

OUT right!

for gays lesbians & bisexuals - free

Pretty Police Exposed

If you go down to the woods today - watch out - you're likely to run into something more dangerous than the Teddy Bear's Picnic...

Nottingham 22/4/97 11.45pm

A reliable & respected community figure has just rung **outright!** with news of illegal police operations in the Nottingham area. At last we got to yell 'hold the front page!', pulling the existing lead story to bring you this late breaking news.

In the wooded area of Colwick Park popular with dog owners, adjacent to the 'Starting Gate' public house, the pretty police are at it again - allegedly.

Several local gay men have now reported plain clothes police using private rather than po-

lice cars and working a two shift system to entrap gays.

Their usual modus operandi is to expose themselves, make sexual propositions then frog-march their victims out of the woods to the waiting cars whenever they're taken up on their offers.

One of our sources reports being approached by 'an attractive young man with his flies open', who asked him, 'what are you into?' Recognising him as one of the people who arrived with the last plain clothes police shift he had no hesitation in tell-

ing the agent provocateur that he 'was into going home after his lunchtime walk'.

We have approached the local Police for their comments, asking why officers are inciting people to break the law and why they are wasting public time and money in carrying out purely cosmetic PR exercises with the gay community.

We also wonder why gay people are paying an average of £45 each every year in council tax to support a police force that abuses us. *Continued back page*

...inside!

- virgin births
- transgender debate
- cottaging
- the culture
- mind & body
- out in dublin
- classifieds

& more!

Victims of this latest wave of Police Entrapment are invited to contact **outright!** in complete confidence 0115 9520770

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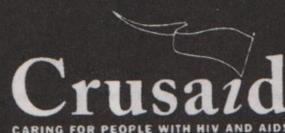
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outright!

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not necessarily those of the edi-
tors. All information is as up to date
and accurate as we can make it - let
us know if anything has changed.

copy date 24th

...welcome!

to May's *outright!* By the
time you read this there will be
a newly elected government in
power - let's hope they're as keen
on representing our interests as
they were in getting our votes.

Brickbat of the Month....

Now the election's out of the
way ... goes to the Labour Party
for making us nearly 2 weeks late
waiting for their article.

Bouquet of the Month...

for the staff of Leics RI & BUPA
AF Unit - read *Virgin Births* to
find out why.

*Nominations for next month's
brickbat & bouquet are now
open...*

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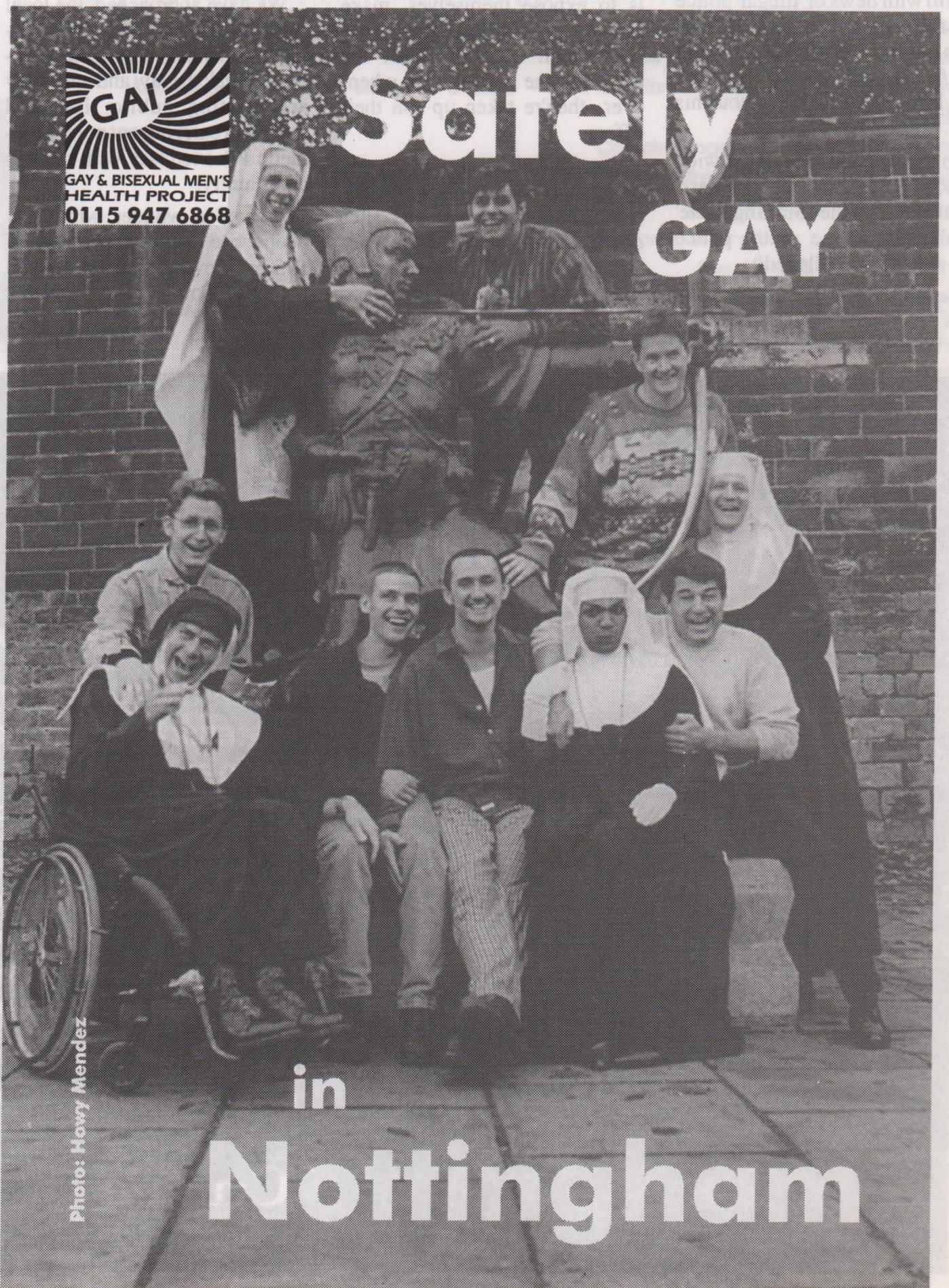
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Safely GAY

in
Nottingham

Photo: Hovy Mendez

...noticeboard!

ME Support Group

If like me you are a lesbian with ME (Chronic Fatigue Syndrome), you'll understand the isolation this condition can cause the possible relationship problems and the need for understanding support. A support network is being set up, so if you want to know more ring **Karen 01933 383182**

Nottingham Lesbian Centre

Is writing a constitution - a statement about what/who the Centre is for & what we want from it.
Any comments, contributions or involvement welcome.
Write LCCG c/o NWC
30 Chaucer St Nottm

FALLEN ANGELS

Women's Street Band
Need new members
Beginners/experienced welcome
Percussion/Drummer urgently required
0114 255 5585
0114 258 0533

PRIDE '97

Nottm OutHouse tickets on sale May 12th @ Mushroom Bookshop £12/10 (NUS/UB40) Book early - get £1 off! Volunteer stewards for the day - July 5th - contact Andrew 0115 924 4908

OPEN MEETING

On the issue of transgender women using the Nottingham Women's Centre
Saturday May 17th 2 - 4 pm
Forest Fields Community Centre Sturton St
This is a consultation meeting to obtain women's views and also a forum for discussion in a non-confrontational environment
All women - including transgender women - welcome
0115 941 1475 for further details

EAST MERCIA MSC

The Leicester Leather Lads celebrate the club's **15th Anniversary** this year with a 3 day "Blackpool Blitz" in July and of course, their **Annual Bike Run** on June 14th.



EMMSC is a private members club for men but any like minded guy wearing the appropriate dress code will be admitted. Meetings are 2nd Friday & 4th Sat each month at Mercia HQ The Pineapple Inn Burleys Way Leicester. For details of events and membership ring 01332 361 056 and see *outings!* for May/June club nights & events.

Making the Dream Come True...

Recently the Nottingham Out House Project committee invited tenders from consultants to take the project through the final phase from dream to reality.



Julia Romi & Frankie

From 5 applications they selected **Fourth Action** a 2 woman partnership - named after the European Union's programme for gender equality. 'It seemed like a good idea at the time', says Romi Jones, one of the partners. The other half of Fourth Action is Julia Lyford - and because of the vast amount of work to be done and short timescale they've called in long term associate Frankie Williams to work on the project too.

confident Romi, 'we've done it before. The community knows what it wants - our job is making it happen'.

It isn't all plain sailing though - the OutHouse committee has no legal status & can't sign the lease - but they are in the process of registering as a Provident & Friendly society.

All three women are experienced community consultants with a background in the voluntary sector and were selected for the breadth & depth of their joint experience on similar projects.

Building on the '96 questionnaire, Fourth Action will be using direct contact, focus groups & open meetings to help the project meet community needs. It's always a tricky point in the life of a group when it stops just being an idea and starts having legal responsibilities like a building and workers.

Very aware that a lot of people have contributed a lot of work to the Out House project over the years, they're keen to build on this and work in a real partnership with the committee and the wider LGB community to take the vision forward. 'We know we can do it', says a

'There's a lot of work to be done in a short space of time', said Romi, 'but barring delays in establishing the group's legal status - which are beyond our control - things are looking good for the planned September opening'.

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Ring 0116 255 9995 in confidence

LASS is a Registered Charity No 1023914

...stars!

Scried by Madame Polari

♈ Aquarius

21 Jan - 19 Feb

Stop shoplifting - how many cold cooked chickens can one person eat!

Lucky clothes - Hot pants

♉ Pisces

20 Feb - 20 Mar

You're a martyr to strong cider - amnesia is not the answer

Lucky Birdseed - Trill

♈ Aries

21 Mar - 20 Apr

Retouching your roots will prove to be a major career move this month

Lucky Fuel - Turf

♉ Taurus

21 Apr - 21 May

Are asthmatics on earth simply to irritate smokers - critically evaluate

Lucky Pain - Toothache

♊ Gemini

22 May - 21 Jun

Have you ever been arrested? Try it - great breakfasts & convivial company

Lucky Emotion - Hysteria

♋ Cancer

22 Jun - 23 Jul

What is the answer to drugs? a) how much b) sorted c) ok I'll try anything once

Lucky Themepark - Legoland

♌ Leo

24 Jul - 23 Aug

Anarchy, Disruption, Nihilism - I'm afraid it's just going to be one of those months

Lucky Book - All England Law Report

♍ Virgo

24 Aug - 23 Sep

This is a good month for taking stock of your life.

Lucky Colour - Cerise

♎ Libra

24 Sep - 23 Oct

Stop being paranoid - hardly anyone laughs at you behind your back

Lucky Doctor - Who

♏ Scorpio

24 Oct - 22 Nov

Your sexlife improves this month when you lose your hang up about masturbation

Lucky Ornament - Flying Ducks

♐ Sagittarius

23 Nov - 21 Dec

Stop playing with it and put the plaster back on

Lucky Icon - Aunty Jean Morton

♑ Capricorn

22 Dec - 20 Jan

It's unlucky to come from Mansfield this month - so try not to

Lucky Fish - Pollack

...outings!

look up short code at start of listing in **contacts!** for contact details

COVENTRY

May 1/2/3 (wow!) **CMM** Rainbow's 3 day opening party

May 8 **CMM** Carey's gay night Thurs

May 17 **CMM** Community Launch of Gay Centre Feasibility Study @ McGuigans 12.30pm

DERBY

May 8 **VINE** Rags & Riches Drag

May 7/14 **UNI** Friend social/support drop-in group meets weds 7 - 10 pm

May 8/15 **UNI** Uni LGB Soc meet every Thurs 7.30-9.30 - discussions, games, videos, coffee, chat, outins etc

May 8/15 **UNI** Choices Every Thurs 5.30 - 7.30 social group for 13-19 year olds

May 17 **VINE** Nottm Racecourse Trip - limited number free tickets

HUNTINGTON

May 14 **HGG** L & G Social evening - lots of local events coming up inc Town & Gown pub night

LEICESTER

May 6 **45KS** 45 King St Centre AGM

May 9 **EMMSC** Construction Party - Hard Hats & Working Boots

May 13/27 **LGG** Men's gay social group newcomers meetings

May 24 **EMMSC** Selection Night

June 7 **45KS** L&G Line Dancing Event @ Fosse Neighbourhood Centre Mantle Rd 7.30-11.30 DJ & Tuition Joy Anagnostis tickets £5/3 door or 45 King St

June 13th **EMMSC** Leather Night

Hune 14th **EMMSC** Annual Bike Run

LINCOLN

May 9 **LNx** Lesbian social group 8pm 2nd Fridays

May 22 **LNx** Gainsboro L & G Group Friendly group meets 4th Thurs

NOTTINGHAM

May 14 **NWC** Talkback - lesbian discussion group - Lesbian Health - issues around breast/cervical cancer discussion led by Julie Fish No meetings over Summer - back Sep details - **outright!** & **lookout!**

May 21 **NWC** Women's Music Night - sing play jam or just listen All styles/standards All women welcome Wheelchair access

BI Bi-women's group - regular meetings, films, brunches, video nights etc.

SHEFFIELD

May 6 **WCC** Lesbian Link 8.30

May 9 **WCC** 60's Trivia quiz 8.30

May 10 **WCC** Book Sale 2 - 5pm

May 14 **WCC** Lesbian Link Planning Meeting new members welcome

May 16 **WCC** Paula Hardwick Blues/Acoustic/Rock 9pm

May 17 **WCC** Josephine Cupida International percussionist/Ex Guest Star Workshop 2.30-4.30 £1.50/free

8.30 - One Woman One Drum £1.50/free

May 20 **WCC** Lesbian Link 8.30

May 23 **WCC** Disco - Karen & Paula 9.30 - late

contacts!

WCC 0114 272 1866

EMMSC 01332 361 056

LNx 01522 533 553 Sun/Tue 7-10

45KS 0116 254 7412

NWC 0115 941475

VINE 01332 200 266

BI 0115 916 1532

LGG 01509 415 272

CMM 01203 224 090

HGG 01223 502 915

UNI 01332 349333 (call same time as group you're interested in is listed e.g. Friend Wed 7-10)

Services for Gay & Bisexual Men & Women in North Derbyshire

INFORMATION

around safer sex HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases

ADVICE & SUPPORT

on all sexual health issues - physical & emotional



TRAINING

around sexual health & sexuality, anti-homophobia etc

LEAFLETS & POSTERS

and other resources

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CASH is part of North Derbyshire Health's Health Promotion Programme

CONTACT

Richard Marriott

4 Rose Hill Chesterfield S40 1LW

Tel 01246 559 431

...walkies!

don't feel like dancing - how about a walk?

This month we look at **The Group With No Name** - yes folks! A new walking group has started up in Lincoln. Lesbians, gay men and anyone who just ain't sure is welcome. Both Sunday & evening walks are planned - gentle 4-5 mile strolls to begin with - so ideal for beginners. Walks will be near the the centre of Lincoln or have rendez-vous points on public transport routes. Suggestions for a name are welcome and you can find out more from Lincoln Switchboard (**LNx** see **contacts!** left).

Two walks are planned for May: Sun 4 Meet Rat & Parrot/Debenhams 11 am 4-5 mile riverside & South Common Walk - bring lunch! Wed 28 Meet Lincs County Council Offices Newland St 7pm for 4(ish) mile West Common walk.

WOMEN OUT WALKING

Yes Summer's here and the time is right for dancing in the street - or so the song goes but if you

(Leics) June 1 Somewhere in England! Meet 10.15 45 King St. Details from Nesina 0116 251 2525 (work number).

PINKPATHFINDERS (Nottm) May 18 Millers Dale - Cressbrook Dale - Tansley Dale - Litton - Tideswell - Monks Dale - Millers Dale 11.5 miles Meet 10.45 for 11am start old station A6/B6049 GR 138733 All gay guys & gals welcome Details Bob/Brian 0115 967 7081

NOTTM GAY OUTDOOR CLUB May 18 Joint walk with West Midlands GOC in Dovedale Meet Tissington Village CP 11am Come & join us everyone welcome boys, girls, men, women just turn up or ring Alan for more details 0115 923 5421.

No info from other groups for May - try contacting them direct **Nottm Hiking Dykes** 0115 952 1511 **Sheffield HDs** 0114 236 6531 **Cambridge GOC** Cambridge 893419

mushroom

B · O · O · K · S · H · O · P

... NEW LESBIAN NOVELS ...

COSTA BRAVA - Marta Baletbò-Coll pb 8.99

the book of the award winning film

A CRYSTAL DIARY - Frankie Hucklenbroich pb 10.99

the author's life as a street butch from 50's St Louis to 70's san Francisco

THE ESCAPE ARTIST - Judith Katz pb 10.99

the adventures of 2 jewish lesbians in Buenos Aires

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DYLAN PARRIS - Project Worker

Black men who have sex with men

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Cottaging & cruising issues

Open 12 noon - 4pm

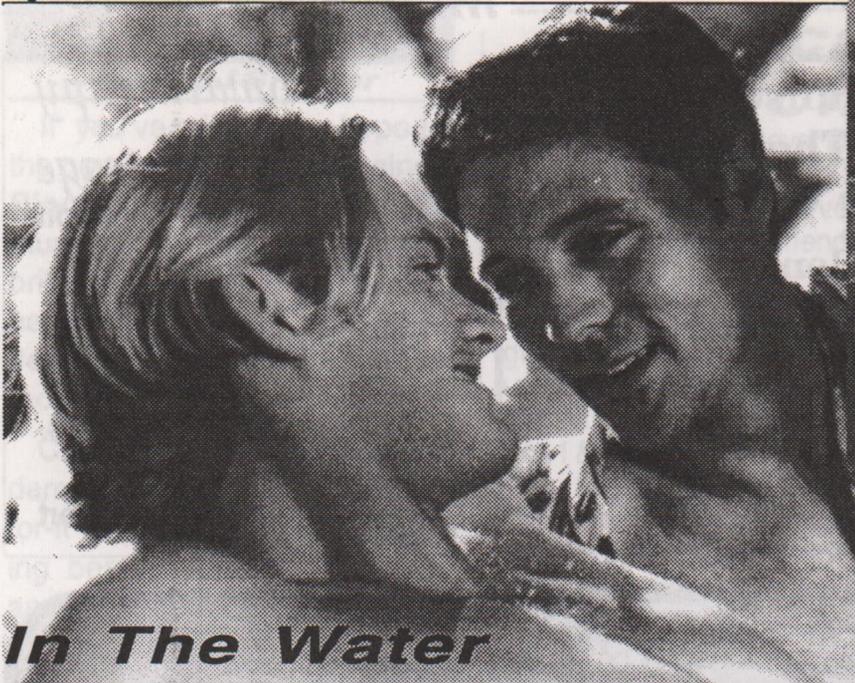
Monday Tuesday

Thursday & Friday

(Wednesday the Centre is Women Only)

ALL OUR SERVICES ARE FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL

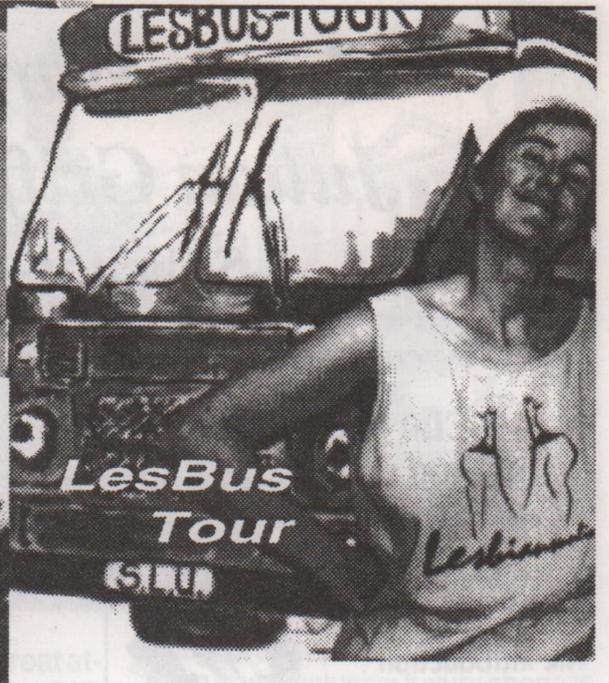
Available free to all men who have sex with men regardless of age - sexuality - race - religion - disability - antibody status



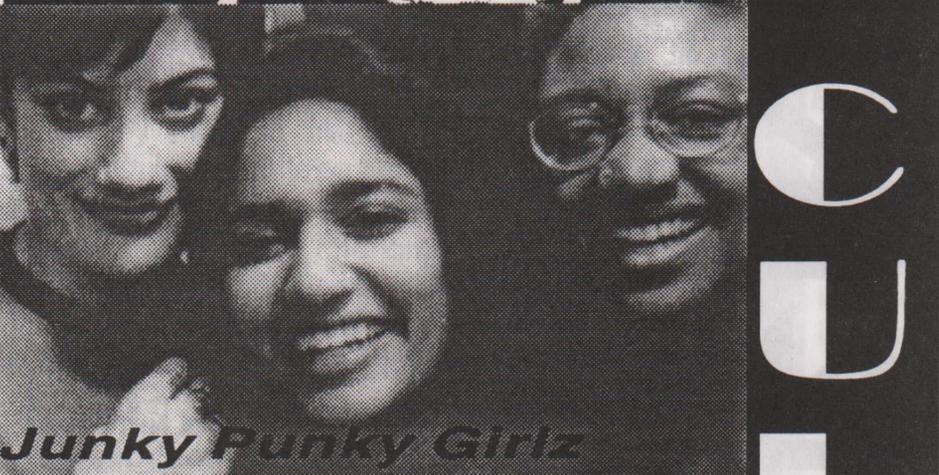
In The Water



Basquait



Slippery When Wet



Junky Punky Girlz



Very Good Rock & Roll Band

THE QUEER

More culture than you can shake a stick at this month. Let's kick off with the **London L & G Film Festival** on it's regional tour. Don't miss surprise hit of the season - **It's In The Water** - take one traditional Texas town where the men are rugged and macho and the women have power shoulders & big hair (we're talking Southfork folks) - start a rumour that there's something in the water making those good old boys and sweet young things feel awfully queer - and you've got an acutely observed satire on the righteous right of America - a funny feelgood movie for the whole (pretend) family.

Junky Punky Girlz (Anita tries to balance US pop-teen culture, her traditional Indian heritage AND getting her nose pierced) feature in the **Girls in Shorts** programme along with some other intriguingly titled shorts - **Why I'll Never Trust You** (in 200 words or less) for example.

And naturally there's a matching programme of **Boys in Shorts** with 6 short films from around the world (& Belgium!). **Saint** looks at the traditional image of the execution of St Sebastian - uncovering the sexual undertones beneath the glorification of this beautiful boy's tortured body (...and this is the one from Belgium folks! Not so dull after all maybe!).

Not to be confused with the full length feature **Sebastian** from Norway (Yes I know - nearly as bad as Belgium isn't it). This film has been shown in schools to around 50% of Norway's teenagers. Why?

Because it's an intelligent, gently humourous look at developing teenage sexuality. Suddenly the beautiful Sebas-

tian thinks he is falling in love with his best friend Ulf ... long lazy summer days ... a stolen kiss ...Well go and see it if you want to know what happens next.

Plenty more goodies- **Mum's The Word**, **Skin & Bone**, **Work**, **The Escort** and more, get a programme from your regional arty cinema.

On the small screen start looking out for **Channel 4's SITCOM WEEKEND** due to be screened in May/June with some classic sitcoms including the fabulous **Father Ted** and Julian Clary presenting **Has Anyone Seen My Pussy?** billed as a romp through the back passages of British sitcom. Looking - appropriately enough - at how music hall humour developed into the *double entendres* of Frankie Howard et al. Less predictably there's the as yet unscheduled **Tickled Pink** looking at how gay sexuality has infiltrated the cosy world of American sitcom & the hopes & fears of generations of gay writers, actors and audiences. Producers & writers examine the long drawn out flirtation with gay storylines and how that gels with the admen, TV executives and right wing activists. It sounds really interesting - ring C4 and ask them when they're going to screen it. Their Press Office number is 0171 360 8444.

Lesbus Tour 97 arrives in Sheffield for it's only show in the region on **June 3rd** performing their new musical comedy **Hotel Paradiso** for a women only audience at the Library Theatre Sheffield. Lesbus is part of the Lesbians Unlimited Foundation a non-profit making group established to stimulate contacts and arts activities between

Transatlantic

lesbians throughout Europe. Hotel Paradiso is set in a holiday centre where women are trying to create the perfect lesbian holiday - with hilarious results. Tickets £4/£2 available from Women's Cultural Club and Independent Bookshop **Sheffield 0114 2500071.**

NOTT Dance '97 - the highly acclaimed festival also hits the region with a stunning collection of performances with a gay flavour. May 21 **Slippery When Wet** Jeremy Robbins blends balance, badinage and ballet into an outrageous & erotic bathtime ritual mixing traditional circus skills with images from queer culture... a striptease that goes from 0 to 100 in seconds ... and just keeps going. May 27 **Exessories** American choreographer John Jasperse flies in from NY to perform - exploring styles of dressing sensuality and movement - what is male - what is female - what is identity - how do we see ourselves? May 27 **Tranatlantic** Javier De Frutos in a provocative travalogue through all that is gay and glittering in America. May 30/31 **Beyond the Walls for Men** Imalta Dance Co. A unique international collaboration with an all male cast mixes Western & Indian dance to create an amazing open air spectacle. **Free NOTT Dance brochure 0115 941 0773.**

Paul Smith - local lad made extremely good features in **Paul Smith True Brit** an exhibition with a difference at Nottingham Castle Museum from 15 May - 31 Aug. Giving a unique insight into Paul's eclectic design approach - there's everything from an installation based on personal design notebooks to a video compilation of the past 9 year's fashion shows.

Which all ties in very nicely with **Fashion Frenzy** later in the year when punters get a chance to create costumes and hats and then see their designs sashay down the catwalk. To find out more get on the free mailing list **Marketing Dept Nottingham Castle Museum and Art Gallery NG1 6EL**

Leicester's Phoenix Arts offers a cultural feast this month too(see ad right). And if you're going to see **Basquiat** try and make it the May 27 performance introduced by Professor Nicholas Zurbrugg who places the work of this seminal New York 'Warhol' artist into the context of the American avant garde. David Bowie playing Warhol too *grin* - what goes around comes around.

Not on their ad but equally worth a look is another chance to see Ken Loach's **Land and Freedom** May 7 an emotive Spanish Civil War drama that sold out last time it was screened here. Also cult classic **Quadrophenia** May 17/18 and of course the sensational Mark Ravenhill **Faust**. May 2/3.

Also at Phoenix this month the **Upfront Comedy Club** with a fresh new line up of rising stars from the comedy circuit, including Gina Yashere (Jonathan Ross Big Talent Show/A Force) Richard Blackwood (Club Class) and the unpredictable Patrick Young. Perhaps they're also trying to 'grow their own' because there's a brand new comedy performance course for women coming up in June too contact Marie Brennan for details 0116 255 5627 and Phoenix Box Office for programme details and bookings 0116 255 4854

Contrary to rumour and much to their fans delight **The Very Good Rock & Roll Band** are not dead, disbanded or anything else nasty beginning with D. And to prove it they'll be delivering their unique blend of Rock, theatrics and hysteria at the Maze North Sherwood St Nottm on May 23. If you haven't seen this incredible ten piece all girl band try imagining a cross between The Beverley Sis-

ters, Showaddywaddy and Elvis - or better still go and see them. Sharing the bill is the ever popular impressionist and singer **Kelly Wilson** and Australia's 'King of Comedy' **Phil Davey** details **0115 947 5650**

Derby's Metro Cinema is also showing **Flirt** May 16-20. Hal Hartley's latest offering shot in New York, Berlin and Tokyo - running the same basic storyline through the three locations, altering the gender age and sexuality of the protagonists. All three stories are based on a flirt who eventually has to decide whether it's time to make a commitment or end the relationship. Sharp witty dialogue and an interesting juggling with the theme. Call me old fashioned but I liked the Berlin based gay take on the story best.

Gossip/Soap/Sitcom lovers may be interested to learn that the longest running *is she or isn't she?* debate has reached the end of the road. Yes **Ellen DeGeneres** has come out at last!

That's her sitcom character Ellen, of course. In a two part

cliff-hanger, (milk it for all it's worth, sweetie!), Ellen comes out to her therapist played by none other than **Oprah** (this episode must have a bigger budget than Waterworld) and is befriended by a cute lesbian café singer played by **k d lang** - who just happens to be a close personal friend of Ms DeGeneres in real life. The first part screened in the US on April 30 and will be heading our way in due course. That's if anyone still gives a ...

Finally lesbian contemporary artist **Bren Yau** presents her final year degree show at the Bonnington Gallery Dryden St Nottm May 30 -Jun 7. Her work is basically about sex and sexuality and deals with diverse re-interpretations of women's sexuality. Bringing a lesbian perspective to desire and all it's manifestations from the phallus to basques and high heels. The work includes video, film, animation, super 8 and a sound installation... & well worth a vist.

Cultchawultcha

Frank Bock and Simon Vincenzi

Three Forest Dances in a Room of Wood

Fri 30 May 8.00pm

Highly acclaimed, this all male dance follows a trio of darkly humorous meetings in three imagined forests. Stars former Featherstonehaugh and Theatre de Complicite performers.

DANCEdance**DANCE**dance**DANCE**dance



FILMfilm**FILM**film**FILM**film**FILM**film

Bound (18) • Tue 6 May 6.05pm • Wed 7 May 8.30pm • Fri 9 May 6.05pm

A modern gangster film with beautiful lesbian dames.

Flirt (15) • Tue 20 May 9.15pm • German & Japanese with English subtitles

Three love triangles explore the themes of commitment and betrayal.

Basquiat (15) • Sun 25 May 3.00pm • Tue 27 May 6.05pm • Wed 28 May 8.30pm

Based on the intense and glamorous short life of the first really successful black artist and friend of Andy Warhol.

PHENIX

A R T S

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...sounds!

from DJ Siraker

If you've missed the hype for the new Michael Jackson single **Blood on the Dancefloor** you must live in Outer Mongolia. A brilliant slice of pop leaning heavily on the 80's style **Billie Jean** funk riffs and a real club monster.

Check out the dancefloor damage of those incredibly up-for-it Tony Moran mixes. Stomping beats, loads of Italian pianos and catchy handbaggy commercial club mix. The Fire Island mixes go deeper underground with a surprisingly accessible hard house mix that's a real floor filler.

Last year saw rumours of a Greatest Hits Remix album - instead we got **History** - now **History In The Mix** finally sees the light of day. A collection of the best remixes plus some newly remixed tracks from vol 1. Available on CD, Cassette AND Vinyl (if you want it - ask for it).

The Pet Shop Boy's latest **Red Letter Day** whizzed in and out of the top ten within a week - but the B side **Boy Who Couldn't Keep His Clothes On** is still going down a storm clubwise. If you ever lay your hands on a copy of the Danny Tengalia mix - hang on to it. Only available on promo vinyl, destined never to be released and already changing hands for real money on the collectors market. Mixes like Madonna hitting a flamenco frenzy with strong hints of **Domino Dancing** no wonder DJs are begging for these mixes to be released as the next single.

Gary Barlow releases **Love Won't Wait** shortly - by Madonna & Shep Pettibone - pretty average with a dull but commercial garage mix from Junior Vasquez.

Check the B side of Roachford's hit **Cuddly Toy**. Enormous with mixes by Mark Pichiotti, a Retro mix reminiscent of Take That's **Relight My Fire**. It should have been the A side - it's storming the clubs and getting all the airplay.

...sounds! is sponsored by
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postcard from...

Dublin's changed a lot over the last five years. There are five gay saunas, several gay bars, some very lively club nights and a lot of friendly mixed places too.

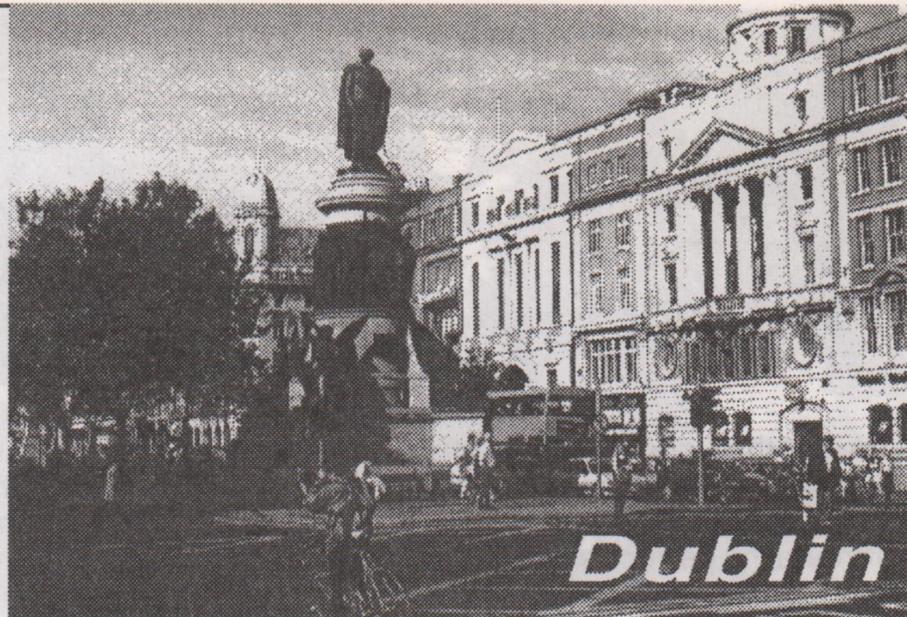
The George is probably the best known gay pub mainly men with dancing upstairs at weekends. (The floor shakes visibly!). It's not cheap Thurs-Sat £3 b4 11 & £5 after - and drinks go up by about 50p. It's a very traditional venue. The night I visited there was a fairly sad Mr George heat hosted by a drag queen who'd time-warped in from around 1972. So much for gay culture being on the cutting edge!

Across the river **Out on the Liffey** faces onto the river - just up from **Inn on the Liffey** - now a gay sauna. **Out** is a popular bar very lesbian/gay mixed and worth the walk to get there.

Nearby you'll find **The Winding Stair** bookshop whose upstairs café provides good cheap food with plenty of vegetarian choices. Nothing over £2.30, I don't know how they do it.

Most of the bars in the **Temple Bar** area are mixed but friendly and this is a fun area to explore day or night with its vividly painted buildings and interesting and exotic shops - Soho on the Liffey!

Clubs - **Da Club** Tues, **Pod** Fri/Sat, **Wonderbar** Satpm-Sun am. Pod is a



converted railway tunnel - great atmosphere. **Wonderbar** is the BIG venue.

Dublin is a beautiful Georgian city full of cultural treats. The National Museum with its vast collection of bronze-age gold. The Literary Museum - more famous writers than you realised were Irish. At the Gallery of Modern Art out near Phoenix Park - the first thing you see is an 18th Century study of a naked boy, eyes closed in ecstasy one hand tangled in his hair - beautiful!

Trinity College shouldn't be missed - walk off a city street under an archway and travel back in time.

And of course there's the Guinness brewery where the free samples seem to taste better than anywhere else.

Dublin is Shopper's Paradise. Everything from exclusive luxury shops to surprising & bargain packed markets. We found one stall selling nothing but olives in every possible variety and combination - yummy!

We stayed at **Frankie's Guest House** which is quite cheap for Dublin and very cheerful from £20 singles, £30 doubles. Frankie himself is very friendly and helpful and a mine of useful information. The rooms are comfortable and it's very conveniently located.

We traveled **Ryanair** from Birmingham International for just £59 return inc tax. You cannot say fairer than that! Dublin's a great place for a weekend (or preferably longer) break - I can't wait to go back. **Tony Challis**

Virgin Births!



According to the *Sunday Times* (13.4.97) **Lesbian Britain is Baby Booming!** In fact, social researchers suggest that children brought up by lesbians are emotionally well adjusted and happy. Stifling the urge to yell 'yes we know that' one has to acknowledge that at last lesbian mothers are getting some good press.

The more naive journalists appear to be slightly taken aback that lesbians want to be parents at all, while the more lascivious hacks seem hell bent on getting the graphic detail about the mechanics of lesbian conception. It comes as a bombshell to all of them that some lesbian women continue to conceive in the time honoured fashion favoured by our heterosexual cousins.

But for any number of reasons, a spot of horizontal jogging with a promising and athletic PhD candidate is not an option for many women. For many, the answer is donor insemination. Maybe in the racy south this service is widely available to lesbians but a quick ring round the **outright!** region tells a very different tale. Neither Nurture (Nottm's leading edge fertility facility) nor The Park Hospital treat single women or lesbians in a relationship. However Leicester's Royal Infirmary and BUPA Assisted

Fertility Unit are more broad minded. A spokesperson explained that they felt it was important for them to follow both the letter & the spirit of the Embryology Act - which states that no social group should be discriminated against. Despite hate mail, an internal enquiry and questions in the House of Commons concerning the moral fibre of the staff, these units still judge EACH CASE on its merits.

The future welfare & happiness of the child is the paramount concern of staff members - who recognise that good parenting isn't genetically linked to heterosexuality.

But without the support of local registered clinics a lesbian wanting a child has little option but to turn to self insemination.

We examine the potential pitfalls of self insemination in part 2 of Virgin Births next month.

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Transgender

Gender is a fascinating subject. Without it, sexism & homophobia wouldn't exist, we can hardly imagine such a world. Babies have gender assigned to them the minute they're born, & if their physical sex is ambiguous, they may have surgery to make it less so. After all, how could they possibly manage in the world without a gender? There wouldn't be any toilets for them!

Most people have eroticised gender to some degree. Even the word "bisexual" assumes that it's important in sexual choice, although some people within the bi community reject both the word and the binary split behind it. A lot of gay politics relies on gender, although queer politics doesn't reinforce it in quite the same way.

How many genders?

One thing that mainstream patriarchal culture has in common with some brands of feminism & some gay politics is the insistence that there are only two genders - male and female. This is questionable on several levels.

Genetically it's clearly false: XX and XY aren't the only genetic combinations. Biologically it's clearly false: all human genitals grow from the same cells of the embryo, and there's a spectrum of possible development between what we call "male" and what we call "female".

Socially, we usually try to divide people into exactly two categories, even when they don't exactly fit them. Because so much of our society, even our language, is divided along gender lines, it's *uncomfortable* not to know what category someone belongs in. You wouldn't know what pronoun to use or what prejudices to hold about them.

But the gender "woman" includes people who experience themselves as butches, femmes, tomboys, dragkings, femmes fatales, earth mothers, traditional "feminine" women and many other flavours for which we don't have names. Even though we consider all those people as part of one group, that doesn't mean that their *own* sense of their gender is the same.

Some people may remember an episode of "Dyke TV" where people rated themselves according to how butch & how femme they were. They weren't in opposition - you could be, say 6/10 butch and 8/10 femme, or 3/10 butch & 1/10 femme. Afterwards some of us were exploring gender in a similar way - you could be, say, 10/10 woman, but at the same time 8/10 girl and 3/10 boy. This internal "sense" of gender doesn't necessarily have anything to do with your body, and also allows for another experience - of being neither female nor male. In that sense, most of us were a bit transgendered, even though we didn't identify as such.

Some transgendered people accept

the binary model, and represent themselves as being a mixture of male and female: for instance, a male mind, or a male "soul", inside a female body, or vice versa. The medical profession seems to like this interpretation. Other transgendered people speak of more complex realities.

Bodies

The word transgender is used with several meanings, but can include anyone inclined to cross gender lines. *Transsexual* is the term usually used to mean specifically people who want to live full time as a gender that doesn't correspond with the gender attributed to them at birth. Like everyone, transsexuals want to live and be accepted as the gender they experience themselves. This may involve changing their body.

It can be disturbing to think of someone wanting to change their body *that much*. But there are few people who take no interest in that game at all. Ever felt better when you get the new haircut you want? Ever felt worse with the "wrong" haircut? What about dyed hair, a suntan, ear piercing or a tattoo? How do you feel when you get fatter or thinner? All those involve the alignment of the physical body with some imaginary picture of how you want to be. And all of them also involve other people's perceptions of you.

Who is a woman?

The idea of "Women's space" brings up particular questions. Women's space is designed as a place where we don't have to deal with "male" behaviour patterns and our reactions to them. For this reason, people who've been raised "as boys" and then want to be accepted as women are often viewed with suspicion in this context. Even though they don't experience themselves as men, they've been socialised to behave in the way that men are supposed to behave.

On the other hand, there's a huge variety of socialisation within the category we call "women". I didn't think I was a boy, but that didn't stop me identifying with male characters in fiction or taking part in stereotypically male activities; as a child and as a teenager I was sometimes mistaken for a boy. What does that say about *my* socialisation? Are you sure you should let *me* in?

And if socialisation is the main factor, does that imply that people raised "as girls" should always be welcome in women's space, even if they now live, pass and experience themselves as men?

Also, early gender-atypical behaviour may lead to reactions like verbal or physical abuse or being led to

believe you're deficient in some way, which means many transgendered people have had an atypical childhood for that very reason.

Of course, the more rigid the stereotypes are, the more likely behaviours are to be deemed gender-inappropriate. Reasoning like "I knew I was a girl because I wanted to play with dolls and I didn't want to fight" makes perfect sense in some realities, but in others appears preposterous.

Some people believe that, no matter what your environment or behaviour, and no matter what your body looks like now, "Whichever gender the doctors said you were when you were born, that's what you'll always be". ("Biology is destiny".) Others believe, again irrespective of upbringing, that some "essence" of "masculinity" or "femininity" can occupy any kind of physical body.

Who's got a cock?

Patriarchal culture bases gender attributions (e.g. of babies) mainly on the presence or absence of a cock, which is seen as the presence or absence of maleness. In this paradigm, the essence of being a woman is the absence of maleness. The inclusion debate is sometimes represented as a question of whether to allow *cocks* into women's space, and this seems to me part of the same paradigm. Some theories go further - cocks epitomise male privilege and violence. I don't see that idea as helping women (or men) at all. It simply reinforces the traditional bullshit - such as the idea that men aren't responsible for what their cocks tell them to do.

Perhaps one underlying issue is of "proving" a genuine commitment to being a woman. The fear is: once you let one male body into women's space, what precedent are you setting? Surgery, being something no-one undergoes lightly, can be seen as the "gatekeeper" to women's space. On the other hand, using this as the only criterion is problematic. Health issues can prevent access to surgery. The financial costs make it a class issue. If you can't convince the medical profession you'll be able to fit in your new role, they can turn you down. Also, the "state of the art" is such that people may choose not to take the risks - for instance, the risk that you'll never be able to have an orgasm again. More radically, some people don't consider that any particular body shape is required to validate the gender that they are. So besides "post-operative" and "pre-operative" transsexuals, there are also "non-operative" transsexuals, who for various reasons are not expecting to have surgery.

No simple answers

Looking from a practical point of view, the question of behaviour seems to me the one most relevant to women's space - as opposed to what the medical profession, or the law, or spiritual theory, says makes someone a woman. One question is whether someone is living as a woman and experiencing prejudice as a woman. Another, for people raised as boys, is whether they're actively setting out to challenge their own typically "male" behaviour patterns. This is not trivial, since most people brought up as men haven't been encouraged to examine their own behaviour. That's *part* of being brought up as a man.

Some women's groups choose to include "female to male" transsexuals in their transition period, recognising that some of them have strong social ties to the dyke community.

There aren't simple, clearcut answers, and that's a reflection of the fact that in beginning to address "who is a woman?/who is a man?", we're bringing into daylight something about which almost the whole of our culture is in denial. It isn't surprising that transgendered people don't seem to fit neatly into the categories we've got because the categories are flawed in the first place. People who've experienced life on both sides of our culture's gender divide are in a position to contribute a valuable perspective on our beliefs. This article raises more questions than it answers. So does transgender.

Jennifer Moore

**See Page Three
for details of
Open Meeting for
women on
transgender
issues**

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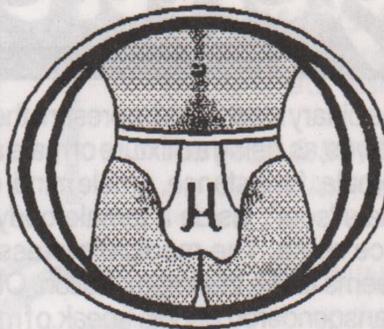
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 Seal your reply in an envelope and write the box number clearly on the envelope in the top right corner. Post your reply / replies in a larger envelope to **outright!** PO BOX 612 NOTTINGHAM NG35TE Enclose 2 x 1st class stamps for each reply you send. Replies sent without stamps will not be forwarded.

men's personal

Notts Man 35 Horny & Handsome In relationship but with TLC to spare Looking for safe uncomplicated fun with men aged 25-40 ALAWP Box 85/1

North Notts Prove slim 44 isn't only one here wanting some fun. Interests briefs shorts jeans & you! Can accom photo a bonus Box 85/2
Notts/Derbys Tall horny biker sa/sl late 30's GSOH Leather/rubber minded guys please send phone & photo replies - mine by return Box 85/3

Rugger/Sportsguy Eagles/Tigers fan seeks other guys with beef & brains for games/outings Discretion assured Box 85/4

Derby Avuncular schoolmaster likeable 54 offers to carefully provide the long-term discipline requirements/desires of local naughty nephews 18-28 uniforms sports kit pyjamas Box 85/5

Grandad seeks grandson 18+ with specialised interests ALAWP Can accom Notts Box 85/6

Nottm Guy s/a s/l seeks guys smooth/hairy for fun friendship cp bd massage o/a manu interests ALAWP Box 85/7

You 20-40 wishing to earn long deep beige rewards for taking safe sane butt warming action from experienced mature guy Box 85/8
Leics thirtysomething (39!) 5'10" blue eyes cropped hair seeks vertically challenged guy 30-40 for fun friendship good laugh 7 maybe more ALA Box 85/9

Leather Master with stable looking for another Master willing to enter into exchange/loan program Detailed ideas & conditions negotiable ALA Box 85/10

Carlton Notts 26 good looking moderatelt we gay guy student type looking for similar in Carlton area for fun & friendship photo essential Box 85/11

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 MESMEN 224090
DERBY (01332)
 BODY POS Tu 1030-130 Th 1130-130 292129
 FRIEND WE 7-10 349333
 LESBIAN We 7-9 41411
 AIDSLINE Mon 7-9 Th 2-4 & 7-9 0800-622738

GRIMSBY/SCUNTH (01724)
 SCUNTHGAY We & Fr 7-9 271661
 AIDSLINE 276660
 GAYLINE Tu Th 7-9 01472 251818
LEICESTER (0116)
 GAYLINE Mo-Fr 730-10 255 0667
 AIDS Mo-Fr 930-5 255 9995
LINCOLNSHIRE (01552)
 GAY/LESBIAN Tu & Su 7-10 535553
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MANSFIELD (01623)
 POSITIVE SUPPORT 26254
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 L&F S /BOARD Mo We Fr 8-10 Su 1-3 01782 266998

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 (answerphone other times)
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 AIDS Mo-Th 7-10 0800 844334
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WELLINGBRO' (01933)
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 BI-LINE Tu & We 730-930 0181 5697500
 L&G CHRISTIANS 0171 7398134
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As most helplines are run by small groups of volunteers from time to time lines may not be covered and operational hours may change. We try to keep this section as up to date as possible - please inform us of any changes you know about.

Thanks!

NOTE FROM EDITOR

So many people are looking for fun & friendship I'm just going to abbreviate it to F&F from now on

Nottm/Anywhere amateur photographer would like to hear from any guys 18-30 willing to pose & have fun No fee Free photos ALA Box 85/12

Anywhere Good looking slim hairy white guy 39 many interests Own place/car seeks Black/asian friends 18-29 for F&F Photo please Box 85/13

Bi-Male 25 pierced seeks 1st time experience with another male ALA Sae appreciated Box 85/14

Notts/Camb Slim 22 GSOH WLTM guys 18-25 into pubs clubs & shopping for F&F or possibly 1-2-1 ALA Box 85/15

18+ laddish guy sought for TLC exchange by 28 slim furry s/a guy Into travel sci-fi dance humour Electrical engineers most welcome ALAWP 16

Notts Guy 26 6'1" fair hair athletic build good humoured & honest seeks similar guys for friendship & possibly randy fun Good build a bonus Box 85/17

Notts/Anywhere guy 32 own house lonely WLTM/s/a s/l guy 21-30 for friendship/1-2-1 please write soon with photo ALA Box 85/18

Notts/Anywhere Headboy seeks naughty mates to relive discipline scenarios Novice student types welcome Write with your requirements/experience Photo returned Phone ALA Box 85/19

Derby active tall slim good looking into briefs lycra jocks seeks passive guy with tight butt for F&F hopefully 1-2-1 ALAWP Box 85/20

Nottm White Steed 42 GSOH seeks trusty black stallion with GSOH for F&F possibly stable mates together Photo assures my reply Discretion assured Box 85/21

Sheffield 6ft slim - am I the only gay boy in Rise, Gatecrasher? Seeks funny intelligent hedonists for supercharged clubbing & long horny comedowns ALAWP Box 85/22

Safe fun with other couples or guys around Leics We are 33 & 55 No hang ups over age or nationality Write now! ALA Box 85/23

Penpals wanted Lonely gay prisoner 38 Please write to Timothy Hampton #063704 Florida State Prison PO Box 181 Starke Florida

32091 USA

18 Tall slim blond seeks relatively attractive & intelligent young guy for poss relationship Notts/Derby area Photo & phone number appreciated Box 85/25

Leicester good looking young lad 25 6'1" slim build lives in town centre Genuine S/A WLTM 18-28 for friendship possibly more Get writing & let's get together! Box 85/26

Notts DIY guy 40's Likes it in trousers/shorts/boxers Seeks average/smaller than average guys for mutual fun/trying new ways Box 85/27

Leather Master 39 5'10" medium build seeks submissive leather or skins under 35 for uninhibited pleasure Photo Appreciated No time wasters ALAWP Box 85/28

Newark 27 seeking gay friends Enjoys pubs clubs cycling swimming travel Nottm/Yorks Area Good natured reasonably intelligent guys preferred 21-30 Box 85/29

Chesterfield 43 GSOH tall attractive athletic build hairy chest active Seeks slim/med guy 30-45 for friendship hopefully 1-2-1 Enjoys walking classical music theatre Box 85/30

Sheffield gay male 27 likes clubs cinema eating out Seeks stocky handsome S/A male for friendship/relationship photo ensure reply Box 85/31

women's personal

Cheeky daft good looking 31 Blue eyed blonde honest funny sincere active WLTM gay feminine women for everything 25-35 Must be feminine ALA promise Box 85/32

Androgenous sensual spiritual woman seeks self respecting lesbian for lots of snogging & gorgeous love making Box 85/33

Notts Lesbian 19 Long black hair pierced into Goth clubs SM seeks others into same/similar for friendship/going out/more ALA Box 85/34

Bi Lady seeks similar or lesbian lady for F&FR 25 young at heart can travel possibly accom ALA please write Box 85/35

Notts Professional feminine woman 34 non smoker enjoys sport good food/wine & stimulating conversation with GSOH looking for similar female for 1-2-1 Box 85/36

Leics Lesbian 27 GSOH enjoys life no hang ups looking to widen circle of friends and hopefully find that someone special ALA Box 85/44

bi personal

Slim 5'11" young 40 vwe seeks females & couples Orally bi Spend

bi personal

Lincoln/Linc Horny feminine girl 19 WLTM M/F 18-30 for F&F & more Spicey letters welcome! don't wait any longer wuite now! ALA Box 85/38

Bi couple for uncomplicated sensual fun Us sexy adventurous slim right side of middle age You? Genuine only discretion assured Party invites? Box 85/39

N/Leics WE Bi-male slim young 44 seks bi-guys 25-50 for friendship & safe indoor fun Discretion & safety given & expected Can travel/accom Box 83/40

Bi-female 33 slim attractive very open minded WLTM bi-females 25-40 for uncomlicated fun LE12 area Discretion assured Box 85/41

Looking to get mixed couples to a sauna party in June & beyond B curiuos or people with bi partners welcome V genuine contact for details Box 85/42

just friends

Nottingham Professional 48 seeks investment agent/tutor to teach me trading of stocks shares/antiques etc to extend limited budget ALA Box 85/43

messages

STEVEY for over a year we've known each other - I'm down on one knee - will you be my lover? Disgracefully yours my baby! J xx

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Gay lodger required to share house with 2 others in Derby town centre non smoker please Box 85/45 Long Eaton Prof male required to share house with another Would suit quiet person with GSOH £45 pw share bills Nigel 0115 972 7495

Nottm near centre Lesbian house share spacious room comfortable victorian house sunny garden woman only space veggie non smoker £35 pw ex phone 0115 962 0305

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Nottm Lesbian artist N/S veggie seeks kindred spirits to share house in Mapperley Park /Carrington / Arboretum /Forest Fields from May/ June Oriel 0115 962 0305

Notts working person to share house with 1 other near centre £35 pw inc ex phone Steve 0115 9444126

Sunny spacious 1 bed flat nice neighbours £75pw Mapperley Park 0115 960 4375

Nottm Radford friendly quiet(ish) mixed non-smoking household mostly 30ish into books music computers Bo-woman houseowner 1 room vacant £125 pcm plus shared bills 0115 924 9394

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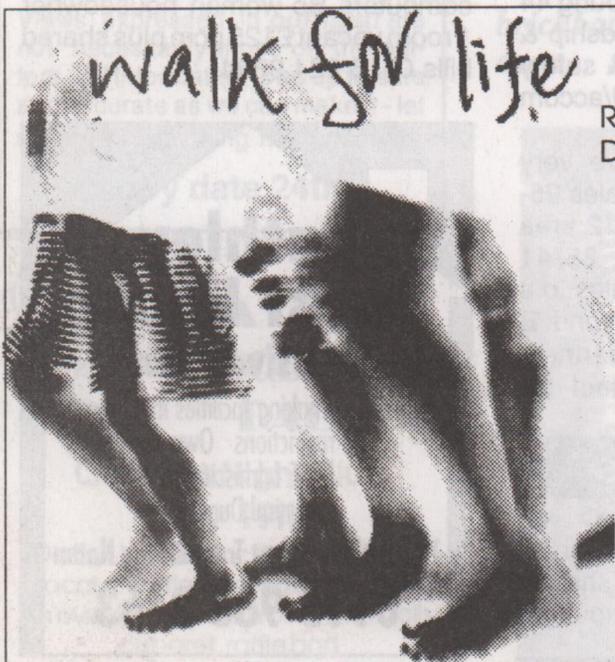
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Pretty Police - continued from Front Page

A spokesperson for the police said that it was true that in response to public complaints the uniformed, especially complaints from women about flashers, the uniformed operation in the area had been stepped up. As this had not had the desired effect and public complaints had increased, they had moved to a covert operation but strongly denied any that any entrapment had taken place. There have been 6 arrests so far, 2 men for indecent exposure, 3 men for gross indecency and 1 man for a sexual assault on a police officer. The officer we spoke to acknowledged that there was no heterosexual equivalent to the offence of gross indecency but said this isn't the fault of the police force - they are there to enforce the law as it stands. The onus for changing the law lies with the voters who have the power bring pressure to bear on their elected representatives for a change in existing legislation.

We are going to be contacting project working around cottaging/cruising issues in the **outright!** region over the coming weeks to check out the state of play and if any individuals want to contact outright! about this issue they can talk to a gay man on 0115 9520770 in complete confidence



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FOR WOMEN**

..stop press - late extra

You have probably noticed that the last few issues have been late arriving at your usual venues. This has been due to a variety of reasons. The problem now is that we are 'stuck' about 2 weeks behind in the production cycle. To break out of this vicious circle we have decided to make the next issue a joint June/July Summer Special which will be out in early June. This should get us back on track for the following issue to be out on August 1st. Subscribers will have an extra issue to make up



**WOMEN'S
Coffee Bar**

12 - 2pm

every Wednesday
45 KING STREET

(dental dams, lubricant & safer sex information available)

0116 254 7412

B R O A D W A Y



London Lesbian & Gay Film Festival on tour...

...Fri 23 - Wed 28 May

The best of queer cinema this year

featuring

It's in The Water

Something is turning the rugged men and the big haired women of Texas into good ol' gays and dykes. A hilarious satire on the straight and narrow.

Girls in Shorts & Boys in Shorts

The Escort (L'Escorte)

Steve, a young tart with a heart, spices up the love life of Philippe and Jean-Marc. A potent mix of melodrama and comedy.

For full details of the festival ring Broadway on
(0115) 952 6600 / 6611

Broadway, 14 Broad St, Nottingham