

APRIL '89

NO. 20

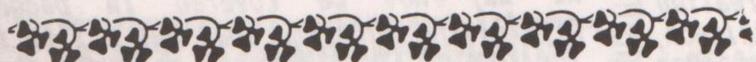
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EAST MIDLANDS

METRO
GAY

• THE FREE ONE •

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PAM SOCKS IT TO 'EM

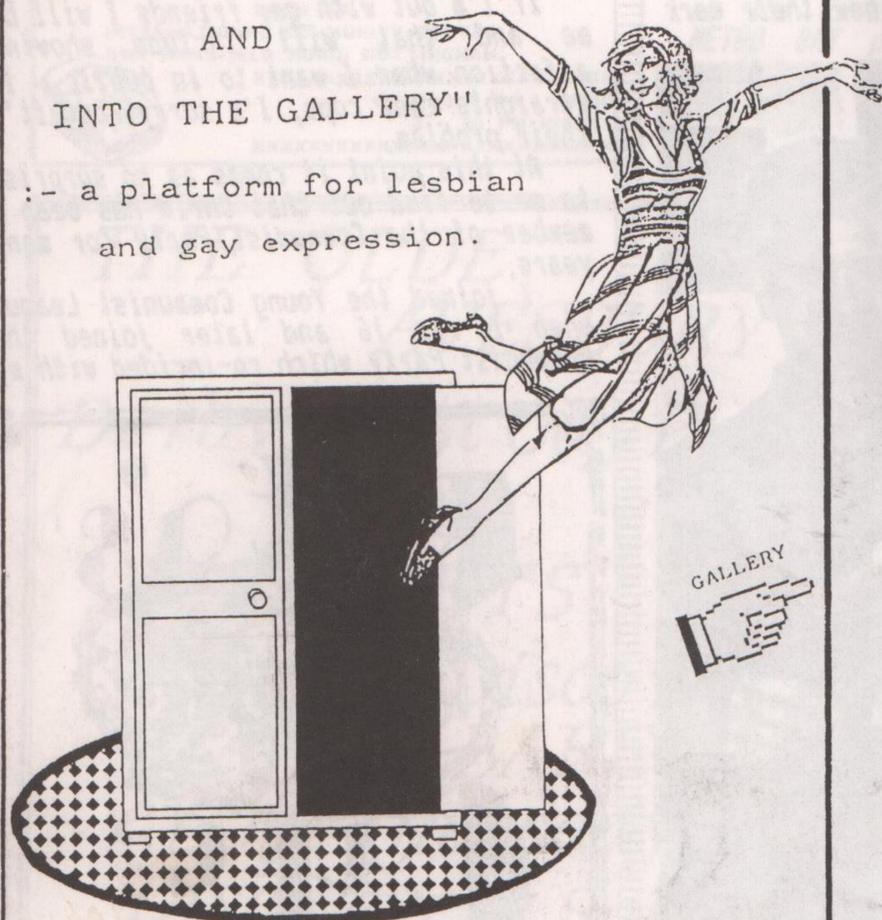
EastEnders actress Pam, St. Clement opened Pride's fundraising and the 1989 benefit season with a display of considerable personal courage last month. Taking the stage at a women-only showing of the films 'Desert Hearts' at a London cinema she told the rapt audience of her intention to stand up for lesbian and gay rights despite her savaging last year at the hands of the tabloid press. "I think it's about time I came out for my own sanity, because I've never been anywhere else. It was the tabloid press who put me in a cupboard and closed the door".

She paid tribute to those out there 'that I know and those I don't know who have supported me through the bad times I've had', before joining the audience for the rest of the evening, to loud cheers.



"OUT OF THE CLOSET
AND
INTO THE GALLERY"

:- a platform for lesbian
and gay expression.



An exhibition at Nottingham Community Arts Centre
Tuesday 2nd May to Saturday 27th May 1989.



NOTTS EXPO TAKES OFF!

Its architects would hardly appreciate the irony of it all but the fact remains that Clause 28, designed to suppress positive images of gay people has provided the inspiration for the first Lesbian and Gay Arts exhibition ever seen in Nottingham, entitled "Out of the Closet & Into The Gallery". A discussion around the Clause prompted the Nottingham Community Arts Centre to open its doors to both established and emerging lesbian and gay artists having already hosted exhibitions by black and disabled artists. The centre has now provided a rare opportunity for lesbians and gay men to share a common platform and has been inundated with submissions from near and far. Workshops have also been arranged for April and May for budding photographers, cartoonists, poets and writers. (Pictured (Continued back page, col. 1)

POET
GELINDA
BURTON



HOSPITAL SLAMMED OVER TEST DEMAND

Following a complaint from a Kenilworth man over his treatment at the hands of a doctor, a Midlands health authority is to review the way gay patients are treated in its hospitals. The patient, George Broadhead, when attending Warwick Hospital for what he thought would be a minor operation, was instead quizzed by a junior doctor about his lifestyle, asked if he was gay and then asked to take an HIV test.

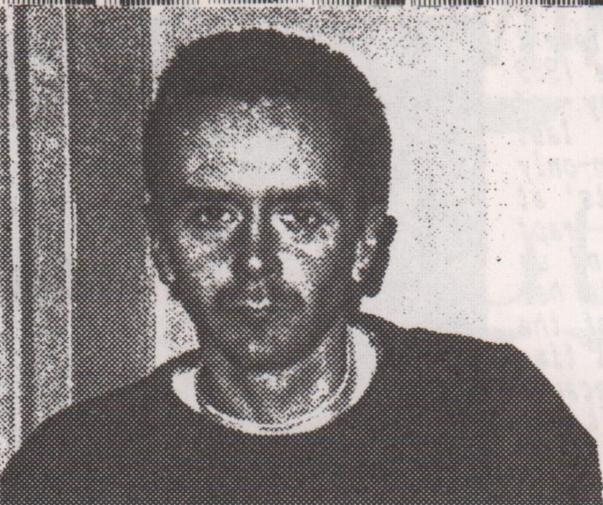
Mr. Broadhead refused to be tested and the consultant responsible for his operation agreed that there was no need for a test. A spokesperson for the Terrence Higgins Trust backed Mr. Broadhead's stance saying that hospitals do not need to know a patient's sexual orientation and there



is virtually no risk to surgeons from HIV+ patients. In fact, a patient with HIV is at greater risk from the surgeon if infection controls are lax in the operating theatre. Finally, the THT spokesperson advised gay men to refuse an HIV test when in hospital for routine operations.

THANKS TO
OTHERWISE

NEWS



He studies a pile of photos, hesitatingly selecting two, half apologising, as he swears it doesn't look like him. "My hair was different then". Chris Newcombe is a bit of a chameleon, now you see him, now you don't. He's someone I've seen around for years, yet he always looks different. But then I know by the time the print is dry Chris will have come up with a new image and probably a Paul Smith suit as well! But you might well be forgiven for thinking this debonair trendsetter of the Nottingham scene is an empty-headed fashion queen staggering from one catwalk to another. Wrong. His feet, ensconced in DM's, stand firmly on the ground fifteen floors up in his pad at the Victoria Centre, Nottingham where he's been happily changing flats for several years.

"I've lived in this one for nearly a year now but ideally would prefer a house in town; I need somewhere with easy access for the unsocial hours I keep, otherwise you spend so much money and time in travelling. When Eden was damaged by fire last December I was on the spot within five minutes.

Meet Chris Newcombe Club Manager.

"I used to work for the DHSS but wanted a change, and on completing an Open University degree in Maths and Science I set up as a self-employed tutor which worked well for a time. But my personal life was unhappy and I found it difficult to pace myself when I didn't have to keep set hours. You can easily let things slide. I decided I needed something new which didn't put me under a lot of emotional pressure and took a job as a bartender in Eden, because I enjoyed the work. When the manager left I was made Assistant Manager and then in October last I became Manager...

Chris excuses himself to take the first of several calls, followed by his two cats who want to be in on the act.

On his return we pick up "...Eden was Nottingham's main focus for alternative music when the Garage closed, but when Cook Kat opened our audiences became somewhat haphazard. The present owners of Eden have never really been committed to the place, partly because one of them owns an established night club and the other is in the property business. The name of the game seems to be a big killing in the shortest possible time.

Chris Newcombe is a thoughtfully, articulate man with dancing eyes that light up like a pixie when he describes something that amuses him. He tells me he originates from a small village in Leicestershire where he lived until he had moved to Leicester.

"When I first started going to clubs in 1975 or so you generally had to be a member - all a very closed shop but then along came the one-nighters in London, spotting a profitable gap in the market, fit us in when they're slack. In Nottingham's case it was the Astoria soon after Part II closed. The attitude of some of their staff to the punters was often disguised hostility or sarcasm. I can remember a doorman warning me "no sex in the toilets tonight".

A knock on the door and a friend wanted some advice about something and soon he was back. We resumed and got down to the nitti-gritti of what makes Eden, and Fever, in particular, tick.

"The way Fever has developed at Eden is quite unique in Nottingham as far as I am aware. Fever began as the creation of Mark Carroll and Mike Atkinson, originally at the Barracuda and when that was sold, they moved here. We experimented with a fortnightly slot and then took a gamble going weekly and it got busier. It's good how their work has fused with our work.



Eden is a members' club, neither gay or straight, and I try to create a welcome to all who enjoy the music we play for that's why many of them come in the first place. Most people dance some of the time, some all of time! Everyone can get involved in all of the various nights we do, if they want to.

Another important thing about Fever is that it has involved both staff and users who aren't gay. Some gays have got to know Eden through Fever, and feel comfortable and come on non-gay nights because they know they will be welcomed. One of the problems with commercial gay clubs or most one-nighters are that they deliberately encourage isolation, with no quiet areas to talk and make new friends or know what else is happening in the community via say a noticeboard. It is in their interests that you don't have choice.

You owe something to your members, especially when they are regular users and they should have a chance to become

In the run up to Pride 89, we continue our series on campaigners. Chris Newcombe is a campaigner with a difference, he runs a night club

involved in it. At Eden I have dispensed with the usual divisions between Manager and barstaff, staff and customers. We don't employ bouncers because we generally don't need them. When the club was on the market recently we talked about how good it would be if we could form a co-op. We looked into it but found that we couldn't raise the necessary capital to start it off.

I thought this was a far cry from the callous one-nighters offered by many places who are quick to grab our money, but would probably bounce us when they're busy.

On the home front Chris shares his flat with his two cats, and two straight men. "My personal life and my private life converge; I have many straight friends as well as gay ones", he says. He may not be covered in badges proclaiming this and that but a life in the day of Chris Newcombe seems to show he's a success at blending his music, his work and leisure in a harmonious way.

If I'm out with gay friends I will be me and that will include showing affection when I want to in public. If straights can't cope, I'm sorry, but it's their problem.

At this point it comes as no surprise to me to find out that Chris has been a member of the Communist Party for many years.

I joined the Young Communist League when I was 16 and later joined the Communist Party which co-incided with my



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involvement in gay politics. We had the same battles, to convince our members that gays and lesbians were not just "peripheral issues but central issues to equality". We were still expected to "fit in" rather than the party to adapt to our basic needs.

In many respects everything you do is political in some way or has a political dimension.

The last ten years have seen the Tories concentrating so many radical policies, in the right wing sense, and
(Continued, page 6, col. 1)

SCHOLEY'S

OUT ON

TUESDAY



In 1964 an unsuspecting British television audience was given the chance to investigate a well-hidden and very strange phenomenon indeed - that of the "sordid" (and then still illegal) world of the male homosexual. The documentary, "This Week" took on a depressingly familiar form; the usual dubious collection of so-called experts (psychiatrists, clergymen, doctors and chief constables) all sat in the studio discussing these unfortunate individuals and the problems they faced as an inevitable consequence of their tragic lifestyles. True to form the viewers were also presented with two such figures who duly detailed the hopelessness of their 'condition' and their terror of being blackmailed. As incredible as it may seem 25 years on, these men sat with either their backs to the camera or in silhouette.

The aims of the programme and its makers were well-intentioned of course. They wanted to educate the unwashed masses about a subject that was (and largely remains) taboo in order to bring about a change in public opinion which in turn would make homosexual law reform easier. But the programme was fundamentally flawed in that it was made by heterosexuals for a heterosexual audience and it consisted largely of heterosexuals talking not to US but about US. This was true of all the television programming that dealt with gay people that was to follow during the next 25 years.

However, with the arrival of Channel Four in 1982 with its statutory duty to cater for 'minorities' a change in policy was heralded. And a full seven years later the station finally put its money where its promises were and 'Out on Tuesday' the first ever nationally networked TV magazine show made by and for lesbians and gay men was launched; British television history in the making.

Oozing typical Channel Four art-school chic and looking suitably expensive this first slice of 'gay telly' gave us the best excuse to be anything but 'Out on Tuesday' come the stroke of eleven o'clock when lesbians and gays from Perth to Penzance settled down in front of the box for an hour's entertainment, the one hour a week when we saw our lives, our world, our concerns reflected for a change.

It wasn't perfect, of course. I'm sure you had your own particular suggestions for improvement... Too long (running for 60 minutes), too short (over in 8 weeks), too arty, too lefty, on too late, and of course it always seemed to dwell at great length on just those subjects that bored you rigid while doing no justice at all to the things you really wanted to hear about. And I'm sure there are many gay people for whom the sight of a man in a frock is still enough to bring on some kind

of apoplexy (so much for 20 years of liberation!).

As a programme it was, and had to be, a very mixed bag, with its unapologetic cross-section of generations, races and locations, and any gay venture aiming to cater for both lesbians and gay men is bound to leave one or the other (and often both) dissatisfied. For what it's worth my own favourites and the bits that worked best were undoubtedly the interviews, not with the famous or the infamous public gay figures, but with the 'ordinary' unknown lesbians and gays talking about themselves and those aspects of gay life that we're all so familiar with ourselves, such as relationships, sex, the gay scene, gays in soap operas, etc.

The first episode attracted an audience of 1.1 million viewers, proof if proof were needed that Channel Four were right to commission the series. Indeed in the current hostile climate and intense scrutiny the BBC and ITV companies are under from the government all credit goes to Channel Four for not bottling out along the way. It's interesting to note that in January

1965 when the 'This Week' team that made the documentary about gay men mentioned earlier turned its attention to lesbians, the Daily Express told its readers on the day of transmission, "you still have time to keep this filth out of your living rooms!"

An almost identical chorus accompanied the launch of 'Out on Tuesday', reminding us just how little attitudes have changed in some areas over the last quarter of a century.

But despite its detractors 'Out on Tuesday' has proved that over the last 25 years there have been unbelievable changes not only in the way society sees lesbians and gays but more importantly in how we see ourselves. It has shown that we are a community and that despite Aids, anti-gay legislation and hardening public opinion we are a community growing in confidence.

PS A second series of 'Out on Tuesday' is being considered. By expressing your support for the series its return will be made more likely. Write to: CHANNEL FOUR, 60 CHARLOTTE STREET, LONDON W.1.

richard scholey

Tony & Steve

welcome everyone

to our

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LIZ BAILEY



Hello again, by the time you read this Madonna will have made it to No. 1, Dusty's back in England at last, With the success of her new record and lots of TV appearances she is on her way up once more. This is a wish come true for me. The song might not be her strongest but I'm sure we'll hear more of her before the year's out.

CD's now account for 8% of the singles market, Gloria Estefan and Miami Sound Machine 'Can't Stay Away From You' and Elvis Costello's 'Veronica', for instance, even appear in two different CD editions, Our old friend Boy George has a new record called 'Don't Take My Mind on a Trip', sounds more interesting than Erica Davidson's lurex dresses, Pet Shop Boys have released a special limited edition of their album 'Introspective', This comes on three 45 12" singles with large picture labels, 'Pau' have released 'Only the Lonely' from the album 'Rage', I see that the outspoken Donna Summer is packing the clubs with her new record, Time was when a lot of DJ's burnt all her records as a protest for the awful things she said about People With Aids, Such a shame she should feel like that, I wish the record companies would put a different song on the B side instead of the instrumental of the A side, What a con, It annoys me as a DJ to pay out £1.75 for a single to get the same on the B side.

Watch Sam Brown this year, remember her father Joe Brown (and the Bruvvers?) I'm looking for a record called the 'Happy Wanderer', its on a green Columbia label 45, Can you help? Debbie Gibson has topped the US singles and album charts simultaneously at the age of 18, and is only the fifth teenager in chart history to have a No. 1 album, following 17 year-old Ricky Nelson in '58, 13 year-old Stevie Wonder in '63, and 16 year-old Tiffany in '86.

Stars who paid their fifty pounds to see the premiere of 'Scandal' were George Michael, Phil Collins, Dusty Springfield, Pet Shop Boys, Marc Almond and Frank Bough, Pet Clark, Lulu, and Adam Faith sold programmes in the foyer.

Look out for a revival from Johnny Cash - remember him? ('A Boy Named Sue').

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BOB HOSKINS
BEST ACTOR

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METRO PHOENIX

CITY LIGHTS C.I.N.E.M.A

DESERT HEARTS

A FILM BY DONNA DEITCH

DESSERT HEARTS/USA/1985/93 mins. Two women meet at a desert ranch near Reno in 1959. One is an uptight teacher awaiting a quickie divorce; the other a beautiful and unconventional free-spirit. In the desert heat, love blooms. Romantic, erotic and full of wit and warmth with a great Patsy Cline soundtrack.

"One of his very finest films"
Alexander Walker, The Standard

"It is as magical as it is mysterious"
David Robinson, The Times

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TIME OUT

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THE GUARDIAN

"...Gaup's wonderful Pathfinder"
THE OBSERVER

"...wonderfully integrated and highly seductive film"
THE TIMES

"Gaup's dazzling Pathfinder"
SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

PHOENIX ARTS

"Has had its audiences standing in the aisles and applauding"

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CITY LIGHTS C.I.N.E.M.A

The METRO CINEMA

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GEORGES DELERUE JENNY BEVAN
LEO AUSTIN RALPH SHELDON
KENNETH MACMILLAN JOHN GALSWORTHY
HENRIE MCWINTER
DANTON RISSNER PERS HAGGARD

CINEMA

PRINCE OF PENNSYLVANIA

USA/1988/93 mins. A gem of independent filmmaking that injects real intelligence into the 'alienated youth/teen rebel' genre. To avoid following his redneck father into the mines, Gary decides to kidnap the old man, with the help of a female hippie biker! Great script & performances.

PHOENIX ARTS

"A BRILLIANTLY FUNNY GHOST-CAPER"
Peter Bishop, The People

"DAZZLING ARRAY OF SPECIAL EFFECTS"
Alexander Walker, The Standard

"BRILLIANT! SHOULD BE SAMPLED IMMEDIATELY!"
Smash Hits

PHOENIX ARTS

PHOENIX ARTS

High Spirits

DARIL HANNAH PETER O'TOOLE STEVE GUTTENBERG

PHOENIX ARTS

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"DAZZLING ARRAY OF SPECIAL EFFECTS"
Alexander Walker, The Standard

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Smash Hits

PHOENIX ARTS

High Spirits

DARIL HANNAH PETER O'TOOLE STEVE GUTTENBERG

GLENDA JACKSON JOHN THAW CATHY TYSON

What happens when a woman says No!...

"Business as Usual"

Written and Directed by LEZLI AN BARRETT
Producer SARA GEATER
Executive Producers MENAHEM GOLAN and YORAM GLOBUS
Music by STYLE COUNCIL

CITY LIGHTS C.I.N.E.M.A

METRO CINEMA

Thu 13 April	The Runner	5.30
Thu 13 April	Sour Sweet	9.00
Fri 14 April	Sticky Fingers	6.00
Fri 14 April	The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne	3.30
Fri 14 April	Big Time LATE	11.00
Sat 15 April	Dark Crystal	2.00
Sat 15 April	Sticky Fingers	3.50
Sat 15 April	The Lonely Passion of JH	9.00
Sun 16 April	Hibiscus Town	8.00
Sun 16 April	The Lonely Passion of JH	9.00
Tue 19 April	DCHS Guest Lecture - Peter Greenaway	7.00
Wed 19 April	Little Dorrit - Pt. I	7.30
Thu 20 April	Little Dorrit - Pt. II	7.30
Fri 21 April	Dead Ringers	6.00
Fri 21 April	The Dressmaker	8.30
Fri 21 April	The Blues Brothers LATE	11.00
Sat 22 April	Scrouged	2.00
Sat 22 April	Dead Ringers	6.30
Sat 22 April	The Dressmaker	9.00
Sun 23 April	Repo Man + The State of Things	5.00
Sun 23 April	The Dressmaker	9.00
Tue 25 April	Dead Ringers	6.30
Wed 26 April	King Of The Children	6.30
Wed 26 April	Dead Ringers	9.00
Thu 27 April	King Of The Children	6.30
Thu 27 April	Dead Ringers	9.00
Fri 28 April	A Summer Story	6.00
Fri 28 April	The Prince of Pennsylvania	9.00
Fri 28 April	Rumblefish + One From The Heart	10.45
Sat 29 April	Mr. Hulot's Holiday	2.00
Sat 29 April	A Summer Story	6.30
Sat 29 April	The Prince of Pennsylvania	9.00
Sun 30 April	Stranger Than Paradise + Strozek	5.00
Sun 30 April	The Prince of Pennsylvania	9.00
Tue 2 May	The Prince of Pennsylvania	6.30
Wed 3 May	The Prince of Pennsylvania	6.30
Thu 4 May	A Summer Story	9.00
Fri 5 May	On The Black Hill	6.00
Fri 5 May	Le Grand Chein	8.30
Fri 5 May	Bobocop LATE	11.00
Sat 6 May	The Tony Hill Show	2.00
Sat 6 May	On The Black Hill	6.00
Sat 6 May	The Grand Chein	9.00
Sun 7 May	Atlantic City + Alamo Bay	5.00
Sun 7 May	Le Grand Chein	9.00
Tue 9 May	DCHS Guest Lecture	7.00
Tue 9 May	Le Grand Chein	9.00
Wed 10 May	Salthereens	6.30

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PHOENIX ARTS

PHOENIX	Thu 13 April	The Dead	8.15
Thu 13 April	Reefer & The Model	6.15	
Thu 13 April	Joyriders	6.15	
Thu 13 April	The Dead	8.15	
Fri 14 April	Basket Case LATE	11.15	
Fri 14 April	Anthony Cleopatra MAT.	2.30	
Mon 22 April	High Spirits	6.15	
Mon 24 April	Buddawanny	8.15	
Tue 25 April	On A Paving Stone Mounted	6.15	
Tue 25 April	High Spirits	8.45	
Thu 27 April	The Ballroom of Romance	8.00	
Fri 28 April	Shivers LATE	11.15	
Sat 29 April	Shog	2.30	
Mon 1 May	Bird	7.00	
Tue 2 May	Bird	7.00	
Wed 3 May	Non Professionals	6.15	
Wed 3 May	Dada Dada Dada Pr.1	8.15	
Fri 5 May	Texas Chainsaw Massacre	11.15	
Sat 6 May	Willow	2.30	
Mon 8 May	The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne	6.15	
Mon 8 May	Pathfinder	8.15	
Tue 9 May	Pathfinder	8.15	
Tue 9 May	The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne	8.15	
Thu 11 May	Hope And Glory	6.15	
Thu 11 May	Dada Dada Dada Pr.2	8.15	
Fri 12 May	Night of the Living Dead	11.00	

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CITY LIGHTS C.I.N.E.M.A

Sun 9 April	Midnight Run	5.00
Tue 11 April	Diary For My Loves	7.30
Wed 12 April	Diary For My Loves	7.30
Thu 13 April	Diary For My Loves	7.30
Fri 14 April	The Prince of Pennsylvania	7.30
Sat 15 April	The Prince of Pennsylvania	5.00
Sun 16 April	The Prince of Pennsylvania	8.00
Sun 16 April	Gloria	5.00
Sun 16 April	The Prince of Pennsylvania	8.00
Tue 18 April	Dada Dada Dada Dada Pt. 1	7.30
Wed 19 April	Out Of The Past (Polycine)	5.00
Wed 19 April	Out Of The Past	7.30
Thu 20 April	DRESSIT HEARTS	7.30
Fri 21 April	Colours	7.30
Sat 22 April	Colours	8.00
Sat 22 April	Sacrificed Youth	5.00
Sun 23 April	The Hitcher	5.00
Sun 23 April	Sacrificed Youth	8.00
Tue 25 April	Dada Dada Dada Dada	7.30
Wed 26 April	Against All Odds (Polycine)	5.00
Wed 26 April	Against All Odds	7.30
Thu 27 April	Business As Usual	7.30
Fri 28 April	Kamikaze	5.00
Sat 29 April	Kamikaze	5.00
Sat 29 April	Kamikaze	8.00
Sun 30 April	Wear Dark	5.00
Sun 30 April	Kamikaze	8.00
Tue 2 May	Dada Dada Dada Dada	7.30
Wed 3 May	Metropolis (Polycine)	5.00
Wed 3 May	Metropolis (Polycine)	7.30
Thu 4 May	Rouge Baiser	7.30
Fri 5 May	Cohen & Tate	7.30
Sat 6 May	A World Apart	5.00
Sat 6 May	Cohen & Tate	8.00
Sun 7 May	Sugar Baby	5.00
Tue 9 May	Faces	7.30
Wed 10 May	King Of The Children	7.30
Thu 11 May	King Of The Children	7.30
Fri 12 May	Crazy Love	7.30

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NIGHT OWNS

ten years is a long time for young people growing up, without having experienced an alternative form of government in power.

We should have exactly the same rights and opportunities to lead fulfilled and happy lives as straights but for this to happen we have to become an integral part of all the other aspects of life. I believe this is beginning to happen. So many of the problems we face are tied up inextricably with the nature of the society we live under.

Black people in America and here to a lesser extent, may have produced their own "success" stories in millionaires, but this does not make for equality simply because they can sit alongside white millionaires. The majority of black and white people are still denied the possibility of self development. And that goes for gays and lesbians too.

Another phone call and I wonder if we will get through this interview.

But this time it's someone to break the news to Chris the Manager that the club may close, again, yawn, yawn, while a new owner, the third in so many years had nearly clinched the deal, playing musical chess, I thought.

It seemed that Chris's successful blend of mix n' match might be coming to an end, and that would include our weekly Fever disco.

A philosophical Chris hung up. They told him of course, he would be retained but then I'm sure he's heard it all before. He didn't think he'd stick around for long.

"I'd rather quit than carry on raking the money in, with no commitment to the users; that's not for me." The dancing eyes were deadly serious now.

But change is something which Chris wears regularly and in the process has made him a lot of friends. He assures me he is a private person and I know that in his own quiet, unassuming way he will have transfused the message like electric shock waves that you better 'be what you wanna' be because you're a long time dead'.

RICHARD Mc CANCE

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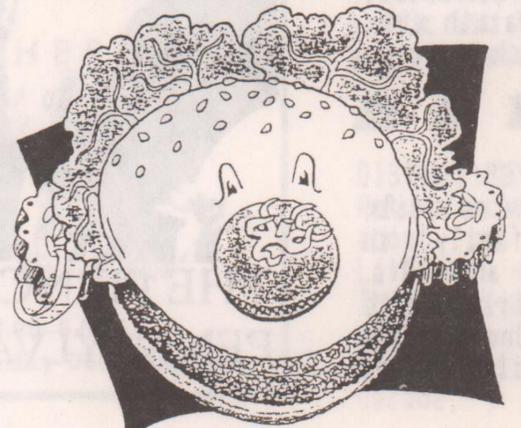
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VEGGIES

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Experience of dealing with lesbians and gay men, personal sensitivity and political judgement are essential. Job sharing proposals are welcome. We have a full commitment to devising and implementing an equal opportunities policy, although our current premises lack disabled access.

For further details and an application form write to:

Leicester Lesbian and Gay Line,

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Leicester LE1 6RN

Tel: 0533-550667

closing date:

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LIAISON OFFICER

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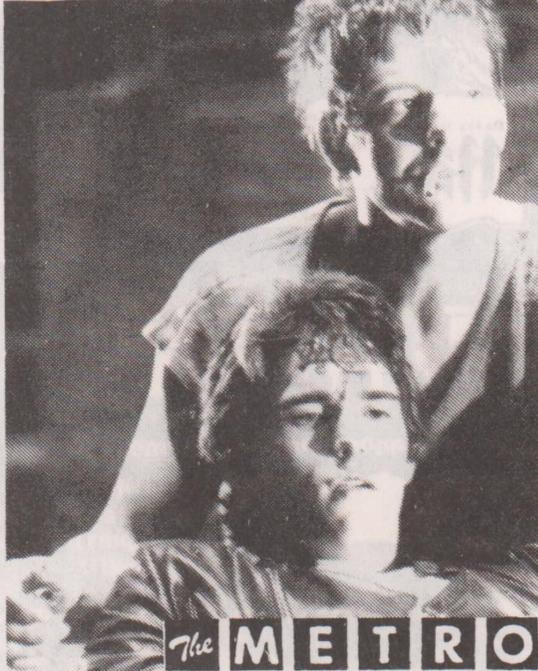
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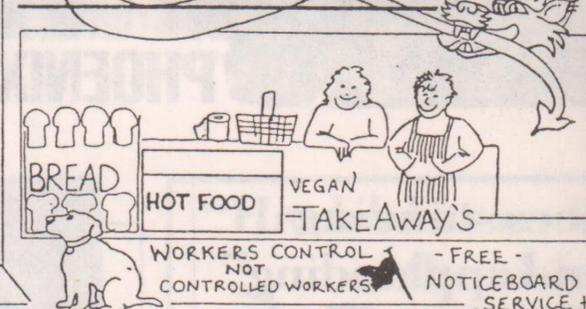
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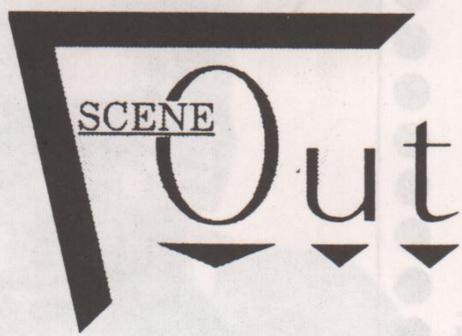
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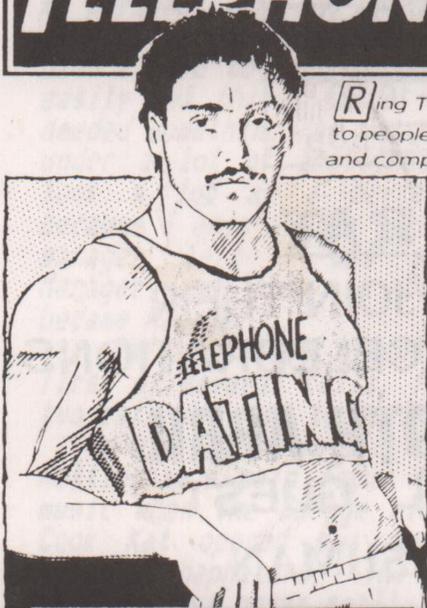
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Liz Milward and Helen Stone, two of the organisers) For details contact Diane Bailey at Nottingham Community Arts Centre on (0502) 782463. You can see the standard of work on show for yourself by visiting the Centre at 39 Gregory Bvd, Hyson Green, Nottingham, between 2nd-27th May, (phone for hours of opening). Workshop contributors include Poet, Belinda Burton, author of "Because We're Queers", Simon Shepherd, cartoonist, GRDC, Photographers Claire Orrin and Matthew Toresen and performance artist Eve Silver.

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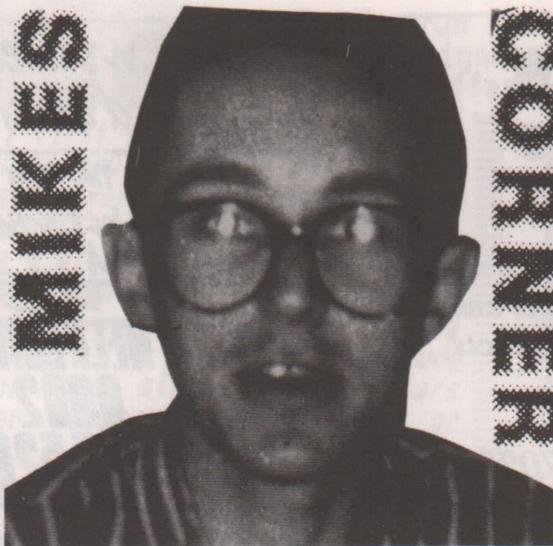
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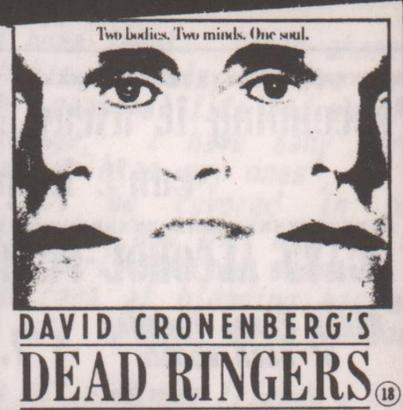
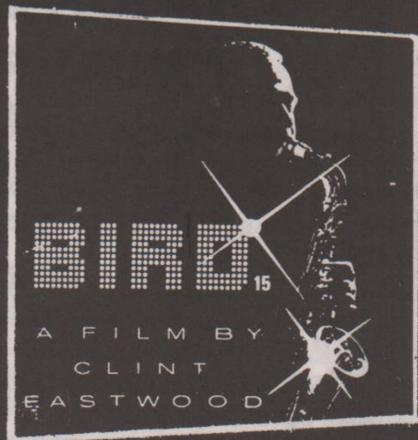
CORNER

What's the state of dance music, now that Spring's here? The short answer is: confused. With no hype-of-the-month to get excited about, with Acid and New Beat completely played out, and so-called "hip house" music consisting of endless variations on the same Lyn Collins sample, Deep house/garage music, while still hot, seems stuck in a rut, if recent rather tedious releases such as Kym Mazelle's "Got To Get You Back" and Vicky Martin's "Not Gonna Do It" are anything to go by. Meanwhile, the increasingly popular "swing-beat" style of music, popularised by Bobby Brown and others, is too slow, bland and macho (as in "Hey laydeez, ah've got so much l-u-r-v-e to give") to stand a chance with gay dancefloors.

For my money, three acts show the way forward. First, the delightful Ten City, who've brought back real instruments, good songs and a "live" feel to house music. Second are De La Soul, whose "Three Feet High And Rising" LP has broken all the rules of rap, being whimsical, inventive, anarchic, totally free of boring old James Brown samples and macho posturing, and generally weird and wonderful. They've already made my favourite rap album of all time. Third, are Soul II Soul, certainly, the classiest of the new breed of British dance music. Their album, modestly titled "Club Classics Volume One", promises to be something very special.

A most interesting feature on the "Out On Tuesday" series was "Disco's Revenge" on the history of gay dance music. It was great to hear classics like "Never Can Say Goodbye", "You Make Me Feel", "Relight My Fire", and the Flirts' "Passion" aired, and it encouraged me to dust down some records and spin them at Fever. Looks like the programme had quite an influence, as Divine's "Native Love" and Eartha Kitt's "Where Is My Man" were Fever's two biggest floor fillers a few weeks back...who'd have thought it! However, someone on the programme should have given Stock/Aitken/Waterman and Ian Levine a good slagging for flooding the market with crap records...

It would also be interesting to see the "Vogueing" cult, which is all the rage in New York's black gay clubs (so they say), catching



on over here. The dancing appears to be the ultimate in narcissistic posing, with Voguers (or is it Voguees?!) regularly, "freezing" on the dancefloor in a set posture imitating a fashion shot (hence the Vogue connection). Especially wonderful is the way in which the Vogueing crowd, instead of forming crews like the South Bronx Posse, Brooklyn Posse or whatever, are assembling "houses" such as the House of St. Laurent, House of Gucci, etc., very camp!

Finally, with great sadness Fever shuts its doors this month, as Eden changes ownership. Future plans for the night are uncertain, but hopefully a new venue can be found before long...any offers?!