

# GAY NEWS

N512 11.5p FORTNIGHTLY

# KATIN ROW AIRED ON TELEVISION

## Glad & proud to be gay

LUTON: "I'm glad and proud to be homosexual," declared Michael Hutchinson at the recent Luton Young Liberal Gay Liberation meeting, and he caused a split in the town's Liberal party.

Michael lectures in biology at a local sixth form college, and his pronouncement caused Liberal councillor, Jim Fisher to say: "Homosexuality is an illness." Young Liberals chairman Richard Atkins, however, countered by agreeing entirely with the teacher's declaration.

Michael made a plea for a change in the law, in the attitude of the media, in sex education and for better social facilities for homosexuals and bisexuals. "The Young Liberals are to be congratulated on backing this very unpopular cause," he said.

However, Mr Fisher told the meeting: "Homosexuality is an illness, because in modern society homosexuals would rather be heterosexuals. It would be worthwhile to cut down the spread of homosexuality in this society."



Gay teacher Michael Hutchinson

"There is a danger of young adults getting used to homosexuality and even getting pleasure from it. The law must keep homosexuality in private to avoid making it acceptable. It must be kept out of sight of under-21-year-olds."

Richard Atkins didn't agree: "Jim Fisher comes from a previous generation," he said. "He is full of their fears and misunderstandings."

Support for the gay cause, also came from prospective Tory candidate, Robert Atkins, who added: "I disagree with Jim Fisher. I am surprised and disturbed at what he has to say."

Although the newspaper articles on the meeting caused some astonishment at his college, Michael tells *Gay News* that reaction, on the whole, has been very good.

His principal agreed with his views, the staff have been at pains to rally round and the students seem to accept the affair.

Although the Education Authority have been in touch with the principal, Michael doubts that anything will be done, as there have been no parental complaints that he knows of.

## London Weekend broadcasts CHE film

LONDON: Interviewed on London Weekend Television recently, Peter Katin told viewers "I was amazed . . . I was furious," at the decision of Tunbridge Wells District Council to ban his recital at the local Assembly Hall.

The interview with Peter came as a post-script to London CHE's television programme in the 'Speak for Yourself' series. The series allows local community action groups access to LWT production facilities to make films about their work and aims. The show has an audience "five or six times the capacity of Wembley Stadium" say LWT.

The audience saw a number of CHE members 'in action'. David Bell, Mike Carmody, Vivian Waldron and Jackie Forster were caught in full flood at Speakers Corner haranguing the crowd. Michael Launder conducted an interview with a CHE member, which gave him an opportunity to discuss the work of CHE and Friend. But much of the programme was shot on board a Thames river boat at a disco organised by the London groups.

Up on deck, people danced and cuddled. Down in the bar lounge, Roger Baker spoke to two gay couples—Maureen and Yolande, and Eddy and Chris—about their relationships, their parents' reactions, and the attitudes of their friends at home and at work. Michael Launder's mother Margaret joined in the conversation, talking about her son's friends and how she felt about Michael being gay.

The film was broken up by news clippings illustrating the sort of problems gays were up against—a witch-hunt amongst women in the armed forces, a feature on 'How to Spot a Homo' from the *Sunday Mirror*, a report that the army was called in to protect boy scouts camping on Hampstead Heath, and a story in the *People* about a psychiatrist who wanted to 'cure' homosexuals by putting them on LSD!

A number of comedians and entertainers came in for a knocking as well; people such as Larry Grayson, Liberace, Danny la Rue, Kenneth Williams, and Dick Emery. This sort of person caused real problems, Chris told Roger Baker. When you're young, and discovering that you're gay, you see homosexuals portrayed as swishy, handbag-swinging individuals who adopt a caricatured effeminate manner. If you cannot identify with this particular role, you may have difficulty in coming to realise and accept your gayness.

The film ended with some rather tender



London Weekend's cameras at Speakers Corner capturing Jackie Forster in action.

scenes of lovers dancing and cuddling, the positive side for a change.

In the interview that followed, Ross Burgess, representing the Kent groups of CHE, told viewers about the Tunbridge Wells affair. Peter Katin complained that at no stage had MacGuffog had the courtesy to contact him to discuss the matter. He had just banned the concert. Peter said that it was the first time that anything of the sort had happened to him, although he had supported several other organisations in the past.

Public response has been vociferous, however, and has so far almost unanimously condemned the actions of the council. The chief executive of the council has now agreed to meet a CHE officer to talk about the foolish behaviour of his amenities officer.

Meanwhile, Peter Katin has heard from a woman in Pursey who attended his recital

for CHE at St John's Smith Square. First, she wrote to the National Federation of Music Societies complaining about it. The NFMS wrote her a very firm letter and told Peter Katin about the correspondence. Peter also wrote to her. In her reply she referred to the CHE leaflet which had been available at the concert. She said it was "staggering in its aggressive impudence and quite sickening. But none of the belligerent demands from these people can transform them into decent beings or make them acceptable to those who enjoy a normal life." She also writes, "It also an instinctive feeling of disgust can be called prejudice, then I am proud of being prejudiced."

Which only goes to show that gays are going to need several more TV shows if anything is going to change . . . about three a night!

## Union backs women and gays

LONDON: Gay journalists meeting recently in London were told of a letter received from Ken Morgan, General Secretary of the National Union of Journalists, pledging the union to oppose discrimination against any journalist on the grounds of sex or sexual orientation.

Gay and net journalists had written to him asking for a statement of NUJ policy. In reply he said that the only grounds for discriminating against a journalist were his or her fitness to hold employment such as professional qualification, competence, or industrial conduct.

"I believe the policy of the NUJ is well known," he continued, "but I will report your letter to the National Executive Committee's General Purposes Committee. Of course, should any member find himself or herself discriminated against on any of the grounds set out in your letter, he or she should raise the matter through his or her chapel or branch. If necessary the matter would then be reported to me for the NEC to take action."

Two letters expressing concern at the presentation of homosexuality in the press have been published in the current edition of

the official NUJ newspaper, the *Journalist*. NUJ members of the Gay Media Group are also hoping to persuade the union to change its Code of Professional Conduct to



NUJ General Secretary Ken Morgan

include a clause requiring working journalists not to discriminate against minority groups, including sexual minorities. The provision would apply both to discrimination in employment, and in editorial copy. If one or more branches of the union will support the move, the clause would be debated at the union's Annual Delegates Meeting in Cardiff in April 1975.

The group has also approached the National Council for the Training of Journalists to discuss possible provision within the syllabus of information about homosexuality. And a letter has been sent to the Guild of British Newspaper Editors asking the secretary for an opportunity to address Guild members.

The group welcomes people working in every media to its meetings (it is not restricted to journalists). In particular, members are hoping that people working in advertising will attend the next meeting to help work on a new project, details of which will be announced later.

The next meeting will be held at the Museum Tavern (upstairs bar) on the corner of Museum Street and Great Russell Street, London WC1 at 7.30 on Wednesday August 7.

## GAY NEWS

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## Doing It At Work

When you consider the amount of time that gays, like hets, spend earning their livings, it is surprising just how little discussion there is about being gay in a work situation.

Traditionally, such discussion has gone no deeper than the question of whether or not to come out, and which professions make it easier for gays to come out than others. And even where this type of talk does take place, you often find people falling back on the old predictable assertions such as: "I'm a teacher so I can't come out, he's a ballet dancer so it's easy for him to come out." Let us swiftly pass over the objection to these generalisations that they are very often simply untrue, and ask why anyone should come out in the first place.

Thus far, it has largely been a personal matter. An individual comes out, and by doing so may achieve a sense of personal relief; she (and by 'she' we include men) may not want to undergo the continuous strain of pretending to be het. Or she may want the freedom to talk about her friends and lovers as do her colleagues. Or the object of the exercise may be a kind of personal campaign in which she wishes to get through to her workmates that she is a person like them, and if they look in her hair they will find no horns, no cloven hooves jammed into her platform shoes.

But is this enough any more? For a lot of gays the answer will still be yes. But in time, the simple process of coming out will lose its intrinsic significance. People will grow accustomed to gays coming out. It will, let us hope, become a mechanical part of the homosexual's social development much as marriage is for the heterosexual. What then becomes important is what coming out enables us to do as a next step.

At the CHE Activists conference, there was an attempt made to answer this question. At the last minute, it was proposed that a workshop be held on trade unionism and employment. It was well attended, and a number of labour organisations were represented—NALGO, NUT, NUJ, ACTT, ASTMS amongst others. Most of them, naturally enough, were middle class unions. Many of them were non-militant unions with little or no political muscle.

But there was, perhaps for the first time, serious consideration of how labour organisations (both trade unions and professional associations) could be used to oppose sexism both at work and socially.

Some unions have interested themselves in the feminist cause already. But so far they have had little or nothing to say about homosexuality. Those attending the meeting discussed ways in which the matter could be raised as an issue. It was important to encourage action against sexism, and also to try to draw the attentions of workers to the specific problems that homosexuals face.

Most members of the workshop agreed that a gay caucus within a union could be effective in achieving the greater consciousness we want to foster. There are already certain moves in this direction; there is already a teachers' group, a librarians' group and a journalists' group, all of whom are working to some extent within their own union or association.

Clearly, gays in different walks of life are going to have different battles on their hands, and will be working for different aims. Some unions will be able to do next to nothing in any practical way about gay oppression. Certainly every union should be able to pledge itself to oppose discrimination in the hiring and firing of employees. But some unions can do a great deal more. A caucus of gay journalists will be anxious to clean up the mucky way in which tabloids treat gays. A caucus of gay teachers will be concerned that homosex education is available alongside heterosex education. Librarians can offer advice on what books might be suitable reading for information on the subject.

The outward trappings of such battles will be branch resolutions, letters in professional journals and union papers, internal union politicking. But the aim will be to take sexism to the factory floor, to confront office workers with their own anti-gay sentiments, and to ask them to think for themselves about what is involved—and not to take their lead from the legislator, the churchman, the doctor.

Living as we do in a parliamentary idiocracy which washes its hands of anything to do with social revolution, we have to raise the questions and arguments ourselves. There's no one else to do it for us.

## A fortnight's breather

Gay News will be taking a break during August. The only way we can manage to get a holiday for everyone on the paper is to miss an issue. Issue 53 will be published as planned on August 15, but issue 54 will not make its way on to the newsstands until four weeks later, on September 12.

So perhaps you had all better buy two copies of issue 53 to give you something to read during our absence!

## 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.

## ... by force and clamour'

Woodcote  
Nr Workop

Dear Gay News,

While agreeing with a great deal of what Mr Madigan says (Madigan's Log, GN50), I take issue with him on two points.

I submit that his thesis that "strong, dignified, reasonable, mellow persuasion" is the weapon with which to defeat prejudice and oppression is not supported by historical fact. Almost every victory over oppression that one can think of has been won, not by dignified reason and persuasion but by force and clamour.

Before people can be got to listen to reasonable argument they must first be convinced that the alternative to listening is discomfort and disturbance. In a world of competing claims for attention one is compelled to be strident in order to be heard. Much as one may deplore the escalating violence in, for example, Ulster, the fact remains that it was not until the minority began to demonstrate in support of its rights that any action to end their oppression began to be talked about. I would suggest that demonstration, confrontation and, if need be, force are necessary parts of the persuasion process. So, of course, is the marshalling of dignified and reasonable arguments. In our case the blatant exhibitionism that Mr Madigan dislikes may be a necessary and useful factor in compelling society to pay attention to a problem that it has itself created.

The second point on which I want to take him up is his objection to the use of the word "gay". It has become fashionable lately (I heard the same complaint voiced in two recent radio programmes) to object to the use of the word "gay" when referring to homosexuals on the grounds that it is inaccurate and corrupts the true meaning of the word thereby impoverishing and debasing the language. This argument would, to my mind, have more force if the literary gentlemen who use it could show that the same arguments were deployed against the use of such words as "queer", "pansy", "fruit", etc. These words are also used incorrectly and such use impoverishes and debases the language. But I do not recall much protest being made in these cases. I suspect that the truth of the matter is that there is no objection to the use of words that have pejorative connotations and which have been imposed on us from outside. It is our temerity in choosing a word of our own that does not have these unpleasant overtones that really raises objection.

Ike Cowen

## Political sympathy

London SE16

Dear Gay News,

Very soon now there is going to be a General Election. I hope that gays will remember that the only political party that has shown us any real sympathy is the Liberal party.

John Fitzgerald

## Slender evidence

Leeds

Dear Gay News,

Your article on the attitude of the Unitarian Church to gayness (GN50) was interesting. But it is unfortunate that in the telling you seem to have accepted a piece of 'straight' interpretation of Scripture, when you accuse St Paul of teaching that "no homosexual shall enter heaven."

Presumably you have in mind I Corinthians 6:9. There Paul lists two classes of persons who will not inherit the kingdom of heaven. The two Greek words, *malakoi* and *arsenokoitai*, are frequently translated together as "homosexuals" by modern translations. It seems to me, however, that the translators are guilty of an unpardonable lack of thought. Paul's precise meaning is not so clear. The words technically mean "soft, or effeminate" and "one guilty of unnatural acts" (whatever that may mean) or simply "paederast". Either the Apostle was being deliberately vague, or he had in mind some clearly definable term, probably linked to the flourishing male prostitution of first century Roman cities.

This in itself does not prove anything, but it does show that care must be used when assuming what the New Testament teaches. Many gay Christians have great difficulty in reconciling the two aspects of their lives, because both gays and straights have assumed that such verses as this make the two incompatible. But such a conclusion cannot fairly be drawn from such slender or ambiguous evidence.

Tony Reed

ED: Some of the ambiguity, according to our research editor, is due to over-delicate translations. "Arsenokoitai" refers to those who perform anal intercourse, from which is derived the English term 'arse'.

## So-called experts

London SW12

Dear Gay News,

I can only admit to being sickened by Dr Martin Coles' apology in GN50.

Far from saying he was wrong, he pleaded he was misunderstood by what some people in CHE describe as the strong GLF contingent. It appears to me that far from an apology, this is just an extension of his view that homosexuality is inferior to heterosexuality, and that gay people are therefore not qualified to comment.

To look at the causes of homosexuality in isolation to the causes of heterosexuality is in itself an unscientific approach, but more important a prejudicial one. Dr Cole does not seem to have realised that his, like any theories, have assumptions; nor that his basic assumption is that homosexuality is less valid than heterosexuality.

No doubt Martin Cole will deny that this was his assumption. As I am a member of CHE as well as GLF, I received my 'CHE Conference Special Report' with my bulletin this month, in which I was told that "Dr Martin Cole urged us to be proud of our gayness and to be more tolerant towards heterosexuals." No doubt making such statement would appear fine, but when Cole tells us as he did in Malvern Conference that gay people are hormonally imbalanced, or that our sexuality is a result of being teased by a member of the opposite sex, without postulating a similar explanation for heterosexuality, can he deny his prejudice?

One question to ask is why was Martin Cole invited to the conference in the first place? It was obvious from his film 'Growing Up' that he did not see where homosexuality fitted in relation to sex education (there was no mention of homosexuality in his film), nor did he see any reason to challenge sex roles. And why was he invited to talk on the causes of homosexuality, do members of CHE want to discover the cause of this scourge so they can irradiate it?

Should it not be our job to define our own sexuality and not let ourselves be told what it is by society's so-called experts?

Keith Hoan

## 'Embarrassment of many'

Bristol

Dear Gay News,

Reference to 'London Remembers' (GN50).

Being two of the grossly over-estimated three hundred gays who attended the gathering in Hyde Park of June 23rd, in celebration of the Anniversary of Gay Lib (a fact of which the Gay Switchboard was unaware), we would like to tender our disgust and disappointment at the way the afternoon turned out.

An afternoon of spectating it rightly was, and a large number of gays took full advantage of this by shouting camp remarks and acting in an outrageous manner towards the general public, much to the embarrassment of many, and leaving the layman with an ill and totally wrong impression of gays.

In your article you mentioned the melting into the trees of many families around. What you failed to mention was that a large number of gays walked close to, but would not join into the group because of the irresponsible actions of the centre of the group.

If we aim for acceptance and equality in society, we must act as responsible citizens. Let us have our gaydays and gatherings, but let us conduct ourselves as a law-abiding group, which the majority of us are, and not as anti-social misfits.

David Longstaff  
David Lloyd

## Gay civil servants unite

CHE Bristol Group

33 Pembroke Road

Clifton

Bristol

BS8 3BE

Dear Gay News,

Nearly all of us live much, if not most, of our lives earning a living at a place of work. For most gay people it is very difficult to live anything but a double life, involving secrecy and repression at work, even if they live fully as gay people at other times.

Therefore it is vital that the homophile movement should encourage the growth of caucuses within unions and professions that work to end whatever discrimination may exist and to encourage a positive attitude to homophiles as employees and fellow workers.

As a civil servant I would like to do something like this in my own field. I don't say that overt discrimination against us is rife in government employment. I declared my membership in CHE in the application for my present post, and it did no harm, and the attitudes of people at work have been quite encouraging. However, at Malvern we heard how one man has been refused promotion simply because he is gay, and clearly in the higher grades and in certain departments homosexuals are deliberately discriminated against.

There is scope here for a group of homophile civil servants to act. I would like to get a response from any of your readers who are civil servants (there must be thousands). What do they think of the idea? What would they like to see done? What are they prepared to do? I want an exchange of ideas going before contacting any official or union journals or bodies.

Hoping to hear from all you gay civil servants soon.

Bob Elbert



Illustration: Garry Cobb

## Somewhat remote

London NW6

Dear Gay News,

As a fairly new reader (since issue 40), I would like to thank you for all the information, news, and views that you manage to fit into each issue.

The only suggestion I would make, is that possibly, for those who have not yet ventured "into" the gay scene, and whose only outlet you represent, your paper might seem somewhat remote, rather than acting as a medium that would help them accustom themselves to their gayness.

Obviously the purpose of *Gay News* is to present a view of the whole spectrum of the gay community, and not to mollycoddle those who have not yet found the courage to make a call to the Gay Switchboard, with the "live" conversation that this entails, but I'm sure many readers might appreciate a page with, perhaps, crosswords and competitions, and also news of the starting of clubs, from football to poetry, classics to rock, together with an address where an impersonal letter could help them come out without the onus being directly on sexual involvement.

Mike Young

## Stupid prejudice

Dear Gay News,

I read with dismay the report in your last issue concerning the ban that has been imposed on Peter Katin and Campaign for Homosexual Equality by the Tunbridge Wells District Council.

My disgust at this pointless and stupid prejudice from the area's ratepayers' employees was further heightened after seeing the interview with Mr Katin on the CHE television programme.

Who do these servants of the community think they are? Setting themselves up as arbiters of public attitudes.

I have seen and been delighted by Mr Katin's performances, on several occasions, and am saddened by what has so far transpired in this matter. I look forward to reading in your columns of a reversal of the Council's decision.

Bill Harvey

## Belfast women

Uisterville Gardens

Belfast

Dear Gay News,

To enable the question of Belfast Gay Liberation Society's conflict with the Women's Liberation group to be discussed, certain of the inaccuracies in our Belfast sisters' report (GN49) need to be pointed out.

The Belfast conference was jointly arranged by GLS and WL under the auspices of Union of Sexual Freedoms in Ireland, underpinning the potential in USFI for a broad-based liberation grouping. The gay workshop on the Saturday did not take place as the speaker, on sex education, cancelled. Thus no thematic topic was discussed. A workshop was held the next day on law reform.

Our sisters say they were "determined to question what this USFI was, what it was supposed to be doing for women. If nothing why not?" Such an attitude from people who were members of USFI is inexcusable. One gets from an organisation what one can. Expect nothing to come to you of its own accord. Awaiting USFI to do something for women is self-oppressive, and particularly so for women.

A WL member of the GLS collective was asked in what specific ways she felt she was being oppressed by its male members. To say, as the report does, that the women were greeted by a genuinely surprised query "But where do you feel oppressed?" deliberately distorts the question from its original context.

The difficulty of close links between gay and WL groups stems from the different types of member. WL attracts women of already heightened and radical political consciousness, and a sense of their own oppression. Gay groups have no inbuilt understanding of the status of women and their membership ranges from the left to the right, and many are apolitical. Consciousness of the nature of oppression is only gradually raised. And the difficulty for many gays, both men and women, is that their political outlook has been severely affected by isolation in early years, attempts to conform, and in many cases an unconscious self-hate.

Nonetheless, liaison is necessary especially to enable gays and non-gays to appreciate the greater nature of sexual politics and to give mutual support in the fight against our common oppressors. USFI will continue and grow at a rate dictated by the breadth of its membership.

Jeff Dudgeon

# Battle continues over International Congress reception

## Edinburgh Tories resist civic welcome

EDINBURGH: The row over whether the proposed International Congress on Gay Rights, to be held in Edinburgh this Christmas, should be given a civic reception, continues to rage in the local council.

As we reported in our last issue (GN51), a sub-committee of Edinburgh Council turned down the request of Derek Ogg, president of Edinburgh University Students' Association and congress organiser, to hold such a reception.

Since then the matter has been discussed by the influential Lord Provost's committee and by nine votes to seven this committee agreed to recommend to the full council meeting on July 25 that a reception be given.

This move to grant a reception was supported by Labour members and one Liberal member, while right-wing members with Cllr Magnus Williamson (Lab) voted to refuse the application.

Cllr Malcolm Knox (Con) said: "I am aware we are now obliged by law to tolerate these people but I hardly think there is any call on this corporation to recognise their existence, let alone accord them the privilege of a civic reception."

Baillie George Foulkes (Lab) said that about ten per cent of the population were homosexuals, a significant minority. They should be given a friendly welcome.

Press coverage on this issue was considerable. The *Evening News* devoted a whole column to editorial comment, which advocated refusing the application.

Ian Dunn, the congress secretary, in preparation for the full council meeting, has



Congress Secretary Ian Dunn

sent a letter to the 69 council members in an attempt to enlist their support.

He states that the main aim of the congress is education. It will provide a very necessary meeting-point for representatives from a large number of gay organisations to discuss matters of common policy and concern.

## Plans well advanced for conference

LONDON: Outline plans for the International Gay Rights Congress in Edinburgh were revealed at a meeting in London recently.

Derek Ogg, Senior President of Edinburgh University Students' Association and congress organiser, said that it was planned to hold the gathering between December 27 and 31. The four-day congress would end up with a Hogmanay party. Accommodation was available for these dates, and many people would be on holiday.

A tentative agenda had been drawn up for the meeting to consider. The aim of the Congress was not to lay down precise policy for delegates who attended, but rather to discuss the situations of gays in various countries and to try to identify areas of mutual concern over which international action might be possible.

Under the general discussion of law, it was suggested that the congress might frame a resolution for an amendment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and perhaps a similar resolution for the European code. A speaker from the International Law Commission is to be invited. Before congress meets, the organisers hope that delegates will have been circulated with background on the laws which exist in various countries.

On campaigning and publicity, the idea of an international gay press association was mentioned. It was felt to be worthwhile making a concerted effort to persuade the International Labour Organisation to take a stand against discrimination in employment, and mounting a campaign within the various Library organisations who control much of the information which is disseminated about homosexuality. The organisers also want a symbol to be devised for the congress, and it was felt that such a symbol might be used in the future as an international gay sign, for example on information posters in city centres or railway stations for gays who were strangers to the place they were visiting. *Gay News* agreed to run a competition for the design of this symbol, details of which will be published later.

The lesbian/feminist movement will also be a major topic at the congress. There appears to be a great discrepancy between various countries over their consciousness of sexist oppression, and much could be learnt from examining the different social and political situations which led to such differences in attitude.

The situation of young gay people should also take up a good part of the meeting. In some countries, there are legal problems over age, but in almost all countries the questions of parental control and sex education are live issues.

There is also to be a session on befriending and counselling, another area in which there

are great differences in approach across the world.

It has also been suggested that congress takes a look at one of the most important problems in which gays may be able to help—the problem of homophobia from which so many heterosexuals seem to suffer. If given enough help and information by gay people, it is believed that many heterosexuals could lead full and useful lives and put behind them their neuroses about homosexuality.

Derek Ogg and Ian Dunn (congress secretary) are confident that the arrangements for the congress can be completed in time, and they managed to convince many of the sceptics who attended the London meeting. They have access to extensive professional administrative assistance, and accommodation plans are being made at the moment. Derek astonished the meeting when he showed that people attending could be boarded and fed for £15 for the four days. He suggested that the registration fee may even be lower if they could get sponsorship from gay commercial organisations and gay individuals. There were also plans for cheap student accommodation which would cost about £5 for the four days.

Ian Dunn has sent GN the following appeal for financial assistance:

"A great deal has been achieved so far in organising the congress, and the Scottish Press have picked up on the debate which is raging in Edinburgh Town Council over whether or not to extend a Civic Welcome to delegates. A pamphlet is being prepared in six languages.

"John Lindsay (Gay Switchboard), Roger Depledge (CHE York convenor), Jason Pollock, Lionel Standing, Ashley de Safrin (CHE Travel) have all volunteered for various tasks, and in Edinburgh Derek and Ian have been joined by two SMG members so as to spread the work load there.

"We are now jointly appealing to *Gay News* readers for some financial help in putting the Congress on a sound financial basis. Our appeal is for £1000 which sounds a lot in one breath, but already SMG has agreed to allocate specific disco surpluses towards the appeal. This will raise £100. I will be contacting CHE members and groups through the CHE Bulletin, but hope no one will be offended with this prior appeal for help.

"We have opened an account at the Bank of Scotland. If you think that you can help, then make out cheques to 'International Gay Rights Congress 1974' and post them to Derek Ogg, Old College, Edinburgh EH8 9YL. Our day-time number is 031-667 8005 (Derek Ogg). In the evening ring 031-667 7473 (Ian Dunn). We will acknowledge all donations and pledge to devote the money to the benefit of this important event."

# Norfolk groups condemn gay club

NORWICH: Members of the Norwich group of Campaign for Homosexual Equality, the Norwich Centre Group and Norwich Friend, have been perturbed recently by the activities of an organisation calling itself 'The Anglian Gay Club'.

This 'club' has been distributing a quarterly bulletin all over Norfolk, and leaving copies in public places.

The bulletin is an obnoxious piece of literature which gives details of films, photographs and books for sale, reproduces supposed correspondence from members and runs a "confidential advice" service. However, the bulletin does not give a contact address, which makes the production and distribution of the sheet totally pointless.

The CHE group believes it is the work of just one person, and that no such organisation as the 'Anglian Gay Club' exists.

The three groups have put out a joint statement declaring that they have no con-

nection with the 'club'. It goes on: "Furthermore we abhor the methods used to distribute the so-called bulletin of that organisation, which it leaves in public places such as toilets, on buses and trains and even worse still, inside library books which are likely to be read by minors.

"We condemn in the strongest possible terms the person or persons responsible for the production and distribution of the said bulletin."

The statement is signed by Peter Bishop, CHE convenor and acting secretary NCG, and copies have been sent to the Chief Constable of Norfolk Joint Police, and the Chief Librarian of Norfolk County Council.

If any of our readers have any information on this bulletin—who produces it and from where—we ask that they contact our editorial office or get in touch with Peter Bishop (Norwich CHE).

## Gay mums continue meeting

LONDON: Members of Sappho's gay mothers and wives group have agreed to hold all-London meetings in addition to their local group meetings.

The purpose of the all-London get-togethers will be to pool members' experiences of their dealings with such people as lawyers and doctors, in an attempt to help those women who will be faced with the problems of custody of children and divorce in the future. The next such meeting will be held towards the end of September.

A network of local members is being built up to provide support and advice for any sisters in need of help.

The main aim of the group is to make unmarried gays and the general public recognise the existence of married and divorced gay women who are bringing up children. The sisters hope to enlist the support and understanding of the rest of the gay community.

In future, it is hoped that single sisters will make themselves available to look after and entertain children while their mothers are at the meeting. At the most recent gathering, held at Centre in North London, teenage children of members were to have been invited to join in the discussions, but the move was vetoed by Centre.

For further information, and details of the next meeting, please write to Sappho, BCM/Petrel, London WC1 6XX.

## LBC gay phone-in

LONDON: London Broadcasting held a gay phone-in on Wednesday week, which carried on into the early hours of the next morning.

The gay guests in the studio answering listeners' questions were Jackie Forster, editor of *Sappho* and CHE member, and Roger Baker, editor of *Quorum* and *Gay News* contributor. The show was hosted by 'Nightline' compere, David Bassett.

Roger Baker told GN, after the show, that he felt the programme had been entertaining and had covered most angles of gay life adequately.

He thought it interesting to note that the callers who had flatly condemned homosexuality had been unable to put forward a well-reasoned argument, and their attitudes stemmed largely from ignorance. "But the range of calls was terrific—I really enjoyed myself," Roger concluded.

One of the callers was Peter Katin, the internationally celebrated pianist, who recently was banned from playing a concert in Tunbridge Wells organised by CHE. He informed listeners that he had now obtained the support of a musicians' organisation in his and CHE's fight against the ban.

LBC received a number of complaints about the show on their George Gale phone-in programme the following morning. One woman resorted to the hoary old myth that homosexuality, throughout history, had caused the downfall of many a great nation...

## Law reform publicity

BIRMINGHAM: A meeting to further discuss the publicity campaign in connection with Campaign for Homosexual Equality's law reform Bill, which the organisation intends to publish this autumn, has been arranged for August 10 in Birmingham.

The exact venue had not been decided as we went to press, but further details will be obtainable later from the CHE national office in Manchester, the telephone number being Manchester (061) 228 1985.

## Students' Union statement supports Irish gays

BELFAST: "Queens University Students Representative Council of the Students' Union recognises the peculiarly oppressive laws and attitudes that affect Ireland's homosexuals and greater number of bisexuals."

So read the press statement which Alistair McDowell, retiring QUB students' union president, was persuaded to release by Belfast Gay Liberation Society, to coincide with the Norwegian world day of protest for Irish gays.

Next year's students' union executive council is likely to be anti-GLS and it is expected that this statement will anger some of the new members.

The statement went on: "We note in particular the laws as they relate to homosexual behaviour in Ireland, by which male homosexuals, whatever their age, are liable to life imprisonment and we call upon the Northern Ireland secretary of state and the UK government to see archaic and oppressive laws repealed. We further ask that discrimination on the grounds of sex and sexual orientation be outlawed."



GLS Secretary Brian Gilmore

The statement appealed for homosexuality to be included in the sex education of all schools and called upon the Minister of Education, the teachers' unions, the clergy, the teaching orders and the medical profession for their support and help in eradicating the prejudices, misunderstandings and hostilities that homosexuals faced.

It further said that the Union recognised the invaluable work that Cara, the gay telephone befriending and information service had done for gays who were socially and emotionally isolated. The demand had been so great that the service had been temporarily replaced with a postal one. "We are now trying to find permanent premises for Cara as soon as possible so that the service can be restored and expanded."

The statement concluded: "We, the Queens University Students' Union Executive, pledge ourselves to do all in our power to end discrimination, intolerance and prejudice against all homosexuals, male or female, student or non-student."

## STOP PRESS

Edinburgh Council refuses civic welcome by 32 votes to 29 votes.

# CHE Activists highlight problems

LONDON: In the determination to avoid the bureaucracy that has plagued CHE in the past, the CHE Activists almost entirely ignored the problems of organisation when they met recently in London to discuss action plans.

The opening session had been intended to settle questions of organisation. A discussion paper on structure suggested that the group should have no officers, no hierarchy, and the minimum formal structure. There would be three principal elements in their administration—the Activists Register (listing names and addresses of individuals, together with a list of their special skills or interests), regular Activists Conferences, and a Revolving Committee.

The Revolving Committee would have a circulating membership. Each newly constituted committee would hold 'office' between regular Initial meetings (meetings at which a new committee takes over), a period of about two months. In these two months it would compile and amend the register, prepare reports on Activists work, organise Activists Conference, and arrange for the incoming Revolving Committee to take over.

Each Revolving Committee would probably be based in one particular area of the country, to make communications easier. But no one part of the country should be used more than twice a year.

Activists as individuals would be required to send in reports on the work they had done, and anyone who failed to report for a certain number of months would be presumed to have gone into hibernation, and be dropped from the Registrar.

However, when it came to discussing these proposals in detail, many people felt that it would make more sense to discuss first what the Activists would actually be

doing, before deciding on an appropriate structure to support such action.

As a result, no decisions were made as to how the actual clockwork would run feeding members (scattered nationwide) with information, instigating action on particular issues, and coordinating action with other groups. Much will depend on the ingenuity of the first Revolving Committee which may have to set all the precedents for the Activists future operating plan.

David Starkey introduced the second session on the purpose of Activists, based on a paper entitled 'Active at What?'. The notes referred to the watch-dog role of Activists, jumping on anti-gay press articles, protesting to producers of anti-gay TV shows and telling other Activists about the incident so that they too can protest. There was also a role for Activists in helping out as front line troops in CHE's national campaigns. They should be the source of pamphlets on ideology (most of the ideas about the politics of sexuality had originated from America, and there were many places where American analyses did not apply to the British situation). And finally the paper talked about the problems that might be caused by its position within CHE, and how it would work with the rest of the organisation.

Liz Stanley layed great emphasis on the importance of the Activists conference in the discussions that followed. People had to be absorbed within the Activists, and made aware of what the group was doing. Personal relationships between the Activists had to be fostered if it wasn't going to be another little group with half a dozen of the old familiar faces doing all the work, without involving the remaining members. The conferences were, she said, "the kernel of CHE Activists. That is where we communicate with each other, where we get new ideas, where we learn about each other, where we go through a communication process which helps us grow as people and as people who are gay activists."

Glenys Parry agreed. She too insisted on the importance of personal contact. "This sort of thing doesn't work until we have a network of contact who we actually know."

Examples of what Activists could be doing were mentioned. The Peter Katin affair was brought up. Activists decided to write letters. They also decided to write letters to Edinburgh Council over the civic reception for the International Gay Rights Congress. And so it went on.

In the afternoon, workshops were held on four topics, law reform, young gays, women, and trades unions/professional associations.

Trevor Locke, reporting back on the Young Gays workshop, asked the Activists to arrange a special conference on the problem. Similar requests were made for the subject of women and trades unions.

But very little was actually achieved. Was it all a waste of time then?



Trevor Locke of Young Gays Workshop

The answer must be no, not necessarily. The group is very new. Activists are signing up on the Register in large numbers, so that the membership itself is still changing. This was their first conference, and it was almost bound to be a 'shot in the dark'.

In retrospect the value of the meeting could be immense—not because much constructive happened, but because it clearly highlighted many problems which the new group faces, many of them problems which people did not even know existed. The important next step is that the Activists sit down calmly and decide what the problems are, and what sort of solutions they can attempt.

How is the all-important personal relationship to be established? Individual's reports to the group should be as personal as possible. No one should be afraid to express opinions in their reports. Conferences should include small group discussion periods (not necessarily on particular topics like feminism or trades unionism), preferably in the evenings, instead of the inevitable mass frolics at discos perhaps, where people seldom get the chance to get to know one another in a meaningful way.

Political consciousness seems to be low in the group. But this is a problem which has been noted by some members already. In particular, the demands of the feminist movement were not appreciated by many of those attending. But the impression that many women got was of a group ignorant, but prepared to listen and be instructed. This is not true of very many other groups in CHE who think of women as simply sources of subscription revenue, rather than sources of ideas about the nature of sexual oppression.

There were other problems. It is up to the Activists to identify and comment on them in their reports, and then to act on them. In this way, the conference may turn out to have been a very constructive and educative event.

## Sex law reform overdue

CHICHESTER: The present legal framework governing private sexual behaviour was based on ancient superstition and was so anachronistic that only bigots and socially immature charlatans could lend it support. Sexual law reform was well overdue.

Speaking to a meeting of marriage guidance counsellors and social workers at Chichester recently, *Gay News* correspondent Richard Thomson forecast that while the draft CHE bill might be temporarily ignored by the legislators due to pressing economic problems, the time was ripe for an immediate Government enquiry to re-examine the unsatisfactory 1967 Sexual Offences Act and its enforcement by the police. The report of the Sexual Law Reform Association, to be published shortly, would act as a spur for legislation along the lines proposed by CHE.

"I need not remind anyone in this room that the legal situation since Wolfenden is grossly prejudicial to the public in general and homosexuals in particular," Richard continued. "The 1967 Act was a shoddy hypocritical compromise which ignored the basis of wise jurisprudence, which is that the law should have no place in the private lives of citizens. Yet now we have a situation where it is perfectly and legally possible for two men over 21 to indulge in sodomy, while husband and wife face life imprisonment for the same act."

"How can homosexuals be expected to respect the law which they know is unjust and discriminatory; where a 16-year-old boy can have sexual relations with a woman, yet dare not enjoy relations with another male person until he is 21? What possible justification is there for maintaining that Scotland and Northern Ireland should have a different code of legally approved sexual conduct from the rest of the United Kingdom? Homosexuals do not cease to be homosexuals just because they do not have the rubber stamp of legislative authority."

Richard finished his attack on the 1967 Sexual Offences Act by outlining the situations of servicemen and merchant seamen, and appealed to social service workers to motivate influential public opinion in demanding a rationalisation of law designed to regulate sexual behaviour.

## Gay fest impresses author

OLYMPIA, USA: The gay students' association of the Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, recently organised a three-day "laboratory festival on gay people and culture."

Mark Freedman, prominent gay activist and author of *Homosexuality and Psychological Functioning*, writes that he was tremendously impressed with this conference and hopes it will be the first of many diversified gay get-togethers.

The conference was an in-depth exploration of gay culture—in fact the first discussion asked the question "What is gay culture?"

Mark says: "Each one of us on the panel had a different notion. This confirmed my idea that we are just beginning to discover the various facets of our history and identity."

The rest of the conference provided many examples of gay culture—songs, poetry, films, graphics, photographs, books and plays.



Kate Millet, author of *Sexual Politics*

Kate Millet, highly acclaimed author of the Women's Liberation book *Sexual Politics*, displayed a series of Japanese-style prints, "Lovely Ladies," in which women's torsos were magically transformed into faces, with nipple-eyes and vagina-mouths.

Mark concludes: "The gay student group's effort demonstrates that any 'together' association could accomplish the same thing, given a lot of dedication and energy. I hope other groups will try."



CHE Activist Liz Stanley

## Gay teachers group

LONDON: Most gay teachers are afraid to be known as gay in their schools, mainly because of fears that their careers would suffer.

Members of the recently formed CHE Gay Teachers Group believe that many of these fears are groundless, and that it is self-oppression which makes such teachers pretend to be heterosexual. The main purpose of the group, therefore, is to help gay teachers to come out within schools. To this end, its members will be pushing for recognition of the status of gays within the NUT and similar unions, and working to secure union backing in fighting genuine cases of victimisation or discrimination.

If you are a gay teacher who has come out in school, the group wants to hear about it—your experiences may help others to do the same. If you are a gay teacher who is being victimised, we also want to know—perhaps we can help.

The group needs many more gay and bisexual teachers to join it if this work is to be effective, and those wishing to do so should contact Tony Brockman, 11 Birnam Road, Finsbury Park, London, N4 3LJ, enclosing a SAE for a reply.

Gay Teachers

## Red Lion Square demo

LONDON: An apology to the members of South London GLF, who joined demonstrators at Red Lion Square (see our report in GN50).

Apparently the police diverted the demonstrators emerging from Old North Street into Red Lion Square and not into Old North Street as we had in our report.

Furthermore, Bill Thornycroft (South London GLF) points out that it was impossible for demonstrators to charge the police, as some press reports had suggested. "There was not room to charge," he tells us.

## The Leith police dismisseth us

EDINBURGH: SMG discos will go ahead as usual, despite police threats to owners of the hall.

In GN51 we reported that Leith police had threatened to withdraw the functions licence from the Shetland Association's Zetland Hall if there was any more trouble at SMG discos regularly held there. A few disturbances had occurred when local heavies made a nuisance of themselves.

The Shetland Association reluctantly went to SMG and said that they could no longer use the Hall. Members of SMG were naturally angry as the trouble at their discos had been caused by outsiders. They saw it as a deliberate attempt to close their social functions.

Four members therefore asked to speak

to Sir John Inch, Edinburgh's Chief Constable. They were invited to meet his representative Chief Superintendent Pringle of Edinburgh City Police (of which Leith police is one division).

Graham Hamilton, one of the SMG members who attended, told *Gay News* that "we were well pleased with the friendly reception." Pringle made it quite clear to them that they would be offered the same police service as any other public group. They would not have the Hall closed down, unless of course they infringed the terms of the licence. But they were just as entitled to police protection as anyone else.

Other members of the gay delegation were Mike Coulson, Danny Mullen and Ian Christie.

## Southampton CHE on BBC

SOUTHAMPTON: The Southampton group of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality was recently given the freedom of the air, when convenor David Porter and colleague Ms Jason Thompson took part in a phone-in programme compered by Radio Solent personality Dave Freeman.

The 75 minute programme was transmitted throughout the whole of central southern England and has already brought a number of enquiries about the CHE group and the Solent branch of Friend.

27-year-old David Porter was more than a match for the station host who confessed from the outset that although he had no strong feelings one way or the other, the subject of homosexuality "produced a gut reaction of minor revulsion."

Ms Joyce Smith of Waterlooville thought homosexuality was sinful and wondered why both David and Jason didn't desire to be "cured."

Another caller, Ms Valerie Davis, believed

that most homosexual acts were conducted between Merchant seamen. This view was obviously prompted by Southampton's seafaring connections, and local knowledge of gay bars frequented by sailors.

A plea for tolerance came from an anonymous caller to the programme who was the mother of a lesbian. She explained at great length the anguish and torment her sensitive daughter had experienced in trying to come to terms with gayness.

Southampton CHE can be pleased with its performance. As an exercise in public education it was a brave excursion into an area of grave social ignorance. Congratulations are also due to programme host Dave Freeman for not letting his "gut reaction" show.

But much of the debate clearly fell on stony ground. BBC Radio Solent helped to confirm what every gay already knows: public prejudice, ignorance, and superstition is endemic.

Richard Thomson

# Lesbian wins custody of children

AUSTRALIA: A 25-year-old lesbian has been given the custody of her two children by the South Australian Supreme Court, because a judge believed her love would safeguard them.

The mother, who lives with another woman, was told by Mr Justice Bright that the days were gone when courts disqualified a woman from the role of parent because she had engaged in some form of extra-marital sex "be it heterosexual or homosexual."

In granting the application, the Judge unfortunately saw fit to lay down three undertakings:

That the mother will not sleep in the other woman's bedroom overnight or allow the other woman to sleep in her bedroom;

That she will not engage in or permit any acts of a sexual nature with the other woman in the presence of the children;

And that she will make arrangements with a doctor to see the children at intervals of not more than a year.

Opposition to the application came from a doctor, who gave evidence. He thought that to have children brought up in an aura of female homosexuality was likely to be disastrous for them.

But in the end the Judge was influenced most by his strong belief in the woman's very great love for her children. "I believe that herein lies the best safeguard for the children."

# Last minute change for SMG forum

DUNDEE: The Scottish Minorities Group's second national forum and disco were scheduled to be held in the fair city of Perth, but due to a double booking at the City Mills Hotel, the event had to be switched at the last minute to Dundee.

The double booking was a genuine error. The new assistant manager had forgotten the hotel's regular Saturday supper dance. However, the Manager apologised and offered the hotel for the afternoon's events. But by that time we had already negotiated with the Tay Centre Hotel, who agreed to hold both the forum and the disco on their premises.

The theme of the forum was Befriending, and 60 delegates from all over Scotland attended. Ted Clapham of Friend was present. John Breslin chaired the meeting and Danny Mullen reported on the National Executive activities since the last forum in March. Mike Coulson and Malcolm Crowe reported on the activities of the Campaign and Law Reform committees, and CHE's Malvern Conference was discussed at length.

The second part of the forum was opened by Cecil Sinclair of Edinburgh's Befriending Committee and Ruth Schrock continue<sup>d</sup> by describing the psychological implications of befriending.

In the evening, in a somewhat lighter vein, about 80 members and friends attended a



SMG Chairman Danny Mullen

very enjoyable disco in the Hotel's Rosemount Suite.

Eric Robertson  
Secretary - SMG Dundee

# Council rejects Gay News

ROCHDALE: After a heated debate at a recent meeting of Rochdale Council, it was decided that *Gay News* should not be made available in the town's public library.

The vote upheld a committee recommendation (reported in GN50) to turn down a request that the paper should be displayed.

Cllr S H Moore, at the full council meeting, moved that the matter be reconsidered. He said that the local press, in their coverage of the issue, may have conveyed a wrong impression by calling the newspaper a magazine.

He went on to say that a democratic society should tolerate minorities. The newspaper was not designed to offend but was meant to be informative.

He was supported by Cllr I Royle, who said that there must be a very good argument for something to be censored. "Censorship

in this case is not necessary. It is not good enough to say that this section of the community is not respectable."

Cllr J P Brown said that if the newspaper was not going to appear, the committee should look into every publication already made available. "Many national papers publish drivel every day."

Support for the provision of GN also came from the local Labour Party organisation. Five CHE activists attended a meeting of the Young Socialists to talk about GN and gay affairs. Following this, a motion was put to a Trades and Labour Council Meeting and this overwhelmingly passed a motion that the library make the newspaper available.

The local Young Liberals were also making a similar demand.

But, in the end, the Council voted 40-16 in favour of not stocking *Gay News*.

# The spires stop dreaming

OXFORD: On paper the gay scene in Oxford sounds pretty good—the first (really the first) gay switchboard, a fair enough gay bar, a successful twice weekly disco, a gay women's organisation, and two CHE groups.

In fact, although the teeny bopper social side goes with a swing, nothing actually happens. There is no feeling of a gay community with an identity and common aims. Or rather, there wasn't until recently.

A handful of local gays returned from Malvern and decided to get something going, to reactivate Oxford CHE. First, they persuaded over 30 people to attend a meeting to discuss the group's future.

Out of this meeting and a subsequent even better attended one, the nucleus of a local activist group was formed. There was a terrific response in support of local counselling services (the gay telephone and Friend) and it was decided to work towards a genuine alternative to the commercial social scene.

At last something is happening in Oxford. There are regular monthly meetings of CHE that people actually come to, and an informal coffee/social takes place every Friday.

But we need support, we need people, we need ideas. Ring 0865 (Oxford) 45301 between 7.00 and 8.00pm, or write to OCHE, 34 Cowley Road, Oxford OX4 1HZ.

Jeffrey Frankland

# GLU picnic in Hyde Park

LONDON: Gay London United (GLU), the recently-formed liaison committee, which hopes to bring together members of the many various gay organisations which are in existence, is organising a picnic in Hyde Park on Sunday August 11.

Everyone in the gay community is invited, and those wishing to attend are asked to congregate at Speakers' Corner at noon.

Pauline Hamilton (of Pauline and Sally, in Finchley, North London), who is the convenor of GLU, asked anyone who intends going along to take suitable picnic fare with them.

The committee is also in the preparatory stages of organising a weekend seminar to be held in mid-November. At the moment, arrangements are being made about a suitable venue. It is hoped that the London University Union building will be available for the conference.

# Young Tories get the facts

RICHMOND: John Farquharson of CHE spoke to Richmond Young Conservatives recently about the prejudice and discrimination from which many homosexuals suffer.

The talk, which took place at Suffield House, Paradise Road, Richmond, was followed by a lengthy discussion with the audience asking many questions.

# CHE portfolios

MANCHESTER: The remaining responsibilities within CHE have been allocated to Executive Committee members.

John Bennett, who has already accepted responsibility for armed forces and the merchant navy and for Homophile Group Liaison, will take care of international liaison as well.

Paul Temperton, who had been expected to take on the international relations job, will in fact be in charge of Parliamentary Lobbying and relations with political parties.

The Executive Committee has also agreed to publish a paper on the anti-discrimination Bill dealing with discrimination on the grounds of sex (male or female). The paper will be ready by the end of August.

# Weinberg in England



UK: Dr George Weinberg, American author of *Society and the Healthy Homosexual*, which will be published in the late summer or early autumn by Colin Smythe Ltd, is currently spending the summer in England.

The English edition will include an introduction by *Gay News* editor Denis Lemon, and the book is thought by many to be one of the most positive documents on homosexuality to ever have emerged.

In a forthcoming issue of GN, there will be a dialogue on homophobia by Dr Weinberg and Rictor Norton.

# Sunday Times takes an interest

LONDON: Celia Haddon, writing in a recent issue of the *Sunday Times*, took a look at the increasing demands being made for sexual law reform. Besides the CHE proposals, she noted that the Sexual Law Reform Association would shortly be publishing its own report after three years' work on the subject. The Josephine Butler Society wants 'kerb-crawling' made illegal, and Bishop John Robinson wants the age of consent lowered to 14.

"Since the demand for law reform comes from so many different viewpoints—not necessarily all 'liberal'," she concludes, "the solution might be to set up a Government committee to examine the problems."

Knowing how long Government bodies take to deliberate, gay male readers of the *Sunday Times* might well have decided to emigrate on the spot. If so, a piece on the same page may have been of interest.

David Keys was reporting on the Republic of Athos (heard of it?). Situated in the northern part of the Aegean Sea, the republic has had a men-only population for over one thousand years. But the population is running down (surprise, surprise) and it may not last much longer. Sexism is at least open and straight-forward there—a woman landing on Athos was recently arrested and tried for being female!

The island is run by monks. Men who work in Athos have to leave their wives behind them at the borders.

# Honorary degree

DURHAM: Canon Professor Vigo Auguste Demant, one of the country's top theologians, was awarded an honorary degree—Doctor of Divinity—by Durham University, at a recent congregation in Durham Castle.

Canon Demant, who has had a very distinguished career, was an executive member of the Departmental Committee on Homosexual Offences and Prostitution. Since 1957, he has been a member of the Governing Body of St Chad's College, Durham.

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ADDRESS.....

Photograph: Carl Hill

Photograph: Gay News Photo Library

## Conservative, careful and condescending

As a result, presumably, of a rather brisk letter in *Gay News* asking where the Albany Trust was at, a copy of the magazine produced by that organisation arrived in the office. It is called *Man & Society* and is dated Winter 1973/4. The Trust's supporters received their copies earlier this year, and since it is two years since a previous issue appeared, one hesitates to call it late. There must be many people who didn't know that the Trust puts out a magazine, though; and from Antony Grey's letter in GN51 one would imagine the Trust needed all the help it can get. So why wait for a needling letter before letting GN know what was happening?

Perhaps the reason is that "The Albany Trust is not really a part of the homophile movement." I quote an article by Mr Grey in the magazine. This attitude is repeated in his letter. The Albany Trust, it seems, is dedicated to "the whole range of psychosexual education and social action—not just homosexuality," and is designed to promote "psychological health."

For its Managing Trustee to state that the Albany Trust is not really a part of the homophile movement strikes me as being quite extraordinary. For almost a decade the Albany Trust was the homophile movement in this country. Without the endless, gut-tearing work that Grey and others put in, one really wonders whether the gay movement would ever have started in this country. And now the Trust is coping out with vague references to "psychological health" and "psychosexual education" whatever those ghostly jargon words mean. This change of view must be a great let-down for those who supported the Trust over the years and who, after the passing of the Sexual Offences Act must have looked once more in their direction for further guidance and a bit of action.

But this didn't happen. Mr Grey will quickly point out that the Trust was not in a legal position to open clubs, start magazines or hold meetings on a social level. But it was in a position to spearhead the growing movement. Immediately after the legalisation of male homosexuality (over 21 etc) the Committee for Homosexual Equality tried to start (through *Esquire*) opening gay clubs in the north of England. This venture was not successful, but it received no moral support from the Albany Trust, rather the reverse.

When I agreed to become London convenor for what was by then the Campaign for Homosexuality Equality in 1970 I toddled along to the

Albany Trust for what I hoped would be 'a useful exchange of ideas' as they say, fondly imagining that the Trust would be pleased something like that was starting in London—after all, they were always complaining they couldn't do anything practical for the thousands of people who came to them for help. Instead, Ms Doreen Cordell spent 40 minutes explaining to me in no uncertain terms why CHE should not happen and would not happen. I came away extremely depressed and had it not been for the quite different, highly supportive attitude of Michael Butler I might have just washed my hands of the whole project.

Quite clearly the Albany Trust was just not prepared for the gay movement; CHE was doing it quietly in its little English fashion, and then GLF burst on the scene and I remember vividly one of the early meetings at the LSE when Antony Grey stood up and tried, unsuccessfully, to wet blanket the whole scene. The Albany Trust, it seems, had let the tide come in and found itself stranded, uncertain as to how to catch up with the bright young women and men, specifically in GLF, who were riding the waves.

All this is past history; and when Paul Temperon produces his long-awaited history of the gay movement, I'm sure other perspectives will be opened out. But it does cast a kind of sour back-light on today's antics. Here we have an outfit, claiming to be not a part of the gay movement, yet which has always been associated with the gay movement, complaining about lack of finance, yet doing nothing to let its presence be felt, producing a gay magazine and not telling *Gay News* about it. Weird.

In principle *Man & Society* could find a secure place as a gay magazine; the sort of magazine which I feel is needed, and which for a while it looked as if *Lunch* was going to supply. That is, a magazine which is entirely thoughtful, entirely serious—no pictures, no news, no chat, just well-written, intelligent articles. It is a good production anyway. And, as I say, the present issue is predominantly gay in content. The editorial has a plea for support, and the prediction that "It is probable that 1974 will see the disappearance of several nationally known voluntary groups who will become victims of . . . the problems of success." This must refer to groups dealing with psychological health because it is now July and to my knowledge, *Friend*, *Icebreakers*, *Intergroup* and *Parents Enquiry* show no signs of strain.

Michael Butler contributes an article on "Counselling and Befriending People with Psychosexual Difficulties" which is straightforward stuff, and even though that word crops up again, it is clear he is dealing only with homosexuals. If a

client asks a counsellor: Are you married? Are you homosexual," the counsellor is advised to counter this sort of direct question with another question relative to the client's own situation. If counsellors are advised to be evasive, how can they expect candour from clients, I wonder.

Then we have a long, but shortened, speech Mr Grey delivered to Arcadie, the French equivalent of . . . well, I was going to say CHE, but recent information leads me to believe that Arcadie is the most closeted outfit in the world. Anyway, this article is very interesting inasmuch as it gives a history of the Albany Trust and the Homosexual Law Reform Society, and a brisk survey of the gay groups now existing in the British Isles. One senses in Mr Grey's tone, a disapproval of much that is going on. For example he comments on GLF's neo-Marxist analysis of society as being "not acceptable to a great many other gay people." It isn't, of course, but then his view is equally "not acceptable to a great many other gay people." We have, in fact, a plea for tolerance within the gay movement which sounds all right until one realises that he means no one should rock the boat. I bet it went down well with Arcadie. In his speech, Mr Grey says wittily that one of the few French phrases he knows is *chacun a son gout*; if CHE, GLF, *Gay News*, *Sappho* and the rest took this attitude then no one would get anywhere. The tone is authoritarian, paternalistic and condescending. There's another French phrase Mr Grey might like to add to his sparse vocabulary: *de haut en bas*.

Franklin E Kameny's article 'Gay Is Good' (reprinted from *The Same Sex*) is worth reading but really covers ground that has been so well tilled it's now bearing its second crop. Robert Sprich PhD writes about Havelock Ellis as philosopher and literary critic. Then Charlotte Wolff lets loose for nine and a bit pages, reviewing books, none of which she likes very much because they all seem to be propounding gay liberation and counter-psychiatry. Antony Grey likes Charlotte Wolff's book though, and takes six and a bit pages to tell us so. Michael de-la-Noy hasn't much time for David Blamire's book, and less for Michael Hollings', and we end with more reviews from Antony Grey and Kenneth Leach. As summed up by the articles from Michael Butler, Grey and Ms Wolff, the feel of *Man & Society* is conservative, careful and condescending. I don't think it would have raised an eye-brow in 1964.

Roger Baker

NOTE: Copies of *Man & Society* are available from the Albany Trust, 18 Corsica Street, London N5 1JN, price 40p each (including postage).

## Jo's 'one of the crowd'

LONDON: "A place to relax—more of a social club," is the way that Jo Purvis describes her club, the Vortex, at 62 Tachbrook Street, SW1. And in comparison to the high-pressure gay clubs in the West End, this is something she is obviously proud of.

Of the 500 active members (there are 800 on the club's books), Jo reckons that she knows personally about 70 per cent. "I'm one of the crowd," she told *Gay News* recently.

Around 90 per cent of the members are gay, the club is very mixed and caters for all age groups. Some members are in their teens, while at the other end of the scale, others are over 60.

Jo thinks that the secret of the club's success stems from the fact that she takes such a personal interest in what goes on. Members are basically "mature (not old) types—people with homes, with friends, who are well integrated."

Jo took the club over in May of last year—it was formerly the Spartan. Before this she was involved in the Rehearsal Club in Soho for seven years. She started there, running gay nights on Sundays and the demand was so great that eventually she was running five nights each week.

The Rehearsal, Jo tells us, was the first London club to run a drag show.

The Vortex, which has a membership fee of £2 per year, runs a disco each Friday. Also, special event nights are held each month.

Jo paid tribute to her members who, she said, had always been very helpful. When she first moved to the club, near Victoria, a number rallied around to help with decoration, and there are always members willing to provide food etc for the monthly specials.

For the future, Jo intends to redecorate the premises and carry out renovation work, including moving the dance hall around.

"I've got a good thing going here, if you like a mixed scene," she concluded.

As a footnote, two of the GN staff went along to the most recent monthly special event—a garden party—and found the club to be all that Jo claims. A rendezvous where one can take a drink, talk and dance, in a quiet informal atmosphere, free of the tensions normally associated with gay venues. And refreshing for the very mixed clientele.

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# Lesbian Mother

by Jeanne

Last year my daughter, in second grade, mentioned casually at dinner, "Today we were talking about what we wanted to be when we grow up. I told Mrs S that it is a secret, but that I wanted to be free when I grew up so I am going to be a Lesbian just like my mom. I figured I could trust her."

Jennifer's trust instincts were OK that day, for her teacher responded that people should be free to do what they want to do. Lucky kid.

There are three important aspects to this incident:

1. The family life that Jennifer experiences was satisfying enough for her to want to imitate it. She sees Lesbianism as both pleasant and possible. It is one alternative open to her.

2. She, at age seven, experiences and is limited by the secrecy that is part of our daily lives. She didn't know that most of the kids in her class had probably never heard the word "Lesbian". Jennifer assumed that they would understand the word and would ridicule her: consequently she measured her knowledge of Mrs S and decided that this person could accept and respect her comments.

3. Had Jennifer been mistaken about Mrs S a terrible scene would have ensued. The teacher would notify the principal who would have Social Workers called in. Our home would be inspected. I'd be told to change my life or see my child placed in an institution. This happens to Lesbian mothers. They are in danger from schools, families, ex-husbands, "concerned neighbours". (Remember that Lesbianism is not "illegal".)

As Jennifer grows older she grows more 'discreet', that is, more afraid. She has not yet asked me to be more cautious, but I expect that will come.

People often say, "You aren't giving your daughter any free choice. You are indoctrinating her into a Lesbian life-style."

"Damn them," I think, then I take a deep breath, grit my teeth and begin. "Look at the world around you. How many ads, stories, TV shows do you see that acknowledge the existence of Lesbianism? My kid lives in that world too. The only place in her life that she sees anything to do with Lesbianism, with women loving women, is in her home. I wish I could know for sure that the good loving Jennifer sees around her would influence her to choose to be with women."

Sure—I'm providing as much of a non-sexist alternative to her as I can. I get books, make up stories, bring people home, all women oriented, all attempting to show humanness under the sex roles. It doesn't begin to balance the weight of the straight male dominated world around her.

Lots of Lesbian mothers are unwilling to share their relationships with their kids. This may be because these women have bought the lies themselves, are ashamed of loving women and don't want to "corrupt" their kids. Or it may be that the fear of discovery is so great that children are excluded from the love between two women. Kids talk. It's hard to stop them. Much safer to hide, sneak around, deny one's relationships, than to risk one's security/livelihood/

children. Much easier than it is to build a trust and understanding with the kids.

Or the possibility that our children will turn on us and spit the "sickie-pervert" line in our faces stops us from really sharing ourselves with them. Teenagers are generally expected to reject the life-style of their parents. They usually do, for a while. But when this happens the straight family has tradition, culture and God on its side. They KNOW they're right and the kid is wrong. The Lesbian mother has nothing but her own feelings to go on. Rejection is a constant spectre. To risk it from our kids is too much for those of us who do not have a deep good feeling about ourselves and a supportive Lesbian community to cushion us.



After some hassling with myself and other Lesbian Feminists, mostly around wanting to protect Jennifer from the real world (my thoughts went something like this—she's too young to understand; she'll have her whole life to face these problems; she won't be able to deal with the conflict between her home and the rest of the world), I realised that if she doesn't get a strong sense of my values she'll be left vulnerable to the male world values that will teach her contempt and loathing for me as a Lesbian. I have told her, gradually, and in ways that she could grasp, about the ways that straight families work and about male domination, economic control and ego gratification; and I have pointed out to her the innumerable injustices and insults to women in books and on TV. I have talked about the lies that the male world tells about women loving women. Her reactions were a shocked disbelief at first and then a gradual understanding of how male supremacy is in Big Trouble when women get together and that's why they hate us.

She'll need every particle of this knowledge to resist the insidious and constant pressure from the straight world; to reject the lewd remarks and looks of her friends; to keep her sense that Lesbianism is good, real and alive.

Wishing that Jennifer wouldn't have to fight the world around her is futile. They have drawn the lines, she either goes down or fights it. I just want to make sure she's got three good weapons: a sense of her own good selfness; knowledge about what she is up against; and good women with her.

*Jeanne's article 'Lesbian Mother' first appeared in the magazine for Canadian sisters On Our Way which is published in Edmonton; our love and thanks to them for letting us reprint it here. Thanks also to friends at Body Politic who acted as intermediaries and put us in touch.*

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# Till Death Us Do Part...

... Or until the marriage has broken down irretrievably. Those two quotations represent the legitimate ending for the state of matrimony as propounded by the Prayer Book, and the 1969 Divorce Reform Act respectively.

A question often asked of us is that, granted that homosexual affairs are real emotional attachments, and that they are just as valid as heterosexual ones, why are they so short? That homosexual affairs are, on the whole, shorter than heterosexual unions is, despite honourable exceptions, indisputable. Six months is good going, and three years is a triumph. Is there any reason why this should be so?

The most frequently used put-down is that anything so unnatural is bound to be short-lived. Dr Johnson seems to have had the answer when he said "It is so far from being natural for a man and a woman to live in a state of marriage that we find all the motives which they have for remaining in that connection, and the restraints which civilised society imposes to prevent separation are hardly sufficient to keep them together."

These motives and restraints which are conferred and imposed by the institution of matrimony are not applicable to homosexual liaisons. There are no tax incentives, and no legal framework for the union, there is no acceptance of the relationship by the social services. Neither are the pressures, the sticks as opposed to the carrots, applied by society to those contemplating (or giving cause for) separation: the refusal of society at large to accept one legal spouse in polite company without the other, for instance.

On the contrary the forces for separation are increased. There will be no general social acceptance for the pair as a couple. Except within the demi-monde (if one may use that phrase) they will be regarded as unattached individuals. They will also suffer, as do couples of which the wives value their identities as professional people, rather than as their spouse's rightful chattel, from the necessity of mobility for career success. There is a higher likelihood of pair breakdown where one partner is unwilling, or unable, to sacrifice her or his career aspirations to those of the other. The idea of a woman forgoing her career for the sake of her husband's is culturally sanctioned, and considered only right and proper. In fact it is a scandalous waste of talent: few couples escape this one unscathed, and where a lot is at stake one can either accept the cultural norms, or marital breakdown. For a homosexual liaison there are no cultural norms, and the choice is narrowed to Hobson's.

The cheaper and easier divorce has become, the more divorces there have been. Few countries can have had a lower divorce rate than Italy before 1971, for the simple reason that if divorce does not exist you cannot have one. In England and Wales the number of divorces has risen steadily from 50,000 in 1969 to 57,000 in 1970. In 1971, the year when the Divorce Reform Act of 1969 took effect, making divorce more easily accessible, the number rose to 73,000.

Heterosexual matrimonial unions, with their sanctity enshrined in romantic ideas and social acceptance, the very stuff of the 'light love novel', can be constructed in large quantities only on the basis of a lifetime's rigid adherence to cultural norms, which has always entailed some strain, but which becomes more and more difficult in modern society.



Illustration: Lavi

For many the marriage bond is a strait jacket for their lives and loves, rather than a fulfilment. If you are determined to achieve a lifelong monogamous union you must be prepared to live in a state of mutual disinterest, even of hostility, or brutality rather than part. You will stay together for fear of what your neighbours, your friends and acquaintances will say if you do separate, or because throughout your experience the marriage bond has always been one of hostility, and you know no other state. You must be prepared to tolerate gross inequalities of opportunity, knowing that this is publicly sanctioned. You must be terrified of forming another relationship in case you are sent to hell (post mortem) for lust.

Mutual love and respect, and an adult acceptance of the strains and rewards of a shared life do keep couples together, homosexual and heterosexual. But homosexual unions do not have the blessings of recognition. Do you desire them? Your affair can last as long as you want it to, provided you are prepared to sacrifice practically everything to keep it going. If you sincerely want the equivalent of marriage, all well and good, but if you gain the societal carrot then you lay yourself open to the application of the stick.

Emotionally, homosexual relationships are no different from heterosexual ones. Socially they belong to a different class of events. They are not institutionalised. They are not given a public form by the application of a universally recognised exterior.

Such unblest, vulnerable relationships may not be much to boast about as a public relations exercise. But stripped as they are of the mass-produced, culturally approved trappings of matrimony, wherewith so many people blind themselves to their aspirations, I believe that these relationships offer something much more important morally and spiritually: the exercise of free will.

Marcel de Crespigny

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## Before Friend

by Terry Sanderson

It was half past nine and almost dark. I'd stood outside the vicarage for almost an hour, aching to knock on the door and yet terrified to face the consequences. Then the rain started and made me realise the stupidity of my hovering outside. Without thinking anymore about it I marched up the path and rang the bell. There was a long pause and I thought perhaps the vicar wasn't at home, but the hall light came on and a woman answered the door.



"I wonder..." I said, feeling she could see straight through me. "I wonder if I could see the vicar." Her face was severe, accusing. "What's it about?" her voice, too, was sharp. "I... I just wanted to talk to him about something." "He's resting at the moment, can't it wait till tomorrow?" "No," I was trying to avoid looking at those piercing eyes and frowning mouth. "If you'd just tell him..." I felt about as welcome as the plague, but hadn't he once said to me: 'If ever you want to talk about anything, call round and see me - anytime.' "Some people..." the woman was muttering as she walked back into the house. After another pause she returned and I was ushered into the hall. "Through there," she said, directing me into the sitting room. I went in. The reverend Gerard Briggs sat in a large armchair with a book open on his lap. He looked up, taking off his metal-rimmed glasses and giving a mechanical smile. "Mr Carson. Sit down." I sat opposite him, feeling a strange sense of shame. I was tense and felt clumsy. I sat awkwardly in the chair which was deeper than I had imagined. "Now, what can I do for you?" "I..." Once again my throat began to seize up. I gulped, cutting the sentence off. He didn't seem to detect my fear and just looked irritated. I had interrupted his one quiet time of the day, that was obvious. Determinedly I blurted out: "I'm in trouble, vicar, and I don't know what to do about it." "Trouble?" His interest was minimal. "What kind of trouble?" "With the police." There was a long pause, still his interest wasn't roused, he'd heard it all before. "Well, so are a lot of other people. You'll have to tell me more than that if you expect me to be able to help you." "Oh God," I said, feeling something collapse inside me. It was suddenly obvious that I'd done the wrong thing coming here. How could I tell him? "Is it something to do with your wife?" I looked down in shame. It was only two years before I'd stood before this same man and taken my marriage vows with all that phony solemnity. How could I tell him? The silence seemed to go on for ages before he stood up abruptly and went to the door: "I'm going to have some coffee, would you like some?" I nodded. He went out and returned. I hadn't moved or raised my eyes from the carpet. He sat down again. "Now Mr Carson - Barry, isn't it? - you're going to have to tell me all about it. Perhaps if there's something wrong with your marriage we can talk it over. It often helps." "I was arrested by the police yesterday. I'm going to be in court tomorrow. On a sex offence." The woman with the coffee walked in just as I said that. She tried not to react but I heard a slight rattle of the cups. She put the things down on the table. "Will there be anything else, vicar?" she said. I still didn't look at either of them.

"No, thank you, Mrs Pearson," the vicar said and she went out. "Now then, what exactly have you been doing?" "I don't know how I can say it..." He sugared his coffee and sat back into his chair with it, waiting for me to relax a little. "It can't be all that serious or the police wouldn't have let you go," he said. "Now, come on." "I was caught in a public lavatory with another man." That stopped him. Although I wasn't looking at his face, I could almost hear his eyebrows going up. "Another man?" he said after a while. "But you're married... what on earth possessed you to... I mean..." My tension was turning to impatience now. I don't know what I'd expected him to say, but this wasn't it. "Have you been having trouble with your wife?" "Trouble?" Now I could look at him. "Oh, no. No trouble. We just haven't spoken to each other for the last year." "But why? You seemed so admirably suited when I saw you before the wedding. I remember saying to myself after the little chat we had..." "Look vicar, that marriage has been a mistake since the day it was first thought of. I don't know why I did it. It's like a nightmare, it has been since it started." "Why on earth did you go through with it if you knew that this was how you felt?" "I don't know bloody well now," I found myself shouting. "That's what I want you to tell me." He put down his coffee and looked severe. "I'll make no bones about it... this business about two men... and in a lavatory... I personally find it quite revolting. Have you done it before?" I almost laughed out loud - what an effort it was for him to even acknowledge the fact that men could consider having sex with each other let alone in a toilet. The shame was fast disappearing. I felt defiance now. "Yes, I've done it before. Several times. Don't you see - that's the way I am. A homosexual." "No," he said sharply. "There's no reason for you to think that. You've been under a strain. There's no reason to think you're abnormal in any way. You can be forgiven for succumbing to temptation. I'm sure if your marital problems could be resolved these feelings would leave you." I took a deep breath and expelled it in a loud sigh of utter frustration. My voice lowered until it was hardly audible. "Vicar, I'm a homosexual. Not because my marriage has failed. I was homosexual before I ever met Janice. I knew I was and yet I still went through with it. I thought the feelings would go away. I thought I loved her, but I didn't. I was using her as an escape from myself." "I still think you're wrong. You need strength to escape from this homosexual business. Does your wife know about it?" "Of course not - but she will after tomorrow." "How do you think she will react?" "She's made no secret in the past - she hates queers." "I'll have a word with her if you like - she might have it within herself to forgive you. You could make a fresh start. I've known cases of this kind where the trouble has actually brought the couple closer together." "I don't want to be brought closer to her. I want to get away. Can't you see that?" "And what will happen to you then? Do you realise what a divorce can do to two people? It's not something you should go into without thinking." "Without thinking? I've been doing nothing else but think about it since our bloody honeymoon. Christ, honeymoon! What a fiasco." "So you intend to continue with your... to give into these abnormal desires? If you don't mind me saying so Mr Carson, this is weakness on your part. You should fight it, fight it with all your might. God can help you. Put yourself in His hands and he'll give you the strength." Suddenly something inside me, from the very bottom of my soul welled up and emerged from me in a great cry and a flood of tears which I couldn't stop. "The answer is in your soul, my son, you've got to fight it." I was fighting all right - fighting to stop those tears and sobs that were shaking me like an idiot. He thought they were tears of shame, that I was crying for forgiveness. How wrong he was, they were tears of relief. His empty words echoed in my ears and brought with them the strength of resolution I needed to do exactly the opposite. I stood up and without another word walked out of the house and into the rain. It was pouring. There was a wind which drove every drop of water into my face with stinging force. It was like a cleansing. I held up my face to the black heavens and felt myself being drenched by the cold rain.

## Star gays with Merlin

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The magnanimity of LEO Star Gays allows them to get on with most other groupings; but there are some signs where there is just incompatibility, however hard LEOS try. LEONIANS find this hard to believe and difficult to understand. They try to like everyone, so why doesn't everyone like them? "Too high-powered," say PISCANS; "Too bossy by half," say GEMINIANS; whilst the quiet voice of LIBRA suggests that LEO "might be just a little too competitive."

As for the rest of the Zodiac, consider first all of the 'animals', starting with the Goat (CAPRICORN). Goats and Lions don't really get on at all. CAPRICORNIANS would think LEO not serious enough for their somewhat staid ways. All of that open-heartedness and constant limelight would make them fret about bank balances and just how much it was all costing - in peace of mind as well as money. The Lion and the Ram? Certainly courageous, aggressive, even adventurous. ARIES Star Gays are impulsive and a bit scatty about romantic relationships. LEONIANS would give warmth, partnership and a zestful purpose to the lustiness of ARIAN life-styles. Bulls and Lions are too independent to really mate together successfully. Sometimes they do team up and offset each other's purely physical attractions. A test of strength is inevitable at some time though, and it would end with stubborn TAUREANS soon proving to be too dull for roaming LEOS. Two Lions together would only fight to the death for mastery over the other. It would be a battle royal, true, but who wants a mauled LEO anyway?

'Human' signs are problematical. The Twins love pets to distraction, but to be distracted by high-powered LEO with constant demands for affection, would bore the cerebral GEMINI unless some strong interest outside of the bedroom made a firmer bond. When this happens, the mutual enthusiasm generated between the two can be one of the most heart-warming events imaginable. The Maiden, VIRGO, tends to get a bit too naggy, and often possessive. LEOS will admire the virginal qualities and respect VIRGOAN minds, but VIRGOANS themselves shy away from the 'shaggy beast', distinctly reluctant to adopt the Lion as a household pet. Water Carrier AQUARIUS, either loathes or loves LEO on sight. No half measures. If it's love, the extreme humanitarian qualities in both these signs make a partnership to be envied as it could lead to much more than just mutual compatibility - more like a crusade.

Crustaceans, Fish, and inanimates of the Zodiac, affect LEO rather strangely. The Crab (CANCER) can indeed nip the Lion's paws, but as CANCER is ruled by the Moon, the nips are more playful than hurtful. Sun (LEO) and Moon (CANCER) complement each other admirably, the Lion even graciously understanding CANCERIAN moods, which is more than he will do for most other signs! Scorpians (SCORPIO) are jealous by nature, and Lions a bit suspicious; the two combined seem disastrous, and generally it is. Occasionally, jealousies are forgotten and a strong rivalry brings out the best in both SCORPIO and LEO. But the Lion always has the upper hand, and that paw squashing down on a resentful, furious Scorpion is not a pleasant sight. PISCES, the Fish, resents being hustled, in any way, and the carefree Lion won't take to tears, mopping up and endless reprimand over his seemingly heartless actions. LIBRA, represented by the Scales symbol, shares many LEO attributes and preferences, especially where demands for attention and the need to be loved are concerned. Any close relationship would be marred by constant competition, bringing out the worst attributes of the Lion and upsetting the delicate balance of LIBRA.

One sign is left. A mixture of animal and human, obviously nearer an idea for LEO. This is SAGITTARIUS, shown as a Centaur with bow, arrow, and probably deadly aim. And, equally important, another Fire sign, compatible with LEO, adventurous, outgoing, dominating, full of highly inventive ideas, and able to keep up with the Lion in full stride. High-powered themselves, argumentative, and proud, the relationship between LEO and SAGITTARIUS would be fed on flashing rages, burning up excess resentments, and feeding the flames with life-giving energy. Of course, none of the other Star Gays could keep up, and the two would be alone, but not lonely, far ahead of the field and revelling in each other's latest venturesome quest.

Best leave them both at it, for then the entire Zodiac can breathe sighs of relief, but still keeping a wary eye open for any glances in their direction in case approval and acknowledgement of the regal presence is required. In return, what we will get is a glowing smile, that gracious nod, and (if we are lucky) the friendliest of royal waves. Be grateful and glad: LEO is happy, and all's well with the world!

## Collier at ICA

LONDON: Graham Collier, come-out modern jazz musician, is appearing with his band at the ICA, Nash House, The Mall, on August 4, in a programme entitled 'Three facets of jazz'. The evening will include music from Graham's latest album *Darius*.

## 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.

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## THE THIL



## GAY NEWS

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# Gay Nudists in Yugoslavia



Main Square of Rovinj

This year I decided to holiday in Yugoslavia. Never having been there before, I naturally consulted my copy of a well-known gay guide book to discover that there was a nudist island at Rovinj that I would find to be "wild and fantastic." That sounded good enough for me, so at the end of May I packed my bags and found myself at the Hotel Istra on Red Island.

## Rovinj

The little town of Rovinj is certainly one of the most attractive of the Mediterranean tourist resorts that I have seen. The old houses rise straight out of the sea and crowd along the quays, fronted by the usual array of open air cafes where it is very pleasant—but not cheap—to sit and watch the world go by. The town is dominated by the church tower, built in imitation of St Mark's in Venice. There is a welcome lack of tourist type development, souvenir shops, garish advertisements and so on. The communist world does not seem to go in for that sort of thing, and it's good to know that one is seeing the place without layers of disfiguring make-up.

Red Island, which the Yugoslavians call Crveni Otok—don't ask me how they pronounce it—is one of thirteen islands forming the Rovinj archipelago. All of these islands, and the coastal area to the south of the town, are thickly wooded with firs, oleanders and other trees and shrubs. The scenery is very beautiful and reminds one of Scotland or the Lake District. All the shores and beaches are rocky—usually large boulders, rocks and pebbles, and the sea is crystal clear.

The island has two hotels, one a modernised monastery, and the other a modern building catering for over 300 guests—the Hotel Istra—a long, low block which does not rise above the surrounding trees, so that it blends easily with the natural beauties of the island. Accommodation, food and service we found to be very adequate, although bar prices were pretty steep. Attached by a concrete causeway to Red Island is the smaller nudist island of Mascin. One of the most delightful aspects of these two islands is the total lack of cars with the consequent peace, quiet and fresh air.

## Fellow travellers

Practically everyone at the hotels on the island was German. We discovered only one or two other English people. It is, therefore, a considerable advantage if you can speak a little German in order to converse with the hotel staff, even if you are not interested in your fellow guests. All the staff speak good German, but practically none of them has more than a very rudimentary smattering of English.

The Istra Hotel had a number of gay guests, mostly in pairs. Possibly they all have the same guide book that I have. All of these, however, turned out to be German, and although some spoke English, I'm afraid that I didn't really try to communicate very much. Possibly less inhibited visitors or the presence of a really fabulous looking German could induce one to make more of an effort.

Ninety per cent of the holiday-makers were middle-aged or elderly married couples, with a few younger marrieds. Germans do seem to be on the stout side, so all in all you could not say that we were part of a swinging scene with the beautiful people.

## Money

The cheapest drink in the hotel bar was a bottle of Coca-Cola at about 24p. In town, however, the same beverage cost half that. A good cup of strong coffee with cream cost about 21p in town. The local wine in the hotel restaurant set you back about 90p a bottle, and a litre of mineral water about 30p. But there's really not much else to spend your money on in Rovinj. The usual holiday souvenirs are more ugly and more rubbishy than usual, and constitute no temptation to spend.

## Entertainment

On the island itself there is nothing at all to do in the evenings apart from dancing to a group that plays nightly on the terrace of the smaller hotel. Not gay, of course, so if you want to participate you'll have to find yourself a girl friend. Only the bars in the hotels remain.

If you wish, and can afford it, you can book

up for the usual guided tours, boat trips and so on. Also available is a hydrofoil trip to Venice, a journey that takes two hours each way and costs about £11. This was an outing we could not resist, as we had never been to Venice and thought that we should take the opportunity of seeing it before it sank into the sea.

## Nudist island

Every morning and immediately after lunch the concrete connecting causeway would be busy with a stream of people making for the nudist island, all weighed down with air-beds, sun tan lotions, bags and bundles.

This was my first experience of life 'in the raw', and I could not help thinking that for devotees of freedom most of the visitors arrived positively overloaded with essential equipment. Once arrived at the favourite rock, off come the clothes and on goes the Nivea. The atmosphere is very wholesome and non-erotic. Mums and Dads, children, grandmas and grandpas, fat (mostly) and thin—all seemed to accept the communal nudity quite unselfconsciously. On the rocks, that is.

But where, you ask, are the "wild and fantastic" going on promised in the gay guide book? On the highest spot in the centre of the island is a clearing containing what appears to be a little Greek temple. This is, we are told, really a mausoleum for a baroness who once owned the island. Around this monument several of the nudists disport themselves, as it is very sheltered and warmer than the rocks if there happens to be a cool breeze from the sea. You will soon notice—if you are at all sensitive to such subtle nuances—that the population of this area is predominantly male.

Eight paths through the trees and bushes lead from this clearing, and some of these sustain a fairly regular and naked pedestrian traffic. If a couple of pedestrians decide to leave the path from time to time to investigate the denser undergrowth, nobody seems to take much notice. There are no police on the island and even if there were they would find it difficult to find an appropriate place to pin their badges.

A great deal of rather vicious fun can be had in spotting fellow hotel guests remarkable for their attention to their wives at meal times, but who seem to adopt quite different characteristics when they have managed to discard both wives and clothes. It can also be a sobering realisation when you discover that the absolutely dshy young man at the next table is really rather repulsive without his toupee and skin-tight jeans.



Greek temple on nudist island

For the person who must have a sandy beach or who likes plenty of life in the evenings, this nudist trip to Yugoslavia could prove disappointing, but if you enjoy a holiday with not much to do but lie in the sun and possibly explore some woodland (etc), you can have a very relaxing but quiet time in Rovinj.

Barry Hill

# The Emperor Is A Boy Caesar sleeps with his armies

They say "when in Rome, do as the Romans do": just how gay Rome was during the time of the Roman Empire we can't say. However, one thing we can say is that during his four short years as Emperor, young Varius Avitus Bassianus took Rome by storm. He is known to history as Elagabalus or Heliogabalus and sometimes as Antoninus, and he brought out the gayness in Rome as no other Emperor did, before or after.

His mother, named Saemis, was a Syrian princess and his grandmother was Maesa, sister to the wife of Septimus Severus. No one is sure who his father was, although he was helped to the Imperial title by claiming him to be Caracalla, an Emperor recently dead and very much a hero, as well as one of his mother's ex-lovers.

Born at Antioch in AD 204, he became Emperor at the age of fourteen in AD 218 on the death of Macrinus, the successor of Caracalla. He had been made a High Priest of the Sun at Emesa at the age of five, mainly through the influence of Maesa, his Grandmother who continued to dominate his life when he became Emperor. The deity worshipped at the Temple was Elagabal, from which was derived the name Elagabalus which Varius was called.

It was during his services at the Temple, which involved 'sacred prostitution', that Varius slept with many soldiers from the Alban legion, stationed nearby, and gained in due course their life-long loyalty. On the death of Macrinus the legions all over the Empire saluted him as the son of Caracalla; he was proclaimed Emperor at Antioch and a letter to the Senate in Rome assured him of the title. Accompanied by his Alban legion he marched to Rome.

It was whilst he was still in Syria that Varius met the first real love of his short but crowded life. This was in the person of a famous athlete named Aurelius Zoticus. Zoticus was reputed to be much larger than the average man in the size of his private parts, and this, added to his manly frame, secured the infatuation of the young Varius.

The chariot races, however, were the scene of the event that brought to Varius the only real and true affection he was destined to enjoy. This was when a chariot driver named Hierocles was thrown from his chariot right in front of the Imperial Box. Varius, in raptures over the mass of blonde curly hair and perfectly formed body, had him rushed to the Imperial Palace and nursed him personally until he had recovered.

Hierocles managed to dispose of the famous Zoticus by dropping a powder into his wine that rendered him impotent. After a night of embarrassment with Varius, he was pensioned off to a villa outside Rome—ready at any time to answer the Imperial call.

The relationship with Hierocles seems to have developed into a bond of real and lasting affection. They were married together and their union was never broken, although Varius continued in his habit that he picked up in Syria of visiting the sauna baths. It was in this capacity that he became notorious and gave later generations, they thought, an excuse to condemn him.

Varius had many political schemes. Some, like the dredging of the harbour at Naples, met with some success. Others did not, as on the occasion when Varius decided to marry his God, Elagabal, to the Goddess Vesta. Vesta's shrine was guarded by the Virgin Maxima, one Aquila Severa. To symbolise the union, Varius married Aquila.

Varius soon got tired of this, however, and had his God divorced and then remarried to the Goddess Astarte of Carthage. The penalty for a Vestal Virgin who loses her virginity was to be buried alive with a jug of water and a loaf of bread. Luckily for Aquila, Varius issued a declaration stating that she was still a virgin.

It was not the fault of his behaviour that brought about his downfall so much as the machinations of family, and particularly his grandmother, Maesa. Just as she had made him Caesar so could she depose him. Considering his cousin Alexander to be more pliable than Varius, and alarmed at the new sense of maturity that Hierocles was instilling in the boy, Maesa used generous bribes and promises to win over the Praetorian Guard.

Several stories exist about his death. One is that he had his head cut off in his mother's arms after fleeing the Praetorians and hiding in a chest.

The more likely one, though, is that he was stabbed to death along with Hierocles, his mother and friends, after failing to deal with the Praetorians in their own camp. This story ends with their bodies being dragged through the streets of Rome and being thrown in the Tiber, a delicacy added by the group of historians who set out, under the patronage of Maesa, to defame the memory of Varius and enhance that of his successor, Alexander, whom they dubbed 'the Good' and who, in fact, did nothing at all to deserve that title. The legend of Varius as a perverted nymphomaniac dates back to these writings, which were penned by men like Dion Cassius, Herodius and Lampridius—historians to whom we owe a great deal, but whose personal opinions, be they their own or Maesa's, we can do without.



Varius was a brave, kind and playful boy, whisked to the dizzy heights of a Caesar. He behaved in the only way he knew how and none of his personal acts can be condemned with any justification. Throughout all his eighteen years he was the tool of his grandmother: when she decided he was of no further use to her, he was murdered. His main enemy was his Imperial blood.

Joseph Winter

(ED: A fictional account of the gay affairs of Heliogabalus, Child of the Sun, by Kyle Orstott and Lance Horner, is available from Gay News Mail Order for 40p + 5p p&p.)

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# Gay days gone by

In the last instalment of my life and times I ended at the start of the First World War. At that time I was marooned in Crete. I shall tell the full story of my stay there some other time. For the moment I wish to jump several years to 1938.

I was now in my late thirties. I could no longer call myself young, so I decided to embrace respectable middle age.

My father died in 1931, leaving all his money to my mother. She in turn wished to leave everything to my sister Julia, as mother and son were not on good terms. However, Julia died suddenly in 1937, and mother and I were reunited in our overwhelming grief. I was in India at the time, and could not attend my sister's funeral. I was sick of the Indian sub-continent which had robbed me of the company of one who loved me so much, and I returned to England in 1938—in the Spring.

Mother was now crippled with arthritis, and although she could bear the English summer, doctors told her to move to a hot dry climate if she ever wanted to walk again. I suggested that we go and live in the USA. But it was the idea of the East that appealed to mother, and she decided that it was going to be the Holy Land or nothing.

She was a lonely woman by now, and offered to support me in premature retirement if I agreed to accompany her to Palestine. I did agree. I could see that war was coming, and having taken no part in the last war, I saw no reason to take part in the next one. We set out just before Christmas 1938.

We could not have chosen a worse time to go. All the hotels were booked with pilgrims, and we nearly had the experience of finding No Room at the Inn. However, in the end we managed to impose on friends.

This was the era of the British Mandata, and although Palestine was to be untouched by World War II, Jewish Terrorists (or Jewish Freedom Fighters, depending on your point of view) were intent on blowing up every Englishman they came across.

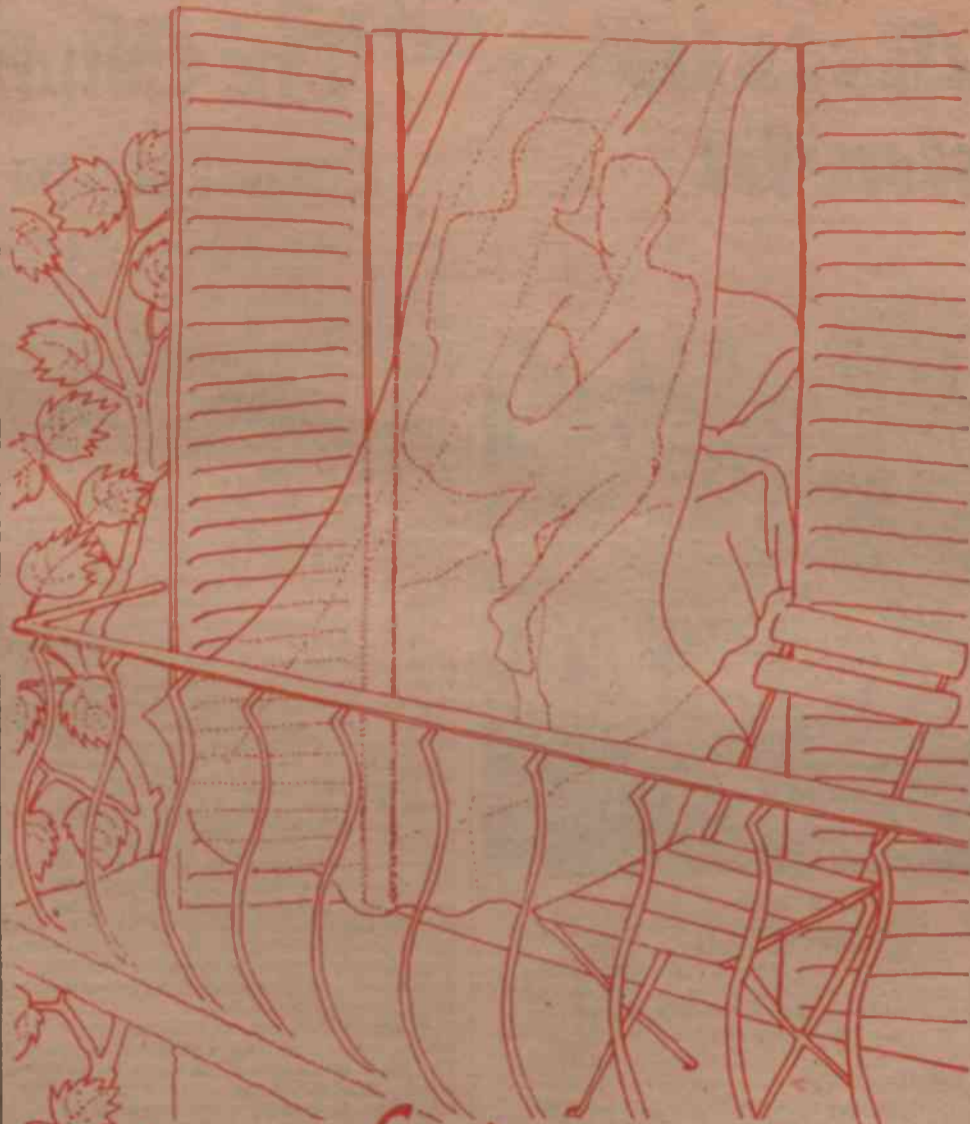
I soon began to regret relying on mother for my income. I took to drink, and often went out to avoid meeting her. We settled in Jerusalem, where there was a large English colony. For the most part they were religious crackpots or frustrated old spinsters—frequently both. Mother was soon sucked into the vortex of religious mania and for the first time in her life started thinking about the Hereafter. I began to make friends with the Arabs, a people I have loved ever since. More about them another time.

Pre-war Palestine did have its Gay Life, but it was to disappear with the founding of Israel. Jerusalem was a cosmopolitan city, and all tastes were catered for. Gay bars, it must be admitted, tended to be dingy. The best of a bad bunch was Dagoes, although I cannot for the life of me remember where it was. It was in a basement, seemingly miles into the earth. Very smoky on Saturday nights, but on weekdays quite pleasant, and I often went there.

There were the inevitable British Servicemen, enhancing their meagre wage in the time-honoured way. There was also the less pleasant type of Arab. Both could be purchased for a small sum, and, in my case, often were.

I soon settled into the ways of the city, although this was a time of great unrest. I suppose it was what living in Belfast must be like today; you never knew when you were going to be blown up, beaten up, or whatever. But this made life strangely exhilarating.

I soon felt at home in the city. So, in her



## Mandate Memories of Incognito

way, did mother. She joined the Salvation Army in 1939, bent on showing non-Christians the errors of their ways. She took to the streets, together with other God-crazed geriatrics, a thorough nuisance to anyone unfortunate enough to cross her path.

I, on the other hand, lived a quiet life. I took a post with a publishing firm, which freed me from economic dependence on mother. I moved into a flat of my own.

One day I was walking in the streets of the old city when I decided to take a different route to work. I had not gone far when I was approached by a European who had plainly lost his way. Even before he spoke I knew him.

It was Rupert—still young and still beautiful. He was almost unchanged by the years, but I was not. He did not recognise me—until I spoke.

"Rupert!" I cried suddenly. Then he knew. For a long time we stood just looking at each other, not knowing what to say. Then we both ran into an embrace, in a thoroughly un-British way. Arab passers-by looked at us, then walked on. We, however, were lost in our own past.

We soon realised what a spectacle we were

making of ourselves, and sprang apart with the force we had embraced. We were at a loss for words. Although I felt a flood of love returning to me that had been absent for many years, it was accompanied by pangs of worry. We had not spoken since that last term at the Buckingham School in 1914. What was he like now?

For a few minutes we just talked pleasantries, then I suggested that we go to a nearby cafe.

While an old Arab served us with coffee we said nothing. I had a feeling of unease; this was not the meeting of two old school chums after many years' parting. But how did Rupert feel about it?

Why had he not written to me in all those years? Why had he never replied to all those letters I had written to him? The point was soon settled. It had all been his mother's doing.

I had written several letters from Crete, and sent them to her to forward. None ever reached Rupert. I went to see her when I got back to England in 1919, and she told me coldly that she had sent the letters on to Rupert, and that if he did not reply, then that was no business of hers. She was very

nosy and had opened the letters, I feel sure.

Although I had taken the precaution of writing key passages in Greek, the tone of the letters must have been unmistakable. The letters were never forwarded, and Rupert was fed a steady diet of lies about me fleeing to Crete in order to escape the war. She also said I was about to marry a wealthy Greek woman for her money and that no decent person could mix with me after. Rupert had swallowed this and had thereafter gone his own separate way.

We looked at each other across the rusting iron table of the pavement cafe, each conscious of the way in which we had come through the intervening years. I was prematurely old, while Rupert still looked as if he were under 30.

I decided not to go into work that day, and made some excuse. I invited Rupert back to my flat and he accepted. It was a golden day in my life that I shall never forget. We talked and talked, and, eventually, much to my surprise, we went to bed. Passion was the last thing in my mind when I had stepped into the street that morning and now... as Joe Orton put it so beautifully in one of his plays "There's no finer sight than seeing two middle-aged people making love."

To be candid I felt flattered that anyone should take a fancy to me without any form of payment coming into it. It certainly renewed my faith in human nature.

But our idyll was to be short-lived. Fate was about to play another dirty trick.

A few days after our first meeting I arranged to meet Rupert in a famous Jerusalem hotel. It was very popular with the English—especially the army top brass.

I had no inkling of disaster as I went towards the hotel that night. I was in love all over again and cared for nothing but that. But as I turned the corner and came upon the hotel I saw that I had been struck another cruel blow. The hotel had been bombed by Jewish Partisans and many people had been killed.

I cried out in anguish and started to dig frantically in the ruins. I eventually found out that Rupert had not been killed and that he had been taken to hospital. I ran all the way. At least he is alive, I thought, and that is all the matters.

The hospital had grim news. Although Rupert would indeed live, he would never walk again. He had been badly disfigured and would be an invalid for the rest of his life. They would not let me see him, as he was unconscious.

I sat in the waiting room of the hospital, surrounded by a crowd of people as dazed as myself. I sat there for a while, then went home.

I could not sleep, and phoned the hospital several times. I walked out onto the tiny balcony of my flat and sat on the one rickety chair out there. It was very late at night now—about 3am. Somewhere a child was sobbing itself to sleep. I wondered for a moment whether it might be crying because it had a toothache, or whether its mother had been killed in the blast at the hotel; I then joined it in weeping bitter, bitter tears.

To be continued.

ED: The above is part of a continuing narrative by 'Incognito', whose identity remains unknown to us. His first piece was 'Gay In The Twenties' (GN30), and then came 'Back To School' (GN39) in our 'Gay Days Gone By' series. We take this opportunity to wish 'Incognito' a speedy recovery from his recent illness, and to sincerely thank him for his contributions.

Illustration: Jean-Claude Thevenin

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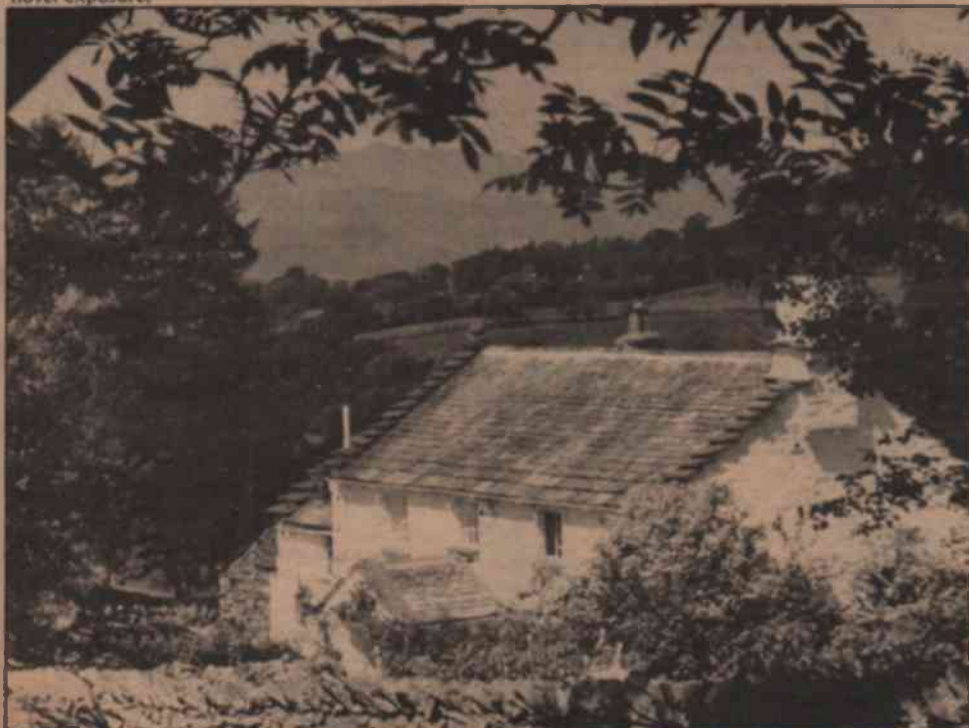
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Second prize (£1) for this pastoral scene goes to R N Lord of Ulverston, Lancs. It wasn't quite what we were after, but still...



And the third prize (also £1) is taken by Sebastian Helmore, of Birmingham, with his study of this Victorian masterpiece. We take this opportunity to thank the other entrants to the competition—better luck next time.

Madigan's log

Some years ago I was in a sad, sleazy little graveyard of a port in Peru called Sallavery. We tied up at lunchtime and when *stations* were over I was sitting in my cabin when a fellow about my own age appeared in the doorway. He asked, in perfect English, if he could see the captain. I told him sure, climb up three decks and you'll find his cabin. "What's he like?" the fellow asked. "A bastard!" I told him. "Oh!" Suddenly he was dejected. I motioned him to sit down and tossed him a can of beer.

The captain was a bastard too, one of those immature megalomaniacs who make life hell for everybody. Two sailors had already jumped that ship in Jamaica and a fireman and a steward had both paid off under a pretext of sickness. We were grossly undermanned yet he would have got rid of me without hesitation. He probably hadn't noticed me until Philadelphia where it was well known I'd had an American *cousin* aboard and after that I was spotlighted by his smouldering contempt for my (and, I suspect, his own) proclivities. He used to refer to me as *that queer* and threaten civil action if ever he caught me *messing around with anyone*, all of which was a little incongruous as I was twice his height and strength and had nothing of his mincing waddle.

Anyway, the stranger's name was Koos and as I remember he was one of the most strikingly handsome fellows I've encountered. His features embodied that rare combination of strength and sensitivity, of the sensual and the aesthetic. His hair was a tussle of black locks and his eyes blue and disarming in their candour. They had a quality that could fix a man and seer him through to the marrow.

I learned later that he was Dutch, of Russian Jewish parents and that he played the oboe. His one passion in life was playing the oboe. As a child he had been something of a prodigy, touring Europe's capitals playing the oboe. He said he was psychologically incapable of doing any work except playing the oboe.

I asked what he wanted to see the Old Man for and he told me it was to find out if there was a job going on the ship—oh yes, he hastened to add, that was the only other work he would undertake, seafaring. I asked if he'd worked on a ship before. Yes, he said, on a British ship about two years earlier. He had sailed from Sallavery to New Zealand then round and up to Rotterdam where the captain had paid him off with a very good discharge and a written recommendation. He'd loved the sea, he said, but even more he'd loved New Zealand. His dream was to return there and play the oboe. Well, what was he doing back in Sallavery? Why hadn't he made his way to New Zealand from Rotterdam? It all seemed rather odd. He didn't tell me just then. He simply said he hated Peru, hated it intensely, that some fantastic fate seemed determined to hold him in that grubby little graveyard of a hole.

He went upstairs to see the Old Man but the mate said that dignitary was ashore with the agent and probably wouldn't be back till morning. He was enthusiastic about signing Koos on, the mate, but of course could make no decision himself.

Koos spent the rest of the afternoon in my cabin and when I finished work we went ashore together. We drank in a grotty cantina run by an old Arab woman from Jerusalem who liked the English because, she said oddly, they fed Arab children, then we took a springless bus to the city of Trujillo, a half an hour's drive away. Trujillo is large but pretty dull with few features except a couple of lavish churches and the nearby Incan ruins of Chan Chan. The people are largely inhibited and conventional and of no outstanding attraction but when we did pass anyone in the street of any beauty, Koos would pinion them with those eyes of his and invariably they would stare back at him, riveted, and then having passed would turn and gaze after him in a sort of a trance. There was nothing of the sexual *cruising* about this; it was an immeasurably more personal hypnosis he exercised over people. When it had happened a number of times I asked him "How do you do it?" "I look into their souls," he answered.

Koos lived in a plain whitewashed house in a not-too-rich area of the city with an old Dutch musician and his French mistress and two school girls. There was also a little deaf and dumb American Indian boy, an orphan who had apparently wandered in off the street some months before and set about making himself useful with

the housework. I ate a meal with the household and we drank a lot of Pisco. When the family had gone to bed Koos and I took a bottle onto the flat roof and shed most of our clothes because it was hot and sat cross-legged on hand-woven rugs in a corner while the deaf mute fanned us intermittently with a flax fan as big as himself.

It was there that Koos told me his story. He had come to Peru when he was eighteen to do a concert but whoever was promoting him had gone bankrupt and he was stranded in Lima without money. The only contact he had was the old Dutch musician in Trujillo so he made his way there and every time he heard there was a ship in Sallavery he would go aboard and ask if they needed men. For two years he did this, three, four, sometimes five times a week, often walking the distance because he didn't have a half sol (1½p) for his fare, until finally the captain of a British tramp consented to take him on as an uncertified deck hand. He went to New Zealand, as I said, and then to Rotterdam where Koos paid off. He saw his family in the Hague but was already bored after a fortnight. He began to scheme the easiest way to return to New Zealand when a cable arrived from the Peruvian embassy to say that the oboe player in the Peruvian National Orchestra had died and would he accept the post. He would be given a plane ticket to Lima where he would be met on arrival with a two-year contract to sign which promised an excellent salary. At the end of the contract he could resign or be repatriated. Koos dismissed the suggestion at first but then reasoned that if he accepted he would be halfway to New Zealand, he could save a substantial sum of money and that, hate the place though he might, he would be playing his oboe in a presumably professional orchestra. At the end of it he could arrange to be spirited away to New Zealand with no cost to himself.

The advantages of the plan eventually outweighed his detestation of Peru, so he took the preferred ticket and flew to Lima. At the airport there was no one to meet him. He made his way into the city and the offices of the National Orchestra demanding to know why he hadn't been met and where the contract was. What contract? The orchestra officials were baffled. Why, the two-year contract for an oboe player. But they had an oboe player—a very good one; the post was filled the previous week. Koos said he knew it was—by him. No, by a Peruvian musician from Huachu. Very well then, Koos said, just give him a plane ticket and he would fly to Auckland. Oh no, the orchestra was very sorry but it was under no obligation to run to expenses like that, he must make his own arrangements. There was a fierce row which Koos lost. There was nothing on paper. The orchestra was sympathetic but unyielding. So, when I saw him, it was a further two years later and of course he was back at the old Dutch musician's place in Trujillo, making his way down to the port at Sallavery every day he heard there was a ship in.

He got pretty drunk and affectionate up there on the roof top that night with the deaf mute fanning us and had some vicarious contact with New Zealand, the sea, and, in a manner of speaking with the oboe. In the early morning we traipsed into the centre of town to take a *collective* (a taxi on a regular route which collects and deposits people on its way) to Sallavery and who should the other passenger be but our captain.

Koos was excited when I whispered this information to him and his request when he made it was a piece of masterful deference, but I knew from the first glance the ignorant bugger cast at both of us that he'd sooner lose a few more men than take on an acquaintance of mine. He simply grunted a curt *No!* at Koos then turned his heavy jaws to stare stonily through the windscreen.

The lad fell into bitter gloom. I tried my bit with "He's had sea experience captain; he's got a British discharge," but this was totally ignored. Shortly afterwards Koos summoned the collective to pull up so that he wouldn't have so far to walk back to the city. I whispered to him "Give it another go. Try looking into his soul." But Koos shook his head sadly and climbed out onto the dusty road. "He hasn't got one," he said simply, and that was the last I saw of him.

I often wonder of course if he ever escaped from Sallavery and if he did—well, if he did I'll wager some strange dispensation of fate would have lured him back there again. You know there are people who, for all their talents and beauty, are destined to live their lives in sad sleazy little graveyard places like Sallavery.

Leo Madigan

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WE DO!!

# Pythian of the Age

"He lives that eternity which is art. He is more than a writer: his virtues and vices alike are precisely those entwined at the roots of poetry. He is poetry incarnate," says the critic G Wilson Knight, using a hyperbole that could be true only one person: George Gordon, Lord Byron.

And the Byron Exhibit at the V&A, to celebrate the poet's death in 1824, has succeeded remarkably well in evoking the major events in the life of one of England's greatest poets. I was especially impressed that the exhibit has not suppressed Byron's homosexual love affairs, and even the least informed heterosexual viewers will depart with the vague realisation that Byron must have had some boyfriends amongst his mistresses.



Byron and his page Robert Rushton, engraving after a painting by George Sanders, 1808.

At the outset of the plentiful exhibit, a small group of artifacts are set aside to celebrate his love for John Edleston, the young chorister of Trinity College, whom the exhibition guide does not euphemise as a 'friend' but, bluntly, describes as Byron's "beloved." I've been a Byron devotee for years, and I could hardly conceal my joy at seeing a lock of Edleston's hair, right next to the actual Cornelian ring which Edleston had given him, and which prompted one of Byron's finest lyrics, "The Cornelian":

No specious splendour of this stone  
Endears it to my memory ever;  
With lustre only once it shone,  
And blushes modest as the giver.

Some, who can sneer at friendship's ties,  
Have, for my weakness, oft reproved me;  
Yet still the simple gift I prize,  
For I am sure the giver loved me.  
He offer'd it with downcast look,  
As fearful that I might refuse it;  
I told him when the gift I took,  
My only fear should be to lose it.

Later in the exhibit we are solemnly presented with the manuscript letters in which Byron laments the tragic early death of Edleston, and the manuscript of the poem "To Thyrsa," the name he ambiguously gave to Edleston:

Without a stone to mark the spot,  
And say what Truth might well have said,  
By all, save one, perchance forgot,  
Ah! wherefore art thou lowly laid?  
By many a shore and many a sea  
Divided, yet beloved in vain;  
The past, the future fled to thee  
To bid us meet—no—ne'er again!

But when no more  
'Twas thine to reck of human woe,  
Affection's heart-drops, gushing o'er,  
Had flow'd as fast—as now they flow.  
Shall they not flow, when many a day  
In these, to me, deserted towers,  
Ere call'd but for a time away,  
Affection's mingling tears were ours?  
Ours too the glance none saw beside,  
The smile none else might understand;  
The whisper'd thought of hearts allied,  
The pressure of the thrilling hand;  
The kiss, so guiltless and refined  
That Love each warmer wish forbore;  
Those eyes proclaim'd so pure a mind,  
Even passion blush'd to plead for more,  
The tone, that taught me to rejoice,  
When prone, unlike thee, to repine;  
The song, celestial from thy voice,  
But sweet to me from none but thine;

Teach me—too early taught by thee!  
To bear, forgiving and forgiven:  
On earth thy love was such to me,  
It fain would form my hope in heaven!

In other portions of the exhibit we are treated not only to portraits of Byron's mistresses, such as the boyish-looking Lady Caroline Lamb (who sometimes dressed as a boy to gratify Byron's taste for frolics), but to portraits of his extremely handsome boyfriends such as Lord Clare and John Polidori (on the ill-fated Byron-Polidori Venetian affair, see 'Gay Tales of Terror' in GN34). I had the vapours upon seeing a lock of the incredibly fine and soft blond hair of Nicolo Giraud, who, as the exhibition notes said, "replaced Eustathius Georgiou in Byron's favour" during the gay Greek days of 1810-12 in Missolonghi. And I nearly wept when I came upon the autograph manuscript of the very last poem Byron ever wrote, a tormented

affirmation of his love for Loukas Chalandritsanos, "Love and Death":

I watch'd thee when the foe was at our side,  
Ready to strike at him—or thee and me,  
Were safety hopeless—rather than divide  
Aught with one loved save love and liberty.  
I watch'd thee on the breakers, when the rock  
Received our prow and all was storm and fear,  
And bade thee cling to me through every shock;  
This arm would be thy bark, or breast thy bier.  
I watch'd thee when the fever glazed thine eyes,  
Yielding my couch and stretch'd me on the ground,  
When overworn with watching, ne'er to rise  
From thence if thou an early grave hadst found.  
The earthquake came, and rock'd the quivering wall,  
And men and nature reel'd as if with wine.  
Whom did I seek around the tottering hall?  
For thee. Whose safety first provide for? Thine.  
And when convulsive throes denied my breath  
The faintest utterance to my fading thought,  
To thee—to thee—e'en in the gasp of death  
My spirit turn'd, oh! oftener than it ought.  
Thus much and more; and yet thou lov'st me not,  
And never wilt! Love dwells not in our will,  
Nor can I blame thee, though it be my lot  
To strongly, wrongly, vainly love thee still.

Those responsible for the exhibition have a great sense of camp, which is quite all right, for Byron was a self-conscious performer upon the Romantic stage. They have perhaps reached out a bit too far in their attempts to recreate "the atmosphere," and although I was pleased by the presence of some broken arches hauled in from Newstead Abbey, where Byron was wont to drink from a goblet made out of a human skull, I was nevertheless attempted to wince at a Venetian canal simulated by means of flickering blue lights and the sound of waves lapping over the amplifier. I must admit, though, that the light opera music floating through 'The Venetian Palace' was rather effective, except for the awkward positioning of one of the speakers in the grate of a fireplace. An expert from Disneyland should have been consulted.

The conclusion to the exhibit is appropriately morbid: Byron's actual death bed, from the tent when he died in the battle to liberate Greece, with flickering sorrowful lantern and a swath of sheet drenched in the blood of the poet. Also a written receipt for a portion of the body (unspecified) retained by Prince Mavrocordato before the corpse was shipped to England in a tub of preservative wine, and various memorials such as a death portrait and locks of hair cut from the body. I noticed that several women were weeping.

Surely this is an exhibition that no Romantic can afford to miss. Be sure to spend enough time to read some of the manuscript letters and poems (which are not printed in the guide), and to allow yourself some fantasising in the Venetian Palace. Though the Royal Academy may still hold the laurels for setting up exhibits with good taste, the V&A puts on an impressively good show.

Byron's personality as a passionate rebel has always eclipsed his genius as a poet of liberation, and the visual requirements of a gallery exhibition naturally reinforce the exotic image of him in the



Byron in Albanian costume, painting by Thomas Phillips, 1814 (National Portrait Gallery)

popular imagination—the leitmotif of the exhibit is his portrait as a corsair in Albanian dress (with the actual garments also on display). But within the last two decades, critical and scholarly opinion has begun to recognise Byron as a poet of consequence and stature. G Wilson Knight, the greatest of all 'non-establishment' critics, quite seriously contends that Byron is second only to Shakespeare as a dramatic poet, second only to Goethe as a 'profound' poet, second only to Chaucer as a satirical realist—and greater than all three in the breadth of his vision and skill. In our age of the modest facade, one is embarrassed by the extravagance of such critical opinion, but no doubt a reasoned recognition of his importance will continue to grow.

(Note: Some of Byron's best homoerotic poems, for those who care to look them up, consist of 'Away, Away, Ye Notes of Woe', 'One Struggle More, and I Am Free', 'And Thou Art Dead, as Young and Fair', 'If Sometimes in the Haunts of Men', and the introductory stanzas of the first three Cantos of 'Childe Harold's Pilgrimage'. Also of interest is the anonymous 'Don Leon', an erotic satire on Byron's sodomitical pursuits, recently reprinted in a limited edition by Duckworth Press.)

Rictor Norton

The Byron Exhibition is open until 25th August at the Victoria and Albert Museum. Admission: 40p; 20p for Students and Senior Citizens; free on Thursdays 6-8pm; Season Tickets are £1.20 and 60p.

## Hail Muse! Et cetera

Nothing so concentrates the mind as does a centenary, or a quinquagenary or a combination of the two. This year is the 150th anniversary of Lord Byron's death in Greece helping the Greeks free themselves from Turkish oppression. "There are two sentiments to which I am constant,—a strong love of liberty, and a detestation of cant."



Byron illuminated by the summer lightning of genius, painting by Vincenzo Camuccini, 1815.

Westminster Abbey refused burial to the most famous poet of the age (though admitting a memorial slab to Poet's Corner scarcely 144 years later) because, of course, Byron had a reputation apart from that of the poet: he had had mistresses, a broken marriage and rumoured illicit relationships with his half-sister and, for a while in youth, boys. And far from expressing repentance, he wrote *Don Juan*.

Byron described his verse-novel as "a little quietly facetious about everything." A contemporary reviewer saw the noble author "laughing with a detestable glee over the whole of the better and worse elements of which human life is composed—treating well nigh with equal derision the most pure of virtues and the most odious of vices." Certainly the impulse of writing was "to giggle and make giggle" but—"The truth is that in these days the grand *primum mobile* of England is cant; cant political, cant poetical, cant religious, cant moral." "The best mode left for conquering it, is to expose it to ridicule, the only weapon that the English climate cannot rust." Experience and travel had provided him with the dramatic personae of human weaknesses and wickednesses for dramas of self-interest disguised as magnanimity and such comedies of idealism versus instinct as the mutual seduction of/by Donna Julia by/of Don Juan. She (aet 23), married to Don Alfonso (aet 50), determines that her love for Juan (aet 16) shall be Platonic—"Julia had honour, virtue, truth, and love / For Don Alfonso, and she inly swore / By all the vows below to powers above, / She never would disgrace the ring she wore / Nor leave a wish which wisdom might reprove. / And while she pondered this, besides much more, / One hand on Juan's carelessly was thrown, / Quite by mistake—she thought it was her own." "But who, alas, can love and then be wise? / Not that remorse did not oppose temptation; / A little still she strove and much repented, / And whispering, 'I will ne'er consent'—consented."

Juan is only the nominal hero of the poem, a sort of Childe Harold-cum-Paul Pennyfeather; one of those to whom things happen. He endures shipwreck, near cannibalism, near castration—he does not enter the harem as a eunuch but as an inmate to the delight of the other inmates—enduring the horrors of war as bravely as the rigours of Catherine the Great's bed—"The favour of the Empress was agreeable; / And though the duty waxed a little hard, / Young people at his time of life should be able / To come off handsomely in that regard." Eventually he arrives in England where Byron, the narrator, the true hero of the piece, amiably vents his spleen on the society which lionized him in 1812 and ostracised him in 1816. In *Don Juan* he had found a style of narrative and profound digression that was as headlong and uninhibited and honest as his letters. Sardonic, teasing, mock-innocent, shocking, commonsensical, self-deprecating, paternal—"I rattle on exactly as I'd talk / With anybody in a ride or walk." "It is the sublime of that there sort of writing—it may be bawdy but is it not good English? It may be profligate but is it not life, is it not the thing? Could any man have written who has not lived in the world?"

Something of Byron and his world can be seen at the V&A. There he is, splendid in red and gold Albanian costume emphasising the face, distracting attention from the shameful clubbed foot. A note urges his agent to rescue from the bailiffs "Some shoes . . ." He did not want one of those specially constructed shoes to fall into unsympathetic hands. The cartoonists had already spotted his thinning hair brushed forward; so far they had ignored or failed to see the "little foot." The voice of a choir boy identifies his college love, Edleston, whose sister, breaking the news of his death, meticulously writes "your lordship's" this, "your lordship's" that and crosses out one "lordship" too many.

Above a replica of the fireplace in which his executor burned his memoirs hangs the famous portrait by Phillips—"What is the end of fame? To have, when the original is dust, / A name, a wretched picture, and worse bust." The "worse bust" is by Bartolini—"It may be like for aught I know, as it exactly resembles a super-annuated Jesuit." The bust by Thorwaldsen was said to be the best likeness. Byron refused to have it wreathed as befits a poet—"I won't have my head garnished like a Christmas pie with holly . . . I wonder you should think me such a mountebank." I love Byron, I know, more than any man dead.

Peter Forster

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# Wanna good time?

**PROSTITUTES** — Denise Winn (Hutchinson, £1.95)  
Many of us at one time or another have thought of the professional tart in terms of a rigid stereotype—from big boobs and bouffant hairdo, right down to fishnet stockings and spiky heels.

But in her book, *Prostitutes*, Denise Winn reveals that there is no such thing as a typical prostitute, that behind the painted smile lies an individual with hopes, fears, dreams, just like the rest of us. The book is a colourful, yet non-sensational collage of women (and men) with just one common denominator: they hire out their bodies for those who are prepared to pay for the pleasure—and pain. Ms Winn writes in a cool, precise and matter-of-fact style about the day-to-day and night-to-night lives of London's oldest profession, who are almost as mixed a bunch as their clients. She does not delve too deeply, merely presenting the facts as she sees them, without any attempt at moralising.

There is GILLIAN who, in the opening chapter, takes a positive delight in marching into the chemist's and demanding "fifteen packets of Durex, please," enjoying the red face of the girl behind the counter and the shocked stares of other customers.

It is Gillian who, in a later chapter, expresses her contempt for Chrissie's submissiveness. Chrissie lives with Bill, her hot-tempered, hard-drinking ponce who beats her up and takes her money. Gillian despises her for being such a slave, and tells her there is nothing to be ashamed of in being a pro. "It's the office girls who are selling themselves cheap. Always giggling about who fucked them the night before and who they're going to meet tomorrow. They're the ones who are being used, the ones who go down in some man's notebook as another conquest. They do it freebee and they think they enjoy it. They don't know how to enjoy it! But it's the in thing to do and they don't consider themselves cheap. They've got their eyes on rich husbands."

There is CAROL, who is gay and to whom being a pro is just a job, never a turn-on. It's a means to an end—a way of earning easy money to spend on her girlfriend, Helen. She sells "sex without glamour," being "a simple girl, totally devoid of a business sense and far too sensitive towards people to take advantage of them and make herself a really lucrative career." For Carol, sex with her clients is a cold, clinical, meaningless experience... "Business was business, and

pleasure was Helen."

SARAH, ex-public school and from a wealthy middle-class background, made a rapid transition from escort agency to hardened pro. In a letter to a friend she tries to justify her way of life, but one gets the impression she is long past caring... she's caught VD a few times, and she's into dope pushing. She says she regards prostitution as just a transitory part of her life—"I don't envisage this experience shaping the rest of my life to come or changing my feelings in any way. It's just a way of making money. Depressing, yes, because I don't like living a lie and having to act. But then I'd hate to be a secretary, too, and have to act all sweet and polite to some bum of an employer who sent me out for cigarettes and called for second cups of coffee." Beneath the cloak of respectability, vive la difference...

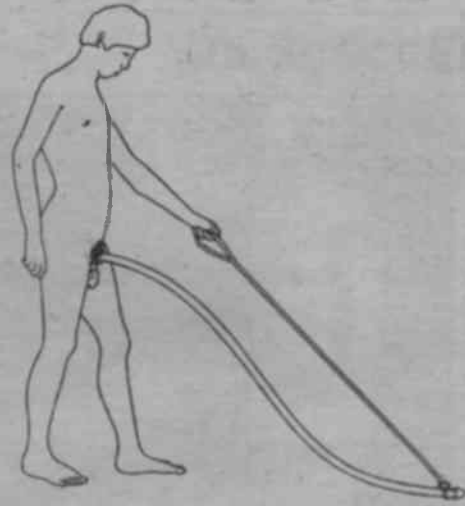
Of course, the world of prostitution is not a strictly female preserve. There are a number of male prostitutes catering for women—and men. PAUL is gay and well-established in the trade. He came down to London from the provinces with the intention of hitting the bright lights and big time of the acting profession. After several shattered illusions—and more by chance than judgment—he took to prostitution. He quickly gets hooked, not only on the money, but on 60 dexedrine tablets a day. A footballer client offers him a way out of the mess he is in: he wants Paul to go and live with him. Paul rejects the offer, though he knows the drugs are ruining his life.

No kink is left unturned. Clients, we learn, are drawn from a diversity of backgrounds, from the smart City stockbroker wanting to be chained inside a cupboard, to the muscular, moustachioed guy who is never happier than when clad in sequined dress and long blonde wig.

The clients are in it for kicks, but the pros themselves have only one main aim: Money. And to most of them, their way of making it is no stigma. SARAH says it all: "Working for £16 a week in a shop is just as much prostitution as lying on your back for five minutes." It would certainly appear that many women pros feel a lot less exploited than their sisters in offices and factories. Added to which, a large proportion are gay and enjoy the feeling of power over their clients.

I would like to have learned more about the women clients who go to straight male pros (or to other women, though this is, apparently, quite rare). But on the whole, this is a balanced and fair account of a much-maligned minority group.

Veronica Harvey



## 'Penis envy'

**THE JEWISH BANANA** — Drawings by Les Coleman (Number Nineteen, 50p)

The penis, circumcised or not, is—as everyone knows—a permanent source of inspiration for creative individuals... If one judges by the impressive number of phallic substitutes that surround our everyday life (from cigars to microphones to lipsticks) one should admit that we are all obsessed with phalluses, and you know what I mean if like me you're smoking twenty cigarettes a day...

Les Coleman has acknowledged this universal

hang-up on sex organs, and set to work on thirty deliciously funny drawings, all of them creatively playing with the, uh, obsession mentioned above.

Out of proportion cock, cock-headed man, finger-shaped cock, the combinations are infinite. But he hasn't forgotten the ladies' pride either. For them he has drawn ribbon-knotted pussies, floating tits and the like. Vulgar? Never! Instead his witty drawings have much charm and humour, and are well worth a smile... or two...

Jean-Claude Thevenin

(Note: Available from Jumber Nineteen, 19 Fitzroy Road, London NW1 8TP)

## Best gay anthology

**FAG RAG/GAY SUNSHINE: Stonewall 5th Anniversary Issue**

This special combined issue of *Fag Rag* (Boston) and *Gay Sunshine* (San Francisco) is the largest gay liberation collection ever, equivalent in printed material to a book-length anthology. It is a remarkably well-constructed issue, with fine erotic graphics by Roger Stearns, Allyn Amundson, Joe Brainard, John Button, Jim Reed, and Gleep (a transsexual), and a diverse plenitude of essays, including thoughts on revolutionary promiscuity, gays and the Left, gays and the Third World, a lengthy interview with the musician Ned Rorem and shorter interviews with filmmaker Arthur Bressan and singer Steve Grossman, Allen Young's reevaluation of gay identity, Rictor Norton's

reflection on the gay movement, Ian Young's historical overview of the gay novel, critical reviews of various modern writers, poetry by Harold Norse, Allen Ginsberg, John Giorno, Jonathan Williams, Kirby Congdon, Ron Schreiber, Salvatore Fari-nella, and a largess of rich and beautiful material. Highly recommended as the best gay anthology to date, and hard to surpass for some time to come. It was produced at a cost of nearly £1000, and *Gay Sunshine* won't be able to begin publishing again until October. Available (postpaid) for US\$1.25 international money order payable to Gay Sunshine, Box 40397, San Francisco, California 94140, USA.

Rictor Norton

## Timeless appeal

**THE SIGN** — Robin Maugham — WH Allen, £2.25

Although the character of Jesus never appears in *The Sign*, and an author's note is at pains to point out that this is not a book about Jesus, it is patently obvious that the book is an examination of the big JC and the stories which surround him and which form the basis for much of what we consider western civilisation.

However, by not using the character of Jesus,



by setting his story ten years before Jesus began his ministry, Robin Maugham has found a stunningly simple and clever device which enables him to take a truly controversial look at the very foundations of Christianity. It is a look a lot of people are not going to like.

The year is AD 20. Joseph, a wealthy merchant, is introduced to a young Prophet, Caleb. Caleb already has a following amongst the peasants; his behaviour convinces Joseph that he might have found a winner, might have found the Messiah. He decides to use his wealth and his influence to back Caleb. From this point the analogy becomes clear. The pattern of Caleb's career, ministry, whatever, now closely follows that of Jesus—right down to the crucifixion and resurrection. And it is from this point on that the novel will really start to worry or upset believers.

To give more of the plot away would be unfair. Suffice it to say that Robin Maugham has written an impressive novel, far and away his most interesting piece of writing in years. The characterisation of Caleb, Joseph, and of Raguel, Joseph's jealous boyfriend, is extraordinarily strong. The narrative is sparse, uncluttered and fast-moving. Without a doubt the story has a timeless appeal.

It is always so easy to say that any work, dramatic, literary or artistic, which utilises Jesus will be controversial. It is only infrequently true—for example, in Kazantzakis' *The Last Temptation*. It is definitely true of *The Sign*.

Peter Burton

## Conformist bleatings

**HOW TO BE YOUR OWN BEST FRIEND** — Mildred Newman and Bernard Berkowitz, with Jean Own (Pan, 35p)

Cast in the form of a conversation with two psychoanalysts, this slender book comes at us with the information that it is a number one best-seller in the USA. So you have been warned. Naive questions are given cosy, unctuous answers that manage to evade every point, fail to give practical advice and merely hand out platitudes. While reading it, the book can give a feeling that good sense and hopeful attitudes are being projected, but rather like it is after a tarot reading or a touch of palmistry, that warm feeling soon evaporates and has no relation to the cold, windy world outside.

Newman and Berkowitz' answer to "How can I be happy" is quite simply, to conform to the standards of middle-class America. Extremely revealing is their comment on the Women's Lib

plea that day-care should be widely available so that mothers aren't forced to stay at home with their children and stagnate. "Having children is—or ought to be—a choice. If women want babies they should have them. If they don't want to raise children, they shouldn't have them. But once they do, they have a certain responsibility..." and so on. The view that bringing up children is in itself a satisfying career is, of course, familiar. But I don't think I've ever come across before the idea that having a baby is a personal decision made by a woman irrespective of social pressure and men! Of course, homosexual preferences can be changed overnight by simply treating homosexuals as though they were heterosexuals. It's only the label—being called homosexual—that makes people behave gay. "Now we're hearing all kinds of success stories" these two appallingly ignorant persons bleat.

Roger Baker

## Inflated prose

**THE COCKATOOS** — Patrick White — Jonathan Cape, £2.50

The acclaim accorded to Patrick White, notably since the publication of *Riders in the Chariot*, seems to have adversely affected his writing. To my mind, White now seems to be striving to create a masterpiece rather than let a masterpiece flow naturally from his pen. His most recent publication, *The Cockatoos*, seems to be no exception to this general rule.

*The Cockatoos* is a collection of six short novels. It is depressing to report that, true to the pattern of his more recent work, this book is an exercise in elaborate over-writing. It is all the more

depressing to have to report this about a writer who has contributed several remarkable novels to English literature.

Each of the stories in this collection is an examination of a possessive love relationship. Superficially the writing appears to be subtle and cautious; ultimately the reader is left with a feeling that the subtlety and caution are those of a prim and prissy maiden aunt. The fussiness of the writing, the elaboration woven around nothing at all, left me finally longing for some incredible vulgarity, some definite feeling, some irritation, one accurately described fuck.

Peter Burton

## See for yourself

**IN SEARCH OF ANCIENT GODS (My Pictorial Evidence for the Impossible)** — Erich von Daniken (Souvenir Press, £2.95)

"Today the greatest danger is people who don't want to accept that the age now beginning differs fundamentally from the past." — Max Planck

Erich von Daniken, as a somewhat unorthodox archeologist, has decided that time has come for us to look into our past in a non-academic, 'revolutionary' perspective. He deplores that searchers are usually trying to make their discoveries fit into the puzzle of institutionalised knowledge, and that by asserting that the 'truth' has already been found, they enclose themselves in the circle of traditional culture, abandoning their roles as 'seekers of the truth'.

The hypothesis of his work is that the 'Chariots of the Gods' which are mentioned in many ancient religious texts (from different parts of the world) were actually spaceships, that the earth has already been visited by travellers of the universe who gave humankind as we know it the rudiments of civilisation and left traces of their passage to set us on the tracks of a greater knowledge.

This book is in fact a fully illustrated, re-edited version of the theories von Daniken developed in *Chariots of the Gods?* and *Return to the Stars*, presenting us with some four hundred pictures, some of them very intriguing indeed, and all posing difficult questions to academic historians, geologists and archeologists.

Incidentally, although not mentioned in this volume, von Daniken speculates that the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, as related in the Old Testament, has much in common with what could



An 'angel' rides in a spherical flying object. From a mural in Desani Monastery, Yugoslavia.

have been one of the first atomic explosions on earth... Impossible, you may think, but this kind of over-assertive view is characteristic of von Daniken's approach. The undeniable value of his work lies in the fact that he confronts us, as in this book, with images that don't fit into our mental world, and forces us to reassess the general perspective of our culture.

Jean-Claude Thevenin

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## High tea in Bloomsbury

**BLOOMSBURY** — Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Road, London WC1

Lytton Strachey, the illustrious historian and writer of Edwardian times, is the principal character in Peter Luke's new play *Bloomsbury*. Together with numerous other luminaries of that era, they formed the famous Bloomsbury Group, where art and free thinking were the topics of their intellectual drawing-room meetings. There is enough existing material on them to fill several plays, but the author has concentrated mainly on the close friendship between Strachey and the painter Dora Carrington, whilst encompassing other associates of his. Carrington, an attractive bisexual, met him first in 1914, and lived with him for the last 15 years of his life, in a loving brother and sister relationship.

Though noted for his many sexual affairs with other men, in this play Strachey appears more the romanticist rather than actively indulging in sex. He spends a good deal of time pondering over the charms of the young postman, and forming unconsummated attachments to Carrington's suitors. She, on the other hand, drifts from one love to another, being all things to all people. No sooner does she rid herself of the boorish, possessive Mark Gertler, than she is involved with Ralph Partridge, a friend of her brother's whom she wed briefly, pausing by the way to have a passionate lesbian affair.

Mr Luke has conjured up some strong dramatic scenes which combine both serious and comic moments. An especially good one is the Tribunal to which Strachey is summoned to answer the charge of being a conscientious objector. His friends' loud arrival in the court is more in keeping with one of their tea parties, rather than a serious occasion. When the court enquire what Strachey's reaction would be if he found a German soldier about to rape his sister, he replies "I would try to interpose my body." The scene with Carrington, her husband, and Strachey sharing a huge bed is extremely funny—climaxed by their discovery of the Armistice, to which Strachey exclaims "Let's all go to London and pick up a sailor."

Complete with high-pitched voice and dangling wrists, Strachey at times befits Virginia Woolf's description of him, as "an old stage Duchess" lording it up in society circles after the successful publication of his book *Eminent Victorians*. However, in spite of the many facetious and witty bon mots he utters, he emerges as a loveable and kindly personality, due to Daniel Massey's warm characterisation. It is always exciting to watch a new star personality emerge, and in her intelligent performance as Dora Carrington, Penelope Wilton does just that. With her boyish haircut, good looks and attractive personality, she combines perfectly both the masculine and feminine traits of the character. Moyra Fraser plays Lady Ottoline Morrell in the grand manner, and one realises why this Queen Bee was such a popular hostess.

Yvonne Mitchell, in another of her stylish performances, brings an ethereal quality to the role of writer Virginia Woolf, linking up the action with some pertinent monologues as she gravitates across the thin line of sanity into final madness and suicide. To her, falls one of the play's best lines,



Daniel Massey (left) and Gill Sutherland in *Bloomsbury*

as she questions the relationship of Dora and Lytton with the words "Does he... does she... do they... and if so What?" Richard Cottrell's superb direction of the cast is in evidence throughout. John Addison's background music and the production design of Robin Archer are other notable assets. Rarely have I sensed such attention from an audience, nor witnessed sudden applause at the close of certain speeches. Obviously the audience share my own sentiments on this brilliant play: "I cared, I was involved, I loved it".

Barry Conley

## Lunchtime theatre

**INFANCY and CHILDHOOD** — Kings Head, Islington, London N1

Two one-act plays by Thornton Wilder were recently performed in the lunchtime theatre at the Kings Head in Islington. Based on the 'Seven Ages of Man', these are the first two to be written, and prove that the 77-year-old playwright has retained his magic touch over the years. In *Infancy*, his suggestion that babies in their prams can communicate with each other unbeknown to adults, is most intriguing. He extends this idea further in *Childhood*, depicting the fantasy games played by children. Director Peter Lindsey gains some promising performances from Kim Horsman and other students of the Studio '68 of Theatre Arts, and is to be commended for his handling of these two delightful playlets.

Barry Conley

## What happened to the orchestra then?

**THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO** — The National Theatre at the Old Vic

As I sat waiting for the curtain to rise on (believe it or not) the London premiere of Beaumarchais' *Marriage of Figaro*, I vowed to put all thoughts of Mozart's opera out of my head, and simply watch the original play. But alas I could not.

I can well believe the furore that the piece caused amongst the European aristocracy when it was first produced. Well accustomed to the onslaughts of Voltaire upon their pedigrees they might have been, but it must have come as something of a surprise to find the same attitudes transferred to the popular stage and to find intelligent audiences quite prepared to share the joke.

In our own age, however, when the average hereditary peer is at worst a joke and at best a fascinating conversation piece at charity premieres, quite a leap of the imagination is required of an audience to pick up the political savagery of the plays.

Not that the director hasn't done his best to help. The committed Dr Jonathan Miller (who could squeeze political significance out of a Liberal Party Conference) does not allow his nobler characters to become mere creatures of farce. Count Almiviva, admirably played by Derek Godfrey, is a man of many parts—heartily amorous, vociferously jealous, a bewildered innocent outwitted by the schemes of the women-folk, and a ruggedly imperious Lord High Everything Else. He is a man of absolute power by birth, but a human being with human weaknesses which render him incapable of wielding that power either justly or effectively. That was the statement by Beaumarchais that caused all the fuss. Today, it would be a statement of the obvious.

So my thoughts turned involuntarily to Mozart, and the glorious irony that what was once a savage roughing-up of the nobility is now a favourite entertainment of today's twice-born.

But if the social satire is largely of academic and historical interest, the comedy of the piece is still available to the general theatre-goer. It is made even more available by the talents of Nicola Paget (as the maid Suzanne) and Gemma Jones (as the Countess). Suzanne has wit, cunning and determination—a dangerous combination for her poor protagonists—though I missed the pertness of her operatic counterpart. The Countess was quite simply delightful—one minute inconsolably bemoaning her fate as the wife who has lost the power to delight her husband; the next, spitting triumphantly as she skewers him upon yet another marital infidelity. Ever vengeful, ever forgiving, she dazzled quietly throughout the piece.

*Figaro* (Gawn Grainger) did not fully satisfy me though. I won't ask you to try to imagine a cross between Michael Caine and Max Bygraves. Suffice it to say that there was something too slow about his quick-wittedness, something too vulnerable about his authority.

It took some time for the audience to thaw, but thaw they eventually did. The main flow of the plot between the principals moved quickly and humourously (rather than hilariously). Belly laughs were supplied mainly by bits of stage business, the snail's pace of Howard Goorney's magistrate, the full blooded roar of a footman's one line announcing a visitor.

Very satisfactory as a comedy, then, if not unmatched on the London stage; the National's *Figaro* is at least an enjoyable addition to the repertoire.

Michael Mason

## I get a kick out of Cole

**COLE** — Mermaid Theatre, Puddle Dock, Blackfriars, London EC4

Take fifty songs, some well known, others obscure, and add ten talented artists who all have the ability to harmonise as well as merely sing. Then add a group of able musicians, Peter Docherty's consummate shiny black and white set comprising stairs with various work levels, and costumes typifying the thirties era, et voila, you have *COLE*, the new Mermaid Theatre offering, which is a hymn of praise to that genius of sophisticated song Cole Porter.

Benny Green and Alan Strachan have compiled a marvellous entertainment encompassing Porter's career from his early college days, by using various dialogue interludes from writers such as Scott Fitzgerald and PG Wodehouse, which not only inform us about the composer, but give us further insight into the lifestyle of the thirties. However, 'the song's the thing', and we are able to savour again all the familiar melodies that have been with us seemingly forever: "Night and Day", "Begin the Beguine", "I Get a Kick Out of You", etc. Of course it would be impossible to use every famous tune that he wrote, and I found myself comparing the list used, and wishing they had included "Easy to Love" and "You're the Tops". But no matter, what is included gives the audience more than enough value for money.

My own particular favourite section is titled "What is this thing called love", in which all aspects of Cole's lyrical wit with a love song is well handled by the cast, as one tune follows another: Joyous love—in "You Do Something to Me" (nicely done by the show's two youngsters Lucy Fenwick and Ray Cornell), and in Peter Gayle's gloriously confident "You've Got That Thing". Passionate love—with Elizabeth Power's exciting "In the Still of the Night", and Kenneth Nelson's "I Worship You". Cynical love—in Angela Richard's marvellous jaded lady requesting "Make It Another Old Fashioned Please", and sheer tongue-in-cheek fun with "It's D'Lovely" with Bill Kerr and Julia McKenzie. At times, rather than rely on the words to get the laugh, the director has employed comic movements. Perhaps like myself, he believes that the English don't care to concentrate too long on

lyrics. Whatever reason, it certainly works, as Una Stubbs' languorous movement for "Laziest Girl in Town" and Rod McLaren's exuberant cavortings on "Let's Misbehave" both stop the show.

The barbershop quartet singing on a song from Porter's college days "When the Summer Moon



Members of the cast of *Cole*

Come 'long' and the three girls' close harmony on "Most Gentleman Don't Like Love" are very impressive. Apart from the aforementioned items, Julia McKenzie's version of "Mrs Lowsborough-Goodyby" is the quintessence of Porter's elegant wit, and together with Elizabeth Power's lovely rendering of "I Love Paris" and Peter Gale's superlative singing of the little known "You Don't Know Patee" are three of the best things in the show. As an example of the works of America's foremost composer-lyricist this show cannot be bettered.

Barry Conley

## Now showing

Most cineasts will tell you that Hitchcock's *Psycho* excepted, the best thrillers were made in the forties. They all have their favourites: John Huston's *Maltese Falcon* with Humphrey Bogart, or perhaps one of Hitchcock's. Personally, I favour Otto Preminger's *Laura*, Edward Dmytryk's *Murder My Sweet* and Joseph L Mankiewicz's *Somewhere In The Night*. These films were totally different from modern car chase and shoot-out dramas, which have come to be accepted as thrillers. They had abrupt twisty plots of enormous wit; their characters were mysterious, or cynical, or slick, and witty and fascinating, or possessed all these qualities, as does the jewel thief so adeptly played by Lino Ventura in *LA BONNE ANNEE* (Avco Embassy, director Claude Lelouch). A film for after dinner enjoyment, it has the feel of an expensive cigar, as the planning of a daring jewel robbery is conducted with tremendous wit, guile and romanticism in Cannes' luxuriant hotels and restaurants. Ventura also displays some of the most ingenious disguises to be seen in the cinema.

**THE BLACK WINDMILL** (CIC, director Don Siegel) is another old fashioned thriller that recalls aspects of the cinematic past I'd rather forget. Siegel's first British film is the hoary old one about the secret service agent's son being kidnapped for an enormous ransom and, despite the presence of the Panavision lens, Donald Pleasance, and Michael Caine doing his Harry Palmer act, the script and directorial style are firmly rooted in the 1950s British 'B' picture style. The scriptwriter Leigh Vance, incidentally, has been in America writing television scripts since he achieved fame writing scripts for Rank 'B' pictures in the fifties.

The cast appear bored and grossly under used. Hermione Baddeley for example has about two lines, and is given no opportunities to use her comic talents. A backward step for Don Siegel, who after years of directing American 'B' pictures has recently achieved cult status for his amoral, amiably right wing, violent and cynical thrillers like *Charlie Varrick*.

**THE CONVERSATION** (CIC, director Francis Ford Coppola) is an utterly topical thriller that combines a suspenseful study of an industrial assassination with a complex psychological study of the bugger (Gene Hackman). The film's roots obviously lie in that much celebrated thriller *Klute* with Jane Fonda that combined a murder investigation with a study of a society call girl to great effect. The ethics of the prostitute and the wire tapper appear from this new film to have a startling similarity.

The most likeable aspect of *The Conversation* is its overt reality. Hackman's Harry Caul may be a wire tapper but he has a girlfriend, and even attends wire tappers' conventions. He's just that much more paranoid than the average nigger-hating American suburbanite. He has about four locks on his front door and keeps his telephone locked in a drawer. He also has a conscience about the information on his tapes being used to murder relatively innocent individuals. Eventually his conscience and paranoia get the better of him with frightening results.

Gene Hackman's performance is a little theatrical but the supporting cast is skillful and Coppola has created an alarmingly atmospheric picture of an America where man's technological know how and coldness is his ruthless immoral driving force.

David Seligman

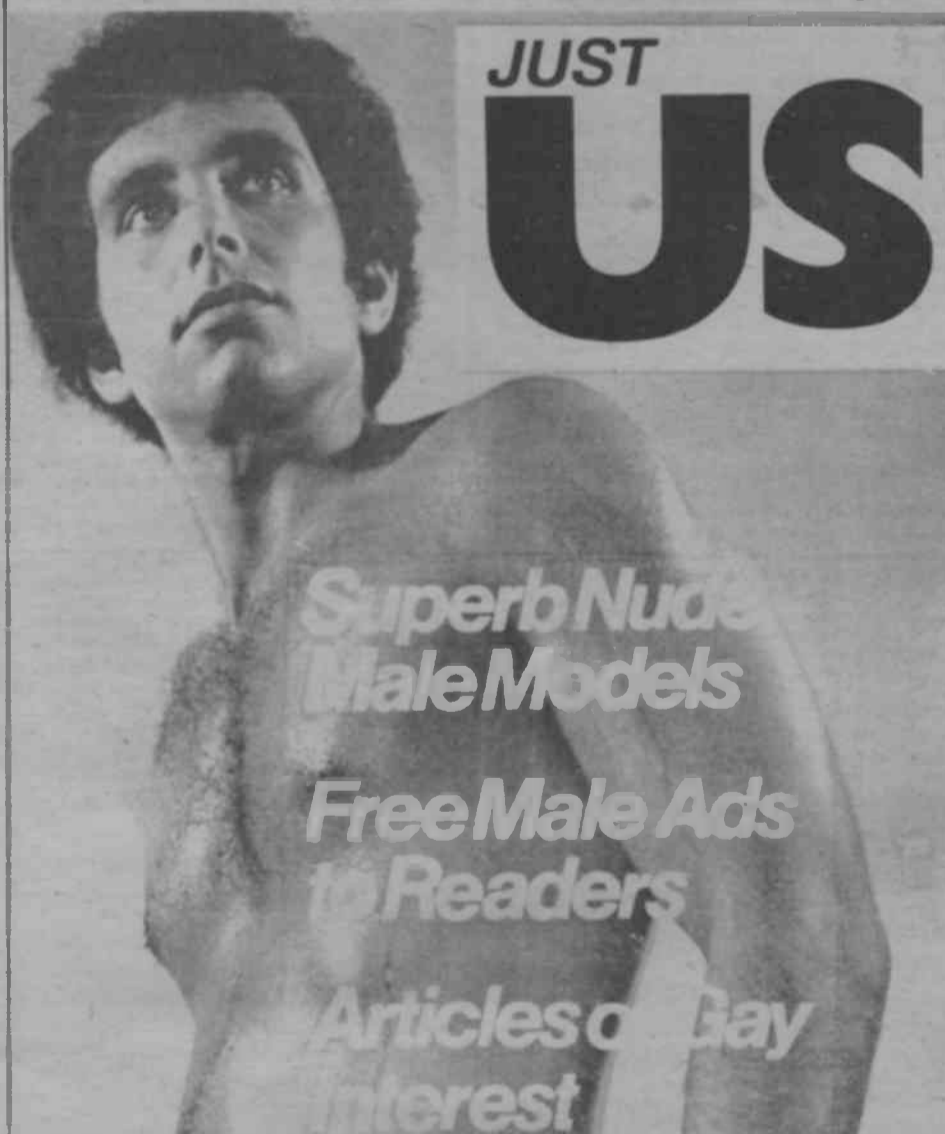
## All-night Warhol

The National Film Theatre is running an all-night showing of four movies from the Warhol/Morrissey stable on Saturday August 17.

The films to be shown from midnight onwards are *Bike Boy* (1967), *Flesh* (1968), *Trash* (1970), and *Women In...* *Revolt* (1972).

Membership is necessary to buy tickets and this will cost you 50p a month or £2.75 a year (£1.37 for students). Each member can take along three friends, and tickets for this all-night entertainment are £1.30 each.

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**Bon ton**

Yves St Laurent sketches here his essential looks for Autumn. For M St Laurent, the important thing is taste. He abhors knitted materials for men's clothing. Jersey is in Bad Taste. Most of us really quite like jersey, but I guess that's why we're not Yves St Laurent. But he is not totally stultified. He may defy fashion rules with impunity—"I often mix plaids and stripes. I do not think that this is necessarily bad taste." Otherwise, he plays it safe and tempers Good Taste with a studied negligence—"Everything works round a suit—the rest changes. There are people who can go through their whole lives without wearing a tie." That's what you call hedging your bets.

All clothes in the new Yves St Laurent Ready-To-Wear range will be available at selected stores throughout the country for Autumn and Winter.

Iain Finlayson



Green Woolmark tweed 'track-suit' two-piece for girl, boys wear white Woolmark flannel pullover with drawstring top and track-suit trousers (Dick and Goldschmidt) and canary yellow Woolmark flannel anorak (Heather Mills) worn over wool green waistcoat and cream trousers (Texyl L'Abbey, France).



Woolmark tweed check zip-up short jacket has knitted shawl collar, angled patched pockets and side-tabbed tunnel fastening (Heather Mills); single-breasted pale green Woolmark tweed jacket with two angled patch pockets and side tab fastening (Irish Wool Weavers) worn over an elongated roll neck sweater with matching scarf by Gilbey.

**Track performance**

The latest Tom Gilbey collection proves the theory that men's casual wear eventually supplants formal town wear as acceptable fashion on or off the sports field. "Sportsmen", says Mr Gilbey, "will be the new idols in 1974/75, replacing the pop star." The new idols are a very different breed indeed. They're certainly not running about in lurex shorts or gold lamé singlets. The new heroes need no sex-tests to determine gender.

For these Super-men, crisp cottons and soft wools reflect the loose-limbed, relaxed mood of sport. Mr Gilbey has taken the cut of an anorak or a golfing jacket and translated it into chic tweeds and knits. The line is carried through to knitwear, and even classic suits have casual, elasticated cuffs. Dress down to dress up is the keynote. Topcoats and casual pull-on tops have loose, dropped shoulder lines and fuller blouson tops are drawn into hip level by either elastic or a draw-string tie. Colours are natural or heathery mixtures in soft blends except for a devastating range of primary coloured suits put together in contrasting yellow, white, red and green, bright and clear as acid drops. Balaclava helmets and long, negligent scarves complete the Gilbey look.

Jackets and tops often feature anorak hoods, but the elegant top note must be the return of the flat cap like the things your father used to wear to attend football matches or shoot grouse.

The most original and most startling innovation, however, is the casual track suit in calico or towelling. If we ever get around to disposing of denims, the track suit is the natural alternative.

All clothes to order from Tom Gilbey, 36 Sackville Street, London W1. And, as they used to say about yachts and Rolls Royce cars, if you need to ask their price you can't afford them!

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# Record Reviews

## SAVE THE CHILDREN (Soundtrack) Various Artists (Tamla Motown)

Recorded live at Chicago's Black Expo Festival, this double album features a billion-dollar bill of artists who gave their services for free surpassing even this rabid soul freak's wildest dreams. I've got albums by half of them, and no doubt you have too. Unfortunately this record does little to flatter most of them.

The success of a live performance depends far more than a studio recording on the audience growing into the atmosphere, so that changing artist number by number entails a readjustment to all except the best/most accessible performances. This set does not help the listener by interspersing the music with rabberious preaching sessions, but I would say most of the music is worth that hassle, though not the £4.25 price tag.

Apart from the preaching, *Save the Children* is marred by several tracks below the standard we now expect of live albums. Main Ingredient and Nancy Wilson both turn in superb singing performances against virtually non-existent backings. Jackson Five and the O'Jays suffer from bad choices of material though both their numbers follow great studio versions. Jerry Butler and Brenda Lee Eager just get the upper hand against a clumsy arrangement of Bacharach/David's "Close to You". Gladys Knight taking "Grapevine" at 78 rpm is impressive but pointless.

On the plus side are a high-flying "Papa Was a Rolling Stone" from The Temptations, three elegant Marvin Gaye numbers where he plays with his melody lines till they disappear, Bill Withers' dependable "Lean on Me", Curtis Mayfield, Roberta Flack and Quincy Jones. Probably would have made an excellent single LP.

Phil McNeill

## BODY HEAT Quincy Jones (A&M)

Like so many Seventies soul brothers with enormous outputs (Womack, Whitfield, Hayes, Mayfield and James Brown spring easily to mind), Quincy Jones is playing games for commercial gains. But if it's money games you want to play, instant soul is one of the most enjoyable.

Veteran of a thousand soundtracks, on *Body Heat* Jones demonstrates his art of assimilating others' styles in an agreeable melange that simmers beautifully on "Just a Man" and really cooks on "Boogie Joe the Grinder" and "One Track Mind". First of the QU ingredients is the inevitable Sly Stone, with a dash of S Wonder, the whole permeated with the man's innate sophistication.

"Everything Must Change" is a superb number that starts as a copy of Stevie's "All in Love" but pulls itself

together with a burbling trumpet passage that ridicules the half-hearted Barry White-type grunts to be found elsewhere. It's also about the only actual song on the eight-track album.

Okay, so it could be any one of a hundred soul albums made in the last year, but what the hell? That's a damn funky mowe you got there, Quincy. Can I be an extra?

Phil McNeill

## LIZA MINELLI LIVE AT THE WINTER GARDEN - (CBS)

Ms Minelli proved she ranked high as an all-round entertainer on *Live with a Z*. She proves it again with *Live at the Winter Garden*, but with diminishing effect.

The jacket design, arrangements and songs (excepting "Cabaret") are different from those on the previous record, but so similar in arrangement and content that this album appears almost a parody of the first one.



Like those old Hollywood musicals, it's the same team putting on the same show in the same style, and, inevitably, repetition lessens the impact.

Norman Pratt

## VADO VIA - Drupi (A&M)

Strange what a small effect Europe has on pop music. Apart from the welcome influence in a camp/intellectual way of largely non-musical culture—Scott Walker's existentialism, Roxy Music's dada—we are only aware of the presence of musicians over there via those bizarre, austere, Kraut-rockers like Can and Amon Duul and once in a blue moon sentimental hits like Aznavour's recent TV tune.

Last Christmas almost the only challenger to the English teen idols' splurge of seasonal records (a beautiful, bare-faced commercial attempt to make

## Assorted platters

it for a change) was this odd Italian groaner, racing up the charts in a foreign language! Much of this album, released at that time, has the same exotic charm as the title track—the tight, inventive rhythm section, children's chorus, lurching strings, daring rhythms, Drupi's cracked, soulful voice, the words shrouding the whole in mystery. If you're not in the mood it can be disastrous, but when it works it's mesmerising.

Phil McNeill

## ENO, JOHN CALE, NICO, KEVIN AYERS IN CONCERT, June 1, 1974 (Island)

This Saturday night, June 1, saw one of the first musical events of the year at the Rainbow Theatre. I thought after the concert that that was just a personal feeling as I enjoyed myself immensely, but the release of this recording of the concert last week proved me wrong: it was really an amazing gig, for the 3000 people of the audience as well as for me. The selection of numbers on the album reproduces faithfully the atmosphere of this particularly exciting night.

Eno was opening the show with his habitual poise and theatrical energy. On the record, two of his own compositions are the starters, "Driving Me Backwards" and "Baby's On Fire" (which he repeated as an encore).

John Cale, apart from playing the electric fiddle all through the performance, does a remarkable vocal interpretation of Max Deacon's "Heart-break Hotel".

Nico and her Teutonic charm closed the first part of the show (last track on the first side of the album) with a touch of drama. Harmonium, Eno's synthesizer, and Nico's gorgeous voice were just the right thing for the Doors' song "The End".

Kevin Ayers (smartly clad in a pale blue silk suit) was filling the second part of the bill at the Rainbow and thus is featured all on his own on the second side of the album.

It starts with "May I", a kind of gallant ballad typical of Ayers' singing style, and follows with "Shouting in a Bucket Blues" and "Stranger in Blue Suede Shoes". "Everybody's Sometimes and Some People's All the Time Blues" was given the strength of a masterpiece, and the show closed gently with "Two Goes Into Town", with Kevin on acoustic guitar.

And that very night, Kevin Ayers,

with his lazy intonations and his warm voice, convinced us that if he wasn't already a major pop artist, it was just because he didn't want to take the affair too seriously. Pity, but what a concert that was!

Jean-Claude Thevenin

## GOLDIE ZELKOWITZ - (Janus)

There must be a soft spot for Goldie in the heart of anyone who remembers "Wipeout" starting the weekend at 6.08 on a Friday, Cathy McGowan's smashing mime and dance competitions, the all-girl Gingerbreads holding their tarty ends up in the company of such heavies as the Yardbirds and Kinks at scream-shocked Odeons throughout Swinging England. In those heady days we were impatient enough to make sure fallen stars stayed down—a year without a hit and you went back to Fords—whereas in these cruelly tolerant times everyone gets a second, third and fourth try.



Here comes Goldie for her third (the 2nd was as Genya Raven) and she just sounds tired. She is not helped by the guiding hand of Gabriel Mekler, who tries to push her into Janis Joplin's shoes with the sort of forgettable songs and anonymously monolithic band that caused Janis' career such irreparable damage on the "Kozmic Blues" album (also, I have a feeling, Mekler's handiwork). Where Goldie's dubious talents might find a better outlet I don't know, because she's not much of a singer anyway, but I suspect there isn't a singer anywhere who could make good use of such stodgy material.

Give me "Can't You Hear My Heart Beat" anyday.

Phil McNeill

## MAME - Original Film Soundtrack (Warners Bros)

Some years ago, when a bunch of Warner executives first saw the finished copy of their film 'Gypsy', they ranted and raved, on hearing the singing voice of its star Rosalind Russell. Her singing in no way matched her acting talent, and she

were made at once to find a suitable voice dubber, so that the film could open on schedule. When singer Lisa Kirk signed for the job, she was paid a considerable sum to help Warners out of a tight jam. No such drama occurred at Warners when Lucille Ball signed to do her own singing for the musical film version of *Mame*. The indestructible Ms Ball attacks each of her songs with her unmistakable gruff baritone, and vies with Beatrice Arthur for the prize of 'who sounds most like a male female impersonator'. Elsewhere, Robert Preston, who knows his way around a song, sings the title song and a new ballad "Loving You" with all his customary charm and verve.

I've the feeling in years to come this film soundtrack album of *Mame* could well become a collector's item, for all the WRONG reasons. Some now deleted show and film records are selling for as much as 200 dollars in the States, so hang on to your copy of *Mame* just in case.

Barry Conley

## TOO MUCH TOO SOON - New York Dolls (Mercury)

If you took the worst musicians out of the Mindbenders, the Downliners Sect and the Beat Merchants you'd still have a band twice as good as the New York Dolls. I feel like I'm in a time warp listening to this garbage, for apart from the Seventies macho guitar sound everything about it is ten years old. Where were you in '64? I was in the 3rd year at school, and the least two of the five beat groups in my class could have blown the Dolls offstage.

The Dolls are blessed with the most useless bass player I've heard for years, a lousy drummer, a pedestrian guitarist who can lose himself even when the tune stays on one chord, another guitarist I can hardly hear any sign of at all (he's waving a doll about on the cover, guess that's his main function), and David Johansen's sub-jagger and sub-Presley vocals.

Try as they may, and they do, they just can't get out of second gear, haven't the slightest idea how to. They sound best when they aren't straining: "It's Too Late" lumbers along quite pleasantly, "Mystery Girls" and "Bad Detective" almost rock, and their otherwise pathetic version of Archie Bell and the Drells' "Showdown" has a nice solid chorus I can only call laid-back.

They really ought to learn from Alice Cooper, the leading purveyor of badass/bad taste/bad music, how important it is to make the words audible, even if you haven't got anything to say, and not to try to make jokes about anything except themselves.

Phil McNeill

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Let's start by predicting a hit, now that's easy when it's Bowie, Slade, Cassidy and the like, but Chicory Tip although having a good track record don't manage a smash with every release. So "Take Your Time Caroline" (CBS) is my tip. Not the usual moog flavoured thumper but starting with the dow-wop style of the fifties it changes to an easy paced melody that has a catchy chorus.

British produced soul seems to be passed by usually and considered as anemic and unreal. The label Fresh Air has more grit, though, and with people like Richard Henry Dee who tells you to "Blame It on Yourself" you might just do that if you miss this excellent production. Are your dancing pumps more than three months old dear? If so, they surely skipped to that disco smash from MFSB.

Unfortunately there's nothing you can do to the follow-up "Love Is the Message" (Philadelphia International) except listen. All ph'ly freaks like to shuffle and this goes to the bottom of the pack.

Time and time again American top tenners go nowhere in this country. It would be a shame, though, if we ignore Andy Kim and "Rock Me Gently" (Capitol), as this number is very attractive. Much more boisterous and fairly heavy belters are the Bachman Turner Overdrive who are "Takin' Care of Business" (Mercury) in the USA and there's hope for them here as well.

In a back issue of GN the middle spread was a full-page showing off the New York Dolls who were playing our beloved Isle at the time. They came and went leaving only a slight impression. We have David B, and he is King Bitch. On to the NYD's latest record, musically a good cover of the Cadet's aldie "Stranded in the Jungle" (Mercury); this, though, isn't what England expects from those flamboyant characters. They will have to change that image if they decide to record any more 78s stuff on an unbreakable 45.

When your luck's in, what do you do for seduction? In musical terms, what else! If time is short, just four minutes in fact, Denis Leno and I both agree that using "You Make Me Feel Brand New" by the Stylistics (Avco) is just the job for quivering the spine or transferring legs to jelly. Those lucky enough to have seven minutes and a dual-changer can then followup with "Love Is Blue/Sing a Rainbow" by The Dells (Chess), a re-issue that will finish the evening nicely.

Thomas Jefferson Kaye has been in the musical business for more than ten years, helping produce hits for other artists. Like many others he is now on wax "American Lovers" (ABC) is a message song and his association with

## Short plays

folk artists has particularly rubbed off. Continental groups have been making some impression on the charts of late, Golden Earring and Focus to mention two. Now we have a new lot from Germany, Love & Tears featuring Justin Wolf with a commercial tune "One Way Ticket to Nowhere" (CBS). Raucous voice this Justin fella has, like Rod Stewart's but not in the same class.



Justin Wolf of Love & Tears

During a week I consider some twenty or so records for the discotheques; the percentage accepted is quite low. Most of the successful ones are soul and funky numbers, and it is with these that record companies are excelling themselves at the moment. Kool & the Gang have a third cut from their Polydor album *Wild & Peaceful*, contagious rhythms dancing won't stop for "Hollywood Swinging". Don Covay who has been recording for yonks (remember "Sookie Sookie" and "See Saw") comes back with a big beater "It's better to Have" (Mercury). Re-issue from just last year comes with the compliments of Westbound and the Ohio Players "Funky Worm" a bump dance number with humorous lyrics and weird inventive noises could now click especially with them having a number one album in the USA.

"Don't You Worry 'Bout a Thing" (Tamla Motown) exclaims Stevie Wonder but with now a fourth cut from his *Inner Visions* album, I can't but help but be concerned. Like many others we

need something new, there again no doubt this number will yelp and samba its way chartwards. "Machine Gun" (Tamla Motown) by the Commodores is instrumental funk from your favourite Detroit recording company that is already making an impression on the dance floors. Wise move from CBS who have taken over the Invictus catalogue. Chairman of the Board first off with "Everybody Party All Night", full powerpacked sounds which periodically this nation calls for. The original item on every Northern soul collectors' wants lists for the last six years gets its release from Epic and Billy Butler's "Right Track" could be a giant.

Every release by Limmie & the Family Cookin has made this Isle's Top Thirty, but their latest outing may have a hard struggle. It's a tap dancing flappers' paradise, trouble is not everyone can Charleston, but "Saxophone Jones" (Avco) does have novelty appeal. With Cass Elliot topping the London Palladium recently and appearing on the tele, I'm sure RCA would have got much better sales with a more commercial song than "If You're Gonna Break Another Heart". Plain but nice, she was a wonderful Mama. Another young lady who enters the chart stakes with an album and a single is Goldie Zelkowitz, with a tough but feminine image. Janus records have found the musicians that have boogied with the Stones given her a hard stomping song "Easy Lady" that will hit you and who knows what else.

Tricky Dicky

## Top sounds

Dick's Inn—London's Gay Discos

- 1 Rock Your Baby — George McCrae (Jayboy)
  - 2 Rock the Boat — Hues Corporation (RCA)
  - 3 I Found Sunshine — The Chi-Lites (Brunswick)
  - 4 When Will I See You Again — Three Degrees (Phil Int)
  - 5 I Shot the Sheriff — Eric Clapton (RSO)
  - 6 You Make Me Feel Brand New — Stylistics (Avco)
  - 7 Stop Look and Listen — Marvin Gaye and Diana Ross (Tamla Motown)
  - 8 Shout — The Trammps (Phil Int)
  - 9 Machine Gun — The Commodores (Tamla Motown)
  - 10 Funky Music Turns Me On — Yvonne Fair (Motown import)
- Camp Re-Vamp —  
God Save the Queen — Band of Grenadier Guards (Decca)  
Compiled by Tricky Dicky, week ending 27/7/74.



## GN's Mini Guide

This guide relies on your information, so if you find any inaccuracies, please don't just tell all your friends - tell 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

**AYR**  
Pub: Caledonian Hotel (upstairs public lounge)

**BARNESLEY**  
Pub: Queens Hotel (Venturer Bar)

**BARRY, Glamorgan**  
Pub: The Barry Hotel (Lounge Bar) Broad Street

**BATH**  
Pub: Garricks Head, Sawclose  
The Regency (opp Theatre Royal)  
\* Valentines, 14 George Street

**BEDFORD**  
Pub: The Barley Mow, Bromham Rd

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

**BIRMINGHAM**  
Pub: The Trocadero, Temple Street  
The Victoria, John Bright St  
The Viking (Downstairs Bar), Smallbrook, Queensway, 8-10.30 nightly, gays and friends only.

Club: \* Grosvenor House, 328 Hagley Rd  
\* Nightingale, 50 Camp Hill, B12

**BLACKBURN**  
Pub: The Merchants Hotel, Darwen St (D)

**BLACKPOOL**  
Pub: Lucy's Bar, Talbot Square  
Club: Pepe's, Talbot Road

**BOLTON**  
Pub: Peel Arms, 423 Halliwell Road  
Prince Williams (Upstairs), Bradshawgate  
Club: Labour Club, 16 Wood St (Upstairs Bar)

**BOURNEMOUTH**  
Pub: Norfolk Hotel (Basement Bar)  
Club: Gigi's, The Triangle

**BRADFORD**  
Pub: Junction Inn, Leeds Road

**BRENTWOOD**  
Pub: The Prince Albert, Warley Hill, Tues, Fri and Sun only

**BRIGHTON**  
Pub: The New Heart and Hand, 80 East Street

Spotted Dog, Middle Street  
Greyhound, East St (Upstairs Bar only)  
Cricketers, Black Lion Street (weekends)  
Hove Lawns Hotel  
\* Heart & Hand, Ship Street  
New Curtain Club, East Street (men)

\* Regency Club, Regency Square 42 Club, Kings Road  
Pink Elephant, corner of Regency Square  
St Albans Club, Regency Square  
Queen of Clubs, Bedford Square  
Hove  
Longbranch Club, Grand Parade

Rest: Lorelei Coffee Lounge, 5 Union Street  
Disco: GLF disco, Marlborough Hotel, Prince's St. 1st and 3rd Fri. 8pm-10pm. 20p

**BRISTOL**  
Pub: Radnor, 30 St Nicholas Street  
The Ship, Park Row, nr Red Lodge  
Club: \* Moulin Rouge, 72 Worrall Rd, Clifton

**BURNLEY**  
Pub: \* The Cross Keys

**CAMBRIDGE**  
Pub: The Stable Bar, Green Street (off Trinity Street)  
Rest: \* Scaramouche, Catherine Street, Tel: Cambridge 43570

**CARDIFF**  
Pub: Royal Hotel (Roberts Bar) St Mary Street  
Royal Oak, St Mary Street  
Club: Snowbiz Club, Hope Street

**CANTERBURY**  
Pub: The Queen's Head, Watling St

**CHELTENHAM**  
Pub: The Beaufort Arms, London Rd  
Irving Hotel, High Street  
Club: New Twenty Club, 20 High St  
Rest: El Toro, Fairview Road

**CHESTER**  
Pub: Bear and Billet, Lower Bridge St  
Foregate Bar, Blossoms Hotel, St Johns Street

**CHICHESTER**  
Pub: Cattle Market Inn

**CRENCESTER**  
Pub: Black Horse

**CLEETHORPES**  
Club: \* Birds Nest, Boating Lake, Kings Road, Sat and Sun only

**CORK**  
Bar: Imperial Hotel Bar, South Wall, Le Chateau, Patrick Street (mixed)

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

**DONCASTER**  
Club: Don Jon's, Silver Street  
Pub: Underground, off Silver Street

**DUBLIN**  
Bar: Bartley Dunnet (beside Wendels Hospital), St Stephens St  
Rice's, St Stephens Green/5th King Street Corner  
Larry Tohin, Duke Street (off Grafton Street)

Disco: Good Karma, Great Strand St, off Capel Street. Every Sat 11pm-2.30

**DUNDEE**  
Pub: Gauger, Seagate

**DURHAM**  
Pub: The Three Tuns, Old Elvet  
Nevilles Cross Hotel

**EDINBURGH**  
Pub: The Kenilworth, Rose Street  
The Abercromby Hotel  
Abercromby Place  
The Baillie, St Stephen Street

**EXETER**  
Pub: Horse & Groom, Longbrook St

**FERNDALE, South Wales**  
Pub: \* Salisbury Hotel

**GLASGOW**  
Pub: Duke of Wellington, Argyle St  
The Strand (Downstairs Bar), Hope Street  
The Waterloo Bar, Argyle St (Fri & Sat only)  
Ivanhoe Hotel, Buchanan St (Sun only)  
Rest: Classic, Renfield St (after bar hrs)

**GOURCOCK**  
Pub: Bay Hotel, New Bay Cocktail Bar, Pierhead, Sun only

**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 (men only bar)  
The Amsterdam (mixed)  
The Grey Horse, Chapel Hill (Sundays)

**HULL**  
Pub: White House (Chicken and Cocktail Bar), Jameson St  
Royal Station Hotel, Paragon Square  
Centre Hotel (London Bar), Paragon St

**ILFORD**  
Club: The Cavalier Club, Ilford Lane

**IPSWICH**  
Pub: The Cock & Pie (Saloon Bar), Upper Brook Street

**ISLE OF WIGHT**  
Pub: The Hole in the Wall, Market St, Ventnor  
The Plough, High St, Shanklin (Public Bar)

Club: Regency Club, Sun Hill, Cowes 5188  
Medway Queen Night Club, Newport 5460 (D)

Rest: Ryde Queen Boatel at Wight Marina, Newport 4731  
Stable, 105 High St, Old Village, Shanklin

**LANCASTER**  
Pub: Farmers Arms, King Street

**LEEDS**  
Pub: Hope & Anchor, Call Lane  
West Riding Bar (Back Bar) Wellington Street  
Club: \* Room at the Top, 207 North St  
\* Charleys Club, Lower Brigate  
Cafe: Flamenco, New Brigate  
Disco: Leeds GLF Disco fortnightly, contact their office for location

**LEICESTER**  
Pub: Dover Castle, Dover Street

**LIMERICK**  
Bar: Royal George (Cocktail Bar) O'Donovans, 1 Lower Glenworth St (off O'Connell Street)

**LIVERPOOL**  
Pub: \* Cracks, Rice Street  
Lisbon, Victoria Street L2  
The Denby Castle, Hackins Hey (off Dale Street)  
Club: New Bears Paw, Dorrans Lane  
Sadies, Wood St (off Hanover St)

**LONDON**  
Pub: \* Imperial, The Square, Richmond  
The Bird Cage, Columbia Rd, E2 Tel: 739 9411. Drag every Thursday  
Dog and Trumpet, Great Marlborough St, W1

\* Father Redcap, Camberwell Green SE5

\* William IV, Hampstead High St  
\* Ship & Whale, Gulliver St SE16  
\* The Lord Raglan, St Martins Le Grande, EC1 (Disco) Tues (D)

\* The Laurel Tree, Camden Town (Camden Town tube)  
\* Martins Bar, The Castle, Richmond

\* Watermans Arms (Upstairs Bar), Water Lane, Richmond  
\* The Boltons & \* The Coleherne are near each other on Old Brompton Road (Earls Court tube)

\* The Champion, Baywater Rd (Notting Hill Gate tube)  
\* The Green Room at the Wheat-sheaf, Goldhawk Road (Goldhawk Road tube)  
\* The Chestnut, Chestnut Place, Notting Hill W2 (Upper Bar only), Friday Disco.

\* The Queens Head, Tryon Street (off Kings Rd) (Sloane Sq tube)  
\* New Black Cap, Camden High St (Camden Town tube) (D)  
\* Pig & Whistle, Little Chester St SW1

\* Horse & Groom, near Pig & Whistle (Sundays only)  
\* Elephant & Castle, South Lambeth Place (Vauxhall tube) (D)  
\* Royal Vauxhall Tavern, Vauxhall Cross (Vauxhall tube) (D)  
\* Union Tavern, 146 Camberwell New Road SE5. Disco Mon and Tues (D)

Cricketers, Battersea Park Rd (D) The Salisbury, St Martins Lane WC1 (Leicester Sq tube)  
Ward's Irish House, Piccadilly Circus

\* The Royal Mail, Upper St, Islington (Angel tube) (D)  
Golden Lion, Dean Street, off Shaftesbury Ave W1  
Duke of Fife, 350 Katherine Rd E7 (East Ham tube)  
Eimhurst, 131 Lordship Lane, Tottenham N17 (D)  
Royal Oak, 62 Glenholme Road W6 (D)

Club: \* Peacock Club, 259 Old Brompton Road SW10. Tues-Drags  
\* Chagouramas, Neal St, WC2  
Sweet Lorraine, Lowndes Court W1 (Oxford Circus tube)  
\* La Gigolo, Kings Road (Sloane Square tube)

\* Paint Box, 29 Foley St W1 (Oxford Circus tube)  
\* Masquerade Restaurant & disco, Earls Court Sq, SW5 (Earls Court tube)

\* The Pink Elephant, 8 Newport Place, WC1 (Leicester Sq tube)  
A&B Club, 29 Wardour St, W1  
Vortex, 62 Tachbrook Street, 828 9581

\* Shanes, Broadhurst Gardens, NW6  
The Escort, 89a Picnic Road (Sloane Square tube)  
Yours & Mine, Kensington High St, W8 (Ken High St tube)  
Rockingham, 9 Archer St, W1  
Toucan Club, 13 Garrard St, W1  
Focalin Club, 2 Brydges Place, WC2 (Leicester Sq tube)  
Louise, 61 Poland Street, W1 (Oxford Circus tube)  
Apollo, 3 Wardour St, W1  
Mandy's, 30 Henrietta St, WC2

Disco: \* The Catacombs, Old Brompton Road (Earls Court tube)  
\* Arabian Pub, Tricky Dicky disco every Wed, Cambridge Heath Road, E2 (Bethnal Green tube)

\* Tricky Dicky Disco (Mon & Thurs) Kings Arms, 213 Bishopsgate, EC1 (Liverpool Street tube)  
\* The Bull and Gate, Kentish Town Rd (Kentish Town tube)  
\* Ship & Whale, Allan & Daves Disco, Thurs. Gulliver St SE16

\* Dicks Inn, Finner Redcap, Camberwell Green, SE5 every Fri  
\* Centre, Broadway Terrace NW1, every Fri 8pm-12midnight  
The Molin Disco Club, c/o The Angel, 14 Crosswall, EC3, 2 mins from Tower Hill Sta, 5 mins from Aldgate Sta. 488 3338/674 4004. Fri & Sats (girls only)

\* South London GLF Disco every Sat at Brixton Gay Community Centre, 78 Raiton Rd SE24, 01-274 7921

GLF, Prince Albert, corner of Wharfedale Rd and York Way, N1. Adm 15p every Tues, Fri and Sat

Rest: The Sabah, 34/8 Eversholt St, NW1. 388 0131 (Just by Euston Station)  
Nell Gwynnes Kitchen, 43 Crawford St  
La Popote, Walton St, SW3  
Chagouramas, 41-43 Neal St, WC2  
Simple Simon, 234 Old Brompton Road, SW5  
Masquerade, 310 Earls Court Rd, SW5  
La Cassarole, 338 Kings Road, Chelsea, SW3  
The Last Resort, 294 Fulham Road, SW10. Tel: 352 1625  
Le Richesse, 277 new Kings rd, SW6. Tel: 736 4432

Coffee Bar: The Macabre, 23 Meard St, W2 (opens 11.45am)  
The Coffin, Members only, Disco

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

**LINCOLN**  
Pub: Ye Olde Crown, Clasketgate (Lounge Bar)

**LUTON**  
Club: \* Pan Club, Bute Street, open nightly, weekend cabaret

**MACCLESFIELD**  
Pub: Waters Green Tavern

**MANCHESTER**  
Pub: The Mechanics, Chorlton St  
Union Hotel, Princess Street (D)  
Rembrandt, Sackville Street  
Cavalcade, Wilmslow Road  
Disbury (Sunday lunchtime)  
New York, Bloom Street  
Club: Napoleon's, Sackville Street

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

**MERTHYR TYDFIL**  
Pub: Red Cow Hotel, Glebeland St

**MIDDLESBOROUGH**  
Pub: The Grand Hotel  
A Rendezvous, above the Grand Hotel, Thurs Fri Sat

**NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE**  
Pub: Royal Court Grill, Bigg Market  
Royal Turks Head, Puncinello Bar  
Eldon Grill (Variety Bar), opp Greys Monument  
Grapes Vault, Grey St (men only)  
County Hotel (Nancy's Bar) Westgate Road

**NEWQUAY, Cornwall**  
Pub: King Mark (Sat lunchtimes)

**NEWPORT, Mon**  
Pub: Kings Head (Lounge Bar) High Street  
Waterloo, Commercial Street  
Club: The Charlton, Cardiff Rd (Tues & Sun)

**NORWICH**  
Pub: Studio Four, behind Anglia Television

**NORTHAMPTON**  
Pub: Princess Royal, 172 Wellingborough Rd (men only)

**NOTTINGHAM**  
Pub: Dog & Partridge, Parliament St  
The Rosbuck, Manfield Road  
Bentink Hotel, Midland Station  
The Foresters (girls), near Victoria Centre  
Club: Mario's Restaurant, Stanford St (off Castlegate)  
\* Pavilion Club, 123 London Rd, Snerdlow (13 miles)

**OLDHAM**  
Pub: Lighthouse, Lees Road  
The Grey Horse, Union St

**OXFORD**  
Pub: Red Lion, Gloucester Street  
Kings Arms, Holywell St (Sat lunchtime)  
The Gloucester Arms, Nr Red Lion, Gloucester Street  
Disco: Oxford Gay Action Group, Discos every Wed and Sun at Stage Club, George St  
The Greyhound, Gloucester Green, every Saturday

**PENZANCE**  
Pub: The Cock Hotel

**PLYMOUTH**  
Pub: Lockyer Hotel, Oak Lounge (Back Bar), Devry's Cross  
The Phoenix (off Union Street)  
Club: Harry's Club, Cliff Road

**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, Stanshawe Rd, every Wed and Sat 8pm

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

**RUGBY**  
Pub: White Lion, York Place, Dunchurch Road

**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)  
The Cliff, Huntriss Row  
Club: The Golden Guinea, Ramshill Rd

**SHEFFIELD**  
Pub: The Dossack  
The Pump (Smoke Room), Cumberland Way  
Club: \* Amberley, 225 Attercliffe Common (Gaysoc 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 Rd

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

**STOKE ON TRENT**  
Pub: The Antelope, Trinity St, Hanley  
Vine Inn (Mames 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

**TAUNTON**  
Club: Pavilion Two (Wed and Sat nights)

**TORQUAY**  
Pub: Mead Foot Bay Hotel, Mead Foot Sea Road  
Merrilwood Hotel, Meadford 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 Guindail

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

**WIRRAL**  
Pub: The Wheatheaf, Roby  
The Victoria Hotel, Gayton (nr Heswall)

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

**YORK**  
Pub: York Arms

accepted on the understanding that they are submitted by persons over 21 years of age.

## \*Chaucer Answering a Box Reply

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

Advertisements for inclusion in issue 53 must be received no later than noon on Monday 5th August. They should be no longer than 35 words. Those exceeding this limit will be returned. As from 6th August, Box Numbers in issue 49 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

Man, 35, not gay, creative, easygoing, lonely, good to be with, seeks bisexual girl/girls, for happy friendly relationship, hopefully to make pleasant home for both/all. Lives London area. Box 52/1.  
TV guy seeks understanding girl who likes men's clothes. Box 52/161.  
Two gay guys (21/29) looking for two girls of similar ages for friendship. Box 52/162.

## Women's Personal

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

Intelligent, quiet, animal/plant loving Piscean girl, aged 25, seeks correspondent Devon/Northernland areas. Interests include gardening, languages, magic, occultism, music, poetry, fashion, India, mountains, rivers, lakes and midnight seas. Box 52/97.  
Early twenties gay seeks lasting friendship with sincere female, Midlands area. Box 52/2.  
If we are one in twenty then there must be a whole lot more gay girls in the York area feeling isolated as I do. Please write. Box 52/3.  
Lonely, shy, gay girl, 27, seeks unattached loving girl anywhere. Box 52/4.  
Part-time vole stranger requires brown eyed fem assistant. Northern area. Box 52/5.

## Men's Personal

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

Amateur singer with tenor voice needs baritone/pianist interested in obscure Victorian & operetta songs, for musical duets. Box 52/6.  
Slim, attractive, quiet, shy, domesticated, intelligent, imaginative, artistic Taurus boy, 21, seeks similar friends in London. Box 52/7.  
24 years old blue eyed Birmingham boy seeks similar preferably Taurus, Pisces or Cancer guys. Photo appreciated. Box 52/8.  
Aarhus, gay info, contacts, wanted. Box 52/9.  
30 year old Londoner into leather, denim, seeks info/contacts New York, San Francisco, Vancouver, Toronto scene for 75 trip also new friends in UK. A.L.A. Photo appreciated. Box 52/10.  
South Essex man, 48, active, not handsome but sincere and affectionate, seeks friend to share home. Box 52/11.  
40, amiable, not bad-looking, fit, busy but time for friend who has passed me by so far. Mid-Staffs. A.L.A. Box 52/12.

**MR PLAY-GUY BALL**  
Hammermith Town Hall, Saturday September 14.

Ex-Londoner in early twenties with own place Warrington area, interests pop music, drinking etc, seeks young mates over 21 Mersayside/Cheshire to knock around with at weekends. Write with photos to Box 52/13.

**AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN**  
Middle aged, active, seeks youthful guide, 21-ish, for London and Amsterdam - expenses paid. Photo appreciated. Box 52/14.

Advisory service. Can I help you? For people lonely, want somebody to talk to, I try to help you. 01-749 0016 Ronald. Lorry driver 48-50 active, sought by Londoner, 55, for friendship. Give full details. Box 52/15.

We would like to attend any parties that may be organised. When replying, if possible please give telephone number as well as the address. Box 52/16.  
Schoolmaster retiring to NW1 flat will welcome new friends day-time week-days. Box 52/17.

Two long haired London guys, 22 and 24, visiting Amsterdam October wish to hear from Dutch guys with a view to meeting. Photos exchanged. A.L.A. Box 52/18.

Leather guy sought for friendship by inexperienced 21 year old boy. London. Box 52/19.

Tall, goodlooking guy, 24, seeks similar 21-24 with a modern sensitive approach to dress, hobbies, life, for close friendship. If you've a sense of humour and don't mind the worst jokes in London send photo. Box 52/20.

Ex-Londoner, late 20s, west coast, seeks non-affeminate young man 21-30 to help run antique shop and guest house and maybe share life. Photo please. Box 52/21.

Denim guy, slim 36, seeks other denim guys for friendship. Box 52/22.  
Asian student, London, seeks active friends 21-50+. A.L.A. Box 52/23.  
Guy 38 wears black rubber rainwear, wishes to meet similar enthusiasts for friendship. Box 52/24.

Birmingham. Fellowship in Christ the Liberator. Details tel: 021-454-0386.  
Boxing fan, 24, welterweight, seeks training/spartan this summer. Box 52/25.

Shy Londoner, 38, would like to meet someone kind but firm about same age or older, for friendship. A.L.A. Box 52/26.  
Schoolmaster type, 36, but not too dull, wishes make friends same age/younger (21+). Box 52/27.

Personal Ads continued on page 18

## HOW TO GET IT REGULARLY

### Subscribe To Gay News

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

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

Coffee Bar: The Macabre, 23 Meard St, W2 (opens 11.45am)  
The Coffin, Members only, Disco

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

**LINCOLN**  
Pub: Ye Olde Crown, Clasketgate (Lounge Bar)

**LUTON**  
Club: \* Pan Club, Bute Street, open nightly, weekend cabaret

**MACCLESFIELD</**

# Ads & Info

Personal Ads continued from page 17

Attractive male, 24, Nottingham, seeks sincere active friends similar age. Photo appreciated. Box 52/28.

**TERRY**  
Remember August 2nd '73? Now it's "74". Congratulations on our first Anniversary. May we have many more. All my love, Alan.

Bodybuilder, very keen, interested buying second-hand weights for home gym, also training partners. Box 52/29. Good looking, athletic, student, 21, seeks similar lively friends for good times. Photo please. Box 52/30.

Tell Gay Switchboard about the gay places you went to on holiday. 01-637 7324, 6-10.30pm.

**COME AND WORSHIP**  
with the Fellowship in Christ the Liberator, Metropolitan Community Church, London. For further details please write FCL, 81 Earls Court Square, London, SW5.

Deaf gay, 45, medium build, seaman, seeks gay friendship any age 21-45, good body. Box 52/31.

London, 25, varied interests, seeks similar. Ambitious type, photo please. Box 52/32.

Northerner, 43, attractive, seeks affectionate Pakistani or Indian guy for permanent friendship. Photos exchanged. Box 52/33.

London, 25, jeans, wishes to meet guys 21+ for friendship. Photo appreciated. Box 52/34.

Guy 25, hitching to Spain for three weeks Sept/Oct, seeks companion. Box 52/35. If you are loving and sincere, lively and 21-40, please write to guy 31 who would like to hear from you. Box 52/36.

Sussex guy, 24, well built, seeks close and sincere friendship with masculine guy over 21, many interests. Box 52/37.

Attractive mid-twenties, non-effeminate, seeks older male for active lasting friendship. Executive type, of Arab nationality preferred. Box 52/38.

Bodybuilder, 28, wants to re-train with another. Also photography, posing. Many physique photos. Your photo please, if possible. Box 52/39.

Affectionate, 21, lonely, non-camp, attractive, bored with gay scene, seeks similar, 21-30, Greenford, photo please. Box 52/40.

Ipwich guy, 23, slim, non-camp, wishes to meet similar in Suffolk or Essex for friendship. Photo appreciated and ensures prompt reply. ALA. Box 52/41.

Are you 28-32, friendly? Do you live near Gateway Studios, Edinburgh? Would you like dancer, paying guest, 19-28 August? Please write soonest. Box 52/42.

Tattooed guy, 27, seeks similar, 21-35 for friendship. Photo essential. Box 52/43.

Wanted, 3rd & 4th persons to share expenses, motoring holiday to Spain Aug 24th 3 weeks. 789 4775.

Shy 21 year old, new to Walsall, seeks friends. Box 52/44.

Guernsey, Male 31 seeks flat, or share, late 1974. Visiting September. Local gay information appreciated. Box 52/45.

Professional guy, young 47, seeks new friends same age or younger, 21+, for evening visits etc. Interest include music, travel, photography. Photo appreciated. London/Surrey. Box 52/46.

Active young man seeks young friends 21+ Sussex coast. Box 52/47.

Male, 60, 58, London, own home, seeks non-effeminate active person for sincere friendship. Box 52/48.

Bristol. Guy 31 wishes to meet sincere chap of similar age for lasting friendship. Box 52/49.

Londoner aged 48, in good shape, seeks friend for evening visits. ALA. Box 52/50.

Guy 26 wishes to meet young friends 21+ for lasting friendship. Interests boating, photography and outdoor activities. ALA. Box 52/51.

Young caterer, 24, sincere personality, good looking, would like to meet active friend 25-35, Yorkshire area. All replies answered. Box 52/52.

Active gay guy seeking sincere and loyal Chinese/Malaysian/Thai for permanent friendship. Photo if possible. ALA. Box 52/53.

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

Free holiday September with man forties offered young man 21-29 seeking permanent friendship. Photo appreciated. Box 52/105.

Gay 21, seeks friendship in East Kent. Pm please. All answered. Box 52/54.

Affair living Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire wishes to meet others for friendship. Box 52/55.

Super-intelligent, urbane, vivacious, boyish guy, 23, seeks super-intelligent older guy for loving friendship. Box 52/56.

Fair, 33, seeks London denim/leather boy, 21+, to show me the scene. Box 52/57.

Guy 21 seeks male 30-40, able to provide for a offer home, Bournemouth, Poole, Sandbanks. Loyalty, caring for, sincerity in return. Photo please, details on request. Box 52/58.

Goodlooking, smallish graduate, 22, seeks same for friendship. Abhors gay scene. Photo appreciated. Box 52/59. Manchester guy, 29, 5'7", fair, seeks mates with view to lasting friendship, photo appreciated. ALA. Box 52/60.

Active old professor seeks bright student over 21 for friendship, with interest in arts, international affairs and travel on the continent. Box 52/61.

Straight looking Londoner, 25, shirt and tie type, seeks similar anywhere 30-50 for friendship. Could be Indian/Asian. Box 52/62.

Music-loving Londoner, slim, good-looking 21, seeks affectionate young friends over 21. Photo helpful. Box 52/63.

Anyone interested in velvet or corduroy? Please write Box 52/90.

Lancashire—mid twenties seeks Oriental friend. ALA. Box 52/91.

Gentle, Affectionate Manchester boy, 24, seeks warm, young masculine guy over 21 to be with and friendship. Likes music, esp soul and jazz. Films travel, crazy humour and nice fellas. Please write! Box 52/92.

Herts/Beds. Slim blonde 26 seeks guy 21-30 for outings and friendship. Car, possible flat share. Box 52/93.

Young man 24 seeks another, holiday California 2 weeks Nov 1st. Ring 743 2204.

**ACCOMPLISHED AMATEUR PIANIST.** 44, Kingston, seeks younger guy/s, gifted violinist, violist or cellist for chamber music. Box 52/79.

Intelligent unattached uncomplicated uncamp attractively-moustached North Londoner aged 24 seeks similar or even better for friendship. Endless possibilities. Photo would help. Box 52/81.

Professional man, young 57, seeks good looking long haired boy 21+ non camp to share (free) my London flatlet and yacht on coast in return genuine friendship. Photo please. Box 52/82.

Hants, Havant, Lonely quiet guy, 40, seeks others over 21, for permanent and affectionate friendship. ALA. Box 52/83.

22-27 Slim, 26, North/Midlands graduate, not keen on scene, seeks a reliable partner. 1st advert. Guarantee ALA. Box 52/84.

London guy, 28, tall, athletic, good-looking, with relationship problems and depressed by gay scene seeks attractive unattached guy 21-30, probably introverted, unhappy and with problems himself, for mutually sympathetic friendship. Photo please. Box 52/85.

Nottingham. Attractive guy 26 seeks friends of similar age to share genuine friendship. Photo appreciated. Box 52/86.

SW London. Ordinary guy, 27, slim, attractive, seeks mate—photo essential. Box 52/88.

London. Age 22, 5'6", slim, attractive Indian offers friendship and help to 21+ who tend to be uptight. Photo? Box 52/89.

**LONDON BIKER**  
Aged 28-35, with 800 cc plus machine, and active riding experience, sought by 37 year old for Indian Summer. Prepared contribute to upkeep of suitable model. Please send photo. Box 52/80.

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

Graduate, 29, quite attractive, seeks guy not merely solo on beauty but seeking close loving friendship. London/South coast. Write fully. ALA. Box 52/100.

Try me! 38 straight okay looking guy, 5'8", good build, with general interests, offers genuine and stable friendship to similar 28-40, London/Essex. Box 52/101.

Lonely guy, 32, seeks younger clean shaven friends 21+ who would like pleasant weekends. Photo please. Box 52/102.

Passing through North Wales? Two young guys into leather/jeans etc. Own farm. Looking for company of similar interests. Photo appreciated. Come alone or come together. ALA. Box 52/103.

Ex-Royal wants to contact gay Royal 21+. Box 52/104.

Free holiday September with man forties offered young man 21-29 seeking permanent friendship. Photo appreciated. Box 52/105.

Dave, East Londoner, 28, good looking, seeks friendship similar guy, preferably own place. Box 52/106.

Gays corresponding. Help and advice given. SAE for details. Box 52/107.

Slim, intelligent guy, 23, seeks similar good looking friends. Interested in enjoying life. Photo appreciated. Box 52/108.

Well preserved, 45, own pad, seeks friendship well-built coloured guy 21-50, Chester/Merseyside area. Box 52/109.

Londoner, 42, non-effeminate and average looking, seeks sincere friendship with younger man 21+. Box 52/110.

Single, graduate, tall, 12 stone, clean shaven, English, 50s, seeks friend 21-35. Bristol or anywhere providing occasional meetings possible at least. Integrity, good sense, important. Not necessarily British. Photo (returnable), telephone number, helpful. Confidence respected. ALA. Box 52/111.

Young soul fan seeks others for friendship. Photo please. Box 52/112.

Young designer, 26, shy, intelligent, seeks non-camp guy 20s-30s for sincere, loving, lasting friendship. Maybe we could share life and interests (mine varied) and make living really worthwhile. Photo appreciated. ALA. Box 52/113.

South Devon. Presentable house and car owner, 50, seeks straight looking, slim, beardless 25-35, interested music, theatre, travel, for friendship. Photo please. Box 52/114.

Don't spend Sunday alone. Personable, responsible Londoner offers warm hospitality to sincere lonely male, 28-40. Write with returnable photo. Box 52/115.

Brighton biker, 24 years, seeks friends. Masculine active types only. Box 52/116.

North Wales. Attractive guy, 24, seeks genuine friend/s. Photo/details exchanged. Box 52/117.

24 year old boy seeks someone 21-30 to spend coming winter evenings with. Sincere replies only. ALA. Box 52/118.

Attractive, intelligent, 30s, own place, NW1, likes most things, offers friendship. ALA. Photo helps, returned. Box 52/119.

Companion sought for September holiday by non-effeminate male, 29, West London area, 21-35. Photo appreciated. ALA. Box 52/120.

Young man, 27, seeks someone to share his flat, view to permanent friendship. Box 52/121.

5'8" tall looking 24, 6', car, seeks similar for friendship. ALA (photo). Box 52/122.

North London. Bachelor, young active 65 seeks warm, sincere friendship, males 40+. Photo exchanged. Box 52/123.

Londoner, young 28, average looks, seeks non-camp guys 21-29 for friendship. Photo appreciated. ALA. Box 52/124.

Graham—regretting not taking your telephone number after our drive from Du Dukas Avenue to Church Road 9th July. Please write. Box 52/125.

Birmingham. Graduate, 27, seeks lasting friendship. Any nationality. Box 52/126.

Liverpool area, young man, 25, seeks similar for genuine friendship. All letters with photo answered. Box 52/127.

Bachelor, aged 53, living period cottage, mid Kent, seeks friends any age between 21 and 70. Further details by return. Please reply with photo if possible. Box 52/128.

English boy 21, straight appearance, would like to meet Japanese, Chinese, Thai or other Orientals, for friendship/companionship. Photo please. Any age over 21. Box 52/129.

Chinese guy, 24 years old, goodlooking and non-effeminate, seeks sporty good-looking athletic types for friendship. Photo exchange. Box 52/149.

Active tanker driver, Chester, 26, interests motor racing, sub aqua & dancing, seeks good looking male of same or interested for friendship. ALA. Box 52/150.

Youthful young man, genuine, good looks and build, own home, asks a younger boy (over 21) to please write with photo as in Box 51/138. Sincere, loveable intentions will find possible true friendship and share happiness. Box 52/151.

21 year guy seeks younger 21-32 friend. North West England. Full details/photo please. ALA. Box 52/152.

27, short hair, Levis, living North London, does not like gay scene, seeks similar for sincere friendship 25-30. Photo please. Box 52/153.

Boy beauty—GLS. Box 52/154.

D.H. Glasgow. Read your letter in July issue of Forum. Would sincerely like to help you with your problem so why not write. I live near Glasgow. Box 52/155.

Attractive, tall, slim professional guy, 28, likes theatre, countryside, riding and life, seeks genuine 21-25 for lasting friendship. Any nationality. ALA. Photo please. Box 52/156.

Indian friends 30-48 who are conventional, suit, white shirt & tie type, straight looking, short hair, sought by boyish 25, London or anywhere. Photo ensures reply. Box 52/142.

Straight looking? Suit & tie type? Short back and sides? 30-50? I am boyish 25. Similar. Write now! No matter where you are! Photo ensures reply. Box 52/143.

If in London you dwell / Drop me a line, you'll do well / Full of life in middle age, / Very active, all the rage / Seeking fun, friendship too, / Come on you'd do! Box 52/144.

Attractive young man, late 20s, own business West End, seeks active friends, possibly French, similar age, London area. Telephone number, photo, if possible. Box 52/145.

Scott, 31, South London, seeks younger 21+ non-camp friend to share social interests and life. Genuine replies only please. Box 52/146.

Lonely. Would like to meet understanding active guy for friendship. No leather. Box 52/146.

Jet-wear 38 professional, London, dislikes the bars, seeks a friend to come home to. I'm tall, slim, straight, affectionate. Please write. Box 52/148.

Average looking 26 year old Continental guy seeks hirsute friends 25-50 years old for genuine friendship. Sincerity important. SW London/Surrey area. Photo please, returned. ALA. Box 52/157.

38, moving to 5 London. Slender, attractive, lively, seeks new friends. No heavy emotions but super winning, dining and socialising for fun. Please write quickly. Photo available. Box 52/158.

Gay affair on Isle of Man living pleasant Georgian house welcomes congenial gay company if you are holidaying here any time. Box 52/163.

Blue eyes, fair haired young living in at Berkshire University seeks male 21-34 for friendship. ALA. Photo appreciated. Box 52/165.

Bristol. Join New Look Social Group: Bob Elbert, 33 Pembroke Road, B58 3BE.

Blonde North Londoner, short hair, clean, average looks & physique, non-camp, active 31, seeks similar nice looking friends 21+, preferably service-men or Irish but not essential. Photo (returnable) with letter please. ALA. Honest! Box 52/167.

Joe seeks sincere friendship & love with younger guy 21+. Photo please. ALA. Box 52/168.

Surbiton. Bachelor, 42, seeks friends 21-29. Wide interests including pub touring, soccer, horse racing, television, theatre. Box 52/169.

South Beds/Milton Keynes. Mature type, 53, seeks active friends, any age (over 21) or nationality, in this area, or for weekend visits. Own flat. Wide interests, football to theatre. Photo helpful. ALA. Box 52/170.

Slightly made male aged 27 of reasonably pleasing countenance, interested in the arts, seeks swain of similar interests in Hampshire area. A daguerrotype would be appreciated. ALA. Box 52/171.

London couple 37/22 would like to meet young Negroes 21+ for friendship. Photo appreciated. Box 52/176.

Brawny thickest active mate sought by well built driver (39) with central London flat. Lorry drivers welcome. Box 52/177.

## Accommodation

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

Chinese student seeks small bescit (centrally heated, if possible) in Tooting (thereabouts). Box 52/68.

Guy, 23, seeks s/c flatlet/share flat in Central London 21st Aug-7th Sept. No strings please. Box 52/69.

Male student for room in Bounds Green area. Very moderate rent in gay couple's house. Box 52/70.

Desperate, calling all martyrs. 4th girl share flat SE26. Convenient all transport. Pop in after 6.30pm. Adaptable, MDL flat, 107 Vanner Road, Sydenham. Graduate, 21, male seeks bescit, flatshare, from September in, near London. Box 52/71.

Quiet young man with full time employment seeks furnished or unfurnished accommodation in London area. Box 52/72.

Richmond, share with 28 year old, likes denim etc, own room which needs furnishing, £60pm inc, non-smoker under 35 preferred, from 1st Sept. Box 52/73.

Beckenham, two friends, share room, modern flat, £8pw each, 20 minutes Victoria. 658 2012.

Room wanted Mon-Fri Marylebone area. Box 52/74.

Discourt couple, 20s, urgently require accommodation Liverpool area. Box 52/75.

Mid-September onwards, room/breakfast offered gay boy. £8pw M&V. 22 Trinity Street, Barry, Glamorgan. Farmworth, Bolton self contained ground floor furnished flat. Newly decorated. Available August. Box 52/76.

Southampton youth wants weekend place in London. Box 52/77.

Young gay seeks besditer, preferably EC1, WC1, N1 or neighbouring area. Box 52/78.

Happy 24, flat hunting, West London, or share present flat, wants similar guy/s to share. John 221 5332.

Young male seeks accommodation to share flat or room in London area with male, 21 or under. Box 52/133.

Couple professional men, 50s, badly need room occasional stays, near Victoria. Box 52/134.

Guy, 24, music lover, urgently seeks accommodation, own room, in flat or besdit, preferably North London. Box 52/135.

Norwich—Male 35+ share home 368 6542. Graduate, 27, seeks room in flat, Central London, from September. Box 52/136.

Young man, 24, seeks flat, or share house, Derby/Notts/Midlands areas. Box 52/137.

Battersea, SW11. Guy 23 offers flat share to similar. Ring 228 6169.

Man 24 requires accommodation London area. Strict household considered. Box 52/138.

Easygoing 33, can't stand living alone in besdit. Suggestions if can help, or anyone share flat hunt. N London, Harrow, Herts. ALA. Box 52/139.

Young professional required share Chiswick house, available mid-August. Own room, £46.50 per month; fully inclusive. Details Box 52/140.

Epsom. 1 double, 1 single room to let. Suit 2/3 boys. Phone Anne or Gloria 393 0087 after 6pm.

Active leather man offered good room in flat, SE London. Bike or car owner preferred. Box 52/141.

Desperately lonely professional 37 offers free house share to similar, preferably 21-30, in return for sincere companionship, help with shopping, cooking, housework. Own room. Interests include music, gardening, etc. Caterham 44387 Saturday/Sunday mornings.

Weymouth, house for sale. One minute from sea. Believe would suit gay friends wishing to run it as a guest home. Furnished and equipped. Details Norman Clarke, 181A Greyhound Road, London W6 8NL.

Near Charlton Village. Young couple to share double bedroom in new 4-bedroom house. Fully furnished, TV, phone, stereo, 27 minutes to Charing Cross. £32 per month each person, inclusive. Phone 01-858 0546.

Norwich. Graduate 24 seeks accommodation from October. Preferably in shared flat or house with other of similar age. Box 53/159.

**MERLIN OF STAR-GAYS** needs two rooms in someone's pleasant flat to live and work. Preferably Brighton or London. From August. Write to Box 52/160.

Required in Brighton area, one bedroom s/c flat. Box 52/164.

Plymouth. Good food & accommodation in comfortable house. Reasonable charges. Phone Plymouth 68023.

Boy 27 has room to let in own flat, very cheap, call 521 3436 after 8pm.

Hampstead flat, large comfortable room for one reliable male. £10pw inclusive. Box 52/173.

Belsize Park, young guy to share flat, own room, £7.50pw. Box 52/174.

London, 3/C flat required for two males 30s at reasonable rent. Max £15pw. Worthwhile information appreciated. Box 52/175.

Torbay, Devon. Accommodation available (bachelor household) Bed and breakfast from £2, dinner optional. Paignton 55118.

## Employment

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

Reliable, experienced antiques dealer seeks partnership or association with another. Box 52/62.

Busy man wants his small house in Twickenham decorated in evenings or weekends. Ring 894 1365 evenings.

Young basketball player available for modelling in sports/swimming gear. Box 52/63.

Young bisexual German, 26 years, very good looking, university degree in business (Diplom-Kaufmann) wants to live and work in GB. Box 52/64.

Young guy, 28, seeks part-time evening work. Phone 572 5973.

With-it young guy required to learn men's fashion hair styling. Tel 435 5020.

American Club all rounder needs responsible job in gay establishment. 01-699 1960.

Urgent. Young skinhead type wanted. Interesting work. Big money. Photo essential. Return. ALA. Box 52/65.

Entertainer, 33, narrowly breathalysed vocal/impressionist urgently requires Road Manager. Clean licence essential. Salary £1040 per annum. Prospects. Accommodation expenses paid. Travelling England, Wales. Extensively based Lancashire. Details, photo. Box 52/66.

Young man, 24, requires permanent job, London, Mon-Fri, anything considered. Phone 539 1417. Box 52/67.

Young attractive boy urgently seeks part time work. Letters only! Andrew, 1 Tite Street, SW3.

Ex-Public School boy, 30, seeks £1000 working capital. Anything considered. Box 52/94.

Young man, 28, seeks interesting position. Box 52/95.

**GOOD-LOOKING WELL-BUILT** guy 21+ required to model for London artist. Good pay. Please write with photo. Amateurs welcome. Box 52/130.

Young male assistant required by Union official, age 25, in South London. Good pay. Typing essential plus ability to run busy Union office. Reply to Box 52/131.

Entertainment

10p per word. No Box Number service available.

MR PLAY-GUY BALL Hammersmith Town Hall, Sept 14th, Saturday.

Imaginative musicians to form rock band, view to going pro when brilliant. Please write, Box 32/78.

SOUTH LONDON GLF DANCE Saturday 17th August 8-11.30pm at Surrey Hall, Binfield Road, SW4 (tube to Stockwell, turn left). The amazing Half Human Band, Disco, Litas, Bar. Admission 75p at door.

Interested in starting mobile disco? Do you have transport? Phone Derrick, c/o work 92-23644. Disco-Southampton CHE Friday 16th August. Membership details ring David, Southampton 551335.

Services

20p per word. No Box Number service available.

'SADMANA' Haircuts at home. 385 1647.

GYD have moved. Note our new telephone number 572 7519. All types of electrical & plumbing work done by all-gay company run & staffed by gays, offering personal & reliable services. Ring before 9am or after 6pm. Penfriends. Discreet introductions. For details send sae to Great Expectations, PO Box 148, 31/33 Court Yard, London, SE9 5DP.

LIGHT REMOVALS Also delivery service. Anytime. Anywhere. 01-480 0977. Strictly legitimate business.

Calling all lonely gays. Postal introductions arranged. All areas. Dorothy Sanger, Dept 14, 138a Pogmoor Road, Pogmoor, Barnsley, Yorkshire. Go-between removals and deliveries. Phone 01-249 0280/01-549 3275.

ALL TYPES OF PERCING undertaken in modern hygienic surgery (ears, nose, etc). Phone Mr Nicol 01-606 5407, any day 10am-7pm.

Music for mind & body. City Kids Agency. Tel 960 3410/960 2939. House cleaning. Paul, 949 1384.

YOUR PRINTING Carried out quickly & cheaply and well. Letterheads, publicity material, catalogues and price lists. Phone Robert or Tim at 886 1732 anytime-24 hour answering service.

Masseur/yoga tutor. Ross Nilson. 01-602 0721. Young, sincere, psychic consultant now available to readers of Gay News. Private sittings. Ring 542 9601.

DANIEL'S for people who understand you and your hair. Knightsbridge salon. Ring 884 2475 for appointment. Also young guy required to assist in salon, experience preferred but not essential.

House cleaning, painting. 949 1384 Paul.

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.

GAY AMATEUR FILM GROUP now meeting to plan activities. Recruits welcomed both sides of camera (8mm). Tel: 01-476 7980 for details.

GAY WOMEN'S DISCO Gay Community Centre, 78 Ralston Road, Brixton, starting on Fri 12 July and every Fri after that at 8.30.

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

GLF-Prince Albert, corner of Wharfedale Road and York Way, N1. Disco Tues, Fri and Sat. Adm 15p.

GAY WOMEN

CAMBRIDGE GAY WOMEN'S GROUP Details write Alison, c/o Last Exit Bookshop, Mill Road, Cambridge or Tel: 64757.

EDINBURGH GAY WOMEN'S GROUP Details contact Ms M Laurie 4/15 Hellestrand 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.

EXETER WOMEN'S GAY AWARENESS GROUP. Contact Karen Brewer c/o Devonshire House, University of Exeter for details and info. New group to be principally a social and consciousness-raising nature.

LEEDS GAY WOMEN'S GROUP meet on Wed evenings at 8pm at the Three Legs (Witches Bar) on the Headrow, below Lewis's, opp Odeon Cinema.

BRISTOL GAY WOMEN'S GROUP for homosexual and bisexual women, meets Wed evenings at 8pm at Women's Centre, 11 Waverley Rd (basement), Bristol-Radland. Tel: 30903.

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.

SAPPHO-Meets every first Mon each month. Info about venue please write to BCM/PETREL, London WC1V 6XX enclosing sae. Your letter must reach BCM/PETREL by first post Tuesday before first Monday to be informed in time. Sappho 40p inc postage for single copies.

SURBITON/KINGSTON GAY WOMEN'S GROUP-Don't feel isolated. Come around for coffee and a chat. Lots of activities planned. Further details contact CHELIC at 437 7363.

NORTH EASTERN GAY WOMEN'S GROUP meet regularly in Newcastle. For details contact Sharon at Chester-le-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. Girls. Are you pleasant to talk with? Work with us at Gay Switchboard. 01-837 7324, 6-10.30pm.

GAY GROUPS

BATH GAY AWARENESS GROUP Info from PO Box 86. Bath BA1 2YQ.

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

BRIGHTON. Lavender People is an alternative group of Gay women and men who very shortly expect to start a switchboard in the Brighton area. At present, Lavender People meet every Sunday at 8.00pm at Open Cafe, 7 Victoria Road, Brighton. Persons interested in participating in this venture are invited to attend those meetings or write for further details to Lavender People c/o Open Cafe.

FRIENDS HOMOSEXUAL FELLOWSHIP a gay group for Quakers. Details Michael Hutchinson c/o 136 Wellington Road, Manchester M14 6AS

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

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

CARDIFF COMMUNITY CONCERN-Information and Rights Service. Ring Cardiff 397202 weekdays 10.30-6pm.

KENT GAY INFORMATION-160 Faversham Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent

OPEN UNIVERSITY GAYSCO-Sunday July 21 midday. Meeting at Clock Tower, Nottingham. The event is a ramble around unspecified Nottinghamshire countryside and will be followed at 7pm by a meal at La Chic. For directions or more details contact Chris, Nottingham 260913.

CAMBRIDGE INTEGROU-Gay/Slight integration. Tel: Cambridge 64599. John.

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

COVENTRY GAY GROUP meets fortnightly every Tues 8.30pm in Rose & Crown, High Street, Coventry.

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

GAY COMMUNITY CENTRE OF SOUTH LONDON. Coffee Bar, books, papers and people. Open 7-11pm Mon-Fri, 11-11pm Sat, 2-11pm Sun.

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

GAY LIBRARIAN GROUP. SAE to GLF, 6 Worthington House, Middleton Passage, London EC1R 1XQ.

GREATER LIBERATED CHICANOS is a gay Latin/Spanish Liberation Movement offering help to all gay, bi and straight Latin-speaking people. Write to GLC, PO Box 38216, Los Angeles, California 90038 USA.

GAY CAMBRIDGE c/o 3 Round Church St, Cambridge.

IPSWICH CENTRE GROUP. Details from Charles Almond, 119 Cauldwell Hall Road, Ipswich IP4 5BN. Tel: Ipswich 70928 (evenings).

JEWISH HOMOPHILE GROUP Info write to Timothy Goldard, BM/JHG, WC1 6XX.

LSE GAY CULTURE SOCIETY. Contact Jeffrey Weeks, 24 Ivor St, London NW1. Tel: 01-267 0084. Gay Culture Society, c/o LSE Students Union, Houghton St, London W2. The Gay Marxist History Group can also be contacted at this address.

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

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

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

MANCHESTER TAO contact Mr B and Mill L Stotherd, 167 Withington Road, Whelby Range, Manchester 16. Meet every Sun at 7pm.

YOUNG GAYS meet once a week around central London at the CHE Youth Group. Tel: Chris 01-673 2703.

NORTH EASTERN GAY ALLIANCE has information and a newsletter available from NEGA, 24 Dipton Ave, Newcastle-on-Tyne, NE4 8DT.

NORWICH CENTRE GROUP details Peter Bishop, Flat D, Oak House Trowse, Norwich, Norfolk. NOR 01W, or tel: North Walsham 2628 (Bill).

OXFORD GAY ACTION GROUP Oxford 45301 between 7-8pm. Meetings every Sun at 7.30 in the Stage Club, George St.

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

STAFFORDSHIRE TAO contact Ms Julia Tonner, Director TAO Europe, 51 Scrimshaw House, Peck-Walsall, Staffs.

TRANSPORT ENTHUSIASTS GROUP Monthly events London area. Details tel: 01-402 8053.

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.

COUNSELLING / BEFRIENDING

CENTRE-For men and women. Tel: 01-262 9595 or 01-723 5889 for counselling and advice on medical, venereal, legal, psychological, religious, alcohol, family or general problems. Monday to Friday between 10.30am and 10.30pm or call in at our office and coffee bar at Centre, Broadley Terrace, London NW1. Nearest tube Marylebone. Our social club is open every evening, the Disco is every Fri at 8pm-midnight. For full programme send sae.

ALBANY TRUST-18 Conika St, London N5 1JN. Tel: 01-359 7019.

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 2YQ.

FRIEND helps homosexual men and women who are lonely, frightened, have a problem or are in trouble. For help contact your local group at: NORTH-WEST ENGLAND

MANCHESTER-PO Box 427, Spring Gardens, Manchester M60 2EL. Tel: 061-225 0058 or 061-445 9629 (both evenings).

MERSEYSIDE-Tel: 051-708 9552 7pm to 10pm. Postal Address/callers by appointment only, 14 Colquitt Street, Liverpool L1 4DE.

NORTH-EAST ENGLAND BRADFORD-PO Box 47, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD1 5Y2.

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 841401 or Newcastle 33544 (evenings).

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

WALSLEY-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.

GREATER LONDON & HOME COUNTIES LONDON-47 Church Street, London NW8. 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.

SALISBURY AND SOUTHAMPTON Solent Friend. Write in confidence to Solent Friend, PO Box 10, Salisbury.

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.

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

FEMALE ICEBREAKERS welcome all gay women for a chat and coffee every other Fri. Tel: 01-692 5070.

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.

BRISTOL Help and Info. Send SAE to Confidential Friend Service, 9 Richmond Dale, BS8 2UB.

IRISH GAY LIB MOVEMENT

GAY LIB SOC-Students Union, Queens University. Meetings Thurs 8pm. Phone Belfast 24803.

COLERAINE. Don Gill and Pat Knight, New University of Ulster Sexual Reform Movement, NUU, Coleraine, Co Derry, phone Coleraine 4141 ext 319.

DUBLIN. E Lyncho (CHE), Margaret McWilliams (Sappho); Peter Bradley, Hugo McManus and Diargra 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 Wallace, 0224 20576.

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

CARLISLE. Contact National Office.

INVERNESS. Contact John Matheson, 5 Castle St.

EDINBURGH-Contact Ian Dunn, 031 667 7473. Woman 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.

DUNDEE-Contact Len McIntosh, 0382 452433.

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.

You can ring some groups direct at the numbers below:

BATH-Bath 5013 (Norman), or Midsummer Norton 413465 (Angela).

BLACK COUNTRY-Meets 10th and 25th of each month. For info call Murray, Wolverhampton 28379 or Wynn, Walsall 34290.

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

BOURNEMOUTH-Bournemouth 24842. Laurie.

BRIGHTON-Brighton 778025, Malcolm, or Brighton 732550, Roland.

BRISTOL-c/o Trevor Locke, 33 Pembroke Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 3BE.

CAMBRIDGE-Cambridge 52661, Bernard.

CARDIFF-Meets every Mon at 7.30pm in Chapter Arts Centre, Market Road, Canton, Cardiff 498195, Mike.

CHILTERNNS-High Wycombe 39321, Hayden.

CORNWALL-c/o National Office.

COVENTRY-Meets first Thursday of every month in the Toy Museum, Much

Mark Street, at 8pm. Further information from 45 Runcorn Walk, Walsgrave. Tel: Wal 4336.

CROYDON-01-642 3692, Richard.

ENFIELD-01-888 0800, Michael.

EAST KENT, PO Box 40, Canterbury. Tel: Sheerness 2491 (Eric)

EXETER-This new group can be contacted through the Manchester Office.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE-Meets regularly in Gloucester and Cheltenham. Contact Glynsy Parry, Gloucester (0452) 34862.

HASTINGS-Hastings (0424) 426997, Rick.

HERTS STH-Hatfield 69172, John.

HARINGEY-Meets 2nd Monday of each month. For info send SAE to Fred Olliphant, 25 Kinver House, London N4.

EAST LONDON-556 5910, Tony.

LANCASTER-Lancaster 2750.

LEEDS-Morley 7686, David.

LEICESTER-Leicester 706050, Steve, or Leicester 738832, John or Clive.

LEWISHAM, SOUTH EAST LONDON-Call Chelic, 01-437 7363. Weekly meetings.

LIVERPOOL-PO Box 7, Liverpool L8 2XN for info. Group meets 1st Thurs and 3rd Wed each month at Gazebo Coffee Lounge, 21 Duke St, Liverpool L1 at 8pm.

LONDON MONDAY GROUP-01-589 6438, David.

LONDON, STEPNEY-01-476 7980, Mike.

LONDON MARYLEBONE-352 9013, Andrew.

LONDON YOUTH GROUP-01-673 2703, Chris.

MANCHESTER-061-445 2889, Derek.

MEDWAY (Rochester)-Medway 361576, Ken or George.

NEWPORT (MON)-via Mike Bevan or Richard Dymond, 36 Llanthwy Road, Newport, Mon. Meets 1st and 3rd Tues each month at 8pm at this address.

NEWPORT-Meets fortnightly in Newport Civic Centre on Tues at 8pm. Gay girls most welcome. GN on sale.

NORTH LONDON GROUP-272 8523, Ivor.

NORTHANTS/BEDFORD-Northampton 22861, Alan; Bedford 53150, Andrew.

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

NOTTINGHAM & DERBY-Write to PO Box 87, Derby DE1 1EN enc SAE.

PRESTON-Preston 59908, Will.

SHEFFIELD-PO Box 107, Sheffield S1 1EJ. Meets on 2nd and 4th Tues each month at the Friends Meeting House.

SOUTHAMPTON-Meets every Monday. SAE for membership form and newsletter to David Porter, Flat B, 56 Westwood Road, Southampton SO2 1DP. Further info Southampton 551335.

STOKE-Stoke on Trent 25596, John or Mike.

STREATHAM-01-675 2886, Doug.

STOCKPORT/MACCLESFIELD-Can be contacted through Manchester office.

SOUTH DURHAM/NORTH YORKSHIRE-Bishop Auckland 3320 after 6pm, Albert.

SURREY-Contact Charles, Byfleet 48716, or Myrtle, Haslemere 51882, or Frank 01-399 7495.

SOUTH DEVON-Meets fortnightly on Wed at 8pm in Newton Abbot. Contact Manchester Headquarters.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS-Contact Ross Burgess, 42 Napier Road, Tunbridge Wells, Tel: 35690 evenings.

TYNESIDE-Newcastle 877701, Jerry.

WANDSWORTH/RICHMOND-Incorporating surrounding areas. Meetings twice monthly. Charlie Micklewright, 46b Chartfield Ave, SW15.

WEST MIDLANDS (BIRMINGHAM)-Meets Carrs Lane Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham, last Wed each month. Info Chris 021-355 5131.

WIRRAL-051-327 5178, Jack.

WOLVERHAMPTON. Info: 752673, Denis.

GAY AND BISEXUAL WOMEN-Meetings starting in Sheffield especially for you in August. Further details from Sue Williams, Women's representative, CHE, PO Box 107, Sheffield S1 1EJ.

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 78 Gladsmuir Road, Archway, London N1 (3 rings). Or write Patricia Sage.

NATIONWIDE TRANSVESTITE GROUP Now being reformed. Monthly newsletter planned-ideas, suggestions most welcome. Write to c/o 55 Charles Street, Cardiff.

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.

ADULT EDUCATION GROUP-Meets every Thurs 8pm at Taima Road, Brixton SW2.

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

BIRMINGHAM-021-643 0996, Peace Centre, 18 Moore Street, Queensway. Weekly free discs every Wed at the Old Crown, Digbeth.

BRADFORD-New group forming. Details from Don Milligan, 10 Victor Road, Bradford 9.

BRISTOL GAY AWARENESS GROUP-New group forming. Contact Eddie Cherrie, 10 Fairfield Rd, Montpellier, Bristol 6.

## Labourers champion gays

AUSTRALIA: Building workers down-under have found themselves in trouble with the law, after having set themselves up as "watchdogs of the environment."

Their union, the Australian Builders' and Labourers' Federation, has lost its legal status and been deregistered, mainly for imposing bans on development, when and where it felt that natural bushland, parks or historic buildings were being threatened.

The federation has also taken an active role in championing a number of other causes, notably the gay liberation movement.

What a far cry from the recent action of New York firemen!

## Home Secretary replies

BIRMINGHAM: Home Secretary Roy Jenkins has written to CHE's West Midlands (Birmingham) Group. He was responding to the questionnaire sent out by the group.

"Many thanks for your letter enclosing a copy of the questionnaire from the CHE West Midlands Region. I never answer questionnaires from any source, but I think you already know of my determination during my previous period as Home Secretary to get through the 1967 Bill."

Peter Archer, the Solicitor General, has also written to the group saying that he supports CHE's aims, and a third (unnamed) MP from Birmingham has promised active support for the campaign.

## Bible bashers attack CHE

MALVERN: Since the CHE conference, held at Malvern back in June, we've run quite a number of stories of praise from the local townspeople.

Now we learn of two definite 'anti' reactions, which have come from Ms Irene Clegg, the secretary of Malvern Sunday School, and the Reverend Ian Sim.

Writing to the local paper, the *Malvern Gazette*, Ms Clegg says that she read the newspaper reports of the conference with dismay. "These people need help and they have my deepest sympathy in their affliction [our italics] but because I am sympathetic towards them it does not imply that I should encourage them!"

She goes on to quote the Bible, as does Rev Sim. His argument is that if someone suffers from kleptomania "we do not suggest that stealing should be legalised, but that the person should receive help and treatment. Similarly, homosexuals need help and treatment in overcoming their difficulties."

## Light me the way

EDINBURGH: Several reports have reached your Scottish Correspondent of a new meeting-place for gays in Edinburgh. Notices have been appearing in the centre of town with the following information: 'Gay Lib Youths '74 - every night in the Marina Hotel 9-10pm in the Lamplighter Bar, Inverleith Row'. Young Ogilvie Robertson, in his quest to set up a Youth Group, has inspected the premises and they do exist. But before qualifying for entry in GN's Mini Guide it will require an older person of bar age to inspect the place and report back. Any offers? Ian Dunn

## Sad to be gay insists publican

DONCASTER: There's nothing to be glad about if you're gay, says the owner of The Underground, a gay bar in Doncaster.

Local CHE convenor Christopher Parker and Chairperson John Bennett have been told not to use the bar as long as they insist on wearing 'Glad to be Gay' badges and distributing CHE literature. The fact that everyone in town knows about the bar, and that there has been no hostility so far from anywhere else in the town, shows that fears of 'trouble' are unfounded.

An encouraging result of the ban has been the reaction of hets. Complete strangers have expressed surprise and indignation at the discrimination. So remember friends, you can always use this gay bar... as long as you are not an open and proud homosexual.

John Bennett

## Calling all gay academics

GEORGIA, USA: Dr Louie Crew, an American Professor of English, is planning to publish a collection of essays written by gay academics using their gayness as a vantage point from which to view various disciplines.

"The volume will celebrate the honesty and insight made possible by gay sexual orientation," says Dr Crew. He would welcome articles about the gay experience, but he is also anxious that some contributors should take advantage of their gayness to look at heterosexual institutions and affairs from an 'uninvolved' point of view.

Manuscripts should be between 10 and 30 typed pages, and anyone planning to contribute may find it helpful to contact Dr Crew first to discuss their plans. His address is Fort Valley State College, Box 1203, Fort Valley, GA 31030, USA. Deadline for submissions is January 1, 1975.

## Cautherophobia

SURREY: During a talk to students of Surrey University recently, one member of the audience fainted, apparently because of the heat in the lecture hall.

Though, judging by some of the remarks made by Dr Philip Cauthery, from Aston University, Birmingham, and author of *Fundamentals of Sex*, perhaps it was the address that was to blame.

For, this learned gentleman, in his lecture on the 'Psychology of Sex', told students that he regarded adult homosexuals as totally abnormal, qualifying this statement with his opinion that most gays that he had met were not in fact homosexuals but heterophobics.

What was he talking about?

## Educationalists to meet CHE

NORTHAMPTON: The local group of Campaign for Homosexual Equality is organising a meeting to which all educationalists in Northampton are being invited.

This is part of the intensive educational drive started by national CHE last year.

Glenys Parry and Trevor Locke (CHE executive members) have agreed to address the meeting.

Andrew Copley, chairperson of the group, feels so little information on homosexuality is available that the resulting ignorance and prejudice can cause untold suffering.

"Particularly among young people who may have to cope with the dawning of gay feelings in total isolation," he said.

## 47 years for

## Pope-Hennessy's killers

LONDON: Three men who pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of author James Pope-Hennessy have been sentenced to a total of 47 years imprisonment at the Old Bailey in London.

John O'Brien, a 24 year old train guard from Ladbroke Grove, Notting Hill, had lived with James Pope-Hennessy for several months as his lover. After moving out of the author's flat, he had suggested to the two other convicted men that they burgle the flat. It was during the course of the burglary that Pope-Hennessy was killed.

O'Brien was sentenced to 17 years in prison by Justice Melford Stevenson. Terence Noonan, a 25 year old painter from Waiworth, and a 22 year old Edward Wilkinson from Southgate, unemployed, were each given 15 years.

## MP refuses to act

TUNBRIDGE WELLS: Patrick Mayhew, Tory MP for the constituency of Royal Tunbridge Wells, has refused to intervene in the local dispute between the council and CHE over Peter Katin's piano recital.

The refusal came in reply to a letter written by former Tory MP Ian Harvey who asked for Mr Mayhew's assistance, pointing out towards the end of his letter that a large number of the voters of Royal Tunbridge Wells were gay and would be more sympathetic towards Mr Mayhew were he to support CHE in the matter.

Mr Mayhew said that "questions such as this lie ultimately, as you know, with the elected members of the Council, to whom the executives of the Council are responsible and who have the power to review any executive decision. In my view this is essentially a matter for them, and I would consider it wrong to intervene at this stage, notwithstanding the threat that I understand to be conveyed in your penultimate paragraph" (ie that gays may vote against him in the next election).

## Gaysteddfo

BANGOR: Further details have been announced of the first Welsh gay rights conference, to be held at University College of North Wales, Bangor, from November 1-3.

The conference will open with a reception and social on the Friday night. On Saturday, speakers will include Liz Stanley from CHE talking about the position of gay women in society; Philip Conn of Manchester University on the politics of sexuality; David Blamires, the Chairman of the Friends Homosexual Fellowship, on homosexuality and the Christian tradition; and Neil Robertson, the gay rights campaign coordinator within NUS, talking about his union's campaign. Sunday will be taken up with a discussion of Welsh affairs, what has been achieved so far, and what can be done this year.

All the events will take place in the Students' Union, Deiniol Road, Bangor, Caerns. If you want further details as they are published, write to Simon Del Nevo, c/o UCNW Students' union at the above address.

## All the fun of the fair

LONDON: Holborn Assembly Hall has once again been chosen as the venue for the CHE Winter Fair and disco. Victor Vidal, who is organising the event, tells us that the date has been set for November 23 and the proceeds will go to CHE's London Information Centre.

## The Devil and Mr Ram

LONDON: If Surbeet Singh Ram, a 21-year-old driver from Battersea, had not been possessed of a devil, he would never have tried to rape a 22-year-old French girl.

So claimed the Reverend John Christopher Neil-Smith, who exorcised the man. Mr Ram explained that when living in Nairobi, he had met two men who were Indians and homosexuals. They tried to get him to join a gay club. But "I didn't join. I am normal," said Mr Ram.

Well, you can imagine how angry the two men were. So they cast a spell on him. And Mr Ram became a normal man possessed of the devil.

## US gay revue coming to London

LONDON: We hear that 'Tubstrip' - the gay revue that has proved such a success in the States - is coming to Britain.

Our information is that the revue will be wintering in New York, and then in February of next year it moves to London for an extended engagement.

We're not sure of the theatre, though. We were told 'Tubstrip' was to be put on at the Open Stage, which we've never heard of. We thought that maybe our source had mixed the words and had meant the Open Space but that theatre have heard nothing about it.

Anyway, about the play - it is a farce-comedy set in a gay sauna, which speeds along its antic course with little on its mind except to entertain.

It is full of assignation, mistaken identities, slamming doors, snappy one-liners, frantic chases and (judging by the photos we've seen) a bevy of partially and totally unclad young guys.

## Task Force marches on

TORBAY: The police Task Force in the Torbay district is continuing its witch-hunt on local cottages.

A particular target has been the Brunswick Square underground toilet at Torquay. The Task Force was set up two months ago to act on complaints received about incidents in the cottages. Since then there has been a total of 27 arrests.

Inspector Brian McCroery, the officer in charge, has said that officers are continuing their surveillance of toilets in Torbay, with particular attention to Brunswick Square.

You have been warned . . .

## If you go down to the woods today...

BRISTOL: The Gay Awareness Group in Bristol will be holding a picnic on Dundham Down on Sunday August 4.

Members of local gay groups and women's liberation groups will be going along with their families. People are asked to bring enough food to share. Everyone will be meeting at 12.30pm by the water tower on Dundham Down.

If you want any more details, phone Tim Manning on 0272 (Bristol) 423487 between 6.30 and 8.00pm.

## Merseyside Friend

LIVERPOOL: Merseyside Friend opened its telephone and befriending centre on Monday July 8.

Under the local patronage of the Dean of Liverpool, local MP Dick Crashaw and Dr Cyril Taylor, a city councillor, the group has acquired a telephone room and an interview lounge from which to run its service.

The telephone will be operational Monday to Friday from 1900 to 2200. Personal visitors should make an appointment.

Local gays are being asked for financial support, cash donations to be sent to Friend Merseyside, 14 Colquitt Street, Liverpool L1 4DE. Postal orders and cheques to be made payable to Friend Merseyside.

## Love and marriage

SOUTHEND: Vivienne Southwood, writing in the Southend newspaper *Evening Echo*, takes a look at marriage in her recent article, under the heading 'Bird's Eye View'.

She suggests that "marriage makes news" - but none more so than that of two Southend women who "married" each other four years ago.

Now their marriage - doubtless under more strain than most - has broken down. And, once again, they are in the public eye, as legal experts work out whether they need a divorce.

Ms Southwood waxes haughty - stating that some situations best remain private, and their relationship was one.

"Until society accepts that lesbians and homosexuals can love for life, like a heterosexual couple, it certainly will not accept a marriage between them," she says.

"Sadly, this couple showed they could not. Perhaps worse, they may have turned back the clock of public opinion even further."

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