

MOTHER'S GAY WALK



MARY McCANCE
75-year old Mary McCance, mother of Cllr. Richard McCance will be doing a sponsored walk in aid of the Lesbian & Gay Community Centre, in Lenton Recreation Ground. Ms. McCance who is profoundly deaf and visually handicapped said: "I support the work that is needed to set up a lesbian and gay community centre in Nottingham, and I'm doing my little bit to push it along".

She will walk a maximum of five laps round Lenton Recreation Ground on Saturday 6th December starting at 10.30 a.m. Anyone wishing to accompany her is welcome to turn up just before the start. If you would like to sponsor her please telephone Nottingham 780124 for sponsor forms to be posted. Alternatively, in view of the short time before the walk, anyone wishing to sponsor with an I.O.U. should send it c/o SPONSORED WALK, N.L.G.C.C.S., Box 11, 118 Mansfield Rd, Nottingham, NG1 3HL.

LESBIAN & GAY YOUTH benefit disco

CLUB 69

17th DECEMBER
10.00-2am
£1 on door

Green Lane Gallery
130 GREEN LANE, DERBY
at junction with Babington Lane
Tel. 36852

Open every night of the year -
- even Christmas Day!

CHRISTMAS EVE 11 - 3 and 8 - 11.45
CHRISTMAS DAY 8.30 - 10.30

BOXING DAY 8.30 - MIDNIGHT

NEW YEAR'S EVE 8.30 - 12.15
(a free glass of bubbly for everyone in Fancy Dress)

Twelfth Night (6 Jan) 8.30 - 11
(Free Buffet)

Jeff & Robin thank all friends old and new for their support during 1986 and wish them a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous 1987.

DECEMBER, 1986.
No. 21

It's free!

GAY Nottingham!

Published by GAY NOTTINGHAM. Box 34, West P.D.O., Nottingham, NG7 2DL.

Nottingham Lesbian & Gay Community Centre
Co-operative Society's

Christmas Disco

Tuesday 16th December 8.30-2am

FREE BUFFET * XMAS BOOKSTALL * £1.50/1.00

GAY NOTTINGHAM * COMPETITION * CASABLANCA CLUB

AUTUMN DRAW * TOP FLOOR 19 GREYHOUND STREET OFF KING STREET NOTTINGHAM



Over forty people attended the gay men's open meeting at the Admiral Duncan on 20th November. Several people were recruited to the gay men's sub committee. Author of "Gay Liberation in the 80's", Jamie Gough, outlined the proposals of the Lesbian & Gay Rights Bill for the next Parliament. The Bill is a lesbian/gay version of the Sex Discrimination Act and is sponsored by the Campaign for Homosexual Equality, the National Council for Civil Liberties (NCCIL) and the Labour Campaign for Lesbian & Gay Rights. CHE have already pledged £5,000 to fund a campaign worker plus the use of their London office.

Matthew Parris, former Tory MP for West Derbyshire and currently presenter of "Weekend World", has donated a box of House of Commons Mints for a prize in the lesbian/gay co-op Autumn Draw. Other prizes have been donated by the Admiral Duncan, Foresters, Mushroom Bookshop, Hiziki Wholefoods, Oubouras, Midland Gallery and "Gay Life", (gay monthly for the North and Midlands).

VAUGHAN & FRANKS

SHIRTS FOR TOM DICK & HARRIET.

0602 587980

34 HEATHCOTE ST HOCKLEY

Halting housing harassment

GREENWICH Council has promised to stamp out harassment and abuse against minority groups in its housing estates.

A new tenancy condition insists that tenants and their guests must not: "cause distress or nuisance to a person because of his/her religious origin, sex, age, disability, homosexuality or lesbianism."

The new clause follows increasing attacks on ethnic groups, women and lesbians and gays. A breach of this new rule will be considered as extremely serious and a guilty tenant may be evicted.

NOTTINGHAM GAY SWITCHBOARD, your helpline to the gay/lesbian communities, Mon-Thur, 7-10pm, tel: 411454.

LESBIAN LINE, Confidential help/advice for lesbians, Mon. & Wed, 7.30-9pm, 410652, c/o Womens Centre, Shakespeare Street, Nottingham.

NOTTINGHAM FRIEND, Tuesdays, 7-10 counselling & befriending for lesbians & gay men, bisexuals, TV/TS's, tel: 474712, c/o 31a Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN/GAY YOUTH ORGANISATION up to age 26, info. NLGYO, Box 11, c/o 118 Mansfield Road, Nottm.

AIDS HELPLINE, Worried about AIDS? Call us Mon. & Tues. 7-10pm, Nottingham 585526. Accurate information can help to reduce your anxiety.

NOTTINGHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL - V.D. Clinic, Daily: Mon-Fri. 9.30am to 11.30am. AFTERNOONS: Tues. & Wed: 2-3.30pm. EVENINGS: Mon. & Thurs. 4.30pm to 6.30pm. SATURDAY: Emergencies only for one hour starting 9.30am. (Try to arrive at least half-hour before end of session and please do not pass urine for 4 hours before attending. If you are anxious ask for the Health Advisor. PHONE: 475989, (CLINIC HOURS ONLY), otherwise main hospital number - 476161.

COUNCIL GETS THE JITTERS



Council Leader HIGGINS, BEN BENSON & JO FRASER

WHITE HART HOTEL
CHURCH STREET, MANSFIELD

UPSTAIRS BAR
mixed nights, Fri. & Sat.
Mainly Women, Sunday

FREE ADMISSION

WHITE HART HOTEL
CHARTS & HILARY
CHURCH STREET, MANSFIELD

Swimming sessions for lesbians and gay men came under fire from right-wing Labour Councillor Dennis Birkinshaw, after other Labour members of the Leisure Services Committee gave the go-ahead. The sessions were booked at the John Carroll Leisure Centre, Radford, and due to begin on the 23rd November, but the City Council, faced with threats of violence from some youths in the area, if the sessions went ahead, backed down and put pressure on the gay men to cancel the swims altogether. But when the gay men refused to back down, the Council agreed for the swimming sessions to go ahead on the date agreed.

Vice-Chair of the Leisure Services Committee, Councillor John Taylor defended the sessions. He said: "The City Council recognises that some sections of the community do not take up their fair share of council facilities". Gays and lesbians are not getting special privileges, any group can book a session at any leisure centre if there is space. John Carroll Leisure Centre hosts special groups for women, Asian women, mothers & toddlers and pensioners.

Ben Benson, Equal Opportunities Officer for Gay Men added that it was not possible to catch AIDS from water, nor could they catch homosexuality either!

Unaware that the booking had been transferred, anxious parents and some schools have cancelled sessions and "Stop Sunday Gays" graffiti has appeared on the walls of the Radford Centre. However, since the Nottingham AIDS Information Project has been consulted by the City Council and worried parents, they have been able to provide accurate information, in a bid to reduce the fears created by papers like the "Sun". As a result people in the area are now much more reassured.

But an inside source from one primary school, told GAY NOTTINGHAM that his Headteacher was giving out conflicting information to staff and parents. "No comment" came from County Hall when we tried to find out whether headteachers had been fully briefed by their employers, the County Council, on the DHSS guidelines on AIDS.

Meanwhile, the weekly Sunday swimming sessions began on 23rd November at the Victoria Leisure Centre and take place from 5pm to 6.30pm (last tickets issued at 6pm). People certainly enjoyed themselves so why not make this a regular space in your diary!



Cllr. BIRKINSHAW

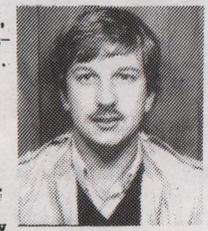
SWITCHBOARD GAY NOTTINGHAM

411454
Mon, Tue, Wed, Thurs. 7-10pm.

The only 24 hour service
01-837 7324
LONDON

Meadows man, Andrew Hibbert, recently returned from a six-month trip to India with his lover Chris Pereira, has found a place in the history of the Nottingham Lesbian & Gay Co-op by becoming its one-hundredth member. Although there is no particular prize for this milestone in the co-op's development, Andrew is very pleased to be its first centenarian. Asked why he joined, he replied: "I think it's very important to support community-run organisations. Whether you have one share or five hundred you still only have one vote. That makes it much more democratic, and ensures that richer members have no more power than those with only one or two shares", he added.

The funds of the co-op now stand at over £1,300 and a number of members have pledged regular standing orders. One of the latest fund-raising ideas is an Autumn Draw, and tickets are now on sale. This will be followed by a Xmas disco at the Casablanca Club on TUESDAY 16th DECEMBER. See details elsewhere in this issue. (Co-op members meetings are held every two months). Anyone wanting further information on the Co-op should contact N.L.G.P.C.S., Box 11, 118 Mansfield Road Nottingham.



LESBIAN & GAY CENTRE

118 Mansfield Road Nottingham

Oskar J. Spielberg

217, MANSFIELD ROAD · NOTTINGHAM · TEL. 472263

open seven days and nights

DRINKS 50p (excluding beer and lager 60p)

Sunday Spielberg Super Sounds
7.00-10.30pm

Forget the Rest - Join the Best

Mon-Sat. 10-2am
Sun. 10-11.30pm

CASABLANCA CLUB

TOP FLOOR 19 GREYHOUND STREET
OFF KING STREET NOTTINGHAM

Tel: 472088 MEMBERS CLUB ONLY

16th DECEMBER	Lesbian//Gay Co-op Disco
18th DECEMBER	Cabaret ALVIS, Nottingham Lad.
22nd DECEMBER	Free raffle plus cheap drinks
23rd DECEMBER	Fancy Dress Party, games, free buffet
24th DECEMBER	CASABLANCA XMAS SHOW, £2, members £2.50 guests, (everyone gets a present from Santa Claus)
26th-28th DEC	Open as Usual
29th-30th DEC	Cheap Nights
31st DECEMBER	NEW YEAR'S EVE, Fancy Dress Theme, party games, free raffle, free buffet, £2. members £2.50 guests.

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

GET YOUR TICKETS EARLY.....GET YOUR TICKETS EARLY.....GET YOUR TICKETS EARLY.....



photo: BEN CLARKE

Members of the Youth Group.

The Nottingham Lesbian & Gay Youth Organisation have several events in the up-coming month, including a Benefit Disco at Club 69 on the 17th December, followed by an Alternative Lesbian/Gay Youth Xmas Festival of drama, music and discussions. "We hope it will be lots of fun", said Ben Clarke, one of the group members. Regular youth group meetings take place at Queens Walk Community Centre, and the next meeting is on Sunday, 7th December, 2-6pm. Further details from W.L.G.Y.O. Box 11, 118 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, (S.A.E.)

WORRIED, CONCERNED
OR JUST CONFUSED?

AIDS AND YOU

NOTTINGHAM AIDS
HELPLINE
585526
Monday/Tuesday 7pm-10pm
or write c/o
114 Mansfield Rd, Notts.

HIZIKI WHOLEFOOD COLLECTIVE

A worker's co-operative selling a wide range of Vegetarian Wholefoods at very competitive prices. Plus extensive food information. We also have facilities for recycling glass jars and bottles (with lids). Please bring in any unwanted jars you have for us to sterilize and refill.

15, Goosegate, Hockley, Nottingham.
Telephone: (0602) 505523

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OPPOSITE YORK HOUSE

WHOLEFHEAL PASTA
VEGETABLE OILS
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BALANCED EATING

WHOLEWHEAT BREAD
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MUESLI
COATS MILK
SEA VEGETABLES
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PLUS A WIDE SELECTION OF JARRED HONEY, HERBS AND SPICES, BREWING MATERIALS AND COOKING UTENSILS.

WORKERS' CONTROL NOT
CONTROL OF WORKERS

uroboros

SEASONAL GREETINGS TO ALL
"GAY NOTTINGHAM" READERS
AND
CONGRATULATIONS
"GAY NOTTINGHAM"
ON
REACHING 21!

We have lots of new gay and lesbian books in stock from Britain and North America, plus as always GAY LIFE, GAY TIMES, GAY SCOTLAND

Our Xmas catalogue is available free, pick one up today!

LOVE from MUSHROOM BOOKSHOP,
10 HEATHCOTE STREET, Nottingham,
tel: Nottingham 582506.

ADMIRAL DUNCAN

74 Lower Parliament Street
telephone: 502727

Gay, day and night,
DISCO BAR, Dee Jay,
Fri, Sat, Sundays,
FREE ENTRANCE, Lounge Bar,
(gay), marked "Private Party", usual pub hours.
A WELCOME AWAITS YOU AT
THE ADMIRAL DUNCAN!

74 Lower Parliament St.
telephone: 502727.

'GAY NOTTINGHAM' IS CELEBRATING ITS 21st BIRTHDAY
WITH A FREE-TO-ENTER COMPETITION.

There are three cash prizes to be won, totalling £21.
First prize £10, second prize £7, third prize £4.

To enter, all you have to do is put a line through the one correct answer to each of the twelve questions and complete the tie-breaker. All of the questions and answers are taken from 'Gay Nottingham' from January to December.

JANUARY

'Gay Nottingham' was banned by this city centre pub. Which?

a) The Dog and Partridge
b) The Dragon
c) Gatsbys

FEBRUARY

A 'Eurobeat Disco' opened at this local nite spot. Where?

a) The Palais
b) Zhivagos
c) Penelopes

MARCH

A march and rally in this North West town helped end the Council's lesbian and gay ban. Where?

a) St Helens
b) Southport
c) Stockport

APRIL

'Gay Nottingham' featured this gay MP who resigned to be a TV presenter. Who?

a) Matthew Parris
b) Ian Harvey
c) Harvey Proctor

MAY

He said 'The idea of having a gay sheriff is absolutely stupid'. Who?

a) The Sheriff of Nottingham
b) The Lord High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire
c) Omar Sharif

JUNE

This play by Perspectives Theatre made a come-back to Nottingham. Which?

a) Poppies
b) Best of Friends
c) Kiss of the Spiderwoman

JULY

This City Councillor for the Beechdale Ward described a Terrence Higgins Trust advert as 'pornographic filth'. Who?

a) Bill Bradbury
b) Edwina Currie
c) Ted Hickey

AUGUST

A pub on Mansfield Road was raided three times. Which?

a) Oskar J Spielberg
b) The Peacock
c) The Golden Fleece

SEPTEMBER

'In the Pink' began. Where?

a) Nottingham Playhouse
b) Odeon 4
c) Channel 4

OCTOBER

A Party Conference approved a lesbian and gay rights policy by a big majority. Which?

a) The Liberal Party
b) The Social Democratic Party
c) The Labour Party

NOVEMBER

This film 'containing the most erotic lesbian sex scenes in mainstream cinema' was shown in Nottingham. Which?

a) My Beautiful Launderette
b) Desert Hearts
c) The Color Purple

DECEMBER

A famous gay duo appear at the Royal Centre. Who?

a) The Communards
b) Bronski Beat
c) Rod Hull and Emu

TIE BREAKER: What are the longest words you can make from the thirteen letters of 'GAY NOTTINGHAM' ?

The announcement of the prizewinners will take place at the Christmas Disco at the Casablanca Club on Tuesday 16th December. Prizewinners will also be listed in the January 1987 edition of 'Gay Nottingham'

Send your entry to 'Gay Nottingham', Box 34, West PDO, Nottingham NG7 2DL to arrive no later than Monday 15th December, or hand in your entry at the Casablanca no later than 10pm on Tuesday 16th December.

My name is (an alias is OK)

If I win, send my prize to:

.....

RIISING SUN, DERBY,

The Heart Of The Gay East Midlands!

TUESDAYS
 'Cheapie Night'-Lager & Bitter Only 60p a Pint!

WEDNESDAY 3rd DECEMBER Star Cabaret
FRIDAY 5th DECEMBER Michael John (Stripper)
WEDNESDAY 10th DECEMBER Broadway Birds
FRIDAY 12th DECEMBER Hemmi Webb (M.Stripper)
WEDNESDAY 17th DECEMBER Star Cabaret
FRIDAY 19th DECEMBER Male Stripper
WEDNESDAY 24th DECEMBER (XMAS EVE),
 Rebel Red, (Male Stripper)
FRIDAY 26 DECEMBER (BOXING NIGHT),
 Star Cabaret
WEDNESDAY 31st DECEMBER (NEW YEAR'S EVE),
 Star Cabaret
FRIDAY 2nd JANUARY, 1986 Star Cabaret

AND NOW... **COMPANY**

FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS till 1.30am
 SUN'S. till 11pm

Doubles 99p

Top Sounds With Resident DJ Chris

RIISING SUN, FRIARGATE, DERBY TEL.(96) 43960

WOT'S GOOIN' OFF!

After the sudden, "totally refurbished re-opening" of the Hearty Goodfellow on Maid Marian Way in October, just as suddenly the Basement Bar closed its doors again, due to "lack of support", said the Manager. It's a pity because the revamped decor might just have tempted the punters away from their ironing. But to blame the gay community for lack of support seems a little unfair, given that there was no advance publicity apart from an ad. on the front page of the Parish News. Not everyone reads the births and deaths columns when they stagger out of the Astoria in their sling-backs!

Word has it on the grapevine, which may not even be true, that all is not harmony between the Bradley Dynasty and that other cornerstone of the empire, Frank Turner. There are mixed reports on the merits of the "69" Club, some say it's O.K. if a bit dull, whilst others felt it was a bit passe a La Angus Steak House. As we all know in the trade, the punters vote with their feet, & I'm told it's not doing so good these days, and there's talk of their prices being slashed. A last, desperate measure or could this be the (rather) late start of gay community spirit. Time will tell!

We hear that the County Council's latest bit of P.R. is to embrace, with Tory blessing, the Anima. Rights Charter, which I'm sure everyone will welcome, and no one doubts the sincerity of Baron Pettitt. However a little unguarded remark at his photo-call with the "Evening Post", heard him remark: "It's better to support causes like this than all those extremist issues". Well I suppose he must be relieved that the animals won't be asking for their very own sub-committee, much easier to keep them in order, this lot.

The METRO CINEMA

MIDNIGHT EXPRESS
 Fri 4 December (Late Show) 11.00
 Starring: Brad Davis, John Hurt, Randy Quaid
 Director: Alan Parker
 Great Britain 1978 121 mins

BETTY BLUE (37.2' IN THE MORNING)
 Wed 3-Sun 14 December
 Wed 3-Fri 5 at 8.00, Sat 6 at 6.30/9.00
 Sun 7-Fri 12 at 8.00, Sat 13 and Sun 14 at 6.30
 Starring: Beatrice Dalle, Jean Huges Anglade
 Director: Jean Jacques Beuzel
 France 1986 121 mins Subtitles

WITNESS
 Fri 12 December (Late Show) 11.00
 Sat 13, Sun 14, 9.00
 Starring: Harrison Ford, Kelly McGillis
 Director: Peter Weir
 USA 1985 112 mins

A young boy witnesses a murder in a men's room at Philadelphia station. Hardened Police Captain Book is assigned to the case and reveals small-time corruption in the Narcotics squad. After a shoot-out in which he is injured, he takes the boy and the young mother back to the safety of their home town, a small Amish community where centuries-old puritanical traditions have survived in the face of technological progress and urban change.

CLOCKWISE
 Tues 16-Thur 18 December 7.30
 Starring: John Cleeve, Alison Steadman, Penelope Wilton
 Director: Christopher Morahan
 Great Britain 1986 97 mins
 "... Some people will be left helpless with laughter. Some will be left so helpless they can't even laugh." Ann Lloyd, Films and Filming.

BACK TO THE FUTURE
 Fri 19-Sun 21 December
 Fri at 7.30, Sat at 2.30/7.30, Sun at 7.30
 Starring: Michael J Fox, Christopher Lloyd
 Director: Robert Zemeckis
 USA 1985 116 mins

Back at the Metro for the New Year
 Merchant Ivory's comedy of manners
A ROOM WITH A VIEW



JANUARY
 Sat 3 2.00/ 4.30 6.30/ 9.00
 Sun 4 6.30/ 9.00 Mon 5 8.00
 Starring: Maggie Smith, Denholm Elliot, Judi Dench, Helena Bonham-Carter, Simon Callow, Daniel Day Lewis, Julian Sands
 Director: James Ivory GB 1986 115 mins
GREEN LANE, DERBY 40170

Nottingham Gay Switchboard has varied accommodation on offer in the City and in Ilkeston, Hucknall, Mansfield, and Newark. Phone GAY SWITCHBOARD for details.

BIGOTS BITE THE DUST!

California voters recently rejected, by a 2-1 majority, harsh new measures against AIDS sufferers and those diagnosed antibody positive. Proposition 64, which called for the job dismissal and forcible detention of workers in teaching, nursing and catering, was the brainchild of Lyndon LaRouche, a maverick, right-wing extremist. To the alarm of California's large lesbian and gay communities, LaRouche got the necessary 100,000 signatures to have a ballot on the issue.

COLIN CLEWS, of the Nottingham Aids Project was involved in the "No to 64" campaign, and has recently returned from California. Colin talked to GAY NOTTINGHAM and describes the background to the campaign, and what it was like being in the thick of it.



WHAT WAS THE TIMESPAN OF THE "NO ON 64" CAMPAIGN AND HOW WAS IT FUNDED AND ORGANISED?

The Campaign was mounted when it was clear that LaRouche had the necessary signatures in support of his proposition to make it a voting issue in California. Within three months the campaign collected \$3,000,000 (about £1,500,000), which arrived in small and large amounts. Every telephone subscriber was called and asked for donations. This not only produced money but gave us a daily barometer of feelings around the issue. Since the death of Rock Hudson from AIDS, Hollywood has been in the forefront of large fund-raising events. Stars like Joan Rivers, Jane Fonda and Bob Hope and many others have pitched in. It was one of my jobs to write "thank you" letters to people who had donated more than £500.

The Campaign had wide grass-roots support, and was able to fund twelve full-time workers for the three months sprint to polling day, backed up by literally hundreds of volunteers.

WHAT WAS THE BASIS OF LA ROUCHE'S CAMPAIGN?

His argument was that if people with AIDS and those with the virus, were detained, the whole problem of the spread of AIDS would be solved. I think he counted on coasting to victory on a wave of AIDS hysteria and that people would vote with their feet. Right up to the eve of poll it was hard to decide what the final outcome would

be. La Rouche is a dangerous man, who shouldn't be underestimated and is backed by extreme right-wing and fascist organisations like the KlukluxKlan. He has a small band of fanatical supporters, about one thousand throughout the United States, plus many more who would give support on specific issues like AIDS or anti-gay attacks. His followers would hang around airport concourses and accost people, saying things like "Henry Kissinger is a member of the British Secret Service and has been planted in order to bring down America" or saying that the Queen is "the head of a massive drug smuggling ring" or "that the CIA was a front for the Russian KGB".

CANT SOMEBOWE LIKE LA ROUCHE BE DISMISSED AS A CRACKPOT?

By presenting simple answers to quite complex problems it is quite possible for people with strange ideas, to capture public imagination, emerging quickly from nowhere to positions of power. Also, with the uncertainty of the international situation, many Americans feel their lives are falling apart and tend to latch onto anybody or anything that seems to offer some kind of simple answer to political and social problems, a kind of final solution.

WAS POLITICAL OPPOSITION TO "NO ON 64" VOICED FROM THE START, AND IF SO, WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

There was support right across the political spectrum for "No on 64", although the Governor of California, who is a right-wing Republican, only chose to come out against La Rouche a week before the election and his critics said quite clearly that he only did so because he had already anticipated that La Rouche might lose.

IN 1979 THERE WAS AN ANTI-LESBIAN/GAY BILL CALLED "BRIGGS INITIATIVE" WHICH, IF PASSED WOULD HAVE SACKED KNOWN LESBIAN OR GAY TEACHERS. THE CAMPAIGN WAS POISED FOR SUCCESS UNTIL BRIGGS DID A T.V. DEBATE WHICH EFFECTIVELY LOST HIM MAJORITY SUPPORT. WERE THERE ANY PARALLELS THIS TIME AROUND?

Two weeks before polling day, the La Rouche organisation had all its funds impounded, following fraud investigations by the F.B.I. However, this did not stop the T.V. Stations advertising his campaign. It was a ludicrous situation; La Rouche got prime-time space, whilst the "No on 64" campaign often had to settle for the low-rated viewing times. There was always the feeling that La Rouche might easily have won, whether discredited or not.

WHAT WERE THE AIMS OF "NO ON 64" CAMPAIGN AND HOW WERE THEY GOT ACROSS TO THE PUBLIC

A major task was to get across to the public that sex itself wasn't the threat, but that La Rouche's attack was a generalised attack on gay lifestyles. Fear reduction was one of our aims. La Rouche claimed that his Bill would stop AIDS, whereas, the entire medical profession, all AIDS organisations and the lesbian/gay communities were ranged against him, using tried and tested facts. Towards polling day the message seemed to be getting through.

It was also important for "No on 64" to be visible on the streets. An effective, eye-catching tactic is the human billboard, where a group of people stand at busy crossroads with identical billboards, each saying part of a slogan you want to get across. The reaction was generally very positive. Drivers, gay and straight, hooted their approval as they drove past, whilst the

more closetted gays would drive past and then, at a safe distance, lean out of the car window and wave.

WERE THERE ANY PARTICULAR GROUPS TARGETTED IN THIS CAMPAIGN?

The black community was lobbied strongly and they responded equally positively. AIDS in America is seen as a "black problem" as much as a "gay problem" and the argument is something like: "AIDS only affects



A human billboard, "NO ON 64"

'niggers' and 'queers', so why bother to find a cure". However, now that AIDS is affecting straight, white men and women in increasing numbers, America is, rather belatedly, taking the issue seriously, in the words of the American Surgeon General: "America declares war on AIDS, not its victims!"

WERE THERE ANY PLANS FOR A KWEEB-UP IF YOU WON?

A lavish victory celebration had already been laid on in one of the largest ballrooms in Hollywood with thousands and thousands of pink balloons, stacked in columns, from floor to ceiling. There was jubilation everywhere when we heard that we had won.

WHAT LESSONS EMERGED FROM THE CAMPAIGN THAT COULD BE APPLIED ELSEWHERE, IN BRITAIN FOR INSTANCE?

Had La Rouche won in California, changes that would probably have swept America could have formed the basis for testing the water in Britain. There was also a positive spin-off from the "No on 64" Campaign in that the straight/gay coalition of groups, for the most part, chose the ground on which they fought the campaign, which was based around AIDS education and fear reduction.

Now that the Labour Party's proposal for a Lesbian & Gay Rights Bill in Britain is being promoted in 1987, it might be interesting to see what campaign techniques learned in the "No on 64" campaign would be applicable here.

Before the "No on 64" campaign, lesbians and gay men were saying something like: "Oh, dear, do we have a voice". Now they are saying "No more apologies, we are here, we are everywhere, we have power".