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EAST MIDLANDS

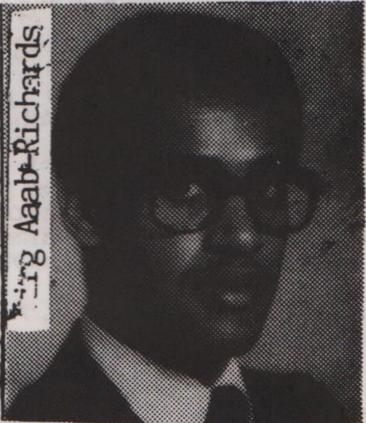
**METRO
GAY**

• THE FREE ONE •

Published by **METRO GAY**, West
PDO, Box 34, Nottingham, NG7 2DL.

~BLACKGAY MEN ORGANISE~

"Blackgay Men In This Our Lives" is the title of the first conference organised by and for Black and Asian gay men, takes place in London on the 31st October. Organised by the male members of the Lesbian & Gay Black Group, the primary aim of the meeting is to set up a network for blackgay men, and provide some unity. Workshops planned include Black History, (including lesbian/gay history), Health, Coming Out and Positive Images in Education. Darg Aaab-richards a member of the organising collective said: "As a minority group that faces daily oppression not only because of our sexuality but also our skin colour, we believe a high turn-out for this conference is essential, so we as Black gay men can stand up and face racism and sexism in a bold and proud manner". The Conference takes place at Hampden Community Centre, Osulton Street, (Nr, St. Pancras Station) from 11am to 9pm. Further info: Black Lesbian & Gay Group, c/o BM 4390, London WC13XX, tel: 01-865 3543 or 01-463 9113.



Darg Aaab-richards

LESBIAN CENTRE OPENS



A group of women outside the Lesbian Centre

After months of preparation and planning Nottingham's own Lesbian Centre opens its doors on October 16th. Housed within the Womens Centre at 30 Chaucer Street, the new centre already has a drop-in space with pooltable, juke-box, dartboard and coffee bar and already groups for black lesbians, lesbian mothers, young lesbians and Jewish Lesbians are meeting there regularly.

Opening night events on October 16th include a performance of "Double Identity" a play about being a Jewish Lesbian, at 8pm, followed by a disco at 9pm. Meals will be available in the Gossip Cafe, which is part of the Womens Centre.

The following day there will be discussions films, exhibitions and stalls, including the Lesbian Line exhibition, "Millions Like Us". Linda, a spokesperson for the Lesbian Centre said: "We hope lesbians involved in local mixed gay groups like Aids Helpline and Nottingham Lesbian & Gay Youth Movement will get involved during the day as well".

All Lesbians are welcome to join in the open days' activities and accommodation can be organized if requested in advance. For further details call the Lesbian Centre Nottingham 483697 or the Women's Centre on Nottingham 411475.

IN THE PINK

HE WAS POWERFUL. CHARISMATIC. COMPASSIONATE
AND GAY. AFTER ELEVEN MONTHS IN OFFICE
HE WAS ASSASSINATED.

**THE TIMES OF
HARVEY MILK**

Friday 9 October

**BEFORE
STONEWALL**
Friday 16 October

**BREAKING
THE SILENCE**
Fri 23 October

4
CHANNEL FOUR TELEVISION

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Playhouse**

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**THE
NORMAL
HEART**

BY LARRY KRAMER

1ST OCT TO 24TH OCT
PREVIEW WEDNESDAY 30TH SEPT
EVENINGS 7.30 p.m.
MATINEE 2.30 p.m. SATURDAY 17TH OCT
LATE NIGHTS THURSDAYS 8TH, 15TH, 22ND OCT AT 8.00 p.m.

This is the first major play to tackle the awesome and bewildering subject of AIDS. After its British premiere at the Royal Court it transferred to the West End where it received great critical and public acclaim.

Invigorating and harrowing, the play follows the efforts of one man, surrounded by his dying friends, to break through the conspiracy of silence, indifference and hostility, and gain recognition of the seriousness of the disease.

An extraordinary play... a fierce and moving human drama.

THIS PLAY CONTAINS LANGUAGE
WHICH MAY OFFEND

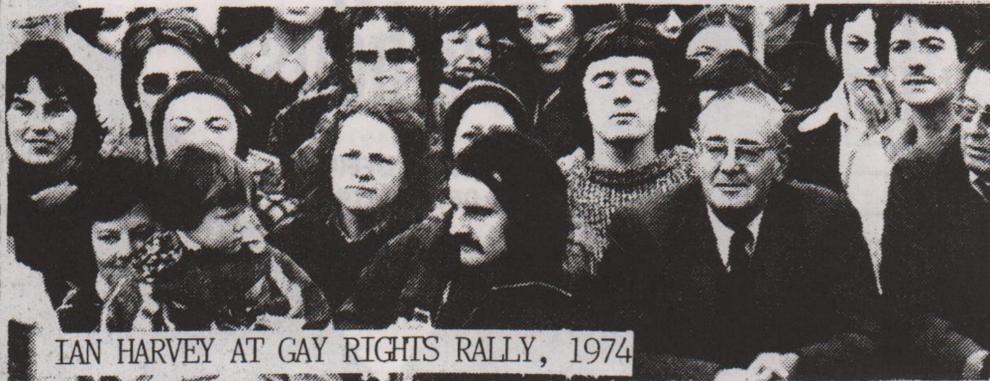
"SOCIALLY UNACCEPTABLE". C4,
16th Sept produced by Ray Gosling;

TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE

At best Ray Gosling's programme of "Socially Unacceptable" on homosexuality is the latest in a series of squandered opportunities to produce a realistic, positive programme about lesbians and gay men. At worst it may have seriously harmed the image of gay men in the UK, with only a cursory acknowledgement of the existence of Lesbians. It consisted of four interviews with gay men talking about the 'good old-bad days' before the 1967 Act - all very worthy but wouldn't a programme on the moral backlash of Thatcher's New Victorian Age have been more pertinent to today's gay community?

Living in the 50's

Notable amongst Gosling's gallery of gays was 'married and respectable' Ian Harvey who, a la Jeffrey Archer, 'fell like Lucifer' from his position as a Conservative Minister in the Macmillan government because he was caught 'messing about in the bushes' with a guardsman in Kensington Park. For this gross misdemeanor he was fined £5 - a sentence which contrasts markedly with that of Nottingham man John Clarkson, prosecuted in 1965 for living 'in sin' with his boyfriend. 19 year old John received a six-month prison sentence whilst his 27 year-old lover got two years. Of course Harvey had to resign from his governmental post - still today he believes homosexuality is not the sort of conduct as befits a minister or persons in public office. Also amongst Harvey's liberal (sic) views is that people are 'born homosexual'. Are we still living in the 1950's? They'll have found a cure for 'it' next... However, to his credit Harvey did at least support law reform, although he acknowledged most Tories are hostile to such aims. Harvey also founded that hotbed (no pun intended) of radicalism the Conservative Group for Homosexual Equality. Enough said, I think.



IAN HARVEY AT GAY RIGHTS RALLY, 1974

The rather puritanical views of Ian Harvey were contrasted by Bob Crossman, ex-mayor of Islington whose 'bestfriend' Martin accompanied him on many of his civic functions. Cllr. Crossman's feelings on his gayness were altogether more positive than the self-abnegation of Harvey. Crossman also warned of the very real possibility of the loss of the meagre rights which gay men have gained over the past two decades. For myself, I found Crossman's comments by far the most interesting of the four men interviewed, which I'd ascribe to the fact he was talking about recent experiences. Perhaps the entire programme would have been more exciting if it was about the problems gay men experience in the 1980's?

'Sun style' journalism

I'm also sorry to say that I had major reservations about Ray Gosling's style of presentation - on occasion he appeared to equate AIDS with homosexuality and several times during the programme used the word "queer" - something I'm not over-fond of being called. Perhaps he intended to convey the hostility of 1960's Britain to gay men, in which case the end still does not justify the means used. Whilst interviewing Dudley Cave (described as 110% batchelor homosexual) Gosling informed his viewers 'Sun style' that Dudley lives in a bizarre ménage a trois and then had the temerity to say he wasn't there to pry - a ludicrous statement in a programme as voyeuristic as this. Overall there is little that is favourable that can be said about "Socially Unacceptable". The programme makers could have exploded some of the myths about gay men but chose not to. They could have given much needed coverage to lesbians but didn't. They legitimised, even sanctioned, derogatory names for gay men and above all trivialised the cause of gay liberation. Although C4 have screened programmes about gays which are generally positive they still smack of earnest liberalism. C4 has yet to produce any television of note aimed specifically at gay men. Why has there been no openly gay magazine-style show in five years of C4 screening? Is it because C4 pays nothing more than lip service to any of the minority groups it purports to cater for. I hope they prove me wrong.

GEOFFREY WHITTAKER.

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

A FILM BY FRANCESCO ROSI

CHRONICLE OF A DEATH FORETOLD



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Derek Malcolm COSMOPOLITAN
RUPERT EVERETT
ORNELLA MUTI

"A SPECTACULARLY OPERATIC AND STEAMY TALE OF LOVE AND DEATH, FORBIDDEN PASSION AND ANTIQUE CODES OF HONOUR." Simon Banner MAIL ON SUNDAY

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

7.30	SOMETHING WILD (18) Page 9	THUR 8
7.30	SOMETHING WILD (18)	FRI 9
5.00/8.00	SOMETHING WILD (18)	SAT 10
5.00	ROUND MIDNIGHT (15) Page 5	SUN 11
8.00	SOMETHING WILD (18) Page 9	
7.30	STOP MAKING SENSE (PG) Page 8/9	THUR 15
7.30	CHRONICLE OF A DEATH FORETOLD (15)	FRI 16
5.00/8.00	CHRONICLE OF A DEATH FORETOLD (15)	SAT 17
5.00	MILES & BIRD (15) Page 5 & THE SOUND OF JAZZ	SUN 18
8.00	CHRONICLE OF A DEATH FORETOLD (15) Page 6/7	
7.30	IMPROVISUALS: Live Jazz and Movies (PG) Page 5	WEDS 21
		THURS 22
7.30	DUNE (PG) Page 4	FRI 23
5.00/8.00	DUNE (PG)	SAT 24
5.00/8.00	THE GIG (15) Page 5	SUN 25
7.30	BLUE VELVET (18) Page 4	FRI 30
2.00	MIT STARREM BLICK AUFS GELD (Uncert) page 10 Introduced by the director. At the WEA Shakespeare St. Free.	SAT 31
5.00/8.00	BLUE VELVET (18) Page 4	
5.00/8.00	BLUE VELVET (18)	SUN 1
7.30	JEAN DE FLORETTE (PG) Page 6/7	WED 4
7.30	JEAN DE FLORETTE (PG)	THUR 5
7.30	JEAN DE FLORETTE (PG)	FRI 6
5.00/8.00	JEAN DE FLORETTE (PG)	SAT 7
5.00	KILLING FIELDS (15) Page 8/9	SUN 8
8.00	JEAN DE FLORETTE (PG) Page 6/7	

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 WEDNESDAY 10.30 - 3 6 - 8.30
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VENDETTA AT "MERCURY"

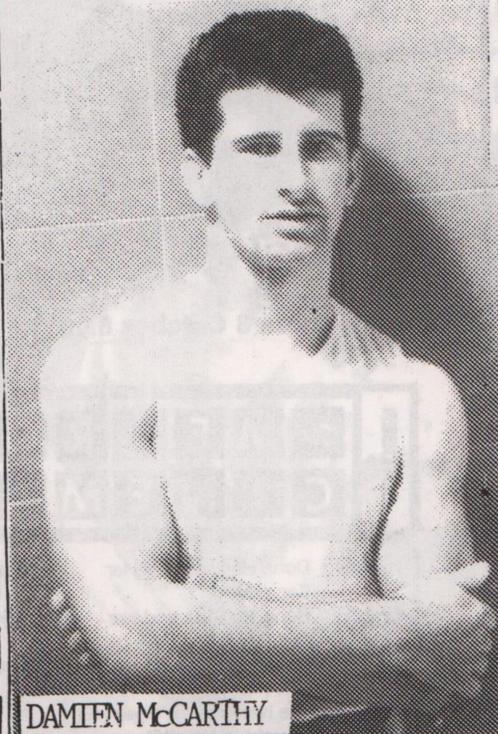
"The Leicester Mercury" has embarked on a spate of queer-bashing since the appointment of new editor, Alex Lees. That's the view of gay men in Leicester, since the appointment of the new editor in August. The gay community and the Mercury had informal meetings in the past when it was agreed that cottaging cases would not automatically be put in the paper without first contact being made with gay organizations.

But in the last few weeks numbers of gays have been prosecuted and their names and addresses published in the paper. Recently, a local vicar, who was prosecuted for gross indecency, had his name, address and photo in the paper.

METRO GAY contacted the editor who was "not available" but a spokesperson stated that as far as the Mercury was concerned there had been no change in policy.

A spokesperson for Leicester Lesbian/Gay Action gave this advice: "It is most important not to say anything at all or give a statement to the press, no matter what the circumstances. If you have been arrested, get in touch with Leicester Lesbian/Gayline who have lists of Solicitors, pleased to act for gay or lesbian clients, often at short notice."

Remember Damien McCarthy, runner-up in the "Mr. Gay Britain 1986" contest? When we spoke to him fresh from his success last year he was training at the YMCA, and planning a future career in physical culture. Soon after-wards he began running aerobics classes at a well-known Nottingham fitness centre, which were very successful. Now, with scarcely time to pause for breath, he is off again - this time to London where he has landed a full-time job as an instructor with a chain of London gyms. Damien's ambition is to run his own gym one day, and it looks as if it's only a matter of time before this happens!



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LEICESTER AIDS

Over 40 people attended an AIDS Day, last August, organized by Leicester City Council, and aimed at lesbian & gay community groups and individuals in the city. The conference agreed that the present momentum should be kept up and the city council were applauded for showing the lead at a time when many local authorities are dragging their feet on the issue of AIDS. A follow up conference is planned for the autumn including a workshop on eroticising safer sex for lesbians and gay men. Warren Weisner, City Council AIDS Liaison Officer said that the conference was a demonstration of the Council's determination to put resources into the les/gay communities which had been lacking in the past.

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Pictures above taken at the Nottingham Lesbian & Gay Co-op disco at the Yorker on Monday 15th September. As you can see there's a good age range represented. The Yorker has been refurbished and now provides a comfortable, first floor lounge with bar, plenty of space to meet old and new friends, and DJ Mike and his irresistible fusion of sounds. I bet next month will be even busier. Watch out for the 13th October.

"HEART OF THE MATTER" Once a Catholic, Producer, Olga Ebridge, BBC2, 6th September.

The programme devoted itself to the Pope's recent visit to the USA, viewed from those Catholics in conflict with Rome and the current hard-line being taken by the Vatican on contraception, Divorce/re-marriage, abortion and homosexuality.

Reported by Helena Kennedy, the programme directed itself strongly toward the feminist issues, with a woman's right to control her own body being strongly represented.

Fr. John McNeill, dismissed from the Jesuits for his continued ministry to homosexuals and his assertion that monogamous and stable homosexual relationships can be morally good, stressed the need for the church to accept both orientation and sexuality, giving support and help to people who feel, with the advent of AIDS, an increasing isolation through prejudice and discrimination.

Bishop Edward Egan of New York stated the official view of homosexuality as an "intrinsic moral evil". Groups should also be discouraged as this creates "an occasion to sin". He stressed individuals would be "welcomed and accepted", in their own parishes. A rather utopian view, not supported by the rejection experienced by many in an increasingly homophobic society.

ANDREW HATES, Nottingham QUEST.

DONA HERLINDA AND HER SON

METRO CINEMA
Tues 6 - Thurs 8 October 8.00

OCTOBER	METRO CINEMA	TIME
Tues 6	Dona Herlinda and Her Son (15)	8.00
Wed 7	Dona Herlinda and Her Son (15)	8.00
Thur 8	Dona Herlinda and Her Son (15)	8.00
Fri 9	The Name of the Rose (18)	8.00
Fri 9	Straight to Hell (15)	11.00
Sat 10	The Water Babies (U)	2.30
Sat 10	The Name of the Rose (18)	6.00/9.15
Sun 11	Easy Rider (18) plus Rumblefish (18)	5.00
Sun 11	The Name of the Rose (18)	9.00
Wed 14	Golden Eighties (15)plus Tote One Nite (18)	7.30
Thur 16	Something Wild (18)	8.00
Fri 16	Something Wild (18)	8.00
Fri 16	Aliens (18)	11.00
Sat 17	Labyrinth (U)	2.30
Sat 17	Something Wild (18)	8.00
Sun 18	The Last Movie (18)	6.30
Sun 18	Something Wild (18)	9.00
Tues 20	DCH Guest Lecture Feral Music	7.00
Wed 21	Working Girls (18)	8.00
Thur 22	Working Girls (18)	8.00
Fri 23	The Whistle Blower (PG)	8.00
Fri 23	The Blues Brothers (15)	11.00
Sat 24	Postgraduate Diploma Day Event	
Sat 24	The Whistle Blower (PG)	6.30/9.00
Sun 25	Best Shot (PG)	6.30
Sun 25	The Whistle Blower (PG)	9.00
Tues 27	Round Midnight (15)	8.00
Wed 28	Tenue De Soiree (18)	8.00
Thur 29	Tenue De Soiree (18)	8.00
Fri 30	The Big Easy (18)	6.30
Fri 30	Halloween Triple Bill - Evil Dead II (18)/Trick or Treat (18)/From Beyond (18)	9.15
Sat 31	Laurel and Hardy Double Bill (U)	2.30
Sat 31	The Big Easy (18)	8.00
Sun 1	The Big Easy (18)	6.30
Sun 1	River's Edge (18) - Regional Preview	9.00
Tue 3	The Big Easy (18)	8.00
Wed 4	The Big Easy (18)	8.00
Thu 5	The Big Easy (18)	8.00
Fri 6	The Big Easy (18)	8.00

GREEN LANE DERBY D. FEB 2010

J.R.'S DISCO CORNER

There, back again, Thank god the silly season of record releases is just about behind us now and there is at last some good music coming back in the shops.

The first one on review is "Turning My Back And Walking Away" by Carol Jiani (remember "Hit & Run Lover"). This is gonna be a big, big club hit and her best since "Hit & Run" - even better it's a U.K. release, so you won't have to pay an arm and a leg for it!

Bananarama have come up with another smash pop hit with "Love In The First Degree". Also check out their new LP, "Wow".

"Tomorrow" by the Communards is already in the charts and a club hit but not for me, I'm afraid. Still it's very danceable.

People Like Us have a new single, "Fighting For Our Lives". They were going to tour this country but apparently there was no demand. Strange as all their records have been huge hits in the gay clubs.

Pamela Nightingale has a new single also a new record label (Rise), which is very much like "I'll Never Fall In Love Again" (one of my all-time greats) called "A Night To Remember" Great!

"Cry Out In The Night" by Amanda Lucci is pure Hi-energy and a must for any fan, Remember "Born To Be Alive".

Well it's been remixed again and brought right up-to-date by Remix Machine and still has the voice of Patrick Hernandez. Well worth the price of an import.

I was in London at the weekend and went along to the Hippo on Monday night; must say it was the first time I'd been and loved every minute of it - especially the lighting.

Was at L'amour the weekend before which is still the only gay club in Nottingham - strange, I must say I feel sorry for D.J. Phil. The people that go clubbing in Nottingham won't let you play new stuff and there are so many good dance tracks around at the moment. Pity they don't know what they're missing! That's all for now see you next time. JR.

WANTED

GAY Sweatshop, the London Based lesbian and gay Theatre company urgently needs an administrator. Important qualifications for the job are the ability to learn quickly, and energy and initiative. Whilst theatre experience would be desirable it is not essential. The pay is around £10,000 and the contract runs to March 1988 but Philip Osment a Director of Gay Sweatshop said that it was likely that funding would be renewed for the post.

Further information from Gay Sweatshop, P.O. Box 820, London. W11 8LV. or 01-722 1491.

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GAY LIFE MAGAZINE

TOP TWENTY **** TOP TWENTY **** TOP TWENTY **** TOP TWENTY

1. Everlasting Love	SANDRA N. A. R. R. S	IMP 12"
2. Pump Up The Volume (All Mixes)	MAN TO MAN	UK 12"
3. Love Me Like A Locomotive	RICK ASTLEY	IMP 12"
4. Never Gonna Give You Up (New York Mix)	LAURA BRANIGAN	UK 12"
5. Shattered Glass	PET SHOP BOYS	UK 12"
6. What Have I Done To Deserve This	E.G. DAILY	IMP 12"
7. Kind Over Matter	SINITTA	UK 12"
8. Toy Boy (Pumped Up Megamix)	MODERN ROCKETRY	IMP 12"
9. Deeper 'I Deeper	SYBIL	UK 12"
10. My Love is Guaranteed (Red Ink Mix)	TAYLOR DAYNE	IMP 12"
11. Tell It To My Heart	FUN FUN	IMP 12"
12. Gimme Some Loving	BANANARAMA	UK 12"
13. Love In The First Degree	KERRY DELIUS	UK 12"
14. They Say It's Gonna Rain (Remix)	THE COMMUNARDS	UK 12"
15. Tomorrow	JACQUI BERNIE	UK 12"
16. Don't Get Serious	TRACY ACKERMAN	UK 12"
17. Take My Body	NANCY MARTINEZ	IMP 12"
18. Move Out	POINTER SISTERS	UK 12"
19. Be There	VIVIEN VEE	IMP 12"
20. Heartbeat (Remix)		

Peep ho!!

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DJ LEFT — HIN DRY

DJ Mike Atkinson, and nearly 100 punters were locked out of a gay disco on the 16th September. The monthly disco, organised by the Nottingham Lesbian & Gay Youth Group should have taken place at The Garage Club on its regular slot of the third Monday in the month.

METRO GAY spoke to a member of the youth group who confirmed that the Garage management had written to the group, only ten days previously, cancelling the discos "for the time being because of re-decorations in the Club". "But our publicity had already been sent out by then. The Garage must have known their future plans, when we had our August disco. Surely they could have told us then?"

Meanwhile, the youth group are believed to be looking for alternative premises.

Said Mike "I just wish someone somewhere had thought to tell me what was going off, then I could have had a night in!"

PHOENIX ARTS

Newark Street - Leicester
Details & Booking on (0533) 554854

Tuesday 6	6.15 SOMETHING WILD (8)
8.30	MELO (PG)
Wednesday 7	6.15 MELO (PG)
8.30	SOMETHING WILD (8)
Friday 9	11.15 BODY HEAT (8)
Saturday 10	3.00 TARKA THE OTTER (U)
Monday 12	6.15 HISTORY OF THE AVANT GARDE - 8 (8)
8.00	THE TOMB OF LIGEIA (15) & MASQUE OF THE RED DEATH (15)
Tuesday 13	6.15 PALTOQUET (PG)
8.15	RADIO DAYS (PG)
Wednesday 14	6.15 RADIO DAYS (PG)
8.15	PALTOQUET (PG)
Thursday 15	6.15 RADIO DAYS (PG)
8.15	JAZZ NOTES (5)
Friday 16	11.15 THE HITCHER (8)
Sunday 18	4.00 DEATH IN A FRENCH GARDEN (8) & SUBWAY (15)
8.00	ROUND MIDNIGHT (15)
Monday 19	7.00 NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD (8) & THE HUNGER (8)
Tuesday 20	6.15 SALVADOR (8)
8.15	BOY MEETS GIRL (8)
Wednesday 21	6.15 SALVADOR (8)
8.15	BOY MEETS GIRL (8)
Friday 23	11.15 ERASERHEAD (8)
Sunday 25	4.30 VALENTINO (15)
7.30	THE FLY (8)
Monday 26	6.15 HISTORY OF THE AVANT GARDE - 9
8.15	THE FLY (8)
Thursday 29	7.00 MEAN STREETS (8) & RAGING BULL (8)
Friday 30	11.15 PURPLE RAIN (15)

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13th

OCTOBER

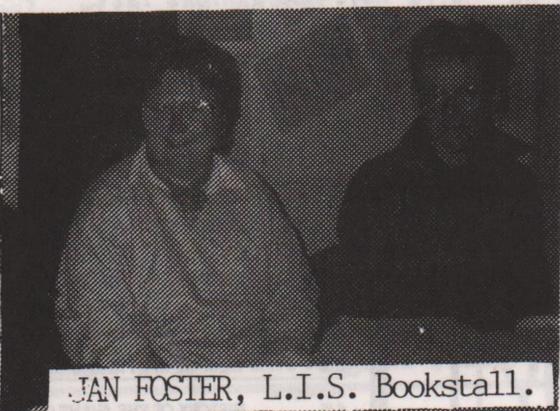
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BEYOND THE ...

WHAT IS THE GAY SCENE LIKE?

Whilst there is quite an established male gay scene in East Berlin, in Leipzig there are some straight bars where gays meet, in fact they often seemed like gay bars to me. But you might go back a few weeks later to find the bar closed or completely different. It seems that once a place gets a "Gay" reputation it gets closed down. In East Berlin there are a few gay discos and bars, quite inadequate for the large gay population. These are run by the state, but it's almost impossible to meet gays under 30 there.

(Part II next month, including the Government attitude towards gays, AIDS and gay lifestyles).

A SIGN OF THE TIMES?

PETER BRIDDOCK, Newsagent,
52 Parliament Street,

- sells -

GAY TIMES

BRITAIN'S TOP SELLING GAY NEWS MAGAZINE.

A City Council grant to a lesbian group has been branded "an immoral waste of ratepayers' money", by the Leicester Tory Council Leader, Mr. Michael Johnson accused Labour councillors of handing over cash to a group aimed at "recruiting young girls to their ranks". But Labour councillors believe personal prejudices should not affect grant applications. Mr. Johnson launched the stinging attack after the City Council's grants panel, voted to give £1,000 to the Lesbian Information Service.

The Lesbian Information Service initially asked for £4,000 to set up a newsletter for the area, establish a lesbian network, and a young lesbian group.

"It is the creation of a young lesbian group I object to most", said Cllr. Johnson, "If adolescent girls are at a very funny stage and if a relationship with a boyfriend breaks down, then they could be recruited to lesbianism by this propaganda", he said. The Labour Chair of the Council Recreation Committee said: "When you are charged with giving grants it is very important not to let personal prejudices enter into it". The Deputy Chair, Cllr. Culdip Bhatti said: "Lesbians pay their rates just like anybody else, and just like anybody else they are entitled to help from the City Council when they need it".

Spokesperson for Lesbian Information Service, Jan Foster said: "The comments of the Tory Councillor display only too clearly his ignorance and bigotry".

SAFESEX ROADSHOW



The Terrance Higgins Trust's "The Safe Sex Roadshow" was the guest of national housing charity, Shelter at their recent annual conference at Nottingham University. This is the first time the Trust has been invited by Shelter to attend and is a sign of the growing awareness amongst public bodies and voluntary organizations of the dimensions of AIDS. "Interest in the stand was steady, in fact many delegates couldn't believe their eyes at first", said roadie, Simon Morrison pictured in conversation with a delegate.

BEYOND THE BERLIN WALL

...of Berlin, and the ground-breaking... East German head of state... cousin, West Germany. No other Eastern European country can match East Germany's track record on lesbian and gay rights, on paper anyway. There are anti-discrimination laws protecting lesbians and gays, which were passed in 1968 and last October the State conceded to the lesbian/gay movement, their right to officially participate in the annual Remembrance Day ceremonies, including wreath laying. But just how does all this shape up, in terms of the day-to-day lives of East Germans.

METRO GAY took a look at life beyond the Wall, through the eyes of Nottingham man, Richard Scholey who recently returned from a year's teaching in Leipzig. In this two-part article, EDWARD NATSMITH asked him about his impressions of life generally and specifically for lesbians and gay men.



RICHARD SCHOLEY

WHAT WERE YOUR FIRST IMPRESSIONS ON ARRIVAL?

Leipzig is the second most important city in East Germany. The railway station is the biggest in Europe and it was overflowing with military personnel - the country is paranoid about being attacked and there are troop movements everywhere, Military service is compulsory with periods of re-training until middle age.

My home for the year was a shared centrally heated, high-rise flat, in a block reserved for foreign visitors. I was paid around £266 net per month, less £12 a month for my accommodation which was very cheap. My job was to teach English to students, preparing for voluntary service overseas in Ethiopia and India - doctors, engineers and agricultural specialists.

WHAT WERE LIVING CONDITIONS LIKE FOR PEOPLE GENERALLY?

Prices of staple foods like bread, milk and flour have not risen for over 20 years, and are heavily subsidised by the State. You can get any food you like, but at a price. Fish is astronomically expensive and crisps were regarded as luxury goods. A car of pineapple chunks cost about £4!

East Berlin is the country's showcase, and feels the need to compete with its affluent cousin across the Wall. Consequently, the rest of the country goes short at the capital's expense, which causes much resentment elsewhere, amongst East Germans.

A constant source of complaint was the restriction on foreign travel, though the government is now beginning to relax its controls and issue student visas. In the past it was only the elderly who could get visas. If they didn't return, their state contribution could be seen as a minimal

- loss. Those who do manage to go abroad are carefully vetted beforehand; so someone might come and ask your neighbour what you were really like, did you row often with your wife at night? Now, when East Germans return from trips abroad, they are not slow to complain about the drabness of their country, and the cleanliness and colour of the West.
- WHAT ABOUT FASHION AND MUSIC?

I was amazed how stylish and up-to-date East German youth was. At the moment Punk is in. There isn't much to spend money on, apart from clothes, so East German youth tend to be big spenders. There are three types of clothes shop, the normal supermarket, the "Exclusiv" chain of state shops selling high quality goods, and then there were the hard currency shops, mainly for tourists. As 80% of the country can get West German radio and TV they are up-to-the-minute. Pet Shop Boys are very popular now.

DID YOU GET ON WITH THE STUDENTS?

- The students I taught were going abroad and were very reluctant to confide in me at all, apart from academic matters, for fear this might jeopardise their life chances. Some East Germans are fearful of state interference & the secret police. However, the average East Germans, were quite prepared to voice their concerns and complaints, as they didn't have anything special to lose.
- The State wants to care for you from cradle to grave, in a very managing, and paternal way, so if you fall outside its terms of reference there can be problems, as I was to find out later. There is full employment, throughout the country and decent housing for all, but the more spacious

- accommodation is always reserved for people with large families. In a country where people marry at 21 and are often divorced by 25, there is no stigma to single parenthood. People with disabilities also get properly adapted accommodation for their needs. In child custody cases, care and control is always automatically awarded to the mother in the sexist belief that mothers are best for raising children.
- The East German version of the Women's Movement would focus on "How To Care For Your Home". There is no space within the state system for feminism, or indeed any form of self-organizing, and a gathering of more than three people would need state permission, and would probably be banned.

SO HOW DO PEOPLE GET ROUND THIS, PRESUMABLY THEY MUST?

- The only places that are outside state control are the Protestant churches, so they have become the haven to various movements - the women's, lesbian/gay and peace movements, and in recent years has been the chief meeting place for lesbians and gay men. In 1983 under the umbrella of an independent peace group, lesbians and gay men were offered a stall at a church festival. This provided the needed breakthrough. Word spread quickly and soon there were a number of groups regularly attracting upwards of fifty people each. There is also another advantage which a lesbian was quick to point out to me. At state organized meetings, the secret police are always present, whereas the church meetings are generally free of them.

I attended a gay seminar organized by the State (heterosexual) youth organization in Leipzig University, entitled, "Gays, are we Really So Different?". This meeting was packed out and over subscribed by four to one.

continued on page

A TART BLACK COMEDY

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TIME OUT

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The **METRO CINEMA**

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Two full-time staffers are leaving Manchester based "Gay Life - Andrew Lowrey for "City Life", Manchester's What's On paper and Chris Stocks, for Channel 4 Teletext. A member of the Gay Life collective for over four years, and the first fulltime worker at the paper's launched nearly two years' ago, Andrew told us that he would be staying on as a member of Gay Life collective. It really would be a wrench to leave totally. Being in at the birth of Gay Life was exciting and I wouldn't have missed it for the world", said Andrew. Good luck both. (We caught Andrew all of a laugh at Pride 87 in London).



ANDREW LOWREY

SPOTZ CABARET

NOVEMBER 1st

OLD VIC TAVERN FLETCHERGATE

THE JOAN COLLINS' FAN CLUB



UNCANNY AND UNNATURAL Julian Clary. A born entertainer of the best vintage ... Capital Gay, returns after 1986's sell-out success with a new outrageous extravaganza. Assisted by Fanny the Wonderdog, star of 'Saturday Live', and accompanied by the lovely Russell Churney on piano. 'Definitely alternative, definitely a highlight in Fringe cabaret ... The Scotsman.'



"The Children's Hour" by Lillian Hellman comes to Derby Playhouse until 24th October. Audrey Hepburn and Shirley McLaine (above) played the teachers in the film version, who are accused of having a lesbian relationship

WOT'S GOIN' OFF

Daily, NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE, Upstairs at the Womens Centre, 30 Chaucer St. Nottm. Tel: 0602 483697/411475 (for messages, 24 hr. ansaphone). Open: Mon-Fri, 10-4pm, + Sat. 10-1pm, Library open, Tues-Sat. 11-2pm + Thur. 10-4pm.

6-8th October, "DONA HERLINDA & HER SON", Metro Cinema, Green Lanes, Derby, bookings: Derby 40170.

9th October, "IN THE PINK" C4 Series of Lesbian/gay films 11.30pm. "THE LIFE & TIMES OF HARVEY MILK".

13th October, LESBIAN & GAY CO-OP DISCO, Yorker Pub, Mansfield Road, Nottingham, Your Alternative Disco, With DJ Mike, 8-12 midnight. (entrance only 50p.).

13-17th October "BACK WITH A VENGEANCE", Theatre Royal, Nottm. Bookings: 482626. That megastar from Moonie Ponds, Australia, Dame Edna Everage

16th October, "DOUBLE INDEMNITY", 8pm, Lesbian Centre, at the Womens Centre, 30 Chaucer St. Nottm. Tel: 483697. A play about being a Jewish Lesbian, followed by a disco at 9pm, LESBIANS ONLY.

16th October, "IN THE PINK" C4 Series, 11.30pm.

"BEFORE STONEWALL" Life before gay liberation began.

23rd October, "IN THE PINK", C4 series lesbian/gay films, "BREAKING THE SILENCE, Lesbian mothers & their fight for care & control of children in custody cases. Until 24th October, "THE NORMAL HEART", Nottingham Playhouse, Bookings: 419419. American play about AIDS.

Until 24th October, "THE CHILDREN'S HOUR", Derby Playhouse, Bookings: Derby 363275, by Lillian Hellman. Filmed in the 70's as "The Loudest Whisper" with Shirley McLaine and Audrey Hepburn. About two, small-town teachers, accused of having a lesbian relationship.

17th October, GRAND OPENING, NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE, Upstairs at the Womens Centre, 30 Chaucer St, Nottm. Tel: 483697. LESBIANS ONLY.

22nd October, THE COMMUNARDS, Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham, 7.30pm. Bookings: Nottingham 482626.

25th October, "VALENTINO" with Mureyev, PHOENIX FILM, 6 Newark St. Leicester, Bookings: Leicester 554854.

28-29th October, "TENUE DE SOIRÉE", Derby Metro, 8pm, 30th October, Prince in "PURPLE RAIN", Phoenix Film, Leicester, 11.15pm. Bookings: Leicester 554854.

1st November, JOAN COLLINS FAN CLUB, TROOPE DE DORIS, + Tariff & Crook, Belinda Burton, SPOTZ CABARET, 7.30-10.30pm. Old Vic Tavern, Fletchergate, Nottm. £2.50 (w), £2.00 (1w) £1.25 (unwaged).

2nd November, ASTORIA MONTHLY NEGADISCO, Sherwood Rooms, Canal Street, Nottingham.

HELPLINES

NOTTINGHAM GAY SWITCHBOARD, your helpline to the gay/lesbian communities, Mon-Fri, 7-10pm. 0602 411454. LESBIAN LINE, Confidential help/advice for lesbians, Mon. & Veds. 7.30-9pm, 0602 410652

NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE, 30 Chaucer St. Nottm. Tel 483697 or 411475 (24 hour. ansaphone).

NOTTINGHAM FRIEND, Tuesdays, 7-10pm, counselling & befriending for lesbians & gay men, bisexuals, TV/TS's, tel: 474717 c/o 31a Mansfield Road, Nottm.

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

NOTTINGHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL VD CLINIC, 475989, Daily, Mon-Fri, 9.30-11.30am, Tues & Veds. 2-3.30pm, Eves., Mon & Thurs. 4.30-6.30, Sats. Emergencies only, 9.30-10.30am.

LEICESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY, Infirmary Close, (Nr. BR Station) V.D. Clinic, Tel: Leicester 541414 x 5208.

LEICESTER LESBIAN/GAYLINE, Mon-Fri, 7.30-10.30pm Leicester 550667.

DERBY FRIEND, 7-10pm, Veds, Derby 49333 (answering service at other times or write c/o Derby CVS, Kings Chambers, Queens Street, Derby. DE1 3DA.

DERBY AIDS LINE for help & confidential advice, Derby 290766 (ansaphone gives opening times).

DERBY LESBIAN LINE, Wednesdays 7-9pm Derby 414111 or write c/o P.O. Box 140, Derby.

DERBY ROYAL INFIRMARY, William Donald (VD) Clinic, London Road, Derby 47141 x 504.