

# GAY NEWS

N° 514

11511D  
FORTNIGHTLY

## WHAT PRICE INNOCENCE?

**24 PAGES INCLUDING:**

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A staggering FIFTEEN HUNDRED POUNDS — that's what it has cost *Gay News* to be prosecuted by Bath police, and to be found NOT GUILTY by Bath magistrates.

In April we splashed the word TRIUMPH all over our front cover. We thought we had won the battle to clear our name against police charges that the paper was obscene. We thought that the months of worry were over. We thought the NOT QUILTY verdict would end the matter.

We were wrong.

Once the paper was cleared, we asked the court for our costs. We showed them our legal bills for £1715. Now we discover that the court has ordered the police to contribute a mere £250—leaving us to find £1465 ourselves. By ordering the police to contribute towards costs, the bench is suggesting that the prosecution should not have been brought against us in the first place.

So—*Gay News* is innocent, and it should never have been prosecuted... and we are faced with a £1465 bill for the privilege of discovering that we are not obscene (some-

thing we would have been prepared to tell the court and the police for a fee not exceeding 4p). And we need YOUR help to find the money. We had to fight the case, if *Gay News* was not to be forced off the newsstands by a policeman in Bath. We had to fight the case and win, to avoid facing a string of little prosecutions up and down the country. We had to fight the case, or *Gay News* could have just been swept through as guilty by association with all the 'bum and tit' magazines which were seized at the same time. We just happened to think that *Gay News* is not obscene, and that homosexuality is not obscene.

That's why we fought. That's why we still think we were right to fight.

Naturally enough, those of us who work on the paper are doing our damndest to find as much money as we can ourselves. We're asking our friends, our lovers, our parents—even strangers in the street if we have to—to help us find it. But we cannot find all of it ourselves.

And so we are asking you, our readers, to help us as well. Many of you who read *Gay News* in its early days gave generously to help us get on our feet, and we will

always be grateful for that. We've tried to show our gratitude by producing the best paper we can. We didn't think we were going to have to ask you for money again, but we are. And we hope newer readers will also help out. It doesn't matter if you can't spare much. Ten pence or ten pounds—we'll be grateful for any help you can give. But if you enjoy reading *Gay News*, please don't leave it to the faithful few to bail us out. Every little bit truly helps.

As for the details—cheques and crossed postal orders should be made out to 'GN', and sent to 'Gay News Bath Fund, 62a Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY'. Please do make sure that you mention Bath Fund on the envelope so that we can be sure that that is what you are intending your donation for. In the happy event of our receiving more money than we actually need, any money left over will go towards the Gay Rights Fund, the fund to help gays fighting homosexual civil rights cases in the courts.

Please, please help if you can, and as soon as you can.

Love from all here at the paper.

## SWITCHBOARD STEPS UP SERVICE

LONDON: The Gay Switchboard has come a long way since it began operation on March 4 this year, and received sixty-odd calls on that first night.

It wasn't so long ago that the telephone number was changed so that Switchboard could get three lines to help in handling the vast number of calls received at peak times.

And now we learn from Tim Perrott (described as hustler-in-chief in GN47) that the service is to be expanded further.

Until now the lines have been open from 6.00pm until 10.30pm every night of the week. But as from September 11, gays will be able to take advantage of the new extended opening times.

During the week (Monday to Thursday), Gay Switchboard will be open from 2.00pm to 11.00pm. On Friday the lines are to open at 2.00 in the afternoon and will stay open day and night through the weekend until 11.00pm on Sunday.

The organisers have felt that this is an essential extension because of the many enquiries—10,000 calls to date—that they receive from gays, not just in London but all around the country.

Of course, with this step-up in working hours, Switchboard's resources will be stretched. And Tim tells us that the service needs more volunteers to operate the phones and help with the organisation, as well as additional donations to help ease the financial side.

Other items needed are two single mattresses (Tim specifically stressed that they have to be single!) and filing cabinets.

And the organisers hope to enlist the help of someone with computer training. With so much information on the gay scene which needs storing for easy access, they have decided to computerise this data.

But if you're worried that this step will depersonalise Switchboard—with dalek-type voices at the end of the phone—then don't be. The volunteer telephonists will be making sure that the image of friendly helpfulness is retained and with a back-up of more up-to-date and easily accessible information.

Just in case you've forgotten, the key to this storehouse of info is 01-837 7324.



Tim Perrott — The good news has him smiling



## GAY NEWS

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# Sex law findings welcome

There was never any doubt that the report of the Sexual Law Reform Society's working party on sex and the criminal law would receive a mixed reception.

CHE welcomed the proposals but expressed regret at what it called a "marked lack of urgency in the report." Lord Shawcross' Responsible Society thought the whole thing "totally evil" and that the suggestion of an age of consent of 14 was "unpardonably and morally frivolous." The British Medical Association seemed to think that the report, rather than introducing the idea of legal protection up to the age of 18, was removing all legal protection from people once they reached the age of 14. "It would be wrong to remove this protection," said an Association spokesman. It is unlikely that the BMA will change its mind, even if it does actually get round to reading the report.

But for us common mortals who are custodians of our own bodies, and do not make claims to be guardians of the nation's morals, the report holds a great deal that is to be deeply welcomed.

No matter who reads the document, one of the most important sections for the reader is the one dealing with the age of consent. For the *Sun* and the *People*, sex at 14 is just about as eye-catching a headline as you can find. For the more irresponsible members of the Responsible Society, the report is demanding full scale orgies for babes-in-arms. But for the thoughtful individual who looks carefully at what the report actually says, the recommendations carry a great deal of information about our society's attitudes to sexual morality, and the ways in which one small section of that society seeks to impose a single ethical code on the rest.

Reports suggest that one of the most difficult problems which the working party dealt with was whether or not there should be an age of consent at all. There was general agreement that there should be legal machinery available to deal with young people in 'moral danger' through their sexual conduct. But rather than deal with them through the criminal law, it was considered more useful to invoke non-penal measures under the Children and Young Persons Acts of 1963 and 1969 to allow society to make care and control orders in particular cases.

This was one of the most important decisions which the group made, and it allows for young people to be dealt with in this way up to the age of 18. What such a recommendation is saying is that, in certain cases, a youngster's freedom can be threatened (if, for example, they had been induced to go 'on the game' to line the pockets of exploitative pimps), but that in general, sexual conduct is a personal decision and individuals must decide for themselves when they are ready to enter into sexual relations with others.

They could have left it there. They could have said 'we will forget the idea of an age of consent and leave the regulation of this whole question to the provisions of the Children and Young Persons Acts'. Some members of the working party obviously wishes to do so. In fact, it might have been easier for them (purely from a public relations point of view) to have done so. The recommendation could then have been presented as increasing the age of social protection from 16 to 18, with the age of consent simply being replaced by a new regulation of sexual conduct—an age of protection.

They chose not to. And one suspects that this was the one part of the report in which caution ruled in the place of logic. Having said that (perhaps unjustly—we did not sit in on the group's deliberations), there is one respect in which the decision to suggest a specific age of consent makes sense. Quite simply, the courts could not be trusted to implement the intended reforms were no age of consent to be specified. They could justifiably say that no child of two could ever give 'consent' to a sexual act, going on to introduce a presumed age of consent which would be established by legal precedent and set at whatever age up to 18 the judges decided on.

Gay people have suffered before at the hands of judges who invent new crimes (the conspiracy charges which *IT* was found guilty of, by publishing gay personal ads, for example). We might hope that they would leave the age of consent at 16. They might fix it at 18. They would not for a moment consider lowering it to 14. And for this reason alone, the working party's decision to specify 14 must be welcomed.

CHE must also be happy that another body, besides themselves, is not only making demands for the lowering of the age of consent for gays, but asking that other legal discrimination between hets and gays be removed. The working party report represents the sort of work that CHE would have liked to put into its own Bill, had resources allowed, and it is a sound back-up document for them to use when they come to make their own demands of Parliament. Meanwhile, the Sexual Law Reform Society (if it decides to adopt the report as its official policy) will also be making representations to the legislators.

There is a long road to travel before our society will accept the moral standpoint upon which the document is based as being 'respectable'. But even if it takes several years—it's worth remembering that 'several years' is still only 'a matter of time'.

## 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. GN cannot forward letters to correspondents unless stated.

### Positive action now

Doncaster

Dear Gay News,

Ian Harvey's attack on Ike Cowen's letter (GN53) shows an alarmingly 'pre-Malvern' attitude. One of the results of the CHE conference is that a lot of people now realise that if we wait until the establishment takes pity on gays nothing will ever get done.

All those people who advocate the peaceful approach will not suggest any action that should be taken to start a debate on gay rights. I know of people in Doncaster who are being 'bashed' and blackmailed and are too scared to go to the police for all the usual reasons. Positive action to get Law Reform and public debate is vital NOW, not in 10 years. It is impossible to predict the result of CHE's Law Reform campaign accurately but the least result will be to start a debate. How does Ian Harvey propose to do this without making a lot of noise in many ways?

Finally, the big difference this time round is that gay people are conducting the debate openly. Like our friends in Norway, Holland etc. we demand equality. Let us all discard the begging bowl and get moving.

John Bennett

### Spanish gays still criminals

Dear Gay News,

Thank you for the help that your paper brings to our minority. Alas, this help is not available to all of us because not all gays live in England. You should take heed of countries like Spain, where gay people are seen by the law and authority as criminal, socially dangerous and filthy people.

I hope that at the International Congress on Gay Rights to be held in Edinburgh this Christmas, a call for help for the oppressed minority in Spain will be included.

As a programme of practical help I suggest:

(a) Stop all tourism in Spain since the law of 'Peligrosidad Social' has not changed and consenting adults are still regarded as criminals.

(b) Open a bureau in Paris, London, or better in Perpignan, Biarritz, Gibraltar or Lisbon, to help the gay Spaniards with legal, medical, social, religious, political and contact advice.

(c) Create a branch of the Gay Lib Front inside Spain, to expand the movement.

(d) Ask all friends around the world to send petitions to our Government, judges and church, both in Rome and in Spain, insisting that this unjust, medieval and narrow-minded law be changed.

Thank you very much.

JD

(Name and address withheld by request)

### No monopoly in self-respect

London SW2

Dear Gay News,

The GLF have the right to demonstrate as they wish as far as I am concerned. I may not see the situation in quite the same terms but should they consider some useful purpose is served by their activities, then they have every right to fight for their rights and reverse real or imagined injustices in whatever manner they find appropriate.

They must accept though, that they are a minority within a minority and consequently be prepared to face criticism from those they purport to represent and whose liberation they are presumably fighting for.

David Lloyd and David Longstaff were quite justified in being critical of the Hyde Park Gay Day as neither of them could see what possible purpose it could serve and in fact considered it to be counter-productive (Letters, GN52). They were there, they did not like what they saw and took the trouble to communicate that fact in a reasoned letter.

Whatever else they may be, your correspondents in issue 53, Lloyd Vanata and Alistair Kerr are far from reasonable. Their respective letters abound with all the old clichés and a couple of "bloodies" thrown in to make it appear suitably militant and aggressive, but all it comes down to is that if you are not cavorting in Hyde Park with them then you must be locked up in a closet until dark. The GLF membership does not have a monopoly in self-respect. If in fact Vanata and Kerr are representative of opinion within the GLF, then all I can suggest is that it has long outlived its usefulness, it should either adapt or die, or at the very least fade away gracefully if that is possible.

Finally to come to Alistair Kerr's cry of "Poofs In—Hets Out". I can only conclude that Gay Libbers still go cottaging.

Raymond Allen

### Liberal against 16

Southampton

Dear Gay News,

A letter in GN52 suggested that we might all be well advised to vote Liberal at the next election. This prompted me to write to the Southampton (Test) candidate.

He said he was "not aware" that the Young Liberals had officially adopted support for gay liberation.

On specific issues he said that it seemed legally logical to extend the 1967 provisions to Scotland and N Ireland. As regards the Armed Forces he wasn't so sure. He was totally against reducing the age of consent and gay sex education in schools.

Alan J Seagrave

### Paving the way

London W2

Dear Gay News,

Where is Leo Madigan at?

In GN53 Ian Harvey thoughtfully defends Leo's advocacy of "strong, dignified... persuasion to defeat prejudice and oppression." In the same issue, Leo himself, calling the CHE TV programme "coy, corny, pathetic" (pathetic?—all those happy people?) says we should be "he thought we were—"above excuses and explanations." This is naughty in a professional writer, since an excuse (which, yes, we *should* be above) is a very different thing from an explanation: the two don't make up one coherent phrase.

Leo Madigan says his comment on the programme won't make him "too popular." Well, he hasn't exactly lost popularity with me, as I enjoy his lively, candid Log. I thought the programme was decidedly good, on balance, but should like, rather, to develop this theme of being above explanations (whether Leo finally means it or not).

Those of us in the CHE team of speakers at Speakers' Corner have to think out our attitude to the predominantly het audiences who listen attentively and sympathetically to us much more often than a small group of them really sling us. For myself, I want homosexuals to be understood (I mean "understood": not pitied, tolerated or "broadmindedly" accepted). If listeners who, very often, have never seriously considered the subject, or have been conditioned into finding it embarrassing, but who (also often, give them credit) are ready for more knowledge and haven't known how to find it easily for themselves, are to understand, then an explanation is needed.

Of course, there are a few bloody-minded, bigoted hecklers, and we do battle with them, but the question is one of general approach. Do we want the het world to solve, or at least alleviate, its, not our, awful hang-up about gayness, or not? If you couldn't care less about being liked (or ridiculed or despised or hated), and so are not going to bother to explain, may possibly just turn away or else sling hets indiscriminately, then you have a right to your preference. I prefer, if possible, to be liked, if that isn't possible, then I'll accept being loathed, though regretfully. To be gay is to be proud and angry, yes, but I hope it's also to be loving—and patient where an explanation stands a chance of increasing knowledge.

This one example which I've given of a public situation does good, I believe, to the homophile cause: it increases—I'd love to think sometimes creates—respect and even affection for it. The explanation which does this is *not* beneath our dignity. Nor, have I found, has been my more private explanation to heterosexual people in my personal circle: some of them, anyway, have come to recognise, for the first time, the validity and naturalness of homosexuality. Would Leo Madigan not want this to happen? I'm glad and grateful that it's happened.

A final point about an important omission. Leo didn't mention and possibly forgot the isolated homosexual and bisexual viewers of the programme to whom the aid offered by Friend and CHE in general was a revelation. The number of enquiries to Friend and CHEIC deriving from the programme suggests that to some of them it was a lifeline. It didn't give them the sickly taste Leo says it gave him; they may have stronger stomachs.

Perhaps Leo would like to write about the kind of programme he *would* wish to see? I think there is an ideal programme, but we shan't see it yet, in today's state of society. Programmes such as the CHE one which Leo slams must necessarily, I think, he will recognise, pave the way for it first.

Peter Rogers

### 'Just happen to be different'

London N1

Dear Gay News,

In writing this letter, I would like to make my position clear—I am heterosexual. I would emphasise that I am a regular (or fairly regular, anyhow) reader of *Gay News*, not because I want a 'giggle' at the expense of gays, but because I am doing all I can to understand people whose sex life just happens to be different from mine.

Now to the point of my letter—in GN51 there was an interview with Daniel Curzon, I was rather perturbed when, at one point, he called heterosexuals "straight". Do I detect an admission that maybe homosexuality is a perversion? Or am I, as a heterosexual, just jumping to conclusions?

It seems to me that gays must stop thinking of hets as straight. After all, as I said earlier, our sex lives just happen to be different—neither (in my view) is superior to the other.

Geoff Dignam



Illustration: Garry Cobb

### Clear and objective

London W12

Dear Gay News,

I would really like to answer the Troubled Waters letter 'Black Lovers Only' (GN53), but there is already an answer there which is more than clear and objective, and I would like to thank immensely the person who answered that letter so clearly for anyone who could have the same problem. I do like black people and at the same time I like my white boyfriend.

E Negri

### Superficial mishmash

London SW15

Dear Gay News,

What an extraordinarily silly and superficial mishmash of pretentious jargon offered to 'Negrophile' in response to his problem (Troubled Water, GN53)! When will people learn that you cannot analyse individuals, and individual situations, merely by sticking onto them the worn-out labels of discredited dogmas—whether Judaeo-Christian or racist-Marxist?

My advice to 'Negrophile' is this. You cannot have a "meaningful" friendship with anyone without being ready to share and sacrifice to a meaningful extent yourself. Why, for instance, are you not ready to have a friend share your flat? You would learn to bear the little and great compromises that have to be made to get to know and love someone, not as a black or a badmate, but as a complete and whole person, made perhaps specially for you. You would both derive pride and pleasure, not just from your similarities but from your differences. There would be no need to try to change your own identity into that of a substitute black; you would have your friend's respect for what you are. Of course you must have some shared interests and causes, but you must see too that you are attractive to him, as he is to you, often largely because of your belonging to a different cultural background.

Oh, and I do know what I am talking about; I myself am over 40 and my African friend and I have shared our home for many years.

Ian Buist

### 'Get your finger out'

Eccles

Lancashire

Dear Gay News,

On July 25 I went to the 'Manchester Show', a big event each year in this city.

Where were you GLF, CHE, Gay Alliance? Here was the chance to meet 'Mr and Mrs Everyman' in their thousands, and you blew it.

It is not enough to make your addresses available to the converted in GN, or carry out little meetings among yourselves. You must make the public aware that we are not such a minority, and that their misconceptions of us are wrong, or mostly.

What do CHE for instance do for gays in Manchester? They do have their head office here after all. Though has anybody ever tried to find it? I couldn't.

What about a trip on the famous 'Royal Iris' bringing Manchester and Liverpool gays together? How about a gay ball at one of our halls, as in London? There are lots of things they can be doing.

Are they aware that GN is not sold in any of the gay bars or clubs? Have they informed you of the intense Police action in Manchester toilets, clearing them out every hour, keeping people on the move?

Were they aware of the young man picked up in a toilet in Eccles here and sent for social reports, and offer to help? He only lived a few streets away from Mr Hunt of GLF.

Are they aware that the average gay in the pubs and bars doesn't know very much about these organisations, let alone the general public.

Get your finger out Gay Organisations and do something constructive for Manchester.

Sean

(Full name and address withheld by request)

### 'A spanker'

Dewsbury

Dear Gay News,

The winner of your Ann Hathaway Competition should have been awarded £50 as First Prize, it is a Spanker. I am joking, of course, because I know you can't afford to pay money of that kind. Congratulations on running this competition and thank you a thousand times for producing *Gay News* at all, it is my constant, faithful pick-me-up. If you ever change your paper's name call it SANITY.

Arthur L Bagan



# CHE picks Sheffield for Conference '75

**SHEFFIELD:** The Campaign for Homosexual Equality will hold its 1975 annual conference in the City of Sheffield from August 22-25, the August bank holiday weekend.

CHE had originally hoped to hold the meeting on the south coast. They approached Hove and made a booking there. But the council wrote to them later to say that because of difficulties over staff holidays the conference centre would be shut at that time. As a number of other conferences were also affected, CHE believes that the cancellation was genuinely caused by staff problems and was not just another example of the prejudice that they have run up against in previous years.

By this time all the other south coast resorts were booked up. CHE now hopes to hold its 1976 conference on the south coast, but the 1975 meeting will have to be held in Sheffield.

Conference organiser Barry Jackson visited Sheffield recently to inspect the

facilities for himself and he told GN that he was pleased with what he had seen. Main business sessions will be held in the imposing City Hall (where the local GLF group holds regular monthly dances) and there is plenty of accommodation for the 1000 members expected to attend, ranging from cheap dormitories to luxury hotels. Sheffield's Conference Officer, Keith Cheetham, had been very helpful in making arrangements for the weekend. But the Labour-controlled council has not yet been approached for a civic reception, and Keith Cheetham suggested that there might be some difficulty in fitting it into the Lord Mayor's diary at this stage.

Whether or not the Lord Mayor hosts a reception, the dozen or so members of CHE's working party are going ahead with plans for "a huge social calendar" for those attending. A departure from last year is that CHE is considering inviting relatives and friends of members to open up the gathering a bit more. The working party

has not decided whether this could be for the whole weekend, or whether there should just be a single day on which special events were arranged for non-members.

The working party is also anxious to encourage more members of the general public to get involved. As a first step they are contacting local Sheffield groups—women's groups, local community action groups—in an attempt to create advance interest in the conference among the people of Sheffield. They also plan to use local broadcasting to the full—Sheffield boasts two local radio stations, one BBC, one commercial, and there are three TV services, BBC, Yorkshire and a Cablevision network. All these will be approached before the conference for publicity.

One final appeal from Barry is that a few more women should volunteer to join the working party. At present there are only two women volunteers—"two more than last year," says Barry, "but still not enough."

# Consent at 14 urged by reformers

**LONDON:** A lowering of the age of consent to 14 for both heterosexual and homosexual acts is recommended in the report of a working party of the Sexual Law Reform Society (SLRS).

But this is only one of several sweeping changes proposed by the working party, which was set up in October 1970 by the SLRS to examine the operation of the criminal law in relation to sexual behaviour, and to recommend where reform was needed.

Their report also recommends the elimination of all remaining discrimination in law between homosexual and heterosexual acts; the repeal of laws prohibiting the publication of erotica and pornography; and the abolition of the offences of rape and incest as separate offences from common assault and causing actual bodily harm.

The eight members of the group included doctors, lawyers, politicians and journalists. Their twenty-nine page report has been presented to the Executive Committee of the SLRS. The committee will now examine the document to see whether they should adopt it as the official policy of the society, and it is being published at this stage as a discussion paper only.

## Age controversy

Since October 1972, the working party has been chaired by Dr David Kerr. Dr Kerr, who has a practice in South London, was Labour MP for Wandsworth Central from 1964-70. As an MP he acted as a kind of 'unofficial Whip' for Leo Abse's Sexual Offences Bill, which, when it became law in 1967, legalised homosexual acts between consenting adults in private.

Introducing the report, Dr Kerr said that the proposal which had aroused most controversy amongst his colleagues had been the lowering of the age of consent to 14. He recalled that as an MP, he had suggested that the age of consent should be abolished altogether, but the group had discussed the matter at great length and was now agreed on 14 as an appropriate age.

Nevertheless, the report expresses anxiety over the whole concept of an age of consent. "The arbitrary determination of an age level below which willing participants in a sexual act are deemed incapable of consenting to that act is inconsistent with contemporary sociological and psychological thought. The consequential sentencing of one or both partners is offensive to common sense." Rather than invoke the criminal law to deal with minors, society should intervene to require people under the age of 18 to be brought within the care and control provisions of the Children and Young Persons Act, where it was felt that the young person was in some kind of danger because of their sexual conduct. Older sexual partners, whether homosexual or heterosexual, would commit no offence if there was willing consent—but would still remain liable for criminal assault in other cases.

## Unanimous against discrimination

The working party recommended, therefore, that the 'care and control' provisions should be applied up to the age of 18. They finally decided to recommend an age of consent of 14 "in the consciousness that any legal age of consent appears increasingly out of keeping with realities in the present day, and that many young people have no idea what it implies. On one point, however, we are unanimous: namely, that the current discriminatory difference between the age of consent for heterosexual and for homosexual behaviour should be abolished, and that if there is still to be an age of consent at all it should be the same for young men as for young women, and for homosexual as for heterosexual behaviour."

## Negative reform

Considering homosexuality further, the working party noted the reforms brought about by the Sexual Offences Act 1967, but described the legitimising of homosexual acts between consenting adults in private as an essentially negative reform, "leaving intact the basic assumption of the law that homosexuality should be treated as more anti-social and generally criminal than heterosexuality."

A basic principle upon which the group worked is spelt out in ringing tones early on in the report. "The capacity for sexual enjoyment, whether experienced heterosexually or homosexually, is a natural endowment of human beings. All citizens should possess, as of right, the maximum possible degree of free choice in its exercise—provided that others are not directly harmed or unwillingly involved."

Referring to this principle, the report urges that the law should be revised so as to

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# Money runs out at Centre

**LONDON:** Centre Charitable Trust, which operates as a community centre for gay men and women from its premises at Broadley Terrace, in North London, has an economic crisis on its hands.

Father Peter Royston-Ball informs us that the weekly income of Centre is not matching outgoings and resources are running down. Because of this it has been decided to limit the work of Centre and halt its plans to extend.

The most dramatic cut-back will affect the opening times of the Broadley Terrace premises. Instead of being open all day as in the past, Centre will now open from 7pm to 10.30pm Monday to Thursday and from 7pm to midnight on Fridays.



Photograph: Michael Mason

With great reluctance, Centre has also been forced to dispense with the services of its caretaker, Gerry. However he will continue to work part-time as a cleaner.

"I very much hope that we shall not accept this as a permanent state of affairs," said Father Peter, "but will endeavour to raise support and interest for Centre so that we can get back to normal working hours and so provide London with a much needed day-time service."

In an August issue of *Sentinel*, the centre's free weekly paper, Father Peter makes an appeal for financial support. He outlines the ways by which people can help—by taking out a Deed of Covenant, by supporting fund-raising efforts; by giving a donation each time Centre is used; and finally by becoming a "Friend", with a subscription of 15 guineas.

Incidentally, *Sentinel* will not in future be published each week, but will be available monthly in a slightly enlarged edition. And a charge of 5p will be levied for each copy.

# Katin row—support from VP's

**TUNBRIDGE WELLS:** Further to the controversy which has been raging as to whether or not Peter Katin, the concert pianist, should be allowed to perform at Tunbridge Wells Assembly Hall, a letter recently appeared in the *Times* signed by 18 vice presidents of Campaign for Homosexual Equality, the organisation responsible for the concert's promotion.

The signatories—all well-known public figures—were Anthony Blond, Brigid Brophy, Peter Maxwell Davies, Martin Ennals, Peter Hain, Ian Harvey, James Hemming, H Montgomery Hyde, Arnold Linken, George Melly, Norman Pittenger, Harold Pollard, John A T Robinson, Michael Schofield, Tony Snythe, Angus Wilson and Michael Winstanley.

The letter states that the council's action, in refusing CHE the hall for this function, makes the council look daft. "Dread of homosexuals, like dread of dark-skinned strangers, menstruating women and the number 13, is an old emotion but scarcely an intellectually respectable one."

"In acting on it, the council is being no more realistic than if it tried to balance the municipal budget by seeking the philosopher's stone."

The letter ends up by appealing to the council to stop panicking and think. "Can it name any specific harm it can reasonably expect to result if it allows those inhabitants of Tunbridge Wells who want to do so, to listen to Chopin on the strength of tickets printed by CHE? Does it seriously, after reflection, want to use its administrative power in a genteel and within-the-law version of queer-bashing?"

CHE has since received several letters of support in this matter as a direct result of



CHE Vice President Brigid Brophy

the *Times* correspondence. Also one abusive letter has been received by the Campaign, apparently sent by God (that was the signatory at any rate).

And since our last story on the controversy (issue 53), Peter Katin has been threatened with violence if he plays in Tunbridge Wells.

The threat came via a letter sent to his parents' home. Mr Katin said: "I am the recipient of a singularly vitriolic and of course, anonymous letter threatening me with violence in the event of my performing in Tunbridge Wells."

But this isn't going to worry Mr Katin. He replied to the letter in the local newspaper and informed the police accordingly.

And now everything rests on the council. The matter is at present being discussed at committee level and a definite decision will be made public on October 1.

# Gays ask council for cash backing

**MERTON:** Merton Council has been asked by the Wimbledon Area Gay Society (WAGS) to finance a gay counselling service.

WAGS wants the council to give them a grant so that they can find themselves a gay centre from which to operate a 24 hour telephone service. The group says that such a service, coupled with permanent headquarters where gays could meet, would keep people off Wimbledon Common and out of the local cottages.

Mike Holden, the group's chairman, claims that one in five Wimbledon people are gay, even though many of them would not dare be seen going to WAGS meetings.

The group has received support and help from the local Labour Party. The party's

headquarters are lent to the group for their meetings, and the prospective Labour Parliamentary candidate, Mr Keith Bill, has given WAGS his backing over the counselling service proposal. Mr Bill said that the Labour Party "has already made fundamental changes in human relationships by pushing the frontiers out."

But a Merton Council spokesman did not seem particularly optimistic about WAGS' chances of getting a grant. Their application would have to take pot luck along with hundreds of other applications that the council receives each year. He said "They have just missed this financial year, so the earliest they can hope for a grant would be April 1, 1975."

# Anger over Use It! decision

**LONDON:** CHE is angry about the way that it has been excluded from the 1974 issue of *Use It!*—the annual publication giving free information for young visitors to London (see full story in GN53).

Accordingly, the management committee, meeting recently, gave Griffith Vaughn Williams (convenor West End group) authority to take up the matter with the Greater London Council.

Griff is writing to all the councillors on the planning committee—the committee

responsible for the absence of CHE information and incidentally a listing for *Gay News* as well—complaining strongly about this discrimination.

The National Union of Students is upset too. Al Stewart, the Deputy President of the NUS, has written to *Use It!* expressing his annoyance and asking for the reasons behind the matter.

And Stuart Hunt, the National Union of School Students' gay rights organiser, has also sent a letter of protest to *Use It!*

Photograph: Mark Gerson (Camera Press London)

## Friend of the gay community

LONDON: A minister who has been a friend to the gay community and has spoken out on the subject of homosexuality, preached his last sermon at Finchley Methodist Church recently.

Rev Leonard Barnett has been at the Ballards Lane Church for six years and has combined this with writing books, journalism and broadcasting. He now moves to a new ministry in Bromley.

He has a regular spot on BBC Radio Four with 'Thought for the Day' and in January took the chair on a Radio London programme 'Platform', which discussed the work of Rose Robertson's Parents' Enquiry.

Mr Barnett is very involved with the work of the group and has been concerned with the whole question of gayness. He said: "This is an extremely sensitive area of human relationships. Because of a massive ignorance of the subject, people feel vaguely uneasy and they have nothing to base a sane and sensitive judgement on."

Members of the Finchley congregation marked Mr Barnett's farewell with a presentation cheque and gifts.

Meanwhile, in another part of London, Rev Peter Ballantine, of Wennington and Mungo Park, has said that "Homosexuals should be sympathised with, not condemned."

Writing in the parish magazine, Mr Ballantine says the Bible condemns homosexual acts, but it does not condemn the condition of being a homosexual.



Rev Leonard Barnett

In conclusion, he says that male and female homosexuals are far from the popular image—they are often lonely and unhappy people.

## Consent at 14 Continued from page 3

relate impartially to all sexual conduct, regardless of those participating. It lists areas where present legal treatment is unequal for homosexuals: the age of consent, the stricter definition of the term 'in private' as applied to homosexual acts, the armed forces and the Merchant Navy, the situation of homosexuals in Scotland and Ireland, penalties under the 1967 Act (some of which are heavier than those for equivalent heterosexual offences), and finally in so far as it remains an offence for a third party to procure a homosexual act which was legalised by the 1967 Act.

### Prostitution

On prostitution, the group observes that it is not in itself an offence at present. But the whole subject is encumbered by a host of criminal offences, including running a brothel, living off immoral earnings, loitering and soliciting. These offences should be

removed, says the report. And it recommends that prostitutes "in common with everybody else, should pay income tax on their professional earnings." It does not say whether clients would have to pay VAT.

Many other topics are covered in this thoughtful and comprehensive survey of criminal sex laws. Dr Kerr would not hazard a guess when any of the proposals would be put into law. It may take "several years," was all he would say. But Antony Grey, secretary of the group since December 1972, thought that the report could be implemented within the next three or four years. He was confident that when it was implemented, the recommendations would be taken as a whole and all the proposals would be put on the statute book. "We don't believe in asking for twice as much as we want, and then bargaining."

The eight members of the working party were: Liberal politician Lord Beaumont of Whitley, Monica Furlong the journalist, Antony Grey of the Albany Trust, Dr David Kerr, two barristers—John Lloyd-Ely QC and Keith Wedmore, CH Rolph, ex-police-man and ex-correspondent of the *New Statesman*, and Dr D J West, author of *Homosexuality*.

Copies of the report are available from the Sexual Law Reform Society, 18 Corsica Street, London N5 1JN, price £1.

## October conference for social workers

LONDON: Social workers and probation officers are holding a one-day conference at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, on October 12 from 10.00am to 5.00pm.

Amongst topics proposed for discussion are the need to protect gay social workers in particularly vulnerable positions (for example, those in residential posts); gay rights campaigns within appropriate organisations—including NALGO, BASW, and NAPO; the provision of social services for gay people; and the need to educate colleagues within the social services about homosexuality.

Cost of the conference (including entrance ticket, snack lunch and tea) is £1, and cheques or postal orders should be made payable to Michael Launder, and sent to him at 124 Wilberforce Road, London N4 as soon as possible. Don't forget to include your name and address.

## Opposition to GLF scheme

BIRMINGHAM: The local GLF group in the Warley district have made a formal application to schools in the Warley and West Bromwich areas, asking to be allowed to speak to school children and students on homosexuality. Peter Mariner, one of the front's members, said they also wished to distribute leaflets to students explaining its aims: "Many college and school students want to hear what we have to say."

But a Sandwell councillor has warned that he would fight any moves to give the talks in Warley schools and colleges. Cllr John Beard, former Mayor of Oldbury, said: "As the education authority, we have a duty to protect children in our schools. What goes on outside school is the responsibility of the parents. But as long as I am on the Education Committee, I will oppose any attempt by organisations such as this to give talks in our schools."

## Pub drag returns to Pompey

PORTSMOUTH: Pub drag is to return to Pompey after a break of more than a decade.

As a regular feature of the Portsmouth and district gay scene, drag entertainment folded with the demise of the notorious but now demolished Criterion bar in Commercial Road, and the growing disenchantment with pub entertainment.

A revival was attempted five years ago but turned out to be a monumental flop.

But nostalgia for the camp pub patter of yesteryear has reawakened, and locals as well as visitors to the city can once again re-live the past at a pub in Sprint Street, where it is planned to convert a recent experiment in live drag entertainment into a regular Wednesday evening nightspot.

Ron and Olive, licencees of the Admiralty Tavern (colloquially known as the AT) were behind the original attempt at a drag revival in Portsmouth, and thus are no strangers to the difficulties involved in organising entertainment with a gay appeal.

Olive told GN that as the recent Sunday experiments had been a success it was the intention to run drag at the pub at least once a week. Artistes would be of quality and the show to a high standard of entertainment. London entertainers were being booked.

The first results have been more than encouraging, with almost all of the Pompey gay set packing the Saloon bar to experience camp 'bitch' at its best.

Portsmouth now rivals Southampton with its own regular drag spot, and if the feeling of local gays is anything to go by it's not a moment too soon.

Richard Thomson

## Local paper refuses ad

SLOUGH: Although the *Slough Express* finds it in its editorial heart to allow its reporters to write about the "prejudice and human misery" that gays experience, it will not sanction advertisements for the local Windsor group of Campaign for Homosexual Equality.

It seems that sensational lineage concerning the Slough Group '73 Young Liberals gay rights campaign is OK, but an innocuous CHE ad—giving details of where and when the group meets, who to contact for details, and future speakers—is not.

CHE group convenor, Robin Warren, has been trying to find out from the paper why it is they refuse to run the ad, but has had two written enquiries unanswered. The group's first application resulted in a reply from the Ad Manager, Ken Burman, which stated: "I have to inform you that your advertisement is unsuitable for publication in this newspaper."

However, things are brighter in other journalistic quarters. The *Evening Mail* has been running ads for both CHE and the Young Liberals' campaign and a recent edition of the *Slough Observer* included an article on the aims of Group '73.

The Young Liberals have circulated a questionnaire to the larger employers in Slough, and one of the questions contained therein is: "Would you employ a known homosexual?"

This survey is designed to find out what prejudice, if any, exists towards gay employees. In the future they hope to make a survey of the type of sex education given in local schools and in particular whether children are being taught about homosexual relationships.

Group '73 was formed in January—their convenor, Ken Stevens, explained: "As Liberals we believe our task is to educate and persuade people towards a standard of civilised tolerance. The plight of homosexuals is one which concerns us a great deal."

Meanwhile, Robin and the other members of CHE Windsor are still waiting for a reply from the *Slough Express*.

## Gay group for St Luke's

EXETER: St Luke's College, the teacher-training establishment at Exeter, will begin the new academic year with an officially recognised gay group.

There has been fairly heavy opposition to this from senior staff members, but the Principal, Mr John Dancy, former progressive head of Marlborough College, has been eager to discuss the need for such a recognised group with the staff and students.

At present a group as formal as a Gaysoc is not felt necessary at St Luke's as it would cause unhappy antagonism. But students have refused to accept the official suggestion that publicity should in no way refer to gayness.

Once the autumn term starts, students will be told about Point of Contact, the student-run service offering information to gay students, which has been set up at St Luke's.

## Party members slam councillor

LUTON: As a sequel to the story which we ran in issue 52, Jim Fisher, Luton Liberal Councillor, has been attacked by other party members over his statement about homosexuality.

Michael Hutchinson, gay college lecturer, stated at a meeting of the Young Liberals that he was glad and proud to be gay, and Cllr Fisher came back with the odious remark: "Homosexuality is an illness."

Since then he has been called "totally illiberal" by a group of members of the Slough senior branch of the party. And in a letter to Cllr Fisher the groups says: "You could have found an easier way to the council through the channels of the Conservative Party."

The letter continues: "Homosexuality is not a contagious disease and is, surprisingly, confined to those who have no choice."

"It should be made abundantly clear that Liberalism is not about witch-hunts, and Liberals from other towns and villages decry your statements as much as your Young Liberals do."

*Gay News* contacted Cllr Fisher to get his views on the Slough attack. He was perturbed by the whole situation and told us: "I feel that they are condemning me on the basis of inaccurate press reports."

Local newspapers had given a false impression, he continued, by representing him as having attacked homosexuals.

"I think there is far too much persecution of minorities," he told us.

We asked him if he had stated that homosexuality was an illness and this he strongly refuted.

"It is not an illness. At the meeting I compared homosexuality with certain illnesses which have similar characteristics," Cllr Fisher concluded.



Luton Councillor Jim Fisher

## Swedish lesbian battles with paper

STOCKHOLM: A 20-year-old Swedish lesbian has done battle with an evening newspaper in the southern Swedish city of Malmö to publish her request for a sexual partner in the paper's personal ads column.

The daily *Kvällsposten* rejected both the ad and the girl's letter of protest at the paper's form-letter reply, telling her to formulate her ad so that "it coincided with the aim of the personal contact section."

When the girl wrote again to ask if the paper did not want to help eliminate prejudices against homosexuals and if the editors didn't find it incorrect to deny gays the possibility of meeting people with the same feelings trying to break out of their isolation, the newspaper sent her a personal answer saying the ad section was not designed for "provocative sex contacts."

Still, the young Swedish girl made a personal victory in two ways. First, her ad and the series of events around it were published in the magazine "Underway" of the Swedish gay organisation, the Swedish Federation for Sexual Equality. Then, the whole story was also published in a column of the prestigious morning newspaper, Stockholm's *Dagens Nyheter*, the Swedish equivalent of the *Times*.

The only "provocative" part of the girl's ad was that she was looking for someone who "was not afraid of showing her real self" and that the future friend might "want to do something for all other homosexuals."

The sober morning newspaper also gave the generally sensation-minded evening paper a journalistic slap by reprinting the *Kvällsposten's* boast attached to the contact ad section, that the newspaper was "trying to make life brighter and terminate the isolation of the modern individual" as well as providing the possibility of exchanging letters concerning interest questions.

Kurt Schiller

## Hair transplant

Britain's only woman hair transplant surgeon gives a brief lecture on the latest transplant technique on 01-351 0219 each evening after six-thirty. It is a tape-recording so that there is no embarrassment for men who want to know about having their existing hair redistributed to hide male pattern baldness. Permanently. The lecture can be telephoned from your own home. Don't talk — just listen.

A brochure in a free fact-pack is also available.

Just ring 01 - 351 0219 during the day or write or call in to Lilian McShane, SAUL Trichology Limited, 19 The Gallery, 234 Kings Road, London SW3.

SAUL Trichology Limited are the sole users of the highly successful, painless Londonium technique. The method was invented in London and is a British break-through in the treatment of hereditary hair-loss.



## CHE film for Italian festival



Photograph: London Weekend Television

GN contributor Roger Baker and mother of a gay son Ms Margaret Launder, taking part in CHE television film

**FLORENCE:** The management committee of CHE have decided to enter their television film—recently produced by London Weekend Television in the 'Speak for Yourself' series—for an international film competition.

Italy's Festival dei Popoli, held each December in Florence, attracts mainly documentary entries which show how man comes to terms with the problems of society. This year's event is the fifteenth such festival to be staged.

As a footnote, after completing the filming for the programme, CHE presented bouquets of roses to the director, Nigel Warwick, the researcher, Janette Carn, and CHE organiser, Jackie Forster.

## Paper clams up over ad ban

**PORTSMOUTH:** Portsmouth & Sunderland Newspapers Ltd, publishers of the Portsmouth *News* and associated West Sussex newspapers have confirmed a refusal to accept classified advertising from the Solent branch of Friend.

The Portsmouth & Sunderland newspaper group has other publishing interests in Teeside, and is now the only major newspaper chain in central southern England to refuse advertising for the national gay befriending organisation.

*Gay News* contacted Mr John Bryan the classified ads manager at the ultra modern Portsmouth *News* centre, and quickly learned that the pre-emptive refusal to accept Friend advertising came from higher authority. Mr Bryan's terse reply was to confirm that "We do not accept this form of advertising."

A similar reply fell through the letter box of Mr Tom Selby, Secretary of the Southampton branch of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality.

Mr Selby had written to the Managing Director of the newspaper group, and subsequently received a reply from a Portsmouth based director and general manager Mr E T W Galpin, which without any reason whatsoever, politely but firmly reiterated that Friend advertising was unacceptable for publication in the group's newspapers.

Mr HA Fairclough, Editor of the Portsmouth *News*, when asked about his paper's policy regarding the acceptance of humanitarian ads from a bona fide counselling organisation, fell back on journalistic protocol. He emphasised that under accepted codes of journalism he was quite within his rights not only to refuse the advertising but also to decline to give any reason for the refusal.

At the group's Fleet Street office no one would indicate where the Chairman, Lord Buckton, or the vice Chairman Mr R Storey would be available for comment. Other directors include Mr TG Moore, Mr ES Hoar, and the Hon C Batheurst, all of whom have proved conspicuous by their inability to talk to *Gay News* on the apparent suppressive policy towards Friend advertising. There is a conspiracy of silence.

Gay activists in Portsmouth and the Solent Friend area are not prepared to accept such a conspiracy. Letters are going out to local MPs, Samaritan groups, social welfare departments, humanist groups, the clergy, Portsmouth NCCL and other interested bodies with a view to creating an awareness of Solent Friend's problem vis a vis publicity.

It is expected that the spin-off will result in exposing whether the refusal by the Portsmouth *News* to accept Friend advertising is merely institutional priggishness or really prejudice in disguise.

Richard Thomson

## Wanted: waste paper

**KENT:** Plans are afoot within CHE Medway for members to initiate waste paper collection. This inventive scheme is being organised by the group to augment funds.

Members hope to collect between half a ton and a ton of paper and cardboard each month in order to make the scheme worthwhile.

In the August newsletter, convenor Jeff Day is appealing for suitable storage space. Any money made will help in paying for the room for the monthly meetings, providing speakers, the routine postage bill, campaign committee expenses and in providing the monthly newsletter.

Once the scheme is off the ground, the group hopes to start thinking about providing financial support for a Friend group.

## Reds in the bed

**RUSSIA:** Clockwork Orange type treatment of "sexual deviation" in the Soviet Union is revealed in a new book—the first of its kind ever to appear in that country.

*Female Sexopathology* has become a rare possession for the few who have been able to get hold of one of the 100,000 copies printed.

The author, Professor Abram Moiseyevich Svyadosch, based the book on his experiences at a Leningrad sexological laboratory, the only one of its kind in the country, which uses chemicals and hypnosis.

The book is a remarkable admission that minority sexual groups exist in the Soviet Union. Officially, the topic is frowned upon, but this publication indicates that some liberalisation is taking place.

There is reluctance by the author to accept homosexuality as a normal state for some people, which is the modern Western approach to the subject. Homosexuality is still a heavily punishable offence there (though the laws used to try offenders speak only in general terms of "anti-social behaviour").

The professor says that nearly 20% of gays attempt suicide, but he also says that 60% do not want to be treated in any way because they consider their own condition to be normal.

The most highly-recommended method of treatment in such cases, reveals the professor, is a combination of hypnosis and small doses of apomorphine, which produces nausea. The patient is not told about the effect of the drug, but when it is at its height he is shown gay pictures and films to accompany the acute nausea. This aversion treatment is given several times but the results appear to be doubtful. The professor says that at best it only produces a temporary "cure" and he is duly cautious about it.

The book is certainly a long way from accepting gayness as a natural phenomenon, to be accommodated and accepted socially. But many Russians are hopeful that Professor Svyadosch's book will create an atmosphere in which an open discussion of this at an intelligent level will become possible.

Not surprisingly, it's a best-seller . . .

## Bomb scare at MCC rally

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Over a thousand ministers and delegates gathered at the three-day international conference of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, held in downtown San Francisco recently.

Even a bomb threat during the worship service on the first day of the fifth annual event did not discourage the many gay men and women present.

Much work and organisation had gone into the conference, under the founder and Moderator of the Fellowship, Rev Troy D Perry.

There were 79 candidates interviewed for licensing and ordination—six were ordained, 11 licensed for the first time and 41 had their licences renewed.

Rev Bjorn Marcussen, of Denmark, represented the European churches and missions, including the London MCC, Fellowship in Christ the Liberator, which meets at the Pimlico Community Aid Centre, Longmoore Street, SW1.

Rev Keith D Davis, Pastor of Christ Church, Miami and coordinator of the SE District of UFMCC, told *Gay News* what



Gay evangelist Troy Perry

had been reported to the conference. The Fellowship now numbers over 20,000 with 74 churches around the world, new missions having been started in Australia and Nigeria.

But still the MCC is subject to police harassment, and other persecution has resulted in four American churches being burnt to the ground. In one such fire at New Orleans, Church members and the pastor were burnt to death.

Anyone seeking information on the work of the Fellowship is asked to contact the Secretary, UFMCC, 1050 South Hill Street, Los Angeles, California 90015, USA.

Photograph: Yorkshire Television

# EXECUTIVE PRIME NUMBER

will send a single orchid/rose with a greeting message to any person of your choice anywhere in the UK.

Maybe it is your mother's/boyfriend's/girlfriend's birthday? Your anniversary? Possibly you find it a little difficult to put your feelings into words?

Look for our next ad in GAY NEWS when we will disclose all. In the meantime, check your date book.

Executive Prime Number, Chalk Farm, London NW1

## CARPETS EX-EXHIBITION (Ideal Home/Olympia/Film Sets)

20p — 80p per sq. yd

Half a million pounds worth of new carpets, bedding, and furniture in stock. Vast selection. Tretford Cord half price.

Immediate delivery or cash & carry. Fitting within days. Expert mail order service. Estimates free.

Our home advisory service is as near as your telephone: 01-579 2323

9.00am — 6.00pm Early closing Monday  
LATE NIGHT FRIDAY 8.00pm

SAPPHIRE CARPETS & FURNITURE WAREHOUSE  
14/16 Uxbridge Road, Ealing, London W5  
(Carpark alongside Ealing Town Hall)

## Norwegian sex primer

**NORWAY:** We have received a translator's draft of the booklet 'Homofili', which is used in Norwegian schools as part of their sex education programme.

It is published by Forbundet, Norway's gay organisation, which received financial support from the public health department of the Norwegian Ministry of Social Affairs, for the booklet's production.

It begins with a word to the pupil—but mostly to the teacher. This states that sex is not simply a reproductive act between man and woman. It is just as much a question of friendship, thoughtfulness, loyalty, tenderness and love.

"Sex education is much more than telling how babies are born. It is, among other things, talking about contact, fellowship, living together."

The booklet goes on: "Sex education is also a matter of explaining that sex is not always expressed in the same way by

everyone; that on the contrary its expression can vary—as can the choice of partner. And that is what this booklet is about."

And it certainly fulfils this function, with passages on love and security; love and sex; sexual types; homosexuality; homosexual experience without being homosexual; attitudes produce minorities; ignorance breeds fear; intolerance and a life of problems; being human means being different; and a postscript by Astrid Heiberg, a psychiatrist.

The most encouraging comment from Heiberg is that all gays should learn to accept their homosexuality, this being the most constructive help of all.

The booklet has been translated from the original Norwegian by Roger Depledge, CHE member from York. Let's hope it isn't too long before this or a similar publication is available in British schools.

## Paper chase

**ISLE-OF-WIGHT:** The Isle-of-Wight Crown Court at Newport was the unusual setting for a paper chase, when an 18-year-old sailor threw sheets of toilet paper into the air to demonstrate to Judge Norman Broderick QC, how he was solicited in a Ryde cottage.

With lavatory paper fluttering around his head, the judge dismissed an appeal against a previous conviction by the Island Magistrates in June, when Christopher Rose (29) was fined £50 for attempting to procure an indecent act.

Defence counsel, Mr Anthony Davies, in a spirited attempt to refute the prosecution evidence that it was possible for 5'4" Mr Rose to throw unfolded toilet paper containing a sexual invitation over a seven foot partition to an adjoining cubicle, instigated the demonstration from the witness box.

The prosecutor, Mr Christopher Clark, told how Able Seaman Alan Southwell

received toilet paper invitations for sex in a Ryde seafront cottage and slipped outside where "by good chance" two policemen were waiting to investigate.

PCs Ayers and Stevens stated in evidence that they had looked over the top of the occupied cubicle and had seen the appellant peering through a hole in the door.

When arrested Mr Rose did not have a pen in his possession and handwriting experts failed to establish that he was the author of the notes. Despite the continued element of doubt in the prosecution case, Mr Rose was ordered to pay an additional £80 costs.

The case whilst not restoring any homosexual's faith in British justice, has however amply demonstrated that with the assistance of two policemen Ryde Corporation toilet paper can be the most expensive in the country.

Richard Thomson

## Gay centre for Bradford

**BRADFORD:** Members of Bradford Gay Liberation Front have joined forces with the newly-formed local Lesbian Group in an effort to raise funds to provide a gay centre in the city.

Apparently, there are several suitable properties in Bradford, and the groups have already ear-marked a shop front in the city centre. They hope to open the centre within the next month.

The centre will comprise a switchboard

and information service, advice service and bookstall, as well as being available for social events, discos, dances and meetings.

Right now the organisers need money and gay helpers to set up the centre. Groups or individuals prepared to help should contact either Tim Lord, 10 Victor Road, Bradford 9, phone Bradford (0274) 495265; or Roz Carne, Flat 3, 2 St Paul's Road, Bradford 8, phone Bradford 78554.

## Young gays campaign appeal

**BRISTOL:** The CHE Malvern Conference called for a top priority nationwide campaign to fight for the rights of young gays.

A committee has been formed to direct the campaign and most of the members are themselves under 21 (the majority under 18). We are campaigning for better treatment of young gays by welfare and social services, education in youth clubs, and an end to double discrimination levelled against gay people because of their age and their sexuality.

CHE is liaising with Parents' Enquiry and is trying to help them establish a centre where young gays can be helped and where they can stay when they are unhappy about being gay or are having trouble with their parents. It is also suggested that gay doctors offer to treat young gays who have venereal disease when they are too frightened to go to a clinic. We will want to help Parents' Enquiry raise enough money from a local authority or a grant awarding agency to set up its much needed office, from where its experienced staff can work.

We are enlisting the support of social workers to help sort out the complex problems of young people in trouble with the police or with their parents, who often run away from home and may become involved in the London rent scene. We hope to use the advice and skills of trained youth workers to help kids who are gay but have fled from an uncompromising and disturbed home background.

Over the next few months we will also be preparing a booklet on the situation of young gays, the problems they face and the way in which we should work to change public attitudes towards the sexuality of the young. We want to give talks to such bodies as the Mothers' Union, Women's Institutes, Parent Teacher Associations, and welfare organisations about the situation of the young gay.

Our campaign needs three things urgently: young gays, skilled adults (e.g. doctors, welfare workers, youth leaders), and cash. If you want to help please write to Trevor Locke, 33 Pembroke Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 3BE.

Trevor Locke  
CHE Executive



Illustration: Jean-Claude Thewissen

## GN WANTS YOU!

Come and help us in our demands for equality and dignity! Gay News wants you!—gay people!—gays and bisexuals!—women and men!—even liberated heterosexuals!—to give us a hand in making GN better and better, and more meaningful for all of us!

There is room for many voices in the gay community, and we earnestly wish for GN to become a broad forum for discussion amongst gays. It doesn't matter whether you're a university lecturer or a lorry driver—all of us have something beautiful to say to each other, something entertaining or solemn or informative or angry, or some questions to ask.

We'd like to receive your active input, by way of letters, news items, feature essays, think-pieces, photos, cartoons—any good material that's printable! Don't say "I'm not a writer"—all of us write well enough to be understood, and all of us have something to say. Let us all share each other's knowledge and build a true community. We would especially welcome "think-pieces", thought-provoking essays on anything to do with the varieties of gay life-styles, on ways we cope with oppression, on ways to fight prejudices amongst ourselves and society, on ways to share each others' joys. The struggle for liberation is long and hard, and we might achieve it more surely by talking not only amongst our own circles of friends, but amongst the larger gay community: through the pages of GN.

And we seriously and genuinely solicit contributions from women—gay, bisexual, and even heterosexual. Our readers are mostly men and the paper may reflect this imbalance unless women more actively help us become fully responsive to their needs and wishes. We would welcome articles from women for the interest of women and/or men. We're the only wide-circulation gay newspaper in the UK, and we sincerely desire to serve all members of the gay community.

Unlike a pub, we cannot get along simply by people coming in and ordering drinks. We need people to continually fill the vat with grapes in order to serve a better wine. We're making this appeal for contributions, for suggestions, for continuous feedback from the gay community as a whole so we can all continue to grow together, and we are indeed grateful for the continuing support of so many contributors and readers and friends. So get out your pen—and send something to YOUR paper, for GN wants YOU!

Denis Lemon, Editor

**NOTE:** Standard rate of payment for articles is 50p per 100 words upon publication; poetry, photographs, graphics, and others, by arrangement. The preferred length for articles and short fiction is 1000-1500 words, longer or shorter according to subject and inclination. Manuscripts should be typed, double-spaced (please keep a copy and enclose s.a.e. for return of original MSS). We try to reach a decision on the use of manuscripts within 2 to 3 weeks. Send to Denis Lemon, Editor, Gay News, 62a Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY.

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

**CARDIFF**  
Pub: Royal Hotel (Roberts Bar), St Mary St  
Royal Oak, St Mary St  
Club: Showbiz Club, Hege St

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

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

**CHESTER**  
Pub: Bear and Billet, Lower Bridge St (Sun only)  
Foregate Bar, Blossoms Hotel, St Johns St

**CIRENCESTER**  
Pub: Black Horse

**CLETHORPES**  
Club: \*Birds Nest, Boating Lake, Kings Rd, Sat & Sun only

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

**CRIEFF, Perthshire**  
Pub: The George Hotel (Lounge Bar), King St

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

**DONCASTER**  
Club: \*Society Club, 2 Silver St  
Don Jon's, Silver St  
Pub: Underground, off Silver St

**DUBLIN**  
Bar: Bartley Dunnes (beside Wendels Hospital), St Stephens St  
Rices, St Stephens Green / 5th King St corner  
Larry Tohin, Duke St (off Grafton St)

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Mini Guide continued on Page 20

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# A View of Amsterdam

Ever since I first came to know Amsterdam, when I lived there for almost a year in 1967, the city has remained my favourite European capitol. Invariably it attracts me when I have time to take a holiday, and when GN closed down for a summer break in August, it was there I once again set off for.

"And we all know why," I can hear you saying. Sure, attitudes towards homosexuality are considerably more enlightened there than they are in Britain, although even in Holland the situation has to improve a fair amount before it could be described as ideal. Nevertheless, the gay social facilities in Amsterdam are second to none in Europe and Scandinavia, and expose the majority of gay rendezvous in the UK for what they are—shabby, inefficiently run, exploitative, usually inhospitable dives.

However, over the years I've become bored and disillusioned with many of the bars, clubs, saunas etc that cater to gays in Amsterdam, as collectively they have combined to create little more than a large, comfortable and commercially orientated ghetto. I know that pleasant, entertaining and efficiently managed places for gays to meet their brothers and sisters are necessary in societies that are still generally hostile to homosexual, but surely our struggle for liberation and equality is meant to achieve more than just a gay social scene similar to the one that exists in Amsterdam.

So now when I visit the city, I tend not to head for the best known clubs and bars, such as the DOK, Incognito or MacDonald, and prefer instead to frequent the establishments that have more to offer than just the facilities to make a quick and easy pick-up. What follows are brief descriptions of the places I like the best. But don't forget that there is a great deal more to Amsterdam than the gay scene. It's a beautiful, old city, and its architecture and canals make it a unique tourist attraction. Particularly worth visiting is the new Vincent Van Gogh Museum, where the largest collection of paintings by this impressive artist are gathered together.

Three of the bars I am especially enthusiastic about are all on the Amstel (near the Munt Tower). At no. 14 is MOORS ELDORADO, which at one time gave me the impression of being just a bit too smart and sophisticated. But now I know it better and realise that it attracts a very mixed crowd, ranging from the chic and elegant to aficionados of leather gear.

Prinsengracht (off Utrechtsestraat). The reason is that at 10pm they show gay porno movies and occasionally full-length American erotic features, such as *Boys in the Sand* or *Bijou*. There is no charge to see the films, and drinks remain at the usual prices. Worth a visit, if only to see how inoffensive the majority of the movies are and how ridiculous it is that they are not allowed (officially) in Britain. (You can of course buy such films in this country from porn shops and specialist mail order companies, but at much higher prices than you would pay for them in Holland or other more liberated countries.)

Henk and Ad are the friendly and ever-charming hosts at the LL BAR at 29 Elandsgracht (off Prinsengracht). Primarily they cater for the leather/denim crowd but usually their clientele, except at weekends, are fairly mixed. If only more bars in the UK were as well run as this.

Many of the people into leather, particularly members of MSC Amsterdam, prefer the smaller ARGOS BAR at 15 Heintjeshoeksteeg (off Warmoesstraat, turning in front of the local police station), as they find the LL too chic for their liking. That's not to say the Argos is dingy or sordid, far from it. The atmosphere is warm and friendly, although the busiest time is at weekends. It is easy to understand why it's



De Goede Kant - crowded on Sundays

The first is the TONG-AH RESTAURANT at 119 Korte Leidesdwarstraat (behind City Theatre). The cuisine is Chinese/Indonesian and one can have a large, satisfying meal for between 10 and 15 guildens per person. The set dinners at 9.75 and 14 guildens are especially good value.

One can also be sure of a memorable meal at SLUIZER'S RESTAURANT at 41-43 Utrechtsestraat (reservations 22 63 76). Best described as European, the cooking is consistently excellent and the portions are substantial enough to fill the hungriest tourist. For those people acquainted with The Ark at Notting Hill Gate, London, there are similarities in the informal atmosphere and the amicable, occasionally chaotic service. A full dinner, including wine, will cost approximately 20 guildens per person and you are advised to book a table to avoid waiting. The restaurant is open from 6pm to 11pm every day, including Sundays. Neither the Tong-Ah or Sluizer's are overtly gay establishments, although at the latter a fair proportion of the diners are usually gay, particularly on Sundays when people eat there after being at the De Goede Kant and before they go on to see the movies at the Canal Room Bar.

Since I'm writing this piece as an afterthought to my holiday and not as a definitive assessment of the Amsterdam gay scene, readers will have to wait until GN publishes a major feature on the city before they can read a fully comprehensive and completely objective guide to the city. Finance and the amount of work involved in such a project prevent it happening before 1975, but I hope that this article will prove useful, whether or not you've been to Amsterdam before. A major aspect in favour of the city is that Amsterdamers are generally very friendly and most speak good English—a great help if you're a non-linguistic, chauvinistic British subject like me.

Finally, I'd like to finish by thanking Hippolyte & Onno, Bert, Jan & Otto (of MSC Amsterdam), Jaap & George, Jan & Jacky, Jan & David, and Ko for making my recent visit so enjoyable. See you at Christmas!

Denis Lemon



They read GN even in Amsterdam

popular with the leather crowd from London, for it's without the condescension that exists in similar bars at home. My only complaint about the LL and Argos is that the music played leaves a lot to be desired. The hours at both are 8pm-2am daily, 8pm-3am at weekends.

For a snack or a coffee, the DOWNTOWN COFFEE SHOP at 31 Reguliersdwarstraat (off Leidesdwarstraat and near the flower market on the Singel) is well worth a visit. It's a convenient place to recuperate from sight-seeing and also acts as a useful point to arrange to meet friends because of its central position in the city. The surroundings are made particularly cheerful by the many vases of fresh flowers that adorn the interior, and only the most reserved visitors will find any difficulty in getting into conversation with other customers or the management. The Downtown is open from 11am to 10pm, Monday to Saturday (closed Sundays), and its busiest times are in the late afternoon and early evening.

Where to eat in a foreign city can sometimes be a problem, so I'd like to recommend a couple of restaurants I always visit because the high standard of the food rarely varies.



The Amstel Taveerne - unique atmosphere

Also, the music the DJ plays is very good, with sounds to please most nationalities. The AMSTEL TAVEERNE is at no. 45 and is quite unlike any other establishment in Amsterdam, largely because of its old style Dutch bar atmosphere and decor. A marvellous place to visit for a drink in the late afternoon. Like Moors Eldorado, the music is well chosen, although the Amstel Taveerne favours a larger amount of Dutch hit parade records. Further down the Amstel at no. 106 is the DE GOEDE KANT (The Good Side). During the week it is perfect for a quiet, leisurely drink, free from the pressures usually associated with gay bars. On Sundays, though, in the afternoon and early evening, it is extremely crowded, but not unpleasantly so, and is a great favourite with members of Amsterdam's Motor Sports Club. Like the De Goede Kant, the Amstel Taveerne is also very popular on Sundays. Incidentally, all three of these bars are in old restored houses, which date back to the seventeenth century. They all have the same opening hours, 4pm-1am daily and 4pm-2am at weekends.

A place many gay men head for on Sunday evenings is the CANAL ROOM BAR of the International Travel Club at 1051

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## ★ Star\_gays

★ with Merlin ★

VIRGO & FRIENDS ★

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It has long been contended that VIRGOANS choose the most unlikely relationships with the most unlikely Star Gays. They seem never to learn by their mistakes, but then perhaps they don't really need to, as some of their strange liaisons seem to work quite well.

Think if you will, and the mind does an old-fashioned boggle to do it, of VIRGO & GEMINI. Astrologers down the ages have tut-tutted and warned that Mercury is a two-sided planet, with one side ruling VIRGO, the other GEMINI, and never the twain should be joined together. Mercurian Star Gays take no notice, naturally, GEMINIANS in particular being curious to know how their Twin planetary mate would match up to their knavish trickery. They both talk unceasingly of course, but GEMINIAN stamina balks at the early hours, demands for attention and those endless cups of tea? VIRGOANS never quite realise that GEMINI, the twister, really means to talk him into bed—GEMINI'S bed, and is going to be very put out when there's nothing doing. A share of the mind, yes; a share of the virginal couch, hardly ever. Yet where there is a distinct attraction, indulgent GEMINIANS can still be found ministering to VIRGOAN needs.

With AQUARIUS, those solid VIRGOAN qualities would temper eccentricity and self-indulgence. At least it would provide a haven for introspective AQUARIANS to come home to—they need a solid buffer to absorb their emotional outbursts. Sometimes the too factual nature of VIRGO would aggravate dreamy AQUARIUS, making VIRGOANS very jumpy, erratic and inefficient. And the prissy side of VIRGO would never do for long where AQUARIANS are concerned. Reliability, yes; too much detail, no. LIBRANS dislike criticism, and so do VIRGOANS. Any liaison would seem like a general meeting of the Critics Circle, ending with a very scathing notice—to quit.

CANCER & PISCES are not numbered amongst VIRGO favourites. CANCERIANs sulk, and PISCAN moods would only aggravate the forthright criticism VIRGOANS indulge in. Hardly a conducive sort of atmosphere these two Water signs decide, and swim off—probably together. SCORPIO, on the other hand, would attract VIRGOANS in rather a big way. They would like each other at once, to the point of admiration; above all, joint conversation would be excitingly controversial, and sexual stimulation between them adventurous and explorative. Good at entertaining, sharing strong artistic interests, the only cloud would be hurt pride. But they could always negotiate, discuss, and arbitrate—which is just what they do.

Fire signs are not too easy for meticulous VIRGO. Gusty ARIES would try to rule too strongly, and would never be around when VIRGO was in dire need (about five times a day). SAGITTARIANS are attracted to VIRGO—at first. VIRGO soon makes sure though, that their own position is made clear. Home first, roam later. And a rolling-pin waiting behind the door, with VIRGO firmly attached, when SAGITTARIUS comes breezing in, having had a marvellous time, to VIRGO'S intense annoyance. If anyone is going to have a good time, albeit surreptitiously and smothered with 'visits to Mother', it's going to be VIRGO and no one else. Such dog-in-manger attitudes won't do for open-hearted SAGITTARIUS. LEO is a little easier. Of course. There is much to admire, VIRGO would decide, in the warmth of a LEONIAN heart. Enough to melt VIRGOAN coolness? That depends on just how much the Maiden, which I hasten to add is the VIRGOAN symbol and not a reflection on sister Star Gays, can overcome an inner reluctance to nurture a shaggy beast when other, more tameable beasts are around... like GOATS and BULLS!

CAPRICORN and TAURUS then? Yes. Either would be ideal. No question but that solid CAPRICORN would prefer some mercurial bounce to lighten a somewhat drab existence; and combined with an equal amount of basic solidity, an endless fund of small talk based on illnesses, panaceas for all ills, money, hard work, and shyness about sexual matters, the two would be admirably suited. Not perhaps the kind of affair we other Star Gays would choose, but unless we have traces of VIRGO, CAPRICORN, or TAURUS in our own charts, we wouldn't understand anyway. When VIRGOANS have a mind to, they will eventually fall for TAURUS, their most compatible sign. The Bull is mostly docile, roused to anger only when goaded, loves beautiful things (and people), and indulges himself enough to need VIRGOAN fussing. Together they would share an appealing earthy quality, love, money, home, bed, and VIRGOANS motley collection of patent medicines. Stability is all and with Mercury and Venus complementing each other, that VIRGOAN Maid would really enchant the patient (if sometimes stubborn) Bull. I wonder if anyone will tell VIRGO just what sort of Beast Bulls can be when their desires are aroused? Don't bother—who do you think roused him in the first place if it wasn't VIRGO?

Well, there you all are, well and truly covered, although it's taken a year to do it. Thanks for having me, it really has been fun. A new series of Star-Gays will begin soon, slightly different in format, but still written with understanding, and occasional wit?, by your affectionate,

Merlin



## THE THIL



## 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 is 01-274 9590, every evening 7.30-10.30pm. All sexes are welcome to use this service.

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

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

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# England's First Porn-Artist

John Wilmot, the frolicsome Earl of Rochester, loved a debauch with all his heart. No man was more typical of his age, and his age was the polished era of Restoration libertinism in the profligate court of King Charles II. It was an era when men—and women—had the courage to fulfill their lust through whimsy.

Born in 1647 in Ditchley, Oxfordshire, Rochester grew up accustomed to Cavalier bravado, and though he read his Seneca, he also studied his Ovid and Petronius at Oxford. At the age of seventeen he was already the centre of the circle of Court Wits, including such men as Sedley, Suckling, the Earl of Dorset, Etherege, Buckingham, and others, many of whom were bisexual in order to give wider reign to their pleasures. In 1665 Rochester abducted the pretty heiress Mistress Malet, spiriting her away in a coach-and-six from Charing Cross, only to be apprehended at Uxbridge and confined for several weeks to the Tower.

Upon his release (due to a wink from Charles), he gallantly volunteered for service in the Second Dutch War, but in due course found himself back in his proper environment as a Gentleman of the Bedchamber to the King, whereupon he married pretty Mistress Malet and had her appointed Groom of the Stole to the Duchess of York. They enjoyed a happy marriage, resulting in four children, but it is likely that she was the excuse rather than the inspiration for his bawdy heterosexual love lyrics.

## The bawdy 'Ballers'

He also consorted with a number of minor wenches of the evening, and had two regular mistresses in Jane Roberts, whom he shared with the King, and the great actress Elizabeth Barry. And he was the confidant and trustee of the King's infamous mistress Nell Gwyn, and in tribute to her composed the dirtiest het limerick ever written:

*She was so exquisite a whore  
Than in the belly of her mother,  
Her cunt was placed so well before,  
Her father fucked them both together.*

Rochester was wont to frequently engage in fisticuffs and sword-play, to write naughty invective, and to attend the theatre and urinate over the balcony upon the crowd below. He admitted to a friend that "for five years together I was continually drunk," though he didn't mention that his bottles were qualified with opium. There were rumours that he and his friends, a group which called themselves 'The Ballers', were cavorting stark naked in Woodstock Park.

He no doubt got it off with the Duke of Buckingham and other gays in the nobility, as well as a host of stable-boys *et al*, and on occasion even disguised himself as a woman, for Rochester eschewed none of the pleasures of either sex. Unfortunately libertinage is not always liberating, and by his own account he seems to have become impotent:

*Trembling, confused, despairing, limber, dry,  
A wishing, weak, unmoving lump I lie,  
This dart of love, whose piercing point,  
oft tried,  
With virgin blood ten thousand maids  
have dyed;  
Which nature still directed with such art  
That it through every cunt reached every  
heart—*

*Stiffly resolved, 'twould carelessly invade  
Woman or man, nor ought its fury stayed,  
Where'er it pierced, a cunt it found or made.*

## The trick worth forty wenches

A superficial reading of Rochester's work might suggest that he was an indiscriminate bisexual:

*Nor shall our love-fits, Chloris, be forgot,  
When each the well-look'd linkboy strove  
t' enjoy,*

*And the best kiss was the deciding lot  
Whether the boy fucked you, or I the boy.  
[\*one who lights the street lamps at night]*  
But on a more careful reading we discover he may have been both an antifeminist and predominantly gay:

*Love a woman? You're an ass!  
'Tis a most insipid passion  
To choose out for your happiness  
The silliest part of God's creation.*

*Let the porter and the groom,  
Things designed for dirty slaves,  
Drudge in fair Aurelia's womb  
To get supplies for age and graves.*

*Farewell, woman! I intend  
Henceforth every night to sit  
With my lewd, well-natured friend,  
Drinking to engender wit.*

*Then give me health, wealth, mirth, and  
And, if busy love entrenches, [wine,  
There's a sweet, soft page of mine  
Does the trick worth forty wenches.*

This last stanza is quite brilliant, and prompts me to forgive Rochester's anti-feminism, but it should also be pointed out that this is an artificial antifeminism designed to shock the conventional-minded (in real life he seems to have done no great harm to women), and it's not the usual sort of antisexual misogyny typical of het writers. I also forgive him out of pity, for he died a syphilitic lecher at the early age of thirty-three, and my heart goes out to the early dead.



The Rt Hon<sup>ble</sup> John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester, of Arbury in England & Viscount Wilmot of Arbury in Ireland, born 1647, died 24 July 1682

## The quintessence of debauchery

And I forgive him, lastly, because he wrote the finest erotic satire of any age, which happens to be a paean to the joys of buggery, and happens to be the very first literary work ever to be censored in England on the grounds of obscenity: Sodom; or, The Quintessence of Debauchery (1684).

The *dramatis personae* of this superb Restoration drama itself reads like a bawdy lyric:

- Bolloxinion, King of Sodom
- Cuntigratia, Queen
- Prince Pricket
- Princess Swivia ['swive'='copulate']
- Buggeranthos, General of the Army
- Prince Pockenello ['pox'='the clap']
- Borastus, Buggermaster-General
- Pine and Twely, two Pimps of Honour
- Fuckadilla ) four
- Officina ) Maids
- Cunticula ) of
- Clytoris ) Honour
- Flux, Physician to the King
- Vertuoso, Merkin and Dildo-Maker  
[artificial vaginas and penises]

and various Boys, Rogues, Pimps and other attendants, many appearing naked on stage.

The curtain rises on Act I, and we behold an antechamber hung with tapestries depicting all the positions for copulation. King Bolloxinion delivers a royal proclamation setting his nation free:

*My Pintle [penis] only shall my scepter be;  
My laws shall act more pleasure than  
command*

*And with my Prick, I'll govern all the land.  
But, a tyrant in his own way, he goes on to declare that sodomy shall be the rule of the realm, and that heterosexuality shall be regarded as the abnormal perversity:*

*Let conscience have its force of Liberty.  
I do proclaim, that Buggery may be us'd  
Thro' all the land. . . .*

*To Buggeranthos, let this charge be given  
And let him bugger all things under heaven.*

Borastus, seeing how things go, persuades the king to abandon Queen Cuntigratia for Pockenello or Pine:

*It could advise you, Sir, to make a pass  
Once more at loyal Pockenello's arse.  
Besides, Sir, Pine has such a gentle skin,  
'T would tempt a Saint to thrust his Pintle in.*

(I must say that these remarkable heroic couplets are as finely turned as any by Alexander Pope or John Dryden.) Bolloxinion chooses Pockenello to be his mate:

*His arse shall for a moment be my spouse.  
And Pockenello accepts the kind offer:  
That spouse shall, mighty Sir, tho it be  
blind,*

*Prove to my Lord, both dutiful and kind,  
'Tis all I wish, that Pockenello's Arse  
May still find favour from your Royal  
Tarse.*

Act II opens upon a pleasant pastoral garden with naked men and women posing

as classical statues; in the middle of the group is "a woman representing a fountain, standing upon her head and pissing upright." The women, like those in Aristophanes' *Lysistrata*—though for quite the opposite reason—have gathered together to lament their case and to make plans for revenge. Their "unhappy cunts" have been abandoned by this new "proselyte to Pagan-fuck." They find some release in mutual masturbation, the use of dildoes, and even bestiality. The statues come to life, and this Act, too dirty to sully these pages with its description at greater length, ends in a heterosexual orgy.

What tho the lechery be dry . . .

Act III is taken up with Prince Pricket and Princess Swivia comparing their genital anatomies and engaging in the forbidden games our mothers feared. Pricket's comment upon Swivia's vagina is a gem of poor taste:

*It has a beard too, and the mouth's all raw.  
The strangest Creature that I ever saw.*

Bolloxinion and Cuntigratia confront each other in Act IV, but the king is obdurate:

*Since I have bugger'd human arse, I find  
Pintle to Cunt is not so much inclin'd.  
What tho the lechery be dry, 'tis smart:  
A Turkish arse I love with all my heart.  
. . . the brawny muscles of its side  
Ticking the nerves, their rowling Eyes do  
glance,*

*And all mankind with vast delight intrance.  
May as the Gods his name immortal be  
That first receiv'd the gift of Buggery!*

Bolloxinion's brother King Tarsehole [tarse=penis], ruler of nearby Gomorrah, sends him a present of forty young striplings to celebrate the national peace. The curtain falls as he leads one offstage:

*Come my soft flesh of Sodom's dear delight,  
To honoured lust thou art betray'd this  
night.*

*Lust with thy beauty cannot brook delay—  
Between thy pretty haunches I will play.*

Meanwhile the women, grown tired of their dildoes, begin to quarrel amongst themselves, until they begin to plot rebellion while Bolloxinion sports.

The curtain rises on Act V, revealing a grove of cypress trees cut in the shape of

penises. Like overreaching Satan, Bolloxinion plans to bugger the gods out of heaven and to drain their immortalising ambrosia. The King's physician rushes in to report an epidemic of venereal disease, the rotting away of the nation's private parts, and prophesies the end of procreation. Queen Cuntigratia has died; Pricket has the clap; and Swivia has gone insane (somewhat like Ophelia). But Bolloxinion perseveres in his madness. Demons rise from the front of the stage, singing their song of doom:

*Bugger, bugger, bugger  
All in hugger-mugger,  
Fire doth descend;  
'Tis too late to amend.*

The ghost of Queen Cuntigratia slips in from the wings, and promises to torment Bolloxinion in hell. And finally the curtain falls for the last time on the orgasmic fire and brimstone consuming the fair cities of the plains.

Of course it's only a play—said to have been actually performed on only one occasion, before a private audience in the Court—and three actors reappear on stage to deliver the moral of the tale. Cunticula argues that the male members of the audience should heed the dire warning and therefore renounce masturbation and buggery. Fuckadilla comes on to praise only the longest penises. And Swivia appears to sing a lovely ditty 'In the Praise of Her Cunt'. None of the arguments are particularly convincing.

I believe the play is generally unavailable in an unexpurgated edition in the UK, and I have quoted at length in the interests of objective scholarship. It's quite unfortunate that the censors of the age prevent us from reading this play instead of the comparatively dull Restoration comedies we're taught in the schoolroom. In point of fact it's a brilliant play, and stands up well to even the harshest literary criticism, and it's a superb example of quite serious political satire.

Rictor Norton

Footnote: Portions of this essay are excerpted from Rictor Norton's book *The Homosexual Literary Tradition: An Interpretation, available from The Revisionist Press, GPO Box 2009, Brooklyn, New York 11202, USA, price US\$34.95 + postage.*



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## NOT SO MUCH A NOVEL MORE A WAY OF LIFE

The light that burns in a gay eye at the mention of a book, film or play dealing with the homosexual life does not denote a heightened artistic sensibility. It reflects instead a cultural and social starvation. Most novels gay people read for the same reasons as everybody else; these are irrelevant to this discussion. Gays read novels about homosexuals for different and mainly non-literary reasons. Because for most of their lives most gays deny or are denied the full expression of their identity they snatch at any outside acknowledgement of their existence. This makes them shrinkingly vulnerable to concepts and attitudes contained in the gay literature; and the power of this literature to influence and mould should not be underestimated by those who wish to see gays freed from their social straitjacket. The extant gay literature has helped to maim as well as to reassure a fair number of homosexuals: those dying of thirst will make little distinction between fresh and salt water.

Some of the benefits which gay literature can bestow are immediately obvious. Nearly always it provides some kind of emotional support; it affirms identity, even if at the crudest level. It can overturn stereotypes, show the homosexual living among other people, heterosexuals, and so provide a sense of balance. John Bowen's play *Trevor* and Iris Murdoch's novel *A Fairly Honourable Defeat* both do these things. It can in a society which shuns the subject inform people (both straight and potentially gay) as to some of the realities of homosexual life.

But gay literature can act too in an entirely negative way. It can perpetuate stereotypes and pander to a common taste for the dramatic, lurid and grotesque. Homosexuality, of course—and lesbianism in particular—has a long history of fulfilling society's need for a scapegoat for undefined fears, insecurities, guilt, jealousy and consequently for incurring its hatred and ridicule. I quote here from Sidney Abbott and Barbara Love's *Sappho Was a Right-On Woman*.

"The most commonly accepted idea about Lesbian life, believed by gays and straights alike, is that it is a pain and agony trip, perhaps with poignancy the emotional high moment. The most common purveyor of this idea is the Lesbian novel.

"The idea that the Lesbian can have a good and happy life in spite of the tremendous obstacles is almost unheard of. Happiness, which is the key message in heterosexual advertising, is not permitted in the Lesbian mystique. Happiness for Lesbians is considered bizarre.

"Publishing houses have always been interested in novels about Lesbians that end in suicide, despair and separation, preferably brought about by the introduction of the 'right man' into the life of one woman who really wasn't a Lesbian at all. He, of course, takes her away to a better life.

Beyond the fact that publishers don't want stories with happy endings about Lesbians because they might encourage Lesbianism, there is also the suspicion that they just don't believe happy endings are possible or realistic.

"Isabel Miller, author of *Patience and Sarah*, a positive book about two Lesbians who lived in the nineteenth century, said that for years she found publishers unwilling to accept the plot, even though they gave her otherwise favourable comments. Having published two straight books with a major publishing house under another name, she had established her ability as an author. She says publishers wouldn't touch her novel because there was not enough tension, not enough conflict. In her own words: 'What they really wanted to know was when does the horrible stuff start?' They wanted misery. So she first published the book herself, and in spite of the book's merits as literature, the book is commonly known as the Lesbian novel 'with the happy ending'."

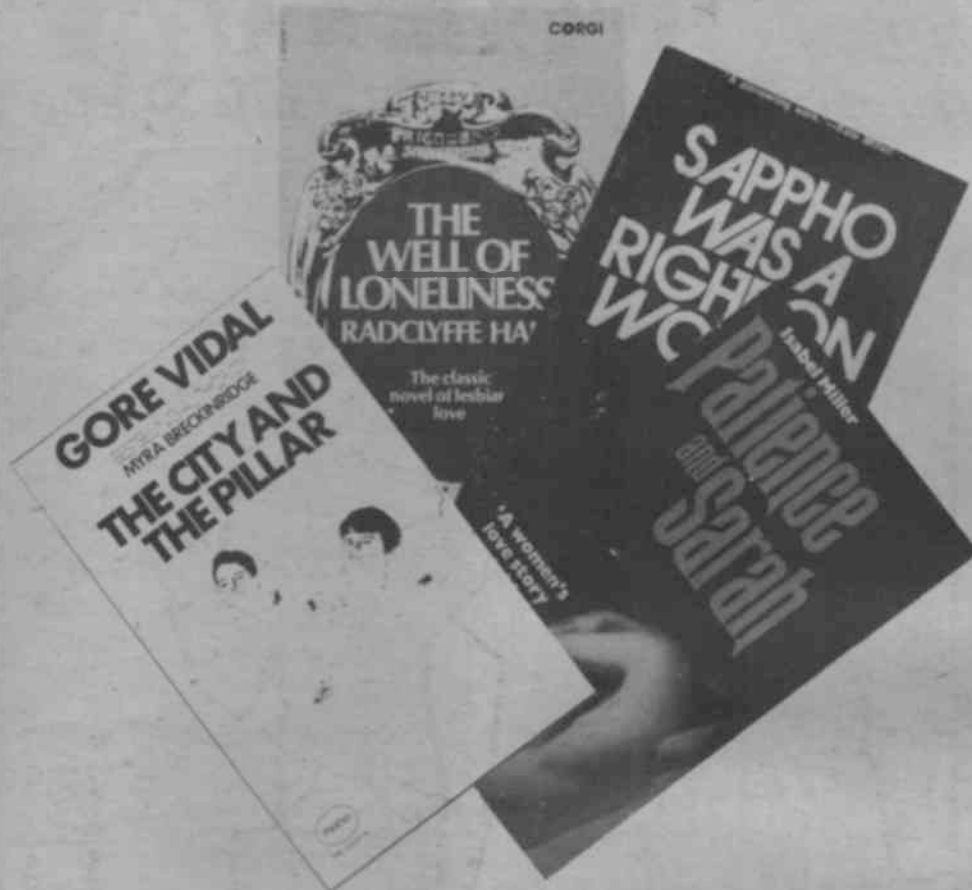
As telling examples of the different ways in which the literature can present an issue so fundamental to the gay life as role-playing, here are two quotations, one from *The Well of Loneliness* and the other from Colette's *Earthly Paradise*.

"Stephen walked over to the stationary basin and proceeded to wash her hands under the tap, spotting her white silk cuffs in the process. Going to the cupboard she got out a clean shirt, slipped in a pair of simple gold cuff-links, and changed; after which she put on a new necktie.

"Mary said: 'Who's been looking after your clothes—sewing on buttons and that sort of thing?'

"I don't know exactly—Puddle or Adele. Why?'

"Because I'm going to do it in future. You'll find that I've got one very real talent, and that's darning. When I darn the place looks like a basket, criss-cross.



And I know how to pick up a ladder as well as the Invisible Mending people! It's very important that the darns should be smooth, otherwise when you fence they might give you a blister."

"Stephen's lips twitched a little, but she said quite gravely: 'Thanks awfully, darling, we'll go over my stockings.'"

And from Colette:  
"So you had the idea, when you left the old Turk, that you stopped being a woman?"

"For heaven's sake, no! How mixed up you are! We never have to stop being a woman. Not on any account, my girl. And even—got this into your head—a couple of women can live together a long time and be happy. But if one of the two women lets herself behave in the slightest like what I call a pseudo-man, then . . ."

"Then the couple become unhappy?"

"Not necessarily unhappy, but sad. . . . 'You see, when a woman remains a woman, she is a complete human being. She lacks nothing, even insofar as her amie is concerned. But if she ever gets it into her head to be a man, then she's grotesque. What is more ridiculous, what is sadder, than a woman pretending to be a man? On that subject, you'll never get me to change my mind. La Lucienne, from the time she adopted men's clothes, well! . . . Do you imagine her life wasn't poisoned from then on?'

"Poisoned by what?'

"From that time on, my pet, if her lady friends sometimes forgot that she wasn't a man, she, for her part, the little fool, never stopped thinking about . . . And so, despite all her successes, she never stopped being resentful. That obsession deprived her of sleep and of faith in herself, which is even worse.

"It was then', Amalia went on, 'that La Lucienne began to make trouble. She began to adopt all the mean ways of love: there were affairs broken off without reason, there were reconciliations, but conditional, and separations and unnecessary fights, tearful scenes, and I don't know what all . . . An obsession . . . Loulou, a pretty blonde she had with her, well, she threw her out one night half naked into the garden to teach her a lesson and make her decide what she wanted, that is, to choose between her, Lucienne, and Loulou's husband. Before dawn, Lucienne leaned out over the balcony: 'Have you thought it over?' she says. 'Yes', says the girl, 'I'm going back to Hector. I've just realised he can do something you can't'. 'Oh, naturally!' says Lucienne, spitefully. 'No', says Loulou, 'it's not what you think. I'm not all that crazy about you know what. But I'm going to tell you something. When you and I go out together, everyone takes you for a man, that's understood. But for my part I feel humiliated to be with a man who can't do pipi against a wall.'"

For the thousands who have read and been profoundly influenced by the attitudes found in Radclyffe Hall's novel, how many have been affected by Colette's deceptively simple common sense?

Turning back to the question of what the gay reader seeks so fervently in the gay novel, I would contend that he looks for what any member of a minority group seeks in his literature. First, a feeling of identification and solidarity; a kind of crude relief that he is not alone, even if

only one of a suffering minority. Time and time again in the case histories told in books like Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon's *Lesbian/Woman* and Charlotte Wolff's *Love Between Women* there appear sentences like: "It was then that I decided that I was a lesbian, and when, a couple of years later, I read *The Well of Loneliness* it fell upon me like a revelation. I wept floods of tears over it, and it confirmed my belief in my homosexuality." But after this first sense of revelation—and probably after some personal experience of gay life—more stringent demands are made of the literature: is this really what it's like—or should be like? The answer to which generally being No, it is at this point that the other demand of the minority group comes to the fore: we have to change this way of living. First there comes the description, then the protest. And this pattern can be seen in most serious novels, however good or bad, which deal with the homosexual life. E.M. Forster's *Maurice* and Radclyffe Hall's *The Well of Loneliness* are just two examples which show this.

A distinction must be drawn here, I think, between the aims of the serious gay novel and the abounding light pornography. Pornography seeks neither to explain, explore nor to change: it seeks only to arouse sexual feeling. In reading light pornography the reader is taking an escape route essentially favoured by society; he is indulging himself in an allowed digression. This is illustrated well by the 'moral' ending commonly found in this type of work. Disaster and ridicule converge on those who commit themselves too far and break the basic social rules; the normal values of society are thus reasserted and the reader is warned by example to go so far and no further: to fall well short of dreaming of a new scheme of things.

The serious novel, in contrast, does seek to explore and to explain its world and in so doing to change the reader's perceptions. It is, by virtue of this, an agent of revolution. *The Well of Loneliness*, in as much as it carried out this function, was a revolutionary book (no matter how one may condemn it on other grounds) and the public outcry on its publication showed how very aware of this fact was the society of the time. The serious gay novel describes and then, because its description reveals alienation and misery, it protests. The light pornography concerns itself merely with those aspects of gayness which can be counted on to arouse a sexual response: it seeks not to change but to capitalise on the existing state of affairs.

To make the most forceful protest by bringing home to society its very real involvement with homosexuality, some authors take as their protagonists the most ordinary characters human ingenuity can devise: the only feature which differentiates them from their peers is their gayness. E.M. Forster in *Maurice* and Gore Vidal in *The City and the Pillar* use this device to emphasise the irrationality and cruelty of a rejecting society. The use of such a device contrasts sharply the aims of the serious novelist with those of the pornographer who sets out to exploit the full dramatic potential of the subject—such things as gay promiscuity and gay murders—and in so doing helps to keep the bizarre wolf from society's own hearthrug. Another

device of this kind used by the serious novelist is the introduction of a happy ending as an affirmation of the potential joy in the gay life. Isabel Miller's *Patience and Sarah*, as already mentioned, and E.M. Forster's *Maurice* both have staunchly up-beat concluding pages.

Mention of Forster's *Maurice* leads up to the crucial question about the serious novels on homosexuality: why are most of them so bad? There are certain fairly obvious factors. If, as is said, it is impossible to write love poetry in bed, it is equally impossible to write a penetrating and balanced account of homosexual life when the writer is completely caught up in the injustices and obsessions which surround and engulf it. Also there is the demonstrable fact that most novels written in a crusading spirit turn out to be very bad indeed. But these would seem to be factors rather than the main reasons. The main reason, as I see it, is that in this society the basic experience of homosexuality cannot be assimilated into the fabric of one's life; and the failure of the gay novelist is a failure not just in expression but in experience. Forster, of course, stands as a prime example. Unable to bring himself to live as an avowed homosexual, he gave his feelings expression in clandestine stories and a novel—all of them unutterably bad, vitiated by sentimentality and whimsy. The contrast of those with his other work is one of the most depressing things in the literature of this century.

All literature, obviously, is written within the framework of some kind of society and is deeply influenced by this society. On the particular subject of homosexuality there is such strong general feeling that all gay literature must be written one way or another in reaction to this feeling. One way of reacting to this strong feeling is of course to avoid it completely, to lose the sense of social belonging in the description of a consuming personal experience; and this is the way in which many gay novelists have dealt with the subject. The author of *Olivia* manages this successfully; and in this novel the intensity of the experience is heightened by the heroine's knowledge that the situation is to all intents and purposes impossible, that no relationship of the kind she wants can ever come about. And so too—not so successfully—Forster in his short stories deals with pastoral and fantasy scenes: such things are possible only in dreams. It is perhaps significant that the earliest gay poetry—Sappho's—was written in the lyric genre, that genre which has ever since been concerned with the personal experience, detached entirely from everything and everyone but the object of contemplation or obsession.

Another possible reaction to society's strictures is to write on the subject but to remain personally uncommitted, as did Colette. Here one may write on gayness with lucidity and great understanding but escape from it at will to other less fraught subjects.

But the writer living the homosexual life in full commitment has to exist in a state of almost constant tension, trying on the one hand to adjust himself to life in an oppressive society and on the other to change the attitudes of the people around him. This is the background for an angry and eloquent book but stony ground for a great work. The forces acting against the writer's personal balance are very strong; the forces driving him towards avoiding any direct confrontation and evaluation are almost overpowering.

Marsaili Cameron

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# THE GAY THIRTIES

## by Galileo

*A look back, but not in anger, at the Gay Scene in an Age of Crisis*

Senior gays, tottering survivors from the Thirties, tend to look back at that nostalgia, forgetting the bad things, remembering only the good and murmuring, with faltering breath, the words of Wordsworth, *Bliss it was in that dawn to be alive!*

Well, was it?

1930 arrived in the middle of a world-wide trade slump: 3,000,000 unemployed existed on a dole pittance of £1 weekly; millions more led confined lives in poorly paid jobs; social unrest gripped the nation by the throat. Well-to-do middle and upper class people, however, expected and received privileged service.

In 1931 a National government, headed by the ex-labour leader, Ramsey Macdonald, replaced the minority Labour government and set about overcoming the crisis by cutting the unemployment benefit and the salaries of the armed services and civil service, and by pious exhortations to all classes to make financial sacrifices. It even asked the king-emperor, George V, to accept a £60,000 reduction in the civil list. A story went the rounds (no doubt untrue) that His Majesty hotly replied that this would mean disbandment of the Yeoman of the Guard and that was unthinkable!

The resilience of gay people, women as well as men, was such that even in these adverse circumstances, most of them managed to hold their own and excel in those trades and crafts that are specifically intended to bring comfort and colour into life.

The two main differences between the gay world then and now may be summarised as follows: the law operated against the practice of homosexuality, at any age, whether in public or in private; and a conspiracy of silence was maintained both by the press and public in regard to homosexual activity.

Penal sanctions involved life imprisonment for sodomy (less than 70 years previously the penalty was death); 2 years maximum imprisonment for other manifestations. These laws, however, had the reverse effect of their intentions. True, they led to many imprisonments; but as they were regarded by the entire gay world, and by a small section of the straight world, as unjust, breaking these laws carried no sense of criminal guilt, so that their objective as a deterrent failed. This was the basic reason why, following the recommendations of the Wolfenden report in 1957, the laws were eventually, if belatedly, repealed in respect of those over 21 practising in private.

The popular belief that gays led lonely and miserable lives may well have been true of some until they found their way about; but it was certainly untrue of the majority. Behind the protective veil of secrecy and silence, most gays led lives that although they were inevitably 'two-faced', were relatively carefree. They had the advantage that they were able to join in group-gatherings at selected rendezvous where they could meet each other and enjoy a sense of 'togetherness', perfectly harmless in itself, with the reassurance that comes from being part of a common front united against injustice. Moreover, they were sustained by the prodigious gay sense of humour which exploited High Camp, was proof against almost every kind of adversity and based on a comic parody of real Society—the rich and titled people who lived in Mayfair and Stately Homes, and whose activities were sycophantically chronicled by gossip writers.

This parody took the form of self-assumed female titles, splitting the year up into 'seasons', haunting 'fashionable' bars and restaurants, and using a secret terminology like 'camp', 'drag', 'send up' and such-like which, ironically, is now common parlance and understood by every school-boy. Also, the descriptive word for gays then was 'So', later mysteriously replaced by 'Queer', which was the objectionable word that the general public eventually wised up on, and now, one hopes, is left well behind, except by the ignorant. The highlight of the winter 'season', by the way, was Lady Malcom's charity fancy dress ball held annually at the Albert Hall. Practically every gay in London would go to this ball



in drag of fantastic design, carry off all the prizes, until—you've guessed it—clamp-down!

The two faces of gay life meant that during working hours gays were an integral part of the community, for the most part indistinguishable from everyone else doing reasonably useful jobs. But in their spare time they were very distinctly, as indicated above, a class apart; but the life-style they followed was not, it must be emphasised, necessarily any better or worse than the heterosexual spare-time pattern of behaviour. Unfortunately, the only occasion when gays were heard of was when sexual scandal erupted. The contribution of gays in the world of the arts and entertainment, which was out of all proportion to their numbers, remained generally unknown. The homosexual nature of men and women actively creative in the theatre and in literature was known only to small, sophisticated circles; while many others who had a natural talent for creating new ideas for women's clothes, coiffeurs or cosmetics, could not clamp on their products 'homo product' like labelling men's suits 'pure wool'; but the straight world certainly owed the gay world a huge debt of gratitude for brightening up the dull greyness of life! And some gay people certainly were rewarded in those days: by knighthoods on one hand, and prison sentences on the other.

### The gay round in London's West End

The West End of London in the Thirties was a place of social extremes. Well-dressed crowds, mostly in evening dress, thronged the brightly lit streets in pursuit of pleasure: theatres, restaurants, bars, secret brothels. But just around the corner in Trafalgar Square, the benches were nightly occupied, even in the depth of winter, by down-and-outs, many of them pathetically young and innocent victims of the widespread unemployment. Prostitutes, some of them male, openly solicited customers in the public thoroughfares of Piccadilly and Soho, while the possibility of arrest, blackmail or

robbery, though seemingly remote, was always lurking in the shadows.

Saturday afternoon tea parties in favoured restaurants were popular with the gay fraternity. The Piccadilly Corner House, a palace of food and light, offered marvellous value and a friendly waitress service ('help yourself' was mercifully unknown) attracting people of all classes, including gays who usually congregated in a section of the basement which they, unknown to the management, campily dubbed the 'Lily Pond'. Another popular resort on Saturday afternoons, although on a much smaller scale, was the 'Tea Kettle' in Wardour Street. This was decorated in mock-Tudor style, with pink lamp shades and copperware that cosily reflected the firelight on winter afternoons. Tea and sympathy was dispensed by two charming ladies who probably had no idea of the sexual nature of the Saturday afternoon clientele. And why should they have done? Gays, would you believe it, can sip tea and nibble cakes as decorously as anyone!

It was the done thing among all classes to dress up on Saturday nights. Everyone in the theatre stalls, for example, both men and women, wore evening dress. Jeans, thank heaven, were still a long way off on the other side of the Atlantic. So between 6.00 and 8.30pm, when the theatres and music halls opened, gays would return home, put on their finery, then sally forth for the evening fray that would often last until the dawn.

Gays, both young and old, led the way in men's fashions. They dared to wear longish hair when, 'short, back and sides' was the unshakable rule among straights, and also tight-fitting clothes, especially round the seat and legs, while 'loose-fitting' was the inelegant and non-sexy mode. (Things are certainly better in that respect now.)

Always very social people, gays of the day enjoyed eating out. And it could be done cheaply. One could have an excellent four-course dinner at a French restaurant

called the Begoinoir, in Soho, for 3/6 (17½p), with a bottle of Medoc 4/- (20p). Or, if one were hungry but poor, one could solve the problem at Poglioli's, an Italian restaurant in Charlotte Street, where a massive plateful of spaghetti, plus a glass of wine, could be obtained for 2/- (10p), including service with a smile from dark-eyed waitresses. Across the road was the celebrated Fitzroy Tavern, favourite resort of the numerous aspiring artists who lived in the area, hoping to achieve fame and fortune and move on to Chelsea. Sometimes one could see Augustus John or the young Dylan Thomas propping up the bar; while the writer and sculptor, Nina Hammett, nightly held court there.

But the West End was the real stamping ground of gays. Many went for early evening drinks to Jack Bloomfield's pub in Leicester Square, the popular bar being on the first floor out of harm's way. Others crowded into the adjoining Cavour Bar, a well-run and elegant establishment in the basement which first introduced the luxury of wall-to-wall carpeting. Still others favoured the smart Trocadero Long Bar in Shaftesbury Avenue which attracted an exclusive clientele consisting largely of well-known actors, artists and men about town.

Then on to the old music hall bars—these really are a loss—like the Holborn and the Alhambra. Here the word would spread round about the location of bottle parties to which all could go providing they took a bottle. These parties seldom began before 11.00pm or ended before dawn when public transport became available. Failing a party, a popular port of call between 11.00pm and midnight was the basement coffee bar of the highly respectable Criterion restaurant in Piccadilly Circus. Access to the basement was by means of a grand staircase illuminated by an outsize crystal candelabra, and everyone enjoyed the pantomime spectacle of well-known 'characters' ascending and descending this staircase to the muted accompaniment of mildly 'send up' applause. The star turn nearly every night was 'Lady Lavender', a tall, slender blond who looked 20, but was really 40, an unimaginable age in those days. (Now it seems young.) He, always referred to as 'she' by his friends, had the feline grace of Mistinguett, and was invariably followed during the descent by two gentlemen/ladies-in-waiting as though carrying an invisible train.

Another amusing character was a short, portly Welshman of indeterminate age, who had a great mass of lank, black hair and was known through the gay world as 'Rosie, the Baroness Bothways', the 'Rosie' part arising from a high complexion encouraged by a liberal application of rouge. He was always dressed in lavishly expensive clothes and bedecked with gold chain and bangles. Young gays would whisper to each other in awe as he floated down the staircase, "She's a millionaire, you know." The 'Millionaire' was, in point of fact, a cook-camlet to a wealthy elderly gay, who, in the *cajarderie of gayness*, loaned his clothes and jewellery to 'Rosie' on his nightly excursions to the West End. Once Rosie turned up with a beautiful black eye only partly concealed by a gold monocle. When asked how he had acquired the shiner, he would only reply, "I went too far."

All rather silly, no doubt; but harmless: no one was behaving like real criminals, robbing banks and suchlike.

### Crackdown!

It was a valid criticism of some gays—they were never more than a small minority—that they flaunted their camp behaviour in the unappreciative public eye, giving the gay world as a whole a bad name. This came to a head in the mid-thirties, when a few incidents, involving people in high places, were widely reported by the press breaking its secrecy rule. Public indignation led to a crackdown on the gay scene all over Britain. Pubs were raided, clubs closed, gays sent to prison, and restaurants invited their gay patrons to take their custom elsewhere. And there were no organisations like the Albany Trust to which gays could turn for advice. One is happy to record, however, that no gays were massacred in Britain as happened in Nazi Germany. On

*Continued on page 12*



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*'The Gay Thirties' continued from page 11*

29th June, 1934, the so-called 'Night of the Long Knives', Hitler's assassins slaughtered the homosexual Rochm and over 100 of his Storm Troopers while, it was alleged, they were in the midst of holding a mild drag party.

The phase passed. New rendezvous sprang up. But things were never quite the same again. 'Lady Lavender' no longer descended the grand staircase. 'Rosie' left his master's clothes and jewellery at home, put on a cloth cap and black scarf and went pubbing in the East End, where it was safer and people more tolerant.

A bright interlude was struck in 1935 by the national celebration of King George's silver jubilee. He and Queen Mary were revered by all classes, and gays, as loyal as anyone, joined in the public acclamations of their majesties, as, accompanied by the household cavalry, always a splendid sight with their plumed helmets and naked swords flashing in the sunlight, they went on ceremonial drives through the decorated streets.

### The storm clouds gather

1936 was a year of mounting crisis. The popular Prince of Wales succeeded his father on 20th January as Edward VIII (the late Duke of Windsor). On the following 11th December a stunned nation witnessed his abdication over his determination to marry the twice divorced Mrs Simpson.

Meanwhile, Hitler occupied the Rhineland, so posing a major threat to world peace and forcing Britain to re-arm. Then the Spanish civil war erupted, a foretaste, terrible in itself, of the catastrophe of the second world war. In Britain the civil war aroused intense political passions, splitting the nation right down the middle in its support of the opposing sides. One half rooted for Franco and his Moors; the other

for the popular front Republicans. Many left-wing intellectuals, both homosexual and heterosexual, went off to fight and die for the latter in the International Brigade.

### Ladies of Lesbos

Against the background of these momentous events, surprisingly little was heard or seen of the activities of gay women. They differed in several ways from the life-style of their gay brothers. They were more private people, inclined to be more possessive and jealous of their partners in life; less gregarious, locked up in themselves. Also, as they were not subject to sanctions of law, they were not exposed to adverse publicity from time to time as was the fate of the men. Usually, too, they preferred to visit, in inseparable pairs, artists' pubs in Bloomsbury and Chelsea, avoiding the West End. In a word, they went their own way—quietly.

### Their finest hour, too

Gays, men and women, 'did their bit' like everyone else in the second world war. Some of the more aggressive types, such as you sometimes find on rugby fields, had a bloody war as fighter pilots or commandoes. But perhaps it is true to say that gay people's best efforts were in the field of entertainment rather than on the field of battle, sustaining the morale of the fighting man by staging concerts and acting in drag shows. Well, that was a fine hour, too.

### A true democracy

In conclusion it may be claimed that the gay world is a true democracy in the sense that it is of an international character, in which gays of all nations instinctively recognise and understand each other, and where the barriers of rank and class are demolished by sexual attraction, with a little common sense and humanity added for good measure.

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# How straight is gay?

The vocabulary of Liberation

Most gays are acutely conscious of the potency of words. Why 'gay'? Because the alternatives—'queer', 'faggot', 'fairy', 'pervert' and what you will not—are the unacceptable faces of prejudice. We choose the word 'gay', couple it with 'pride' and feel a whole lot better. "Glad to be Gay" said the buttons (whatever happened to them?), implying, I suspect, rather than 'queer' etc, that 'gay' means acceptance, coming-out, standing up, challenging the prejudices of society.

If the Marquis of Queensberry had used that word instead of 'sodomite' (sic) maybe Oscar would not have crucified himself with outrage. Or maybe not—in Oscar's day the word 'gay' was used almost exclusively to refer to lady prostitutes and had the associations of loose sexual behaviour since Chaucer. Right on. 'Glad to be Promiscuous' (?).

If you're not gay, you're straight. Everyone knows that, but what do we mean by it? Like 'gay', 'straight' has an interesting provenance. The underworld (nasty criminals) have been using this word for a long time. How many television villains have you seen pleading in the dock for one more chance to go 'straight'? Used by real criminals it has always denoted that unpleasant concept, working for a living. In the sixties the underground (hairy hippies and freaks, not the Marquis) borrowed the word to mean the same thing and then expanded it to include all the associations and symptoms of rejected bourgeois respectability. It was appropriated by Gay Lib with much the same intention. Currently it is used by the 'gay' community at large to mean anyone whose sexual behaviour is exclusively or predominantly hetero. (Itself the word used for 'straight' up to about ten years ago and possibly much later in many places. I heard it only last year used by a 'gay' who hadn't caught up.) 'Straight' is a put-down word. It has had a pejorative aspect throughout, in the mouths of all the groups who have used it. In the late sixties it seemed the only term of contempt available to the underground press (see any number of *International Times*)—anyone who is not with us is 'straight'.

'Straight' still has the associations of conformity and unquestioning adherence to convention. When we use the word as gays we thereby congratulate ourselves (consciously or unconsciously) on our own liberated position. Glad not to be straight is a mini-ego-trip. To some extent this has to be good if only that it avoids the alternative, referring to non-gays as hetero or (even worse) 'normal', which is a horrifying expression of self-hate. However, whilst the associations of 'gay' and 'straight' are present in current usage of the words, I

often wonder just how true they are. Sexual orientation self-evidently does not equal liberation, even sexual behaviour (actually making it instead of just talking about it) only goes part of the way towards that.

'Straight' to me means collars and ties, pin-stripe suits, nine-to-five, mortgage repayments, an attitude of mind which conforms to the status quo. Some of the straightest people I know are gay and no matter what clothes they wear. That they may be promiscuous (v Chaucer), leather or rubber fetishists, pederasts, into S/M or whatever, does not affect their essential straightness. The 'gay' who carefully presents a straight image, tells his mother that he's "still looking" for the right girl and mimics the preoccupations of straight life-style—"This is my affair (or better half), we've been together now for eighteen months"—is not gay, he's queer. If I, or you, or he call him 'gay', we are debasing our argot. The same man at weekends in the clubs, trolling the towpath with his poodle at midnight or flying off for fifteen decadent days in Amsterdam is not gay either. Liberation is not a part-time occupation. An abiding image of the closet is the Dilly Cottage in rush-hour, packed with city gents, briefcase in one hand, wanking desperately with the other. How straight can you get?

Pedantic playing with words, what does it matter? But it matters a lot. Words not only express thoughts, they also shape them. If I use a word often enough I can believe that what it ought to mean is what it does mean. That we can all now call ourselves 'gay' and dismiss as 'straight' the others is a process not only of liberation. In fact, not of liberation at all. It is a process of complacency. "I'm not straight, I'm gay" can cover a multitude of private neuroses.

Planning this piece, I asked my 'straight' lady flat-mate, "What does 'gay' mean to you?" "Queer," she replied without hesitation. "And 'straight'?" I pursued. "Heterosexual," she smiled sweetly, "or normal." This from someone who has been taught that it is always polite to say 'gay'. How many gays really think or feel the same way? How straight is gay?

Nigel Pinn

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Photograph: Italian postcard (1910)



A bather whose clothing was strewed  
By breezes that left him quite nude  
Saw a boy come along,  
And, unless I am wrong,  
You expected this line to be lewd.

## The John Riley column Fit for a Queen

It puzzles me that *Gay News* has never thought to run a cookery column. After all, most of the readers are either coping valiantly on a gas-ring or else working culinary marvels in a frantic effort to hang onto their fellas. So I thought it would be rather kind to devote myself this week to giving you the low-down on preparing a meal.

We shall assume that you have somehow or other found yourself a beautiful man and that he is calling round for a little supper on Friday. NB: always, when extending invitations, describe the meal as "little," so that your guests will be overwhelmed by the blow-out you provide. You cannot begin preparations too early, and by the Monday previous you ought really to be getting into the right frame of mind. To do this, sit quietly with a cigarette and a creme-de-menth frappe, and think beautiful smells.

Because you need to be with your guest as constantly as possible, everything should be ready to serve three hours before he is due to arrive, and I'm sure they won't mind your taking the day off work. Three courses will be expected of you, but you *can't* have gotten to our age without an ample repertoire of starters. If in doubt serve him vichysoise and defy him to wonder if it's tinned. To follow, how about a nice chicken casserole? Oh yes, I knew *you'd* jib at that, so kindly get back to lesson thirteen of your Cordon Bleu course and leave us tryers alone.

The first thing to get firmly into your noddle is that the chicken is dead—just something cold and unpleasant, which you are going to transform into a simmering deliciousness within forty-eight short hours. Now it's no use looking in a cookery book because the first thing they always say is, "Joint the bird" and neither of us knows how to set about that caper. So one just has to be resourceful and put it through the mangle a few times. Then you put it all into a large dish with one of those Knorr things and a pinch of everything in your herb rack. Pop it into the oven, which should be set at—oh, I don't know, 250 maybe—and forget about the whole thing.

With the chicken, a little rice I think. Now the trouble with rice is that it will always be over-cooked, whatever you do, so just you reconcile yourself to that. I find the answer is to pour the

rice straight from the packet to form a neat circle on each plate. Uneatable yes, but you can have great fun flicking the rice pellets into your partner's lap.

For pudding we want something light to freshen the palate and who knows what else? Try peaches decorated with black cherries and marinated in kirsch. I know you've always wondered how they manage to remove the stone and still leave the peach intact. Simple. You halve the fruit, take out the stone and sew the two halves back together. Just before serving, pull the thread and hope.

I have left the question of wines until last, because I am by way of being an expert on the subject. When I tell you that one sip of anything remotely alcoholic impels me to divest all my clothing, you will realise how sought-after is my opinion upon drinks. Far too much chi-chi nonsense is talked about wine and many's the poor queen who has invested in the sort of bland hock that comes in a snazzy bottle and tastes foul.

Be honest and examine what it is you require of drinks. Is it that your guest should imbibe liquid in rational quantities for the benefit of his digestion?—in which case I advise a glass of water. Or do you want him to become slightly tiddly, so that your sailles should seem the more amusing and your passes the more acceptable? Observation teaches me that this latter is the more likely and here's what to do: set a tray of drinks in the centre of the table, each one a different colour. Those French cordial-syrups are ideal when suitably laced with spirits. The patter goes something like this:

"Now drink that up and try the green one . . . such a nice green taste I always think. This purple one's rather fun and don't forget the citron. Ummph? . . . I say, do you think so? You do say the most ripping things . . ."

## Madigan's log

### The ballad of Ben Bree

Benjamin Alington Joshua Bree  
Was born into the bourgeoisie  
And at the tender age of three  
Sucked off his brother.

By six the precocious little brat  
Had discovered subtler thrills than that  
Till a neighbour had him on the mat  
With stiff reproachments.

But good resolves and virtue's joys  
Were for other little boys;  
Benjamin scorned the nursery toys  
And played with himself.

The local vicar, shocked, dismayed,  
Took the child aside and prayed  
That these rabid lusts be stayed  
Then screwed him.

The youth on his street, his classmates too,  
When acquainted with his derring-do  
Expressed uncompromising points of view  
Then compromised them.

At puberty when his Pa found out  
That his own son and a boy scout  
Had been caught in the coal-shed  
mucking about  
He thrashed him.

By his fifteenth year demented Ben,  
Wrestling with things beyond his ken,  
Opened his diary, took up a pen  
And wrote "Balls!"

"From sanity I hereby quit.  
I'll be a spineless hypocrite  
Like every other bloody twit!"  
And he was.

He took convention to extremes,  
Followed all the football teams,  
Included women in his schemes  
And fucked them.

By college, the strapping, winsome blade  
Had quite a reputation made  
For being a randy renegade.  
So he got on well.

As captain of the first fifteen,  
And bright and honoured, suave and clean,  
Rich and handsome; selfish, mean—  
Birds drooled over him.

But Ben, unmoved by Love's Sweet Voice,  
Sorted among them and his choice  
Fell on Miss Lavimer, Agatha-Joyce,  
A millionaire's sprog.

Miss Latimer (Aggie to her chums)  
Was a plain girl as becomes  
One who known naught of cocks and bums.  
Brother, was she heavy!

And Daddy Latimer, Prince of Cranks,  
Gave Ben a cheque to show his thanks  
Along with a couple of flourishing banks.  
Touche!

From thenceforth life was a golden road;  
Business flourished and the Bree's abode  
Was the social Mecca, a la mode,  
For all phonies.

Heaven blessed their sham affair  
With a bonny, bouncing son and heir  
Who grew to be both tall and fair  
Like his dad.

The boy (whose name was Jonathan Bree)  
Studied moral theology  
And settled in the south of Italy  
With a dishy deacon.

At forty-five ambitious Ben  
Was made a councillor and when  
The old mayor died the aldermen  
Elected him mayor.

And what a leader Ben proved to be!  
What a champion of the bourgeoisie!  
He closed down a public lavatory  
To stamp out queers.

And in his crusade of moral purges  
To up-root anti-social urges  
(And implement financial mergers)  
He de-licenced pubs.

Then strip-joints went, then picture shows,  
Then discotheques and radios  
Till there was no one left but Holy Joes  
Afraid to squeak.

And every night these timid mouses  
Crept home to their cheerless houses  
To screw their dull and listless spouses  
In the regulation prone position.

Well, it happened in the course of time  
That young Jonathan, the bright divine,  
Returned home round about nine  
One evening.

All doors were barred, all shutters down,  
Even public statues were a frown  
As Jonathan cruised the streets of town  
For a quick pick-up before facing the folks.

He followed the river, traversed the park,  
Feeling his way in the inky dark,  
Till the merest flicker of flame, a spark,  
Caught his attention.

He was drawn like a moth to beside a copse  
Where a long, low whistle raised his hopes,  
Then a hand emerged with tentative gropes  
For his bollocks.

So unresisting Jonathan Bree  
Was stripped beneath a sycamore tree  
And engaged in lusts which lasted for three  
Or four hours.

In the finish, exhausted, bathed in sweat,  
The stranger offered a cigarette  
And by the light of the match when both  
eyes met  
He recognised his old man.

And Benjamin, dear friends, sad to tell,  
Died of shock and went to hell—  
Not because he was homosexual  
But because the bugger was too fucking  
gutless to come to terms with himself  
and found it easier to live  
The Monstrous Lie!

Leo Madigan

AT

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# Educating the educators

Educational institutions within most of the technologically advanced cultures of western society are in process of a major upheaval, and may in fact become obsolescent in our lifetime. While they undergo radical changes and downright decay, new directions are emerging in the United Kingdom school systems that may well be able to accommodate gay liberation.

As we move away from the bureaucratic model of education—characterised by hierarchy, uniformity, routine, rules, and authority—towards the 'professional' model of education—characterised by client-centredness, flexibility, teachers as facilitators and resources rather than disseminators, collaboration with colleagues, and interdisciplinarity—it is conceivable that gay demands for a just and equitable education will be responded to. For example, male and female team-teaching units are less likely to portray gays according to effeminate or butch stereotypes; client-centred theories are more likely to respond meaningfully to gay students-as-clients; and discovery-learning is less likely to silence gay self-discovery and self-expression; 'community out-reach' programmes will increasingly find it difficult to reach around the gay communities at least in large urban areas. The movement towards 'staggered' education and 'lifelong' education is less likely to oppress gay adolescents insofar as teacher contact with mature and worldly-wise adult-students is likely to have some carry-over into teachers' contact with young students, and adults know more about the realities of gay life than a peer group consisting exclusively of young people.

The movement away from the concept of teaching as an intuitive activity towards the concept of teaching as a rational activity may undercut teachers' reliance upon unsupported anti-gay prejudices. The movement away from the teacher's autonomy in the classroom towards collegial collaboration and evaluation is likely to discourage queer jokes in the classroom. Even the movement toward community responsibility and the 'public curriculum' bodes well, as long as gay people will be willing to vocally and visibly demonstrate that we are part of the public whose needs must be responsibly met. As the 'leadership model' of education is stripped to reveal an ideology of male

supremacy as well as outmoded notions about colonial overseers, gay liberation will contribute its ideologies of alternativeness, openness/ambiguity, and diversification/varietism to educational theory.

But these more or less inevitable developments and the corollary gay participation in them are too logical for us to naively hope for the best. We must first of all confront the fact (revealed by the history of law reform) that issues concerning "sexual morality" are usually treated by society in an anachronistic manner, that is, a civil rights philosophy concerned with elevating the status of women by no means guarantees an elevation of the status of gays, for gay people and sex in general are usually responded to in an irrational fashion that has no relation to a liberal or humanistic or even humane attitude. This sort of anachronism has been noted by professional legal experts, and evidence of this is occurring in the States right now, where reform is moving ahead on most fronts except the gay one, where laws are moving backward and are even reactionary. The future is ominous insofar as educational institutions are extensions of the state, and tend to reflect and reinforce legal concepts. It is entirely feasible that homosexual sex education courses will have as their main goal the eradication of homosexuality, particularly since physicians rather than gay liberationists are regarded as the experts in this field, and they can bring to bear a great deal more skill than the Campaign for Homosexual Equality can. And as educational budgets steadily shrink, school administrators are increasingly reluctant to jeopardise their relations with funding agencies (whose members are especially ruled by this 'anachronism' phenomenon).

The other major problem is that educators, like solicitors and doctors, now constitute a profession concerned with its own professional standards. I worked at the University of London Institute of Education for about six months last year, handling committee memoranda and the Director's correspondence (though not on the highest 'confidential' level, and I'm not revealing any 'secrets'), and I not only formed my impressions above of where education was going in the UK, but formed a more sinister impression. *Educators are concerned almost exclusively with the skills for implementing learned behaviour, not with what is taught but with how to teach it.*

*not with enabling a person to grow but how to condition the best response in a learning situation. They are concerned with 'spoon feeding' at a very professional level, based almost entirely on behaviour modification theory. At present there is a major thrust towards Nursery Education, so that persons can be "taught" at the early ages at which behaviour patterns are most easily and permanently acquired, and much money will increasingly be spent, eg, on the Thomas Coram Research Unit concerned with Child Development. It will be a very long time in the future—if ever—that people concerned with child behaviour will adopt the notion that gay is good; they will operate on the notion that gay is bad because all the experts say so, including Dr Martin Cole, head of the Sex Research Institute. Combine this attitude with the 'diagnostic' function of nursery education and the future looks bleak.*



Those people who are concerned with the education campaign of the gay movement must sooner or later face the dilemma that *the primary function of education is to instill normative patterns, patterns that have been defined as such by the predominant attitude of the Government, specifically by the Department of Education and Science, including Gerald Fowler who fears that homosexual sex education will "open the doors to pederasty."* The DES works closely with the Local Education Authorities on the principle, expressed or implied, of enabling people to *adapt to the present structure of society, and the present structure of society is of course heterosexist in all its subtle ramifications.*

So the gay education campaign seems doomed to failure unless there is a possibility of reforming educational systems from top to bottom, and I don't envisage such a possibility, which is why I left the Academy after receiving the Ph.D. I think it's very good for gay people simply to get into the schools, and, while there, to tell young gay people that homosexual love is fulfilling and that a friendly gay community exists and is steadily growing, and to take the opportunity to imply, though not to state directly, that to leave school is to leave behind a great many oppressions. In other words I think our most useful function is in the area of subversive activity, though of course no gay group should make this evident when applying for permission to address a group of students. The whole history of education is a history of oppression in the name of freedom, and I think it's so harmful in the case of gay people that it's worthwhile to forego a so-called 'education' even if no alternative educational structures are ready to hand in the gay community itself. A great many of us might be earning less money, but we would have more positive self-concepts, had we left school earlier and escaped that much sooner the constant reinforcement of pro-het/anti-gay standards.

Rictor Norton

## 'With Downcast Gays'

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The keys to gay happiness

**MALE HOMOSEXUALS: Their Problems and Adaptations** — Martin Weinberg and Colin Williams (Oxford University Press, £3.50)

Because of numerous charts of complex statistics, this study sponsored by the Indiana University Institute for Sex Research is not intended for the layman, but it is a useful resource for professional psychologists, psychiatrists, sociologists, physicians, the clergy, school counsellors, and paraprofessionals in various fields of social work and education. The research was fully supported by the Mattachine Society of New York, The Society for Individual Rights in San Francisco, Cultuur- en Ontspanningcentrum (COC) in the Netherlands, and Forbundet in Denmark, and the findings very much support the primary goals of the gay movement.

better off psychologically than more-oppressed gays in the States.

Many gay problems are not directly caused by rejection, but indirectly by a lack of patterns to follow, resulting often in "interpersonal awkwardness" (ie "shyness" in the classified ads), for example, because of no public guidelines for dating and mating and simply information on sex acts.

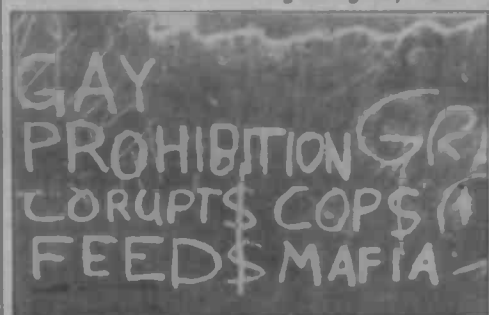
Gays who "pass," ie who have not "come out" publicly, experience greater depression, interpersonal awkwardness, and guilt, shame, and anxiety regarding their homosexuality than those who are "known about," but they do not suffer from lesser psychological well-being on the other 5 points of the 8-point scale used in this study. In other words, Weinberg and Williams contend that the "damaging effects" of "self-oppression" have been over-exaggerated. At the same time, however, gays who come out invariably experience less rejection than they had anticipated, which significantly contributes to their sense of well-being.

Gays who have been arrested are not psychologically worse off than others; the reason for this seems to be that the laws against gays symbolize societal rejection, and actually being caught by the law isn't much worse than the effects of our anticipating legal trouble. (The implication is that gay activists for law reform should pay more attention to the symbolic function of legal oppression.)

Older gays are not psychologically worse off than younger gays: "the folk beliefs about the older homosexual erroneously attribute to the older homosexual the perspectives of younger homosexuals." On their 8-point scale, older gays actually have fewer problems than young gays, because they have better learned how to adapt to their situation.

Their major finding is that gays who are involved primarily in the gay world have fewer problems than others. The concluding chapter strongly urges gays to actively make use of the facilities of the gay subculture, be they bars or organisations or publications, if they wish to achieve happiness and well-being. They also advise all gays to "leave home as soon as they are able" because of the damaging effects of the constant monitoring of even the most tolerant parents. (They also found that gays who live with gay roommates—whether friends or lovers—have the best psychological well-being.)

In their conclusions they strongly urge gays who seek counselling to avoid practitioners who ascribe to the view that homosexuality is a sick condition rather than an oppressed status, and urge us to "try not to internalize the moral evaluations of such people." They summarise by noting that gays who come out and participate in the subculture will succeed in finding an immediate degree of personal happiness for themselves and in promoting cumulative change for the future by expanding the supportive elements of this subculture for others, for findings indicate that a change in the large attitudes of legal, educational, and media institutions will have no appreciable effect upon the pervasive prejudices of society (eg studies of educational programmes to reduce racism show remarkable failure in achieving their goals).



A graffiti warning that discrimination fosters corruption

In general, this study provides a firm scientific argument in favour of a greater degree of gay separatism, not in the sense of gays rejecting hets, but in the desirability of gays affirming gays and contributing to the growth of our own supportive institutions. Their primary argument is that "gays should integrate into the gay community." Sociology isn't as well advanced in the UK as in the US and Europe, and I expect that the book will be damned by the professionals as though it were a radical gay manifesto instead of a carefully reasoned and researched study. It's potentially nearly as 'dangerous' as the original Kinsey Reports.

Rictor Norton

Universal relevance

**IDENTITY AND COMMUNITY IN THE GAY WORLD** — Carol A B Warren (Wiley-Interscience/John Wiley & Sons, £5.60)

At first glance not, perhaps, the sort of book one would expect gays to welcome, since it sets them under the microscope of a straight, female sociologist—Ms Warren is an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Southern California. It quickly becomes apparent, however, that the lady is no tramp. I read with increasing fascination, impressed by the quality of her work, stimulated by her insights and the implications of her conclusions. The price of the book is ludicrous—the relevant text is barely 160 pages long—but libraries could certainly be persuaded to buy it.

From her use of the term 'gay world' in the title, it might appear that Ms Warren has defined an ambience common to all gay people. She confines her research, however, to a small, intensely closeted upper-middle class gay community on the west coast of America. She refers to gay liberation and to gay activists when making comparative points, but unless the gay world of the activist is also defined, the lay reader and the non-gay sociologist (for whom the book is primarily designed) is going to feel that these gilded denizens of Sun City are the sum total of the gay world. Especially since they bear such an uncanny resemblance to the types cast in *The Boys in the Band*, and other popularisations of the gay world.

Whether there are exact equivalents of the type of community Ms Warren observes in this country I seriously doubt. Its basis seems to be an expression of homosexuality through leisure and socialisation rather than through sex, and also it ignores whole stretches of the rest of the personality. Visits to gay bars and saunas are as much a break from this world as are visits to the family or office. The sections dealing with the social set-up, the fine lines that divide cocktail parties from dinner parties from huge spectacular parties and the rigid pecking order of who is invited and who not, would be hilarious were they not so petty and trivial.

The common factor is that all the people interviewed and discussed have chosen to make their gay lives a secret; while not what we call closet queens, these men (and the few women involved) have a need to pass for straight in office and family situations, indeed anywhere away from the swimming pools and tiled patios of the social round. And this is what makes Ms Warren's work so interesting, for the need for secrecy affects innumerable gays irrespective of the social routine to which they adhere. So her observations do have a universal relevance. It is also worth noting that she has not—like so many researchers that I, and others, have come across—decided to look at a gay group and work outwards from it; but has done rather the reverse and decided to test certain sociological principles against a gay group. So the book is, too, critical of certain sociological assumptions, notably those relating to labelling and to deviance.

It sounds heavy. Not so. It is written with clarity and simplicity and with so many direct quotations from so many gays, it is also consistently entertaining. Ms Warren's prime interest is to explore how a sense of being stigmatized affects an individual's relationship with the society he lives in. "The gay world has two distinctions. It is almost universally stigmatized, and no one

is socialized within or toward it as a child," she writes on the first page.

She discusses many aspects of the gay who has chosen "to be secret and discreditable"—activists have chosen "to be open and discredited." Attitudes to each other, to sex, to women, to bisexuals, to drag and to families are all opened out. The work of Laud Humphreys and Evelyn Hooker is used and there emerges what seems to me at least to be an accurate and somewhat unnerving picture:



Objectivity is notoriously impossible; but Ms Warren approaches it. Only once did I catch her referring to someone as a "case" and everywhere else she lets the facts speak for themselves. But what facts say depends very much on who is listening. Here is her concluding paragraph.

Above all, *gay identity is distinct. It sets the experience of being gay apart from the experience of life in mass society, and by that alone makes the gay world a kind of haven. It provides a clear answer to the questions Who am I? and Where do I belong? The gay community provides a choice of distinction in mass society and will, for that, endure all kinds of social storms—except, perhaps, the end of stigmatization and the end of secrecy.*

The value of this world apart is not, of course, discussed; the personality distortions, the paranoia and superficial assumptions that characterise it are implied only. A straight reader might be justified in feeling an access of homophobia; a gay reader might respond with Yes, that's where I want to be. For me, the book is a strong argument for gay liberation's principles of coming out and rejecting the stigma. "Secret gays are stigma evaders; the gay liberationists confront and transform their stigma," she writes, using Humphreys' analysis. Carol Warren's work makes an instructive pendant to *With Downcast Gays*; the objective observation and the subjective experience send us the same message.

Roger Baker

Kitchen bookshelf

**THE BEST OF ELIZA ACTON** — edited by Elizabeth Ray (Penguin, 75p)

This is one of the most delightful collections of recipes in English culinary history, but the interest of the book extends beyond that. Eliza Acton was born in 1799 and kept house for her mother in Tonbridge; her book *Modern Cookery* was published in 1845 and became an instant classic. Later cookery writers ripped off her recipes shamelessly and Isabella Beeton was no exception. Ms Acton's work is a culmination of the 18th century rather than a premonition of the heaviness that was characteristic of the later 19th century with its suet and thickened sauces. As Elizabeth David (who makes her debt to Eliza Acton clear) says in her introduction, this was the food Jane Austen, Byron and Tobias Smollett would have been familiar with.

Eliza Acton was, above all things, a meticulous and practical cook; her attention to detail makes some of our admired modern writers seem

dumby. She either cooked, or supervised the cooking of, everything she writes about; not once, but over and over again, season after season. The ingredients she uses are always fresh—even the newly churned butter and spring water. Her acid asides about keeping pans spotlessly clean—not to say one's hands, tools and the actual food—imply the most horrendous things about the common state of cookery and kitchens. Obviously then, as now, English domestic cookery was, on the whole, vile. Ms Acton speaks up for the virtues of nourishing food, well-balanced diets, olive oil as the finest medium, nutrition, the danger of over-sweet cakes and the crassness of casual presentation. Her prose style is exquisite; it is that rare thing in cookery books: "an expression of one author's experience and beliefs." Elizabeth Ray has selected the recipes and presented them with the limitations of the modern kitchen in mind.

Roger Baker

Photographs: Fred W McDerrah



Scene of the Stonewall riot

It is not a psychiatric study, and the authors pass numerous critical judgments upon psychiatry, ranging from the observation that "psychiatric research is replete with examples of work which do not measure up to minimal canons of scientific research," to the suggestion that homosexual sex education courses "should be compulsory for people who have much to do with homosexuals, including police, physicians, and especially psychiatrists." This is instead a sociological study which recognises that "the term 'homosexual' covers a tremendous heterogeneity of persons," and scientifically documents the fact that virtually all problems experienced by homosexuals are caused by societal rejection. Their conclusion is that society must change in order to allow us our rightful well-being. What makes the study so important is that it is an objective scientific analysis of 2500 ordinary homosexuals and its findings will be difficult to ignore by anyone who claims to have professional standards.

Unfortunately the study is limited to American, Dutch, and Danish homosexuals, which makes it difficult to apply to homosexuals in the UK, since the social attitude in the UK is 'in-between' the severe anti-homosexuality of the States and the relative 'tolerance' in Denmark and the Netherlands. A more serious handicap is that all the respondents were contacted through gay bars, clubs, or organisations, so they couldn't reach the more isolated gays who don't enter the gay world (though this is somewhat mitigated by their reaching some gays in the counselling programmes of gay organisations).

Some of their more interesting findings: Once a certain degree of rejection is reached, increased amounts of repression have little effect, so less-oppressed gays in Europe aren't noticeably

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ISSUE 49

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Jacket in camel and black houndstooth jersey, sequin embroidered, worn with black wool skirt and silk shirt. Approx price, jacket £48, skirt £31, shirt £36. By Caroline Charles.



Coordinated ensemble: shetland trousers, wool gauze roll-collar and shirt and scarf which recall the trousers' colour, by Bruno Piattelli.



Wool coordinated ensemble, by Bruno Piattelli.



Long sleeved pullover in Courtelle by Knitcraft at Morley. Featuring a wide cross-over V-neck and self coloured sleeves and back, it comes in sizes 36-42 in beech, vintage port, caramel, peat brown and black for £6.25 approx.



Executive style golfing jacket by Topp Tops, completely waterproof and windproof. The jacket is available in a variety of shades and retails for £13.75 approx; trousers come in navy blue, smoke grey, red, rust and yellow for £6.30 approx.

## Winter Collection

Away from the wilder shores of fashion, the look this season is a loose, casual, relaxed approach to the business of dressing up — or, in this case, dressing down.

The photographs illustrate the new man and woman at ease in heavily textured fabrics cut loose and free for the negligent, insouciant approach to life and work. Clothes are slightly waisted or pulled in with belts where they are not cut in swirling, tent shapes or hung from broad, dropped shoulders in a smock effect. For the most part, boutique and department store fashions will be reticent about styles excessive in fashion detail but most of the season's offerings will reflect the new, looser fitting which will be a big feature in seasons to come. The tight little trousers and coats you may have left over from a couple of years ago should be firmly relegated to the back of the wardrobe or donated to Oxfam.

Cut loose this winter.

Iain Finlayson



Burrett from the DAKS + Trend Collection features ribbed foreparts and patch side pockets. The same design detail is carried through on the coordinating waistcoat. The button 2 jacket has centre vent and peak lapels. The trousers flare to plain bottoms.



A new style for Rodex, this country jacket has two gun patches with pockets underneath. Button four, it has two patch pockets with chevron flaps and a prussian type collar. Approx price from £47.



A striking stepped stripe design polo neck sweater in Courtelle by Knitcraft at Morley. In sizes 36-42, it comes in beech/blonde, fir tree/blonde and caramel/blonde. £5.99 approx.



Lighter jacket in dark brown glossy leather by Barrow Hepburn worn with green wool skirt. Jacket £67, skirt £27. By Caroline Charles



2 Shetland sweaters in maize, sand, dove, sky, charcoal. By Alan Paine. £7.25 approx.

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## Coming on strong



**LET MY PEOPLE COME** — Regent Theatre, Upper Regent Street, London W1

I know the risks I run by saying it, but I thought Earl Wilson Jr's new sexual musical was fun.

Critics, wiser than I, have regretted the fact that this was not the most important show to open in the West End in the last ten years. If a sex show does not mark some kind of revolution in theatre, then you aren't enjoy it in case people think you simply have a Dirty Mind.

So they quietly overlooked the fact that much of the music was memorable, that the choreography was lively (if a little tired in places), that some of the sketches, in what is essentially a musical revue, were very funny, and that the seven young women and seven young men of the cast performed with an extraordinary enthusiasm which made the evening as enjoyable as it was.

The ice on the audience took three or four numbers to melt—the show, after all, does come on quite strong. But once the awkward silence had been broken, the high spirits of the performers were infectious. Their ebullience made it very difficult for anyone to take offence, whether at the explicit mimes of sex in all its infinite acrobatic variety, or at the language (which takes in every four letter word in the book from fellatio, cunnilingus and genitalia to prick, pussy and screw).

LET MY PEOPLE COME is a celebration of sex, not love, not romance, but plain old-fashioned sex. It is the element of celebration that distinguishes it from its predecessors (of the 'Dirtiest Hair in Calcutta' school of drama). Sex, says Earl Wilson and cast, is the root of most pleasure so enjoy it. And enjoy it any way you want—'Whatever Turns You On', they sing. S&M, gay sex, positions one to infinity, it's all up for grabs.

Of the twenty sketches, only one is spoken dialogue (First Year Fellatio—back to school with a bunch of bananas). Three numbers are specifically gay—though many others embrace both het and gay sex. 'I'm Gay' has two men telling the good news to their parents—Miguel Oliver (17, pretty and 'I've tried it once but it didn't turn me on.') and Bill van Dijk (moustachioed,

and a beautiful voice). Bill and his voice turn up again in 'Take Me Home With You', a number set in a gay bar at closing time in which Bill echoes the old cry of loneliness as he tries to pick up the extravagantly good-looking Michael Blaise (Ed: The last comment about Michael Blaise is being charged at Personal Ads rates). 'And She Loved Me' is a lesbian number, a duet of singers, a duet of dancers (Christine Ellerbeck, Janet Shaw, Tommie Thompson, Catherine Tontoh) in a love song and sex dance. I am still a little anxious about female gay sex being graphically portrayed on the stage whilst the male gay numbers explore 'social situations'. It comes over a little like pornography ethics—straight men turned on by sex between women, throwing up their hands in horror at sex between men. But talking to gay director Phil Oesterman reassured me a little, and I think that when charges of sexism are levelled at the show it is possible to allow those responsible the benefit of the doubt. I fear only that sexism is in the eye of the beholder, and some unattractive attitudes amongst audiences will find unintended support from parts of the show.

High spots of the evening (besides Michael Blaise) include 'Choir Practice', in which David Mellor, looking as though he had just stepped out of a Hoffnung cartoon, conducts a madrigal-style sex anthem; Gil Beresford, a mountain of flesh, dreaming of being up in lights alongside the stars of 'Deep Throat', 'The Devil and Miss Jones' and 'Behind The Green Door' in her song 'Linda, Georgina, Marilyn and Me'; and a catchy tango entitled 'Dirty Words' which discourses upon the relative merits of the words cunt/vagina, prick/penis etc.

In the final analysis, the show must depend on the cast. A moment's embarrassment or awkwardness on their part, and the whole evening would have fallen flat on its genitalia. The show goes 'beyond' any staging of sex that has been seen in this country before now. Mercifully it never got to be Dirty, and the high spirits of the performers are largely to thank for that.

The Times was right. It isn't an Important Show. But it's great fun for all that.

Michael Mason

## Now showing

The British film industry finally expired a few years ago, but like the Nazi party in Germany, the comparison is intentional, it occasionally resurfaces with some new ploy to capture the hearts of the populace. ELEVEN HARROWHOUSE (Fox Rank, director Aram Avakian) is another insipid diamond heist in which two international stars, in this case the super neutral Charles Grodin and Candice Bergen, are set loose amongst bowler hatted gentlemen crooks. James Mason, John Gielgud and Trevor Howard have been dusted off for the occasion and look more bored than ever. Other than the physical robbery which is executed with some guile, there is little wit or suspense, plus the predictable presence of a stately home and the insidious suggestion not that the English are a nation of shop keepers, but

a nation of stately home residents. Oddly enough I found CONFESSIONS OF A WINDOW CLEANER (Columbia Warner, director Val Guest) quite enjoyable. There are eight or nine really intelligent jokes distributed evenly over its ninety minutes. In addition, Bill Maynard, Dandy Nicholls, John Le Mesurier and Joan Hickson, who always give delightfully eccentric comic performances, are in the cast. It's also very refreshing to see British comedy elevated from the humour of the innuendo to the humour of the whopping it up them stage, which is far funnier.

As part of their 'Eroticism in the Cinema' season, the National Film Theatre are screening Russ Meyer's riotously camp BEYOND THE VALLEY OF THE DOLLS on Monday 16th September. The film is essentially a fast moving send up of the late sixties hip Californian super sex scene. It's erotic and blasé, and generally kinder to homosexuals than their heterosexual counterparts.

David Seligman

## Legend in their time

JOHN, PAUL, GEORGE, RINGO and BERT at Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC1

The reunion of the Beatles has been a matter of conjecture for several years. William Russell has used this event as the dramatic starting point for his new musical JOHN, PAUL, GEORGE, RINGO and BERT. Whether or not the event could indeed take place is immaterial, as his dialogue is real enough to make us believe in the situation. Combining both fact and fiction, Russell presents his story of the greatest phenomenon in popular music with the use of a mythical character named Bert, who supposedly once sang with the group before they reached the top. We watch their early career struggles, the meeting with Brian Epstein, and their subsequent world-wide success. There is a great deal of charm and nostalgia about those early days, but with the acclaim, comes a sense of disillusion as first Epstein dies, and they discover that even money is no recompense for living constantly in the public eye. The recording of Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, which was the turning point in their career, their first LSD trip, the meditation period, the arrival of Yoko and Linda on the scene, and the eventual split-up are all handled to good dramatic effect, so that one feels involved in both their happy and sad moments.

Mr Russell is helped considerably by his four stars, with their uncanny resemblances to the famous four. Bernard Hill with the best lines, is every inch the sardonic John Lennon. Phillip Joseph portrays George Harrison with traces of the mystic, Anthony Sher is the amiable and comic Ringo Starr, and Trevor Eve is Paul McCartney. Robin Hooper captures the somewhat remote and shy personality of Epstein, and George Costigan is a delightfully genial commentator as Bert. Another brilliant device is employing a marvellous singer named Barbara Dickson to sing the majority of the Beatles songs used during the evening. Sitting at a piano, dressed in a simple dress, with shaded glasses, Miss Dickson gives beautiful renditions to every song she handles.



Trevor Evan and Phillip Joseph as Paul and George

Cleverly underlining the proceedings, she renders the poignant 'Yesterday' (Epstein's death), 'With a Little Help from My Friends' (a cynical meaning to the song, as the original drummer is dropped from the group), the haunting 'Long and Winding Road' (as Bert goes on alone) and many others. Alan Dossor's slick direction is responsible for the smooth pace of this highly enjoyable evening.

Barry Conley

## Plays in the country

OEDIPUS TYRANNUS — Chichester Festival, Chichester, Sussex

Although this translation of Sophocles' OEDIPUS TYRANNUS bears obvious parallels to Watergate, I personally was more intrigued by the long arm of coincidence which rules this famous play. Laius, the King, had once raped his host's young son, thus bringing the prophesied curse upon his family that he would beget his own murderer. Oedipus (translated as 'swollen foot', due to an injury in infancy when the child was abandoned to die) has unknowingly killed his father and married his mother as the prophecy predicted, before the play begins. The gradual piecing together of the facts is like a giant jigsaw puzzle, until finally Oedipus and Jocasta are confronted with the terrible truth.



Diana Dors as Oedipus's mum

The casting of that indestructible voluptuary Diana Dors is perhaps not as surprising as one might think. With her imposing stage presence and attractive voice she acquires herself well, with a sensual performance in keeping with this

production. My particular favourite moment occurs as she caresses her son/husband, pouting her generous mouth and murmuring 'don't worry, lots of men sleep with their mothers.' Keith Michell makes a dashing figure of Oedipus. With his rich melodic voice and fine athletic body, he is at times extremely moving in the portrayal of a tortured ruler. Alfred Marks and Willoughby Goddard, together with interesting lighting and musical effects, are important assets to the overall production.

A MONTH IN THE COUNTRY — Chichester Festival, Chichester, Sussex

Familiar characters abound in Turgenev's A MONTH IN THE COUNTRY, the final play at this year's Chichester Festival. The wife's faithful admirer, the family doctor, and the young girl on the threshold of learning about love, are all to be found in the plays of Turgenev's compatriot Chekhov. Turgenev did not intend his play to be acted, regarding it as a novel in dramatic form. The play itself contains many soliloquies, which pose a problem to the director. Toby Robertson has used some inventive ideas, with light changes and background music to deal with these sections. However, there is still an overabundance of scenes containing merely two or three players, although containing twelve speaking parts all pertinent to the action. In spite of this, and the play's length, interest is retained through Mr Robertson's excellent handling of his cast.

Dorothy Tutin's Natalya embodies all the mixed emotions of an older woman finding herself hopelessly in love with her son's young tutor. The many changes of mood she undergoes are well within her grasp. One moment coquettishly flirting with the tutor, the next deciding to discharge him, before again changing her mind, make her a tiresome creature of indecision. But there is a radiance about her that overcomes the character's weakness and makes her performance memorable. Derek Jacobi as her admirer, and Timothy West's doctor are two splendid performances on a par with Ms Tutin's. I hope that a transfer to London is imminent, so that further audiences may enjoy this welcome revival of a seldom performed play.

Barry Conley

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## Assorted platters

**CLOSE UP** - Cleo Laine (RCA)  
 Anything the delectable Ms Laine recorded following her recent Carnegie Hall album would have to be something of an anti-climax. However, this album is another example of her artistry, and enables Cleo's fans to get on disc some of her recent concert selections not previously recorded. Michel Colombier's "We Could Be Flying" shows her wide range and perfect control as she soars through this attractive song. Stevie Wonder's "Looking for Another Pure Love" and the groovy "Keep the Faith" are very exciting in her capable hands, and the touching "Wish You Were Here" is the highlight of this interesting set.

Barry Conley

**CHOICE** - The Strawbs (A&M)  
 Like me, you may have mistaken Dave Cousins' ungainly leap onto the glam bandwagon for 'frustrated folkie finds fame and freaks'. *Choice* is a history of the groups he has called the Strawbs, and hints he has been an approximate companion, if rather straitlaced, of wandering minstrels like Donovan, Bolan and Bowie all along.

The journey runs from flower-yobbo to stylish cello-based avant-folk to fey mysticism: "she wakes up like a bird..." The beat picks up with "The Shepherd's Song", echoes of *The Man Who Sold the World* in its adolescent vocal ardour, muggy Visconti production, nervy structure and Rick Wakeman's Floydian about.

Side Two sees them finally enlisting a drummer and formulating the style which culminated in the hit "Lay Down". The solid electric sound seems to help Dave relax from the hunt for esoteric extremes, the melodies and singing becoming more direct, and treacherously beer-in-hand.

Phil McNeill

**LIVE** - Marvin Gaye (Tamla Motown)  
 The first thing you notice is the audience. If they all bought a copy that explains its American selling success, because it takes about ten sessions before they let you hear the music.

The two openers ("Trouble Man", "Inner City Blues") and the two closers ("Let's Get It On", "What's Going On") are Marvin at the peak of his new style, the band swinging like a dream on irresistible riffs that only change gear for a slow climb or a downhill swoop to the same place they just left, a slight diversion that makes the freeway cruising even sweeter. When Gaye gets into his stride his scat style is dynamite.



Phil McNeill

Somewhat less accessible are the old-fashioned slowie, "Distant Lover", the precariously sentimental "Jan", and the neat "Fossil Medley", of old hits taken in new laid-back rhythms. The unfamiliarity of this weaker material conspires with the ringing mikes, the mysterious lapses in sound clarity at some dubious changes, and the non-stop screaming audience to make the album sound really messy at first, but after repeated plays Marvin's starting to sound as marvellous as he bloody well ought to.

**SING IT AGAIN SAM** - Samantha Jones (Columbia)

In spite of guest appearances here on major television shows, Samantha Jones is more well known abroad, where she's appeared on several song contests both on the continent and in Rio. This album could quite possibly alter her status in this country as a lot of thought has gone into it. Sam's honey and molasses voice has a touch of Doris Day, mixed with an earthy quality which reminds me of a young Anita O'Day. Neil Richardson has written some excellent arrangements which feature pseudo-chamber music beginnings, leading into some exciting rhythms. Listening to "Help Me Make It Through the Night", I suddenly realised how meaningful a song it is, when handled by a vocalist who thinks about the lyrics. Neil Sedaka's attractive "The Other Side of Me" and Holland & Dozier's "The Road We Didn't Take" are two other gems. Keep an ear open on radio for the first track, "I Believed It All", as EMI are releasing it as a single, and if that song appeals to you I'm sure you'll dig this exciting album.

Barry Conley

**SKINTIGHT** - The Ohio Players (Mercury)

Along with Quincy Jones, the success of whose *Body Heat* must seem a very cruel joke as the guy lies critically ill in hospital, the Ohio Players, with this album high in the US charts, are the latest of many to learn their licks from Sly Stone's epoch-making *There's A Riot Goin' On*. The similarity to Sly is a little off-putting, but the players have the skill to carry it off: slurring "well well well" vocals, tinkling keyboards, stuttering guitar and sharp horns weaving shifting textures round rocksteady bass and drums, deceptively structureless and devastatingly cool. *Skintight* is no exaggeration.

Sadly their narcissistic sexuality almost blows it, the comparatively warm feeling of "Heaven Must Be Like This" making it the best track of an impressive album.

Phil McNeill

**FOXY BROWN** - Willie Hutch (Tamla Motown)

There has to be no doubt, that the black movie soundtrack cult has just about reached saturation point!

I think it's fair to say that we've grown to enjoy and appreciate the musical extensions of such pinacles of the soul world. Isaac Hayes, Marvin Gaye, Curtis Mayfield, James Brown and many more who over the past three years have written, sung and produced their way through almost twenty soundtrack albums.

But with the emergence of *Foxy Brown*, Willie Hutch's second entry (*The Mack* was his first) it becomes all so clear that the end is overdue.

Musically there can be nothing to commend this album.

Listen close and you'll pick up snatches of Marvin Gaye's *Trouble Man* followed by messy attempts to recapture the freshness of *The Mack*.

Bearing in mind that the movie itself will never reach this side of the Atlantic, and with competition being so fierce, it makes *Foxy Brown's* death almost imminent! ... Next please.

Stevie Edwards

**SINATRA SINGS CAHN & VAN HEUSEN** - Frank Sinatra (One Up)

Most albums titled 'The Best of' usually contain a jumble of assorted tracks from many LP's of a particular artist, so if one buys these later they invariably contain some repeats. This particular set spans from 1956-1966 during Sinatra's Capitol years, and I believe only 3 of the 14 titles come from his albums (the rest being odd single releases). The output of songwriters Cahn and Van Heusen has been prolific, as their biographies on the sleeve confirm. What makes this album interesting, is that apart from the two

commercial hits "Love and Marriage" and "High Hopes", the remainder could well be labelled 'lesser known works'. The Sinatra magic on ballads is in evidence on the plaintive "To Love and Be Loved", "Only Your Heart" and "The Last Dance". In contrast, he swings with ease on "Nice To Go Travelling" and "Come Dance with Me". These last two are from other albums, but if you haven't got too many of his singles, the album is worth getting at the mid-price of £1.47.

Barry Conley

**ELLA FITZGERALD SINGS THE COLE PORTER SONGBOOK** - (Verve)

Bing Crosby once stated, "man woman or child, Ella Fitzgerald is the greatest." Few would argue with that statement. Over the many years, her relaxed style and marvellous phrasing have brought pleasure to millions, and she's stayed at the top of her profession since the mid 30's. I've always preferred her with a small jazz combo, of failing that, backed by a big band, such as Basie or Ellington.



When it comes to her many song-book series, I still consider the Gershwin set as the ultimate in good singing. This particular double set of 32 Cole Porter standards contains all the best known songs "Night and Day", "Just One of Those Things" and "I Get a Kick Out of You", as well as the lesser known ones "Do I Love You", "I Am in Love" and "Ace in the Hole". There is a sameness about Buddy Bregman's arrangements that tend to bore one, but just as suddenly Ella will get to a really hackneyed standard you've heard all your life and you find yourself hearing it as if for the first time. That's the Fitzgerald magic.

Barry Conley

**GOOD COMPANIONS** - Original Cast Album (EMI)

Without being hampered by the tiresome adaptation of the book, which prevented my complete enjoyment of the show, the Andre Previn-Johnny Mercer score for *Good Companions* comes into its own on record. Previn's songs contain some unusual harmonic intervals which are pleasing to the ear, and reveal his musical versatility. As for Mercer's lyrics, many of his rhymes are deceptively simple, though the song "Stage Struck" in which Marti Webb comes across better on record than in the show, contains several cleverly intricate lyrics. Recording engineers did a fair job with the non-singing voice of Judi Dench, and her songs, the haunting "Dance of Life" and "Darkest Before the Dawn" are most appealing. Ray C Davis repeats his hit number "Slipping Around the Corner", the words of which contain a list of (I presume) the stage character's many boy friends. The ensemble singing on the title song and "A Little Travelling Music" is extremely spirited, and "The Pleasure of Your Company" could well become a commercial hit. As original cast albums go, this one comes as a pleasant surprise.

Barry Conley

## Short plays



Syreeta - chart topper?

Hitting us with funk with practically every release is the Contempo label. Only disco folk appreciate funky tunes it seems, as not enough get sold to show in the pop charts, but I hope one day that Contempo will get a smash. One recent release comes from Gentleman & Ladies, who do the "Party Bump", featuring a pleasing Jnr Walker type saxophone dominating. "Boogie Children Let's Get Down" by Stormy Monday and an instrumental by Clique called "Con-funk-shun" completes the funk threesome.

Another instrumental on Contempo but this time a bouncy dancer is the Armada Orchestra's version of the Four Tops' oldie "The Same Old Song", a San Remo Strings laden sound. If you know the words it's fun to sing over.

CBS are not giving a true representation of their successful Philly Sound with the O'Jays "Now That We've Found Love" (Philadelphia International). A boring slow number which really holds no interest and fans of the group will already have the track on the album *Ship Ahoy*. So we are left with the Peoples Choice funk thumper "Love Shop", which is an excellent dance number that is much stronger than most of its type.

Lastly, revived 45's time. Contempo-Raries do the oldies honours. I first from the year 1965 (incidentally the year Dicky came out) Aaron Neville with the slow searing soul ballad "Tell It Like It Is". If you weren't too involved with clubs at that time the record may be unknown to you, but there again, as long as you were alive in 1966, you surely heard and perhaps danced to "Barefooting" by Robert Parker. So come on feet, dance once again. Yes two solid goodies, well remembered and worth re-releasing.

Tricky Dicky

## Top sounds

Dick's Inn - London's Gay Discos

- 1 Love Is the Answer - Stylistics/Van McCoy Strings (AVCO)
  - 2 Kung Fu Fighting - Carl Douglas (Pye)
  - 3 Can't Get Enough - Barry White (Pye)
  - 4 Hang On In There Baby - Johnny Bristol (MGM)
  - 5 Queens of Clubs/Do It Good - KC Sunshine Band (Jayboy)
  - 6 Rock Me Gently - Andy Kim (Capitol)
  - 7 Rock Your Baby - George McCrae (Jay Boy)
  - 8 Sexy Ida - Ike & Tina Turner (UA import)
  - 9 It's the Same Old Song - Armada Orchestra (Contempo)
  - 10 Don't Knock My Love - Diana Ross/Marvin Gaye (Tamla Motown)
- Camp Re-Vamp  
 The Tricky Song - Judy Garland (Coral)  
 Compiled by Tricky Dicky, week ending 7/9/74.

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# THE ADVENTURES OF SUPER-GAY

## Part 1: Smooth and easy

From coast to coast, the sinister influence of the most ruthless and efficient of all crime syndicates, *The Blue Rinsers*, is corrupting the very fibre of the nation's morals. Under their fiendishly clever and mercilessly cruel leader, *Black Het*—known to speak with a strong foreign accent—the *Blue Rinsers* are intent upon nothing less than the downfall of European civilisation.

All that remains in their way is the solitary figure of *Black Het's* arch-foe. Ever watchful, ever alert, he stands sentinel over motherhood and patriotism. His name? **SUPER-GAY!**

Striding along the promenade at Bognor with the lithesome tread of a jungle animal, **Chuck Bold** mused silently to himself.

"Gee Whiz, it's kind of hard to think about the problems of organised international vice rackets on a swell day like this."

A slight smile played across his unusually handsome, sunburnt features—a smile tinged with a certain grim determination. Who knew better than he what unimaginable evil lay waiting: what vile and unspeakable outrages were being designed, unbeknown to the ladies of the Townswomen's Guild and the reposeing figures in the Palm Court of the *Balmoral Private Hotel*?

His jaw tightened and he quickened his pace. Before he had covered another hundred yards, however, his thoughts were abruptly interrupted by a plaintive cry for help.

"Help!"

Instantly, the thought which, at that moment, had been occupying **Chuck Bold's** mind—one that he and *Bornowsky* were kicking around together—was dismissed.

Great jumping *Jupiter!* That sounds like a cry for help."

Leaping to the side of the promenade, he looked towards the deserted beach. His rapier mind took in the scene at a glance. Locked in unequal combat was a lad of surpassing beauty, dressed with casual chic in hip-hugging faded denim (by *Brutal*), a cheese-cloth shirt in candy stripes—just the thing for those hot, sultry days—and a pair of rope-soled sneakers—redolent of 'Morning Cloud' and the *Royal Marines*. Standing over him and poised to strike stood a great brute of a thing. **Chuck** instantly recognised him as the bouncer from an *Algiers* brothel whom he had once had occasion to discipline. He wore a sweat-stained T-shirt torn across the front to reveal a heaving bosom and enough hair to stuff a cushion. His trousers were not of the smartest—which is really quite inexcusable because you can buy ever such nice stuff in the shops these days and it doesn't hurt anyone to make the effort, does it. But it was the eyes which caught **Chuck Bold's**

attention—or rather "eye" because one of them was covered with a black patch. It was ablaze with unbridled lust.

With a sickening crack, the raised hand fell across the lad's upturned face. Thwack! He fell back onto the sand, his long, golden hair partly covering his exquisitely drawn features.

"Take that, you beastly little rotter!" hissed his assailant through tobacco-stained teeth.

With pleading eyes of deepest blue, the lad looked up.

"Oh do not abuse me sir, for I am but a lad and no match for one so strong and brutal as you."

But the lout was untouched by this appeal to his finer feelings; rather did it drive him on to strike again. Thwack!

**Chuck Bold's** eyes narrowed into slits and his hands closed tightly into fists.

"Hm, this looks like a job for **Super-Gay.**"

Instantly, he dashed into a cottage situated conveniently nearby, and ignoring the one-legged geriatric who was being arrested for indecently assaulting two uniformed police officers, he quickly stripped off the white silk three-piece suit with the ever so square shoulders and the narrow sculptured waist which served to conceal his real identity. Pausing only long enough to glance in the mirror and brush back the black curl of hair which always rather annoyingly fell across his forehead, he stepped over the bleeding body of the geriatric and emerged as **SUPER-GAY.**

For a moment he stood poised, the sun ginting on his gold-lamé y-fronts (by *Hum*). Gone the inconspicuous poet laureate from *W1* with the unassuming manner and the shocking pink *Ferrari*, gone the inconsequential figure who would occasionally take over the baton from *Klemperer* or *Karajan*. His jaw set firm like a rock, his muscles throbbing with untapped vitality, **Super-Gay**—scourge of international crime and sworn enemy of *Black Het*—slowly turned his deep brown eyes towards the sound of distant tumult. Then, drawing on his white gauntlets, he threw back his

sequined cloak to reveal the symbol of the *Golden Dildo* and with one mighty bound, landed beside the two antagonists.

The great hairy fist was once again raised to strike, but as it came down, **Super-Gay** took hold of it and slowly, with effortless ease, bent it backwards until a piercing cry was torn from those cruel twisted lips.

"Eek!"

A dozen jaw-breaking, teeth-rattling blows rained down upon the luckless bouncer: *Zap! Blam! Zunk!* until his knees buckled and he sank to the ground in a groaning heap.

**Super-Gay** fixed him with a steely gaze as he lay grovelling in the sand, rubbing his twisted wrist.

"In addition to being a dirty rat, doubtless in the pay of my arch-enemy, *Black Het*, you are also *Lobby Ludd* and I demand my prize. Here's my copy of the *Bognor Argus.*"

"Curses, **Super-Gay.** You win this time but don't think I'll forget this."

Without troubling to reply to this patently empty threat, **Super-Gay** merely kicked a little sand in his face, pocketed the 25 pence and turned to the lad who was now struggling to his feet.

"Here, let me help you up kid."

He put one strong arm under his unyielding body and lifted him up onto his feet.

"Gee, **Super-Gay,** you were wonderful."

The boy looked up into those soft brown eyes which only moments ago had been so hard and cruel. He felt the vital power of **Super-Gay** through his cheese-cloth shirt and caught the faint whiff of *Chanel.*

"Think nothing of it kid. Just part of the job."

He paused for a moment and his eyes moved to the distant horizon.

"Keeping this country safe for kids like you; keeping it clean and free for decent folk to live in; keeping it secure for democracy and the free-enterprise way of life. That's my job."

The boy laid his cheek on the symbol



Illustration: Jean-Claude Thewissen

of the *Golden Dildo* and rested his hands on **Super-Gay's** biceps.

"Got a name kid?"

"*Sbigniew Polanski*, but my friends call me *Nick Smooth.*"

"OK, *Nick*, but I guess you ought to be getting along home now. Your folks will be starting to worry."

"I can't, **Super-Gay,** I have no home. We were cleaned out by *Black Het* and his sinister international crime organisation *The Blue Rinsers.*"

"Gosh kid, that's tough; but don't worry, just you come along with me and I'll take care of you."

He allowed his hands to remain around the boy's waist for a little longer than was entirely necessary.

"OK?"

"OK."

Where will *Black Het* strike next? Can western civilisation be saved? Read another perfectly nauseating episode in *GNSS.*

Bruce Wainwright

# THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

## Excerpts From Great Hollywood Musicals Of Metro Goldwyn Mayer

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Maurice Chevalier  
Jane Powell • Debbie Reynolds



Singin' In The Rain • Broadway Melody  
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The Great Ziegfeld • The Band Wagon  
Barkleys Of Broadway • Wizard Of Oz  
Babes In Arms • Meet Me In St. Louis  
Words & Music • It Happened In Brooklyn  
Showboat • Gigi  
An American In Paris



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# Information & Personal Ads

Mini Guide continued from Page 6

**EXETER**  
Pub: \*The White Lion, Mry Archers St  
Horse & Groom, Longbrook St

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

**FINCHAM**  
Pub: \*The Three Doves (Dive Bar), King Street (D)

**GLASGOW**  
Pub: Duke of Wellington, Argyle St  
The Strand (downstairs bar), Hope St  
Rest: The Blythswood Cafe, Maryhill Road (closed all day Thurs)  
Classic, Renfield St (after bar hrs)

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

**GRAVESEND**  
Pub: \*The Kent, High St

**GREENOCK**  
Pub: The Jolly Sailor, Clyde Sq (saloon bar, Weds only, 8pm onwards)

**GUILDFORD**  
Pub: \*The Royal Oak, Sydenham Rd

**HELSTON, Cornwall**  
Pub: The Bell, High St

**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: The Tudor Bar, Paragon St  
White House (Chicken and Cocktail Bar), Jameson St (residents only)  
Earl-De-Grey Hotel, Castle St  
Royal Station Hotel, Paragon Sq

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

**IPSWICH**  
Pub: The Cock & Pys (Saloon Bar) Upper Brook St

**ISLE OF WIGHT**  
Pub: The Hole in the Wall, Market St, Ventnor  
The Plough, High St, Shanklin (public bar)  
Club: Regency Club, Sun Hill, Cowes 5188  
Medway Queen Night Club, Newport 5460 (D)  
Rest: Ryde Queen Boatel at Wight Marina, Newport 4751  
Stable, 105 High St, Old Village, Shanklin

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

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

**LEICESTER**  
Pub: Dover Castle, Dover St

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

**LINCOLN**  
Pub: Ye Olde Crown, Clasketgate (lounge bar)

**LIVERPOOL**  
Pub: Ye Cracke, Rice St  
Lisbon, Victoria St L2  
The Denby Castle, Hacksins Hey (off Dale St)  
Club: New Bears Pub, Corrans Lane  
Sadies, Wood St (off Hanover St)

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

**LONDON**  
Pub: The Bird Cage, Columbia Rd, E2, Tel 739 9411. Drag every Thurs  
\*The Boltons & \*The Colaherna are near each other on Old Brompton Rd (Earls Court tube)  
\*The Queens Head, Tryon St (off Kings Rd, Sloane Sq tube)  
\*Royal Vauxhall Tavern, Vauxhall Cross (Vauxhall tube) (D)  
\*The Royal Mail, Upper St, Islington (Angel tube) (D)  
Royal Oak, 62 Glenholme Rd W6 (D)  
\*Ship & Whale, Gulliver St SE16  
The Salisbury, St Martins Lane WC1 (Leicester Sq tube)  
\*Union Tavern, 146 Camberwell New Rd SE5. Disco Mon & Tues (D)  
\*Watermans Arms (upstairs bar), Water Lane, Richmond  
\*The Green Room at the Wheatheaf, Goldhawk Rd (Goldhawk Rd tube)  
\*The Champion, Bayswater Rd (Notting Hill Gate tube)

\*William IV, Hampstead High St  
The Chapstow, Chapstow Place, Notting Hill W2 (upper bar only), Fri Disco  
Cricketers, Battersea Park Rd (D)  
Dog and Trumpet, Great Marlborough St, W1  
Duke of File, 350 Katherine Rd E7 (East Ham tube)  
Elmhurst, 131 Lordship Lane, Tottenham N17 (D)  
\*Elephant & Castle, South Lambeth Place (Vauxhall tube) (D)  
\*Father Redcap, Camberwell Green SE5  
Golden Lion, Dean St, off Shaftbury Ave W1  
\*Hors & Groom, near Pig & Whistle (Sundays only)  
\*Imperial, The Square, Richmond  
\*The Laurel Tree, Camden Town (Camden Town tube)  
\*The Lord Raglan, St Martins Le Grande EC1 (disco) Tues (D)  
\*Martins Bar, The Castle, Richmond  
\*New Black Cap, Camden High St (Camden Town tube) (D)  
\*Pig & Whistle, Little Chatter St, SW1. Sunday lunch only.  
Half Moon, Putney High St, Putney Bridge (D)  
Club: A&B Club, 29 Wardour St W1  
Apollo, 3 Wardour St W1  
\*Cape Bar, 29 Foley St WC2  
The Escort, 89a Piccadilly Rd (Sloane Sq tube)  
Festival Club, 2 Brydges Place, WC2 (Leicester Sq tube)  
\*Le Gigolo, Kings Road (Sloane Square tube)  
Louise, 61 Poland St, W1 (Oxford Circus tube)  
Mandy's, 30 Henrietta St WC2 (Masquerade Restaurant & disco, Earls Court Sq, SW5 (Earls Court tube))  
\*Paint Box, 29 Foley St W1  
\*Peacock Club, 259 Old Brompton Rd SW10. Tues (D)  
\*The Pink Elephant, 8 Newport Place, WC1 (Leicester Sq tube)  
Rockingham, 9 Archer St, W1  
\*Shanes, Broadhurst Gardens, NW6  
Toucan Club, 13 Gerrard St W1  
Vortex, 62 Techbrook St, 828 9581  
Disco: \*Arabian Pub, Tricky Dicky disco every Wed. Cambridge Heath Rd, E2 (Bethnal Green tube)  
\*The Bull and Gate, Kentish Town Rd (Kentish Tn tube)  
\*Centre, Broadley Terrace NW1 every Fri 8-12midnight.  
\*The Catacombs, Old Brompton Rd (Earls Court tube)  
Napoleons Club, Lancashire Place, off New Bond St  
\*Dicks Inn, Father Redcap, Camberwell Green SE5. Fri and Sun  
GLF, Prince Albert, corner of Wharfedale Rd and York Way, N1. Adm 15p every Tues, Fri and Sat  
The Moin 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 Ralinton Rd SE24, 274 7921  
\*Tricky Dicky Disco (Mon & Thurs) Kings Arms, 213 Bishopsgate, EC1 \*Liverpool Street tube)  
Rest: Chagaramas, 41-43 Neal St, WC2  
La Casarole, 338 Kings Rd, Chelsea, SW3  
La Popote, Walton St, SW3  
The Last Resort, 294 Fulham Masquerade, 310 Earls Court Rd, SW5  
Nell Gwynnes Kitchen, 43 Crawford St  
The Sabah, 34/8 Eversholt St, NW1. 388 0131. Just by Euston Stn.  
Simple Simon, 234 Old Brompton Rd, SW5  
Le Richelieu, 277 New Kings Rd, SW6. 736 4432  
Coffee Bar: The Coffin, Members only, Disco

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

**MACCLESFIELD**  
Pub: Waters Green Tavern

**MANCHESTER**  
Pub: The Mechanics, Chorlton St (Union Hotel, Princess St (D))  
Rembrandt, Sackville St  
Cavalcade, Wilmslow Rd Didsbury (Sunday lunchtime)  
\*New York Inn, 98 Bloom St Midland Hotel, Peter St  
Club: Napoleons, Sackville St

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

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

**NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE**  
Pub: Royal Court Grill, Bigg Market

Royal Turks Head, Punchinello Bar  
Eldon Grill (Variety Bar), opp Greys Monument  
Grapes Vault, Gral St (men only) County Hotel (Nancy's Bar) Westgate Road

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

**NEWPORT, Gwent**  
Pub: King's Head (Lounge Bar), High Street  
Club: The Charlston, Cardiff Rd (Tues only)

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

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

**NOTTINGHAM**  
Pub: Dog & Partridge, Parliament St  
The Roebuck, Manfield Rd  
Bentink Hotel, Midland Station  
The Foresters (girls), near Victoria Centre  
Club: Mario's Restaurant, Stanford St (off Castlegate)  
\*Pavilion Club, 123 London Rd, (Shardlow 13 miles)  
\*La Chic, 5-13 Canal Street

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

**OXFORD**  
Pub: Red Lion, Gloucester St  
Kings Arms, Holywell St (Sat lunchtime)  
The Gloucester Arms, Nr Red Lion, Gloucester St  
Club: \*Stage Club & Clarendon Rest, 14/16 George St  
Disco: The Greyhound, Gloucester Green, every Sat

**PENZANCE**  
Pub: The Cock Hotel

**PLYMOUTH**  
Pub: Lockyer Hotel, Oak Lounge (back bar), Derry's Cross  
The Phoenix (off Union St)  
Club: \*Harry's Club, West Hoe

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

**PORTSMOUTH**  
Pub: \*The Admiralty Tavern, Spring St (D) (Wednesdays only)  
\*Balmoral Bar, Landport Terr  
Club: The Country Club, Winchester Rd, Bishops Waltham (D)

**READING**  
Pub: \*The Railway, Greyfriars Rd  
Disco: RGA, Twice weekly, Wed and Sat. The Crown, Crown St 8pm onwards. Admission 35p guests, 20p members. Mainly women.  
Functions Room, Railway Tavern, Stanshawe Rd. Weekly disco every Sat 8pm. Adm 20p. Mainly men.

**ROCHESTER**  
Pub: \*Ship Inn, High St

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

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

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

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

**SCARBOROUGH**  
Pub: Cliff Inn, Regency Bar, Hunteess Row  
The Cliff, Huntriss Row

**SHEFFIELD**  
Pub: The Cossack  
The Pump (Smoke Room), Cumberland Way  
Club: \*Amarley, 225 Attercliffe Common (Gaysoo Disco)

**SOUTHAMPTON**  
Pub: \*Anchoe Inn, East St (girls only on Sat)  
\*Robert Burns, 9 South Front Juniper Berry, Upper Bugle St (D)  
Lord Roberts, Canal Walk  
Club: Upstairs Club, St Mary's St  
Viking Club, Anchor Inn East St (girls only Sats)  
Harveys (upstairs over the Magnum Club & Rest)  
Rest: The Fig Leaf, 94 St Marys Rd, 9.30pm-3am

**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 St North, Hanley

**STRATFORD ON AVON**  
Pub: Queens Head, Ely St

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

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

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

**THAME**  
Pub: The Jolly Sailor, Wellington St

**TORQUAY**  
Pub: Mead Foot Bay Hotel, Mead Foot Sea Rd  
Merelwood 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 Guildhall

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

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

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

**YORK**  
Pub: York Arms

Male nurse in Midlands seeks friends. Box 54/103.  
Surrey, married couple, husband devoted TV and Cross-dresser, also gay, would like to correspond and meet other couples with same interests. Box 54/117.  
Lonely middle aged widower, shy nature, interested literature, music, wishes to meet educated broadminded lady, view loving friendship, marriage if suited. Box 54/167.  
Bachelor 30 wishes to correspond with young lady who has genuine interest in juvenile magazines. Box 54/202.  
Sincere slim TV, bi-guy, 36, own house and car. Cumbrla area, seeks genuine friendship. Would particularly like to meet other TVs or gay girls. Box 54/225.  
GAY car registration (two digits) for sale. Offers invited. Box 54/284.

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

Birmingham. Fellowship in Christ the Liberator. Details: Tel 021 454-0386.

## Women's Personal

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

Young bisexual female seeks small out-going girl friend - Portsmouth. Box 54/4.  
Gay girl, 28, new to area, wishes to meet other gays. Basingstoke. Box 54/65.  
Gay girl, 32, shy, sincere, affectionate, seeks lasting friendship with fam gay girl in London area. Photo please, returnable. Box 54/72.  
Attractive 26 TS male to female, loving and gentle, seeks permanent relationship with loving gay girl. Box 54/73.  
Gay woman, 31, East Anglia, very lonely and disillusioned, seeks sincere understanding fem friend in Eastern Counties. Only genuine replies please. Box 54/90.  
Attractive cuddly gay girl in thirties, nice home and car, seeks slim femme, but active gai, must be attractive, intelligent and have good sense of humour. Photo if possible, returned. London/Surrey/Sussex. Box 54/166.  
Marsey-side femme, 40, firm addict, seeks companion. Box 54/201.  
Very pretty, pleasantly plump, professional girl, 22, own Earls Court flat, seeks Lesbian friends. A.L.A. Box 54/99.  
Attractive teacher, Indian, 24, lonely in London, shy not prudish, seeks understanding woman any age to 55. Photo, frank reply appreciated. Box 54/226.  
Lonely gay girl, 35, sincere, affectionate, seeks lasting friendship with gay girl, Midland/Cheshire area. Box 54/227.  
Cambridge gay girl, 27, needs someone special for lasting friendship. A.L.A. Box 54/228.

**WEST LONDON GLF DANCE**  
Friday 20th September 8-12pm at Fulham Town Hall (opp Fulham Broadway Station). Bar, disco, group. Admission 50p.

Lonely, sincere, 27 year old (London area) seeks sincere, affectionate, feminine girl for lasting friendship. Box 54/285.  
Attractive bisexual, married woman, 42, seeks similar, view lasting friendship. London, Kent borders. Box 54/316.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WEBSTER, Carole Anne** (known to us all as Terry) who was taken from me so tragically on 14th August 1974. "You're gone! And as I look I see I don't belong to society. People said our love was wrong. Only you and I knew just how strong. We knew it would not be you see. We loved each other, not society." I love you - Jenny. (Friends can phone Jenny on 673 3242 between 6.30 and 7.30pm).

## Men's Personal

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

25 year old, reasonable looks, would like to meet some sincere people for a change. Photo appreciated. Box 54/11.  
Want to emigrate and start a new life? 30 year old American seeks young houseboy/companion for 17-room home in finest residential section of Pasadena, California. Alexander Smith, 256 South Robertson, Beverly Hills, California 90211, USA.  
I'm 38, well built, reasonably adjusted, fairly intelligent, varied interests - theatre, films, food, talk, people etc. Seeking something different but stable. Write fully with photo. I'll reply. Box 54/5.  
Middle aged male, professional class, slim, affectionate, seeks active friends for loving friendship and sharing interests. London, Surrey. Box 54/9.  
Lonely, 42, Essex seeks intelligent younger man 21+, non-offensive, for friendship, leisure activities. Photo please. A.L.A. Box 54/10.  
Personal Ads continued on page 21

## Love Knoweth No Laws\*

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

### \*Chaucer

#### Answering a Box Reply

1. Place your reply in a small envelope and seal it.
2. Mark clearly on the outside the Box Number to which you are replying.
3. Place this small envelope together with a 4xp 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 4xp stamp.
5. We WILL NOT forward replies which are not accompanied by a 4xp stamp for each reply.

Advertisements for inclusion in issue 55 must be received no later than noon on Monday 16 September. They should be no longer than 35 words. Those exceeding this limit will be returned. As from 23 September, Box Numbers in issue 51 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

Business man, young 30s, considered attractive, own house, car. Tired of all male gay company, seeks bi/gay girl, attractive, intelligent, for friendship, possible view share home Midlands. Box 54/1.  
22 year old gay seeks female company for friendship, dancing etc. Manchester area. Box 54/2.  
Tall slim attractive TV, mid thirties, would like to meet tall sympathetic understanding lady or gent over 40 for genuine friendship. SW London area. Box 54/3.  
The August Trust aims to provide accommodation for elderly gays. To help, contact Box 54/65.  
Two lovers, one Anglo Indian, one English, wish to meet other couples of any race aged 30 to 45. Derbyshire. Box 54/127.

## GAY NEWS MAIL ORDER

Laud Humphreys' Tearoom Trade now available in softback. A thorough and highly recommended study of the sociology of cottaging. The author, passing as a homosexual, was able to make systematic and detailed observations of clandestine male homosexual acts, which he later followed up with interviews of many of the men concerned. Price £1.50

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## BRIGHTON

MECCA FOR GAYS

ATLANTIS House Hotel,  
12a New Steine,  
Telephone BRIGHTON 681546

Mine Host, Ricky (prop)

BRAESIDE Guest House,  
26, Upper Rock Gardens,  
Telephone BRIGHTON 681707

Mine Host(ess?), Calvin (Man'gr)

No restrictions whatsoever.  
Both view of sea, and promenades.  
Both 2 minutes centre and bars and clubs.  
£2 per night Bed & Breakfast.

## Worcester Gay Spot

American Bookshop  
5 Newport Street  
Worcs

For all your latest films, books, mags etc.

## Drag At The Rag

(Every Tuesday night)  
Watch future issues for up-to-date forthcoming events

SEPTEMBER 17th - Derek Rees & Marc Fleming  
SEPTEMBER 24th - Silent Knights  
Lord Raglan  
St Martin's Le Grande  
London EC1  
(nearest tube St Paul's)



Personal Ads continued from page 20

Attractive Sussex guy, 25, seeks another for friendship, possible to share flat. Photo appreciated. Box 54/327. Balding, bearded 40 year old seeks young companion 21+ to form sincere friendship. All replies with photo will be answered. Box 54/6.

"MR PLAY-GUY BALL" Hammersmith Town Hall, September 14th, Saturday.

Like Londoner, 25, seeks brawny, well built bloke for easy friendship. All answered. Box 54/22. Scott, 36, young looking, quiet, intelligent, well-travelled, seeks genuine friendship, any nationality, over 21. Photo please. Box 54/23.

Which young boy (over 21) shows a German engineer London? Please write if possible with picture. Box 54/76. Average looking gay guy completely genuine and reliable, Birmingham area, seeking active non-camp friend 30-40s. Own pad. ALA. Box 54/77.

Is there any shapely intelligent articulate man not over 50 who would enjoy reciprocal exchanges on themes of Nori Huxley Higginson? London. Box 54/119. West Midlands man 31, blond hair, slim, good looking, sense of humour, likes music, travel, swimming, good food, fashion. Seeks genuine person. Photo appreciated & returned. Box 54/137.

Paul/Clive, thanks for letter, box 53/11. Please telephone Waterlooville 57260 after 6pm. Gentle breeze, music, stars, poetry and good looks abound, and yet I'm 27 and sad. Would a boy (21+), peaceful, sensitive and not unthinking, care to pass this way? London. Box 54/187.

Intelligent introvert, young 30, seeks sensitive friends of similar age or younger (21+) interested in visiting opera, theatre, films etc. London or Brighton. Box 54/258. Je charcha jauns Moroccan desirant apprendre anglais en échange leçons arabs. Box 54/259.



Personal Ads continued from page 21

**Londoner, 30**, always looking for independent, even selfish, other minds in the hope we can learn from each other. Cancer has enjoyed learning most from straight young Virgo and Scorpio—but who knows. Box 54/299.

**NW Darter—35**, tall, bearded, average build and looks like teacher-artist, seeks younger friend 21+ hopefully lasting, can accommodate. Box 54/300.

**Intelligent London guy**, mid thirties, tall, slim, goodlooking, into fringe theatre, progressive rock, sexual politics, nice people and good times seeks new friends 25-40. ALA. Box 54/301.

**Will "Am I too awful"**, in "Youe Letters" GN50, contact guy 29 with similar interests. Box 54/302.

**Anyone interested in men's gear** contact jeans guy, 29, Box 54/308.

**Trained dancer** wishes to create an exotic dance group, to include go-go dancing guys with good physique and personality. London area. Please send photo if interested. Box 54/309.

**Reliable assistant** wishes to contact, or give free and regular helping hand, to any keen D.I.V. enthusiast, with a major project. Precise details essential. London or suburb. Box 54/310.

**Goodlooking 22** wishes to meet similar for friendship London/Crawley/Tunbridge Wells. Photo essential. Box 54/311.

**Birmingham guy**, young 31, attractive, own pad, not interested gay scene, interests leather, denim, bikes, seeks younger guy 21+ for sincere friendship. Genuine. Photo appreciated. Box 54/312.

**Sought for same—straight looking** non-effeminate gay aged 34-40. Andover Winchester area. Box 54/313.

### UNDERSTANDING HEDONIST

**26 year old**, tall, affectionate, seeks Oriental guy 21+ to help capture the elusive bird of happiness. Photo would be nice. Box 54/314.

**If you enjoyed yourself** (I certainly did) Wednesday evening 28 on Wandsworth (by the bridge) let's meet again. Denim Jacket. Box 54/248.

**Young physical perfectionist**, wishing to emulate the Errol Flynn/Steve Reeves legends, invites first-hand information and advice. Box 54/317.

**London/Birmingham area**, slim leather guy, 25, seeks friendship with rough and ready active Hells Angel, Skinhead, or other leather guys. Photo ensures reply. Box 54/318.

**Dartford/Woolwich area**, middle aged author wishes to discuss gay life today with males 21-30. Write Box 54/319.

**Italian—middle aged journalist** SE London wishes to learn Italian from Italian 21-26. Please state hourly fee. Fares bus/rail paid. Box 54/320.

**Young Manchester guy**, 26, slim, many interests, seeks sincere friend for lasting friendship. Genuine replies please. Photo appreciated. ALA. Box 54/321.

**Manchester**, Queer looking, fenced slim dark-haired male, 22, seeks non-effeminate friends similar age. Photo please. Box 54/322.

**21-30? Occasional daytime meetings** in London sought by 28 year old. Photo appreciated. ALA. Box 54/323.

**Country lover**, 40, Anglican, resident West Midlands, interested in arts, not addicted to gay bar/clo scene, seeks companion (30-40) prepared to work at friendship. Photo preferred. ALA. Box 54/324.

**Around the world tour** (walking), 2-3 years\*. English male seeks information and fellow travellers. Box 54/325.

### Accommodation

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

Phone your vacancies to 01-732 6724 after 6.00pm.

**Accommodation for gay guy** in Aldershot, own room, 45 min from Waterloo, £8. Phone Mike, Aldershot 28885.

**Two guys** require accommodation urgently Exeter area, preferably in city. Anything considered, house, flat, one room, furnished or unfurnished, prefer unfurnished. Box 54/53.

**Young gay guy** to share pleasant flat, modern block, South London suburb, with one other. Own room. £40pcm. Box 54/54.

**Gay wanted share flat**, SW18, 21-40. £7pw. Interested swimming and/or wrestling a help. ALA. Box 54/55.

**North Birmingham**, second gay male under 30 to share self contained flat with young professional man. Box 54/56.

**Gay girl** seeks fully furnished s/c flat, Kent or Surrey, at reasonable rent. Required from November. Box 54/57.

**Contemporary flat** has space for numerous/aware male, 21, TV, stereo, car, meals. Phone (home) after 7pm, 373 4604.

**In rural Kent**, one hour Faversham/London. Bedsitter and full board offered discreet masculine fourth guy. Excellent amenities, suit professional/business type needing quiet undemanding home base. All inclusive £16pw. Reference required. Box 54/59.

**Manchester**, early twenties. Room available in modern house 20 mins Manchester. Male, 25, would prefer similar or younger for period arrangement. Rent reasonable and adjustable. Positively no strings. Rochdale 342999.

**Large luxury bedsitter**. Suitable for two. Constant hot & cold. Central heating, fitted carpets. Serviced & linen laundered. £45 per month in advance + deposit. Tel 672 5337 between 7.30-10.00pm.

**Luxury pad** in executive house for domesticated student available in Leeds. Non-effeminate. Photo please. Box 54/60.

**Lancaster Gate**. Reliable guy, late 20s, to share super flat. Own room. All facilities. £60pm. Box 54/58.

**Brighton offers lorry drivers** overnight stays. Masculine guys. Box 54/62.

**Free overnight**, possible permanent, student, reasonable charge. Mid-Kent, A20. Box 54/63.

**Quiet young man offered flat** in return for part time work Hastings, Sussex area. Discreet couple considered. ALA. Photo & details appreciated. Box 54/64.

**Tub Hotel, W4**. Nice rooms, H&C, TV. Long or short stay. Homely atmosphere. 34 Barrowgate Road, Ms E Thistleton 994 5306/995 9482.

**Chiswick W4**. Converted flats: 1 garden, 1 bedroom, lounge, fitted kitchen, coloured bathroom; ground floor, 99 year lease, £10,750. Three 2-bedroom, lounge, fitted kitchen, coloured bathrooms; ground floor & first floor with balcony, 99 year lease, £10,750. Owner 994 5306 or 995 9482.

**A home to share**. Double £12, single £7. All facilities. Professional, non-camp guys. SE London. 699 5132.

**Young man to share** Hanwell W7 house with mid 20s professional guy, own room, £10pw including gas, electricity, heating, colour TV etc. Access to Central & Piccadilly, and bus N89. Ring after 9pm, David, 579 1364.

**Sundridge Park**. One (or two males sharing) in large flat with garden. Age under 25, serious music fanatics. Domesticated, non-camp. To share with similar. Please write giving telephone number to Box 54/87.

**Good looking, slim, nice, sociable guy**, 26, seeks cheapish accommodation. Box 54/97.

**Birmingham**. Quiet student or young professional £6 plus electricity. No strings. 021-356 5128 evenings.

### SUNBURY—SUPER FLAT

**9th floor cosmopolitan block**, good views, Central London/South Coast. Living room, balcony, two bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom, WC, covered parking. 91 year lease, £11,500 includes many extras. Sunbury 87247 after 7pm.

**Young man required—own room** in new town house near Charlton Village. Fully furnished, TV, stereo, phone etc. Only 20 minutes to Charing Cross. Young friendly household. £35 per month inclusive all bills. Phone 01-858 0546.

**Gay guy, early thirties**, recovered alcoholic, two pets, seeks flat with garden. Bob W. Male 18, St Bernards Hospital, Southall.

### BOY 21-26, WARM,

**friendly and good looking** wanted to share nice flat in Fulham. I'm 26, good looking and intelligent. Own bedroom, stereo, colour TV. Photo helps, all genuine replies answered and photos returned. Box 54/168.

**Domesticated 28 year old professional** guy seeks share of flat in W2 area or nearby from October, older man preferred. Box 54/169.

**Chertsey/Woking**. Comfortable home, friendly pad offered lonely youth 21+ needing independence. No strings. Photo please. Box 54/170.

**Young gay professional guy** has modern SW19 flat to share with similar male/female. Own room £32pcm. Box 54/203.

**Rochester**, friendly Canadian guy 33, seeks accommodation/friendship until October 30. Box 54/204.

**British born Australian 33** living in W2 flat, would like English guy 21-35 to share with him. Box 54/205.

**Goodlooking gay graduate 21**, lover of the arts, urgently seeks accommodation in London. Box 54/206.

**Purley**. Furnished rooms in pleasant house near Station. Discreet daytime calls 01-283 1670 Mr Johnson.

**Parsons Green**. Professional man to share delightful house, own bedroom, lounge, share facilities including garden with owner. £15 per week. Phone Sunday evening onward, 01-736 1481.

**Actor, 26**, wants the impossible! Own room in London flat, about £8pw. From October. Box 54/281.

**Two Australian guys** require flat or house to share. Phone 373 2647, Flat 16, evenings.

**Share modern house** Twickenham with two guys. Own room. Telephone 892 6377.

**Coichester**. Accommodation needed by American student for university year. Share, au-pair, anything. Box 54/282.

**Brighton—Kemptown**. Professional 30s offers share own luxury flat—patio, 3 rooms. Box 54/283.

**Young gay professional/s** with a view to flat/house share contact Andrew at work on 437 8090.

**Classical musician**, professional, 20s, recently arrived from America needs own room in flat, London area. Would prefer accommodation with musician or music lover. Phone Frank 643 3111 after 6.30pm.

**Derby professional guy**, 30, offers share own house with similar, or occasional overnight accommodation. Box 54/274.

**Room offered** discreet non-camp guy, twenties (graduate preferred) SW1, £12.50pw. Box 54/275.

**Hull/Withernsea area**. Furnished accommodation required by guy in 40s from November. Box 54/276.

**Wanted**, share in youngish London flat, maximum rent £15pw. John 937 4924.

**Quiet male, 25**, requires own room in shared flat, Central/West London preferred. Phone 937 9298, 6-7pm.

**Streatham, SW2**. Quiet, tidy guy, 21-25, own bedsitter; share kitchen & bathroom. £7.50pw. Tel 671 2760.

**South Merseyside**. Perhaps attractive young (20s) professional guy wishes to share the home of similar in his 30s.

**Pleasant house** residential area 20 mins Lime St. Reasonable rent. No string. Hopeful of friendship. Photo please. Box 54/279.

**Free flatshare** for young guy with 28 year old professional man in return for tidying my luxury flat in Chelsea. Own room for compatible reliable non-smoker. Photo appreciated & returned. Box 54/278.

**Cheap board for music student** in return help at copyist. Box 54/280.

**Third young person** (male or female) to share flat. Own room. Windsor 53614.

**Ealing**. Own room in flat, no complications. All amenities. Suit graduate or quiet young guy. Other person in flat busy, good natured, into politics, 28. Rent £7, November. Box 54/305.

**Discreet male** wanted to share Clapham flat with two others. Own room. £7pw. Box 54/306.

**Quiet 23 year old Irish born guy** with small partially furnished flat wishes to share with any sincere guy. Flat 7, Hillsborough Court, Mortimer Crescent, London, NW6.

**Swansea**. Postgraduate student, 25, no grant, needs very cheap accommodation from 1st October. Housework in lieu of rent? Box 54/307.

**Young professional 27 years** seeks own room in W1 area. Works Bond Street. Genuine. Box 54/315.

### Holiday Accommodation

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

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

**Bournemouth**. Gay & homely B&B £1.90. 0202 25284.

**Cornwall**. Olde Worlde cottage. Seconds from beaches. B&B. St Ives 7672.

**Relax and feel at home** in spacious country house near Bath. Full board. Trains met. 022 16 3299.

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

**Earls Court, bed & breakfast** £1.50 nightly. 35 Longridge Road, 01-370 4937.

**Brighton**: Informal luxury. Bed and breakfast, double bedrooms, £4 single and £6 double. Pilkington, 11 Osmond Gardens, Hove. Phone 779 746.

**Torbay, Devon**. Bed/breakfast—£2: John and Alan, Hamilton House, Whitstone Road, Paignton, Tel 55118.

### Employment

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

#### Financial Manager needed:

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

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

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

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

**Electrical engineer**, 28, wide experience display and theatre lighting also management catering and entertainment industry seeks interesting employment or partnership. Please write Box 54/70.

#### YOUNG EXECUTIVE

**Own house, car, business**, seeks young man as personal valet/chauffeur/companion etc. Must have good looks and physique. Experience not essential. Good remuneration and allowance plus travel abroad etc. Genuine. Photo required. ALA. Box 54/71.

**General Assistants** required for country town hotel. Would suit pre-university students or those wishing to learn the hotel trade. Accommodation provided. Please write Box 54/86.

**Manager** required to take charge of new take-away food shop in SE London near Tower Bridge. Catering experience not essential. Telephone 693 8612.

**Bodybuilder**, 35, with small Chelsea pad, needs cleaner few hours per week by arrangement. Box 54/88.

**Amateur photographer** requires well built models 16 to 24 years for modelling work. Moderate fee paid. Write fully enclosing photograph which will be returned. Box 54/96.

**Urgent**, Yorkshireman (Huddersfield), late 30s, desperately seeks working partnership with kindly gay boss 50 to 70+. Anything considered privately. Box 54/100.

**Foreign student**, London, seeks evening part-time job, experienced hotel receptionist. Anything considered. Box 54/47.

**New photographer**, just starting out & interested in experimenting, seeks young guys as models. Not fees, but could lead to professional work. You know best. Call Alan this evening: 632 3235.

**Moving to London?** Jobs and accommodation arranged. 01-732 6724 evenings.

**Young exotic types & blondes** wanted for art photography. Photo please. Box 54/48.

**Free-lance accountant** required to sort out books for interior designer. 373 7920.

**Young guy** needs part time work; anything considered. Box 54/49.

**Birmingham guy** seeks part time evening work. Box 54/50.

**Chester area**, presentable, discreet male seeks part time/casual employment. Anything genuine considered. Tel: Chester 24732.

**Young attractive business-suited** Chinese, very discreet, seeks work. Any job considered. Box 54/51.

**Please help**. Gay, 21, seeks job as photographer's assistant, preferably in the music field, 352 6411, ext. 249, Paul.

**Models** wanted by amateur photographer for male costume studies, including your own costumes. Fee and expenses if required. Essex, Suffolk areas. Box 54/52.

**Handsome Londoner** with stimulating ideas seeks work as photographer of handsome male models. Also welcomes letter/photos from anybody. SAE. Box 54/116.

**Young male student** looking for remunerative work, anything considered. 373 8605.

**Male model** wanted for photography, also possible trip Amsterdam expenses paid. Photo, telephone number to BM/F.E.C.9. London, WC1.

**IMMEDIATE OPPORTUNITY**

**Male, unattached, 25-35**, slim, tall, good presence & appearance. Essentials: some knowledge office administration and typing; adaptability; ability meet people; attend meetings; take notes (incl shorthand); acceptance of non-routine work; irregular hours; travel within UK; possibly overseas.

**Desirables**: car owner or current licence; interested in chess, classical music, photography. Initially 1 month proving period; salary, expenses and partial residence. Outstanding opportunity right person. If interested, reply with recent photograph (any kind & returnable) giving full personal description and interests. Complete frankness essential; absolute confidence assured. Regret no applications considered from bearded, wardies, extremists or those believing they are owed a living. Job operates on old-fashioned principle of "no work—no bread". Positively ALA. Box 54/147.

**Anyone interested** in arranging extended working holiday please contact me. Age 21-30. Alternate time available for undertaking private commissions. ALA. Box 54/33.

**New student orchestra** of high standard based in London requires financial aid and advice. Any help welcomed. Box 54/132.

**Immediate finance** required to secure future of young talented musician wishing to study abroad. Anything legal considered. Box 54/133.

**Hairdressing—Tiffanys** of Southampton requires (male) Ladies hairdresser, friendly salon, excellent wages and commission. Tel. day 24070, evenings 443655.

**Christ, I'm bored!** Intelligent, imaginative, adventurous, attractive 22 year old seeks hugely remunerative employment. Box 54/207.

**Male, 24**, wants part-time work. Anything considered. Evenings and/or weekends. Box 54/272.

**Tired of your scene?** Read on. Enthusiastic young man wanted to assist in household duties in attractive country seaside weekend home in Hampshire. Attractive salary and conditions. Phone Richard, East End (05905) 214/222 evenings.

**Television writer**, 38, needs driver/assistant. Interesting job, some travel. Detailed letter, photo and phone no. appreciated. Box 54/273.

**Muscular young male model/actor** seeks work. Ring Nicky 01-370 5667 (Rm 7). Houseboy offered country home. Strict household. Light duties. Could take part or full time local job. Ring 027-074-368 evenings. Cheshire.

**Young amateur models** occasionally required for figure photography. SW London/Kington area. Write full details (and fee expected) to Box 54/303.

**Hoteller mid 90s** requires assistant 20-30, previous catering experience not essential. Essex seaside resort. Good salary, free board, accommodation. Interview London. Write with photo. Box 54/304.

**Young amateur photographer**, 27, seeks young models, also friends, close to Medway towns. Free photos and expenses paid. Phone Sheerness 61692 daytime.

**DO YOU NEED EXTRA BREAD?** Do you live in Manchester? We need you to say yes, you've guessed it—GAY NEWS needs a guy that wants to see us there. Contact Stuart, Gay News, 62a Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY.

**Handsome young man** in full riding gear—crash helmet, jodphurs, shiny brown boots etc—seeks modelling work. Box 54/326.

### Services

**20p per word, No Box Number, Service available**

**Close fit?** Trousers/jeans made to measure. Paul 278 1641.

**Oil portraits**, your place or mine, £12. 902 3190 evenings.

**Male cleaner**. Flat and house cleaning. 90p per hour plus fares. Bamford, 11 Harcourt Road, N1.

**Upholstery and furnishings**. Antique and modern. Buttoning a speciality. Professional service, fast and fair. 385 9047, early morning and evening. Calling all lonely gays. Postal introductions arranged, all areas. (Edinburgh gays where are you?). Dorothy Sanger, Dept 14, 138a Pogmoor Road, Pogmoor, Barnsley, Yorkshire.

**LIGHT REMOVALS**

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

Anything painted in oils on canvas by young, talented, gay artist. Info: Peter, 24a Lincoln Road, Peterborough.

**MUSIC FOR MIND & BODY**

City Kids Agency. Tel: 960 3410/960 2939.

**Go-Between** removals and deliveries. Phone 01-249 0280/01-549 3275.

**Cut and blow at home**, South Yorkshire area. 0742 52547.

**YOUR PRINTING**

Carried out quickly, cheaply and well. Letterheads, publicity material, catalogues and price lists. Phone Robert or Tim at 586 1732 anytime. 24 hour answering service.

**Casual trousers/jeans** made to measure. Paul 278 1641.

**Penfriends**. For details, s.a.e. Roy, 126 Hartfield Road, Wimbledon.

**Goodlooking guys** from all continents want correspondence/friendship with you. Details and sample photos free. Hermes, Berlin 11, Box 110660/G, Germany.

### Market Place

**20p per word, No Box Number, Service available**

**Boy Studio**, 44 Earls Court Road, London, W8. Photo-sals, leatherwear, 35mm colour slides. Catalogue 30p.

**ORIGINAL 1920s FASHION DESIGN DRAWINGS** surplus to my collection—13 1/2" x 8 1/2" unmounted. £2 each or 10 for £15. Absolutely beautiful. About 100 available. Manford, 34B Willow Road, London, NW3 (No callers please)

**Mouthwatering magazines!** Send s.a.e. to Johnny, BM/FBCH, WC1V 6XX.

**Starkers! See-thru underbricks** etc. Illustrated leaflets 10p. Pleasancies (Regd) GN54, 3 Middle Street, London, EC1A 7JA.

**'New Gay International Magazine'**. Send your free of charge 30 words advertisement. Print advertisement very clearly, including signature and age. If you require checking copies send 50p payable Tara Enterprises, Box 30, Stoney Knoll, Bury New Road, Salford 7, Lancs.

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!!!**

**The Tom Album**. 11"x8 1/2", packed with over 150 wonderful, bawdy, homoerotic drawings never published before in the UK!!! A very limited edition for connoisseurs £4.00. Also: The Best of Tom: £3.00. Plus full listings of X-clusive magz, photos, slides and movies. From John 5 Barrington, 88 Castelnau, Barnes, London SW13 (no callers please)

### Entertainment

**10p per word, No Box Number, Service available**

**Jimmy Delaney**, "Gaiety" music-hall entertainer, 76 Marlbro Buildings, St Albans, Herts.

**"MR PLAY-GUY BALL"**

Hammermith Town Hall, Sept 14, Sat.

**Bioscope Film Club** monthly screenings (no blue films). Details s.a.e. Secretary, 10 Zodiac Court, London Road, Croydon.

**WEST LONDON GLF DANCE**

Friday 20th September @ 12pm at Fulham Town Hall (opp Fulham Broadway Station). Bar, disco, group. Admission 50p.

**Grand CHE Dance** with Tricky Dicky: Saturday 2nd November in the Manning Hall, University of London Union, Malet Street, WC1. 8pm till late; bar extension. Tickets 75p from CHELIC, Tricky Dicky, or your local CHE group.

**AT "THE CASTLE"**

High Street, Lewisham (opp Ladywell Fire Station) we present drag nights every Friday & Sunday. Resident Sunday Cabaret. The 'Trollettes'.

### Masseurs

**30p per word, No Box Number, Service available**

**Call Martin** for a top quality massage. 229 6565.

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

**DAVID, BLONDE, 21**

Qualified masseur, seeks work. 878 4899.

**Greg** now massages at new central location—or your place? Phone 727 8322.

**Young qualified masseur**, 289 2753.

**Experienced masseur—your home/hotel**. Phone Ron 472 1939 Mon-Fri evenings or all day Sunday.

**Young masseur 'The Clark System'**. 373 2752.

**Young man** gives relaxing massage. Visits welcome. 370 5295.

**Massage** by young masseur, Hampstead. Peter 267 2991.

**MIKE, 21, CUTE FRESH FACE**

Qualified masseur, professional model. 01-878 0320.

**Young qualified masseur**, also visits. Call 828 6977.

**Relaxing massage**. Experienced young masseur. Mike, 603 8748.

**Roger**, 22, masseur, 579 3714.

**Young qualified masseur** 289 2753

### General Information

All listings in the General Information columns are free to bona-fide gay groups and organisations. Only information submitted in writing will be included. Please send details to General Information, Gay News, 62a Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY.

### 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). 04-476 7980.

**GAY WOMEN'S DISCO**. Gay Community Centre, 78 Ralston Road, Brighton, every Fri at 8.30.

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

**GAY WIVES/MOTHERS CONFERENCE**. Sat 21 Sept at the University, Oxford Rd, Manchester 13, 1.00-5.00. Disco in evening. Creche and accommodation if required. Contact Women's Campaign Committee at CHE, 28 Kennedy St, Manchester 2. Ring 061-228 1958.

**SAPPHO GAY WIVES/MOTHERS GROUP** next meeting 29 Sept 1.00-5.30 on board a canal cruiser on the Grand Union, London. Kids of all ages welcome. Details from Sappho (GW/M Collective). BCM/PETREL, London WC1V 6XX enc. s.a.e.

*Gay Groups/Social Activities continued on page 23*

## Personal & Classified Ads Form

Please insert in the next issue.....

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

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

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

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

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

Name.....

Address.....



Gay Groups/Social Activities continued from page 22

—QLF, Prince Albert, corner of Wharfedale Road and York Way, N1. Disco Tues, Fri and Sat. Adm 15p.
—WEST LONDON GLF DANCE. Fri 20 Sept 8.00-12.00 at Fulham Town Hall (opp. Chiswick Broadway Station) Bar, disco, group. Adm 50p.

GAY WOMEN

—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.

—LEDS GAY WOMEN'S GROUP meet on Wed 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 at 8pm at Women's Centre, 11 Waverley Rd (basement), Bristol-Redland. Tel 309903.

—CAMBRIDGE GAY WOMEN'S GROUP. Details write Alison, c/o Last Exit Bookshop, Mill Road, Cambridge or phone 64757.

—SAPPHO GAY WIVES/MOTHERS GROUP, meets in London monthly. Details from Sappho (GW/M Collective), BCM/PETREL, London WC1V 6XX etc. 3.4.

—MANCHESTER GAY WOMEN'S GROUP meet regularly in central Manchester. All homosexual and bisexual women are welcome. Phone Sue at 061 881 3683 for details.

—SAPPHO meets every first Mon each month. Info about venue please write to BCM/PETREL, London WC1V 6XX enclosing s.a. Your letter must reach us by first post Tuesday before first Monday to be informed in time. Sappho 40p inc postage for single copies.

—BRIGHTON. Meets Thurs to explore political, personal and social aspects of sexual identity between women. Ring Brighton 01977 and ask for Francesca.

—LESBIANS come together in London every Mon & Fri. Details Pauline, 01-346 4684.

—BRADFORD LESBIAN GROUP. Details Roz Carne, Flat 3, 2, St Paul's Rd, Bradford 8. Ring Bradford 78554.

—LESBIAN GROUP. All women are welcome at Manchester Lesbian Collective's meeting. For details of weekly meetings contact 455 4121.

—SURREY/KINGSTON GAY WOMEN'S GROUP. Come around for coffee and a chat. Lots of activities planned. Contact CHELIC at 437 7363

—NORTH EASTERN GAY WOMEN'S GROUP meet regularly in Newcastle. Contact Sharon at Chester-le-Street, 5648 or Judy at Newcastle B11016.

—WOMEN'S LIBERATION WORKSHOP, Kingsgate Place Women's Centre, 1 Kingsgate Place, London W6. Open M-F 1.30am-10pm.

—GAY SWITCHBOARD needs women workers. 01-837 7324, 6-10.30pm.

GAY GROUPS

—BATH GAY AWARENESS GROUP PO Box 86, Bath BA1 2YQ.

—BIRMINGHAM. Fellowship in Christ the Liberator. Come and worship with us. Ring 021-454 0386.

—BRISTOL GAY AWARENESS GROUP. Contact Eddie Cherrill, 5 Muller Avenue, Horfield, Bristol 7.

—COMMUNITY. We are now running a group for bisexuals on Mon nights. Ring us at 01-485 2136 or 01-586 3548.

—BRIGHTON. Lavender People meet every Sun at 8pm at Open Cafe, 7 Victoria Rd, Brighton. Enquiries c/o Open Cafe.

—FRIENDS HOMOSEXUAL FELLOWSHIP for Quakers. Michael Hutchinson, c/o 136 Wellington Rd, Manchester M14 6AS.

—SOCIAL WORKERS. Join Gay Social Workers Group. Robert Longley, 154 Haworth Rd, Heaton, Bradford.

—CAMBRIDGE INTEGRATION. Gay/straight integration. Tel Cambridge 64599, John.

—CHALLENGE (over 21) meets weekly. Call 01-567 5085.

—COVENTRY GAY GROUP meets fortnightly Tues 8.30pm in Rose & Crown, High Street, Coventry.

—FELLOWSHIP IN CHRIST THE LIBERATOR, c/o 61 Earls Court Sq, London SW5.

—KENT GAY INFORMATION, 160 Faversham Rd, Kennington, Ashford, Kent.

—GAY CAMBRIDGE, Bernard Greaves, 29 John St, Cambridge. Tel: Cambridge 52661.

—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.

—GAY EDUCATION GROUP meets every Mon 8.00 at 79 Alcester Rd, Moseley, Birmingham.

—GAY MARXIST GROUP meets Fri 8.00 at the Peace Centre, 18 Moor St, Ringway, B'ham.

—GAY COMMUNITY CENTRE OF SOUTH LONDON Coffee bar, books, papers and people. 7-11pm Mon-Fri, 11-11pm Sat, 2-11pm Sun. 78 Ralston Rd, London SE24 (Brixton tube). Ring 01-274 7921. Disco every Sat.

—GAY OXFORD, a new CHE group covering city and county. Ring Oxford 45301, 7-8pm each evening, or write OCHE, c/o 34, Cowley Rd, Oxford.

—HOMOSEXUALS' INTEGRATION MOVEMENT, Hulme, Manchester, regular get togethers. Ring 061-266 7981. Every weekend and every evening from 18.30-24.00.

—JEWISH GAY GROUP, write to Timothy Goldard, BM/JHG, WC1 6XX.

—LSE GAY CULTURE SOCIETY, Jeffrey Weeks, 24 Ivor St, London NW1. 01-267 0064. 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: G0rd 061-225 9779.

—NARROW GAY UNITY. Ring John or Dennis at 863 5717.

—MANCHESTER TAO contact Mr B and Mill L Stother, 167 Withington Rd, Whalley Range, Manchester 16. Meets every Sun at 7pm.

—ALCOHOL WITH SERVICES BRANCH, Gay Caucus, Contact Howard Hyman, c/o Flat 3, 108 Foxhall Road, Forest Fields, Nottingham NG7 6LH.

—REACH a nationwide homophile group of members of Christian churches. Reach, 27 Blackfriars Rd, Manchester 3.

—STAFFORDSHIRE TAO contact Ms Julia Tonner, Director TAO Europe, 51 Scrimshaw House, Pieck-Walsall, Staff.

—TRANSPORT ENTHUSIASTS GROUP. Monthly events London area. Details 01-402 8053.

—THE SUNDAY GROUP. Meets in London each Sun. Ring 278 1701 for details.

—YOUNG GAYS meet once a week around central London at the CHE Youth Group. Tel: 01-673 2703, Chris.

SWITCHBOARDS INFORMATION

Britain's First GAY SWITCHBOARD: 01-837 7324. Mon-Thurs 2-11pm. Fri 2pm right through until Sun 11pm. 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, personal, legal, psychological, religious, alcohol, family or general problems. Mon to Fri 10.30am-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. Disco every Fri at 8pm-midnight. For full programme send sa.

—ALBANY TRUST, 18 Corsica 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 556 925 Mon and Fri 7-9.30pm or write to Icebreakers, PO Box 86, Bath, BA1 2YQ.

—BRISTOL Help and Info. Send sa to Confidential Friend Service, 9 Richmond Dale, BS8 2UB.

—EDINBURGH SMG BEFRIENDERS. Tel 031-229 3527 Wed Sat & Sun only 6-9pm, or write to SMG c/o VOC, 11 St Colme St, Edinburgh EH3 6AG.

—PEOPLES CENTRE, 33 Mansfield Road, Nottingham. Tel Nottingham 411227. Help, advice and information for gays. Thurs evenings 6-8pm.

—FRIEND helps homosexual men and women who are lonely, frightened, or 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 during evenings only).

—MERSEYSIDE, Tel: 051-708 9552 7-10pm. Postal Address/callers by appointment only, 14 Colquhitt Street, Liverpool L1 4DE.

—NORTH-EAST ENGLAND

—BRADFORD, PO Box 47, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD1 5YZ.

—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 St, Birmingham 4, West Midlands. Call at Carrs Lane Counselling Centre, Birmingham, Thursdays 7-9pm.

—WALSLEY

—CARDIFF, 58 Charles Street, Cardiff. Call on Tuesdays, 7.30-9pm. Tel: Cardiff 44441 (Tues 7.30-9pm).

—EAST ANGLIA

—CAMBRIDGE, c/o 54 Mill Road, Cambridge.

—NORWICH, PO Box 11, Norwich

—GREATER LONDON & HOME COUNTIES

—LONDON, 47 Church Street, London NW8. Ring 01-402 6750. Evenings 7.30-10.00

—SOUTH-EAST ENGLAND

—CROYDON, Second floor, 53 High Street, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR4 8RW. Callers Sun 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, contact friend, write in confidence to Solent Friend, PO Box 10, Salisbury.

—SUSSEX, 9 Brunswick Square, Brighton, Sussex. Tel: Brighton 61664 Fri evenings 8-10pm.

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. Ring Birmingham (643) 0996, 12.00-19.00. c/o The Peace Centre, 18 Moor St, Ringway, Birmingham.

—FEMALE ICEBREAKERS welcome all gay women for a chat and coffee every other Fri. 01-492 5070.

—ICEBREAKERS at 274 9590, 7.30-10.30pm 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.

SCOTTISH MINORITIES GROUP

—ABERDEEN, Gregory Fenwick, Sec, 69 Park Street, or telephone Denis Wilson (0224) 20576.

—BORDERS/CARLISLE, contact Janette Husband, Sec, Carlisle Council of Soc Services, (0228) 25517 office, (0228) 21557 home.

—OUNDEE, Contact Jim Innes, SMG Dundee. c/o Castlemill House, 1 High St.

—EDINBURGH, Nigel Cook, Sec, 031-441 2050; Ian Dunn, 81 Mayfield Gardens EH9 2BU, 031-667 7473; Mike Coulson, 9 Moray Place EH3 6DS, 031-225 4395 (1-10pm).

—EDINBURGH BEFRIENDING SERVICE, 031-229 3527, 6-9pm on Wed/Sat/Sun only.

—GLASGOW WOMEN'S GROUP, Contact the National Office.

—INVERNESS, Michael, Sec, (0463) 30651.

—ST ANDREWS, telephone Juliet O'Connor (033 481) 3914.

Please note that the above private telephone numbers and addresses are liable to change without notice. In all cases of difficulty, write to the NATIONAL OFFICE, 214 Clyde St, Glasgow G1 4JZ, or telephone 041-334 5883. All communications should be addressed to 'the Secretary SMG' (an s.ae is a great help).

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, NUJ, Coleraine, Co Derry, phone Coleraine 4141 ext 319.

—DUBLIN, E Lynche (CHE); Margaret McWilliams (Sappho); Peter Bradley, Hugo McManus and Dierdra O'Mara (Trinity College Dublin Sexual Reform Movement). All these Dublin representatives may be contacted through the Students Representative Council, Trinity College, Dublin. Phone Dublin 772941.

—HOMOSEXUAL INFORMATION and befriending society can be contacted by writing to CARA, Gay Liberation Society, Students Union, Queens University Belfast.

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.

—BANGOR. Group now forming. Contact Simon Del Nevo, c/o UCNW Students Union, Delniol Rd, Bangor, Caerns, Nr Wales.

—BRADFORD, Tim Lord, 10 Victor Rd, Bradford 9. Tel Bradford 495265.

—BIRMINGHAM, 021-643 0996. Peace Centre, 18 Moore St, Queensway.

—BRISTOL GAY AWARENESS GROUP. New group forming. Contact Eddie Cherrill, 10 Fairfield Rd, Montpellier, Bristol 6.

—CHESTER LE STREET. Contact via Mike Barnes, 11 Fenwick Terrace, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne 2.

—DURHAM. Contact Sam Green, 41 The Avenue, Durham City.

—GAY WOMEN'S LIB (North London). Meets at the Crown and Woolpack, 397 St Johns St, EC1 (Angel tube), 8pm Mon.

—LANCASTER Meets Weds at 7.30 upstairs at the Farmers Arms. Contact 14 Hope St, Lancaster.

—LEEDS. Shop open Mon-Fri 12-2pm, Wed & Thur 7.30-9pm. Weekly meetings at The Coburg every Fri 8pm.

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

—NEWCASTLE. Meets every Wed at 8pm in the Golden Fleece, Marlborough Crescent.

—MANCHESTER. Meets every Wed in upstairs room, Lower Turks Head, Spade Hill, Manchester at 8pm. 061-434 2093. Gary.

—SUSSEX. Meets every Tues 8.30pm. Disco first and 3rd Fri 8-10pm, 20p, at Marlborough Hotel, Prince's Street, Brighton. Contact Secretary Doug Coupe, 40 Ashford Rd, Brighton.

—WARWICK UNIVERSITY GLF. Meets fortnightly on Tues 8pm in Rouses Hall, Univ of Warwick, Coventry or Ring Coventry 76008.

—GLF GLAD TO BE GAY badges and GLF badges, 13p post free, to 5 Caledonian Rd, N1.

—GLF BOOKSHOP at 153 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds 2.

TRANSVESTITE / TRANSEXUAL

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

—TRANSVESTITE SOCIAL GROUP. Send sa to Sam Cash, 10 Hosack Rd, London SW17.

—TRANSVESTITE/TRANSEXUAL GROUP meets every Thurs 8pm at 76 Gladsmuir Rd, 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.

—TRANSEXUAL ACTION ORGANISATION BIRMINGHAM, c/o The Peace Centre, 18 Moor St, Ringway, Birmingham.

CAMPAIGN FOR HOMOSEXUAL EQUALITY

—There are over 70 local groups. For details and membership information contact their offices at National Office, 23 Kennedy Street, Manchester M2 6BB. Tel: 061 229-1988. Or contact London Information Centre, 22 Great Windmill Street, London W1. Tel: 01-437 7363. Mon-Fri, 6-10pm and Sat 2-7pm. You can ring some groups direct at the numbers below.

—BATH, Bath 6613 (Norman) or Midsomer Norton 412488 (Angela).

—BLACK COUNTRY. Meets 10th and 25th of each month. For info call Murray, Wolverhampton 28373 or write to 3290.

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

—BOURNEMOUTH, Bournemouth 24442. Link.

—BRIGHTON. Contact Graham Wilkinson, Brighton.

—BRISTOL. Young Gays Campaign Organiser, Trevor Locke, 33 Pembroke Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 3BE.

—BRISTOL c/o Trevor Locke, 33 Pembroke Rd, Clifton, Bristol BS8 3BE.

—CAMBRIDGE. Cambridge 52961, Bernard.

—CARDIFF. Meets every Mon at 7.30 pm in Chapter Arts Centre, Market Rd, Canton, Cardiff 498195, Mike.

—CHILTERN. High Wycombe 39321, Hayden.

—CORNWALL, c/o National Office.

—COVENTRY. Meets first Thurs of every month in the Toy Museum, Mub Park St, 8pm. Info from 45 Runcorn Walk, Walsgrave, Tel Wal 4386.

—CROYDON. 01-642 3692. Richard.

—DOVER. John Bennett, 21890.

—ENFIELD. 01-888 0500. Michael.

—HASTINGS. Hastings (0424)426997, Rick.

—HERTS STM. Hatfield 69172, John.

—HARINGEY. Meets 2nd Mon on each month. Info, see to Fred Oliphant, 25 Kinver House, London N4.

—EAST LONDON. 556 9910, 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. 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. 01-352 9013, Andrew.

—LONDON YOUTH GROUP. 01-673 2703, Chris.

—MANCHESTER. 061-445 2889, Derek.

—MEDWAY (Rochester). Medway 361576, Ken or George.

—NEWPORT (Gwent). Mike Bavan, Newport 67498 or write 36, Llanthwy Rd, Newport Gwent. Meets 1st & 3rd Tues each month at the Civic Centre, room 147. Gay girls most welcome. GN on sale.

—NORTH HUMBERSIDE. Jim Somerville, 1 Harthill Ave, Leconfield, Beverley, HU17 7LN. Ring Hull 896097, Harry.

—NORTHANTS/BEDFORD, Northampton 22861 Alan; Bedford 852367 Clive.

—NORTH LONDON GROUP meets weekly. Ring 272 8523.

—NORWICH. Peter Bishop, Flat D, Oak House, Trowse, Norwich, Norfolk NOR 01W.

—NOTTINGHAM & DERBY. PO Box 87, Derby DE1 1EN enc s.ae.

—OXFORD. Meets weekly, varied programme of events. Phone Oxford 45301, 7-8pm for info.

—PRESTON. Preston 59908, Wilf.

—READING. Meets fortnightly. Contact David Phillips, 114 Hamilton Rd, Reading. Ring 85123 ext. 7677.

—SHEFFIELD PO Box 107, Sheffield S1 1EJ. Meets on 2nd and 4th Tues each month at the Friends Meeting House.

—SOUTHAMPTON. Meets every Mon. See for membership form and newsletter to David Pinar, Flat B, 56 Westwood Rd, Southampton SO2 1DP. Info Southampton 551335.

—STOKE. Stoke on Trent 25596, John or Mike.

—STREATHAM. 01-675 2886, Doug.

—STOCKPORT/MACCLESFIELD. c/o National Office.

—SOUTH DURHAM/NORTH YORKSHIRE. Bishop Auckland 3320 after 6pm. Albert.

—SURREY. Charles, Byfleet 48716, or Myrtle, Haslemere 51882, or Frank 01-399 7495.

—SOUTH DEVON. Meets fortnightly Wed 8pm in Newton Abbot. Contact National Office.

—TUNBRIDGE WELLS. Ross Burgess, 42 Napier Rd, Tunbridge Wells, 35690 evenings.

—TYNESIDE. Newcastle 87701, Jerry.

—WANDSWORTH/RICHMOND. Incorporating surrounding areas. Meetings twice monthly. Charlie Mickiewicz, 46b Chartfield Ave, SW15.

—WEST MIDLANDS (BIRMINGHAM). Meets Carrs Lane Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham, last Wed each month. Info Chris 021-355 1131.

—WINDSOR. 51062, Mike.

—WIRRAL. 051-327 5178, Jack.

—WOLVERHAMPTON. 752673, Denis.

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**TVspot for Liverpool group**

LIVERPOOL: The recently opened Friend switchboard in Liverpool has been overwhelmed with calls and the local CHE group which organises this service desperately needs to raise money to keep it running.

Granada Television is producing a feature documentary about aversion therapy, which will include shots of Friend Merseyside and the CHE group.

The CHE meeting filmed on September 5 took the form of a seminar with Dr Malcolm MacCulloch (Liverpool University), who is one of the few doctors still using aversion therapy.

The programme called 'Joe' will be screened on September 16 at 10.30pm.

To augment funds, the group is holding a fancy dress carnival at the New Bears Paw on Halloween night (October 31). The theme of the evening will be witches, wizards, elves, gnomes and, inevitably, fairies!

Judging will take place at 11pm, and there will be a disco, refreshments and novelty spots. Admission will be by ticket only, the price being 65p. These are on sale now from Liverpool members or CHE, PO Box 7, Liverpool 8.

**Row brews over teenage counsellors**

LONDON: Grapevine, an experimental group run by the Family Planning Association, is arousing considerable controversy with its latest venture.

The group is recruiting young people (from 16 upwards) to train as experts in sexual problems, and it wants 150 more volunteer workers aged between 16 and 30.

Their job will be to give advice on subjects such as birth control, venereal disease, abortion and homosexuality.

Ms Janet Evanson, Grapevine's project manager, said: "Young people with sexual problems have a horror of approaching hospitals, doctors or even their parents."

"A 16-year-old girl with a problem is more likely to discuss it with another 16-year-old than an adult."

The volunteers will be backed up by full-time Grapevine counsellors.

Ms Evanson added: "We wouldn't insist on getting a parent's permission before recruiting somebody. But if there was the slightest suggestion that the parents were anxious we would probably give them a ring and tell them what Grapevine is all about."

The average age of the 30 volunteers already working for Grapevine in North London is about 20.

**Women's group success**

BRISTOL: The Gay Women's Group set up in Bristol two months ago has been enjoying favourable local press coverage in the past weeks.

The *Evening Post* agreed to run a series of advertisements for the group, who are trying to find suitable premises for a disco.

And the *Western Daily Press* recently ran a piece under the heading "Women" which told of the group's beginnings.

Mary Rhodes and two of her friends were responsible for its emergence, and the group has now produced a list of its aims. These include relieving the isolation of gay women, providing a meeting place and social amenities, offering information, attempting to raise the consciousness of women, and raising money to provide a gay centre in Bristol eventually.

The group, which meets each Wednesday evening at 11 Waverley Road, Redland, has been extremely pleased with the local media's reaction and is looking forward to further constructive coverage by newspapers and television.

**Obscenity law talk**

HARROW: The obscenity law and its wide implications was the subject of a talk given to Harrow Gay Unity recently by David Offenbach, Labour candidate for Harrow Central.

Mr Offenbach was recently defence solicitor in the case of the gay book 'Street Boy Swinging London' and he used this recent trial at the Old Bailey as an example.

He was asked his opinion on the age of consent issue and told members that he thought 16 should be the age agreed on for everyone—whatever their sexuality.

This was the third speaker to visit HGU in the past two months and a further such meeting is being arranged later this month. Anyone who wishes to attend future meetings should phone 863 5717 for details.

**Teacher's symposium**

LONDON: A one-day symposium on homosex is being arranged by Sappho, at the African Centre, 38 King Street, WC2, on Saturday September 21.

The symposium is being held to discuss the problems of gay teachers and gay students. Lunch will be provided and a disco is being organised for the evening.

**First hearing for gay bill**

NEW ZEALAND: A Bill to legalise homosexual activity between consenting males over the age of 21 in private was recently introduced into the New Zealand House of Representatives.

The measure, promoted by Mr VS Young, was given a first reading by the House and then referred to a select committee for hearings. Several Representatives spoke against the Bill but none actually voted against it on the first hearing.

One of the Bill's strongest opponents was the late Prime Minister, Mr Norman Kirk, who suffered a heart attack and subsequently died in a Wellington hospital on August 31.

Some time before his death he told reporters that he was strongly opposed to this Bill and in fact would vote against any Bill that treated gayness as normal.

Mr Kirk, aged 51, had been a sick man for several months.

**Gay ratepayers please note**

KENT: *Action Forum*, a ratepayers' magazine which circulates to householders in the Rainham and Wigmore areas of Kent, has been showing what amounts to blatant discrimination to the CHE Medway group.

Jeff Day, local CHE convenor, arranged to run a series of advertisements in the magazine and was asked by *Action Forum* to furnish an article about the group for the August edition.

An ad was run in the July edition for CHE, but when Jeff rang the magazine to finalise details about the article, *Action Forum* informed him that they did not intend to include this in view of adverse criticism received about the advertisement, which has been subsequently dropped.

Apparently, most of the criticism came from the mag's distributors.

Since then, Jeff has written to the publication to try to get the decision reversed but has had no luck.

**Local group falters**

BOURNEMOUTH: The local group of CHE is experiencing difficult times.

At the recent annual general meeting insufficient members attended to allow business to proceed. Despite the setback a steering committee has been formed and social activities are being organised for the autumn.

Now is the time for all Bournemouth CHE members to come to the aid of the party.

Richard Thomson

**Bums away**

PLYMOUTH: You can bet your bottom new p that there were some red faces at the Plymouth *Evening Argus* recently. Because included in one of their articles was the following piece of information: "A complaint was lodged [their mistake] yesterday by sailors on board HMS Neasden, who complained that their bum ration had been cut short."

We didn't realise that our naval personnel were so adequately catered for!

**GLC man claims prejudice disappearing**

LONDON: When Dr Rundle, a GLC councillor and prospective Liberal Party candidate for Richmond, publicly endorsed the cause of homosexual equality, he received over fifty letters only one of which was critical.

He told Wandsworth and Richmond CHE that in his opinion there had been much greater sympathy for their campaign over the last year. But he warned them against the trap of considering themselves "superior" to the rest of society—a defence mechanism, he said, which oppressed minorities often used.

**NUS reviews gay rights**

SHEFFIELD: The National Union of Students has selected Sheffield University as the venue for its gay rights conference on Saturday October 26.

The one-day conference is expected to attract over 400 delegates and the NUS is hoping to have speakers from the gay liberation movements and the National Council for Civil Liberties.

Al Stewart, last year's NUS gay rights organiser and now deputy president, said: "The conference will include a report on the activities of the gay rights campaign and discussions on the social and legal problems of homosexuality."

The secretary-elect of the University's Union, Malcome Shine, said: "We were very pleased that the NUS asked us to provide facilities for this conference, and we are glad to help any student group."

**No go for gay wedding**

WASHINGTON, USA: The Court of Appeal in Washington has upheld a lower court decision refusing a marriage licence to two persons of the same sex. It stated that this ruling is in accordance with the state's laws and the nation's constitution.

**Activists get marching orders**

BRISTOL: The Revolving Committee of the CHE Activists is to be based in Bristol for the first two months of its operation.

A list of tasks has already been prepared for Activists to tackle in September, and the list has been circulated to everyone on the register.

The tasks include attending the British Medical Association conference in Bradford on 'Psycho-Sexual Problems' to lobby delegates. The conference takes place in the University from September 11-13, and includes contributions from psychiatrists, educationalists, a university chaplain, and a judge of the High Court. Dr DJ West will talk on homosexuality...

Activists have also been asked to write letters—one letter to the proprietors of the Westminister Press complaining about the refusal of many of their local papers to accept advertising from gay groups, and another to Edinburgh Council in support of the forthcoming international gay rights congress.

All Activists are expected to attend the CHE September National Council in Birmingham—a special meeting devoted to law reform and the CHE Bill—and they have also been asked to volunteer to work in the organisation's national office in Manchester to share out some of the heavy work load.

**Here, there & everywhere**

UNITED KINGDOM: We've been informed that police have been stepping up their activities at cottages in towns all over the country.

This is a warning then—be on your guard when visiting Torbay (especially the Brunswick Square loo); Glasgow (the St Vincent Street cottage, Buchanan Street bus station and the railway stations); Derby (the Markeaton Park lavatories); and Llandudno (the George Street cottage, where regular routine checks are being made by the guardians of the law).

The police have also been active in London, and we're told that officers are taking the names of people on Clapham Common at night. Apparently, they have been arriving in cars without lights and setting up traps in the bushes with car batteries and headlamps.

Heavy patrolling has been taking place at the same time on the Putney towpath. Again, the police are using cars.

Mind how you go...

**CHE/NCCL link**

SOUTHAMPTON: The local group of CHE is proposing a working link-up with the Portsmouth branch of the National Council for Civil Liberties.

Convenor David Porter told *Gay News* that Portsmouth NCCL were interested in recruiting local CHE members, and in turn the Southampton based gay group would circulate NCCL literature.

The link-up, if finally agreed, will be the first of its kind in the country, and provide an enhanced power base as well as a legal watchdog for gays throughout central southern England.

Richard Thomson

**Bristol Icebreakers will expand**

BRISTOL: After their first six months of operation, the Bristol Icebreakers group has proved the need for their service and its members are now talking about ways in which they can expand their work.

The Bristol *Evening Post*, a notable exception in the world of provincial newspaper publishing, carries a free advertisement for Icebreakers every day in its *Service column*. But the group wants to advertise further afield, reaching more people in the region outside Bristol.

The service is at present operating only two nights a week (Monday and Friday between 7.00 and 9.30). They hope that this will change, but point out that any increase in the service will depend on getting office accommodation and more volunteers. They have been given the use of an office, but it is used during the day, and their landlord has asked that all their mail should be addressed to a PO Box number.

On their one phone line they deal with around half a dozen calls a night. The majority of calls come via the advertisement in the *Evening Post*, but some are referred to them by London Icebreakers.

Bristol Icebreakers can be contacted on 0272 (Bristol) 556925 (Mondays and Fridays, 7.00-9.30pm).

**Jeffrey lives!**

LONDON: In our last issue (GN53) we said that the magazine *Jeffrey* had folded. In fact it is *Line-Up* that has folded and not *Jeffrey*, which, the publishers assure us, continues in a healthy state (or as they put it—"Check of you, *Jeffrey* lives!").

We apologize to Bluffridge, the publishers, and any *Jeffrey* readers who may have been inconvenienced by this error.

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