



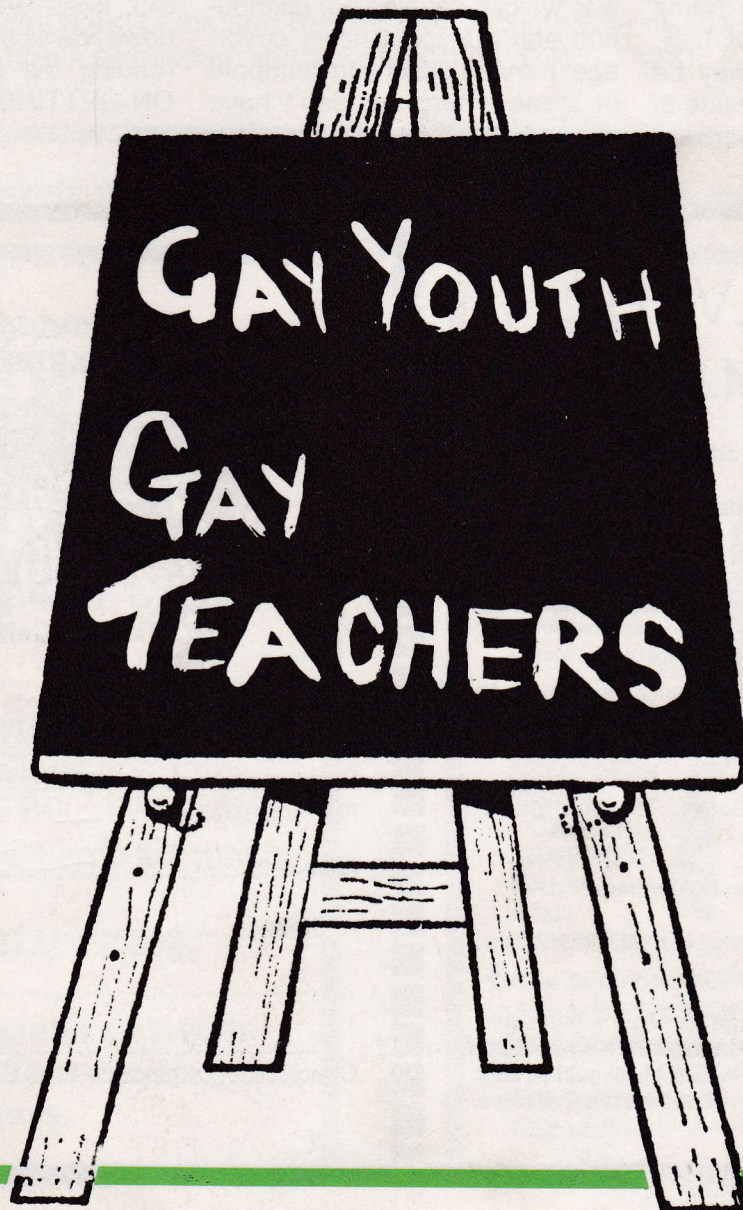
ISSUE NO. 2

JULY 1983

20p

GAY EAST MIDLANDS

SCHOOL'S OUT!



... plus

News

Reviews

Events

*AIDS
feedback*

GASP!

Well, we did say 'Get Involved'. To say that we're delighted with the response would be an understatement! In less than 2 weeks we sold out every copy of G.E.M. and still didn't meet the demand. Consequently, our print run will be increased for Issue Two - but we don't mind selling out again!

We've had feedback from all parts of the East Midlands, as well as Scotland, Brighton, Manchester, and London, to name but a few - keep it up! Obviously, some of the response may be the result of our novelty value at a time when gay newspapers are

a bit thin on the ground, but we hope that most, if not all, of our readers support what we're trying to do. (We'll find out soon enough when all these new papers start appearing in July (see News pages)).

As you'll see from our support group listings, we now have a group in Leamington Spa. We hope to see more groups spring up around the region - in that way we can develop our distribution and our local news coverage. It's very difficult to distribute in areas where we don't have supporters - there are only four

of us on the central Collective and transport's a bit of a problem. Ideally, we'd like to extend our coverage to Sheffield, Northampton, and Corby - we've already been asked to - but we need people in those areas who would be willing to help out. Remember, this whole thing is put together by four volunteers in their spare time - this ain't no gay publishing empire!

SO, keep on sending us your news, views and events, keep on reading the paper, and **KEEP ON GETTING INVOLVED!**

GET INVOLVED!... LOCAL 'G.E.M.' GROUPS

Local 'G.E.M.' support group addresses are -

Coventry - c/o Jem Bowen, Students Union, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL.

Derby - Andy Lloyd, 125 Cavendish Court, Friar Gate, Derby.

Leamington Spa - c/o The Other Branch Bookshop, 12 Gloucester St, Leamington Spa, Warwicks. Tel (0926) 28467.

Leicester - c/o Blackthorn Books, 70 High Street, Leicester.

Lincoln - c/o 'G.E.M.' Collective, Nottingham.

Nottingham - Box II, 118 Mansfield Road, Nottingham. Tel. no: Nott'm 602783.

Please contact us if you want to get involved with production or distribution of the paper. Contributions for 'Postbag', and any other items for inclusion in 'G.E.M.' should be sent to your nearest local group or direct to the central Collective in Nottingham.



12 issues £4.50 (incl. p&p)

Please send one copy of Gay East Midlands monthly to:

Name

Address

.....

Cheques/PO's payable to G.E.M. Collective.

NEWS

ACTION ON A.I.D.S.

Following a meeting in London on June 13th, a new group has been established to develop a national A.I.D.S. support/information network. **The Terrence Higgins Memorial Trust** will be co-ordinating the work of concerned gay individuals and groups such as Gay Switchboard, the Hall-Carpenter Archive, and the Gay Medical Association to provide an effective response to the A.I.D.S. crisis. Work is centred around five committees and these are -

★ The Vulcan Organisation (fundraising)

- ★ Media and information
- ★ Medical
- ★ Social Services
- ★ Financial

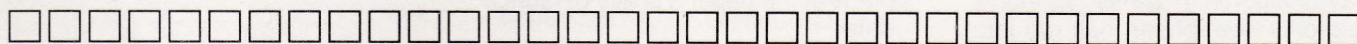
At present the Trust is seeking volunteers *with experience* in any of these areas to assist with development. An appeal for general volunteers will be made at a later date.

The Trust has applied for charitable status and is hopeful that at least some of the Gay News Fighting Fund will be allocated to them to develop their services, once it has achieved that status. In the meantime, the Hall-Carpenter Archives

has offered to establish an A.I.D.S. Information Service to allow fundraising to get underway. (The Archives is already a registered charity so there would be no problem over donations.)

Non-emergency enquiries about A.I.D.S. can now be directed to the **Vulcan Help-Line** on **01-987 7876** during office hours. Offers of assistance can be made to The Terrence Higgins Memorial Trust, 38A, Grenada House, Gill Street, LONDON E14 8AD.

SEE ALSO A.I.D.S. FEEDBACK - PAGE 6



Stoke Gay Centre to close

A 'Grand Closing Party' is to be held at the Potteries Gay Centre on July 23rd to mark the closure of the Centre. The lease on the premises, in Stoke on Trent, expires at the end of July and the Potteries Gay Community Association are now seeking new premises to house their Gay Switchboard.

'Busters' goes straight

Coventry is without gay club facilities following a decision to end Saturday 'gay nights' at Buster's Club. However, there are plans to replace it with a new club/disco, possibly based at the Polytechnic. We hope to print further details of this plan in Issue 3. Anyone wishing to support this new scheme should contact Jem Bowen at Warwick University Students Union (Tel; Coventry 417220, office hours).

THE POLICE AND CRIMINAL EVIDENCE BILL

As predicted in Issue One, the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill is to be re-introduced in Parliament in October. A number of the Bill's provisions have very serious implications for gays (see Issue One) and, given the large majority of the new Conservative government, it looks as if the Bill will be passed un-amended. We shall be most interested to hear from groups or individuals who will be campaigning against the Bill - all correspondence to our Nottingham address please.

TELEPHONE: 0253 23010

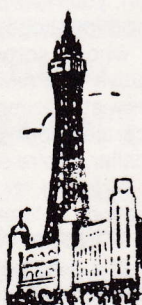
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OUTRAGE! FOR LESBIANS & GAY MEN ★ GAY ★ REPORTER CAPITAL GAY MIDLANDER THE MANCUNIAN GAY

Could it be the weather? For some reason, July will be seeing gay newspapers blooming left, right and centre. On the national scene, 'Outrage!' - a newspaper "by lesbians and gay men for lesbians and gay men" - will be the first paper to cater for both women and men since the collapse of Gay News. Features in the 40-page publication will include short stories, reviews, spoofs, satires and send-ups. 'Outrage!' will be published monthly and cost 40p.

'Gay Reporter', Denis Lemon's male-only newspaper, has run into trouble with the Campaign for

Homosexual Equality and London Friend. Both CHE and Friend have refused to talk to 'Reporter' staff because of the paper's exclusion of women's issues. In Nottingham, gay councillor Richard McCance has refused to talk to 'Gay Reporter' about his recent election to the City Council, citing the same reasons as CHE and Friend.

Whilst plans are underway to relaunch 'Gay News', at the time of going to press we had no detailed plans of the paper's policy or launch date.

Locally, 'G.E.M.' is to be joined by 'Gay Midlander' from July 1st. Pre-publication publicity states that 'GM' will cover the Midlands "from Chester to Luton, and from Gloucester to Lincoln plus parts of Wales". Cover price for this new paper will be 40p.

And finally, members of the Potteries Gay Community Association may be launching their own local paper later this year, but no further details have been finalised.



SHORTS

Prison Campaign

A campaign is under way to allow gay prisoners access to gay newspapers during their imprisonment. At present, receipt of periodicals is at the discretion of the prison Governor. The campaign aims to allow free access to gay literature should the prisoner so desire. Further details about the campaign are available from David Abdie, 13, Japan Street, Cheetham, Manchester.



National Gay Switchboard

Gay Switchboard are appealing to gay groups, pubs, clubs, and individuals throughout the country for regular updates on local gay information. The demise of Gay News has meant that many gay women and men are now contacting Switchboard for news of local events which Switchboard does not have.

As the Switchboard appeal says - "Remember, even if you are a tiny organisation, you may provide the first contact for a lonely gay person, or the first place where someone may find an alternative to cruising in the local pub. We may at this moment be giving out inaccurate information on you to some such caller. We're still here, so use us".

Information, please, to BM/Switchboard, LONDON WC1 3XX. And while you're at it, why not drop a line to your local Switchboard too.

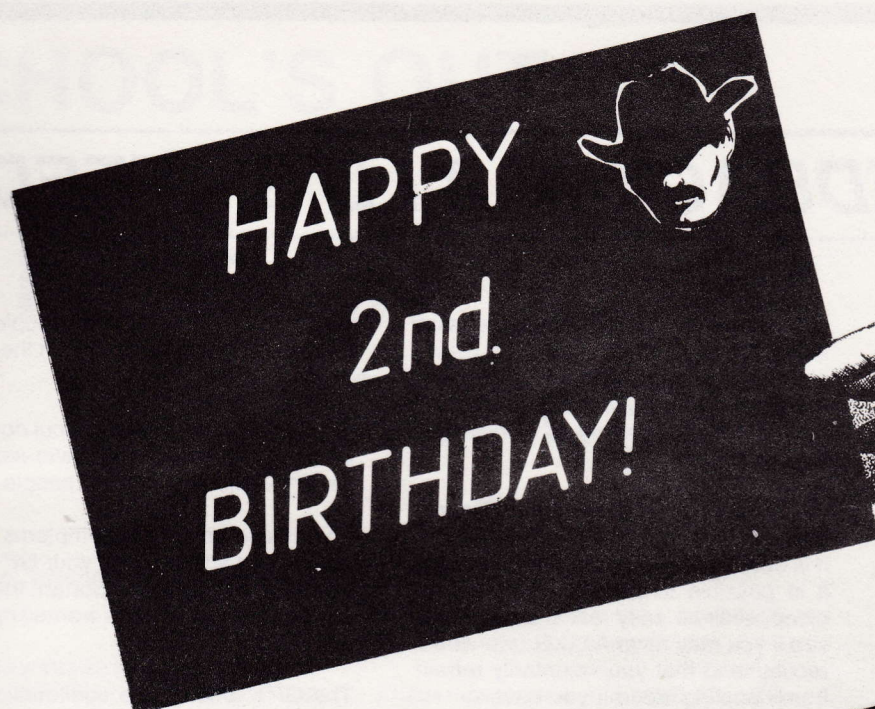
LABOUR CAMPAIGN FOR GAY RIGHTS

Working for Gay Rights Within the Labour Party and the Labour Movement. We extend our best wishes and support for the future of this new project. LCGR, c/o 21 Devonshire Promenade, Lenton, Nottingham. Tel: Nottm. 780124.

Coventry Area Gay Community Organisation

A GCO has recently been formed in Coventry aiming to "develop a vibrant new community based alternative to the conventional commercial scene". Organisers hope that this will beyond organising entertainment's sake but will include fund raising for the development of services for the gay community.

Membership is open to gay women and men living in and around Coventry. Further details from Coventry Area GCO, c/o 14 Spoon St., Coventry, CV1 3BA.



PART TWO

FROM

NOTTINGHAM.

LEICESTER.

COVENTRY.

LINCOLN

DERBY.

HEALTH

A.I.D.S. FEEDBACK • A.I.D.S. FEEDB

In Issue One we published a short article on A.I.D.S. and promised a further 'feedback' article for this issue. Below, a member of the Gay Medical Association answers some questions and offers more information on A.I.D.S. symptoms.

★ The symptoms

Weight loss - unexpected, more than 10lbs in 2 months.

Fever and Night Sweats - persisting for several weeks.

Diarrhoea - persistent, with no obvious cause.

Shortness of Breath & Dry Cough - persistent, not from smoking, and too long to be flu.

Skin disease - New painless, flat or raised pink to purple blotches, hard texture, getting bigger. Like bruises that won't go away.

Swollen Glands - especially in the neck and armpits.

★ Can A.I.D.S. be transmitted through oral sex?

Yes. It would seem that, assuming some 'transmissible agent' (e.g. virus, bacterium), it is possible to get or pass on the syndrome whenever the 'infected' person puts his semen or blood

into or onto his partner's mucosa (skin lining the anus and mouth). It would seem a useful attempt at precaution, therefore, to try to keep these skin linings intact - use plenty of lubricant or even a sheath!

★ Should gay men stop giving blood?

It is debatable at present whether or not it is possible to pass it on by giving blood. Until an easy test is available to see if you may have A.I.D.S., we would recommend that you voluntarily refrain from donating blood if you have -

a) Had sex with people you did not know to be in good health, in the last 2 years

b) Had sex with people who have been in North America in the last 2 years

c) Used intravenous (i.e. injection) recreational drugs

d) Had any period of ill-health in the last 2 years, without obvious cause

e) Any doubt about the issues involved

★ How can A.I.D.S. best be avoided?

Reduce the number of different people with whom you have sex to those you know to be in good health.

Avoid sexual contact with people who have been in North America in the last 2 years.

We do not suggest that you cut down on sex, but that you should have sex with fewer people and *healthy* people.

If you have any of the symptoms listed above, you should go to your GP if you trust her/him (as it is important that you say you are gay and are worried specifically about A.I.D.S.).

The GP's records are confidential and cannot be discussed with non-medical people without your written permission.

Otherwise, go to your Special/V.D./Genito-Urinary Clinic. DON'T go to Casualty if you can avoid it. If in difficulty, ring London Gay Switchboard (01 837 7324).

Treatment - This varies with the infection or cancer. It may be difficult or prolonged *but not necessarily impossible*.

Our thanks to the Gay Medical Association for their help with this article.

ACK • A.I.D.S. FEEDBACK • A.I.D.S.

National Gay Switchboard Conference

More than 500 people packed the Conway Hall in London on May 21st to hear the latest information on the A.I.D.S. crisis. The four main speakers were Drs Ian Weller and Tom McManus, who spoke about the medical aspects of A.I.D.S., Mel Rosen, from Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York, who described the work of GMHC and praised the gay community for pulling together to tackle the A.I.D.S. issue, and Martyn Butler, who spoke of the newly formed Terrence Higgins Memorial Trust

and it's plans for tackling the A.I.D.S. issue in this country.

Clearly, from the numbers attending the meeting, and the number of A.I.D.S. related calls Switchboard had received, concern is mounting. Given the limited resources available to Switchboard, it was felt that the development of a Switchboard A.I.D.S. Hotline would detract from the other work the organisation does and would also seriously overstretch them.

Consequently, attention seems to be focusing on the development of the Terrence Higgins Memorial Trust as a co-ordinating body for action on A.I.D.S. (See news page). Whilst Switchboard will still deal with calls on A.I.D.S. it is clear that the Terry Higgins Trust will take an increasing role in dealing with the issue. Individuals seeking advice or information on A.I.D.S., therefore, are advised to contact either the Vulcan Helpline (01 987 7876 Office hours) or Gay Switchboard (01 837 7324 24hrs).

FEEDBACK • A.I.D.S. FEEDBACK •

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10th BIRTHDAY BONANZA

WEST SIDE STORY

Book by Arthur Laurents. Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim.
Music by Leonard Bernstein. Original choreography by Jerome Robbins
From 24 November Preview
(Press Night: 29th)

**GALA BIRTHDAY
PERFORMANCE**
25 November

LIVE ON STAGE

Grease

by
Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey
21 July to 20 August
The show that makes life look
fun again.

ROOKERY NOOK
by Ben Travers
28 September-22 October
A classic evening of belly
laughs

**WINNIE
THE
POOH**
by A.A. Milne
Adapted for stage
by Julian Slade
A treat for the young
at heart
From 3 December (at 1.30pm)

Ballet Rambert
28 February-3 March
An exciting return visit from the
ever-popular Ballet Rambert

Having a Ball
by Alan Bleasdale
24 August-17 September
Hilarious romp in a vasectomy clinic

**LONDON
CONTEMPORARY
DANCE THEATRE**
20 September-24 September

GHOSTS
by Henrik Ibsen. Translated by Michael Meyer
26 October-19 November
Ibsen's attack on the spiritual hypocrisy of Victorian values.

Haymarket Studio Theatre

★ **A LESSON FROM ALOES** ★
by Athol Fugard 8 September to 1 October
A dramatic and deeply moving play

★ **A LITTLE LIKE DROWNING** ★
by Anthony Minghella 1 October to 3 November
A moving and enriching experience

★ **TOP GIRLS** ★
by Caryl Churchill 10 November to 3 December
Highly acclaimed in London and New York
Funny and moving—there's never a dull moment

★ **TARA ARTS GROUP** ★
6 December to 10 December A new play about Asians in Britain

★ **'WHILE LONDON SLEEPS'** ★
15 December to 1 January
An entertainment devised by Roy Hudd

★ **DICKENS FOR CHRISTMAS** ★
20, 21, 22 December (at 2.00pm)
Professor Philip Collins returns by popular demand

*OFFERS APPLY TO SEASON TICKETS ONLY

THE HAYMARKET THEATRE, BELGRAVE GATE, LEICESTER

BOX OFFICE (0533) 539797

CREDIT CARDS ON 21058

gay info gay info gay info gay info gay in

BOSTON

GROUP: CHE, write PO Box 4, Boston, Lincs. PE21 6AA or tel. Syd (0205) 66425.

COVENTRY

DISCO: Women's disco 2nd & 4th Weds, Rose and Crown pub.

GROUPS: Beards Meeting Beards: exclusively bearded gays. M'ship info Bryan (BMB), 4 Radcliffe Rd, Earlsdon, Coventry (SAE).

CHE, write Mike Foxwell, c/o 14 Spon St, Coventry, or tel 714144.

Coventry Area Gay Community Organisation - write c/o 14 Spon St, Coventry, CV1 3BA.

Gay Christian Movement meets 10th of each month. Info, m'ship, advice, tel Phil, Coventry 552300 (evgs 6-7 only).

Gay Humanist Group, contact Roy/George tel Kenilworth 58450.

Mercia Gay Youth Group (gay/bisexual under 25) meets 1st & 3rd Mons 8pm Rose and Crown, plus occasional meetings Lanchester Poly and Warwick Univ. Gaysocs. Contact Shane or Mick via Friend.

Swimming group meets weekly. Contact Richard or Julian via Friend.

Warwick University Gaysoc. Contact Jem Bowen, c/o Students' Union, tel Coventry 417220.

Women's Group meets weekly; contact Pat via Friend.

INFO/COUNSELLING: Coventry Friend, tel 25991 Tues, Wed & Fri evgs 7-10pm (Tues staffed by women).

PUBS: Rose & Crown, High St, Disco bar at rear of pub.

Waters Wine Bar, Broadgate (Glass & Candle Room). Closed Suns. Mixed.

VD Treatment: Coventry & Warwickshire Hospital, Stoney Stanton Road, Coventry, tel 24055 ext 242/3.

DERBY

CLUB: Pavilion, 123 London Road, Shardlow (7 miles). Sats only, 8-11pm. Tel. Derby 792581.

GROUPS: Derby Gay Group, social meetings weekly. Tel Jeff, Derby 664234 Thurs evgs.

Gay Christian Movement meets 3rd Fri in month, alternately in Derby and Nottingham. Tel Charles, Derby 833294.

Gay Fellowship meets Sun afternoons. Tel Ken, 364771.

Gay Youth Group (under 26) meets alternate Suns 125 Cavendish Court, Friar Gate, Derby, 4pm (or contact via Derby Friend).

Spotlight 4.3.3. National gay soccer group for players and supporters. Info/m'ship forms from Anthony, 68 Cavendish Court, Cavendish St, Derby, tel 361639.

INFO/COUNSELLING: Derby Friend tel 371725 Wed 7-10 pm or write Derby Friend c/o CVS, Kings Chambers, Queen St, Derby.

PUBS: Green Lane Gallery Wine Bar, 130 Green Lane, closed Mon; Weds women's night. Tel 368652.

Wagon & Horses, Ashbourne Rd. Lounge Bar Sat-Wed evgs only. Mixed.

VD Treatment: Derbyshire Royal Infirmary, Dept of Genito-Urinary Medicine, London Rd, Derby, tel 47141 ext 504, 2579, 2577.

GAINSBOROUGH

PUB: Tiger Inn, Lord St. Mixed.

LEICESTER

CLUB: Spots, St James St (off Humberstone Gate). Mon-Sat 9-2am, Suns 9-12. Tel 50785 for details of membership and admission prices.

DISCOS: Lorna's Disco, Dover Castle, Wed/Fri/Sat/Sun.

Three Cranes Hotel, nightly disco with light show and videos.

Womens Disco Nags Head & Star, Oxford St, alternate Fris 9pm-1am (back room - use side entrance). Tel Hinckley 617583 for details.

GROUPS: East Mercia MSC, Leather/denim Club. Phone Mike or Tony on Leicester 734331. Men only.

Gay Youth Group (14-21) - social support group, meets every Tues. For contact ring Gayline (esp. Weds - ask for Gareth).

Leicester Gay Group meets last Fri of month, Friends' Meeting House, Queens Road, 8pm & different weekly venues. Varied social programme. Tel Arthur, 432430.

Leicester Poly Gaysoc - tel Gayline for info.

Leicester University Gaysoc - meets Tues (term time) Meeting Room 1, Percy Gee Building, 1.30pm.

Lesbian Group - support/discussion group meets alternate Fris. For details tel Hinckley 617583 or Gayline.

INFO & FRIENDSHIP: Leicester Gayline-Friend, tel 826299 Mon-Fri evgs, 7.30-10.30pm (24 hr answering machine).

PUBS: Dover Castle, 34 Dover St. Disco (see above). Men and women, almost exclusively gay.

Three Cranes Hotel, 84 Humberstone Gate. Tel: 24666. Gay hotel with beer garden. Disco (see above). Gay women and men welcome.

VD Treatment: Leicester Royal Infirmary, Dept of Genito-Urinary Medicine, Infirmary Close, Leicester. Tel 541414 ext 5208.

LINCOLN

DISCO: Gay Group Disco alternate Sats, upstairs at Golden Eagle, High St, 8-12pm.

GROUPS: Lincoln Gay Group /CHE meets 1st & 3rd Tues each month, 8pm, Golden Eagle. Tel John Ockenden, Metheringham 20851 or write CHE, PO Box 12, Lincoln, LN5 7PE.

Lincoln Women's Group meets 3rd Fri each month. Tel Val, 41591, or Karen/Caroline, 40901.

INFO: Lincoln Gay Switchboard tel 22458 Wed 6-10pm & Sun 4.30-6.30pm or write PO Box 12, Lincoln LN5 7PE.

COVENTRY FRIEND

*Counselling
and
information
service*

Tel: Coventry 25991 Tues,
Weds & Fri, 7-10pm.



DERBY FRIEND

c/o CVS, Kings Chambers,
Queen Street, Derby
Tel: Derby 371725
Wednesdays 7-10pm



LEICESTER GAYLINE

TEL: Leicester 826299
7.30-10.30 Mon-Fri

NATIONAL GAY SWITCHBOARD

to gay info gay info gay info gay info gay

VD Treatment: Lincoln County Hospital, Dept of Genito-Urinary Medicine, Sewell Road, Lincoln LN2 5QY. Tel 29921 ext 378/317, or direct line 37723.

LOUTH

PUB: Woodman Inn, Eastgate. Mixed.

MANSFIELD

DISCO: The White Hart, Church St, upstairs lounge/disco room. Thurs-Sun evgs. No membership, entrance free. Tel 23607.

GROUP: Gay Christian Movement - new group, hopes to meet regularly each month. Tel Phil, Mansfield 555388.

VD Treatment: Mansfield & District General Hospital (Special Treatment Centre), West Hill Drive. Tel 22515 ext 442.

NOTTINGHAM

CLUB: Part Two, Robert House, 5-13 Canal St, Disco/Bars/Restaurant, open Tues-Sat, 9.30-3am. Tues-Thurs members free, guests £2, Fri-Sat members £1.50, guests £2.50. Tel Nottingham 558866.

COUNSELLING: Nottingham Friend tel 476714 Tues evgs 7-10pm or write c/o CVS, 31a Mansfield Rd, Nottingham.

DISCO: Women's Disco, Hearty Good Fellow, Maid Marian Way (upstairs), Tues 8-11pm, 40p, also alternate Sats (late bar) 50p.

GROUPS: Bisexual Women's Group meets fortnightly. Tel Friend as above for info.

CHE (campaigning only) - write c/o CVS, 31a Mansfield Rd, Nottingham NG1 3FF, or tel Mike 55196 or Andrew 598471.

Gay Christian Movement meets 3rd Fri of month alternately in Nottingham and Derby. Tel Charles, Derby 833294.

Gay Welfare Workers Midlands Group. Tel Richard McCance, Nottm 780124, or send SAE c/o 21 Devonshire Promenade, Lenton, Nottm.

Labour Campaign for Gay Rights. Contact Chris Richardson, 21 Devonshire Promenade, Lenton, Nottm, tel 780124.

Lesbian Group meets Weds 8pm. Tel Lesbian Line (see below) for details.

Lesbian Mothers Midlands Group, contact Val via Friend (see above).

Nottingham Gay Social Group (NOGSOG) meets 2/3 times weekly. Write c/o CVS, 31A Mansfield Rd, Nottm, or tel Peter 861521, Tim 602894, David 216447 or via Gay Switchboard.

Nottingham University Gaysoc: c/o Students' Union, Portland Building, Univ of Nottm, NG7 2RD. Meets fortnightly Weds in NSQR term time. Tel 50421 Mons 8pm-12 for info.

Trent Poly Gaysoc meets Thurs Evg at the Dragon. Tel Gay Switchboard for info.

INFO: Lesbian Line tel 410652 Mon 7.30-9pm.

Nottingham Gay Switchboard: tel 476714, Mon, Wed & Thurs, 7-10pm for confidential help and advice for gay and bisexual people.

PUBS: Central Tavern, Huntingdon St (near Palais de Dance), Lounge bar, mixed.

The Dragon, Long Row (opp. Central Library), Alley Bar, mixed.

The Foresters, behind Victoria centre, mainly Women.

Hearty Good Fellow, Maid Marian Way, downstairs bar exclusively gay, opens 8pm, mainly men.

VD Treatment: General Hospital, Perth House, Postern St, Nottm, tel 45989.

RETTFORD

INFO: via Lincoln Gay Switchboard (see under Lincoln)

WORKSOP

INFO: via Lincoln Gay Switchboard (see under Lincoln).

MIDLANDS ORGANISATIONS

FLAGS (Federation of Lesbian and Gay Students): Write Jem Bowen, c/o Students' Union, University of Warwick, Coventry.

Gay Welfare Workers' Group: Richard McCance, 21 Devonshire Promenade, Lenton, Nottingham (SAE), tel Nottm 780124. Meets 3rd Sat every month.

QUEST (Catholic Gay Group): Info from Tony, Nottm 419137, w/days 6-7pm, or Wally 812741.

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

A.I.D.S. Special Clinic, Praed St, London W1, tel 01-998 1742 ext 666 (serious personal enquiries only).

CHE (Campaign for Homosexual Equality), 274 Upper St, London N1 2UA. Tel 01-359 3973.

London Gay Switchboard, London WC1N 3XX, tel 01-837 7324. Open 24 hours a day for national and international gay information, help and advice.

Gay Youth Movement: Write BM GYM, London WC1N 3XX.

NCCL (National Council for Civil Liberties), 21 Tabard St, Borough, London SE1, tel 01-403 3888 (office hours).

Sequel (publication for isolated gay women): write BM Sequel, London WC1N 3XX.

Terence Higgins Memorial Trust, 38a Grenada House, Gill St, London E14 8AD, tel 01-987 7876 (office hours).

NOTTINGHAM FRIEND

Counselling and Befriending service for gay women and men.

Tel: Nottingham 476714
Tuesdays, 7-10pm or write
c/o 31A Mansfield Road,
Nottingham.

LINCOLN GAY SWITCHBOARD

welcomes enquiries for help or information on LINCOLN 22458, Wednesdays 6-10pm or Sundays 4.30-6.30pm

NOTTINGHAM GAY SWITCHBOARD

Tel: Nottingham 476714
Mondays, Wednesdays,
Thursdays 7-10pm.
or write c/o
31a Mansfield Rd.,
Nottingham

ARD 01-837 7324 24 HOURS

SCHOOL'S OUT



Pink Triangles

*Oh so lonely some of us feel,
locked among shadows,
never escaping.
Meetings and marches,
we try so hard.
A minority,
fighting for a place in society
where all was against us from the start.
Small buildings hidden away,
where we're together, all of us the same,
and yet each one of us so different.
Individuals,
lying enclosed in this world of insecurity.
One of us,
feeling the pain of her whole body
as it aches for the love of another woman.
Small amounts of hatred is often enclosed inside us
for the ones that mock us so.
Are we really much different?
But still we survive, even in death.
Living alongside a society not communicating with our own.
Self-confidence leaks from our eyes,
and the air falls apart around us.
As the body descends deep into the baths of loneliness,
we wonder,
will it ever be possible to love in the daylight?*

Louise (16)

GAY YOUTH



The traumas of coming out as gay in a straight society will be well known to gay women and men everywhere. When family, friends, and workmates talk of 'queers' and 'benders' it is little wonder that many gay people feel isolated - sometimes until they discover 'the scene', but often for much longer if they don't make contact with other gays.

For young gays the problems can be compounded by their very position in society. In this article we hope to look at some of the difficulties facing young people and offer some pointers to resolving at least some of them.

SCHOOL

For those gays below the school leaving age, or those doing higher education, school can be a particularly oppressive experience. The school curriculum, for example, often puts much emphasis on 'boy's subjects' and 'girls subjects'. Boys engage in 'tough' sports like football and rugby and are encouraged to do well in the more technical subjects such as physics, woodwork, technical drawing and so on. Girls follow more passive pursuits like tennis and domestic science. The 'masculine' and 'feminine' characteristics, then, are laid down early in life. Boys are to be moulded one way and girls another.

'Normal', 'natural' sex rears it's heterosexual head during the sex education classes. Most schools have face a battle to have heterosexual sex education put on their curriculum, few are prepared to risk the fury of their governors and councillors by including gay sexuality, particularly as a

positive option to heterosexuality. So, for gay kids, the message is 'straight is good', gay sex is not to be talked about.

THE FAMILY

For most people the family is a heterosexual unit which brings up it offspring as heterosexual. Parental reaction to a daughter or son coming out can range from disappointment but tolerance in the more liberal households, to shame, anger, and even expulsion in others. Admittedly, a lot of anger is based on the confusion and fear of something that parents themselves do not understand, but it is the gay daughter or son who has to bear the brunt. To many gay people, the parental response "Where did we go wrong" will be familiar.

For young gays who choose not to tell their parents, there is the problem of seeing and spending time with lovers without being discovered. Obviously, bringing them home for tea is out of the question and, for most your people, parents will often want them home by certain time at night. If the parents do find out, them strict limits on social life may be imposed and letters and phone calls may be monitored. This serves only to increase the isolation of the young gay person.

THE MASS MEDIA

Unfortunately, like most people, young gays often pick up their ideas about gayness from the stereotypes they see on TV and in the papers. There are no other, more positive images available. Little wonder, then, that young gays get depressed because they feel they're turning into a Lar-

ry Grayson. The wide diversity of gay lifestyles is rarely, if ever, adequately portrayed through the media.

CONTACTING GAY GROUPS

The problems listed above are but a few of those faced by young gays. Additional problems include the legal position, particularly for young gay men, and what to tell school friends about your 'date'. Help is available in many areas through groups like Gay Switchboards and often through Gay Youth Groups but their existence is often unknown to young people. As a member of the Leicester Youth Group told us "Unless you're on the gay scene you don't know how to contact the agencies. There isn't enough publicity for organisations in places like schools and libraries".

Within the East Midlands there are three Gay Youth Groups - Leicester, Derby, and Coventry area. Other towns don't have such groups but this doesn't mean that there's no demand. A member of Lincoln Gay Switchboard told G.E.M. "There's quite a demand for a Youth Group in Lincoln. There's no real social life for young gays here. Most young people move out as soon as they can so it makes starting up a group quite difficult, but it would be nice to see something get off the ground."

'G.E.M.' is keen to see the development of new and existing Youth Groups and, to this end, we suggest that anyone interested in setting up groups in their area, contact us at our Nottingham address. We will gladly act as a clearing house and will publicise new groups which are set up. For existing groups please see listings pages and Diary.

SCHOOL'S OUT

LESBIAN TEACHERS

A lesbian teacher talks about her work

In my three years as a teacher I've found that being 'a lesbian in the School' has been a problem in my relationships with both staff and pupils - but in such different ways that I'll have to separate the two to explain it properly.

When I first started teaching I was on 'supply' at a tough council estate school. I was inexperienced, I wasn't teaching my own subject - and I soon found I had problems. The staff hierarchy was mainly male and I was often sitting in the staff room with them. After the initial 'sorting out' discussions the inevitable old chat started to come up - boyfriends flirting wind up. How could I deal with it? I was already feeling vulnerable so I wasn't prepared to make myself more so, but at the same time I didn't want to deny my sexuality. It soon became apparent to my associates that I was 'involved', but I never referred to my lover's sex — 'She' was always 'They'

The women members of staff (apart from one) all seemed to have a totally different approach to life. Husbands, babies, boyfriends, cars and school - I found very little support there. I may even have seemed a threat to them: if I didn't have all those things they saw as being important, I might take theirs!

Later on I worked at a girls' school in the City where the majority of the teachers were women, and here I settled in more easily. There was little sexual harassment or flirtation and I was able to relate well to some of the women. Although I never told anyone I was a lesbian I felt quite comfortable working with women whose attitudes were generally 'alternative', and in many ways my sexuality seemed irrelevant. I decided that I wanted to build up a relationship with my colleagues before I gave them a reason to reject me on sexuality alone; and these friendships were strengthened

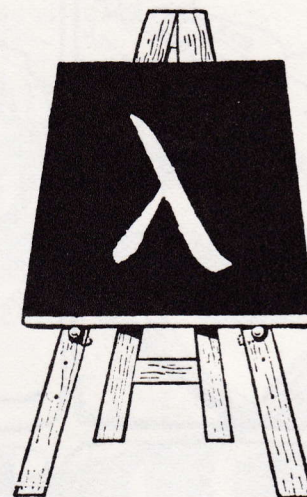
further when, after a time, my supply post was made permanent.

I have now 'come out' to all the other teachers in my department, although it's been a gradual process - evenings out on a one-to-one basis or at the socials we have fairly often. They all met my lover at functions and were friendly towards us. I am now beginning to realise that the rest of the staff would probably still relate to me the way they do at present if I 'came out' to them as well. I am the 'radical non-nuclear feminist' type and they relate to me with that understanding. I would probably have less fun made of me if they knew I was a lesbian - it would give me an excuse for my politics (.... "She is completely crazy!")

Within the confines of the classroom my sexuality shows in a few ways which have caused pupils to query my 'straightness', but these quests for reassurance that I'm 'normal' are never strongly pursued - after all, they *like* me, so I *couldn't* be (!).

'Sightings' out of school have been the main cause of interest, however, and a few lads have striven to make me confirm or deny 'allegations'. I've never found their questions threatening, although they have been personal and may have been intended to intimidate. I think I've found strength in the knowledge that in my head and in my stomach I'm completely happy to be a lesbian and not in the least bit guilty or ashamed of it.

I actually wouldn't mind the kids knowing it, but in the school situation I am not yet prepared to face the Head or the trouble that could be entailed with confirming their suspicions. Equally I am not prepared to deny my sexuality and lie. I answer most questions with another question or an open-ended statement: "Would it bother you if I was?" "What's wrong with gays anyways?" "Would it make me a child-molester?"



I continually question the use of the homosexual insult and always use the more positive words 'Gay' and 'Lesbian'. I feel that the less of a taboo it is to discuss 'these things' the less frightening and mystifying it becomes. It's surprising how many kids can't actually say the word 'lesbian' - it has to be 'lezzie' or 'les'. But it isn't just a one-way process, this breaking down of the taboo; for every time I help, in however small a way, to get the kids thinking positively about the concept of gay sexuality I'm helping myself, too, to come to terms with it.

Sue

● The **Gay Teachers' Group** exists as a support group and a forum for the exchange of ideas. Nearest contact is c/o Kevin Dunn, Merseyside Friend, 14 Colquitt St, Liverpool, Tel: 051-708 9552, 7-10pm.

MIDLANDS GAY WELFARE WORKERS

(c/o 21 Devonshire Promenade,
Lenton, Nottingham.

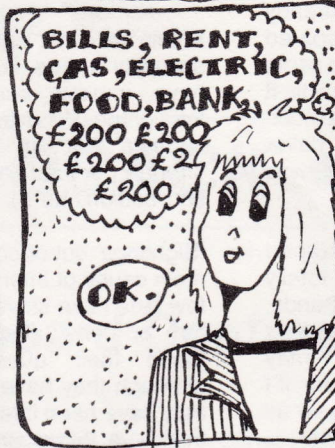
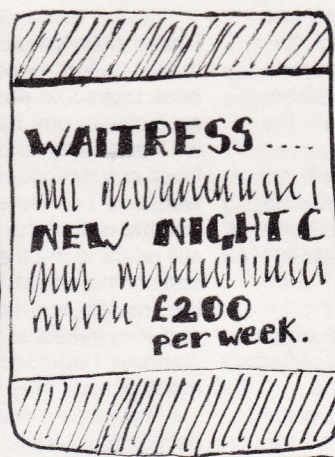
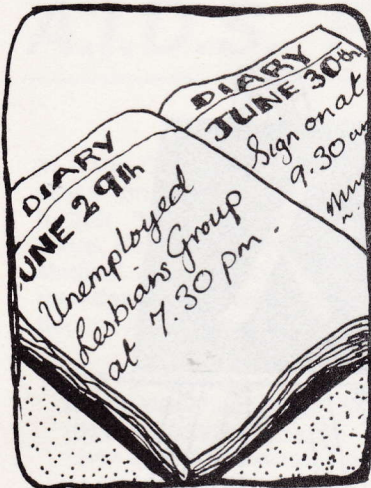
wish

**Gay East Midlands
every success for the
future and look
forward to many more
issues of 'G.E.M.'**

DYKES

ABOUT TOWN

by Cathy White



REVIEW



Film: The Evil Dead

The Evil Dead is currently showing at most major cinemas in the region and was also released simultaneously on videocassette.

The first thing to remember on entering the cinema is not to purchase one of those awful greasy hot dogs that the staff seem determined to inflict on you. If you should be foolish enough to ignore this warning, the chances are that after 45 minutes of this film you'll be seeing it again, on the front of your brand new Geogia Armani pullover. **The Evil Dead** is a very gory film and heavy breakfasts are not recommended.

Directed by newcomer Sam Ranie when he was just 19 years old, and on a budget of something like £2.50, it tells the story of a group of youngsters who accidentally disturb the 'Spirit of the Evil Dead' whilst on vacation in a lonely forest cabin. That's about as far as the plot goes, as from then on the make-up artists and special effects men take over in a competition to see who can create the most bizarre and disgusting deaths. Actually, after the first half of the film these scenes become quite amusing as the whole thing goes into total overkill.

The lack of budget obviously didn't affect Ranie's imagination - there's some lovely camera work greatly inspired, I would imagine, by Dario Argento, the Italian director of cult horror films like *Suspira* and *Inferno*.

The Evil Dead is highly recommended to anyone who likes being scared out of their wits (with the occasional giggle). But remember the golden rule - no food first.

Return of the Jedi

The best reason for seeing **Revenge of the Jedi** in my opinion is Harrison Ford, who unfortunately keeps his clothes on throughout the entire film. This aside, the third of the *Star Wars* series is just a little bit boring. The usual array of brilliant special effects is there but you get the feeling that you've seen it all before. There seems to have been an effort made to develop the characters of Luke Skywalker and the rest, but at the expense, I felt, of the good humour of the previous films.

The thing that really upsets me is that the whole fantasy genre in the Movies seems to be dying before any serious science fiction novels like *Stranger in a Strange Land* or *Childhood's End* have been transferred to film. Although production has started on a film version of Frank Her-

bert's wonderful **Dune** book, starring of all people Sting from the Police. Meanwhile we'll have to make do with Princess Leila and those two obnoxious robots squalking on and on for another six movies. Can we cope?

'La Mitz'

'Gays and Film'

Last Sunday (19th June) was a glorious day in Nottingham and I don't blame anyone for taking full advantage of the good weather. If you were out sunning yourself, however, you missed a rare treat in the form of a fascinating evening at the Midland Group with Richard Dyer, author of 'Gays and Film'. Richard's theme was 'Gay Stereotypes' - the clone, the butch dyke, the effeminate queen, etc - we all recognise them and often laugh at these images so beloved by the media. But are these stereotypical identities to be completely written-off as ridiculous? If we, as gays, feel a need to be 'visible', to shake off the outward appearance of 'heterosexuality' that is automatically perceived by others, do we perhaps need to alter our behaviour, even ever-so-slightly, away from the rigid 'norms' of masculinity and femininity?

Two films were shown during the evening - 'A Comedy in Six Unnatural Acts', a hilariously funny collection of sketches depicting Lesbian stereotypes, and illustrating beautifully how the use of humour can bring out important truths very powerfully; and 'Greetings from Washington D.C.', a documentary account of the American National Gay Pride March 1981.

I'll admit the sunshine was very tempting, but I'm glad I was one of the few people to go to this stimulating event. It's not often we get the chance to see films about gays and gay culture, and when we do it's usually down to the enthusiasm of one or two people who take a considerable financial risk in organising these events. The moral is obvious: watch the Events Diary and support what's going on - otherwise these just won't be any Events to put in it.

Dave Pitt

Music

On most nights at any of the regions's gay discos you may become aware of the growing number of 're-vamped' oldies being put to a disco beat, e.g. Boystown Gang, Menarge, American Fade, Forrest etc. The revival of long-forgotten songs seems to be the 'in' thing at the moment. Is the reason for this the lack of good original material or is it that someone has realised many gay people have a penchant for nostalgia, and therefore any re-working of an original by, say, Dusty Springfield has a good chance of becoming a huge hit? When you've figured it out let me know!

The last month has been a particularly good one for new releases from America, Canada and even the good old UK. By far the best is the long-awaited third album from **Lime** called - get this for originality - **Lime III**. This looks set to be just as popular as the last two albums, with two outstanding tracks, **Guilty** and **On the Grid**, rapidly climbing the gay disco charts. Other records to look out for are **Love School** by Susan Stevens, **The Loving Dub** by the Twins and **Man Hungry** by Maxine Dee. After the success of our last prediction - **Searching** by Hazell Dean - Take Note.

Have a nice day,
'Queenie'

'Part Two' Playlist

- 1) MIQUEL BROWN - So Many Men, So Little Time (UK 12 inch)
- 2) MENAGE - Memory (Canadian 12 inch)
- 3) IRENE CARA - Flash Dance (US 12 inch)
- 4) HAZELL DEAN - Searching (UK 12 inch)
- 5) VERA - Baby Won't You Dance With Me (Canadian 12 inch)
- 6) LIME - Guilty/On The Grid (Canadian LP)
- 7) JULIUS BROWN - Party (US 12 inch)
- 8) BOOKER NEWBURY III - Love Town (UK 12 inch)
- 9) MICHAEL JACKSON - Wanna Be Startin' Something (UK 12 inch)
- 10) BOYSTOWN GANG - Just Can't Help Believing (Canadian 12 inch)

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REVIEW



PART TWO

When this Issue of G.E.M. hits the streets, Nottingham's Part Two Club will be exactly two years old - and the celebrations planned for Saturday 2nd July should mark the occasion in a big way.

For those of you who revel in statistical superlatives Part Two has no shortage of them: it's the biggest gay club outside London, it's rated "among the top three" gay clubs in the country, and it's "the most successful provincial gay club" (according to a certain Mr R. Smith who is, of course, impartial!).

Part Two is housed in the lower two floors of a deceptively sober-looking building in Canal Street - with its Portland Stone and iron-framed windows you'd expect it to house the Prudential Insurance or the BBC - and has become familiar territory for gay people from miles around. Downstairs is distinctly "hi-tech", with a sound and lighting system which I can only describe as providing a "total environment" - very exciting if you're in the mood. There's also a long bar, a video screen and various odd areas on the sidelines from where you can watch what's going on.

If it's all too much for you - well, there's always the upstairs area, with a separate bar and comfortable furniture, which is a good place for a drink and a chat. At the far end you can buy snacks or play pool - there are two tables and I'm told more games machines are on the way.


I asked Ross Smith, club licensee and one of the directors, if the club's image and environment didn't inevitably favour the younger generation of gay people, perhaps at the expense of older people. He told me that the average age of customers is about 28, which seems to disprove my impressions. I was also interested to know if the Club is now permanently closed on Sundays, and Ross thought it unlikely that he'd be able to re-open, much as he'd like to, because of the very literal interpretation of the licensing laws apparently adopted by the local authorities.

Sunday closing hasn't helped to quell the rumours that crop up from time to time about Part Two's future - rumours which were totally refuted by Ross. "We've got a healthy future ahead of us - and we're looking a long way into it", he said.

Part Two is open Tues-Sat evenings, 9.30pm-3am. Membership is available to Gay people over the age of 18, and costs £10 per year. Admission is free to members Tues-Thurs; on Fridays and Saturdays members pay £1.50, guests

£2.50. On Tuesday nights the upstairs bar is normally closed, but Ross would be keen to make the area available to groups for meetings and functions on that night - all enquiries to Part Two Club, Robert House, 5-13 Canal St., Nottingham, tel: 558866.

Dave Pitt



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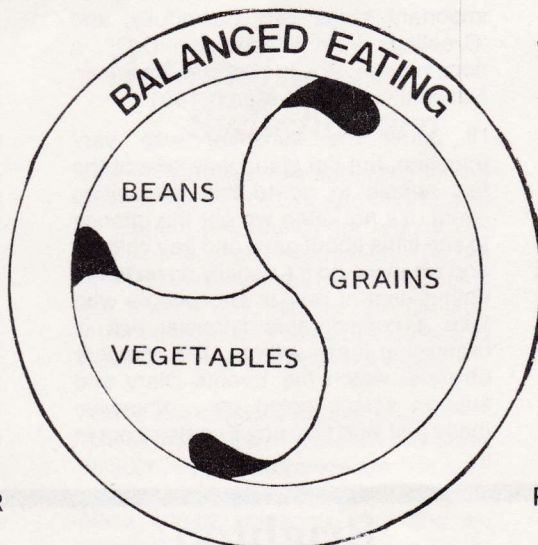
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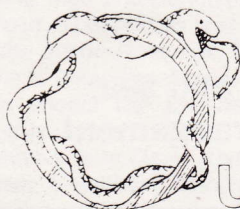
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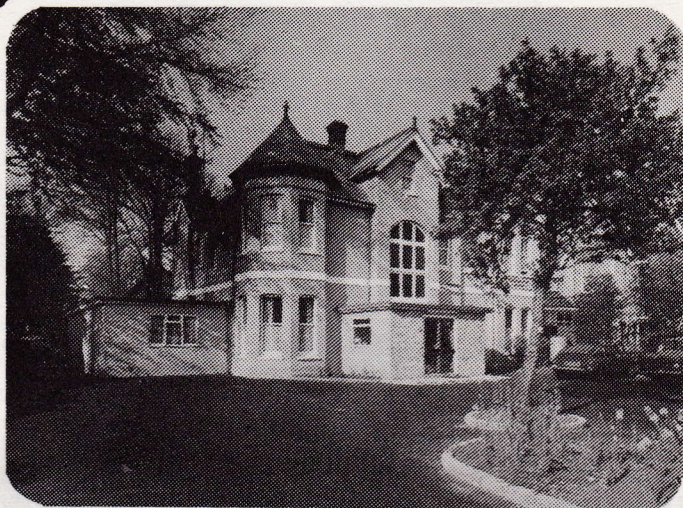
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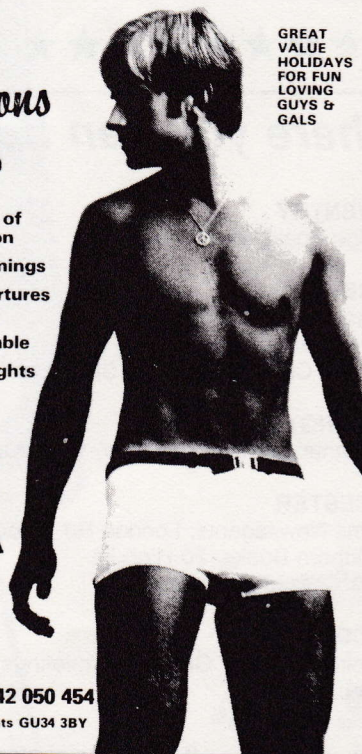
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FRIDAY 1ST: 'Checkers' monthly Disco, Top Rank Suite, Sheffield. Tel (0742) 307142 for details.

SATURDAY 2ND: Boston CHE/Gay Group Disco, Blackfriars Arts Centre, Boston, 8pm.

SATURDAY 2ND: NATIONAL GAY PRIDE MARCH, London, starts Speakers Corner 1.30pm.

SUNDAY 3RD: Derby Gay Youth Group video afternoon, 125 Cavendish Court, Friar Gate, 4pm.

MONDAY 4TH: Nottingham Gay Social Group (NOGSOG), Foresters Pub, Huntingdon St, 8pm.

TUESDAY 5TH: Lincoln Gay Group/CHE Committee, Golden Eagle, 7.30pm.

TUESDAY 5TH: Derby 'G.E.M.' Local Support Group - meeting for anyone in Derby area interested in contributing to or helping with the Newspaper, 125 Cavendish Court, Friar Gate, 8pm.

THURSDAY 7TH: NOGSOG meet 31A Mansfield Rd, Nottingham, 8pm.

THURSDAY 7TH: Derby Gay Group phone contact evening for new members, tel Derby 664234. 7-11pm.

FRIDAY 8TH: Derby Gay Group meet Green Lane Gallery 8.30pm.

SATURDAY 9TH: Lincoln Gay Group Disco, Golden Eagle, 8pm-midnight.

SUNDAY 10TH: Leicester Gay Group: Picnic in Warwickshire (in conjunction with Coventry Friend) - details from Arthur, Leicester 432430.

MONDAY 11TH: NOGSOG meet 31A Mansfield Rd, Nottingham, 8pm.

WEDNESDAY 13TH: Nottingham CHE meeting. Contact Mike, tel 55196, or Andrew, tel 598471.

THURSDAY 14TH: NOGSOG MEET 31A Mansfield Rd, Nottingham, 8pm.

FRIDAY 15TH: Derby Gay Group meet Green Lane Gallery, 8.30pm.

FRIDAY 15TH: G.E.M. COPY DEADLINE.

SATURDAY 16TH: Midlands Gay Welfare Workers meet, Nottingham, 2pm. Tel Richard McCance, Nottm. 780124 or 414939.

SUNDAY 17TH: Derby Gay Youth Group cheese & wine party, 125 Cavendish Court, Friar Gate, 4pm.

MONDAY 18TH: NOGSOG meet Foresters Pub, Huntingdon St, Nottingham, 8pm.

TUESDAY 19TH: Lincoln Gay Group present 'A Bigger Splash' - film about the artist David Hockney. Golden Eagle, 8pm.

TUESDAY 19TH: Derby Gay Youth Group monthly general meeting, 125 Cavendish Court, Friar Gate, 8pm.

WEDNESDAY 20TH: Labour Campaign for Gay Rights meeting, Salutation Inn, Maid Marian Way, Nottingham, 7.30pm. Tel Chris Richardson, Nottm 780124, for details.

THURSDAY 21ST: NOGSOG meet 31A Mansfield Road, Nottingham, 8pm.

FRIDAY 22ND: Derby Gay Group meet Green Lane Gallery, 8.30pm.

SATURDAY 23RD: Lincoln Gay Group Disco, Golden Eagle, 8pm-midnight.

MONDAY 25TH: NOGSOG meet 31A Mansfield Rd, Nottingham, 8pm.

THURSDAY 28TH: Derby Gay Group phone contact evening for new members, tel Derby 664234 7-11pm.

FRIDAY 29TH: Derby Gay Group meet Green Lane Gallery, 8.30pm.

SATURDAY 30TH: Boston CHE/Gay Group Disco, Blackfriars Arts Centre, Boston, 8pm.

SUNDAY 31ST: Derby Gay Youth Group, talk on Sexually Transmitted Diseases, 125 Cavendish Court, Friar Gate, 4pm.

**Best Wishes
to
Gay East Midlands
from
Nottingham Gay Social
Group (NOGSOG).
Regular meetings and
events in and around
Nottingham
- see Listings and Diary**



Where you can buy 'Gay East Midlands'

COVENTRY

Wedge Bookshop, High St.

DERBY

Green Lane Gallery, Green Lane.
News Kiosk, Albert St.
Pavillion Club, London Rd. Shardlow.

LEAMINGTON SPA

The Other Branch Bookshop, 12 Gloucester St.

LEICESTER

Adams Newsagents, London Rd (opposite Station).
Blackthorn Books, 70 High St.
Spots Club, St. James St.

LINCOLN

Lincoln CHE/Gay Group (at meetings and Discos - see Diary)

LONDON

Gay's the Word Bookshop, 66 Marchmont St, WC1

MANSFIELD

White Hart Disco (see Listings).

NOTTINGHAM

Briddocks Newsagents, Upper Parliament St.
Flanegans Newsagents, 32 Shakespeare St.
Foresters' Arms Pub, Glasshouse St.
Keith Price Newsagents, Goldsmith St.
Kiosk, Mount St. Subway
Kiosk, Theatre Royal Subway.
Midland Group, Carlton St.
Mushroom Bookshop, Heathcoat St.
Ouroboros Wholefood Collective, 37A Mansfield Rd.
Part Two Club, Robert House, 5-13 Canal St.
118 Workshop, 118 Mansfield Road.

If you know of other outlets which will, or may, stock G.E.M., please let us know.