro told us that he didn't know any gays, didn't know any druggies, didn't have a 'favourite movie', liked hamburgers, and was never happier than when he went home to his wife, child and television set. And on the front cover we boasted that it was an 'exclusive' interview (read it, and you'll see why no other paper printed it).

Something rather special happened with issue 20. A new face joined the staff (new faces weren't special—Gay News had probably seen more staff changes in its first ten months than ICI in its whole history). But the new face called itself Tim Skinner. Tim was an effervescent Australian, a newsmen with the sort of professional experience that Gay News had never seen before. Before Tim's arrival, the paper had been staffed by happy amateurs who learned roughly how to publish a newspaper simply by doing it. That did a lot for our individuality—we were unlike any other paper on the market. But it also meant that we were about as effective as a parish magazine in bringing people information about up-to-date happenings. Tim was largely responsible for the change. He brought a zest and high spirits to hard news, and the look of the paper changed overnight. We all took advantage of his spell on the staff to learn quite a bit ourselves. Let's hope that some of the lessons have stuck. In issue 20, too, we went to twenty pages—and put up our price to 15p where it has remained ever since, I'd like to point out, despite exponential rises in the cost of paper and about every other damned thing you care to mention. We also printed Carl Hill's first photograph, and the lovely Carl has been helping out with our photos ever since.

The next issue was our first real trip out of London, the first time that members of the Gay News team had stuck their noses beyond Hampstead Heath. The event was CHE's Morecambe conference. Tim and Denis stuck it out at the end of a wet and windy pier, and came back to do a conference special.

We next launched into Shock reports.

'Fleet Street Freedom Shock' screamed the cover of number 22, and number 23 carried our 'National Accommodation Shock Survey'. Shock, of course, is French for 'mildly surprising', and we told readers how Gay News ads had been turned down by the national press (the editor of *Vogue* "would not accept the words gay and homosexual," so you had better strike them from your dictionary), and how our savage expose of accommodation agencies discriminating against gays had shown that they were all delighted to take on gay clients!

But in issue 25, besides celebrating our first birthday at even greater length than we are doing this time, we got our teeth into our first major expose. Do you remember the Happiness Club?

We even had the nationals and the BBC taking an interest in the story. It was also in issue 25 that we started printing newettes on the back page, a feature of the paper that seems to have stayed a firm favourite with readers.

By this time we were having nice problems. In the past we had been living on shoe strings. To be honest we still were. But sales were going up all the time, and we were getting to the stage where we couldn't cope with doing all the distribution ourselves. So we started looking for someone to distribute it for us. WH Smith? No thank you, they said. But Moore Harness was interested, and from issue 31 we began getting into many more gay love-nests up and down the country. It was in the same issue that we decided it was time to get a bit constructive ourselves, and we flew a kite about Britain needing a gay switchboard to feed people with information. We were of course delighted when it got off the ground, but we've been astonished at its success, thanks, not to our efforts, but to the energy of all the volunteers who have made a go of it.

The ill-fated issue 35 appeared two weeks late. Now, for the first time, we dare confess—there was conflict between the editorial staff and the art room staff (two of them anyway), heavy conflict, physical conflict. So we all took a well-earned holiday. After eighteen months non-stop round the clock, it's hardly surprising that things went a little awry. Glad to report that Jean-Claude and Denis are still both alive and well and living in Sin.

When issue 35 did finally appear, it ran to 28 pages, an all-time record, even if the middle four pages were only an advertising pull-out.

There was also another narrow squeak of a somewhat different kind at the beginning of this year. Newsprint was costing a fortune and we really thought

that we might have to go up to 20p a copy. But we were rescued by advertising. Suddenly it all started happening. Everybody wanted to advertise in our paper, and we had to tell them, with a barely concealed grin, that we were awfully sorry but they would have to wait a few months. Keeping our fingers crossed, that's still happening today.

My favourite story of 1974 was the general election (I'm still spitting because it didn't make the front cover) and the reactions of party leaders Heath, Thorpe and Wilson. Robert Carr promised that he would be filling in the CHE election questionnaire "but not just yet." As he still hasn't filled it in, as far as we can learn, he may be planning to include it in his memoirs when he retires from politics.

Recently, the most noticeable change in the paper took place with issue 45 when we had to change printers. That was a mixture of good and bad news. First we had to change because FI Litho, who had printed us right from the start, went out of business, basically because they couldn't get hold of any paper to print on (people really aren't kidding when they say there's a paper shortage). But we were lucky to get some very good new printers in Norfolk. They, too, couldn't get hold of the old type of paper that we had used, and you'll have noticed that we now print on newsprint. Lots of readers hate it, but just as many have written in to say that we really look like a newspaper now. The design changed to suit the new paper, and we are all much happier with it than we ever thought we would be.

The other good news, which many of you will remember, was the outcome of the trial at Bath magistrates' court. In the early days we had spent a good deal of our time waiting for the knock on the door at midnight. But as time went on our confidence grew. There certainly was nothing obscene about the paper. So imagine our astonishment when we were seized by Bath police, and prosecuted with the consent of the DPP. It made a bit more sense later when we discovered that nobody had bothered to look at the paper before seizing it. And in some ways it's nice to have Bath magistrates' Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval.

Round about that time (issue 43 actually) we made our most embarrassing mistake ever. When we prepare headlines, they are written out on various pieces of paper according to type size and style. This one sheet would be headed 36 point Souvenir, another 24 point Tabasco. They are then prepared by hand using Letraset. We have two sheets for miscellaneous styles. The first is called Advertising Special Faces, the other (for bits and pieces throughout the editorial pages) is headed Odds & Sods. And that, dear friends, was how the Troubled Water column in that issue came to be headed 'Odds & Sods'.

I suppose that the last high spot in our history was the Malvern conference. Four hectic days of hard work at the conference, and then back to London (via umpteen pubs in Oxford, where we did a crawl of all the gay bars to check them out for ourselves—all in the line of duty, of course) and then three more days of round-the-clock slog getting it all written up and pasted down. It was probably the most ambitious thing we've tried to date, and judging from a stream of very kind letters from you, dear readers, worth the effort.

What lies ahead? Well, we will be trying hard to bring you all the news we can, plus a bit of fun as well. There's plenty happening at the moment. CHE will be fighting their biggest campaign ever when their Bill is published—we'll be keeping you up to date on that. In two hours time, when I've finished this, Denis and I are flying off to Belfast (God help us) to try and bring you news about the real plight of Irish gays, and the first stirrings of the gay liberation movement over there. Two weeks later, Denis will be going back to Ireland with Jeff (our super new reporter who joined us at Malvern time—thrown in at the deep end) this time to visit Dublin. Our team of contributors, who have worked so hard for us over the past years, are going to be made to work just as hard in the months to come.

For the rest, well it's up to you to let us know what you want. We really do pay attention to your letters. We don't always do what individuals tell us to do, because there are even more people telling us to do exactly the opposite. But we are here to try and satisfy as many people as we can—and we enjoy doing it!

Michael Mason

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## Live with Levi

by Iain Finlayson

Good denims, like old soldiers, never die—they only fade away. But beautifully, and under the most lavish care and attention. It is no longer possible to regard denims simply as fashion garments. A pair of blue jeans is not just another pair of pants. Blue denim is not just another length of cloth—it has acquired a mystique and a style that is totally individual. Transcendental denim!

According to Charles Reich in *The Greening of America*, blue jeans "express freedom and wholeness of self. They are a declaration of sensuality, not sensuality-for-display as in Madison Avenue style, but sensuality as part of the natural in man." So now you know. Blue jeans, thanks to pop-sociology, have achieved their satori apotheosis from life and style into life-style. They are the embodiment of what Tom Wolfe calls Funky Chic. And if you want to know what that is, Mr Wolfe cites as example Louis XIV who took to sleeping on the floor beside the royal bed "to be closer to the people."

Blue jeans have become the contemporary adult equivalent of Linus' blanket, providing a tangible source of comfort and degagement. For most people, a pair of jeans becomes an old friend, as soothing as worry beads and as much a shield against urban stress as armour used to be a guard against rather more literal slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. God's in His heaven, Joe Soap's in his Levi's, and all's well with the world.

And then, of course, there is sex. A generation of brutal-but-sensitive movie anti-heroes oozing machismo and inarticulate emotion as they banged their way through gang warfare, West-Side rumbles, stand-up knock-down fist fights, High Noon gun duels, and roaring boys in leather jackets battering their way through back alleys on high-speed motor cycles. Like Tennessee Williams, in that immortal phrase, denim "covered the waterfront." No simmering, emotional crisis was complete without a simmering, emotional Brando or James Dean in a pair of dirty denims and a lick of Brylcreem on hair and eyebrows. To borrow a phrase, "How unlike the home life of our own dear Queen(s)." Blue jeans are totally acceptable nowadays throughout the entire social spectrum. The Levi's Life-Style encompasses everyone from ton-up boys, through construction workers in summer getting tanned only to hip-level, and finally to gilded youth with feather-cut hair and Gucci clutch-bags making the scene on the Via Veneto.

Discarding an old pair of jeans in favour of a new pair is like losing one lover and settling in with another. And almost as traumatic. Gone are the familiar lines and shape, the comfortable places you've come to know, the way they fit to your body, the velvety feel of the fabric, the way they hug—curving when you do and bulging where you bulge. Gone are the easy, stretched areas rubbed to a fine patina through time and wear—gone, in fact, is a much loved friend. An old pair of jeans is like the 'deep peace of the large double bed after the hurly burly of the chaise longue'. A new pair of jeans, like a new lover, is something to get used to. Initially a little stiff and uncomfortable, a few weeks of rubbing along and easy familiarity will make all the difference.

The trickiest thing about jeans is getting new ones to fit properly after they have been washed. Always check with the salesman to find out the extent to which a particular brand of denim garments will shrink. Most denim fabrics have been treated to reduce shrinkage to the minimum and allow for accurate fit in the shop, but the regular straight-legged Levi's jeans will shrink approximately one inch round the waist and two in the legs. Buy a size larger than you actually need, in this case. A little extra length will be added after ironing the seams after washing to eliminate puckering. A good and comfortable fit will, however, really only come through constant wear of your new jeans. Denim tends to take on the shape of the body as no other fabric can. Each person stretches and wears his jeans to fit his own body, and jeans can become as individual as fingerprints.

The manufacturers of blue denim go to the most extraordinary lengths to dye their fabric to the correct shade of indigo. The process involves dipping denim strands repeatedly into vats of blue dye, drying the strands, and allowing them to

graduate through the colour spectrum from yellow to green and finally to the required blue. The individually dyed strands are then woven into lengths of fabric for making up into denim garments. Well-weathered denim tends to reverse the original dyeing process after much washing and wear so that most pairs of jeans being worn tend to lose their uniform indigo colour and fading takes place, thus giving a wide range of graduated shades. Again, this personalisation of denim is created by the stresses placed on each individual garment by the wearer's body.

The most natural faded look begins to appear after the first few washings, rarely reaching its richest state in less than a year. Some brand names, however, incorporate built-in fading and you'd be wise to check with the shop whether the fabric you choose will fade very quickly or take the natural amount of time. For the impatient, there are short cuts to hasten the deterioration of crisp, virgin denim. The point of jeans is, I suppose, that they should never look as though they have ever been new. The more worn they look, the better. Denim is practically indestructible anyhow, so don't be afraid that the following rather alarming information will cause the tortured material to self-destruct or fall into a heap of bio-degradable powder after treatment.

Be careful about colour-control when fading denim, so it's a hand job (so to speak). A pair of jeans, a lot of bleach and an automatic washing machine will only produce rather blotchy results. Instead, fill a bath with about eight inches of warm water and add anything from two to four pints of bleach depending on whether you want minimum or maximum fading. Stir well, and they lay the denim garment flat under the water, ensuring a thorough saturation and turning the garment often. Leave for approximately half an hour and then check the colour. When you think you've got the shade you want, remove the garment and hang it to dry without folding to avoid colour collecting in any one spot. When dry, hand wash or a washing machine will remove all traces of bleach. Bear in mind that wet fabric always looks darker than it does when dry, so control the colour carefully.

To achieve a well-worn appearance instantly, attack the denim with fine sandpaper, rubbing the knee area, seat, seamed edges and even the crotch until you reach the required state of decomposition. But go easy—the first few months of normal wear and tear will do as good a job as you can do in five minutes. A side benefit of this treatment for new denim is that old, second-hand denims are being sold to connoisseurs at sometimes twice the price of new denims. So, make your own antiques—it's cheaper. In any case, wearing another man's jeans is almost as unthinkable as using his toothbrush. There are some things (not many, mark you, nowadays) just too personal to bear thinking about. An Englishman's home is his castle—and an American's pad is his Levi's. Entry by invitation only.

Old denims are never really past repair or use. They can be patched with scraps and remnants from other denim garments, giving an interesting contrast of texture and colour like a patchwork quilt. Repair of frayed edges can be made more interesting by your best attempts at creative needlework or by stitching leather strips to leg bottoms and pocket edges. Strips of washable sequins or motifs can be bought ready-backed for sewing to denim, or applique work (not as difficult as it sounds), done with imagination, can transform a pair of plain jeans or boring denim shirt into a disco fashion garment. For denim jackets or shirts cut straight without waisting, take a strip of elastic (about four strands should do) and stretch it against the inside of the shirt or jacket. Sew this broad strip at waist level and the resulting rucked effect will pull the denim close to the body for a fashionable waisted look without going to the bother and expense of buying the same look ready-made.

When the legs of a favourite pair of jeans are, reluctantly, past even the most devoted repair, cut the legs straight across at mid-thigh level or higher up almost at the crotch for a casual pair of beach shorts. Bleach these for a weatherbeaten effect (in less water and bleach than you need for a full pair of jeans), add a broad-brimmed straw hat tipped negligently over the eyes, and put a 'Gone Fishing' sign on your door. What you happen to be fishing for is your own concern.



One-button blazer with patch and jettied pockets in brushed indigo with matching flare bottom pockets, 27" bottoms, slash pockets and belt loops. The outfit is worn with a cowboy shirt with contrast piping on front and back yokes. All by South Sea Bubble.



Unisex denim outfit, a casual military style shirt jacket and plain denim trousers. Made in white or blue. The jacket about £7.00, the trousers about £6.00. All by Brutus.

From the gold-fields of California in the 1850's to the Jet-Set milieu of the 1960's and 70's, jeans are America's contribution to fashion and the utilitarian road it has taken. From their rugged beginnings they have become totally classless. All good Americans, it is said, go to Paris when they die. (The wicked stay in America, I suppose). For services to humanity, I hope the great Mr Levi Strauss is sitting in spirit atop the Eiffel Tower reflecting on his glory and watching his doughboy denims walking in and out of the Ritz Hotel.

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On Monday, the twenty-fifth day of April, in the year of our Lord 1631, about the hour of ten in the morning, the Lord Keeper Coventry, being by special commission duly appointed Lord High Steward of England, with twenty-six members of the Nobility, proceeded into Westminster Hall, attended by a Herald and six Sergeants at Arms. The Lord High Steward being seated in a Chair of State, and the Peers of the Realm being seated round a table covered by a cloth of green velvet, proclamation was made for *Silence in the Court!* Thus began—amidst all the dread-inspiring pomp and circumstance of a solemn rite of degradation—the trial and condemnation of Mervyn Touchet, the trial which would remain the legal precedent for all homosexual court cases for the next 200 years.

### Rich and debauched

Actually, it was only a partially homosexual trial, for the indictments against Touchet included one count of rape as well as two counts of sodomy. The evidence—which we have little reason to doubt, for even Touchet admitted to some of it—ultimately suggests that we have here the typical tale of a lord of the manor who prefers his manservant boyfriends, and who persuades them to perform with his wife those generative acts to which he is averse—and the lord's lady didn't care much for the arrangement. This is a bit oversimplified, however, for it is also a quite human tale of how love and debauchery become intermingled in affairs of the heart.

Mervyn Touchet was the twelfth Lord Audley in the peerage of England, and the second Lord Audley and Earl of Castlehaven in the peerage of Ireland. Touchet's father George had been rewarded by King James with a plantation in Ulster for his service in the Irish wars, and when he died in 1617 his son Mervyn, then about twenty-four years old, inherited a goodly fortune, added to the estate in Fonthill\* near Tisbury in Wiltshire inherited from his mother. He proceeded to marry a heiress, by whom he begat his son James, and when she died he became wealthier and married another heiress. His second wife was Lady Ann Stanley (heiress of the Earl of Derby, widow of his first husband Lord Chandos), and a marriage was arranged between Lady Ann's daughter (also previously married, I forget to whom) and Lord Audley's son—just to keep the money in the family.

### Warm feet and rape

The orgies began on the first day after Mervyn married Anne. According to Lady Anne, Mervyn called upon each manservant to come into their room, one by one, "to show their Nudities, and forc'd me to look upon them, and to commend those that had the longest." On succeeding days, he brought into their bridal chamber three of his manservants, including Henry Skipwith and Giles Broadway, who lay between them, being husband before and wife aft, and upon one occasion Mervyn held Anne tight while Broadway ravished her against her will.

Another servant named Amptil (or Antill) in some accounts sometimes also participated in these odd nuptial rites, though he was usually busy elsewhere. Amptil had originally been a beggar and a vagabond, until Sir Henry Smith picked him up and made him his footman. Touchet eventually acquired Amptil as his personal page, and found his services so agreeable that he made him master of the stables. For thus tending his horses (etc), Touchet gave Amptil a salary of £500 per year, compared to a yearly allowance of £100 given to his son James. James was a bit displeased when Touchet arranged for Amptil to marry his daughter by his first marriage, giving him a dowry of £7000. As will appear throughout the tale, Touchet was a kind master.

Henry Skipwith had been fetched over from Ireland to be the page to Lady Anne. Like Amptil, he also had come from a very poor background, and he was similarly rewarded by Touchet with an estate in Salisbury worth £260 per year. According to Skipwith, "For the most part I lay in Bed with the Earl." At other times he lay with Amptil—who must have been exhausted, horses and all. At still other times Skipwith was persuaded by Touchet to sleep between himself and Lady Anne. Eventually Lady Anne gave birth to Skipwith's child, but the child disappeared, and Skipwith, believing Lady Anne had foully done away with it, grew to hate her.

Touchet then coerced the young Lady Audley, his stepdaughter Elizabeth Brydges, to lay with Skipwith in the presence of himself and other servants. Elizabeth was but twelve years old, and the first time Skipwith lay with her, Touchet had to apply to Skipwith some oil to make penetration easier. It required two applications. Elizabeth was already married to Touchet's son James, himself hardly more than a child, but his resentment at this paternal unkindness eventually led to the court action. Touchet in court admitted that he often lay with



## The precedent homosexual trial The case of Mervyn Touchet

Skipwith, "and being a good Servant I gave him good Rewards."

In the midst of these goings on was a kitchen maid named Blandina, a common whore who caught the French pox after copulating with various servants for seven hours at a stretch. The lord sent her away.

Meanwhile, Florentius (sometimes called Lawrence) Fitz-Patrick and Mervyn were bugging each other in the mansion at Fountain Gifford in the County of Wilts. Amptil *et al* weren't actually involved in the trial, and Touchet was specifically charged with perpetrating the *crimen sodomiticum (inter alios non Christianos)* upon Fitz-Patrick on June 1 and June 10, when they were overseen. Florentius was a vagabond who one day happened upon the Fonthill estate, and lingered on, in spite of his misgivings, "through frailty, and because I was not furnished of another place."

Eventually Giles Broadway was brought into this sociable circle. Broadway was a sailor: "I came not to my lord with a desire or intent any ways to serve him, but was rather inclined for the sea: only Mr Skipwith had drawn me thither for society-sake; and not hearing from my friends concerning my intended voyage, and being more kindly respected by the earl than I looked for, I staid from week to week, and from month to month, contrary to my intention, and my lord made me his bed-fellow."

Touchet, who had already married off his daughter and step-daughter to his other servants, had further plans for Broadway. One day while they were strolling in the garden, Mervyn said to Giles, "Thou art young, lusty, and well-favoured. I am old, and cannot live long, my wife wholly delighting in lust, which I am neither able nor willing to satisfy, thou mayest do well to lie with her: and so pleasing her, after my death marry her, and thereby raise thy fortune." Mervyn continued to so solicit Giles as they lay in bed together, with Florentius lying at the foot of the bed to keep their feet warm. Broadway finally agreed, and lay with Lady Anne on only one occasion, not quite successfully penetrating her while Touchet held her arms behind her back. This resulted in the charge that Touchet had caused the rape of his own wife.

### Loses head over tail

On November 1, 1630, James, Touchet's son, who had recently come into his majority, wrote a letter remonstrating Touchet for

parental unkindness, and soon thereafter brought the matter to the attention of the courts. Six weeks later Touchet was arrested and confined to the Tower of London pending formal arraignment. He appealed to be tried by a local jury of Wiltshire men, but was informed that as a nobleman he must be tried in Parliament. On April 25, 1631, the House of Lords assembled for the trial, details of the indictment being such a disgrace to the nobility that the charges were written up in Latin.

Touchet had been sequestered without benefit of council for more than six months. When he finally appeared in Westminster Hall, pale and haggard, he requested that a solicitor be permitted to speak for him since his voice was so weak after the confinement and poor treatment. The Lord High Steward courteously replied that the long imprisonment "hath been to you a special favour; for you have had time enough to bethink yourself," and refused to grant his request. The charges were read—containing such rhetoric as "seduced by the instigation of the Devil, he Wickedly, Devilishly, Feloniously committed that Detestable Abominable Sin" etc—to which Touchet pleaded Not Guilty.

The Attorney General Sir Robert Heath began a harangue about the Sodomitical Sin, including its history since the degenerate times of Rome, and became so carried away that Touchet interrupted him to urge him to stick to the specific charges of the indictment. The Lord High Steward politely bade Touchet to let the Attorney General complete his opening statement. Eventually Heath finished quoting Scripture, and Touchet was permitted to proceed with his defence. Touchet argued that Lady Anne was a lusty whore who wanted to replace him with a younger husband, and that his son was "gaping after my estate" and was paying the servants to lie against him. He proceeded to argue that a wife could not testify against her husband. The Court decided to accept her testimony since she was the person grieved. Touchet then argued the legal point that since Broadway testified that Touchet had emitted between his thighs rather than actually penetrated him, technically there was no sodomitical rape, but the court replied that it still came within the definition of buggery. Touchet then protested that Broadway by his own testimony was a participant in the crime, and could not therefore be a legal witness against him. The Lord Chief Justice argued that he could, "for

otherwise, Facts of this nature would seldom or never be discovered," and that such a conspirator could be a legal witness until he himself was convicted of the felony.

Lady Audley, young Lady Audley, Giles Broadway, and Florentius Fitz-Patrick testified, and after two hours of deliberation the jurors unanimously found Mervyn Touchet guilty of rape, and fifteen of the twenty-six jurors found him guilty of sodomy (a majority being enough to convict). He was sentenced to death. Touchet appealed for mercy to King Charles, who granted only a postponement of execution so he could repent. Touchet's coffin was prepared, and placed in a corner of his prison room, where he prayed daily with Dr Wickham, Dean of St Paul's.

On Saturday, May 14, Touchet ascended the scaffold on Tower Hill, wearing a plain black Grogram suit and a black hat. He knelt and prayed, then stood up and made his dying speech—protesting his innocence, declaring himself a member of the Church of England (the suspicion that he was a Roman Catholic contributed to the guilty verdict), and requested the spectators to lift up their eyes to heaven and to pray for his soul. His hands were then tied behind his back, a handkerchief was placed over his eyes, he knelt again and placed his head upon the block, and at a sign from the Executioner at one blow divided his head from his body.

### Learn to die

Six weeks later, on Monday, June 27, 1631, Florentius Fitz-Patrick and Giles Broadway were brought to trial in Westminster Hall on charges of rape and sodomy. Lady Audley appeared to give testimony against Broadway, and then "departed with as much privacy as might be into her coach." Fitz-Patrick pleaded Not Guilty, and asked who were his accusers. Sir Nicholas Hyde the Lord Chief Justice replied that he was his own accuser, because of his former testimony against Touchet's relationship with him. Florentius replied that it was against the laws of England for a man to be required to testify against himself, but Hyde replied that since his testimony had served to take away Touchet's life, it should serve to take away his own life also. They were found guilty and sentenced to death.

King Charles requested a stay of execution, probably because of the legal question of self-accusation. Sir Thomas Fenshaw, one of the judges, wrote up a report virulently attacking Broadway as a liar and Fitz-Patrick as a fool, and urging that the land be rid of such miscreants as soon as possible, and the King set a date for execution one week hence. The turnkey of Newgate noted that the prisoners were behaving themselves civilly and religiously.

On Wednesday, July 6, Broadway and Fitz-Patrick were brought in a cart to Tyburn. The executioner tied the rope about Fitz-Patrick's neck, and he began to pray to Christ, Mary, and the Saints. An anti-Catholic among the spectators rebuked him for praying to Mary, but he persisted, saying "O yes, the blessed Virgin never forsook or failed any that trusted in, or called upon her." Then he turned to Broadway to exhort him to die proudly in the Roman Catholic faith. Broadway, sitting in a corner of the cart, didn't respond. Fitz-Patrick then gave his dying speech, confessing that all he said was true, but that Lord Dorset, one of the judges, had falsely promised him immunity from prosecution if he would testify. But he forgave all, and asked all assembled to pray for his soul, and began his private prayers.

Broadway, who had been intermittently meditating upon Fitz-Patrick's speech and nodding to the crowd in appreciation for their sympathy, then got up and had the rope placed round his neck and his hands tied behind his back. The Executioner granted his request that his hands be untied so he could read the confession he wrote in prison. It was a formal confession, ending in three short prayers from *Learn to Die*, a pamphlet given to all condemned men while in Newgate. He finished, and handed it to the minister Mr Goodcoate, a kinsman who was seated on horseback near the cart, and began with a more specific confession about his relationship with Touchet, ending with regrets that he had been the cause of his kind master's death. Concluding his speech, he pulled out a lace handkerchief and asked the Executioner to tie it about his head. Then he pulled of his garters and unbuttoned his doublet, and joined with Goodcoate in cheerfully singing the 143rd Psalm. Then he made a confession of faith as an Anglican, and requested burial in his own county. The Executioner again tied his hands behind his back. As Giles said "Lord Jesus receive my spirit" and Florentius commended himself to God, the cart was drawn away, leaving them to hang by the neck until dead.

### Rictor Norton

\*Note: In due course the Fonthill estate would come into the possession of William Beckford, subject of 'The Fool of Fonthill' (GN41). It's also interesting to note that Touchet was the brother-in-law of Sir Francis Bacon, discussed in GN31.

## 'Til I discovered Smirnoff

Bolshoi Ballet at the London Coliseum, St Martins Lane, WC2

Bar sales of vodka at the Coliseum must have rocketed as the audiences entered into the spirit of the occasion—the visit of Russia's Bolshoi Ballet to London.

Sad to say that a great deal of the Russian spirit came from the bar rather than the stage, if one can judge from two performances, *Spartacus* and *Giselle*.

The last time we saw *Spartacus* performed by a major East European company in this country was at last year's Edinburgh Festival, when the Hungarian State Ballet presented their production. I could not help wishing that Bolshoi choreographer Yuri Grigorovich had been around for that performance. He could have picked up a number of useful points.

First, he would have realised that ballets conceived on the heroic scale depend upon characters of truly heroic and human stature. The key characters of *Spartacus* and *Crassus*, in the Bolshoi production, are little more than ciphers. All the strutting, leaping and posturing in the world will not ennoble a cardboard cut out. There needs to be a human touch, and if the characters are never seen in repose (as they scarcely are in the Bolshoi version) it is difficult to establish audience sympathy—vital in the case of *Spartacus* if his tragic end is to be believable and stirring. In the same way, the women (who 'belong' to the two men) are little more than appendages to the brash war leaders.

Vladimir Vasiliev (*Spartacus*) was the most distinguished dancer of the evening. Within the limitations of the production and the story, he demonstrated something of the athletic grace which is traditionally associated with Russian companies. There was nothing mean and over-fastidious about his solo passages, and he was well matched with his partner Ekaterina Maximova (*Phrygia*) from whom I would have enjoyed a little more misery in the final scene when she discovers her lover's corpse. Boris Akimov almost made it as the Roman commander *Crassus*. Of all the characters he had the most carefully devised role. The Roman forces were visualised as savage and grotesque, subjecting a conquered people to ignoble slavery, and *Crassus*, as their popularly acclaimed leader, epitomised the ruthlessness of this conception whilst maintaining a cunning belittling a clever politician. The goose-step strut used as balletic leit motif by Grigorovich for the Romans really did work, and the same arrogance showed in Akimov's dancing. As for *Aegina* (danced by Nina Timofeyeva), her role was

almost past redemption. I can think of few dancers who could have made it any more interesting than she did, or less interesting, for that matter.

It was redemption I went in search of the following night for the company's performance of *Giselle*; as American tourists flock to the Tower of London, so do balletomanes seek out a Bolshoi *Giselle*. Petipa's choreography is after all truly their heirloom.



Certainly there was far more of interest to see in this second evening. Natalia Bessmertnova in the title role made too little of the girlish high spirits of Act One, missing the opportunity to strike any real contrast in the tragic Act Two. But her dancing was the high spot of the two occasions, light and steady in her point-work, mournfully gracious in Act Two. Mikhail Lavrovsky as Count Albrecht was a perfect foil for her dancing, and he acted the role for all he was worth. Carefully held gestures conveyed his meaning with admirable clarity. Choryphees Tatiana Gavrilova and Elena Matveyeva were delightful, but they received less than adequate support from the corps de ballet. Viewed as a whole, the evening was pleasant, but it never achieved greatness.

Let us hope that some of the old flare will be seen again before the company ends its present season on July 20.

Michael Mason

## Words in your ear

TRAVESTIES – Aldwych Theatre, Aldwych, London WC2

Of words, by words, for words—a new play by a dramatist himself fast becoming a household word, Tom Stoppard.

The experience of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* and *Jumpers* by the same author led me to expect a further display of verbal pyrotechnics unmatched since the more effervescent days of Restoration Comedy. I was not to be disappointed.

In his programme notes, Stoppard describes his new piece as "a work of fiction which makes use, and misuse, of history." The history which it uses includes some of the most delightfully inconsequential episodes ever passed down to us. The starting point appears to have been a story involving James Joyce coming to metaphorical blows with Henry Carr, a junior official in the British Consulate in Zurich. The disagreement arose over the cost of a pair of trousers worn by said Carr in a 1918 performance of *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

Add to this historical item the fact that Lenin and the Dadaist painter Tristan Tzara were both in Zurich round about the same time, and you begin to get the first suspicions of what the irrepressible Stoppard has been getting up to.

Once again he employs the device of a play within a play (let us be more accurate, and say a play built upon a play). Foundation stone this time is 'The Importance of Being Earnest'. Wilde's words are bandied about, parodied, and in general made to play circus tricks for the benefit of Stoppard's characters.

And a stranger assortment of characters you could scarce wish to meet this side of the melting

pot Tom Bell's aggressive James Joyce, John Hurt's extravagant Tzara, and Frank Windsor's dour Lenin. But hero of the play and of the evening is John Wood with two magnificent performances as Henry Carr. I say two performances advisedly, because the play is presented as the memories of the elderly, retired, beslippered, be-dressing-gowned Henry as played by John Wood reflecting on his past as a young, dynamic lynch-pin of Zurich affairs, a part also played with conviction by John Wood. Needless to say, the memories are somewhat elaborated by the passage of time. And the old Henry looks back with pride at the events of his youth when he supposes himself to have held all the strings of twentieth century history (how I met James Joyce, writer extraordinary; my memories of Tzara, key figure in the world of Art; how I could have prevented Lenin from leaving Zurich on the famous sealed train, if only I hadn't arrived too late at the station to stop him going back to Russia).

The ideas discussed (sometimes in song, occasionally in passages of dialogue written entirely in limericks) are standard/timeless—the role of the artist, the nature of this, that and most else, but little new is added to any Great Debate. For *Travesties* is first and foremost a delightful entertainment of verbal wit. Various swipes at dialectical materialism and its more deformed offspring add little to one's understanding of Marxism, but they offer endless fun.

Oh, and I should just mention the entracte in which Scott Joplin's *Maple Leaf Rag* (inter alia) was delightfully rendered on tape by Zinn's Rag-time String Quartet. Enjoy it while you can. From the number of times I've heard it recently, we'll all be sick to the back teeth with it come Christmas.

Michael Mason

## Restoration bits and pieces

THE CONFEDERACY – Chichester Festival Theatre, Sussex

Ever notice that audience murmur of appreciation when a famous comic first appears? It's a hum of identification they make while waiting for that first joke, or a bit of stage business they are familiar with. The revival of that seldom-seen restoration comedy by Vanbrugh *The Confederacy* has two such moments. Peggy Mount, that much loved 'dragon lady' makes her entrance right at the start, as a travelling saleswoman, Mrs Amlet, armed with a huge basket of saleable items. We don't have to wait too long for our first laugh, as within minutes she is berating her son for his frequent absence. After a short market scene, which soon gets us into the period and pace of the play, Mrs A is on her way to visit the Gripe household.

Time for familiar entrance number two, with the arrival of the lady of the house Dora Bryan. Ms Bryan has been delighting audiences for years with her look of wide-eyed astonishment, and there is a quiet murmur as she appears. Both the ladies have the chance to repeat all the bits and pieces we've come to know and love, and it is to their credit that neither of them attempts to 'go over the top' in their portrayals. Ms Mount believing her 'barking' with a dazzling smile, which reminds us she's warm hearted underneath, whilst our Dora's always less dumb than she appears to be. In fact she is scheming throughout this particular comedy, pawning her jewelry to Mrs Amlet in order to raise some cash, involving her servants in a scheme to blackmail her husband, while he attempts to dally with her best friend.

The servants, as in many restoration plays, have the upper hand in the proceedings. Somehow they always seem to be one jump ahead of their employers in the plot developments. True enough that the Ms's Bryan and Mount get ample opportunity to present their talents, but it is the maid Flippanta, who is on stage most of the time. Patsy Byrne in this role is an inspired piece of

casting, and she holds the reigns of the play firmly in her talented fingers. Peter Gilmore cuts a roguish figure of a man as Brass, the other servant knowingly involved in the evening's trickery. The



Peter Gilmore and Frank Middlemass in Vanbrugh's *The Confederacy*

..... two husbands are ably performed by Richard Wattis (looking like an oil painting of the period in his fright wig) and Frank Middlemass. Nicholas Clay and Gemma Craven as the young lovers, and Jeannette Sterke as the other wife round up the cast, and director Wendy Toye has kept up a brisk pace as befits the fun.

Barry Conley

## Now showing

SUGARLAND EXPRESS (CIC, director Steven Spielberg) is a tragic comedy that launches yet another successful assault on this 'American Dream'. Goldie Hawn as Lou Jean Poplin, who is deemed unsuitable as a parent, is as perpetually, convincingly dizzy as usual. She forces her errant husband to break out of open prison; either he follows her on her maniacal chase across Texas to reclaim their fostered child, or she leaves him.

Initially all is delightfully, serenely witty, as the couple hitch a lift with wizened, comical locals, but their jalopy is stopped by the highway control for going less than twenty-five miles per hour on a main highway. Circumstances forced them to kidnap the highway patrol man at gunpoint, and immediately they are pursued by five, then ten, then twenty, then thirty police cars. It's still a comical procession for a while, but reality surfaces with abruptness as it becomes clear the police are little concerned for their kidnapped colleague. Instead, like old-style Western bounty hunters, they're eagerly bracing themselves for the pleasurable and inevitable shoot out.

The couple are trapped in a situation that has overtaken them. The moment they release their 'weapon'—the highway patrol man held at gunpoint—lackadaisical police snipers will aim pot shots in their direction. They dare not surrender to the gentle persuasions of the police captain's loud hailer. Played by Ben Johnson with an endearing, rational liberality, he fervently wishes to avoid the gratuitous violence yearned for by his men.

Thus, Mr Spielberg's fascinating duel travels the Texas hinterland for forty-eight hours or more. The couple reach a perverse hero status. Whole towns emerge to greet them. Filling station proprietors shower Goldie with the ultimate accolade, unlimited amounts of 'Gold' trading stamps.

Spielberg's basic observation of the "Register communists, not guns" Texas mentality is irrelevant and broadly funny. The story based on actual events is totally unusual. The chase is one of riveting suspense. His naive pathetic heroes, cripples in a crippled society, are played with much pathos. *Sugarland Express* is one of the year's most outstanding films.

Ben Johnson is also much in evidence in *DILLINGER* (EMI, director John Millius), as the FBI agent who tracks down the notorious gangster. The visual recreations of depression torn nineteenth-century American landscape, and the performances of Johnson, Warren Oates as Dillinger, and all too

briefly Cloris Leachman as a brothel Madame, are outstanding. Regretably though, the film dwells too long on Dillinger's violent escapades, at the expense of any real delving into the inner character or motives of the protagonist.

Once again I must complain about some really appalling colour processing, the cheap 'MovieLab' process. It creates a consistently blurred picture with an excess of brown hues. It's a great pity that cheap colour was not abandoned in favour of traditional gangster film black and white, that suits the genre so well.

Gay Liberationists in America have apparently been angered by the revelation, in *AN INVESTIGATION OF MURDER* (Fox Rank, director Stuart Rosenberg), that 'the homosexual did it'. Rosenberg's film, almost a semi-documentary, is far too competent to deserve a lot of irrelevant clichéd criticism. Walter Matthau and Bruce Dern give a couple of authentic performances as the investigating detectives. The character Matthau portrays is middle aged and isolated: though his marriage is in ruins, he has a dedicated love of his job and the desolate streets. Dern plays the younger detective, who is vicious and ambitious, a stereotype 'pig' in fact.

Their search takes us on a fascinating tour of San Francisco's seamy, drug-ridden, sexual underside, and when they finally track down the killer, there is an accurate sojourn into a real leather bar. The cbps' only real philosophical assault on their killer's sexuality is the idea that a few years ago they could have busted him for being a 'fruit' and not waited for direct proof of his guilt.

David Seligman

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## Holes in my library

It would be really nice to be able to remind readers of some half a dozen important and interesting books of relevance to gayness that have appeared since this time last year.

Unfortunately I can't. Because there haven't been any.

Publishers are beginning to refuse to attend dinner parties to which I have been invited. It takes less than two small sherries to start me off, wanting to know why there is this apparent reluctance on the part of British publishers to produce the books that are needed. There are plenty of able gay writers about—I know of at least three who have just got fed up with not merely being turned down, but—more significantly—not even being encouraged.

Semi-technical, quasi-scientific 'studies' of gayness by straights, we don't want. But where are the British equivalents of Dennis Altman, Arthur Bell, Laud Humphreys and the rest?

So, instead of making the 'critics' choice' that Denis asked for, I'm going to use this spot to recommend the activities of The Pomegranate Press whose latest pamphlet *With Downcast Gays* I welcomed in a recent edition.

David Hutter (who with Andrew Hodges was responsible for the latest publication) tells me they have got two further items

waiting to be published, a study of the gay movement in Germany and a series of personal statements about varieties of oppression. They want to provide an opportunity for people to write lengthy essays on gay themes knowing they will be published. This isn't a profit-making enterprise, but sales are obviously needed to enable more publications.

Not everyone will agree with the arguments in the Pomegranate books, but the important thing is that they are being prodded by gays out of their own experience. Meanwhile, *The Gay Liberation Book*, a collection of essays compiled by Len Richmond and Gary Noguera, remains a useful and vivacious work.

My own favourite hook recently, though, has been *Rock Dreams*, an amazing collection of illustrations by Guy Pellaert with an acid commentary by Nik Cohn which reveals its delights but slowly. The picture of Janis Joplin, for example, is surely a work of art, and the undertow of bisexuality that pervades the rock scene is cunningly, enticingly inter-linked.

Roger Baker

Note: *With Downcast Gays* (price 20p + 5p p&p) and *The Gay Liberation Book* (price £2 + 20p p&p) are both available from GN's Mail Order Service.

## Knights for sale

MAUNDY GREGORY: *Purveyor of Honours* — Tom Cullen, Bodley Head, £3

"The man in the fur coat tugging at the little brown Pomeranian as they made their way haltingly along the promenade became a familiar sight to the Dieppois in that twilight period known as the *drole du guerre*."

That solitary and rather pathetic fur-coated figure making his way along the Dieppe promenade, carefully avoided by the snobbish British colony could well have been Oscar Wilde. It wasn't, but the treatment meted out to Maundy Gregory by the English in France, as Tom Cullen points out, was much the same as that meted out to Oscar Wilde.

Maundy Gregory is one of the oddest, and most elusive, characters to have decorated Edwardian society. He must surely occupy a triple niche in history; in politics, in crime, and literature. Certainly it was in his involvement with political circles which made his name. For Maundy Gregory was probably the most successful titles broker of all time. Gregory's title selling racket flourished, with the connivance of the Lloyd George government, in the period after the first world war. Bargaining would start at £10,000 for a knighthood and work upwards through the social canon.

If title brokerage made Maundy Gregory's name it was his involvement in what looks suspiciously like murder which gave him his notoriety. For when the woman with whom he shared a house—on only the most Platonic of terms, Gregory was homosexual—died and left everything to Gregory in a will which she had dictated to him, questions were asked. No charge of murder was ever pressed against Gregory, though he was prosecuted, under a law which seems to have been especially tailored for him, for selling titles. After a short spell in prison, Gregory was exiled to France with a pension paid by those for whom he had arranged titles and about whose names he had remained quiet.

Gregory's corner in literature has nothing to do with any writing of his own. Maundy Gregory was fascinated by the writings and personality of Baron Corvo. It was an interest he shared with AJA Symons, from whose collection Gregory bought various Corvo manuscripts. And it was Maundy Gregory who financed the writing of Symons' biographical masterpiece *The Quest for Corvo*.

Tom Cullen's biography of Maundy Gregory admirably fills an irritating gap. He has done his research well, though he avoids naming names where the titles are concerned. Most of all this is a remarkably fair and affectionate book. Gregory was obviously a rogue, but Cullen makes clear that he was a likeable rogue, and a rogue who ended his days in difficult circumstances (in a German prison camp) with courage and honour.

Peter Burton

## Sickeningly funny

ENDING UP — Kingsley Amis, Jonathan Cape, £1.95

This is a grim, bleak and bitterly funny tale about the horrors of old age.

In a quiet country cottage live a collection of old people; thrown together out of economic necessity rather than by any genuine shared feeling. Each of the five individuals, three men and two women, is, in some way, an emotional cripple. Running throughout the lives of this unlikely commune is a tension centred upon the irritable and unpleasant Bernard.

Bernard, a former Brigadier, is now reduced to sharing a room with Shorty, his former batman and lover. His only pleasure in life is in making it as uncomfortable as possible for the other inhabitants of the cottage. Progressing through a series of short and brisk scenes, Kingsley Amis draws us to an inevitable conclusion: a finale at once tragic and sickeningly funny, with more mayhem per square inch than the final act of *Hamlet*.

Kingsley Amis is now firmly established as one of the most consistently adventurous and consistently readable of our novelists. The reader knows that he can always look forward to a new Amis with an assured sense of economy of style, new departures and new pleasures. *Ending Up* is a far from cheerful book, yet it is no exception to the Amis rule. An excellent novel.

Peter Burton

## Where the Popes come from

THE HOLIDAY GUIDE TO ROME — Pitman, 85p

An American book, produced in cooperation with the editors of the magazine *Holiday*. Compact, nicely illustrated and informative, good lists of shops and sights and eating places. I feel the British traveller would be better off buying a British-produced guide, though. All prices are in dollars and comparisons are all with the United States (eg man-made materials are better in the States, so buy silk in Italy). I still think the *Blue Guides* have yet to be surpassed.

Roger Baker

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## From comic strip to fine art

TARZAN OF THE APES — Burne Hogarth/Rice Burroughs, Pan Books, £1.50

With *Tarzan of the Apes*, published in 1914 and brought to the screen as early as 1918, Edgar Rice Burroughs created one of the longest-lasting heroes of the twentieth century's popular mythology. Artist Hal Foster used to do Tarzan's comic strips till 1929, when Burne Hogarth took over from him, added a new dimension to the story by the style of his drawings, contributing largely both to the creation of the myth, to the development of the comic as an art in itself, and influencing hundreds of artists. A little more than twenty years after he drew his last Tarzan strip, Hogarth has agreed to re-illustrate a version of *Tarzan of the Apes*, just published in a large full-colour paperback.

Hogarth's particular technique, which explores all the graphic possibilities of the use of perspective, is closely related to cinematic techniques such as drawing the same scene from several different angles, including close-ups and cross-cuttings. His invisible camera makes Tarzan into an actor whose behaviour is controlled by the needs of *mise en scene*, which partially explains the number of Tarzan stories brought to the screen. Hogarth's concern is not the narrative part of the story as such, but with the depiction of Tarzan's anatomy, in the same way that Tarzan movies are merely a means of showing off the muscular exploits of a male film star.

It is pleasant to notice at this point that in his '70's version of *Tarzan of the Apes*, Hogarth is drawing his hero in the nude for a good two-thirds of the story. No full-frontals, though, just very powerful anatomical drawings. Moreover, the power of Hogarth's work seems to have increased as the time went on, giving his graphics an actual dynamism, only enhanced by very rich transparent inks, rainbow-colouring his strip with a most successful grace.

Jean-Claude Thevenin



HER SCREAM WAS NOT A WARNING. IT PRODUCED A PARALYSIS OF TERROR AS THE LITTLE APE CROUCHED AND FROZE — AND THAT WAS HIS UNDOING. NOT SO, HOWEVER, WITH TARZAN. THE MAN CHILD HIS LIFE AMIDST THE DANGERS OF THE JUNGLE HAD TAUGHT HIM TO MEET EMERGENCIES WITH SELF-CONFIDENCE, AND HIS HIGHER INTELLIGENCE RESULTED IN A QUICKNESS OF MENTAL ACTION FAR BEYOND THE POWERS OF THE APES. THE CRY OF SORROW GALVANIZED HIM INTO INSTANT ACTION. INTO THE DEEP WATERS OF THE LAKE HE PLUNGED...

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## The way you are...



THE WAY WE WERE Barbra Streisand (CBS)

Although bearing, confusingly, the same title as the movie's soundtrack album, *The Way We Were* is in fact Barbra's latest recording of a new collection of songs. The title track is the only one related to the movie itself.

This necessary clarification given, here is the finest album Barbra has recorded since "Stoney End", considering the material she chose and her own masterful interpretation. To my ear, the album splits into two fairly distinct parts, side one being composed of other people's material, like Paul Simon's "Something So Right" or Stevie Wonder's "All Is Fair (In Love)", while the second side features songs that fit more precisely 'la Streisand's' extraordinary vocal ability.

This album seems more complete than the two preceding, because it reunites the beloved "old-fashioned" singing superstar of her first years with the Barbra who carefully demulsified her Establishment image, who is cool, "with-it" and unpretentiously sophisticated. She's never been so much in control of her voice, yet never sounded so relaxed as she does in "Pieces of Dreams" or "Being at War with Each Other", the two tracks that really make me fall in love with her again, in *The Way We Were*. Indeed, we love you for the way you are, Barbra.

Jean-Claude Thevenin

## Musical odyssey

BETWEEN TODAY AND YESTERDAY Alan Price (Warner Brothers)

*Between Today and Yesterday* is Alan Price's bitter, cynical and amoral, autobiographical musical odyssey. "Yesterday", on side one, is the poverty-ridden North East, where in order to survive, a man has to get up at 5.00am and risk life and limb working his guts out in a mine. What are his rewards? Physical strain and early death. The alternatives and often the rule: unemployment, hunger. People are "living on wishes, living on dreams."

On side two, "Today", Price is one of the lucky few who breaks away. To lonely, isolating London, to success that his parents won't live to enjoy, to wealth, to the brutal fight for recognition that must be accomplished by abandoning his "principles".

His lyrics are simple and poignant. "I'm lost in a world that's more lost than I am." "The only honest man I saw was in tears." "The city eats the children up, and spits them out before they're almost grown." The music is as riveting as the lyrics, a totally original sound. For example, the mournful brass band recreation in the "Yesterday" half is fiercely evocative of the North East's grey, misty, drizzly cobbled streets of terraced houses. His use of strings combined with permanently beating drums emphasises his early rock background, and the creation of a new style that heralds Price as a major contemporary singer/musician, whose work richly deserves Denis Lemon's record of the year award.

David Seligman

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## Short plays

By now most readers will know that Jim Stafford's "My Girl Bill" (MGM) isn't about what it initially appears to be concerned with. All is divulged in the last verse. Nevertheless, it is a catchy, amusing recording, that is in complete contrast to his recent hit "Spiders & Snakes", and if its popularity in gay discos is anything to go by, it will enjoy the same amount of success as his previous single.

Before moving on to the next single, though, I have a bone to pick with Polydor Records, the company who distribute "My Girl Bill" and other MGM products in Britain. Was it really necessary for the person who wrote about the record in the new releases newsheet to justify themselves by saying "You may get the impression this is the story of a couple of pamsies [my italics] well, all is revealed in the last verse so worry not"? Apart from the irrelevancy of such a statement, the use of the word 'pamsies' is insulting and bigoted. Most people connected with the music business are only too well aware of the homophobic and hypocritical attitudes that prevail throughout the industry, but this isn't a valid excuse for such offensive thoughtlessness. Journalists and writers have abandoned the use of derogatory expressions like 'nigger', 'yid', or 'wog', so isn't it about time they woke up to the fact that to continue to resort to terminology such as 'pamsy', 'queer', or 'fairy' is not only a slur on their profession but also on their personal competence.

After making a successful debut as a solo artist with "How Come", Ronnie Lane has now released an arresting follow-up called "The Poacher" (GM Records). As the song's title suggests, the lyrics are concerned with a popular rural activity and the countryside atmosphere of the record is considerably enhanced by the intelligent use of an oboe in the arrangement. Whether it's chart material or not remains to be seen, but the cut acts as an impressive introduction to his soon to be issued LP *Anymore for Anymore*.

The Cricket's "Rhyme & Time" (Mercury) is a pretty love song taken from their forthcoming album *A Long Way From Lubbock*. Despite the delicate harmonies and tasteful arrangement, it's doubtful if the recording is strong enough to reach the charts. Worth hearing all the same.

Joan Baez's new single is a version of a beautiful Bob Dylan song called "Forever Young" (A&M). On the flip is a rousing interpretation of the Sand-



piper's hit of a few years back, "Guantanamera". The latter is lifted from Ms Baez's latest album *Here's To Life*.

Debut single from a new group called Porridge is a bouncy, cheerful cut entitled "Doing the Best You Can" (Fontana). It has a good chance of making the charts as the song is the theme of ITV's popular television series "Thick as Thieves".

"Black Magic" by Dan The Banjo Man (Alias Phil Cordell) is a crass re-make of "Beatnik Fly", which you may

remember was a best seller for Johnny & The Hurricanes in 1960. The latter is available on a recently released United Artists EP, whilst Cordell's cover version is on the Rare Earth label.

"It's All Up To You" (Island) is an magnificent solo release by Traffic member Jim Capaldi, and thoroughly deserves to be a smash hit for this extremely talented artist.

Strictly for football fans and lovers of military band music is "World Cup Fanfare" by The Band of The Scots Guards (Philips). The recording is used as the theme tune to the endless hours of television coverage given to the World Cup.

A light-hearted and tuneful introduction to the talents of a flamboyant character known as Captain Zahl is "O Rainy Days" (WWA), a cleverly arranged and produced reggae number. Plenty of radio exposure could give Zahl a best seller and a useful start to his recording career.

Afficionados of soul music and disco sounds have been well catered for again during the last couple of weeks. And it's particularly pleasant to note that the majority of the recordings are of a very high standard, both technically and musically. A disc on Surrey International that is guaranteed to get people dancing is Offenbach's instrumental version of John Fred & The Playboys' sixties hit "Judy in Disguise (With Glasses)". Another cut that should prove irresistible to dancers and foot-tappers is "Free To Live" by a new outfit called Chamber of Commerce. The latter is the second release on the new Cloud One label, whose first disc topped Tricky Dicky's "Top Sounds" chart a few weeks back.

For quieter moments the Flirtations' excellent interpretation of Steely Dan's "Dirty Work" (Polydor) is highly recommended, as is the re-release of the Dells' classic melody of "Sing a Rainbow/ Love Is Blue" (Ches). The Dells could easily make the charts again with this cut if radio and disco DJs give it sufficient plays.

Pye Records have recently launched a Disco Demand series, which, like the Contempo-Raries label, specialises in issuing rare and previously unreleased soul and rhythm & blues material. The initial batch of singles are "What Shall I Do" by Frankie & The Classics, "If You Ask Me (Because I Love You)" by Jerry Williams, The Fuzz's Stateside hit "I'm So Glad", and a powerful performance by Wally Cox on "This Man". All four discs are well worth investigating and future releases in this useful series should also be essential listening.

Philadelphia International are currently one of the most successful soul labels around and if they keep on issuing material as good as the following three singles, are likely to remain so. Possibly the most exciting of the new releases is the American smash hit "Where Do We Go From Here" by Trammps. Another group enjoying a good deal of acclaim at present are the Three Degrees, who differ from most other vocal groups because instead of featuring one lead singer, all three members of the group equally contribute to the sound created. This is heard to good effect on "When Will I See You Again", and like their previous single "Year of Decision", is another track from their first album. The Intruders are also a high ranking Philly group and their bid for continuing chart honours is "Win, Place or Show (She's A Winner)".

Contempo have issued a somewhat mixed hunch of recordings recently. Whereas Oscar Toney Jr's version of BB King's hit "The Thrill Is Gone" is a strong four minute soul epic, Major Lance's interpretation of Brenton Wood's "Gimme Little Sign" is weak and uninspired compared to the original, and isn't a patch on Lance's recent single on Warner Bros, "Without a Doubt". Although Cymande have yet to breakthrough to a wide audience in Britain, they have however acquired a growing and enthusiastic following. This is largely due to how the seven talented West Indians who make up the group have combined a profusion of different styles with soul, reggae, rock and jazz influences to create a totally distinctive sound. This is showcased admirably on their new single "Brothers on the Slide", which is a track taken from their forthcoming album *Promised Heights*.

Like Philadelphia International and Contempo, Tamla Motown have also issued three singles over the last two weeks. Of the three, the incredibly tight and funky "Dancing Machine" by the Jackson Five is easily the most remarkable and is quite unlike anything the group have previously recorded. Deciding on a follow-up to "Boogie Down" must have been a difficult task for Eddie Kendricks, and although there is little to fault on his choice "Son of Sagittarius", it doesn't quite have the impact of his former release. The other Motown single is a re-issue of one of Gladys Knight & The Pips' finest performances, "Didn't You Know (You'd Have To Cry Sometime)". On the flip is their interpretation of The Temptations' "Cloud Nine", and like all Ms Knight & the group's cover versions, it is no less satisfying than the original, and will almost certainly receive plenty of plays in discos.

Denis Lemon

## Assorted platters

ZYGOAT — Burt Alcantara (Polydor)

Making his LP debut on the Polydor label is Burt Alcantara, with his imaginative, electronic tone poem *Zygot*.

If you're unused to synthesised music, as I am, then maybe you'll equate Alcantara's work with simulated bagpipes and brass bands — the latter with a definite drunken feel in places. But let this visual music flow into your mind and you'll appreciate the emotional drive which leads from one tonal level to the next.

I particularly like the second band on side one, which starts with the "brass band" out of tune at that — develops its intricate pattern until, miraculously almost, a riff ascends like the Phoenix from the ashes — amazing!

About the composer/musician himself — he was the guy who made an impact on London when the electronic rock score for Louis Falco's "tutti-frutti" electrified the Sadler's Wells audiences at performances of the piece during the Ballet Rambert season. Brian Hodges, at Electrophon Studios, was impressed by what he recognised as a new and exciting approach to synthesised music — and this record is the result.

Yes — I like it!

Jeff Grace

BILLY — Original Cast Recording (CBS)

Original cast albums of musicals tend to vary. Sometimes in transferring the score onto record, some of the excitement is lost in the translation. Then again, there are the exceptions when a score, which is not exactly tantalising on first hearing, suddenly sounds better on disk than you had expected. Such a case is the recording of *Billy*, the current success at Drury Lane.

This is due in the main to Michael Crawford's rendering of the majority of the songs. Though his voice would not be described as a 'musicians' choice', it is highly personable at all times. Whether doing his Elvis Presley imitation on "Lady from LA", being wistful on the poignant "I Missed the Last Rainbow", or comic in his duets of "Lies" and "The Witch", he is always right in character. Lovers of the show will recall his great warmth onstage, and it comes

through on the record.

Lockwood West handles the charming "It Were All Green Hills" with feeling, and Gay Soper's singing on several tracks is to be commended. The John Barry/Don Black score is at its best in the hit song from the show "Some of Us Belong to the Stars". Barry Conley *STRUGGLING MAN* — Jimmy Cliff (Island)

REGGAE FEVER — Byron Lee & The Dragonaires (Polydor)

The above two albums are both disappointing reggae sets. Apart from the title cut of *Struggling Man*, the rest of the material is an undistinguished bunch of tracks Jimmy Cliff cut prior to his work on the much acclaimed *The Harder They Come* soundtrack and leaving Island Records to sign with EMI.

Byron Lee & The Dragonaires' *Reggae Fever* is largely a collection of cover versions of recent reggae hits. The resulting insipid and sterile performance makes me wonder if Byron Lee and his band are the reggae equivalent to Ray Conniff.

Denis Lemon

## Top sounds

Dick's Inn — London's Gay Discos

- 1 Rock the Boat — Hues Corporation (RCA)
- 2 When Will I See You Again — Three Degrees (Phil Int)
- 3 Rock Your Baby — George McCrae (Jay-Boy)
- 4 Where Do We Go From Here — Trammps (Phil Int)
- 5 When The Fuel Runs Out — Executive Suite (Cloud One)
- 6 Kissing in the Movies — Drifters (Bell)
- 7 Summer Breeze — Isley Brothers (Epic)
- 8 Just Like Romeo & Juliet — Reflections (Tamla Motown)
- 9 Guilty — The Pearls (Bell)
- 10 Dancing Machine — Jackson Five (Tamla Motown)

— Camp Re-Vamp —

Gay Gordons — Sydney Thomson Orchestra

Compiled by Tricky Dicky, week ending 29/6/74

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Address

ON 4/7/74

Tel: \*U.K. Patent No. 1332773.





## 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 us.

\* indicates Gay News on sale.

(D) indicates 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

### AJR

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  
Club: \*Valentines, 14 George Street

### BEDFORD

Pub: The Barley Mow, Bromham Rd

### BELFAST

Pub: Avenue Bar, Rosemary Street  
Club: \*Nightingale, 50 Camp Hill, B12

### BIRMINGHAM

Pub: The Victoria, John Bright St  
Club: \*Grosvenor House, 326 Hagley Rd  
Club: \*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, opp Metropole

### BOLTON

Pub: Peel Arms, 423 Halliwell Road  
Club: Labour Club, 16 Wood St (Upstairs Bar)

### BOURNEMOUTH

Pub: Peel Arms, 423 Halliwell Road  
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)

### BURNLEY

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

### BURNLEY

Pub: The Bell, High Street

### BURNLEY

Pub: Royal Oak, Upper Thong near Holmfirth, Yorks

### BURNLEY

Pub: The Commercial Hotel, High St (Sundays)

### BURNLEY

Pub: The Grey Horse, Chapel Hill (Sundays)

### BURNLEY

Pub: Amster Dam (men)

### BURNLEY

Pub: Amster Dam (men)

Rest: Lorelei Coffee Lounge, 5 Union Street

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

### BRISTOL

Pub: Radnor, 30 St Nicholas Street  
Club: \*Moulin Rouge, 72 Worrall Rd, Clifton

### BURNLEY

Pub: \*The Cross Keys

### CAMBRIDGE

Rest: Scaramouche, Catherine Street, Tel: Cambridge 43570

### CANTERBURY

Pub: The Queen's Head, Watling St

### CARDIFF

Pub: Royal Hotel (Roberts Bar) St Mary Street

### CHELTENHAM

Pub: The Beaufort Arms, London Rd  
Club: 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

Pub: Don Jon's, Silver Street  
Pub: Underground, off Silver Street

### DUNDEE

Pub: Gauger, Seagate

### DURHAM

Pub: The Three Tuns, Old Elvet  
Club: Nevilles Cross Hotel

### EDINBURGH

Pub: The Kenilworth, Rose Street  
Club: The Abercromby Hotel, Abercromby Place

### EXETER

Pub: Horse & Groom, Longbrook St

### FERNDALE, South Wales

Pub: \*Salisbury Hotel

### GLASGOW

Pub: Duke of Wellington, Areyle St  
Club: 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

### HELSTON, Cornwall

Pub: The Bell, High Street

### HOLMFIRTH

Pub: Royal Oak, Upper Thong near Holmfirth, Yorks

### HUDDERSFIELD

Pub: The Commercial Hotel, High St (Sundays)

### HUDDERSFIELD

Pub: The Grey Horse, Chapel Hill (Sundays)

### HUDDERSFIELD

Pub: Amster Dam (men)

### HUDDERSFIELD

Pub: Amster Dam (men)

### HULL

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

Pub: Royal Station Hotel, Paragon Square

Pub: Centre Hotel (London Bar), Paragon St

### 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

Club: The Plough, High St, Shanklin (Public Bar)

Club: Regency Club, Sun Hill, Cowes 5188

Club: Medway Queen Night Club, Newport 5460 (D)

Rest: Ryde Queen Boatel at Wight Marina, Newport 4751

Club: Stable, 105 High St, Old Village, Shanklin

### LANCASTER

Pub: Farmers Arms, King Street

### LEEDS

Pub: Hope & Anchor, Call Lane  
Club: West Riding Bar (Back Bar) Wellington Street

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

Club: \*Charleys Club, Lower Briggate

Cafe: Flamenco, New Briggate

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

### LEICESTER

Pub: Dover Castle, Dover Street

### LIVERPOOL

Pub: Lisbon, Victoria Street L2

Club: The Denby Castle, Hackins May (off Dale Street)

Club: New Bears Paw, Dorrans Lane Sadles, Wood St (off Hanover St)

### LONDON

Pub: \*Imperial, The Square, Richmond

Pub: Dog and Trumpet, Great Marlborough St, W1

Pub: \*Father Redcap, Camberwell Green SE5

Pub: \*William IV, Hampstead High St

Pub: \*Ship & Whale, Gulliver St SE16

Pub: \*The Lord Raglan, St Martins Le Grande, EC1 (Disco) Tues (D)

Pub: \*The Laurel Tree, Camden Town (Camden Town tube)

Pub: \*Martins Bar, The Castle, Richmond

Pub: \*Watermans Arms (Upstairs Bar), Water Lane, Richmond

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

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

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

Pub: The Chapstow, Chapstow Place, Notting Hill W2 (Upper Bar only), Friday Disco.

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

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

Pub: \*Pig & Whistle, Little Chester St SW1

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

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

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

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

Pub: \*Imago, 110 Finchborough Rd SW10

Pub: Nell Gwynnes Kitchin, 43 Crawford St

Pub: La Popote, Walton St, SW3

Pub: Chagaramas, 41-43 Neal St, WC2

Pub: La Faune, 23 Praed Street, W2

Pub: Simple Simon, 234 Old Brompton Road, SW5

Pub: Masquerade, 310 Earls Court Rd, SW5

Pub: La Casserole, 338 Kings Road, Chelsea, SW3

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

Cricketers, Battersea Park Rd (D)

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

Pub: Ward's Irish House, Piccadilly Circus

Pub: \*The Royal Mail, Upper St, Islington (Angel tube) (D)

Pub: Golden Lion, Dean Street, off Shaftesbury Ave W1

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

Pub: Elmhurst, 131 Lordship Lane, Tottenham N17 (D)

Pub: Royal Oak, 62 Glenthorne Road W6 (D)

Club: \*Jonny's, 10b The Shopping Precinct, Shepherds Bush W12 (Shepherds Bush tube)

Club: \*Peacock Club, 259 Old Brompton Road SW10, Tues-Drag

Club: \*Chagaramas, Neal St, WC2

Club: Sweet Lorraine, Lowndes Court W1 (Oxford Circus tube)

Club: Vortex, Tachbrook Street

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

Club: \*Paint Box, 29 Foley St W1 (Oxford Circus tube)

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

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

Club: \*Molin Disco Club (girls only), Half Moon Hotel, Half Moon Lane, Heme Hill, SE24 (Wed Fri Sat)

Club: \*Shanes, Broadhurst Gardens, NW6

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

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

Club: Rockingham, 9 Archer St, W1

Club: Toucan Club, 13 Garrard St, W1

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

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

Club: Apollo, 3 Wardour St, W1

Club: Mandy's, 30 Henrietta St, WC2

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

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

Disco: \*Tricky Dicky Disco (Mon & Thurs) Kings Arms, 213 Bishopsgate, EC1 (Liverpool Street tube)

Disco: \*The Bull and Gate, Kentish Town Rd (Kentish Town tube)

Disco: \*Ship & Whale, Allan & Daves Disco, Thurs, Gulliver St SE16

Disco: \*Dicks Inn, Father Redcap, Camberwell Green, SE5 every Fri

Disco: \*Centre, Broadley Terrace NW1, every Fri 8pm-12midnight

Disco: \*South London GLF Disco alternate Sats starting June 1st at Brixton Gay Community Centre, 78 Ralton Rd SE24, 01-274 7921.

Rest: \*Imago, 110 Finchborough Rd SW10

Pub: Nell Gwynnes Kitchin, 43 Crawford St

Pub: La Popote, Walton St, SW3

Pub: Chagaramas, 41-43 Neal St, WC2

Pub: La Faune, 23 Praed Street, W2

Pub: Simple Simon, 234 Old Brompton Road, SW5

Pub: Masquerade, 310 Earls Court Rd, SW5

Pub: La Casserole, 338 Kings Road, Chelsea, SW3

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

Le Richelieu, 277 New Kings Rd, SW5. Tel: 736 4432

Coffee Bar: The Macabre, 23 Meard St, W2 (opens 11.45am)

Club: The Coffin, Members only, Disco

### LLANDUDNO

Pub: Rembrandt Bar, Washinton 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

Pub: Union Hotel, Princess Street (D)

Pub: Rembrandt, Sackville Street

Pub: Cavalcade, Wilmslow Road

Pub: Didsbury (Sunday lunchtime)

Pub: New York, Bloom Street

Club: Napoleons, Sackville Street

### MARYPORT

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

### MERTHYR TYDFIL

Pub: Red Cow Hotel, Giebeland St

### MIDDLESBOROUGH

Pub: The Grand Hotel

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

### NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

Pub: Royal Court Grill, Bigg Market

Pub: Royal Turks Head, Pouchinello Bar

Pub: Eldon Grill (Variety Bar), opp Greys Monument

Pub: Grapes Vault, Grey St (men only)

Pub: County Hotel (Nancy's Bar) Westgate Road

### NEWQUAY Cornwall

Pub: King Mark (Sat lunchtimes)

### NEWPORT, Mon

Pub: Kings Head (Lounge Bar) High Street

Club: Waterloo, Commercial Street

Club: The Charleston, Cardiff Rd (Tues & Sun)

Mini Guide continued from Page 17

**POOLE**  
Pub: The Jolly Sailor  
The Lord Nelson

**PORTSMOUTH**  
Pub: Balmoral Bar, Landport Terrace  
Club: The Country Club, Winchester Road, Bishops Waltham (D)

**READING**  
Pub: The Railway, Greyfriars Road  
Disco: RGA The Crown, Crown Street, every Wed and Sun 8pm  
Functions Room, Railway Tavern, Slanshawe Rd, every Wed and Sat 8pm

**ROCHESTER**  
Pub: Ye Olde Ship Inn, 347 High St

**ST ALBANS**  
Pub: Crown Hotel (Clarence Bar), Hatfield Road, Fri night only with Disco

**ST HELLIER, Jersey**  
Club: New Side Door, Cricketers Arms, Seale Street

**SANDBACH, Cheshire**  
Pub: Market Place Tavern (Thurs)

**SCARBOROUGH**  
Pub: The Albert, North Marine Rd (Back Room)  
Club: The Golden Guinea, Ramshill Rd

**SHEFFIELD**  
Pub: The Cossack  
The Pump (Smoke Room), Cumberland Way  
Club: Amberley, 225 Attercliffe Common (Gaysock Disco)

**SOUTHAMPTON**  
Pub: Anchor Inn, East St (girls only on Sat)  
Robert Burns, 9 South Front  
Juniper Berry, Upper Bugle St (D)  
Lord Roberts, Canal Walk  
Upstairs Club, St Mary's St  
Viking Club, Anchor Inn East St (girls only Sats)  
Rest: The Fig Leaf, 94 St Marys Road, 9.30pm-3.00am

**SOUTHSEA**  
Pub: Duke of Devonshire, Albert Road

**STOCKPORT**  
Pub: Duke of Clarence, Avenue St

**STOKE ON TRENT**  
Pub: The Antelope, Trinity St, Hanley  
Vine Inn (Mamas Bar), Vine St, Hanley  
Club: One For One, 141 Marsh Street North, Hanley

**STRATFORD-ON-AVON**  
Pub: Queens Head, Ely Street

**SUNDERLAND**  
Club: Rokoko, The Promenade, Roker

**SWANSEA**  
Pub: Dolphins Hotel (C T Lounge) Whitewalls  
Three Lamps Hotel (Top Floor Bar), Castle Gardens

**TORQUAY**  
Pub: Mead Foot Bay Hotel, Mead Foot  
Merelwood Hotel, Meadfoot Rd  
Meadfoot Inn, Meadfoot Lane  
Club: Double Two Club, Rock Rd

**UPHOLLAND, near St Helens**  
Pub: White Lion

**WESTCLIFF**  
Pub: Queen's Hotel (Street Bar), Hamlet Court Road

**WIGAN**  
Pub: Market Hotel, Mesnes St  
White Lion  
Derby Arms, Chapel Lane

**WINDSOR**  
Pub: Noah's Ark, Arthur Road  
The Ship, near Guildhall

**WOLVERHAMPTON**  
Pub: Prince Albert, Lichfield St  
Club: Silver Web, Whitmore Street

**WORTHING**  
Pub: New England Bar, basement of Warnes Hotel

**YORK**  
Pub: York Arms

Affectionate, inexperienced 21, not camp, seeks attractive guy 21-30 in North London (Finchley) area. Photo appreciated. Box 50/11.

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

Man to Man, London's first Gay Bookshop, is expanding and wants your ideas and suggestions for new stock. Man to Man, 57 Pembroke Road, W11, 11.00am to 9.00pm.  
Young Londoner, 25, wants to meet young Australians over 21 before he migrates Down Under. Box 50/19.  
Tall, slender guy, 21, Ipswich/5low-market area, seeks attractive non-camp guy 21 to 30 with own flat and/or car, any nationality. Photo. Box 50/20.  
Affair early 20s seeks affairs or singles London area for friendship, preferably non-effeminate. ALA, photos please. Box 50/21.  
Cyprus July, four very handsome men, early twenties, gay info wanted plus contacts. Own apartment. Fun and Sun lovers. Info and meetings in return. Box 50/22.  
Manchester male 26, slim, wishes to meet another gay man with view to lasting loving friendship. Photograph please if possible. Box 50/8.  
Thai/Malay, 21+ sought, Midlands. Box 50/9.  
Will Johnny N of Dover please contact Bill urgently.  
Love possible with strong, sincere, fun 28 year old California executive in London. 6'1.80 lbs, hairy bodybuilder with sophisticated life style seeks smooth slender youth over 21 for sharing friendship. Photos exchanged. Come on, write and be happy. Peter, Box 50/10.  
30, dark slim and hirsute seeks new friends to meet at weekends. Box 50/12.  
Young man living in Central London wants to meet well built masculine men 21-40. Photograph would be appreciated. Box 50/13.  
Chinese? Thai? Japanese? Gentleman, 50s, offers home and education to young man over 21 wanting help. Box 50/14.  
Hirsute/beardophile enthusiast, 29, seeks masculine bearded friend 25-45. Box 50/15.  
Londoner aged 48 but still in good shape seeks friends 45-70 with an affectionate nature. Box 50/16.  
Keen skier (male) would like to meet others, view forming club, or just holiday. Box 50/17.  
Gay 32, South Midlands, seeks sincere lasting friendship. Own car, house. Only genuine 21-40 guys please. All letters answered. Box 50/23.  
W14. Boy 21 wishes to meet active boy 21-25 for friendship. No piss-elegant types. Photo please. Box 50/24.  
Tony 5, ex-Leinster Square, do you remember Benny J T from the Netherlands? Ring 01-229 7435, ask for Jim.  
Solicitors. Can we refer callers to you for sympathetic advice? Please write (in confidence) to Gay Switchboard, 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1.  
Attractive 28 wishes to meet active only males 30-40 for friendship. Box 50/50.  
Birmingham fun-loving 34 wishes to locate friends in the Midlands. ALA. Box 50/51.  
London. Any nationality continental oriental colour. Are you good looking slim trendy guy 21-26, not camp, lonely, seeking genuine affectionate mature friend? Interests: language, travel, photography, music, clothes, food. Photo essential definitely returned. Box 50/52.  
Slim friendly young London bodybuilder 30 seeks attractive genuine friend. Photo please. Box 50/53.  
New gay M/C leather club forming North of England. Interested? Box 50/54.  
South or East Yorkshire 21 year old gay boy seeks friend who wishes to make lasting friendship. Photo if possible. ALA. Box 50/55.  
An active attractive 32 year firebrand seeks home loving boy over 21 to enjoy life with to the full. Interests: pop, travelling Inter City. Box 50/56.  
Where are you? I'm 30, slim, reasonable looks, Geminiian. Seek similar or younger friends over 21. Own house/accommodation. Interests: Surrey. ALA. Box 50/57.  
Leather in Kingston, 26, active, seeks others 21-35 especially bike owners, for friendship. Letters with photos please. Box 50/58.

Young looking 30s, own house East Anglia, seeks younger friend over 21, preferably to share. Photo appreciated. Box 50/67.  
Shy & lonely, not bad looking gay guy, completely reliable, Birmingham area, seeks a sincere active friend 30s, 40s. ALA with photo first. I am straight looking and genuine. Box 50/68.  
Active male, 44, seeks genuine pal for regular friendship London area. Box 50/69.  
**ATTRACTIVE SCANDINAVIAN**  
Physique-type. Tall young blond model. Public school, titled background, but now impeccable! Sophisticated good lifestyle to unusual interests. Sincere loving kind looking for suitable superguy share/complete two lives. Box 50/70.  
Friendly, young, sincere, attractive guy seeks similar (21+) for lasting friendship. Photo appreciated and returned (promise) Box 50/71.  
Active attractive slim six-footer, young 43, newly resident Warwickshire, many interests, seeks new friends and general info about Midlands scene. Photo appreciated but ALA. Box 50/72.  
Philonist, 28, Camden Town, black visor, leather, seeks tall, active guys with superbikes for friendship. Box 50/73.  
Portsmouth guy, 21, lonely, quiet, slim, lovable, think I am good looking, interests sculpture, painting, sightseeing, seeks similar guys 21-26 with car for lasting friendship. No plastic guys please. Photo exchanged. Box 50/74.  
Leather rocker, 26, big biker, keen on meeting genuine active leather guys anywhere. Photo would help. Box 50/75.  
Male professional dancer, tap, stage-craft, jazz-ballet and afro-latin. Also amateur singer, ballads, standards and blues. Seeks tuition in drag artistry for cabaret and revue. London or suburbs. Box 50/76.  
Male, 38, seeks quiet, non-effeminate guy for friendship, interests in music, dancing, theatre, cinema, physical culture and travel. London/suburbs. Photo appreciated. ALA. Box 50/77.  
Doctors. Can we refer callers to you for sympathetic advice? Please write (in confidence) to Gay Switchboard, 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1.  
Trained dancer wishes to create an exotic dance group, to include go go dancing guys with good physique and personality. London area. Please send photo if interested. Box 50/78.  
Attractive hairdresser, 21, wishes to meet straight looking active type for lasting friendship. Genuine. Midlands. Box 50/79.

Elderly active gay seeks well built West Indian friend 21-30 for weekends and holidays in South Devon. Photos please, which will be returned. Box 50/184.

**DANCER OR DANCE STUDENT!**  
Good looking, cultured young guy living London would like to meet you. Wide interests: art, music, travel and of course dance. Photograph appreciated and returned. Box 50/185.

Manchester guy, 23, tall, well-built, seeks close and sincere friendship with young masculine guy over 21. Many interests. Box 50/186.  
Active late 20s with boat requires young sailing companion 21+. Photo. ALA. Box 50/30.  
Gastronomically gauche goodlooking Hi-Fi 21 wishes to widen his experiences. Box 50/31.  
Professional guy 37, tall, dark, very slim, loyal and affectionate, own car and house Croydon area, seeks close friendship with clean-shaven 21-27. Interests include classical music, photography, gardening, driving. Photo appreciated if available. Box 50/32.  
30 year old Amsterdamer, in Brighton and London from July, seeks a lonesome cowboy, interested in swimming denim and leather. Box 50/33.  
Colostomy, 23, needs affectionate friendships—London area. Box 50/34.  
Non-dreary Scorpio uncle figure, active 36, needs young friend 21-25 to help look after his 2 babies, 1 Abyssinian, 1 Siamese. Box 50/35.  
Midlands mid-forties seeks friendship with active motorcyclist any age over 21. No greasers, own leathers, many interests, may be just your type. Box 50/36.  
I'm 24, friendly, reasonable looking, loving, seek young guy over 21 to talk to, be with often. Box 50/37.  
I am 28 years, interests include cinema, theatre, travelling. I would like to meet sincere Continentals (especially French and Northern European) for friendship. Photo appreciated. ALA. Box 50/38.  
From Newcastle-upon-Tyne, now living in Dorset. Original mate worked down the pits. Like to meet 23-37 year old man his equal, for a staunch pal. My age 35. Send photo. ALA. Box 50/39.  
Nottingham man, 44, ordinary appearance, shy nature, preferring individual company to gay spot crowds, seeks friendship with another of similar disposition. Box 50/40.  
London guy, reasonable looking, 29, heavyish build, non-effeminate, varied interests, seeks similar. First advert. Photo appreciated. ALA. Box 50/41.  
Lancashire guy, 26, dark, slim build, seeks friends 21-30 medium or well built. Denim etc. Likes motor bikes and fast cars. Don't like camp. Photo if possible (returned). Box 50/42.  
Ex-Colonial mid-30s, music lover, accomplished pianist, in good shape, seeks hirsute active friend, loyal and serious, 21-30. My wish is to avoid gay scene like plague. Box 50/43.  
Speculator! Young aspiring pop songwriter seeks capital for new venture. Possible big return. Genuine advert. Any gambling spirits? Box 50/44.  
Charles Brown, your letter in GN48 expressed my own sentiments and very pertinent, precisely what happened to me. Please reply. Box 50/45.  
French, goodlooking, slim, 29, moving to London July. Seek sincere friend, goodlooking, slim (Pisces/Cancer) 21-24 with accommodation. Photo required, returned. Box 50/46.  
Mykonos last two weeks August. London gay, 36, going alone—would anyone accompany, share expenses? Box 50/47.  
Chesterfield gay, 21, wishes to meet local guys 21+ for friendship. Box 50/48.  
Active non-camp 5'6" slim 45 amiable Virgo, young outlook, told goodlooking, own home Harrow area, seeks sincere non-effeminate gay 27-35 for genuine lasting friendship. Photo please. ALA. Box 50/49.  
Tell Gay switchboard about the gay places you went to on holiday. 01-837 7324, 6-10.30pm.  
Englishman learning Mandarin. Can anyone help? Will anyone join me? Box 50/133.

## Love Knoweth No Laws\*

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

### Chaucer Answering a Box Reply

- Place your reply in a small envelope and seal it.
- Mark clearly on the outside the Box Number to which you are replying.
- Place this small envelope together with a 4x6p stamp (unattached) in a large envelope which should be addressed to: Gay News Box Replies, 62a Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY.
- More than only reply can be enclosed in the final large envelope provided each reply is accompanied by a loose 4x6p stamp.

Advertisements for inclusion in issue 51 must be received no later than noon on Monday 8th July. They should be no longer than 35 words. Those exceeding this limit will be returned. As from 9th July, Box numbers in issue 47 and earlier will be discontinued and replies to them will not be forwarded.

## Mixed Personal

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

Shy, gentle, caring male student (early 20s) seeks lonely, loving bi-girl couple for lasting friendship. Surrey/Northumberland. Box 50/1.

### 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.

Good looking guy 24 would like to meet attractive understanding girl(s) for friendship. Kingston, South London area. Box 50/188.

Goodlooking, cultured, young, non-camp bisexual male NW London seeks girl 21-40 view friendship, marriage. Box 50/190.

## Women's Personal

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

Despairing gay girl, early 30s, recently ended long affair and finds herself completely lost. Urgently seeks genuine friends South London/Croydon. Have car, can travel. Box 50/109.  
Freaked girl into arts, travelling, seeks similar. Box 50/110.  
Lonely 49 seeks genuine permanent relationship with warm-hearted girl 35+. Own home SE9, quiet life, music, theatre, TV, gardening, but sense of humour. ALA. Box 50/111.  
Man to Man, London's first Gay Bookshop, 57 Pembroke Road, W11, will soon be enlarging and would like to have in stock a selection of books, magazines, etc for gay girls. We're limited now but why not come in and let us know what you want!  
Am I the only gay woman Gt Dunmow to Bishops Stortford? Please write Box 50/3.  
Gay attractive English girls age 25 would like to meet an attractive Swedish girl for lasting friendship. Box 50/4.  
Early twenties, tall, attractive, lonely gay seeks warm, loving, understand friend 20-30. Living in London, but wishes to hear from anyone—anywhere. Box 50/5.  
Lonely young female executive, late 20s, sincere, understanding, discreet, resident in London, seeks friendship with sincere, affectionate, discreet girl (under 30 years old) resident Greater London area. All letters will be answered—telephone number appreciated. Box 50/6.  
Ordinary London girl, ex-schoolteacher, seeks nice motherly woman. Box 50/7.

## Men's Personal

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

Arts graduate, young 41, slim, affectionate, likes silk, not otherwise effeminate, no interest gay scene, loves arts, especially music, reading, countryside, seeks genuine friends, preferably 21-35, South London. Box 50/25.  
Indian friend 21-30 sought by West Londoner in late twenties. ALA. Box 50/26.  
Johannesburg-bound guy seeks information on life there. Ring 01-385 7246 (Mike).  
Redhead, 24, seeks friends similar age, any race. Photo please. Box 50/27.  
You wore a check shirt, your back was to the camera but you were looking over your shoulder on page 18 of Jeffrey Rugged Males? No 6—Please contact a genuine admirer. Box 50/28.  
Mid-age, gay, blind person seeks companion to help reading and occasional escort. Interests electronic, Hi Fi, handicrafts, outdoor pursuits, camping, etc. Working to Brighton area. Can travel to visit also. Box 50/29.  
Liverpool, unpretentious, straight-looking ten stone male, 30, pleasant disposition, interests include arts (especially music) and lost causes. Not familiar with gay scene and seeking fellow romantic 21-31. Box 50/18.

Man to Man, London's first Gay Bookshop, is expanding and wants your ideas and suggestions for new stock. Man to Man, 57 Pembroke Road, W11, 11.00am to 9.00pm.  
Young Londoner, 25, wants to meet young Australians over 21 before he migrates Down Under. Box 50/19.  
Tall, slender guy, 21, Ipswich/5low-market area, seeks attractive non-camp guy 21 to 30 with own flat and/or car, any nationality. Photo. Box 50/20.  
Affair early 20s seeks affairs or singles London area for friendship, preferably non-effeminate. ALA, photos please. Box 50/21.  
Cyprus July, four very handsome men, early twenties, gay info wanted plus contacts. Own apartment. Fun and Sun lovers. Info and meetings in return. Box 50/22.  
Manchester male 26, slim, wishes to meet another gay man with view to lasting loving friendship. Photograph please if possible. Box 50/8.  
Thai/Malay, 21+ sought, Midlands. Box 50/9.  
Will Johnny N of Dover please contact Bill urgently.  
Love possible with strong, sincere, fun 28 year old California executive in London. 6'1.80 lbs, hairy bodybuilder with sophisticated life style seeks smooth slender youth over 21 for sharing friendship. Photos exchanged. Come on, write and be happy. Peter, Box 50/10.  
30, dark slim and hirsute seeks new friends to meet at weekends. Box 50/12.  
Young man living in Central London wants to meet well built masculine men 21-40. Photograph would be appreciated. Box 50/13.  
Chinese? Thai? Japanese? Gentleman, 50s, offers home and education to young man over 21 wanting help. Box 50/14.  
Hirsute/beardophile enthusiast, 29, seeks masculine bearded friend 25-45. Box 50/15.  
Londoner aged 48 but still in good shape seeks friends 45-70 with an affectionate nature. Box 50/16.  
Keen skier (male) would like to meet others, view forming club, or just holiday. Box 50/17.  
Gay 32, South Midlands, seeks sincere lasting friendship. Own car, house. Only genuine 21-40 guys please. All letters answered. Box 50/23.  
W14. Boy 21 wishes to meet active boy 21-25 for friendship. No piss-elegant types. Photo please. Box 50/24.  
Tony 5, ex-Leinster Square, do you remember Benny J T from the Netherlands? Ring 01-229 7435, ask for Jim.  
Solicitors. Can we refer callers to you for sympathetic advice? Please write (in confidence) to Gay Switchboard, 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1.  
Attractive 28 wishes to meet active only males 30-40 for friendship. Box 50/50.  
Birmingham fun-loving 34 wishes to locate friends in the Midlands. ALA. Box 50/51.  
London. Any nationality continental oriental colour. Are you good looking slim trendy guy 21-26, not camp, lonely, seeking genuine affectionate mature friend? Interests: language, travel, photography, music, clothes, food. Photo essential definitely returned. Box 50/52.  
Slim friendly young London bodybuilder 30 seeks attractive genuine friend. Photo please. Box 50/53.  
New gay M/C leather club forming North of England. Interested? Box 50/54.  
South or East Yorkshire 21 year old gay boy seeks friend who wishes to make lasting friendship. Photo if possible. ALA. Box 50/55.  
An active attractive 32 year firebrand seeks home loving boy over 21 to enjoy life with to the full. Interests: pop, travelling Inter City. Box 50/56.  
Where are you? I'm 30, slim, reasonable looks, Geminiian. Seek similar or younger friends over 21. Own house/accommodation. Interests: Surrey. ALA. Box 50/57.  
Leather in Kingston, 26, active, seeks others 21-35 especially bike owners, for friendship. Letters with photos please. Box 50/58.

Young looking 30s, own house East Anglia, seeks younger friend over 21, preferably to share. Photo appreciated. Box 50/67.  
Shy & lonely, not bad looking gay guy, completely reliable, Birmingham area, seeks a sincere active friend 30s, 40s. ALA with photo first. I am straight looking and genuine. Box 50/68.  
Active male, 44, seeks genuine pal for regular friendship London area. Box 50/69.  
**ATTRACTIVE SCANDINAVIAN**  
Physique-type. Tall young blond model. Public school, titled background, but now impeccable! Sophisticated good lifestyle to unusual interests. Sincere loving kind looking for suitable superguy share/complete two lives. Box 50/70.  
Friendly, young, sincere, attractive guy seeks similar (21+) for lasting friendship. Photo appreciated and returned (promise) Box 50/71.  
Active attractive slim six-footer, young 43, newly resident Warwickshire, many interests, seeks new friends and general info about Midlands scene. Photo appreciated but ALA. Box 50/72.  
Philonist, 28, Camden Town, black visor, leather, seeks tall, active guys with superbikes for friendship. Box 50/73.  
Portsmouth guy, 21, lonely, quiet, slim, lovable, think I am good looking, interests sculpture, painting, sightseeing, seeks similar guys 21-26 with car for lasting friendship. No plastic guys please. Photo exchanged. Box 50/74.  
Leather rocker, 26, big biker, keen on meeting genuine active leather guys anywhere. Photo would help. Box 50/75.  
Male professional dancer, tap, stage-craft, jazz-ballet and afro-latin. Also amateur singer, ballads, standards and blues. Seeks tuition in drag artistry for cabaret and revue. London or suburbs. Box 50/76.  
Male, 38, seeks quiet, non-effeminate guy for friendship, interests in music, dancing, theatre, cinema, physical culture and travel. London/suburbs. Photo appreciated. ALA. Box 50/77.  
Doctors. Can we refer callers to you for sympathetic advice? Please write (in confidence) to Gay Switchboard, 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1.  
Trained dancer wishes to create an exotic dance group, to include go go dancing guys with good physique and personality. London area. Please send photo if interested. Box 50/78.  
Attractive hairdresser, 21, wishes to meet straight looking active type for lasting friendship. Genuine. Midlands. Box 50/79.

### WEST LONDON GAY-TOGETHER

Over-21 group. Enquiries welcomed. Please write with some personal details and recent photo (returnable). Box 50/112.

38, fair and slim, very modern, likes dancing, swimming, travel, with own agency near Wimbledon, wishes to meet person over 21 view to permanent friendship. Home offered, but own employment followed, any nationality, photo. ALA. Box 50/113.  
Are you living alone in London, in need of affectionate friendship? Then drop me a line. I am Malcolm, 26, slim, sincere, easygoing. Interests include pop and railways. Box 50/114.  
Young Australian bodybuilder new to central London seeks other to share weight training sessions. Details and photo exchanged. Box 50/115.  
Uncomplicated quiet guy, 30, who enjoys life, based in the country, seeks a young guy 21+ with a sense of humour to relate to. Let's write, enjoy weekends together, and see what happens. Mike. Box 50/116.

### RICHARD: BEST WISHES

for a Happy Birthday. Trusting you return rested, happy and content. Luv Norman.

Well-built active black or white friend 21-30 sought by fair 6', 28, London, Essex. Photo please. ALA. Box 50/117.  
I am 21, seek young boys 21+ for friendship. Croydon, etc. Box 50/118.  
Nottingham. Amiable young teacher moving to Nottingham in August, seeks accommodation. Bridge partner and contacts. John Riley, QEOM Hall, Furze Lane, Portsmouth, Londoner, 38, tall but slight, fair wavy hair, seeks realistic well built friend of similar age, preferably bearded, with sense of humour who likes exploring towns and countryside. Photo appreciated and returned. Box 50/120.  
Young leather guy wants to meet others 21+ for friendship. Photo and full details Box 50/121.  
West London skinhead, 21, seeks interesting young mates 21+, skinheads or Hells Angels, photo helps. Box 50/122.  
Male affair, 24/29, would like to meet similar for friendship. London. Box 50/123.  
Late 20s Northern England want to meet others, single or affairs, for week-end outings. Not photos in August, seeks please. ALA. Box 50/124.  
Young man 22 at present living and enjoying a quiet life would like to meet a man a little older and hopefully form a sincere friendship with, any area, photo appreciated and returned. ALA. Box 50/125.  
Good-looking hairy-chested muscular guy, 25, Greek origins, London born, seeks good-looking slim pale males (objects of my secret adoration) for friendship. ALA. Similar age, please. London area. Box 50/126.  
Long-haired 22, into pottery, wants to meet a boy of similar age for friendship. Photo appreciated. Cornwall/London. Box 50/127.  
Businessman, 80, bachelor, non-camp, nice Londoner, good car, seeks somewhat younger active Negro friend 21+, homelover, interested music, theatre, travel. Might suit student needing help, encouragement, affection, or mid-30 seeking affectionate companionship. Box 50/128.  
Young 28 London/SW attractive sincere seeks similar for permanent friendship. Interests include theatre, music, swimming. Photo appreciated. Box 50/129.  
London guy, 28, intelligent, uncamp, heavy smoker, goes barefoot in summer, seeks similar for friendship. Photo please. ALA. Box 50/130.  
Very special offer—active, London, working man, 40s, will devote whole future to achieve happy friendship with active youngster, over 21, any nationality. ALA immediately. Box 50/131.  
Six foot plus? Twenty-one plus? Thirty-five minus? Tanned and hairy? You are my type. Am I yours? 27, slim, short fair hair. Letters with photo get a quicker reply. London. Box 50/132.  
Blonde, East Londoner 21, seeks others same age for friendship. Photo. Box 50/180.  
Aldershot, 38, own house, leather, jeans, body-building, to meet similarly interested. ALA. Box 50/181.  
Interesting attractive Londoner, 37, own flat, many varied interests, seeks friends. Box 50/182.  
Derby, 42, seeks well built active friend; looks, colour not important, sincerity, discretion, paramount. Business commitments, my place only. Frank details first letter. Box 50/183.

Well-known contemporary poet and television personality, 30, active, seeks a warm loving friendship with an intellectually aware boy, 21-25. No freaks! ALA. Box 50/162.  
If personality and sincerity are more important than good looks, I would like to hear from you. Birmingham area. 36. Active friends sought. Own flat. No transport. Perhaps holiday later. Box 50/190.  
London, young Chinese student seeks summer job, friendship, travel. Write confidentially, sending photo. Box 50/134.  
Wanted—talkative, decent, active West Indian for genuine friendship. Box 50/135.  
Gay TV, 50s, Blackburn, would like to meet similar active men for friendship. Box 50/136.  
Essex guy, 28, seeks younger guys 21+ for friendship. Local/anywhere. Photo appreciated. Box 50/137.  
Soldier, sailor (type), please write. I am young and attractive, live in London, seek friends. Box 50/138.  
Professional man, 88, married, bisexual, seeks discreet friendship with man, preferably married or widower, for occasional weekday afternoon meetings in central London. Box 50/139.  
Unwanted at 18! Does no slim, attractive, gentle young man, over 21, prefer affection, understanding, caring, from an older man who is intelligent, sensitive, goodlooking, but so lonely. Own home, Brentwood, Essex. Box 50/140.  
Hampstead. Sincere friendly male, 45 years, gentle nature, hopes to meet genuine person for friendship. Own flat. Interests: music, walking. Box 50/141.  
Young, small, long-haired, goodlooking Eurasian student, 21, seeks sincere non-camp friends 21+. Photo please. Box 50/142.  
Young, goodlooking guy, own flat London, 26, tall, slim, long blond hair, denim, seeks other goodlookers for friendship. Photo please. Box 50/143.  
BTR (Silvertown) Ltd, Moulder, 30, seeks mate. Box 50/144.  
Lonely 44, 8'6", brown, not handsome but kind and understanding, seeks sincere friends, any race, 25+. Hobbies: cooking, driving, outings, basketball. Box 50/145.  
Intelligent, attractive young guy, London, interested in anything except sport, seeks friends 21-25. Box 50/146.  
Active hairy guy, 28, London, seeks goodlooking young guys over 21 for friendship. Photo please. Box 50/147.  
Masculine leatherman, ex-Forces, country-based, seeks guide to London leather scene. Box 50/148.  
23, slim, cultured, music, opera, art, films, likes trendy clothes, seeks nice guy 21+ with beard to enjoy life with. Box 50/149.  
Young schoolmaster type (21+) sought by 30 year old Londoner for friendship. Box 50/150.

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If personality and sincerity are more

Personal Ads continued from Page 18

West Midlands, Shropshire, 32, 5'10", Pisces seeks sincere friend. Photo appreciated. Box 50/151.

LONDON GUY, 30s Not bad looking, car, own flat, not keen on scene, seeks boy 21-25, maybe shy, effeminate, for caring friendship, perhaps flat share. Photo, phone if possible. Box 50/160.

West country, male 36 seeks friend 21-30s to extend each others friendships. Will travel. Photos exchanged. Box 50/191.

Accommodation

10p per word, Box Number 50p, outside GB £1.50
Vauxhall—Furnished two room flat, shower, kitchenette, vacant. 668 1714 evenings.

Own room and use of whole house in Caterham offered by professional 30s to similar 21-30. £3.50pw. All facilities. No extras. Caterham 44387 after 4pm.

MERLIN (of Star-Gays) needs two rooms in someone's pleasant flat to live and work. Preferably Brighton or London. From August. Write Box 50/102.

Luxury Wimbledon Common flat. Own room for tidy, domesticated, congenial young man, sharing with active graduate, 38. Colour TV, convenient buses, underground. £8pw. Box 50/103.

RICHMOND RIVERVIEW for sale superb architect designed penthouse, seen in House & Garden March '73, freehold £30,000. Ring 01-948 2389.

Bournemouth/Pool. Guy 24, easygoing, professional, moving to area, urgently requires accommodation. Prefers share. Mike MacDonald 021 554 2337 after 6pm.

Exchange Kensington flat for country cottage for occasional periods. Box 50/104.

Gay lady to share flat NW8 with two others. Own room. Short period preferable. £32 monthly inclusive. Box 50/105.

Male, 27, graduate, seeks own room in sociable and friendly flat. Preferably fairly central London. Box 50/106.

Young director wants room/flat with phone for interviewing. London area. Box 50/107.

Holiday Accommodation

10p per word. No Box Number service available.
Jersey. Male, 31, seeks accommodation for week September, also permanent later. Local gay information appreciated. Box 50/177.

Employment

10p per word. No Box Number service available
Young man with modest capital wants partner with same for business anywhere. Box 50/2.

Computer programmers required by established freelance agency. If you work for yourself you won't have any problems with employers and we pay from £90pw for short and long term contracts. Reply with full career resume to Box 50/92.

Young, gay and beautiful? Established photographer requires models, fee negotiable. Send photo to Box 50/179.

Young man seeks evening/weekend work, interior decor/driving etc. Phone 422 5200 after 6.30pm.

Services

20p per word. No Box Number service available.
Penfriends. Discreet introductions. For details send SAE to Great Expectations, PO Box 148, 31/33 Court Yard, London, SE9 5DD.

MUSIC FOR MIND & BODY City Kids Agency, tel: 960 3410/960 2939.

Masseur/Yoga tutor. Ross Nilsen 01-602 0721.

LIGHT REMOVALS Also delivery service. Anytime. Anywhere. 01-460 0977. Strictly legitimate business.

Lonely? Gay postal introductions arranged, all areas. Confidential. Discreet. Dorothy Sanger, Dept 14, 138a Pogmoo Road, Pogmoo, Barnsley, Yorkshire. Trainers, jeans made to fit. Paul 278 1641.

Go-Between Removals and Deliveries. Tel: 01-249 0280/01-549 3275.

MORTGAGES FOR GAY PEOPLE Jointly, or on single income. Phone John Adams, Bristol 292965.

Ex-matlot, early thirties, narcissistic without cause, enjoys posing for amateur photographers. Studio flat W1. Modest remuneration required. Phone Jeff 01-486 1734.

Market Place

20p per word. No Box Number service available.
Mouthwatering magazines!! Send SAE to Johnny, BM/FBQH, WC1V 6XX.

ACTIVE MG MIDGET (9 years old), seeks dominant older friend over 21 for sincere and fun loving friendship. Will sell whole body around £180 but open to barter. Take me and do as you wish. (1098cc power, 40mpg average). All present coloured white but could do with a holiday for a good tanning. Write to Hilga, c/o 62a Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY.

Do you want a 1963 'Beetle' Volkswagen for £80? Phone 789 2846. Mess & foto. 10p PO lists, R Hawkins, 3 Maundy Place, Aberdeen, Glam.

ONLY THE VERY BEST! The best nudes—in every way! Glossy 6x8, 38 pages each: MANIFIQUE! 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 models! Plus information on Strictly Limited Editions!!! From JOHN S BARRINGTON, 88 Castelnau, London, SW13 (No callers please).

Boy Studio, 44 Earls Court Road, London, W8. Photo-sets, leatherwear, 35mm colour slides, catalogue 30p. "Gay Opportunity" for males only. SAE please to Box 30, 30 Stony Knoll, Bury New Road, Salford, 7, Lancs. Wis. M/F, street or stage wear, excellent condition. SAE to care, £10 negot. Anne 373 8373 evenings.

EXTRA-ORDINARY! X-CLUSIVE!! Only the best of Super-Models-in-Action! If you want up-to-date information on exceptional models, magazines, photos, colour slides & colour movies direct from the USA & Europe write: J Esbeigh, 238 Upper Richmond Road West, London, SW14 8RP (No callers please)

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Entertainment

10p per word. No Box Number service available.
Seaside Shuffle, Brighton, Sussex. Royal Albion Hotel, Old Steine, Saturday 13th July. Licensed 9-1am. Tricky Dicky Discotheque.

July 9th. Cafe Society still trucking alternate Tuesdays at the Troubadour, 9.30 downstairs.

Meetings

10p per word. No Box Number service available.
Hulme, Manchester: Non-political Gay Group seeks other genuine, sincere fellows who wish to communicate and/or contact others on the same wave length. Phone 061-226 7981 from 18.30 any day, or anytime weekends.

"FINDING A DIRECTION" First CHE Activists Conference at ULU, Malet Street, WC1 on Saturday, 20th July 1974. Details and registration from CHE, 28 Kennedy Street, Manchester. Followed by a Grand Benefit Disco. All Welcome.

Masseurs

30p per word. No Box Number service available.
Massage by young qualified masseur. Enquiries phone Aaron 01-229 6936. Relaxing massage, experienced young masseur. Mike 603 8448.

Young male gives qualified relaxing massage. Hotel visits welcome. 370 6295.

GN STAFF & IRISH DRAGS PR wish to express their sincere birthday greetings to a deceivingly active shareholder who is in need of regular rub-downs and a good tanning from his holidays

Visiting Service! Genuine qualified masseur. Call 01-429 6977

MIKE 21 Young looking masseur, professional model. Call mornings 01-429 8328

Steve, 24, long hair, qualified masseur/model, seeks work. 01-876 7785.

Experienced masseur gives soothing massage: home/hotel, male/female. Phone Ron 472 1939 Mon-Fri evenings only or all day Sunday. Greg now massages at new central location—your place! Phone 727 8322. Massage by young male therapist. 229 6565.

DAVID Blond, 21, qualified masseur, seeks work. 876 1781.

Young masseur, English "The Clark System", also visits. 373 2752. Genuine massage offered by qualified male. For appointment ring 289 2753. Young male masseur available, own apartment central London. Mick 229 5971.

General Information

GAY GROUPS SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

CHE POETRY GROUP meets the last Friday of every month at 8pm above the Lamb & Flag on Rose St, W2.

CHE ACTIVISTS—Benefit Disco, Saturday 20 July, 8pm till late, at University of London Union, Malet Street WC1. All welcome.

OUTDOOR INTERESTS (cycling, hill walking, camping etc) London area group forming. Phone or write CHELIC, 22 Great Windmill Street, 01-437 7363.

GAY WOMEN

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 Halesland Park, Edinburgh.

HOMOSEXUAL WOMEN are welcome in CHE. Find out more about CHE groups at 22 Great 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.

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

MANCHESTER GAY WOMEN'S GROUP meets regularly in central Manchester. All homosexual and bisexual women are welcome. Please phone Sue at 061 881 3683 for details of meetings.

NORTH EASTERN GAY WOMEN'S GROUP meet regularly in Newcastle. For details contact Sharon at Chester-Street 5648 or Judy at Newcastle 811016.

WOMEN'S LIBERATION WORKSHOP Kingsgate Place Women's Centre, 1 Kingsgate Place, London W6. Open Mon-Fri 10.30am-10.00pm.

SAPPHO meets every first Monday in the month at Euston Tavern, corner of Judd Street/Euston Road, London NW1. 7.30pm upstairs room. Sappho 40p inc postage for single copies from BCM/PETREL, London WC1V 6XX.

Girls. Are you pleasant to talk with? Work with us at Gay Switchboard. 01-837 7324, 6-10.30pm.

COUNSELLING / BEFRIENDING

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

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 2YG.

CENTRE COFFEE BAR/SOCIAL CLUB Befriending and Counselling Help. Open Sun-Fri 10.30am-10.30pm. Tel: 01-723 5889 or write to Centre, Broadley Terrace, London NW1.

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

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 or 061-445 9629 (both evenings).

MERSEYSIDE—PO Box 7, Liverpool LB 2XN. Tel: 051-727 2589, 051-709 6104. Evenings only on rota.

NORTH-EAST ENGLAND BAFFORD—PO Box 47, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD1 9YZ.

LEEDS—c/o 44 Earls Court Road, London W8.

SHEFFIELD PO Box 107, Sheffield, South Yorkshire S1 1EJ.

TYNE/TEES area—Box A16, 133 Great North Road, Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE3 2DQ. Tel: Newcastle 841 401 or Newcastle 33544 (evenings).

MIDLANDS WEST MIDLANDS—161 Corporation Street, Birmingham 4, West Midlands. Call at Carrs Lane Counselling Centre, Birmingham, Thursdays 7-9pm.

WALES CARDIFF—58 Charles Street, Cardiff. Call on 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.

GREAT LONDON & HOME COUNTIES LONDON 47 Church Street, London W8. Call on weekday evenings, 7.30-9.30pm. Tel: 01-402 6750 weekdays, 7.30-9.30pm.

SOUTH-EAST ENGLAND CROYDON Second floor, 53 High Street, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR4 8RW. Callers Sundays 2.30-4.30. Tel: 01-688 5820 Fri evenings, 7.30-9.30 or in emergency 01-688 1079 other times.

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.

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

PARENTS ENQUIRY. Write to Ms Rose Robertson, 16 Honley Road, Catford, London SE6 2HZ.

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 08550, USA. Service free of charge although an international reply coupon would be appreciated.

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.

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.

ABERDEEN. Contact Denis Wilson, 0224 20576.

GLASGOW. Contact John Wallace, 041 882 3536. Women contact SMG Women, 214 Clyde St, G1 4JZ.

EDINBURGH—Contact Ian Dunn, 031 667 7473. Women contact the Secretary, c/o VOC, 11 St Colme St, Edinburgh EH3 6AG. Befriending contact 031 229 3527 Weds Sats & Suns only 6-9pm.

ST ANDREWS—Tel: 933481 3914.

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.

SOUTH LONDON GLF—Brixton Gay Community Centre, 78 Ralston Rd (No 2 bus, 5 mins Brixton tube and BR), Mon-Fri 7-11pm, Sats 11-11pm, Sun 2-11pm. General meetings every Wed 8.30pm. Tel: 01-274 7921. Discos held alternate Sats starting June 1st.

MANCHESTER—Meets every Wed at 178 Oxford Road 8pm. Contact John Ash, 1 Hunts Road, Irian o' the Heights, Salford. Ring 061-736 2045 or ring Gary 061-434 2019.

LEEDS—Office open Mon-Fri, 7.30-9.30pm at 153 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds 2. Ring 39071 ext 57. Meetings every Fri 8pm at Trades Council Hall, Upper Fountain St, Leeds.

CAMPAIGN FOR HOMOSEXUAL EQUALITY

There are over 70 local groups. For details and membership information contact their offices at: 28 Kennedy Street, Manchester M2 4BG. Tel: 061-228 1985. Or contact London Information Centre, 22 Great Windmill Street, W1. Tel: 01-437 7363 Mon-Fri 6-10pm and Sat mid-day to 7pm.

TRANSVESTITE / TRANSEXUAL

TRANSSEXUAL ACTION ORGANISATION for transsexuals under therapy only. Contact Angelo Nicol, 01-965 2520.

TRANSVESTITE SOCIAL GROUP Send SAE to Sam Cash, 10 Hosack Road, London SW17.

TRANSVESTITE/TRANSEXUAL GROUP meets every Thursday 8pm at 76 Gladsmuir Road, Archway, London N1 (3 rings). Or write Patricia Sage.

MISCELLANEOUS

GAY HISTORY—We are starting work on a social history of gay women and men in Birmingham. We would like to get in touch with others interested in working in the same area, and also with people who would be prepared to help by being interviewed or writing about themselves. Contact Trevor at 36 Arderton Park Rd, Moseley, Birmingham 13 or Richard at 021-440 4464.

RELEASE offer free advice (legal, medical, drugs, abortion, etc) between 10.00 and 6.00 Mon to Fri. There is also a 24-hour emergency service on 01-298 1123. Donations to and help from Release, 1 Elgin Avenue, London W9.

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.

GAY GROUPS

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

COMMUNITY—We are now running a group for bisexuals on Monday nights. Ring Community at 01-485 2136 or 01-586 3545.

SOCIAL WORKERS—Join recently formed Gay Social Workers Group. For information contact Robert Longley, 154 Hawthorn Road, Heaton, Bradford.

WIMBLEDON AREA GAY SOCIETY (WAGS)—Provides a friendly group for local gays. Details through Gay Switchboard 01 837 7324.

Very sorry—we run out of room again. We've cut our information relating to several different gay groups, but will include it in our next issue. If there's anything you can't find here, give the Gay Switchboard a ring on 01-837 7324—they'll be able to help.

**Gay goes international**

**EDINBURGH:** If all goes as planned, Edinburgh will be host to the world's first international gay congress.

The idea of holding the gathering was proposed at CHE's Malvern conference. Derek Ogg, who is the senior president of Edinburgh University's Students' Association, has shouldered the burden of getting the idea off the ground. He has written to many people inviting them to an initial exploratory meeting in London on July 20.

In Edinburgh itself, he says, reaction to the idea has been enthusiastic. He has suggested that the congress could be arranged "efficiently and profitably" for Christmas 1974. Christmas would be a good time, because demands on conference and accommodation facilities are lighter than during the popular summer months. It would therefore be that much easier to book.

Letters will be sent out to gay organisations in their own languages, hopefully in August, so Derek would like to hear from anyone who could offer assistance in translation. You can contact him at Edinburgh University Students' Association, Old College, Edinburgh EH8 9YL.

**Ms Whitehouse struck dumb**

**CANTERBURY:** Gays were among the hecklers who prevented Mary Whitehouse from speaking at the University of Kent recently.

Ms Whitehouse was attempting to address a meeting of the Conservative Association, and the lecture theatre was packed with students, many of whom had attended in the hope of hearing the speaker make herself ridiculous.

There were confused attempts at engaging Ms Whitehouse in a debate but these were defeated by the general disorder of the meeting.

As well as the campus gays, members of Radical Women, the Communist party and the LMG prevented the meeting from starting.

Dave Locker attempted to make a statement putting the gay viewpoint, in which he said that Ms Whitehouse had called homosexuality "an incipient cancer."

The guest refused to answer a question as to whether she was connected with the National Front, and retaliated by stating that Kent was the worst university she had ever visited. Never had she been faced with such "irrationality." She added that she had never before been prevented from speaking.

After an hour the meeting was completely abandoned and Ms Whitehouse left the room.

**CHE education day**

**LONDON:** CHE are devoting Saturday July 6 to the question of gay education. A meeting is being held in the Music Room of the University of London Union, Malet Street, WC1, to discuss CHE's education campaign.

The meeting is open to all, and it is hoped that interested organisations will be represented. Further details can be obtained from David Bell, c/o CHELIC.

**Men - not women**

**MANCHESTER:** The appeals of two men, given nine-month prison sentences for importuning, have been turned down.

Dennis Lyons and David Taylor appeared at Manchester Crown Court after being arrested for accosting motorists in Piccadilly, Manchester. They were in drag at the time of the offence, and insisted on being charged in the names of "Denise" and "Margaret."

They claimed at their appeal that their conviction for the homosexual offence of importuning was wrongful, because they were women.

But Lord Justice James, Mr Justice Phillips and Mr Justice Stocker thought otherwise. The latter said that their physical characteristics were those of men. "It may be that they wish to become women, and feel themselves to be women, but the issue does not depend on desire or psychological reasons."

**Exeter gays meet**

**EXETER:** Exeter now has its own CHE group, the second to be formed in Devon. Until now Exeter members have either been left out in the cold, or have travelled down to the Newton Abbott Group.

Members from the Exeter district recently met with Trevor Locke, liaison man for the South West, and with Philip Osborne, convenor of the Newton Abbott group, to discuss the forming of an Exeter Group.

The ten members at the meeting, of which sadly only one was a woman, agreed that the two Devon groups must not conflict or compete, but should complement each other. The two convenors - David Marsh being Exeter's - are already working closely to that aim.

Exeter's major problem at the moment is accommodation - the group has nowhere to meet. Suggestions and offers of anything from Georgian mansions to garden sheds are welcome.

As soon as this is solved, it is hoped to arrange a fortnightly programme of meetings and social events.

**Bar goes public**

**LONDON:** The regular meeting place of CHE's London Monday Group is being opened as a public gay bar. The upstairs bar of the Chepstow, Chepstow Place, near Notting Hill Gate tube, will be open every night of the week except Monday, when the group meets. And a disco is to be held there each week, on Friday night.

**By hook or crook**

**ROCHDALE:** The Gay News library struggle continued - but with a new twist. Following a request that Rochdale library stock the paper, from David McLean of the Open University Gaydoc, local reaction seems to have been remarkably favourable both in the local press, and from parts of the council.

A letter from the mother of a gay son attacked the decision of Rochdale Council's Amenities Committee to advise the full council to turn down the request. In a letter to the Rochdale Observer she told of the letter she had sent to the chairperson of the committee urging him to think again about his decision. She enclosed a copy of a speech made by Rose Robertson in Manchester last year. A gay from Rochdale also wrote to the same paper to say that he was shocked by the decision.

Councillor Steven Moore intends to raise the matter at the full council meeting on July 9. He told David McLean that if they don't put GN in the libraries, he will have the copies sent to him and deposit them in the Members Room in the Town Hall, so they will get the paper one way or another! Councillor Moore is a Labour member and chairperson of the Development Services Committee.

**Jail for drag artist**

**COLCHESTER:** Female impersonator Louis de Rothschild was sentenced to two years' imprisonment, consecutive to a sentence he is already serving, at the Old Bailey recently.

He pleaded guilty to eleven charges of theft and deception involving property worth £4,747, and asked for eighteen other offences to be considered.

**New best seller**

**TYNESIDE:** A major success has been scored by Tyneside CHE with their educational pamphlet 'Facts and Fallacies' (reviewed in GN48). To date, over 1300 copies have been sold and more orders are expected. Anyone interested can obtain copies from Tyneside CHE, Box A16, 133 Great North Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE3 2DQ.

**Gays barred from breakfast**

**NEW HAMPSHIRE, USA:** A political supporter of anti-gay Governor Meldrim Thomson paid 1075 dollars to keep gay students at the University of New Hampshire from being the successful bidders at an auction of "a pancake breakfast with the governor."

The fund-raising auction entitled the winner to select eight people to go along as breakfast guests at the governor's mansion. Thomson has been an outspoken enemy of the student gays, going so far as to threaten to cut off state funds to the university, after it officially recognised the Gay Student Organisation as a legitimate campus group.

Members of the student group contend that their loss of the breakfast invitation was shady. A spokesman stated that the group was prepared to bid as high as 2000 dollars, but that auction officials allowed the bidding to be closed prematurely to prevent "embarrassment" to the governor.

Before the auction, the group predicted that the breakfast would probably be cancelled if the GSO outbid everyone.

**Sussex symposium**

**BRIGHTON:** Sussex Gay Liberation Front are holding a symposium - "Religion and the Homosexual" - on Friday evening July 12 at the Wagner Hall, off West Street in Brighton.

Organisations to be represented include REACH, MCC and Parents' Enquiry, and local clergy of various denominations.

**I-spy in Croydon**

**LONDON:** The cottage at the junction of Coombe Road and Oaks Road, in Addington Hills, Croydon, has been put under police surveillance recently. This followed a request from Croydon Council.

The council's health and public services control committee decided to keep the cottage open and under surveillance, rather than inconvenience people by closing it and merely diverting the "problem" elsewhere.

So beware ...

**Gay Jews**

**BOSTON, USA:** With the formation of B'nai Haskalah in Boston, the United States now has three gay Jewish congregations. The congregation has appealed to the city's Jewish community for help in finding a permanent location - so far, its members have been meeting in a Boston church. The two other homosexual congregations are in Los Angeles and New York.

**Malvern reaps £21,000**

**MALVERN:** The Winter Gardens at Malvern made a profit of between £400 and £500 during the CHE conference held in the town over the spring bank holiday weekend. In addition, an estimated £21,000 was spent in the area by attending delegates.

This information comes with a further bouquet for CHE from the chairperson of Malvern Hills District Council's recreation and amenities committee, who describes the conference as the "best ever."

**Gai days**

**HARROGATE:** If you are thinking of attending the GAI conference in the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate, on May 28-31, 1975, and you're not an architectural ironmonger, then don't bother. It probably won't live up to your expectations!

The conference is the annual general meeting of the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers! They've got interesting initials, however ...

**University sent CHE kits**

**ESSEX:** Study Kits on homosexuality have been sent to fourteen key members of Essex University at Colchester in an attempt by CHE "to promote tolerance and understanding" and as part of their education campaign.

The kits have been sent to senior members of the university concerned with student welfare and to three Students Council members.

**Norwich Gay Day**

**NORWICH:** The University of East Anglia, at Norwich, held a Gay Liberation Day, on June 15, organised by Gaysoc in the strong.

The campus was drowsy in the morning afternoon sun - and this probably accounted for the small numbers attending the more 'serious' early part of the day.

Dr Norman Pittinger, of Kings College, Cambridge, spoke on the bias against homosexuals in the Church and education. Rose Robertson, who founded the runs Parents' Enquiry in London, was given a warm reception for her address on gays and their parents.

Later in the afternoon, a media workshop was held, featuring tapes of various American gay radio programmes.

The early evening was taken up with a showing of two Jean Genet films - 'Un Chant d'Amour' and 'The Balcony'. And afterwards, everyone set off for a country mansion - Bulcamp House, Blythburgh - where a 'surrealist party' was staged by Robert Short and Daniel Limon.

**Peep hole vigil**

**LONDON:** As the result of a series of articles run by the South London News Group, police kept a "peephole" vigil in a Morden cottage, after being authorised to do so by Scotland Yard.

Their efforts resulted in two men appearing at Kingston Crown Court on charges of "gross indecency."

Paul Cooper, of Sutton and David Tidy, of Molspur Park denied the charges and were acquitted by the jury.

The cottage involved was the one in Middleton Road, Morden.

**Gays and adoption**

**LONDON:** Included in the latest newsletter of Croydon group of Campaign for Homosexual Equality is an interesting article concerning adoption and fostering.

Following the recent television programme in the 'World in Action' series, Sara Ibbertson (group secretary) wrote to the Adoption Resource Exchange asking if it was possible for a homosexual couple, who have a long-standing relationship, to foster children on a long-term basis.

The reply is reprinted in the newsletter. In essence it informs Ms Ibbertson that every agency makes its own decisions on the eligibility of applicants. Such an application would meet the same response given to single people, widows, etc. Fostered and adopted children are at a disadvantage by being in a different position from the majority, so agencies tend to seek families where other differences are at a minimum.

The letter goes on to say that as a result of the television programme, several thousand couples have applied to foster or adopt, and without doubt preference will be given to married couples, often those with children already.

The letter is signed by Ms P Sawbridge, the organising secretary, who concludes by apologising if her comments are disappointing.

**Social workers unite**

**MALVERN:** Yet another positive outcome of CHE's conference at Malvern has been the setting up of a gay social workers group, with the aim of bringing pressure to bear within the social work profession.

There are provisional plans for the group to meet in August to discuss ideas for action. Already it seems there is a good chance that an issue of *Catecon*, the radical social workers' journal, will be exclusively devoted to gay topics.

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